

HEADQUARTERS
 NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 Office of the Engineering Officer

APO 634,
 26 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Base Engineering Report on Combat Mission of July 26, 1943.

TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, Fourth Bombardment Wing, APO 634.
 COMMANDING OFFICER, 95th Bombardment Group (H).

1. The following information is submitted concerning combat mission of the 95th Bombardment Group (H) on July 26, 1943.

- a. Twenty-three (23) B-17F airplanes took-off, one (1) returned to base as per schedule, six (6) returned to base before completing mission.
- b. Twelve (12) returned to base after completing mission.
- c. Four (4) failed to return to base.

2. There were six (6) abortive airplanes.

- a. 42-30219 - One of crew members took sick.
- b. 42-30045 - Lost formation.
- c. 42-3194 - Could not hold formation. High oil temperature #4 engine developed at 42 inches manifold pressure and 2400 RPM. #4 engine developed in ball turret.

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3. Battle damage is as follows: (Cont'd)
- m. 42-30322 - Self inflicted damage to right horizontal stabilizer.
 - n. 42-30180 - Right wing damaged by 20 mm fire.
 - o. 42-3298 - Missing in action.

CLARENCE D. FIELDS,
 Major, Air Corps,
 Base Engr. Officer.

ALPHABETIC

0244

Camera

O'Neal

3283

Regan

5918

Mason

0283

Robichaud Palmer

5893

3153

Camera

L O W

Bastling

0255

binson

77

Kring

3273

Camera

3317

Adams

0322

H I G H

Thomas

0219

Lemke

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Camera

Rivers

0045

McPherson

3194

Quirk

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Authority

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By (ms) D

NARA Date 7/22/97

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS
VIII BOMBER COMMAND
A.P.O. 634

820

Bomber Command Narrative of Operations
Day Operation - 26 July, 1943.
Mission No. 77

303 B-17s were dispatched to attack targets in Northwest Germany. A total of 420.7 tons were dropped by the 199 B-17s which bombed. 92 a/c attacked Hanover with excellent results; 54 a/c attacked Hamburg with good results; 18 a/c attacked a convoy (5 miles N. of Langelog) but had no direct hits; and 45 attacked targets of opportunity with unobserved results. Enemy opposition was strong - both flak and e/a - and 24 B-17s were lost. Air Sea Rescue picked up 65 crew members. Claims against e/a are 60-10-36.

Fighter support was not furnished to the B-17s. In conjunction with the B-17 attacks, B-26s of the U.S. Air Support Command, Bostons and Typhoon of the R.A.F. Tactical Air Force, and fighters of the U.S. VIII Fighter Command and R.A.F. Fighter Command attacked airfields at St. Omer, Courtrai, Merville and Abbeville.

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Number of A/C</u>	<u>Personnel Casualties</u>
1ST &	(<u>Dispatched</u> <u>Attacking</u> <u>Abortive</u> * <u>Lost</u>)	(<u>Killed</u> <u>Wounded</u> <u>Missing</u>)
	<u>Claims</u>	

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By 311 NARA Date 7/22/77

- * - Abortive - "A" - Mechanical and Equipment Failures, Personnel, Etc.
"E" - Enemy Action, Weather, Etc.
- w - Includes 2 YB 40s.
- x - Includes 1 YB 40.
- y - 2 a/c Attacked Opportunity Target.
- z - 1 a/c " " "

BOMBING RESULTS - HANOVER: 92 B-17s dropped 160 x 1000 G.P. fused 1/10 sec. nose and 1/40 sec. tail, 393 x 500 G.P. fused 1/10 sec. nose and 1/40 sec. tail, 224 x 250 British-type incendiaries and 152 x 100 M47A1 incendiaries from 23000 - 30100 ft. at 1200-1243 hours. The Continental Gummiwerke A.G. Vahrenwalderstrasse, largest tire factory in Germany, was seriously damaged. Photos taken on the last phase of the attack record a tremendous explosion with smoke blanketing the entire city. The building used for moulding and assembling tires had the upper stories half destroyed; the building in which conveyor bands are produced was partially destroyed, and the boiler room and several other unidentified buildings were also hit by bombs. The Nordhafen plant of the Continental Gummiwerke A.G. was also bombed but the results are poor. (This target was largely obscured by smoke at the time of the attack.) The main building of the Guter Bahnhof Nord (main goods yard) received several direct hits which destroyed over 5400 sq. ft. of roof and caused serious internal damage. A row of adjoining goods sheds were also destroyed over an area of 4700 sq. yds. Hits were recorded on the railroad tracks and freight cars. Direct hits were made on four buildings of the Gebr. Korting Maschinenbau and Apparatebau A.G. inter-

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Authority MMD 745005By W3D NARA Date 7/22/97C O N F I D E N T I A L

Me 210s and some Ju 88s. Some FW 190s and Ju 88s were reported as having guns under wings at the fuselage and firing shells which burst as large as flak. Firing was slow, each flash from gun enveloped the e/a. These gun mounts were streamlined and protruding. After firing from 1 - 3 shots e/a broke off combat. A few FW 190s from about 3,000 feet above formation dropped long slender objects like stove pipes which fell through formation but did not explode. Aerial bombing by A FW 190 flying 100 - 200 feet over formation was reported.

4th Wing - HANOVER: The 95, 96, and 388 Groups, on Hanover, encountered upward of 100 e/a. About 70 of the e/a were FW 190s, the remainder consisting of Me 109s, Me 110s, Me 210s and a few He 113s. E/a were encountered at the Frisian Islands and attacked vigorously to Rinteln. Attacks were broken off over the target area to be resumed at Drakesburg and continued to just beyond the coast. Two Me 110s were reported as following formation nearly to the English Coast but not attacking.

The 94th and 385th Groups which bombed Wilhelmshaven and Bremerhaven encountered intense e/a opposition. About 20 Me 109s and 10 FW 190s attacked for 25 minutes beginning about 30 miles north of Baltrum Island. Another attack by about 30 FW 190s and 10 Me 109s started near Wangerooge Island and continued through Wilhelmshaven and Bremerhaven. Ju 88s were reported in the vicinity but did not attack.

100 Group, which attacked a convoy, encountered 12 Me 109s, 2 Me 110s and

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Authority NVD745005By WJD NARA Date 7/22/97C O N F I D E N T I A L

ROUTES: 1st Wing - HAMBURG - Bases to Cromer to 54°50'N - 06°00'E to 54°45'N - 08°35'E to I.P. 53°22'N. - 09°42'E to Target; to 53°25'N - 10°21'E to 53°00'N - 09°50'E to 52°50'N - 08°45'E to Nordeney to 54°20'N to 06°10'E to 54°20'N - 04°50'E to Cromer to Bases.

HANOVER: Bases to Cromer to 54°40'N - 05°30'E to Baltrum to 52°15'N - 09°03'E to I.P. at 52°10'N - 09°28'E to target. To 52°26'N - 09°20'E to 52°40'N - 07°58'E to Nordeney to 54°20'N - 06°10'E to 54°20'N - 04°50'E to Cromer to Bases.

4th Wing - HANOVER: Bases to Cromer to 54°50'N - 06°30'E to 54°10'N - 07°20'E to 54°10'N - 07°40'E to 54°50'N - 06°50'E to 54°50'N - 06°30'E to Baltrum to 52°13'N - 08°50'E to I.P. at 52°07'N - 09°30'E to Target; to Mollendorf to 53°05'N to 07°57'E to 53°44'N - 07°18'E to 54°40'N - 05°40'E to Cromer to Bases.

WEATHER: 1st Wing - Route Out - Over England, 2 to 4/10 small cumulus clouds at 2 to 3000 feet. Over the North Sea the same conditions persisted with the tops of the cumulus extending to 5 to 6000 feet. There was a haze at 6000 ft. over the North Sea which tended to disperse toward the continental coast. Visibility 6 to 10 miles except limited to 1 to 2 miles in the haze layer. Target: (Hamburg) No cloud below the aircraft and 2 to 5/10 cirrus above. Visibility at

HEADQUARTERS
 NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 Office of the Group Bombardier

APO 634,
 26 July, 1943.

SUBJECT: Report on bombing mission in compliance with Bombardier's
 instructions Par. II. KEIL, GERMANY.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), APO 634.

1. Complete narrative of mission.

- a. The A.B.C. Computer was used as an aid to the technique of bombing procedure.
 - b. Slight evasive action was employed by the group just after turning from the I.P.
 - c. The lead bombardier had a good run amounting to two minutes.
 - d. Only a small amount of enemy fighters were seen. The flak was highly intense and accurate.
 - e. The leads ships bomb bay doors were opened just after turning from the IP.
 - f. The S-2 information on the target was excellent.
 - g. Due to the prevailing weather conditions the group bombed the secondary target instead of the primary target.
- The group did not employ any unusual tactics as to opposition.

HEADQUARTERS
 NINETY-FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 APO 634

26 July, 1943

SUBJECT: S-2 Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bomb. Group (H), APO 634

1. 23 A/C took off at 0750 hrs. to bomb target at Hannover Germany. The primary target being the Continental Rubber works located near the center of the city.
2. The briefed route was followed to and from the primary target and 12 a/c which attacked the target landed at this Base at 1515 hrs.
3. 4 a/c returned early without bombing any target for reasons as follows:
 - a/c 3153- leakage of fluid from ball turret which ran all over a/c.
 - a/c 0045- a/c could not take position in formation without endangering other a/c due to thick haze about 15 mi. off English Coast.
 - a/c 0219- waist gunner had attack of bends.
 - a/c 0227 - oxygen supply short and right waist gunner had