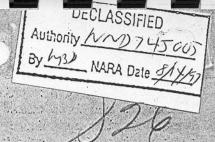
<u>C O N</u>



VIII BOMDER A. P. 0. 634.

Bomber Command Narrative of Operations

Day Operations - 17 August, 1943 Day Operations - 17 August, 1943
Mission No. 84

PART I - SCHWEINFURT

Two Air Task Forces, composed of two Combat Wings each, of the 1st Air Division, were dispatched to attack three ball-bearing plants at Schweinfurt in central Germany. The target was bombed with good results. Strong e/a opposition was encountered along the route from near the Dutch coast to the target and back to the French coast. Penetration and withdrawal support was provided by VIII Fighter Command P-47s and RAF Spitfires. 36 B-17s are missing. Claims against e/a are 148-18-63.

Unit 1ST WING	(Dispatched		Comment STATE CO.	of A/0 iled Bomp+ B.	C Lost)	Claims	Person (Killed	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF	sualties d <u>Missing</u>)
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+Failed to Bomb - A - Mechanical and Equipment Failures.

B - Other than Mechanical and Equipment Failures (includes

weather, recall, enemy action, etc.) x183 A/C on Schweinfurt, 1 on Frankfurt and 4 on Opportunity Targets.

BOMBING RESULTS: 183 B-17s dropped 1017 x 250 British incendiaries, 719 x 500 G.P. fused 1/10 sec. nose and 1/100 sec. tail and 235 x 1000 G.P. fused 1/10 sec. nose and 1/40 sec. tail from 19,000 - 22,600 feet at 1459 - 1511 hours on industrial plants in Schweinfurt. The B-17s had as aiming points, three ball bearing plants which contribute approximately 50% of total output of ball bearings available to Germany. Bombing results were very good. Considerable damage was inflicted on a number of buildings of the Kugelfisher Works (ball bearings), Fichtel & Sachs (aircraft components) and the <u>Vereingte Kugellager Fabriken</u> (ball bearings) Works I and II. Communications, including the main railway station, also suffered very heavy damage as well as a number of residential areas in Schweinfurt and Oberndorf. At the Kugelfisher Works the power house, a single-story machine shop, a multi-story machine shop and a large group of office buildings and stores received hits. At the Fichtel & Sachs Plant at least two bombs burst directly on a single-story machine shop, with three more on adjoining buildings. Direct hits

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were scored on two machine shops of the Works II plant of the V.K.F., and our buildings received blast damage. At Works I of the V.K.F., part of the manufacturing buildings were destroyed. A barracks in a military establishment northwest of Schweinfurt was also damaged by a concentration of bombs.

REASONS FOR FATLURE TO BOMB: 42 a/c failed to bomb - 10 because of mechanical and equipment failures, 2 because of personnel failures, 1 because of flak damage, and 29 which are missing.

ENCOUNTERS: E/a opposition was extremely strong. Up to 300 e/a were reported encountered, with attacks beginning at Antwerp and continuing in intermittent waves to Schweinfurt and back to the French coast. Attacks came from all direction with those from nose and tail - high and level - predominating. At times as many as 20 - 25 e/a would attack in line astern, with many other attacks being made by groups of 2 - 5. Many attacks came from above and out of the sun, with e/a diving on high squadrons and continuing through formation to strike the low squadron. Twin-engined e/a were reported as staying farther away from formations and generally showing poor tactics. Most of the e/a seen were FW-190s, Me-109s, Me-110 and JU-88s, with a few reports of Me-210s, DO-217s, HE-113s and FW-189s. Some single-engined e/a were reported resembling P-47s, being painted green with white cowlings and tails.

CASUALTIES: Personnel - 3 killed, 3 seriously wounded, 9 slightly wounded and 352 are missing.

2 crews were picked up by Air Sea Rescue Service.

Equipment - 36 B-17s - 1 by flak, 26 by e/a and 9 by reasons unknown.

Estimated Battle Damage - 73 category "A", 9 category "AC" and 3 category "E".

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE: At Antwerp meagre to moderate fire of the predicted concentration type was reported as fairly accurate. Moderate to intense fire of a barrage type, largely inaccurate, was met at Schweinfurt. Intense fairly accurate fire came from Darmstadt, with moderate fairly accurate flak being encountered at Bingen, Hasselt and Maastricht. At Diest flak was meagre and fairly accurate and at Bonn moderate and inaccurate. Meagre inaccurate flak was reported at Koln, Frankfurt and Aachen.

ROUTE: Clacton (102nd C.W.) and Orfordness (101st and 103rd C.W.), to 51°35'N - 03°40'E, to Eupen, to 49°45'N - 08°20'E, to 50°04'N - 09°41'E, to Schweinfurt, to Eupen, to 51°20'N - 03°20'E, to Felixstowe.

WEATHER: Nil to 3/10 cumulus and 4/10 - 6/10 altocumulus encountered on route out over North Sea decreased to nil over the continent where 6/10 - 9/10 high cirrus was reported. Over the target there was 5/10 - 6/10 cirrostratus above the bombers with traces of cumulus and stratocumulus at 3,000 ft. Visibility was 15-30 miles, although some of the groups were bothered by smoke screens. On return route conditions were similar to those on route out.

FIGHTER SUPPORT AND DIVERSIONS: 18 squadrons of VIII Fighter Command P-47s and 16 squadrons of RAF Spitfires provided penetration support for 1st and 4th Wing formations and withdrawal support for 1st Wing bombers. The escorting P-47s destroyed 20 e/a, and the Spitfires destroyed 13. In conjunction with these operations VIII Air Support Command B-26s attacked Bryas/Sud and Poix Airfields, RAF Mitchels bombed Calais Marshalling Yards, and RAF Typhoon bombers raided

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By ND NARA Date 8/4/4

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the airfields at Poix, Lille/Vendeville and Woensdrecht. These attacks were supported by RAF fighters which destroyed one c/a. From all these operations 3 P-47s, 3 Spitfires and 1 Typhoon are missing.

OBSERV.TIONS: Smoke screens were observed at Antwerp, Bonn, Koln, Mannheim and five miles southwest of the target. Approximately 40 single-engined e/a were reported on airfield at Schweinfurt. On 4 occasions flashes from the ground and smoke puffs about 5,000 feet high appeared on course about 20 miles ahead of the formation. Heavy barge traffic was noted in the Rhine between Bonn and Koblenz.

PART II - REGENSBURG

An Air Task Force composed of three Combat Wings of the 4th Air Division was dispatched to attack the Messerschmitt A.G. plant at Regensburg. The aircraft formations encountered strong opposition from e/a. Fighter escort was provided by P-47s of the VIII Fighter Command. 24 B-17s are missing. Claims are

Unit 4TH WING	(<u>Dispatched</u>	<u>Nur</u> 1 <u>Attack</u>	ed Fa	of A/C iled Bomb+	Lost)	Claims	Person (Killed	nel Ca Vounde	sualties d Missing)
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+Failed to Bomb - A - Mechanical and Equipment Failures.

B - Other than mechanical and equipment failures (includes weather, recall, enemy action, etc.)

x l a/c bombed a target of opportunity.

BOMBING RESULTS: 126 B-17s dropped 971 x 500 G.P. fused inst. nose and 1/100 sec. tail, and 448 x 250 British incendiaries from 17,000 - 20,000 ft. at 1148 - 1207 hrs. on the important fighter assembly factory of Messerschmitt A.G. which contributed a large percentage of the total output of Mel09s for the G.A.F.

P.R.U. cover taken at 1530 hours on 17 August shows that the bombing was accurate and results are excellent. Except for a concentration of bursts close to the northeast corner of the Messerschmitt Works, practically all of the bombs fell either within the factory boundaries or on the airfield. Heavy damage was inflicted on the factory and nearly all the buildings were affected in some degree. Five of the main workshops were seriously damaged and four other large workshops were partially destroyed. A hangar probably used for engine installation was more than half destroyed. A main store and workshop was three-fourths destroyed and was still burning at the time the P.R.U. cover was taken. Office buildings, shops,

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By NDD NARA Date 8/4/4



sheds, canteens and miscellaneous buildings were damaged. Photographs show 37 s'e fighters close to the factory, and it is probable that these were damaged although smoke over the area prevented any definite assessment.

REASONS FOR FATLURE TO BOLB: 19 a/c failed to bomb - 7 because of mechanical and equipment failures and 12 were lost before reaching the target.

ENCOUNTERS: Enemy fighter opposition was extremely strong, with 200 or more e/a reported making attacks which started just after crossing the Belgian coast and continued until formations had reached the Alps. Types of e/a reported included a large percentage of Mel09s, FW-190s, Me-110s, Me-210s, and JU-88s, with a few He-113s, FW-189s, FW-200s and DO-217s. As the formation penetrated deeper into Germany, attacks by single engined e/a decreased while those by twin engined e/a increased. All known enemy tactics were employed, with attacks being made from all directions and angles. The essential pattern of attack was for groups of 5 - 11 e/a to come in simultaneously at 2 and 10 o'clock, with an attack at 6 o'clock being made at the same time. Pilots appeared experienced and extremely daring, with reports of nany instances in which e/a attacked the high squadron and then dove through the group formation. There were several reports of 1 or 2 e/a staying alongside the formation as decoys while others attacked from nose or tail. Frontal attacks were described as from slightly above and slightly below. Stragglers were smothered by e/a, and there were some reports of parachutists being attacked. Individual attacks were chiefly out of the sun, regardless of angle. For the most part the attacks seemed better planned and executed than any encountered on previous missions.

Some Me-109s were reported firing heavy cannon from under each wing, with bursts resembling flak. Several crews reported e/a firing rockets. Other e/a were reported pulling up sharply and dropping clusters of 20-30 black or brown objects which would sail toward the formation and explode.

CASUALTIES: Personnel - 4 killed, 7 seriously wounded, 2 slightly wounded and 200 are missing. Two complete crews are in Switzerland where 2 B-17s landed.

Equipment - 24 B-17s are missing - 19 from e/a and 5 from unknown reasons.

Estimated Battle Damage - not available.

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE: An fire was not a deterrant and for the most part was sporadic and inaccurate all along the route. Two Groups reported AA fire from Regensburg and one of the two stated it was meagre and accurate during the second bombing run. Meagre accurate AA fire was reported from Woensdrecht; Wiesbaden, Rosenheim and Brenner Pass. Meagre inaccurate AA fire was encountered at numerous places along the route.

ROUTE: Bases to Lowestoft to 51°43'N = 03°42'E to Eupen to 49°45'N - 08°20'E.to 49°15'N -11°05'E to 49°02'N - 11°29'E to target; to 48°50'N - 12°10'E to 47°52'N - 12°13'E to 45°53'N - 11°03'E to Italian coast (44°13'N - 09°30'E) to 42°30'N - 08°00'E to 41°00'N - 07°20'E to 36°55'N - 07°45'E to Telergra.

WF THER: Route Out - 9 to 10/10 stratocumulus over England breaking from English coast, becoming 5 to 7/10 at 1500 to 2000 feet over Channel and becoming isolated patches over continental coast, becoming nil amounts of low cloud just inland. No low cloud remainder of distance to target. Patches of isolated medium at 10000ft.

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By ND HARA Date 8/4/11

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over England decreasing to nil over Channel except small patch of altocumulus at 10000ft. in mid-channel. Visibility increased to 10+ miles on English coast and over 20 miles over continent. Target; Regensburg - 1145 hours. Clear of all over 20 miles over continent. Target; Regensburg - 1145 hours. Clear of all over 20 miles. Target to African Base; Clear to Alps with cumulus cloud. Visibility 25 miles. Target to African Base; Clear to Alps with cumulus developing over ilps to 3 to 4/10 with little vertical development. Becoming clear of low cloud over Italy and then 2 to 3/10 cumulus over Mediterranean, base 2000 of low cloud over Italy and then 2 to 3/10 cumulus over Mediterranean, base 2000 ft, tops 7000 ft, continuing to vicinity of bases. Visibility 10+ miles over Africa to 5 to 7 miles over Mediterranean in haze and locally 1 to 2 miles over Africa in blowing dust. Bases in Africa: - 1800 hours - 3 to 4/10 swelling cumulus; base in blowing dust. Visibility 10+ miles except locally 1 to 2 miles in blowing 2000 ft, tops 7000 ft. Visibility 10+ miles except locally 1 to 2 miles in blowing sand.

FIGHTER SUPPORT AND DIVERSIONS: See Part I.

OBSERV.TIONS: Smoke pots were reported at Mannheim, Nurnburg, Darmstadt, Regensburg, and Wurzburg. Balloon barrages were observed at Mannheim, Aachen, and to the right of course at Brenner Pass. 50-75 twin-engined enemy fighters and to the right of course at Brenner Pass. 50-75 miles southeast of Regensburg. were observed on a large airfield approximately 5 miles southeast of Regensburg.

BOMBARDIER'S LOG

REGEESBURG

0520

Target: *Elevation:	Take-Off:
Date: Escort:	

Description and Remarks:

AIRGRAFT PACTORY

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

APO 684 17 August 1948

SUBJECT: Bombing Report on Regensburg, Germany, 17 August 1943.

- TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), APO 654.
 - 1. Complete narrative of the mission of 17 August 1943.
 - 1. The A.B.C. computer in conjunction with the Cl pilot, were used as two aids to bombing. The pre-set information, that was given to the lead bombardier, checked with the actual data.
 - 2. Evasive action was employed at the Initial Point.
 - 3. The bomb bay doors were opened just after turning from the Initial Point.
 - 4. The bombing run was excellent. The target could easily be seen, due to perfect weather conditions that existed.
 - 5. The effect of enemy resistence on the bombing run was intense. Fighters surrounded the group at that time.
 - 6. The weather conditions at the target area was excellent. Due to the good visibility, that the target could be easily seen.
 - 7. The enemy employed unused tactics on the bombing run, by having 10 to 15 fighters come in on the nose of the lead ship for numerous times in succession.
 - 8. Visual results of the bombing were reported as excellent.
 - 9. There are no suggestions as to tactical changes in bombing technique on any particular target or on all targets.

FRANK T. IMAND 1st Lt., Air Corps, Group Bombing Officer.

BAKER 17 Aug 1943 SNOW COMBAT DUPLICATION CHECK FORM Noyes 0182 EGENSBURG COZEM O273 140MAS 0300 Welkenson Distriction 1/64 - 18000 (LEAD) 04 - 17000 CHANGE IN POSITION - 3x0 14 tru AD KRING 0950

HEADQUARTERS HINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Office of the Communications Officer

(J-1)

APO 634 August 24 1948

SUBJECT: Operational Communications for 17 August, 1943

- TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group Station 119
- 1. Of the seventeen (17) crews which went on the mission, eleven (11) crews were available for interrogation by the Communications Officer.
 - 2. Mechanical and electrical failures were as follows:
 - (a) 334F, interphone system out, repaired at advance base;
 - (b) 412U, interphone system out at altitude, repaired at advance base;
 - 3. The following aircraft used navigational aids successfully:
 - (a) 334F used splashers Nos. 6,7;
 - 4. Operators reported advance ground station quiet, target apparently beyond range of Air Division ground station.

RICHARD F. KNOX lst Lieut., A.C. Communications

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NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Office of the Operations Officer A.P.O. #634

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336th- 22.16 - B.S.T.

334th 0045 335th-0171 EXTRA SHIPS

Sort were > 0725

17 August 1943

Sortie No. 26) Mission No. 24)

TARGET: Messerschmidt A. G. plant at Regensburg, Germany.

1. 22 A/C took off beginning at 0715 on the seventeenth of August to attack the Me 109 assembly plant at Regensburg, Germany. While 17 A/C were over enemy coast, 15 A/C attacked the target, 5 ships returned early, 2 were shot down before the target and one after the target. Flak on this mission was meager. E/A tactics were aggressive to the point of being characterized as vicious. Crews report bombing of this target Excellent. Briefed course was followed. E/A claims 25-7-8.

VIII BC Narrative: Primary effort directed at the Messerschmi tt A.G. plant at Regensburg, Germany. 146 B-17's were dispatched. 127 A/C attacked, target, with the loss of 24 A/C, 19 A/C aborting. Results reported Excellent.

230 A/C dispatched to Schweinfurt, 188 attacked, 42 aborted and 36 are missing. E/A claims 148-18-63.

· _I	INDLEY	COZENS		STORIE			
ADAMS	KRING	MCPHERSON NOYE	S	SNOW	SUNDBERG		
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HEADQUARTERS NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) OFFICE OF THE ARMAMENT OFFICER APO 634

17 August 1943

SUBJECT: Mission Expenditure Report for 17 August 1943

: Commanding General, Fourth Bombardment Wing TO

Following is the expenditure report for 17 August 1943

AAF 119 Station a. 95th Bombardment wing b. Unit Cal. AP., I&T Type of Ammunition c.

d. Gun location and No. of guns

22	Lower Turret Guns.	9100
22	Upper Turret Guns	7350
11	Left Waist Guns	6650
11	Right Waist Guns	5425
11	Radio Guns	4375
11	Left Nose Guns	5075
11	Right Nose Guns	2975
11	Center Nose Guns	5425
22	Tail Guns	9450

Total number of guns 132
Total number of rounds fired 55,825

g. Four ships reported missing and two ships did not return to this base. These six ships were each loaded with 7500 rounds of AP., I&T ammunition and 16 British Incendiary

Total number of rounds expended 100,325 h.

i. Total bombs expended 272-250 lb. British Incendiaries.

For the Commanding Officer:

LEONARD F. DAWSON 1st Lt. Air Corps, Armamont Officer,

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

APO 634 24 August 1943

SUBJECT: Navigation Report on Operations of 17 August 1943.

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

- 1. The Ninety Fifth Bombardment Group (H) was the lead group of the Four Hundred Second Combat Wing, which followed in close support to the Four Hundred First and Four Hundred Third Combat Wings.
- 2. The navigation by the leader was excellent; ass courses were followed as briefed, in spite of fierce resistance.
- 3. The enclosed flight plan is that of the planes which landed at Telergias. Others of the Ninety Fifth Bombardment Group (H) landed at other advance bases.
- 4. Four "Gee" boxes were in operation, and all navigators reported that operation beased at the enemy coast, because of intense jamming and fading.

ELLIS B. SCRIPTURE 1st Lt., Air Corps, Group Navigation Officer.

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

APO 684, 28 August, 1943.

SUBJECT: S-3 Narrative of Mission 17 August, 1943.

- TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H).
- 1. The Ninety Fifth bombardment Group (H) was alerted at 1820, 16 August, 1943 for an operational mission with a bomb loading of 16 x 250 pointd insendaries, 1/10 second nose and 1/100 second tail fuse.
- 2. Field Order number 40 was received at 0006, 17th August, 1943. Twenty-one aircraft were called for. Twenty-three crews were set up, twp to turn back at the point of leaving the English Coast. The 95th Group was set up to lead the 402nd Combat Wing in close support to the 401st Combat Wing. There were six abortive airplanes, Fourteen aircraft bombed the target. Four are missing and two crashed landed in Africa.
 - 3. Several of our aircraft were damaged by flak and enemy aircraft.

CHARLES M. FORNEY, lst Lt., Air Corps, Asst Operations Officer. WEATHER STATION AAF STATION 119 APO 534

28 August, 1945

SUBJECT: Meteorological Interrogation Summary for Mission of 17 August, 1945. Regensburg, Germany to Advanced Bases.

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

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIV

- 1. Base at Take-Off: Time was 0715 GCT. 9-10/10 stratocumulus at 1000 feet. Visibility 2-4 miles.
- 2. Route to Target: Stratogumulus overcast breaking and clearing at the English Coast. Clear from English Coast to target. Visibility unlimited.
 - 3. Target Area: Time was 1154 GCT. Clear with unlimited visibility.
- 4. Target to advanced Bases: Clear with scattered cumulus in vicinity of mountains, then clear to African Coast when 4-6/10 heavy swelling cumulus with scattered thunderstorms were encountered. Visibility unlimited becoming 10-20 miles over Mediterranean and 10 miles over Africa.
- 5. Advanced Bases: Time was 1755 OCT. 4-6/10 heavy swelling cumulus and cumulonimbus with scattered thunderstorms. Visibility 10 miles.
 - 6. Remarks: Forecast and weather very good.

WALTER S. MILLS, Jr., 2nd Lt., Air Corps, Staff Weather Officer