

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

H. Bennett

HEADQUARTERS
VIII BOMBER COMMAND
APO 634

Bomber Command Narrative of Operations
104th Operation - 27 Sept., 1943.

- Mission No. 1 - Emden and Targets of Opportunity.
- Mission No. 2 - Emden and Targets of Opportunity.
- Mission No. 3 - Diversion.

The 1st and 3rd Bombardment Divisions dispatched one Air Task Force each to bomb port facilities at Emden. For the first time Pathfinder planes were used and three of them led the formations to the target. Emden was covered by heavy cloud and bombing results were generally unobserved. Many of the planes bombed German cities as targets of opportunity. Excellent fighter support was furnished by P-47s. The bombers encountered heavy enemy opposition and seven B-17s were lost. Claims are 32-7-24.

The 2nd Bombardment Division dispatched an Air Task Force of B-24s which carried out a Diversion according to plan. The B-24s were given fighter support by RAF Typhoons. No incidents occurred.

Unit	Number of A/C					Claims	Personnel Casualties		
	Dispatched	Attacked	Failed	Lost	To Bomb+		Killed	Wounded	Missing
MISSION NO. 1									
EMDEN & TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY									
			A.	B.					
94	19	6	0	13	3	4-0-5	0	0	31
95	22	21	1	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
96	21	19	2	0	1	4-4-7	0	8	10
100	20	17	3	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
385	18	18	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
388	20	16	4	0	0	9-2-2	0	0	0
390	21	20	1	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
	<u>141</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>17-6-14</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>41</u>

1ST BOMB DIV.
MISSION NO. 2
EMDEN & TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY

91	19	14	1	4	3	3-0-1	1	5	30
92	16	16	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
303	19	6	0	13	0	0-0-0	0	1	0
305	18	2	3	13	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
306	18	18	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
351	18	17	1	0	0	0-0-1	0	0	0
379	19	18	0	1	0	7-0-3	0	0	0
381	19	18	1	0	0	4-1-5	0	4	0
384	18	18	0	0	0	1-0-0	0	0	0
	<u>164</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>15-1-10</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>30</u>

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

	Number of A/C						Personnel Casualties		
	2ND BOMB DIV. <u>DIVERSION</u>	(Dispatched)	Attacked	Failed	Lost	Claims	(Killed Wounded Missing)		
							To Bomb ⁺		
				A.	B.				
44	2	2	0	0	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
392	<u>22</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0-0-0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>PATHFINDER</u>									
482	3	2	0	1	0	0-0-0	0	0	0
TOTALS	332	270	17	45	7	32-7-24	1	18	71

+Failed to Bomb - A - Mechanical and Equipment Failures.
 B - Other than Mechanical and Equipment Failures (includes weather, enemy action, recall, etc.)

MISSION NO. 1 - EMDEN AND TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY.

MISSION NO. 2 - EMDEN AND TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY.

The First Air Task Force was composed of 141 B-17s of the 3rd Bombardment Division, plus one Pathfinder B-17 of the 482nd Group which flew with the 100th Group. The Pathfinder plane was to drop markers over Emden if the target was obscured by cloud. This plan was followed but the crews did not have sufficient experience in this type of operation to take full advantage of the flares.

The Second Air Task Force was composed of 164 B-17s of the 1st Bombardment Division, plus two Pathfinders of the 482nd Group which flew with the 91st Group. The Pathfinders were used in the same way as outlined above, but good results were not achieved.

BOMBING RESULTS: 178 B-17s dropped 1707 x 500 G.P. fused 1/10 sec. nose and 1/40 sec. tail, 22 x 1000 G.P. fused 1/10 sec. nose and 1/40 sec. tail, and 1356 x 100 I.B. (M47A1) from 21,500 - 25,000 feet at 0958 - 1008 hours on Emden. The bombing was done through heavy cloud which so obscured the target that many of the bursts could not be observed. A heavy concentration fell just north and northeast of Emden. Some hits were scored on the outskirts of the city and some in the village of Emden-Wolthusen. Three bursts were observed near the industrial area just south of Emden, and a few direct hits were scored on railroad lines.

68 B-17s dropped 277 x 500 G.P., 57 x 1000 G.P. and 1657 x 100 I.B. on targets of opportunity. 19 B-17s bombed Aurich with unobserved results. Esens was attacked by 18 B-17s, and a number of hits could be seen on buildings in the village. Results on the other targets of opportunity could not be observed.

REASONS FOR FAILURE TO BOMB: Mission No. 1 - 24 a/c failed to bomb - 11 because of mechanical and equipment failures, 3 were lost, and 10 because of adverse weather.

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Mission No. 2 - 38 a/c failed to bomb - 6 because and equipment failures, 3 because of damage caused by enemy action, 13 failed to bomb because they did not see the combat wing leader bomb, 13 because of misinterpretation of pathfinder flares and 3 were lost.

ENCOUNTERS: Mission No. 1 - Of the first three groups over the target, only the last group was attacked, and then only by a maximum of 6 e/a from long range. The two following groups encountered the most severe opposition, with attacks beginning just before target and continuing until several miles out to sea on return. Fighter support reduced attacks to a minimum and most attacks were from 4 to 7 o'clock level or low. Attacks were made singly and in train of 5 to 6, with reports of intensity varying. One report stated that e/a dived in as close as 25 to 35 yards before peeling off and passing under the formation, while another report stated that at one period none of the attacks were pressed home. The number of e/a reported attacking varied from 35 to 100.

The last two groups over the target encountered very little opposition, with not more than 15 e/a attacking from 12, 3 and 6 o'clock high and low and generally singly. Types were approximately divided evenly between FW-190s and Me-109s. Some e/a were reported equipped with guns firing large projectiles with long bursts of flame being emitted from the guns. Two of the missing B-17s were observed to have been lost to e/a attacking from 7 o'clock level.

Mission No. 2 - Enemy air opposition was concentrated on the leading combat wing with from 50 to 75 e/a attacking just before the target. E/A were mostly FW-190s and Me-109s, although a few Ju-88s and other twin-engined e/a were reported. First attacks began at 0945 hours, three miles north of Rottumeroog and continued intermittently, except over target, until 1020 hours just north of the west end of Norderney Island. Attacks were more than usually concentrated on the nose. Many developed by bunches of 6 e/a coming in high from 1500 yards, dropping down to level at 12 o'clock at 800 yards and closing either abreast or in staggered echelon to the rear in such a position that top turret could not get down to them and ball turret could not pick them up; passing by just underneath or off the wing and pulling up either away or on to elements behind.

Some e/a rolled over while firing coming in. Some bunched attacks of 4 e/a started in trail and then swung into line abreast. Some attacks came in level and took a vertical bank position going through the formation, holding this position while firing and going through. A few attacks, mostly singles, developed from 6 o'clock. Early attacks seemed to use the sun coming in high on the nose. Returning after the target, a few attacks were made out of the sun from high at 5 and 6 o'clock. One FW-190, which was from 200 to 300 yards below at 5 o'clock, fired a large object which went above the formation and exploded to the right with a large flash. One group reports seeing two Stukas. An Me-109 was observed to fire rockets from its belly which left an orange trail 100 yards in length. Some aerial bombing was reported, but bombs exploded below the formations without causing any damage.

CASUALTIES: Mission No. 1 - Personnel - 1 crew member was seriously wounded, 7 slightly wounded and 41 are missing.

Equipment - 4 B-17s were lost - 1 to flak and 3 for reasons unknown.

Estimated Battle Damage - 18 category "A", 1 category "AC" and 1 category "E".

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

Mission No. 2 - Personnel - 1 crew member was killed, 2 seriously
lightly wounded and 30 are missing.

Equipment - 3 B-17s were lost - 1 to e/a and 2

to reasons unknown.

Estimated Battle Damage - 15 category "A" and 4

category "AC".

ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE: Mission No. 1 - Meagre inaccurate AA fire was reported at Borkum Island, Rottumeroog, Oldersum, Aurich, Juist and Nordorney. Meagre fire over Emden was accurate on two groups. All fire seems to have been continuously pointed with possible barrage fire over Emden.

Mission No. 2 - AA fire at the coast and at the target was meagre to moderate and mostly inaccurate.

ROUTE: Mission No. 1 - Bases to Coast to 53°25'N - 00°37'E, to 53°45'N - 04°25'E to 53°52'N - 05°45'E, to 53°28'N - 06°42'E, to target to Esens at 53°38'N - 07°36'E, to 53°44'N - 06°48'E, to 54°05'N - 05°20'E, to 53°55'N - 04°25'E, to 53°45'N - 03°25'E, to 53°35'N - 02°55'E, to 53°18'N - 02°45'E, to 53°00'N - 02°18'E, to Great Yarmouth to Bases.

Mission No. 2 - Bases to 52°52'N - 01°28'E, to 53°36'N - 04°51'E, to 53°50'N - 05°08'E, to 53°44'N - 06°25'E, to 53°26'N - 06°50'E (I.P.) to target to 53°43'N - 07°13'E to 54°04'N - 06°20'E, to 53°58'N - 04°34'E, to 53°40'N - 03°00'E, to Great Yarmouth to Bases.

FIGHTER SUPPORT: Four groups of P-47s provided escort and penetration support. One group of 48 P-47s arrived at the scheduled rendezvous appointed, but the B-17s were several minutes ahead of schedule so the fighters rendezvoused with them over the target area. The group continued with the bombers over the target and out over the North Sea and left them at 53°50'N - 06°10'E. Another group of 49 P-47s rendezvoused with the formation of B-17s at 0935 hours northwest of Ameland Island and stayed with them over the target and out to sea and left the B-17s north of Terschelling Island. A third group of 51 P-47s failed to meet the bombers at the scheduled rendezvous, orbited between the Frisian Islands and the mainland, and then split up into three squadrons which did contact the bombers for a short time when they were on the way out from the enemy coast. A fourth group of 39 P-47s rendezvoused with the Second Task Force at 0944 hours. They provided escort into the target and out and left the B-17s north of Terschelling Island at 1033 hours.

The P-47 fighter support was considered excellent by the crews. The fighters claim 20 e/a destroyed for the loss of one P-47

Additional withdrawal cover was provided by four squadrons of Spitfires which met the B-17s about 50 miles east of the Wash and escorted them back to the English Coast.

OBSERVATIONS: An ineffective smoke screen was seen at Emden, and another observed at Norden, with some reports of smoke pots on vessels in the harbor. Camouflage attempting to change the contour of the harbor was reported in the bay north of Emden between Greetsho and Westermarscher. Twelve radio towers in a square pattern were reported three miles southeast of Norden.

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Authority NND745005

By KJ NARA Date 02/17/09

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

MISSION NO. 3 - DIVERSION

24 B-24s were dispatched by the 2nd Bombardment Division to carry out a Diversion over the North Sea. 16 RAF Typhoons rendezvoused at 0910 hours with the B-24s. No e/a were observed and a Diversion was carried out as planned with no incidents.

W E A T H E R

EMDEN AND TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: Route Out - Trace of stratocumulus increasing to 5/10 to 7/10 cumulus over the North Sea, tops 5,000 to 7,000 feet. 8/10 to 10/10 cumulus near continental coast, tops 15,000 to 17,000 feet. 1/10 to 3/10 cirrus above flight level. Visibility 15 to 20 miles. Target: 8/10 to 10/10 cumulus, tops 15,000 to 17,000 feet, 1/10 to 3/10 cirrus. Visibility 15 to 20 miles. Return Route: To English coast similar to route out. Scattered rain showers just off English coast, 2/10 to 5/10 cumulus, base 2,000 to 3,000 feet, tops 4,000 to 5,000 feet. 1/10 to 3/10 cirrus above flight level. Visibility 15 to 20 miles.

DIVERSION: Route Out - 6/10 to 8/10 cumulus, tops 7,000 feet at English coast becoming generally 6/10 to 8/10 occasionally 10/10 cumulus over the North Sea, tops 10,000 to 12,000 feet. Nil to 2/10 altocumulus, 2/10 to 3/10 cirrus at 25,000 feet. Visibility 10 to 15 miles. Return Route: Similar to route out.

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

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Authority NND745005

By KJ NARA Date 02/17/09

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

APO 634,
28 September, 1943.

SUBJECT: S-3 Narrative Report for Operational Mission 27 September, 1943.

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

1. The 95th Bombardment Group (H) was alerted for an operational mission at 1735 26 September, 1943 with a bomb loading of 12 x 500 pound (GP) bombs with 1/10 second nose and 1/40 second tail fusing.

2. Field Order number 66 was received at 2240 26 September, 1943. The 95th Group was set up as the high group of the 3rd Combat Wing formation with twenty-two aircraft taking off at 0609 hours. There was one abortion due to an oxygen leak.

3. Twenty-one of our aircraft bombed the target of which photographs show hits in the target area. All of our aircraft returned by 1255 hours.

CHARLES M. FORNEY,
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Asst Operations Officer.

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

GROUP FORMATION FORM

DATE 27 SEPT.

LEAD

THOMPSON ✓

YLANGER 03 RM 336 M
BROGAN ✓
34 00* 34 97 335 0
336 D ROTHSCHILD ✓

SNOW 06 74 336 C
CARSON ✓
60 80* 60 80 *
335 0 335 P

HIGH

KNOWLTON ✓
02 26 02 26
336 L 336 L
TUCKER ✓
00 45 00 45
334 M MSPHERSON ✓

WITT 01 35 *
334 H CROWDER ✓
99 43 99 43
334 K RENO 01 82 *
334 E

BUCKLEY 03 42 *
334 B BIGGS ✓
02 73 02 73
334 F 59 86
334 J

EXTRA SHIPS
334
335
336
412

LOW

LINDLEY 05 55 54 18
412 J KRING ✓
03 79 03 79
412 W EASTLING ✓
336 P 336 P

CASPER 336 E
WEHRMAN ✓
02 85 02 85
412 T 33 17 *
412 Y

EXTRA

CORRIEA
01 67
336 H

BOCKMAN
54 18 54 18
336 J

BRIEFING 0315
READINESS 0438
STATIONS 0538
TAXI 0553
TAKE-OFF 0608
RENDEZVOUS 0628

Bunker #8 @ 20,000' - 0751
Grantham @ 20,000' - 0826
Apr. #4 - 0840

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Authority NND745005

By KJ NARA Date 02/17/09

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

APO 634
27 September 1943

SUBJECT: Navigation Report on Operations of 27 September 1943.

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

1. The Ninety Fifth Bombardment Group (H), was flying as high group in the Thirteenth Combat Wing. The rendezvous was met as scheduled.

2. The briefed course was followed very well, with some exceptions in order to meet control times. However, the navigation was very good, and all control times were met with a good degree of accuracy. Fighter support was excellent.

3. Six "Geo" boxes were in operation throughout the mission, with good results reported by all navigators to between 05° 00'E and 06° 00'E.

4. Log book procedures were good. No instrument failures were reported.

ELLIS B. SCRIPTURE
1st Lt., Air Corps,
Group Navigator.

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Authority NND745005

By KJ NARA Date 02/17/09

Sortie No. 40)
Mission No. 35)

27 September 1943

TARGET: Dock Area of Emden, Germany.

1. Of the 22 A/C that took off to attack Emden 21 A/C dropped the ir bombs and one aborted. Both AA fire and E/A opposition were ineffective. Cloud cover affedted accuracy of bombing. Fighter cover by P-47's was most effective and highly praised by all crews. The briefed course was followed.

VIII BC Narrative: Of the 141 dispatched to attack Emden, 117 attacked, 24 aborted and 4 are missing. For the first time pathfinder planes were used and three of them led the formation to the targer. Results were generally unobserved. E/A claims 17-6-14.

164 A/C were diapatched to attack Emden, 127 attacked, 37 failed to bomb and 3 are missing. E/A claims 15-1-10.

LINDLEY

THOMPSON

KNOWLTON

BARRACLOUGH

KRING

YUENGER

BROMAN X

TUCKER

CROCKETT

EA STLING

ROTHSCHILD

MCPHERSON

CASPERS

WEHRMAN

SNOW

CARSON

WITT

CROWDER

RENO

BUCKLEY

RIGGS

EXTRA

CORREIA

Abortive--X

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 27-9-

TIME /AKE

FMDEN

EXTRA A/C

F. OVER TARGET

95TH
24000'

390TH
22000'

BROMAN
3497

YUENGER
3400

BRIDGEMAN
0235

BARRACLOUGH
3273

KRING
0377

ROTHSCHILD
0674

TUCKER
0045

ROCKETT
0181

EASTLING
3283

SNOW
7756

CARSON
6080

McPHERSON
0135

CASPERS
0288

WEHRMAN
3317

WITT
9943

CROWDER
0182

RENO
0342

EXTRA

CORREIA
0167

BOETTNER
5918

BUCKLEY
0273

RIGGS
5986

