

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

8 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Operations Officer's Report on Mission of 8 March 1944 -

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bomb. Gp, APO 634.

1. GENERAL NARRATIVE: The 95th Group formation took off at 0900-0915 hours. By 0935 the Group formation had assembled over base at 2,000 feet and proceeded to Colchester, climbing at 250 ft per min IAS 150. It tacked on to 100th en route to Colchester, making rendezvous at appointed place unnecessary. The 390th also was within sight and climbed to rendezvous point, gradually closing into good Combat Wing formation. The approximate over-all length of the Combat Wing was not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.

As Splasher #6 was approached, the 45th Wing swang in just ahead and to the left of the 13th wing. The 4th Combat Wing was presumably sighted several miles to the rear of the 45th.

The climb to bombing altitude was begun at 1112 hours 52°50'N, 02°11'E. The 13th Combat Wing remained in very good formation. At 1150 the formation leveled out at 24,000 ft., just as the Wing crossed the enemy coast.

The route from the enemy coast to the target was flown as ordered, except when the 45th Wing changed leader, causing a change of course, taking the Division 25 miles south of briefed route. The first fighters attacked at 1250 North-west of Hannover. Their attacks were persistent for twenty minutes. Later the fighters hit intermittently until the IP was reached, when P-38's and P-51's gave close cover. The weather being CAVU normal interval was taken at IP. The 100th was first over the target and was followed by the 390th at a distance of about 1,000 yards and by the 95th, by a distance of about 2,000 yards. A group of B-24's on a collision course at lower altitude caused much concern to the lead bombardier. Bombs away at 1439. After the bombing, rally was effected as planned with the 4th Combat Wing. All groups closed up to a very tight Division formation which was maintained all the way back. The cover furnished by our fighters was very good. Letdown to 15,000 after rally point was executed as briefed.

After recrossing enemy coast at 1620 let down was assumed at 170 IAS 500 ft per minute. Undercast at 2,000 ft. necessitated landing by individual peel offs from Buncher

The Group reached home and landed from 1704 to 1740.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Twenty-two aircraft, including one spare, left base in the formation shown in the attached diagram "A". Spare A/C #3400 turned back before becoming dispatched. A/C #8140, A/C #3263, A/C #1600, A/C #1876 and A/C #3153 also left the formation before becoming dispatched. Thus 16 A/C were dispatched.

Of these 16 A/C two, #0167 and #0235 turned back before reaching the enemy coast and without being attacked and are not credited with a sortie. The remaining 14 A/C did make sorties. A/C #1675 turned back before reaching the target and A/C #7929 was shot down before reaching target. A/C 1632 attacked 52°34'N, 09°20'E after leaving formation.

11 A/C went over the target as shown in attached diagram "B".

A detailed description of reasons for failure to attack is given in a separate report on aircraft not attacking.

3. LOST AIRCRAFT: No. 7929 was hit by enemy aircraft on the way in to the target at 1315 hours, southeast of Brandenburg. It went down under control with wheels down. Six chutes were seen. The plane was last seen at 51°27'N, 13°26'E.

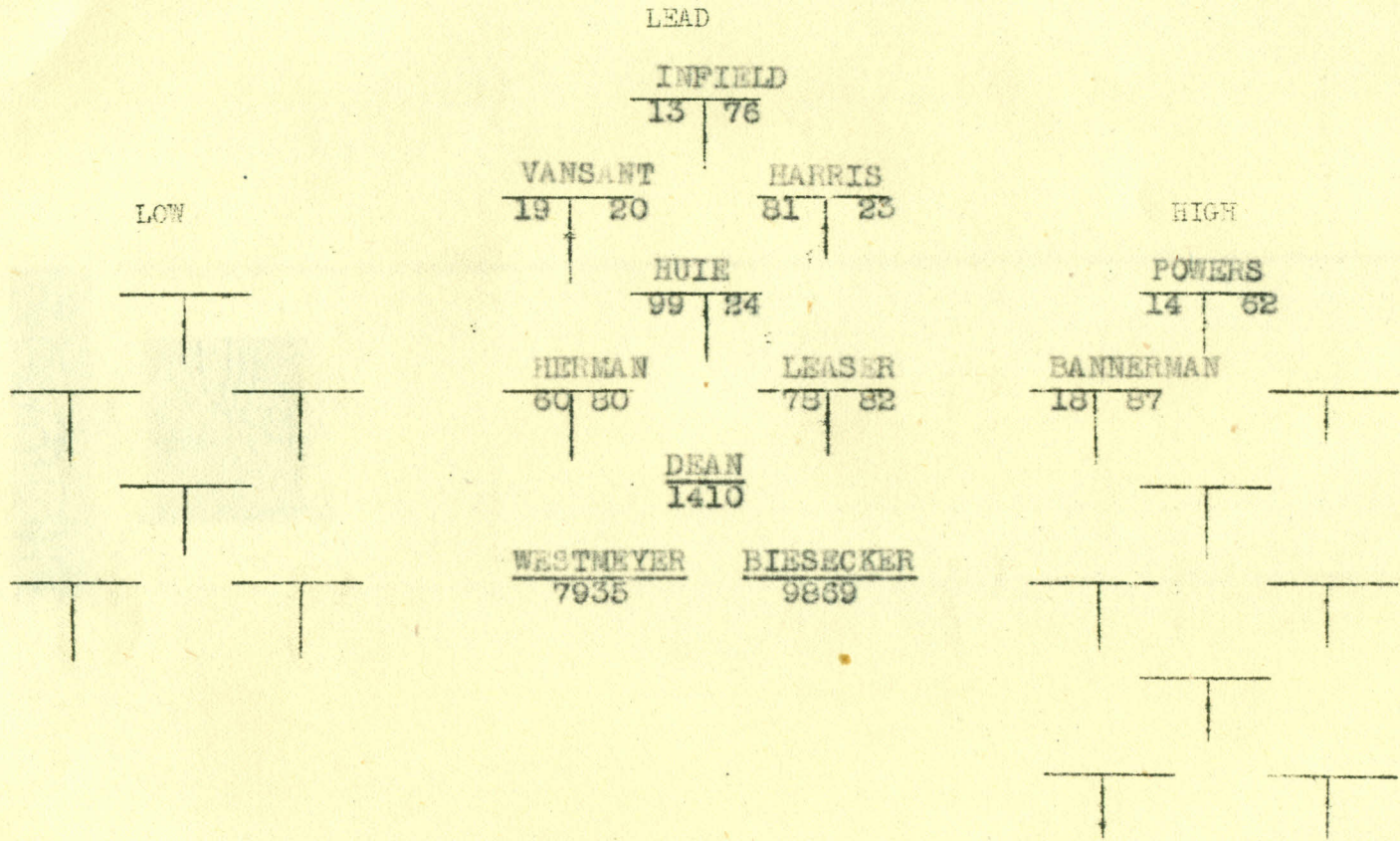
HARRY G. MUMFORD,
Lt. Col., AC,
Operations Officer.

95TH GROUP
 DIAGRAM "B"
 OVER TARGET

• NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (E)
 Office of the Operations Officer

GROUP FORMATION FORM

DATE 8 March 1944.



BRIEFING _____
 READINESS _____
 STATIONS _____
 TAXI _____
 TAKE-OFF _____
 RENDEZVOUS _____

EXTRA SHIPS
 334 _____
 335 _____
 336 _____
 412 _____

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 Authority NND 745005
 By AL NARA Date 4-27-11