

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
OFFICE OF THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER
APO 559

17 July 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bomb Group (H), APO 559.

1. Four aircraft of the 95th Bomb Group took off beginning at 1756 hours to form the low Squadron of the 100 D Group which was the fourth Group of the 13th Combat Wing and was assigned a tactical target in France. No aircraft returned early.

2. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

3. Boulogne - 10-15 bursts of inaccurate flak.
5020-0205 - accurate, tracking, 5 bursts at a time.
5025-0200 - extremely accurate, tracking, six bursts at a time.
5033-0156 - extremely accurate, tracking, twelve bursts at a time.

4. Photos show bombs hitting in field NE of target.
Bombs hit at 5010-0211E.

5. Briefed course followed to IP and then formation went to east of assigned target. Bombs dropped off Group Leader. A/C #1867 filled in the diamond of the high squadron. All aircraft returned to this base and landed by 2245 hours.

Stanley R. Wheaton
STANLEY R. WHEATON,
Captain, Air Corps,
Ass't. S-2 Officer.

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

E-F-26

18 July 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Bombardier's Narrative, Ninety Fifth Composite Group, Mission of 17 July 1944, Tactical Target Z-3277, France.

TO : Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), A.A.F.

1. Summary - 4 A/C were dispatched from the 95th Group and flew in the low squadron with the 100th "D" Group. Each A/C dropped 2 x 2000# AN-M34 bombs for a total of eight bombs dropped. Bombing approach and run was made on a heading of 10⁰, at an altitude of 22,800'. Bombs went away at approximately 2131 hours, and were not dropped on the primary target, but at approximately 5010N 0230E and about 40 miles northeast of the target. Three to four tenths cloud cover in target vicinity, plus haze. Bombs were fused 1/10 nose and 1/40 tail. No bombs were returned, and no malfunction reported on A/C taking off.

Wayne R. Fitzgerald

WAYNE R. FITZGERALD
Major, Air Corps,
Group Bombardier.

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1. Enemy Air Opposition

There was no enemy air opposition to either bombers or fighters on the day's afternoon or evening operations. Weather conditions were favorable during both missions.

Lack of G.A.F. reaction seems to support the belief that the enemy, except on rare occasions, now gives little priority to interception of heavy bomber daylight attacks. Only on deep penetrations into the Reich and when special conditions (such as the absence of escort) operate in the enemy's favor, does it seem likely that a defensive effort will be made.

2. FlakBombers

On the first operation moderate and accurate fire was met at Rilly la Montagne. Fire along the route was generally meager and fairly accurate. Two rockets were observed at 4905N-04LOE. No flak was encountered at Belfort, Nanteuil, Les Foulons and St. Dizier.

Flak was meager and accurate to inaccurate on the second operation against Noball targets.

Fighters

St. Pierre - Light and inaccurate.
Charlerac - Intense and accurate.
Reims - Moderate and inaccurate.
Etampes - Meager and inaccurate.
Chartres - Heavy and meager.
Amiens - Moderate and inaccurate.

3. Observations

Drucat A/F painted craters.
Criel A /F 50 camouflaged nets over woods adjacent to A/F.
Concrete strips under construction at 4 VJ-2805. Appeared one quarter mil. long, 200 feet wide at one end and 1000 feet at other. Strip pointed on compass heading of 320 degrees.
A /Fs at 4 VN-2530 and at 2536 under repair.
Train of 8 cars, conspicuously marked with red crosses seen at 4 VT-2641.
RR track 4 VS-7529 completely severed, from previous attack.
Train loaded with army trucks standing 4 VT-2524 to 4 VT-2530.
Three apparently serviceable A/Fs seen at 4 VO-0851, 4 VO-0854, and 4 VO-1356.
75 a/c parked on NW corner of A/F at 4941N-0329E. E-W runway being repaired.
M/Ys at Fourmies (5001N-0420E) with many freight cars.
Gun installation at 5000N-0130E. 4 store houses near wooded area at 5003N-0340E.
M/Ys at Amiens, Charleroi, Chateau-Thierry, Epinay, La Louvierre, Mezieres, Mulhouse and Rethel show considerable activity.

S E C R E T

3. Observations (Continued)

Large factory in center of Charleroi with several RR spur tracks leading to mainline RR station, appears in active production.

At 4800N-0352E saw large ordnance depot.

At 4817N-0137E observed large factory.

At 4810N-0312E observed six oil-storage tanks.

At 4757N-0332E two full circles of Nissen huts in area about 50 yards long. Camouflaged RR yard leading into same area.

At 4814N-0408E concentration of warehouses and supplies-RR tracks leading into same.

At 4809N-0200E observed A/F - S -W and N-E runways in good shape.

At 4917N-0459E A/F in good shape.

At 4750N-0330E observed ammunition dump.

At 5000N-0420E A/F which had been bombed, with runways repaired and appeared to be operational.

A/F at 4910N-0420E with 15-20 u/i a/c on runway.

Landing strip at 4758N-0220E with runways in apparently good condition.

A/F at 4927N-0408E, probably Rheims/Champagne A/F, appeared to be operational. No a/c observed.

Fire on A/F 2 miles SE of Rouen.

4. Damage to Enemy InstallationsFrovent Bridge and Embankment - Very Good Results

All tracks cut. 30 bursts fell in adjacent M/Y and on rail lines of the junction. Eastern choke point of the M/Y received at least five direct hits.

Peronne Bridge - Good Results

Possibly one direct hit on the bridge. Tracks are cut.

Doullens Rail Junction - Good Results

Target is well covered. Approximately 70 HE bombs are plotted in and adjacent to target area. 15 direct hits in M/Y. One direct hit on rail house. Three direct hits on junction of rail lines in the eastern end of the M/Y.

Ham-sur-Somme Bridge - Good Results

At least one direct hit, probably more, on bridge. Six direct hits on rail line leading to southern terminal of bridge. Two direct hits on line to the northern terminal.

Anizy-le-Chateau Bridge - Good Results

Two probable direct hits on rail bridge. Four direct hits on rail line to western terminal of bridge; six direct hits on rail line to eastern terminal.

Jussy Bridge - Good to Very Good Results

At least one direct hit on rail bridge. Two direct hits on rail line north of bridge; six direct hits on rail line south of bridge.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T4. Damage to Enemy Installations (Continued)Belfort M/Y - Good Results

Lines well cut. Damage to rolling stock. Good concentration of G.P. bursts cover entire M/Y.

Nanteuil Bridge - Good to Very Good Results

Bridge well blanketed by bursts. Approaches believed cut. Bridge possibly damaged.

Rilly la Montagne Noball Dump (a) and (b) - Good Results

G.P. bursts on and near tunnel entrance.

Les Foulons Bridge - Good to Very Good Results

Bridge well blanketed.

Sully Bridge - Excellent Results

At least one span in the river.

Gien Bridge - Good to Very Good Results

Hits seen on both ends of the bridge.

Auxerre Bridge - Good Results

Probable hits on the bridge. Approaches cut.

Neuvy-sur-Loire Bridge - Good to Very Good Results

Two concentrations of G.P. on target.

Joigny la Roche Bridge - Good Results

Probable direct hits on the bridge. Tracks cut.

St. Dizier A /F - Fair Results

Concentration of G.P. bursts fell in south dispersal area extending across the landing ground and runways.

Laon M/Y - Poor Results

Approximately 50 HE bombs fell adjacent to western edge of main M/Y. One direct hit on highway bridge embankment crossing west choke point. One direct hit on locomotive repair shops. Three bursts on exit lines of sorting sidings. Three direct hits on rail lines leading to locomotive siding and repair shops.

Tergnier Bridge - Good Results

Probable hits on RR and highway bridges and canal locks.

S E C R E T

Final Report - 95th Z 3288 17 July 1944

a. Strike photos show bombs hitting in field
Crews report bombs dropped at 5010-0230E

b. None

c. None

d. Boulogne - 10-15 bursts - inaccurate
5020-0205 - accurate, tracking, 5 bursts at a time.
5025-0200 - Extremely accurate - tracking, 6 bursts
5033-0156 - " " - tracking 12 bursts.

e. None

f. None

g. 4

h. None

i. 8 x 2000 # G.P. - 4 A/c Bomed 2131 Alt 22800'
Fuse 1/10 1/40

j. 3 Minor

k. 3-4/10 cloud and haze in target area

l. ON course to I.P. and then went too far east. Bombs dropped on lead A/c. A/c 1867 filled in diamond of high squadron.