

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

APO 559.  
9 September 1944.

**SUBJECT:** Report of Operations Officer, Mission of 8 September 1944.

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

95A Group

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** The 95A group, flying as high group in the 13B combat wing, took off at 0735 - 0748 hours. By 0842 the group had assembled over the base at 14,000'. The assembly was planned at 11,000' but due to built up clouds it was necessary to form the group at 14,000'. At 0845 the group left the base on course for the first control point.

The wing was joined at 0910. Due to the weather it was necessary to start the climb sooner than briefed. The English coast was crossed on course at 0932 at 18,000'. At 0953 the French coast was crossed. Enroute to the target the wing flew south of briefed course.

The I.P. was reached at 1117, and the groups peeled off in order. Bombs were away at 1125.

The rally was effected as planned, and the briefed course was followed on the return route. The French coast was crossed at 1318 and the home base was reached at 1415. The group landed at 1415 - 1425 hours.

2. **AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING:** Twelve aircraft, plus one PFF aircraft left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "1A". All aircraft bombed the primary and are credited with sorties. The formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "1B".

3. **AIRCRAFT LOST:** None.

95B Group

1. **GENERAL NARRATIVE:** The 95B group, flying as high group in the 45C combat wing, took off at 0748 - 0800 hours. By 0845 the group had assembled over the base at 12,000'. At 0850 the group departed the base on course for the first control point. The lead group of the 45C wing was joined as planned and the route over England was flown as briefed. The climb was

started earlier than planned and the English coast was crossed on the route out at 0952.

The route to the target was flown south of briefed course due to weather. At the I.P. the groups peeled off as planned, but on the bombing run the wing leader decided that a visual run could not be made. A 360° turn was made and the groups joined wing formation again. Bombing was done from wing formation using PFF equipment. Bombs were away at 1139 hours.

Some difficulty was encountered with the weather on the return route, however the briefed course was followed fairly closely.

The French coast was crossed at 1350, and the 95B group reached the home base at 1448. The landing was made at 1448 - 1500 hours.

2. AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING: Thirteen aircraft, including one PFF left the base in the formation shown in attached diagram "2A". A/C # 1939 joined the 487th group and bombed with that group. A/C # 7257 bomb bay doors froze shut and ten bombs were returned to the base. The remaining aircraft bombed the primary and all aircraft are credited with sorties. The formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "2B".

3. AIRCRAFT LOST: None.

THOMAS H. HOLBROOK,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

HEADQUARTERS 95TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP  
APO 559

STATISTICAL CONTROL REPORT OF AIRCRAFT NOT ATTACKING

13TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT WING

DATE RENDERED ~~6 SEPTEMBER 1944~~

PART I - TABULAR SUMMARY:

DATE OF MISSION ~~6 SEPTEMBER 1944~~

TACTICAL MISSION

| COMBAT GROUP | SCHEDULED | AIRBORNE | AIRBORNE LESS RETURNING SPARES | ATTACKING | NOT ATTACKING | SORTIES |
|--------------|-----------|----------|--------------------------------|-----------|---------------|---------|
| "A"          | 12        | 12       | 12                             | 12        | 0             | 12      |
| "B"          | 12        | 12       | 12                             | 11        | 1             | 12      |

Note:

PART II - DESCRIPTION OF REASONS WHY AIRCRAFT DID NOT ATTACK:

| COMBAT GROUP | WEATHER | PERSONNEL | FORMATION | ENEMY ACTION | OTHER | MECH & EOPT | TOTAL |
|--------------|---------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| "B"          |         |           |           |              | 1     |             | 1     |
| TOTALS       |         |           |           |              | 1     |             | 1     |

THOMAS H. HOLBROOK,  
Lt. Col., Air Corps,  
Operations Officer.

A. GROUP HIGH-39~~E~~

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 8-9-44

TIME

MILLER  
8040

COLLINGS  
8333

HANSON  
7801

ABRAHAM  
7844

BOUDAN  
8255

MOORING  
1989

ELLSWORTH  
2450

PAYNE  
2455

DAT  
7215

HELM  
7047

HARRY  
6993

MELVIN  
7194

HART  
7334

EXTRA

EXTRA A/C

ABORTIVE

MISSING

CHANGES

B-GROUP HIGH. 388<sup>±</sup>

A.T.F.

C.W.

FORMATION DIAGRAM

95TH BOMB. GROUP (H)

DATE 8-9-44

TIME

HOUSER  
7992

MCCULLEY  
8317 ✓

ITROOS  
7882

HOFSAES  
7232

BRAUND  
2066

NICKER  
1920 ✓

POZOLLO  
7201 ✓

LAJESKIE  
8281

PIPKIN  
7257

SQUYRES  
1876

RINGBLOOM  
7204

HENDRICKSON  
1675 ✓

RADKE  
1600

EXTRA

EXTRA A/C

ABORTIVE

MISSING

CHANGES





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

E-F-26

8 September 1944

SUBJECT: Lead Bombardier's Narrative, Ninety Fifth "A" Group, Mission of 8 September 1944, Mains, Germany.

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

1. Narrative.

- a. Bombing aids used were E-6-B, C-2 computer and H2X equipment.
- b. A left turn of 60° was made at the Initial Point.
- c. Bomb bays were opened on bombing run at 1117 hours.
- d. About 5/10ths clouds prevented picking up target at once but was able to line up with use of H2X equipment. Picked target and made run on manual pilot. Neither flak nor fighters interfered with the bombing run.
- e. Results were observed to be good.
- f. There are no suggested tactical changes.

2. Bombardier's form 12-B modified is attached.

3. Disposition of Bombs - A/C

| Main Bombfall                     | Over Target | Bombing | No.   | Bombs |      | Fuzing |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|---------|-------|-------|------|--------|-------|
|                                   |             |         |       | Size  | Type | Nose   | Tail  |
| Mains, Germany.                   | 12          | 12      | 115   | 500#  | M-64 | 1/10   | 1/100 |
| Total on Target.                  |             |         | 115   | 500#  | M-64 | 1/10   | 1/100 |
| Other Expenditures.               |             |         | None. |       |      |        |       |
| Bombs Returned.                   |             |         | 5     | 500#  | M-64 | 1/10   | 1/100 |
| Total (loaded on A/C taking off). |             |         | 120   | 500#  | M-64 | 1/10   | 1/100 |

4. Types of Release - Of the 115 x 500# G.P. bombs released on the primary all were salvoed and armed.

*A. R. Scroggins*  
A. R. SCROGGINS  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Lead Bombardier.

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

9 September 1944

SUBJECT: S-2 Report 95A and 95B for above date.

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

1. Twelve A/C plus one PFF A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0725 hours to form the high group (95A) of the 13B Combat Wing to attack Mainz, Germany. No A/C returned early. Twelve A/C plus one PFF A/C of the 95th Group took off beginning at 0742 hours to form the high Group (95B) of the 45C Combat Wing to attack Gustavsburg, Germany. No A/C returned early.
2. No E/A were encountered.
3. 95A Group encountered moderate, barrage, and fairly accurate flak over the target. 95B group encountered moderate, barrage and tracking, inaccurate flak at the target.
4. Strike photos show 95A group's bombs hitting MPI. Pattern is a bit loose but target area well covered. Bombing very good. Photos do not show strikes of 95B group's bombs. Bombing was unobserved by crews of 95B.
5. 95A group made a visual run on the target. 95B group's lead bombardier sighted target on bombing run but on instructions of wing command pilot did not bomb and group made a turn and a PFF run on assigned PFF target (M/Y at Mainz, Germany). 95B dropped on markers of lead group's PFF A/C. A/C 1939 (95A) flew with 487th group and dropped with them. Target was same as assigned for 95A group. A/C 7801 (95A) had 5 bombs hang up - returned. A/C 7257 (95B) bomb bay door froze shut and they wouldn't open over target - bombs returned. A/C 7232 and A/C 8281 (95B) each had 5 bombs hang up - returned. 10/10 cloud with high clouds forced formation above briefed altitude on route to target. Cloud broken in target area. All A/C returned to base and landed by 1530.

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

*me*

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HEADQUARTERS EIGHTH AIR FORCE  
AAF STATION 101  
APO 634

INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 131

PERIOD: 0001 hours 8 September 1944 to 2400 8 September 1944.

A. STATISTICS

|                    | Missions | Disp. | Sorties | Atkg. | Tonnage | Claims   | Losses |    |     |    | Totals |
|--------------------|----------|-------|---------|-------|---------|----------|--------|----|-----|----|--------|
|                    |          |       |         |       |         |          | E/A    | AA | N/E | OT |        |
| Heavy Bomber Atks. | 4        | 1070  | 1013    | 952   | 2647.9  | 0-0-0    | 0      | 7  | 2   | 13 | 22     |
| Fighter Escort     | 7        | 349   | 314     | 0     | 0       | 0-0-0    | 0      | 0  | 0   | 2  | 2      |
| Fighter Sweeps     | 2        | 99    | 94      | 0     | 0       | 63-0-1   | 0      | 2  | 0   | 0  | 2      |
| Fighter Bombing    | 5        | 205   | 160     | 29    | 7.1     | 67-0-11  | 0      | 0  | 0   | 1  | 1      |
| Photo Recon.       | 22       | 22    | 21      | 0     | 0       | 0-0-0    | 0      | 0  | 0   | 1  | 1      |
| Weather Recon.     | 14       | 14    | 13      | 0     | 0       | 0-0-0    | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0      |
| Air/Sea Rescue     | 8        | 8     | 8       | 0     | 0       | 0-0-0    | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0      |
| Special Operations | 59       | 168   | 168     | 0     | 0       | 0-0-0    | 0      | 0  | 0   | 0  | 0      |
| Totals             | 121      | 1935  | 1791    | 981   | 2655.0  | 610-0-12 | 0      | 9  | 2   | 17 | 28     |

+ 14 spares; 6 used

B. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

1. Bomber Attacks

Twenty-three combat wings (770 B-17s, 300 B-24s - 1070 a/c) dispatched to attack an oil refinery, marshalling yard, tank and armored vehicle factory, and ordnance plant in the Rhineland. Support by seven fighter groups. 952 a/c dropped 2117.9 tons G.P. and 530 tons I.B. on all assigned targets and 11 T/O's. Leaflets also dropped in target areas, and over Rudesheim and near Strasbourg. Bombing both visual and PFF. High cumulus cloud bank enroute and east of Paris; 3/10 to 10/10 cloud in target areas. E/a opposition: ten s/e and t/e e/a and two jet-propelled e/a sighted, but no attacks. Claims: nil. Losses: 22 a/c (14 B-17s, 8 B-24s).

First Force

Ten combat wings (384 B-17s) dispatched to attack Ludwigshafen/Opau

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synthetic oil and chemical works. 348 a/c dropped 1008 tons G.P. on primary at 1145-1200 hours from 25,000-29,200 feet. Bombing visual with PFF assistance. Leaflets dropped on Ludwigshafen. Weather: high cumulus bank with tops up to 27,000 feet east of Paris; 5/10 to 10/10 cloud in target area. Flak: moderate to intense, generally accurate over target. Battle Damage: 110 minor, 75 major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: 11 a/c (four to AA, five to unknown causes, two crash-landed).

Fighter Support: Two groups (95 P-51s) dispatched. Up 0855-0940 hours, down 1445 hours. 88 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

Second Force

Three combat wings (300 B-24s) dispatched to attack marshalling yard at Karlsruhe. 248 a/c dropped 514 tons G.P. and 150.7 tons I.B. on the primary, and one a/c dropped three tons I.B. on Ludwigshafen. Bombing at 1149-1159 hours from 22,000-27,000 feet; visual in the case of two combat wings, visual and PFF combined in the case of one combat wing. Leaflets dropped on Karlsruhe; other leaflets jettisoned near Strasbourg. Weather: high cumulus up to 27,000 feet east of Paris, 3/10 to 7/10 cloud over target. Flak: moderate and accurate over target. Battle damage: 91 minor, 1 major. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: eight a/c (two to AA, six to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Two groups (93 P-51s) dispatched. Up 0902-0935 hours, down 1445-1448 hours. 82 sorties. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: nil. Losses: two P-51s to unknown causes (believed landed in France).

Details of attack as follows:

| <u>Assigned Target</u> | <u>Dispatched</u> | <u>Attacking</u> | <u>Tons</u> |             | <u>Results</u> |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|                        |                   |                  | <u>G.P.</u> | <u>I.B.</u> |                |
| Karlsruhe M/Y          | 300               | 247              | 514.0       | 150.7       | Good           |
| <u>Other Target</u>    |                   |                  |             |             |                |
| Ludwigshafen           | —                 | <u>1</u>         | —           | <u>3.0</u>  | Unobserved     |
| Totals                 | 300               | 248              | 514.0       | 153.7       |                |

Third Force

Ten combat wings (386 B-17s) dispatched to attack tank and armored vehicle factory at Gustavsburg, near Mainz, and the ordnance depot for engineering and signals equipment at Kastel, also near Mainz. 356 a/c dropped 595.9 tons G.P. and 376.3 tons I.B. on primary and 11 T/Os at 1112-1141 hours from 23,000-29,000 feet; bombing visual and PFF, mostly visual. Leaflets also dropped on Mainz and Rudesheim. Weather: dense, persistent contrails with

clouds up to 28,000 feet enroute; 5/10 to 8/10 in target areas. Flak: moderate, fairly accurate over target area. Battle damage: 119 minor, 13 major. E/a opposition: 4 FW-190s, 4 Me-110s, 2 Me-109s observed in Mainz area; 2 jet-propelled e/a seen southwest of Mainz. No attacks. Claims: Nil. Losses: 3 a/o (1 to AA, 2 to unknown causes).

Fighter Support: Three groups (161 P-51s) dispatched. Up 0915 hours, down 1415 hours. 144 sorties. E/a opposition: one Me-109 sighted near Birkenfeld. No attack. Claims: nil. Losses: nil.

Details of attack as follows:

| <u>Assigned Targets</u>       | <u>Dispatched</u> | <u>Attacking</u> | <u>Tons</u> |             | <u>Results</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
|                               |                   |                  | <u>G.P.</u> | <u>I.B.</u> |                |
| Gustavsburg<br>(tank factory) | 192               | 167              | 299.2       | 244.0       | Poor           |
| Kastel<br>(ordnance depot)    | 194               | 166              | 280.7       | 100.1       | Good           |
| <u>Other Targets</u>          |                   |                  |             |             |                |
| Rudesheim (T/O)               |                   | 13               |             | 22.7        | Poor           |
| 10 T/O's                      |                   | 10               | 16.0        | 9.5         | Unobserved     |
| Totals                        | 386               | 356              | 595.9       | 376.3       |                |

2. Fighter Escort

Seven groups (349 P-51s) dispatched to escort three bomber forces attacking targets in western Germany. Up 0855 hours, down 1445 hours. 314 sorties. E/a opposition: one s/e e/a sighted near Birkenfeld. No attack. Claims: nil. Losses: Two P-51s to unknown causes (believed landed in France).

3. Fighter Sweeps

Two groups (99 P-51s), originally dispatched as top cover for fighter-bombers, strafed Heidelberg-Darmstadt-Wurzburg and Frankfurt-Coblenz areas. Up 1300 hours, down 1723-1835 hours. 94 sorties. Adverse weather prevented groups from supporting fighter-bombers. E/a opposition: nil. Claims: 3-0-1, JU-52s on ground. Losses: 2 P-51s to AA.

Strafing claims include:

|                 | <u>Destroyed</u> | <u>Damaged</u> |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Locomotives     | 26               | 23             |
| Trucks          | 29               | 21             |
| RR cars         | 7                | 79             |
| Oil tank cars   | 13               | 3              |
| Truck trailer   | 0                | 1              |
| Gun emplacement | 0                | 1              |
| Staff cars      | 1                | 7              |
| Half tracks     | 2                | 2              |
| Other vehicles  | 7                | 0              |

4. Fighter Bombing

Five groups (157 P-47s, 48 P-38s - 205 a/c) dispatched to bomb and strafe rail transportation east of Rhine along Siegburg-Koblenz-Kassel, Hanau-Hersfeld, Darmstadt-Kissengen, Bruchsal-Wurzburg lines. Up 1250-1337 hours, down 1540-1722 hours. 160 sorties. 10/10 cloud forced one group to abandon mission, prevented another group from bombing and forced two other groups to attack alternate areas east of the Rhine. 29 a/c dropped 7.1 tons G.P. on transportation T/Os. Biskirchen A/F near Bonn strafed. E/a opposition; nil. Claims: 7-0-11 ground. Losses: one P-47 to unknown reasons.

Bombing and strafing claims include:

|                | <u>Destroyed</u> | <u>Damaged</u> |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Locomotives    | 19               | 2              |
| RR cars        | 14               | 57             |
| Oil trucks     | 13               | 0              |
| Trucks         | 58               | 18             |
| Other vehicles | 12               | 2              |
| Flak sites     | 3                | 4              |
| Staff cars     | 2                | 0              |

5. Photo Reconnaissance

22 a/c (7 Spitfires and 15 F-5s) dispatched on photo reconnaissance as follows:

12 F-5s and 6 Spitfires mapped Rhine valley and Siegfried line; 3 F-5s and 1 Spitfire D/A photo missions over Brest area and western Germany.

One a/c failed to return. 4 missions were unsuccessful. All other a/c returned safely.

6. Weather Reconnaissance

14 a/c dispatched on weather reconnaissance as follows: 7 P-51s and 3 Mosquitoes as weather scouts for heavy bombers. Nine sorties. Two Mosquitoes on special weather missions over south France and Brest peninsula; and two B-24s completed routine weather flights over the Atlantic Ocean. One jet-propelled a/c seen by weather scouts over Frankfurt at 30,000 feet. All a/c returned safely.

7. Air/Sea Rescue

Eight a/c flew 23 hours, 6 minutes. No incidents. All a/c returned safely.

8. Special Operations

168 a/c dispatched on special operations as follows:

110 B-24s on "truckin" missions; carried 330 tons freight.

18 a/c (12 P-51s, 4 P-47s, 2 P-38s) as radio relays.

40 a/c on special operations.

All a/c returned safely

C. INTELLIGENCE

1. Enemy Air Opposition

Today's heavy bomber attacks, fighter sweeps and fighter bombing sorties evoked no enemy opposition, and only a few sightings were made.

The Third Force sighted four FW-190s, four Me-110s and two Me-109s in the Mainz area. Five minutes prior to reaching its IP the same force observed two jet-propelled aircraft southwest of Mainz. None of these e/a made attacks.

Esporting fighters sighted one Me-109 near Birkenfeld. A flight leader pulled up on the rear of the e/a but all six guns froze up and the Me-109 evaded into the clouds.

2. Flak

- Ludwigshafen/Opau - Intense and accurate on most formations.
- St. Goar - Moderate, inaccurate.
- Walcheren - Moderate, accurate.
- Dunkirk - Moderate, accurate.
- Mainz - Intense, inaccurate.
- Eupen and Knocke - Meager, inaccurate.
- Ostend - Accurate, intense.
- Coblenz - Intense, accurate.
- Wurzburg - Intense, accurate.
- Karlsruhe - Moderate, accurate.
- Gustavsburg - Moderate and fairly accurate.

3. Observations

Four Me-109s and t/e e/a sighted on A/F just west of Mainz.

Concrete strip at 4 WF-3737 approximately two miles long with two roads leading to grass field, 4 WF-3728.

50 plus u/i s/e and t/e e/a observed on grass A/F southeast of Schluchtern.

50 plus u/i s/e e/a observed on grass A/F vicinity Hammelburg.

Two A/Fs each having 75 a/o (believed e/a) near Liege, probably at Bierset and Hedy.

Five silver-colored e/a on A/F four miles southwest of Karlsruhe.

40 river barges in inland port just west of Karlsruhe.

10-12 oil storage tanks, M/Y with 50 plus oil cars and freight cars observed very well camouflaged in area along railroad from Heidelberg east to Adelsheim.

30-40 Red Cross vehicles in large field, 4 WF-6007. Four other groups of 10-15 Red Cross trucks in area.

Large number of light flak guns and many fox holes in woods and near roads Bonn-Rheinbach-Buskirchen-Zilepich area.

Barrage balloons on ground surrounding dam 15-20 miles west of Cologne.

Heavy barge traffic heading south of Rhine river in target areas.

Many barges in Rhine between Mainz and Ludwigshafen.

Approximately 15 heavy AA guns, five miles west of Mainz near a quarry.

4. Damage to Enemy Installations

Ludwigshafen - Good Results

Cloud of 5 to 10/10 density combined with smoke from fires started in area makes plotting of most of the bombs impossible. Five concentrations of HE bombs plotted in south portion of area. Damage to this area severe. At least 4 fires in plastic plant area. One intense explosion and main building on fire. At least two fires burning in Experimental Synthetic Oil area; probable damage to injector house. At least three buildings in heavy chemical area on fire; electrolytic chlorine and sulfuric acid plants received direct hits. Ten buildings in Dye Plant area received direct hits; one small explosion visible - four fires in area. Main retort house of Gas Works probably damaged; one other building in area severely damaged. At least six workshop and stores buildings received direct hits - two fires burning in area. North end of target area completely obscured by smoke. Two small concentrations visible in northeast corner; one explosion could be seen and two fires on u/i buildings. Two concentrations of HE bombs in central and west portions of Freisenheim district approximately one mile west of target area; third concentration  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of target area near Mannheim Industrie Hafen.

Karlsruhe M/Y - Good Results

Bursts on M/Y and its installations, with hits in or very near all assigned MPis. Many bursts also in business and residential areas to north and east of M/Y.

Kastel Ordnance Depot - Good Results

Eight Combat Wings bombed - plant completely blanketed. Large fires started.

Gustavsburg Tank and Armored Vehicle Plant - Poor Results

Nearest pattern about 1000 yards from target.

Rudesheim (T/O) - Poor Results

No bursts seen in town

NOTE:- The foregoing is based on preliminary reports and is not to be used for record purposes.