

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO #374

B
D-C-2

22 March 1945.

Final Mission Report No. 529.

Flight Commander: Captain O'Mahoney.
Lead Pilot : Captain Bennett.

320th Bombardment group (M).

HEIDELBERG M/Y (Decoy for main formation) (M/R: (W) R-674901, GSOS 4416, sheet U-3), Germany.

At 10:15 hours, 4 B-26's took off to bomb Heidelberg M/Y (Decoy for main formation) (M/R: (W) R-674901, GSOS 4416, sheet U-3), Germany. 1 B-26 returned early: engineering. Total sorties: 3. 3 B-26's were over the Primary target and 3 B-26's dropped 24 x 500-lb. Demolition bombs (.1 & .01 second delay tail fuses) on the Primary target at 12:34 hours from 10,500' on an axis of 255°T. No bombs were salvaged or returned to base. No B-26's lost or missing. No B-26's damaged. 3 B-26's returned to base at 13:49 hours.

AIR OBSERVATIONS:

a. Activity:

- (1) 3 U/I a/c at 1,000' at R-8574, apparently took off from A/D there.
- (2) 8 U/I a/c, silver in color, crossed in from of the formation, circled and passed behind the formation then headed East into Germany at R-8661 at 12:18 hours.
- (3) 4 U/I a/c, light green in color, headed south at 13,000' at 12:18 hours at S-1224.

b. Situation:

- (1) 2 S/E a/c on A/D at R-8574 at 12:17 hours.
- (2) 4 U/I a/c at R-7115 at 12:12 hours.

ENEMY AIR ENCOUNTERS: None. Losses of E/A: None. Damaged by E/A: None.
Claimed E/A: None.

FLAK: H, H, A, A, -CP type flak encountered from target area and started 40 seconds before bombs away, and stopped at bombs away.
Losses to flak: None. Damaged by flak: None.

GROUND OBSERVATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 50/100 Barges in groups of 5 in Neckar river at 12:32 hours at R-9392.
- (2) 8 Barges at IP at R-8661 at 12:18 hours.
- (3) stores and craters in area at R-3286 at 12:01 hours, called into sector control.
- (4) columns of smoke to 6,000' at R-1404 at 12:31 hours.
- (5) 12 Barges in river at R-4500 at 12:54 hours.
- (6) 50 Barges at target, R-6790, at 12:34 hours.

GROUND OBSERVATIONS: (Cont'd)

a. General: (Cont'd)

(7) 7 evenly spaced towers in lake 10 miles East of Oppenau W-4298 at 12:03 hours.

(8) stores stacked in rail yards throughout area on route in and out.

b. Communications:

(1) 600/700 RR cars in M/Y at target.

(2) 40 RR cars at R-8938 at 12:22 hours.

(3) 400 RR cars at S-0860 at 12:19 hours.

(4) 75/100 RR cars and 1 locomotive at W-8560 at 12:25 hours.

(5) 50 RR cars at W-8040 at 12:23 hours.

(6) 60 RR cars at W-2472 at 12:04 hours.

(7) Cars scattered in sidings from R-9983 to R-9197 at 12:20 hours.

(8) 2 trains of 5 cars with locomotives, steam up, at R-8661, not moving.

(9) 10/15 M/T dispersed in circle at R-7313 at 13:10 hours.

(10) Large convoy M/T 1 miles East of town at W-2892 headed West, not called into sector Control, at 12:09 hours.

CASUALTIES: None.

No. of A/C TAKING PHOTOS: None.

ROUTE: Base to rendezvous with escort at Lunzville (W) Q-0800; to St. Die (W) V-4265; to Selestat (W) V-7962; to Haslach (W) W-2862; to Oppenau (W) W-3286; to Calw (W) R-7312; to Vaihingen (W) R-8938; to Eppingen (W) R-8661; to Averbach (W) S-0890; to IP, Eberbach, (W) R-9198; to target on an axis of 255°T (briefed axis - 254°T; drift correction - 05° left; evasive action - loss of 1,200' altitude; breakaway left to Eppingen (W) R-8661; reciprocal course to base.

WEATHER:

- a. Enroute: :- Generally clear. Less than 1/10 small cumulus forming at 6,000' over mountains areas. Vis. unlimited.
- b. Vicinity of target: :- CAVU.
- c. Target Area: :- CAVU.
- d. Return: :- As enroute.

RESULTS: Good concentration of bombs hit M/Y.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: This formation dropped 9½ cartons of "Chaff" from the IP to the target and through the break. Crews report that "Chaff" had good effect.

WILLIAM COOK,
Major, Air Corps,
Group Intelligence Officer.