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

D-G-2

23 March 1945.

Final Mission Report No. 534.

Flight Commander: Major West.
Lead Pilot : Lt. Sherwood.

320th Bombardment Group (M).

NECKARLEZ RAILROAD BRIDGE (M/R: (W) S-069613, GSGS 4416, Sheet U-3), Germany.

At 10:40 hours, 30 B-26's took off to bomb Neckarlez Railroad Bridge (M/R: (W) S-069613, GSGS 4416, Sheet U-3), Germany. 3 B-26's returned early: spares. Total sorties: 27. 27 B-26's were over the Primary target and 27 B-26's dropped 108 x 1,000-lb. Demolition bombs (.1' & .01 second delay tail fuses) on the primary target at 12:35 hours from 12,200' to 11,200' on an Axis of 23°T. No bombs were salvaged or returned to base. No B-26's lost or missing. No B-26's damaged. 26 B-26's returned to base at 13:51 hours, and 1 B-26 landed at Colmar, condition of crew and a/c unknown.

AIR OBSERVATIONS:

- a. Activity: P-47's provided escort.
- b. Situation:
 - (1) A/D at (W) R-8720 smoking at 12:26 hours.
 - (2) 3 a/c and 2 M/T on airstrip at (W) S-0235 at 12:28 hours.

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

FLAK: None. Losses to Flak: None. Damaged by Flak: None.

GROUND OBSERVATION:

- a. General:
 - (1) Supply dump at Muhlberg (W) W-0566 at 13:50 hours.
 - (2) Hospital at (W) W-2862 and (W) W-3581 at 13:55 hours.
 - (3) Supplies at (W) W-2962 at 11:51 hours.
 - (4) Defense placements at (W) W-2891 at 13:55 hours.
 - (5) 5 barrage balloons flying over towers in lake at (W) R-4613 at 12:00 hours.
 - (6) Lumber stores at (W) W-5091 at 12:01 hours.
- b. Communications:
 - (1) 1 train stationary, headed south, no steam up, at Muhlberg (W) W-0566 at 11:50 hours.
 - (2) 30 RR cars at Haslach (W) W-2763 at 11:55 hours.
 - (3) 400 RR cars at Offenbergl (W) W-1586 at 11:50 hours.
 - (4) 40/50 RR cars at (W) W-3767 at 11:52 hours.
 - (5) 70 RR cars at Calw (W) R-7312 at 12:10 hours.
 - (6) 250 RR cars at Pforzheim (W) R-7033 at 12:15 hours.
 - (7) 15 M/T moving west at (W) R-9660 at 12:32 hours.
 - (8) 40 barges at Heilbronn (W) S-0861 at 12:32 hours.
 - (9) 40 barges between target and (W) S-0671.

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CASUALTIES: None.

No. of A/C TAKING PHOTOS: 6.

ROUTE: Same as route used on Report No. 533, this date, except Axis here was 23° T (briefed Axis - 23° T; drift correction - 03° right; evasive action - loss of 1,000' altitude).

WEATHER: Clear. Vis. 5 - 6 miles in haze in all areas.

RESULTS: An excellent pattern completely covered the bridge, scoring several direct hits. Crews reported seeing parts of the bridge flying through the air.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: Supplement Report On B-26 a/c lost on the 20 March 1945:

Two (2) Enlisted crew members have returned to this Headquarters for interrogation. They report a/c, Battle No. 77, hit three (3) times by flak over Lambrecht (W) H-2486. The first hit knocked out the right engine, at which time the right engine was feathered, bombs were salvoed and the order to "prepare to jump" was given. The third hit in the bomb bay, severed controls and a/c went into a dive. At 2,000' one of the three (3) crew members in the front of the a/c (name unknown) bailed out, followed by two (2) Enlisted men in the rear of the a/c. One of the men landed at (W) H-1807 and the other at (W) H-1308, in wooded areas. The a/c crashed and exploded at (W) H-1009. It was not subsequently examined by the Enlisted men. The Enlisted men were picked up by 3rd Army tanks. One of the Enlisted men visited the location of the third chute at (W) H-2207. A civilian attempting to recover the parachute stated he had directed the crew member to whom it belonged to the West toward the Allied lines. Crew members interrogated are Sgt. Arthur R. Cloey and Sgt. John W. Lester.

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

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CREWS PARTICIPATING IN MISSION #524 - 23 MARCH 1945.

SHERWOOD, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	58
BIRDWELL, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.		took off 1040
LOKAN, BOMB., 1st Lt.		landed 1351
NEWELL, NAV., 1st Lt.		
PINGLE, ENG., S/Sgt.		
WONG, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
WEST, FC, Major		
 HOOVER, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	(NO TAKE OFF) 72
COOK PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	57
MORELAND, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1040
HACKNEY, BOMB., 2nd Lt.		landed 1352
BROOKS, ENG., Sgt.		
CITTI, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
CASEY, GUNNER, Sgt.		
 O'REILLY, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	443rd	61
ROBERTS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1041
LOUGHRIDGE, BOMB., F/O		landed 1352
BLACKWELL, ENG., S/Sgt.		
JOHNSON, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
WARD, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
 SWIFT, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	52
TRANT, CO PILOT, F/O		took off 1041
FORD, BOMB., S/Sgt.		landed 1352
OEHLKE, ENG., S/Sgt.		
HARRISON, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
MERCER, GUNNER, Cpl.		
CARROLL, FOTO, Cpl.		
 UHLIG, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	64
ANDREWS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1042
LUNNEMANN, BOMB., 2nd Lt.		landed 1353
EWERS, ENG., Cpl.		
YOUNG, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
HUMPHRIES, GUNNER, Cpl.		
 JONES, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	60
HUDSPETH, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1042
KATZMAN, BOMB., 2nd Lt.		landed 1353
HANSHAW, ENG., S/Sgt.		
ORT, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
PECK, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
 NEWTON, PILOT, Capt.	443rd	50
SCOTT, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1043
HOGAN, BOMB., F/O		landed 1354
DEVLIN, ENG., S/Sgt.		
ROSS, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
POIKE, GUNNER, Cpl.		

MCGREGOR, PILOT, 1st Lt. 441st
 O'BRIEN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
 PENKAVA, BOMB., 1st Lt.
 BADER, NAV., 1st Lt.
 RARICK, ENG., Cpl.
 WILSON, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

21
 took off 1043
 landed 1354

LYONS, PILOT, 1st Lt. 441st
 LOAR, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
 GARVEY, BOMB., 1st Lt.
 DIETRICH, NAV., F/O
 LEWIS, ENG., T/Sgt.
 WEBER, RADIO, S/Sgt.
 TANKERSLEY, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

02
 took off 1044
 landed 1355

PRATT, PILOT, 1st Lt. 441st
 LIVENGOOD, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
 MARTINSEN, BOMB., S/Sgt.
 WYATT, ENG., T/Sgt.
 DALTON, RADIO, T/Sgt.
 GOERING, GUNNER, Cpl.
 BLUE, FOTO, S/Sgt.

14
 took off 1044
 landed 1355

DINOME, PILOT, F/O 441st
 GARRETT, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
 ANDERSON, BOMB., 1st Lt.
 WASH, ENG., Sgt.
 WITTEN, RADIO, Sgt.
 VANDYKE, GUNNER, Sgt.

04
 took off 1045
 landed 1356

GRONIS, PILOT, 2nd Lt. 441st
 MCMAKIN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
 TUNNARD, BOMB., F/O
 EVANS, ENG., Cpl. (DG)
 PRELER, RADIO, Cpl.
 NEIRA, GUNNER, Cpl.

20
 took off 1045
 landed 1356

EVANS, EA, PILOT, 1st Lt. 441st
 LEKUS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
 MCKINLEY, BOMB., 2nd Lt.
 FEINEN, ENG., Cpl.
 FEATHERSTON, RADIO, Cpl.
 SONDHEIMER, GUNNER, Cpl.
 CIRMO, FOTO, S/Sgt.

22
 took off 1046
 landed 1357

GRALA, PILOT, 1st Lt. 441st
 BRIESCHKE, CO PILOT, F/O
 MURRAY, BOMB., 1st Lt.
 GIBSON, ENG., S/Sgt.
 COCK, MG, RADIO, S/Sgt.
 LUDY, GUNNER, S/Sgt.
 MILLER, OBS., Lt. (7th Army)

19
 took off 1046
 landed 1358

BOWLES, PILOT, 1st Lt.

MCKENZIE, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.

ELMAN, BOMB., 1st Lt.

MCCOY, ENG., Sgt.

GALDIANO, RADIO, Cpl.

KNIGHT, GUNNER, Sgt.

441st

*Left formation just after
crossing Rhine - engine cutting
out - land at Colmer*

15

took off 1047

landed 1310

RAMSEY, PILOT, 2nd Lt.

WEY, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.

MELSON, BOMB., S/Sgt.

FAIR, ENG., S/Sgt.

CALDERONI, RADIO, Cpl.

FRITCHETT, GUNNER, Cpl.

441st

*(crew of ship #17)
(early return)*

06

took off 1113

landed 1239

WATSON, PILOT, 1st Lt.

STRATTON, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.

SELZER, BOMB., 1st Lt.

MONTGOMERY, NAV., 1st Lt.

CUMMINS, ENG., S/Sgt.

WAYMIRE, RADIO, S/Sgt.

443rd

62

took off 1047

landed 1401

DETHMAN, PILOT, 1st Lt.

SMITH, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.

DAVIS, BOMB., 1st Lt.

STUEMKE, NAV., F/O

SONNONSTINE, ENG., S/Sgt.

VALHOS, RADIO, Cpl.

KEES, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

443rd

67

took off 1048

landed 1401

BUFFETT, PILOT, 2nd Lt.

JOHNSTON, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.

CHACKO, BOMB., Sgt.

PROPST, ENG., S/Sgt.

ALLEN, F, RADIO, S/Sgt.

HASKINS, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

BURGESS, FOTO, Cpl.

443rd

53

took off 1048

landed 1402

MCDONALD, PILOT, Capt.

KOMOROWSKI, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.

KLODZINSKI, BOMB., F/O

HARTLEY, ENG., Cpl.

ROW, RADIO, Cpl.

COMBER, GUNNER, Cpl.

443rd

56

took off 1049

landed 1403

DUANE, PILOT, 1st Lt.

WATKINS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.

ORR, BOMB., S/Sgt.

AVERY, ENG., Cpl.

BOATENREITER, RADIO, Cpl.

SHOLIENBERGER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

443rd

63

took off 1049

landed 1403

BLASKO, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd		54
FERRY, CO PILOT, F/O			took off 1050
CZECHOWITZ, BOMB., Sgt.			landed 1404
FIELDS, ENG., S/Sgt.			
CONSTABLE, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
PERKINS, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
SLATER, FOTO, Sgt.			
WILSON, SG, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st		05
JONES, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1050
KINGSBURY, BOMB., 1st Lt.			landed 1404
BRYANT, ENG., Cpl.			
SLADE, RADIO, Cpl.			
OLENDER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
LAMPKE, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st		08
JANER, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.			took off 1051
SACCO, BOMB., S/Sgt.			landed 1405
WRIGHT, ENG., Cpl.			
ZEPEDA, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
HAYES, GUNNER, Cpl.			
THOMAS, GUNNER, Cpl.			
SCHAUM, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st		18
CRAWFORD, CO PILOT, F/O			took off 1051
WALTER, BOMB., 2nd Lt.			landed 1405
FRAZIER, ENG., Cpl.			
ZEPEDA, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
HAYES, GUNNER, Cpl.			
THOMAS, GUNNER, Cpl.			
SCHAUM, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st		18
CRAWFORD, CO PILOT, F/O			took off 1051
WALTER, BOMB., 2nd Lt.			landed 1405
FRAZIER, ENG., Cpl.			
ZEPEDA, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
HAYES, GUNNER, Cpl.			
THOMAS, GUNNER, Cpl.			
COCKRIEL, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st	(Spare) ←	09
KAMINECKI, CO PILOT, F/O			took off 1052
MCCREARY, BOMB., 2nd Lt.			landed 1241
MORRIS, ENG., Cpl.			
STRAND, RADIO, Cpl.			
WOJTHEWICZ, GUNNER, Cpl.			
JOLLIFF, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	443rd	(Spare)	65
CALLAHAN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1053
SIMMONS, BOMB., S/Sgt.			landed 1400
LUTHER, ENG., S/Sgt.			
KENDRICKS, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
MORRIS, GUNNER, Cpl.			
PARSONS, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	(Spare)	71
PHILLIPS, CO PILOT, CB, 2nd Lt.			took off 1052
MIAZGA, BOMB., 1st Lt.			landed 1400
BOY, NAV., 2nd Lt.			
HAZEL, ENG., S/Sgt.			
MCQUEEN, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
BOLL, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
DEVAUGHN, FOTO, S/Sgt.			

early return

BOMHOLT, PILOT, 2nd Lt.
SHADLE, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
THOMPSON, BOMB., S/Sgt.
SHEW, ENG., S/Sgt.
FREUDIGER, RADIO, S/Sgt.
SZCZECZ, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

443rd

(Spare)

57

took off 1053
landed 1359

HOOVER, PILOT, 1st Lt.
VOROS, CO PILOT, F/O
SUGGS, BOMB.,
WENDT, ENG., S/Sgt.
JENKINSON, RADIO, S/Sgt.
FERGUSON, GUNNER, S/Sgt.
OBLEY, GUNNER, Cpl.

443rd (this crew took off
in 70 - crew of 72)
(SEE PAGE ONE)

70

took off 1115
landed 1245

early return