

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

D-G-2

24 March 1945.

Final Mission Report No. 536.

Flight Commander: Captain Steinbach.
Lead Pilot : Captain Mooney.

320th Bombardment Group (M).

BIETIGHEIM RAILROAD VIADUCT (M/R: (W) S-020405, GSOS 4416, Sheet V-3), Germany.

At 10:30 hours, 30 B-26's took off to bomb Bietigheim Railroad Viaduct (M/R: (W) S-020405, GSOS 4416, Sheet V-3), Germany. 2 B-26's returned early: spares, and 1 B-26 landed at Azelet A/D, due to runaway propeller before reaching enemy territory (no sortie). Total Sorties: 27. 27 B-26's were over the Primary target and 27 B-26's dropped 104 x 1,000-lb. Demolition bombs (.1 & .01 second delay tail fuses) on the primary target at 12:30 hours from 11,750' to 10,500' on an Axis of 210°T. 4 x 1,000-lb. Demolition bombs were salvoed at 12:30 hours at the target, not having been dropped on the target, due to bombardier error. No bombs were returned to base. No B-26's lost or missing. No B-26's damaged. 27 B-26's returned to base at 13:40 hours.

AIR OBSERVATIONS:

a. Activity: P-47's provided escort.

b. Situation:

- (1) 15 S/E and T/E a/c on landing strip at (W) R-9643 at 12:29 hours.
- (2) 3 JU-88's on Malsheim A/D (W) R-8720 at 11:55 hours.
- (3) 5 U/I a/c on L/G at (W) R-8238 at 12:22 hours.

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

FLAK: S, H, A, I, -CP type flak encountered from Offenbergl area. 12 bursts only, were seen.

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

GROUND OBSERVATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) 30 barges at (W) R-9238 at 12:30 hours.
- (2) 20 barges at Heilbronn (W) S-0862 at 12:06 hours.
- (3) 5 green flares were seen fired above radio towers in lake at (W) S-5089 at 11:45 hours.
- (4) Supply dumps at (W) W-2080, (W) R-6307, (W) R-8823, (W) S-0145, and (W) R-7312 between 11:30 hours and 12:45 hours.

b. Communications:

- (1) Considerable scattered M/T traffic on all roads in vicinity of dam and lake North of Oppenau (W) W-2990 at 11:56 hours.
- (2) 40 RR cars, 1 locomotive with steam up, stationary, at Calw (W) R-7313 at 12:03 hours.
- (3) 150 RR cars at Offenbergl (W) W-1687 at 11:28 hours.
- (4) 20 RR cars at Mahlberg (W) W-0666 at 11:28 hours.

WEATHER:

- a. Enroute : Generally clear. Few small patches of cumulus forming over mountainous areas at 11,000'. Vis. 10 miles or better in light haze.
- b. Vicinity of Target :) Clear. Vis. 10 miles or better in light haze.
- c. Target Area :
- d. Return : As enroute.

RESULTS: The bridge suffered one direct hit in the center, damaging it, and exploding a house containing fuel stores on the East bank of the river. The other Squadrons bombs were short to the North-East, missing it.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: None.

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

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

D-7-2

23 March 1945.

SUBJECT: Photos.

TO : Commanding General, 42nd Bombardment Wing (US), APO #374.
ATTENTION: A-2.

1. The following is the location of the cameras in the formation as over the target (Bistigian Railroad Viaduct, Germany), of this Group, this date.

MISSION I

			24	T			
			(T)K-17		T		
	T					22	T
T		T				(T)K8-AB	12
			72	T			(T)K-20
			(T)K-15A		T		
	T					69	T
T		T				(T)K-17	
			17	T			
			(T)K-17		T		
T	T	T				20	T
						(T)K8-AB	

MISSION II

				T	30		
				T	(T)K-17		
	T					47	T
T		T				(T)K8-AB	
			91	T			
			(T)K-15A		T		
	T					75	T
T		T				(T)K-17	
			44	T			
			(T)K8-AB		T		
T	T	T				39	T
						(T)K-17	

2. The pictures taken in ships Nos. 12, 72, 69, 47, 91, 44, and 39 were not printed.

William Cook,
Major, Air Corps,
Group Intelligence Officer.

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