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

D-C-2

9 April 1945.

Final Mission Report No. 552.

Flight Commander: Col. Poolridge.
Lead Pilot : Major Hayward.

320th Bombardment Group (M).

KLEIN ENGSTINGEN WEST AMMUNITION DUMP, AREA "A" (M/R: (M) X-118747, CGS 4416, Sheet W-3), Germany.

At 10:58 hours, 27 B-26's took off to bomb Klein Engstingen West Ammunition Dump, Area "A" (M/R: (M) X-118747, CGS 4416, Sheet W-3), Germany. No B-26's returned early. Total Sorties: 27. 27 B-26's were over the Primary target and 18 B-26's dropped 506 x 100-lb. Demolition bombs (.1 & non-delay tail fuses) on the Primary target at 13:01 hours from 11,700' on an Axis of 49°T; on the first bomb run (briefed Axis - 45°T; drift correction - 06° right; evasive action - loss of 800' altitude), and 27 B-26's were over the Primary target and 9 B-26's dropped 249 x 100-lb. Demolition bombs (.1 & non-delay tail fuses) on the Primary target, not having been in position to bomb on the first bomb run, at 13:18 hours from 12,000' on an Axis of 44°T (briefed Axis - 45°T; drift correction - 06° right; evasive action - loss of 1,000' altitude). No B-26's lost or missing. 30 x 100-lb. Demolition bombs were salvoed at 13:04 hours at the target; 4 x 100-lb. Demolition bombs were salvoed at 13:16 hours in field just South of the target; 21 x 100-lb. Demolition bombs were salvoed at 13:18 hours at the target; all having hung up. 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 14:50 hours.

AIR OBSERVATIONS:

a. Activity:

- (1) P-47's provided escort.
- (2) One U/I S/S a/c, black, flying East at 6,000' over Heilbronn S-362 at 12:35 hours.

b. Situation:

- (1) S/S a/c at Goppingen A/D S-4413 at 12:43 hours.
- (2) A/D at Ebingen W-9558 appeared serviceable.

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 OBSERVATIONS:

a. General:

- (1) Supplies at X-1270 at 12:45 hours.

b. Communications:

- (1) 40 RR cars at Ebingen W-9558 at 12:58 hours.
- (2) 50 RR cars at S-3923 at 12:43 hours.
- (3) Train of 15/20 RR cars facing North, stationary, no steam up, at Oppenweiler S-2644 at 12:36 hours.

CASUALTIES: None.

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No. of A/C TAKING PHOTOS: 6.

ROUTE: Same as Report No. 551, this date, except that here the Axis was ~~49°T~~ and ~~44°T~~ on the two bomb runs respectively, and the formation broke left from the target and returned to the 12 for the second bomb run.

WEATHER: CAVU in all areas.

RESULTS: The first two Squadrons to bomb covered the assigned area with an excellent concentration, causing a tremendous explosion from which smoke rose to 14,000'. The last Squadron to bomb also hit the assigned area, but no explosions were seen.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: This was a visual mission.

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