

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

D-F-3

24 April 1945

Final Mission Report No. 576.

Flight Commander: Major Cahan (of main formation).
Lead Pilot : Lt. Halbert.

320th Bombardment Group (M).

SCHWABMUNCHEN AMMO DUMP, AREA "D" (M/R: (W) Y-318547, GSGS 4416, sheet X-5) Germany.

At 08:21 hours, 3 B-26's took off to drop "Chaff" in advance of the main formation and to bomb Schwabmunchen Ammunition Dump, Area "D" (M/R: (W) Y-318547, GSGS 4416, Sheet X-5), Germany. No B-26's returned early. Total sorties: 3. 3 B-26's were over the primary target and 3 B-26's dropped 40 x 250-lb demolition bombs (.1 & .025 second delay tail fuses) on the primary target at 10:27 hours from 11,500' on an axis of 227 Deg. True (Briefed Axis - 238 Deg. True; Drift Correction - 10 Deg. Left; Evasive Action - Loss of 1,500' Altitude). No bombs were salvaged or returned to base. 1 A/C (Lead) carried only 12 bombs. No B-26's lost or missing. No B-26's damaged. 3 B-26's returned to base at 12:01 hours.

AIR OBSERVATIONS:

- a. Activity: P-47's provided escort.
- b. Situation: 2 FW-190's were seen below the formation at Y-5883 at 10:24 hours.
- 4 S/E A/C at Augsburg Y-3575 at 10:25 hours.
- 4 S/E A/C at Lechfield Y-3360 at 10:27 hours.

ENEMY AIR ENCOUNTERS: 2 ME-262's made one pass from slightly high at 4 to 5 o'clock and passed under the formation, breaking left and down. One fired a few rockets, closing to 200 yards, and two gunners returned fire.

Losses to E/A: None. Damaged by E/A: None. Claimed E/A: None.

FLAK: S, H, I, CP Type Flak encountered from the Munich Area; very low and left. 12/15 bursts were seen. None encountered at the target.

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

GROUND OBSERVATIONS:

- a. General:
 - (1) Supply Dump at Biberbach Y-2896 at 10:12 hours.
 - (2) 30 warehouses at Dillingen T-0402 at 10:03 hours.
 - (3) Black smoke to 12,000' from Gnstingen X-1678 at 11:02 hours.
 - (4) Large boat with one stack at Lake Ammer Y-5347 at 10:30 hrs.
- b. Communications:
 - (1) 10 M/T moving west at X-579- at 09:57 hours.
 - (2) 7/8 large M/T moving north-east into Ulm at X-6478 at 10:56.
 - (3) 50 RR cars at Dillingen T-0402 at 10:03 hours in Ammer Lake at Y-5343 at 10:30 hours.
 - (4) 200 RR cars at Buchloe Y-2242 at 10:37 hours.
 - (5) 15/20 RR cars at Y-4947 at 10:50 hours.

CASUALTIES: None.

Number of A/C taking Photos: None in this formation.

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D

ROUTE:

(A) Base to Selestat V-7962; to rendezvous at Offenburg W-1687; to Rentlingen X-0989; to Lauringen S-9901; to Schrobenhausen T-6002; to IP, Odelshausen Y-5773; to target on an axis of 227 Deg. True; Breakaway left to Inning Y-5548; to Giesen Y-5133; to Laupheim X-5961; to Rentlinge X-0989; Reciprocal course to Base.

WEATHER:

A. ENROUTE: Clear from base to Stuttgart except for 3-4/10ths cumulus over Vosage Mountains, Bases 7,000', Tops 9,000'. Visibility unlimited. Low cumulus start at Stuttgart, increasing and building up to the north and east. From Stuttgart to OP, 7/10ths cumulus, Tops 10,000'-10,500', with altostratus mixed in among the tops and occasional tops building to 11,500'.

B. TARGET AREA & VICINITY: 7-8/10ths cumulus, tops 11,500'. Visibility unlimited.

C. RETURN: General increase in cloud coverage.

RESULTS: An excellent pattern covered the target, causing fires and explosions.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: This was a "BAT" mission.

18 cartons of "Chaff" were dropped from the IP to the target to Inning.

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

R-E-S-T-R-I-C-T-E-D