

305th BG

General narrative

SUBJECT: Narrative report of operation - Giessen airfield (hangar) (Gr) - Nidda airfield and air park (Landing area) (Gr), 24 December, 1944.

TO: Commanding officer, 305th bombardment group (H), AAF, APO 557.

1. Description of mission planned.

a. The bomb loading for this operation was received from headquarters, 40th combat bombardment wing by telephone at 0020A, 24 December, 1944. The order called for forty-eight (48) aircraft, including five (5) PFF aircraft. The loading was as follows (forty-nine (49) aircraft were loaded and dispatched):

No. of A/C	Loading	fusing
32	12x 500GP Mark 12 Navy	1/100 sec nose - 1/100 sec tail.
3(PFF)	12x 500GP Mark 12 Navy 2 - skymarkers	1/100 sec nose - 1/100 sec tail.
1(PFF)	10x 500GP Mark 12 Navy	1/100 sec nose - 1/100 sec tail.
12	38x 100GP (AN-M30)	No Nose - 1/40 sec tail.
1(PFF)	38x 100GP (AN-M30) 2- skymarkers	No Nose - 1/40 sec tail.

b. The 1BD field order was received by teletype at 0545A, 24 December, 1944, and the 40CBW supplement was received by the same means at 2333A, 23 December, 1944. Flight plans and details of the mission were completed, briefing being set for 0650A and take-off time 0950A.

c. The 305th bombardment group - lead sq. - 40CBW "C" group - was the 19th squadron of the attacking force which consisted of 42 squadrons (1st Bomb. Div).

d. The 305th bombardment group - low sq. - 40CBW "C" group - was the 20th squadron of the attacking force which consisted of 42 squadrons (1st Bomb. Div).

e. The 305th bombardment group - high sq. - 40CBW "C" group - was the 21st squadron of the attacking force which consisted of 42 squadrons (1st Bomb. Div).

f. The 305th bombardment group - low-sq. - 40CBW "D" group - was the 23rd squadron of the attacking force which consisted of 42 squadrons (1st Bomb Div).

g. The 305th bombardment group formations were led by the following listed personnel:

Lead sq. - 40-C group
P: Maj O.W. Shelton
CP: 1st Lt. D.L. Waltz
N: 1st Lt. P.L. Davidson
N: 2nd Lt. R. Gordon
V: 1st Lt. M.G. Wallace
B: 1st Lt. C.L. Hunter

Low s. - 40-C group
P: 1st Lt. A.W. Wagner
CP: 1st Lt. W.J. Schreiber
N: 2nd Lt. A. Friedman
V: 2nd Lt. J.M. Tewel
B: 1st Lt. D.V. McVoy

High sq. - 40-C group
P: 1st Lt. R.E. Roy
CP: Capt. W.J. Cook

Low sq. - 40-D group
P: 1st Lt. J.T. Berry
CP: 1st Lt. J.D. Wolhnupt??

N: 1st Lt. H. Jones, Jr
V: 1st Lt G.E. Nelson
B: 1st Lt. R.W. Johnson

N: 1st Lt. J.F. Corrigan??
V: 2nd Lt. E.L. Tversky
B: 1st Lt. W.J. Hustend??

2. Description of mission.

a. 40CBW "C" group (1) The aircraft of the 305th bombardment group scheduled to form the 40CBW "C" group took off on time, assembled over podington at 7,000 feet and moved out on course on time. The group flew briefed route to point "J" where a dog-leg was made to the right to let the 40CBW "A" group move into position. The group then flew briefed route to the target.

(2) Before reaching the I.P. the group leader was able to see the target so the squadrons took interval at the I.P. and each squadron made a visual run on the target with good bombing results.

(3) After bombs were released the lead and low squadrons rallied and returned to England along the briefed route. On the turn away from the target the high squadron was cut off by a B-24 group and was unable to re-join the lead and low squadrons but followed along in trail to England maintaining visual contact with the lead and low squadrons.

(4) The three (3) squadrons returned to Honeybourne buncher and circled until diversion orders were received and proceeded to the diversionary airdromes.

(5) Meagre, fairly accurate, AAGF was encountered at the enemy lines and at the target. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

b. Low sq. - 40CBW "D" group (1) The aircraft of the 305th bombardment group scheduled to form the low squadron of the 40th "D" group took off on time and assembled with the lead squadron furnished by the 306th bomb Gp. (H) at 6,000 feet over splasher no. 12. The group moved out on course on time and flew briefed route to point "K" where a dog-leg was made to the right to get into proper CBW position and the group then flew briefed route to the target.

(2) The squadron took interval at the I.P. and made visual run on the target but failed to pick up the target on the first approach in time to bomb. The squadron then made a 290 degree turn to the left and made a second run on the target but due to faulty identification dropped short of the target.

(3) After bombs were released the squadron rejoined the lead squadron and proceeded slightly south of the briefed route to past the enemy lines and then followed briefed route to England.

(4) The squadron leader received diversion message in the vicinity of Watford and proceeded directly top diversionary landing field.

(5) Meagre AAGF was encountered at the enemy lines on the way back from the target. No enemy aircraft were encountered.

3. Aircraft not attacking.

a. 40CBW "C" group (1) Thirty-six (36) aircraft, including four (4) PFF aircraft took off for this formation. A/C 42-39943 turned back before reaching enemy territory, A/C 43-38109 attacked a target of opportunity at Herrmarnstein (5035N-0630E) (Gr) and all other aircraft attacked the primary target.

b. Low sq - 40CBW "D" group (1) Thirteen (13) aircraft, including one (1) PFF aircraft took off for this formation and all aircraft attacked the primary target.

4. Aircraft lost.

a. 40CBW "C" group (1) none.

b. Low sq - 40CBW "D" group (1) none.

5. Statistical summary.

	lead 40-C	low 40-C	high 40-C	low 40-D	total
a. A/C dispatched	12++	12+	12+	13+	49
b. A/C Disp. Less unused spares ..	12++	12+	12+	13+	49
c. Number of sorties	12++	12+	11+	13+	48
d. A/C attacking primary target .	12++	12+	10+	13+	47
e. A/C attacking tgt of opport	0	0	1	0	1
f. A/C not attacking	0	0	1	0	1
g. A/C lost	0	0	0	0	0

+ - Includes one (1) PFF aircraft.

++ - Includes two (2) PFF aircraft.