

493rd BG

General narrative

SUBJECT: Report of operations officer - mission 24 December 1944 -
Frankfurt A/F and Darmstadt, Germany.

TO: Commanding officer, 493rd bombardment group (H), APO 559.

1. General narrative:

493rd "A", "B" and "C" squadrons - 93rd "C" group

Take-off, climb and assembly: take-off, climb and assembly was good. Group assembly very good. Had too much time at buncher. Wing assembly was a bit congested by 34th stating they would be one minute late and they ended up one minute early. Good division formation assembly.

Route out: control point times by 493rd made in trail of wing leader. Wing was to left of bomber stream, at very few points was wing in trail of bomber stream. Too much "S" ing. Formation not too good within groups.

Target area: briefed route not followed. Too much deviation along route. I.P. made good by 493. The target was hit. Sharp left turn as briefed brought 493rd ahead of 490th at R.P. Low squadron of 490th trailed over target and about got away of 493rd close behind.

Route back and descent: route back O.K. poor formation. Squadron left group formation at coast out, circled buncher #27 until called in by base.

Flak encountered: flak areas at lines, N of I.P. and over target encountered. Flak over lines was tracking and fairly accurate. Numerous rockets over target area.

Fighter support: support seemed thin. Good when fighter attack ahead was announced.

Comments? And suggestions: (1) leaders stick to briefed course. (2) Too much VHF chatter. (3) Squadrons within group formation stay closed-up. High squadron of 490th was trailing behind and hindered movements of 493rd.

493rd "D" squadron - 93rd "D" group.

Take-off, climb and assembly: take-off good - group assembly good - wing assembly good except for 490th composite flying low squadron on 93 "D". Division assembly O.K.

Route out: route out rather rough - due to excessive "S" ing by wing leader. Timings late due to increased tread winds. Formation good in lead squadron and Hi-Low squadron poor on assembly and throughout route in.

Target area: I.P. made good. Run approximately 285°. R.P. made good and briefed route followed out. No congestion in target area.

Route back and descent: route back as briefed - descent - S.O.P.

Flak encountered: on route in about 05 50E about 16 guns. Meager - fairly accurate.

Fighter support: seemed a little thin.

Comments and suggestions: none

493rd "E" squadron - 45th "E" group.

Take-off, climb and assembly: routine assembly of 493rd E squadron was made good over buncher 27. 45th E group was met over buncher 20 on time and no difficulty was encountered.

Route out: times on assembly were made good by 45th E group leaving coast 2 minutes late. From that point on all timings were late.

Target area: bombing was done by squadrons. 45th E high and lead squadrons failed to drop on primary. 493rd E squadron which was low on 45th E group dropped on the primary, visually with a PFF assist. Rally point was not made good by 45th E. 45th E went on to bomb last resort at Stuttgart. 493rd E squadron did not stay with 45th E on this run, after receiving permission from 45th E leader to leave. There was no congestion in target area.

Route back and descent: routine.

Flak encountered: Moderate - accurate - over battle lines. No flak over target.

Fighter support: saw very few fighters

Comments and suggestions: none.

2. Aircraft not attacking:

493rd "A" squadron - 93rd "C" group.

Twelve aircraft, including two PFF aircraft, left this base and assembled in the formation as shown in attached diagram "A"

Of these twelve aircraft, eleven including the PFF aircraft, passed over and bombed the primary target, Frankfurt-Rhein A/F, Germany.

Aircraft 43-38195 turned back early after reaching enemy territory, because of an engine failure. This aircraft did not attack. Not attacking - sortie.

Therefore eleven aircraft, including the PFF aircraft, in the 493rd "A" squadron are considered attacking and twelve aircraft are credited with sorties.

Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B"

493rd "B" squadron, 93rd "C" group.

Fourteen aircraft, including one PFF, left this base and assembled in the formation as shown in attached diagram "A"

Of these fourteen aircraft, thirteen including the PFF aircraft, passed over, but only twelve bombed the primary target, Frankfurt-Rhein A/F. Germany.

Aircraft 43-38340 passed over, but did not bomb the primary target because of rack malfunction. This aircraft later bombed a target of opportunity at Darmstadt, Germany.

This aircraft is considered attacking and is credited with a sortie.

Aircraft 43-38993 turned back before reaching the primary target because of battle damage to number 4 engine. This aircraft bombed a target of opportunity

at ???baden, Germany. Attacking - sortie.

Therefore fourteen aircraft, including the PFF aircraft, of the 493rd "B" squadron, are considered attacking and are credited with sorties.

Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B"

493rd "C" squadron - 93rd "C" group.

Thirteen aircraft, including one PFF aircraft, left this base and assembled in the formation as shown in attached diagram "A".

Of these thirteen aircraft, twelve passed over, but only eight bombed the primary target, Frankfurt-Rhein A/F, Germany

Aircraft 44-6477 and 43-38613 failed to bomb because of rack malfunctions, but later bombed a target of opportunity at Mainz, Germany. These aircraft are considered attacking and credited with a sortie.

Aircraft 43-38314 passed over, but did not bomb the primary target. This aircraft later bombed a target of opportunity at Erbenheim, Germany, and is therefore considered attacking and credited with a sortie.

Aircraft 43-38223 passed over, but did not bomb the primary target because of a rack malfunction. This aircraft later bombed a target of opportunity at Wiesbaden, Germany, and is considered attacking and credited with a sortie.

Aircraft 43-38558 was a return early spare.

Therefore, twelve aircraft, including the PFF aircraft of the 493rd "C" squadron are considered attacking and are credited with sorties.

Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B"

493rd "D" squadron - 93rd "D" group

Twelve aircraft, including two PFF aircraft, left this base and assembled in the formation as shown in attached diagram "A"

Of these twelve aircraft, eleven passed over and bombed the primary target, Frankfurt-Rhein A/F, Germany

Aircraft 43-38242 was a return early spare.

Therefore, eleven aircraft, including the PFF aircraft of the 493rd "D" squadron are considered attacking and are credited with sorties

Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B"

493rd "E" squadron - 45th "E" group

Thirteen aircraft, including one PFF aircraft, left this base and assembled in the formation as shown in attached diagram "A". This squadron assembled as the low squadron in the 45th E Group.

Of these thirteen aircraft, all passed over and bombed their primary target, the Darmstadt A/F, Germany.

Therefore, thirteen aircraft, including the PFF aircraft of the 493rd "E" squadron are considered attacking and are credited with sorties.

Formation over the target is shown in attached diagram "B"

3. Aircraft lost: no aircraft lost.