

FROM: 397TH BOMB GROUP 24/1602A
TO: CG 9TH BOMB DIVISION AND 98TH COMBAT WING ATTN: A-2

SECRET BT
397BG R-568-D

OPFLASH NO. 224 FOR 24 MARCH 1945 (AM)

A. 397TH BOMB GROUP (M)

B. BINGDEN FLAK POSITIONS (RA-225568) PPF REF RA-22555680

C. 31 B-26'S PLUS 1 PPF (3 ADDITIONAL SCHEDULED FAILED TO TAKE OFF.
1 A/C DUE TO MAG DROP; 1 A/C DUE TO RIGHT
GENERATOR OUT; 1 A/C OUT OF COMMISSION)

D. NO ATTACK ON PRIMARY. THE SINGLE PPF LED FORMATION ON 1ST RUN
TO PRIMARY BUT DID NOT RELEASE. WHILE MAKING CIRCLE TO RIGHT
FOR A VISUAL RUN THE LEAD A/C OF 1ST BOX WAS HIT BY HFF AND
JETTISONED BOMBS (SEE PARA "E" AND "F"). THE LEAD A/C OF 2ND
BOX HAD FAILURE OF INTERVALOMETER AND RACKS AND LATER JETTISONED
IN CHANNEL (SEE PARA "E" AND "F"). THE REMAINDER OF BOTH BOXES
RELEASED ON CASUALS.

CASUAL: COESFELD (RA-608724) - 5 A/C OF "B" FLT 2ND BOX.

CASUAL: GOOR (RA-215048) - 5 A/C OF "C" FLT 2ND BOX.

OTHER: HOLTWICK (RA-576778) 13 A/C IN A, B AND C FLTS OF 1ST
BOX. THE NO. 1 A/C OF "A" FLT 1ST BOX, AFTER TAKING OVER
FROM PPF FOR A 2ND RUN VISUALLY ON TARGET WAS
STRUCK BY FLAK WHICH DAMAGED CONTROLS REQUIRING THAT HE
JETTISON BOMB LOAD AT 0936 AT HOLTWICK (RA-576778).
OTHER A/C IN BOX RELEASED ON BOX LEADER'S JETTISONED BOMBS
WHEN LEAD A/C OF 2ND BOX WAS UNABLE TO RELEASE ON TARGET
DUE TO FAILURE OF RELEASE MECHANISM, THE LEADER OF "B"
FLT 2ND BOX TOOK OVER THE BOX LEAD. FORMATION CIRCLED TO
MAKE VISUAL RUN BUT HAZE MADE IDENTIFICATION OF TARGET
VERY DIFFICULT. 4 A/C IN "A" FLT 2ND BOX RETURNED BOMBS.
"C" FLT BECAME SEPARATED FROM "B" FLT AND BOMBED SEPARATE
CASUALS.

E. TOTAL OF 8:

2 MECHANICAL: THE NO. 4 OF "B" FLT 1ST BOX HAD MECHANICAL
FAILURE OF RIGHT ENGINE WHILE CIRCLING FOR VISUAL RUN ON
TARGET. FORCED TO SALVO BOMBS NEAR AZEWIJN (RA-045665) AT
0918. THE LEAD A/C OF 2ND BOX WAS UNABLE TO RELEASE AND
BOMBS WOULD NOT SALVO. LEFT FORMATION FROM TARGET AREA
AND SALVOED IN CHANNEL AT 1122 AT 3 DEG 8 MIN E-51 DEG 25 MIN N
REFUELED AT B-65 AND RETURNED TO BASE. NO HFF DAMAGE
1 PERSONNEL: THE NO. 5 A/C OF "A" FLT 2ND BOX HIT SWITCH
AND MADE ACCIDENTAL RELEASE AT 0922 WHILE CIRCLING IN ENEMY
TERRITORY IN VICINITY OF PRIMARY TARGET. UNABLE TO PIN
POINT.

5 OTHER: THE NO. 2 A/C OF "A" FLT 1ST BOX WAS HIT BY HFF
AND FORCED TO GO ON SINGLE ENGINE AND JETTISONED BOMBS
NEAR MUSSUM (RA-190730) AT 0915. 4 A/C IN "A" FLT 2ND BOX
RETURNED BOMBS BECAUSE FLIGHT LEAD DID NOT DROP.
2 LANDED A-92 AND RETURNED

64 X 260 LB M-81 FRAG CLUSTERS JETTISONED (SEE PARA "E") BY 4 A/C.
64 X 260 LB M-81 FRAG CLUSTERS RETURNED BY 3 A/C.

G. HAZE AND SMOKE REDUCED OBS. 2ND BOX REPORTED GOOD ON 2 CASUALS.
NOT OBS FOR 1ST BOX.

H. 9 A/C DAMAGED CAT "A" BY HFF

I. 0-0-0-0

J. WEAK INACC TO MOD ACC HFF AT PRIMARY TARGET, VARYING CONSIDERABLY
ON VARIOUS FLIGHTS. MOD ACC HFF AT HALDERN (RA-125535). WEAK
ACC HFF AT LOIKUM (RA-198538); LOCHEN (RA-188975); VREDEN (RA-37582
ARNHEIM (QE-758775). WEAK INACC HFF AT FRONT LINES.

K. OBS 4 JETS, BELIEVED FROM JET A/C, AT 20 TO 25,000 FT ON COURSE
BETWEEN RHINE AND TARGET, PROCEEDING WITH FORMATION. NO ATTACK.

L. BOX I: 11,000 TO 12,500 FT. BOX II: "A" FLT NO ATTACK; "B" FLT
12,000; "C" FLT 2,000.

M. BOX I: 8936. BOX II: "A" FLT OVER TARGET 8915; "B" FLT 8955;
"C" FLT 8949.

N. FORMATION LEADER NOT BRIEFED TO CONTACT FIGHTER CONTROL.

COMBONGP 397 SIGNED MAJ MCLEOD.

BT 24/1602A

REW AR

ITA R.....V241710A MJS AX AR

VOV SAY I HAVE TO GET JIM R
JIM R.....241710A JAF

B FOR ITA

HEADQUARTERS
397TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M) AAF
Office of the Operations Officer

DATE: 20 June 48
INIT: 27c

Date 25 March 1945

TO : Commanding General, Ninth Air Force, APO 696, U.S. Army,
ATTENTION: 26th S.G.U.
Commanding General, Ninth Bomber Command, APO 140, U.S. Army,
ATTENTION: Statistical Control.
Commanding Officer, 98th Combat Bombardment Wing, APO 140, U.S. Army,
ATTENTION: Statistical Control.

FROM: 397th Bombardment Group (M), AAF, APO 140, U.S. Army.

Ref: Oprep A No. 333-A for 24 hours ending 24 March 1945

Mission No. 213

A. Short Narrative of Operations:

Target Witten Flak Position (Primary)
Place of take-off A-72
Place of Landing A-72
Take-off time 0727 Landing time 1137
Time over target 0915-0919 Bombing Altitude 9000-12500
Nature of mission Bombing Other
Weather H11 clear, visibility 2 miles in heavy haze
Results Excellent
Enemy opposition Weak inasmuch as not see HFF at target

B. Type & model of aircraft:

1. Dispatched 12 B-26B
3 B-26F
16 B-26C

2. Attacking target (indicate target) or completing mission

5 (3B-26) Crossfeld (Casual)
5 (2B-26) Holtzsch (Casual)

3. Abortive due H11

- (1) Weather: _____
(2) Personnel: 1 B-26B Toggler dropped when he saw doors closing on lead A/C
(3) Mechanical: 1 B-26C Bombs would not release (lead A/C)
(4) Other: 4 (3B-26) Returned bombs when lead A/C did not bomb
15 (5B-26-27-28) Lead A/C hit by HFF, bombing by bombs on bomb dropped when they saw the lead A/C jettison.

4. Missing (i.e. cause and place unknown) H11

5. Destroyed - before reaching target H11
giving cause where known _____

6. Destroyed - over or after leaving target H11
giving cause where known _____

7. Damaged (give category & cause) 9 (AB-40-1F) Cat "A" by HFF

8. Sorties 12 B-26B 3 B-26F 16 B-26G
- D. Total operational flying hours
- a. Day (Sunrise to sunset) B-26B 48:00 B-26G 64:00
B-26F 12:00
- b. Night (Sunset to sunrise) Nil
- E. Ammunition by calibres:
- a. Total carried into air 96,100 rns Cal .50 AP I & T
- b. Expended on operations 500 " " " "
- c. Lost on wrecked or missing a/c Nil
- F. Bombs, flares, etc used:
- a. Total carried into air: 496 X 260 M-81 Frags fused T-50 M1
- b. Expended on operations 80 X 260 M-81 Coesfeld (Casual)
(List targets separately) 80 X 260 M-81 Holtwick (Casual)
- c. Jettisoned 256 X 260 M-81 Frags fused T-50 M1
- d. Lost on wrecked or missing a/c Nil
- e. Total Returned 80 X 260 M-81 Frags fused T-50 M1
- G. Own Personnel Casualties: Nil

Type of Casualty	Pilot	Co-pilot	Nav	Bomb	R.Gun	E. Gun	T. Gun
Killed in Action							
Missing in Action							
Seriously Wounded							
Slightly Wounded							

H. Enemy aircraft by type of description (tentative claims):

- a. Destroyed Nil
- b. Prob. Des Nil
- c. Damaged Nil

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
For the Group Commander:

GEORGE D. HUGHES,
Major, Air Corps,
S-3.

S E C R E T

397 BG: 32 a/c dispatched (including 1 PFF). None bombed Primary. 26 dropping 414 X 260 frags on OTHER targets. 1 (PFF) due to equipment failure dropping 4 X 500 GP on Berken (A-399621).

5 a/c failed to bomb: 1, mechanical; 4, other (leader did not drop).

No losses, 9 a/c battle damaged, no casualties.

Visual bombing by box and flights from 9,000 - 12,500 feet.

Box I - MAO. PFF failed to bomb Primary due to equipment failure. Bombs jettisoned 25 miles NE of target after a/c was hit by flak. Rest of box dropped on this a/c. Bombs hit in open area between road and RR S of Holtwick at A-576778. Hits over secondary road and isolated buildings.

Box II - Flt. A - MAO. PFF failed to bomb Primary due to equipment failure. Leader could not bomb due to rack malfunction. 1 a/c dropped 3 miles N of target when lead a/c closed doors, thinking bombs were released. Bombs fell NW of Bocholt at A-24356220 on S edge of Holt wick and across anti-tank ditch and buildings..

Flt. B - AMPI - EXCELLENT. Picked casual after PFF failure. Bombed Coesfeld crossroads, 26 miles NE of target at A-616727. 80 percent of bombs within 1000 ft. radius of AMPI in good pattern 495 ft. NNE falling across road and among scattered buildings.

Flt. C - AMPI - SUPERIOR. Picked casual target 30 miles N of target on way out - town of Goor, bombing crossroads at A-215049 after PFF failure. 100 percent of bombs within 1000 ft. radius of AMPI in fair pattern (right wing man out of position), 187 ft. E of AMPI and on it. Bombs hit among many buildings and on main crossroads.

: 397TH	: 9TH B.D. (M) WING 98 CBW	: B
: GROUP	: DATE 24 MARCH 1945	: HOLTWICK RA-576778
: OTHER UNITS: TARGET		: HOLTWICK RA-24256220
:		: COESFELD RA-616727
:	FIRST PHASE INTERPRETATION	: GOOR RA-215049
:		: TARGET HIT

A. TARGET BRIEFED DINODEN FLAK POSITIONS PRIMARY RA-225568

BORKEN RA-396612 SECONDARY

M.P.I. FLAK POSITIONS AT RA-225568

A.P. A.M.P.I. BOX II "B" FLT CROSS ROADS AT COESFELD RA-616727

C. NO. AND TYPE OF A/C DISPATCHED 31 B-26'S NO. OF A/C ATTACKING 23
~~PLUS 1 PPF~~

D. BOMBING BY 3's, 6's, 12's, 18's 15 & 6'S IN FOLLOWING ORDER NOT KNOWN

E. NO. AND SIZE OF BOMBS DROPPED 368 X 260 L3 FUSING T-50 EL
~~4-51~~

F. HEADING OF A/C WHEN BOMBS DROPPED SEE REVERSE SIDE

G. TIME BOMBS DROPPED SEE REVERSE SIDE

H. ACTIVITY AT TARGET

J. RESULTS OF BOMBING

BOX I - NAO - SALVOE - PPF FAILED TO BOMB. BOMBS JETTISONED 25 MILES NE OF TARGET AFTER PLANE WAS HIT BY HFF. REST OF BOX DROPPED ON THIS SALVO. BOMBS HIT IN OPEN AREA BETWEEN ROAD AND RAILROAD S OF HOLTWICK @ RA-576778. HITS OVER SECONDARY ROAD AND ISOLATED BLDGS.

BOX II - A FLT - NAO - SALVOE - PPF FAILED TO BOMB. LEADER COULD NOT BOMB DUE TO RACK MALFUNCTION. A/C 147 DROPPED 3 MILES N OF TARGET WHEN LEAD CLOSED DOORS, THINKING BOMBS WERE RELEASED. BOMBS FELL NW OF BOCHALT @ RA-24356220 ON S EDGE OF HOLTWICK & ACROSS A/T DITCH AND BLDGS.

B FLT - AMPI - EXCEL - PICKED CASUAL AFTER PPF FAILURE. BOMBED COESFELD CROSS ROADS 26 MILES NE OF TARGET @ RA-616727. 80% OF BOMBS WITHIN 1000' RADIUS OF AMPI IN GOOD PATTERN 495' NNW FALLING ACROSS ROAD AND AMONG SCATTERED BLDGS.

C FLT - AMPI - SUPER - PPF A/C WENT OUT. PICKED CASUAL TARGET 30 MILES N OF TARGET ON WAY OUT - TOWN OF GOOR, BOMBING CROSS ROADS @ RA-215049. 100% OF BOMBS WITHIN 1000' RADIUS AMPI IN FAIR PATTERN (RIGHT WING MAN OUT OF POSITION) 187' E OF AMPI AND ON IT. BOMBS HIT AMONG MANY BLDGS AND ON MAIN CROSS ROADS.

15-MINUTE REPORT

Date 24 MARCH 1945 Mission for day 1ST Time plane landed 1110
 Primary Target DINGDEN Type T. FLAK POSITIONS Grid Coordinate _____

Box 2 Flight A Position 1 Plane Number 4280/J Pilot BROWNLEE
 based on interrogation of 1st crew to land (presumably a box leader) at a/c hardstand.
 telephone Command and Wing within 15 minutes of the landing of this 1st a/c.

1. Bombing Results (including number of runs on target).

Primary target bombed? NO Results:

If not -- why? PPF WENT OUT

Other target bombed? YES Results: BOMBED CASUAL TARGET -
GOOR. HIT TOWN

2. Weather as it affected mission:

Target: VIS POOR - 10 MI DOWN SUN 3 TO 4 MI UP SUN

Enroute: HAZE

3. Flak (intensity, accuracy, type)

Target: WEAK INACC TO MOD ACC

Enroute: NIL

4. #/A Encounters (strong, mediocre, meager, nil - available details)

NIL

5. Deviations from Route

ON ROUTE EXCEPT TO BOMB CASUAL

6. Special Comments

NIL

INSTRUCTIONS

If the leader of the 1st box to land cannot report for the second box, the leader of the second box also will be met at the a/c hardstand and interrogated similarly.

In interrogating these first crews, the S-2 officer should have a map with overlay on which the route as flown can be drawn. (Plotted route should not be used.)

Initials of Interrogating Officer HGC

Phoned to Command (Bombay) by SGT ALEXANDER time 1215 Received by WAC

Phoned to Wing (Preetket) by _____ time _____ Received by _____