

398th Operations Officer's Report

16 August 1944

Target: Aircraft Depot, Airfield
Delitzsch, Germany
Delitzsch, Germany

HEADQUARTERS 398TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (K-B-1)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 557, U.S. Army

17 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Operations Officer's Report of Mission 16, 1944

TO: Commanding General, First Bombardment Division, APO 557
Commanding General, 1st Combat Wing, APO 557

1. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

A. Data:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (1) Date of Mission: | 15 August 1944 |
| (2) Target Assigned: | A/F Delitzsch, Germany |
| (3) Target Attacked: | A/F Delitzsch, Germany |
| (4) Units Participating: | 35 A/C of this group plus one PFF of this group and one PFF from 91st Group formed the 1st "A" CBW. |
| (5) Returned Early: | 43-38075, 43-38172 |
| (6) Failed to Take-off: | 0 |
| (7) Lost: | None |

2. NARRATIVE:

Lead Group 1st "A" CBW [600th]

The take-off was normal. Assembly was normal except that the visibility to the south of the assembly buncher was not good, and it was difficult for incoming airplanes to pickup the wing formation. This condition necessitated an extra circle around the buncher which made the wing six (6) minutes late in leaving "A" and disrupted the order of the wings on the first CBW. This wing arrived at control point No. 1 on time, but the second wing of the 1st CBW was early and was ahead. It would have been possible to correct this, out of order, and control point No. 1, or while crossing the North [Sea] if the wing ahead had been in formation. The wing of the 2nd wing of the 1st CBW was straddling to such an extent that was not possible for this wing to get into proper position.

The flight to the target was as briefed. Some flak was encountered en route but it was possible to circumvent these areas which were not large. The wing behind this one was hit by enemy fighters, and lost several airplanes.

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Bombing was visual and results are believed to be good. This wing was bombing with incendiary bombs which were difficult to spot.

Flak over the target was moderate.

Twenty to Thirty enemy fighters were seen attacking the wing behind this one. Friendly cover engaged them. Friendly fighter cover for this wing was good.

Route back was as briefed and was without incident.

The division assembly and formation was fair on the route in, but excellent on the withdrawal.

High Group 1st "A" CBW [601st]

Assembly of this formation was good.

The route in was normal and flown as briefed. Bombing was visual and by groups, but due to smoke was unobserved.

Weather at the target was excellent.

Enemy fighters were not encountered by this group but were seen to attack the wing following this box.

Flak was moderate but inaccurate. The route out was flown as briefed with no unusual encounters. One A/C [Aircraft] aborted over Holland due to an oxygen leak.

No aircraft are missing.

No personnel were wounded.

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Low Group 1st "A" CBW [603rd]

Assembly was normal except that deputy lead failed to join.

The lead A/C of the high element was called down to act as a deputy lead. The route in was normal except that this group could not turn at the IP because another group was in the way.

Bombing was visual by groups. Results were believed to be good. Flak was intense both to the right and left on the run but this group seemed to move down a clear corridor.

The route out was as briefed.

There were fighters in the area and the groups behind this one lost seven aircraft because of them.

Weather was better than was briefed.

Returned Early:

43-38075 - Took off but returned immediately to home field to replace a faulty oxygen mask. On landing, unstowed ball turret was damaged and A/C was unable to take-off again. Not a sortie.

43-38172 - Returned to home field due to loss of oxygen. Not a sortie.

JEAN B. MILLER,
Major, Air Corps,
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398th History CD File: B0482e.pdf

PDF Page: 3, 4

Numbered Page: 2186, 2187

Transcribed by: Ann Collins and Dave Jordan, October 2003