

HEADQUARTERS
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)

APC 638, U.S. Army,
6 March 1944.

SUBJECT: Report of 416th Bombardment Group (L), IX Bomber Command Field Order No. 222, Target Bernay/St. Martin Airfield, on 4 March 1944.

TO : Commanding General, IX Bomber Command, APC 638, U. S. Army.

I. Route:

a. Chart showing track actually flown and track briefed. (See Annex "A").

b. The formation consisted of a box of twenty-one (21) ships; three flights of seven, with number 2 flight flown high and number 3 flight flown lower than lead flight. The formation made normal assembly and remained the same throughout the flight. Mission recalled by Bomber Command Control.

II. Bombing: Mission recalled. Nineteen (19) bombs jettisoned in Channel.

III. Enemy Air Opposition: Nil.

IV. Anti-Aircraft Defenses: Inaccurate HFF encountered 3 miles SE of Lisieux; inaccurate HFF at Blangy; HFF 3 miles SE Pent Audemer inaccurate; inaccurate HFF 4 miles SE Lillebene; inaccurate HFF encountered 2 miles SE Fauville and Bre-gile.

V. Report of Airplanes Lost, Damaged, and Abortive on Operations:

(See Annex "B").

VI. Weather:

a. Weather Chart. (See Annex "C").

b. 1. Forecast:

BASE AT TAKEOFF: No low clouds but with patchy medium clouds at 8000 feet. Visibility 3 to 4 miles due to light haze.

ROUTE OUT: No low clouds over England with .5 to .8 low clouds over Channel. Bases 3000 tops 7-8000 feet. Clouds decreasing a few miles inside the French Coast to .3 to .5 stratocumulus with tops to 7000 feet. Visibility 6-8 miles over Channel and 3-4 miles over France.

TARGET: No medium or high clouds with .3 to .5 stratocumulus with bases at 2500 to 3000 and tops to 7000. Visibility 3-4 miles.

ROUTE BACK: Same as route out with .2 to .3 cumulus over England with bases 2500 to 3000 feet and tops to 5000 feet.

ICING: Moderate icing in all clouds.

2. Interrogation:

WEATHER AT TAKEOFF: .3 to .4 stratocumulus with bases at 4500 feet and tops to 5500 feet. The visibility was 5 miles due to light haze. The surface wind was 300 degrees 20 mph.

ROUTE OUT: Climbed on course toward Dungeness. The top of the haze was at 6000 feet with the visibility unlimited above it. From the Thames to the English Coast there were .4 to .5 stratocumulus with tops to 6000 feet. Over the Channel the clouds were .2 to .3 until they reached the French Coast and then 1.0 with tops to 10000 feet. Very few breaks were reported over the continent itself. The ground was covered with snow.

ROUTE BACK: A few miles off the French Coast the clouds broke to .1 to .2 and the tops seemed very low. .3 to .4 from English Coast in to base with tops to 6000.

WINDS: No wind checks were made by standard methods but the formation was on course using winds as given.

BASE ON RETURN: .5 cumulus with bases 3500 and tops 4000 to 4500. The visibility was 6 miles and the wind was 320 degrees 25 mph.

VII. Communications Equipment:

- a. Communications (YS) Report. (See Annex "D").
- b. No equipment failure.

VIII. Fighter Escort:

Good fighter escort.

IX. Report of Malfunctions of Aircraft Equipment:

(See Annex "E").

For the Commanding Officer:

GEORGE SCHENKEL,
Capt., Air Corps,
Adjutant.

ANNEXES:

- Annex "A" - Chart of Route Briefed and Route Flown.
- Annex "B" - Report of Airplanes Lost, Damaged, and Abortive on Operations.
- Annex "C" - Weather Chart.
- Annex "D" - Communications (YS) Report.
- Annex "E" - Report of Malfunctions of Aircraft Equipment.

CONFIDENTIAL
COMMUNICATIONS (YS) REPORT

TO : IX BOMBER COMMAND

FROM : 416TH BOMB GROUP (L)

FORM "YS" NO. A-YS-4

DATE AND TIME OF OPERATIONS B-4 MARCH 1944 0830 - 1105

SQUADRONS & A/C DETAILED C- 636 (5) FGHTV; 669 (4) IJKS;
670 (5) ABDEP; 671 (5) LMNOQR-
Total 21

EQUIPMENT FAILURES AND CAUSE D - 669 - 8, Defective lower gunner
threat mike(T-30F)

NAVIGATIONAL AIDS USED E - NONE

MF FIXES F - NOT APPLICABLE

HQ BEARINGS G - NOT APPLICABLE

SBA H - NOT APPLICABLE

VHF PERFORMANCE I - VERY SATISFACTORY

A/C TRANSMITTING ON COMMAND
BOMBER TO BOMBER (TYPE OF
MESSAGE) J - NOT APPLICABLE

A/C RECEIVING ON COMMAND
BOMBER (TYPE OF MESSAGE) K - NONE

A/C TRANSMITTING ON VHF
(TYPE OF MESSAGE) L - 670 - A, Informed Bomber Command
that target had been passed and
were returning to Base

A/C RECEIVING ON VHF
(TYPE OF MESSAGE) M - 669 - 1, Heard "Farmand go
to Denver"

WING FREQUENCY (MESSAGES
TO AND FROM) N - NONE

REMARKS O - Good radio performance

ANNEX "D"

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