

398th Operations Officer's Report

12 August 1944

Target: Airfield outside of Versailles, France

HEADQUARTERS 398TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (K-B-2)

Office of the Operations Officer

APO 557, U.S. Army

13 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Operations Officers' Report of Mission 12 August 1944

TO: Commanding General, First Bombardment Division, APO 557

Commanding General, 1st Combat Wing, APO 557

1. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

A. Data:

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| (1) Date of Mission: | 12 August 1944 |
| (2) Target Assigned: | Versailles, France |
| (3) Target Attacked: | Versailles, France |
| (4) Units Participating: | 36 A/C of the 398th Gp. formed the 1st "B" CBW |
| (5) Returned Early: | 42-107080, 42-102596 |
| (6) Failed to Take-off: | None |
| (7) Lost: | 42-107191 |

2. NARRATIVE:

Lead Group 1st "B" CBW [602nd]

This group put up the 1st "B" CBW composed of three (3) twelve (12) A/C groups. Assembly was very difficult due to adverse weather conditions but was finally accomplished approximately five (5) miles southwest of Splasher #11. The 1st "B" CBW departed Selsey Bill thirty-five (35) minutes late and proceeded on briefed route in position behind the 1st "A" CBW which also had difficulty assembling. Route from departure point to target was flown as briefed.

Information was received from weather scout that the target was clear but very hazy. The groups of this CBW took interval at IP for individual bomb runs. The lead group picked up the target approximately 3/4 of the way from IP to target. The main bomb-fall fell slightly to the left of aiming point.

This CBW reassembled into CBW formation and followed briefed route to home base, letting down through an opening in overcast for a normal landing.

Flak over target was meager and inaccurate.

Fighter support was fair.

No enemy fighters were sighted.

Communication was good.

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High Group 1st "B" CBW [600th]

Take-off was normal. Misty clouds were encountered about 10,000 feet which were solid up to 30,000 feet. Visibility was less than 1/4 of a mile. Assembly was changed first to 23,000 feet over Debden, and later changed to Splasher #11 at 18,000 feet. Assembly was finally made four (4) minutes south of Splasher #11. The Wing departed from assembly just (35) minutes late.

The flight over the channel, to the target and return trip were without incident.

Light and inaccurate flak was encountered over the target.
No enemy aircraft were seen.

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

Take-off was normal, but due to clouds assembly was changed to Splasher #11 and the two angels were added to briefing altitude. Route to and from target was followed as briefed.

Target was bombed at briefed altitude but bombs fell short of assigned MP1.

This pattern was excellent and target was hit. Due to abortives and bad weather the low group had only nine ships.

Returned Early:

A/C 42-107080 went into a spin in climb to assembly altitude due to heavy accumulation of ice on wings. Bombs were shaken loose. A/C returned to base.

A/C 42-102596 did not receive instructions for change in assembly, returned to base.

A/C Lost: A/C 42-107191 exploded in mid-air on route to assembly point. Reason unknown. No survivors.

JEAN B. MILLER
Major, Air Corps
Operations Officer

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Transcribed by: Joe K. Mansell, July 2004