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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 374

26 December 1944

Final Mission Report No. 437

Flight Commander: Captain Hessel.
Lead Pilot: Major Hayward.

320th Bombardment Group (M).

RASTATT NR BRIDGE, GERMANY, W/Is (M) 1-351287, OCSB 4416, Sheet V-2.

At 1235 hours 33 B-26's took off. 2 B-26's returned early; engines cutting out on both. No B-26's lost prior to target. 31 B-26's were over the target and 31 B-26's dropped 121 x 1000 lb demolition bombs (.1. non-delay fuses) on the primary target at 1430 hours, from 11,000' to 10,000' on an axis of 119° true. 3 x 1000 lb demolition bombs were salvaged in the target area, having hung up over the target. No bombs were returned to this base. 31 B-26's returned to base at 1530 hours. No B-26's lost and no B-26's are missing. No B-26's were damaged.

RESULTS: The bridge was missed. Bombs cut the south approach to the bridge. Some bombs landed just over to the east and other landed short to the west in the town.

ENEMY FIGHTER OPPOSITION: None.

BLAK: None.

ROUTE: Base to rendezvous with escort at Nancy, WU-8511; to Laverne, WQ-7318; to Lebach, WR-0444; to IP, Wissemburg, WR-1548, to target on axis of 119° T; break-away sharp left to Soultz, WR-3138; to Laverne, WQ-7316; reciprocal course to base.

WEATHER: a. Enroute: CAVU with light haze.
b. Vicinity of target: Same.
c. Target area: Same.
d. Return: As enroute.

AIR OBSERVATIONS: a. Air Activity: 1. P-47's provided escort.
2. 2 P-51's were seen N of Haguenau, at WR-0733 at 1434 hours.

3. On bomb run, several warning bursts were fired by our A/C in front of 12 P-47's which pointed their noses in toward the formation.

b. Situation: None.

NAVAL OBSERVATIONS: None.

GROUND

GROUND OBSERVATIONS: a. General: 1. 2 bridges west of Rastatt, WR-3529 are both down.
2. 50 bursts of friendly flak was fired from Lembach, providing excellent identification.
3. From IP, artillery fire at gun positions at the target was seen.
4. Fire burning in the N end of a large building at Ettlingen, WR-4939, at 1431 hours.
b. Communications: 2 locomotives moving north out of Rastatt, WR-3528, 50 RR cars in Rastatt M/Y at 1430 hours.

SPECIAL COMMENTS: None.

NORMAN L. FARBEROW,
Captain, Air Corps,
Act'g. Gp. S-2 Officer.

DECOY LINE UP		"A"	40 BAKER	33 STEINBACH
40		26 MCNAMARA	STOUGH	ROBERTS
33		Yowell		
26		"B"	04 O'LEARY	76 SCHRANTZ
04		78 BLACK	FERRANDINO	LIEVER
76		Chelucci		
78		SPARES	95 ELLIS	61 UHLIG
95			Kilgore	Chacko
61				
MAIN LINE UP		"A"	62 HAYWARD	58 SHERWOOD
62		52 DETHMAN	PICKETT	DAVIS
58		Purvis		
52		"B"	56 WATSON	69 HECKLER
56		63 HOOVER	Selzer	Otto
69		Thompson		
63		"C"	67 TOWNSEND	57 LIVSEY
67		71 PHILLIPS	Holland	Hackney
57		Kele		
71		"D"	23 MEYERS	11 SCOTT
23		16 MCCURDY	FLOUCK	POSEY
11		Sacco		
16		"E"	07 WILSON	05 WALDEN
07		02 DINOME	Allen	Stearny
05		Riddle		
02		"F"	19 STELBR	10 FORSYTHE
19		17 KLUG	Dever	Williamson
10		Gallagher		
17		"G"	85 RABAGE	83 TRIAM
85		99 DAY	DRAKE	CALMS
83		Adams		
99		"H"	80 LAMPMAN	75 HANDEL
80		88 SUTHERLAND	Goldman	Tobacco
75		Bennett		
88		"I"	90 KREUZER	98 WALKER
90		89 WADDELL	Jarman	Ryan
98		Schempf		
89		"J"	43 BATES	37 MCDUGAL
43		44 ROJNOVSKY	SPANN	BURNS
37		Germano		
44		"K"	30 MOONEY	35 KENT
30		29 MAYFIELD	Haun	Linville
35		Anderson		
29		"L"	45 METSCHAN	46 CHASSE
45		77 CONNELLY	Lytly	Lard
46		Roush		
77				
	64		S P A R E S	
	65	64 FELT	65 WEINGART	91 ASHEE
	91	Lassenden	Prigmore	Ingle
	81	61 SALMONSON	93 JOHNSTON	82 STERN
	93	Weyenberg	Podmajersky	Herbest
	82			94 GUSTAFSON
	94			Helfand

COLORS OF THE DAY FOR 26 26 26 DECEMBER 1944

TIME	FLARE	CHAL	REPLY
0100-0700	R Y	X	L
0700-1300	G R R	S	"
1300-1900	Y Y	P	"
1900-0100	R G G	D	"

AIR GROUND R/T AUTHENTICATION

441st INDEX NUMBER 384 - 077

442nd INDEX NUMBER 388 - 077

RADIO CALL SIGNS:
 320th GROUP: "TROOPER"
 CONTROL CENTER CALL SIGN
 BAGGAGE on Channel "C".
 W/T CALL SIGN: WING NR
 1 NET: A86
 FIGHTER: STREETCAR

CREWS PARTICIPATING IN MISSION #448 - 26 DECEMBER 1944

DECOY

BAKER, PILOT, Capt.	442nd		40
VANDEBURG, CO PILOT, Lt.			took off 1252
STOUGH, BOMB., Lt.			landed 1529
MOCQUOT, NAV., Lt.			
MCCULLY ENG., S/Sgt.			
SEILER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
GLENDENEN, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
STEINBACH, PILOT, Capt.	442nd		33
ROSS, CO PILOT, Lt.			took off 1252+
ROBERTS, BOMB., Lt.			landed 1529+
MOOD, NAV., Lt.			
WALDEN, ENG., T/Sgt.			
RATTS, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
NYE, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
MCNAMARA, PILOT, Lt.	442nd		26
PEARSON, CO PILOT, Lt.			took off 1253
VOWELL, BOMB., Lt.			landed 1530
CRAMER, ENG., S/Sgt.			
BLUM, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
SPENCER, GUNNER, Cpl.			
O'MAHONY, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd		04
BOBLITT, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1253+
FERRANDINO, BOMB., 1st Lt.			landed 1532
PAGEL, ENG., T/Sgt.			
ROCKABRAND, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
VOSLER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
SCHRANTZ, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st		76
TORONGO, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.			took off 1257
LIEVER, BOMB., 1st Lt.			landed 1531
CONNELL, ENG., S/Sgt.			
ZEPEDA, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
THHAMMER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
BLACK, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st		78
CUDWORTH, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.			took off 1254
CHELUCCI, BOMB., T/Sgt.			landed 1531
LEWIS, ENG., S/Sgt.			
HILL, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
WYATT, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
ELLIS, PILOT, 1st Lt.	444th	SPARE	95
BILBREY, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1254+
KILGORE, BOMB., Pfc.		<i>early return</i>	landed 1431
CARR, ENG., Cpl.			
JOHNSON, GUNNER, Sgt.			
WILKERSON, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
UHLIG, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	SPARE	61
BLASKO, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1256+
CHACKO, BOMB., Cpl.		<i>early return</i>	landed 1434
YOUNG, RADIO, Sgt.			
LA FRENNE, GUNNER, Sgt.			
SHEW, ENG., Sgt.			

HAYWARD, PILOT, Major, BRAINERD, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. PICKETT, BOMB., Capt. MURRAY, NAV., 1st Lt. ALLEN, RADIO, S/Sgt. DOUCETTE, GUNNER, S/Sgt. WILLIAMS, ENG., S/Sgt. HAMEL, FC, Capt.	443rd	62 took off 1235 landed 1536
SHERWOOD, PILOT, 1st Lt. STRATTON, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. DAVIS, BOMB., 1st Lt. BROOKS, NAV., 1st Lt. JENKINSON, RADIO, Sgt. WONG, GUNNER, S/Sgt. LALLY, ENG., S/Sgt.	443rd	58 took off 1236 landed 1536+
WEINGART, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	and crew did not take off in plane 65 - crew of 52 took off in 65 (see crew below)
DETHMAN, PILOT, 2nd Lt. JONES, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. SELZER, BOMB., 2nd Lt. JOHNSON, RADIO, Sgt. BOLL, GUNNER, Sgt. DEVLIN, ENG., S/Sgt. CASEY, GUNNER, S/Sgt. DE VAUGHN, AP, Cpl.	443rd	65 took off 1236+ landed 1537
WATSON, PILOT, 1st Lt. ROBERTS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. PURVIS, BOMB., 2nd Lt. WAYMIRE, RADIO, S/Sgt. FORD, GUNNER, S/Sgt. WATHEN, ENG., S/Sgt.	443rd	56 took off 1237 landed 1538
HECKLER, PILOT, 1st Lt. SWIFT, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. OTTO, BOMB., 2nd Lt. TALSKY, RADIO, T/Sgt. FURTZ, GUNNER, T/Sgt. TROUTMAN, ENG., S/Sgt.	443rd	69 took off 1237+ landed 1539
HOOVER, PILOT, 2nd Lt. KOMOROWSKI, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. THOMPSON, BOMB., Sgt. FREUDIGER, RADIO, S/Sgt. WARD, GUNNER, S/Sgt. CHANDLER, ENG., S/Sgt. MAPLES, AP, Cpl.	443rd	63 took off 1238 landed 1539
TOWNSEND, PILOT, 1st Lt. MC HUGH, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. HOLLAND, BOMB., 2nd Lt. GRAHAM, RADIO, S/Sgt. PRICE, GUNNER, S/Sgt. PINGLE, ENG., Sgt.	443rd	67 took off 1238+ landed 1539+

LIVSEY, PILOT, 1st Lt. CLARK, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. HACKNEY, BOMB., 2nd Lt. DEVERNA, RADIO, S/Sgt. PROPST, GUNNER, S/Sgt. MARGOLIS, ENG., S/Sgt.	443rd	57 took off 1239 landed 1435
PHILLIPS, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd (no take off)	71
MYERS, PILOT, Capt. LAZO, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. FLOUCK, BOMB., Capt. NORDEN, NAV., 2nd Lt. GULLIVER, ENG., S/Sgt. RAHL, RADIO, S/Sgt. RASCHKE, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	441st	23 took off 1239+ landed 1540
SCOTT, PILOT, 1st Lt. WIGGINS, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. POSEY, BOMB., 1st Lt. O'CONNELL, NAV., 2nd Lt. FERNANDEZ, ENG., T/Sgt. FRASER, RADIO, T/Sgt. ATEN, GUNNER, Cpl.	441st	11 took off 1240 landed 1541
MCCURDY, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st (no take off)	16
WILSON, PILOT, 1st Lt. PRATT, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. ALLEN, BOMB., 2nd Lt. MULLIS, ENG., S/Sgt. GERONIMOS, RADIO, S/Sgt. GLASSNER, GUNNER, Cpl.	441st	07 took off 1241 landed 1542
WALDEN, PILOT, 1st Lt. KAISER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. STREANY, BOMB., S/Sgt. COPPLER, ENG., T/Sgt. CONRAD, RADIO, Cpl. DUNN, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	441st	05 took off 1241+ landed 1600
DINOME, PILOT, F/O WHITEMAN, CO PILOT, F/O BIDDLE, BOMB., S/Sgt. BERNSTEIN, ENG., Sgt. SMELAND, GUNNER, Cpl. GRICE, GUNNER, Cpl. CIRMO, FOTO, Sgt.	441st	02 took off 1242 landed 1551
STEIER, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st (no take off)	19
FORSYTHE, PILOT, 2nd Lt. ZIERK, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. WILLIAMSON, BOMB., Cpl. LUCHANSKY, ENG., Cpl. HILER, RADIO, Cpl. LUDY, GUNNER, Cpl.	441st	10 took off 1243 landed 1544

KLUG, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st	17
BARRETT, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1243+
GALLAGHER, BOMB., S/Sgt.		landed 1544+
WILLIAMS, ENG., T/Sgt.		
WITTEN, RADIO, Pvt.		
WILLIAMS, EDWIN C., GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
RAMAGE, PILOT, Capt.	444th	85
TRAVEL, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.		took off 1244
DRAKE, BOMB., 1st Lt.		landed 1545
DELOSIER, NAV., 1st Lt.		
TAKALA, ENG., Sgt.		
ENGLEHARDT, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
MC DONALD, GUNNER, Sgt.		
TRIMM, PILOT, 1st Lt.	444th	83
DAVIS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1244+
CAIRNS, BOMB., 2nd Lt.		landed 1545+
NELSON, NAV., 1st Lt.		
DOWLEN, ENG., Sgt.		
SHROLL, RADIO, Sgt.		
PERRY, GUNNER, Sgt.		
ROSS, GUNNER, Sgt.		
DAY, PILOT, Lt.	444th	99
BOSCA, CO PILOT, Lt.		took off 1245
ADAMS, BOMB., Lt.		landed 1546
HAMMONTREE, ENG., Cpl.		
MC DANIEL, RADIO, Cpl.		
CLOEY, GUNNER, Cpl.		
PIGGOTT, GUNNER, Pvt.		
KENNERSON, FOTO, Pvt.		
LAMPMAN, PILOT, 1st Lt.	444th	80
MICKELSON, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1245+
GOLDMAN, BOMB., 2nd Lt.		landed 1530+
HARDY, ENG.,		
HARRINGTON, RADIO,		
HOLLAND, GUNNER.		
HAVEL, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	75
HERRON, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1246
TABACCO, BOMB., 2nd Lt.		landed 1547
KLOTZ, ENG., Cpl.		
SEIDELL, RADIO, Cpl.		
RABAL, GUNNER, Sgt. (Tech)		
SUTHERLAND, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	88
STARR, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1246+
BENNETT, BOMB., S/Sgt.		landed 1546+
VINSON, ENG., Cpl.		
WALCHLI, RADIO, Sgt.		
CARRINGTON, GUNNER,		
LINDQUIST, FOTO, Sgt.		

KREUZER, PILOT, 1st Lt. OGULSKI, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. JARMAN, BOMB., 2nd Lt. CLARK, ENG., S/Sgt. BROWN, RADIO, Cpl. RIDDLE, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	444th	90 took off 1247 landed 1548
WALKER, PILOT, Lt. MATTHEWS, CO PILOT, Lt. RYAN, BOMB., Sgt. LUCAS, ENG., Sgt. MULLANEY, RADIO, Cpl. SIEWERT, GUNNER, Sgt.	444th	98 took off 1248 landed 1548+
WADDELL, PILOT, 1st Lt. HAFKEMEYER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. SCHEMPF, BOMB., 2nd Lt. HILEMAN, ENG., Cpl. PIERCE, RADIO, Cpl. CLEARY, GUNNER, Cpl.	444th	89 took off 1247+ landed 1549
ESTES, PILOT, Lt. VILLELLI, CO PILOT, Lt. SPANN, BOMB., Lt. TEICH, NAV., Lt. WALKER, ENG., S/Sgt. DE LAIRE, RADIO, T/Sgt. BURNS, GUNNER, Sgt.	442nd	43 took off 1248+ landed 1550
MC DOUGAL, PILOT, Lt. CHILDS, CO PILOT, Lt. BURNS, BOMB., Lt. BRAIN, NAV., Lt. SOLDATI, ENG., S/Sgt. ABERNATHY, RADIO, S/Sgt. CRAIG, GUNNER, S/Sgt. LAMOUR, French L.O., Lt.	442nd crew of 37 took 44 (pilot McDougal) and crew of 44 (pilot Rojnovsky) did not take off	44 took off 1249 landed 1550+
MOONEY, PILOT, Lt. DAVIES, CO PILOT, Lt. HAUN, BOMB., Lt. MOORE, ENG., S/Sgt. NEWTON, RADIO, S/Sgt. CHAPMAN, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	442nd crew of ship 30 took #94 and crew of ship 94 did not take off	94 took off 1249+ landed 1552
KENT, PILOT, Lt. OLSON, CO PILOT, Lt. LINVILLE, BOMB., Sgt. CHASE, ENG., S/Sgt. VINE, RADIO, Cpl. HURBASE, GUNNER, Sgt.	442nd	35 took off 1250 landed 1553
MAYFIELD, PILOT, Lt. PERRINE, CO PILOT, Lt. ANDERSON, BOMB., Lt. ISON, ENG., Cpl. HOUSE, RADIO, Cpl. ORTEGA, GUNNER, Sgt. MESSORLE, FOTO, S/Sgt.	442nd	29 took off 1250+ landed 1553+

METSCHAN, PILOT, Lt. BRENNAN, CO PILOT, Lt. LYTLE, BOMB., Lt. POSHAK, ENG., S/Sgt. SHORT, RADIO, Cpl. NORTHCOTT, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	442nd	45 took off 1251 landed 1554
<i>La</i> CHASSE, PILOT, Lt.	442nd (no take off)	46
CONNELLY, PILOT, Lt. MCLAUGHLIN, CO PILOT, Lt. ROUSH, BOMB., Sgt. MCCURLEY, ENG., Sgt. FINNEY, RADIO, Pvt. LEONE, GUNNER, Cpl.	442nd	77 took off 1251+ landed 1551+
FELT, PILOT, Capt. MILLER, CO PILOT, 1st Lt. LUSSENDEN, BOMB., 2nd Lt. CAIN, RADIO, S/Sgt. ZACHAR, GUNNER, S/Sgt. FIELDS, ENG., Sgt.	443rd SPARE	64 took off 1242+ landed 1543
ASHER,, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st SPARE (no take off)	91
SALMONSON, PILOT, 1st Lt.	444th SPARE (no take off)	81
JOHNSTON, PILOT, 1st Lt. CARY, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. PODMAJERSKY, BOMB., 2nd Lt. BAILEY, ENG., Cpl. DINYER, RADIO, Cpl. BRADY, GUNNER, Cpl.	444th SPARE	93 took off 1255+ landed 1449
STERN, PILOT, Lt.	442nd SPARE (no take off)	82