

IRIS Public Record**Key Information****Main:** GROUP/0416/BOMBARDMENT (LIGHT)**Document Type:****Call Number:** GP-416-SU-OP-S**IRIS Number:** 00092007**Accessions Notes:****Old Accession Nbr:****Title:****Beginning Date:** 1945/01/23**End Date:** 1945/01/23**Publication Date:****Classification** UNCLAS**Media** Roll #: 0000001716 First Frame: 354 Last Frame: 371 Linear Feet: 0

Old MFlm Roll # B0536

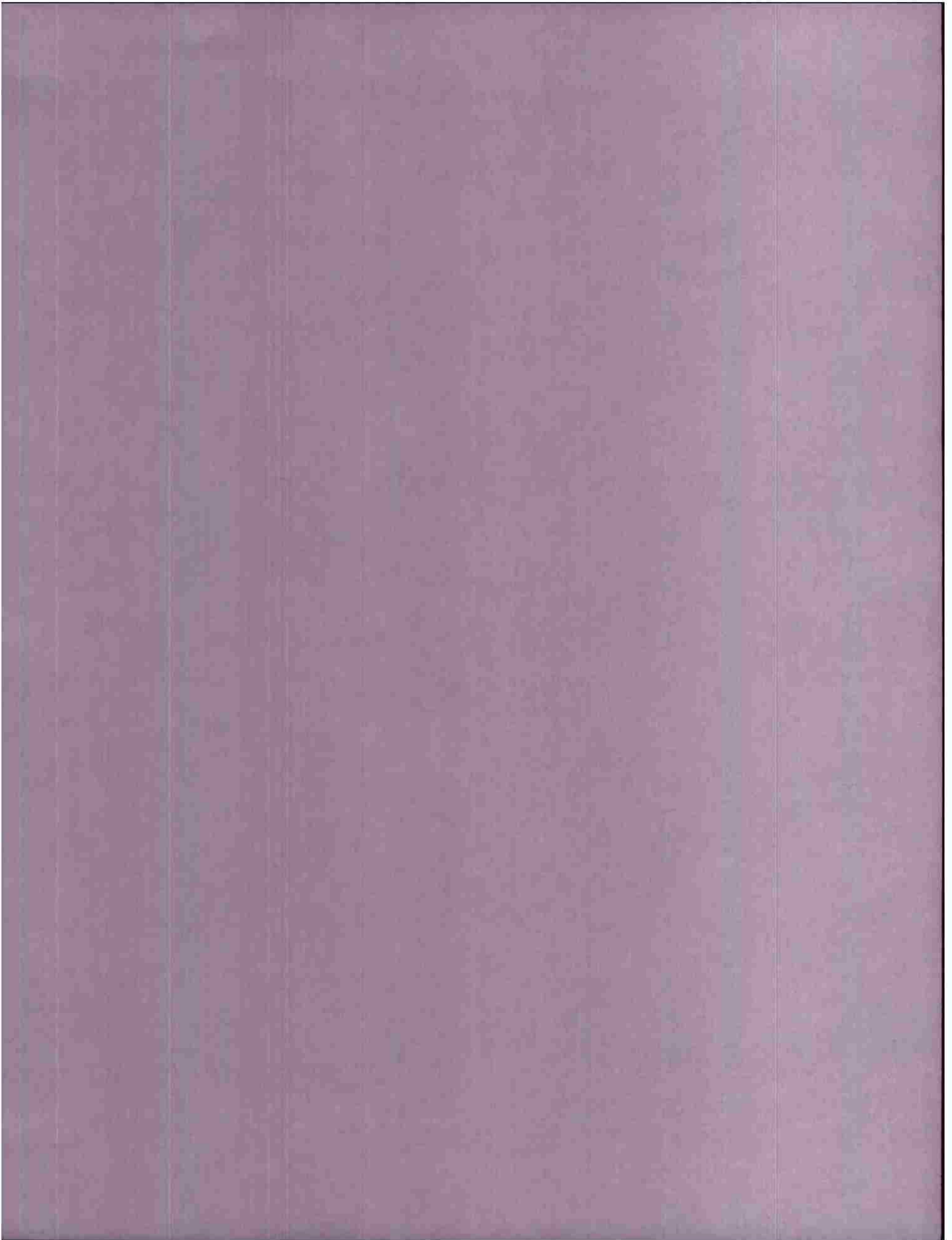
Audio Rec:

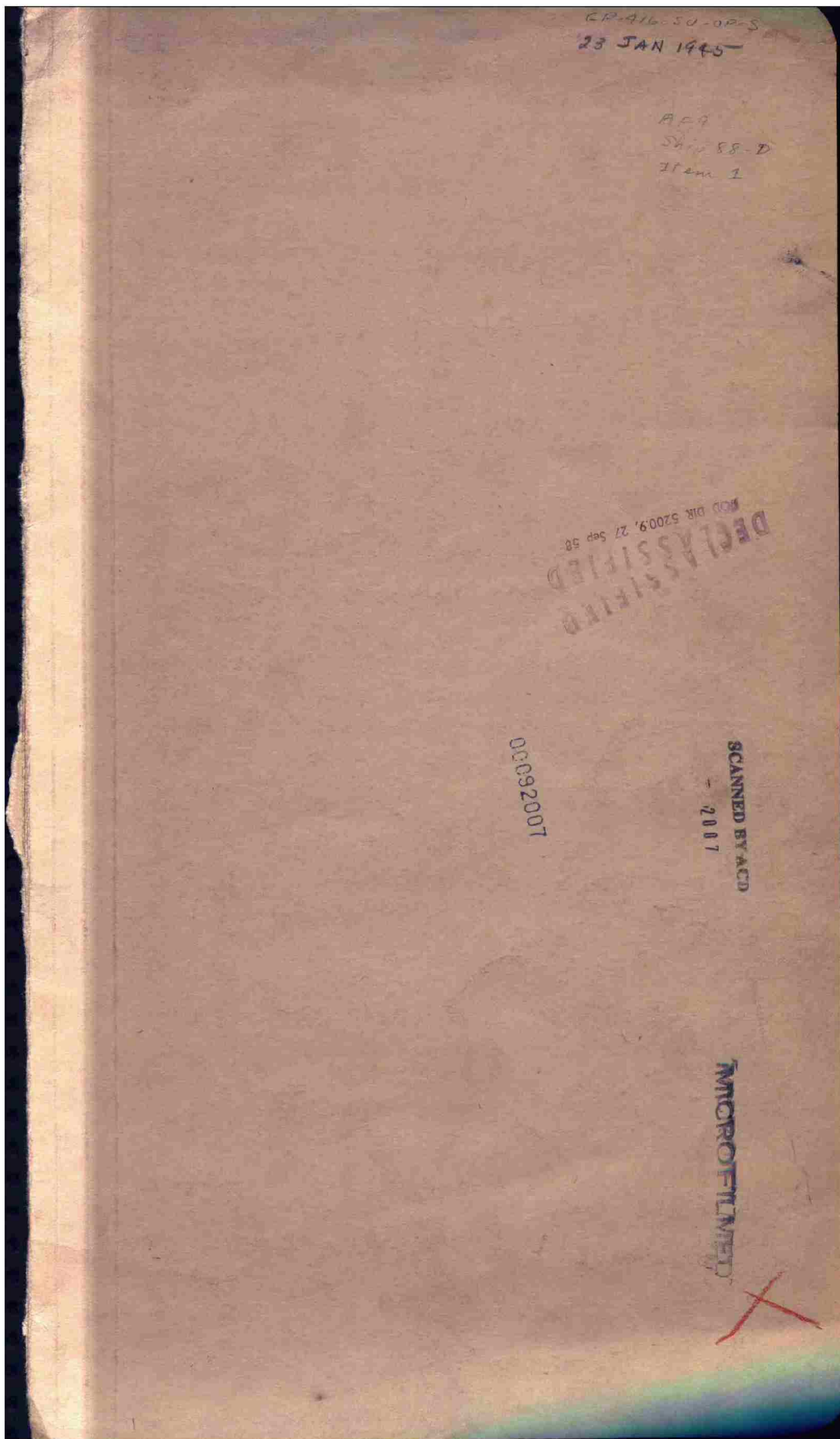
NUMPAGE 17**Title Extensions:****Abstract****Descriptive** TITLE SUPPLIED.**Notes:****Title** MISSION REPORTS: TARGET MOTOR TRANSPORT NEAR ARZFELD, GERMANY**Added****Entries****Author:****Subject:****Major Command:****Administrative Markings**

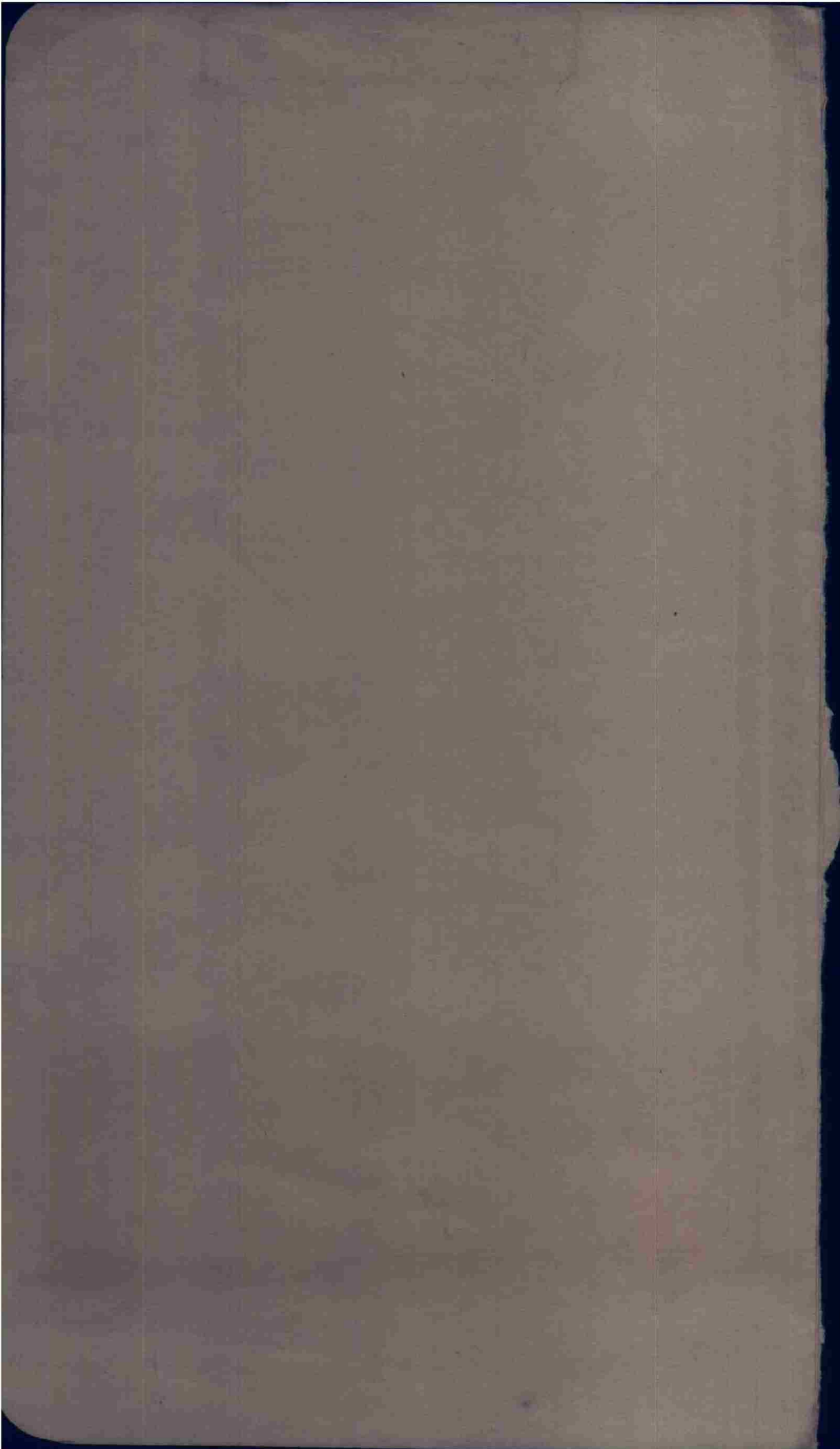
No Administrative Markings Listed

Security Review Information:

Rcvd:	Rel	1985/03/05
Indexer ID: 33	Entered Date:	
QC ID:	QC'd Date::	
Scanner ID:	Scanned Date:	
Acc ID	Acc Date:	





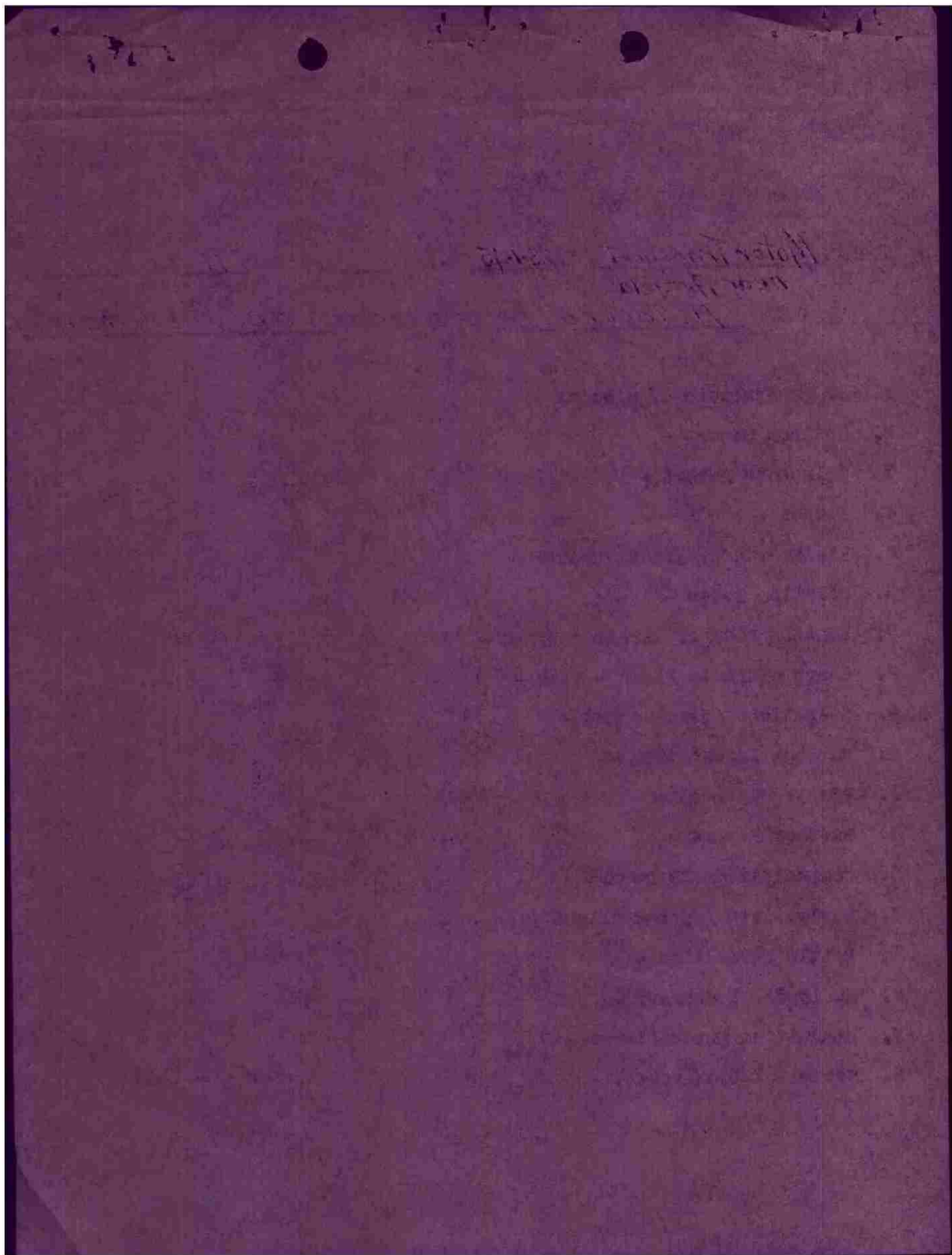


GENERAL INDEX

TARGET Motor Transport DATE 23-1-45 No. 2/c. MISS. # 191 F.O. # 718
near Arzfeld
 STATUS Attacked BRIEFING OFFICER Capt Sheridan

1. IX BC Synopsis of Mission -
2. Opflash Report -
3. Telephone Report -
4. Photos -
5. Field Orders, Annex, Addenda -
6. Briefing Notes -
7. Loading List of Airplane Crews -
8. Chart of Route Flown - Flak -
9. Operations Oprep Report -
0. Bombing Information -
1. E/A Encountered -
2. Weather Report -
3. Communication Y3 Report -
4. Navigator's Log and Flight Plan -
5. Battle Casualties -
6. Analysis of Gunnery -
7. Ammunition Expenditures -
8. Recapitulation Forms. -

00092007



S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)APO # 140
24 January 1945MISSION SUMMARY No. 15

23 January 1945

Field Order 718

Section I

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>TARGET</u>	<u>MISSION RESULTS</u>
416 BG	Dasburg Area	Flight A - Bombed & Strafed M/T
409 BG	Arzfeld Area	Flight A - Bombed & Strafed M/T
410 BG	Blankenheim Area	Flight A - Bombed & Strafed M/T
416 BG	Blankenheim Area	Flight D - Bombed & Strafed M/T



Four flights of aircraft of three Groups bombed and strafed troop and vehicle concentrations with observed results of 16 vehicles destroyed, 3 vehicles and one building damaged.

- 4 -

S E C R E T

No losses; 4 a/c battle damaged, 1 crewman wounded.

Plantenbeim area (Drop and Vehicle Concentrations)

These results are consistent with the hypothesis that the observed effects are due to the presence of the α - β interface in the polymer matrix.

The 3 a/c which are missing are as yet unreported.

W/C mentioned above as lost was seen to crash in target area.

bullet damaged,

Bombs of 1 a/c (lost), 3 a/c (missing) and 1 a/c which crashed-landed 4-77
 Grounded, are unaccounted for. 12 greenish missing, 1 injured. 2 a/c

Arizona Area (Flood and Vehicle Concentrations)

no damage or personnel casualties
detected bombs safe 2 mi. N of Jaffaport - over
maximum landing weight. Landing successful.

4/0 223 B - No attack. No clue damage or personnel casualties.

v/e 188 R - No attack. No battle damage or personnel casualties. Bombs returned. Landed from/vehicles.

4/0 222 E - No attack. Cat "A" flat damage. No personnel casualties. Bombs returned. Landed 1200/4000.

Information. No further

4/6 232 M - no record. (Green & near MILB (F-15536), reason
unknown. Pilot slightly injured, Emission seriously
injured. Statue of third member of crew unknown.

Flight A: A/C 259 H - Bombed M/T in one town and strafed M/T in second

you must not

1 w/c (crash-landed near WILTZ, P-715559, 1 w/c bottle damaged, 2 w/c--

o v-20s dispatched to this area. One a/c dropped 20 x 260 frags from 3000' and strafed on the deck. Results unobserved. 4 a/c did not attack; other, could not identify a target after fighter lead departed. Bomb disposition one a/c unknown--landed away from base.

Debbur's Area (Door and Vehicle Concentrations)

GROUP NAME: _____

SECRET

S E C R E T

were left burning. Enemy personnel ran for ditches when flight attacked. Casualties believed inflicted, but could not be assessed.

416 BG: 6 A-26s dispatched to this area. 2 a/c dropped 40 x 260 frags from 3000'. 1 of these a/c also strafed on the deck. Observed results: 1 M/T destroyed, 3 damaged. 4 a/c did not attack; other: 3, lost fighter lead in weather and could not find suitable target; 1, early return.

No losses, 3 a/c battle damaged, 2 crewmen wounded.

Flight B - A/C 241 F - Bombed and strafed, probably at Rail/Road Junction (P-190058), near Blankenheimerdorf (F-220049). Claims: 1 large truck set on fire, three others damaged by hits. Cat "B" flak damage. No personnel casualties. Landed Juvincourt.

A/C 238 M - Bombed Bark (L-092995). Results unobserved - intense flak, and slight wounds suffered by pilot when flak broke storm window. Cat "B" flak damage. Did not strafe due to flak damage to gun-sight. No further personnel casualties. Landed Juvincourt.

A/C 269 K - No attack. Cat "AC" damage due to crash-landing at Laon/Athies, and flak which knocked out VHF set and hydraulic system. 1 crewman slightly wounded. Bombs returned.

A/C 237 D - No attack. No personnel casualties. Diverted to Laon/Couvron when a/c 269 K crash-landed at Laon/Athies.

A/C 244 I - No attack. No battle damage or personnel casualties. Bombs returned. Landed Juvincourt.

A/C 234 P - No attack. Early return to base - landing gear would not retract.

- 3 -

S E C R E T

SECRET

- 1 -

0	0	E/A
1		Buildings
3	16	N/V
<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	Oilings:
3		Injured
12		Missing
2		Wounded
0		Killed
12 (52.17%)		A/C Battle Damaged
5		A/C Crash-Landed (3, 416 BG; 2, 409 BG)
3		A/C Missing (409 BG)
1		A/C Lost (409 BG)

101,556.678

23.488

Bombs on Enemy Territory
Total Bombs to Date

24

Total

6	Other, Bombs of a/c Unaccounted for
0	a/c Recalled (Weather)
8	a/c Failing to Attack
10	a/c Attacking

27

A/C Off

Section II

SECRET

S E C R E T

FAILURES TO ATTACK

<u>GROUP</u>	<u>NO. A/C</u>	<u>CLASSIFICATION</u>	<u>REASON</u>
416	1	Mechanical	Landing gear would not retract.
	7	Other	4 a/c - unable to identify target after fighter had departed. 3 a/c - lost fighter lead due to weather and were unable to locate suitable target

OBSERVATIONS

WEATHER: Blankenheim 410 BG: 5/10 medium cloud, base 9000'. Visibility 10 miles,

FLAK ANALYSIS ANNEX

A/C OVER ENEMY TERRITORY	23
A/C LOST TO FLAK	1
A/C MISSING	3
A/C BATTLE DAMAGED	12
% A/C BATTLE DAMAGED	52.17%

Dasburg Troop and Vehicle Concentration 416 Gp.

A/C Lost to Flak	0
A/C Battle Damaged	2
% A/C Battle Damaged	33.34%

Intense heavy and light flak was reported by all personnel contacted. The a/c seen to crash-land near Wiltz (P-715539). The 2 a/c damaged were hit by light flak while strafing - the size of the holes indicating that damage was caused by 50 cal. bullets or by small arms fire.

Ansfield Troop and Vehicle Concentration 409 Gp.

A/C Lost to Flak	1
A/C Missing	3
A/C Battle Damaged	2
% A/C Battle Damaged	50.00%

Present information on flak encountered by this flight of six a/c is very meagre. The turret gunner of one a/c which crash-landed in the vicinity of Bastogne reported intense accurate 20 mm. light flak from guns mounted on buildings near the target. The a/c lost was seen to crash and explode while strafing on the deck. Nothing is known about the three missing a/c or the a/c which crash-landed at A-97 Sandweiler.

SECRET

- 3 -

NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT REACTION
T.O.F. is: 1315 to 1326
No e/a encountered.

The flight of the 410th Bomb Group bombed from 1500 foot altitude and straddled in front with 200-300 yard intervals. The battle damage sustained (4 out of 4) was caused by machine gun and light flak guns mounted on trucks and buildings in nearby woods. Intense small arms fire was also reported. The 416th Bomb Group reported intense heavy and light flak in the target areas; the type of flak causing battle damage in this instance is unknown.

72.723
8
0

A/C Lost to flak
A/C Battle Damaged
A/C Battle Damaged

Blankenship Troop and Vehicle Concentration
410, 416 Gr.

SECRET

PUBLIC RELATIONS
PRESS RELEASE

HEADQUARTERS NINTH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION, France--Swift-striking A-26 Invaders and A-20 Havocs roared in at tree-top height to attack German motor columns today as the Ninth Air Force turned loose a small force of heavily-armed attack bombers on low level bombing and strafing sweeps.

Hitherto limited to medium altitude operations, the bombers dropped down to deck level to join with Ninth Air Force fighters in strafing attacks on long lines of Nazi vehicles east of the Ardennes salient.

Not only was it the first strafing operation for Major General Samuel E. Anderson's Ninth Bombardment Division, it also was the first time a low level attack has been attempted by U. S. bombers in the ETO since May 17, 1943, when a formation of 10 B-26 Marauders was wiped out in an attack on Imuiden, Holland.

Speedy Invaders, whose armament is the mightiest of any U. S. bomber, hit vehicles crowding highways in the vicinity of Schleiden, Berk and Arzfeld, while Havocs bombed and strafed a long motor column northeast of Blankenheim.

While pilots poured streams of .50 calibre slugs from the bombers' powerful nose guns, gunners participating in their first strafing attacks sprayed motor columns with continuous fire from their turret guns.

Twelve Invaders and six Havocs participated in the low level attacks. Other medium and light bombers were grounded due to weather. One Invader was lost and three were reported missing at a late hour.

Sweeping in over a hill, Havocs surprised a convoy of about 250 vehicles moving toward the front between Tondorf and Blankenheim about 25 miles north-east of St. Vith. They showered the area with fragmentation bombs, then dropped down to strafe the column as German soldiers scattered into ditches and nearby woods. Crews reported 15 to 20 motor trucks were left burning and a gun position was destroyed.

"The vehicles were parked about 100 yards apart and about 10 or 15 of them were burning after our bombs hit. Some Jerries were running for cover in ditches and others were making for the woods", said 1st Lt. Richard E. Jones, 3754 Townsend St., Detroit, Mich., a Havoc pilot. "As we came over, I could see their faces looking up. They must have been caught by surprise".

Destruction of a machine gun nest in a German dwelling was claimed by S/Sgt. Edward J. Yarus, an A-26 turret gunner of Gilster St., East Hartford, Conn. "Machine gun fire was coming from a small house near the road", he said. "I let go with both guns and kept firing into the building until it suddenly burst into flame".

"We were so low that the right cowling of our plane was dented where we clipped a tree. I kept pumping bullets into trucks on the road", said S/Sgt. Arvil L. Beyler, Malta, Idaho, turret gunner.

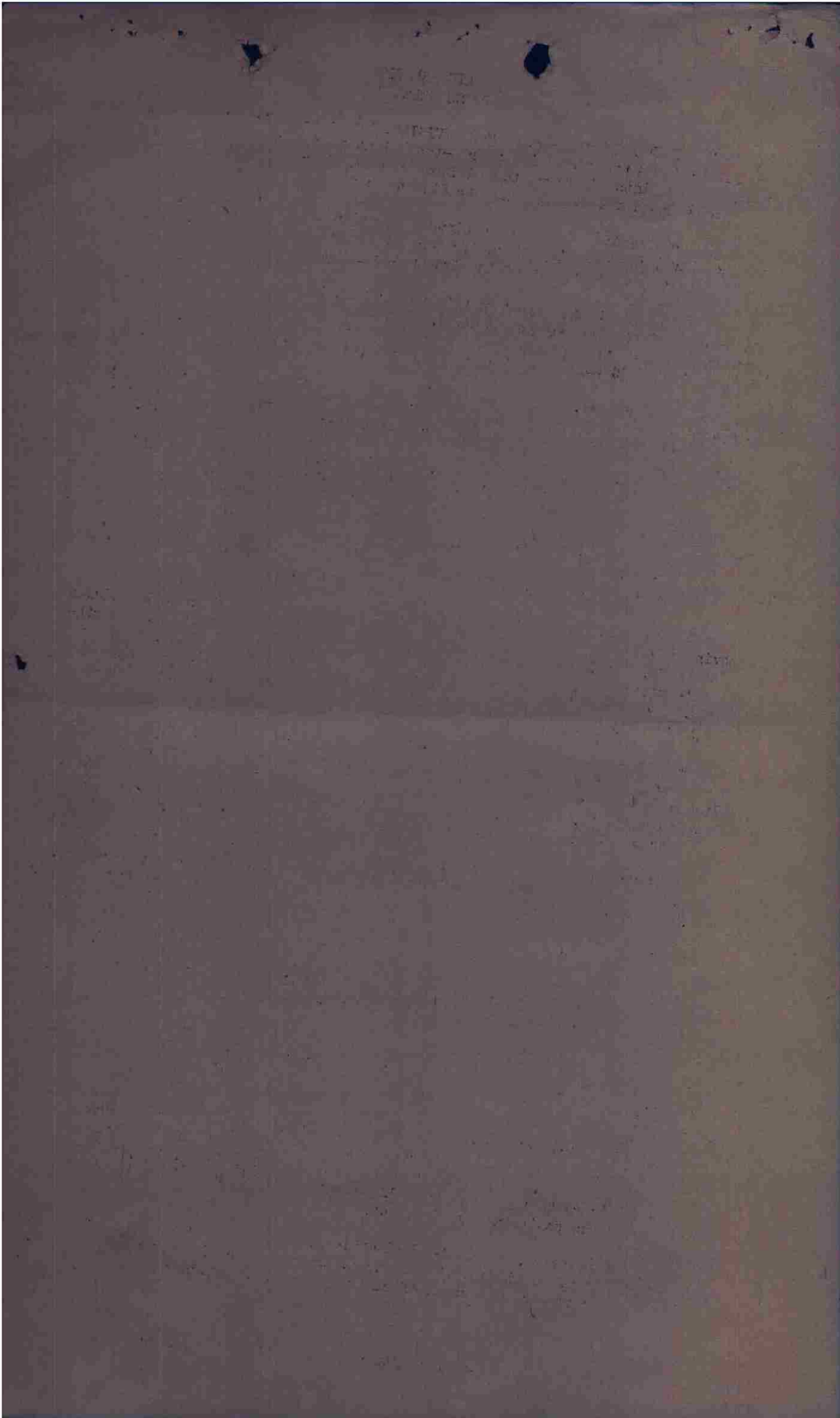
Invaders attacked a convoy of about 100 motor trucks in the vicinity of Arzfeld, seven miles east of Dasburg, Germany, where fighters destroyed more than 1,000 German vehicles yesterday after B-26 Marauders trapped them by damaging a highway bridge.

Bombing first with fragmentation bombs, the attack bombers returned at tree top level to strafe motor transports moving away from the front. Cpl. Marshall B. Steele, Jr., Shelter Hill Road, Oakville, Conn., told interrogating officers that most of the 100 trucks were either destroyed or damaged and that a gun position was wiped out.

Other Invaders, led by P-38 Lightnings, bombed and strafed motor columns near Schleiden, 18 miles south of Duren, and Berk, 16 miles northeast of St. Vith, but crews were uncertain of claims due to haze which covered the areas.

--30--

23 January 1945: phoned to Paris 1945, Press Camp 2100.



Report on Missions of Jan. 23, 1945

The following report was received verbatim from 97th Combat Wing A2. It was used as the basis for a report (Opsflash) made at the request of Bombardment Division A2.

Mission No. 1 (Motor Transport near Arzfeld)

✓235- M- Crashed near Wiltz (P-7352) Pilot Capt. Atkinson, slightly wounded. Gunner seriously wounded. No attack; reason unknown. (Previous reports gave info that Capt. Atkinson received broken arm and that B/N, Lt. Ackerson, was seriously wounded. This is not confirmed by Bombay.)

222- S- Landed at A69. No attack. Bombs returned. Could not find target. Lost escort in weather. Were not briefed on primary target. Category "A" damage from light flak.

223 B- Landed at A68. No attack. Fighters left them at target. Planes circled but could not see target. Did not drop. Jettisoned bombs safe 2 miles N of A 68 because load was 5000 lbs over safe gross landing weight. No flak damage.

259-H- Landed at A68. Did attack. Bombed one town and strafed another, possibly ARZFELD. Results not observed. Intense light and heavy flak. No flak damage.

188-R- Landed at A 69. No attack. Same reason as 222-S (above). No flak damage. Returned bombs.

219-E- Crash landed at A 53. No other information available.

Mission No. 2. (Blankenheim- F-2305)

269-K- Made belly landing at A69. No attack. Category "Ac" damage VHF and hydraulic system knocked out. Lt. Beck, B/N slightly wounded. All bombs returned. Made rendezvous with fighters satisfactorily but lost them in weather. Could not find suitable target. Were not briefed on primary target.

234-P- Returned here early and crashed on landing at A55.

237-D- Landed at A70. No attack. Crew OK. Diverted to A70 because of crash of 269-K- at A69. Same reason for no attack as 269-K-. Damage and bomb disposition unknown.

244-I- Landed at A68. No attack. Fighters took them to target and said there's the target and then left. Planes circled several times but failed to find suitable target. All bombs returned. No flak damage.

241-F- Landed at A68. Did attack. Bombed and strafed Schleiden, (F-1906) Claims of one large truck destroyed, set afire and 3 others damaged by hits. Other results unknown due to intense light and heavy flak. Category "B" damage, props nicked and many other holes. Crew estimated about 45 M/T in town attacked.

report on Missions of 23 Jan. 1945 (2)

238-M- Landed at A68. Did attack. Bombed but did not strafe town of Berk(L-0999) Estimated 200 M/T in town. Pilot injured slightly. Category "B" damage. Storm window broken and other slight damage. Ship was temporarily out of control.

..30..

Recap-

Mission No. 1-
3 A/C- No attack
1 A/C- Information lacking
1 A/C- Crashed at Wiltz.

Mission No. 2

2 A/C did attack
3 A/C No attack
1 A/C crashed on landing here after early return.

..30.

The following, which may be of interest, was received informally from Wing A2 during the night.

409th- Two AC returned to base.
Three AC missing
One AC crashed at target area.

410th- Claimed 15 to 18 M/T. All ships OK.

..30.

M. B. Sheridan, Capt ac.
asst. Int. O.

To : CG, 9th Bombardment Division
CG, 97th Combat Bomb Wing

(filed 232350)

From: 416th Bomb Group (I)

Opflash for 23 January 1945

Operational Priority

A. 416th Bomb Group

B. (1) Troop concentrations and M/T near Arzfeld (P-8362)
(2) Troop concentrations and M/T near Blankenheim (F-2305)

C. One flight of 6 a/c on B.(1), all A-26s.
One flight of 6 a/c on B.(2), all A-26s.

D. 1 A-26 a/c bombed one town and strafed another, possibly Arzfeld (P-950680) primary target area.
1 A-26 a/c attack Berk (L-090990) bombing but not strafing. (Pilot injured and ship temporarily out of control.)
1 A-26 a/c bombed and strafed Schleiden (F-190060)

E. Of a/c assigned to attack target B (1)

1 A-26 a/c crash landed at A53, all other data lacking.
1 A-26 a/c crashed near Wiltz (P-7352) reason for no attack not known. (Pilot and gunner wounded, condition of 3rd crew member B/N not reported.)
3 A-26 a/c lost escort in weather. Could not find target.

Of a/c assigned to attack target B (2)

1 A-26 a/c crash landed at A55. Returned early when undercarriage would not retract after take off.
1 A-26 a/c (Leader of flight on target B(2)) crash landed at A69. No attack because he lost fighters in weather and could not find suitable target.
2 A-26 a/c (Wingmen on above mentioned leader) same reason.

F. 20 M-81 Frag Bombs on Berk (L-090990)
20 M-81 Frag Bombs on Arzfeld (P-952660)
20 M-81 Frag Bombs on Schleiden (F-110150)
20 M-81 Frag Bombs jettisoned about 2 miles N. of A38 because a/c was 5000 pounds over safe gross weight for landing.
20 M-81 Frag Bombs in a/c crash landed at A55 (Early return)
80 M-81 Frag Bombs returned.

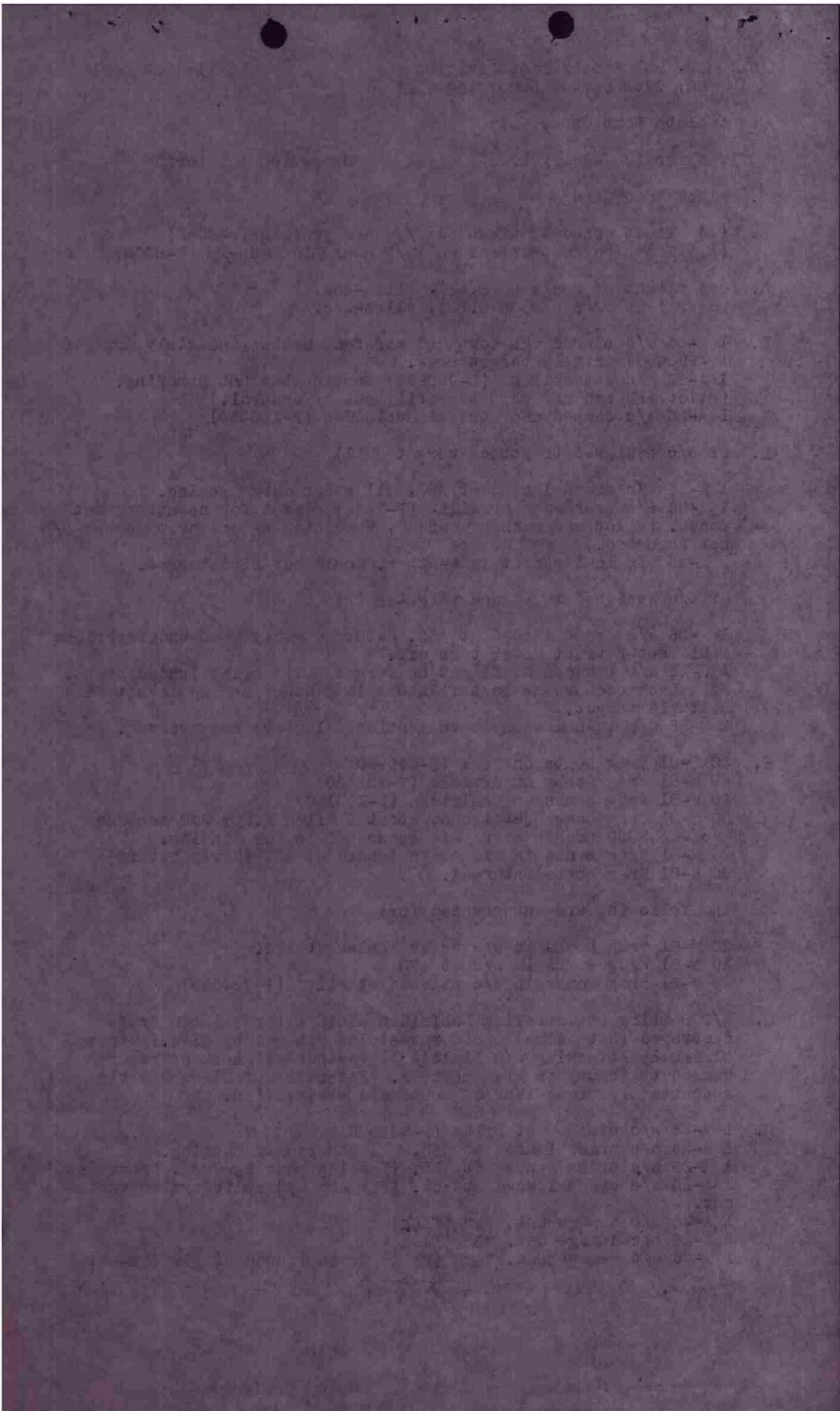
The following are unaccounted for:

20 M-81 Frag Bombs in a/c crash landed at A53.
20 M-81 Frag Bombs in a/c at A70
20 M-81 Frag Bombs in a/c crashed at Wiltz (P-730520)

G. A/C Bombing and strafing Schleiden claim 1 (one) large truck destroyed (Set afire) 3 other vehicles damaged by hits. Other Claims by attacking a/c limited by weather and lack of reports caused by injury to crew members. Intensity of flak probably accounted for some lack of continued observation.

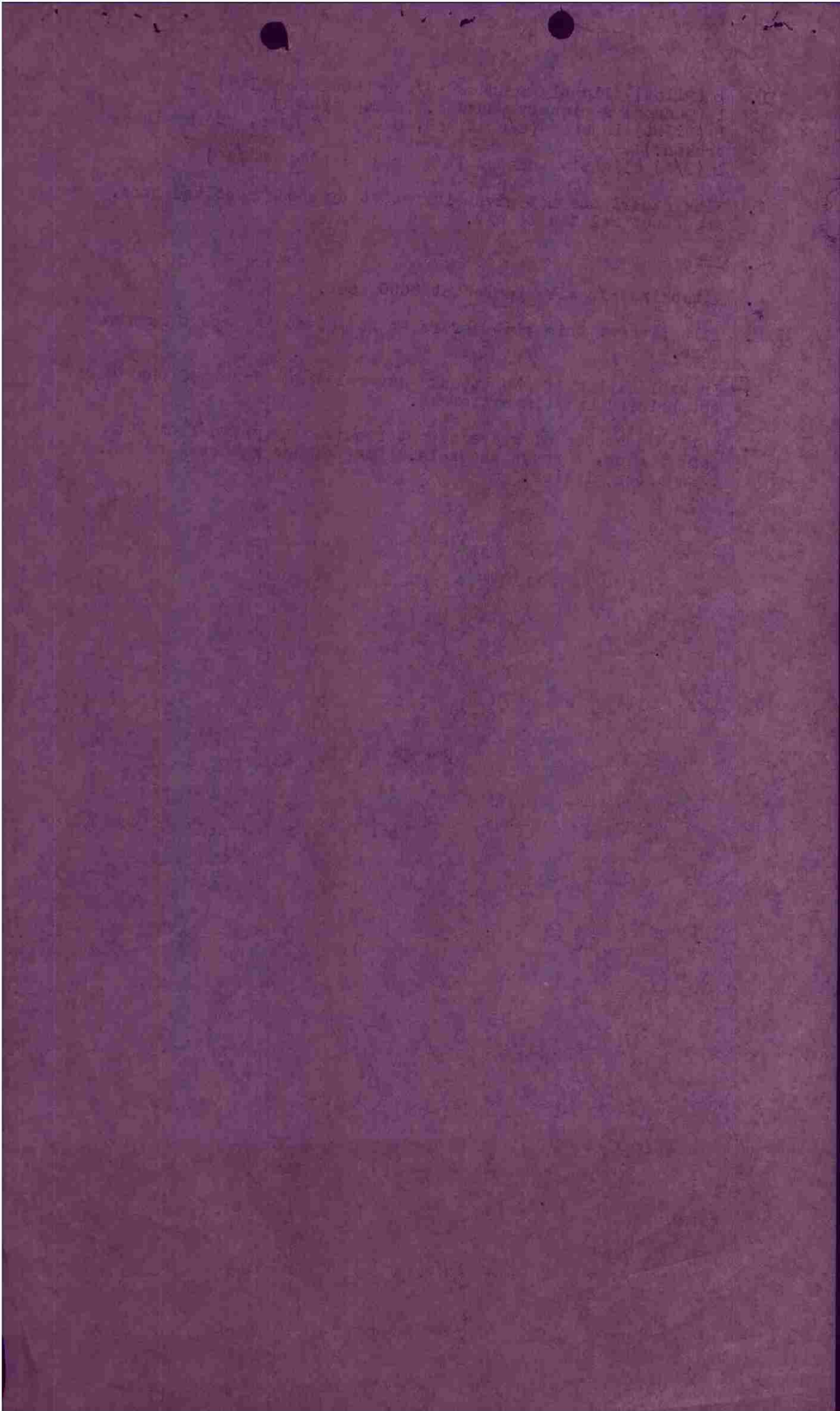
H. 1 A-26 a/c crashed at Wiltz (P-730520)
1 A-26 a/c crash landed at A53. All other data Lacking.
1 A-26 a/c crash landed at A55. (Landing gear damaged. Props bent)
1 A-26 a/c crash landed at A69. (VHF and hydraulic system knocked out.)
1 A-26 a/c damage Cat. "A" (Flak)
2 A-26 a/c damage Cat. "B" (Flak)
1 A-26 a/c damage Cat. "AC" (Flak) Crash landed at A69 (Extent

Damage to crashed A/C at Wiltz + at A-53 + A-70 unknown.



- I. 1 (Pilot) slightly wounded (a/c crashed at Wiltz)
1 (Gunner) seriously wounded. (Same Aircraft)
1 (Pilot) injured (a/c at A68, Cat "B" damage, storm window broken.)
1 (B/N) slightly wounded (a/c crash landed at A69)
- J. Flak experience not given in report by phone received here.
Areas not related to a/c.
- K. None
- L. Attacking a/c dive bombed at 3000 feet.
- M. 1315 (Target this time refers to not given in report received here.
- X. In explanation of "No attack" several crews reported they were not briefed on primary target.
- Y. Entire contents of above report received by phone from 87th Combat Wing, through channels. None of a/c returned to this base after mission.

Offload for 23 Jan. 45
Page 2



John

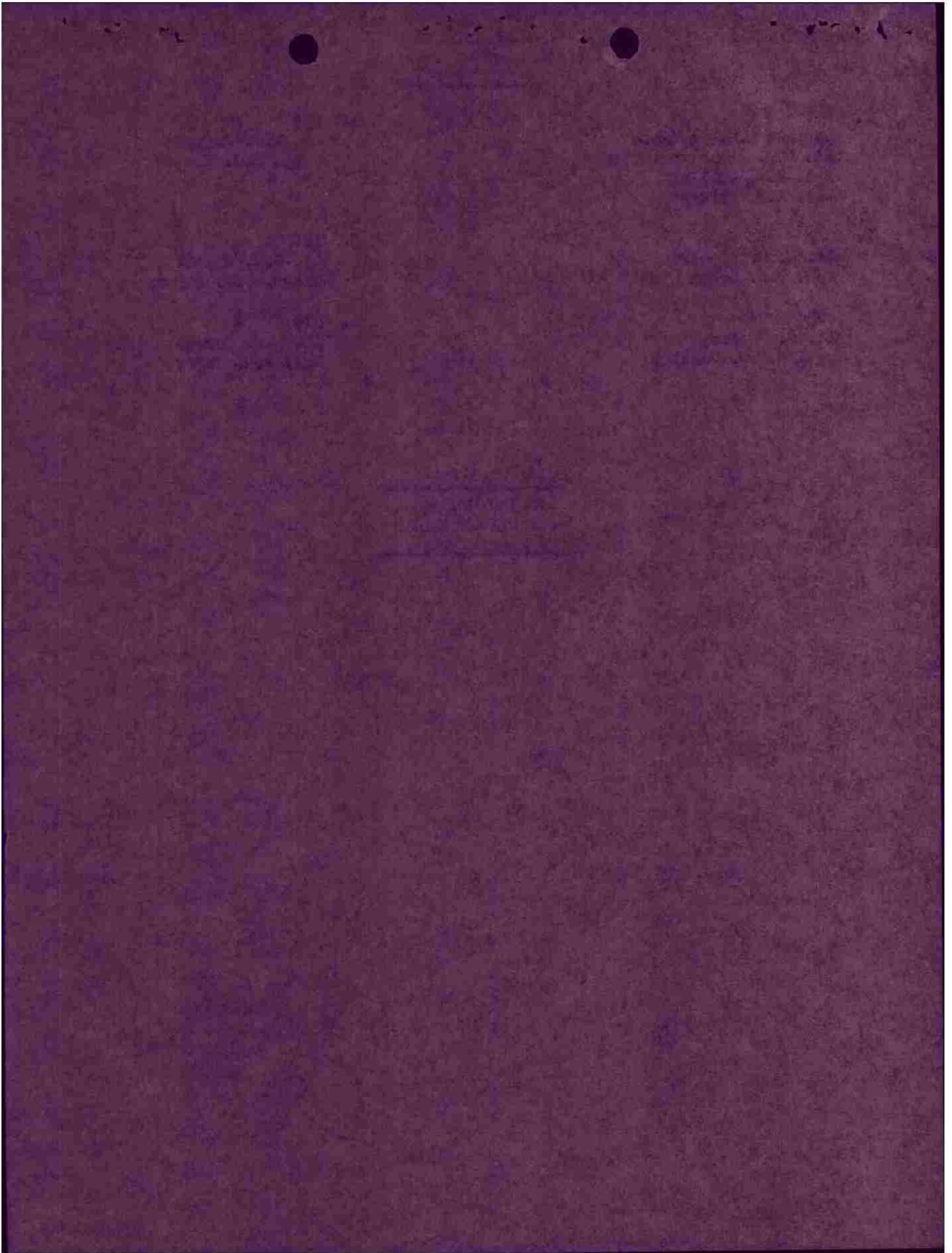
MISSION NO. 191

LOADING LIST
BOX 1
FLIGHT 1

23 JANUARY 1945

1. 233	H	4. 259	H
Captain F.G. Atkinson		Lt F.S. Horvitt	
Lt. D.G. Anderson		Sgt. H.J. Gatti	
Sgt. J.L. Collier			
Sgt. L.S. Bridges			
2. 222	S	5. 186	H
Lt. M. Brontelaro		Lt. J.S. Howell	
Sgt. P.A. Lynch		Sgt. J.A. Hunter	
3. 223	S	6. 219	S
Lt. R. Popensy		Lt. A.R. Surman	
Sgt. H.G.S. Gandler		Cpl. F.E. Corey	

MISSION NO. 191
ONE FLIGHT ONLY
23 JANUARY 1945



USAAF FORM 34A

SECRET

SECRET

AUTH: CO STA A-55

DATE: 25 Jan, 1945

INIT:

HEADQUARTERS
416TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (L)
Office of the Commanding Officer

TO:

From: 416th Bombardment Group (L), APO 140, U.S. Army.

Ref: Cprep A No. 295 for 24 hrs. ending midnight 23 January 1945
Mission or Operation No. 191 9746 CHW P.O. #138-718

A. Short Narrative of Operation:

Target Troop concentrations and A/T near Arafeld
Place of take-off Station A-55
Place of landing 1-Wiltz, Luxembourg, 2-A-69, 2-68, 1-A-59.
Take-off time 1129 Landing time Unknown (A/G landed away from base)
Time over target Unknown Bombing Altitude 9,000
Nature of mission Bombing Other Stratling
Weather Unknown
Results Unobserved
Enemy opposition Intense light and heavy flak.

B. Type & model of aircraft:

1. Dispatched 6 A-26's
2. Attacking target (indicate target) or completing mission.
1 A-26 Arafeld
3. Abortive due to:
 - (1) Weather: 3 A-26's - Could not locate target. Lost fighters in weather.
 - (2) Personnel: None
 - (3) Mechanical: None
 - (4) Other: 2 A-26's - Unknown. Crashed - information lacking.
4. Missing (i.e. cause and place unknown) None
5. Destroyed - before reaching target None
giving cause where known
6. Destroyed - over or after leaving None
target giving cause where known
7. Damaged (give category & cause) 2 - category B - Crashed - Reason unknown
1 - category A - Flak
8. Sorties 6 A-26's.

SECRET

(over)

GEORGE SCHENKELIN,
Captain, Air Corps,
adjutant.

For the Commanding Officer:

a. Destroyed
b. Prop. Dam.
c. Damaged

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

Type of Casualty	Pilot	Co-pilot	Nav	Bomb	R.Gun	R.Gun	T.Gun
Killed in action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Missing in action	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wounded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Slightly Wounded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wounded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

G. Own Personnel Casualties:

a. Total Returned
b. Total on operations (List targets separately)
c. Detained
d. Lost or wrecked on missing a/c
e. Total carried into air

f. Bombs, flares, etc. used:

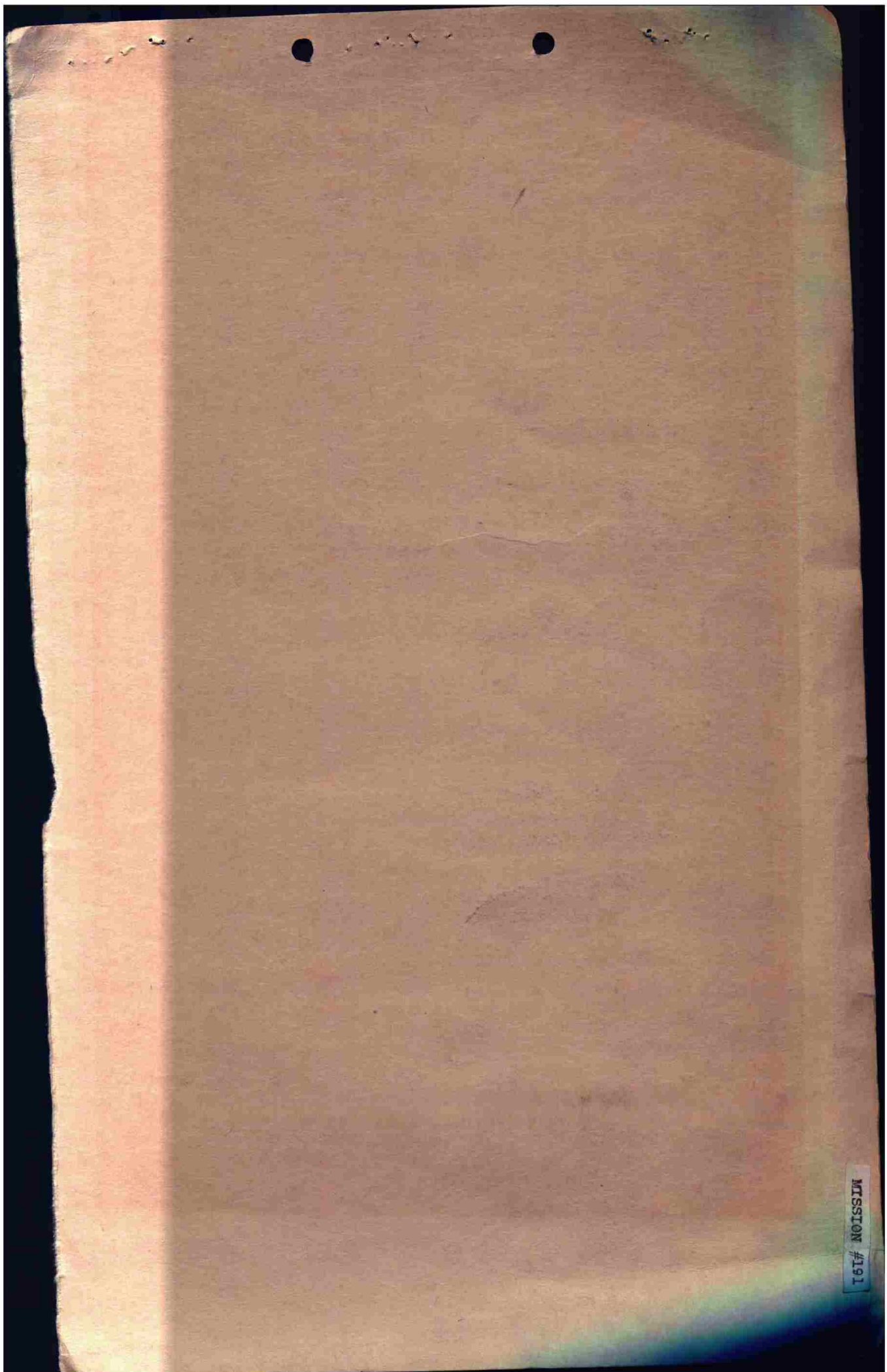
g. Total carried into air
h. Expended on operations
i. Lost on wrecked or missing a/c

j. Ammunition by caliber:

k. Day (Sunset to sunrise)
l. Night (Sunset to sunrise)

U.S. AIR FORCE

U.S. AIR FORCE (FORM 944)



MISSION #191

