

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
United States Forces

(D-A-3)

APO 557
2 November, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: MERSEBURG, 2 November, 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H), APO 557

1. Narrative

306th flew 10 A/C plus 2 PFF as lead squadron and 12 A/C as low squadron of 40th "B". Route: Clacton, 1013; enemy coast, 5237N-0437E, 1108; strong wind drift from Southwest, and other formations coming out from target North of their briefed route, forced 40th "B" CEW North of course near Hildesheim and Halberstadt. Headed South to regain course; I.P., 5122N-1110E, 1230; target, Merseburg, 1239; Dutch coast, 5237N-0437E, 1433; 5 miles South of Southwold, 1507; base, 1545.

Buckeye Red, about 1210 reported cloud layer, 26,000 to 28,000 feet, also 10/10 low clouds at target and 2/10 clouds at last resort.

Mickey equipment on both PFF A/C worked satisfactorily. Lead operator reports bright return from an area about five miles in diameter at 5253N-0705E.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

No fighter opposition encountered. P-51's first seen over Holland, gave excellent close support throughout mission. Dogfights with 4 to 8 enemy A/C in target area, 1250 hours.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

At target moderate to intense, barrage and tracking from 3 minutes before until 2 minutes after bombs away. Most accurate tracking at bombs away and on turn off target. Meager but accurate tracking from Osnabruck. Damage: lead 5 severe, 4 slight, low, 8 severe, 3 slight.

4. Bombing

Lead made PFF run on Merseburg, secondary PFF target. Low dropped on lead. No visual corrections were made. Strike photos show hits for both South-east of target.

5. Leaflets

A/C #063-A, pilot Martin, dropped five WG 12 and five WG 1000 on Merseburg.

6. 9 to 10/10 clouds over target, 12,000. Thin cirrus layer and non-persistent contrails at 27,000 on bomb run. 4 to 5/10 over Holland; 8 to 9/10 over Germany.

7. A/C Returning Early

A/C #466-Q, pilot Eros, turned back at 5244N-0725E. Dropped 18 x 250 on target of opportunity, 5243N-0720E at 1135.

8. A/C in Distress

Ours - none.

2 B-17's seemed to collide at 1145 hours, 5236N-0740E; one broke into several parts and went down in flames.

1 P-51, 1240 hours, down in spin. Two crews reported A/C attacked by two ME 109's.

9. Observations

Large fire in outskirts of Osnabruck. Three large pyramidal, very shiny objects at Hannover.

JOHN A. BAINSFATHER,
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

1. TARGET: **Merseburg**..... DATE OF MISSION: **2 November, 1944**

2. ROUTE AS FLOWN: - Clacton, 1013; enemy coast, 5237N-0437E, 1108;
Strong wind drift from southwest, and other formations coming out from
target north of their briefed route, forced 40 "B" CEW north of course
near Hildesheim and Halberstadt. Headed south to regain course; I.P. (SEE
BELOW)

3. Weather Conditions (a) At Target. **A - 6/10**.....
(b) En Route. **10/10**.....

4. Were our A/C "Seen" or "Unseen" Targets? (a) At Target **seen after bombs away.**
Route. ~~Seen~~..... (b) En Route.....
Any Condensation Trails? **Meager, non-persistent above 25,000 ft.**.....

5. Description of Flak at Target, including METHOD OF FIRE CONTROL, if possible.
Moderate to intense both barrage and tracking lasting from 3 minutes before B.A. until 2 minutes after B.A. Most Accurate at B.A. and on turn off target. We were accurately tracked all around the turn off.

6. Flak encountered or observed en route. (In the order experienced if possible)
Hildesheim - obs.
Hannover - obs.
Zwole - 3 guns tracking.
Osnabruck - meager accurate tracking.
5226N-0759E - tracking
5220N-0820E - 3 guns tracking
5236N-0437E - 4 guns tracking

7. Was CHAFF carried? Was it used as briefed, if not how was it used?
Observation of crews.

6,853 units of chaff as briefed.
21 A/C equipped with 42 carpet sets.

8. Position of Group and Combat Wing. **40 "B" Lead & Low**.....

9. Details:-

Group	No. of A/C over E/Territory	A/C hit by Flak	Lost to Flak	T.O.T.	Height	Axis of attack	Bomb run
Lead	12	9 (5-S)	0	1239	27,500	115	Slow turn to
Low	12	11 (8-S)	0	1239	27,000	116	270
TOTALS	24	20 (13-S)					

10. OBSERVATIONS: **S/S at Merseburg & Hannover**.....

2. ROUTE AS FLOWN:- (Contd.) **5122N-1110E, 1230; target, Merseburg, 1239; Dutch Coast, 5237N-0437E, 1433; 5 miles south of Southwold, 1507; Base, 1545.**