

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

APO 557
6 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Brandenburg A/F

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

1. Narrative

36 A/C of 306th Group flew as 40th "B" CEW. 12 A/C of 306th flew high group of 40th "C" CEW. 1 spare filled in and flew with 40th "C" low group. 40th "B" CEW, following lead of 40th "A" CEW, flew to a point approximately 40 miles north of course over north sea. On approaching Isle of Silt, formation turned south, and then west to avoid Heligoland. Slightly north of course over continent to 5308N x 1409E, where wing was forced north of course due to crowding of other wings. Thereafter course was approximately as briefed. Left English coast 5156N x 0911E, 0838 hours; enemy coast 5347N x 0832E, 1056 hours; I.P. 1233 hours, target 1241 hours; enemy coast 5347N x 0832E, 1334 hours; English coast 5255N x 0121E, 1515 hours; base 1606 hours.

PPF equipment worked satisfactorily and was used only as a navigational aid.

High group 40th "C" CEW followed same route as 40th "B" throughout except that, after flying over primary target which was then obscured by smoke, high group proceeded to bomb Stendal A/F, the assigned secondary.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

No attacks by enemy A/C on either 40th "B" or High group 40th "C" CEW. At 1125 hours 30 to 35 black S/E enemy aircraft, were observed in the distance southeast of Hamburg, apparently attempting to attack a formation behind. Approximately 15 to 20 P-51's were seen dog fighting with them. East of Berlin, two T/E aircraft were reported at a distance.

Fighter support was satisfactory, with P-51's first appearing at 1039 and thereafter remaining in sight for most formations during the rest of the mission except for slight gaps after Hamburg. Perhaps because occupied by dog fights, or protecting formations in the rear, they did not seem numerous.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

Moderate fairly accurate tracking A.A. fire at primary damaged 12 A/C of 40th "B" CEW, 4 severely. 40th "C" CEW high group reported no A.A. fire at secondary, Stendal A/F. Neither formation had A.A. Fire from any other location, although both report seeing it from Wesermunde, Cuxhaven, Berlin, Hamburg, and Wagerooge.

4. Bombing

Strike photos of lead, low, and high groups 40th "B" CEW show solid pattern of bombs on briefed primary M.P.I. A bombardier in lead group reports actually seeing 6 bombs go through roof of building which was assigned M.P.I., followed by flames spurting out.

4 A/C, under mechanical difficulties, dropped 5 x 1,000 M44's each on targets of opportunity at Oderburg, Neuhof, Wesermunde and Prutzke.

High Group 40th "C" CEW flew over primary at 1248 hours but did not bomb with lead and low groups, because smoke from previous bombing obscured M.P.I. and created hazard of hitting P/W camp located beyond. High Group bombed Stendal A/F the briefed secondary at 1257 hours. Strike photos show solid pattern on briefed M.P.I.

Targets of Opportunity Bombed

A/C #796-D, pilot J. Deck, left the formation at 5200N x 1400E, when the main bearing went out of #3 engine; pilot feathered prop; and dropped 5 x 1,000 on Neuhoef and came out on course, skirting primary target

A/C #633-Z, pilot Erwin, turned back at 5339N x 0833E at 1100 hours, when the oxygen system went out. Dropped 5 x 1,000 on Wesermunde.

A/C #943-L, pilot Hutsell, left the formation at 1206 hours at 5304N x 1350E as the gas wouldn't drain out of right Tokyo tank. Dropped 5 x 1,000 on Oderberg.

A/C #946-T, pilot Allen, lost #3 engine at 1235 hours after the I.F. He dropped out of formation and feathered #3 prop. Dropped 5 x 1,000 on Prutzke at 1240 hours.

5. Nickels

A/C #454-B, pilot Krzyston, dropped on primary, two U.S. G-47's, two XG 15's, two XG 19's, two XG 30's and two XG 24's.

6. Weather

Over continent, and at the primary and secondary, weather was CAVU.

7. Observations

Convoys sighted: 50 to 60 ships in Elbe estuary headed out to sea; 18 ships at Schillig, 5343N x 0803E; 17 ships in Wesermunde port; 27 ships moving south at 5356N x 0845E.

35 A/C on Glienicke A/D, 5312N x 1230E. About 20 camouflaged objects possibly oil tanks at 5308N x 1047E. 12 to 14 oil tanks North of Stade on Elbe.

8. A/C In Distress

One B-17, near Potsdam going down in flames, seven chutes.

One B-17, going down in flames near Brandenburg 1243 hours three chutes seen.

One B-17, southwest of Heligoland, three engines feathered, headed back toward enemy coast.

9. A/C Returning Early

Three spare A/C, 042-P, pilot Burrell, 693-L, pilot Morrison, and 155-J, pilot McStay, turned back as briefed; each brought back 5 x 1,000 H.E.

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BRANDENBURG

7 August 1944

