

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

(D-A-4)

APO 557,
9th February, 1945

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Lutzkendorf, 9th February, 1945.

TO : Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group, APO 557, US Army.

1. Narrative

306th flew 36 a/c including 4 PFF a/c as 40th "A". Route was substantially as briefed. Felixstowe, 1041 hours; Ostend 1112; I.P. 5050N-1144E, 1252 hours; target Lutzkendorf, 1258; Ostend 1555; letdown over Channel to Clacton 1645; base 1734. High bombed Eisleben, 1304; Low bombed Menteroda, 1325.

Buckeye Red at 1215 reported target 7/10ths with intense to moderate smoke screen, advised visual run, saying he would confirm ten minutes later. At 1225 Buckeye repeated advice to bomb visually.

PFF: Mickey equipment on all PFF a/c worked satisfactorily.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

This group saw no enemy aircraft.

P-51s including a/c from 20th and 361st Fighter Groups furnished close and continuous support from Belgian coast, 1110 hours, without gaps.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

Moderate inaccurate predicted concentration at target Lutzkendorf above and below formation. None at other targets. Meager inaccurate A.A. fire over front line and vicinity of Frankfurt on route in and out. Damage: Lead; 1 slight, 1 missing; Low; 3 severe; High; 1 severe, 1 slight.

4. Bombing

Lead made a visual run on Lutzkendorf. Target was visible on approach, but at bombs away was obscured by a cloud and smoke. Pictures show hits at 025071/6. Low saw target from Naumberg, but could not get bomb bay doors open, or salvo on emergency release. Made PFF run on what operator thought was Mulhausen but which turned out to be Nordhausen. Bombardier saw that bombs were going to be over, held bombs, and dropped on Menteroda. Pictures show hits direct on town. High found primary obscured by cloud and smoke, dropped on Eisleben. Pictures show strikes short east of town.

5. Leaflets

A/c 585-K, pilot Sprunger, dropped ten T-297 on Eisleben.

6. Weather

8 to 10/10ths, tops 10 to 12,000 feet; most of way in, with large breaks. Thin 10/10ths layer at 24,000 feet for 15 miles, starting at Rhine. Target 7/10ths low clouds, with patchy break over target. Light non persistent contrails at 25,000 feet.

7. Observations

Crews report pilot from another formation calling his leader in the clear requesting coordinates of B-53.

8. Aircraft in Distress

Our a/c 674-B, pilot Riedel, outstanding, last seen lagging near front lines at 1422, but with no visible trouble.

9. Aircraft Returning Early

A/c 129-L, pilot Mullen, turned back at 5035N-0445E, 1135 hours, due to engine failure; brought back 10 x 500.

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

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COMBATS

FW 190 ○

ME 109 ⊗

JU 88 ⊗

ME 110 ⊗

DO 217 ⊗

ME 210 ⊗

ME 410 ⊗

JU 87 ⊗

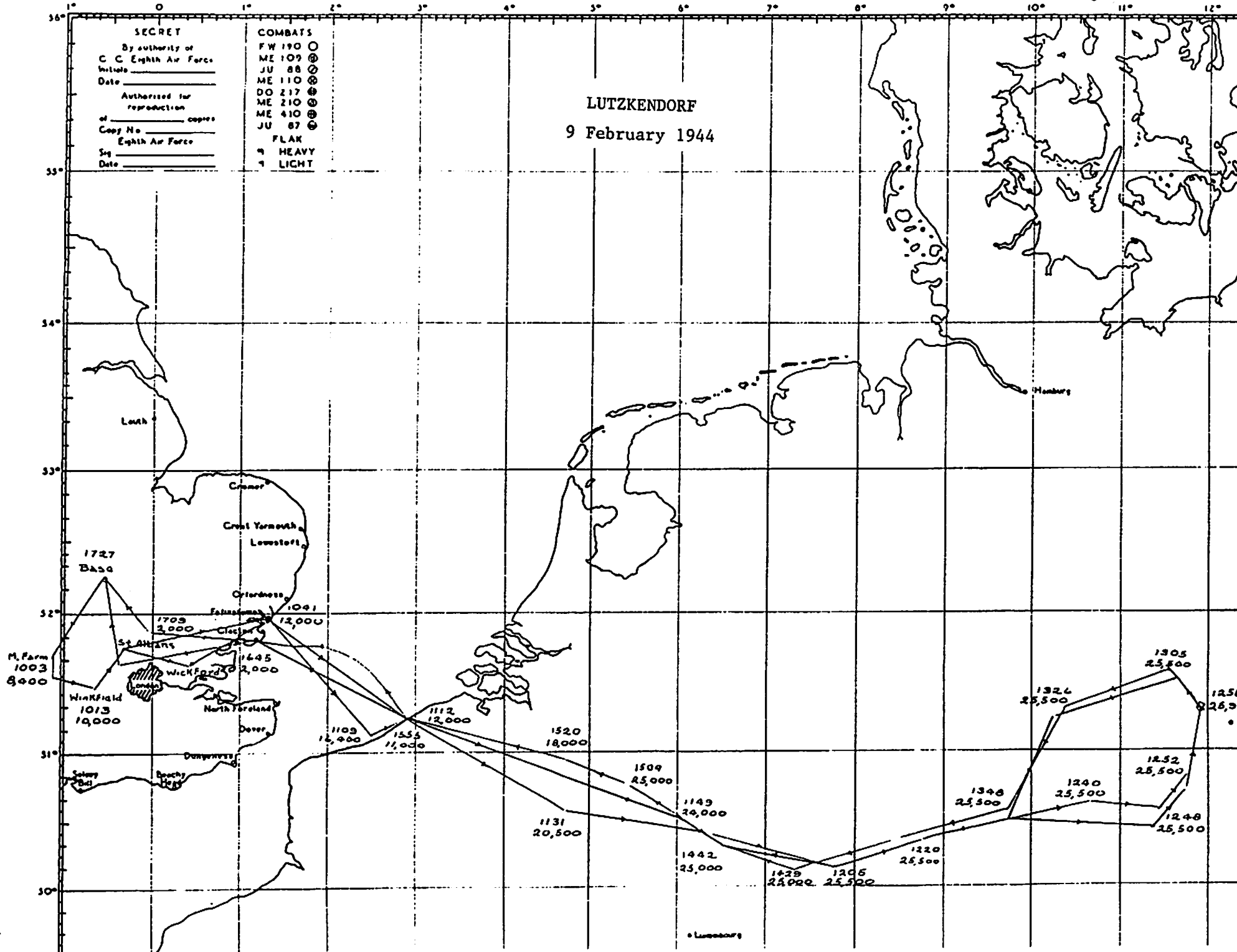
FLAK

9 HEAVY

1 LIGHT

LUTZKENDORF

9 February 1944



Report on A.A. Gunfire
306th Bomb Group (H)

1. TARGET Lutzkendorf, Germany..... DATE OF MISSION 9-2-45.....

2. ROUTE AS FLOWN:- Ostend; 5038-0440; 5026-0618; 5007-0743; 5028-0902;
5043-1045; 5036-1124; 5050-1144 I.P.; 5118-1152 Target; 5135-1131; 5119-1015;
5030-0952; 5018-0829; 5005-0716; 5019-0631; 5045-0524; 5058-0449; Ostend

3. Weather Conditions (a) At Target 7/10, tops 10-12,000 ft.....
(b) En Route 8 to 10/10.....

4. Were our A/C "Seen" or "Unseen" Targets? (a) At Target Seen.....
(b) En Route Seen.....

Any Condensation Trails? Light intermittent non-persistent 25,000 ft.....

5. Description of Flak at Target, including METHOD OF FIRE CONTROL, if possible.
Moderate predicted concentrations from below to above formation at Primary target.
No flak encountered at Last Resort targets.

6. Flak encountered or observed en route. (In order experienced if possible.)

Meager inaccurate flak observed at I.P., over front lines on route in and out,
over Rhine river, and near Frankfurt.

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

.....25.....A/C carried.....50.....carpet sets.

30 A/C dispersed 11,416 units of type XE chaff.

8. Position of Group and Combat Wing.....40th "A" group.....

9. Details:- All a/c passed over Primary. Damage sustained here.
Lead bombed Lutzkendorf visually
Low bombed Medteroda visually
High bombed Eisleben visually

Group	A/C over Damaged			A/C Lost				Axis of			T.O.T	Height
	E/Terr	Ser	Ser	Flak	F/A	Acc	Unkn	Attack	High	Low		
Lead	12	1	0	0	0	0	1	351°M	311°M	1258	25900	
Low	11	0	3	0	0	0	0	180°M	240°M	1325	23400	
High	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	308°M	208°M	1304	27000	
TOTALS	35	2	4	0	0	0	1					

10. OBSERVATIONS: A/c 674-B, pilot Riedel, missing w/c last seen near front lines,
1422 hours, under control, lagging behind formation.

S.S. observed at Primary target.