

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

(U-A-4)

5th November, 1943  
APO 634.

SUBJECT: Intelligence Report

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

1. Hot News

1355 hours, one B-17 going down under attack by single fighter, 5 chutes appeared, then fighter attacked again. A/C broke in half, 3 more chutes, perhaps 4 seen. 1356 hours, one B-17 going down, 9 chutes seen. A/C reported as continuing to fly below formation losing altitude, last seen at 1432. 1410 hours, one B-17 over Holland going down near coast, 7 chutes. 1422 hours, two B-17s seen at 5155N-0330E at 14,000 feet, going down fast, disappeared in cloud. 1422 hours, one B-17 at 5153N-0154E about 5,000 feet, not seen to ditch.

2. Narrative

24 A/C took off at 1030 hours, including 3 spares which returned before leaving English coast. Over Cromer at 1227 hours. Course as briefed. Target at 1345 hours. We were the 2nd high group to bomb, on a heading of 195 degrees mag. Landed at 1530 hours.

3. Bombing Results

Bombing should be good. Pictures show bombs away at proper point to hit target area. Identification positive. Smoke screen and haze obscured view of results. One A/C bombed convoy just southeast of Tessel with unobserved results.

4. Encounters

The 306th was high group of the 40th Combat Wing. There were no attacks on this group. At 1350 hours one FW190 with undersurface of wings painted yellow started tail attack, but broke off at 1,000 yards. At 1355 hours, 20 miles west of target, 8 to 10 single engine K/A observed making tail attacks on group ahead, mostly on stragglers.

5. Fighter Support

Fighter support was superlative, the P-47s giving closer cover than ever before, but not as close as P-38s at Wilhelmshaven. P-47s seen to go right through A.A. gun fire with group ahead. P-38s also observed for 8 minutes at 1320 hours, and for 3 minutes at 1440 hours.

6. A.A. Gun Fire

Intense A.A. gun fire from the start of the bomb run throughout the Ruhr area took the form of a solid barrage on the lower groups, and of fairly accurate continuous tracking on this group's level up to the target. After the target, the barrage was lifted to our level, but group leader made a radical swing to the right off the target, while our low squadron leader climbed sharply, the entire group pulling quickly out of range. Big brown bursts reported.

7. Comment

Old crews say A.A. gun fire not as bad as Bremen. Several who have been in Ruhr before volunteered comment seemed like some guns moved out of area.

JOHN A. BAIRNSFATHER,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Group 8-2.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 74  
By RLB/BHC  
NARA Date 1/8/94

ED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 74  
By RLB/BHC  
NARA Date 1/8/94



November 1943  
GELSENKIRCHEN, GERMANY

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 145005  
By RLB/DHC  
NARA Date 1/8/91

MISSION 5 NOVEMBER, 1943

*Print file*

5-11-43

ONNEN\*  
363-G  
DAVIS  
728-S  
THOMAS  
768-A  
TACKMIER\*  
767-Y  
ELLIOT  
065-Z  
KIRK  
706-Q

COOK\*  
782-O  
GAY  
145-G  
ROBINSON\*  
832-J  
KATZ  
586-A  
McMAHON\*  
724-Z  
NALLY  
451-N  
MUNGER  
841-R

WHEELER\*  
993-K  
PETERSON  
143-P  
OPDYKE  
169-S  
MURPHY  
136-D  
SHARKEY\*  
056-U  
NEWSTREET  
794-V  
JEFFRIES  
812-Q

"SPARES"

BICKETT  
603-H  
THOMPSON  
139-L  
GARRETT  
714-S

\* Indicates CAMERA in Aircraft

*Ret*

## Camera in Aircraft

## II INTERROGATION FORM

SQUADRON ~~567~~ 368 ~~567~~ ~~113~~ A/C Number 724 Letter Z Date 5-11-43

Bomb Load 42 x M 47A1 H.E. . Incendi.

Time Took Off 1030      Time Landed

1. HOT NEWS to be phoned in? Yes No  
Details:

Just after T. B-17 from lead group (apparently)

Friendly A/C in any kind of distress?  
(Give position, time, altitude, full details)

going down under  
control - 6 jumped  
saw 5 chutes

2. TARGET ATTACKED:

Primary Time: 13 45

Alternate Height: 29 mm

Last Resort (circle)      Heading 153° Mag

Duration Bomb Run: *approx. 6 min*

### Position in Formation

$\begin{array}{ccccccc} & & & X & & & \\ X & & X & X & & X & \\ X & & X & X & & X & X \\ & X & X & X & & X & X \\ X & & X & X & & X & X \\ & X & & & & & X \end{array}$

CREW: Give Rank and Initials

Lt. J. McMahon Pilot

Lt. S. Mowers Co-P

Lt. D. McCaley Nav.

S/Sgt. N. Brennan Bomb.

T/Sgt. H. ~~Goreayca~~ <sup>GORCZYCA</sup> ✓ Radio

Sgt. D. Rockwell ✓ Top T.

S/Sgt. M. Saj ✓ Ball T.

S/Sgt. E. Schmeckpepper R. Waist

S/Sgt. P. Mantor ✓ L. Waist

S/Sgt. G. Barnt Tail G.

3. Number of BOMBS dropped on target: Jettisoned: Returned: Abortive:

4. Observed RESULTS OF BOMBING: (For this plane or others)

Own Bombs:  $\frac{1}{2}$  on time - Salvaged  $\frac{1}{2}$  a few seconds late  
dropped on lead -

Other Bombing: Town well hit

5. Any Photographs taken: Yes? No? no Any Nickels: Yes No

Any Nickels:      Yes      No       
Number boxes dropped

6. GROUND TARGETS ATTACKED BY GUNFIRE AND RESULTS: Number boxes dropped \_\_\_\_\_  
Number boxes returned \_\_\_\_\_

7. ROUTE: (If different than ordered) (If ABORTIVE give time, place, height of turn; reason for returning early; and disposition of bombs)

as Briefed

8. WEATHER: (If it affected mission)

Clear - no clouds in target area -  
ed on way out, at target and on way home.

9. FLAK: Encountered on way out, at target and on way home.

Time	Place	Height of A/C	Type (light, heavy), intense, moderate or slight,	Color of bursts	Location Bursts in re- lation to A/C	Accuracy
------	-------	---------------------	--	-----------------------	--	----------

OVER From T. P. to Target - # Severe but chiefly on  
Low groups At Target - Barrage was coming up from  
E. side of Target - after Target barrage appeared

Crew observations about Flak: to be lifted to level of low