

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

4 July, 1943

SUBJECT: Intelligence Report.

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

1. Hot news.

2 B-17's went down at 47° 08' N, 3° 12' W at 1300 hours.
Seven chutes reported.

1 B-17 seen returning to French coast with wheels down and
being circled by E/A.

2. Narrative.

27 A/C took off at 1000 hours to bomb the aeroplane assembly
works at Nantes, France. 22 A/C bombed the target; one more went over
target but failed to bomb and four returned early. The route was as
briefed.

3. Bombing.

Bombing was undoubtedly exceedingly good. Negatives just
developed confirm target obliterated by billowing clouds of smoke from
bomb bursts. Crews say "We won't have to go back there any more."
"Group pattern a beaut." "Right in the eye."

4. Abortions.

(a) 1 turned back at 1120 hours at Church Lawton. #2 prop
ran away.

(b) 1 turned back 12 miles from English coast. #1 engine
throwing oil.

(c) 1 turned back at 1140 hours at rendezvous. #3 prop
ran away.

(d) 1 turned back at 1206 hours at French coast. Could
not stay in formation due to lack of power.

5. Enemy aircraft.

35 to 50 E/A were encountered by the 306th Bomb Group.
They were mostly Fw 190's with some Me 109's. Two Ju 88's were seen
well out to sea. Fw's were yellow, red and blue nose, all silver.
Me 109's reported as light tan.

E/A first sighted near IP at 1240. Attacks started right
after bombs were away at 1249 and continued well out to sea until
about 1315. 2 Ju 88's were seen at 1335, and made two passes at
formation.

Most attacks were made by single E/A out of the sun on
the tail position, from 3 to 9 o'clock, some being pressed home to
within 200 yards.

6. Flak.

At Nantes, formation at 23,000, heavy, moderate, black,
accurate, continuous following. First bursts were low but following
bursts worked up into the formation. Ten ships report some damage due
to flak.

7. Observations.

A convoy of 5 ships reported proceeding south, under escort,
at 47° 38' north, 04° 29' west. Sighted at 1256 from a height of 18,000
feet. Large plant, five long buildings, one painted red, 1 1/2 miles SW of
Laval. Grass airfield reported just north of Laval. A big installation
reported NW of Chateaubriant.

Three aerial bombs were reported. One is reported to have
damaged the lead ship, the smoke of the burst being large enough to
obscure the tail assembly. The pilot of the damaged A/C thought the
injury due to flak, his wing man reporting the bomb.

No fighter cover seen.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.1

NARA

By RLB/BAC

Date 1/8/91

Section 3.3, 112000

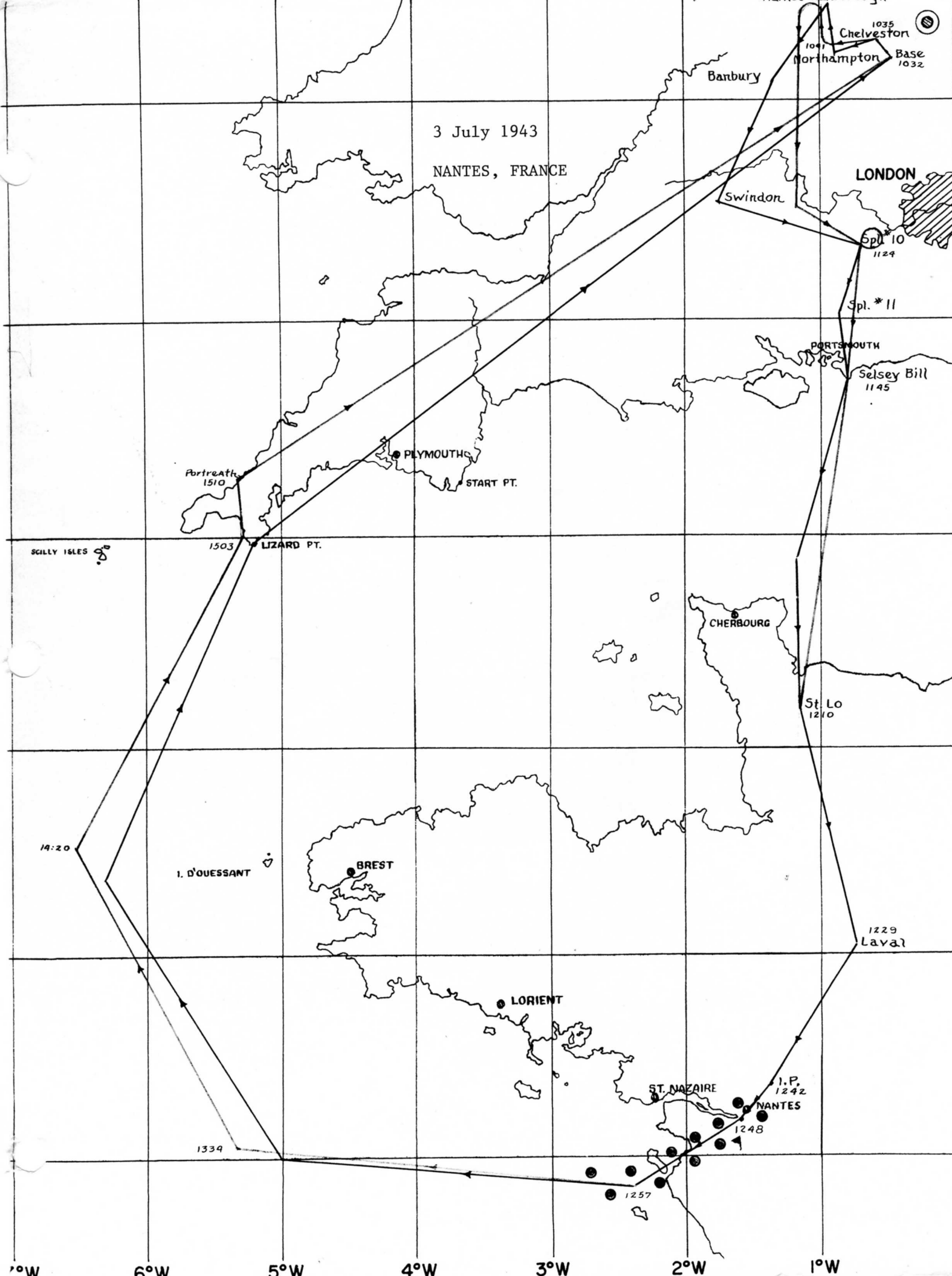
NARA

Date 1/8/91

FAC

3 July 1943

NANTES, FRANCE



Hq. 306th Bomb Group (H)

FLAK REPORT

Date 4th July, 1943

Target Narles

1. Route followed.

As briefed.

2. Visibility at Target (Any condensation trails?)

Perfect - few condensation trails, lasting about one minute.

3. No. of A/C over Target.

23 A/C

4. Formation over target, with height of each A/C. Those A/C damaged by Flak to be circled, and if seriously damaged, insert small "S". If any A/C shot down by Flak, say so:-

142
22700
823
22500
791
23000
806
23000
791
23000
800
23000
777
23200
175
23100
815
22500
221
23000
930
24000
828
22500
502
23000
802
22500
828
23000
930
24000
052
22600
802
22500
828
23000
930
24000
 (See over)

5. General Axis of attack (from lead A/C if possible)

217° Magnetic.

6. How long did formation fly straight and level before bombing?

Good run - at least 60 seconds.

7. Turn after bombing. Very slight right turn.

8. Position of Group in relation to other Groups. Lead Group.

9. What evasive action was taken? Moderate.

10. A short description of Flak en route (if any) and at the Target, including if possible a suggestion as to type of fire control employed - i.e. Continuous following predicted concentrations, predicted barrages, or fixed barrages.

1248 hours.- Heavy, black, moderate, accurate, continuous following. One crew reported good concentration, but all others reported continuous following. First bursts were low, but following bursts were worked up into the formation.

1240 hours.- At IP - Heavy, black, meager.

1236 hours.- After leaving French coast - flak ship - light, inaccurate, meager.

11. Any other Comments, Phenomena, etc.
A/C #306 reported seeing an aerial bomb dropped near A/C #306. The burst blotted out the tail assembly from view. In all three aerial bombs were reported. A/C #306 reported the damage as flak damage.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 74500

By RLB JHC MABA Date 1/8/91

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3, 7450d
By RLB/BAC Date 1/8/91

14
Belser

INTERROGATION FORM

SQUADRON 367 (368) 369-423 A/C Number 809 Letter T Date 4/7/43

Bomb Load 10-500 H.E. Incendi.

Position in Formation

Time Took Off 1013 Time Landed 1630

	X		X	X		X
X	X		X		X	X
X			X	X		X
X	(X)		X		X	X
X						X

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

CREW: Give Rank and Initials

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

B-17 down 42°N. 3°12'W.
(just south of Belle Isle) Radio
room on fire, 6 chutes.

1st Lt J. H. Belser Pilot
2nd W. D. Jones CO-P
2nd G. M. Arnold Nav.
2nd T. H. Harrison Bomb.

2. TARGET ATTACKED:

Primary Time: 1245

Alternate Height: 22,000

Last Resort Heading: 230°
(circle)

Duration Bomb Run:

4 minutes

Sgt M. A. McDaniel's Radio
T/lt E. C. Spengenberg Top T.
S/lt L. Norman Ball T.
Sgt N. H. Brennan R. Waist
Sgt A. A. Becker L. Waist
T/lt D. A. Philpot Tail G.

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

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

Own Bombs: Impact on ~~the~~ siding but plenty covered target.

Other Bombing: swell.

5. Any PHOTOGRAPHS taken: Yes? No? no.

6. GROUND TARGETS ATTACKED BY GUNFIRE AND RESULTS:

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)

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 relation to A/C	Accuracy
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Only over target slight but accurate as to height and direction

Crew observations about FLAK:

By RLB/BAC 12356, Section 3.3, 145005
NABA Date 1/8/91

10. ENEMY FIGHTER OPPOSITION:

15 to 20 on us. 40 to 50 on all groups. Mostly
(Estimated total number of E/A seen) (Types)

FW 190s. Yellow nose & yellow tails
(Location and length of fight)

One encounter at 5 o'clock. He went down in flames
at 8 o'clock from T.I. fire.

(Tactics of E/A)

(Color, markings, etc. of E/A)

(Our defensive action)

C L A I M S	
DESTROYED	<u>1</u>
PROBABLY	<u>0</u>
DAMAGED	<u>0.</u>
(Fill out immediately separate CLAIM FORM for each claim.)	

11. FIGHTER SUPPORT

Didn't see any.

12. OBSERVATIONS: Give TIME, PLACE, HEIGHT (List any observations of military importance such as balloons, decoys, dummies, camouflage, smoke screens, enemy signals; activity at airdromes, ports, water-ways, roads, railroad yards; concentrations of vehicles, troops, vessels; landmarks, new enemy installations,

saw very white area that looked just like target about
4-5 miles just before target on course.

13. INCIDENTS TO FRIENDLY A/C: (If one of our A/C lost, state whether by A.A., E/A Action, Accident or Undetermined Cause)

17 from 92% went down under control before target 2. chutes.

14. INJURIES TO CREW: (Give name, position in A/C, type of injury, how received, PLACE and TIME.)

15. no.

15. DAMAGE TO A/C: (Briefly)

16. TECHNICAL FAILURES: no. except softy cartridges for shot
ahead did plenty of damage.

17. CREW COMMENTS: (Any unusual incidents? Any suggestions?)

More ice cream.!