

By RLB/NM NARA, Date 7-14-92.

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

16 November, 1943

SUBJECT: Intelligence Report.

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

1. Hot News
None2. Narrative

23 A/C took off at 0727 and crossed coast at 0903 at 53° 10'N. 00° 02'E. 14 A/C crossed the Norwegian Coast at 58° 05'N. 06° 55'E. at 1115, passing east of Lister, thence to target which was circled three times before bombing at 11:47:30 on heading of 348° mag., thence to base at 1447.

3 A/C Nos. 363, 143, and 706 flew with "J" in triangle Group, bombing at 1132 on a heading 32° mag., returning to base at 1433. 2 A/C 776 and 728 flew with "P" or "B" in triangle Group, bombed T. of O. (Possibly Rjukan) at 1225 at 180° mag. and landed at base 1517.

1 A/C 025 which flew with 91st. Group brought bombs back, having been unable to find target.

A/C 431 turned back from splashers 4 at 0940 hours. This plane after being subjected to severe icing which covered windshield, went into turbulent thunder cloud, went out of control, until control could be regained at 5,000 feet. Meanwhile ball-turret gunner had bailed out. A/C headed for splashers 4 but was late and saw no Group to join and returned. Brought bombs back.

A/C 603 turned back at English Coast at 1000 hours. Trouble with #3 engine which could not be feathered. Salvaged bombs in Wash.

A/C 007 turned back at 0845 hours 15 miles NE of Oxford at 13,000 ft. due to run-away prop on No. 2 engine. All bombs brought back. Landed at 0932 at Radlatt back to Base at 1655.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

A.A. Gun Fire was meager. 3 A/C which bombed Knaben with 356th. Group at 1132 saw no A.A.G.F. 14 A/C over Knaben at 11:47:30 saw three close bursts at "Bombs Away". 2 A/C over T. of O. (possibly Rjukan), reports slight, very low light A.A.G.F.

4. Bombing

Bombing was excellent. Crews report that "Target (Knaben) is no more", and photographs, while dark, confirm solid hits on aiming point.

3 A/C bombed Knaben at 1132 with the 356th Group, circled the target 3 times with bomb-bays open before bombing. Some hits were on the target, some on hill to the south.

14 A/C made 3 - 360's over Knaben to spot the target, identify the conclusive land mark e.g. the white colored sausage shape lake, and finally to bomb on carefully planned run up. Our bombs dropped into smoke and slight flames of Group ahead. Photographs show other bombs striking harmlessly on the hill to the south, while the village was apparently not

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hit. 2 A/C which bombed T. of O. with "P" or "B" in triangle formation report heavy destruction but are not certain where the place hit was Rjukan or not.

Our A/C 025 reports that "A" in triangle formation dribbled bombs through 10/10 cloud all over Norway and failed to locate the target. Our A/C refused to release on unidentifiable target and brought back 12 x 500.

5. Enemy Aircraft

3 A/C which bombed Knaben at 1132 met mild attacks from six S/E from various directions lasting for about ten minutes following "Bombs Away". ME 109's had yellow and blue noses, or white noses with black fuselage aft of cockpit.

14 A/C which bombed Knaben at 11:47:30 met meager fighter opposition totalling about 8 E/A of these, two ME 109's did not attack, while 6 T/E picked up the Group at the coast on the way out, trailing without attacking this Group, until 1220, when they left. They included one JU 88, 2 ME 110's possibly an ME 210 and an FW 189. 1 T/E fired 2 rockets from the front of the plane at 1,500 yards distance in 3 O'clock position at another Group.

2 A/C which bombed target of opportunity - possibly Rjukan - with formation having "P" or "B" in a triangle, at 1225, no E/A.

1 A/C flying with 91st. Group saw four to six ME 109's which attacked vigorously. We claim one damaged for this A/C #025, one no claim.

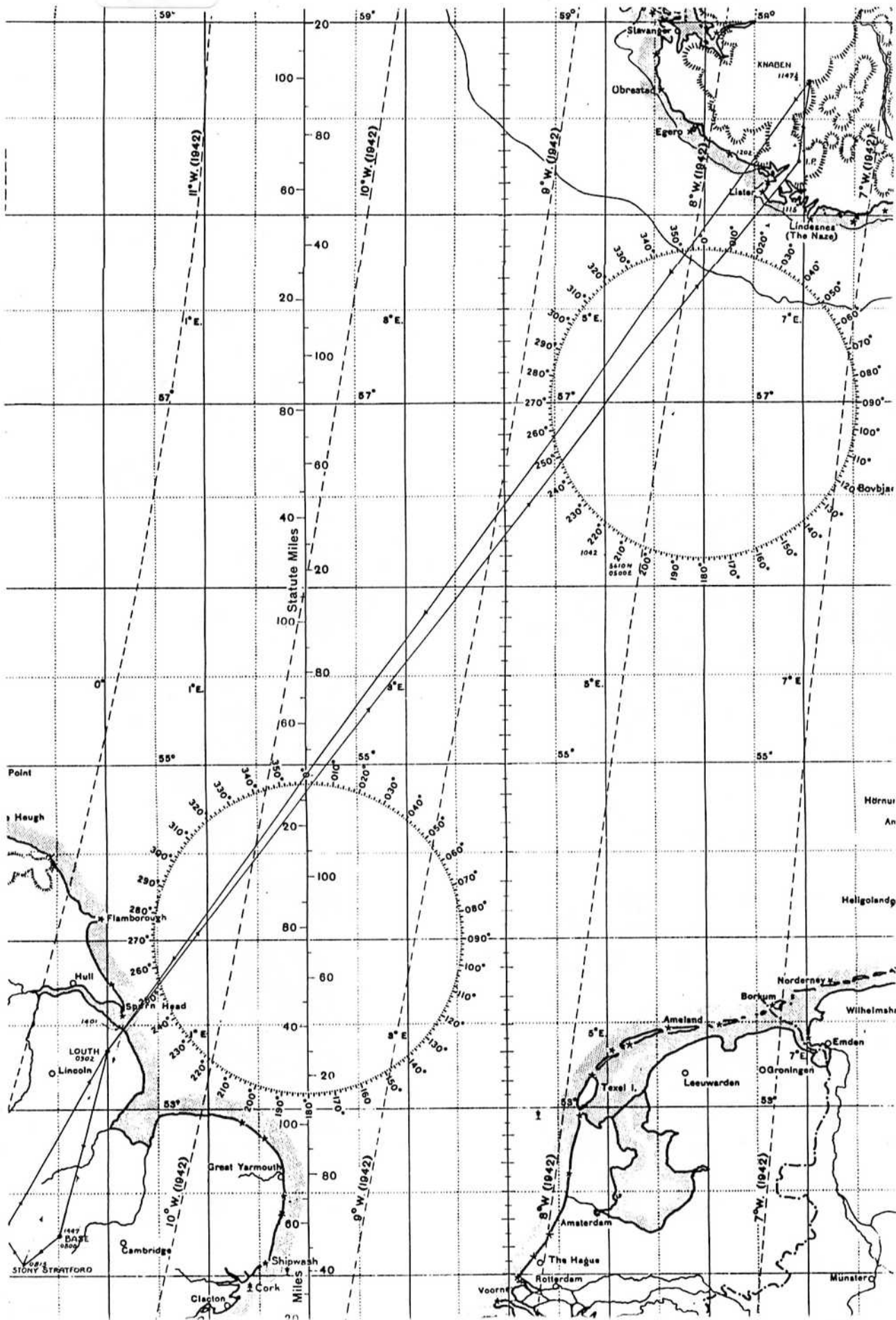
6. Observations

Objects like balloons observed 25 miles east of Knaben, with possibly some A.A. bursts, though no A/C visible in that area.

Knaben target was camouflaged with netting.

JOHN A. BAIRNSFATHER,
Major AC,
Group 3-2.

KNABEN, NORWAY



INTERROGATION FORM

SQUADRON ~~367X~~ 368 ~~369XX128X~~ A/C Number 145 Letter G Date 16/11/43Bomb Load 12 x 500 H.E. ~~KXXXXX~~

Position in Formation

Time Took Off 0725 Time Landed 1445

		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:

B-17 flying very high over group behind, turned back toward Norway at 1237 about 8 miles from Norway + disappeared in distance - 5833, 0312.

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

CREW: Give ~~Name~~ and Initials

1st Lt. J.B. McMahon Pilot

1st Lt. S.W. Mowers CO-P

2nd Lt. D. McCauley Nav.

S/Sgt. N.H. Brennan ~~XXXXX~~ N.G.

T/Sgt. H.E. Gorczyca Radio

Sgt. J.L. Dunten Top T.

S/Sgt. M.J. Saj Ball T.

S/Sgt. P.W.D. Mantor ~~L~~ WaistS/Sgt. E.W. Schmeckpepper ~~R~~ Waist

S/Sgt. G.D. Barnt Tail G.

2. TARGET ATTACKED:Primary Time: 1148Alternate Height: 14000

Last Resort Heading: 00
(circle)

Duration Bomb Run:

3 or 4 minutes3. Number of BOMBS dropped on target: all Jettisoned: Returned: Abortive:4. Observed RESULTS OF BOMBING: (For this plane or others)

Own Bombs: *Because bombardier toggled about 4° late, he hit right on the target, while the previous bombs fell short. Ball turret gunner positively identified the fall of this A/C's bombs + saw them hit the buildings of the target. The village was not hit.*

Other Bombing:

Check Katz interrogation for confirmation

5. Any PHOTOGRAPHS taken: Yes? No?

Any Nickels: Yes No

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.)

followed Wheeler8. WEATHER: (If it affected mission)clear over target, cloudy at coast9. FLAK: Encountered on way out, at target and on way home.

Time	Place	Height	Type	Flight	Color	Location	Remarks
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