

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

17 August, 1945

SUBJECT: Intelligence Report

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

1. Hot News

B-17s in distress were reported as follows:

1. 1350 hours, 1 going down, 4 chutes.
2. 1405 hours, 1 on fire followed by fighters, 6 chutes, near Aachen.
3. 1420 hours, 1 going down, nine chutes.
4. 1435 hours, 1 going down in spin, 10 chutes.
5. 1438 hours, 2 blew up, 2 chutes, south of Frankfurt.
6. 1505 hours, 1 going down under control, 3 chutes; 1 going down under control, no chutes; 1 burning, 8 chutes; all over target area.
7. 1525 hours, 1 blew up, 5 chutes.
8. 1605 hours, 1 going down, 3 chutes.
9. 1620 hours, 1 spinning down, crashed in flames, 7 chutes near Aachen.
10. 1625 hours, 1 exploded, 3 chutes; 1 going down, 10 chutes, near Aachen.
11. 1640 hours, 1 hit ground and blew up, 7 chutes.
12. 1640 hours, 1 going down, 2 chutes.
13. 1655 hours, 1 going down, 4 chutes.
14. B-17 ditched 15 miles west of Blankenberge at 1825.

B-17s observed in distress total 17. Parachutes observed opening from these planes total 83. In addition, at 1400 hours, one B-26 was seen going down; 5 chutes opened.

2. Narrative

30 A/C took off at 1155, crossing English Coast at Clacton at 1321. Course as briefed. I.P. changed at second briefing. 306th went direct to target. Our 9 ships in composite report 2nd Task Force had difficulty locating target. Crossed enemy coast at northern tip of Walcheren Island at 1348. Over target at 1500, leading 3rd Task Force. Heading 118°, Mag. All A/C bombed Primary and returned to base at 1815.

3. Bombing

Fair. Crews think bombing better than seems to be borne out by first photos.

4. Abortive

None

#### 5. Enemy Aircraft

Between 100-150 E/A encountered, mainly FW190's. Attacks began at 1410, tapered off before I.P. Our Group not bothered by fighters from I.P. to target and for some distance beyond. On way back encountered fighters again, attacks continuing until 1610. Tremendous dog fights reported between P47's and E/A. P47's beyond praise. New tactic, E/A came in up to 20 at a time, from high above in front, out of sun, our top turrets getting most of shots. Some tail attacks from 6 o'clock level. Colors green, grey, some black and white. Night fighters were up, attacking composite especially. Up to 50 attacks on our Group. We have 24 claims. At least 12 E/A seen to break up in air, a number of enemy pilots bailing out.

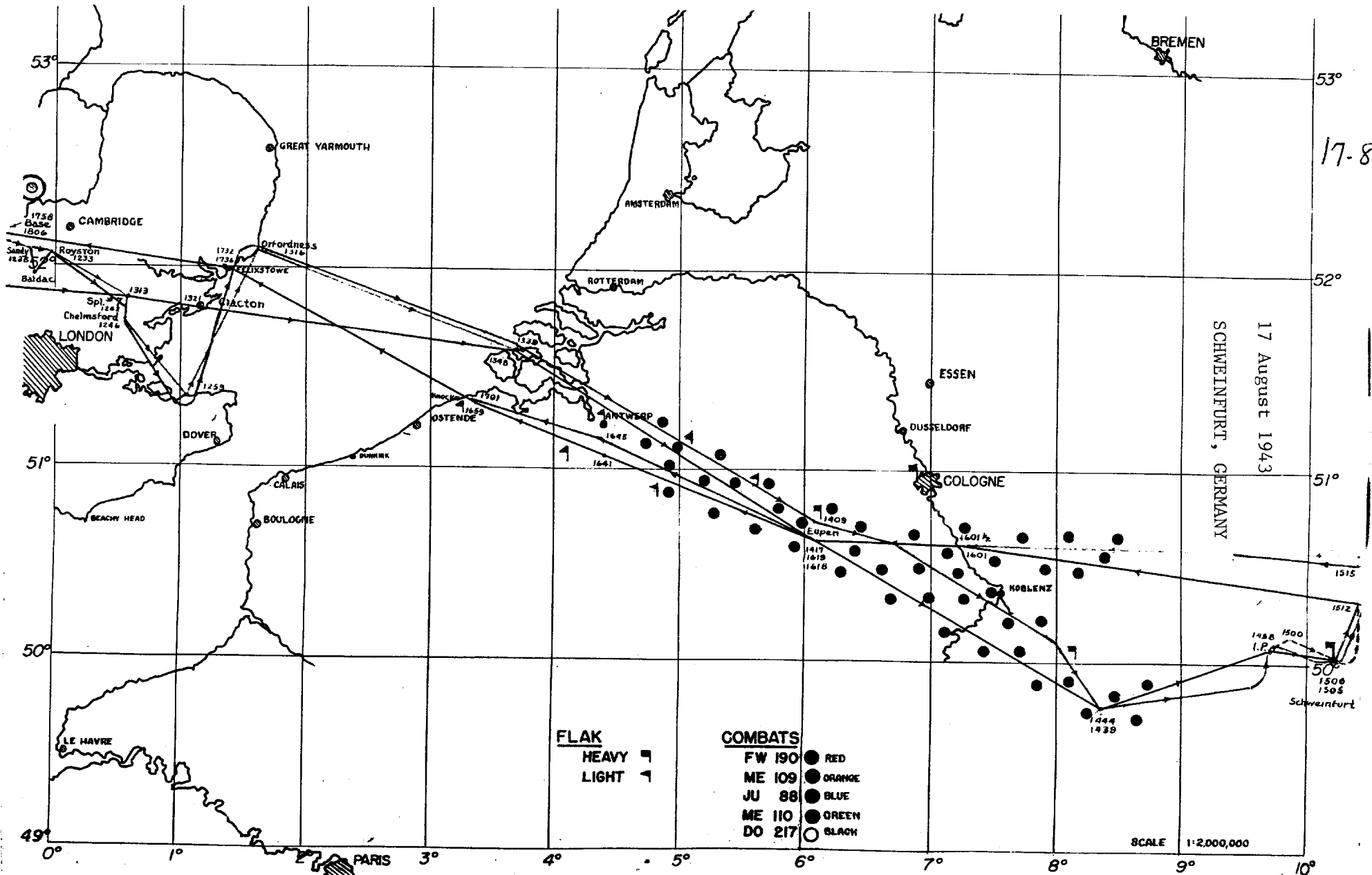
#### 6. A.A. Gun Fire

A.A. fire from Flushing, Antwerp, Diest, Herenthals, Schweinfurt, Brecht and Liege was meager, scattered continuously pointed. Intense barrages reported over Frankfurt, Koln, and Bonn. No A/C near at this time. Red bursts were seen at Antwerp and single greenish yellow bursts were seen at Antwerp and Schweinfurt.

#### 7. Observations

3 FW190's came in close and were reported by two men as having British markings. Both reports positive. 3 FW189's reported. Intense activity, mostly barges on the Rhine between Bonn and Cologne. Smoke screens at Antwerp, Bonn, Cologne, Mannheim and at Target.

JOHN A. BAIRNSFATHER,  
Captain, AC,  
Group S-2.



Target Schweinfurt

1. Route followed.

51° 35' N - 03° 40' E (Flushing Island), I.P., target, Blankenberge.

2. Visibility at Target (Any condensation trails?)

Clear - few scattered clouds. Some condensation trails.

3. No. of A/C over Target.

30 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:-

$\begin{array}{r} 809 \\ 20900 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 972 \\ 21500 \\ 557 \\ 20600 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 794 \\ 20500 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 906 \\ 21000 \\ 894 \\ 21500 \\ 720 \\ 20500 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 169 \\ 20700 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 993 \\ 21000 \\ 477 \\ 21000 \\ 739 \\ 21000 \end{array}$
$\begin{array}{r} 221 \\ 21700 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 910 \\ 20500 \\ 714 \\ 21000 \\ 603 \\ 20250 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 175 \\ 20900 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 407 \\ 21300 \\ 554 \\ 20700 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4629 \\ 21200 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 741 \\ 21500 \\ 9629 \\ 21300 \end{array}$

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

115° Mag.

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

50 seconds.

7. Turn after bombing.

90° left turn off target - 20° bank.

8. Position of Group in relation to other Groups.

Lead 3rd task force.

9. What evasive action was taken?

Slow turns, no change of altitude.

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.

Flushing - meager, scattered, inaccurate, continuous following.

Antwerp - meager to moderate, four bursts at a time, accurate, black.

Red bursts also reported from Antwerp.

Diest - moderate, bursts of four, heavy, black, accurate, one B-17 was shot down by AA fire at this point.

10 miles S. of Herenthals - moderate, low inaccurate.

Frankfurt, Köln, Bonn - Intense barrage over these cities, inaccurate.

no firing at our A/C.

Schweinfurt - meager, inaccurate, continuous following, not over 12 guns.

Brecht, Liege - AA positions not charted on our maps.

11. Any other Comments, Phenomena, etc.-2 instances of air-to-air bombing, inaccurate. FW 190 and Me 110 firing rockets from the nose. Smoke screens at Bonn, Schweinfurt, Mannheim. Single large burst of greenish-yellow AA fire reported at Antwerp and Schweinfurt.

(OVER)

Composite - flew with 305th and 92nd.

			<u>163</u>				
			<u>22400</u>			<u>052</u>	
	<u>305</u>		<u>142</u>	<u>428</u>		<u>22700</u>	
			<u>22300</u>	<u>21300</u>			
<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>		<u>198</u>		<u>585</u>	<u>814</u>	
			<u>22000</u>		<u>22000</u>	<u>21500</u>	
	<u>305</u>		<u>054</u>	<u>560</u>		<u>305</u>	
			<u>22100</u>	<u>22000</u>			
<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>		<u>92</u>		<u>305</u>	<u>305</u>	
	<u>305</u>				<u>92</u>		

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
Office of the Materiel Officer  
United States Forces  
A. P. O. 634

17 August, 1943.

SUBJECT: S-4 Combat Damage Report.

TO : Commanding Officer, 306th Bombardment Group (H), APO 634.  
Att: S-2 Officer.

1. Following Aircraft of this Group were combat damaged to extent listed:

42-29794, 367th Sq-Slight, friendly 50 cal shell case hit #1 and #2 propellers.

42-29554, 367th Sq-Slight, friendly, 50 cal shell case hit nose and left landing light and Co-Pilots window.

42-5306, 367th Sq-Not damaged.

42-5720, 367th Sq-Slight, friendly, 50 cal shell case hit outer left wing, and left aeliron.

42-5407, 367th Sq-Slight flak damage to camera well and camera door.

42-30175, 367th Sq-Slight, friendly, 50 cal shell case hit top turret glass and Pilots window.

✓ 42-5428, 368th Sq-Serious, 303 and 20mm, Life raft well hit by 20mm releasing raft which hit stabelizer damaging same badly. Electric wiring hit by 20mm.

42-29741, 368th Sq-Not damaged.

✓ 42-5054, 368th Sq-Serious, 20mm underneath fuselage and by left waist.

42-29498, 368th Sq-Slight, friendly-Rations from life raft from A/C No. 42-5428 hit horizontal stabelizer, nose, and upper glass.

42-30586, 368th Sq-Not damaged.

41-24560, 368th Sq-Slight, frined, life raft from A/C No. 42-5428 hit left wingstub, #3 engine, Plexiglass nose hit by empty, shell cases.

MISSION LOADING LIST

Squadron 368th A/C Number 41-24560

Total time for complete mission 6:25 Date August 17, 1943

P. 1st Lt. McIntire, L.S. R. S/Sgt. Nichols, C.A.

CP. 2nd Lt. Goris, G.E. G. S/Sgt. Connolly, L.J.

N. 2nd Lt. Levy, J.M. G. S/Sgt. Lester, P.G.

B. 2nd Lt. Swapp, W.W. G. S/Sgt. Mynatt, J.G.

E. T/Sgt. Griggs, D.A. G. S/Sgt. Brennan, N.H.

MISSION LOADING LIST

Squadron 368th A/C Number 42-5428

Total time for complete mission 6:20 Date August 17, 1943

P. Capt. Paris, G.E. R. T/Sgt. Milner, J.E.

CP. 2nd Lt. Maslanka, E.L. G. S/Sgt. Sorenson, A.R.

N. 2nd Lt. Slater, R.L. G. S/Sgt. Holt, G.G.

B. 2nd Lt. Silverstein, S. G. S/Sgt. Miglioresi, J.J.

E. T/Sgt. Long, R.L. G. S/Sgt. Coulson, J.

(27)

INVESTIGATION FORM

SQUADRON ~~867~~ 368 ~~XXXXXXXX~~ A/C Number 560 Letter \_\_\_\_\_ Date 17/8/43  
Bomb Load 10 x 500 (H.E.) Incend. \_\_\_\_\_ Position in Formation Composite Group  
Time Took Off \_\_\_\_\_ Time Landed \_\_\_\_\_

- 1. HOT NEWS to be phoned in? Yes No
- 2. What circumstances led to an A/C just before target - plane came home
- Friendly A/C in any kind of distress? (Give position, time, altitude, full details)

X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X
X	X	X	X

CREW: Give Rank and Initials

- 1st Lt. L. McIntire ✓ Pilot
- 2nd Lt. G. Goris ✓ CO-P
- 2nd Lt. J. Levy ✓ Nav.
- 2nd Lt. W. Swapp ✓ Bomb.
- S/Sgt. C. Nichols ✓ Radio
- T/Sgt. D. Griggs ✓ Top T.
- S/Sgt. P. Lester ✓ Ball T.
- S/Sgt. J. Mynatt ✓ R. Waist
- S/Sgt. N. Brennan ✓ L. Waist
- S/Sgt. L. Connolly ✓ Tail G.

1-17 blew up in air - under first fighter attack - 1 chute - just after the E/c coast was crossed. Explosion

3-8-17's crashed - shortly after crossing German border - 7 chutes out of 8 of the plane.

Primary Time: 1505  
Alternate Height: 22000'  
Last Resort Heading: 70  
Duration Bomb Run: 30sec.

- 3. Number of BOMBS dropped on target: Jettisoned: Returned: Abortive: 10x500
- 4. Observed RESULTS OF BOMBING: (For this plane or others)

Own Bombs: No.

Other Bombing: lots of fires on our target (Composite) "E" on target dump  
Target A was well hit.

- 5. Any PHOTOGRAPHS taken: Yes? No?
- 6. CROWD/CAMERAS WITNESS BY COMMENTS AND RESULTS:
- 7. ROUTE (if different than ordered) (If RECEIVING give time, place, height of turn; getting for returning early, and disposition of bombs.)  
Don't know?
- 8. WEATHER: (if it affected mission) High clouds -
- 9. None encountered on way out, at target and on way home.

Any Nickels: Yes NO  
Number Boxes dropped \_\_\_\_\_  
Number Boxes returned \_\_\_\_\_

Target - missed - missed - missed - (out over 12 miles missed) - track  
From vicinity of Antwerp - missed - missed - several other spots but as the nav. did not keep a log missed of the missed on this missed missed.



10. ENEMY FIGHTER OPPOSITION:

75

FW190 - Me 109 - Me 110's -

(Estimated total number of E/A seen)

(Types)

Picked up ~~FW190~~ as soon as Spit's left.  
 (Location and length of fight)

Stayed with us for 30 minutes - left us still  
 when about 30 min short of fighter rendezvous -  
 left us as soon as Spit's picked us up

(Tactics of E/A)

60's came in line abreast - from 9 o'clock -

Once about 30 min line abreast from  
 nose in attack on the whole formation

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

→ Port wing - underside of wing - black. } FW190's  
 Starboard " " " - white. }  
 yellow nose, white nose, red  
 nose

(Our defensive action)

CLAIMS	
DESTROYED	<i>Nil</i>
PROBABLY	<i>Nil</i>
DAMAGED	
(Fill out immediately separate CLAIM FORM for each claim.)	

11. FIGHTER SUPPORT

*Very good -*

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,

*Smoke screen at target - fairly effective.*

*most of big towns we past had smoke screens - heavy ones*

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)

✓

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

15.

15. DAMAGE TO A/C: (Briefly) *Small hole in wing, nose broken out*

16. TECHNICAL FAILURES: *# 3 supercharger.*

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

*Good show -*

S-2 OFFICER

*S. J. D. E.*

TIME COMPLETED

Please see page 10