

306th Group Narrative--- Mission to Hildesheim--- 14 March, 1945

1. A/C 512-A dropped one BR-1, two WG-42, two WG-25, and five T-330

on Hildesheim:

2. Bombing by 306th on target #1 was visual and excellent, although dense haze made poor air to ground visibility, lead bombardier was able to make 90 second run, and lead pattern blankets briefed aiming points. Low hits begin south of marshalling yard and walk adross aiming point. High pattern, though barely visible through smoke and fires from lead and low bombs, fell directly on target. Incendiary bursts can be identified throughout target area and on priority M/Y to the south. Two explosions in target area seen by ~~xxxxxxx~~ crews are confirmed by strike photos.

3. None. ~~at 1520 hours.~~

4. At target, no flak on lead and high. 12 to 14 bursts tracking low on turn off target, probably from A/D to north of town. Damage: Lead, 0; ~~xxxxxxx~~ High, 0; Low, 1 slight. A few bursts observed from Hannover.

5. Weather clear at takeoff. 7/10 clouds, base about 16,000 feet over target, with haze. On way out, haze ~~xxxx~~ appeared denser, clearing at Zuider Zee. ^{also} Dense persistent contrails from groups ahead and ~~above.~~

6. P-51's observed straging Offenbach and A/D at 5043-0805E with hangars on fire. Heavy traffid in M/Y's at Werburg, Korbach and Limburg. More than 50 barges in Rhine ~~xx~~ near Koblenz.

7. 306th flew 36 A/C including 4 PFF A/C as 40 "B". Assembly good. Route as briefed: English coast 5042-0005E, 1257 hours; French coast 5031-0136E, 1322 hours; ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{again} ~~xxxxxxx~~ at target; said ~~xxxxxxx~~ at 1505 hours Buckeye White reported thick ground haze, instrument approach with possible visual correction; no trouble at briefed altitude. IP 5137-0932E, 1520 hours; target Hildesheim, 1534; Dutch coast 5244-0438E, 1702 hours; England 5257-0118E, 1752 hours; base 1905.

Hickey equipment ~~w~~ was used as navigational aid only.

P-51's first picked up 1423 hours, 0640E, gave area and close support throughout mission. ~~xxxxxxx~~ A/C of 4th Fighter Group and 356th Fighter Groups identified,

No A/C in distress. No early returns. *Crews felt there was security violation, when one Crossing front lines, leader of one of forces was heard saying to his squadron leaders "I'm in starting to let down now" repeated by each squadron leader.*

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