

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

AFO 557
5 April, 1945

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Weiden, Germany

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

1. Narrative

The 306th Group flew 36 A/C, including 4 PFF as 40th "B". Lead A/C reached Buncher C2, 0743 hours. Rendezvous made at 15,000 feet, leaving buncher 0846 hours. Following Bloater's advice to climb over weather front, Group reached 17,000 feet at 4913N x 0938E, 1040 hours, but descended when Cowboy Able reported conditions OK at 16,000 feet. I.P. 4921N x 1235E, 1118 hours, 15,000 feet. Target 1128½, 15,000 feet. Substantially on course to 4955N x 0555E, 1328 hours; swung 50 miles south to avoid heavy rainstorm; French Coast 5011N x 0130E, 1527 hours, one hour late; English coast 5050N x 0025E, 1559 hours; Base 1650.

All PFF equipment functioned satisfactorily.

Buckeye Blue contacted leader from 1015 to 1115 hours, reporting that target #2 would be attacked, with excellent chance of visual correction. Our A/C heard Nuthouse calling other groups, but this group was never asked for a fix. Our A/C flying with 92nd Group reported that formation called Nuthouse at 0930 hours.

Assembly buncher, C2, was much weaker than briefed, and was only picked up 16 miles away.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

There was no E/A opposition on this Group. Two of our A/C flying with the 92nd Group, report an unidentified E/A, probably a FW 190, heading at formation in Ingolstadt area, being chased away and possibly destroyed by a P-51.

P-51's gave excellent support to target and back. Picked up 1010 hours, 4930N x 0730E. P-47's from 56th Fighter Group were identified before I.P. and after target.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

None on this Group.

4. Bombing

Lead, low and high squadrons made individual PFF runs without visual correction. Lead PFF operator stated that blips were very confusing and that hits were on either Grafenwohr or Weiden, 10 miles to east and south. Photos show 9/10 cloud, and all three squadrons on Weiden.

A/C 928-L, pilot Clocksin, A/C 600-G, pilot Sandini, A/C 323-K, pilot Greer, and A/C 604-A, pilot Hahn, were unable to make rendezvous, flew and bombed Ingolstadt with 92nd Group. A/C 916-N, pilot Effland, flew and bombed with 351st Group. A/C 287-V, pilot Collins, flew and bombed Ingolstadt with 379th Group.

5. Nickels

A/C 908-J, pilot Wells, dropped 2 WG-45, 3 T-352 and 5 T-351 on Weiden.

1.

6. Weather

Takeoff to assembly: 10/10 low cloud, base 6000, tops 11,000; 10/10 medium cloud, base 16,000, tops unknown. Low cloud 8-10/10 at assembly; medium cloud, base 16,000. From buncher to target, 7-10/10 low cloud, tops 11,000 feet, no medium or high; light, non-persistent contrails. At 0800E, on return, multilayer cloud, base 1,500 to 2,000 feet, light rain over Channel. Base 5-8/10 low cloud, base 2,000, tops 10-12,000 feet.

7. A/C In Distress & A/C Returning Early
None.

8. A/C Landing Away
A/C 578-D, pilot Higgenbotham, landed at Friston.

9. Observations

Nurnberg reported well hit with large fires and several explosions in M/Y. Fires also observed at Pleinfeld, Schwabach and Gunzenhausen. Large concentration of freight cars observed in M/Y at Neumarkt, which P-51's were seen to strafe, starting fires. One crew reports 20 to 30 FW 190's on A/D at Geisenfeld; none were seen to take off. Truck convoy seen heading east at 1110 hours at 4914N x 1240E.

10. Air Sea Rescue

At 1545, A/C 198-D, pilot Kuentler, reported hearing Air Sea Rescue on D channel acknowledge a message from one A/C circling another A/C or dinghy in channel. Air Sea Rescue said boat was on its way.

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

