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

APO 557 25 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative

Mission: Peenemunde and Parow

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

1. Narrative

34 a/c plus two PFF flew as 40th "A" Combat Wing. Route in was substantially as briefed; English coast 0949 hours, 5323N-0006E; enemy coast 1145 hours, 5431N-0910E; over primary with only the High group bombing at 1313; Parow bombed by Lead 13232 and by Low at 1333 after latter had made second run. Lead and High reassembled and returned together, leaving enemy coast at 14142, 5435N-0853E; English coast 1618 hours, 5320N-0006E; base 1711. Low group enemy coast 1424 hours, 5433N-0905E; Great Yarmouth 1619; base 1715.

Of the two PFF a/c, equipment of Lead did not function after reaching enemy coast. The other PFF was used as navigational aid and was especially helpful in view of 10/10 undercast until far side of Danish peninsula.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

No enemy aircraft seen. P-51 escort first picked up at 1159 hours southeast of Flensburg, was described as thin and intermittent to target, but in considerable numbers over target. Strong P-51 support present on way out. A/C 087-F, pilot Evans, returning alone on three engines from target area, was escorted over enemy territory first by four P-51s and then by four P-47s.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

All three groups were over primary although only one bombed. Tracking A.A. gun fire moderate and inaccurate on Lead - 1 damaged. Moderate and accurate on Low - 6 damaged, 4 severe. Inaccurate on High - 2 damaged, 1 severe. No A.A. gun fire at secondary or en route.

4. Bombing

A section of the sect Lead bombardier had general target area in view throughout bomb run, but due to smoke did not pick up actual M.P.I. until too late to bomb accurately. Rather than miss he proceeded to briefed secondary, Parow A/D. Pictures show pattern directly on briefed M.P.I.

Low group bombardier had no difficulty in picking up primary M.P.I. but bombs failed to release. Immediately after lead a/c was hit by A.A. gun fire, and could not retain lead. Deputy took over and led group to secondary which was bombed with unobserved results, no pictures being available. Damaged lead a/c pulled out of formation and bombed T.O.

High group bombardier was oriented throu, bout bomb run. Killed drift by visual references, put cross hairs on primary M.P.I. as soon as picked up and made direct hits on building, confirmed by pictures.

- 5. Weather 10/10 undercast until west coast of Danish peninsula, then rapidly clearing to 3/10 at east coast, clear over target, slight haze.
 - 6. <u>Nickels</u> None carried.
- 7. Observations

 Warshalling yard at Stralsund filled. Several large oil tanks
 S.E. of marshalling yard.
- 8. A/C Returning Early
 A/c 575-X, pilot Patton, turned back 0845, Mt. Farm, due to
 mechanical failure; brought back 5 x 1000 HE. A/c 297-N, pilot Schneider,
 turned back 1022 hours, 5343N-0238E, mechanical failure; brought back 5 x
 1000 HE. A/c 633-Z, pilot Allen, turned back 1130 hours, 5427N-0830E;
 jettisoned 5 x 1000 HE at 5427N-0820E. A/c 053-U, pilot Conlin, turned back
 1203 hours, 5438N-0915E, due to mechanical failure; jettisoned 5 x 1000 HE
 west of Sylt Island.
- 9. A/C in Distress
 B-17 from Wing behind, 1335 hours, on fire, blew up; no chutes seen.

 1343 hours, B-17, blew up, no chutes.
 1352 hours, probable fighter, 1100 degrees east, blew up; no chutes.

JOHN A. BAIRNSFATHER, Major, Air Corps, Group S-2.

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