DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, SECTION 3.3.
BY _____ NARA, DATE _____

Headquarters 306th Bombardment Group (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
United States Forces

(S-A-6)

APO 557
28 January, 1945

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Cologne

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

1. Narrative

The 306th flew 39 a/c including 1 Gee H-PFF a/c, 2 PFF a/c, and three spares as 40th "C". Assembly satisfactory. Left English coast 5141N-0121E at 1038 hours; Dutch coast 5140N-0341E, 1100 hours; I.P. 5108N-0535E, 1134 hours; primary at 1150½ hours; turn slightly north of route over Zuider Zee, coast out 5250N-0440E, 1308 hours; English coast at Boston at 1400 hours; base 1455.

Lead and High Squadron lead a/c PFF equipment gave insufficient returns. Deputy lead a/c PFF equipment worked satisfactorily. All PFF used as navigational aid only.

Group leader was advised before leaving England that Buckeye Red and Buckeye Blue would not be operating.

2. Enemy Opposition and Fighter Support

No enemy aircraft seen.

Few P-51's joined up about the I.P. and appeared in strength at the target. Excellent support on the way out.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

Moderate barrage observed in chaff trail of preceding groups as 306th approached target. Formation encountered accurate predicted concentration at bombs away lasting 20 seconds. After one minute interval there was another predicted concentration of about 75 bursts at and above our altitude while on turn off target. Incendiary a.a. gun fire was also fired at the target, several casings and one pellet being recovered intact. Damage: 4 severe, 7 slight.

4. Bombing

306th as 40 "C" made Gee H run on primary in group formation, with no visual corrections, lead dropping at 1150½ hours. Strike photos show hits, probably from 306th, to NE of target. Two other concentrations of bursts are seen on Ostheim A/F, 2½ miles to NE.

A/c #711-L, pilot Witcomb, bombed with the 457th Group. Results unobserved.

5. Nickels

A/c #804-A dropped 2 T-285, brought back 8 T-285; a/c #611-G dropped 5 M-95 and 5 T-282. All on primary.

6. Weather

Almost solid undercast on route in with clouds breaking at target. Visibility very poor over target due to intense haze. Clear with better visibility on return route. Tops of cumulo-nimbus clouds over 25,000 feet. Rhine valley observed to be open. Severe frontal conditions.

7. A/c Landing Elsewhere

No a/c returned early.

8. A/c in Distress

Ditched - none.

Other a/c in distress: 2 B-17's, from Group ahead, down in flames over Cologne. One to three chutes reported from one a/c. 1 B-17 down in spiral in Cologne area. Three chutes.

JOHN A. [illegible],
Major, Air Corps,
Group S-2.

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BY RLB/DCM NARA, DATE 4/30/96

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SQUADRON ~~367~~ 368 ~~369~~ 25X A/C Number 028 Letter O Date 28/1/45

Bomb Load 10 x 500 H.E. Position in Formation 40th "C" High

Time Took Off 0805 Time Landed 1450

1. HOT NEWS to be phoned in. Yes No
If DITCHING hold crew and fill out special form in detail.

1 - B-17, 1150, B-17, abend at 11 o'clock, 3 chutes - no fire, exploded!

Friendly A/C in distress:
(Give position, time, altitude, full details)
If lost, state whether by A.A., E/A action, accident or undetermined cause)

1 - B-17, 1203, left - last to plane & exploded at Dusseldorf.

2. TARGET ATTACKED: (PFF or Visual)

Primary: Time: 1151

Secondary: Heading: 125

Last Resort: Height: 25,550

T.O.
(Circle One)
Turn off target:

CREW: Give Rank and Initials

2nd Lt. B.L. Olsen	P
2nd Lt. P.H. Greer	CP
2nd Lt. J.M. Jaeger	N
2nd Lt. L.R. Dorman	B
Sgt. F.W. Ramsey	RO
Sgt. L. Foster	E
Sgt. J.W. Gerlach	BT
Sgt. H. Reppy	WG
	WG
S/Sgt. F. Pospiech	TG

Crew observations about Flak:

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9. [illegible]

(Sect[illegible] total number of a/c seen) (Type)

(Location and l[illegible]n of flight)

(Tactics of a/c)

(Color, markings, etc. of a/c)

10. ENEMY [illegible]: (Include flak, [illegible], and enemy [illegible]s:)

Good.

CLAIMS

DESTROYED _____

PROBABLE _____

DAMAGED _____

(Fill out if [illegible] separate CLAIM Form for each claim.

11. OBSERVATIONS: Give TIME, PLACE, WEIGHT, (List any observations of military importance such as balloons, decoys, camouflage, smoke screens, enemy flights; activity at airdromes, ports, water-ways, roads, railroad yards; construction of vehicles, troops, vessels; landmarks, new enemy installations.

12. INJURIES TO CREW: (Give name, position in a/c, type of injury, how received, PLACE and TIME.)

13. DAMAGE TO a/c: (briefly) #3 engine hit cauldn't feather prop immobilized T/b & hyd system out (elect & nav). Trim tab collected by flak. Engine

14. MECHANICAL FAILURES:

15. CREW OBSERVATIONS: (any unusual incidents? any suggestions?)

16. ROUTE: (Note especially any deviations from briefed route. Did Squadron or a/c com. back with group or alone?)

Formed #3 in high contd pd 1. Left formation after B.D. 1153 came back alone. had fighter support many back.

S-2 OFFICER Schwenter DEBRIEFED _____