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HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (D-A-4)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
United States Forces

31st December, 1943

SUBJECT: Intelligence Report.

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

1. Hot News

One B-17 ditched at 1427 hours at 4735N-0346W. This information radioed by our A/C 586, Pilot Belser, and message was acknowledged. At 1207 hours, just north of Libourne, crews report 3 chutes and fire and smoke on ground which may have come from a crashed plane. One A/C, our 327, was unable to land after coming over base, went out of range of control tower and has not been heard from since. Details will follow.

2. Narrative

23 A/C took off at 0807 - 9 of which landed away from base as listed below. Course as briefed to French coast south of Gironde River at 4424N-0115W. Then this group followed 305th Group in sweep south over 10/10 overcast and back to 4420N-0100W, thence to Langon to Libourne to neighborhood of Touzac at 4533N-0008W. At this point lead group dropped its bombs. 306th, followed by 92nd then bombed Cognac on heading of 324 degrees while 305th made swing to north. After Cognac 306th fell in again behind 305th which led to coast at 4525N-0110W, thence to point 10 miles west of Belle Ile to 4738N-0350W and home on briefed course.

Nine of our A/C landed away from base, all because of weather and lack of gas.
A/C 850-B, pilot Jacobs, landed at Kimbolton.
A/C 942-A, pilot Mack and A/C 730-B, pilot Tattershall landed at Molesworth.
A/C 065-Z, pilot Rector and A/C 169-S, pilot Smith landed at Chelveston.
A/C 765-D, pilot Campert, landed at Stoney Cross.
A/C 943-L, pilot Lund, landed at Warmwell.
A/C 953-L, pilot Schuering, landed at Little Staughton.

3. Bombing

305th, leading the 40th Combat Wing, proceeded south of Bordeaux finding coast and area south of Bordeaux overcast. Cut in at point briefed, proceeded to Langon, and continued due north, passing Bordeaux on east. Our leaders state Bordeaux clear but covered by smoke screen, and felt primary would be visible. 305th proceeded northward and dropped bombs in the vicinity of Touzac, reporting by radio they were dropped by mistake. The leader of the 306th Group identified the airfield at Cognac and requested Combat Wing leader to wait while our Group went in to bomb, followed by 92nd. Seeing fires at the north end, our leader's bombardier synchronized on the installations at the

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southern part of the field, and our bombs were seen to strike across the field from east to west, hitting the NE/SW runway and the installations at both sides. (First photos just developed show large fires, entire northern end wall hit.) 306th and 92nd then rejoined 305th, which led way out to sea over mouth of Gironde River. As Combat Wing passed Grave Point with empty bomb racks six large ships and twelve small ones were observed at and near a quay below. At 1320 hours there was no evidence of bombing in this area.

4. Enemy Aircraft

The 306th Group was low group of 40th Combat Wing. There were no attacks by enemy aircraft on this group. No more than 10 e/a, all single engine, were seen, all at a distance. Several Me109s over target, and balance FW190s over Brest Peninsula on way out. About 5 P-47s were reported over the Brest Peninsula going in, and no other friendly fighters were observed, probably because the 40th Combat Wing was off course and time schedule for the rest of the mission. We claim one destroyed, knocked down over target as it attacked group behind.

5. A.A. Gun Fire

Meager to moderate, inaccurate A.A. gun fire, chiefly tracking, from Bordeaux, Cognac, Graves Point, Kerlin Bastard, Guernsey and other points.

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