

HEADQUARTERS 306TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) (D-A-2)
Officer Of The Intelligence Officer
United States Forces

APD 634
16 August, 1943

SUBJECT: Intelligence Report

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

1. Hot News

At 0859, one Aircraft in distance, presumably B-17, on fire. 5 chutes seen. Just before IP, one B-17 from group ahead reported going down. At 0945, one B-17 was reported going down east of Breux, in flames. One chute seen.

2. Narrative

20 A/C took off at 0715. Course as briefed except to North over Channel. Formation followed enemy coastline down to South for two-three minutes before turning in. Crossed enemy coast at Fecamp at 0909. Over target at 0936, lead Group of Third Combat Wing, bomb run 1350 Magnetic. Back over enemy coast at TROUVILLE at 1028, over English Coast at Airport FORD at 1059, at base at 1129. 1 ship brought back 16 x 300 - malfunction of bomb release.

3. Bombing

Good: five pattern with concentration right on aiming point. (Confirmed by photographs). Other wings show good hits on airdrome. Heavy black smoke visible long after leaving target, rising to 10,000 ft. Believe this Group obliterated its aiming point.

4. Abortive

None

5. Enemy Aircraft

Crews reported a maximum of ten (10) E/A attacking 306 Bomb Group. Types were Fw 190's and ME 109's, colours varying from black to silver with white spinners. E/A were first encountered at 0930 and last seen at 1008, that is, from before till after the target. Two or three persistent attacks were made on the Group, breaking off at close range; attacks on six and eleven o'clock positions predominated, from below and individually. Capt. Reeher reported guns heavier than 20 mm. in one Fw 190.

6. A.A. Gun fire

Scattered A.A. Gun fire was observed from Les Andelys, Staverney and Rouen. This fire was heavy, black and inaccurate, A.A. fire from approximately twelve gun positions at Le Bourget; probably continuous following, also inaccurate.

7. Observations

(1) Two large new - looking hangers at Breteigny, with about 25 A/C on the ground. (2) Most Airdromes seemed deserted. Three Airfields at Ficamp and near Le Bourget were without A/C. (3) A huge explosion in wood before reaching target area. (4) Woods south of Conflans now cleared and contained large black and brown storage tanks.

8. Report on Accidental Firing over England

Pilot Onnen reports a runaway gun in nose. Fired 15 shots down, from altitude of 7,000 feet over England.

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

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3,
By RLB/FAH Date 1/8/91

745005
ER 12356, Sect 1 3.3,
EA Date 1/8/91

TRACK CHART

DATE 16 August 1943

Planned

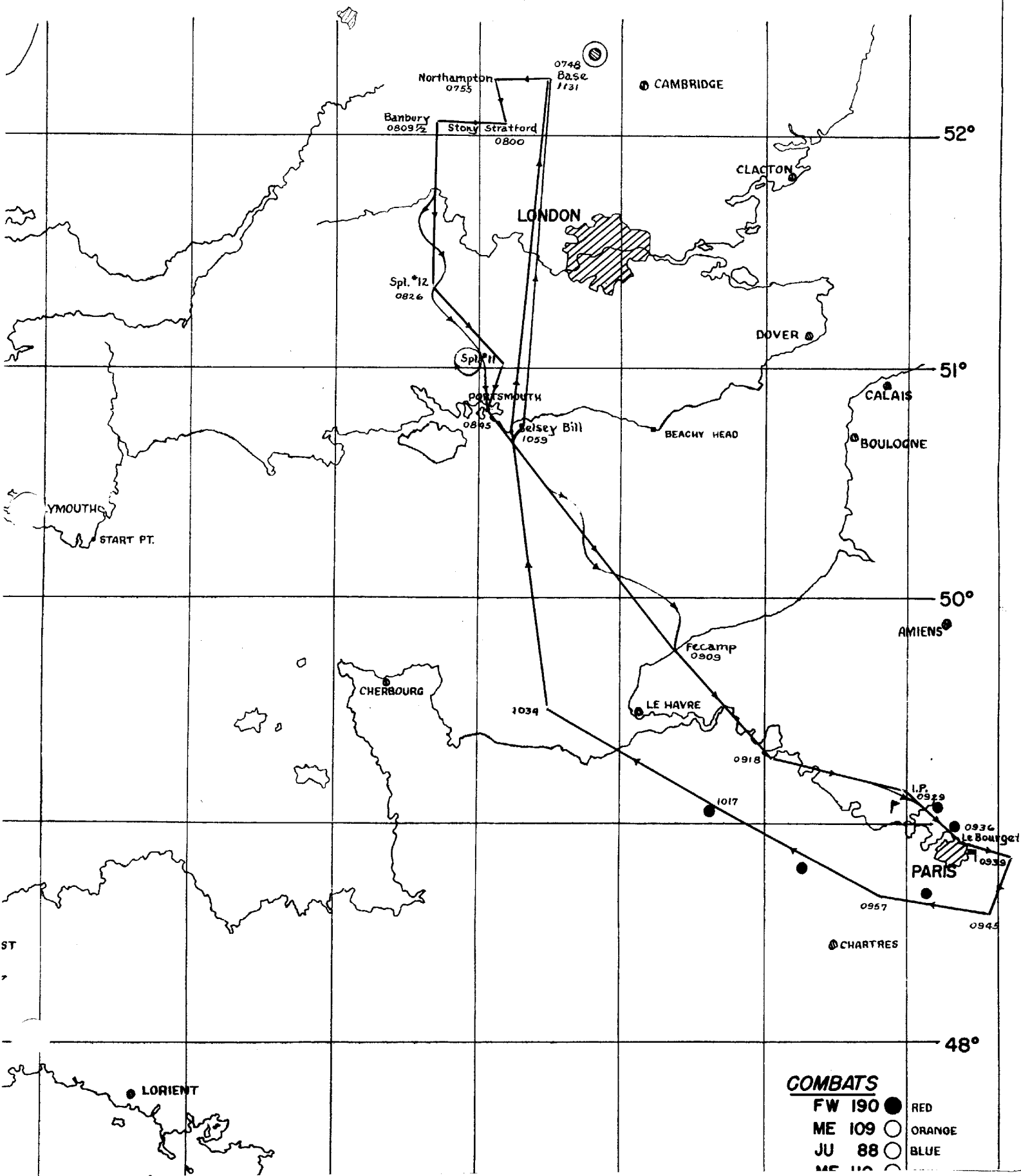
Actual

Route followed by

306th Bombardment Group (H)

"	"	"
"	"	"
"	"	"
"	"	"
"	"	"

LE BOURGET AIRFIELD
PARIS, FRANCE



Target Le Bourget

1. Route followed. Crossed Channel North of Course and paralleled French Coast from St. Valery en Caux to Fecamp, to Elbeuf, to Marines, to Target, around Paris, to Bernay to Trouville to Salsay Bill.

2. Visibility at Target (Any condensation trails?) **No Condensation Trails**
Good visibility - some scattered cloud.

3. No. of A/C over Target. **20 A/C**

4. Formation over target, with height of each A/C. Those A/C damaged by Flak to be circled, and if seriously damaged, insert small "S". If any A/C shot down by Flak, say so:-

		<u>163</u>		<u>894</u>
		20000		20200
<u>971</u>		<u>054</u>	<u>052</u>	<u>814</u>
20000		20200	20000	20200
<u>841</u>	<u>603</u>	<u>498</u>	<u>794</u>	<u>428</u>
20000	20650	20000	20200	20500
<u>930</u>		<u>741</u>	<u>793</u>	<u>815</u>
19900		20150	20000	20250
<u>221</u>	<u>714</u>	<u>560</u>	<u>720</u>	<u>407</u>
20000	20100	20000	20390	20600
				<u>554</u>
				20500

5. General Axis of attack (from lead A/C if possible)

135° Mag.

6. How long did formation fly straight and level before bombing?

45 Seconds.

7. Turn after bombing. **90° right turn off target 10° bank**

8. Position of Group in relation to other Groups. **Lead Group of 3rd Combat Wing.**

9. What evasive action was taken? **Slow lazy 8 turns - No altitude change.**

10. A short description of Flak en route (if any) and at the Target, including if possible a suggestion as to type of fire control employed - i.e. Continuous following predicted concentrations, predicted barrages, or fixed barrages.

Taverny - meager Black, heavy, scattered inaccurate.

Les Andelys - meager Black, heavy, scattered inaccurate.

Ramboullet - meager, white, scattered inaccurate

Le Bourget - meager Black, inaccurate, probably continuously pointed.

A.A. Fire from about 12 gun positions.

Rouen - Meager, Black scattered inaccurate.

Crews felt that enemy was caught unprepared.

11. Any other Comments, Phenomena, etc.

Smoke screen observed just starting at Paris.

An object about 5 feet long fell in front of one of our A/C at 20,000 Ft. Altitude. No E/A was observed above.

DECLASSIFIED PER EXECUTIVE ORDER 12356, Section 3.3,
By RLB/BHC

MARA Date 1/18/99

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INTERROGATION FORM

SQUADRON 368 368 368 A/C Number 560 Letter Date 16/8/43

Bomb Load 16x300 H.E. Incendi Position in Formation

Time Took Off 11:18 Time Landed 11:45

1. HOT NEWS to be phoned in? Yes No
Details:

CREW: Give Rank and Initials

Friendly A/C in any kind of distress?
(Give position, time, altitude, full details)

1st Lt S. McIntire Pilot

1st Lt on way down, being attacked by
fighters at 10,000' 15 minutes after target.
in group ahead

1st Lt E. Goris CO-P

1st Lt M. Levy Nav.

1st Lt T. Harrison Bomb.

1st Lt A.W. Griggs Radio

1st Lt C.A. Nichols Top T.

1st Lt L. Norman Ball T.

1st Lt J. Mynatt R. Waist

1st Lt V. H. Brennan L. Waist

1st Lt J. Connolly Tail G.

2. TARGET ATTACKED:

Primary Time: 9:36:30

Alternate Height: 20,000

Last Resort Heading: 146

(circle) Duration Bomb Run: 45"

3. Number of BOMBS dropped on target: all

Jettisoned: Returned: Abortive:

4. Observed RESULTS OF BOMBING: (For this plane or others)

Own Bombs: probably overshoot - a bit to right, probably hit buildings not
so important - started huge fire.

Other Bombing: 1st group ahead got hangars on far side of field.

Group got hangars on near side.

this group hit runway point.

ANY NICKELS YES NO
NUMBER BOXES DROPPED
NUMBER BOXES RETURNED

5. Any PHOTOGRAPHS taken: Yes? NO

6. GROUND TARGETS ATTACKED BY GUNFIRE AND RESULTS:

7. ROUTE (If different than ordered) (If ABORTIVE give time, place, height of turn, reason for returning early, and disposition of bombs.)

as ordered.

8. WEATHER (If affected in some way) Good. visibility 20-miles.

haze on scene.

9. FLAK Encountered on way out, at target and on way home.

Time	Place	Height of A/C	Type (light, heavy), intense, moderate or slight.	Color of Bursts	Location Bursts in relation to A/C	Accuracy
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Hit at target, moderate black, right, inaccurate.

4 gun bursts on bombing run

Crew observations about Flak: