

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

(D-A-4)

APO 557,
12th September, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative
Mission: Ruhland, 12th September, 1944

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

1. Narrative

306th flew 34 plus two PFF a/c as 40th "A" Combat Wing. English coast 0846 hours, Cromer; enemy coast 1027 hours, 5424N-0842E; following preceding Combat Wings, went about eight miles south of course until twenty miles NE of Berlin, then headed northeast to 5251N-1342S, 1133 hours; 5221N-1414E, 1140 hours; 5215N-1426E, 1143 hours; I.P. at 5106N-1413E, 1210 hours; target at 1219; route out approximately as briefed with Belgian coast at 5110N-0246E, 1448 hours; Cromfordness, 1511 hours; base, 1553.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

As 306th made the turn north of Berlin, three or four jet propelled a/c, leaving contrails far above, and travelling very fast, were seen to sweep down the column of combat wings from front to rear. There was a group straggling badly immediately behind the 306th. As the jets were above this group they described a wide circle, their contrails being very distinctive, as though designed to mark the spot. Combat wings in front were observed to be turning too close to Berlin. 306th leader began sliding off to left, when A.A. fire broke out in the middle of combat wings ahead and on right. Before 306th got entirely clear, one a/c in lead group, and leader of high group were hard hit. Time, 1126; position, 5240N-1340E. Lead group held together solidly, but high group lost altitude following crippled leader. Low group, trying to get clear of A.A. fire, was run into by another group with red diagonal across tail, which came barging out from right, directly through formation, breaking up both groups.

At this moment about twenty five FW190s jumped the disorganized planes. Entire attacks did not last more than five or six minutes, but accounted for seven 306th planes; one of which crash landed in England.

Lead group which hung together solidly was not attacked. Reports attacks on other groups as being from 5 to 7 o'clock, high, level, and low, four to six abreast. Lost one aircraft to AA fire.

High group was attacked from 7 to 8 o'clock high, "six abreast and four deep", losing two to fighters, one to AA fire.

Low group states, "about 25 FW190s came from 11 o'clock, high, firing at group to our left with one pass, then turned and came at us from 6 o'clock, low, in five waves of three aircraft each, half rolled beneath us and fell away steeply." Lost five to fighters, one of which crash landed in England.

Two planes of the high group tagged on to the lead. Remaining planes of the high and low, with a few stragglers with red diagonals struggled together into group formation and pulled clear as 51s came to the rescue.

P-51s, first seen west of Danish coast at 1020, gave support all the way to Berlin. NE of Berlin they vigorously attacked enemy fighters, numerous dog fights being seen. Good support continued over target, where some crews report a few P-47s. Others appeared as briefed on the way out.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

Moderate, accurate, tracking AA fire northeast of Berlin at 5240H-1340E shot down two aircraft. At target, moderate, low, inaccurate barrage, followed by meager, inaccurate tracking. Damage: Lead, 2 slight, 1 lost. Low, 3 slight, 2 severe. High, 3 severe, 1 lost.

4. Bombing

After attack north of Berlin, five aircraft of high group joined with remaining aircraft of low group. This new low group tacked onto two groups ahead and bombed primary at 1215 1/2 hours. No strike photos are available, but group bombardier believes briefed primary was hit. Photos from groups ahead may show 306th strikes. Lead group with two aircraft from high group bombed at 1219.

5. Leaflets

A/c 575-I dropped seven XG26s and three XG22s on primary.

6. Weather

3 to 5/10ths over entire route. Between Berlin and target, 6 to 8/10ths, tops 20,000 feet. — Leader of Scouting Force reported that he was being jumped by enemy fighters, had to jettison tanks and run for it; therefore no target report on weather.

7. PFY

Of the two PFY aircraft flown, scope of lead did not function sufficiently for either navigational aid or possible bombing. Deputy equipment worked well.

8. Observations

About 30 twin engine a/c on airdrome just south of Ludwigslust.

50 to 60 barges along Rhine south of Koblenz.

Possibly 15 small a/c on airdrome at 5118H-1322E.

9. Aircraft in Distress

In addition to 306th losses, five B-17s with red diagonals were seen going down under fighter attack northeast of Berlin.

10. Aircraft Returning Early

A/c 148-K turned back at 5407H-0500E at 0951 hours due to engine failure. Brought back 10 x 500 HE.

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

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

D-A-1

APO 557
13 September, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative - Aircraft Losses
Mission: RUHLAND, 12 September, 1944

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

The 306th lost nine aircraft, seven to fighters (one A/C, #093-V, pilot Donkin, crash landed in England) and two to A.A. gun fire. These losses occurred just north east of Berlin at approximately 1130 hours. A.A. fire accounted for two A/C just before the fighter attacks. Below is the consensus of information from returning crews on each A/C:

Major FARWELL, A/C 690-W

Lt. Brown says this A/C hit by A.A. gun fire N. Berlin, 5240W - 1340E at 1126. 9 chutes, one of which appeared not to open. No fire, smoke, or explosion. Lts. Eros and Lingsall agree A/C hit by A.A. gun fire.

Lt. DONKIN, A/C 093-V

Hit by fighters. Maintained lead for a while then told Gassman to take over. Crash landed 5 miles S.E. of Manston. 4 bailed out over England. Two dead. Four with some injuries. Three not hurt.

Lt. BARR, A/C 969-X

Lt. Gassman's crew says that A/C exploded as a result of direct hit on #3 engine. Lt. Breed's crew says that A/C had all four engines on fire. 3 chutes. A/C peeled off, not seen any more. Lt. Risk says this A/C on fire. Hit by fighters. Exploded. 1 chute.

Lt. BAILEY, A/C 065-Z

Lt. Adam says this A/C down to fighters. 1130 hours. 6-7 chutes. Might have been 042 instead.

Lt. WHITE, A/C 042-P

Lt. Adam says possibly this A/C down to fighters at 1130. 6 to 7 chutes.

Lt. WEGENER, A/C 278-K

Lt. Adam says this A/C hit by fighters, 1130 hours N. Berlin. Went off to left. Four chutes. Possibly more. Lt. Gassman says #3 engine on fire. Slid off to side. Not observed any longer. Lt. Risk says this A/C tail assembly shot off. Dropped out of formation, 1128.

Lt. SASSER, A/C 368-O

Lt. Underwood says this A/C down 1135 hours, NE Berlin. #3 engine hit by A.A. gun fire. A/C spiralled down to clouds. No fire. 5 chutes observed. Lt. Macy says this A/C hit by A.A. gun fire before fighters arrived. #2 and #4 engines out. Under control. No chutes. 1127 hours.

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Lt. GATES, A/C 5

Lt. Schoenbachler says this A/C hit by fighters 11:28 hours. Flames from radio room back. No chutes observed. #3 engine on fire.

Lt. FREEMAN, A/C 150-K

Lt. Hutchinson says this A/C hit by two fighters. A/C dropped back on fire. No chutes observed to come from A/C, but two noticed in area. Could not follow afterwards. Just NE of Berlin, approximately 1130 hours. Lt. Alyea says this A/C hit by fighters 1128. Broke in half. No chutes observed.

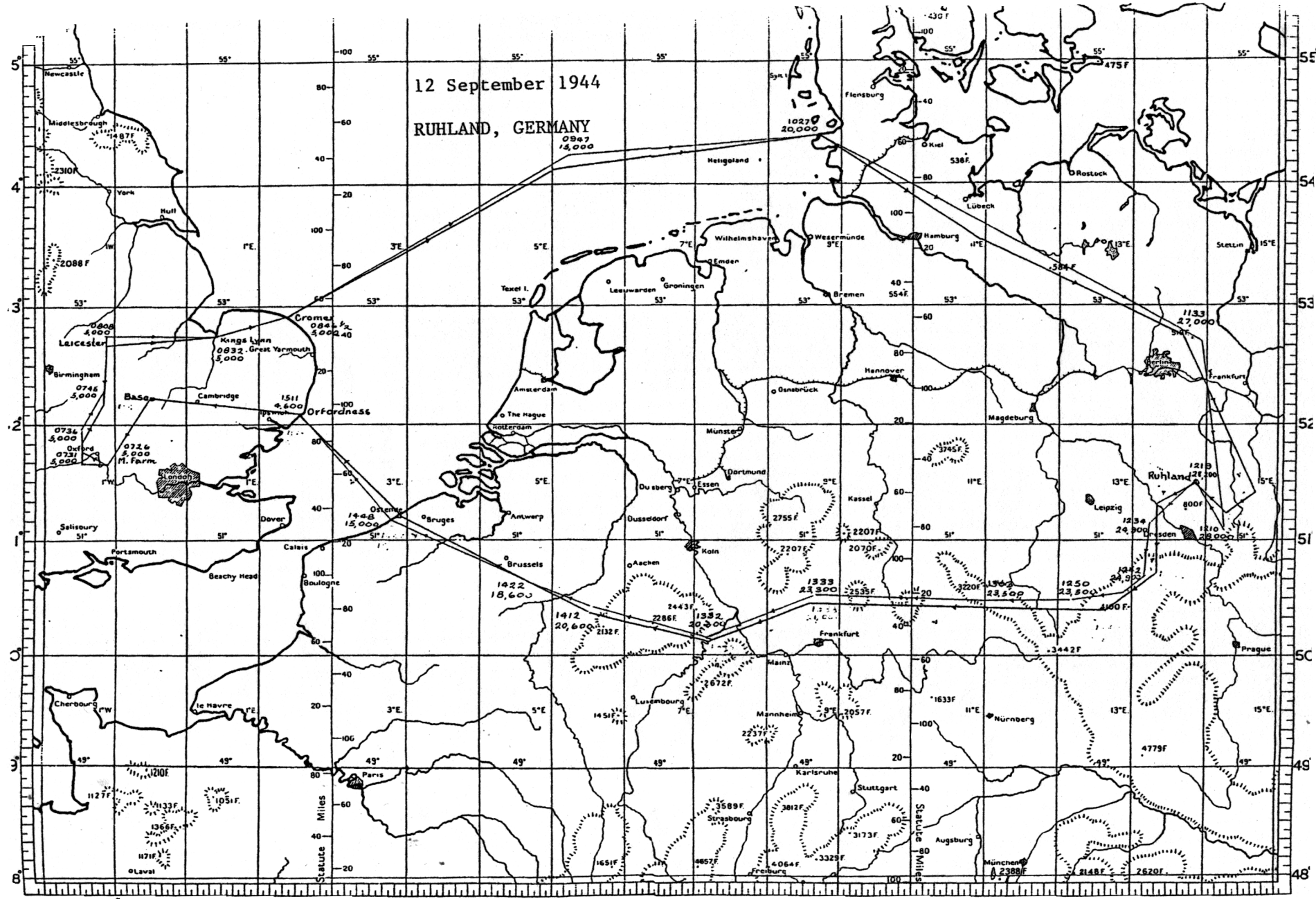
JOHN A. BAIRNSFATHER,
Major, AC,
Group 3-2.

12 September 1944

RUHLAND, GERMANY

0897

15,000



Narrative Section 3 - balance to follow

far above,

As 306th flying as 40th "A" G. W. made the turn north of Berlin, three or four jet propelled a/c, leaving contrails, and travelling very fast, were seen to sweep down the column of combat wings from front to rear. There was a group straggling badly immediately behind the 306. As the jets were above this group, they described a wide circle, their contrails being very distinctive, as though designed to mark the spot.

Combat Wings in front were observed to be turning too close to Berlin. 306th leader began sliding off to left, when flak broke out in the middle of combat wings ahead and on right. Before 306 got entirely clear, one a/c in lead group, and leader of high group were hit. Time, 11:26, position 5240-1340.

Lead group held together solidly, but high group lost altitude following crippled leader. Low group, trying to get clear of flak, was run into by another group with red diagonal across tail, which came barging out from right directly through formation, breaking up both groups.

At this moment about 25 F. W. 190's jumped the disorganized planes. Entire attacks did not last more than five or six minutes, but accounted for seven planes, one of which crash landed in England.

High group which hung together solidly was not attacked. Reports attacks on other groups as being from 5 to 7 o'clock, high level and low, four to six abreast. ~~xxxx~~ Lost one a/c to flak.

High Group was ~~xxxx~~ attacked from 7 to 8 o'clock high, "six abreast and four deep", losing two to fighters, one to flak.

Low Group states: "About 25 FW 190's came ~~xxxx~~ from 11 o'clock high firing at Group to our left with one pass, then turned and came at us from 6 o'clock low, in five waves of three A/C each, half rolled beneath us and fell away steeply." Lost ~~xxxx~~ to fighters, one of which crash landed in England.

Two planes of the ~~xxxx~~ high group tagged on to the lead. Remaining planes of high and low, with a few stragglers ~~xxxx~~ with red diagonals struggled together into ~~xxxx~~ group formation and pulled clear as 51's came to the rescue.

P. 51's, first seen west of Danish Coast, 1020, gave support all the way to Berlin. E.E. of Berlin they vigorously attacked enemy fighters, numerous dog fights being seen. Good support continued over target, where some ~~xxxx~~ report a few P. 47's. Others appeared as briefed on way out.

FW's with red spinners were either blue gray or silver brown. Some OD green with black cross. A few silver 109's.

We claim 6-4-3-3x

the attacks lasted from 1127 to 1130 hours. Heaviest attack was seen to be made on the preceding wing, from which six to eight B-17s were seen to be knocked out of formation. Attacks were made from 6 to 7 o'clock low and 6 to 7 o'clock high, with one attack against the lead box from 11 o'clock slightly high. E/A were seen to follow crippled B-17s, keeping them under continuous fire. The E/A would approach to within 50 to 100 yards on each attack, then turn away sharply in a roll. The fighter escort was absent during the time of the attacks, but returned before the E/A could make a second attack against this wing. E/A were painted black, dark gray, and a few were painted silver.

The 351st group, flying as the 94th "B" Combat Wing, encountered approximately 35 to 50 E/A, Me 109s and FW 190s equally divided, with a few Do 217s with rockets attached. Our low and high boxes were subjected to their attacks between 1125 and 1130 hours on route in around Eberswald north-east of Berlin. Large groups of E/A formed to the rear and attacked in pairs or small groups from the tail, usually level, closing to within a few hundred yards on the high and low boxes of the rear flights. Heaviest attacks were pressed into the low squadron of the low box in repeated attacks. Do 217s were reported to have lobbed rockets from about 1,000 yards from the rear, and some of these A/C came to within 500 yards of our bombers. There was also the report of a few aerial bombs being dropped from above without noticeable results. There is no report of jet-propelled A/C attacking the formation, but it is believed that there were two or three in the area circling above the formations. The S/E E/A were silver, dark green, blue or black. Do 217s were silver. Attacks were persistent and very aggressive.

D. CLASSIFIED
1.0. High (10, 11) and 5(1) or (1)
S. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100
By: [Signature]
Date: 1/27/51

The 306th group, flying as the 40th "A" Combat Wing, made its turn north of Berlin, when three or four jet-propelled A/C leaving contrails far above the formation and traveling very fast were seen to sweep down the column of Combat wings from front to rear. There was a group straggling badly immediately behind the 306th group and as the jets were above this group they described a wide circle, their contrails being very distinct, as though designed to mark the spot.

Combat wings ahead of the 40th "A" Combat Wing were observed to be turning too close to Berlin, so the 306th group leader began sliding off to the left at about the same time the flak broke out in the middle of our Combat wings ahead and on the right. Before the 306th group got entirely clear, one A/C in the lead group and the leader of the high group were hard hit. This was at 1126 hours at position 5240N-1340E. The lead group held together solidly, but the high group lost altitude following the crippled leader. The low group, trying to get clear of the flak, was flying a collision course with another group which came barging out from right and passed right through the 40th "A" Combat Wing formation, breaking up the Combat wing formation. At this moment about 25 FW 190s jumped the disorganized planes. The entire attack did not last more than five or six minutes, but accounted for seven planes from the 306th group, one of which crash-landed in England. The lead group of the 40th "A" Combat Wing which hung together solidly was not attacked, and reports attacks on other groups as being from 5 to 7 o'clock high, level and low by E/A flying four to six abreast. The lead group lost one A/C to flak.

The low group reports that about 25 FW 190s came from 11 o'clock high firing at the group to their left and made one pass, then turned and came at the low group from 6 o'clock low in five waves of three and four A/C each. They half-rolled beneath us and fell away steeply. The low group lost five A/C to fighters, one of which crash-landed in England. The high group was attacked from 7 to 8 fighters and one to flak. Two planes of the high group tagged on to the lead, while the remaining planes of the high and low, with a few stragglers from the group which

~~SECRET~~

was responsible for breaking up the 40th "A" Combat Wing formation struggled together into group formation and pulled clear as P-51s came to their rescue. P-51s were first seen west of the Danish coast at 1030 hours, and gave us support all the way to Berlin to a point north-east of Berlin where they vigorously attacked enemy fighters, and numerous dog-fights were observed. Good support was afforded over the target, where some crews report a few Me-470s. Others appeared as briefed on the way out.

The 305th group, flying as the 40th "B" Combat Wing, and last over the target, met no enemy air opposition. They did see from ten to twenty Me 109s and FW 190s at 1130 hours about 15 miles north-east of Berlin attacking other wings.

Forty-five encounters were reported, with the following results:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>No Claim</u>
FW 190	6	2	6	12
Me 109	2	0	6	11