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MISSION # 144

BERLIN

3 MARCH 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

TO: COMBOMDIV ONE AND COMBOMWIG FORTY: ATTN: A-2

FROM: COMBOMGR 92

NARRATIVE REPORT:

1. A/C 42-31250 returned with 50 bundles USG 28 leaflets. Having returned early from 5347N-0325E at 1005 hours due to leak in the oxygen system.

2. No target attacked.

3. Enemy air opposition today was virtually nil although five S/E E/A were seen in the vicinity of the Frisian Islands. E/A were not definately identified but were believed to be ME-109's. One crew reports that four S/E E/A followed their A/C for about 20 minutes but made no attempt to attack.

4. From Suderoog Island this formation observed black, brown, and white bursts. At Garding and Hademarschen meager inaccurate continuously pointed black gunfire was encountered. At Meldorf and Itzehoe meager inaccurate black and white bursts were encountered. This gunfire was continuously pointed. At Scharhorn Island meager inaccurate black continuously pointed gunfire was encountered. At Heligoland, Cuxhaven and Marne moderate inaccurate black continuously pointed bursts were encountered.

5. 10/10th towering cumulus cloud topped with a dense cirrus stratun rising to 28,000 feet and higher along the route was encountered on this mission. This forced the formation progressively higher. Visibility was further retarded by thick persisting contrails. Temperature as low as 54 degrees was reported.

6. Four large cargo boatscwere observed at 5405N-0830E at 1124 hours. These boats were not in motion when observed. An A/D was observed on an Island at 5410N-0814E. No activity reported.

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7. The 92nd Bomb Group flying lead and low groups of the composite CBW did not reach their target. This group turned back on a receprocal course 20 miles North of Hamburg. After lead PFF A/C had aborted and they could not get above 10/10 cloud, even after climbing to 28,000 feet. Six of our A/C jettisoned their bombs over enemy territory after point of turnback. Friendly fighter support was good. Appearing at enemy coast and continueing to point of turnback. Two B-17's and possibly three were seen to collide on collision course and explode at point of trunback. [redacted] at 27,000 feet at 1110 hours. Four more B-17's from two different groups flying collision course were seen to collide and explode at 5400N-0900E at 25,000 feet at 1126 hours. At least two of these A/C were from group with letter U in (D) triangle. One of our A/C is missing for reasons unknown.

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