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MISSION # 148

ERKNER

8 MARCH 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

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

FROM: COMBOMGR 92

NARRATIVE REPORT:

1. No nickles carried as none were available.

2. Bombing results from descriptions of crew members appear to have been excellent. The bombs of this group hit within the area of assigned M.P.I. Crew members reported seeing fires burning brightly as a result of the efforts of the first wave of bombers and flames were seen riding to 4,000 feet. Smoke was seen rising in smudgy patches up to 15,000 feet. Visibility over the target was unlimited and no underlying clouds obstructed observation. This smoke and fire was observed for about twenty minutes after bombs away. Strike photos of target show entire target area covered with the smoke and flames of groups that bombed previously and the bombs of this group cannot be identified due to the smoke condition.

3. Very few enemy A/C were seen --- most crews reporting about a dozen but in few cases did our fighter support allow these E/A to get in close enough to be identified beyond the fact that they were S/E types. E/A were first seen at Hannover at 1310 hours and last seen at Dummer Lake at 1524 hours. However, one of our A/C that was forced to turn back before reaching the target reports an attack by 3 silver camouflaged FW-190's from twelve o'clock high at 1357 hours at 5217N-1222E which was pressed home fiercely. At 1414 hours, two ME-109's made an attack from five o'clock level at 5227N-1148E but only closed to 600 yards. Those A/C in the high group were attacked by three ME-109's at 1300 hours, position 5235N-0856E. These E/A attacked from 1200 level and passed through the entire formation. The majority of E/A reported were ME-109's. There were no claims.



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4. At Ijuiden meager inaccurate black bursts were encountered. These bursts were continuously pointed. At this position 2 red bursts were observed. At Nurstenau meager inaccurate black continuously pointed gunfire was encountered. At Domme meager inaccurate black bursts were encountered. Again the bursts were continuously pointed. Black meager inaccurate continuously pointed gunfire was encountered at Nienberg. From the direction of Hannover a black barrage was observed. Near Magdeburg meager black and white inaccurate bursts were encountered. Continuously pointed fire was used. At the target meager inaccurate black and white gunfire was encountered. Bursts were observed to be generally low. It is probable that continuously pointed fire was used. From Berlin was observed a black barrage. At Luckenwalde meager black inaccurate continuously pointed fire was encountered. At Wahrenholz meager inaccurate black continuously pointed fire was encountered. From Hannover a barrage was observed. At both Diepholz and Quakenbruck meager inaccurate black continuously pointed gunfire was encountered. At Egmond black continuously pointed inaccurate meager gunfire was encountered.

5. Cavu weather was reported for the target area. Over the continent the cloud condition was from nil to 2/10 patchy low cloud with 10-15 miles visibility. Contrails were very faint and non-persistent and did not effect the mission.

6. Activity seen at A/D west of Osnabruck - 35 fighters on ground. Smokescreen seen at Magdeburg. Twelve cargo boats were seen circling in Zuider Zee. Two large boats painted orange were seen anchored at 5237N-0437E. Three large towers forming a triangle were observed just north of Gordelgen. Two cleared strips of construction in north end of woods located at 5228N-1125E. Three ships moving in northerly direction in Zuider Zee. Enemy A/D with 31 planes on the ground observed at 5232N-1031E. Extensive construction was seen at 5235N-0600E. Thirty twin engine planes on A/D at Gardelegung. Forty twin engine fighters on A/D at Wagenhoff. Fifty A/C well camouflaged on A/D at Celle. Seventy-five A/C were seen on A/D at Hannover.



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7. The 92nd Group with 21 A/C flew low group in the 40th CBW, with 4 A/C flying with high composite group, attacked their primary target. This group bombed visually and obliterated their target. One A/C was forced to turnback just south of Berlin and bombed a target of opportunity, Lutte, Germany.

Fighter support was the best ever experienced, resulting in very few E/A seen and no direct attacks on this formation.

Five chutes were seen to come from a B-17 which appeared to be under control just north of Osnabruck at 1250 hours. Another B-17 was seen to go into a ~~xxix~~ nosedive out of control in the vicinity of Stendal. A B-24 was seen to go down on fire out of control 10 miles north of Hannover at 1525 hours. None of our A/C are missing.

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