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MISSION # 146

BERLIN

6 MARCH 1944

CONFIDENTIAL PRIORITY

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

FROM: COMBOMGR 92

NARRATIVE REPORT:

1. 50 bundles of USG # 28 leaflets were dropped by this group at 1320 hours over secondary X target. The crews reported a good scatterm.

2. Strike photos of the lead group of the 40th "A" CBW disclosed the center of the concentration of bomb bursts 118029 DTMG 25/2 Berlin Northeast. Another film strip of the low squadrons, composite group flying low in the 40th "A" CBW, disclosed G.P. bomb bursts [illegible] of another group. The center of the concentration of bomb bursts struck pin point 053093 C.I.U. Mosaic # 1207A Berlin Kopenck.

3. About 75-100 E/A were seen, mostly S/E types. They were first seen at 1239 in the vicinity of Gardeslegen and were last seen inths vicinity of the Zuider Zee onthe route back to England. In general very few attacks are recorded and in most cases E/A were described as merely stooging around. Attacks were infrequent but were pressed home with ferocity when they did occur. Most attakes were from 11 to 1 o'clock high and usually in elements of two X planes. Sun attacks were also reported. Attacks were delivered with the whole formation as a target enemy fighters are reported flying through entire combat wings. Our pilots report that cannon fire was used almost exclusively very little MG and no rocket firing being reported. Claims are three destroyed, one probably destroyed, one damaged.

4. At Egmund meager inaccurate black gunfire was encountered. These bursts were continuously pointed. At Lingen, Furstenau, Diepholz and Nienburg meager to moderate gunfire was encountered. These bursts were black accurate and continuously pointed.

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At Lingen white bursts were observed high above formation. At both Burg and Belzig meager inaccurate black bursts were encountered. Continuously pointed fire was again xxxx the type of fire control used. In the target area intense gunfire was encountered for a period of between 10 and 15 minutes. At this position black generally inaccurate bursts were x met. Both continuously pointed fire and barrage type of fire control were used.. On way out black very accurate moderate gunfire was encountered in the x vicinity of Gransee and Veehta. Continuously pointed fire was used in both instances. At Alkmaar and Egmond meager inaccurate black continuously pointed fire was encountered.

5. Approximately 4-5/10 cloud up to 5,000 feet with large breaks existed over target. 6/10 cloud with fewer breaks and rising occasionally to 10-12,000 feet was experienced along the route to and from the target. Due to cloud coverage over the primary, the secondary target was bombed on PFF technique. Actually breaks in the clouds allowed positive identification of the secondary xxxxx target.

6. Smokescreen was observed at 5235N-1010E at 1226 hours

Smokescreen was observed at Braunschweig (Brunswick)

A large white strip several times wider and longer than a landing strip was observed in the center of some woods east of Gardelegen (5228N-1135E)

A smoke screen was observed at 5228N-1050E along a river but no town was seen.

Three cargo boats were observed moving east in Zuider Zee at 1459 hours.

A smoke screen was observed over super highway 50 miles west of Berlin.

7. A/C of the 92nd Bomb Group flew as lead group and lead and low squadrons of the 40th CBW formation. This formation boubed the secondary target on the bombs of leading PFF A/C. Friendly fighter support was very much as briefed. There were numerous P-51's in the target area and a few P-38's. P-47 support with some P-51 support was constant in and out fromthe target to the enemy coast. Numerous dog-fights were reported particularly in the vicinity of the target.

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Four of our A/C are missing from this mission. What is believed to be A/C 527 K of this group was reported hit by flak in the vicinity of 5305N-1300E at about 1333 hours and to explode and disintegrate into small pieces. No chutes were reported. What is believed to be another B-17 from the 40th "A" CBW but not otherwise identified, was seen at about 1148 hours in the Dummer Lake area with twoengines smoking, trying to crash land. The A/C was seen to burst in flames onthe ground when it struck. No chutes were reported. At 5238N-0830E at 1430 hours, a B-17 also claimed to be A/C 527 K of this group, but which only can be definately identified as a B-17 from this group, was observed to receive a direct hit or very near miss from flak and explode. The A/C broke in two and generally disintegrated, the nose and tail sections falling as rather large pieces. No chutes were observed. What is believed to be another B-17 of this group was reported at 1443 hours 5 miles north of Lingen to be last seen in a controlled descent heading 285 degrees mag and down to cloud cover at 15,000 feet with all engines turning over but one smoking. At 1445 hours when this A/C was almost lost to view, one crew reported a flak burst caused the tail section tobe blown off. Five free chutes were observed and one chute was seen to stream fromthe ball turret and appear snagged.