

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

AFC 557  
16 August, 1944

SUBJECT: Intelligence Narrative  
Mission: BOHLEN

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

1. Narrative

35 A/C of the 306th Group boated as 40th "B" CDW. Route was flown as briefed until just after the target, where the group swung left to 160 and continued on this heading to approximately 5045N x 1230E. Back on briefed course at about 5055N x 1145E then to base as briefed. Left English Coast 5151N x 0117E at 0812; enemy coast 5237N x 0437E at 0857; I.P. at 1054; Target at 1101; enemy coast 5237N x 0437E at 1253; English Coast 5224N x 0143E at 1333; Base 1408. Two PFF A/C 767-N and 574-A were flown. PFF equipment of 574-A went out at enemy coast on way in. Equipment of 767-N was damaged by flak on comb run. No scope photos were secured.

2. Fighter Opposition and Fighter Support

None on this Group. At about 1009 at approximately 5140N x 0950E two to four B-17's in wing ahead were seen going down under enemy attack, nine chutes out of one. P-51's seen in dog fights with B/E at about same time, two P-51's thought to have gone down, 1 B/A.

One Jet Propelled A/C observed at 35,000 feet over target traveling very fast and leaving a dense contrail. No attack was made.

Fighter support was good throughout route. P-51's first sighted off Dutch Coast 0858 hours. 2nd group 5238N x 0700E., 3rd group 5042N x 1040E. In view at target and at all times on route out. P-47's picked up over Zuider Zee and P-38's at coast and over North Sea on return. Two of our A/C returning alone received close support; 4 P-51's with one and P-51's, P-47's, and P-38's with the other.

3. A.A. Gun Fire

From 2 minutes after I.P. to target for a period of 5 minutes, formation was under intense, accurate, tracking flak. From target to Zeitz flak diminished in intensity and fell off slightly in accuracy. Out of 35 A/C over target, two were hit and have not returned to base. 33 returned of which 31 are damaged, 18 severely. There was practically no flak except at target on this group

4. Bombing

Target was hit by Combat ring in front and dense cloud of black smoke covered briefed M.P.I. Lead bombardier shifted aiming point to canals at 028046/7 and pictures show strikes on new M.P.I. High and Low group dropped by using reference points outside target area. High hit very slightly over and to right. Low all hits in smoke, no strikes visible.

5. Nickels

A/C 057-N dropped 2 USG 48, 2 XG 17, 2 XG 15, 2 ZG 30 and 2 G 4A on primary.

6. Weather

The briefed front on the route back was not encountered. High cirrus at 30,000 on way in disappeared over target where weather was clear with slight haze.

7. Observations  
Plant with barrage balloons at 5142N x 1023E.

8. Car A/C In Distress

A/C #305-S, Pilot Lawson, 1110 hours, after target, lost altitude but was under control when last seen: all engines running.

A/C #693-L, Pilot Ralstin, hit by flak over target; at 1108 hours, after target, had one engine feathered and one engine on fire; A/C was under control when last seen. Crews report seeing 4 to 6 chutes.

9. Other A/C In Distress

At 1009 hours, 5130N x 0950E, after fighter attack 2 to 2 B-17's from wing ahead, seen in distress, one broke apart, other one on fire spun down. 8 chutes from one, four from another.

At 1010 hours, 5130N x 0950E, 2 P-51's, down in flames. One chute seen.

10. A/C Returning Early

A/C #863-P, Pilot Fomby, turned back at 0740 hours over Mt. Fuji when #4 engine went out. Dropped 10 x 500 at 5313N x 0037E.

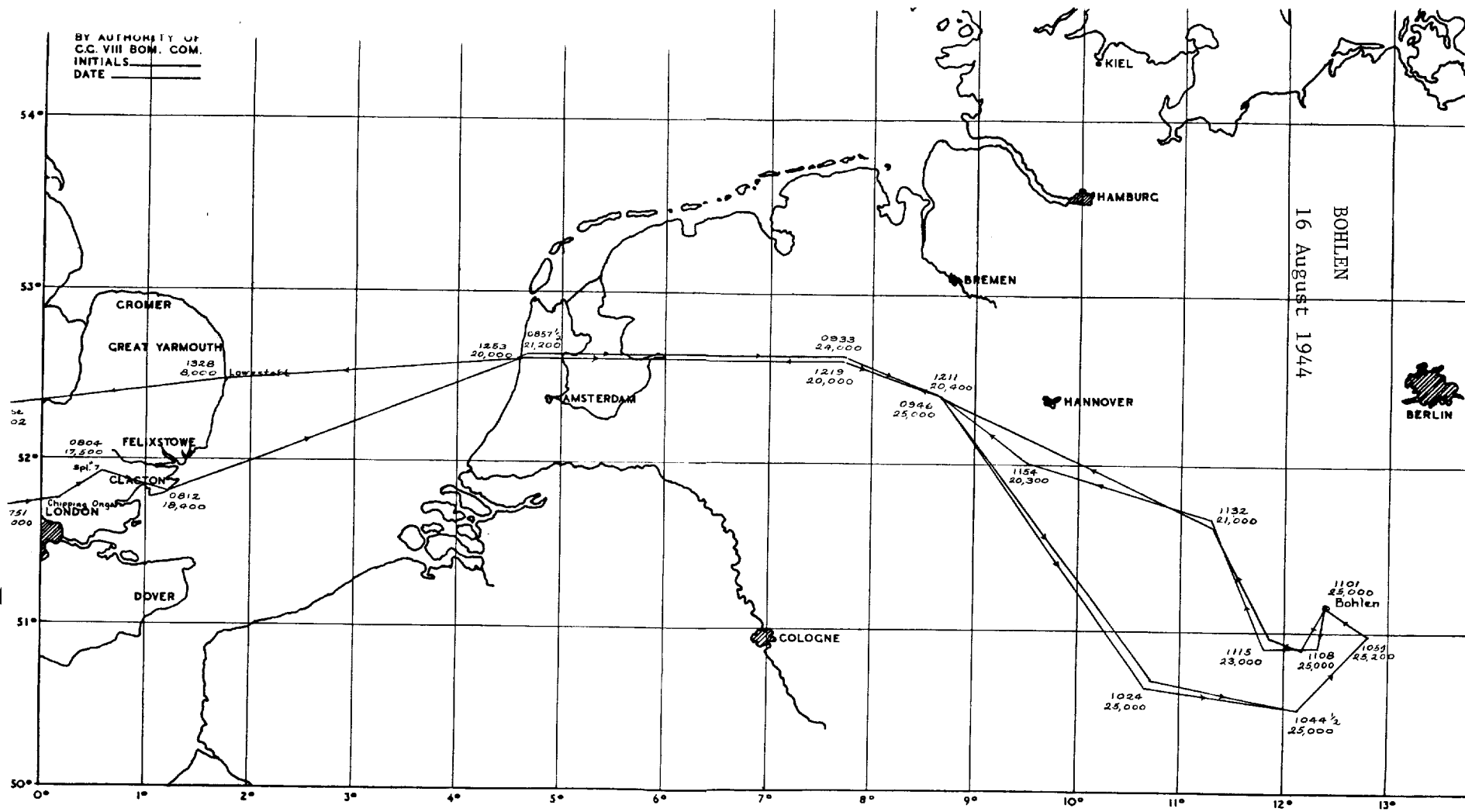
A/C #975-P, Pilot Carrazzone, turned back at 0820 hours, at 5157N x 0143E. Brought back 10 x 500.

A/C #196-O, Pilot Stewart, turned back at 0859 hours, 5237N x 0451E when turbo supercharger in #3 froze. Brought back 10 x 500.

A/C #185-J, Pilot Birdwall, spare turned back as briefed at 0833 hours, 5208N x 0238E. Brought back 10 x 500.

JOHN A. BAIRD-FATHER,  
Major, AC,  
Group S-2.

BY AUTHORITY OF  
C.C. VIII BOM. COM.  
INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_



Dokled 16 Aug 44



8. Special Instructions: Weather Ship Nular "V" Code I T V A B. Base Ref. Alt. 23,000. Spares return at 0240E. Buckeye Blue will scout 1st Div route and give weather over target at 1134.

9. Zero Hour 0900. "A" Bombs 10 x M17 Int Min. "B" Bombs Int

10. "A" Gas 2500 Chaff 2 minutes before IP for 14 Minutes  
 "B" Gas Chaff

1. Air Comm. Lt. Col. Riordan Air. Comd.  
 Gp. C. O. Lt. DeVack G. O.  
 Gp. Deputy Lt. Broz Deputy

2. Bombers Vinegrove 3 - 8 Bombers  
 G.S.C. Colgate G.S.C.

3. "A" Group "B" Group  
 Ts monitor Chan. "C" US 963 "C" US  
 " " " "C" RAF "C" RAF  
 " " " "B" US "B" US

40th CBW Abandon Ops: Steam Roller Special  
 4. VHF Code Words. Recall C-X-F-C Visual Bombing  
 IP-PFF Bombing Authentication Three Oaks

5. Call Sign Flares Tail Letter

Lead Gp Foxhole Charlie Leader YY-YV Let Down Splasher pod Neg. 265 Mag.  
 Low Gp Foxhole Charlie Low RY  
 High Gp Foxhole Charlie High RG

Gp  
 Gp  
 Gp  
 40CBW Foxhole Able, Baker, Charlie  
 41CBW Cowboy Able, Baker  
 94CBW Woodcraft Able, Baker, Charlie  
 1CBW Swordfish Able, Baker  
 CBW  
 CW

Pundit Flashing Letter

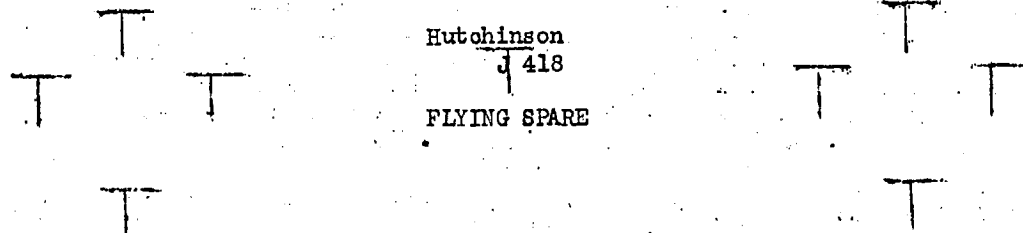
6. Colors of the Day:

Spare Aircraft

Time	0800-1400	1400-2000	Number	065	836	019
Color	Y-YR	RY	Letter	Z	P	T
Challenge	N	X	Displ	N-17	N-38	N-10
Answer	L	F	Sqdn	367	369	423

7. Formations: De Vack  
 40 - C - HIGH 0/368

Fomby W   503	Broz A   012	Erwin F   087
Plecher D   549	Lockard P   963	Patton X   575
Brown X   616	Delapoe V   505	Kryston T   946
Burnett B   967	Mox. F   976	



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

APO 557,  
18 August, 1944.


SUBJECT: Eye-witness accounts of incidents pertaining to Aircraft  
No. 42-37693, Pilot, Lt E.L. Ralstin, Missing in Action,  
16 August, 1944.

TO: Commanding General, Hq., 1st Bombardment Division, APO 557.

1. According to compiled reports of returning crews in the  
same formation the following is what happened to aircraft No.  
42-37693, Pilot, 1st Lt Eldon L. Ralstin:

Our aircraft No. 693, Pilot RALSTIN, was hit by flak  
over target area, had one engine feathered and one engine on  
fire. Aircraft was under control when last seen. Crews report  
seeing four to six chutes coming from plane.

For the Commanding Officer:

  
J. LaMOTTA,  
Captain, CWS,  
Asst. Adjutant.

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