

~~SECRET~~ BRIEFING NOTES

## I THE MISSION

540 B-17s and 180 B-24s in 2 air task forces consisting of 6 combat wings each are to attack chemical plants in Ludwigshafen on the Rheine River opposite Mannheim. Target support will be provided to the 1st ATF by the 55th Group and to the 2nd ATF by the 354th(P-51s). Penetration and withdrawal support will be provided by 9 groups of P-47s and a large no. of Spitfire squadrons. RAF Typhoons will patrol the Brussels-Charleroi-Lille area around 1030, and Spits will patrol the Paris area as the 2nd ATF withdraws.

THIS GROUP, after proceeding to Brussels and orbiting there for ten minutes to create a diversion, will turn south 110 miles to the vicinities of Ste. Menesould (20 miles slightly SW of Verdun) and will provide withdrawal support to the middle units of the 1st ATF from that point to the vicinities of Compiègne, a distance of 100 miles, where RAF Spitfire squadrons will take over. The bombers will consist ~~initially of~~ about 900 B-17s ~~and 60 B-24s~~ of the 1st Bomb Div. with the triangular identification on the tail, and 60 B-24s of the 2nd Div. with the circular identification.

## II FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT.

Going in you may see about 2 groups of P-47s over or near the channel going home. As you fly south of Brussels and approach the r/v point 2 or 3 more groups of 47s may be seen withdrawing toward the channel, and it's also likely that the 51s will be seen withdrawing just north of your rendezvous. Another two groups of 47s may be seen coming in to rendezvous with the 2nd ATF just as we reach ours. The 55th and 2 47s groups which will have r/v'd with the 1st ATF before our arrival will probably be seen accompanying them as we arrive. You will see many Spitfires near Compiègne where they will relieve us.

Stray Typhoons may be seen in the area north of Paris as you withdraw toward the channel and around the Brussels as you go in.

### III FLAK

1. There will be light flak over Blankenburge where landfall in will be made.
2. There is fairly heavy flak at Ghent which can be avoided by flying a little to the north of the city.
3. Flak in Brussels itself will be light, but there is a heavy concentration NE of the town around the airport.
4. No further serious concentration will be encountered. Care should be taken, however, to avoid the coastal town on the way out.

### IV FIGHTERS.

There should be little opposition before you reach Brussels. Between that point and r/v a max. of 80 s/e and 75~~x~~ t/e s can be vectored toward you, though it is probable the greatest part of these will have been drawn off by bombers and other units. At r/v 10 more s/e s and 20 more t/e/are available. From our r/v to Spit r/v there are about 50 t/es available. As you fly north of Paris toward the channel about 50 s/es can be brought against you from both the north and south of your course.