

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005
By ED NARA Date 10-1-10

CONFIDENTIAL SEND IN CLEAR
OIKNG P35D
OOX BT

A. 20TH FIGHTER GROUP LT. COL. KE RAU LEADING.
B. 51 P-38'S (16-5TH) (17-77TH) (18-79TH) UP 1208 DOWN 1640.
C. 6 P-38'S
D. F.O. 304 PENETRATION SUPPORT.
E. 1 P-38- PILOT BAILED OUT 10 MILES OFF IJMUIDEN AFTER ONE ENGINE CAUGHT FIRE AND DROPPED OUT.
F. 2 P-38'S, CAT E - PILOTS UNINJURED.
G. 1 NYR - LT. HENSLEY, 55TH SQDN., BAILED OUT OFF IJMUIDEN, SEEN IN DINGHY ORBITTED BY P-38'S AND 2 P-51'S.
H. NIL.

XX

BT
T O D 2303B AS FOR CCK
V
CC IN 3
CC IN 1. 3RD LINE SHOULD READ L/F OUT 1548 EGMONG, 17,000 FEET
CC IN 4TH LINE SHOULD READ AS FOLLOWS
20 PLUS ME 109'S AND 2 FW 190'S AND SO ON

OIUTH R.....2016B VM AR

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MISSION SUMMARY REPORT

18 APRIL 1944
 PENETRATION SUPPORT
 BOMBER ESCORT - ORANIENBURG
 FIELD ORDER #304

- A. 55TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MAJOR MC AULEY, LEADING
- B. 16 P-38'S UP 1208 HOURS DOWN 1650 HOURS
- C. NIL (SPARE TURNED BACK AT R/V OVER ENEMY COAST)
- D. BOMBER ESCORT PENETRATION SUPPORT FIELD ORDER 304
- E. 1 DUE TO FIRE OVER NORTH SEA
- F. NIL
- G. 2ND LT. L. K. HENSLEE BALED OUT OVER NORTH SEA ABOUT 25 MILES FROM IJMUIDEN. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXX~~
- H. NIL
- I. SQUADRON MADE L/F IN 1350 HOURS MELDORF 25,000 FEET AND MADE R/V WITH B-17'S WITH TRIANGLE AT THE SAME TIME. BOMBERS FLYING IN VERY POOR FORMATION. P-47'S WERE WITH BOMBERS AT THE TIME OF OUR R/V. FIVE BOXES B-17'S ALT 25/28,000 FT. W/D 1445 HOURS EAST OF HAVELBERG (BRIEFED W/D POINT) AT 25/29,000 FT. P-51'S CAME IN TO RELIEVE THIS SQUADRON. LANDFALL OUT EGMOND 17000 FEET 1558 HOURS.

PILOTS SCHEDULED FOR THIS MISSION WERE:

MC AULEY	LOEHNERT	SCRUTCHFIELD	BOELE	SPARE
TAYLOR	BURFORD	MILES	WATSON	KLINK
SERROS	CONNOR	HALLBERG	PEARSON	
PANNELL	TURNER	RIEMENSNIER	HENSLEE	

JUST BEFORE LANDFALL OUT OVER IJMUIDEN THE PLANE FLOWN BY LT. HENSLEE CAUGHT FIRE AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER ONE ENGINE FELL OUT. LTS. PANNELL, TURNER, RIEMENSNIER AND HALLBERG CIRCLED THE SPOT UNTIL RELIEVED BY P-51'S. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT HE BALED OUT ABOUT 25 MILES OFF THE ENEMY COAST.

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MISSION SUMMARY REPORT April 18, 1944

- A. 77th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group AAF, Lt. Col. Rau leading.
- B. 17 up at 1209. Down at 1638.
- C. One
- D. Penetration support, Field Order No. 304.
- E. Nil.
- F. One-crash landed. Cst. E. (Pilot safe)
- G. Nil.
- H. Nil.
- I. R/V and LF in at 1345 S of Busum at 26,000 feet, with 5 CWs of B-17s of 1st Div. Boxes in tight but quite a distance apart. P-47s were with bombers until approximately 1410. W/D at 1440 W of Naven at 26,000 feet. LF out N of Ijmuiden at 1540 at 16,000 feet.
Seven to eight ships seen off Den Helder. One large vessel. Small convey headed SW off Western end of Cuxhaven, 4 large-8 smaller vessels. 1 large warship seen heading SW, S of Trischen Island with 2 smaller vessels. 9-12 SE E/A seen in area from Ludwigslust to Havelberg. 1 SE E/A seen going down trailing smoke near Wittenberge with 3 P-38s around it. Several Me-109s, one painted silver and one black seen. Smoke screens at Wilhelmshaven, Emden, and Hamburg.

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MISSION REPORT

18 April 1944

- A. 79th Fighter Squadron Major Franklin, leading
- B. 18 P-38s Up: 1210; Down: 1635
- C. 5 P-38s
- D. Bomber-escort, penetration F.O. #304
- E. Nil
- F. 1 P-38 Cat. E Belly-landed near home field. Pilot uninjured
- G. Nil
- H. 0-0-0
- I. R/V - Trischen Island - 1345 - 27,500 ft.
 In - Melforf - 1350 - 27,500 ft.
 W/D - S. E. of Wittenberg - 1445 - 27,500 ft.
 Out - N. of Egmond - 1542 - 22,000 ft.

R/V was made with the bombers 15 minutes early. No fighter escort was with the bombers at the time. P47s came a few minutes later but only stayed a few minutes. 20th Gp. was only group with bombers during entire time.

Bombers were in good formation with one small box out in front and two huge boxes following. It is believed that approximately 400 bombers were in formation. No bombers were seen in trouble.

From 15 to 30 Me 109s and 2 FW 190s followed bombers during entire time and attempted to draw off fighter escort by going down off to side of bombers then climbing again and repeating tactics. Fighter escort refused to be drawn off.

P51s were reported coming up to take over escort as group withdrew.

Naval: 30 miles S. of Heligoland 2 vessels were seen with many escorting ships. Could not be identified as to type.
 In the Mouth of Elbe River a large convoy was forming.

EDWARD J. STEINER
 Capt. Air Corps,
 Intelligence Officer

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TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 304

DATE 18 April 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)	(Not to be teletyped)
a. Designation of Unit	20th Fighter Group,
b. Time of Landing	1640
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	Bailed out off IJmuiden, Lt. Henslee, 55th Ftr. Sq. seen in dinghy.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F in 1350, Meldorp, 25,000 feet. R/V 5 C.W.'S 1st. Div. B-17's, same time and place. W/D 1440, 16 miles N/W Berlin, 25,000 feet. L/F out Egmond 1548, 17,000 feet. 15-20 ME 109'S between Hamburg and Berlin. Made no concentrated attacks on bombers. 51's relieved....
f. Weather - Battle damage	

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TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 304.

DATE 118 April 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)	(Not to be teletyped)
a. Designation of Unit	55th Fighter Squadron.
b. Time of Landing	1650
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	Lt. Henslee, bailed out off Ijmuiden, seen in dinghy.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F in 1350, Meldorf, 25,000 feet. R/V same time with B-17's, 1st Div. (Poor formation) P-47's with bombers. 25,- 28,000 feet. W/D 1434 Havelburg 25,-29,000 feet. P-51's relieved us. L/F out 1558 Egmond 17,000 feet. E/A nil.
f. Weather - Battle Damage	Lt Col. Murphy, 359th. said he was shot at by P-38 at 1410....

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TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 304

DATE 18 April 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

a. Designation of Unit	77th Fighter Squadron.
b. Time of Landing	1638.
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	3 NYR'S. ALL O.K.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F in 1345, South of Busum 26,000 feet. R/V same time 5 C.W's Bombers 1st div. 47's with bombers. w/D 1440, 26,000 feet West of Naven. 51's at W/D. Out Egmond, 16,000 feet, 1540. 9-12 E/A around W Wittenberge....
f. Weather - Battle Damage	

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TELEPHONE FLASH REPORT

F.O. 304

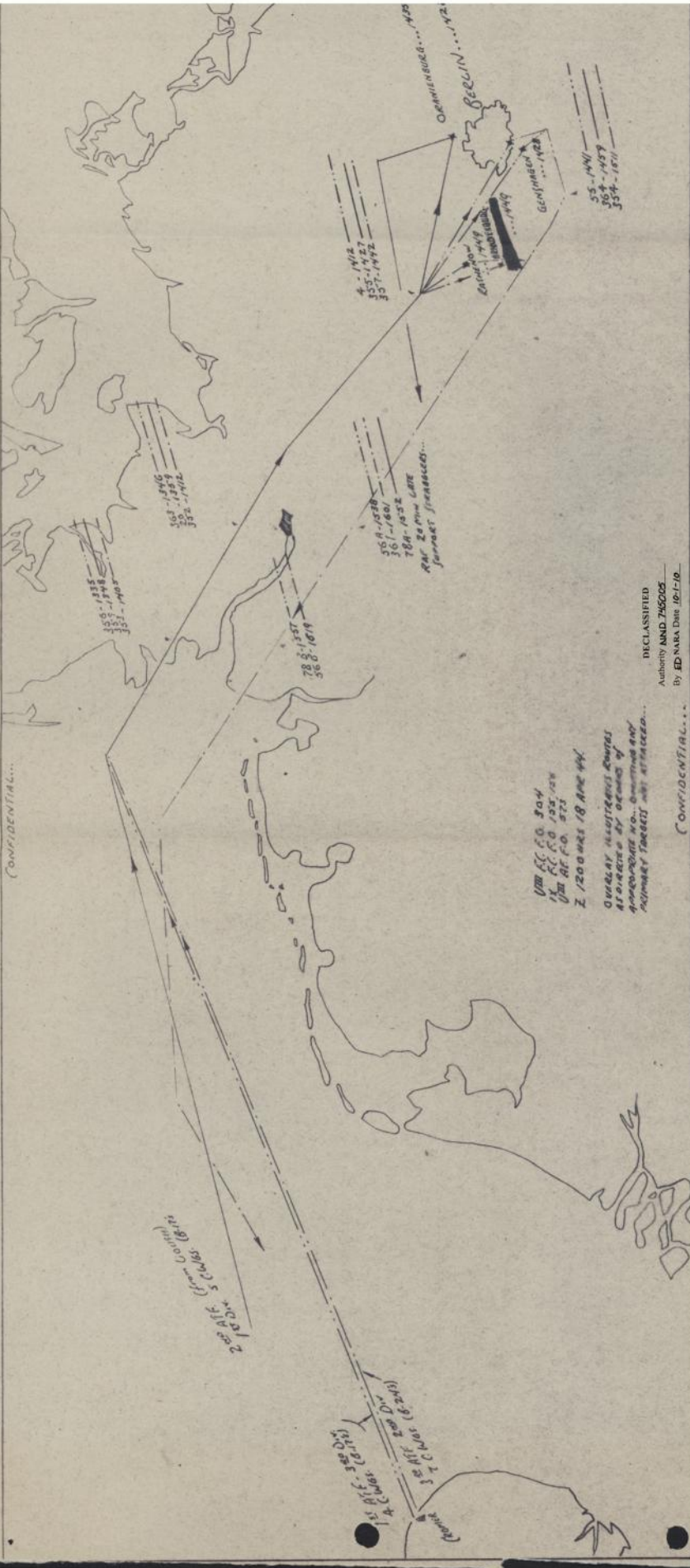
DATE 18 April 1944.

(Not to be teletyped)

(Not to be teletyped)

a. Designation of Unit	79th Fighter Squadron.
b. Time of Landing	1635.
c. Aircraft NYR (State if believed Lost)	NIL.
d. Estimated Claims	Destroyed 0 Probable 0 Damaged 0
e. Brief description of Mission	L/F in 1350, Meldorg, 27,500 feet. R/V Trischen Island 1345, 27,500 feet. W/D 1445, S. E. Wittenberg, 27,500 feet. L.F out 1542 N. Egmond, 22,000 feet. P-47's at coast then left in four minutes. 1 small box 51's arrived as we withdrew. 20-30 ME 109's making individual attacks. No concentrated attacks. 30 miles S. of Helgoland 24/Vs much escort. Mouth of Elbe. Large convoy seemed to be forming...
f. Weather - Battle Damage	

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By ED NARA Date 10-1-10

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