

RGI. V HBR HBR 25/26 O-P

T

FROM INTELLIGENCE HARROWBEER
TO INTELLIGENCE H.Q. 10 GROUP
SECRET QOX BT

<i>Beau</i> ✓	<i>Rut</i> ✓
<i>Dun</i>	<i>Ry</i> ✓
<i>Ev</i> ✓	<i>Stk</i> ✓
<i>Heat</i> ✓	<i>Shell</i> ✓
<i>Gon</i> ✓	<i>Thya</i> ✓

OPFLASH NO. 3 FOR 26/4/44

A. (I) STRIKING ~~FROXXX~~ FORCE AND CLOSE ESCORT 10 G ROADSTEAD NO 90
ATTACKING SHIPPING IN MORLAIX ESTUARY.

(II) MISION ACCOMPLISHED

B. (I) 263 (II) 8 TYPHOON BOMBERS (2 X 500 LB M N INST DET.) 2 TYPHOONS
~~INXXX~~ IB L.R.

(III) NIL

C. (I) 1428/1430 (II) 1500 (III) 1538/1540

D. (I), (II) AND (III) ~~ANXXX~~ NIL

E. SHIPPING FOUND IN MORLAIX ESTUARY AS FOR ROADSTEAD 88, AND IDENTIFIED AS
FOLLOWS:- 1 DESTROYER, 1 PROBABLE DESTROYER, 1 M/V 3000 T, 2 M/V'S 1000 T, AND
ABOUT ½ MILE TO THE S. 7 E-BOATS 1 POSSIBLE E-BOAT. 1 M/L AND A BARGE. LARGE
SHIPS ATTACKED IN DIVE FROM 11,000 - 3000 FT. WITH 16 BOMBS, WHICH SCORED 1 NEAR
MISS OFF BOWS OF 3000 TXX 3000 T M/V, THE OTHERS BURSTING 300 - 30 YARDS FROM
SHIPS. 1 PILOT FIRED MEDIUM BURST AT 3000 T M/V AND SAW MANY STRIKES ON
SUPERSTRUCTURE. THIS SHIP CLAIMED CAT. III BY F/O W. ~~HEATXXXX~~ HEATON. HE ALSO
FIRED A BURST AT A SMALL FLAK POST ON ISLAND IN ESTUARY.

F. (I) ~~NIL-XXXXX~~ NIL (II) (A) INTENSE LIGHT FLAK INACCURATE

(B) NIL

G. 3000 T M/V HAD AT LEAST 6 FLAK POSITIONS EITHER 20 MM OR 40 MM DESTROYERS
HAD 2 ~~FULXXXXXX~~ FUNNELS. M/V'S HAD 1 FUNNEL EACH.

H. (I) NO CLOUD. SOME CUMULUS FORMING IN LAYERSAT ABOUT 8000 OVER FRANCE
BT 261645B

AS FOR CHECK

CC ~~IN A. (II)~~ CC TO READ MISSION

JHK AR K

R ... 1819/26 J.K.G. AR +

SURFAT REPORT on 10 GROUP RODEO 88 and 90
of 26th April 1944

1. (a) 263/28 (b) 26th April (c) (i) 6 Bomphoons (ii) 8 Bomphoons and 2 Typhoons
1B L.R. Close escort. (d) 263
2. (a) N. light (b) NIL (c) good (f) calm (e) sunlight
3. (a) (i) 1003 hours (ii) 1500 hours (b) Morlaix estuary 48 ° 42' N, 03° 53' W.
(c) 1 destroyer, 1 probable destroyer, 1 M/V 3000 tons with a barge alongside it. 2 M/V's 1000 tons all stationary heading in various directions 1-3 ship's lengths apart. Also 7 probable E boats (not attached) lying ½ mile S. in estuary. 1 M/L moving among ship concentration, and 1 possible E boat 1 mile N.
(d) Both d/b out of sun (e) Not known.
4. (a) (i) 12 x 500 lb (ii) 16 x 500 lb and about 300 x 20 mm HEI and SAPI
(b) 500 lb MC
(c) Inst.
(d) NIL
(e) 3000 ft.
(f) Eyesight
5. (a) (i) 5 (ii) 8
(b) (i) 50 - 300 yards wide of ships (ii) 1 near miss approx 15yards from bow of 3000 tons M/V. Others 30-300 yds wide
(c) Smoke from bow of 3000 ton M/V and F/O Heaton saw many cannon strikes on this ship in his dive which he continued to 800 feet.
6. NIL
7. Further d/b by this squadron at 1100 hours on next day 27th April found that the two destroyers had gone (unless the one doubtfully identified was the one now identified as an M class minesweeper as seems quite likely from Pilot's judgement of relative positions). The two smaller M/V's had gone, but the 3000 ton M/V was still in the same odd position heading W to E across the estuary. The E boats had moved closer to the main concentration, probably to give protection.
8. (a) (i) One 3000 ton M/V claimed damaged by cannon strikes. (Cat 3)
F/O Heaton.
9. Sketch is omitted as shipping was not at sea.
- 10 (i) Rodeo 88 of the shipping reccos which had been ordered at first light in the morning of 26th April, the section of Spitfires of 234 Squadron landed, as was planned, at Harrowbeer to report a minor concentration of enemy shipping lying in the entrance to Morlaix estuary. Accordingly at 0925 6 Bomphoons led by S/Ldr Gonay, left Harrowbeer, crossed the channel at 0 ft climbed to 10,000 ft and turned through 100 degrees to starboard to dive bomb out of the sun which was very bright. Diving at 40-65 degrees they released thir bombs at an average of 3000 feet. The nearest burst was seen about 50 yds from one of the destroyers, other bursts were 75-100 yds wide and one 300 yds away. Heavy flak was not seen but the ships threw up a moderate but not very accurate concentration of light flak of all calibres. Our A/C then reformed and returned to Harrowbeer at 1036 hours

(ii) Rodeo 90 - this time 8 Bomphoons with 2 Typhoons 1B L.R as close escort led by S/Ldr Gonay left Harrowbeer at 1428. They found the ships disposed as before except that the vessels now appeared to be uniformly wind-rove (it was about slack water, low tide) with the exception of the 3000 ton M/V which was disposed across the channel with its bows to the E. Our formation turned to port to divebomb out of the bright sun and released their bombs from about 3000 ft. One burst is considered to have been a near miss perhaps 15 yds from the bows of the 3000 ton M/V which may have been damaged. F/O Heaton continued his dive and opened fire with a long burst from 2000 ft. to 800 ft. on this M/V and saw a great many strikes on the superstructure and deck (claimed damaged Cat 3) F/O Heaton noticed that this M/V had one centrally placed funnel and saw 6 flak positions of 20 or 40 mm calibre on the port side of this M/V. A diving Typhoon is a poor platform for ship

recognition, but it is tentatively suggested that this ship may be a small Sperrbrecher. F/O Heaton then drew a burst across a flak position on a rocky island in the entrance to the estuary. By anticipating the operation of the next day it can also be stated here that light flak positions, believed to be of 4 x 20 mm guns or larger were identified on three islets in the group that lie in squares 4128, 4228, 4227, and 4229 and light flak positions of 40mm and 20mm were seen to fire from the W and E shores of the estuary mouth between 4223 and 4127 and between 4424 and 4427. (France 1:50,000 3F/5) It is possible that some of these were established during the night of the 26-27th. All three islet positions were seen on the 26th. Our A/C then reformed and returned to base at 1540 hours.

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