## HEADQUARTERS NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Office of the Group Engineering Officer

APO 634 17 May, 1943.

SUBJECT: Group Engineering Report on Combat Mission of May 17, 1943.

TO Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H).

The following information is submitted concerning combat mission of the 95th Bomb Group (H) of May 17, 1943.

a. Eighteen (18) B-17F airplanes took-off, seven (7) returned to the base before completing mission.

b. Eleven (11) completed mission.

c. Three (3) landed away from home station.

d. One did not return.

There were seven (7) abortive airplanes. 2.

- a. 42-9737 returned due to No 4 engine rough and No 2 engine leaking.
- b. 42-9702 With power on could not meet and hold formation.
- c. 42-3110 Oxygen mask froze, one man passed out.

d. 42-9780 - Entire oxygeh system out.

- e. 42-3046 No 4 engine oil pressure low. could not feather propeller.
- f. 42-9791 Right nose gun blew up, gunner wounded.
- g. 42-5791 No 4 engine cylinder head temperature 300% centrigrade, feathered No 4 propeller, ball turret out.
- Battle damage is as follows:
  - a. 42-9709 Vertical stabilizer and rudder damaged by gun fire.
  - b. 42-9685 Right stabilizer damaged by waist gunner.
  - c. 42-3171 No 4 engine supercharger shot out, hole in right wing, hole in No 4 engine nacelled. gas tank in right wing punctured.

d. 42-9675 - No damage.

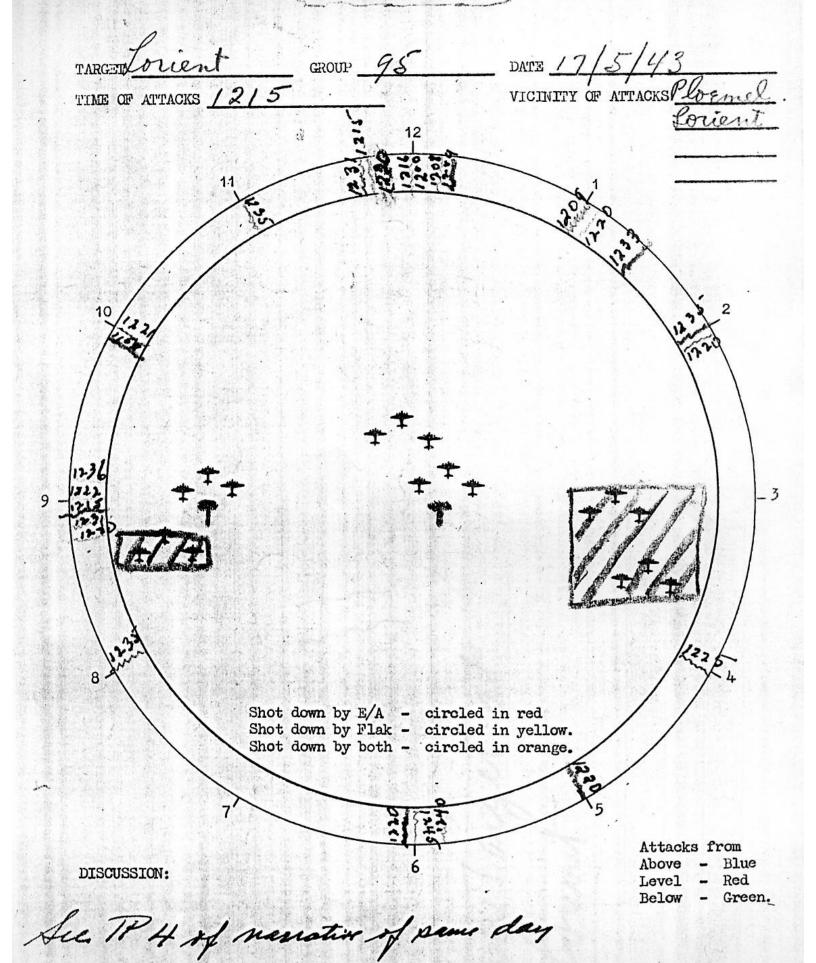
- e. 42-9704 Landed away from home station.
- T. 42-9754 Landed away from home station.

g. 42-3061 - No damage. h. 42-9689 - Broken windshield.

I. 42-9800 - No damage.

. 42-3202 - Hole in right outter wing panel. k. 42-9768 - Crashed landed in South England.

> CLARENCE D. FIELDS. Major, Air Corps, Group Engineering Officer.



# NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) Office of the Intelligence Officer

APO 634 18 May 1943

SUBJECT: Narrative Report of Flak and Fighter Analysis.

TO: Commanding Officer, 95th Bombardment Group (H), APO 634

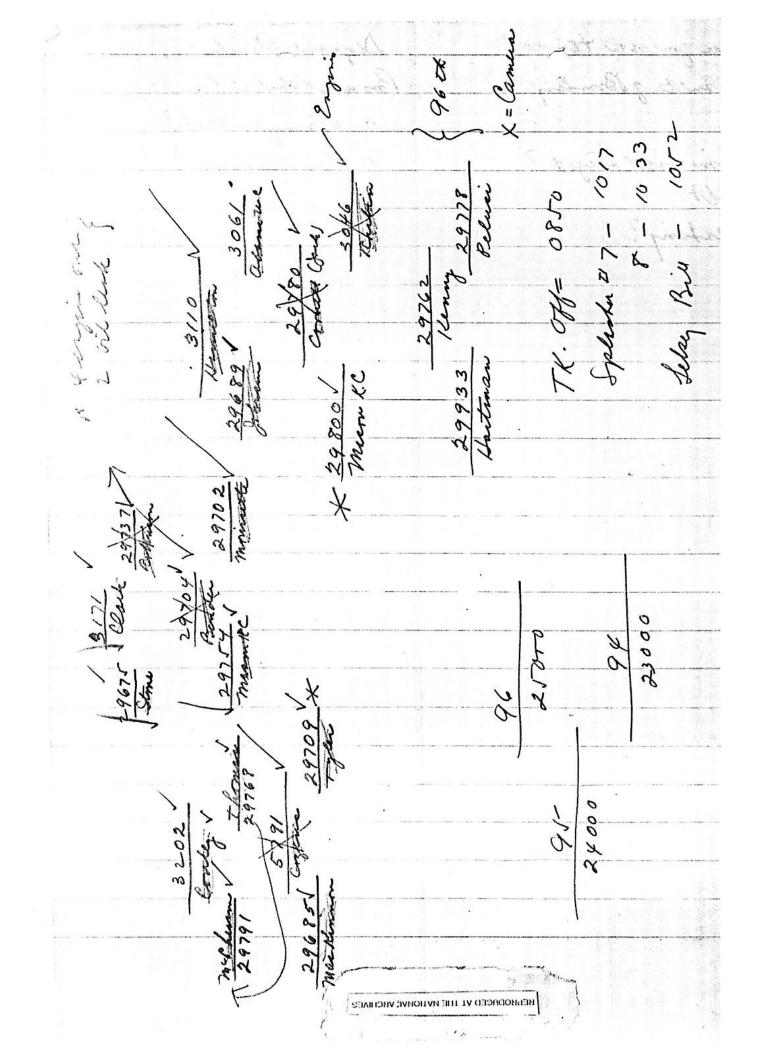
- 1. Eighteen aircraft of the 95th Bomb Op took off from 0855 to 0930 17 May, to attack the power plant at Lorient. Fighter diversion enroute to target and some cover on return was furnished by two squadrons of Spitfires. Nine of eleven aircraft reaching the target dropped eighty-eight 500 lb. G.P. bombs. One Aircraft failed to bomb by failure of bomb bay to open. One aircraft reaching target landed near Exeter and has not yet reported. Bombs were dropped in perfect weather at 1215.
- 2. Up to seventy-five (75) enemy aircraft were reported attacking us. The majority were FW 190's with a good sprinkling of ME 109F's. There was one JU-88 as well as one ME 110. The enemy was persistent and pressed home his attack. The FW 190's attacked from two to eleven o'clock while the ME 109F's came from five to seven o'clock. The marking of the FW'S were red and yellow noses with a few reporting white noses. The ME's were of silver bodies and black tails. Some were reported having a dark grey paint on top and a light grey on the bottom. The FW's attacked head-on through the formation, turning as they came in. They would continue past the range of fire at the rear then turn and attack again from five to seven o'clock. We believe nine enemy aircraft were destroyed, three enemy aircraft probably destroyed and seven enemy aircraft were damaged.
- 3. Flak was first encountered at Landeac, and over target. Also at Morlaix enroute home. Red, white, and black were observed, inaccurate, not intense.

19704 - Landed Eway from home station.

4. All our aircraft returned to England and no casualties were incurred.

FLORENCE J. DONAHUE,
Major, Air Corps,
Gp Intelligence Officer.

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#### HEADQUARTERS

## NINETY FIFTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

Office of the Commanding Officer

18, May, 1943

SUBJECT: Report on the Operations of the 95th Bombardment Group (H) on 17, May, 1943.

TO: Commanding General, Fourth Bombardment Wing, APO 634.

- 1. Pursuant to Field Orders Number 1, Fourth Wing, this Group took off promptly at 0850, 17 May, 1943 to rendezvous with the 94th Bombardment Group at 5,000 ft over Alconburg, proceed to Crafton Underwood and rendezvous with the 96th Bombardment Group. Three (3) aircraft from the 96th were attached to this Group for this mission.
- 2. Twenty (20) sircraft took off (one (1) attached from the 96th failed to take-off) and formed over Alconbury at 5,000 feet. The 94th was not in sight at 0922 and Group proceeded to Crafton Underwood, where at 0930 both the 94th and 96th were in sight. Proceeded on course and started climb to 24,000 feet. All check points enroute were made on time. Altitude was reached just short of Splasher 8 at 1034. At 1050, just short of Selsey Bill, we picked up the Spitfire diversion above and to our left. At Selsey Bill we made a wide turn to permit the 94th to get into position and proceeded on course for the diversion run, hitting all points on time. At Lanebell, on the run in, slight inaccurate flak was noted to our right.
- 3. At approximately 1220, the First Wing appeared above and to our left headed for Ploemel, apparently behind schedule. At that time, the First Wing was being attacked by enemy aircraft which shortly thereafter withdrew and reformed above and to our right and later, in reduced numbers, attacked this Wing. The attacks continued until we were almost over the French Coast on the way home. They were not organized attacks and were made mainly from the rear and below, few being made from the front but these were pressed right into the formation.
- 4. A shallow turn was made starting just north of Ploemel and the bombing run started. The run was made without major difficulties and the bombs were away at exactly 1215. The turn to the left away from the coast was made and there the turn to the right to proceed home. Upon reaching the south shore of the peninsula, the let-down to 18,000 feet was started. Near Morlaix, reddish brown flak or signals were noted off to our left and at our altitude. The return trip was uneventful, further let-down being started 50° 00° N, 2° 30° W due to oxygen shortage

Ltr. 4th Wing, CO

- 5. At Plomel, no flak was noted, at Lorient, the flak was slight but accurate. The most flak noted was over the defended island south of Lorient.
- from this Group due to engine and oxygen difficulties, two abortives from the attached members of the 96th. Ten aircraft of this Group returned to the base, two after landing in South England for gasoline, the eleventh crash landed in South England with two engines shot out.
- 7. Ten aircraft dropped their bombs over the target, the eleventh was unable to do so due to jamming of bomb bay doors. The results were excellent, most bombs landing within the target area.
  - 8. No casualties or injuries to personnel.
- 9. Battle damage five (5) aircraft returned with battle damage, two (2) seriously, one (1) of which crash landed as noted previously.
- 10. The entire mission was accomplished in accordance with schedules.

ALFRED A. KESSLER, JR. Colonel, Air Corps, Commanding.

musion H4

(American CONFIDENTIAL) 18.5.43.

## INTEDIATE INTERPRETATION REPORT No. K. 1561.

(Subject to correction and amplification from a more detailed report)

Photographs taken by 13 PH Squadron on 17.5.43.

Mean time of photography: 1900 hrs.

SORTIE: AA/69

Scale: 1/15,200 approx. (F.L. 24")

LOCALITY : LORIENT.

DAVAGE ASSESSMENT.

## COVER AND QUALITY.

The N. Power Station, The Keroman Traverser Stage and the whole of the town are covered on prints of small scale but good quality.

## PERTOD UNDER REVIEW.

These photographs were taken after the daylight attack by circult of the U.S.A.A.F. on 17.5.43. Withdrawal fighter escort was used. The last report on damage to LORIENT was Immediate Interpretation Report No. K.1538 of 20.4.43.

## STATEMENT OF DATAGE.

The main building of the N. POWER STATION is seen to have received very severe damage by H.E. The roof has gone from the larger portion of the building. (4056)

The RAIDMAY GOODS STATION is one fifth destroyed by H.E. and two hits have been made on nearby tracks. (4056)

The Traverser Stage between the submarine pens at NEROMAN has received a direct hit and small buildings near by have been destroyed. (3042)

No prints distributed.

Plan used: C.I.U. Plan No. 185A.

DISTRIBUTION No. 24.

(American CONFIDENTIAL) 22.5.43.

## INTERPASTACION ESPORT NO. K.1561.

Photographs taken 13 Ph. Squadron on 17.5.43.

Mean time of photography: 19.00 hrs.

SORTIE: 'AA/69

Scale: 1/15,200 (F. L. 24")

LOCALITY: LORIENT.

DATAGE ASSESS ENT.

## COVER AND QUALITY.

The M. Power Station, the NERCHAN Peninsula, LAMESTER and the thole town of LORIENT are covered on prints of small scale but good quality.

## PERIOD UNDER REVIEW.

Those photographs were taken after the daylight attack by aircraft of the U.S.A.A.F. on 17.5.43. Withdrawal fighter escort was used. The last report on demage to LORIENT was Immediate Interpretation Report No. K.1538 of 21.4.43. Immediate Interpretation Report K.1561 was issued on 18.5.43.

### GLOMERAL STATESONY:

The H. Power Station has suffered very severe damage. A direct hit was secred on the Traverser Stage of the Submarine Pens at KERCHIN, but resulting damage does not appear to have been severe. The Railway Goods Station has received a direct hit which has destroyed part of the S. side of the building; eraters are seen on railway sidings nearby, and repairs to the main KARTES - partly wrecked buildings in the Assenal are seen to be further damaged. Other buildings damaged include the Fish Harket Sorting Sheds and barrack hute S. of

### DETAILS OF DAMAGE.

## I. INDUSTRIAL, DOCKSIDE AND MAVAL.

### (i) KEROMAN PENINSULA.

(a) U-Boat Shelters and Workshops. (3043)

The Travers r Stage between the Pens has received a direct hit leaving a small crater in the concrete surface. He major disruption of the rails on which the travelling U-Boat Transporter runs is visible. At least 3, and possibly 5, fresh craters can be seen on the roots of the U-Boat Shelters.

Identiately E. of the northermost Pen one workshop, 50' x 45', and two smaller buildings have been destroyed by H.B. Another from of workshops immediately to the se, proviously guited and now under repair, has suffered as a result of nearby hits.

(b) Radial Slips. (3043)

Five or six fresh craters are seen within the read boundary. Two open slipways have been very severely desaged and the cantries wrecked; several small store sheds and supplies stacked in open round have been damaged by blast.

## (ii) PORT DE PECHE.

- (a) HALIE DES HAREYEURS (Fish Market). (3043).

  Fresh damage is seen to the roof of the Sorting Sheds as the result of a direct hit and the main road leading to them is partly blocked by a crater.
- (b) RASSIN LONG (3043)

  A storage shed on the E. side of the Harbour has suffered as the result of a direct hit. The quayside on the W. has been breached for a distance of 75' resulting in the subsidence of the made-up ground behind the dock wall. A small industrial building, 80' x 50', N.E. of the Railway Station has been totally destroyed.

#### (iii) LORIENT.

(a) SOCIETE EMERGIE EMECTRIQUE DE LA BASSE LOIRE. (4.056).

(North Power Station)

Part of the main building is seen to be badly damaged and reofless over an area of 90' x 100', possibly the result of a direct hit; several craters are seen in the immediate vicinity.

(b) ARSENAL. (4056)

Destroyed and damaged buildings in the S.W. part of the Arsenal are seen to be further wrecked by H.E.

#### II. COMMUNICATIONS.

- (i) RATIMAYS.
  - (a) Railway Sidings, KEROMAN. (3043)

Tracks and sidings serving the U-Boat Pens and Radial Slips have been severed in at least 6 places and a number of covered wagons and trucks destroyed or derailed.

(b) Railway Station & Sidings, PORT DE FECHE. (3043)

Five or six hits have cut almost all the tracks and destroyed or damaged passenger coaches and trucks of trains standing in the station approaches.

(c) Main Goods Station, LORIENT. (4056)

A direct hit has destroyed part of the S. side of the main station building. 3 craters straddle the sidings W. of the station.

. \*(d) NANTES-EREST Railway Line. (4056)

Between the Main Passenger Station and the Viaduet over the River SCORFF rapid repair work has been carried out on the main line which probably received at least two direct hits; the line is seen to be in working order again. Several fresh craters are seen along the embandment.

E. of the River SCORFF there appear to have been at least 2 craters on the lines which have been filled in and one or two on the embankment.

## · (ii) ROADS.

Direct hits have been scored on several roads in the districts of IA FERRIERE, KERGROISE and IE PARCO; 2 roadway approaches to KEROMAN are also cut. In the N. part of the town several roads have been hit including the COURS DE CHAZELIES. (3043 and 4056)

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Copies.

## INTERCEMENTATION REPORT NO. K. 1561 (CONT'D).

## III. MILITERY.

(a) FEBAULT Barracks. (3043)

There is further damage to 3 or 4 barrack blocks by blast and a small building has been destroyed; 5 fresh craters are seen within the boundary wall.

(b) New Barrack Huts Between FREBAULT and KEROWAN. (3043)

A 3-winged hut under construction has been one quarter destroyed by direct hits. Three craters are seen near the eastermost concrete torpedo shelter.

## IV. RESIDENTIAL AND UNIDENTIFIED.

About 40 houses and small buildings in the districts of LA HERRIERE, KERGROISE, LE PARCO, VILLE-EN-BOIS and the CLO TOLN have been destroyed or severely damaged but many of them, gutted or damaged in previous raids, were no longer habitable.

One or two houses have been destroyed in the district of LOMINELLQUE (LOCALQUELIC) 30-35 fresh craters are seen in fields E. of PORT LOUIS.

Plans used: Plan du PORT MILITAIRE DE LORIENT. Plan de LA VILLE DE LORIENT. I.S.T.D./C/80, Sept. 1942.

1 print distributed: Enlarged part of 3043 Neg. No. 24759.

SECRET.

DISTRIBUTION NO. 24.

R.A.F. STATION,

WAS/C/ERP/B.

Admiralty N.I.8. 24
Chief Ordnance
Officer (U.S.A.A.F.) 1

Page 2.

SECRET.

R.A.F. STATION, LEDGENHALL

WWO/DI/B.

DISTRIBUTION No. 24.

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172 Total



#### APPOINT TO REPORT K. 1561.

(Finbers refer to emotations on Print 504,3 Neg. No. 24,759)

#### KEROMAN: Submerine Pons & Workshops.

- 1. Southernmost U-Boat Shelter: probable grater on roof.
- 2. Centre U-Boat Shelters: hits on roof damaging centre rib.
- 3. Traverser Stage: direct bit in centre.
- 4. Forthernmost U-Pont Shelter: 2 probable craters on roof.
- 5. Crater on cleared site of workshop previously destroyed.
- 6. 2 hits on railway sidings; several trucks derailed and one crater filled in.
- 7. Craters on radiusy sidings and on ground adjoining workshops under repair.
- 8. Direct hit on quayside of H SSIN LONG.
- Workshop and two sheds severely dawaged or demolished; crater on railway trucks.
- 10. Craters on railway tracks and roadway; one is being filled in.
- 11. Hits on railway tracks and sheas, one of which has been destroyed.

#### Padial Duilding Slips

- 12. 2 craters amongst store dumps.
- 13. Severe damage to slip and travelling gantry; 2 craters nearby.
- 14. 2 craters amongst dumps.
- 15. Construction slips cut in two places.
- 16. A crater on road and another on ground adjoining railway loop line.
- 17. 1 crater amongst stored material, enother between railway tracks.

#### PORT DE PECHE: Harbour, Railway & built-up area.

- 18. 3 hits on railway serving harbour; several sets of lines cut and 2 or 3 coaches of train damaged.
- 19. Hits on coal dump and railway opposite station; several coaches and wagons destroyed or derailed.
- 20. Crater on side of road leading to Fish Market.
- 21. Fishmarket damaged by direct hit.
- 22. Thits on roads and railway sidings; trooks destroyed and I house demolished.
- 23. Hits on road and amongst buildings; damage by blast to several houses.
- 24. Destruction of small industrial building; blast damage to buildings, creters in open ground.
- 25. 2 craters; building damaged.

SECRET

Page 2

## KERGROISE

- 26. Craters in open ground; several in CARNEL Cometery.
- 27. Crater on edge of main road.

## LE PARCO

28. Built-up residential area, where many houses and other buildings were destroyed by fire in previous raids; 40 - 45 craters and destruction of a number of houses within the outlined area.

## FREBAULT Barracks

29. 4 craters within the confines of the barracks; damage by blast to at least 3 buildings.

## KEROLAY/LE PARCO

- 30. 3 craters near easternmost torpedo shelter.
- 31. 3-winged but 4 destroyed by direct hits.
- 32. Direct hits on light railway sidings.

SECRET R.A.F. STATION, MEDIENHAM, mission Much

W.H.

(American CONFIDERTAL).

#### INTERPRETATION REPORT S.A. 523.

## ATTACK ON U-BOAT PENS AT KEROMAN AND THE NORTHERN POWER STATION AT LORIENT ON 17.5.43.

Photographs SAV. 17.5.43. 1210 hrs. 1/25,500 (F.L.12") 25,500' 'A'. 1211 hrs. 1/38,000 (F.L. 8") 25,100' 'A'. 1/25,500 (F.L.12") 25,000' 'A'. 11 1213 hrs. 1/23,000 (F.L.12") 23,000' 'A'. 11 (F.L.12") 24,000 'A'. и и 1/24,000 (F.L.12") 24,500' 'A'. 1/24,500 1214 hrs. (F.L.12") 25,000' 'A'. 1/25,000 (F.L.12") 26,000' 'A'. 11 1/26,000 1/49;000 (F.L. 6") 24,500' 'A'. 11 " 11 11 1/34,500 (F.L. 8") 23,000' 'A'. ii. 11 1/34,500 (F.L. 8") 23,000 h. 11 11 " 1/55,000 (F.L. 8") 22,000' 'A'. 1/21,600 (F.L.12") 24,600' 'A'. , 11 1215 1/36,000 (F.L. 8") 21,000 'A'. 1216

## (i) INFORMATION RECEIVED ON THE ATTACKS.

- (a) These photographs were taken during a daylight attack on the U-Boat Pens at KEROMAN by 80 alreadt or U.S.B.C. and on the Northern Power Station at LORIENT by 58 alreadt of U.S.B.C.
- (b) The attacking force had withdrawal fighter support only.
- (c) A total of 395 x 1000 lb. G.P. bombs were dropped on the U-Boat Pens, while a total of 268 x 500 G.P. bombs were dropped on the Power Station.

## (ii) BOMB DURSTS OBSERVED.

- (a) The attack on the U-Boat Pens was made in two waves a few minutes apart. The first wave of aircraft flying from the S.E. dropped their bombs in sticks along the Eastern side of the target. Many of these bombs fell on the warehouses alongside the Large and Long Basins and on the Radial Slips. The bombs from the second wave fell will within the target area and at least four fell on the transverse rulls shich are between the two blocks of shelters, embling the U-boats to be moved from the entrance lock into any of the pens.
- (b) The main weight of the attack on the Northern Power Station fell well within the target area including several direct hits on the Power Station and a number on the railway nearby. Bombs from a later wave of aircraft fell South of the target, scoring direct hits on the Naval Ordnance Works and adjacent buildings.

## (iii) ANNOTATED PRINT I.

- A. Shows approx. 120 bomb bursts on the U-boat pens and .
  surrounding buildings. This includes at least h direct hits
  on the transverse rails between the two blocks of pens at A.A.

  Direct hits are also seen on warehouses alongside the Large
  and Long Basins and on the Radial Repair Slip: East of the pens.
- B. Approx. 15 bomb bursts in the water S. of the U-don't pens.
- C. Approx. 10 bomb bursts in the village of Locaiquelic and vicinity.

#### ASMOTATED PRINT II.

- A. Shows later development of the bomb bursts seen at A. on Print I and further smoke from these bursts.
- B. & C. Further developments of bomb bursts seen at B. and C. on Print I.
  - D. A group of approx. 20 bomb bursts are seen in open country 2 miles N.W. of KEROMAN.

## AMERICA TED PRINT THE

- E. A concentration of approx. 110 bomb bursts within the immediate neighbourhood of the Northern Power Station, including several direct hits on the Power Station. Mumcrous hits are also seen on the railway lines in the vicinity of the Power Station and several bursts on the Paris road.
- F. Shows 4 more bursts in the area further West, including a direct hit on the Station Sidings.
- G. A further 5 bursts south of the Power Station, including one beside a hospital.
- H. 5 bonb bursts in the River Scorif between the Railway Bridge and the Pont de Caudan.

#### ADNOTATED PRINT IV.

- A. Shows smoke from the development of the bursts in the neighbour-hood of the U-boat pens, also seen at A. on Prints I and II.
- D. Snoke from bursts in open country N.W. of KEROMAN seen at D. in Print II.
- F. A further development of bursts seen at F. on Print III with 15 additional bursts west of the Power House, including a further 3 hits on the Station Sidings.
- H. Shows later development of bursts in the River Scorff seen at H. in Print III and further bursts in the River.
- J. Shows approx. 60 bursts in the area south of the Power Station, including those bursts seen at G. in Print IV and Circet hits on the Nevel Ordnance Buildings in the vicinity of the Dry Docks, and in the nearby residential area.
- K. Approx. 35 bomb bursts from bombs which have fallen in open country East of the Railway Bridge.

#### AUNOTATED PRINT V.

K. Those bomb bursts seen at K on Print IV with approx. 20 additional bursts in the same area.

#### AMNOTATED PRINT VI.

- C. The bomb bursts seen at C on Prints I and II.
- A group of approx. 35 bursts in open country between Port Louis and the village of Riantee, East of Keroman.

ANNOTATED PRINT VII

## INTERPRETATION REPORT No.S.A. 323 (Contd).

Page 3.

#### AUNOTATED PRINT VII

M. Shows bursts from approx. 10 bombs, which have fallen in open country near the village of Landaul East of LORIENT.

## ACCOMPLINING PRINTS.

Annotated Prints I, II and III are being generally distributed with this report.

| SECRET.  |  |
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| * Description of the Party of t |  |

R.A.F.STATION, MEDMEI HAM. TDW/ESM/C.

## DISTRIBUTION No.11

Plus. H.Q.F.C. 20-E: 112 I: 15

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