359th FG

CONFIDENTIAL SEND IN CLEAR

   MISSION REPORT SUMMARY NUMBER 269   24 DEC 44

A. 359ᵗʰ FIGHTER GROUP, LT COL JOHN P. RANDOLPH LEADING A GP, MAJOR
   NIVEN K. CRANFILL LEADING B GP

B. A GP 40 P-51S (370 - 25, 369 - 15) UP 1135 DOWN 1641
   B GP 36 P-51S (368 - 24, 369 - 12) UP 1140 DOWN 1639

C. A GP TWO
   B GP TWO

D. RAMROD PEN-TGT-DWL, 8AF FO 1446A, HATTANROD A/F, VINEGROVE 2-1,
   2-2

E. 2 P-51S LOST, 1 TO E/A, 1 CAUSE UNKNOWN

F. NIL

G. 1ˢᵗ LT RAY A. BOYD, 368 SQ, MISSING IN ACTION, BELIEVED SHOT
   DOWN BONN, 1520; 2ⁿᵈ LT BRYCE H. THOMSON, NYR, BAILED OUT 1415,
   4 MI S LIEGE, LANDED IN TREES, CONDITIONS UNKNOWN.

H. 12-0-3 (S/E, AIR)

I. R/V 1245 S E BRUSSELS VISUALLY IDENTIFIED 381 AND 398 GPS,
   EXCELLENT FORMATION, 20-22,000. TOT 1432, VISUAL , 26,000 FT.
   B GP L/B BLANKENBERGHE 1540, 15,000 FT, A GP L/B 1515 BLANKENHEIN
   WHEN VECTORED AWAY BY NUTHOUSE.

OBSERVATIONS

1. 1450, S. OF BONN, 1 ME 262 MADE HALF HEARTED PASS AT B-17S;
   BROKE OFF WHEN SINGLE P-51 TURNED INTO HIM.
2. 1 ME 109 BEING CHASED BY 2 P-51S, 1420, SW OF KOBLENZ.
3. SEVERAL JET, BRUSSELS TO TARGET AREA, GENERALLY AT 35000 FEET.
4. 1 RAF BOMBER EXPLODED COLOGNE AREA 1500. 2 OR 3 CHUTES.
5. U/I FIGHTER SPUN DOWN FROM 20000 FEET TO 10000 FEET AT 1515,
   15 MILES W. OF COBLENZ.
6. 1 B-17 SPUN DOWN AND CRASHED, 1335, 20 MILES SW OF BONN.
   NO CHUTES SEEN.
7. 1330-1500, CONSIDERABLE RR TRAFFIC ON GIESSEN-LIMBURG-COBLENZ
   R/R, MOVING E. AND W.
8. 1330-1500, CONSIDERABLE RR TRAFFIC ON BONN-COBLENZ
   R/R, ALONG RHINE R, MOVING N AND S.
9. LT WONG REPORTED SMOKE IN COCKPIT, LOSING ALTITUDE, AND ON
   COURSE OF 270 DEGREES. LAST SEEN IN LAACHER SEE AREA.

FLAK:

   20 MILES W. OF COBLENZ - HEAVY, MODERATE, ACCURATE. INCLUDED 2
   RED BURSTS.

BT

MA BBBB
OIPNT R..........241922A ZMB K