

U S C O I DENTIFIED SOURCE: British

464th Bombardment Group (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 U S Army

JRF/REH/lem

319.1

3 July 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding Officer, 55th Bombardment Wing (H),
APO 520, U S Army
Attn: A-2

1. On 3 July 1944 at 0744B hours, 34 of 37 B-24 a/c scheduled took off to bomb Belgrade Shell Oil Depot (primary target). 3 a/c failed to take off; one because no oil pressure in #1 engine; another because #3 supercharger was out and the third because of propeller trouble. The 34 a/c formed in 2 attack units, the first unit was led by Major Harold B. Blema, Commanding Officer of the 776th Bombardment Squadron (H), and the second unit was led by Captain James R. Tudor, Flight Leader of the 777th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Group assembly was effected as planned, on schedule without incident. The 464th Bombardment Group (H) was in position directly behind the 465th Bombardment Group (H) over Spinazzola 2 minutes behind schedule.

3. From 20 to 25 P-51 a/c were observed at 0945B hours at Turn Point STOLAC. There were also observed 20 P-38 a/c at 0932B hours at (43°32'N - 25°05'E); another group of 25 P-38 a/c were seen at 1110B hours at (42°15'N - 18°56'E) which remained with the formation until it reached Italian Mainland.

4. 6 a/c returned early, one because flaps wouldn't raise; a second because prop governor went out; a third and fourth each had #4 engine out; the fifth because of oxygen leak; and the sixth because the landing gear wouldn't retract.

5. 2 e/a were observed; one ME-109 at target just after bombs away; one JU-52 at (44°30'N - 20°22'E) which was flying in opposite direction to the formation. Neither e/a made any effort to attack.

6. 28 a/c were over target at 1100B hours (target time 1245B hours). 28 a/c dropped 70 tons of 500 # GP bombs (.1

