

U S CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
464th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 U S Army

MCK/TFF/lem

319.1

7 July 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 7 July 1944, 34 B-24 a/c of 35 a/c scheduled took off to bomb Blechhammer North Synthetic Oil Plant (primary Target) at 0612B hours at Blechhammer, Germany. One (1) a/c failed to take off because two (2) generators were inoperative. The 34 a/c formed two (2) attack units, the first unit being led by Lt Col Charles F. McKenna III, Deputy Group Commander, and the second attack unit by Major William G. Moore, Commanding Officer of the 777th Bombardment Squadron (H). Nine (9) a/c returned early for the following reasons:

1. Gasoline was syphoning from Tokyo tank and oxygen leaking in ball turret.
2. Prop governor deficient, prop ran away, stayed at 2700.
3. Gas leak in left wing, leaking into bomb bay.
4. Gas leak in #3 tank.
5. Nose and ball turret inoperative and one tail gun out.
6. Malfunction in #3 engine, had to feather
7. Navigator ill with bad case of bends in left knee.
8. Lost #3 engine due to oil leak.
9. #2 turbo went out and #1 and #4 were fluctuating, lost speed could not keep up with formation.

2. Group assembly was accomplished as planned and line rendezvous with the 465th Group was made as ordered on course over Andria at 0705B hours.

3. Wing rendezvous was made over Spinazola at assigned altitude at 0720B hours. The 485th was late at wing rendezvous and did not fall into correct wing position until ten (10) minutes before the target was reached.

4. 25 a/c were over the target at 1120B hours, (briefed target time was 1050B hours), and dropped sixty-two and one half (62½) tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs (.1 nose and mixed .01

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL

Str. 401 88 Subj: Arr. 1000 Lt. 20 2 Jul 45. 1000 1000

Flak was also encountered at the following points:

Konigsmann	2nd Lt
Wagner	2nd Lt
Vogelbein (47°05'N-17°52'E)	2nd Lt
Kisner (47°30'N-18°02'E)	2nd Lt
Lor (47°23'N-18°12'E)	2nd Lt
Boave (47°21'N-17°49'E)	2nd Lt

9. Nineteen (19) a/c returned to this base between 1840z hours and 1855z hours. Two (2) a/c landed at Friendly Fields to have wounded crew members to the hospital. One (1) of the a/c landed at this base at 1845z hours, and the other at 1855z hours.

10. Eight (8) a/c were damaged, one (1) will be inoperative for more than 24 hours.

11. There were two (2) crew members wounded by flak; T/Sgt Walter E. Wolden, 16058979, suffered a flak wound in the thigh resulting in a broken thigh bone, now at 26th General Hospital, Bari, Italy, and T/Sgt George DuPuis, 3815348, was wounded by flak in left side, now in 61st Station Hospital, Foggia, Italy.

12. One (1) a/c was lost to flak and three (3) a/c are missing:

B-24 a/c No 42-95228 was hit by flak at the target (50°20'N-18°10'E). #3 engine had parts blown off including the prop, a/c winged over and fell out of formation. After falling about 2,000 feet, it leveled off and seemed to be under control. Seven (7) chutes were seen to open. Crew roster is as follows:

Pilot	John W Westlake	2nd Lt	0-688614
Co-Pilot	Charles Yoast	F/O	T-122218
Navigator	James L Mydland	2nd Lt	0-748086
Bombardier	Robert C McKee Jr	2nd Lt	0-691650
Engineer	Earl P Downey	T/Sgt	39193520
Asst Eng	Elwin L Majors	S/Sgt	38356404
Radio Oper	Raymond L Brandis	T/Sgt	16151920
Gunner	Herbert W Frankenfield	S/Sgt	35632489
Gunner	William F Horn	S/Sgt	35131886
Gunner	Francis R Holley	S/Sgt	15130201

B-24 a/c No 42-78241, dropped out of formation at the target (50°22'N-18°18'E) with #2 engine feathered. A/C seemed to be under control. Crew roster is as follows:

U. S. CONFIDENTIAL Equals British CONFIDENTIAL

Ltr 46/EG subj: Narr Miss rpt, dtd 7 Jul 44, contd

Pilot	Clyde B Judy	2nd Lt	0-750505
Co-Pilot	Robert E Delorier	2nd Lt	0-822943
Navigator	James J Costello	2nd Lt	0-709297
Bombardier	Francis A Gudy	2nd Lt	0-708850
Engineer	Delbert T Wilson	T/Sgt	31613158
Asst Eng	Robert W Hughes	S/Sgt	36681322
Gunner	Joe Dominetto	S/Sgt	36877580
Gunner	Cecil L Overtur	S/Sgt	37758493
Gunner	Frederick L Lawson	S/Sgt	35700938
Gunner	Mara C Pucello	Pfc	32217767

B-24 a/c No 42-52459 - There is no information as to where this a/c left the formation or where it encountered trouble. Crew roster is as follows:

Pilot	Marcel R Green	2nd Lt	0-813690
Co-Pilot	Roy L Gullies	2nd Lt	0-518145
Navigator	George C Weinberg	2nd Lt	0-703355
Bombardier	Neal T Cott	2nd Lt	0-699510
Engineer	Claude H Davis	T/Sgt	34708368
Asst Eng	Jesse Houston	S/Sgt	13064943
Radio Oper	Jack E Elliott	S/Sgt	13119201
Gunner	Andrew C Parker	S/Sgt	34776511
Gunner	Gerald K Howland	S/Sgt	37109806
Gunner	John J Achionos	S/Sgt	31106849

B-24 a/c No 42-78350, was hit by flak in #3 engine and was streaming white smoke at 50°15'N-18°15'E and a/c fell out of formation and from view of witnesses, six (6) chutes were seen but it is not definitely established that they came from this a/c. Crew roster is as follows:

Pilot	Scott H Murthy	1st Lt	0-736553
Co-Pilot	Paul H Dunn	2nd Lt	0-799355
Navigator	Owen S Strand	2nd Lt	0-707808
Bombardier	Morris D Keesee	2nd Lt	0-694465
Engineer	Clarence G Westley	Sgt	15329082
Asst Eng	Herschell A Bramel	S/Sgt	31131493
Radio Oper	Robert W Ludden	Sgt	33191997
Gunner	James W McGaughey	S/Sgt	37551559
Gunner	Harold R Coffey	Sgt	37501004
Gunner	James D Uinclus	Sgt	12198982

13. Important observations made by returning crew members are listed below:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
0941	Nevska	20,000	M/Y with 750 wagons-plus

~~_____~~
 British UNCLASSIFIED

117 107 30 000: Air Miss 1st and 7 and 11, contd

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1040	Mistany ($48^{\circ}35'N$ - $17^{\circ}51'E$)	21,500	M/Y with 15 or more T/A a/c-land strip about 10 mils wide red soil. Fertile low source.
1036	$48^{\circ}19'N$ - $17^{\circ}35'E$	21,500	Large active M/Y 20 tanks, over 500 wagons
1019	Gyor	22,000	30 small facilities encamped on both sides of river, enclosed in plain 2 miles east of Gyor
1037	Gallata ($48^{\circ}11'N$ - $17^{\circ}43'E$)	22,000	M/Y- over 500 wagons
1203	Banjaluka	13,800	River barges going west.
1356	$42^{\circ}45'N$ - $16^{\circ}49'E$	9,500	Submarine in harbor, appear- ed to be submerged. 4 small boats nearby.
1045	$48^{\circ}20'N$ - $17^{\circ}47'E$	21,000	Tent area-strip-road in cen- ter with 6 covered trucks on road.
1214	$47^{\circ}44'N$ - $18^{\circ}15'E$	19,000	6 large tanks, possibly oil tanks (storage). Some brown and some black, quite a number of bomb craters in vicinity.
1144	Zilina	20,000	M/Y with over 500 wagons.
1212	Komaron	13,200	O/R- 12 large & 16 small storage tanks
1019	Gyor	22,100	Oil storage tanks
1038	$49^{\circ}24'N$ - $17^{\circ}40'E$	21,000	Ammunition or bomb dump.

14. Route was flown as briefed: Track chart inclosed.

15. Four (4) a/c attempted photographs, selected prints
inclosed.

