

164th Bombardment Group (H)  
Office of the Intelligence Officer  
APO 520 8 Army

18 July 1944

TO : Executive Director

FROM : Commanding Officer, 46th Bombardment Group (H),  
APO 520, 8 Army  
(Subj: A-2)

1. On 17 July 1944, starting at 0800 G hours, 37 B-24 a/c of 38 were scheduled, took off to bomb the A/Y at Mantua, Italy (Second alternate target). Thirt, four (34) a/c were over the target dropping 66.55 tons of clustered 100 lb GP bombs (mixed instantaneous and non-delay tail fuse) at 0915 G hours to 0922 G hours from 21,000 feet.

2. The 37 B-24 formed in two (2) attack units. The first unit was led by Col. Charles F. McKenna III, Deputy Group Commander of the 46th Bombardment Group (H) and the second attack unit was led by 2nd Lt. John T. Welch, Flight Leader of the 778th Bombardment Squadron (H). The Group formation was executed according to plan. Line rendezvous with the 46th Bombardment Group (H) was as prescribed, as was the line rendezvous.

3. One (1) a/c failed to take off. B-24 a/c No. 41-29429 failed to take off because of excessive max drop.

4. Rendezvous with fighter escort consisting of 7 to 11 P-38 a/c and 15 to 20 P-51 a/c was effected at 0910 G hours at (44°20'N-13°40'E) and at 0930 G hours at (45°10'N-12°05'E) respectively. The escort provided what the returning crews describe as superior cover to the target and withdrawal to the coast of Italy. The escort was last observed at 1017 G hours at (44°51'N-12°30'E).

5. Three a/c returned early. B-24 a/c No. 41-29398 landed at 0800 G hours, returning with two (2) tons of bombs when a hydraulic leak was reported. On landing it was discovered that the fluid was leaking from a spare container and not from the hydraulic system. B-24 a/c No. 41-29453 landed



