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

WFF/lem

319.1

8 August 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding Officer, 45th Bombardment Wing (H),
 APO 520, U.S. Army.

1. On 7 August 1944, twenty-eight (28) B-24 a/c scheduled took off, beginning at 0700H hours to bomb the Blechhammer (North) Synthetic O/R, Blechhammer, Germany. Four (4) spare a/c were scheduled and three (3) took off and proceeded with the formation to (43°00'N - 17°17'E) at 0855H hours where they left the formation and returned to base. One (1) spare a/c failed to take off due to inoperative priming solenoid on No. 2 engine. The twenty-eight (28) a/c formed one (1) attack unit of four (4) boxes led by Colonel A. L. Schroeder, Group Commanding Officer.

2. Group assembly; line rendezvous with 465th Group and Wing rendezvous were as planned.

3. Two (2) a/c returned early:
 a/c No 42-78376 turned back at 0923B (44°09'N-17°50'E) as fuel transfer system was inoperative and tokvo tanks believed not filled.

a/c No 42-95335 turned back at 1107B (49°04'N-18°55'E) as it was unable to keep up with the formation.

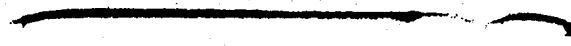
4. Twenty-six (26) a/c were over the target at 1131B hours (briefed target time 1121B) and twenty-six (26) a/c dropped sixty-five (65) tons of 500 pound GP bombs with .1 nose and .025 tail fusing from 21,200 feet. One (1) early return jettisoned 2½ tons at 1100B hours (49°07'N-18°55'E), the other returned 2½ tons to the base. The three (3) spares all returned their bombs totalling 7½ tons to the base.

Reconciliation of bomb tonnage:

Dropped on target	- 65 tons
Returned to base	- 10 tons
Jettisoned	- 2½ tons
Total for 31 a/c	- 77½ tons

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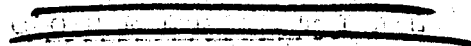
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Ltr 464 PG Subj: Narr Miss Ent 68 8 Aug 44, par 2, contd

cumulonimbus over the Alps. Visibility 20 miles or more over entire route. 7/10 cumulus, tops 14,000 feet over Cossica on return. Few broken-off cumulus over Inverines on return. Base was 7/10 with cumulus and strato cumulus. Thunderstorm approaching from the south. Surface winds on return were northeast 10 miles per hour.

10. Losses for the group were as follows:

A/C No 42-78318 lost at target. Direct hit by flak tore No 1 engine completely off, No 2 engine was seen to catch fire and the a/c turned over on its back and went down in straight dive. Time 1131P hours. Three (3) chutes were reported.

A/C No 42-78317 missing. Last seen over Yugoslavia, on course after passing Bratislava, four (4) engines operating but dropping behind formation. Crew at that time was jettisoning all possible equipment. Last observation was 1407P hours at which time a/c was losing altitude but under control.

Three (3) a/c received flak damage, one (1) of which will be inoperational for twenty-four (24) hours.

One (1) crew member suffering from frost bite was the extent of crew injuries.

11. The following observations were made:

<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ALTITUDE</u>	<u>OBSERVATION</u>
0933B	(44°36'N-17°41'E)	17,000	Factory, large and active-
1037B	1 mile S of Eczter	20,000	Factory, one milesquare-
1105B	(49°14'N-18°33'E)	21,000	3 large hangar shaped buildings, piles of equipment, possible a/c assembly plant-
1125F	(50°12'N-18°27'E)	20,700	M/Y over 500 wagons-
1136B	(50°32'N-17°58'E)	?	35 barges in river-
1234B	(47°53'N-17°08'E)	16,000	Troop concentration, tents, appearance of permanent camp-
1410B	Split harbour	15,000	7 vessels, 2dd, 2Subs, 3 transports

12. Twenty-four (24) a/c returned to this base between the hours of 1507B and 1530B hours.

13. Photographic coverage of target area bears out observations of crews on location of smoke generators. Approximately fifty (50) located to north of and from center to east end of target. Twelve (12) to fifteen (15) along eastern boundary and approximately twenty-five (25) along southern edge of target from center to eastern edge.

14. Route was flown as briefed until shortly before reaching

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Ltr, L64 PC Sugi: Narr Miss Rpt of 8 Aug 44, par 14 contd
Yugoslavian Coast on return when slight deviations were made
because of weather.

15. Four (4) a/c attached photographs. Selected strike
photograph inclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS T. ELDER
Major, AD
Intelligence Officer

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