

Office of the Intelligence Officer
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15 June 1944

Subject: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding Officer, 55th Bombardment Group (C),
 APO 520, U. S. Army

1. On 11 August 1944, target aircraft (2) scheduled 4-31
 a/c and three (3) spare a/c were taken off at 1255 hours from
 both run positions in the st. direction of Southern France.
 One (1) scheduled a/c No 42-51082 crashed on take off and was
 replaced by one (1) of the three (3) spare a/c.

The target aircraft (2) a/c were divided into two (2) attack
 units, the first unit being led by Major Clarence C. Poff,
 Commanding Officer of the 776th Bombardment Squadron (B), and
 the second by 1st Lt. Sharon H. Wagner, Assistant Operations
 Officer of the 776th Bombardment Squadron (B).

One spare a/c turned back on instructions from the Group
 Leader at 1558 hours at Lido, Italy (41°15'N-13°15'E), re-
 turning two and one half (2 1/2) tons of bombs to base.

One spare a/c unable to receive instructions from the
 Group Leader, continued with the formation to the target.

A/C No 42-51082 which crashed on take off was totally
 destroyed by fire and exploding bombs. Six (6) crew members
 received minor injuries, with no fatalities.

Take off of part of this group and the 465th Group was
 delayed approximately six (6) minutes due to the crash, if
 being necessary to take off to the east, as the crashed a/c
 was approximately seven hundred (700) feet off the east end of
 the runway, burning fiercely and bombs exploding.

2. Group assembly, line rendezvous with the 465th Group,
 and wing rendezvous were made as planned in spite of the de-
 lay in take off.

3. One (1) a/c returned early. A/C No 42-95332 turned

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and T. (12251-12290) on the previous mission. This mission was a strike on the target (12251-12290).

The mission was flown by (2) B-29 Superfortresses (1) from the 7th Bombardment Wing (15) and (1) from the 9th Bombardment Wing (15) (100% fuel). This mission was a strike on the following recapitulation of individual bombs:

Abile Box - seven (7) B-29s were over the target (gun position 4-122838) at 10:20 hours, and six (6) B-29s were over the target (15) tons of bombs from 17,500 feet. One (1) B-29 returned to base one half (1/2) tons of bombs to base due to rack malfunction.

Deer Box - seven (7) B-29s were over the target (gun position 4-122838) at 10:20 hours and six (6) B-29s were over the target (15) tons of bombs from 17,500 feet. One (1) B-29 returned to base one half (1/2) tons of bombs to base due to rack malfunction.

Charlie Box - seven (7) B-29s were over the target (gun position 4-122838) at 10:20 hours, and seven (7) B-29s were over the target and one half (1/2) tons of bombs from 17,500 feet.

Deer Box - seven (7) B-29s were over the target (gun position 4-122838) at 10:20 hours, and six (6) B-29s were over the target and one half (1/2) tons of bombs from 17,500 feet. Two (2) B-29s returned four (4) tons of bombs to base: one (1) B-29 due to rack malfunction (1) tons, and one (1) B-29 due to linkage from selector, salvo and emergency release handles broken (2) tons).

Recapitulation of bombs	
Dropped on targets-----	61 tons
Jettisoned-----	2 1/2 tons
Returned to base-----	11 1/2 tons
Destroyed in crash on take off-----	2 1/2 tons
Total bombs accounted for-----	77 1/2 tons

Bombing results as shown by Bomb Strike Photographs are as follows:

Abile Box - Gun Position 4-122838, thirteen hits in water, 200' to 1000' from target.

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<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1650R	(132051R-05251R)	17,400	Fifteen (15) ships in harbor at Tientsin.

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