

Hq. U.S. Army

PR27-450

520

U.S. Army

310.1

23 September 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO: Commanding General, 50th Bombardment Wing (F)
Hq., 50th Bombardment Wing

1. On 23 September 1944, twenty eight (28) scheduled and three (3) spare B-24 a/c took off, beginning at 0725A hours to bomb the bridge south of ... Italy. The thirty one (31) a/c formed two (2) attack units. Leader of the first unit was Lt. Colonel Clarence G. Hoff, Commanding Officer, 778th Bombardment Squadron (1).

2. ... accomplished in a highly satisfactory manner under ... Wing rendezvous was as ordered by Operations Order No. 136, with the exception that this group took a course over ... zzola one (1) minute late. ... as loose but satisfactory, ...

3. One (1) early return a/c no. 4250643 turned back at 0916A hours (42°00'N - 14°20'W) because of engine trouble with number two (2) engine. All spare a/c continued with formation and completed mission.

4. Thirty (30) a/c were over the Primary Target at 1118A hours (lead ship time). Fourteen (14) a/c dropped a total of thirty five (35) tons of bombs at 1117A hours (mean time) from 14,000 feet. The Group Leader firing a solid overcast completely obscuring the Primary target, signaled indicating that the first Alternate target, ... Di Five R.A. Bridge would be attacked and the ... course for Decile, I.F. for the alternate. Thirty (30) a/c were over the first Alternate target at 1140A hours and fifteen (15) a/c dropped thirty seven (37) tons of bombs from 14,000 feet. Axis of attack 192° (briefed axis 190°). All bombs were one thousand (1000) pound G.P. with (.1 nose and non delay tail fusing). A total of five

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Ltr Narr Mission Ret, contd

and one half (5½) tons were returned to the base. A/C no. 42-50495 returned one and one half (1½) tons and A/C no. 42-51756 returned one and one half (1½) ton, both due to rack malfunctions and the/c remaining empty returned two and one half (2½) tons.

Recapitulation of Bomb Tonnage

Dropped on Primary Target	35.0 tons
Dropped on 1st Alt. Target	37.5 tons
Returned to Base	5.5 tons
Total (31/c)	<u>77.5 tons</u>

Five strikes were made in approximately 24 strikes in open country an undetermined distance from Pinzano South railroad bridge. No photos show this primary target, due to solid overcast. At the first alternate, Piave Ponte Di Piave railroad bridge, two direct hits were on the railroad bridge, and at least one on the adjacent highway bridge. There were also several close near misses on both bridges. Other strikes were at the north and south approaches to the bridges.

5. Beginning with the first strike at the IP was 7-8/10ths and the target was obscured until the formation reached Oderzo (45°47'N - 12°29'E) at which time the overcast broke up sufficiently to make target visibility good. Both attack unit leaders bombed the 1st alternate target of Automatic Pilot. First attack Unit Leader using C-1 and the Second Attack Unit Leader A-5:

6. No enemy opposition was encountered.

7. 4/10 stratus, Base 1500 feet, tops 3000 feet and 5/10 to 7/10 stratocumulus, Base 3500 feet, tops 9000 feet from Base to Coast.

3/10 to 5/10 stratocumulus, tops 10,000 feet over Adriatic. Scattered cirrostratus in North Adriatic.

Over target, 8/10 stratocumulus, tops 10,000 feet with scattered cirrostratus at 21,000 feet. Visibility was 15 miles.

On return, general decrease of all cloudiness. 3/10 cumulus from Coast to Base and clear over Base. Visibility entire route was 15-20 miles.

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Ltr Narrative Mission Report, contd

8. The following observations were reported.

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1003h	(43°17'N - 14°53'E)	12,000	Possible submarine pursuing zig zag course. General heading 360°.
1107h	(15°47'N - 12°36'E)	24,000	W/D - 4 B/W/c. Numerous hang-ers and crates.

9. Thirty (30) a/c returned to this base between 1340h and 1414h hours.

10. Route was flown as briefed. Track chart showing route flown attached.

11. Eight (8) a/c attempted photographs. Selected strike photograph attached.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Track chart
Incl 2 - Selected photograph.