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

BVB/PFE/rcm

319.1

24 September 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding General, 55th Bombardment Wing (H)
APO 520, U S Army

1. On 24 September 1944, twenty six (26) of twenty eight (28) scheduled B-24 a/c and three (3) spares took off at 0935A hours to bomb Submarine based in Scaramanga Harbor and Scaramanga Harbor Installations in Greece. The twenty nine a/c formed in two attack units. The first attack unit was led by Colonel A. L. Schroeder, Commanding Officer of the 464th Bombardment Group (H), and the second attack unit was led by Major James H. Gilson, Commanding Officer of the 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

Two (2) scheduled a/c failed to take off for the following reasons: B-24 a/c No 42-52537 would not pull more than 2500 RPM's and 44 inches on No 4 engine. B-24 a/c No 42052514 had a complete electrical system failure.

2. The Group form up and line rendezvous were executed in a satisfactory manner. The 464th Bombardment Group (H) passed over Spinazzola three (3) minutes early, at 1042A hours, in order to avoid clouds.

3. B-24 a/c No 42-78514 feathered a run away prop and being unable to keep formation position returned from (39°27'N - 21°02'E) landing at 1400A hours.

4. Twenty eight (28) a/c were over the target at 1303A hours and twenty three (23) a/c dropped fifty seven and one half (57 ½) tons of 500 pound RDX bombs (.1 nose and .01 tail fusing) from 23,000 feet.

Five (5) a/c failed to release on the target. Dog Box leader had a rack malfunction and bombs would not release by sight or toggle switch. Three (3) other a/c in Dog Box did not release for the reason that the box leader did not drop. One (1) a/c did not release when the intervalometer failed to function. These five (5) a/c returned twelve and one half (12 ½) tons of bombs to base.

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Recapitulation of Bombs

23 a/c dropped on target	57½ tons
6 a/c returned to base	15 tons
2 a/c no take off	5 tons
Total	<u>77½ tons</u>

Bomb strike photographs show direct hits on the main jetty, seaplane hangars, workshop, slinways and on the large unidentified building adjacent to the east side of the hangars. In the harbor there were probable direct hits on a 210 foot submarine adjacent to the jetty, and on three merchant vessels measuring 380, 200, and 170 feet. There were also two near misses on the derelict merchant vessel and one near miss on a 280 feet MV. At least six additional small boats were destroyed. Two hits were in the work camp area. Numerous hits blanketed the south edges of the hangars. Several strikes covered shoreline installations as far as 600 feet on either side of the main jetty. One near miss was adjacent to the probable power house. Approximately 36 bombs fell short of the target, at distances ranging from 4000 feet to one and one quarter miles.

5. The Group Leader used C-1 automatic pilot. The second attack unit leader started on the bomb run using the C-1 automatic pilot but finished on PDI because of the amount of correction necessary.

6. Flak at the target was reported SIH to MIH. At (39°38'N - 20°50'E) SIH flak was observed.

7. Two (2) FW 190 a/c were observed at (38°12'N - 23°30'E) at 1300A hours flying at 9000 feet and in the opposite direction from that of the formation which was at 23,000 feet. Six (6) ME-109 a/c were observed first at (39°10'N - 21°10'E) at 1400A hours flying parallel to the formation and at the formations altitude of 15,000 feet. The e/a left the formation at (39°40'N - 20°02'E) at 1425A hours having made no effort to attack.

8. No friendly escort was observed.

9. There was 2/10 cirrus and 2/10 to 3/10 cumulus with tops at 8000 feet from the base to the coast.

2/10 over the Adriatic and Strait of Otranto. Over the Grecian Mountains 3/10 to 4/10 cumulus with tops at 10,000 to 12,000 feet.

1/10 cumulus in the target area with visibility unlimited.

On return, little change except increase in cumulus over Southern Italy to 5/10.

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Ltr Narr Miss Ppt, cont'd

At the base on return 4/10 cumulus, bases at 3000 feet, tops 6000 feet with scattered altocumulus at 10,000 feet.

Visibility over the entire route 20 to 30 miles.

10. The following observations were reported:

TIME	PLACE	ALT.	OBSERVATIONS
1255	(38°07'N - 23°47'E)	22,000	Smoke screen over A/D.
1303	Scaramanga Harbor	22,400	One (1) large and six (6) to eight (8) medium and fifteen (15) small M/Vs anchored.
1306	(38°04'N - 23°33'E)	22,000	Six (6) 4 engine a/c on A/D.
1333	(38°20'N - 21°47'E)	16,700	Two (2) large boats on 45° heading.

11. Twenty eight (28) a/c landed at this base between 1540A hours and 1602A hours.

12. Route was flown as briefed. Track chart showing route flown enclosed.

13. Six (6) a/c attempted photographs. Selected print enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Track Chart
Incl 2 - Selected Print.