

C O N F I D E N T I A L

779TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 470 520 U.S. Army

OK/ST/10/10/44

312.1

5 November 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding General, 55th Bombardment Wing (H),
 470 520, U.S. Army

1. On 5 November 1944 six (6) of seven (7) scheduled P-24 a/c took off at 0910A hours to bomb Nitrovice, Yugoslavia. One (1) a/c No. 42-78618 took off at 1015A hours due to a fuel line leak which had to be repaired before the a/c could take off. The six (6) a/c formed into one (1) attack unit, being led by 2nd Lt. David P. McKeever, Flight Leader of the 779th Bombardment Squadron (H), 1st Deputy Leader in place of the scheduled leader in a/c No. 42-78618.

2. Group formation was satisfactory, but there was no definite line formation until beyond the Yugoslavian Coast.

3. One a/c returned early. A/C No. 44-40503 returned immediately after take off because the plug was blown out of the hydraulic system near the tail skid and the landing gear would not retract. This a/c landed at 1033A hours.

4. Four (4) a/c were over the target at 1152A hours, and one (1) a/c dropped two and one half (2½) tons of 500 pound GP bombs (.1 nose and .01 tail fusing) from 18,000 feet.

One (1) a/c (late take off) was over the target at 1215A hours, and dropped two and one half (2½) tons of 500 pound GP (.1 nose and .01 tail fusing) from 18,000 feet.

Four (4) a/c including the early return, returned ten (10) tons of bombs to the base. Disposition of bombs on one (1) a/c which ditched in the Adriatic is unknown.

Recapitulation of Bomb Tonnage

2 a/c dropped on target	5 tons
4 a/c returned to base	10 tons
1 a/c unknown (ditched)	2.5 tons
Total	<u>17.5 tons</u>

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Ltr Narr Miss Ent, cont'd

Due to cloud cover it was impossible to locate the T.P. A bomb run was made over the target on an (530) axis of attack, but the target was obscured by clouds. A second bomb run was made on an axis of attack of (3300) but the leader could not synchronize on target or establish rate in sight and did not drop. However a/c No. 42-78613 picked up the target momentarily through a break in the clouds and dropped its bombs with possible hits in W.W. corner of the town.

A/C No. 42-78618 which bombed at 1215A hours could not locate the T.P. and made a bomb run on an axis of (2700) with unobserved results.

One (1) K-22 was in the a/c which returned early, consequently no bombs away pictures were secured. Two (2) K-20 cameras were dispatched and one (1) attempted photographs of bombs away which shows what appears to be one (1) bomb burst on the northwest corner of the town. Print is inclosed.

5. C-1 was not used by the Group leader, as the target was obscured on first run and on the second bomb run P. D. I. was used.

A/C No. 42-78618 used C-1, on the bomb run.

6. M to IAH flak was encountered at the target of approximately three (3) to five (5) minutes duration on both runs over the target, being of heavier intensity on the second run.

Intense heavy flak was observed at Podgorica.

7. 3/10 to 4/10 stratocumulus and swelling cumulus at take-off and continuing to coast, tops 8,000 ft. with a few tops to 10,000 ft.

Over Adriatic, 5/10 to 6/10 low stratus and stratocumulus, tops 4-6,000 ft.

Generally clear to scattered over Dinarics with peaks visible. Beyond Alps, 8/10 stratocumulus, tops 8-10,000 ft. which continued to just this side of target.

Target itself was clear with clouds on all sides. Clear space over target 15 miles long and 5/6 miles wide.

Returning conditions were similar.

3/10 to 4/10 flat cumulus at 6,000 ft. on return to base.

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Its Navy Missions, cont'd

Visibility at target and enroute 10 miles or more.

8. A/C No 42-78531 ditched at 1105 hours at (131110) (132221E) just off the Yugoslav coast. This information was confirmed by crew members of A/C No 42-78531.

Three (3) e/a were damaged, none of which will be inoperative for more than twenty-four (24) hours.

9. The following observations were reported by returning crew members.

Time	Place	Altitude	Observation
1152	Target	14,000	Considerable motor transport activity was observed moving into the city from the south.
1153	Target	10,000	Steel mill on north side of town.

10. Five (5) e/a landed at this base between 1335 and 1347 hours.

11. Route was flown as briefed until the vicinity of the IP when two (2) bomb runs were made into the target. Track chart showing route flown is inclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELLER
Major, MC
Intelligence Officer

2 Incls:
Incl 1 - Track Chart
Incl 2 - Selected Photograph