

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

HEADQUARTERS
464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U S Army

HH/PFE/hob

319.1

25 November 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 25 November 1944, the three (3) scheduled PFF B-24 type a/c designated below took off at the hour indicated to bomb the Munich West M/Y, as specified in Operations Order No. 263:

A/C No 42-95613 (W/W), Capt Joseph A. Shymanski,
Pilot, at 0040A hours.

A/C No 44-49032 (W/B), 1st Lt Franklin K. Lane,
Pilot, at 0048A hours.

A/C No 44-49048 (Y/J), 1st Lt Forrest J. Robbins,
Pilot, at 0122A hours. Scheduled take-off of this
last mentioned a/c was delayed by mechanical difficulties.

2. a. A/C No 42-95613 was the only one of the three to attack the Primary Target. Using C-1 Automatic Pilot with PFF, its full bomb load of 8 x 500 pound RDX (6 x .1 and .01 and 2 x long delayed fuse) was dropped from 24,100 feet, on an axis of 40 degrees at 0436A hours.

b. PFF operator of this a/c reported equipment in perfect condition. Target was picked up on scope seventy (70) miles away. Four (4) corrections were given bombardier on course and four (4) on rate (70° to 40°).

c. Flak at P/T was reported as ITH, lasting from 2-3 minutes. No searchlights were observed.

3. a. A/C No 44-49032 and a/c No 44-49048 attacked the Alternate Target, the Innsbruck Main M/Y, the former because it was believed that there were breaks in the overcast at the Primary, and the latter because of operational failure in PFF equipment.

b. Each of these two a/c, using C-1 with PFF, dropped its full bomb load of 8 x 500 pound RDX (6 x .1 and .01, and 2 x

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long delayed fuse) on the A/T. A/C No 44-49032 dropped from 23,500 feet at 0442A hours, on an axis of 95 degrees, and a/c No 44-49048 from 23,000 feet, at 0445A hours, on an axis of 160 degrees.

c. PFF operator of a/c No 44-49032 reported equipment satisfactory, though approach used did not permit picking up of specific target within city. Five (5) corrections given, last correction 3 degrees.

d. PFF operator of a/c No 44-49048 was unable to pick up identification return as P/T was approached. Upon making 180 degree turn to check equipment, Innsbruck was picked up on scope. Specific target was not returned and operator synchronized on center of town.

e. SIH flak was encountered at the Alternate. Diffused light through the overcast indicated presence and use of searchlights, but the number could not be determined.

4. Recapitulation of bomb tonnage dropped:

	500 lb RDX .1 x .01 fuse	500 lb RDX Long delayed fuse
1 a/c dropped on P/T	1.5 tons	0.5 tons
2 a/c dropped on A/T	3.0 tons	1.0 tons

5. Weather. Base on take-off, stratocumulus and stratus over mountains to west. Thin low stratus forming at about 1,000 feet, but stars visible. Visibility reduced to 5 miles in haze.

Route, undercast tops to 8,000 feet over entire Adriatic. No high clouds. Over mountains there were some breaks in the undercast. North of the mountains there was an undercast of middle clouds at 17,000-18,000 feet and few patches of cirrus forming above. On return, conditions similar with undercast tops to 18,000 feet north of Alps and undercast at 8,000 feet over Adriatic. Clouds over south Adriatic 500 feet thick.

Target, 10/10 altostratus to 18,000 feet; 3/10 cirrus above planes.

Base on return, 10/10 altocumulus 8,000 to 8,500 feet. Low stratus and stratocumulus topping surrounding high ground. Visibility reduced to 8 miles in haze.

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6. Routes were flown as briefed, except for deviation in axis of attack made by the two (2) a/c attacking the Alternate.

7. Return landings of the three (3) a/c were made as follows:

A/C No 44-49048 at 0704A hours

A/C No 42-95613 at 0705A hours

A/C No 44-49032 at 0723A hours

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

1 Inclosure
Incl 1 - Track Chart