

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

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

ml/FFE/nob

319.1

28 December 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 28 December 1944, twenty-seven (27) scheduled B-24 type a/c took off at 0815A hours to bomb Roudnice Oil Tankage and Sidings, in Czechoslovakia, in two attack units. The first attack unit was led by Lt. Colonel William G. Moore, Jr., Commanding Officer, 777th Bombardment Squadron (H) and the second unit by 1st Lieutenant George B. Groteluschen, Flight Leader, 776th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Form up, assembly and rendezvous was as prescribed without incident.

3. Twenty-five (25) a/c were over the target at 1224A hours and dropped 49.5 tons of bombs (500# GP .1 nose and .01 tail) from 22,500 feet.

A/C No. 42-78590 jettisoned one-half (1/2) ton at 1220A hours at (50°12'N-13°43'E), as the result of an accidental release.

Recapitulation of bomb disposition:

25 a/c dropped on target	49.5
1 a/c jettisoned (accidental release)	.5
1 a/c lost before target (Collision)	2.0
1 a/c at friendly field - unknown	2.0
Total	54.0 tons

4. The bombing was visual, each attack unit using C-14 automatic pilot. Results as disclosed by local interpretation:

Bomb strike photos show at least eight (8) direct hits on the railway sidings. A heavy concentration of more than three dozen hits fell in the buried storage tank area immediately west of the sidings. A probable direct hit and two near misses were scored on the west end of the pump house located 1200 feet

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west of the sidings. Four hits were on the north end of the petroleum dock. More than three dozen additional hits fell east of the target area, in open country.

5. Following observations were reported:

<u>Observations</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>
M/Y 500 units and much activity	1255A	49°25'N-14°40'E	21,500
M/Y 500 units	1235A	50°13'N-14°35'E Byssice	21,500
A/D with 23 a/c (SEF and TEF). (K-20 camera photo enclosed)	1345A	47°11'N-14°45'E Zeltweg	20,000
Full M/Y	1324A	Amstetten	22,000
Smoke screen and 10 M/V	1058A	Trieste harbor	16,000
Smoke screen over warehouses	1345A	48°00'N-15°00'E	20,500

6. Rendezvous was made with 35 P-38s at 1101A hours at (45°53'N-14°03'E) and with 30 P-51s at 1140A hours at (48°00'N-13°40'E), the last escort departing at 1455A hours.

7. The weather was clear at take off and generally clear to Adriatic coast.

2/10 scattered over Adriatic, tops 5,000 feet with scattered to broken cumulus along Italian coast to North.

Generally clear over Dinarics and Alps except for valley stratus and stratocumulus on east slopes.

North of Alps patchy stratus, 2/10 to 3/10, tops 3,000 feet.

Clear with ground haze at target, visibility 15 miles.

On return, cloudiness increased to east of course, 10/10 on east slopes of Alps and Dinarics.

Scattered cumulus over Adriatic.

At base on return, 4/10 cirrus and 4/10 scattered, tops 6,000 feet.

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8. Two (2) a/c in Dog Box (A/C No. 44-40503 and No. 44-41213) collided in midair at 1120A hours at approximately (46°40'N-13°38'E) (near Villach). A/C No. 44-41213 had its tail assembly knocked off and dived into the ground. Observing crews uniformly reported the opening of one chute. K-20 photo of a/c after collision enclosed.

The other a/c in the collision (No. 44-40503) has been reported as landing at the island of Vis by 55th Bomb Wing A-3.

9. Twenty-five (25) a/c made return landing from 1610A to 1650A hours.

10. Three (3) a/c attempted photos. Selected strike photos attached.

For the Commanding Officer:

3 Inclosures
Incl 1 - Track Chart
Incl 2 - Selected Print
Incl 3 - K-20 Prints

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Major, AC
Intelligence Officer