

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

HEADQUARTERS
COMBATTING GROUP (H)
APO 520 U.S. Army

12/rom

210.1

24 February 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 24 February 1945, beginning at 0255A hours twenty eight (28) B-24 a/c took off to bomb the primary target specified in Operations Order No 20, 23 February 1945. The twenty eight (28) a/c formed two (2) attack units, the first unit was led by Captain Joseph A. Shymenski, assistant operations officer, 778th Bombardment Squadron (H) and the second attack unit by 1st Lt. Robert E. Wood, assistant operations officer, 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Ground formation was completed in excellent fashion and rendezvous was made as prescribed.

3. Two (2) a/c returned early:

(a) A/C No 42-51264 turned back at 1150A hours from (43°50'N-12°20'E). No 1 engine cutting out and excessive manifold pressure on No 3 engine.

(b) A/C No 42-95332 turned back at 1243A hours from (45°20'N-12°48'E). Fuel transfer system inoperative.

4. Twenty six (26) a/c were over the Udine, Italy M/Y at 1327A hours and dropped fifty one and one half (51.5) tons of five hundred (500) pound RBV bombs (.1 nose and .01 tail fusing) from 24,500 feet.

Bomb strike photos show a very heavy concentration of hits fell on the tracks throughout the entire southern half of the marshalling yard. Three additional hits were on the northern end of the yard, damaging a string of freight cars in that area. At least ten hits were among installations in the transformer station area which borders the western edge of the yard. The approximate center of the bomb pattern was on the southern end of the yard, where the hits were most concentrated. At least twenty-four direct hits were scored on the yard itself.

A/C No 42-51264, early return, jettisoned two (2) tons

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

Ltr Narr Miss Rpt cont'd

of bombs at 1151A hours, (43°45'N-14°31'E).

A/C No 42-95222, early return, returned two (2) tons of bombs to the base.

A/C No 44-49746 jettisoned one-half (.5) ton of bombs, one bomb each at 1240A and 1350A hours, (45°50'N-13°10'E) (45°15'N-13°25'E) respectively.

5. Flak at the target was S to MAM and of the tracking variety. Duration of one and one half (1½) minutes. Flak at Grade (45°40'N-13°23'E) was variously reported as encountered and observed and of scant intensity. Reports would indicate that Grade defenses were probably one heavy and several medium guns.

6. Three (3) crews reported the presence of unidentified e/a in the target area but from the accounts of friendly escort activity in the same locality these reports are felt to be erroneous.

7. Escort consisted of approximately twenty (20) P51 a/c and rendezvous was made at 1130A hours (43°52'N-15°02'E) and were observed in the vicinity of the formation at intervals until 1415A hours (43°40'N-14°04'E). Cover over the target area was described as good. Only one observation of markings was reported and indicated the 332nd Fighter Group.

8. Weather was 1/10 to 2/10 stratocumulus at take-off continuing to coast. Clear to low scattered to 43°00'N- where 3/10 altostratus were encountered. This deck increased rapidly to 10/10 with tops to 20,000 feet. Base of clouds was estimated at 13,000 feet. Formation circled worse weather which appeared to be concentrated in northwest Adriatic and northern Yugo. 5/10 to 7/10 cirrus to east over N Yugo, top 26,000 feet.

At target, clear with visibility 20 miles.

10/10 altostratus, top 20,000 feet in north Adriatic breaking to clear south of Pola.

Generally clear from Pola to base, visibility 20-25 miles.

9. Observations

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Alt</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1325A	42°57'N-12°54'E	24,000	A/D 7 DEF
1304A	Udine	25,000	New barracks type bldgs., ½ mile south of Udine.

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

Ltr Narr Miss R pt cont'd

1321A Casarsa 25,000 W/Y Full

10. Twenty six (26) a/c returned to base between 1515A and 1541A hours.

11. A circuitous course was followed to the target due to weather conditions encountered. Track chart showing route briefed and route flown enclosed.

12. Seven a/c attempted photographs and selected strike photograph is enclosed.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ALLER
Major, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer

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

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