

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

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

FFE/HH/jd

310.1

13 March 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 13 March 1945, thirty two (32) scheduled B-24 type a/c, including four (4) spares, took off at 0845A hours to bomb Regensburg SE M/Y, the primary target designated in Operations Order No. 126, forming into two attack units. The first attack unit was led by Lt. Colonel William G. Moore, Commanding Officer 777th Bombardment Squadron (H), and the second by First Lieutenant Arnold E. Klimpel, Flight Leader, 778th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Form up, assembly, and rendezvous were made as prescribed without incident. A slow lead resulted in occasional congestion of the Wing formation along the route to the target.

3. There was one early return. A/C No. 42-51856 turned back and jettisoned its bombs at (48°20'N-12°15'W), at 1255A hours after losing No. 1 engine. Return landing was made at 1535A hours.

4. Thirty one (31) a/c were over the primary target and dropped sixty two (62) tons of bombs (8x500 GP .1 nose and .01 tail) from 25,000 feet at 1309A hours on an axis of 359°.

5. Recapitulation of bomb disposition:

31 a/c dropped on primary	62 Tons
1 a/c (early return) jettisoned	2 "
Total	<u>64 Tons</u>

6. Bombing was by PFF, each attack unit using the C-1 automatic pilot. Pathfinder operators report that target was picked up in scope fifty (50) miles away. Two course corrections were made on run and four sighting angles given. Photos show more than a nine-tenths overcast obscures the target area. A small patch of ground approximately 1,800 feet east of the center of the southeast M/Y is visible on several photos. Heavy black smoke can be seen rising through the clouds 8,000 feet northwest of this point. Indications are that a heavy concentration of

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bombs fell in the close vicinity of the Winter Harbor and the triangular railroad junction -- although no terrain is visible in that area.

7. Rendezvous was made with forty (40) P-38s at 1209A hours at (44°27'N-13°29'E). Escort last observed at 1440A hours at (44°27'N-15°38'E).

8. Weather at base 2/10 dissipating altocumulus at 9,000 feet at take off, visibility 20 miles.

Enroute, generally clear to few scattered over Adriatic, north Yugoslavia and Alps. Overcast low clouds north of Alps.

At target, 9/10-10/10 stratocumulus top 22,000 feet, visibility 20 miles.

On return, little change and clear at base, visibility 15 miles in haze.

9. Observations reported:

<u>Observation</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>
Full M/Y	1155A	Ljubljana	21,000
Full M/Y	1259A	Landshut	24,000
Full M/Y	1400A	Klagenfurt	20,000
B-24 on ground	1122A	(44°27'N-15°05'E)	17,000

10. Route was flown as briefed. Track chart enclosed.

11. Eight (8) a/c attempted photos. Selected print attached.

For the Commanding Officer:

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

FRANCIS F. ELDER  
Major, AC  
Intelligence Officer