

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

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

FTE/jmm

319.1

14 March 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 14 March 1945, forty two (42) scheduled B-24 a/c took off commencing at 0820A hours, to bomb the M/Y at Nove Zamky, Hungary. The forty two (42) a/c formed two forces. Red Force consisting of twenty one (21) a/c was led by Captain Gerald W. Black, Flight Leader, 776th Bombardment Squadron (H), and twenty one (21) a/c comprising Blue Force were led by Lt Col James H. Gilson, Commanding Officer, 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Form-up was completed in excellent fashion, and the Group was on course over Andria at the prescribed time and altitude.

3. One (1) a/c No 42-94878 returning early from (4645N - 1443E) after developing engine trouble landed at Prkos Field, Zara, Yugoslavia. The a/c remains at that field but the crew has been returned to this base.

4. Nineteen (19) a/c of Red Force were over the target at 1308A hours and sixteen (16) a/c dropped thirty nine and three quarters (39.75) tons of 500 pound RDX bombs (.1 nose - .01 tail fusing) from 21,500 feet.

Twenty one (21) a/c of Blue Force were over the target at 1311A hours and twenty (20) a/c dropped forty nine and one quarter (49.25) tons of bombs (type and fusing same as Red Force) from 21,000 feet.

Five (5) a/c of Red Force disposed of their bomb load as follows:

(a) A/C No 42-95613 flying in C-11 position was unable to pick up the target and returned two and one half tons to base.

(b) A/C No 44-50471 flying in C-13 position could not open the bomb bay doors and returned two and one half tons to base.

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

Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, 464 Bomb Gp (H), 14 Mar 45, contd

(c) A/C No 44-49409 flying in C-21 position did not drop because C-11 and C-13 did not and returned two and one half tons to base.

(d) A/C No 44-49731 reported by radio that it was over the field at Pecs, Hungary and preparing to land. Disposition of the bomb load of two and one half tons is not known.

(e) A/C No 42-94878 jettisoned two and one half tons of bombs at 1145A hours at (4645N - 1443E) because of engine trouble.

One (1) a/c of Blue Force No 42-52437 landed at Prkos Field, Zara, Yugoslavia on return from the target and disposition of the bomb load is not known.

Bomb strike photos show the majority of bombs from Red Force falling short of the Marshalling Yard and among the buildings bordering the north central edge of the yard. At least seven hits fell among rolling stock in the central portion of the railroad yard. Probable additional hits in the vicinity of the locomotive depot are obscured by low clouds. Blue Force bombs fell in two concentrations on the city of Nove Zamky. The first of these was in the center of the city -- one mile south-southeast of the center of the yard. The second, and smaller concentration, fell approximately three quarters of a mile west of the Marshalling Yard -- at the northern city limits.

5. C-1 Automatic Pilot was used by both Red and Blue Force leaders on the bomb run.

6. Flak at the target was described as SIH, being for the most part well below the formation and only a few bursts reaching their altitude and these were to the rear and to left.

7. Twenty five (25) to thirty (30) P-51 a/c were first observed by the formation at 1130A hours, at (4602N - 1444E) and last observed at 1430A hours at (4602N - 1444E).

8. Five (5) ME 109 a/c were reported at 1329A hours (4703N-184SE) at an approximate altitude of 10,000 feet. The enemy a/c were attacking what appeared to be a formation of eighteen A-20s flying in a formation of six elements of three (3) a/c. Escorting P-51 a/c dropped belly gas tanks and attacked the enemy a/c.

- O N E I D E N T I A L

Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, 464th Bomb Gp. 14 March 45, cont'd

9. **Weather;**

Clear at take off and generally clear over the Adriatic except for stratus in vicinity of the Spur.

Over Yugoslav coast and continuing to IP. 8/10 to 10/10 thin altostratus, top 18,000 feet over Dinaric Alps, 15,000 feet over the plains. Variable amounts of low cloud below, 4/10 to 7/10.

At target, 4/10-10,000, visibility 5 to 10 miles in haze and smoke.

Similar conditions on return with visibility reduced to 10 miles in base area.

10. Two of our aircraft landed at Prkos Field, Zara, Yugoslavia, (See Par. 3 and par. 4) and one a/c is reported as reporting to land at Pecs, Hungary.

11. Thirty nine (39) a/c returned to this base between 1532A and 1624A hours.

12. The route was flown as briefed, track chart enclosed.

13. Nine (9) a/c attempted photographs. Selected strike photographs enclosed.

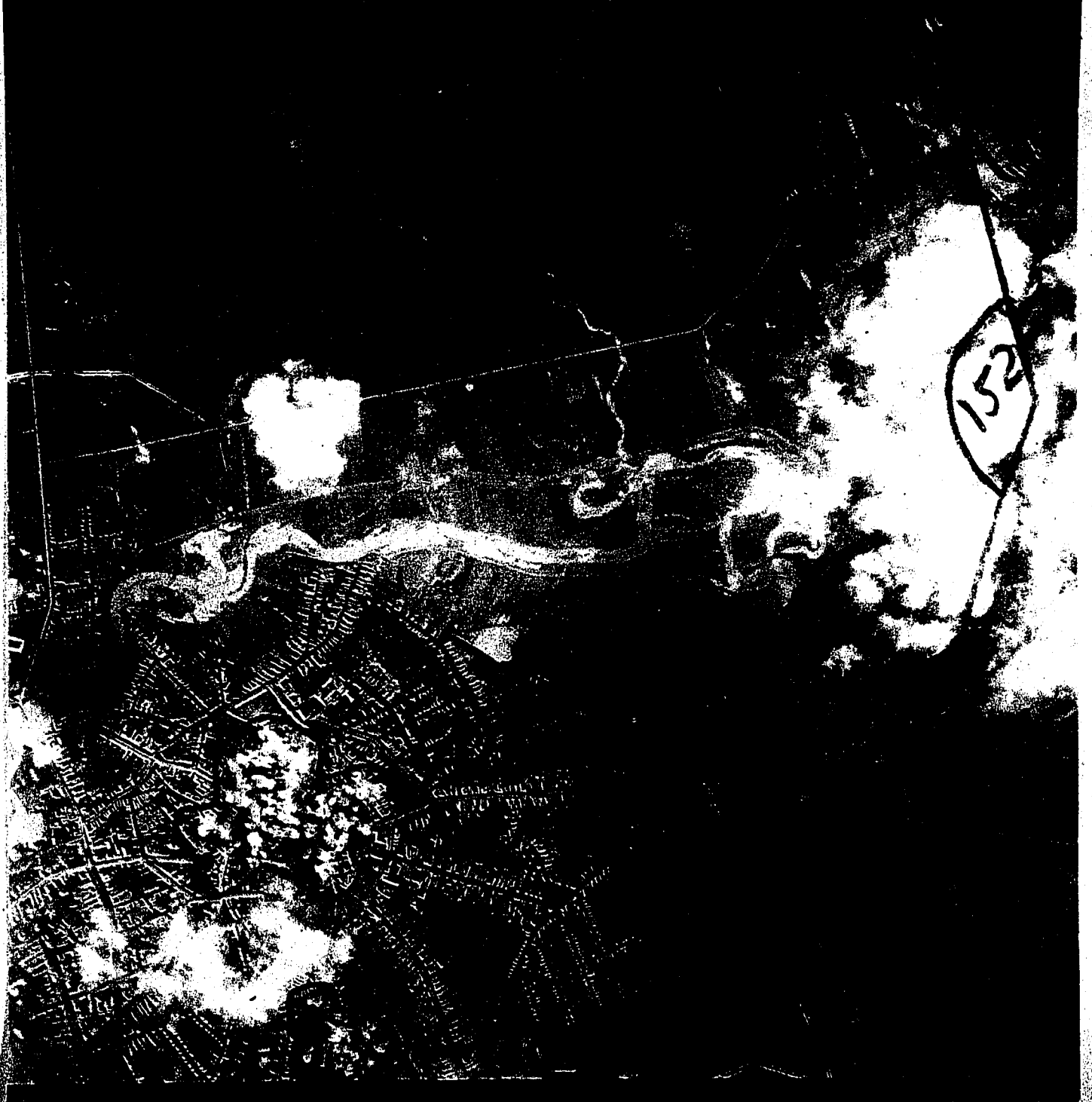
For the Commanding Officer:

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

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

(46486:5M246:9V4)(3:14:131)(...20400)(K160°) NOVE ZAMKY MIY

BLUE FORCE (178)

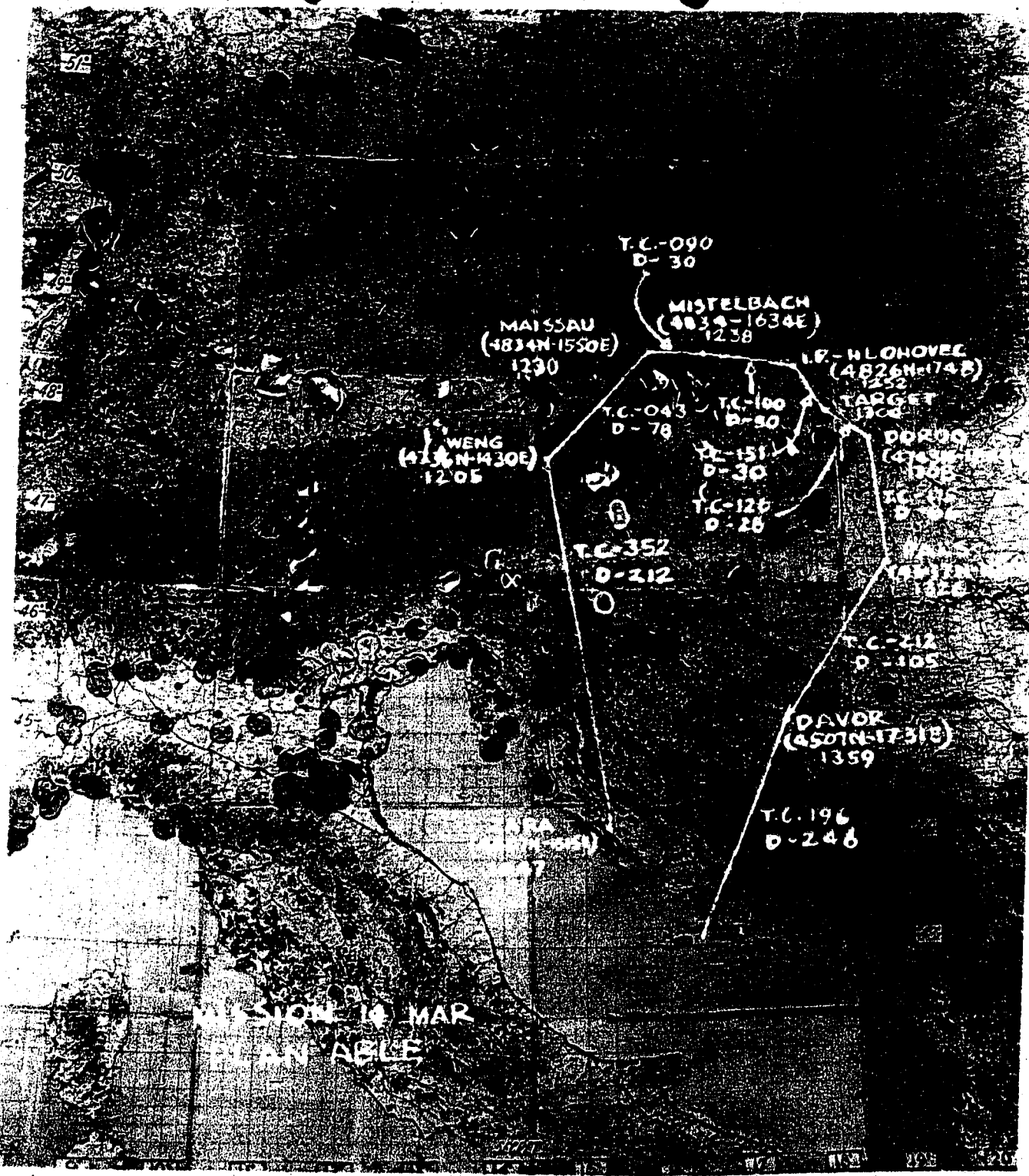


NOVE ZAMKY MIY - BLUE FORCE - 14 MARCH

THE ZAMKY MIY-RED FORCE - 14 MARCH

(46486:5M246:5V2)(3:14:1309)(12:20000)(11449) NOVE ZAMKY MIY RED FORCE (777:





T.C.-090
D-30

MAISSAU
(4834N-1550E)
1230

MISTELBACH
(4834-1634E)
1238

LF-WLOHOVEC
(4826N-1748)
1252

WENG
(4736N-1430E)
1205

T.C.-043
D-78

T.C.-100
D-90

TARGET
1308

DORNO
(4750N-1708)
1308

T.C.-151
D-30

T.C.-126
D-28

T.C.-115
D-92

T.C.-352
D-212

T.C.-112
D-105

DAVOR
(4507N-1731E)
1359

T.C.-196
D-248

MISSION 10 MAR
PLAN ABLE