

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

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

HH/FWE/hob

319.1

19 March 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 19 March 1945, forty-two (42) scheduled B-24 type aircraft, including spares, took off to bomb the Muhldorf M/Y, the primary target designated by Operations Order No. 140, forming into two forces of twenty-one (21) aircraft each. Red Force, led by Captain William T. Black, Jr., Flight Leader 776th Bombardment Squadron (H), took off at 0840A hours, and Blue Force, led by Captain Howard D. Brown, Flight Leader 778th Bombardment Squadron (H), took off at 0857A hours.

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

3. There was one prior return made after an effective sortie by A/C No. 44-50479 of Red Force. This a/c made a second take off at 1000A hours after a return landing at 0930A hours because of an oil overflow. Unable to overtake the Group formation, Klagenfurt M/Y was attacked visually as a target of opportunity. Two and one half (2.5) tons of bombs (5 x 1,000 # GP, .1 and .01) were dropped on this target of opportunity at 1227A hours from 18,000 feet on an axis of 227°. Crew reported visual observations of hits in east end of M/Y. This a/c made return landing at 1425A hours.

4. (A) Twenty (20) a/c of Red Force were over the primary target and dropped fifty (50) tons of bombs (5 x 1,000 # GP, .1 nose and .01 tail) from 18,000 feet at 1254A hours on an axis of 349°.

(B) Twenty-one (21) a/c of Blue Force were over the primary target and dropped fifty-two and one-half (52.5) tons of bombs (5 x 1,000 # GP .1 nose and .01 tail) from 16,500 feet at 1255A hours on an axis of 350°.

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Ltr. Narr Miss Rpt, contd

(c) Bombing was visual, each Force Leader using C-1 automatic pilot.

5. Recapitulation of bomb disposition:

20 a/c of RED FORCE dropped on P/T	50 tons
1 a/c of RED FORCE dropped on T/O	2.5 tons
21 a/c of BLUE FORCE dropped on P/T	<u>52.5 tons</u>
Total	105.0 tons

6. Bomb strike photos from both forces show the entire east half of the marshalling yard obscured by smoke from earlier bombing. A heavy concentration of hits fell on the freight sidings and on the tracks northwest of the railroad station.

7. Rendezvous was made with 15/20 P-38's and 15/20 P-51's at 1213A hours at (4657N - 1353E). Escort was last observed at 1336A hours at (4700N - 1415E). P-38 cover was limited to the target area.

8. The weather at take-off was 2/10 Sc with bases at 3500 ft. and tops to 4500, 2/10 AC with bases at 3000 and tops to 9,000 ft. Visibility was 10 miles. Surface wind west 8 miles per hour. On return there was 4/10 Cu with bases at 4,000 and tops to 8,000 feet. Visibility over 25 miles. Surface wind NNW 9 mph. Base conditions continued to the Adriatic coast where it became clear, and remained clear to the Yugo Coast. At the Yugo coast there was Sc and St, 4/10, with tops to 9,000 feet. This continued over the mountains. Variable to 6/10 in some places. At Zell Am Zee there was a patch of 2/10 Cs with base at 23,000 ft. Visibility over the route out was 15 miles reduced by light haze. Target - there was 4/10 Sc with tops to 8,000 feet. Visibility was 20 miles.

Route back - There was an increase of Sc being generally 6/10 with tops to 9,000 feet. This continued to the Sava River where it started to decrease and continued to gradually decreased to the Yugo coast, where it became clear. At (4806N - 1353E) there was a patch of 10/10 Cs at 18,800 feet. It was clear over the Adriatic. At the Italian coast there was about 6/10 Cu Sc with bases at 4,000 feet. This gradually decreased towards the base. Visibility over the return route was generally 20 miles.

9. Forty (40) a/c made return landings, commencing at 1535A hours.

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Ltr Marr Miss Rpt, contd

10. Observations reported:

Observation	Place	Time	Altitude	
Full M/Y	St Vert	4647N-1421E	1204A	16,000
M/Y 500-600 units		4811N-1402E	1318A	15,000
Same		4647N-1421E	1202A	17,000
Same		Wels East M/Y	1316A	16,000
B-17 on ground Island		4418N-1503E	1122A	15,000
Smoke generators in operation		4810N-1242E	1250A	16,000

11. The new Zara range frequency of 445 kc was satisfactorily picked up at 4620N-1450E.

12. Though course was flown under visual conditions within range of the following flak positions previously reported by air crews, no fire was encountered or observed:

Trieben	4729N-1429E
Wolfsberg	4650N-1450E
Radece	4604N-1510E
Altenmarkt	4800N-1232E

13. Route was flown as briefed. Track chart inclosed.

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

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER  
Major, AC  
Intelligence Officer

2 Incls  
Incl 1 - Track chart  
Incl 2 - Selected print