

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

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

WAS/TBR/nob

319.1

5 April 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 5 April 1945, thirty eight (38) B-24-type a/c took off to bomb targets in northern Italy.

a. Six (6) of these a/c, comprising a special effort, took off from 0850B to 0852B hours, under the leadership of Captain Willard A. Patterson, Flight Leader of the 777th Bombardment Squadron (H).

b. Thirty two (32) of these a/c, forming the normal effort, took off from 0907B to 0921E hours, with one (1) a/c a late take-off at 0921B hours.

2. Form up for the special effort was accomplished as prescribed. In the form up area, radio contact with the 465th Bombardment Group (H), could not be effected; tho their formation was twice sighted. Circling until the necessary time for leaving, the special effort leader laid course for the departure point, arriving two (2) miles to the left, at the scheduled time. At this point, a radio message was secured from the 465th Bombardment Group (H) leader that he was over the departure point, on time, tho his formation could not be seen. Rendezvous with this group was later effected at 1014B hours in the vicinity of Ternoli. Rendezvous was not effected with the 460th Bombardment Group (H) (which was heard to state had taken off late, and could not catch up), nor with the 465th Bombardment Group (H).

3. The normal effort formed up into two (2) attack units, the first unit climbed above the clouds and formed up at the prescribed altitude with the 465th Bombardment Group (H), despite considerable confusion in the form up area, due to adverse weather.

The first attack unit was led by Captain William T. Black, Flight Leader of the 776th Bombardment Squadron (H), and the second by First Lieutenant Billy W. Davis, Flight Leader of the 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

The second attack unit encountered difficulty in locating the first attack unit, due to clouds over the base, but effected rendezvous at 0953B hours.

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4. Route was flown by the special effort as briefed to the IP for the main force (45°13'N-10°29'E) to (45°45'N-10°34'E) at 1229E hours, where a 360° turn was made to return to Fornovo (44°42'N-10°07'E) at 1249E hours, and then to base.

5. Route was flown by the normal effort as briefed to Fornovo (44°42'N-10°07'E) at 1212E hours, then a 270° turn was made and (44°33'N-09°46'E) reached at 1234E hours, then to (44°14'N-09°27'E) at 1240E hours, to (44°01'N-09°11'E) at 1245E hours, to (44°10'N-09°52'E) at 1250E hours, to (43°30'N-10°20'E) at 1309E hours, to base.

6. The special effort, following the 415th Bombardment Group (B) formation, first turned toward an alternate target, and finally back to base at 1240E hours at (45°45'N-10°34'E), due to impenetrable cloud conditions.

7. The normal effort turned toward an alternate target near Fornovo, when the MI Leader announced to state that he was near the primary target and weather conditions would permit attack on alternate. Final turn back to base at 1250E hours at (44°01'N-09°11'E), when impenetrable cloud conditions were encountered.

8. The clouds were as follows:

- a. 7/10 stratus cumulus at take-off, 1200E, 5,000 feet. Visibility 20 miles.
- b. Clear to 2/10 stratus cumulus over the vicinity of front lines where there was 2/10 - 3/10 cirrus at 30,000 feet increasing and lowering to the north.
- c. South of the Po river a large bank of cirrus was encountered, base 10,000 feet, top 15,000 feet. This turned back to base but there was thick cirrus in this region also, base at 10,000 to 10,500 feet.
- d. On return for alternate 2/10 - 3/10 stratus cumulus over half of zone. 2/10 - 3/10 cirrus over rest of zone with top to 15,000 feet. Cumulus became patchy over central and south Italy, 3/10 to 4/10 fair weather cumulus.
- e. 3/10 cumulus over base on return. Visibility was 20 miles or better entire route.

9. All sixty (6) a/c of the special effort brought their full bomb loads back to base. A total of twelve (12) tons of clustered 100 pound GP bombs, fused instant-accr nose and non-delay tail, were returned.

10. All thirty two (32) a/c of the normal effort brought their full bomb loads back to base. A total of eighty (80) tons

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of 1,000 mixed M1000s, mixed (.1) use and non-delay (1),  
1000000.

11. Twenty five (5) B-24 were used in the attack on  
the night of 11/20/44 (140000' - 110000'). The attack was  
conducted in about (140000' - 110000'). The attack was  
conducted in about (140000' - 110000').

12. A number of B-24 were used in the attack on  
the night of 11/20/44 (140000' - 110000'). The attack was  
conducted in about (140000' - 110000'). The attack was  
conducted in about (140000' - 110000').

13. The attack on the night of 11/20/44:

a. A number of B-24 were used in the attack on  
(140000' - 110000'), the night of 11/20/44.

b. A number of B-24 were used in the attack on  
120000' - 110000' at night, with about 100 (50) B-24  
believed to have been destroyed in the attack on the night of 11/20/44.

14. All night (50) of the B-24 attack on the night of 11/20/44  
120000' - 110000' at night.

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1 Encl  
1. Track Chart

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Intelligence Officer