

164th BOMB GROUP (H)
APO 520

WVE TWE/Rob

318.1

11 April 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding General, 55th Bombardment Group (H)
APO 520, 8 Army

1. On 11 April 1945, Party two (42) scheduled B-24's took off enroute at 1345Z to bomb military targets in the area in support of the 3rd Army. The Party two (42) w/c formed the (2) attack units, the first of which was led by Colonel A. F. WED Sr., Commanding Officer of the 46th Bombardment Group (H), and the second, by Lt. Col. J. W. GILLES, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. On drop down-up, the second attack unit was cut-out by the 46th Bombardment Group (H) just before Berlin, following this attack unit which departed in enroute at 1335Z hours.

3. Party two (42) w/c were over the target at 1245Z hours and Party one (41) w/c dropped 38.14 tons of clustered bombs from 19,000 feet. T.O. of 391°.

B-24 w/c No 42037 returned 2.16 tons which, due to an intervalometer failure, were not released at the target.

B-24 w/c No 95355 jettisoned .36 tons, at (44°21'N-12°35'E) at 1220Z hours, which hung up at time of target release.

B-24 w/c No 42032 jettisoned .36 tons, at (43°16'N-14°30'E) at 1252Z hours, which failed to release at target time, the double clustered bombs having jammed the shackles.

Recapitulation of Bomb Tonnage

41 Effective sorties dropped in target	38.14 tons
2 w/c of these over target jettisoned	.42 "
1 non effective sortie returned	2.16 "
Total	<u>90.72 tons</u>

Bombing was visual and by attack units. Leader of first attack unit the Deputy Leader of the second attack unit both used the C-1 automatic pilot.



Ltr Narr - 1st Lt, Comd

First attack with 1st attack group hits one and one-half (1 1/2) miles due south of Massa Lombarda. These hits start at the river (in the lower portion of AREA 13A) and continue northwest for approximately one (1) mile. First attack with 2nd group hits one and one-quarter (1 1/4) miles southwest of the briefed MI.

2nd attack with 3rd group hits one (1) mile northwest of Massa Lombarda, directly on the assigned target area. These strikes start at the Eastern River and continue northwest for one (1) mile towards Massa Lombarda.

4. Flak at the target, encountered from both ways and for a period of two (2) minutes was described as AA. Crews report that the flak was very accurate with all bursts in or in close proximity to the a/c in the formation, and following the course of the formation on the rally. Flak appeared to come from right and left of the formation.

5. No E/A were observed or encountered. One (1) P-38 a/c at 1203B hours was observed to be flying off the wing of the P-24 a/c in E-22 position. The P-38 departed as the flak started. The P-38 had three (3) red stripes on each rudder. Other P-38 a/c were two (2) to three (3) miles out from the formation and the altitude of the particular fighter aroused the suspicion of crew members.

6. One (1) to four (4) P-38 a/c and eight (8) to ten (10) P-51 a/c, were observed first at 1153B hours at (44°12'N-12°24'E) and from there to the target area. Crews report that there was no definite escort.

7. The weather was generally clear at base, enroute, and at target with no change on return. 4/10 to 5/10 cumulus over the Spur, top 5,000 feet. Visibility was 20 miles at base, 15-20 miles over the Adriatic. The target was clear but haze reduced visibility to 10-12 miles.

8. Route was flown as briefed. The formation passed over the water coordinates at (42°00'N-16°30'E) on the briefed time at 1041B hours. Track chart showing route flown attached.

9. All route and target markers from the Initial Point into the target were clearly visible. Course into the target area was made good over the panels which served as excellent guides. Both "T" panels and localizer beam insured positive identification of front-line positions.

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

Mr. Harry Miss Pot, contd

10. One (1) a/c received major flak damage and will be inoperational for a period of one hundred (100) man hours. Seven (7) other a/c received minor flak damage. The lead a/c of the Second Attack Unit was lost to flak at the target.

11. B-24 a/c No 44-42710, leading the Second Attack Unit received a direct hit from flak between No. 1 and No. 2 engines. The wing broke off and No. 2 engine fell free. The a/c burst into flame and crashed in the immediate area of (44° 27' 13" N - 111° 33' 00" W) at 12:03 hours. Two (2) parachutes were observed.

B-24 a/c No 44-43763 is at a friendly field.

12. Ten (10) a/c attempted photographs. Selected print attached. Also inclosed is a set of K-20 photographs showing the sequence of events concerning the loss of BN, lead a/c of the Second Attack Unit.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

FRANCIS P. WILSON
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

- 3 Incls
1. Track Chart
 2. Bomb Strike Photos
 3. Set of four (4) K-20 Photos