

CONFIDENTIAL

464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520, 8th Army

EW/lob

318.1

14 April 1945

318.01: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 14 April 1945, thirty two (32) B-24's took off, beginning at 0830 to bomb the Ammunition Factory at Pal above, Italy. The thirty two (32) B-24's formed two (2) attack units. The first unit, as led by Col. WALTER L. ..., Twenty Group Commander and the second unit by 1st Lt DAVID W. ..., 31st Lt ... 55th Bombardment Group (H).

2. Group formation without incident, the Group being in course over Adriatic at 0847 hours at an altitude of 6,000 feet. A considerable civil air traffic was observed shortly after the formation reached the target point (4200-1620) due to cloud conditions. Track chart showing route is briefed and is flown attached.

3. Thirty two (32) B-24's were over the target at 1124 hours and thirty one (31) B-24's dropped 62.625 tons of two hundred thirty (350) pound GP bombs (.1 nose - .325 tail fuze) from 12,000 feet.

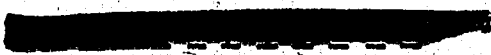
A/C No 42-95332 failing to release over the target, due to bomb shackle malfunction, jettisoned 2.25 tons in the Adriatic (4538-1315) at 1130 hours.

A/C No 42-50066 jettisoned .125 ton (100 lb) in the Adriatic (4532-1309). Bomb would not release or salvo over target.

Bomb strike photos show at least seven large explosions extending throughout the Pal above Ammunition Dump. Direct hits were scored on almost all of the twenty (20) storage sheds located at the Northeast end. Additional strikes were on the installations along the entire Northwestern half of the dump. A heavy concentration of hits fell on storage units at the Southeast end with a large explosion resulting.

4. No enemy opposition was encountered or observed.

5. Escort consisted of 25/30 B-30's. First observed at 1050 hours at (4508-1437), they remained in the vicinity of the formation until 1227 hours at (4553-1314).



S U M M A R Y

1. Air Force 1st Lt, c/wtd

6. At take off there was 7/10 cirrus at 24,000 feet. There was 5/10 stratocumulus at base of top at 8,000 feet. Visibility fifteen (15) miles. Surface wind was NE 4 mph.

Route out: These conditions continued towards the 9 on the right. The cirrus was 4/10 at 22,000 feet. Visibility was fifteen (15) miles, very. Over the Arctic the stratocumulus gradually decreased towards the base, being 5/10 over the center of the Arctic. At the turn point of 20 miles there was 2/10 stratocumulus with tops to 7,000 feet. Off to the right there was 2/10 stratocumulus and cumulus to 12,000 feet.

Target: It was cloudy and the visibility unlimited.

Route back: It was clear to 4,000 feet here it gradually became cloudy. There was heavy stratocumulus at 6,000 feet. There was 3-4/10 cirrus at 24,000 feet. Visibility fifteen (15) miles, very. These conditions continued back to the base, the visibility gradually increasing.

At base on return there was 10/10 cirrus at 20,000. Visibility fifteen (15) miles. Surface wind was NE 4 mph.

7. The following observations were reported:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1105B	Ljubljana (4604-1430)	10,000	NY - Full, 350 miles

Other NY's in area covered on mission reported as practically empty. Numerous A/D's reported unobserved.

8. Thirty two (32) a/c returned to base between 1313B and 1355B hours.

9. Nine (9) a/c attempted photographs. Selected strike photograph inclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

WRA CDR F. ELDER
MAJOR, AC
Intelligence Officer

- 2 Incls
- 1. Track Chart
- 2. Selected photograph