

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

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

FFE/jmm

319.1

21 April 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 21 April 1945, forty two (42) scheduled B-24 a/c took off starting at 1025B hours to bomb a primary target in Northern Italy.

The forty two (42) a/c formed into two (2) attack units, the first unit being led by Major R. J. Loughry, Group Operations Officer, and the second by 1st Lt George M. Laser, Flight Leader of the 778th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Form-up was completed as planned without incident. Rendezvous was effected with the 465th Bombardment Group (H) one (1) mile west of Spianzola and on course at the briefed time.

3. The formation turned back at 1301B hours at 4343N-1120E due to impenetrable weather ahead of the formation. The Group Leader contacted the leader of the 465th Group ahead who advised that he was also returning due to weather conditions.

4. Weather was as follows:

Clear at take off with visibility twenty (20) miles.
3/10 cirrus in Foggia area with 2/10 stratocumulus, top 8,000 feet below.

Over the mountains, the stratocumulus increased to 10/10, top 10,000 feet and the cirrus layer increased and lowered progressively to the north.

In Florence area, 10/10 cirrus, base lowering to 16,000 feet with 10/10 stratocumulus, top 10,000 feet and scattered thin layers of stratus between 10,000 feet and 16,000 feet. Visibility was 10 to 12 miles in haze. These were the weather conditions when the formation was recalled.

On return, cirrus had increased over the entire route.

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3/10 cirrus estimated at 20,000 feet at base on return; visibility was fifteen (15) miles.

5. Forty two (42) a/c landed at this base between 1434B and 1449B hours with their entire bomb load of one hundred and five (105) tons.

6. Route was flown as briefed to point of turn back where the Group flew back to the base approximately 61 (6) miles to the East of the briefed route. Track chart showing route flown inclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

1 Incl
Incl 1 - Track Chart