

HEADQUARTERS  
46TH COMBAT BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (B)  
APO 520 U S ARMY

14C/11/15

25 April 1945

312.1

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO: Commanding General, 55th Bombardment Group (M)  
APO 520, U S Army

1. On 25 April 1945, thirty one (31) of thirty two (32) scheduled B-27 a/c took off commencing at 0815 hours to destroy the main bridge at the King, Jurisic, W. The a/c formed two (2) attack units led respectively by Major Robert J. Taylor, Group Operations Officer, 46th Bombardment Squadron (B) and Captain Elton J. Grant, Pilot in Charge of the 1st Squadron (B).

2. The Group formed up in the normal area, identified and departed on normal course over Jurisic at 0845 hours at 7,000 feet.

A/C No. 42-51462 returned with one engine inoperative and a fuselage that forced the pilot to turn back to Jurisic at 1015 hours (1015 hours) and landed with full load at 1030 hours.

3. There were thirty (30) a/c over the target area at 1315 hours and thirty (30) a/c dropped their bombs on the quarters (32,33) zone of 50 square miles (1.1 square miles) at 1315 hours (detached from at time 1315 hours) from 7,000 feet, axis of attack being 154000.

Accounting of Bomb Loads:

30 a/c dropped engine bomb load on B1	31.25 tons
1 a/c off target over B1 (station)	2.15 tons
1 a/c on B/E brought back to base	2.50 tons
Total	37.50 tons

4. Bomb strike photos show three separate patterns of hits. The first of these is in the built up residential area one mile northwest of the Main Station. The second pattern is on the rail-road workshops to the east of the station. Several impact hits were scored on workshop buildings. Another group of strikes fell on the industrial area southwest of the locomotive depot. Numerous additional bomb strikes are believed to be obscured under the heavy clouds of smoke which blanketed the main station and extended to the west.



5. All available fighters used to attack and defend.

6. In the flat area surrounding the forest, formation of free ice on one side (1) to the other (2) within a distance of one (1) to two (2) minutes after the start of the attack. There were reports of numerous "bombs" or shells exploded in the fifteen (15) or twenty (20) bursts and about five hundred (500) feet above the formation. The flat bursts were reported to have been 105mm.

7. Escort consisting of four a/c (10) to thirty (30) B-29 a/c were rendezvous at 1130 hours at (45°00'N-14°35'E) and provided cover for penetration, to be on with a/c and seen at 1150 hours at (45°00'N-14°35'E).

8. Weather was reported as follows:

At take-off 1/10 cirrus, visibility 20 miles or more. Over Adriatic 1/10 cumulus over islands, along Italian Coast, 2/10-4/10 altostratus at 10,000 feet. Clear remainder of cirrus over Alps at 25,000 feet.

Clear at target with cirrus at north and west and 4/10-5/10 cumulus to north. Visibility 20 miles.

Similar conditions on return, visibility lowering slightly in haze. 2/10 stratocumulus on return at 6,500 feet. 2/10-3/10 cirrus above 20,000 feet. Visibility was 20 miles or more over entire route.

9. Seventeen (17) of our a/c received minor flight damage. Two (2) of our a/c received major damage.

10. Observations are reported as follows:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1117E	(44°28'N-15°11'E)	17,000	Convoy - seven (7) ships with large battleship leading.
1114E	Rosenheim	17,000	400 cars in 4/10
1025E	Villach	20,000	M/Y loaded
1116E	Ljubljana (46°04'N-14°30'E)	17,000	200 cars in 4/10

11. Twenty nine (29) a/c landed at this base between 1605 and 1616 hours.

One (1) a/c No 44-42415, landed at Zara.

Mr. [Name] [Address]

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