

U. S. CO-OPERATION WITH BRITISH COMBAT

HEADQUARTERS
46th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (A)
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 U. S. Army

JEP/WFL/lea

319.1

22 July 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO : Commanding Officer, 55th Bombardment Wing (A)
APO 520, U. S. Army
(Attn: 3-2)

1. On 22 July 1944 at 0730B hours, 34 B-24 of 35 a/c scheduled took off to bomb Ploesti Romania American Oil refinery (primary target). One a/c failed to take off because a/c starter out, could not be started either by hand or electrically. Changed plans and had runway supercharger.

The 34 a/c formed in 2 attack units; the first unit led by Colonel A. L. Schroeder, Commanding Officer, and the second unit led by Major Harold E. Blish, Commanding Officer 776th Bombardment Squadron (A).

2. 6 a/c returned prior to bombing: one a/c had #1 inoperative; another a/c because the compensation valve in #1 carburetor stuck and caused gas overboard, also had oxygen leak; another a/c due to gas leak; another a/c because of inability to gain altitude due to feathered #2 engine; another a/c because #2 and #3 generators and #3 turbo went out; another a/c because #1 and #4 superchargers inoperative.

3. The 2 group formation as near as I can find out was satisfactory. The air rendezvous was somewhat delayed due to lack of visual contact for approximately 4 or 5 minutes at which time formation successfully formed. The main difficulty encountered to the target was the speed with which the lead group proceeded. The lead ship attempted to maintain contact with the next proceeding group but was unable to do so because of repeated calls from various ships in the formation, to the effect that they were unable to maintain their position in the formation. It was finally decided that it was necessary to separate the groups in the wing formation in order to keep a group formation, as a result when proceeding over the target the next proceeding group was 4 or 5 miles ahead of the 46th Group and as a result the A.A. had a perfect situation in which they could reorientate on each

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9.

- 10. The following observ. times were reported on
- (1) 100 or more smoke pots observed in 5 or 6 lines of
- (2) The
- (3) Smoke pots were observed along
- (4) Approximately 500
- (5)
- (6) 15/20

11. Route

12. 5 a/c attempted photographs. One selected print attached.

For the Commanding Officer:

Francis J. ...
Major, SAC
Intelligence Officer

