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312.1

17 October 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO: Commanding General, 45th Bombardment Group (H)
APO 500, U. S. Army

1. On 17 October 1944, beginning at 0200 hours, thirty-five (35) scheduled B-24 type a/c took off to bomb the primary target designated in Operations Order No. 224. The thirty five (35) a/c formed three (3) attack units, and the first attack unit was lead by Lt Col Clarence C. Hoff, Commanding Officer, 728th Bombardment Squadron (H), the second attack unit was led by 2nd Lt Wayne C. Shearer, 1st Pilot, 777th Bombardment Squadron (H), and the third attack unit by Capt Brooks Sheldon, Flight Leader, 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. The Group formation was executed north of the base over the Gerignola area due to local weather conditions, and Group and Wing rendezvous were executed as prescribed. Adverse weather conditions were encountered immediately after take-off and the formation received a recall signal and turned back at 1208 hours (42°55'N-14°30'E).

3. All the bombs, a total of eighty seven and one half (87.5) tons were returned to the base.

4. Weather: 2/10 to 3/10 stratocumulus at 4500 feet and 7/10 cirrostratus, base 19,000 feet at Base at take-off and continuing to coast.

Over south Adriatic 6/10 swelling cumulus, 5/10 cirrostratus and 3/10 cumuloimbus to 25,000 feet, which became further north 7/10 to 10/10 multilayer clouds from 4500 feet to 25,000 feet.

Little change on return, except conditions much worse in base area. 10/10 stratocumulus at 4500 feet and showery rain at base on return.

5. Three (3) a/c returned early. A/C No 42-51178 because No 4 supercharger and No 1 engine became inoperative, and A/C No 42-52514 having been late taking off was unable to find the formation, A/C No 42-51903 was unable to keep landing gear in retracted position and had a gas leak.

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Air Narrative Mission Report, 24 Oct 44, Contd

6. Thirty two (32) a/c returned to this base between 1305A hours and 1400A hours.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS A. [REDACTED]
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

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