

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

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

HH/FFE/jmm

319.1

11 November 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 11 November 1944, commencing at 0610A hours, twenty seven (27) scheduled B-24 type a/c, comprising the RED FORCE a/c of this Group, took off to bomb the primary target designated in Operations Order No 244. The Group formed into two (2) attack units. The first attack unit of thirteen (13) a/c was led by Lt Col Elvin E. Goodyear, Deputy Group Commander, and the second unit of fourteen (14) a/c by 1st Lt Harry F. Heineman, Pilot, 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Group assembly and Wing rendezvous were made as ordered, except for slight variances made to overcome adverse weather conditions encountered, which resulted in arrival at Wing rendezvous point two (2) minutes early.

3. Encountering impenetrable weather over the Adriatic, the Group Leader decided to abandon the mission and ordered a return to base. The formation proceeded to 43°15'N-15°52'E where the turn for base was made at 0823A hours.

4. In the first wave or attack unit, each of the thirteen (13) a/c was loaded with 8 x 500 lb GP bombs (.1 x .01 and .025) including two (2) delayed fuse bombs, except one a/c which carried no delayed fuse bombs. Same were disposed of as follows:

Jettisoned in Adriatic (delayed)	6.00 tons
Jettisoned in Adriatic (non-delay), accidentally and by malfunction	1.25 tons
Returned to base (non-delay)	<u>18.75</u> tons

Total 26.00 tons

In the second wave or attack unit, each of the fourteen (14) a/c was loaded with 8 x M-17 Incendiaries, except one (1) a/c which carried only 6 x M-17s. Same were disposed of as follows:

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Jettisoned in Adriatic (M-17) because of inability to remove fuse	0.25 tons
Returned to base (M-17)	<u>27.25</u> tons

Total	27.50 tons
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5. At take-off weather was 2/10 to 3/10 cumulus, base 5,000 feet, tops 8,000 feet.

From base to coast, 4/10 to 6/10 cumulus, with a few tops to 14,000 feet, 8/10 altostratus, base 9,000 feet, tops 15,500 feet. Farther north clouds built up, increased, and formed 10/10 cirrostratus layer, base 19,000 feet and tops 27,000 feet.

Returning, conditions same. Visibility 20 miles.

6. Injuries. Two (2) gunners suffered frost bites, one on his toe, and the other on his face.

7. Nose gunner of one crew reported observation of submarine submerging at 42°30'N-16°20'E at 0840A hours, made from 21,000 feet. (Telephoned as Flash item at 1027A hours)

8. All twenty seven (27) a/c landed at base between 0850A and 1015A hours.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER  
Major, AC  
Intelligence Officer