

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

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

HH/FFE/hob

319.1

8 December 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 8 December 1944, the two (2) scheduled PFF B-24 type a/c designated below took off at the hour indicated to bomb the Primary Target specified in Operations Order No. 275.

A/C No. 44-49032 (W/B), 2nd Lt. Raymond E. Beaubien,
Pilot, at 0155A hours.

A/C No. 42-52070 (Y/A), 2nd Lt. Philip J. Savage,
Pilot, at 0157A hours.

2. (a) A/C No. 42-52070 proceeded on course to 43°45'N-14°35'E from whence an early return landing was made at 0441A hours, because of operational failure of PFF equipment. One (1) 500 lb. RDX long delayed bomb was jettisoned in the Adriatic at 0330A at 43°30'N-14°30'E, and the remaining bomb load of this a/c was returned to base.

(b) A/C No. 44-49032 proceeding as far as Arzberg (47°54'N-14°28'E), where the overcast broke and the primary and alternate targets appeared open, then set course for Villach M/Y which was attacked on PFF as a target of opportunity. The full bomb load of this a/c 8 x 500 lb RDX with .1 and .01 and .025 fuses, 1 x 500 lb RDX long delayed, and 1 x leaflet was dropped from 24,000 feet on an axis of attack of 210° at 0524A hours. PFF operator reported equipment in perfect condition. Target was readily picked up in scope. Three (3) course corrections were made on run, last correction 2°. Complete overcast prevented any observation of bombing results.

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Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, contd

3. Recapitulation of bomb tonnage disposition.

	500# RDX	500#RDX	Leaflet
Dropped on T/O	.1 x .01 & .025	Long delayed	1 bomb
Jettisoned	2 tons	.25 tons	
Returned	2 tons	.25 tons	1 bomb

4. Weather: Scattered middle and low clouds at take off. Visibility 20 miles.

Enroute - 10/10 cirrus, base 16,000, tops 22,000 feet from Spur to (47°00'N-14°02'E). Ship broke out in clear and continued to (47°50'N-14°52'E) where it turned back to Villach.

At target, 10/10 stratocumulus, tops 6-8,000 feet.

On return, multilayer cirrus from 16,000 feet to 27,000 feet. Clouds broke in S. Adriatic to scattered middle.

6/10 middle clouds at 10,000 feet at base on return. Visibility 20 miles or better entire route.

5. Route was flown as briefed to Arzberg (47°54'N-14°28'E) and return made on reciprocal course.

6. Return landing of a/c No. 44-49032 was made at 0735A hours.

7. Following observations were reported:

(a) Twelve (12) ship convoy headed north in Adriatic picked up in scope at 0637A hours at 43°27'N-14°56'E from 21,000 feet.

(b) Green, orange and white flares, breaking at approximately 24,000 feet, were observed at 0430A at 47°10'N-14°05'E.

8. The crew of the one a/c dropping on T/O reported enemy jamming of radio prevented completion of bombs away report, though sixteen attempts were made. Frequency was blocked by German speech, music, and general interference. The crew of the a/c making the early return reported dangerous proximity of fire believed from guns of friendly a/c test firing just off of the Spur.

For the Commanding Officer:

1 Incl - Track Chart

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, Air Corps
Intelligence Officer