

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

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

BVB/FRE/fh

319.1

9 December 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 9 December 1944, twenty eight (28) scheduled B-24 a/c plus three (3) designated spares took off at 0725A hours to bomb the primary target designated in Operations Order No 276. The thirty one (31) a/c formed in two (2) attack units, the first of which was led by Lt Colonel Flvin E. Goodyear, Operations Officer of the 464th Bombardment Group (H) and the second, by 1st Lt Richard R. Price, Flight Leader of the 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. The Group form-up was executed Southeast of Bari over the Adriatic at 13,000 feet. Line and Wing rendezvous were not accomplished because of weather conditions over the Adriatic.

3. Notification of recall was received at approximately 0915A hours, at which time the Group was ordered to return to base by boxes. Charlie and Dog boxes returned from (41°49'N-17°16'E), the a/c landing between 1010A hours and 1058A hours. Able and Baker boxes in trying to get through and returned to base landing between 1138A hours and 1215A hours. B-24 a/c No 42-05332 landed at Bari at 1039A hours because of illness of ball gunner. This a/c landed here at 1305A hours with complete crew.

4. All a/c returned entire bomb loads to this base.

5. Weather was as follows: 9/10 to 10/10 stratus and stratocumulus at take off, base 5,000 feet, tops 8,000 feet with scattered cumulus to 12,000 feet. Light rain showers.

From base to coast, 8/10 - 9/10 stratocumulus and cumulus, tops 11 - 12,000 feet.

Over Adriatic to (41°49'N-17°46'E), where ship turned back, 8/10 - 10/10 multilayer clouds from 5,000 feet

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Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, contd

to 19,000 feet with principal cloud an altocumulus deck from 8,000 feet to 16,000 feet. Moderate mixed icing was picked up at 12,000 feet.

On return, cloud bases had lowered over land. At base on return was 10/10 stratus clouds, base at 1,500 feet, with rain showers. Visibility 1 - 5 miles in rain and haze.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

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