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

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

MCK/FFE/hob

219.1

10 December 1944

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 10 December 1944, twenty eight (28) scheduled B-24 a/c, plus three (3) spare B-24 a/c took off at 0730A hours to bomb the primary target named in Operations Order No. 278.

The thirty one (31) a/c formed into two (2) attack units, the first being led by Lt. Colonel Elvin E. Goodyear, Group Operations Officer and the second by 1st Lt. Richard R. Price, Flight Leader of the 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. Group form up was made over Bari due to weather conditions. The line rendezvous was as briefed, this Group falling in behind the 465th Group over Andria at 0837A hours.

Due to weather conditions Wing ordered a recall and the Group Leader endeavored to keep the formation in the air until 1000A hours to use up gasoline, but due to weather closing in was forced to land earlier.

Formation turned around at the Spur and returned to base.

3. All aircraft returned the full bomb load, amounting to 49.6 tons of 100 pound GP clustered with .1 nose and .025 tail fuse.

4. Thirty one (31) a/c landed at this base between 0915 and 1015A hours.

5. Weather at take off was 9/10 to 10/10 strato cumulus, base 4,000 feet, lowering during form up period to 1500 feet with frequent showers. Visibility one (1) to five (5) miles in rain.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer