

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

HH/FFE/jmm

319.1

13 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 13 February 1945, twenty (20) B-24 type a/c of twenty one (21) scheduled took off at 0830A hours to bomb the primary target designated in Operations order No 70, forming into one (1) attack unit, led by Colonel A. L. Schroeder, Group Commander.
2. Form-up assembly, and rendezvous were accomplished as prescribed without incident.
3. One (1) a/c, No 44-49653, failed to take off because of spark plugs fouling.
4. There was one (1) early return. A/C No 44-48767 turned back at 4525N-1508E at 1126A hours when manifold pressure dropped upon experiencing turbo trouble, landing at 1245A hours.
5. Upon nearing the last turn point before the IP for the P/T, the PFF equipment of the lead A/c failed to function. At this point the deputy lead a/c was about to lose an engine. Decision was then made to bomb visually Pola Casting and Forging set for that alternate objective.
6. Seventeen (17) a/c were over the alternate target at 1335A and dropped thirty four (34) tons of bombs (500 lb RDX, .1 nose and .01 tail) from 25,600 feet, on an axis of 181°, with a right rally.
7. a. A/C No 42-51644 accidentally jettisoned two (2) tons at 1235A hours at 4745N-1440E as the result of an electrical short circuit.
b. A/C No 44-49363 jettisoned two (2) tons at 1310A hours at 4430N-1415E to lighten load when No 2 engine went out.

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Recapitulation of bomb tonnage

17 a/c dropped on target	34 tons
2 a/c jettisoned	4 "
Returned to base - 1 early return	<u>2</u> "
Total	40 "

8. Bombing was visual, C-1 Automatic Pilot being used on run by lead a/c.

Bomb strike photos show a heavy concentration of several dozen hits on Pola Naval Yard Installations located between the submarine pens and Fort Castello. There were numerous direct hits on the casting and forging shop, machine shop, warehouses, and barracks buildings adjacent to the machine shop. At least one strike was on the naval training station and several others were on the torpedo depot. A near miss was scored off the end of the Rabella mole, and a direct hit damaged the east end of the submarine pen area.

9. Flak encountered at Pola was M-IAH, visual tracking fire, with exposure lasting about three (3) minutes.

10. a. Observation of five (5) ME 109s was reported by one (1) crew near Linz at 1233A hours at 25,500 feet. E/A came in at five o'clock in line abreast as though contemplating attack and then broke away without engagement before reaching firing range.

b. In the Amstetten-Steyr area, ten (10) FW 190s, in line abreast, made one (1) threatened pass at Charlie Box, coming in from six o'clock just over undercast, closing to approximately 600 yards. When fired upon, e/a peeled off and down into the undercast, without renewal of attempt. Charlie Box at the moment was well off to itself. The crew of the A/c in C-31 position was the only one of the box to report this ineffectual engagement.

11. Rendezvous was made with 15/20 P-51s at Traglwant at 1236A hours, but provided no escort for this Group when it turned for the alternate target at Pola.

12. Weather encountered was as follows:

Clear on take-off. Visibility thirty (30) miles.

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

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3/10 patchy stratocumulus over Adriatic, tops 8,000 feet, bases 2,000 feet. 6/10 stratocumulus along Dalmatian coast, tops 8,000 feet. Clear over Dinarics with few patches of valley stratus. 1 to 2/10 cirrus entire first half of route. From mountains to primary, 10/10 stratocumulus tops 10 to 12,000 feet with few breaks. Large clear areas reported to east.

Over primary target, 10/10 stratocumulus, tops 10 to 12,000 feet with 8/10 thin cirrus at 27,000 feet.

Conditions remaining same enroute to Pola with CAVU over Pola.

Return route same with 4 to 5/10 stratocumulus over Adriatic with tops 8 to 10,000 feet. CAVU at base.

13. One (1) a/c, Y/Y, No 42-50843, failed to return. This a/c was observed to leave formation at 1335A hours just after release of bombs at Pola, peeling off to left on a course of 100°, apparently under control. Rudders were observed to be fluttering.

14. Thirteen (13) a/c received minor flak damage and two (2) suffered major damage.

15. The following observations were reported:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1100A	4615N-1510E	25,000	Large camp area.
1200A	4713N-1445E	25,000	30-40 SEF and TFF on A/D at Zeltweg (k-20 prints inclosed).
1251A	4731N-1409E	25,000	12 SEF on A/D (k-20 prints inclosed).
1207A	4713N-1450E		Active M/Y.
1217A	4725N-1442E		4 chutes.
1056A	4405N-1504E	19,000	3 CL's headed NNE.

16. Nineteen (19) a/c made return landing from 1456A to 1520A hours.

17. The route was flown slightly to east of briefed course

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

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to vicinity of Treglwang, from whence course was set for Pola,
as shown on enclosed track chart.

18. Five (5) a/c attempted photos. Selected print attached.
For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

- 3 Inclosures
- Incl 1- Track chart
- Incl 2- Selected strike photo
- Incl 3 -K-20 prints