

SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
320TH BOMB GROUP (MEDIUM)

Intelligence Narrative No. 2 Day Operation 23 April 1943

Twenty-one B-26's of the 320th Bomb Group (Medium) took off today from this base to bomb Arbatax Port, Sardinia. Three B-26's (S) returned early. Bombers were to be escorted by twenty P-38's of the 82nd Fighter Group and 19 to 20 P-38's were sighted at 1235 hours off Cape Bone, while at 4000 feet. These P-38's were not seen again. Our bombers proceeded to target apparently without escort.

After leaving target, bombers were attacked by 5 to 8 ME-109's or G's. Six of our planes damaged, one of which crash-landed at Bone. Damage Assessment:

- One B-26 probably total loss
- One B-26 badly damaged, non-operational
- Four B-26's slightly damaged

Five of our bombers landed at Bone, four for re-fueling; the fifth plane crash-landed. After re-fueling, four B-26's proceeded to this base.

Tracers were seen to enter at least 4 of the attacking E/A. No victories are claimed. One E/A was seen to falter and fall towards the sea smoking. It was then seen to level out and fly towards the coast.

Route: From this base, passing east of Bone to 50 miles north of Bone; north-east to a point off Cape Carbonara; then due north off the eastern coast of Sardinia, passing the target. After turning west, south to the target on a course of 165°. Flew reciprocal course home-ward.

Chronology: Bombers took off between 1155 hours and 1205 hours. On course 1220 hours. At rendezvous point between Bone and Cape Rosa at 1235 hours. Bombs dropped 1354 hours. At 1400 hours, 5 to 8 ME-109's or G's attacked the formation just off Cape Bellevista, altitude 5500 feet. After a running fight of 25 to 30 minutes duration, fighters abandoned attack. Bombers down between 1531 hours and 1728 hours.

Bombs: 104 x 500 lb. demolition 1/10, .025 second delay were dropped on target. 4 x 500 lb. bombs returned this base.

Results: (Reference Target Chart 1-107-NA.) One direct hit and four near misses on what appeared to be a barge or permanent installation in south-west corner of port at L-12. In area L-13, one direct hit, one near miss on jetty. At H-O-13-14, 9 direct hits on jetty and 7 near misses. At installations H-O-12-13, 6 direct hits with 49 bombs in same general area.

Flak: In the final analysis, it is believed that what was formerly reported as flak, was actually explosive cannon-shell fire. Reasons:

1. The bursts, in all final interrogation reports, were described as "small"; whereas heavy flak, when bursting, forms a cone roughly 100 feet high and 15 feet (or more) wide.
2. The same small-type bursts were seen off the southern

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tip of the island at 400 feet.

3. ME-109's are reported to have used self-exploding cannon shells in this theater.

4. Two crew members sustained wounds and three of our bombers bear damage from 20 mm. cannon shell fire.

Enemy Aircraft: Five to eight ME-109Ps or G's attacked our formation at 1400 hours just off Cape Bellevista. A running fight followed, during which time our planes dived from 5500 feet, their altitude at initial point of attack, to 400 feet. After a 25 or 30 minute running fight, the E/A abandoned the attack.

The enemy's tactics were many, varying from head-on attack to thrusts from the rear and both sides, in nearly every instance, first firing their cannon, then closing with their machine guns open, passing through or under the entire formation.

Our tactics: diving to 400 feet, maintaining tight formation.

NOTE: Two gunners report what they believe may have been approximately 30 fighters, half of which seemed to have been pink P-38's the balance SE E/A. They were mixing it up at a high altitude above our formation; our formation was at 6000 feet. Time is fixed at 1359 hours. This sighting is unconfirmed by any other crew members, or any other crews. This unconfirmed sighting is reported so that it may be recorded that at least two of our gunners saw what they believed may have been P-38's just prior to the attack.

Claims: Interrogations of hospitalized crew members reveal that the ME 109 reported as "probably destroyed" is now reclassified; now "destroyed". Two men other than claimant, saw the smoking plane strike the water.

Claimant: S/Sgt. Martin E. Furrer, 15019882, Navigator Bombardier.
Next of kin and home address: John Furrer (Father) RR #2, Box 514
Charleston, West Virginia.

Weather: Enroute: Slight haze, visibility 15 miles. Target: Scattered strata cumulus at 8500 feet. Return: Slight haze, visibility 15 miles, strata cumulus at 4500 feet.

Observations: (1) ME-109's had bluish gray color with white spinners. One had red spinner.

(2) Large boat (believed to be medium size liner) painted white or gray lying at anchor at Cape Ferrato at 1330 hours. Observation altitude was 6500 feet.

(3) In comparison with Target Chart 1-107-NA and our observations and photographs, what was formerly reported as a small boat or barge is now believed to be a permanent installation or large rock.

(4) One boat of unidentified type was lying at anchor between two piers at N-12, reference TC 1-107-NA.

Comments: (1) P-38's appeared to join us, as reported above, but, due probably to low-lying haze, were lost and never rejoined.

(2) Photographs sustain bomb damage observations.

(3) Injuries: S/Sgt. George L. Appgar, AFN 16030475, Radio-gunner. Laceration of left leg due to gun shot (20 mm. self-exploding cannon shell). S/Sgt. Curtis E. Cinnamon, AFN 14063722, Engineer-Gunner. Laceration of left leg due to gun shot (20 mm. self-exploding shell).

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JAMES H. MACIA, Jr.,
Captain, Air Corps
Group Intelligence Officer

Incl: 7 photographs.

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Mission No. 2

23 April

Take-off 1255

RED

ROBERTS
* 780

BARBER
010

TUCK
842

CARTER
* 763

CHASE
073

BLUE

SUMMERS
041

SIMS
* 986

MATHEWS
056

YELLOW

DIXSEE
092

FRIDAY
* 865

HOY
776

GREEN

MILLER
* 874

HORRAS
* 877

WEGENER
009

BROWN

TOWNS
724

BOOTH
* 959

HARRIS
785

PINK

BARRETT
861

SPARES

HALLOWELL
853

MONTSINGER
765

ROSS
768

COLORS OF THE DAY: attached
RADIO: Bomber Call: BULLFROG
" Pursuit Call: Whitewash
BOMBING ALTITUDE

1st Flight :8700
2nd " :8200
3rd " :7700

EMERGENCY FIELDS:
BONE and TELERGMA
(Hospital Units)

TARGET ELEVATION: SEA LEVEL

HEADQUARTERS, 320TH BOMB GROUP (M) AAF
 Office of the Operations Officer
 A. P. O. #520 NATOUSA

23 April 1943

LIST OF COMBAT CREWS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON ARBATAX PORT,
 SARDINIA, 23 APRIL 1943.

CREW NO. AND PERSONNEL	SQUADRON	SHIP NO.
#2		
ROBERTS-PILOT-FLIGHT LEADER-CAPTAIN GOFF-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. GROVE-NAVIGATOR-1ST. LT. BUTLER-BOMBARDIER-1ST. LT. HANSEN-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. KERCHENSKI-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	780 TOOK OFF:11:55 LANDED AT:1543 NOTE: LT. GROVE CREW #5 FLEW AS NAVIGATOR CREW #2. S/SGT. RAMIREZ DID NOT FLY.
#7		
BARBER-PILOT-1ST. LT. FEAGIN-CO-PILOT-FLT. OFF. CORE-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-1ST. LT. HANSON-ENGINEER GUNNER-CPL. BURDEN-RADIO GUNNER-SGT. DROSS-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	023 TOOK OFF:1210 LANDED AT:1328 NOTE:SGT. BURDEN EXTRA CREW PERSONNEL REPLACED S/SGT. BUTLER.
#8		
TUCK-PILOT-1ST. LT. SWIGART-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. STEPHENS-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. SCHINKEL-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. LONG-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. MCGAHA-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	842 TOOK OFF - 1156 LANDED AT:1544:30 NOTE:LT. SWIGART REPLACED LT. CARNEY AS CO-PILOT.
#3		
CARTER-PILOT-FLIGHT LEADER-CAPTAIN BIGELOW-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. DUNKEL-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-1ST. LT. SMITH-ENGINEER GUNNER-CPL. O'KEEFE-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-CAPTAIN FOLKES-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	763 NOTE:CAPT. O'KEEFE CREW #1 FLEW AS NAVIGATOR. T/SGT. HUNTER DID NOT FLY. TOOK OFF:1156:30 LANDED AT:1538
EXTRA CREW		
CHASE-PILOT-CAPTAIN BUTLER-CO-PILOT-FLT. OFF. KARIDIS-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. PIERCE-ENGINEER GUNNER-SGT. MILES-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. YIM-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	073 TOOK OFF:1157 LANDED AT:1531

CREW NO. AND PERSONNEL	SQUADRON	SHIP NO.
#1 SIMS-PILOT- CAPTAIN HIMMELREICH-CO-PILOT* 1st Lt. ROGERS-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-CAPTAIN BANCHER-ENGINEER GUNNER- CPL. SIEGEL-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. HUDSON-AERIAL GUNNER - S/SGT. <i>Beatt</i> Bombardier-1st Lt. EXTRA CREW.	442nd	986 TOOK OFF: 1158 LANDED : 1532
MATHEWS-PILOT-1st Lt. DEPAN-CO-PILOT- 2nd Lt. NORMAN-NAVIGATOR BOMBARDIER-1st Lt. HALL-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. NELSON*RADIO GUNNER* SGT. HOWARD-AERIAL GUNNER- S/Sgt.	442nd	056 TOOK OFF: 1158:30 LANDED : 1536
#6 DOXSEE-PILOT- 1st Lt. DEUTMAN-CO-PILOT-1st Lt. FURRER-NAVIGATOR BOMBARDIER*S/SGT. LASTER-ENGINEER GUNNER- S/SGT. ALIEN-RADIO GUNNER- S/SGT. BURNS-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	442nd	092 TOOK OFF : 1159 LANDED; 1647
# 2 FRIDAY-PILOT-CAPTAIN YOUNG-CO-PILOT-1st Lt. AMUNDSEN-NAVIGATOR BOMBARDIER-1st Lt. PECK-ENGINEER GUNNER- S/SGT. HARPER-RADIO GUNNER- S/SGT. BUCHANAN-AERIAL GUNNER-T/SGT.	442nd	865 TOOK OFF: 1159/30 (EMERGENCY)LANDING: CAPE ROSA 35 MILES EAST OF BONE NOTE: MACE,RODE THIS SHIP AS OBSERVER.
#9 HOY-PILOT-1st Lt. CONDIT-CO-PILOT- F/O MOORE-NAVIGATOR BOMBARDIER-2nd Lt. CINNAMON- ENGINEER GUNNER- S/SGT. APGAR* RADIO GUNNER- S/SGT. KARY-AERIAL GUNNER- S/SGT.	441st	776 TOOK OFF 1200 EMERGENCY LANDING AT THIS FIELD 1532.
# 1 MILLER-PILOT- CAPTAIN. BLAKE-CO-PILOT- 2ND Lt. LEHMAN-NAVIGATOR BOMBARDIER- 1st Lt. DAHL-ENGINEER GUNNER- S/SGT PATZKE-RADIO GUNNER- S/SGT SMITH-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	441st.	035 TOOK OFF: 1200/30 LANDED : 1728 NOTE: CAPTAIN HOLT WAS ON THIS SHIP AS OBSERVER
#2 HORRAS-PILOT- FLIGHT LEADER-CAPTAIN SONIAT-CO-PILOT- 1st Lt. ALLEN-NAVIGATOR BOMBARDIER- 1st Lt. FOSS- ENGINEER GUNNER- S/SGT. ARCHER- RADIO GUNNER- S/SGT. CORP- AERIAL GUNNER- S/SGT.	441st	877 TOOK OFF 1201 LANDED AT 1545

CREW NO. AND PERSONNEL	SQUADRON	SHIP NO.
#10 WEGENER-PILOT-2nd. Lt. KOONTZ-CO-PILOT-2nd. Lt.- MCGEEVER-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. DOREY-ENGINEER GUNNER-SGT. BERRIGAN-RADIO GUNNER-SGT. WURST-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	441ST	009 TOOK OFF:1201:30 LANDED AT:1544
#7 TOWNS-PILOT-1ST. LT. LUMPKIN-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. MEADOWS-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-S/SGT. DICKE-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. DESANTIS-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. CHOUINARD-AERIAL GUNNER-CPL.	444TH	724 TOOK OFF:1201:30 LANDED AT:1544
#2 BOOTH-PILOT-CAPTAIN NASH-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. MILLER-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. JANISE-ENGINEER GUNNER-T/SGT. HIGGINS-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. KIEFFER-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	444TH	959 TOOK OFF:1202:30 LANDED AT:1717 <i>MAJ. WALLING - D.F.R.</i>
#5 HARRIS-PILOT-1ST. LT. MEYER-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. STRONG-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-T/SGT. ALSTAT-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. WOODBURY-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. VAUGHN-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	444TH	785 TOOK OFF:1203 LANDED AT:1718
#9 BARRETT-PILOT-1ST. LT. KISLER-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. NERONE-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-CAPT. CLARK-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. KRAKER-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. HEDGEFETH-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	444TH	861 TOOK OFF:1203:30 LANDED AT:1547
#6 SUMMERS-PILOT-1ST. LT. WILBUR-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. HOMSHER-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-S/SGT. PERKINS-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. CHALFANT-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. HART-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	041 TOOK OFF:1157:30 LANDED AT:1537
#8 MONTSINGER-PILOT-1ST. LT. HAMMOND-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. SCOTT-NAVIGATOR-BOMBARDIER-T/SGT. TACKMAN-ENGINEER GUNNER-PFC. EVERETT-RADIO GUNNER-SGT. ELLISON-AERIAL GUNNER-SGT.	441ST	765 TOOK OFF:1155:30 LANDED AT:1530