

Intelligence Narrative No. 5, Day Operation 28 April 1943

Nineteen B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off today to bomb Mabtouha Landing Grounds. One (8) returned early. Flight Commander John B. Fordyce; Deputy Flight Commander Major Craig E. Walling. They were escorted by 24 P-40's of the 325th Fighter Group and 36 Spitfires from La Sers.

Three B-26's were lost in the operation. One seen to land in water, one to two miles off shore near Soussa at 1608 hours. Five men seen swimming in water.

One of our bombers crash-landed near Sidi bon Ali at 16:10 hours. A British ambulance was seen to approach as figures jumped out of the plane.

The third B-26 is reported by a P-40 pilot to have crash-landed at K 7233; East and slightly North of Nabeul. Time is given as approximately 1600 hours.

Route: 90° for 60 miles, 30° for 60 miles; 68° for 23 miles; 83° for 20 miles; bombing run at heading of 120° followed by evasive action. Left G. Bon, crossing the coast heading south, between Manzel Hourr and Korba. Across the Gulf of Hammamet, crossing the shore line in the general vicinity of Soussa. From coast, straight course this base.

Chronology: Bombers took off between 1417 and 1426 hours; fighters of the 325th Fighter Group off between 1429 and 1435 hours. Rendezvous Spitfires, La Sers at 1500 hours. Over target (ship) at 1540 hours, fifteen B-26's down this base by 1721 hours.

Bombs: 288 x 100 demolitions instantaneous dropped. 36 x 100 lb bombs returned this base.

Results: Poor visibility prohibited possibility of making a bombing run on target as briefed. (See observations) A vessel of unidentified type was chosen as a target of opportunity at a point approximately 5 miles E.W. of La Marsa. No hits or near misses scored. All bombs seen to land far astern of vessel, which was maneuvering wildly during bomb run. Vessel, at sighting was on a 210° heading at high speed. Bombing run was made at an altitude of from 7500 to 8000 feet at 1540 hours.

Flak: Intense heavy and light flak, accurate for deflection, elevation and altitude encountered from the Tunis area. The positions seem, in general, to corroborate the positions of gun emplacements as briefed. Observations of new positions were observed as reported below:

1. Heavy and light batteries spotted at K 5057 at 1542 hours at 6000'. Reported accurate on three counts.
2. At K 1867, a mixed gun battery consisting of 4 heavy and some light guns. Time 1638, Altitude, 7000'.
3. Between Hammamet and Lake Sebokra what was believed to be 20 mm. guns (definitely light flak, with tracer fire) mounted on white flak towers.

Weather: En route and return: Frequent thunderstorms, haze, visibility 1 mile. Over target: as enroute, but clearing over sea.

Observations: Dispersal area at target airdrome reported to be on north side of field. Approximately 30 planes were sighted there at 1528 from an altitude of 8000'.

A few airplanes were dispersed around edge of field in Protville area at J 9978.

Enemy Aircraft: (seen but not encountered - by bombers)

Two S/E enemy aircraft, painted light blue, sighted slightly west of Tunis at an altitude of approximately 2000 ft., heading 270°. Observations altitude 7000 ft.

The following is a list of Officers and Enlisted Men who went down with the ships mentioned above.

Returned

Captain James H. Luttrell, O-426402, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. Jean K. Luttrell, Alhambra Hotel, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Captain Daniel W. O'Keefe, O-789495, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. Evelyn G. O'Keefe, 1289 Carroll St., Brooklyn, N.Y.
2nd Lt. William F. Yeager, O-727824, Next of kin and home address, Harry Yeager, 3660 W. 48th St., Cleveland, Ohio.
S/Sgt. Carroll B. Robichaux, 14079642, Next of kin and home address, Mr. Joseph E. Robichaux, 319 Magnolia St. Lafayette, La.
S/Sgt. Marvin E. Thompson, 6899574, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. Grace Thompson, 908 E. Capitol St., Washington, D.C.
S/Sgt. Albert L. Britton, 16035907, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. Sarah Britton, Taylor, Neb.

1st Lt. Thomas Summers, O-727941, Next of kin and home address, Mr. Thomas J. Summers, 1011 E. Tujunga, Burbank, California.
2nd Lt. Pat R. Wilbur, O-728142, Next of kin and home address, Sybil E. Wilbur, 3702 Cheyenne Tenace, Amarillo, Texas.
2nd Lt. Frank W. Karidis, O-727348, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. Frank Karidis, 5626 W. National Ave., West Allis, Wisconsin
S/Sgt. Griffin L. Chalfant, 17045125, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. Pearl T. Chalfant, 3907 Botanical Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
S/Sgt. Paul W. Hart, 37202670, Next of kin and home address, May Augusta Hart, Medicine Lodge, Kansas.
S/Sgt. Alonza C. Perkins, 14045571, Next of kin and home address, Marie Perkins, Georgetown, Ga.

42) Captain Richard L. Chick, O-424712, Next of kin and home address, Mr. Everett W. Chick, South Berwick, Maine.
2nd Lt. Theodore J. Ienczewski, O-792402, Next of kin and home address, Mrs. G. Ienczewski, 120 Scononea Circle, Sherville, N.Y.

1st Lt. Homer L. Cheshire, O-660968, Next of kin and home address, R.E. Cheshire, 720 Garden St., Lakeland, Florida.
S/Egt. James V. Alter, 35038240, Next of kin and home address, Emma M. Alter, 1712 Linden Ave, Zanesville, Ohio.
T/Sgt. William J. Hoenk, 16028088, Next of kin and home address, J.C. Hoenk, 8918 Dauphin Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Sgt. Battle C. Hilton, 34257673, Next of kin and home address, Mae W. Hilton, Route #2, Wallburg Road, Winston-Salem, N.C.

Additional Observations: The attached diagram is a rough sketch made by one of our Majors, who flew as an observer. He reports that the stripes on the bow were alternately yellow and black.

A close photographic study of the vessel reveals the following facts:
Its bridge, foremast, and funnel are grouped close together, apparently at the break in the deck. The appearance of the funnel indicated the presence of a cowl top; the funnel itself seems fairly thin and tall. The stern is "squared-off" at the tip.
A puff from AA comes from a position near the stern. The length of wake indicates a speed of approximately 30 knots.

Conclusion: The craft answers the description and possesses details of an Italian Torpedo boat of the Clisene-Partenope Class.

- * This crew was seen to make a belly landing and all crew member jump out. See above.
- ** This crew was seen to make a belly landing in the water as reported above.

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

Mission No. 5

28
27 April

Take Off

<u>RED</u>		<u>DORMAN</u> 959	
	<u>GOODSON</u> 785		<u>BARRETT</u> 981
<u>BLUE</u>		<u>BOOTH</u> 853	
	<u>STUMM</u> 724		<u>CHICK</u> 040
<u>YELLOW</u>		<u>ROBERTS</u> 041	
	<u>TRESCH</u> 842		<u>BARBER</u> 780
<u>GREEN</u>		<u>CHASE</u> Summers 073	
	<u>BREWER</u> 763		<u>LUTTRELL</u> 871
<u>BROWN</u>		<u>SIMS</u> 986	
	<u>LOVEER</u> 958		<u>HEIMROTH</u> 056
<u>PINK</u>		<u>MEYER</u> 768	
	<u>WEST</u> 088		<u>DOXSEE</u> 092
		<u>SPARES</u> <u>DIETER</u> 863	
	<u>MORLEY</u> 964		<u>SUMMERS</u> Gutter 023

Colors of the Day: Attached

Radio Bomber - BEACH

Pursuit - BISCUIT

BOMBING ALTITUDE:

1st Flight:

2nd Flight;

3rd Flight:

Emergency Fields:

Bone and Telergma

(Hospital Units)

Target Elevation

COLORS: Red-Left.

Green-Right.

Amber original formation.

One light for 1st Flight.

Two lights for 2nd Flight

If repeated, elements move into echelon.

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

28 April 1943

LIST OF COMBAT CREW PARTICIPATING IN RAID ON SIDI ATHMAN LANDING
 GROUND, TUNISIA, 28 April 1943.

CREW NO. AND PERSONNEL	SQUADRON	SHIP NO.
#1 DORMAN-PILOT-FLIGHT LEADER-CAPTAIN PETERSON- W CO-PILOT-2ND LT. RIDGE-NAV-BOMBARDIER-1ST. LT. PERRIN-NAV-BOMBARDIER-1ST. LT. SNEBOLD-ENGINEER GUNNER-T/SGT. SMITH-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. PETROSKI-AERIAL GUNNER-M/SGT. <i>-with camera</i>	444TH	959
		TOOK OFF:14:17 LANDED AT:1707 NOTE:LT. Col. FORDYCE FLEW AS FLIGHT COMMANDER.
#9 BARRETT-PILOT-1ST. LT. KISLER-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. NERONE-NAV-BOMBARDIER-CAPTAIN WEIL-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. KRAKER-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. HEDGEPEETH-AERIAL GUNNER-SGT.	444TH	981
		TOOK OFF:1417:30 LANDED AT:1708
#2 BOOTH-PILOT-CAPTAIN NASH-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. MILLER-NAV-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. JANISE-ENGINEER GUNNER-T/SGT. HIGGINS-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. KIEFFER-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT.	444TH	853
		TOOK OFF:1418:30 LANDED AT:1709 NOTE:MAJ. WALLING FLEW AS DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDER. LT. SHYROCK FLEW AS OBSERVER.
#6 CHICK-PILOT-CAPTAIN IENCSEWSKI-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. CHESHIRE-NAV-BOMBARDIER-1ST. LT. ALTER-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. HOENK-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. HILTON-AERIAL GUNNER-SGT.	444TH	040
		XXXXX TOOK OFF:1419 LANDED AT:
#12 STUMM-PILOT-2ND. LT.- HORNBERGER-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. DECUIR-NAV-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. CLARK-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. BURTT-RADIO GUNNER-SGT. BOWEN-AERIAL GUNNER-SGT.	444TH	024
		TOOK OFF:1419:30 LANDED AT:1709:30
#2 ROBERTS-PILOT-FLIGHT LEADER-CAPTAIN GOFF-CO-PILOT-1ST LT. BUTLER-NAV-BOMBARDIER-1ST LT. HANSEN-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. KERCHENSKI-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT. RAMIREZ-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT.	443RD	041
		TOOK OFF:1428 LANDED AT:1720 NOTE:MAJ. PEDDIE FLEW AS OBSERVER.

CREW NUMBER AND PERSONNEL	SQUADRON	SHIP NO.
<p>#7 FEAGIN-PILOT-FLT. OFF. BARBER-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. HUNTER-NAV-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. BERNSTEIN-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. GAMBLE-AERIAL GUNNER-SGT. NOAKES-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT.</p>	443RD	780 TOOK OFF:1420:30 LANDED AT:1721 NOTE:MAJ. ADAMS FLEW AS OBSERVER.
<p>#11 TRESCH-PILOT-1ST. LT. GRAVES-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. PACE-2ND. LT.-NAV-BOMBARDIER DOOLITTLE-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. POWELL-AERIAL GUNNER-CPL. CARTER-ENGINEER GUNNER-SGT.</p>	443RD	842 TOOK OFF:1421 LANDED AT:1720:30
<p>#6 SUMMERS-PILOT-1ST. LT. WILBUR-CO-PILOT-2nd. LT. ✓KARIDIS-NAV-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. CHALFANT-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. HART-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT. PERKINS-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT.</p>	443RD	073 TOOK OFF:1421:30 LANDED AT:
<p>#1 LUTTRELL-PILOT-CAPTAIN YEAGER-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. O'KEEFE-NAV-BOMBARDIER-CAPTAIN ROBICHAUX-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. BRITTON-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT. THOMPSON-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT.</p>	443RD	059 TOOK OFF:1422 LANDED AT:
<p>#10 BREWER-PILOT-2ND. LT. PEARCE-CO-PILOT-FLT. OFF. QUINE-NAV-BOMBARDIER-S/SGT. YOST-RADIO GUNNER-T/SGT. BENNER-AERIAL GUNNER-S/SGT. BOLTON-ENGINEER GUNNER-SGT.</p>	443RD	763 TOOK OFF:1422:30 LANDED AT:1713
<p>#15 BUTLER-PILOT-FLT. OFF. BROWN-CO-PILOT-2ND. LT. POGUE-NAV-BOMBARDIER-2ND. LT. SACCARDO-RADIO GUNNER-SGT. GNIADK-AERIAL GUNNER-SGT. WATERMAN-ENGINEER GUNNER-CPL.</p>	443RD	023 TOOK OFF: 1450 1418 LANDED AT:1650
<p>#10 MORLEY-PILOT-1ST. LT. BAUCUM-CO-PILOT-1ST. LT. ELLIOTT-NAV-BOMBARDIER-CAPTAIN CALDWELL-ENGINEER GUNNER-S/SGT. UNCLES-RADIO GUNNER-S/SGT. MARTIN-AERIAL GUNNER-T/SGT.</p>	442ND	863 964 TOOK OFF:1426 LANDED AT:1712:30

LT. GOODSON-PILOT-CREW #8-444TH SQUADRON SHIP #785. FAILED TO TAKE OFF.

CREW NO. AND PERSONNEL

SQUADRON

SHIP NO.

#1
SIMS-PILOT-FLIGHT LEADER CAPTAIN
HIMMELRICH-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
FRANK B. ROGERS-NAVIGATOR CAPTAIN
BEATTY-BOMBARDIER 1ST LT.
BANCHER-ENG-GUNNER Cpl.
SIEGAL-RADIO-GUNNER S/SGT
HUDSON-AERIAL-GUNNER S/SGT

442

986
TOOK OFF 1423
LANDED: 1710/30

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#9
HEIMROTH-PILOT 1ST LT.
CARRAHER-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
CIESIELSKI-NAV-BOMB S/SGT
MITCHEL-ENG-GUNNER S/SGT
STREET-RADIO-GUNNER S/SGT
WORNOFF S/SGT

442

SHIP NO.
056
TOOK OFF 1423/30
LANDED 1711

#8
LOVECE-PILOT 1ST LT.
LIMBERG-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
EVANS-NAV-BOMB 1ST LT.
BRANNING-ENG-GUNNER S/SGT
WRIGHT-RADIO-GUNNER T/SGT
BROWN-AERIAL-GUNNER SGT

442

SHIP NO
958
TOOK OFF 1424
LANDED 1700
MAJOR SULLIVAN FLEW
AS OBSERVER

#3
MEYER-PILOT CAPTAIN CAPTAIN
INGALLS-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
FARGO-NAV-BOMB T/SGT
DEWITTE-ENG-GUNNER S/SGT
ARSENAULT-RADIO-GUNNER S/SGT
LONG-AERIAL-GUNNER T/SGT

442

SHIP NO
768
TOOK OFF 1424/30
LANDED 1716
CAPTAIN MACIA FLEW
AS OBSERVER

#6
DOXSEE-PILOT 1ST LT.
DEUTMAN-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
FURRER-NAV-BOMB S/SGT
LASTER-ENG-GUNNER S/SGT
ALLEN-RADIO-GUNNER S/SGT
BURNS-AERIAL-GUNNER S/SGT

442

SHIP NO
092
TOOK OFF 1425
LANDED 1712

#7
WEST-PILOT 1ST LT.
DRYER-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
BASS-NAV-BOMB 1ST LT.
CHERCHIARE-ENG-GUNNER S/SGT
ZEHNER-RADIO-GUNNER S/SGT
BURNS-AERIAL-GUNNER S/SGT

442

SHIP NO
088
NO TAKE OFF

#8
DIETER-PILOT CAPTAIN #####
BURNS-CO-PILOT 1ST LT.
STEPHENS-NAV-BOMB 1ST LT.
GREER-ENG-GUNNER S/SGT
COLLINS-RADIO-GUNNER S/SGT
AUL-AERIAL-GUNNER Cpl.

444

SHIP NO
863
TOOK OFF 1426
LANDED 1529