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HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer  
APO 520

Intelligence Narrative No. 44, Day Operation 8 July 1943

Twenty-seven B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off this morning to bomb Gerbini A/D #11, Sicily. They were escorted by 24 P-38's of the 1st Fighter Group and 72 Spitfires from Malta. One B-26 crashed on take-off; four returned early one because of a fuel leak, one because of a high blower failure, one because of generator failure and one was a spare. The target was bombed successfully. Over the target, 2 ME 109's were sighted. One attacked, and was shot down. Twenty-two B-26's returned safely to this base on schedule.

Routes and Altitudes: To Target: from 3,500' at this base, direct to rendezvous with P-38's at Djedaida at 5,000'; curve to right to Hamman Lif; 90° T for 56 miles to Menzel Hourr; 98° T for 198 miles to rendezvous with Spitfires at 36° 20' N, 14° 30' E at 10,000'; curve to the left for 35 miles to Sampiani; 34° T, curve to left, 46 miles to I.P. (Lentini) at 11,900'; bomb run, 314° T for 14 miles dropping to 9,900'; breakaway to left. From Target: 180° curve to the left for 68 miles to Buccheri; followed 319th Bombardment Group off coast at 36° 58' N, 15° 13' E; resumed course at 36° 20' N, 14° 30' E; 273° for 205 miles, 291° T for 50 miles direct to this base at 3,000'.

Bombs: 104 x 300 lb demolition bombs, 1/10, 45 second delay fuse, carried by 15 B-26's. 280 x 100 lb demolition bombs instantaneuous nose, .025 second delay tail fuses, carried by 14 B-26's. 8 x 300 lb demolition bombs at this base in plane that crashed on take-off; 8 x 300 lb demolition bombs and 60 x 100 lb demolition returned to this base in planes that returned early. 88 x 300 lb demolition bombs and 217 x 100 lb demolition bombs dropped over the target. 3 x 100 lb demolition bombs returned to this base, having hung up over the target.

Chronology: Time off between 09:15 and 09:28; first rendezvous, 09:48; second rendezvous, 11:03; target, 11:35; down at this base between 13:39 and 13:55.

Results: 300 lb bombs landed in a good pattern with 9/10 direct hits on the east end of the runway; the majority of the hits were on the southern side. 100 lb bombs of the second squadron landed short of the field along the northeast-southwest road, south of the run-way and between road and run-way; at least one near miss on a plane parked in this area.

Flak: Moderate to intense inaccurate heavy flak was encountered from Lake Lentini northward until after the breakaway.

Heavy gun positions were spotted as follows:

- (1) 37° 22' N, 15° 01' E.
  - (2) 37° 27' N, 14° 49' E.
  - (3) Line of positions from just north of Gerbini A/D #2 to west of Gerbini Main A/D, concentrated particularly between north of Gerbini A/D #1 and Gerbini Main A/D.
  - (4) 8 gun battery in bend of Irmio River, at 36° 52' N, 14° 44' E, sighted at 11:20 from 11,200'.
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a gun position at 37° 21' N, 15° 45' E.  
42' N, 14° 47' E.

(1) At RR marshalling yards, Lake Lentini, 3 train sections  
18 cars each, sighted at 11:29 from 11,200'.

(2) At Rosolini RR marshalling yards, two 6-car trains, sighted  
11,000'.

(3) A yellow life raft was sighted at 36° 34' N, 14° 35' E  
9,500'. It was not occupied.

(4) At Augusta Harbor, one large and one medium M/V anchored  
at the fort and the naval refueling base, C-H/16. One medium M/V at the oil  
L/18 (Ref: T.C. 2-15A-NA). Approximately 40 small craft tied along the  
Sightings at 11:30 from 11,200'. At 11:38 from 9,500' most of these craft  
reported by one crew member to be dispersed in the harbor.

(5) At Syracuse, four small M/V's at the dock and two small boats  
the center of the harbor, sighted at 11:38 from 9,500'.

(6) In a small cove just south of Syracuse, 20 small boats sighted  
at 11:29 from 11,000'.

Enemy Aircraft: Over the target, 2 ME 109's, brown-black with silver spinners,  
were sighted below and behind the formation. One closed to attack, coming in low  
at 4 o'clock. At 200 yards, the tail gunner opened fire, pouring 75 rounds into  
the engine. The E/A kept coming in; at 150 yds., and at the same altitude as the  
bomber, he pulled his nose up into the sky, presenting a plan view. The gunner  
fired 150 rounds, raking the fuselage from nose to tail.

The ME 109 fell over on one wing and hit the ground about 1 mile from  
Gerbini A/D #11 on a course of 314°. Time, 11:36 at 10,800'.

Photography: One K-17 was in the B-26 which crashed on the take-off. The second  
K-17 was brought back to this base in one of the bombers which returned early. Only  
target bomb-strike photos taken are the K-20 shots sent to your headquarters 8 July  
1943.

Bombing Problem: This landing strip is pin-pointed by our navigators and bombardiers  
at 37° 24' N, 14° 49' E. This places it only slightly south of the position given  
us, but is of considerable importance in planning the bombing problem. Because of  
the importance of orientation points, the frequency of haze over the island, the  
necessity of getting "on course" promptly, this difference of approximately 1  
nautical mile in position is essential to the planning of a successful bomb run.

Weather: Enroute, very hazy over water. Medium haze over target, otherwise clear.  
Return as enroute.

Our Losses: One B-26 completely destroyed on take-off. No planes were lost or  
damaged in combat.

Comments: None.

JAMES H. MACIA Jr.,  
Captain, Air Corps  
Op. Intelligence O.

~~SECRET~~

Flight Commander - Maj. POLK  
 Deputy Flight Commander - Capt. McCrory

## "A"

<u>RED "A"</u>	<u>WEINBERG</u> 295	<u>BARRETT</u> 861	<u>URNER</u> 904
<u>BLUE "A"</u>	<u>TOWNS</u> 853	<u>BOOTH</u> 785	<u>BURNS</u> 792
<u>YELLOW "A"</u>	<u>BREWER</u> 804	<u>WELCH</u> 575	<u>TRESCH</u> 010
<u>GREEN "A"</u>	<u>BARBER</u> 851	<u>GRAVES</u> 307	<u>CALHOUN</u> 027

## "B"

<u>RED "B"</u>	<u>MILLER</u> 017	<u>HEIDROTH</u> 298	<u>DEUTMAN</u> 077
<u>BLUE "B"</u>	<u>DAVIS</u> 859	<u>LOVECE</u> 999	<u>LADD</u> 048
<u>YELLOW "B"</u>	<u>KOONTZ</u> 009	<u>MILLER</u> 984	<u>MC GLANNAN</u> 036
<u>GREEN "B"</u>	<u>OWEN</u> 002	<u>MONTSINGER</u> 189	<u>VALLS</u> 765

S P A R E S

<u>WEGENER</u> 980N	<u>BUTLER</u> 763	<u>INGALLS</u> 056	<u>GOODSON</u> 978N
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RADIO: CHANNEL "A"  
 BOMBER CALL - ENCORE TWO  
 FIGHTER CALL - DAY LONG

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer  
APO 520

8 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Photos.

TO : Commanding General, 2686 (M) Bomb Wing (Prov.), A.P.O. 520.

1. The following is the location of cameras of the formation as over the target (Gerbini A/D, Satellite #11, Sicily) of this Group this date.

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853 T T  
K-20—T T

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763 T T  
K-20—T T

Incl: 5 sets photos.  
plus negatives.

JAMES H. MACIA Jr.,  
Captain, Air Corps  
Gp. Intelligence O.

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

8 July 1943

THE FOLLOWING CREWS PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON GERBINI AIRDROME #11,  
 8 July 1943:

NAMES OF CREWS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.
Barrett, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Conley, Co-Pilot, F/O. Ferrin, Bombardier, Cpt. Weil, Engineer Gunner, T/Sgt. Kraker, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Haney, Aerial Gunner, Cpl. Nerone, Navigator, Captain	444th	861 Took-off: 0915 Landed at: 13:39  <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> Maj. Polk flew as Flight Commander.
Kisler, Pilot, 2nd. Lt. English, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Miller, Bombardier, 2nd. Lt. Vaughan, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Stoerkel, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Monaghan, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	904 Took-off: 0915:30 Landed at: 13:39 1/2
Weinberg, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Nagel, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Robinson, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Kihne, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Brown, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Long, Aerial Gunner, Cpl.	444th	920 Took-off: 0916 Landed at: 13:40
Booth, Pilot, Captain, Jackson, T. L., Co-Pilot, F/O. Ott, Bombardier, 2nd. Lt. Ridge, Navigator, 1st. Lt. <del>XXXX</del> Clark, J. L. Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Klingaman, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Harrison, Aerial Gunner, Cpl.	444th	785 Took-off: 0916:30 Landed at: 13:40 1/2  Capt. McCrory flew as Deputy Flight Commander.
<del>XXXX</del> Burns, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Taylor, Co-Pilot,	444th	792 Took-off: CRASHED.
Towns, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Hicks, Co-Pilot, F/O. Burton, Bombardier, 1st. Lt. Dicke, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. DeSantis, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Chouinard, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	853 Took-off: 0917:30 Landed at: 13:41
Welch, Pilot, Captain Collins, Co-Pilot, F/O. Carroll, Nav-Bomb., 1st. Lt. Bowles, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Krumpoch, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. McLead, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	575 Took-off: 0918 Landed at: 13:42

NAME OF CREWS	SQUABRON	FLANE NO.	
Tresch, Pilot, 1st. Lt.	443rd	010	FAILED TO TAKE OFF.
Brewer, Pilot, 1st. Lt.	443rd	842	B
Pearce, Co-Pilot, F/O.		Took-off:0918:30	
Quine, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt.		Landed at: 13:42 <sup>1/2</sup>	
Dore, Navigator, 1st. Lt.			
Bolton, Engineer Gunner, Sgt.			
Yost, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt.			
Clarke, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.			
Graves, Pilot, 1st. Lt.	443rd	307	B
Nolan, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt.		Took-off:0919	
Swindler, Pilot, 1st. Lt.		Landed at: 1058 (Early)	
Pierce, Engineer Gunner, Sgt.			
Miles, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Yim, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Calhoun, Pilot, 1st. Lt.	443rd	027	B
Space, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt.		Took-off:0919:30	
Thompson, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt.		Landed at: 13:43	
Smith, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Martin, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt.			
Carr, Aerial Gunner,			
Barber, Pilot, 1st. Lt.	443rd	851	B
Long, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt.		Took-off:0920	
Homsher, Bombardier, S/Sgt.		Landed at: 13:43	
Stevens, Navigator, 2nd. Lt.			
Hanson, Engineer Gunner, Cpl.			
Burden, Radio Gunner, Sgt.			
Dross, Aerial Gunner, Aerial Gunner			
Heimroth, Pilot, Lt.	442nd	298	B
Smith, Co-Pilot, Lt.		Took-off:0920:30	
Miller, Nav-Bomb., Lt.		Landed at: 13:45	
Mithhell, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt.		Friday	
Street, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt.		Capt. <del>XXXXXX</del> flew as observer.	
Wornoff, Aerial Gunner			
Deutman, Pilot, Lt.	442nd	077	B
Brast, Co-Pilot, Lt.		Took-off:0921	
Furrer, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt.		Landed at:0938 (Early)	
Gross, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Godfrey, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Miller, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Miller, Pilot, Lt.	442nd	017	B
Bougher, Co-Pilot, F/O.		Took-off:0921:30	
Symons, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt.		Landed at: 13:45 <sup>1/2</sup>	
Folger, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Conlon, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt.			
Eclen, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.			

NAMES OF CREWS	SQUADRON	FLAME NO.	
Lovece, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Chandler, Co-Pilot, Lt. Evans, Nav-Bomb., Lt. Branning, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Wright, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Brown, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	442nd	999	Took-off: 0922 Landed at: 13:46 <i>C</i>
Ladd, Pilot, Lt. Tiemann, Co-Pilot, Lt. Monroe, Nav-Bomb., Lt. Stander, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Hite, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Griffin, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	442nd	048	Took-off: 0922:30 Landed at: 13:44½ <i>B</i>
Davis, Pilot, Lt. Young, Co-Pilot, Lt. Abeln, Nav-Bomb., Lt. Dunn, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Hogan, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Covert, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	442nd	859	Took-off: 0923 Landed at: 13:46½ <i>B</i>
Miller, Pilot, Captain Lankford, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Shevelson, Nav-Bomb., 1st. Lt. Dahl, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Foss, Radio Gunner, Pvt. Leutholt, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	595	Took-off: 0923:30 Landed at: 13:53 <i>C</i>
Crotty, Pilot, 1st. Lt. McGlannan, Co-Pilot, 1st. Lt. Scott, Nav-Bomb., T/Sgt. Goodman, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Rogers, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Mulligan, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	441st	036	Took-off: 0924 Landed at: 13:54 <i>B</i>
Koontz, Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Vandergrift, Co-Pilot, 1st. Lt. McGeever, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Dorey, Engineer Gunner, Sgt. Apgar, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Sullivan, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	009	Took-off: 0924:30 Landed at: 12:12 <i>B</i>
Montsinger, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Milton, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Tapp, Nav-Bomb., 1st. Lt. Hancock, Engineer Gunner, Sgt. Tomlinson, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Ellison, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	441st	189	Took-off: 0925 Landed at: 13:54½ <i>B</i>

*Returned Early*



NAMES OF CREWS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.	TOOK-OFF	LANDED AT	REMARKS
Valls, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Timmons, Co-Pilot, 1st. Lt. Vialle, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Gearing, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Downing, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Foster, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	<del>365</del> 441st	765	0925:30	12:53 1/2	B
Owen, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Kapstein, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Eastburn, Nav-Bomb., T/Sgt. Thatcher, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Corp, Radio Gunner, Pvt. Mazzo, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	002	0926	13:50	B
Wegener, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Dillon, Co-Pilot, F/O. Allen, Nav-Bomb., 1st. Lt. Levi, Engineer Gunner, Sgt. Archer, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Wurst, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	980	0928	13:42	B
Butler, Pilot, F/O. Landrum, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Chambers, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Waterman, Engineer Gunner, Cplg Saccardo, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Gniadek, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	443rd	763	0926:30	12:41	A
Baird, Pilot, Lt. Strausner, Co-Pilot, Lt. Ciesielski, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Gomez, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Radio Gunner, Trupka, S/Sgt. Baronet, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	056	0927	1057 (Early)	B
Goodson, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Jasinowsky, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Brown, Bombardier, 2nd. Lt. Porter, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Tucker, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Hansen, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	<del>570</del> 295	0927:30	13:45	B