

Intelligence Narrative No. 51, Day Operation 17 July 1943.

(Map Reference: TC 3-101-NA)

Thirty-six B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off this afternoon to bomb the Central RR Yards, Naples, Italy. They were escorted by 48 P-38's of the 1st Fighter Group. One B-26 returned early because of engine trouble.

As the formation made landfall, Italy, the right engine of one B-26 caught on fire. The pilot left the formation, extinguished the flames, feathered the prop, and, with the two wing men of the last element furnishing protection, headed for home. Both bombardiers of the escorting wing ships opened their bomb bay doors and salvoed their bombs over Italy before leaving the coast. One salvo landed directly on the coast road north of the seaplane base between Castel Volturno and Naples/Lago di Patria. Bombs of the other plane landed somewhere in that general vicinity; actual bomb strike unobserved.

Thirty-two B-26's continued on the bomb run, and successfully bombed the RR Yards.

The flak was moderate to intense, heavy, extremely accurate, and of the tracking type. One B-26 sustained a direct hit just after the bomb bay doors opened; a terrific explosion occurred, and the plane ripped apart and fell, flaming, toward the ground. This was definitely not caused by a bomb explosion. Observers in the planes directly behind the lost B-26 report that the bombs of the stricken plane fell toward the ground approximately one mile north of the dropping point, just before the explosion occurred. They fell as follows: one, then five, in a cluster, as though salvoed. Reason unknown.

The lead ship of the same element sustained several hits, and one flak burst knocked out the right engine. The pilot brought his plane back to Africa on one engine; and landed wheels up in a pasture midway between Tunis and Bizerte, near the Tunis-Bizerte Road. All crew members are safe.

The crippled B-26 which left the formation prior to bombing crash-landed in the sea at  $40^{\circ} 28' N$ ,  $12^{\circ} 47' E$  at 1617 hours. The two escorting B-26's flew circles around the floating aircraft; 6 men (the entire crew) were seen to escape the aircraft and clamber on to life rafts. The B-26 floated from 30 to 60 seconds before it sank.

Thirty-two B-26's landed safely at this base.

Routes and Altitudes: To target, from 3500' to rendezvous north of Mateur at 4000'; curve right, left, thence to Cape Zebile for 52 miles;  $37^{\circ} T$  for 304 miles to IP, Marano di Napoli, climbing gradually to 10,700; bomb run  $120^{\circ} T$  for 20 miles, dropping to 10,000 at target, breakaway right.

From target:  $223^{\circ}$  for 377 miles to this base, dropping to 3000'.

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Bombs: 216 x 500-lb. demolition bombs, 1/20, 25 second delay fuse, carried by 36 B-26's.

6 x 500-lb. demolition bombs returned to this base in the aircraft which returned early.

6 x 500-lb. demolition bombs were salvaged just short of the target by the B-26 which was destroyed.

6 x 500-lb. demolition bombs were jettisoned in the Mediterranean by the plane which crash-landed in the sea.

12 x 500-lb. demolition bombs were salvaged over land north of Naples/Lago di Patria by the two B-26's which provided escort to the crippled bomber

184 x 500-lb. demolition bombs dropped over the target.

2 x 500-lb. bombs were returned this base when they hung up over the target. (Wires in the rack cut by flak)

Chronology: Time off between 1330 and 1349; on course 1410; rendezvous 1420; target 1604; down at this base between 1754 and 1805.

Results: The bombs landed on the target in two distinct patterns. One pattern started at L/20 and carried across the stadium and railroad switches and north "Y" junction at L-K/21-22. The second pattern covered the south end of the Airframe Works, followed by a cluster of direct hits on the west "Y" junction and switches at K/20, demolishing 20/30 parked freight and passenger cars and carrying over into the roundhouses in the center of the "Y".

Flak: Moderate to intense heavy accurate flak was encountered over the target. One black ME-109 with a white cross on the fuselage was seen on the approach to the target, at 1601 from 10500, flying at the same altitude, and to the left of the formation. It is believed that this E/A was giving speed and altitude for AA fire

Slight inaccurate heavy flak was encountered just before the target, which appeared to come from Calvisano.

Clusters of white grayish flak bursts similar in appearance to those of light flak, bursting ahead and 300/400' above and 300/400' below the formation were seen over the target. No enemy planes were seen above the formation at this time, and no aerial bombs were observed. X

Slight heavy inaccurate flak was encountered coming from Ischia Island.

- Gun positions:
- 1) One heavy gun on the mole at Torre del Greco.
  - 2) One heavy gun position at Misida.
  - 3) Six gun positions in barracks area at P-Q/7.
  - 4) One heavy gun position near the oil refinery at L/27.
  - 5) Several heavy gun positions along the docks 9-16/D-H.
  - 6) One position at H/27.
  - 7) One gun position at G/27.
  - 8) One gun position at Torre Annunziata.

After the breakaway and over the southeastern part of the Gulf of Naples, light, inaccurate fire was encountered coming from boats and beaches in that vicinity.

Slight inaccurate heavy flak was encountered from the Isle of Capri.

Air Victories: 1) One ME-109 destroyed at 1605 and 10500, just after bombs were dropped over the target. A dark gray ME-109 attacked the right wing aircraft of the 4th element, 1st squadron. E/A came in from 12

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o'clock and above and started a loop. On the top of loop, turret gunner fired 40 rounds at 600 yards, which were seen to enter the cockpit and engine. E/A fell straight down and was seen to hit the ground.

2) One ME-109 probably destroyed. At 1603, E/A made a pass at No. 1 aircraft\* from 12 o'clock above. E/A went up on left wing, presenting plain view to the turret gunner, who fired 50 rounds, raking E/A from nose to tail. Pieces of E/A were seen to fall off, it commenced smoking furiously (black smoke), and was lost from view.  
of 3d squadron

Observations:

Enemy Shipping: 1) 3 F-boats and 1 MTB boat seen moving south at high speed and using evasive action, at 1559 from 10700.

2) 1 large M/V, stationary and listing, sighted at 40° 50' N, 14° 01' E, at 1559 from 10700.

3) 1 large M/V, at first motionless, was sighted near Vico Equense at 1607 from 9800. As the formation passed, this ship commenced firing and started moving south-southwest.

4) Two large transports were sighted 5 miles off Torre Annunziata sailing south at 1606 from 9900.

5) One large M/V anchored near Nisida, sighted at 1603 from 10200.

6) 3 vessels were seen at 40° 45' N, 13° 35' E, too far from the course for accurate identification, heading south at high speed and making a wide wake at 1555 from 10700.

7) 2 large M/V docked at E-F/12; one large passenger liner docked at F/13; many small boats along jetty which stems from the U-boat base at C-D/11-16. Sightings at 1603 from 10200.

8) 1 tanker anchored at F/17, sighted at 1603 from 10200.

9) 40/50 small boats anchored at Torre del Greco, sighted at 1606 from 9900.

10) 13 S/P, blue-gray and sand-colored, on the east side of the S/P base, Naples/Lago di Patria, sighted at 1601 from 10700.

Naples/Capodichino A/D, sightings at 1604 from 10200:

1) One ME-323 parked on the southwest end of the field.

2) One large MW, 6 S/E at S/19.

3) Nine S/E at T/20.

4) Twenty-five plus S/E along the northwest edge of the field.

5) A total of 50/60 aircraft were reported on the field.

Enemy aircraft: 1) A total of 7/8 ME-109's, MA-202's, and MA-200's, were sighted over the target at 1604 from 10200. One ME-109 and one MA-202 were shot down over the target by P-38's. The ME-109 was followed down by several P-38's and was seen to hit the ground 10 miles southeast of Naples. The MA-202 was seen to burst into smoke and flames. One ME-109 was painted dark gray.

2) See Air Victories.

Our losses: Total of 3: 1 B-26 destroyed over the target,  
1 B-26 crash-landed at sea,  
1 B-26 crash-landed on Tunisian soil.

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Comments: Ships which left the formation to cover the B-26 which crash-landed at sea called Mayday on channel "D" repeatedly from the point where it was apparent the crippled aircraft was about to crash land until 5/10 minutes after the actual landing. No response or acknowledgment was received. The B-26 which returned on single engine to Tunisia for a crash-landing called Highfence unsuccessfully.

The escort provided excellent cover. The crew of the single-engine return from the target particularly commended the close support given by four P-38's.

Weather: CAVU enroute, target, and return.

Casualties:

Plane #002.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>Emergency addresses:</u>
Aldrich, Grady T.	Radio Operator	S/Sgt.	14055648	Mr. J. R. Aldrich, Route 8, Box 69, Birmingham, Ala.
Braden, Lewis H.	Pilot	1st Lt.	0-728054	Mrs. Anne H. Braden, White Swan, Washington.
Cockrell, Peter P.	Nav- Bombdr.	S/Sgt.	14070588	Mr. W. S. Cockrell, Itta Bena, Miss.
Olson, Roland F.	Engineer Gunner	S/Sgt.	17036746	Albert G. Olson, 1303 Ronderborn Terrace, Minneapolis, Minn.
Smith, Warren	Turret Gunner	S/Sgt.	34201563	Mrs. G. E. Smith, 240 Melrose Ave., Decatur, Ga.
Walker, William R.	Copilot	1st Lt.	0-728136	Mr. Ross C. Walker, 259 S. Waverly Drive, Tulsa, Okla.

Down at Sea:

Plane #964.

Baker, Edward L.	Nav- Bombdr.	S/Sgt.	16019789	Mr. Harlan L. Baker, 2121 Clay St., Murphysboro, Ill.
Burgess, Paul H.	Engineer Gunner	S/Sgt.	15070928	Mrs. Bertha Burgess, 139 Herritt St., Whealing, W. Va.
Gunning, Gene V.	Turret Gunner	S/Sgt.	19053354	Mrs. Lura E. Hayes, 1017 Frianna Ave., Sacramento, Calif.

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Siegal, Sidney (NMI)	Radio Gunner	S/Sgt.	16037414	Mrs. Lillian Siegal, 1315 S. Avers Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Stuhr, Irvin R.	Copilot	2d Lt.	O-668157	Mrs. John Stuhr, 507 Winona Blvd., Rochester, N.Y.
Thompson, Morris M.	Pilot	1st Lt.	O-728131	Mrs. Gust Heckel, 1914 N. Ruby, Spokane, Wash.
<u>Injured:</u>				
Dahl, Myron A.	Engineer Gunner	S/Sgt.	39168164	Mr. Thomas Dahl, 2409 W. 5th St., Long Beach, Calif.
Berrigan, Jess T.	Radio Operator	Pfc.	14058413	Mrs. Lillie M. Berrigan, 632 Fern Street, Jacksonville, Fla.
Wilson, James R.	Nav- Bombdr.	Sgt.	34350092	Ruby H. Wilson, 1747 Lakewood Ave., Atlanta, Ga.

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

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

17 July 1943.

SUBJECT: Photos.

TO : Commanding General, 2686 (M) Bomb Wing (Prov), APO 520.

1. The following is the location of cameras of the formation as over the target, (Naples, Italy), of this Group, this date.

	T		
	T	T	
	T	T	
	100	T	1st Squadron
K-17 (T)	T	T	
	T	T	
	851	T	
K-20 (T)	T	T	
	T	859	(T) K-17, K-20
	T	T	3rd Squadron
	T	T	
	T	T	
	T	T	
	T	027	(T) K-20
	T	T	2nd Squadron
	T	T	

2. One (1) K-20 was lost in the Plane that went down over the target.

WILLIAM COOK  
 1st Lt., Air Corps  
 Ass't. Gp. S-2 Officer



MISSION #69

FLIGHT COMMANDER  
DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDERCapt. DORRAN  
Capt. HORN

July 17, 1943

<u>RED "A"</u>	<u>KAPSTEIN</u> 980	<u>"A"</u> <u>KARLOWITZ</u> 595	<u>HAYWARD</u> 001
<u>BLUE "A"</u>	<u>KOONTZ</u> 946	<u>MILLER</u> 855	<u>BRADEN</u> 008
<u>YELLOW "A"</u>	<u>Kennedy</u> 100	<u>DOBNEY</u> 984	<u>VALLS</u> 036
<u>GREEN "A"</u>	<u>WEINBERG</u> 978	<u>URNER</u> 025	<u>NORTHINGTON</u> 013
<u>RED "B"</u>	<u>COULTER</u> 061	<u>"B"</u> <u>BARRETT</u> <del>260</del> 292	<u>PERRY</u> <del>295</del> 927
<u>BLUE "B"</u>	<u>FAIR</u> 861	<u>HALLOWELL</u> 933	<u>SUND</u> 853
<u>YELLOW "B"</u>	<u>FEAGIN</u> 798	<u>SMALL</u> 004	<u>BURNS</u> 027
<u>GREEN "B"</u>	<u>BUTLER</u> 922	<u>GRAVES</u> 894	<u>BIGELON</u> 010
<u>RED "C"</u>	<u>BARBER</u> 851	<u>"C"</u> <u>CARTER</u> 307	<u>WILBUR</u> 763
<u>BLUE "C"</u>	<u>LIMBERG</u> 017	<u>HOLMES</u> 283	<u>DAVIS</u> 859
<u>YELLOW "C"</u>	<u>THOMPSON</u> 964	<u>ROSS</u> 983	<u>HIMMELREICH</u> 074
<u>GREEN "C"</u>	<u>CARRAHER</u> 056	<u>LADD</u> 298	<u>BAIRD</u> 048
<u>CHURCH</u> 596 N	<u>KISLER</u> 024	<u>S P A R E S</u> <u>LUTTRELL</u> 900	<u>WALKER</u> 911

RADIO : CHANNEL "A" — BOMBER CALL \* BOOKCLUB  
FIGHTER CALL \* SAXHORN

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

17 July 1943

LIST OF COMBAT CREWS PARTICIPATING IN THE RAID ON NAPLES, 17 JULY 1943.

NAMES OF CREWS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.	
Karlowitz, Pilot, Captain Paulantis, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Tapp, Bombardier, 1st. Lt. Ozuk, Navigator, Captain Fishman, Engineer, S/Sgt. Cofiell, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Cain, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	595 Took-off: 1330:30 Landed at: 1754	C
Hayward, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Oltman, Co-Pilot, F/O. McFarland, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Signac, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Berdaus, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Brown, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	001 Took-off: 1331 Landed at: 1754	B
Kapstein, Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Robins, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Stevens, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Lyons, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Berrigan, Radio Gunner, Pfc. Beckstead, Aerial Gunner, Pfc.	441st	980 Took-off: 1331 Landed at: 1754:30	B
Miller, Pilot, Captain Lankford, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Lehman, Bombardier, 1st. Lt. McGeever, Navigator, 2nd. Lt. Dahl, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. - <i>injured</i> Patzke, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Watkins, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	441st	855 Took-off: 1332 Landed at: Captain Horras, flew as Dep. Flight Commander.	B
Braden, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Walker, Co-Pilot, 1st. Lt. Cockrell, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Olson, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Aldrich, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Smith, Aerial Gunner, Pfc.	441st	002 Took-off: 1332:30 Landed at:	B
Koonts, Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Vandegrift, Co-Pilot, 1st. Lt. Weyrich, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Dorey, Engineer Gunner, Sgt. Apgar, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Lidicker, Aerial Gunner, Cpl.	441st	946 Took-off: 1333 Landed at: 1800	B



NAME OF CREWS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.	
Feagin, Pilot, F/O. Orr, Co-Pilot, F/O. Rose, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Noakes, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Harpster, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Gambale, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	443rd	798 Took-off: 1340:30 Landed at: 1805	B
Graves, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Nolan, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Swindler, Nav-Bomb., 2nd. Lt. Pierce, Engineer Gunner, Sgt. Miles, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Yim, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	<del>558</del> 894 Took-off: 1341 Landed at: 1824  Capt. Chase flew as Observer.	C
Bigelow, Pilot, 1st. Lt.	443rd FAILED TO TAKE OFF.	010	E
Butler, Pilot, F/O. Landrum, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Chambers, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Waterman, Engineer Gunner, Cpl. Saccardo, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Gniadek, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	443rd	922 Took-off: 1342 Landed at: 1810	C
Carter, Pilot, Captain Gilbert, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Boswell, Bombardier, 1st. Lt. Grove, Navigator, Captain Smith, Engineer Gunner, Sgt. Hunter, Radio Gunner, T/Sgt. Schempp, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	307 Took-off: 1342:30 Landed at: 1759	B
Wilbur, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Akins, Co-Pilot, F/O. Kimbrow, Nav-Bomb., Sgt. Perkins, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Chalfant, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Hart, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	763 Took-off: 1343 Landed at: 1759	B
Barber, Pilot, 1st. Lt. Long, Co-Pilot, 2nd. Lt. Homsher, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Hanson, Engineer Gunner, Cpl. Burden, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Dross, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	851 Took-off: 1343:30 Landed at: 1759:30	B
Holmes, Pilot, Lt.	442nd FAILED TO TAKE OFF.	283	
Davis, Pilot, Lt. Young, Co-Pilot, Lt. Ciesielski, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Dunn, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Hogan, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Covert, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	442nd	859 Took-off: 1344:30 Landed at: 1800  T/Sgt. Waltman flew as Photographer.	B

NAMES OF CREWS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.	
Limberg, Pilot, Lt. James, Co-Pilot, Lt. FAILED TO TAKE OFF.	442nd	017	<del>XXXXXXXX</del>
Ross, Pilot, Lt. Defan, Co-Pilot, Lt. Thranhardt, Nav-Bomb., Lt. DeCuir, Navigator, Lt. Gandy, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Williams, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Burns, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	983	Took-off: 1345:30 Landed at: 1800:30 <span style="float: right;">C</span>
Himmelreich, Pilot, Lt. Tschirgi, Co-Pilot, Lt. FAILED TO TAKE OFF.	442nd	074	<del>XXXXXXXX</del>
Thompson, Pilot, Lt. Stuhr, Co-Pilot, Lt. Baker, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Burgess, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Siegel, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Gunning, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	964	Took-off: 1346:30 Landed at: <span style="float: right;">B</span>
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	298	Took-off: 1347 Landed at: 1826 <span style="float: right;">B</span>
Baird, Pilot, Lt. Byram, Co-Pilot, Lt. Walker, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Gomez, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Trupka, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Baronet, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	048	Took-off: 1347:30 Landed at: 1800:30 <span style="float: right;">B</span>
Carraher, Pilot, Lt. Freeman, Co-Pilot, Lt. Andrewson, Nav-Bomb., S/Sgt. Hall, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Shaus, Radio Gunner, Sgt. Johnson, Aerial Gunner, Sgt.	442nd	056	Took-off: 1348 Landed at: 1827 <span style="float: right;">B</span>
Church, Pilot, Lt. Dryer, Co-Pilot, Lt. Hermann, Nav-Bomb., Lt. Madrid, Engineer Gunner, S/Sgt. Swartz, Radio Gunner, S/Sgt. Levesque, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	596	Took-off: 1348:30 Landed at: 1800:30 <span style="float: right;">B</span>