

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

Intelligence Narrative No. 81, Day Operation, 18 September, 1943

Twenty-eight B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off this morning to bomb Pratica di Mare L/U, Italy. They accompanied the 17th and 319th Bombardment Groups, and were unescorted. Three B-26's returned early; 1 because tail and turret guns were out and 2 were spares.

The target was bombed successfully. 1 B-26 left the formation after bombing and crash-landed at Matera to give possible medical aid to a pilot flying as Observer who had been hit by flak. The officer died without regaining consciousness. 1 B-26 left the formation and headed toward Sicily after leaving the target, the right engine smoking. It has not yet been heard from. Twenty-three B-26's returned safely to this base on schedule.

Routes and Altitudes: To target: From rendezvous at 2500' with 17th and 319th Groups at Djedida, 300°T for 325 statute miles to Palmarola Island; 340°T for 35 statute miles to L.P., 5 miles west of Anzio; climbing gradually to 11,500'. Bomb run, 340°T for 17 statute miles at 11,000', breakaway left.

From target: Curve left, 202°T for 366 statute miles to this base, dropping gradually to 3000'.

Bombs: 558 x 100-lb. demolition bombs, 1/10, .025 second delay fuses, carried by 28 B-26's.

60 x 100-lb. demolition bombs returned to this base in 3 B-26's that returned early.

488 x 100-lb. demolition bombs dropped over the target area.

9 x 100-lb. demolition bombs salvoed, after having hung up over the target, on a wooded area just beyond the target.

1 x 100-lb. demolition bomb returned to this base, having hung up over the target.

Chronology: Time off between 1142 and 1157; rendezvous and on course, 1210; target 1355; down at this base between 1345 and 1602.

Results: Bombs started at E/8 (TC 3-15-NA) and walked in three strings in an excellent pattern across the western portion of the field into the northwestern dispersal area. 9/12 A/C were seen burning on the field among bomb bursts.

- A probable gasoline dump at K/10 was hit, resulting in a sheet of flame 50 yards in diameter, and white smoke reaching 5000' in the air.

Nearly the entire field was seen covered with bomb bursts on leaving the target area, as a result of the bombing of the three groups.

Flak: Moderate inaccurate to accurate heavy flak was encountered from Anzio to the breakaway from the target, and for five miles out to sea. Over the

target, bursts were seen successively stepping up apparently getting our range. At the same time, several red bursts of flak were seen. Suggested is a possible signal that range had been reached.

Heavy gun positions were seen as follows:

- 1) 3 guns 1 mile inland and 5 miles north of Anzio.
- 2) 4 guns at I/3-4 (TC 3-15-8A).
- 3) 1 gun at K/13.
- 4) 1 gun at L/17.
- 5) 2/3 guns at Anzio.
- 6) 2/3 guns at G/5-6.
- 7) 3 guns at 41° 43' N, 12° 21' E.
- 8) 3 guns at 41° 38' N, 12° 35' E.

3500'

Enemy Aircraft: 1) one olive-drab colored P-38 was seen flying a course below our formation, of 145°; at 1340 from 11000.
2) On Pratica di Mare I/G, 10/12 gliders, 30/40 JU-88's and JU-52's were seen at 1355 from 11000.

Enemy Shipping: 1) 1 small boat was sighted 5 miles off Italian coast heading southwest into Anzio at 1357 from 11500.
2) In Anzio harbor, 4 medium M/V's, 10 small boats, were observed at 1348 from 11500.

General Observations: None.

Our Losses: One B-26 damaged by flak belly-landed at Mateur, destroying the A/C. One B-26 is missing. Seven B-26's were damaged slightly. A pilot flying as observer was killed by flak.

Weather: En route 5-6/10 scattered cumulus at 5000'; target CAWU, clouds building up inland from the target; return as en route.

Comments: Pilots reported having difficulty flying at slow speeds maintained by the leading group.

Casualty: The name, rank, serial number, and emergency addresses of the officer killed follows:

Dieter, Harold W.
Captain, O-725590.
Pilot.
Harry E. Dieter,
Gressona, Pa.

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

MISSION # 98

FLIGHT COMMANDER: LT. COL. FLETCHER. 18 Sept. 1943.

DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDER: MAJOR WARELE.

| "A" | | |
|--|---|---|
| <u>TUCK</u> 812-52 288-62 | <u>GRAVES</u> 575-60 | <u>BURNS</u> 027-56 <i>K-20</i> |
| <u>WILBUR</u> 010-54 | <u>CARTER</u> 601-61 | <u>BIGLOW</u> 190-67 |
| "B" | | |
| <u>DOXSEE</u> 035-26 | <u>ROSS</u> 179-34 | <u>RAYBRIAN</u> 088-32 <i>Waltman 1517 12'</i> |
| <u>LOVACE</u> 999-33 | <u>MEYER</u> 298-35 | <u>HEIDROTH</u> 958-40 |
| "C" | | |
| <u>OWEN</u> 100-16 | <u>KIRLEY</u> 305-14 | <u>CROTTY</u> 980- |
| <u>HORRAS</u> 960-11 | <u>MONTSINGER</u> 189 <i>15-17 H-2 L</i> | <u>STEINBERG</u> 574-13 |
| "D" | | |
| <u>MEYER</u> 959-85 | <u>BARRETT</u> 147-83 <i>coney</i> | <u>SUND</u> 861-87 |

 * RADIO *
 * VHF CHANNEL "B" *
 * HF CHANNEL 6440 *
 * 17th PLATOON *
 * 319th KEYWORD *
 * 320th ADMIN *
 * *

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <u>STUM</u> 853-81 <i>1517</i> | <u>WORTHINGTON</u> 178 | <u>FERRY</u> 978-78 <i>K-20</i> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|

AIR SPARES

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| <u>DRUTMAN</u> 074-29 | <u>KENNEDY</u> 907-1 | <u>COULTER</u> 190-89 |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|

ground spares

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <u>TRESCH</u> | <u>CARRAHER</u> 056-46 | <u>LEVINE</u> 176-3 |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------|

ORDER OF LINEUP

| RUNWAY # 1 | ORDER OF LINEUP | RUNWAY # 2. |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| | <u>COULTER</u> 190-89 | |
| <u>GRAVES</u> | 575-60 | <u>BURNS</u> 027-56 |
| <u>TUCK</u> | 812-52 | <u>CARTER</u> 601-61 |
| <u>BIGLOW</u> | 190-67 | <u>WILBUR</u> 010-52 |
| <u>ROSS</u> | 179-34 | <u>RAYBRIAN</u> 088-32 |
| <u>DOXSEE</u> | 035-26 | <u>MEYER</u> 298-35 |
| <u>HEIDROTH</u> | 958-40 | <u>LOVACE</u> 999-33 |
| <u>KIRLEY</u> | 305-14 | <u>CROTTY</u> 980- |
| <u>OWEN</u> | 100-16 | <u>MONTSINGER</u> 189-15 |
| <u>STEINBERG</u> | 574-13 | <u>HORRAS</u> 960-11 |
| <u>BARRETT</u> | 147-83 | <u>SUND</u> 861-87 |
| <u>MEYER</u> | 959-85 | <u>WORTHINGTON</u> 178 |
| <u>FERRY</u> | 978-78 | <u>STUM</u> 853-81 |
| <u>HEIDROTH</u> | 958-40 | <u>DRUTMAN</u> 074-29 |
| <u>TRESCH</u> | | <u>COULTER</u> 190-89 |
| <u>CARRAHER</u> | 056-46 | <u>LEVINE</u> 176-3 |

I MARE
THE FOLLOWING CREWS PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON PRATICAL A/D.

| Names of the crew members. | Squadron | 18 September Plane No. |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Graves, Pilot, 1st Lt. Yeager, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Rogers, Navigator, Captain, Butler, Bombardier, Captain, Miles, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Westfall, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. Pierce, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. | 443rd <i>Lt Col Fletcher</i> | 575 <i>B</i> Took off 1142½ Landed 1553 |
| Burns, Pilot, 1st Lt. Barker, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Mowry, Navigator, Bombardier, S.sgt, Wall, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Shepherd, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Caputo, Engineer gunner, | 443rd | 027 <i>B</i> Took off 1143 Landed |
| Tuck, Pilot, Captain, XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX Palmer, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Janeke, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Long, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Schinkel, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. McGann, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. | 443rd | 288 <i>B</i> Took off 1143½ Landed 1553 |
| Carter, Pilot, Captain, Collins, Co, Pilot, Flt. Off O'Keefe, Navigator,, Captain, Pace, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Hunter, Radio Gunner, T/sgt. Faulkes, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Smith, Engineer gunner, Sgt. Booth, DFC, Captain, | 443rd <i>Major, Morble</i> | 601 <i>B</i> Took off 1144 Landed 1554 |
| Bigelow, Pilot, 1st Lt. Turner, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Hobel, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Chaves, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Schemp, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Watt, Engineer gunner, Sgt. | 443rd | 190 <i>C</i> Took off 1144½ Landed 1553½ |
| Wilbur, Pilot, 1st Lt. Smithwick, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Kimbrow, Bombardier, Sgt. Martin, Engineer gunner, T/sgt. Gusio, Aerial gunner, Sgt. Smith, Engineer gunner, sgt. | 443rd | 010 <i>B</i> Took off 1145 LANDED: 1554½ |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Deutman, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 442nd | 056 074 | |
| Brast, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1155 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Andrewson, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. | | Landed at: 1411 | <u>Spark</u> B |
| Cross, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Godfrey, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Burns, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Kirley, Pilot, Capt. | 441st | 305 | |
| Penka, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1149 | B |
| Ascienzo, Bomb Nav, 1st Lt. | | Landed at: 1558 | |
| Fishman, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | 1st Lt Dignan flew as observer. | | |
| Langman, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. | | | |
| Stipe, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Crotty, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 441st | 980 | |
| Oglietti, Co-Pilot, 1st Lt. | | Took off: 1149 $\frac{1}{2}$ | B |
| Buchard, Bomb Nav, 1st Lt. | | Landed at: 1558 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Lyons, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Christianson, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Mulligan, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Owen, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 441st | 100 | |
| Faulantis, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1150 | B |
| Eastburn, Bomb Nav, T/Sgt. | | Landed at: 1559 | |
| Bloom, Engineer gunner, Cpl. | | | |
| Mazzo, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Leutholt, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Montsinger, Pilot, Capt. | 441st | 051 | |
| Milton, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1150 $\frac{1}{2}$ | a |
| Fisher, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. | | Landed at: 1559 $\frac{1}{2}$ | |
| Tackmann, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Tomlinson, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Beckstead, Aerial gunner, Sgt. | | | |
| Steinberg, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 441st | 574 | |
| Hunsburger, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1151 | B |
| Berdaus, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. | | Landed at: 1559 | |
| Levi, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| McDonough, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| McLaughlin, Aerial gunner, Sgt. | | | |
| Horras, Pilot, Capt. | 441st | 960 | |
| Belcher, Co-Pilot, Major. | | Took off: 1151 $\frac{1}{2}$ | B |
| Ozuk, Bomb Nav, Capt. | | Landed at: 1600 | |
| Fendrich, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | Capt Booth flew as observer. | | |
| DeMarco, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Derau, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Kennedy, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 441st | 907 | |
| Kapstein, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1155 | a |
| Camp, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. | | Landed at: 1301 | <u>Spark</u> |
| Beldon, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Taylor, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | | |
| Corp, Aerial gunner, Sgt. | | | |

| NAMES OF CREW MEMBER. | SQUADRON | PLANE NO |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Barrett, Pilot, Capt. | 444th | 147 |
| Harris, Co-Pilot, Capt. | | Took off: 1152 |
| Housne, Navigator, 1st Lt. | S/Sgt. Draper | Landed at: <i>C</i> |
| Stephens, Bombardier, 1st Lt. | | Capt Dieter flew as observer. |
| Weil, Engineer gunner, T/Sgt. | | <i>Crash Landed</i> |
| Kraker, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. | | |
| Hedgepeth, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Sund, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 444th | 861 |
| Jackson, Co-Pilot, F/O. | | Took off: 1152 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Sylvester, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. | | Landed at: 1601 <i>B</i> |
| Cook, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. | | |
| Myres, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Wadzeck, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| English, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 444th | 959 |
| Meyer, Co-Pilot, 1st Lt. | | Took off: 1153 |
| Ferrara, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. | | Landed at: 1545 <i>B</i> |
| Williams, Engineer gunner, Sgt. | | |
| Proctor, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Harrison, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Worthington, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 444th | 178 |
| Kral, Co-Pilot, F/O. | | Took off: 1153 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Robinson, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt | | Landed at: 1601 <i>C</i> |
| Horne, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Sewell, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. | | |
| Tector, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Perry, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 444th | 978 <i>B</i> |
| Meyers, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. | | Took off: 1154 |
| Bush, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. | | Landed at: 1652 |
| DeLisle, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | 1st Lt Keller flew as observer. |
| Harrahan, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Tucker, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Stumm, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 444th | 853 <i>B</i> |
| Sullivan, Co-Pilot, F/O. | | Took off: 1154 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Ott, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. | | Landed at: 1602 |
| Frenzel, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | S/Sgt Draper flew as photographer. |
| Freidman, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Noe, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Coulter, Pilot, 1st Lt. | 444th | 190 <i>B</i> |
| Peters, Co-Pilot, F/O. | | Took off: 1156 |
| Burton, Bomb Nav, 1st Lt. | | Landed at: 1345 <i>Spare</i> |
| Blossman, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. | | |
| Connelly, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. | | |
| Reynolds, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. | | |