

Intelligence Narrative No. 83, Day Operation, 23 September 1943.

Twenty-two B-26's took off this morning to bomb Cancellio Highway Bridge, Italy. They were unescorted. 3 B-26's returned early, all spares. The target was bombed successfully. Eighteen B-26's returned to base safely on schedule. The fourth spare returned to base safely at 1803 after landing in Sicily due to mechanical difficulties.

Routes and Altitudes: To target: From 2500' at this base, 40° T for 346 statute miles to west end of Ischia Island; 360° T for 10 statute miles to IP, 40° 53' N, 13° 50' E, climbing gradually to 10500; bomb run 37° T for 15 statute miles at 10000; breakaway left.

From target: Curve left, 215° T for 375 statute miles to this base, dropping gradually to 2500'.

Bombs: 132 x 500-lb. demolition bombs, 1/10, 45 second delay fuses, carried by 22 B-26's.

18 x 500-lb. demolition bombs returned to this base in the 3 spares that returned early.

108 x 500-lb. demolition bombs dropped over the target area.

6 x 500-lb. demolition bombs returned to this base by spare that returned late.

Chronology: Time off between 0925 and 0930; on course 0945; target 0223; down at this base between 1333 and 1341.

Results: At least four direct hits were scored on the bridge, very probably breaking it, and causing M/T crossing the bridge to explode. Almost all of the bombs landed in an excellent pattern over the bridge.

Flak: Slight heavy and light accurate to inaccurate flak was encountered on the bomb run from the vicinity of Lago di Patri.

Guns were seen firing at the following locations:

- 1) 3 heavy guns and several light guns at 41° 03' N, 14° 00' E.
- 2) 3 heavy guns at 41° 08' N, 14° 04' E.

Two bursts of red flak, followed by white flashes with no black smoke were seen just after leaving the target.

Enemy Aircraft: 2 S/E unidentified A/C, dark green in color with yellow stripes around the bases of the wings, (reported by about one half the crew members to be ME-109's and the other half to be A-36's) were seen at 1123 from 10000', just as our formation was leaving the target. They approached at 7000 from 100°, turned to the right and passed from view.

Observations: 1) 20 objects, possibly beached boats, dispersed M/T or supplies were seen on the beach at Mondragone, and about the same number were seen on the beach just north of the mouth of the Volturno River; at 1119 from 10500.

- 2) 10 M/T were seen dispersed and parked along the road just north of Mondragone at 1124 from 10400.
- 3) 15 M/T, headed south slowly toward the target in the road just to north were observed at 1124 from 10000.
- 4) 15/20 M/T, parked in the center of Villa Literno, observed at 1120 from 10500.
- 5) 30 oil cars half-way between Cancello and the tunnel to the north; 10 cars at the south mouth of the tunnel; observed at 1124 from 10000.
- 6) White lights flashing at regular intervals, apparently signalling, were seen at the northern edge of Lago di Patri at 1118 from 10500.
- 7) A large building afire, emitting blue smoke, at 14° 59' N, 14° 00' E, was seen at 1120 from 10500.
- 8) Heavy palls of smoke, indicating either extensive demolition or results of artillery fire, was seen hanging over the southeast corner of the city of Naples at 1123 from 10000.
- 9) No traffic crossing the Volturno River except at the target bridge was observed.

Our losses: None.

Weather: En route high cirrus and haze; target 9/10 cirrus at 13000 to 15000, no clouds below but haze limited visibility; return as en route.

Comments: None.

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

MISSION # 100 FLIGHT COMMANDER MAJOR BELCHER 23 SEPTEMBER 1943.

DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDER:

Horras
 "A" ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ *Montgomery*
MCGLANNON BLAKE
 5 3 1

STEINBERG LEVINE
 4 2

ORDER OF LINE-UP
 RUNWAY # 1 RUNWAY # 2.

LOVEGE (N) 33

"B"
BURNS BARRETT PETERSON
~~92~~ 80 ~~93~~ 91 ~~90~~ 81

SWIGART STULM GRAVES
 67 ~~92~~ 90 51

Montgomery
 3 BLAKE 1
 5 HORRAS 11
 2 STEINBERG 4
 91 ~~90~~ PETERSON 81 ~~90~~
 80 ~~91~~ STULM 90 ~~91~~
 51 SWIGART 67
 66 BIGELOW 55
 35 ROSS 34
 41 BAIRD 25 ~~30~~

"C"
CHURCH CARTER BIGELOW
 35 66 55

BAIRD ROSS MCKEEN
~~30~~ 25 34 41

AIR SPARES
 78 WILBUR 54

AIR SPARES
MEYER WILBUR LOVEGE (N)
 78 54 ~~33~~

Keller
 77 COULTER
 32 LIMBERG 62

GROUND SPARES

COULTER CAUDILL LIMBERG
 77 ~~62~~ 32

 * RADIO *
 * VHF CHANNEL "B" *
 * RINGWAY. *
 * HF 6440 *

COLORS OF THE DAY
 DATE SEPTEMBER 23, 1943.

B-TIME	2-STAR	LETTER CHALLENGE	LETTER REPLY	LETTER COLOR
0200-0800	RY	M	B	GREEN
0800-1400	RG	O	D	RED
1400-2000	YY	B	V	GREEN
2000-2400	GG	H	Y	RED

NAMES OF CREW MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN RAID ON CANCELLO, ITALY (RR BRIDGE) 23 SEPT/43

NAMES OF CREW MEMBERS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.	
Horras, Pilot, Capt. O'Steen, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Fisher, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Blair, Navigator, 1st Lt. Fendrich, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. DeMarco, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Derau, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	441st	11	Took off: 0925 Landed: 1333 Maj Belcher flew as Flight Commander
Blake, Pilot, 1st Lt. St.Arno, Co-Pilot, F/O. Camp, Bombardier, S/Sgt. Malsbury, Navigator, Capt. Gignac, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Cromer, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Corp, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st	6	Took off: 0925 Landed: 1337
McGlannon, Pilot, 1st Lt. Goodenough, Co-Pilot, F/O. Temple, Bombardier, F/O. Hanson, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Wurst, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. McGlaughlin, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st	5	Took off: 0926 Landed: 1334 Capt Cleveland flew as observe. S/Sgt Levi flew as photographer.
Levine, Pilot, 1st Lt. Valls, Co-Pilot, 1st Lt. Sylvester, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. Chilton, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Corona, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Herbert, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st		Took off: 0926 Landed: 1335
Steinberg, Pilot, 1st Lt. Hunsburger, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Cukar, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. Lyons, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. McDonough, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Dickinson, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	441st		Took off: 0927 Landed: 1335
Barrett, Pilot, Capt. Harris, Co-Pilot, Capt. Stevens, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Housner, Navigator, 2nd Lt. Weil, Engineer gunner, T/Sgt. Kraker, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. Hedgepeth, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	91	Took off: 0928 Landed: 1338 Capt Booth flew as observer.
Peterson, Pilot, 1st Lt. Lumpkin, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Morocco, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Gardner, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Janise, Engineer gunner, T/Sgt. Kaiffer, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	81	Took off: 0929 Landed: 1338

NAMES OF CREW MEMBERS

SQUADRON

PLANE NO.

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Burns, Pilot, 1st Lt. Caffey, Co-Pilot, F/O. Ramirez, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Smith, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. Petroski, Aerial gunner, T/Sgt. Snebold, Engineer gunner, T/Sgt.	444th	80	c Took off: 0929 Landed: 1338+
Stumm, Pilot, 1st Lt. Sullivan, Co-Pilot, F/O. Ott, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. Frenzel, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Freidman, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Noe, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	90	B Took off: 0930 Landed: 1339 2nd Lt Geiskin, flew as observer.
Meyer, Pilot, 1st Lt. English, Co-Pilot, 1st Lt. Ferrara, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Williams, Engineer gunner, Sgt. Proctor, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Harrison, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	78	B Took off: 0930 1/2 Landed:
Coulter, Pilot, 1st Lt. Nash, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Peterson, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Connelly, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Blossman, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Reynolds, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	444th	77	B Took off: 0931 Landed: 1235 Sgt Bushong flew as photographer.
Graves, Pilot, 1st Lt. Yeager, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Butler, Bomb Nav, Capt. Miles, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Westfall, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. Pierce, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	57	B Took off: 0930 1/2 Landed: 1339+ Capt Tuck flew as observer. Cpl Gadd flew as photographer
Swigart, Pilot, 1st Lt. Coleman, Co-Pilot, F/O. Hobel, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. Lacerva, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. O'Connel, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. Lallo, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	67	c Took off: 0931 Landed: 1339+ 1st Lt Farberow flew as observer
Carter, Pilot, Capt. Collins, Co-Pilot, F/O. O'Keefe, Navigator, Capt. Pace, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Hunter, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. Foulkes, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt. Smith, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	66	c Took off: 0931 1/2 Landed: 1340
Wilbur, Pilot, 1st Lt. Gilbert, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Kimbrow, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Martin, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. Guzzio, Aerial gunner, Sgt. Smith, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	54	B Took off: 0935 Landed:

NAMES OF CREW MEMBER	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.
Caudill, Pilot, F/O. Hribal, Co-Pilot, F/O. Key, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Hildenbrand, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Griewank, Aerial gunner, Sgt. Nelson, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt.	443rd	Took off: ⁶² Landed: <i>MD. T. D.</i> - B
Church, Pilot, 1st Lt. Dryer, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Hermann, Bomb Nav, 2nd Lt. Madrid, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Swartz, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Levesque, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	Took off: ³⁵ 0932 Landed: 1341 T/Sgt Waltman flew as photographer
Ross, Pilot, Capt. DeFan, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Thranhardt, Bomb Nav, 1st Lt. Gandy, Engineer gunner, S/Bgt. Hageman, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Buchanan, Aerial gunner, T/Sgt.	442nd	Took off: ³⁴ 0933 Landed: 1341 Maj Gladden flew as observer.
McKean, Pilot, Major. Dodelin, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Harrison, Bomb Nav, 1st Lt. Horne, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Moore, Radio gunner, Sgt. Turner, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	Took off: ⁴¹ 0933 1/2 Landed: 1341 + S/Sgt Zehner, flew as observer.
Baird, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Byram, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Walker, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Gomez, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Trupka, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Baronet, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	Took off: ²⁵ 0934 Landed: 1341 + S/Sgt Dolan flew as observer
Lovece, Pilot, 1st Lt. Baucum, Co-Pilot, 1st Lt. Evans, Bomb Nav, 1st Lt. Branning, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Wright, Radio gunner, T/Sgt. Brown, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	Took off: ³³ Landed: 1334 C
Limberg, Pilot, 1st Lt. James, Co-Pilot, 2nd Lt. Stakes, Bomb Nav, S/Sgt. Cerchiaro, Engineer gunner, S/Sgt. Kennedy, Radio gunner, S/Sgt. Legutko, Aerial gunner, S/Sgt.	442nd	Took off: ³² 0935 1/2 Landed: 1.22 G B