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

Intelligence Narrative No. 115, Day Operation, 26 December 1943.

Flight Commander: Lt. Colonel Fletcher.

1. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

2. At 1020 hours, 36 B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off to bomb the M/Y and RR/Bridge at Prato, Italy. They were unescorted. 4 B-26's returned early; 2 because of engine trouble and 2 were spares. 30 B-26's dropped 173 x 500 lb demolition bombs  $\frac{1}{10}$  .025 second delay fuses on the target at 1315 hours from 8,500'. 13 x 500 lb demolition bombs were salvaged because of ruck trouble and 6 were salvaged by one a/c that returned early because of engine trouble. 32 B-26's returned safely to this base at 1537 hours.

3. Results: An excellent pattern of bombs covered the area from the RR station eastward to the choke point of the M/Y. The warehouses were demolished and 20/25 cars were destroyed. A series of explosions with flames and black smoke spiraling upwards to about 2,000' were observed. The bridge was closely straddled with bombs and a direct hit was made on the RR tracks on the approaches to the bridge. The bridge was probably missed.

4. Observations:

a. General: 1. 40 cars were observed at E end of M/Y at Prato at 1313 from 8,500'.

2. 25/30 cars were observed at  $43^{\circ} 39' N, 10^{\circ} 57' E$ , stationary on single track line at 1320 from 8,500'.

3. 34 cars were seen at Castelfirentino, stationary on 3 tracks at 1311 from 8,000'.

4. 50/75 cars were seen at  $43^{\circ} 43' N, 10^{\circ} 52' E$ , stationary at 1318 from 8,000'.

5. 5/6 cars were observed stationary at Cecina and the bridge throat was seen demolished at 1245 from 8,000'.

6. Considerable rolling stock and 8/10 bomb craters were observed at Empoli M/Y at 1308 from 9,000'.

7. 25/30 M/Y were observed stationary on road leading east from San Pietro at 1325 from 8,500'.

8. about 6 flashes were observed east of Pistoia at 1315 from 9,000'.

9. Evidence of A/D construction with one T/E A/C present was observed about 5 miles E of Cecina at 1245 from 8,000'.

b. Enemy Air: 1. 8/10 T/E A/C were observed dispersed on Pistoia A/D at 1317 from 8,500'.

2. 6/8 T/E and 6/8 S/E A/C were observed at Pistoia A/D, 4 of which were taking off and the remainder ready for take-off at 1311 from 8500'.

3. 2 unidentified S/E A/C were observed between Corsica and Italy headed west at 1245 from 7,000'.

4. 3 A/C, too far away for identification, were seen east of the target at 1313 from 8,500'.

c. Enemy Tactics, Air: None.

d. Enemy Shipping: 1. 8 small boats were observed in cove N of Castiglione at 1245 from 9,000'.

2. 3 medium M/V and 1 barge headed S were seen half-way between Corsica and Italy at 1230 from 7,000'.

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- e. Flak: 1. None encountered.  
2. One 4 gun position was seen at Guparbella at 1245

from 8,000'.

- f. Our Losses: None.

5. Routes and Altitudes: From 2,500', 330° T to the west coast of Sardinia, because of cloud cover on the coast, then N to the southern straits of Corsica, westward thru the straits, then N to Cape Ferro; 0° T for 98 statute miles to Bargio; 43° T for 71 statute miles to Cecina, 37° T for 21 statute miles to Peccioli, 70° T for 18 statute miles to Montespertoli, climbing gradually to 9,000'; bomb run 9° E for 17 statute miles at 3,500' to the target; breakaway left; 213° T for 91 statute miles to 42° 50' E, 10° 00' E; 191° T for 120 statute miles to Cape Ferro; 193° T for 129 statute miles descending to 2,500' at this base.

6. Weather Encountered: Enroute: 5-9/10 alto cumulus at 7-8,000' with occasional large breaks over Sardinia and Corsica. Stratus overcast over water west of Corsica, thin, at 3,500'. Weather broke to CAVU 100 miles off coast of Italy.

Target: CAVU. Few cumulus over mountains inland.  
Return: No change.

7. Comments: None.

WILLIAM COOK,  
Captain, Air Corps,  
Group Intelligence Officer.

# 141

FLIGHT COMMANDER: LT. COL. FLETCHER  
DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDER:

26 DECEMBER 1943.

"A"  
GOLDSON  
85  
TOWNS, D. L.  
90

K-17  
K-17-900  
- 10  
- 440

"B"  
LETTERS  
27  
CONLEY  
78

K-20-20

"C"  
VALS  
2  
PAULANTIS  
7  
GODENOUGH  
10

K-20

"D"  
HAYWARD  
15  
CONNELL  
18  
9

KAPSTEIN  
1

K-17

HUBBARD  
9

K-20

"E"  
B. F.  
34  
FRIBS  
31  
31

"F"  
DODD IN  
40  
BAYRAMIAN  
43  
43

"G"  
BRACKEN  
52  
HUNTER  
62  
62

"H"  
BUCKER  
57  
GILBERT  
66  
66

K-20

"I"  
S P A R E S  
TOWNS J. D.  
80  
BARKER  
56

NEKSU  
64

K-17

DILLING  
89

"J"  
TOWNS J. D.  
80  
BARKER  
56

COLORS OF THE DAY FOR 26 DECEMBER 1943.

TIME	FLARE	CHALLENGE	REPLY	COLOR
0100-0700	RG	C	D	WHITE
0700-1300	YY	Z	N	GREEN
1300-1900	RR	S	I	WHITE
1900-0100	GG	X	J	GREEN

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THE FOLLOWING CREW PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON AIRCRAFT RAMPING YARDS AT PRATO ITALY

Goodson, Pilot, Captain,	444th	85
Burns, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.		Took off 1020
Strong, Bombardier, T/sgt.		
Ridge, Navigator, 1st Lt.		Landed 1502
Williams, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
Tucker, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Hanson, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Fletcher, Flight Commander, Lt. Col.		
Towns, Pilot, J. D. 2nd Lt.	444th	80
Bracke, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1028 1/2
Breeding, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
Babler, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Gardner, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Shingle, Aerial Gunner, S/Sgt.		
Nagel, Pilot, 1st. Lt.		83
Stewart, Co-Pilot, 1st. Lt.		Took off 1020 1/2
Peterson, Bombardier, S/Sgt.		
Blossman, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Connelly, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Petroski, Aerial gunner, T/sgt.		Landed
Sullivan, pilot, F/O	444th	90
Marsch, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1020 3/4 45
Morrocco, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
Zaiser, <del>XXXXXXXX</del> Observer, Lt. col.		
Janise, Engineer gunner, T/sgt.		
Higgins, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Kieffer, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Bushong, Aerial photographer, Sgt.		
Casey, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	444th	78
McBride, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1021 15
Bush, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
Goldie, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Spears, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
George, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Peters, Pilot, F/O	444th	87
Marshall, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1021
Powers, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
Gest, Navigator, 2nd Lt.		
Wymer, Engineer gunner, T/sgt.		
Burtt, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Harrison, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Dilling, Pilot,	444th	89
Schneider, Co, Pilot,		Took off 1028
White, Bombardier,		Landed 1105
Cook, Engineer gunner,		
Viscome Radio Gunnrør,		
Bourgault, Aerial gunner,		
<del>XXXXXXXXXX</del>		
Conley, Pilot, F/O	444th	91
Tornner, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1021 45
Ott, Bombardier, lt. McDowall, Navigator, Delisle, Engineer landed		
Perry, Radio Gunner, T/sgt. Hedgepeth, Aerial gunner,		

Buckout, Pilot 2nd Lt.	444th	95
Kral, Co, Pilot, F/O		Took off, 1021½
De Losier, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
Williams, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Hanrahan, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Tucker, S/sgt.		

Towns, Pilot, D. M. Captain,	444th	94
Meyer, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.		Took off 94
Burton, Bombardier, 1st Lt.		Landed
McCrorry, Deputy Flight commander, Major,		
Wells, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
feinberg, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Szewczyk, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Malsbury, Navigator, Captain,		

Hayward, Pilot, Captain, Boyce, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. McFarland, Bombardier, 1st Lt. Konvalinka, Navigator, 2nd Lt. Pope, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Sampson, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Frank, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st,	15, Took off 1023 Landed
Goodenough, Pilot, F/O Flake, Co, Pilot, F/O Hawkins, Bombardier, Sgt. Crass, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Gaunti, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. McLaughlin, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st	10 Took off 1022 15 Landed
Robins, Pilot, 1st Lt. Carnelius, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Blackford, Bombardier, Sgt. Lyons, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Westbrook, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Beckstead, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st	20 Took off 1022½ Landed
Paulantis, Pilot, 1st Lt. Williams, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Farmer, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Williams, Navigator, 2nd Lt. Dolan, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Markus, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Griggs, Aerial gunner, pfc.	441st	7 Took off 1022 45 Landed
Valls, Pilot, 1st Lt. Owens, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Sylvester, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Halligan, Navigator, 2nd Lt. Chilton, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Corona, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Gust, Aerial gunner, pfc.	441st	2 Took off 1022 Landed
Hubbard, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Penka, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Ves'sells, Bombardier, Bombardier, Rinaldi, Engineer gunner, Cpl. Steigenhofer, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Haxex, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st	<del>9</del> 9 Took off 1023 35 Landed
Kapstein, Pilot, 1st Lt. Held, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Perkins, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Trebenda, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Berrigan, Radio Gunner, Mulligan, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Williams, Aerial photographer,	441st	1 1023 ½  Landed
McConnell, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Trunk, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Plouck, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Thurston, Navigator, 2nd Lt. Iannotta, Engineer gunner, Sgt. Hoffman, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Kary, Aerial gunner, Sgt.	441st	18 Took off 102345 Landed

Baird, Pilot, 1st Lt.	442nd	34
Brown, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1024
Fayton, Bombardier, lt.		Landed 1510
Boyne, Navigator, 2nd Lt.		
Gomez, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Trupka, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Baronet, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Rowan, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	442nd	25
Hodges, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1024 15
Stakes, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed 1510 ½
Folger, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
Hageman, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Butt, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Young, Observer, lt.		
Shuh, Pilot, lt.	442nd	47
Wendling, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1024 ½
Jacobson, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed 1511
Horne, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Schaus, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Flynn, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Feige, Photographer, Cpl.		
Probasco, Pilot, 1st Lt.	442nd	<del>XXX</del> 31
King, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1024 45
Olmsted, Bombardier, lt.		Landed 1510
King, avigator, 2nd Lt.		
Bly, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Wells, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		
Ross, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Dodelin, Pilot, 1st Lt.	442nd	40
Wilson, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1025
Maggio, Bombardier, lt.		Landed 1105
Schwartz, Navigator, lt.		
Cross, Engineer gunner S/sgt.		
Harper, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Galindo, Aerial gunner,		
Conrad, Pilot, lt.	442nd	11
Morganstern, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1025 15
Chavalas, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed 15 11 ½
Floto, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Marschke, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Rodger, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Rood, Pilot, lt.	442nd	27
Grabowski, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt		Took off 1025 ½
Johnson, Bombardier, lt.		Landed 1135
Penton, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Wasacz, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		
Wagner, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		

Bayramian, Pilot, Captain,  
Deatley, Co, Pilot, lt.  
Freestone, Bombardier, lt.  
Leahy Navigator, lt.  
Mardine, Engineer gunner, C/sgt.  
Gilbert, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.  
Stewart, Aerial gunner, C/sgt.

442nd

43  
took off 10 25  
landed 1511 ½



Bracken, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	52
Stinson, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1026
Handte, Navigator, lt.		Landed 1512
Carroll, Bombardier, 1st Lt.		
Krumpoch, Radio Gunner,		
Carr, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Hansen, Engineer gunner, P/sgt.		
Stroud, Pilot, flt Off	443rd	60
Lamb, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1026 15
Mowry, Navigator, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed 1458
Saccardo, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Burden, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Volosky, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
Gerdey, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		
Strachan, Pilot, lt.	443rd	61
Sprang, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1026 ½
Tyson, Bombardier, Sgt.		Landed 1513
Coons, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Long, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Hanson, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Hunter, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	62
Weekley, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1026 45
Taranto, Navigator, lt.		Landed 1513
Pickett, Bombardier, lt.		
Lagesse, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Roffe, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Adams, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
Rucker, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	57
Goodwin, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1027
Cafarella, Navigator, 1st Lt.		Landed 1535
Grant, Bombardier, 1st Lt.		
Jackson, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Westfall, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Armao, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Nelson, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	443rd	64
Mackinnon, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.		Took off 1027 15
McCartney, Navigator Bombardier, lt.		Landed 1512
Powers, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Smith, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Larkin, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Draper, Aerial photographer, S/sgt.		
Gasser, Pilot, lt.	443rd	58
McKinney, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1027 ½
Salterelli, Bombardier, Sgt.		Landed 1454
Peaver, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Creedle, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Noakes, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Terrell, Engineer gunner, gt.		

Gilbert, 1st Lt. Pilot,	443rd	66
Weeks, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 1027
Underwood, Navigator, lt.		Landed 15 42
Strickland, Bombardier, lt.		
Calafut, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		
Avery, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Park, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
Lillo, <del>XXXXXXXX</del> Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		

WEATHER PLANE

Saylor, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	56
Rader, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off
Schwartz, Navigator, lt.		Landed
Clark, Bombardier, 1st Lt.		
Chalfant, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Hart, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Perkins, Engineer gunner, ,		
Farthing, Radio Gunner,	COMPLETED	

SPARE.

Barker, Pilot, lt.	543rd	92
Schumer, Co, Pilot, lt.		Took off 10 29
Adams, Navigator, Lt.		Landed 14 22
Johnson, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Cousins, Aerial gunner, Cpl		
Harrold, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		

La Moe, Pilot, F/O  
Milton, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.  
Baker, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.  
O'Dell, Engineer gunner, Sgt.  
Michaelson, "adio gunner, /sgt.  
McGoldrick, Aerial gunner, Sgt.

441st

5  
Took off 1028 15  
Landed 1537