

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

Intelligence Narrative No. 118, Day Operation, 28 Dec. 1943.

Flight Commander: Lt. Brewer.

1. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

2. At 1054 hours, 17 B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off to bomb the RR Bridge 6 miles Northwest of Orvieto, Italy. They were unescorted. 1 B-26 returned early because of engine trouble. 16 B-26's dropped 90 x 500 lb. demolition bombs (1/10 - .025) second delay fuses on the target at 1302 hours from 9200'. 5 x 500 lb. demolition bombs were salvoed because of rack malfunction of which 2 were salvoed at Montalte Di Castro with no hits scored. 1 x 500 lb. demolition bomb was returned to this base because it hung. 90,000 nickles were dropped on the target area. 16 B-26's returned safely to this base at 1445 hours.

3. Results: A good pattern of bombs straddled the tracks and approaches on the south end of the target. There were several near misses on the bridge. It was reported by one crew that one span was seen down on the breakaway from the target.

4. Observations, General: (1) 3/4 large M/T were seen heading south at 42°36'N, 12°03'E, at 1255 hours from 9700'.

(2) An M/T convoy was seen approaching Orvieto from the west at 1302 hours from 9200'.

(3) Several warehouses were seen a few miles southeast of Orvieto at 1302 hours from 9200'.

(4) A fire was observed southwest of Lake Bolsena at 1247 hours from 9700'.

(5) 3/4 cars were seen stationary north of the target at 1302 hours from 9200'.

(6) 3/4 cars were seen stationary south of the target at 1302 hours from 9200'.

(7) 6/8 M/T were seen headed south on road at 42°30'N, 11°45'E, at 1255 hours from 9700'.

(8) 4 large M/T were seen headed north at Ficulle at 1308 hours from 9200'.

b. Enemy Air: None.

c. Enemy Air Tactics: None.

d. Enemy Shipping: None.

e. Flak: Accurate, heavy flak was encountered over the target. Slight, inaccurate, light flak was reported from Montalte di Castro.

f. Our losses: 2 B-26's slightly damaged

5. Routes and Altitudes: from the base at 2500'; 35° T for 246 statute miles; 41° T for 21 statute miles; I. P., climbing gradually to 9700'; bomb run 38° M for 17 statute miles at 9200' to the target; breakaway right; 210° T for 40 statute miles; 215° T for 246 statute miles, descending to 2500' at this base.

6. Weather: Enroute, 2/10 over the east coast of Sardinia at 4000 to 6000, 50 miles off the coast, CAVU. Target, CAVU, 2/10 over mountains. Return as enroute.

7. Comments: None.

WILLIAM COOK,

MISSION # 143 FLIGHT COMMANDER : LT. COL. FLETCHER : 31 DECEMBER 1943.
 DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDER: MAJOR FRIDAY:

	"A"	
	<u>BAIRD</u>	
<u>ROBIN</u>	34	<u>BAKER</u>
25	<u>STURGES</u>	40
	43	
	"B"	
	<u>PROB.</u>	
<u>ROOD</u>	31	<u>SHUE</u>
47	<u>SH...</u>	27
	60	
	"C"	
	<u>TAYLOR</u>	
<u>BARKER</u>	62	<u>SERACIN</u>
61	<u>RUCKER</u>	54
	52	
	"D"	
	<u>MILBURN</u>	
<u>ACKERMAN</u>	52	<u>ACKERMAN</u>
68	<u>LONG</u>	58
	66	
	"E"	
	<u>COLESON</u>	
<u>FORTNER</u>	87	<u>JACKSON</u>
76	<u>GR...</u>	83
	85	
	"F"	
	<u>PETERS</u>	
<u>NAGEL</u>	94	<u>MARSON</u>
84	<u>CASBY</u>	95
	91	
	"G"	
	<u>CURRIE</u>	
<u>ROBERTSON</u>	14	<u>LEVINE</u>
18	<u>O'STEEN</u>	5
	7	
	"H"	
	<u>WILSON</u>	
<u>TURNER</u>	15	<u>WILSON</u>
20	<u>ROBERTS, R. L.</u>	10
	3	
	S P A R K E S	
<u>SMITHLACK</u>	<u>MALLEY</u>	<u>BURGENT</u>
56	90	92
	<u>GOOLENOUGH</u>	
	2	

RADIO CALL
 319th Group "EXCEED"
 320th Group "MIXPUB"
 17th Group "PULPUP"

COLOURS OF THE DAY FOR 28 DECEMBER 1943.

Time	FLAGS	CHALLENGE	REPLY	COLOR
0100-0700	RG	B	A	RED
0700-1300	RY	O	L	GREEN
1300-1900	GG	N	J	RED
1900-0100	RR	I	P	GREEN

NAVIGATION AND TIME

BOTH SQUADRONS WILL FLY AS A GROUP TO 1P WHEN THEY WILL SPLIT AND BOMB INDIVIDUAL PRIMARY TARGETS.

- # 1 SQUADRON - RR/Br 6 N.W. ORVIETO, ITALY
- # 2 SQUADRON - RR/Br 9 S.E. ORVIETO, ITALY

350° T - 246 SM - MONTALTO D'CASTRO (OP) - - - - - 1 hour 20 min.
 410° T - 21 SM - S.W. Tip L. BOLBERNA (IF) - - - - - 6 min.

 # 1 Squadron
 380° MH - 17 SM TARGET 6 N.W. ORVIETO - - - - - 5 min.
 BREAK RIGHT FOR # 2 THEN LEFT.

 # 2 Squadron
 350° MH - 20 SM - TARGET - 9 S.E. - ORVIETO - - - - - 6 min.
 BREAK LEFT TO # 1.

 210° T - 40 SM - MONTALTO D'Castro - - - - - 11 min
 215° T - 246 SM - Base - - - - - 1 hour 09 minutes.

TOTAL MILES = 570
 TOTAL TIME = 2 hours 5 minutes.

ALTERNATE # 1 SQUADRON * ALBERA, ITALY RR/Br

From S.W. Tip L. BOLBERNA

2620° T - 18 SM - 3 S. Manciano - (IF) - - - - - 5 min.
 2660° MH - 17 SM - TARGET - ALBERA - - - - - 4 1/2 min.
 BREAK LEFT.
 1980° T - 18 SM - CLANUTIRA ISLAND * Rendezvous # 2.

ALTERNATE # 2 SQUADRON - MONTALTO D'CASTRO, ITALY RR/Br.

From S/W. Tip L. Bolberna

2250° MH - 21 SM - TARGET - - - - - 5 1/2 min.
 BREAK RIGHT
 2520° T - 26 SM - GLANUTIRA ISLAND * Rendezvous # 1 7 1/2 min.

AFTER RENDEZVOUS

210° T - 228 SM - Base - - - - - 1 hour 03 min.

TOTAL MILES 548
 TOTAL TIME 2 hours 44 min.