

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

MIC # 412

Intelligence Narrative No. 127. Night Operations, 10 January 1944.

Flight Commander: Col. Fletcher.

11-0100

1. 320th Bombardment Group (M)

2. At 2000 hours 3 B-26's took off to bomb Piombino Iron and Steel Works, Italy. They were unescorted and there were no early returns. 3 B-26's dropped 24 x 500-lb. demolition bombs, 1/10 and .025 second delay fuses at 2143 from 8500 feet. 3 B-26's returned safely to base at 2258.

3. All bombs landed in the target area. Bombs started at 1/20 and continued on to H/I 19-20, with direct hits on the blast furnaces and iron and steel works building. A large blue flame which turned to flame was seen in the area of bomb hits. On the breakaway a very large explosion in the area of bomb hits lighted up the entire target area. Target area was aflame as the formation left the Italian coast. (TC 3-124-NA)

4. Observations: a. General: (1) 3 blast furnaces were seen burning on the bomb run at 2142 from 8700.
(2) 1 crew reported yellow ovals of light flashing on and off in the target area, at 1243, from 8500.

b. Enemy Air Tactics: None.

c. Enemy Air: None.

d. Enemy Shipping: None.

e. Flak: (1) Immediately above Piombino at 8500.
(2) Slight (30 to 50 bursts).
(3) Heavy and light.
(4) a. Heavy, inaccurate as to both altitude and deflection. b. Light, very inaccurate as to altitude and deflection.
(5) Continuously pointed fire.
(6) 3 heavy guns at 42° 57' N, 10° 29' E.
3 heavy guns at 19° (TC 3-124-NA). 2 light guns at 42° 57' N, 10° 29' E.
1 heavy gun at 1/26 (TC 3-124-NA).

(7) a. None.

b. Normal.

c. None.

(8) None observed.

(9) None.

f. Our losses: None. No aircraft damaged.

5. Routes and Altitudes: From base at 2500', 34° T to Cape Comino; 13° T to Fallonia, climbing gradually to 9000'; bomb run 285° T at 8500'; breakaway left; curve right; 193° T to Cape Figari; 190° T to base.

6. Weather encountered: En route: Scattered stratus at 4000'. Thin altostratus overcast at 15000' from strait of Bonifacio north, lowering to 14000' at target. Visibility good.

Target: 4/10 stratus at 4000'. Overcast altostratus at 14000'. Visibility good.

Return: No change.

7. Comments: The observation reported in paragraph 4. g. (2) was undoubtedly bomb bursts reported by crew members inexperienced in night bombing operations.

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

10 January 1944.

THE FOLLOWING CREWS PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON PIOMBINO.

CREW	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.
BREWER, PILOT, CAPT.	Hq	20
STINSON, CO PILOT, LT.	443rd	Took off 2000
MAISBURY, NAV. CAPT.	Hq	landed 2300
FARGO, BOMB. LT.	Hq	
AUSTARDI, ENGINEER, SGT.	443rd	
FIELDS, RADIO, LT.	Hq	
FABERON, GUNNER, LT.		
CARP, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	443rd	
FLETCHER, PILOT, LT. COL.	Hq	11
MORGANSTERN, CO PILOT, LT.	444th	took off "
COOK, BOMB. CAPT.	Hq	
MacDANIEL, BOMB. LT.	444th	
STATON, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.	444th	
PATTON, RADIO, T/Sgt.	444th	
NOE, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	444th	
HAYWARD, PILOT, CAPT.	441st	16
MILTON, CO PILOT, LT.	441st	
BLAIR, NAV. LT.	441st	
POPE, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
APPLETON, RADIO, T/Sgt.		
LEUTHOLT, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
ZUPANC, PHOTO, Sgt.		