

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

Intelligence Narrative No. 130, Day Operation, 15 January 1944

Flight Commander: Capt. Brewer.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 1025 hours, 26 B-26's took off to bomb Orvieto RR Bridge, South, Italy. 2 B-26's returned early; 1 spare and 1 with the tail guns out. They were unescorted. 24 B-26's were over the target. 22 B-26's dropped 85 x 1000 lb. demolition bombs, one-half 1/10 and .025 and one-half 1/10 and .01 second delay fuses, on the target at 1237 hours from 9200'. 3 x 1000 lb. demolition bombs were salvoed over land and 4 x 1000 lb. demolition bombs were returned to base by one B-26, having hung up over the target. 1 B-26 bombed the tracks north of Montalto di Castro, having failed to drop on the target because the leader had left the formation. 19 B-26's returned at 1417 hours. 3 B-26's returned late at 1445, 1616, and 1630 hours, respectively, having escorted damaged B-26's to Corsica. 2 damaged B-26's are now at Ghisonaccia A/D, Corsica.

C. Results: The bridge was bracketed with an excellent pattern of bombs scoring probable hits on the bridge and on the approaches. One a/c that dropped bombs on the RR track north of Montalto di Castro missed.

D. Observations: (1) Air: a. Air Activity: 1. 15 MB-109's were seen to the right and high over the target. One MB-109 attacked a straggler at 6 o'clock breaking off at 9 o'clock. Only one pass was made and there was an exchange of gun fire, no damage resulting to either a/s. Observation made at 1237 from 9000'.

2. One 3/4 a/c was seen flying parallel to the formation off the deck from breakaway to the coast, leaving the formation as it reached the coast. Observation at 1240 to 1250 from 9000'.

3. 2 1/2 a/c hung above and to the rear at 9 o'clock of 1 bomber which left the formation because it was damaged. These a/c lobbed cannon shells at the bomber with fair accuracy but without scoring hits. Observation over Pitigliano at 1243 from 9000'.

4. 15/20 1/2 a/c, unidentified, flying formation at 12-15000' between Civitavecchia and Montalto di Castro out over the water were seen at 1250 from 9000'.

b. Situation: 1. Orvieto A/D was seen empty of a/c at 1237 from 9200'.

2. 10/12 1/2 a/c were seen at Viterbo A/D at 1234 from 9800'.

(2) Ground: a. General: 1. Tail-gunner reported 5 parachutes at a high altitude above and to the rear of our formation over Montalto di Castro at 1250 from 6000'.

b. Communications: none.

c. Flak: 1. Orvieto RR Bridge South and on breakaway continuing to Orvieto; 9700' to 9200'.

2. Intense.

3. Heavy and light.

both altitude and deflection; light, inaccurate.

4. Heavy, accurate as to bay doors opened a PREDICTED CONCENTRATION type of fire was experienced which was very accurate and which seriously damaged 2 of the 4 planes in the 1st flight and which damaged the other 2 planes in the 1st flight. This was followed by a barrage following which CONTINUOUSLY POINTED FIRE followed the formation to Orvieto on the breakaway.

- 6.
- 1 - 4 gun battery at 42°38'N, 12°15'E (one-half mile north of target).
  - 3 - 4 gun batteries at 42°37'N, 12°15'E (at the target, 1 at rd. jet. at target).
  - 1 - 3 gun battery in buildings at 42°39'N, 12°15'E (1 mile north of the target).
  - 1 - 4 gun battery at 42°36'N, 12°17'E.
  - 1 - 4 gun battery at 42°36'N, 12°15'E (one-half mile south of the target).

7. (a) Approximately 30 as flak first commenced to come up; thereafter generally 4.

(b) Normal heavy and light except for 1 red burst reported before the bomb run over north shore of Lake Bolsena. Since no E/A attacked until after the bomb run it is probable that this either signaled line of flight or the commencing of AA fire.

8. None observed.

9. No.

10. Intense heavy flak was seen fired from Civitavecchia at bombers over that target.

11. One 4 gun battery fired trailing inaccurate flak at 2 a/c flying alone from apcint just east of Lake Bolsena.

d. Shipping: None.

(3) Losses: None. 2 seriously damaged, 14 slightly damaged by flak.

(4) Weather: a. Enroute: Over Sardinia, strato-cumulus overcast, base 2-3000', tops 6000'. Broke to clear over water. Visibility 8-10 miles in surface haze.

b. Target: CAVU. Haze in deep valleys in Italy.

c. Return: No change.

E. Routes and Altitudes: From this base at 2500', 35° T for 246 statute miles to Montalto di Castro; 55° T for 26 statute miles to the southeast tip of Lake Bolsena, climbing gradually to 9500'; 70° M for 14.5 miles to the target; breakaway slight right and then left, at 9000'; 295° T for 20 statute miles to Allerona; 211° T for 42 statute miles to Montalto di Castro; 215° T for 246 statute miles to this base, dropping gradually to 2500'.

F. Comments: The 2 T/E fighters which left the 2 bombers at Montecristo Island did so at the same time that fighters were scrambled to protect the bombers and may have broken off because they heard the order by radio.

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

	<u>"A"</u>	
	<u>GGLIETTI</u>	
<u>WEST</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>LEWIS</u>
<u>10</u>	<u>BREWER</u>	<u>20</u>
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	<u>12</u>	
	<u>"B"</u>	
	<u>13</u>	
<u>HELD</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>BILLON</u>
<u>15</u>	<u>CONNELL</u>	<u>14</u>
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	<u>15</u>	
	<u>"C"</u>	
	<u>16</u>	
<u>HILLS</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>BOYCE</u>
<u>9</u>	<u>CORNELIUS</u>	<u>6</u>
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	<u>18</u>	
	<u>"D"</u>	
	<u>19</u>	
<u>WEEK</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>WAGGEL</u>
<u>70</u>	<u>STWARDS</u>	<u>67</u>
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	<u>21</u>	
	<u>"E"</u>	
	<u>22</u>	
<u>POWELL</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>BROWN</u>
<u>95</u>	<u>TOMAS</u>	<u>80</u>
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	<u>24</u>	
	<u>"F"</u>	
	<u>25</u>	
<u>BUCKHOORN</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>STARBUCK</u>
<u>96</u>	<u>DILLING</u>	<u>94</u>
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	<u>27</u>	
	<u>"G"</u>	
	<u>28</u>	
<u>WILSON</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>WATSON</u>
<u>56</u>	<u>SAYLOR</u>	<u>60</u>
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	<u>30</u>	
	<u>"H"</u>	
	<u>31</u>	
<u>MAC SIMON</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>LAND</u>
<u>47</u>	<u>BARKER</u>	<u>31</u>
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	<u>33</u>	
	<u>"I"</u>	
	<u>34</u>	
<u>WILSON</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>WHELAN</u>
<u>52</u>	<u>SHARD</u>	<u>54</u>
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	<u>36</u>	
	<u>"J"</u>	
	<u>37</u>	
<u>BRAND</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>FRANK</u>
<u>44</u>	<u>SMITH</u>	<u>27</u>
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	<u>39</u>	
	<u>"K"</u>	
	<u>40</u>	
<u>CLAYBOUGH</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>BROOK</u>
<u>41</u>	<u>HOOD</u>	<u>17 20</u>
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	<u>42</u>	
	<u>"L"</u>	
	<u>43</u>	
<u>LENTLEY</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>HANSELL</u>
<u>32</u>	<u>DOELIN</u>	<u>25</u>
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	<u>45</u>	
	<u>"M"</u>	
	<u>46</u>	
<u>REYNOLDS</u>	<u>47</u>	<u>LENDING</u>
<u>2</u>	<u>GILBERT</u>	<u>29</u>

RADIO:  
315th BOMBARDIER  
320th BELL-OY

FIGHTER: MIXTUB  
BOMBER: CRAWFORD