

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

16 Jan, 1944

Flight Commander: Major McGrory.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 1055 hours, 28 B-26's took off to bomb Orte M/Y and RR Bridge, Italy. They were unescorted and no A/C returned early. 27 B-26's were over the target and dropped 108 x 1000 lb demolition bombs, three fourth 1/10 and .025 second delay fuses and one fourth 1/10 and .01 second delay fuses on the target at 1258 hours from 9,200'. 1 B-26 left the formation just prior to bombing and presumably salvaged 4 x 1000 lb demolition bombs. This A/C was the last ship in the formation. It first dropped out of the formation with one engine smoking just prior to landfall going in to the target, but recovered its position at landfall. Immediately afterwards it was attacked by ME 109's and again dropped out of formation with both engines smoking. The pilot apparently attempted to regain his position without success and the B/A attacks continued to Lake Vico; at this point the B-26 made a 180° turn and was last seen headed south at 4,000' losing altitude by apparently under control. The lead ship of the formation was hit by flak twenty seconds before bombs away and caught on fire. The pilot continued his bomb run, dropped his bombs and then fell below the formation. Seven parachutes were seen to open from this bomber and a tail gunner and a bombardier in one crew reported counting eight parachutes. 26 B-26's returned at 1459 hours.

C. RESULTS: A good concentration of bombs covered the north end of the M/Y and the north choke point and the bridge was missed.

D. OBSERVATIONS:

1. Air: a. Air Activity: (1) 3/4 ME 109's attacked the rear flights of the formation from the coast to Vigninello just prior to bombing. The attacks were made from five to seven o'clock and high out of the sun. The attacks were not aggressive and no use of cannon or rocket fire was reported. B/A broke off passes by peeling off to the right or left and diving. Some attacks in pairs were reported.

(2) 1 ME 109 was seen flying parallel four to five thousand yards to the right just prior to the commencing of flak fire. This A/C was possibly giving altitude to AA gunners.

(3) 2/3 Spitfires were seen at a considerable distance in the vicinity of the target, but no encounters between them and B/A were observed.

(4) 1 ME 109 was probably destroyed and 1 ME 109 was damaged.

b. Situations: (1) 9 T/E and 2 S/E A/C were seen on Furbara A/D at 1245 from 9,500'.

(2) 8 S/E A/C was seen on Tarquinia A/D at 1310 from 8,000'.

2. Ground: a. General: None.

b. Communications: 24 cars were seen on a RR siding just North of Cape Linaro at 1311 from 8,000'.

c. Flak: (1) Vigninello at 9,700'; Orte at 9,200'.
(2) Slight at Vigninello; Intense at Orte.
(3) Heavy at both points, also slight light at Orte.

c. Flak (Cont'd): (4) Vigninello inaccurate as to both altitude and deflection; Orte very accurate as to both altitude and deflection; light from Orte inaccurate.

(5) Vigninello predicted concentration; Orte one cluster of predicted concentration followed by continuously pointed fire on the breakaway to Magliano.

(TC 3-119-NA);

(6) Two heavy four gun batteries at G/10

One heavy gun at I/13.

One 4 gun battery at $42^{\circ} 24' N$, $12^{\circ} 25' E$.
(All firing)

(7) a. Vigninello, 4; Orte, 10/12.

b. Normal heavy with about 1/3 of heavy bursts larger than usual, indicating probable 105 ~~MM~~ fire.

c. 4 gray bursts were seen behind the formation on the breakaway as AA fire stopped. This may have been a signal to B/A.

(8) See D1a(2) above.

(9) No. See D1a(1) above.

d. Shipping: One schooner type boat just off shore, St. Marinella was seen at 1230 from 9,500'.

3. LOSSES: One B-26 lost to flak, one B-26 missing due to E/A attack, 6 B-26's damaged, 12 B-26's slightly damaged, 14 crew members missing, 5 crew members slightly injured.

4. WEATHER: Enroute: Scattered cumulus at 5-6,000' from Norther Sardinia to 30 miles off coast of Italy, 7/10 cumulus at 8-10,000'. Visibility 10 miles or better in haze. Target: open. Less than 1/10 cumulus in general target area. Undetermined coverage at 7-9,000', observed to SE. Visibility unlimited except in haze in valleys. Return: Increase in general cloudiness observed.

E. ROUTES AND ALTITUDES: From 2,500' at base, $41^{\circ} T$ for 242 statute miles to Cape Linaro; $30^{\circ} T$ for 24 statute miles to N tip of Lake Vico climbing gradually to 9,700'; first Squadron bomb run, $66^{\circ} M$ for 15 statute miles to the target; second Squadron $30^{\circ} T$ for 6 statute miles to Sciano nel Cimono, bomb run $85^{\circ} M$ for 10 statute miles at 9,200'. Breakaway right; $228^{\circ} T$ for 237 statute miles to Cape Linaro; $221^{\circ} T$ for 242 statute miles to base dropping to 2,500'.

F. VICTORIES: 1 MS 109 probably destroyed; 1 MS 109 damaged.

G. COMMENTS: The following crew was shot down over the target by flak:

P - 1st Lt. J.A. Green, O-727717
CP - 1st Lt. J.B. Stewart, O-670657
B - 1st Lt. J. Banaki, O-731436
N - 2nd Lt. L.W. McDaniel Jr., O-682203
A - S/Sgt. H. W. De Lisle, 32276519
RG - S/Sgt. W. J. Gardner, 32388039
G - S/Sgt. H. A. Harrison, 12012622

Flight Commander - Major James L. McCrory, O-789187

G. COMMENTS (Cont'd): The following crew is missing:

F - 1st Lt. J. R. Space, O-792319
CP - 2nd Lt. G. L. Wader, O-738463
NB - Sgt. H. H. Wright, 15019607
R - Sgt. S. S. Rydal, 32076524
G - B. B. Creedle, 33219553, S/Sgt.
E - Sgt. F. G. Rudolph, 13029532

WILLIAM COOK
Captain, Air Corps
Gp Intelligence O.

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

16 January 1944

SUBJECT: Photos.

TO : Commanding General, 42nd Wing(US), APO 520.
ATTENTION: A-2.

1. The following is the location for the cameras in the formation as over the target (Orte M/Y and RR Bridge, Italy), of this Group, this date.

			93	T	84			
			(T)	K-17	(T)	K-17		
				(T)	K-20			
				96		20	T	
	2	T				(T)	K-17	T
	(T)	K-20					T	
		T						
			44	T	27			
			(T)	K-20	(T)	K-17		
				T				
	68	T					T	47
	(T)	K-20					T	(T) K-17
		T						T

2. The pictures taken in ship's no. 93, 84, 96, 2, 44, and 68 were not printed.

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

THE FOLLOWING CREWS PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON ORTE, ITALY M/Y & RR/Br.

CREW	SQUADRON	
GREEN, PILOT, 1st Lt.	444th	87
STEWART, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.		took off 1055
BANAUKI, BOMB. 1st Lt.		landed
G MC DANIELS, NAV. 2nd Lt.		
D _e LISLE, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
GARDNER, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
HARRISON, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
MC CRORY, FLIGHT COMMANDER, MAJ.		
MEYER, PILOT, 1st Lt.	444th	93
DEMETREE, CO PILOT, Lt.		took off 1055
FELTEN, BOMB. PFC.		landed 1436
W WILLIAMS, ENGINEER, Sgt.		
PROCTOR, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
KOCH, GUNNER, Sgt.		
DRAPER, X S/Sgt.		
BORWNE, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	84
BURG, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1055
ROBINSON, BOMB. 1st Lt.		landed 1436
W GUNTHER, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
SCHANZ, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
HATCHER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
CONEY, PHOTO, S/Sgt.	443rd	
PETERS, PILOT, P/O	444th	96
BURKE, CO PILOT, F/O		took off 1055
E POWERS, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1436
BEST, NAV, 2nd Lt.		
WYMER, ENGINEER, T/Sgt.		
BURTT, RADIO, T/Sgt.		
HARRISON, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
BREWER, DEPUTY FLIGHT COMMANDER, CAPT	HQ,	
CASEY, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	79
MC BRIDE, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1056
F HELLER, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1420
DEACY, NAV. 2nd Lt.		
GOLDIE, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
SPEARS, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
GEORGE, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
GASSER, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	76
PLACKTER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1056
W BOMB. ROBERTS, Sgt.		landed 1420
MONTGOMERY, ENGINEER, Sgt.		
MIKLES, RADIO, T/Sgt.		
BASS, GUNNER, Sgt.		
REAVES, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	78

	REAVES, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st	20
	WELLER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1056
	BLACKFORD, BOMB. Sgt.		landed 1420
W	ROSENTHAL, PHOTO, Sgt.		
	POPE, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
	APPLETON, RADIO, T/Sgt.		
	LEUTHOLT, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
	CORNELIUS, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st	4
	NOLD, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1057
E	VESSELLS, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1420
	LYONS, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
	DURAN, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
	BECKSTEAD, GUNNER, Sgt.		
	VALLS, PILOT, 1st Lt.	441st	11
	OWENS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1057
F	SYLVESTER, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1421
	ABART, NAV. 2nd Lt.		
	CHILTON, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
	CORONA, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
	TOMPKIN, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
	GOODENOUGH, PILOT, F/O	441st	9
	FLAKE, CO PILOT, F/O		took off 1057
W	TEMPLE, BOMB. F/O		landed 1421
	CRASS, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
	GAUNT, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
	MC LAUGHLIN, GUNNER, Sgt.		
	HUBBARD, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st	2
W	RENKA, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1057
	POLAKOV, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1422
	RINALDI, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
	STEIGENHOFER, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
	HAYS, GUNNER, Sgt.		
	HENDRIX, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st	3
E	SCHULTZ, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1058
	FARMER, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1422
	LIDICKER, ENGINEER, Sgt.		
	APGAR, RADIO, T/Sgt.		
	GRINER, GUNNER, Cpl.		
	SPEEGLE, PILOT, Capt.	442nd	34
F	LARRABEE, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1058
	DARBY, BOMB. 1st Lt.		landed 1443
	LEAHY, NAV. Capt.		
	GOMEZ, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
	KENNEDY, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
	GALINDO, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		

	BRAST, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.	442nd		27
	THORNTON, CP PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1058
	HENDREX, BOMB. 2nd Lt.			landed 1443
	SALVESEN, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.			
W	ZEHNER, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
	BENTLEY, GUNNER, Sgt.			
	CATALDI, PHOTO, Pvt.	441st		
	CLAYBOUGH, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	442nd		44
	CASTER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1058
W	COOK, BOMB. Capt.	HQ		landed 1443
	MELIN, ENGINEER, Pvt.			
	MOORE, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
	HOYLE, GUNNER, Sgt.			
	SCHAUS, PHOTO, S/Sgt.			
	PROBASCO, PILOT, 1st Lt.	442nd	8	31
	HAKOMAKI, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.			took off 1059
	OLMSTED, BOMB. 2nd Lt.			landed 1443
E	PINCOMB, NAV. 2nd Lt.			
	BLY, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.			
	WELLS, RADIO, Sgt.			
	GUNNER, ROSS, S/Sgt.			
	CONRAD, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	442nd		45
	STEPHENSON, CP PILOT, 1st Lt.			took off 1059
F	SCAFIDI, BOMB. 2nd Lt.			landed 1444
	KING, NAV. 2nd Lt.			
	FLOTO, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.			
	MARSCHKE, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
	RODGERS, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
	ROWAN, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	442nd		47
	DICKERSON, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1059
W	JACOBSON, BOMB, S/Sgt.			landed 1450
	MORRIS, ENGINEER, Sgt.			
	MC COY, RADIO, Sgt.			
	BUTH, GUNNER, Sgt.			
	ROSENTHAL, PHOTO, Cpl.	HQ.		
	MAC KINNON, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd		51
	SCHUMER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1100
W	SALTERELLI, S/Sgt. NAV.			landed 1444
	GILES, RADIO, S/Sgt.			
	PUTNUM, GUNNER, S/Sgt.			
	BLACKWELL, ENGINEER, Sgt.			
	SMITHWICK, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd		63
E	STINSON, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.			took off 1100
	UNDERWOOD, NAV. 2nd Lt.			landed 1444
	ALLEN, BOMB. 2nd Lt.			
	MAIER, S/Sgt.			
	GRIFFIN, GUNNER, Cpl.			
	COONS, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.			

RUCKER, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	55
REYNOLDS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1100
CAFARELLA, NAV. 1st Lt.		landed 1445
F SWINDLER, BOMB. 1st Lt.		
JACKSON, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
WESTFALL, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
ARMAOL, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
HALE, PILOT, F/O	443rd	61
DUGAN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1434
w dickey, nav. s/Sgt.		landed 1434
POWERS, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
AUSTAD, GUNNER, Sgt.		
SNIDER, ENGINEER, Sgt.		
PALMER, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	68
KOLAR, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1101
w HOMSHER, NAV. S/Sgt.		landed 1452
COONS, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
LONG, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
HOPKINS, PHOTO, S/Sgt.		
BUTLER, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
RITCHEY, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	443rd	66
GOODWIN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1101
F WAGAR, BOMB. 2nd Lt.		landed 1445
LONG, NAV. 2nd Lt.		
TURLATTI, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
HART, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
JONES, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
HARPSTER, RADIO, T/Sgt.		
<u>SPARES</u>		
BUCKHOUT, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	444th	77
BIRMINGHAM, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1101
RAMIREZ, BOMB. S/Sgt.		landed 1423
WILLIAMS, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
HANRAHA, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
SZEWczyk, GUNNER, S/Sgt.		
HUNSBARGER, PILOT, 2nd Lt.	441st	15
WILLIAMS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1102
MC GOLDRICK, BOMB. T/Sgt.		landed 1433
DOLAN, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.		
MARKES, RADIO, S/Sgt.		
GRIGGS, GUNNER, Cpl.		
FREEMAN, PILOT, 1st Lt.	442nd	26
CONLEY, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1102
MESTAYER, BOMB. 1st Lt.		landed 1459
ELIAS, ENGINEER, SGT.	FLYNN, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	
JOHNSON, RADIO, S/Sgt.	CONLON, CO S/Sgt.	
SPACE, PILOT, 1st Lt.	443rd	64
RADER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.		took off 1102
WRIGHT, NAV. Sgt.	CREEDLEY, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	landed
RYDEL, RADIO, Sgt.	RUDOLPH, ENGINEER, Sgt.	