

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer  
APO 650

Intelligence Narrative No. 209. Day Operation. 16 May 1944

Flight Commander: Captain Saylor.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 13:25 hours, 27 B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off to bomb Signa RR Bridge, Italy. This target was closed, and Pontederra RR Bridge, Italy, was bombed as alternate. 3 B-26's returned early: 2 spares; 1 crew member had wrong type of harness for chute. 24 B-26's were over the target and dropped 192 x 500 lb demolition bombs (1/10 .025 second delay fuses) on the target at 1539 hours from 8,900' to 7,900' on an axis of 335° T. 23 B-26's returned to base at 1735 hours, and 1 B-26 returned to base late after landing in Corsica for gas.

C. RESULTS: Most if not all bombs landed in the target area, scoring probable direct hits; both approaches were well covered.

D. OBSERVATIONS:

1. Air:

a. Air Activity: 1. Spitfires from Corsica provided escort.  
2. 2 unidentified A/C at 5,000' headed N over Cecina were seen at 1555 hours from 8,000'.  
3. 1 S/E A/C circling on the deck over an M/V at 43° 20' N, 10° 19' E, was seen at 1601 hours from 8,000'.

b. Situation: 1. Potedera A/D landing strip and field mined; 1 probable Cant. Z-1007 at end of hangars; seen at 1539 hours from 8,900'.  
2. One crew member reported Peretola A/D/to <sup>seemed</sup> be mined at 1541 hours from 8,000'.

2. Ground:

a. General: 1. Between Cecina and Volterra, white pill boxes at road junctions were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.  
2. Piles of light colored rectangular boxes at Q 1324 were seen at 1516 hours from 10,000'.  
3. At Q 1532, a number of different colored boxes in rows were seen at 1516 hours from 8,000'.  
4. Adjacent to M/Y at Montelupo, Q 6064, an oil storage dump consisting of drums were seen at 1523 hours from 10,000'.  
5. Lumber storage dump at Q 1634 was seen at 151 hours from 10,000'.

b. Communications:

1. 20/30 RR cars at Q 3257, with trucks backed up to some of cars were seen at 1519 hours from 10,000'.

b. Communications (Cont'd).

2. 50 RR cars at Q 1424, some loaded with gravel, were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
3. 25/30 RR cars at Q 1630 were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
4. 60 RR cars at Q 1228 were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
5. 25 RR cars with locomotive on W end of W end of Signa M/Y, and 15 RR cars on E end of the yard, were seen at 1524 hours from 10,000'.
6. 30/40 RR cars at Q 5650 were seen at 1520 hours from 10,000'.
7. 1 train of 15 cars headed S at Q 6267 was seen at 1524 hours from 10,000'.
8. 72 undamaged RR cars at Pontedera; many damaged or destroyed were seen at 1539 hours from 8,900'.
9. 20/30 RR cars at Montelupo and 20 RR cars just west of yards were seen at 1523 hours from 10,000'.
10. At Q 0340, 30/40 RR cars were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
11. 1 train of 6 cars and possible engine on E end, stopped at Q 3021 was seen at 1517 hours from 10,000'.
12. 3 M/T stopped at Q 4224 were seen at 1518 hours from 10,000'.
13. 8 M/T moving E toward Florence from Signa were seen at 1524 hours from 10,000'.
14. 10 M/T parked at Peccioli, Q 3545, were seen at 1536 hours from 9,500'.
15. 10/12 M/T moving S at Q 2424, were seen at 1516 hours from 10,000'.
16. 15/20 M/T moving S between Leghorn and Cecina were seen at 1548 hours from 8,000'.
17. 6/8 M/T moving N just N of Cecina were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
18. 4 M/T moving E, just E of Pontedera were seen at 1539 hours from 8,900'.
19. 6 M/T moving S at Q 4051 were seen at 1516 hours from 10,000'.
20. 20 M/T moving into Poggibonsi from the S were seen at 1529 hours from 10,000'.
21. 3 M/T headed S, parked, at Q 1631, were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
22. An undamaged RR bridge on coast line at Q 1326 was seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.
23. Prior to bombing Pontedera Bridge was still standing; approaches were out; seen at 1539 hours from 8,900'.

c. Flak: Scant light inaccurate for both altitude and deflection; continuously pointed fire was encountered over Rosignano.

d. Shipping: 1. 1 medium M/Y headed NW at  $40^{\circ} 20' N$ ,  $10^{\circ} 19' E$  putting out much smoke was seen at 1801 hours from 8,000'.

d. Shipping: (Cont'd)

2. 4/5 barges off Cecina, beached, were seen at 1515 hours from 10,000'.

3. Losses: None; damaged, none.

4. Weather:

a. Enroute: Sardinia, Corsica and out to sea, 6/10 cumulus, base 6,000', tops 10,000'; visibility, 8-9 miles in haze.

b. Target: 8/10 towering cumulus, 3,500' to 11,500'; Pontedera, open.

c. Return: 9/10 cumulus over islands.

E. ROUTES AND ALTITUDES: From 2,500' at base to rendezvous at Alto; to Cecina; to Castelfiorentino; to Signa; circle to right to E of Lari climbing to 10,000'; bomb run 335° T to target at 8,900'; break-away fight to Castiglione; reciprocal course to base.

F. COMMENTS: None.

WILLIAM COOK  
Captain, Air Corps  
Gp Intelligence O.

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## TAKE OFF LINE - UP

21

17

11

8

12

4

14

18

90

95

91

94

62

70

65

69

51

50

00

99

77

86

82

spares

70

3

96

76

RADIO CALL SIGNS

320th GROUP

"TOPNOTCH"

FIGHTERS

"TOPNOTCH FIGHTERS"

CHANNEL "A"

"A"		
<u>MALCOLM</u>	<u>ROBBINS</u> 11 Tapp	<u>SULLIVAN</u> 17
8	<u>BERGE</u> 21 Goldin	
"B"		
<u>O'STEEN</u>	<u>CORNELIUS</u> 14	<u>BODIE</u> 4
18	<u>VEEVES</u> 12	
"C"		
<u>CONNOR</u>	<u>BIRMINGHAM</u> 91 Lindstrom	<u>REEDER</u> 95
84	<u>PLACKTER</u> 93	
"D"		
<u>HRIBAL</u>	<u>CAUDILL</u> 70 Strickland	<u>WEEKLY</u> 65
61	<u>FELT</u> 69 Allen	
"E"		
<u>HILL</u>	<u>BARKER</u> 51 Adams	<u>KOLAR</u> 50
63	<u>NELSON</u> 56	
"F"		
<u>BRESETEE</u>	<u>FOWLER</u> 86 Rogers	<u>DEMETREE</u> 77
82	<u>GASSER</u> 99	
SPA RES		
<u>WEEKS</u>		
<u>TURNER H. D.</u>	71 Ritter	<u>WEILER</u> 3 Chevalas
96	<u>MCCBRIDE</u> 76	

GROUND SPARES  
( 38 ) ( 1 ) ( 81 )

COLORS OF THE DAY FOR 16 MAY 1944

TIME	FLARE COLORS
0200-0800	YELLOW & YELLOW RED
0800-1400	RED & YELLOW
1400-2000	RED & RED
2000-0200	GREEN & YELLOW

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ALDIS LAMP SIGNALS. CHAL.	REPLY
0200-0800	Z
0800-1400	P
1400-2000	B
2000-0200	C

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THE FOLLOWING CREWS PARTICIPATED IN THE RAID ON

16 MAY 1944.

*Posted R.A.S.*

G	Robbins, Pilot, capt. 441st Bednarz, Co, Pilot, Tapp, Bombardier, 1st Lt. Thurston, Navigator, 1st Lt. Huppe, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Spiess, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Tompkin, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Saylor, Flight Commander; Captain,	11  Took off 1325 Landed 1735
W	Sullivan, Pilot, 2nd Lt. 441st Wachter, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Vieha, Bombardier, Sgt. Coppler, Engineer gunner, Sgt. Michaelson, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Giggs, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Middleton, Aerial photographer, Cpl.	17 Took off 1325 Landed 1707
W	Malcolm, Pilot, 1st Lt. 441st Nold, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt. Stone, Bombardier, Sgt. Acerro, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Doran, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Casey, Aerial Gunner, Sgt. Zupanc, Aerial photographer.	8 Took off 1325 Landed 1735
E	Berge, Pilot, Captain, 441st Paulantis, Co, Pilot 1st Lt. Goldin, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. Gibson, Navigator, 1st Lt. Brush, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Breznak, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Pata, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.	21 Took off 1325 LANDED : 1821 <i>Chris for 903</i>
Y	Cornelius, Pilot, 1st Lt. 441st Merrill, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. McFarland, Bombardier, 1st Lt. Liggett, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Rencehausen, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Soldati, Aerial gunner, Pvt.	14 Took off 1326 Landed 1736
W	Bodie, Pilot, 1st Lt. 441st Pesek, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Cocker, Bombardier, Sgt. Miller, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Thannhauser, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Medina, Aerial gunner, S/sgt. Bowman, J. H. Observer, 1st Lt.	1 Took off 1326 Landed 1550 <i>Early return No mission credit;</i>
V	O'Steen, Pilot, 1st Lt. 441st Klug, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. Gallagher, Bombardier, Sgt. Hill, Engineer gunner, S/sgt. Kramer, Radio Gunner, S/sgt. Moore, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.	18 Took off 1326 Landed: 1736

Reaves, Pilot, 1st Lt.	441st	12
Wiginton, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		1326
E Sauter, Bombardier, Sgt.		Landed 1730
Barton, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		
Snow, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Iannotta, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Weiler, Pilot, 1st Lt.	441st	3
Wiggins, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		
Chavalas, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.	SPARE,	Took off 1331
Mauser, Engineer gunner, Sgt.	SPARE	1520
Money, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.	SPARE	
Booth, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.	SPARE SPARE	Landed
	SPARE SPARE	
	SPARE	
	SPARE SPARE	
	SPARE SPARE	
Birmingham, Pilot,	444th	91
Driscoll, Co, Pilot,		Took off 1327
Y Lindstrum, Bombardier,		Landed 1737
Staton, Engineer gunner, ,		
Campbell, Radio Gunner,		
Piggott, Aerial gunner,,		
Reeder, Pilot, 1st Lt.	444th	95 81
W Stearns, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1327
Drake, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed 1730
Tunis, Engineer gunner, T/Sgt.		
Visconi, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Humphrey, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Yavorsky, Aerial Photographer S/sgt.		
Cornor, Pilot, 1st Lt.	444th	84
V Schneider, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1334
Williams, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
Baver, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		1737
Laoth, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Paul, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
E Turner, Pilot, 2nd Lt. H. D.	444th	96
Chunis, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1331
Betenjany, Bombardier, Pfc.		Landed
Cook, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.	<del>SPARE SPARE</del>	1737
Stalcup, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Wagner, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
McBride, Pilot, 1st Lt.	444th	76
V Viebrock, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1331
Webb, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		
Williams, Engineer gunner, T/sgt.		Landed
Dyrez, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		1739+
Mason, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		

filled in position #12 at Pac Ater completed mission

filled in #6 as wing #6 completed mission

	Caudill, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	70
	Heckler, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1328
	Strickland, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
	Taranto, Navigator, 2nd Lt.		1738
	Hildenbrand, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
	Griewank, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
	Bowles, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
	Weekley, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	443rd	65
W	Carter, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1328
	Straka, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
	La Gesse, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		1738
	Rolfe, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
	Adams, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
	Colton, Aerial photogra pher,		
	Hribal, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	61
W	Beaudro, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.		Took off 1328
	Snider, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
	Romig, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		1738
	Guzzio, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		01
	Volosky, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		03
	Felt, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	69
E	West, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		TOOK OFF 1328
	Allen, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
	Long, Navigator, 2nd Lt.		1738
	Traweek, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
	Gulliams, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
	Mai, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
	Barker, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	51
Y	VanKeuren, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1329
	Adams, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
	Salfati, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		1739
	Hansen, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
	Harrold, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
	Kolar, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	443rd	50
W	Dugan, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1329
	Dickey, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
	Talsky, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		1739
	Sherman, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
	Henry, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
	Hill, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	443rd	63
W	Macoud, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1329
	Brown, Bombardier, Pvt.		Landed
	Marstellar, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		1739
	Purtz, Engineer, Gunner, Sgt.		
	Terrell, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
E	Nelson, Pilot, 1st Lt.	443rd	68
	Young, Co, Pilot, H. S. B. 2nd Lt.	Szafir, Bomb. S/sgt.	TOOK OFF 1329
	Wagner, Radio Gunner, Sgt.	Austad, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.	Landed
	Larkin, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		1739



Weeks, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	443rd	71
Harrington, Co, Pilot,		Took off 1331
Ritter, B ombardier, 2nd Lt.		Landed
Calafut, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		1576
Avery, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.	Early - no mission	
Engineer gunner, Park, S/sgt.		
Frank, Aerial photographer,.		
Fowler, Pilot, 1st Lt.	444th	86
Wilson, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1330
Rogers, B ombardier, 1st Lt.		Landed
Wymer, Engineer gunner, T/sgt.		1739
Burt, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.		
Estrada, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Demetree, Pilot, u. C. 2nd Lt.	444th	77
McGugan, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1330
Crapse, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
Khune, Engineer gunner, T/sgt.		1721
Clark, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		
Rabal, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Johnson, Aerial photographer, Sgt.		
Bressette, Pilot, 2nd Lt.	444th	82
Ramage, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.		Took off 1330
Drevas, Bombardier, pvt.		Landed
McQuarrie, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		1739
Shaffer, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Larsong, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Shaffer, E. M. Aerial radio operator.		
E Gasser, Pilot, 1st Lt.	444th	99
Nowak, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.		Took off 1330
Jenco, Bombardier,		Landed
Kuczma, Engineer gunner,		1723
Steen, Radio Gunner,		
Robinson, Aerial gunner,		
Perry, Radio Operator, T/sgt.		