

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

Intelligence Narrative No. 307, Day Operation, 13 August, 1944

Flight Commander: Captain Hummel.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 04:54 hours, 29 B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off to bomb gun position west of Toulon (M/R: (B) T-847981, Sheet 148), France. 2 B-26's returned early; 1 bomb fell on runway area, and Flight Commander injured by violent evasive action taken to avoid mid-air collision; 1 engine cutting out. 27 B-26's were over the target. 18 B-26's dropped 72 x 1,000# Demolition bombs (1/10 s .025 second delay fuses) on the target at 07:28 hours from 12,000' to 11,500' on an axis of 69 T. 14 x 1,000# Demolition bombs were salvaged; 5 in the target area, having hung up over the target; 9 in the water; 8 hung up and 1 dropped on the way to the target due to malfunction. 22 x 1,000# Demolition bombs were returned to base because of poor visibility in the target area. 22 B-26's returned to base at 09:11 hours. 4 B-26's returned late by 11:25 hours after landing in northern Jardinia of Corsica for fuel. 1 B-26 was lost to flak over the target, one mile short of landfall - on the bomb run over Point de la Grive -, A/C Battle No. 20 sustained a direct hit in the right wing just outboard of right engine and the wing caught on fire. A/C fell out of formation and 3 eights came from the waist window. A/C continued on course for 15/20 seconds, dropped bombs, 2 more eights opened and wing fell off. A/C went into a spin and crashed and exploded at 43° 17' North, 05° 55' East. Eights landed at the following points: 1 in the water at 43° 08' North, 05° 48' East; 2 at 43° 08' North, 05° 45' East; 1 at 43° 18' North 05° 52' East; 1 at 43° 22' North 05° 55' East.

C. Results: The target was missed. The bombs landed a few hundred yards North of the target.

D. Observations:

1. Air:
 - a. Air Activity: Area cover of Spitfire.
 - b. Situation: None.
2. Ground:
 - a. General: See Narrative No. 306.
 - b. Communications: None
 - c. Flak:

AREA	INT	TYPE FLAK	ACCURACY ALT DEF	TYPE FIRE	POSITIONS-COMMENTS
Toulon	M-I	H	A A	Barrage & CP	4 H top of Mt. south of Target
Guere-Pierre Fm A/D	S	L	I I		

4. Shipings: See Narrative No. 306.

3. Losses: 1 due to flak. Damaged: 6 due to flak.

4. Weather: See Narrative No. 306.

E. Routes: Base to $42^{\circ} 50'$ North/ $05^{\circ} 20'$ East; to target; breakaway left to 2 miles North of Sigmas; to Genfron; to C. Ladies; to base.

F. Comments: Crew Members missing in action, together with rank, serial numbers, and position, are as follows:

<u>Crew Position:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>ASN</u>
Pilot	James H. Hipple	1st Lt.	0-808997
Co-Pilot	Rudolf Ostermuller	2nd Lt.	0-817733
Bombardier	Vincent T. Borg	2nd Lt.	0-766033
Radio Operator	Harold T. Waldrop	Cpl.	38390011
Engineer Gunner	Jesse W. Largent	T/Sgt.	15085277
Tail Gunner	Robert L. Allen	Sgt.	18232454

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

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMB GROUP (M) BAF
Office of the Operations Officer
APO-650 US ARMY

23 August 1944.

STATEMENT ON MISSING AIRCRAFT

1. One (1) B-26 type aircraft, battle no. 20, Army serial number 42-43297 piloted by 1st Lt. James H. Ripple was lost due to flak over target at 0723 hours on combat mission of this date. At a point 2 - 3 miles east of Signes, France, while on the bomb run this aircraft sustained a direct hit in the right wing just outboard of the right engine. The wing caught fire and the aircraft fell out of formation. Three chutes came from waist window. The aircraft continued on course for 15 / 20 seconds, dropping bombs, after which two more chutes came from the plane. Then the wing fell off; aircraft went into a spin; crashed and exploded at $43^{\circ} 17' N$, $05^{\circ} 55' E$. Chutes landed at following points: 1 in the water at $43^{\circ} 06' N$, $05^{\circ} 48' E$; 2 at $43^{\circ} 08' N$, $05^{\circ} 45' E$; 1 at $43^{\circ} 18' N$, $05^{\circ} 52' E$; 1 at $43^{\circ} 22' N$, $05^{\circ} 55' E$.

RALPH I. BARKER,
Captain, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

FIRST FORCE		NAME	FLIGHT	STATUS	GROUP
GROUND AND TAKE OFF LINE-UP.		WEST	64 SWINNEY	1st	RED SQDN.
68		Bulow		62 ALLEN	
64		"B"	STRACHAN		
62		HECKLER	56 Strickland	SPEED	
48		MURRAY		46 Selzer	
34		"C"	NELSON		
37		BRAINARD	66 Miazga	HARREL	
59		60 Henry		54 Elajnik	
70		"D"	DEATLEY		
51		DODELIN	34 HENDREX	BOTTOMLEY	
53		48 Westbrook		37 PHILLIPS	GREEN SQDN.
56		"E"	KADEN		
46		WELCH	33 Stough	MCDUGAL	
60		40 Roberts		32 Harmon	
66		"F"	HARTE		
54		METSCHAN	30 Ward	ESTES	
40		29 Farwell		25 Fuller	
33		"G"	HAYWARD		
32		PHILLIPS	70 PICKETT	MACKINNON	
29		59 Purvis		56 WAGAR	
30		"H"	WEEKS		YELLOW SQDN.
25		SHERWOOD	55 Loken	AYREY	
61		61 Montgomery		52 Brown	
55		"I"	CLAYBOUGH		
42	spares	GREGG	43 Montez	BAKER J.J.	
39	27	29 Miller		38 Heplan	
43	47	BARNARD	THORNTON	STEINBACH	
38	44	27 Flt lead Burns	44 Chamberlin	47 Villa	

SECOND FORCE		SECOND FORCE: CAPTAIN NUNNALL			
OFF AND GROUND LINE		"A"	DILLING		RED SQDN.
U.		CHUNIS	98 WHITE	BIRMINGHAM	
85		78 Baby		85 HELLER	
98		"B"	PLACKER		
78		RAMAGE	93 Einden	HAMMOND	
02		94 Clenson		92 Shochan	
23		"C"	BURKE		
02		DRISCOLL	89 Hooper	STERN	
87		95 Ryan		88 Bennett	
80		"D"	MCCONNELL		
84		BORDEN	23 BARDON	CORNELIUS	
97		01 Anderson		02 TRAYNOR	
93		"E"	HIPPLE		
94		KIUG	20 Burg	WILHEIM	
88		21 Stone		16 Taken	
89		"F"	MERRILL		
95		PESEK	07 Garvey	WIGGINS	
16		10 Gallagher		08 Cocker	
20		"G"	JOHNSON		YELLOW SQDN.
21		DICKERSON	80 POCAN	REEDER	
08		84 Jarman		87 HEPHNER	
07		"H"	MARSCH		
10		SIMM	82 Westbrook	JONES E.C.	
76		82 Hatcher		76 Bakenjery	
82		"I"	DINWIDDIE		
91		BEDNARZ	24 Murray	ASHER	
18		14 McCall		18 Dever	
24		SPARES	MEYER		
14		SPARES	CAHAN	09 O'Connell	
SPARES				TRUNK	
09		03 Vollmer		22 Summers	
22			GROUND SPARE (05)		
03					

& & & &
 TO CALL SIGNS: --- TIME FLARE COLORS
 Both Group --- 0200-0800 YELLOW & YELLOW RED
 "CATCH" --- 0800-1400 GREEN & GREEN
 --- 1400-2000 YELLOW & YELLOW RED