

HEADQUARTERS 320TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)
Office of the Group Intelligence Officer
APO 690

Intelligence Narrative No. 921, Day Operation, 21 August 1944.

Flight Commander; Lt. Birmingham.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 1601 hours, 13 B-26's took off to bomb the Road Bridge north of Grissana (M/R; (W) I-765246, GGGS 4164, sheet 93), Italy. 1 B-26 returned early which was a spare. 12 B-26's were over the target, on two runs, but no bombs were dropped due to inability to identify the target because of late afternoon shadows and haze. The formation was over the target at 1805 hours and 1816 hours from 12,000' to 11,200' on axes of 295° T and 105° T. All bombs carried by A/C which have returned to base were returned. 7 B-26's returned to base at 2010 hours. 3 B-26's returned late by 2200 hours after landing at Grosseto due to flak damage. 1 B-26 is at Grosseto with flak damage. 1 B-26 lost to flak. Over Pratovecchio A/C Battle No. 29 sustained a first hit which damaged one engine. A second hit on the wing damaged the gas tank serving the other engine. A/C radioed that it was losing gas and left the formation. A flight of 3 other A/C followed. A stream of gas was seen coming from the A/C, but there was no fire as long as the A/C continued in flight. At 1900 hours, 8 miles east of Sassoceorvaro (43° 47' N, 12° 38' E), with A/C flying 175° T at 5,000' the crew members bailed out. 7 chutes, accounting for the entire crew were seen to leave the A/C by crew members observing. The A/C continued for 15 to 20 miles in a steep glide, one wing hit a mountain, and the A/C exploded and burned at approximately 43° 40' N, 12° 40' E.

C. RESULTS: None.

D. OBSERVATIONS:

1. Air: a. Enemy Air: The gunners on one crew reported seeing 4 FW190's low, below the formation which made no repeat no passes, and 3 ME 109's which made 1 pass each to 300 yards at 9 o'clock, but did not fire, between Mardi and the target area at 1800 hours. The FW 190's were described as black, German crosses and were claimed to have been seen on wings. The M/E 109's were reported to have yellow bellies. Other crews asserted that these A/C were clipped wing spit-fires and P-47's.

b. Situation: Pavullo nel Frignano empty.

2. Ground: a. General: None.

b. Communications: None.

c. Flak: Pratovecchio area - slight, Heavy, Accurate, Fairly accurate, CP. Bursts of 3 and 4 encountered both coming in and out. Pisanuola Area, slight to moderate, heavy, accurate, accurate, CP. Preduro east Sasso, slight to moderate, heavy, accurate, accurate, CP. 3 H at P-772 Both 88 mm. and 105 mm. bursts were seen.

d. Shipping: None.

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

4. Weather:

a. Enroute; Clear but hazy.

b. Target; Clear by hazy.

c. Return; AS enroute.

E. ROUTES: Base to mouth of Ombrone River; to Montevarchi; to Portico di Romagna; to Monghidoro; first bomb run to 4 miles west S. Benedetto Val Di Sambro; to Locano; to Firenzuola; to Montevarchi; Reciprocal course to base.

F. COMMENTS: None.

WILLIAM COCK,
Major, Air Corps,
Gp. Intelligence O.

MISSION #336

FLIGHT COMMANDER:

21 August 1944

RUNWAY LINE-UP

88

85

97

94

93

82

29

28

25

39

37

40

95

43

RADIO:

320th TOPNOTCH
Escort TOPNOTCH
FIGHTERS

97 ~~DEMETREE~~
~~Weyenberg~~

82 ~~JONES, E.C.~~
~~Rinden~~

25 ~~MOONEY~~
~~Friend~~

39 ~~VANDERBURG~~
~~Militscher~~

0200-0800
0800-1100
1100-2000
2000-0200

0200-0800
0800-1100
1100-2000
2000-0200

85 ~~BIRMINGHAM~~
~~HELLER~~

93 ~~TOWNS~~
~~BARBARDI~~

28 ~~HARTE~~
~~OLSTED~~

37 ~~BAKER~~
~~YOUENES~~

FIA RE COLORS
YELLOW & YELLOW
GREEN & GREEN
RED & RED
YELLOW & YELLOW RED

ALDIS LIGHT SIGNALS
CHALLENGE REPLY
B V
W J
X D
N C

88 ~~REEDER~~
~~NEPHER~~

94 ~~TURNER~~
~~Robert~~

29 ~~ARIS TRONG~~
~~McKay~~

40 ~~HENSELL~~
~~Chamberlin~~

RETURNED

SPARES:
95 IRISCOLL
43 ABERNATHY
NOTO

LANDED GROSSER

COLORS OF THE DAY

WENT DOWN 20
MILES BEHIND
LINES
6 CHUTES

THE FOLLOWING CREWS PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATIONS OF 21 August 1944

CREWS	SQUADRON	PLANE NO.
BIRMINGHAM, PILOT, 1st Lt. DILLING, CO PILOT, Capt. HELLER, BOMB. 1st Lt. BANG, NAV. 1st Lt. GOULD, ENGINEER, Sgt. PERRY, RADIO, T/Sgt. DAY, GUNNER, Cpl.	444th	85 took off 1601 landed 2010
REIDER, PILOT, 1st Lt. ELLIS, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. HEPNER, BOMB. 2nd Lt. DELOSIER, NAV. 1st Lt. TUNIS, ENGINEER, T/Sgt. TKACH, RADIO, Cpl. WIGGILL, GUNNER, Cpl.	444th	88 took off 1601 landed 2030
DEMETREE, PILOT, 1st Lt. WELLBORN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. WEYENBERG, BOMB. Sgt. HARDY, ENGINEER, Sgt. CLARK, RADIO, S/Sgt. VILLINES, GUNNER, Cpl. ZAVROSKY, RADIO, S/Sgt.	444th	97 took off 1601 landed 2010
TOWNS, PILOT, 1st Lt. VIEBROCK, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. BENARDI, BOMB. 1st Lt. DOWLEN, ENGINEER, Cpl. STALCUP, RADIO, S/Sgt. HAYES, PHOTO, Pvt.	444th	98 took off 1601 landed GROSETTO
TURNER, PILOT, 1st Lt. FORD, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. ROBERTS, BOMB. S/Sgt. DUFFEL, ENGINEER, Cpl. CRONIN, RADIO, S/Sgt. MALONE, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	444th	94 took off 1601 landed 2014
JONES, PILOT, 1st Lt. SMITH, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. RINDEN, BOMB. Sgt. RANKIN, ENGINEER, Cpl. DELUCA, RADIO, S/Sgt. PAUL, GUNNER, Sgt. CLINES, PHOTO, S/Sgt.	444th	82 took off 1601 landed 2014
SPARE	SPARE	SPARE
DRISCOLL, PILOT, 1st Lt. HAHER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt. RYAN, BOMB. Cpl. SMITH, ENGINEER, Cpl. FLEMING, RADIO, S/Sgt. DEWITT, GUNNER, S/Sgt.	444th	95 took off 1603 landed 1748

HARTE, PILOT, 1st Lt. 4/2nd
ROBERTSON, CO PILOT, 1st Lt.
OLMSTED, BOMB. 1st Lt.
TEICH, NAV. 2nd Lt.
UNDERWOOD, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.
PASTORAK, RADIO, S/Sgt.
SPANGLER, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

28 took off 1602
landed
2143
(Grosotto)

ARMSTRONG, PILOT, 1st Lt. 4/2nd
ROPER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
MC CRAY, BOMB. S/Sgt.
HUSTON, ENGINEER, Sgt.
SELET, RADIO, Sgt.
HUGHES, GUNNER, Sgt.
KING, PHOTO, Sgt. (442 man).

29
took off 1602
landed
~~Went down over target~~
turned up
29 Aug,

MOONEY, PILOT, 2nd Lt. 4/2nd
OBER, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
FRIEND, BOMB. S/Sgt.
PENTON, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.
VESSIRE, RADIO, T/Sgt.
RIDGERS, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

25
took off 1602
landed
2142
(Grosotto)

BAKER, PILOT, 1st Lt. 4/2nd
LA CHASSIE, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
YOUNES, BOMB. 1st Lt.
MC CULLEY, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.
S. VANETTI, RADIO, S/Sgt.
JOHNSON, GUNNER, S/Sgt.

38
took off 1602
landed
2011

HENSELL, PILOT, 1st Lt. 4/2nd
MAYFIELD, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
CHAMBERLIN, BOMB. S/Sgt.
SURABIAN, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.
SEMIC, RADIO, S/Sgt.
CHAPMAN, GUNNER, Sgt.
LA FORREST, PHOTO, Cpl.

40
took off 1602
landed
2011

VANDEBURG, PILOT, F/O 4/2nd
STERN, CO PILOT, 2nd Lt.
MELITSCHER, BOMB. Sgt.
POSSER, ENGINEER, S/Sgt.
FISHER, RADIO, S/Sgt.
RUTH, GUNNER, T/Sgt.

39
took off 1602
landed
GROSOTTO