

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

Intelligence Narrative No. 322, Day Operation, 22 August 1944.

Flight Commander: Captain Smith.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 08:25 hours, 20 B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off to bomb the Road Bridge at Vergato (M/R: (W) L-696265, GSGS 4164, sheet 98), Italy. 2 B-26's returned early; spares. 18 B-26's were over the target and 18 B-26's dropped 72 x 1,000# Demolition bombs (1/10 & .01 second delay fuses) on the target at 10:43 hours from 10,600' to 10,100' on an Axis of 115°T. 17 B-26's returned to base at 12:54 hours. 1 B-26 was lost, due to flak. The A/C was hit in the right engine over the target; fell behind the formation with 2 B-26's escorting over Collagna; feathered propeller 5/10 miles West of La Spezia; flew to Corsica; ditched 50 yards off-shore, near a, as yet, unknown town. 7 men in crew were reported rescued after 20 minutes in life-raft by a launch.

C. Results: Most of the bombs landed over to the East, covering the Railroad Bridge with a good pattern. A few bombs possibly hit the target bridge.

D. Observations:

1. Air:

a. Air Activity:

- (1) P-47's and Spitfires provided area escort.
- (2) 1 unidentified S/E a/c flying West below the formation, 8 miles West of Vergato at 10:40 hours.
- (3) 1 Me-109, 15 miles East of Sestri Levante, headed East at 4,000' 10:18 hours, dark brown color on top.

b. Situation: Pavullo empty, field unserviceable.

2. Ground:

a. General:

- (1) Huge column of black smoke from Villafranco at 10:21 hours.
- (2) Active factory 2 miles South of Villafranco at 10:21 hours.
- (3) Smoke screen over bridge at Aulla at 10:21 hours.
- (4) Hospital at Panteremoli.
- (5) Bridges at L-3141 and L-9037 out. No bomb craters in vicinity.

b. Communications:

- (1) Probable train headed East, 3 miles East of Aulla at 10:21 hours.
- (2) 4/5 car train headed North, stationary, locomotive with steam up, 3 miles South of Villafranco at 10:21 hours.
- (3) 12/14 RR cars at Moneglia.
- (4) 12 RR cars at first M/Y East of Aulla.
- (5) 6 M/T headed East 5 miles East of Sestri Levante at 10:15 hours.

c. Flak:

Area	Int	Type Flak	Accuracy Alt. Def.	Type Fire	Positions - Comments
Target	M	H	A FA	CP	4 H just North of target.
Sestri Levante	S	L	I I		(W) L-696267.
Foretta	S	H	I I	CP	out of range.
Aulla	S	H	I I	CP	
Lake near Iana-Morogno	S	L	I I		West end of dam.

Commenced 10 seconds before bombs away and continued for 10 seconds after breakaway. 1 large red burst was seen high and to the North of the formation, encountered by a/c, which was damaged, and escort.

d. Shipping:

- (1) 2 coasters at Marina Di Carreza at 11:09 hours.
- (2) 1 cruiser, 2 medium M/V's at La Spezia at 11:07 hours.
- (3) 1 medium M/V at Sestri Levante at 10:14 hours.
- (4) Submarine net at La Spezia.

3. Losses: 1 due to flak. Damaged: 5 due to flak.

4. Weather:

- a. Enroute: Scattered cumulus at 4,000ft.
- b. Target: Clear but hazy.
- c. Return: As enroute.

E. Routes: Base to rendezvous at Gorgona Island; to landfall at Sestri Levante; to Portoferraio; to IP, Pavullo Nel Frignano; bomb run on target; breakaway sharp right; to Monese; to Pavullo Nel Frignano; to Sestri Levante; to base. (Damaged a/c, later ditched, and 2 escort lost formation at Collagna, left coast 8 miles North of La Spezia).

F. Comments: On Command Frequency, the following was heard, as the formation approached Corsica on return: "TOPNOTCH 63 calling TOPNOTCH 56. Give me a long call on No. 9 transmitter". Voice was American. Pilot of 56 did not answer because Topnotch 63 was not in the formation and No. 9 transmitters have been removed from all a/c. Also heard about the same time, was counting from 1 to 10 in German, on Channel "A".

Additional Comments: On the second mission of 21 August, 1944, reported in Intelligence Narrative No. 321, the following corrections should be made:

48 x 500# Demolition bombs were returned to base.

50 x 500# Demolition bombs were salvaged over enemy territory;

8 by aircraft which was lost, 32 by aircraft either damaged by flak or having engine trouble, which landed at Grosseto A/D before returning to base.

8 x 500# Demolition bombs were salvaged off Sardinia by aircraft damaged by flak which had difficulty lowering wheels.

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

MISSION # 337 FLIGHT COMMANDER: CAPTAIN SMITH

22 AUGUST 1944

RUNWAY LINE UP

		"A"	
		<u>MCCONNELL</u>	
	<u>WIGGINS</u>	21 <u>BARDON</u>	<u>MUELLER</u>
23	<u>Ol Posey</u>		23 <u>PENKAVA</u>
21		"B" DITCHED	OUT TO FLAK
01		<u>DINWIDDIE</u>	
	<u>GRALLA</u>	24 <u>Murray</u>	<u>WILSON S.G.</u>
18	<u>17 Kwiatkowski</u>		18 <u>Kinsbury</u>
24		"C"	
17		<u>BEDNARZ</u>	
	<u>O'MAHONEY</u>	11 <u>Elman</u>	<u>SCOTT</u>
	<u>14 Marbella</u>		08 <u>Dever</u>
08		"D"	
11		<u>ACKERMAN</u>	
14	<u>WICKYALA</u>	62 <u>MCGARTNEY</u>	<u>STRAGHAN</u>
	<u>59 Lowry</u>		56 <u>STRICKLAND</u>
59		"E"	
62		<u>HILL</u>	
56	<u>WEST.LT.</u>	64 <u>Peterson</u>	<u>VANKUREN</u>
	<u>65 Sherman</u>		Col <u>Brown</u>
65		"F"	
64		<u>CLARK</u>	
66	<u>MORAN</u>	70 <u>Howe</u>	<u>WEST CAPT.</u>
	<u>60 Holland</u>		50 <u>Buller</u>
60		SPARES	
70	<i>Returned</i>	<u>REEVES</u>	
50	<u>HECKLER</u>	10 <u>Liever</u>	XXXXXXXXXX
	<u>57 Murray</u>	<i>returned</i>	
57		GROUND SPARES	
10		(16) (16) (69)	
89			

* RADIO CALL *	* COLORS OF THE DAY FOR 22 AUGUST 1944.
* SIGNS:	* TIME
* 320th GROUP	* 0200-0800
* "TOPNOTCH"	* 0800-1400
* FIGHTERS	* 1400-2000
* "TOPNOTCH FIGHTERS"	* 2000-0200
* "CHANNEL" "A"	* CHALLENGE
* * * * *	* REPLY
	N
	F
	M
	P
	S
	I
	D
	Y

CROSS	SQUADRON	SHIP NUMBER & TO.
McConnell, Pilot, 1st Lt. 43	441st	21
Held, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt. 62		Take off 0825
Barden, Bombardier, 1st Lt. 57		Landed
Perfetto, Navigator, 1st Lt. 27		1254
Harrison, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Spieß, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Craig, Aerial gunner, Cpl.	Smith flight commander Captain. 53	
Mueller, Pilot, 1st Lt. 33	441st	23
Donke, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt. 2		Took off 0825
Penkava, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. 12		Landed
Bader, Navigator, 2nd Lt. 7		1254
Lickey, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		
Radio Gunner, Zepeda, Epl.		
Dunn, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.		
Wiggins, Pilot, 1st Lt. 41	441st	1
Wetzel, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. 7		Took off 0825
Posey, Bombardier, 1st Lt. 3		Landed
Durate, Engineer gunner, Cpl.		1254
Melson, Radio Gunner, Cpl.		
Wendell, Aerial gunner, Cpl.		
Eberman, F S/sgt.		
Dinwiddie, Pilot, 1st Lt. 48	441st	24
Torongo, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. 10		Take off 0826
Murray, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. 12		Landed
Lewis, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		<u>DITCHED</u>
Dalton, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		(crew picked up by A/SIR)
Dubeau, Aerial gunner, T/sgt.		
Wilson, Pilot, 2nd Lt. 8	541st	17
Steier, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. 5		Took off 0826
Kingsbury Bombardier, 2nd Lt. 2		Landed
Strand, Engineer gunner, Sgt.		1324
Canzonetta, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Tamesiunas, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Grala, Pilot, flight officer 13	441st	17
Lyons, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. 7		Took off 0826
Kwiatkowski, Bombardier, S/sgt.		Landed
Purcell, engineer gunner, S/sgt.		1301
Cook, Radio Gunner, Sgt.		
Bush, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		
Maddocks, Aerial photographer, S/sgt.		
Bednarz, Pilot, 1st Lt. 45	441st	11
Arnsdorff, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt. 24		Took off 0826
Elman, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. 7		Landed
Wyatt, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.		1255
Weber, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.		
Hurabace, Aerial gunner, Sgt.		

Scott, Pilot, 2nd Lt. ¹⁹ 441st
Kaufman, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. ⁵
Dever, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. ⁵
Fernandez, Engineer gunner, T/sgt.
Fraser, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.
Stipe, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.

8
Took off 0826 $\frac{1}{2}$
Landed
1255

O'Mahoney, Pilot, 2nd Lt. ¹⁰ 441st
Robinson, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt. ⁵
Mirabella, Bombardier, 2nd Lt. ⁸
Lias, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Recklbrand, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.
Yousler, Aerial gunner, Sgt.

~~box 14~~ (14)
Took off 0826 $\frac{1}{2}$
Landed
1255

Ackerman, Pilot, Captain, ~~443rd~~ 443rd
Dugan, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.
McCartney, Bombardier, 1st Lt.
Dore, Navigator, 1st Lt.
Dust, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Callahan, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.
Lawrence, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.

62
Took off 0827
Landed
1257

Strachan, Pilot, 1st Lt. ~~443rd~~ 443rd
Komoroski, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Strickland, Bombardier, 1st Lt.
Prigmore, Navigator, 2nd Lt.
Hopkins, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Talsky, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.
Zachar, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.

56
Took off 0827
Landed
1257

Wirkkala, Pilot, 1st Lt. ~~443rd~~ 443rd
Krimm, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Lowrey, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.
Ellis, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Hammonds, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.
Hood, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.
Carroll, Aerial photographer, Cpl.

~~59~~ 59
Took off 0827
Landed
1257

Hill, Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Uhlig, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Peterson, Bombardier, 1st Lt.
Gooch, Engineer gunner, Cpl.
Waymire, Radio Gunner, Cpl.
Peck, Aerial gunner, Sgt.

64
Took off 0827 $\frac{1}{2}$
Landed
1257

~~443rd~~ Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Weingart, ~~Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.~~
Sherman, Bombardier, S/sgt.

~~65~~ 65
Took off 0827 $\frac{1}{2}$
Landed

Van Keuren, Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Nealy, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Brown, Bombardier, S/sgt.
Gorman, Engineer gunner, Sgt.
Graham, Radio Gunner, Sgt.
Suggs, Aerial gunner, Sgt.

69
Took off 0827 $\frac{1}{2}$
Landed
1256

West, Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Weingart, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Sherman, Bombardier, S/sgt.
Harmon, Engineer gunner, Sgt.
Harrison, Radio Gunner, Sgt.
Ward, Aerial gunner, Sgt.
McGowan, Aerial photographer,

65
Took off 0827 $\frac{1}{2}$
Landed 1252

Clark, Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Miller, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Howe, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.
Barry, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Giles, Radio Gunner, T/sgt.
Kimmich, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.
Roife, Aerial photographer, S/sgt.

70
Took off 0828
Landed 1257

West, Pilot, Captain, 443rd
Mosby, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Bulow, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.
Devlin, Engineer gunner, Sgt.
Teeters, Aerial gunner, S/sgt
Orr, Radio Gunner, Cpl.
Christinson, Aerial photographer, Cpl.

50
Took off 0828
Landed 1257

Moran, Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Kent, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Holland, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.
Williams, Engineer gunner, Cpl.
Traweck, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.
Haskins, Aerial gunner, Cpl.
Kees, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.

60
Took off 0828
Landed 1257

Reeves, Pilot, 1st Lt. spares.
441st
Sherwood, Co, Pilot, 1st Lt.
Liever, Bombardier, 1st Lt.
Booth, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Pysz, Radio Gunner, S/sgt.
Tanker, Aerial gunner, Sgt.

Early - no credit

10
Took off 0828
Landed 1122

Heckler, Pilot, 1st Lt. 443rd
Watson, Co, Pilot, 2nd Lt.
Murray, Bombardier, 2nd Lt.
Troutman, Engineer gunner, S/sgt.
Ort, Radio Gunner, Sgt
Purtz, Aerial gunner, S/sgt.

Early - no credit

57
~~Took off~~ 0828
Landed 1106