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

Intelligence Narrative No. 359, May Operation, 26 June, 1944

Flight Commanders - Captain Smith.

A. 320th Bombardment Group (M).

B. At 09:45 hours, 29 B-26's of the 320th Bombardment Group (M) took off to bomb Ostiglia Road Bridge (M/R# (R) F-735125, GCS 4164, Sheet 63), Italy. 3 B-26's returned early; 2 aces; 1 engine cutting out. 26 B-26's were over the target and 18 B-26's dropped 252 x 250# demolition bombs (1/10 & .025 second delay fuses) on the target at 11:41 hours from 10,700' to 10,500' on an Axis of 38°T. The leading eight (8) aircraft flew as flak decoys, carrying no bombs. 26 B-26's returned to base at 13:01 hours.

C. Results: The bombs of the first attacking Squadron landed in an excellent pattern on the South-East half of the bridge, and those of the second Squadron covered the North-West half with a similar pattern. Several direct hits were scored.

D. Observations:

1. Air:

- a. Air Activity: 8/10 P-47's rendezvoused with the formation at Cecina, went ahead at Concordia S. Secchia, and were seen strafing in the target area.
- b. Situation: Reggio/Enza and Modena A/D's appeared empty.

2. Ground:

a. General:

- (1) Barracks area at Ponteresoli.
- (2) RR and Road Bridges at Rubiera were down.
- (3) RR bridge North of Modena appeared to have been repaired.

b. Communications:

- (1) 40 RR cars at Ponteresoli.
- (2) 20 RR cars at Reggio Nell Emilia.
- (3) 50 RR cars at Rubiera.
- (4) 40 RR cars in strings of 6/8, possible locomotives, between Rubiera and Modena.
- (5) 20 RR cars at Ostiglia.
- (6) 150 RR cars at Modena.
- (7) 2 M/T, stationary, 1/2 mile East of Rubiera at 11:35 hours.

c. Flak:

Target: I, H, A, A, - CP fire. Flashes were seen at both ends of the bridge.

8 decoy A/C led the formation, simulating full bomb run and breakaway. These A/C encountered scant heavy flak as doors were opened, which increased to intense 15 seconds before bomb release line and continued intense for 45 seconds on breakaway.

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The First Squadron of the attacking force reported similar experience, and the Second Squadron of the attacking force experienced intense flak from time bombay doors were opened for approximately 60 seconds to bomb release time, and 15 seconds into breakaway. Opinion of crew members is that decoy A/C drew a portion of flak which otherwise would have been fired at the First Squadron of the attacking force. Due to intensity of flak, no results of fighter-bomber strafing of gun positions could be observed.

d. Shinning: None.

3. Losses: None. Damaged: 24 due to flak; 5 men injured by flak.

4. Weather:

a. Aircraft: CAVU.

b. Vicinity of target: CAVU.

c. Target: CAVU.

d. Return: CAVU.

5. Route: Base to rendezvous with 319th and 17th Bomb Groups at Pianosa Island; to rendezvous with fighter-bombers at Cecina; to landfall at Monaglia; to Fostersoli; to Rubiera; to Carpi; to target; breakaway right; to Medolla; to Rubiera; to Monaglia; to base.

6. Comments: Approximately one box of chaff was dropped by one decoy A/C. See Staff Interrogation Report, this date.

WILLIAM COOK,  
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Group Intelligence Officer.