

455th Bomb Group, Field Orders, FO#174, Pilsen, Czech 12/20/44

742ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

20 DECEMBER 1944

SUBJECT: CREWS COMPLETING MISSION ON 20 DEC 1944

TO : OPERATIONS OFFICER, 455TH BOMB GP (H)

SHIP 410	SHIP 201	SHIP 366	SHIP 624
P LT SIMS ✓	LT ADAMS ✓	COL ROBINETT	LT GROOMS ✓
CP LT YODER ✓	LT EDELSTEIN ✓	CAPT SHOUP ✓	LT CONNOLLY ✓
N LT BUZZANCA ✓	LT GOULD ✓	LT CLARK ✓	LT DE PIANO ✓
B LT SAMANIEGO ✓	LT HUGGINS ✓	CAPT GIDDEN ✓	LT MUISE ✓
GREGERSON	STEDMAN	DAVIS	HAMMER
CUNNINGHAM, W.	DI SABATINO	LOPETRONE	ALFINO
ARMSTRONG	CONTRATTO	SCHWANKE	SINK
JORDAN	BEERS	DERRYBERRY	STINE
EPPERLY	EGGERT	CALANDRINO	SILES
MOLEK	PEARCE	LT KRUEGER	WEST, M.
LARKIN (F)		LT AGATHON (PFF)	

SHIP 775	SHIP 151	SHIP 609	SHIP 636
P LT AMMANN ✓	LT SCHWAB ✓	LT UNDERWOOD ✓	LT AIKEN ✓
CP LT BECKER ✓	LT SOLLEY ✓	LT FITTER ✓	LT WETZEL ✓
N LT HELT ✓	LT KIEFFER ✓	LT DONELAN ✓	LT KENNY ✓
B LT LEMMEY ✓	LT THOMPSON ✓	LT CARLSON ✓	LT WILSON ✓
RAINS	MARTINEZ	DAVIES	CLIFFORD
ROWE	WAYNE	ANDERSON	AKINS
PHILLIPS	MIXSON	MYLES	MIDDLETON
HEPLER	TOWNSEND	MASON, M.	HOPKINS
ZABOVNICK	MARRS	OTTS	POLKIS
KRUGER	CELESTIN	GEORGE	BRICE

SHIP 105	SHIP 645
P LT ALDER ✓	LT DE SAUSSURE ✓
CP LT SHERIDAN ✓	LT NILES ✓
N LT KLOTZ ✓	LT HULL ✓
B LT HOAGLAND ✓	LT REINHART ✓
MITCHELL, D.	FRANK, G.
JOHNSON, V.	BOSWELL
TONNE	MITCHELL, R.
HUNZIKER	BROWN, M.
VARNELL	BAJDA
KRISTEL	PAULEY

TIME _____

TARGET _____

HENRY C. KELLY,
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS,
OPERATIONS OFFICER.

MISSION STATISTICS.

39 A/C Scheduled
37 Off: Jensen #402, 740th and Taylor 453, 743rd, not off.

740th Bomb Sq:

10 A/C Off Kent #597 landed at 82nd FG.
10 Over target
9 Returned
1 Missing in Action: Stewart #492.

741st Bomb Sq:

8 A/C Off Kafka #580 landed at Tortorella
5 Over target McGovern #279 landed at Vis.
7 Returned
3 Prior return: Deves #917
McGovern #279
Painter #199
1 Missing In Action: Batham #166

742nd Bomb Sq:

10 A/C Off Landed at Amendola: Shoup #366, Alder
9 Over target #105, Adams #201, Desaussure #645,
8 Returned Ammann #775, Aiken #636.
1 Prior return: Schwab #151.
1 MIA: Sims #410 - crashed on Spur, *no survivors.*
Underwood #609 crashed at Rosetta, *crew okay*

743rd Bomb Sq:

9 A/C Off Houser #543 landed at Tortorella.
6 Over target Kahley #330 landed at Fermo A/F.
8 Returned
2 Early return: Mertl #146
1 P/R Swearingen # Himes #889
1 Missing in Action: Talkington #267 - *crashed on Spur, no survivors.*

Combat time: 7:50

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740

943

12/20/44

Lt Crawford ✓
Lt Allen ✓
Lt Michel ✓
Lt Kleiber ✓
T/Sgt Wagner

Sgt Porter
S/Sgt Belding
Sgt Diles
A/Sgt Young
T/Sgt Oltarzewski

740

492

12/20/44

Capt Stewart ✓
Lt Eshenokunas ✓
Lt Thompson ✓
Lt Kerkex ✓
S/Sgt Rausch

MIA

S/Sgt Schmitz
Sgt Krugh
Sgt Field
T/Sgt Wrigglesworth
Sgt Nila

740

266

12/20/44

Lt Col Keffer ✓
Mj Doring ✓
Lt Bunch ✓ & Lt Sutcliffe ✓
Lt Ludden ✓
T/Sgt Mills

T/E Lt Hart
S/Sgt Fichtner
S/Sgt Ciccone
S/Sgt Communiello
S/Sgt Wyroszkie
Capt Cummings

MI

740

944

12/20/44

Lt Gunn ✓
Lt Barton ✓
Lt Fregoe ✓
Lt Johnson ✓
T/Sgt DeLcher

T/Sgt Crowley
S/Sgt Scarbo
S/Sgt Boucher
S/Sgt Brown P.
S/Sgt Kelleher

740

376

12/20/44

Lt Ellis ✓
Lt Winter ✓
Lt Schoengold ✓
F/O Lewis ✓
T/Sgt Nadell

T/Sgt Mazur
S/Sgt McCarthy
T/Sgt Moore
S/Sgt Lewis
S/Sgt Patterson

740
538

938

12/20/44

Lt Fanc ✓
Lt Szorlip ✓
F/O Backman ✓
Lt Polsky ✓
T/Sgt Valusia

T/Sgt Potash
S/Sgt Machuga
S/Sgt Boschung
S/Sgt Jacobson
S/Sgt Hardison

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740

414

12/20/44

Lt Kirkland ✓
Lt Dagenkolb ✓
Lt Marsh ✓
Lt Dyabik ✓
Sgt Fyle ✓

S/Sgt Dubowicz
Sgt Campbell
S/Sgt McGloory
Sgt Holica
Sgt Martinchek

740

115

12/20/44

Lt Schwieger ✓
Lt Wells ✓
Lt Linder ✓
Lt Meyers ✓
T/Sgt Hamilton, F. ✓

T/Sgt Brown A.D.
S/Sgt Carter C.W.
S/Sgt Dix
S/Sgt Lloyd J.S.
S/Sgt Vick
S/Sgt Rohrer

740

597

12/20/44

Lt Kent ✓
Lt Barlow ✓
Lt Livingood ✓
Lt Reynolds ✓
S/Sgt Olvey ✓

S/Sgt Meunier
Sgt Waugh
S/Sgt Quigley
S/Sgt Small
S/Sgt Watson

790

Col Snowden
Smith
White
Coats
Carens
Martin

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DECLASSIFIED
Authority NNN-745005

71ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, AAF.
5TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, (H), AAF.
APO 520 U.S. ARMY.

20 DECEMBER 1944.
(DATE)

LOADING LIST

AC NUMBER 199 DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT	LT. PAINTER ✓	TOP TUR GNR	SGT. WRIGHT
CO-PILOT	LT. HAMMOND ✓	WAIST RIGHT	SGT. CONFER
NAVIGATOR	LT. PETERS ✓	WAIST LEFT	SGT. WELFELY
BOMBARDIER	LT. WALSH ✓	BALL TUR GNR	SGT. MCBRYDE
RADIO	SGT. OSSA ✓	TAIL TUR GNR	SGT. HARGARDINE

P/R

AC NUMBER 166 DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT	LT. BONE ✓	TOP TUR GNR	SGT. DALIN
CO-PILOT	LT. BATHAN ✓	WAIST RIGHT	SGT. DOYLE
NAVIGATOR	LT. PHILLIPS ✓	WAIST LEFT	SGT. DARNALL
BOMBARDIER	LT. GINSBURG ✓	BALL TUR GNR	SGT. LERCHE
RADIO	SGT. KEMP ✓	TAIL TUR GNR	SGT. BOYD

MIA

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

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1ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, (H), AAF.
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, (H), AAF.
APO 520 U.S. ARMY.

20 DECEMBER 1944.
(DATE)

LOADING LIST

AC NUMBER	DESTINATION	T/O
580		
PILOT	KAFKA, ROBT. CAPT. ✓	TOP TUR GNR T/SGT. OTTO
CO-PILOT	REDDING, H. 2D LT. ✓	WAIST RIGHT S/SGT. VESTAL
NAVIGATOR	PIERCE, J. CAPT. ✓	WAIST LEFT S/SGT. SHAFER
BOMBARDIER	KUJAWA, L.A. 1ST LT. ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. JONKERS
RADIO	MARANDA, C. SGT.	TAIL TUR GNR S/SGT. BLACKMAN
974		
PILOT	SURBECK, H. 1ST LT. ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. A. POMALES
CO-PILOT	SCHLAKE, E. 2D LT. ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. MICHAEL
NAVIGATOR	MCKNIFF, H. 2D LT. ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. ENGLISH
BOMBARDIER	HEAD J.A. 1ST LT. ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. KIRBY
RADIO	BERNDT SGT.	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. SUMMALT
		PHOTOGRAPHER SGT. RICHARDSON
279		
PILOT	LT. MCCOVERN	TOP TUR GNR SGT. VALKO
CO-PILOT	LT. ROUNDS	WAIST RIGHT SGT. ASHLOCK
NAVIGATOR	LT. VINCE	WAIST LEFT SGT. OCONNELL
BOMBARDIER	LT. MCGAHRAN	BALL TUR GNR SGT. MCAFFEE
RADIO	SGT. HIGGINS	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. MILLS
088		
PILOT	LT. GRAFF ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. HAMMOND
CO-PILOT	LT. BARNHILL ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. MATCH
NAVIGATOR	LT. BLOUNT ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. LYONS
BOMBARDIER	LT. STEWART ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. ZEEGER
RADIO	SGT. HAAS	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. POWELL
419		
PILOT	LT. JOSEY ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. BISINELLA
CO-PILOT	LT. BENSON ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. STESLOW
NAVIGATOR	LT. BATCHELDER ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. SKARZONSKI
BOMBARDIER	LT. KERR ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. KIERNAN
RADIO	SGT. MALLORY	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. MONTGOMERY
947		
PILOT	LT. DEVEE ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. TAYLOR
CO-PILOT	LT. JIRSCHELLE ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. FORGIONNE
NAVIGATOR	LT. KNAPP ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. HIMMELFARB
BOMBARDIER	LT. THATCHER ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. MCCARTER
RADIO	SGT. LEWIS	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. RYDER

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S-3

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 520

20 December 1944.

COMBAT MISSION
NO 169

COMBAT LOADING LIST

*Jordan
sporadicly*

<u>PLANE NO. 331</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 879</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 267</u>	
P	McHUGH, C. E. LT. ✓		JOHNSON, E. P. LT. ✓		TALKINGTON, K. M. LT. ✓
CP	ANDERTON, D. J. LT. ✓		HESALBARTH, F. T. LT. ✓		STATH, D. G. CAPT. ✓
N	RITTERBUSH, J. K. LT. ✓		KALAJIAN, J. LT. ✓		VETTER, D. H. F/O ✓
E	GUSTAFSON, E. LT. ✓		BANKS, R. O. LT. ✓		RUGGERI, E. A. LT. ✓
E	Froussard, V. A. Sgt.		Tartaglia, W. Sgt.		Vineyard, L. R. Sgt.
R	Sims, J. G. Sgt.		Muller, Sgt.		Lewis, W. J. Sgt.
AE	McCord, R. W. Sgt.		Dyste, A. Sgt.		Beard, T. W. MIA Sgt.
AR	Lahiere, C. E. Sgt.		Lyon, L. H. Sgt.		Siera, J. F. Sgt.
AG	Simon, A. A. Sgt.		White, A. J. Sgt.		Rogers, F. G. Sgt.
AG	Shors, E. D. Sgt.		Kilbashian S. Sgt.		Falcone, A. Sgt.
SJ	Goostree, J. L. Sgt.				

<u>PLANE NO. 543</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 889</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 760</u>	
P	HOUSER, A. H. LT. ✓		HIMES, R. C. LT. ✓		MELTON, D. L. LT. ✓
CP	BROWN, J. N. LT. ✓		BRYANT, R. S. LT. ✓		HUNTER, J. B. LT. ✓
N	BENNER, C. E. LT. ✓		GARBER, G. D. LT. ✓		ROFSTAD, J. O. LT. ✓
E	BELL, J. C. LT. ✓		TRUNEX, W. I. LT. ✓		BASSETT, E. M. LT. ✓
E	Gibbs, O. Sgt.		Elissa, G. Sgt.		Cook, A. M. Sgt.
R	Hernandez, R. M. Sgt.		Ferries, S. B. Sgt.		Spors, A. A. Sgt.
AE	Olson, W. Sgt.		O'Connor, R. L. Sgt.		Walker, W. L. Sgt.
AR	Montgomery, A. C. Sgt.		Dougher, F. E. Sgt.		Rees, J. C. Sgt.
AG	Norton, R. K. Sgt.		Helmers, R. R. Sgt.		Laird, D. E. Sgt.
AG	Fitzgerald, E. T. Sgt.		Nazarchyk, T. W. Sgt.		
N.	KERMIS, R. J. LT. Photo		Russomao, J. W. Sgt.		NV. GALBRAITH, J. F. LT.

<u>PLANE NO. 146</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 232</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 330</u>	
P	MERTL, W. D. LT. ✓		SWEARINGEN, T. M. LT. ✓		KAHLEY, D. LT. ✓
CP	GILL, D. E. LT. ✓		MYRON, B. E. LT. ✓		SCHWARTZ, L. LT. ✓
N	MCCORMICK LT. ✓		WILBERT, E. W. P/R LT. ✓		ARMERUSTER, E. LT. ✓
E	MOFFITT, B. E. Sgt.		ZAGORIA, H. M. P/R LT. ✓		MILSTEIN, B. LT. ✓
E	Messing, B. Sgt.		Middleton, H. N. Sgt.		Luhta, J. Sgt.
R	Gilla, J. Sgt.		Murray, J. C. Sgt.		Hervey, C. Sgt.
AE	Verbellone, D. Sgt.		Roegner, K. D. Sgt.		Silverstein, ABC Sgt.
AR	Gurdiah, M. Sgt.		Day, R. J. Sgt.		Najjar, C. Sgt.
AG	Messenger, F. Sgt.		Specht, E. J. Sgt.		Blair, E. Sgt.
AG	Hafner, B. Sgt.		Renner, D. I. Sgt.		Jones, R. Sgt.
PHOTO	Sould, J. D. Sgt.				

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FORMATION DIAGRAM

DATE Dec. 20

A BOX ^{PFF MARTIN} 1ST ATTACK UNIT

<u>Col. SNOWDEN</u>		<u>Col. KEEFER</u>	
<u>GUNN</u>	21 790	2 266	
12 944	<u>ELLIS</u>		
<u>KIRKLAND</u>	16 376	<u>FANE</u>	
11 414	<u>STEWART</u>	7 938	
	1 492		

<u>B BOX</u>	
<u>KAFKA</u>	
<u>McGOVERN</u>	36 590
27 279	<u>SURBECK</u>
	26 974
<u>JOSEY</u>	35 088
37 419	<u>BATHAM</u>
	25 166

C BOX ^{PFF AGATHON} ^{Col. ROBBETT} 2ND ATTACK UNIT

<u>SNOOP</u>		<u>WRIGATSON</u>	
<u>Adams</u>	30 366	45 105	
36 201	<u>UNDERWOOD</u>		
	50 609	<u>SCHWAB</u>	
<u>De Saussure</u>	54 645	51 151	
	<u>AMMANN</u>		
	47 775		

<u>D BOX</u>	
<u>Houser</u>	
<u>TAYLOR</u>	68 543
60 453	<u>MERTZ</u>
	72 146
<u>KANLEY</u>	76 331
73 330	<u>TAKRINGTON</u>
	62 267
	<u>JOHANSON</u>
	64 879

E BOX ^{PFF GALBRAITH} 3RD ATTACK UNIT

<u>MELTON</u>		<u>Himes</u>	
<u>SACARINGEN</u>	67 760	78 879	
71 232	<u>GROOMS</u>		
<u>AIKEN</u>	59 624	<u>SIMS</u>	
42 638		41 410	

<u>F BOX</u>	
<u>DeVee</u>	
<u>CRAWFORD</u>	20 917
6 943	<u>PAINTER</u>
	31 199
<u>JENSEN</u>	17 115
8 402	<u>KENT</u>
	13 597

SPARE MICKEY
135

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 Authority MM174505

CONFIRMING MISSION REPORT

1. HQ. 455TH BOMB GROUP (H) AAF. MISSION NUMBER 169 DATE 20 December 1944

2. STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

A. Sorties	<u>35</u>	<u>5146</u>	I. Damaged: Flak	<u>110-358</u>
B. Early Returns	<u>2</u>	<u>234</u>	E/A	<u>16-12</u>
C. Prior Returns	<u>5</u>	<u>171</u>	Other	<u>4-29</u>
D. Weather Returns	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>	J. E/A Destroyed	<u>216</u>
E. A/C Bombing	<u>29</u>	<u>4442</u>	Probable	<u>80</u>
F. Tonnage	<u>66.5</u>	<u>10664.695</u>	Damaged	<u>35</u>
G. Losses: Flak	<u>13</u>	<u>13</u>	K. Casualties: Miss	<u>62</u> <u>789</u>
E/A	<u>26</u>	<u>26</u>	Killed	<u>20</u>
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>45</u>	Wounded	<u>24</u>
H. Missing	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>		

3. At 0758 hours 37 B-24's took off to bomb primary target, plan Able, for
20 December 1944. escorted by P-51's.

4. A. Two a/c ret'd early: one because of an oxygen leak, and one because of engine trouble. Each aircraft returned 10 bombs to base.

B. Five a/c ret'd prior to bombing: three because of engine trouble, and two because of shortage of fuel. Four a/c jettisoned 40 bombs in the Adriatic Sea, and one a/c jettisoned 10 bombs at 4732N/1407E.

5. A. a/c dropped x lb. (tons) ,
 See supplement.

 bombs on target at hours,
 from to feet. was bombed because

B. of these a/c dropped x lb. (tons) bombs on
 at Hours from feet, because

C. of above a/c x lb. (tons) bombs

D. other a/c dropped x lb. (tons) bombs on
 at hours from feet, because

E. a/c ret'd to base x lb. bombs, because

F. a/c jettisoned x lb. bombs at

6. A. 15 a/c returned at 1535 hours. a/c at
 See supplement

B. 1 a/c lost. Observed to crash into mountain at 4143N/1555E at 1518 hours.

C. Five a/c missing, circumstances unknown.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

7. Personnel casualties were sixty-two crew members missing in action.
8. RESULTS: Unobserved. Bombing accomplished by Pathfinder.
9. ENEMY RESISTANCE:
Fighters:

Flak: Scant, inaccurate, heavy flak was encountered at the target. Flak was NOT encountered at the following "experienced flak positions":
BOROVNICA (4558N/1421E), KRANJ (4615N/1421E), FREILACH (4632N/1419E).

10. OBSERVATIONS:

1. AXIS OF ATTACK: 293 degrees mag. Bomb run: 5 Minutes, 0 Seconds.
2. WEATHER: At Base - 7/10 stratus and stratocumulus at 500 feet, tops at 3,000. Visibility 4 miles in light fog. Over Adriatic - 6/10 stratocumulus, tops 6,000, and 7/10 altostratus and altocumulus, tops 10 to 12,000. From the head of the Adriatic, across the mountains into the target area - 10/10 altostratus, tops 15,000, and 2/10 cirrostratus at 25,000. Visibility 8 miles in haze over Adriatic, improving to 20 miles inland. At the target - 10/10 altostratus, tops at 15,000, and 2/10 cirrostratus at 25,000. Over Adriatic on return - 8/10 altostratus at 12,000, tops 14,000, and 5/10 ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ stratocumulus, tops 8,000.
3. COURSE:
15. COURSE: Base to 4407N/1314E to 4558N/1418E to 4830N/1353E to 4936N/1352E to Target to 4758N/1401E to 4558N/1418E to Base.

4. Lead Bombardier was Lt. LUDSEN.
Lead PFF Navigator was Captain CUMINGS. Lead Pilot was Lt. Col. KREFF.
15. a. One aircraft took thirty scope photos.
b. Three aircraft equipped with PFF failed to take photos.
c. Two because they weren't equipped with scope cameras, and one because camera was inoperative.

Time received _____ Time forwarded _____
Initials/Signature _____ Initials/Signature _____

C O N F I D E N T I A L

HEADQUARTERS 455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 US Army

D-AC-1

20 December 1944

SUPPLEMENT TO CONFIRMING MISSION REPORT NUMBER 169, 20 December 1944.

27 a/c dropped 250 x 500 lb. (62.5 tons), RDX, .1 second nose, and mixed .01 and .025 second tail fused bombs on the first alternate target at 1226 hours, from 23000 to 24500 feet. PILSEN SKODA WORKS was bombed because the formation was bucking a headwind, and was thirty minutes behind schedule.

1 of the above a/c jettisoned 2 x 500 lb bombs at 4732N/1416E at 1137 hours, in order to keep pace with the formation.

1 of the above a/c jettisoned 6 x 500 lb bombs at 4628N/1420E (3 bombs), and 4705N/1500E (3 bombs). These were jettisoned in order for the aircraft to stay with the formation.

(1.5 tons)
1 other a/c dropped 6 x 500 lb. bombs on KLAGENFURT, at 1102 hours, from 18000 feet. This target was bombed because the aircraft took off late, and couldn't contact the formation. Bombing was accomplished by Pathfinder. On the rally, smoke was observed rising from the target.

1 other a/c dropped 10 x 500 lb (2.5 tons), bombs on REGENSBURG, at 1228 hours, from 20000 feet. A/C was forced to turn back because of engine trouble, therefore bombed this alternate target.

1 other a/c jettisoned 10 x 500 lb. (2.5 tons), bombs between the IP and the Target because of engine trouble.

22
21 aircraft have returned to base, (including early and prior returns)
6 aircraft are at the 87th Bomb Group A/D.
1 aircraft is at the 99th Bomb Group A/D.
~~1 aircraft is at Poggia Wein A/D.~~
1 aircraft is at Vis, but the crew has returned to base.
1 aircraft crash landed near Rosetta, crew safe.
1 aircraft believed lost, probably run into mountain at 1518 hours above the spur.
5 aircraft missing.

ALVIN E. COONS,
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

-1-

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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5. a. Command ----- 6440 Kcs
Gp. Frequency ----- 4975 Kcs
A.G.L. ----- 4425 Kcs
Collective Call Sign ----- SCHOOLROOM ONE
Fighter Call Sign ----- 1st FG -- EXCEED ONE
82nd FG -- EXCEED SEVEN
31st FG -- EXCEED FOUR
Weather Reconnaissance ----- ~~PINKPIG~~ PINKPIG
Recall Signal ----- POOLTABLE

b. None

c. Gp. leader ----- Lt. Col., SNOWDEN
Depty Gp. leader ----- Lt. Col., KEEFER

By order of Lt. Col., SNOWDEN:

WILLIAM E. KEEFER
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
Operations Officer

OFFICIAL:

WILLIAM E. KEEFER,
Lt. Coll, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

ANNEXES:

1. Mission Statistics
2. Flight Plan
3. Weather Forecast
4. Norge Opns Order N. 366. Plan Able.
5. Sq. loading Lists
6. A-2 Confirming Report

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 Gp S-3
- 1 Sq. S-3

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NORGE FORECAST FOR OPERATIONS

20 December 1944

(date)

WING BASES FOR RENDEZVOUS:

LOW CLDS 3-4/10 Sc 4000/6000 WEATHER Haze and patches of fog

MID CLDS 6-7/10 As & Ac 10000/14000 VISIBILITY 3-5 miles

HI CLDS 6/10 Cn 23000/25000 SURFACE WIND 110 deg 8 mph

ROUTE OUT:

FROM base TO Yugoslavian coast

LOW CLDS 5-6/10 Sc 3000/7000 WEATHER haze

MID CLDS 4-6/10 As & Ac 11000/14000 VISIBILITY 8 miles

HI CLDS 2-3/10 Cn 23000/25000

FROM Yugoslavian coast TO Danube valley

LOW CLDS 8-10/10 Cu & Sc 3000/3000 WEATHER Haze aloft

MID CLDS 3-4/10 Ac 11000/13000 VISIBILITY 10 miles

HI CLDS 2/10 Ci 24000/26000

FROM Danube valley TO target

LOW CLDS 6-8/10 Cu & Sc 3000/3000 WEATHER Haze aloft

MID CLDS 3-4/10 As & Ac 11000/13000 VISIBILITY 10 miles

HI CLDS 2-3/10 Cn 24000/26000

TARGET:

LOW CLDS 6-8/10 Sc & Cu 3000/7000 WEATHER Haze aloft

MID CLDS 3-4/10 As & Ac 11000/13000 VISIBILITY 10-12 miles

HI CLDS 4/10 Cn 23000/26000 SURFACE WIND 150 deg 5-8 mph

WINDS ALOFT

BOMBING INFORMATION

5000 ft 130 deg 10 knots

SURF. PRESS. 30.27 inches

10000 ft 150 deg 10 knots

PRESS. ALTITUDE -321 feet

15000 ft 160 deg 15 knots

SURF. TEMP. 3 deg Centigrade

20000 ft 150 deg 25 knots

TEMP. AT ALTITUDE -35 deg C

25000 ft 140 deg 30 knots

ALTITUDE CORRECTION ----- feet

(over)

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ROUTE BACK:
FROM target TO base
LOW CLDS Base as route out WEATHER _____
MID CLDS _____ VISIBILITY _____
HI CLDS _____
FROM _____ TO _____
LOW CLDS _____ WEATHER _____
MID CLDS _____ VISIBILITY _____
HI CLDS _____
FROM _____ TO _____
LOW CLDS _____ WEATHER _____
MID CLDS _____ VISIBILITY _____
HI CLDS _____

BASES ON RETURN:
LOW CLDS 2/10 Sc & Cu 4000/6000 WEATHER none
MID CLDS 5-7/10 As & Ac 10000/14000 VISIBILITY 12 to 15 miles
HI CLDS 3-5/10 Cs 23000/25000 SURFACE WIND 160 deg 8 mph
FREEZING LEVEL: 5000 feet

ABBREVIATIONS USED

CU CUMULUS	AC ALTOCUMULUS	CI CIRRUS
SC STRATOCUMULUS	AS ALTOSTRATUS	CS CIRROSTRATUS
ST STRATUS	CB CUMULONIMBUS	
SCTD SCATTERED	SHWS SHOWERS	TSTRMS THUNDERSTORMS

CLOUD LEVELS SHOWN AS 4000/10000 (means base at 4000' and tops at 10000')

SYNOPTIC SITUATION:

MISSION STATISTICS.

39 A/C Scheduled
37 Off: Jensen #402, 740th and Taylor 453, 743rd, not off.

740th Bomb Sq:

10 A/C Off Kent #597 landed at 82nd FG.
10 Over target
9 Returned
1 Missing in Action: Stewart #492.

741st Bomb Sq:

8 A/C Off Kafka #580 landed at Tortorella
5 Over target McGovern #279 landed at Vis.
7 Returned
3 Prior return: Devee #917
McGovern #279
Painter #199
1 Missing In Action: Batham #166

742nd Bomb Sq:

10 A/C Off Landed at Amendola: Shoup #366, Alder
9 Over target #105, Adams #201, Desaussure #645,
8 Returned Ammann #775, Aiken #636.
1 Prior return: Schwab #151.
1 MIA: Sims #410 - crashed on Spur, *no survivors.*
Underwood #609 crashed at Rosetta, *crew okay*

743rd Bomb Sq:

9 A/C Off Houser #543 landed at Tortorella.
~~6~~ Over target Kahley #330 landed at Fermo A/F.
8 Returned
2 Early return: Mertl #146
1 P/R Swearingen # Himes #889
1 Missing in Action: Talkington #267 - *crashed on Spur, no survivors.*

Combat time: 7:50

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S E C R E T

PLAN ABLE 20 DEC 1944

Takeoff at _____ hours to the _____.
 Bomber Rendezvous over Cerignola at 0905A hours, at 8,000 feet.
 Maps: Naples, Chieti, Fiume, Vienna, Bolzano, Munich, Leipzig, Graz.

- TARGET: BRUX SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT. Elevation 810 feet. IP SLANY (5014M/1405E), Axis of Attack 320 degrees Mag. Rally left.
- FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: PILSEN SKODA WORKS. Elevation 995 feet. IP ROZMITAL (4936N/135E). Axis of attack 295 degrees mag. Rally right.
- SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: REGENSBURG OIL STORAGE, AND M/Y. Elevation 1090 feet, IP DINGOLFING (4837N/1230E), Axis of attack 330 degrees mag. Rally right.
- THIRD ALTERNATE TARGET: LINZ MAIN M/Y, Elevation 849 feet, IP-NDR. PPEL (4828N/1352E), Axis of attack 128 degrees mag. Rally left.
- FOURTH ALTERNATE TARGET: VILLACH M/Ys, Elevation 1670 feet, IP SUTRAL (4648N/1330E), Axis of attack 130 degrees mag. Rally right.

FLAK ENROUTE

LUSSINO	4434/1425	7 guns	BRAUNAU	4817/1301	35 guns
FIUME	4520/1426	6 guns	STEYR	4804/1425	78 guns
TRIESTE	4539/1348	40 guns	LINZ		165 guns
JFSENICE	4627/1402	6 guns	REGENSBURG	4901/1205	51 guns
UDINE	4605/1313	27 guns	PILSEN	4945/1321	75 guns
VILLACH	4637/1351	6 guns	BRUX		235 guns
SALZBURG	4749/1302	54 guns	PRAHA	5005/1425	75 guns
REID	4813/1330	8 guns			

Rendezvous 8000 at Cerignola at 0905A

FROM	TO	TC	DC	VAR	ALT	TAS	GS	DIST	TIME	ETA	WIND
CLRIGNOLA	44-07	350	2	3	8000	169	184	174	57	1002	155/15
	15-14				17000						
ZARA	45-58	340	1	3	17000	185	204	118	35	1037	155/20
	14-18				19000						
VRHNKA	48-30	354	3	3	19000	193	215	153	43	1120	150/25
	13-53				22000						
ALTEN FELDEN	50-14	004	6	3	22000	199	220	104	28	1148	145/30
	14-05				23000						
IP SLANY	50-33	318	1	3	23000	200	230	27	07	1152	145/30
	13-37										
TARGET	45-45	201	-7	4	23000	202	184	56	18	1213	145/30
	13-00				21000						
MIES	47-58	160	-1	4	21000	192	168	115	41	1254	150/25
	14-01				19000						
PITTENBACH	45-58	175	-2	3	19000	187	168	121	44	1338	155/20
	14-18				18000						
VRHNKA	44-07	160	0	3	18000	164	164	118	44	1422	155/20
	15-14				14000						
ZARA	Base	170	-2	3	14000	165	156	174	1:07	1529	145/10
					3000						

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MISSION NO. 169

MISSION STATISTICS

DATE 20 Dec 44

UNITS PARTICIPATING	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	LAST REPORT
<u>455, 456, 454, 459</u>	<u>BROX Synthetic g/P</u>	<u>Fisher Shop m/s</u>	<u>Regensburg g/S</u>

UNIT	NO. OF PERSONNEL	% OF OVER ALL	ABOVE		CLAIMS		DISPOSITION OF BOMBS			AVG	ALL	CASUALTIES				
			NO. OF PERSONNEL	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS			NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	NO. OF CLAIMS	
<u>742</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>741</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4800</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>742</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>13500</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>743</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>50</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10200</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>459</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>260</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>11700</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

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71ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, (H), A.F.
5TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, (H), AAF.
APO 520 U.S. ARMY.

20 DECEMBER 1944.
(DATE)

LOADING LIST

AC NUMBER 199 DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT	LT. PAINTER ✓	TOP TUR GNR	SGT. WRIGHT
CO-PILOT	LT. HAMMOND ✓	WAIST RIGHT	SGT. CONFER
NAVIGATOR	LT. PETERS ✓	WAIST LEFT	SGT. WELFELY
BOMBARDIER	LT. WALSH ✓	BALL TUR GNR	SGT. MCBRYDE
RADIO	SGT. OSSA ✓	TAIL TUR GNR	SGT. HARGARDINE

P/R

AC NUMBER 166 DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT	LT. BONE ✓	TOP TUR GNR	SGT. DALIAN
CO-PILOT	LT. BATHAN ✓	WAIST RIGHT	SGT. DOYLE
NAVIGATOR	LT. PHILLIPS ✓	WAIST LEFT	SGT. DARNALL
BOMBARDIER	LT. GINSBURG ✓	BALL TUR GNR	SGT. LERCHE
RADIO	SGT. KEMP ✓	TAIL TUR GNR	SGT. BOYD

MIA

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

AC NUMBER _____ DESTINATION _____ T/O _____

PILOT		TOP TUR GNR	
CO-PILOT		WAIST RIGHT	
NAVIGATOR		WAIST LEFT	
BOMBARDIER		BALL TUR GNR	
RADIO		TAIL TUR GNR	

FORMATION DIAGRAM

DATE Dec. 20

1ST ATTACK UNIT

A BOX
 PFF MARTIN
 COL. SWORDEN
 GUNN 21 | 790
 12 | 944
 ELLIS 16 | 376
 KIRKLAND 11 | 414
 STEWART 7 | 938
 1 | 492

B BOX
 KAFKA 36 | 580
 SURBECK 26 | 974
 McGOVERN 27 | 279
 GRAF 35 | 088
 JOSEY 37 | 419
 BATNAM 25 | 166

2ND ATTACK UNIT

C BOX
 PFF ASATHON
 COL. ROBERT
 SHoup 30 | 366
 WRIGHTSON 45 | 105
 ADAMS 36 | 201
 UNDERWOOD 50 | 609
 DeSASSURE 54 | 645
 SCHWAB 51 | 151
 AMMANN 47 | 775

D BOX
 Houser 68 | 543
 MERTZ 72 | 146
 TAYLOR 60 | 453
 M. HUGH 76 | 331
 KANLEY 73 | 330
 JOHNSON 64 | 879
 TALKINGTON 62 | 267

3RD ATTACK UNIT

E BOX
 PFF GALBRAITH
 MELTON 67 | 760
 NINGS 78 | 889
 SWEARINGEN 71 | 232
 BROOKS 59 | 624
 SIMS 41 | 410
 AIKEN 42 | 636

F BOX
 DeVee 20 | 917
 PAINTER 31 | 199
 CRAWFORD 6 | 943
 SCHWIGER 17 | 115
 JENSEN 8 | 402
 KENT 13 | 597

SPARE MICKEY

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BRIEFING DATA

20 DEC. 1944
(Date)

LEADER: Group COL. SNOWDEN Deputy Group COL. KEEFER

"B" Box Capt. KAFKA "C" Box Capt. SHOUP "D" Box HOUSER
E Box MELTON F Box DE VEE

Take-Off Time: 7:50 Direction of Take-off _____

Assembly Base Altitude 8000 Group Leaders alt. 9000

Organization	Time	Place	Altitude
Rendezvous <u>455th BG</u>	<u>0905</u>	<u>CERIGNOLA</u>	<u>8,000'</u>
<u>456th BG</u>	<u>0906</u>	<u>CERIGNOLA</u>	<u>9,000'</u>
<u>454th BG</u>	<u>0907</u>	<u>CERIGNOLA</u>	<u>8,000'</u>
<u>459th BG</u>	<u>0908</u>	<u>CERIGNOLA</u>	<u>9,000'</u>

Targets: _____ Elev. Box alt. Wind Dir. A of A Rally

Primary: BRUX SYN. OIL PLANT 810 FT. 23,000 FT. 320°M LEFT

Target Time 1157 Dis. from IP to Target 27 mi. Length of run 7 mi.

1st alt.: PILSEN SKODA WORKS 995 23,000 295°M RIGHT

2nd alt.: REGENSBURG OIL STOR. 1090 23,000 330°M RIGHT

3rd alt.: LINZ MAIN 849 23,000 128°M LEFT

Last resort: VILLACH 1670 23,000 130°M RIGHT

E.T.R.: _____

Call Signs: SCHOOLROOM 455th: 1 456th: 2 454th: 3 459th: 4
(Collective)

Sqns: 740th Ricefield 741st Spantwise 742nd Sidewalk 743rd Kaspbite

Recall: POOLTABLE Tower: Carol - 4,75 Yes: 440 Yes; B Channel

Fighters: EXCEED

"A" Channel VHF. "D" Channel VHF

Weather Recon a/c PINKPIG

Nav.
S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS 304TH WING (US)

.....
: S E C R E T :
: By auth :
: CC, 304th Wg :
: Initials *Kada* :
: 19 Dec 44 :
.....
APO 520
19 December 1944
1700A

Operations Order
Number 366

1. a. (1) See Latest Intelligence Summaries.

b. (2) Operations for 20 December 1944. Plan Able. Six Gps 5th Wg will destroy BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant at 1140A. KP time 0947A. Four Gps 47th Wg will destroy FNEILASSING H/Y and Loco Depot at optional time. KP time 1033A. Three Gps 49th Wg will destroy BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant at 1217A. KP time 1023A. Four Gps 55th Wg will destroy BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant at 1207A. KP time 1013A. 15th Fighter Command will provide strong close cover on PTW for AF Formation attacking BRUX; provide escort, reduced effort, on PTW for 47th Wg. See Annex No. 2. Weather Recon A/C will precede AF Formation on route out and route back according to SOP.

2. Forty-two B-24s of each Gp this Wg will destroy BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant, MPI, G/H-14/15 on BC 15-6-NA. See attached TC.

1st ALTERNATE TARGET: PILSEN SKODA WORKS. Elev-995 ft. IP-ROZMITAL (49°36'N, 13°52'E). Axis of attack-295°M. Rally-right. Bombing altitude, formation and intervalometer setting same as for primary target. See attached AC and MEC.

2nd ALTERNATE TARGET: REGENSBURG Oil Storage and H/Y on TC 13-42-NA. Elev-1090 ft. IP-DIEGOLFING (48°37'N, 12°30'E). Axis of attack-330°M. Rally-right. Bombing altitude, formation and intervalometer setting same as for primary target. See attached TC.

3rd ALTERNATE TARGET: LINZ Main H/Y on TC 14-50-NA. Elev-849 ft. IP-NDR. KAPPEL (48°28'N, 13°52'E). Axis of attack-128°M. Rally-left. Bombing altitude, formation and intervalometer setting same as for primary target. See attached TC.

4th ALTERNATE TARGET: VILLACH H/Ys on TC 14-44-NA. Elev-1670 ft. IP-SPITTAL (46°48'N, 13°30'E). Axis of attack-130°M. Rally-right. Bombing altitude and intervalometer setting same as for primary target. Bombing formation-column of 6 ship boxes stacked down for all groups. See attached TC.

FIGHTER RENDEZVOUS: See Annex No. 2.

BOHEM RENDEZVOUS: Over CERIGNOLA as follows:
455th BG at 0905A at 8,000 ft.
456th BG at 0906A at 9,000 ft.
454th BG at 0907A at 8,000 ft.
459th BG at 0908A at 9,000 ft.

S E C R E T

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S E C R E T

(Operations Order No. 366 dd 19 Dec 44, Cont'd)

LEAD: 455th BG with 456th, 454th and 459th BGs in order.
ROUTE OUT: CERIGNOLA to KP-ZARA (44°07'N, 15°14'E) to TP-VRHNIK.
(45°58'N, 14°18'E) to TP-ALTENFELDEN (48°30'N, 13°53'E)
to IP to target. KP time 1003a at 17,000 ft.
INITIAL POINT: SLANY (50°14'N, 14°05'E).
AXIS OF ATTACK: 320 degrees Mag.
TARGET TLE: 1157a.
BOMBING ALTITUDE: 455th BG - 23,000 ft. 456th BG - 24,500 ft.
454th BG - 22,500 ft. 459th BG - 24,000 ft.
BOMBING FORMATION: Six ship front. See 304th Wg Operations
Instructions 4-7, formation No. 4-B2.
TARGET ELEVATION: 810 ft.
RALLY: Left.
ROUTE BACK: Target to TP-HIES (49°45'N, 13°00'E) to TP-PETTENBACH
(47°58'N, 14°01'E) then reciprocal of route out to base.

3. x. (1) All Gps load 500 # RDX bombs fused .1 sec nose and mixed .01 and .025 sec tail fuses. Intervalometer setting 50 ft.
(2) Maximum PFF lead all Gps for navigation and bombing. This is a planned PFF mission.
(3) AF Formation will be a close column of Wgs with 5th, 304th, 55th and 49th Wgs in order.
(4) Special Instructions: Mickey Navigators will be cautioned that on the assigned axis of attack, returns from the built up area of BRUX appear on the scope before the returns from the target.

4. Omitted.

5. a. VHF on Gp Frequency for bomber to bomber and Command on 6440 in accordance with SOP. Leaders call "BUTTON" on channel "C". Collective call signs for bombers: (455-SCHOOLROOM ONE) (456-SCHOOLROOM TWO) (454-SCHOOLROOM THREE) (459-SCHOOLROOM FOUR).

Call Sign for Fighters: EXCEED. See Annex No. 2.

Call Sign for Weather Reconnaissance: PINKPIG.

Recall Signal: POOLTABLE.

- b. (1) Carpet will be employed by all Gps.
(2) Chaff will be dispensed according to SP 32-2.

By command of Brigadier General UPTHEGROVE:

Kenneth A. Cool

KENNETH A. COOL,
Colonel, Air Corps,
-3.

S E C R E T
- 2 -

740

943

12/20/44

Lt Crawford ✓
Lt Allen ✓
Lt Michel ✓
Lt Klaiber ✓
T/Sgt Wagner

Sgt Porter
S/Sgt Belding
Sgt Diles
A/Sgt Young
T/Sgt Oltarzewski

740

492

12/20/44

Capt Stewart ✓
Lt Ehrenkrantz ✓
Lt Thompson ✓ MIA
Lt Kerber ✓
S/Sgt Rausch

S/Sgt Schulte
Sgt Krugh
Sgt Field
T/Sgt Wrigglesworth
Sgt Nila

740

266

12/20/44

Lt Col Keffer ✓
Maj Doring ✓
Lt Bunch ✓ & Lt Sutcliffe ✓
Lt Hudson ✓
T/Sgt Mills

T/Sgt Hart
S/Sgt Fichtner
S/Sgt Ciccone
S/Sgt Communiello
S/Sgt Wyrosdie
Capt Cummings

MI

740

944

12/20/44

Lt Gunn ✓
Lt Barton ✓
Lt Fregoe ✓
Lt Johnson ✓
T/Sgt Deleher

T/Sgt Crowley
S/Sgt Saerbo
S/Sgt Boucher
S/Sgt Brown P.
S/Sgt Kelleher

740

376

12/20/44

Lt Ellis ✓
Lt Winter ✓
Lt Schoengold ✓
F/O Lewis ✓
T/Sgt Rudell

T/Sgt Mazur
S/Sgt McCarthy
T/Sgt Moore
S/Sgt Lewis
S/Sgt Patterson

740
838

938

12/20/44

Lt Fane ✓
Lt Szorlip ✓
F/O Beckman ✓
Lt Polsky ✓
T/Sgt Valusia

T/Sgt Potash
S/Sgt Machuga
S/Sgt Boschung
S/Sgt Jacobson
S/Sgt Harrison

740

414

12/20/44

Lt Kirkland ✓
Lt Degenkolb ✓
Lt Marsh ✓
Lt Drabik ✓
Sgt Kyle ✓

S/Sgt Dubowicz
Sgt Campbell
S/Sgt McGlory
Sgt Melica
Sgt Martinchek

740

115

12/20/44

Lt Schwiager ✓
Lt Wells ✓
Lt Linder ✓
Lt Meyers ✓
T/Sgt Hamilton, F. ✓

T/Sgt Brown A.D.
S/Sgt Carter C.W.
S/Sgt Dix
S/Sgt Lloyd J.S.
S/Sgt Vick
S/Sgt Pehrer

740

597

12/20/44

Lt Kent ✓
Lt Harlow ✓
Lt Livingood ✓
Lt Reynolds ✓
S/Sgt Olvey ✓

S/Sgt Meunier
Sgt Waugh
S/Sgt Quigley
S/Sgt Small
S/Sgt Watson

790

Col Snowden
Smith
White
Coats
Carens
Martin

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Authority *NA1074505*

742ND BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 U.S. ARMY

20 DECEMBER 1944

SUBJECT: CREWS COMPLETING MISSION ON 20 DEC 1944

TO : OPERATIONS OFFICER, 455TH BOMB GP (H)

<u>SHIP 410</u> P LT SIMS ✓ CP LT YODER ✓ N LT BUZZANCA ✓ B LT SAMANIEGO ✓ GREGERSON CUNNINGHAM, W. ARMSTRONG -JORDAN -EPPERLY MOLEK LARKIN (F)	<u>SHIP 201</u> LT ADAMS ✓ LT EDELSTEIN ✓ LT GOULD ✓ LT HUGGINS ✓ STEDMAN DI SABATINO CONTRATTO BEERS EGGERT PEARCE	<u>SHIP 366</u> COL ROBINETT CAPT SHOUP ✓ LT CLARK ✓ CAPT GIDDEN ✓ DAVIS LOPETRONE SCHWANKE DERRYBERRY CALANDRINO LT KRUEGER LT AGATHON (PFF)	<u>SHIP 624</u> LT GROOMS ✓ LT CONNOLLY ✓ LT DE PIANO ✓ LT MUISE ✓ HAMMER ALFINO SINK STINE SILES WEST, M.
<u>SHIP 775</u> P LT AMMANN ✓ CP LT BECKER ✓ N LT HELT ✓ B LT LEMMEY ✓ RAINS ROWE PHILLIPS HEPLER ZABOVNICK KRUGER	<u>SHIP 151</u> LT SCHWAB ✓ LT SOLLEY ✓ LT KIEFFER ✓ LT THOMPSON ✓ MARTINEZ WAYNE MIXSON TOWNSEND MARRS CELESTIN	<u>SHIP 609</u> LT UNDERWOOD ✓ LT FITTER ✓ LT DONELAN ✓ LT CARLSON ✓ DAVIES ANDERSON MYLES MASON, M. OTTS GEORGE	<u>SHIP 636</u> LT AIKEN ✓ LT WETZEL ✓ LT KENNY ✓ LT WILSON ✓ CLIFFORD AKINS MIDDLETON HOPKINS POLKIS BRICE
<u>SHIP 105</u> P LT ALDER ✓ CP LT SHERIDAN ✓ N LT KLOTZ ✓ B LT HOAGLAND ✓ MITCHELL, D. JOHNSON, V. TOMME HUNZIKER VARNELL KRISTEL	<u>SHIP 645</u> LT DE SAUSSURE ✓ LT NILES ✓ LT HULL ✓ LT REINHART ✓ FRANK, G. BOSWELL MITCHELL, R. BROWN, M. BAJDA PAULEY	TIME _____ TARGET _____	

HENRY C. KELLY,
CAPTAIN, AIR CORPS,
OPERATIONS OFFICER.

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S3

743RD BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
Office of the Operations Officer
APO 520

20 December 1944.

COMBAT LOADING LIST

COMBAT MISSION
NO 169

*Jordan
Sparrow*

<u>PLANE NO. 331</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 879</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 267</u>	
P	McHUGH, C. S. LT. ✓	JOHNSON, E. F. LT. ✓	TALKINGTON, K. N. LT. ✓	STATH, D. G. CAPT. ✓	
CP	ANDERTON, D. J. LT. ✓	HESALEBARTH, F. T. LT. ✓	KALAJIAN, J. LT. ✓	VETTEN, D. H. P/O ✓	
N	RITTERBUSH, J. K. LT. ✓	BANKS, R. O. LT. ✓	RUGGERI, E. A. LT. ✓	Wineyard, L. R. Sgt. ✓	
B	GUSTAFSON, E. LT. ✓	Tartaglia, W. Sgt.	Muller, Sgt.	Lewis, W. J. Sgt. ✓	
E	Froussard, V. A. Sgt.	Dyste, A. Sgt.	Lyon, L. H. Sgt.	Beard, T. W. <i>MIA</i> Sgt. ✓	
R	Sims, J. G. Sgt.	White, A. J. Sgt.	Kilbashiap S. Sgt.	Siera, J. F. Sgt. ✓	
AE	*oGord, R. W. Sgt.			Rogers, F. G. Sgt. ✓	
AR	Lahiere, G. B. Sgt.			Falcone, A. Sgt. ✓	
AG	Simon, A. A. Sgt.				
AG	Shors, D. D. Sgt.				
SJ	Goostree, J. L. Sgt.				

<u>PLANE NO. 543</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 889</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 760</u>	
P	HOUSER, A. H. LT. ✓	HIMES, R. O. LT. ✓	MELTON, D. L. LT. ✓	HUNTER, J. B. LT. ✓	
CP	BROWN, J. N. LT. ✓	BRYANT, R. S. LT. ✓	GARBER, J. D. LT. ✓	ROFSTAD, J. O. LT. ✓	
N	BENNER, C. B. LT. ✓	TRUNER, W. I. LT. ✓	Elissa, G. Sgt.	BASSETT, E. M. LT. ✓	
B	BELL, J. C. LT. ✓	Ferriss, S. B. Sgt.	O'Connor, R. L. Sgt.	Cook, A. M. Sgt.	
E	Gibbs, O. Sgt.	Dougher, F. P. Sgt.	Belmers, R. R. Sgt.	Spors, A. A. Sgt.	
R	Hernandez, R. M. Sgt.	Nazarchyk, T. W. Sgt.		Walker, W. L. Sgt.	
AE	Olson, W. Sgt.	Photo Russomao, J. W. Sgt.		Rees, J. C. Sgt.	
AR	Montgomery, A. O. Sgt.			Laird, B. E. Sgt.	
AG	Norton, R. K. Sgt.				
AG	Fitzgerald, L. T. Sgt.				
N	KERMIS, R. J. LT. ✓				

<u>PLANE NO. 146</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 232</u>		<u>PLANE NO. 330</u>	
P	KERTL, W. D. LT. ✓	SWEARINGEN, T. M. LT. ✓	KAHLEY, D. LT. ✓	SCHWARTZ, L. LT. ✓	
CP	GILL, D. B. LT. ✓	MYRON, B. E. LT. ✓	WILBERT, E. W. LT. ✓	ARMERUSTER, E. LT. ✓	
N	MCCORMICK, B. LT. ✓	ZAGORIA, H. M. LT. ✓	Middleton, H. N. Sgt.	MILSTEIN, B. LT. ✓	
B	MOFFITT, B. LT. ✓	Murray, J. C. Sgt.	Hervey, C. Sgt.	Luhta, H. J. Sgt.	
E	Messing, B. Sgt.	Roegner, K. D. Sgt.	Silverstein, ABC Sgt.	NaJJar, C. Sgt.	
R	Gill, J. Sgt.	Day, R. J. Sgt.	Blair, E. Sgt.	Jones, R. Sgt.	
AE	Verdellone, D. Sgt.	Specht, E. J. Sgt.			
AR	Quidish, M. Sgt.	Renner, D. I. Sgt.			
AG	Messenger, F. Sgt.				
AG	Rafner, B. Sgt.				
PHOTO	Sould, J. D. Sgt.				

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1ST BO BOMBARDIER SQUADRON, (H), AAF.
 55TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP, (H), AAF.
 APO 520 U.S. ARMY.

20 DECEMBER 1944.
 (DATE)

LOADING LIST

AC NUMBER	DESTINATION	T/O
PILOT	KAFKA, ROBT. CAPT. ✓	TOP TUR GNR T/SGT. OTTO
CO-PILOT	REDDING, H. 2D LT. ✓	WAIST RIGHT S/SGT. VESTAL
NAVIGATOR	PIERCE, J. CAPT. ✓	WAIST LEFT S/SGT. SHAFFER
BOMBARDIER	KUJAWA, L.A. 1ST LT. ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. JONKERS
RADIO	MARANDA, C. SGT.	TAIL TUR GNR S/SGT. BLACKMAN
AC NUMBER	974	DESTINATION T/O
PILOT	SURBECK, H. 1ST LT. ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. A. POMALES
CO-PILOT	SCHLAKE, E. 2D LT. ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. MICHAEL
NAVIGATOR	MCKNIFF, H. 2D LT. ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. ENGLISH
BOMBARDIER	J.A. 1ST LT. ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. KIRBY
RADIO	BERNDT SGT.	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. SUMMALT
		PHOTOGRAPHER SGT. RICHARDSON
AC NUMBER	279	DESTINATION T/O
PILOT	LT. MCCOVERN ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. VALKO
CO-PILOT	LT. ROUNDS ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. ASHLOCK
NAVIGATOR	LT. VINCE ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. OCONNELL
BOMBARDIER	LT. MCGARRAN ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. MCAFEE
RADIO	SGT. HIGGINS	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. MILLS
AC NUMBER	088	DESTINATION T/O
PILOT	LT. GNAFF ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. HAMMOND
CO-PILOT	LT. BARNHILL ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. MARCH
NAVIGATOR	LT. BLOUNT ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. LYONS
BOMBARDIER	LT. STEWART ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. ZEEGER
RADIO	SGT. HAAS	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. POWELL
AC NUMBER	419	DESTINATION T/O
PILOT	LT. JOSEY ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. BISINELLA
CO-PILOT	LT. BENSON ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. STESLOW
NAVIGATOR	LT. BATCHELDER ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. SKANZONSKI
BOMBARDIER	LT. KERR ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. KIENNAN
RADIO	SGT. MALLORY	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. MONTGOMERY
AC NUMBER	917	DESTINATION T/O
PILOT	LT. DEVEE ✓	TOP TUR GNR SGT. TAYLOR
CO-PILOT	LT. JIRSHELLE ✓	WAIST RIGHT SGT. FORGIONNE
NAVIGATOR	LT. KNAPP ✓	WAIST LEFT SGT. HIMMELFARB
BOMBARDIER	T. THATCHER ✓	BALL TUR GNR SGT. MCCARTER
RADIO	SGT. LEWIS	TAIL TUR GNR SGT. RYDER

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HEADQUARTERS
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 US ARMY

20 December 1944

FIELD ORDER)
NUMBER 174)

Maps: 1/500,000 of NAPOLI, CHIETI, FIUME, VIENNA, BOLZANO, MUNCHEN,
LEIPZIG, GRAZ.

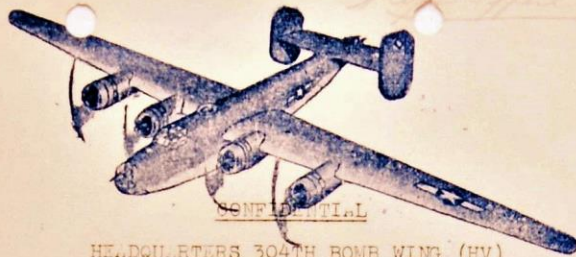
1. a. ENEMY DEFENSE:

- (1) Primary target is BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant. Four Alternates - 1st PILSEN SKODA Plant. 2nd REGENSBURG Oil Storage. 3rd LINZ Main M/Y. 4th VILLACH M/Y's.
- (2) There are 235 heavy guns at BRUX. Heavy enemy fighter opposition is expected.

b. FRIENDLY FORCES:

- (1) None
 - (2) 36 P-38's of 82ndFG taking off at 0950A to R/V with 304th Wing at (4923N, 13112E) at 1219A for withdrawal. 36 P-38's of 1st FG taking off at 0845A to R/V with 5th and 304th Wgs. at (4756N, 1359E) for penetration Cover. 54 P-51's of 31st FG taking off at 0900A to R/V with 304th Wing at (4942N, 1402E) at 1140A for escort on P.T.W.
2. Forty-two B-24's of this Group taking off at 0727A to rendezvous over CERIGNOLA at 0905A with 455, 456, 454, 459th BG's in order; attack BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant at 1157A; using 500# RDX bombs with .1 sec nose and mixed .01 sec and .025 sec tail fuses. Intervalometer setting 50 feet.
 3. This Group will bomb in a six ship front. Maximum PFF will lead all Groups for navigation and bombing. This is a planned PFF mission. Target time 1157A. Bombing altitude 23,000 feet. Target elevation 810 feet. Axis of attack 320 degrees Mag. Initial Point - SLANY. Rally left returning to base at 1529A. AF Formation will be a close column of Wgs with 5, 304, 55, and 49th Wgs in order. Carpet will be employed by all Gps. Chaff will be dispensed according to SP 32-2.
 4. No Change.

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HEADQUARTERS 304TH BOMB WING (HV)
 A-2 SECTION APO 520 D-ES-7

MISSION SUMMARY 182 OPERATIONS FOR 20 December 1944

General: 54 B-24's of the 455th and 456th dropped 124.5 tons on the Pilsen Skoda Works, 1st alternate target, by PFF. 18 B-24's of the 459th, 2 of the 454th, and 1 of the 456th, dropped 49.5 tons on Linz M/Y, 3rd alternate, by PFF. 21 B-24's of the 454th, 6 of the 459th and 1 of the 456th dropped 61.25 tons on Villedach M/Y, 4th alternate, by PFF. An unusually strong headwind forced formation to abandon primary, due to falling behind planned schedule.

TARGET ATTACKED:	<u>454th</u> VILLACH (Linz)	<u>455th</u> PILSEN	<u>456th</u> PILSEN (Linz) (Villedach)	<u>459th</u> LINZ (Villedach)	<u>TOTAL</u>
RESULTS:	UNOB.	UNOB.	UNOB.	UNOB.	
A/C OFF AND TIME:	29(0800)	37(0758)	34(0809)	26(0820)	126
TARGET TIME:	1147	1226	1229	1226	
SORTIES:	23	35	32	25	115
EARLY RETURNS:	1	2	2		5
PRIOR RETURNS:		5	3	1	9
WEATHER RETURNS:	5			1	6
A/C BOMBING:	23	29	29	24	105
METHOD OF BOMBING:	PFF	PFF	PFF	PFF	
BOMBING ALTITUDES:	18,700- 22,800	23,000- 24,500	24,300- 25,900	23,000 24,600	
TONNAGE DROPPED:					
PRIMARY:					
ALTERNATE:	49.75	65	67	56	237.75
T/O:		1.5			1.5
TONNAGE JETTISONED:	3.75	17	13.5	2.5	36.75
TONNAGE RETURNED:	11.5	5		2.5	19
FLAK AT TARGET:	NIL	SIH	MIH	MIH	
LOSSES: FLAK:					
OTHER:		2	1		3
MISSING:		4		1	5
E/A ENCOUNTERED:	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES:					
MISSING:		51	10	10	71
LEAD PILOTS:	Maj. Skinner Lt.Col.Keefer Col.Russel Capt. Jollissent				
LEAD BOMBARDIERS:	Lt. Borken Lt.Ludäen Lt.Christianson Lt. Gawa				

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304TH WING OPERATIONS TO DATE

	<u>454th</u>	<u>455th</u>	<u>456th</u>	<u>459th</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
MISSIONS:	171	169	165	168	673
SORTIES:	4794	5145	4911	5135	19985
EARLY RETURNS:	352	234	328	196	1110
PRIOR RETURNS:	123	174	133	160	590
WEATHER RETURNS:	387	528	763	488	2166
A/C BOMBING:	4185	4429	4219	4512	17346
TONNAGE DROPPED:	9509.77	10657.2	1009.18	10659.69	40835.84
LOSSES: FLAK:	16	13	23	30	82
E/A:	23	26	19	17	85
OTHER:	50	48	41	60	199
MISSING:	2	5		4	11
	<u>SEVERE/SLIGHT</u>				
DAMAGED: FLAK:	86/786	110/358	76/746	78/848	350/2728
E/A:	16/27	16/12	7/37	4/43	43/121
OTHER:	5/	4/28	1/3	5/7	15/38
E/A DEST. IN AIR:	109	119	130	90	448
PROBABLE:	24	80	53	37	194
DAMAGED:	33	14	65	23	135
E/A DEST. ON GND:	117	97	139	107	460
DAMAGED:	46	21	43	37	147

1. General Summary : From 0758 to 0820 hours, 126 B-24's took off to bomb the primary target, Plan Able.

Unusually strong headwinds, putting the wing formation thirty minutes behind schedule, forced abandonment of primary target.

The 455th and 456th bombed the Pilsen Skoda Works, first alternate target, by PFF. The 454th bombed Villach M/Y, fourth alternate, also by PFF. 18 a/c of the 459th bombed Linz M/Y, the third alternate, with one box of 6 a/c, which became separated from the group formation due to weather, bombing Villach, also by PFF. All targets were completely overcast, and no terrain can be seen on bombs away photos. Very poor route weather caused several a/c to become separated from their own groups, and bomb with other groups.

2 B-24's of the 455th were lost, one when it crash-landed near Rosetta (crew safe), and 1 when it hit a mountain above the spur on return due to poor visibility (casualties unknown). 4 a/c of the 455th are also missing, circumstances unknown. 1 B-24 of the 456th was lost when it crashlanded near Pescara (casualties unknown). 1 B-24 of the 459th is missing. Wing Total: 3 lost, 5 missing.

Flak was MIH at Linz, and S/MIH at Pilsen. There was no flak at Villach. No c/a were encountered.

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2. 454th Bomb Group. At 0800 hours, 29 B-24's took off to bomb primary target, Plan Able, escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 1 a/c returned early because of failure of one engine (returned 10 bombs to base). 5 a/c returned because of weather and losing formation. (These 5 a/c returned 46 bombs to base).

21 a/c dropped 179 x 500 lb. (44.75 tons) RDX .1 sec. nose and .01 & .025 sec. tail fuzed bombs on Villach M/Y, 4th alternate target, at 1147 hours from 18,700 to 22,800 feet because weather conditions were such that it was impossible to maintain a group formation to attack other briefed targets. 2 of above a/c jettisoned 5 x 500 lb. (1.25 tons) bombs in the target area because of rack malfunctions. 2 other a/c dropped 20 x 500 lb. (5 tons) bombs on Linz Main M/Y at 1230 hours from 23,500 feet because of losing this group formation. These a/c joined another group and bombed with it. 23 a/c returned at 1405 hours.

RESULTS: Results of bombing were unobserved because of solid undercast. Bombing was accomplished by PFF.

ENEMY RESISTANCE: Fighters: None seen or encountered.

Flak: No flak was experienced or observed, except for two a/c bombing Linz, where moderate, inaccurate, heavy flak was encountered.

AXIS OF ATTACK: 128 deg. mag. Bomb Run: 3 minutes.

COURSE: From Base to Vieste Pt, to 4223N/1626E, to 4248N/1626E, to 4320N/1608E, to 4338N/1548E, to 4352N/1522E, to 4453N/1552E, to 4558N/1418E, to 4615N/1359E to 4640N/1313E, turn to right to Spittal, to 4th alternate Villach M/Y to 4615N/1359E and reciprocal of route out to Base.

WEATHER: Base on takeoff, 6 to 7/10 stratus at 1000 feet which cleared over Adriatic. Above this there was 10/10 altostratus based 9000 feet, tops at 13,000 feet in southern Adriatic, which built up gradually to 14 to 15,000 feet in the Alps. At target, 10/10 clouds in two layers, tops at 15,000 feet. On return, same as route out with exception of line of thunderheads built up to 18,000 feet running E-W across Adriatic 80 miles North of base. At base on return there was 3/10 stratus at 2000 feet, and 5/10 altocumulus at 9,000 feet.

3. 459th Bomb Group. At 0820 hours, 26 B-24's took off to bomb primary target, Plan Able, escorted by P-38's and P-51's.

1 a/c returned because a/c lost formation in clouds (returned 10 bombs to base). 1 a/c returned prior to bombing because of an engine malfunction (jettisoned 10 bombs at 4845N/1355E).

18 a/c dropped 168 x 500 lb. (42 tons) RDX .1 sec. nose and .01 & .025 sec. tail fuzed bombs on Linz M/Y, 3rd alternate target, at 1226 hours from 23,000 to 24,600 feet because adverse route weather and reciprocal winds, putting formation behind schedule, prevented penetration to primary target. 6 other a/c of B box dropped 56 x 500 lb. (14 tons) bombs on Villach M/Y (4th alternate) at 1145 hours from 20,000 feet because a/c lost formation in clouds. 16 a/c returned at 1535 hours and 6 a/c returned at 1350 hours. 1 a/c is at a friendly field.

1 a/c is missing, reason unknown. Personnel casualties were 10 crew members missing in action.

RESULTS: Pff operators believe good results at both Linz and Villach. Bombing was by PFF through undercast at both targets.

ENEMY RESISTANCE: Fighters: None seen or encountered.

Flak: Moderate, inaccurate, heavy flak of the barrage type experienced at Linz. Scant, flak was observed at Fiume. No flak experienced at Villach.

OBSERVATIONS: Communications: M/Y at Fiume filled with wagons.

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AXIS OF ATTACK: At Vilsch M/Y, 128 deg. mag. Bomb Run: 8 minutes. At Linz M/Y, 145 deg. mag. Bomb Run: 7 minutes.

WEATHER: Over ~~the~~ base there was 7/10 altocumulus at 7000 feet and 2/10 to 4/10 stratocumulus at 2000 to 4000 feet over the Adriatic. From the Yugoslavian coast to the target there was an undercast with tops to 14,000 feet. Both targets 10/10 undercast, Linz and Vilsch. On the route back conditions were the same.

COURSE: As briefed to point north of Linz, to Linz, to base.

4. 456th Bomb Group. At 0800 hours, 34 B-24's took off to bomb primary target, Pilsen Able, escorted by P-38's and P-51's.

2 a/c returned early: 1 because of prop governor out and one because of oil leak (jettisoned 20 bombs in the Adriatic). 3 a/c returned prior to bombing because of inoperative engines (1 a/c jettisoned 4 bombs at 4620N/1413E and 6 bombs at 4040N/1411E, through overcast. 1 a/c jettisoned 10 bombs at 4708N/1410E in a field. 1 a/c jettisoned 10 bombs on Klagenfurt on ET. Results unobserved due to undercast.

27 a/c dropped 248 x 500 lb. (62 tons) RDX .1 sec. nose and .01 & .025 sec. tail fuzed bombs on Pilsen Skoda Works, 1st alternate target, at 1229 hours from 24,300 to 25,900 feet because formation followed wing lead and bombed same target as lead. 1 of above a/c jettisoned 4 x 500 lb. (1 ton) at 4831N/1345E because of runway prop. 1 other a/c dropped 10 x 500 lb. (2.5 tons) bombs on Linz M/Y (with 459th Gp) at 1228 hours from 23,500 feet, and 1 other a/c dropped 10 x 500 lb. (2.5 tons) bombs on Vilsch M/Y (with 454th Gp) at 1202 hours from 18,500 feet, both because a/c could not find own formation and joined other groups of this wing. 23 a/c returned at 1615 hours. 5 a/c are at friendly fields.

1 a/c is missing, last seen in Klagenfurt area at 1350 hours with one engine feathered. Personnel casualties were 10 crew members missing in action.

RESULTS: Navigator definitely identified target as the Pilsen Skoda Works and believed target hit. Bombing was accomplished by PFF.

ENEMY RESISTANCE: Fighters: None seen or encountered.

Flak: At target, moderate, inaccurate, heavy. At Linz, moderate, inaccurate, heavy. Observed flak at Wels was scant, heavy.

AXIS OF ATTACK: 293 deg. mag. Bomb Run: 6 minutes.

WEATHER: Route out, over Adriatic 8/10 to 10/10 altocumulus, tops at 8000 feet over Yugoslavia, 8/10 to 10/10 stratocumulus, top at 8000 feet, Austria to target 10/10 multi layer tops at 10,000 feet. Over target, 10/10 coverage, tops at 14,000 feet. Route back same as route out to Alps then clearing with fog at surface to Ancona, 9/10 coverage base 1,000 tops 4,700 feet, visibility 2 1/2 miles with fog to base same.

COURSE: As planned to 4930N/1400E to 4936N/1352E to target, rallied right to 4746N/1403E to 4515N/1445E to 4348N/1339E to Base.

5. 455th Bomb Group. At 0758 hours, 37 B-24's took off to bomb primary target, Pilsen Able, escorted by P-51's.

2 a/c returned early: 1 because of an oxygen leak and 1 because of engine trouble. (Each a/c returned bombs to base).

5 a/c returned prior to bombing: 3 because of engine trouble and 2 because of shortage of fuel. (4 a/c jettisoned 40 bombs in the Adriatic Sea, and 1 a/c jettisoned 10 bombs at 4732N/1407E.

27 a/c dropped 250 x 500 lb. (62.5 tons) RDX .1 sec. nose and .01 & .025 sec. tail fuzed bombs on the Pilsen Skoda Works, the 1st alternate target, at 1226 hours, from 23,000 to 24,500 feet because the formation was bucking a headwind and was thirty minutes behind schedule. 1 of the above a/c jettisoned 2 x 500 lb.

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bombs at 4732N/1416E at 1137 hours in order to keep pace with the formation. 1 of the above a/c jettisoned 6 x 500 lb. bombs at 4628N/1420E (3 bombs), and 4705N/1500E (3 bombs). These were jettisoned in order to keep up with the formation. 1 other a/c dropped 6 x 500 lb. (1.5 tons) on Klagenfurt T/O, at 1102 hours, from 18,000 feet. This target was bombed because the aircraft took off late, and couldn't contact the formation. Bombing was accomplished by PFF. On the rally, smoke was observed rising from the target. 1 other a/c dropped 10 x 500 lb. (2.5 tons) bombs on Regensburg (2nd alternate target) at 1228 hours from 20,000 feet. A/C was forced to turn back because of engine trouble, therefore bombed this alternate target. 1 other a/c jettisoned 10 x 500 lb. (2.5 tons) bombs between the IP and the target because of engine trouble. 15 a/c returned at 1535. 6 a/c are at the 97th Bomb Group A/D. 1 a/c is at the 99th Bomb Group A/D. 1 a/c is at Vis but the crew has returned to base.

1 a/c crash-landed near Rosetta, crew safe. 2 a/c are lost; 1 ran into mountain at 1518 hours above the Spur. 4 aircraft are missing, circumstances unknown. Personnel casualties were fifty one crew members missing in action.

RESULTS: Unobserved. Bombing was accomplished by PFF.

ENEMY RESISTANCE: Fighters: None seen or encountered.

Flak: Scant, inaccurate, heavy flak was encountered at the target. Flak was not encountered at the following "experienced flak positions": Borovnica (4555N/1421E), Kranj (4615N/1421E), Ferlach (4632N/1419E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 293 deg. mag. Bomb Run: 5 minutes.

WEATHER: At Base, 7/10 stratus and stratocumulus at 500 feet tops at 3,000 feet. Visibility 4 miles in light fog. From the head of the Adriatic across the mountains into the target area, 10/10 altostratus, tops at 15,000 feet and 2/10 cirrostratus at 25,000 feet. At the target, 10/10 altostratus, tops at 15,000 and 2/10 cirrostratus at 25,000 feet. Over the Adriatic on return 8/10 altostratus at 12,000 feet, tops at 14,000 and 5/10 stratocumulus, tops at 8,000 feet.

COURSE: Base to 4407N/1514E to 4558N/1418E to 4830N/1353E to 4936N/1352E to target to 4758N/1401E to 4558N/1418E to Base.

STRIKE ASSESSMENT REPORT

TARGET: VILLACH M/X, Austria.

GROUP: 454th Bomb Group - 20/12/44 - from 1140 to 1201 hours - 179 x 500 RDX bombs from 18,700 to 21,700 feet.

PHOTOS: Cloud covered. Time of Delivery: 4 hours, 40 minutes.

STRIKE ASSESSMENT:

Bombing by PFF. Bombs away photos in total cloud cover. No assessment possible. No bomb fall plot issued.

TARGET: VILLACH M/Y, Austria and LINZ, Austria.

GROUP: 459th Bomb Group - 20/12/44 - at 1145 hours (Villach) and 1228 to 1229 hours (Linz): - 56 x 500 RDX bombs from 20,000 feet (Villach) - 168 x 500 RDX bombs from 23,400 to 24,500 feet (Linz).

PHOTOS: Cloud covered. Time of Delivery: 3 hours, 40 minutes.

STRIKE ASSESSMENT:

Bombing by PFF. Bombs away photos in total cloud cover and no assessment possible. No bomb fall plot issued.

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TARGET: PILSEN SKODA WORKS, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

GROUPS: 456th Bomb Group - from 1229 to 1230 hours - 20/12/44 -
248 x 500 RDX bombs from 24,000 to 25,400 feet.

PHOTOS: Cloud covered. Time of Delivery: 2 hours, 45
minutes.

STRIKE ASSESSMENT: Bombs away photos in total cloud cover.
No assessment possible. Bombed by PFF.
No bomb fall plot issued.

455th Bomb Group. from 1226 to 1227 hours - 20/12/44 -
250 x 500 RDX bombs from 23,500 to 24,700 feet.

PHOTOS: Cloud covered. Time of Delivery: 6 hours, 40
minutes.

STRIKE ASSESSMENT: Bombs away photos in total cloud cover
with no assessment possible. Bombed by PFF.
No bomb fall plot issued.

H.V. WILLIAMS JR.,
Lt. Col., Air Corps,
4-2