

HEADQUARTERS
450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
APO-520 US ARMY

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: January 4, 1945

MISSION NBR. 205

TARGET: Bronzolo, Italy - South Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-six B-24 type aircraft took off at 0800-0817 hours to bomb the Bronzolo South Marshalling Yard. There were two early returns. We dropped 45.25 tons 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1211 hours from 21,000 - 22,000 feet. One of these 24 jettisoned one ton between the I.P. and Bolzano because of rack malfunction and one other jettisoned .25 tons in the Ligurian Sea which had hung up. Twenty-four aircraft returned to the base at 1553 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed to the I.P. area where a 360 degree turn was made in order to square away for the bomb run by coming in directly over the I.P. instead of north of it. As this turn was made to the left, moderate, accurate heavy flak was experienced from Bolzano. The attack was made on an axis of 280 degrees and the target was bombed by boxes, each box sighting visually. The rally was left and the route back was flown as briefed. Escort of 40-50 P-51's effected rendezvous at 1115 hours at Zolla at 25,000 feet continued into the target area and appeared to remain in the vicinity as the formation started back. Weather enroute was 7/10's strato-cumulus at 10,000-12,000', to Sassego where it became CAVU and continued so onto the target. Returning, there was 10/10 undercast at 10,000' at Desezano.

III RESULTS

Photo coverage shows three boxes scoring effectively in the target area with substantial fires started in supplies and rolling stock. The fourth box, changing its aiming point because of smoke from previous bomb bursts dropped long into the fields beyond the target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: At the target it was moderate, inaccurate and heavy. Near Bolzano it was moderate, accurate and heavy.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1245 hours from 19,000 feet, at Verona, smoke screen in area - aircraft seen at lower altitude than others in formation bombing Verona - two aircraft appeared to receive direct flak hit and blew up.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None
B. Damage: 9 aircraft hit by flak, minor.
C. Casualties: None
D. Victories: None