

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION NBR. 255

MISSION DATE: April 6, 1945

TARGET: Verona Porto Nuovo, Italy - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-two B-24 type aircraft took off at 0930-0954 hours to bomb the west approach to the Verona Porto Nuovo Marshalling Yard, Italy. Twenty-two aircraft dropped 39.9 tons of 100 lb G.P. bombs on the primary target at 1412-1416 hours from 23,500 - 25,000'. Seven aircraft were unable to bomb because of interference by another group on the bomb run. Six of these aircraft subsequently jettisoned 12 tons in the Adriatic while one aircraft returned 2 tons of bombs to base. Three aircraft returned early due to engine failures and jettisoned a total of 5.6 tons in the Adriatic. Twenty-five aircraft returned to base at 1632-1647 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed. Bombing was by four squadrons in trail on an axis of 95-96 degrees. Bombing was by visual method. Our second squadron over the target was unable to bomb because a squadron from another group was directly beneath our formation at the bomb release point. A right rally was effected off the target by all squadrons. 10-20 P-51's made rendezvous as escort at 1250 hours at 42.45N-10.20E and withdrew at 1415 hours in the target area. Target weather was CAVU.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photos show:

1st Squadron: Hits slightly short of B.A.P. but bombs developed across tracks and into western end of Loco Depot.

3rd Squadron: Bombs fell 4000 feet short of target in the open field.

4th Squadron: Hits scored in assigned target area with several bombs falling on train length of rolling stock. Some bombs also hit the loco depot.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak:

Sq	Tgt. time	Bomb Alt	Axis	Flak Exp.	Lost at Tgt	Sev. Dam	Slight Dam.
1st	1412	25,000	95	M I H	0	0	0
2nd				S I H	0	0	0
3rd	1413	24,000	96	S I H	0	0	0
4th	1416	23,500	95	S I H	0	0	0

Crews report that most of the flak was 1000 feet low as well as off in deflection.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1418 hours at 25,000 feet and over target area three white tailed flares were observed above the formation. These flares appeared to remain at a fixed altitude.

VI. CONCLUSION

Losses: None      Damage: None      Casualties: None      Victories: None