

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 9, 1945

MISSION NBR. 258

TARGET: Operations Buckland (Apple Area)

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty-one B-24 type aircraft took off at 1114-1132 hours to bomb the tactical area designated as "Apple Area", Italy. There were no early returns. Forty-one aircraft dropped 88.20 tons of 20 lb fragmentations bombs on the primary target at 1432-1434 hours from 19,500 - 20,500 feet. Three aircraft experienced rack malfunctions over the target and subsequently jettisoned partial loads totalling 1.32 tons of bombs in the Adriatic. Forty aircraft returned to base at 1710-1725 hours. One aircraft was lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed. Bombing was by visual method. On the run the formation was self deployed and the axis of attack was as briefed, 302 degrees. 20 P-51's made rendezvous as escort at 1430 hours in the target area and provided cover until our bombers withdrew from the target area at 1435 hours. Target weather was CAVU.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photos substantiate crew reports that the target was well covered with a blanket of bombs. The area 4000 feet NW of Lugo and extending NW across the Santerno River was well covered.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak:

<u>Sq.</u>	<u>Tgt. Time</u>	<u>Bomb Alt.</u>	<u>Axis</u>	<u>Flak Exp.</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Sev. Dam</u>	<u>Slight Dam.</u>
1st	1432	20,000	302	S/M I H	0	0	0
2nd	1433	20,500	302	M I H	0	0	0
3rd	1434	19,500	302	S/M I/A H	1*	0	1
4th	1434	19,500	302	S/M I H	0	0	0

\*True cause not know. Flak may have been a factor.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1434 hours in the target area and from 20,000 feet, 3 chutes were seen to come from our lost aircraft.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Total Losses: One aircraft lost its left rudder over the target. Aircraft went into flat spin and crashed behind enemy lines, northwest of Lugo. Specific details concerning cause for crash are not available pending further investigation.

B. Damage: One aircraft sustained minor flak damage.