

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 16, 1945

MISSION NBR. 265

TARGET: Operation "Buckland" (D Plus 6)
Gun Positions, Enemy Strong Points
and Enemy Occupied Buildings in
Bologna, Italy Area

I. CHRONOLOGY

The Air Force effort was again directed at targets in close cooperation with the Fifth Army offensive in North Italy.

Forty-one B-24 type aircraft took off between 0916-0958 hours to bomb target area ST-1. Three aircraft failed to reach the target due to mechanical difficulties. Thirty-eight aircraft executed the bomb-run but did not release bombs as the aiming point was cloud obscured. Thirty-five aircraft returned 76.75 tons of 250 lb RDX bombs to base. Three aircraft dropped 6.75 tons in the target area when #2 ship in the lead squadron believed he observed bombs to drop from the lead ship. No 6 and 8 toggled on #2. One aircraft jettisoned 2.25 tons at 43.25N-10.00E because of fuel shortage. One aircraft jettisoned 2.25 tons 5 miles NW of the base when a cylinder blew on take off. Disposition of bombs on aircraft at friendly field is unknown. Thirty-eight aircraft returned to base at 1615 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was executed as planned and the briefed route flown to the Initial Point. Cloud conditions indicated that the target would be obscured but the run was executed on the briefed axis. Nine-tenths stratus deck at 12,000 ft. prevented visual sighting. The bombs were held and a left rally completed to the coast and briefed route flown to base. 20-25 P-51's were observed in the target area at 1310 hours at 22,000 ft.

III. RESULTS

Did not drop.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
- B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: None
- B. Damage: None
- C. Casualties: None
- D. Victories: None