

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION NBR. 266

MISSION DATE: April 17, 1945

TARGET: Operation Buckland (D Plus 6)
Enemy Occupied Buildings and
Defenses in Bologna, Italy

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 1014-1035 hours to bomb target area ST-1 (1-698441). Twenty-nine aircraft dropped 61.625 tons of 250 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1355-1402 hours from 21,500 - 23,000'. Ten aircraft returned 21.75 tons to base; unable to see the target due to smoke from previous bombings. One aircraft jettisoned 2.25 tons in the Tyrrhenian Sea: this aircraft could not stay with the formation and, having no bombardier aboard, did not drop. Partial load disposition: One aircraft jettisoned 1.5 tons and another aircraft .125 tons both in the Tyrrhenian Sea, because of malfunctions in bomb release mechanisms over the target. Forty aircraft returned to base at 1655 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flow as briefed. The target was attacked on an axis of 20 degrees T from the I.P., Veranio (44.03N-11.09E). Bombing was by four squadrons of 10 aircraft each, in trail, and by visual method. 10-15 P-51 aircraft provided target cover at 1400 hours, 23,000'; and covered the withdrawal to Leghorn; departing from the Group at 1430 hours, 21,000'. Weather was CAVU, with a slight ground haze. Target area was partially obscured by smoke of previous bombings.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photo assessment shows: 1st Squadron, bombs fell 4000' southeast of target. 2nd Squadron, bombs fell 6000' south of target. 3rd Squadron, did not bomb because of smoke obscuring target. 4th Squadron, bombs fell 1500' east of target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak:

<u>Tgt.</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 Sq.	1355		20	S I H	0	0	0
2nd Sq.	1359		21	S/M I H	0	0	1
3rd Sq.	1401		21	S I H	0	0	0
4th Sq.	1401		21	S I H	0	0	0

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1430 hours, 43.50N-10.20E, 20,000': One twin-engine unidentified aircraft: approached from 9 o'clock and closed to 1000 yards; was then approached by one P-51 aircraft with results unobserved.

VI. CONCLUSION

Losses: None. Damage: One aircraft minor, flak at target. Casualties: None.