

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 18, 1945

MISSION NBR. 267

TARGET: Bologna Area, Italy - Close Cooperation with U.S. 5th Army

I. CHRONOLOGY

Plans "Able" and "Baker" designated to assist the Eight Army Offensive in the Lake Conacchio district were scratched and plan "Charlie" substituted. This plan directed all Wings to bomb tactical defense positions south of Bologna in support of Fifth Army.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 1230-1301 hours. Three aircraft turned back before the target for mechanical reasons. Thirty-seven aircraft dropped 39.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the target from 20/23,000 ft. between 1616-1620 hrs. Two of the early returns jettisoned 3.5 tons in the Gulf of Taranto. One aircraft returned 2.5 tons to base. Thirty-seven aircraft landed at 1855 hours. None were lost; none missing; none at friendly fields.

III. RESULTS

Smoke obscured aiming points prevented the bombardier from synchronizing the target. The lead squadron's bombs fell in a concentrated pattern 1000' south of the target. The second squadron's pattern began 1000' SE of the target and extended into the target area. Several direct hits were scored on the assigned aiming point. Number three squadron was unable to pick up the AP because of smoke. Bombs fell in a concentrated pattern across a highway 4500' south of the target. The last squadron over bombed into the smoke. Vertical photos show some near misses on the east side of the target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: The flak experienced was similar to previous close support missions in this area. Both intensity and accuracy were far below that which could be expected from the number of guns believed to be capable of directing fire on formations operating over targets in this area. The only flak reported was well off to the northwest and observed only on the rally.

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CONCLUSION

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