

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION NBR. 271

MISSION DATE: April 23, 1945

TARGET: Legnago, Italy - Road Bridge (45.12N-11.18E)

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft composing a Red and Blue force of 20 aircraft each, took off at 0730-0740, and 0800-0812, to bomb Legnago Road Bridge. Forty aircraft 96.5 tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1152 hours, from 19,000' and 21,500'. Forty aircraft returned to base at 1403 hours and 1447 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed. The target was attacked on an axis of 390 degrees T from the I.P. Ficarolo (44.57N-11.26E). Bombing was by four squadrons of 10 aircraft each, in trail, and visual method. 20 P-38 aircraft provided target cover for Red Force at 1145 hours, 23,000'. 11 P-38's provided target cover for Blue Force at 1230 hours, 25,000'. Weather was CAVU.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photo assessment shows:

RED FORCE:

1st Sq: Heavy concentration of bombs on center and west end of bridge.
2nd Sq: Concentrated pattern placed across center of bridge.

BLUE FORCE:

1st Sq: This squadron reported that the preceding force had knocked the center spans of the bridge into the river. This squadron put a concentration across the remaining span of the bridge.

2nd Sq. Target was smoke obscured. Bombs fell into smoke and hits were scored on the east span of the bridge.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Nil flak at target. Route flak, M - A - H was experienced by Red Force only at Rovigo (45.04N-11.50E); Ficarolo (44.57N-11.26E) and Taglio Di Po (45.02N-12.13E)

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1152 hours, Legnago (Target) Area, 19,000': 100 motor transport and tank convoy heading north. Fighter aircraft strafing the convoy.

At 1308 hours, (44.05N-12.45E), 19,000': 10 miles east of Rimini a parachute was observed; aircraft could not be seen.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None
B. Damage: 4 aircraft minor damage, route flak
C. Casualties: None
D. Victories: None