

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: November 4, 1944

MISSION NBR. 165

TARGET: Munich, Germany - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0645-0727 hours to bomb the Munich West Marshalling Yard. Nine returned early. Twenty-nine dropped 56.75 tons in target area on PFF at 1144 hours from 23,000 feet. Bombs dropped were as follows: 17 dropped partial load of 24.5 tons 500 lb RDX and the same 17 dropped partial load of 8.50 tons 500 lb RDX (1 to 72 hours delayed fuse); 12 dropped 24 tons 500 lb incendiary clusters. Nine jettisoned 4 tons of 500 lb RDX long delay fuse bombs, 8.25 tons of 500 lb RDX and 2 tons of incendiaries. 3.75 tons of 500 lb RDX returned to base. Twenty-one aircraft returned at 1510 hours. Seven landed at friendly fields. None missing. One lost.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Formation rendezvoused with 449th Group over Manduria at 9000 feet at 0805 hours and with rest of Wing formation on course to San Vito D' Normanni. Route to and from target was flown as briefed, target being attacked on axis of 30 degrees T.C. Rendezvoused with escort of 40-60 P-38's at 1050 hours in vicinity of Venice (escort at 25,000 feet) and they departed at 1245 hours at 45.40N-12.45E. Weather in target area was 8-10/10 undercast.

III RESULTS

Bombing was done by attack units on PFF and all bombs were dropped in target area. 8/10 to 10/10 undercast did not permit visual observation. Photo coverage shows one box dropped 500 lb bombs on railway workshops with several direct hits on storage depot, and that two boxes dropped incendiaries across west marshalling yard and adjacent areas. No photo coverage for other three boxes.

Bombardier's Combat Mission Report: All bombing on this mission was done by the PFF Synchronous Method. The lead attack unit was led by Lt. Myers of the 720th Sqdn. and Lt. Dieckman (Mickey Navigator) of the 723rd Sqdn. The target was covered so a visual run was not possible. Lt. Dieckman was forced to pick up another area of the town which gave him a good return on his scope because of a course variation on the run. The run on the area was very satisfactory and the Bombardier and Mickey Navigator worked in close coordination.

The third attack unit was second to bomb. This unit was led by Lt. Noblett of the 722nd Sqdn. as Bombardier and Lt. Mauro of the 722nd Sqdn. as "Mickey" Navigator. The PFF equipment was inoperative in this unit so the leader pulled up very close to the first unit in order to drop their bombs on them. This was done with the two attack units flying very close formation.,

The second attack unit led by Lt. Brickett of the 721st Sqdn. as Bombardier and Lt. Ryan of the 721st Sqdn. as "Mickey" Navigator swung wide on the I.P. in order to get a good run on the target. Lt. Ryan states he was able to pick up the target easily and had a satisfactory run. Both Lt. Ryan and Lt. Brickett state their coordination on this PFF Synchronous run was excellent.

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

Mission Nbr. 165 Date November 4, 1944

Target: Munich, Germany - West Marshalling Yard

III RESULTS

Bombardier's Combat Mission Report: (continued)

Photo results are poor due to heavy cloud cover. However one box of incendiary bombs can be seen burning in the choke point between the main yard and the Goods Siding Yard. Other small groups of incendiaries can be seen short of the yard. The lead box dropped 500 pound bombs. Their bombs can be seen about a mile over the target, about 3,000 feet short of the Locomotive Repair Shops. No other results were spotted.

Correction on Mission Report:

1. Mission report on mission to Munich West Marshalling Yard on 4 November 1944 is incorrect insofar as the Z-Zebra attack unit is concerned. It was reported that this unit bombed on the first attack unit. This attack unit was led by Lt. Noblett of the 722nd Squadron as Bombardier and Lt. Mauro as "Mickey" Navigator. Lt. Mauro states his set was out just prior to the I.P. and he thought he would be unable to make a run. However, at the I.P. he found his set was good enough to make the run. It was too late to set up a course so they followed the first attack unit's course. He was able to give the Bombardier good sighting angles and as a team they used their own rate to drop the bombs. Excellent results were scored with their bombs which fell partially in the Marshalling Yard and partially short of it.

2. The reason for this report being in error was that the lead ship did not return to base until late this afternoon, (11/5/44).

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: Four to six ME-109's observed at 46.00N-12.40E at 1225 hours at 20,000 - 25,000 feet. They did not attack formation.

B. Flak: Over the target the Group experienced moderate to intense, inaccurate, heavy type flak. Two aircraft were holed slightly, and one aircraft left formation with engine on fire (A/C #992, whose crew bailed out NW of Pescara)

V. CASUALTIES

One crew bailed out of A/C #992 30 miles NW of Pescara. One crew member of A/C #992 reported killed - cause unknown. Two aircraft received minor flak damage.

VI. FLIGHT LEADERS:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>
Stevens	Myers	Schatzman	Price	Brickett	Burt
Lombard	Noblett	Nashel			