

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: November 8, 1944

MISSION WBR. 171

TARGET: Novi-Pazar and Mitrovica, Yugoslavia - Troop Concentrations

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0615-0636 hours to bomb troop concentrations at Novi-Pazar and Mitrovica, Yugoslavia. There was one early return. Six dropped 12.5 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on Mitrovica at 0908 hours from 20,000 feet, two of them jettisoning 0.5 tons in the Adriatic which had hung up. Twenty others returned 40 tons of same type bombs to the base and one inadvertently jettisoned 2 tons at 0905 because of a rack malfunction. Twenty-seven returned to the base at 1103-1148 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

The routed was flown as briefed to the I.P. of Buranovac where the formation separated into two attack units, one heading for Novi-Pazar on an axis of 5 degrees and the other for Mitrovica on an axis of 61 degrees. The attack unit over Novi-Pazar was unable to see the target because of a partial undercast and after making two runs during which they were unable to sight satisfactorily, flew to base. The other attack unit assigned to Mitrovica consisted of two boxes. One box dropped on the target although the run was not entirely satisfactory and the other box made three runs and were unable to bring the target into focus due to the undercast. It was impossible to attempt bombing the alternate targets because of air traffic in the area. Both boxes returned to the base separately essentially as briefed. Rendezvous with escort of 15-20 P-38's was made at 0900 hours at 21,000 feet and withdrawal was at 0940 at Lake Scutari at the same altitude. Weather over the target was 7/10 cirro-stratus at 21,000 feet and 2/10 alto-cumulus at 11,000 feet, obscuring the target area.

III. RESULTS

The box which dropped was unable to determine it's results visually and photo coverage reveals that bomb impacts were obscured by clouds.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: At Mitrovica, it was scant-moderate, accurate, and heavy.

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CASUALTIES

Two aircraft received minor flak damage.

VII. FLIGHT LEADERS:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>
Alexander	Leavitt	Suey	Kent	Banks	Ellis
McLain	Heryla	Fanshell	Lewis	Miller	Chittero