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COBOMGR301

HEADQUARTERS, 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520

18 Nov 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:

ATHENS/ELEUSIS A/D,
Greece

Mission of 17 November 1943

1. 13 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, and 419th Sqdns. of the 301st Bomb Group took off at 0950 A to bomb ATHENS/ELEUSIS A/D, Greece. 4 a/c returned early, 2 due to mechanical difficulty, one of which also had turret failure, one due to weather and one due to personal oxygen equipment. 9 a/c were over the target at 1425 A and dropped 108 x 500 lb. GP bombs with .1 nose and .025 tail fusing at a heading of 200 deg. from a mean altitude of 21,100 ft. 24 x 500 lb. GP's were jettisoned and 24 x 500 lb. GP's were returned to base. One a/c received minor flak damage and no personnel were injured. 8 a/c returned to base at 1320 A, 18 November 1943, and one a/c remained at Comiso A/D, Sicily pending magneto change. 11 sorties were involved in this mission.
2. Crews claim bombing to be excellent with complete destruction of hanger line and large fires were burning throughout the hanger area. 5 a/c in revetments were seen to explode and burn. Large columns of white smoke were noted at M,N/15 on Target Chart No. A/10(9).
3. Moderate heavy flak, barrage type, was encountered over the target, accurate as to altitude and inaccurate as to deflection. Batteries noted: T.C. No. A/10 (9), A/20-9 guns, L/3,4 - 9 guns, H/10 - 6 guns, I/6 - 6 guns. Also 6 guns noted at 37°56'N, 23°32'E and 12 guns at 37°56'N, 23°37'E.
4. No e/a were encountered.
5. 4 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
6. The weather was 2 to 10/10ths enroute and CAVU at the target.
7. OBSERVATIONS: 25 to 30 M/V's and five (5) escort vessels reported in Piraeus. 15 S/E a/c reported landing at Dhadion A/D, at 1400 A. 9 multi-engine and 15 s/e a/c reported on Megara A/D at 1420 A.
8. Group Formation Leader: Capt. W.F. Georgi makes no comment.

EDMUND T. BRIGHAM,
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

George M. Sander
GEORGE M. SANDER,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst. Intel. Officer.

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