

S E C R E T  
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HEADQUARTERS, 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer  
APO 520

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Authority  
C6BOMGR301

16 November 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:

ISTRES LE TUBE A/D,  
France

MISSION OF 16 NOVEMBER 1943

1. 19 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, 419th Squadrons, 301st Bomb Group took off at 0828A to bomb ISTRES LE TUBE A/D, France. 8 a/c returned early; 5 due to mechanical difficulty, 1 due to illness of personnel and 2 due to icing conditions and loss of formation. 11 a/c were over the target at 1252A and dropped 1548 x 20 lb. frags at a heading of 08° from a mean altitude of 22,200 ft. 864 x 20 lb. frags were jettisoned and 324 x 20 lb. frags were returned to base. 2 a/c were lost to enemy fighters, 1 of these a/c exploded in mid-air at 42°50'N/04°40'E, no chutes visible. The other a/c crashed in the sea at 42°30'N/04°30'E. 1 of our a/c circled the oil slick at the scene of the crash and reported no personnel nor wreckage visible from an altitude of 700 ft. 1 a/c received major damage and 2 a/c received minor damage due to enemy fighters. 1 a/c received minor flak damage. 1 crew member received minor flak injury. 9 a/c returned to base at 1640A. 11 sorties were involved in this mission.
2. Bombing is reported to be short of the assigned target area. Major concentration of bombs was noted among hangars and installations in areas M,N/14,16 on target chart #6-20-NA.
3. Moderate heavy flak was encountered over the target, accurate as to altitude and inaccurate as to deflection. Crews report bursts to be red, black, and grey in color.
4. 12 to 15 e/a were encountered after leaving the target. All were reported to be yellow nose ME 109's. Our crews claim 6 ME 109s destroyed. After review by the CO, per Ops. Memo #25, dated 20 Dec. 1943, XII AAF, combat claims report will follow.
5. 5 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
6. The weather was 1 to 9/10ths enroute and CAVU at the target.
7. Observations: MARSEILLES HARBOR 5 large and 3 small M/V's. All enemy a/c made concerted attacks in groups of 3 abreast and then returned to make individual attacks.
8. Group Formation Leader, Lt. RENN, makes no comment.

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

*George M. Sander*  
GEORGE M. SANDER,  
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