

S E C R E T  
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Authority  
CO301EOMGR  
11 Nov. 1943

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

BOLZANO RR BRIDGE

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT  
Covering:  
MISSION OF 10 NOVEMBER 1943  
BOLZANO RR BRIDGE

1. 25 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, and 419th Sqdns. of the 301st Bomb Group took off at 0654 A to bomb BOLZANO RR BRIDGE., ITALY. 9 a/c returned early, one of which washed out at CALVI A/D. 5 a/c returned early due to mechanical difficulties, 1 due to gasoline shortage, 1 due to fire in inverter and 2 due to loss of formation. 16 a/c were over the target at 1211 A and dropped 192 x 500 lb. GP's with .1 nose and .025 tail fusing at a heading of 41 degrees from a mean altitude of 20,500 ft. 1 a/c dropped 12 x 500 lb. GP's on the dock area at GENOA, ITALY. 24 x 500 lb. GP's were jettisoned and 72 x 500 lb. GP's were returned to base. 1 a/c received major flak damage and 7 a/c received minor flak damage. One of our personnel received minor flak injury. 15 a/c were returned to this base by 1200 A hours, 11th November 1943. 1 a/c is reported washed out at CALVI A/D, all personnel reported safe. 21 sorties were involved in this mission.
2. Crews claim complete destruction of Highway and RR Bridges at J/9 on target chart CP-23, but bomb strike photos reveal no direct hits on RR Bridge. It is believed that Highway Bridge was completely demolished. No observed results of bombing of GENOA dock area.
3. Moderate heavy flak was encountered over the target area, accurate as to altitude and deflection. 40 to 50 guns reported at BOLZANO A/D. Batteries also reported along the ISARCO River west of the bridge. Flak at GENOA is reported to be intense and accurate.
4. No e/a were encountered, but 35 to 40 Me 109's and FW 190's were observed attacking groups to our rear.
5. 5 of our a/c attempted photos and one was successful.
6. The weather was 2 to 10/10ths enroute and CAVU with slight haze at target.
7. OBSERVATIONS: 1 B-17 of another group shot down by fighter was observed to crash and burn on side of mountain near Lake Iseo, no chutes were visible. 5 large M/V's reported in GENOA Harbor. One crew reported hearing on radio at 1345 A hours that ship 319 of another group was ditching near I'LLIE ROUSSE, CORSICA.
8. GROUP FORMATION LEADER: Major O'CARROLL makes no comment.

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

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

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