

SECRET

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Authority  
COBCLGR301HEADQUARTERS, 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer  
NASAF APO 520

20 May 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:

MISSION OF 20 MAY 1943

1. 28 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 358rd, 419th Squadrons, 301st Bomb Group took off at 0905 "A" to bomb GROSSETO A/D, Italy. 2 of our a/c returned early because of mechanical trouble. 26 a/c were over the target at 1301 "A" and dropped 3744 x 20 frag bombs from a mean altitude of 24,750 ft. at a heading of 117°M. 288 x 20 frag bombs were returned and none were jettisoned. None of our planes were damaged nor were any personnel injured. All our planes were safely down at 1633 "A".
2. It was impossible to observe the number of a/c on the field due to the smoke caused by the bombing of another Group. However, the entire A/D, with the possible exception of the SW corner was thoroughly covered by frags. 8 to 10 fires observed along the N'erly boundary, several along the W'erly boundary and 1 large fire along the S'erly boundary. NW corner appeared to be especially covered. Installations to the N were also hit. Smoke from fires visible at 22,000ft. when our a/c reached the E coast of CORSICA.
3. Slight heavy flak encountered, inaccurate as to altitude and deflection. Flak positions were noted at Q-P/14-15 and H-1/22 on Target Chart 3-38-NA.
4. No e/a was encountered, but 1 e/a, transport type was seen at 1240 "A" over CORSICA, flying at 12,000 ft.
5. 3 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
6. Weather enroute and over target was CAVU.
7. At 1224 "A" while flying at 6,000 ft. our a/c believed they saw a raft and smoke signal at 37°37'N, 06°38'E; it was impossible to state number, if any, of occupants. Raft not observed on return from target. A submarine was observed at 1025 "A" about 40 miles due N of CAPE BOUGERCUN, while flying at 5,000 ft. 1 small ship seen at 1145 "A" at CANT PTO CONTE, Corsica. 3 flying boats reported just E of AJACCIO at 1215 "A". 1 D/R, Grecale Class, observed at 1235 "A" 5 miles SW of ALERIA, course 30°, speed about 12 knots; seen again at 1322 "A" 15 miles E of ALERIA headed 90°. 2 T/B's observed 3 miles E of GROSSETO IS., course 180°, speed 15 knots. 3 MTB's seen about 3 miles apart at 08°25'E, 41°35'N headed 160° at about 15 knots. They took evasive action together.

## FLIGHT LEADER'S COMMENT:

*No Comment.*  
*Robert G. DuVal*  
*Captain, A.C.*

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

HAROLD B. DEAN,  
Capt., Air Corps,  
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