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Authority
COBOMGR301HEADQUARTERS, 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
NASAF APO 520

13 May 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:
MISSION OF 13 MAY 1943

1. 24 assigned B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, 419th Squadrons, 301st Bombardment Group, and 4 reserve B-17's, took off at 1110 "A" to bomb an assigned area of the town of CAGLIARI. The 4 spare a/c returned early, bring back 24 x 1000 GP bombs, nose fusing .1 sec. and tail fusing .025. At 1245 "A" 24 of our a/c dropped 24 x 1000 GP, nose fusing .1 sec. and tail fusing .025, on the target from a mean altitude of 23,500 ft. at a heading of 350°M. No bombs were jettisoned. 24 of our a/c were safely down at base at 1431 "A". No leaflets were sent on this mission because the reported winds and the axis of attack would have resulted in all leaflets dropping in the Gulf of CAGLIARI. 24 sorties were involved in this mission.
2. A considerable volume of dust and debris from the bombs of the 2nd Group, which led this wave, was observed as our a/c came on the bombing run. In general, and as a result of bombing by this group and the 2nd group, numerous bursts were observed all over the area roughly bounded by J21, L18, O21, N26 and H23/24, and probably direct hits on 1 or M/VIs and a resulting huge fire were observed at J/21 (Target Chart 1-100-NA). A heavy pall of dust and debris covered the city of CAGLIARI following the bombing, and was visible to our departing a/c until intervening haze obscured observation at a point about 60 miles away from the target, when our a/c were at an altitude of about 18,000 ft.
3. Heavy flak, reported by our early elements as moderate and fairly accurate and by our later elements as intense and accurate was encountered at the target. 2 batteries were observed at 9B on Target Chart 1-100-NA. Bursts from flak positions were also observed all along the road from ELMAS A/D to the outskirts of CAGLIARI.
4. 3 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
5. Our crews encountered 8 to 10 Me109s, FW190s and Ma200s. Reports indicate 1 Me109 destroyed, no probables, no damaged. After review of combat claims by the CO, per Ops Memo No. 25, XIIIAF, dated 20 Dec. 1942, combat claims will be forwarded.
6. Weather enroute and at target was CAVU.
7. 13 of our a/c received minor damage from flak. 1 enlisted man received serious injuries to his eyes, also from flak. 1 chute was observed to open well below our formation at a point about 60 miles away from the target on the route back. It is not known whether this was from a friendly or an enemy a/c.

FLIGHT LEADER'S COMMENT:

Mission well planned. 2nd Bomb Gp left rendezvous 3 min early, 301 Group 3 minutes late. P-38 escort was very well executed.

Edmund T. Brigham
EDMUND T. BRIGHAM,
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Arthur Berry
Major A.C.

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