

SECRET

Secret by
Authority
CCEBOLGR301HEADQUARTERS, 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
NASAF APO 520

11 May 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:

MISSION OF 11 MAY 1943

1. 27 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, 419th Squadrons, 301st Bomb Group took off at 0840 "A" to bomb MARSALA area bounded by (a) O/10, N/12, L/11, L-M/9, (b) M/12, L/14, K/13, K/11, (c) K/11, J/13, I/12-13, J/10 (Target Chart 2-105-NA). 2 a/c returned early due to mechanical trouble. 25 planes were over the target at 1117 "A" dropping 150 x 1000 GP (.1 nose, .025 tail fusing) from a mean altitude of 24,300 ft. at a heading of 115°M. 12 x 1000 GP bombs were returned and none were jettisoned. 3 of our a/c received damage from 20 mm shells, 1 of which was major damage. One of the personnel received minor shoulder injury from a 20 mm shell. 24,000 Italian pamphlets were dropped in the target area. All planes safely down at base at 1353 "A".
2. The target area was well covered by bombs. A few strings overshot and covered the N'erly part of the R.R. Yds., and a portion of the town to the N of the R.R. Yds. Many fires were started, and smoke from the bombing was visible 90 miles away at 10,000 ft.
3. Slight, heavy inaccurate flak was encountered in target area.
4. 2 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
5. Our a/c encountered about 15 e/a, Mel09's, Interrogations indicate 4 destroyed, 3 probably destroyed and 2 damaged. After review of combat claims by the CO, per Ops. Memo No. 25, XII AF, dated 20 Dec. 1942, combat claims report will follow.
6. Weather was CAVU enroute and over target.
7. 3 vessels, unidentified, 1 stationary, 2 moving 270° seen at 1110 "A" SW of Cape St. VITO from 23,000 ft. 1 large vessel, either passenger liner or aircraft carrier, reported 20 miles SW of TRAPANI at 1115 "A" from 24,000 ft. 3 unidentified vessels seen at 37°20'N, 11°35'E headed 250° at 1131 "A" from 15,000 ft. 2 unidentified vessels seen heading 90° at 37°12'N, 11°00'E, at 1142 "A" at 14,000 ft. 3 unidentified vessels heading 70° seen at 37°08'N, 10°40'E from 10,000 ft. 2 vessels reported 10 miles W of TRAPANI at 1125 "A" from 23,000 ft.

FLIGHT LEADER'S COMMENT:

No Comment
E. F. Stoddard
Maj. A.C.

EDMUND T. BRIGHAM,
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.HAROLD B. DEAN,
Capt., Air Corps,
Asst. Intelligence Officer.