

S E C R E TSecret by  
Authority  
COBOMGR301HEADQUARTERS, 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF  
Office of the Intelligence Officer  
NASAF APO 520

9 May 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:

MISSION OF 9 MAY 1943

1. 34 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, 419th Squadrons, 301st Bombardment Group took off to bomb PALERMO AREA bounded by 19/20 A, 21 D/E, 12/13 C, 13/14 E/F (Target Chart 2-104-NA) at 0857 "A". 5 a/c returned early because of mechanical difficulties. 29 a/c were over the target at 1159 "A" and dropped 348 x 500 GP, 1/10th nose 45 sec. tail, from a mean altitude of 25,700 ft. at a heading of 256°. 60 x 500 GP's were returned to base and none were jettisoned. 13 of our a/c received minor damage from flak and 1 crew member received very minor face injury. 1 of our a/c crash landed 5 mi. S of MATEUR on a landing strip. Contents of plane, including parachutes, were jettisoned prior to landing. Remaining planes of that Squadron circled landing spot while crash landing was being made, and entire crew is apparently safe. 28 planes down at base at 1537 "A".
2. Because of the very intense, accurate heavy flak encountered, preceding and during bomb run, observation of results were none too definite, but the entire area assigned, especially the Eastern 2/3rds was very well covered. As the last of our a/c left target the entire city was observed covered with dense smoke. This was still visible 50 miles from the target.
3. Intense, accurate heavy flak was encountered. Positions were observed as follows: 3 batteries W of town, 2 batteries N of town, 2 batteries on coast near La Favorita, and 2 batteries E of railroad tracks.
4. 4 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
5. 5 enemy aircraft were encountered in target area consisting of Me109's, Me110's and Me210's. Interrogations indicate 1 Me109 destroyed. 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 at target was CAVU; high overcast scattered clouds enroute.
7. Convoy of 5 M/V's, size not reported, observed from about 25,000 ft. at about 1205 "A", heading NW, speed not observed. Off Cape ST. VITO, one fiercely burning small M/V observed stationary at 37° 37'N, 11° 02'E from 18,000 ft at 1055 "A". One large M/V observed, time not given, from 15,000 ft. anchored at CEFALU, 38° 04'N, 14° 02'E.

## FLIGHT LEADER'S COMMENT:

*Too much radio conversation both en route to target and on return.*

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