

SECRET

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

Secret by
Authority
COBOMGR301

26 APRIL 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT

Covering:

MISSION OF 26 APRIL, 1943

1. 25B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, 419th Squadrons, 301st Bombardment Group took off at 0924 "A" to bomb GROSSETO A/D, Italy. 6 a/c returned early due to mechanical trouble, 2 of which ~~was~~ credited with a sortie. 19 a/c were over the target at 1304 "A" and because of a heavy cloud cover it was necessary to make a second run on the target. At 1317 "A" 1872 x 20 frag. bombs were dropped from a mean altitude of 22,500 ft. at a heading of 53° T. 1728 x 20 frag. bombs were returned to base, and none were jettisoned. None of our a/c were damaged nor were any of our personnel injured. 24,000 Italian pamphlets were dropped over the target area.
 2. Because of almost a complete overcast at target area, observation of bombing results was impaired but several fires were reported in NW corner of A/D.
 3. Slight, heavy flak inaccurate as to altitude and deflection was encountered in target area. Flak positions were noted as follows: 42°47'N, 11°04'E., 42°48'N, 11°02'E, and at S/13-14 (Target Chart No. 3-38-NA).
 4. 1 of our a/c attempted photos and usual report will follow.
- No e/a were encountered although 4 were observed, 1 of which was identified as an Me210.
6. Weather was CAVU enroute; 9/10ths at target.
 7. 2 M/V's were sighted 10 miles off CORSICA headed N at 1244 "A". 3 to 5 Siebel Ferries were also observed at the same time headed in the same direction. 1 4 ship convoy, 2 apparently very large M/V's, seen at 1243 "A" at 42°N, 09°35'E heading N.
 8. 1 B-17 of the 97th Group was seen going down over the target at time of bombing. The tail of the a/c was seen to disintegrate as well as part of the wing. 1 crew reports as many as 7 parachutes seen but majority seems to be from 1 to 4 chutes.

FLIGHT LEADER'S COMMENT:

Mission well planned but cloud
in target area caused considerable
reduction in effectiveness of
the attack

Quintin Perry
Major AC
Flight Leader

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

HAROLD B. DEAN,
Capt., Air Corps,
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