

HEADQUARTERS
450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
APO-520 US ARMY

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 24, 1945

MISSION NBR. 272

TARGET: San Ambrogia, Italy - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 0715-1737 hours to bomb the San Ambrogia Marshalling Yard in North Italy. Thirty-eight aircraft dropped 88.75 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1214-1234 hours from 23,500 - 26,000'. Two aircraft jettisoned a total of 5 tons in Lake Garda at (45.28N-10.40E). Of these two aircraft, one had an engine failure and the other aircraft experienced accidental bomb release. Due to rack malfunctions over the target two aircraft jettisoned partial loads totalling 1.75 tons in the Adriatic. Two aircraft landed at friendly fields. Thirty-eight aircraft returned to base at 1455 hours. The crew of one aircraft has since returned to base. None lost. None missing. 2 aircraft still at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route to the I.P. was flown as briefed. Bombing was by squadrons in trail. The first squadron dropped its bombs on the initial bomb run. The second squadron made a 360 degree turn to obtain better spacing and followed the third and fourth squadrons over the target. The visual method of synchronization was employed and the axis of attack was 152/180 degrees. A right rally off the target was accomplished by all squadrons and the route to base was flown as briefed. 20 P-51's made rendezvous as escort at 1123 hours at Sestra (44.17N-09.55E) and provided cover until their withdrawal at 1303 hours at Pistoia (43.55N-10.55E). Weather over the target was CAVU while enroute there was 3/10 altocumulus clouds with tops at 10,000'.

III. RESULTS

Photo cover shows that a fair concentration of hits across stations and sidings. A considerable number of bursts were seen both east and west of the marshalling yard.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
- B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1222 hours from 24,000', smoke pots were seen in operation in the Verona area.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: None
- B. Damage: None
- C. Casualties: None
- D. Victories: None