

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: November 15, 1944

MISSION NBR. 175

TARGET: Innsbruck, Germany - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Five B-24 type aircraft took off at 0634-0650 hours to bomb Innsbruck Main Marshalling Yard by PFF Method. Five aircraft dropped 8.5 ton 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 0937-0956 hours from 21,000 - 22,800 feet. Five aircraft returned to base at 1314-1331 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Each aircraft flew the briefed route to the I.P. (Worgel) and attacked the target individually at approximately four minute intervals on an axis of 244 degrees T. One aircraft experienced PFF failure on the turn at the I.P. and bombed on ETA. One other failed to pick up the target on the first run and circled for a run on a heading of 168 degrees T.C. which was successfully executed. A left rally was executed after bombs-away and the briefed course flown to base. All aircraft experienced ideal PFF bombing weather. Enroute and at the target, cloud conditions were generally 10/10 stratus, tops at about 18,000 feet with a cirrus layer at 18,000-21,000 feet. Snow and rain was encountered over the Alps.

III RESULTS

Three aircraft made satisfactory runs and are believed to have achieved excellent results. The target was picked up approximately 20 miles out and Navigator-Bombardier coordination was excellent. The aircraft making a second run is believed to have dropped close to the target. One aircraft dropped on ETA but believes the bombs were very close as he hit the I.P. squarely before the PFF went out and is quite sure that his ETA figures placed the bombs near the Aiming Point.

Bombardier's Combat Mission Report: Five ships were sent out to bomb the Innsbruck Main Marshalling Yard by Pathfinder Synchronous Technique. They were briefed to carry on individual operations. All ships flew the mission as briefed and dropped their bombs in the target area. Weather conditions were perfect with the entire area being under a solid overcast.

The first ship to take off was a ship from the 720th Sqdn. Lt. Purwinis was the Bombardier and Lt. Cody was the "Mickey" Navigator. The crew encountered perfect weather for the type operation they were to go on. They arrived at the I.P. and started on the run. The Mickey Navigator was only able to give the Bombardier sighting angles to 60 degrees because of a failure in his set. The Bombardier states the drive of his optics was good to this point so he carried through and dropped his bombs.

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

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Bombardier's Combat Mission Report: (continued)

The second ship carried a crew from the 721st Sqdn. Lt. Schmidt was the Bombardier and Lt. Ryan as "Mickey" Navigator. Everything on this mission went on smoothly. Both Bombardier and "Mickey" Navigator state the run was excellent and that their coordination was perfect.

The third ship carried a crew from the 722nd Sqdn. Lt. Furtado was the Bombardier and Lt. Mauro was the "Mickey" Navigator. This crew encountered some difficulty. The "Mickey" set worked as far as the I.P. and then gave out. The Navigator being sure of himself gave the Bombardier the signal to release his bombs on his D.R. - E.T.A. The Bombardier dropped the bombs on this information.

The fourth ship to leave carried a crew from the 723rd Sqdn. Lt. White was Bombardier and Lt. Dieckman "Mickey" Navigator. Everything went smoothly and "Mickey" Operator and Bombardier had a perfectly coordinated run.

The fifth ship carried another crew from the 720th Sqdn. Lt. Campbell was Bombardier and Lt. Lloyd was "Mickey" Navigator lost the target at 70 degrees. Everything went O.K. on the second run and the bombs were dropped by the briefed method. Coordination of this team was excellent.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

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

V. OBSERVATIONS

None due to complete undercast over entire route.

VI. CASUALTIES

None

VII. FLIGHT LEADERS:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>
	Purwinis	Cody		Schmidt	Ryan
	Furtado	Mauro		White	Dieckman
	Campbell	Lloyd			