

HEADQUARTERS 49TH BOMB WING (H)
APO 520 U S ARMY

17 October 1944

SUBJECT: Bombing - Navigation Analysis for 16 October 1944.

TO : Commanding Officer, 451st Bomb Group, APO 520, U S Army.
Commanding Officer, 461st Bomb Group, APO 520, U S Army.
Commanding Officer, 484th Bomb Group, APO 520, U S Army.

1. Bombing Analysis.

a. The 451st BG, 461st BG and 484th BG attacked the HERMANN GOERING IRON AND STEEL WORKS at LINTZ by PFF.

b. The 451st BG, bombing in a nine ship front with two attack units of three boxes each, led the Wing. Due to 10/10 cloud coverage the first unit bombed by PFF. The second unit, far behind the first unit did not see the release and having no PFF ship, did not bomb. They returned their bombs to the base believing that the first unit did likewise. The axis of attack was as briefed. Results are unknown.

c. The 461st BG, bombing in a nine ship front with two attack units of three boxes each, was second in the Wing formation. The IP was hit and the bombing run was made by PFF. Due to bad weather the actual axis of attack was 6° off that briefed. A few strikes were visible two miles northeast of the target.

d. The 484th BG, bombing in a nine ship front with one attack unit of three boxes and one attack unit of two boxes, was last in the Wing formation. It was also necessary for this Group to bomb by PFF due to the weather. The actual axis of attack was 16° off that briefed. The range unit of the Mickey set out in the lead plane. Through a cloud break some strikes were visible two miles east of the target.

2. Navigation Analysis.

a. The 451st, 461st, and 484th Bomb Groups were scheduled to rendezvous over BOVINO at 0809A, at 5,000, 6,000 and 7,000 feet respectively. The rendezvous was successful with the 461st and 484th departing behind the 451st on schedule.

b. From BOVINO to KP the briefed course was followed, but the KP was reached 4 minutes before the briefed KP time of 1003A. The Groups were at their briefed altitudes of 18,000, 19,000 and 20,000 ft.

c. From KP to IP the briefed course was flown. There was 9/10 undercast over the IP and it was identified by PFF. Cloud cover was 10/10 at the target. Briefed target time was 1107A, briefed altitudes were: 451st BG-23,000; 461st BG-24,000; 484th BG-25,000 ft; briefed axis of attack was 114° TC.

(1) The 451st dropped their bombs by PFF at 1104A from 22,500 ft. The axis of attack was 115° TC.

(2) The 461st dropped their bombs by PFF at 1102A from 23,500 ft. The axis of attack was 120° TC.

(3) The 484th dropped their bombs by PFF at 1104A from 22,500 ft. Axis of attack was 130° TC. Weather prevented them from being at their briefed altitude.

d. The escort of P-38s were seen in the target area at 1102A.

e. The rally was left until clear of flak, then right as specified in the field order.

f. The formation on the route back cut short of TP #4, TP #5 and TP #6 to TP #7. From TP #7 the formation flew East of course to TP #10. The formation flew direct from TP #10 to base.

g. Ratings: 451st- Lead Navigator Lt. Golden.
Navigation Good. Log Excellent.
461st- Lead Navigator Capt. Coles.
Navigation Good. Log Excellent.
484th- Lead Navigator Lt. Murphy.
Navigation Fair. Log Poor.

h. COMMENTS: The navigation on this mission was made difficult by bad weather, however, the briefed route to the target was followed well.

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Lt. Col., Air Corps,
A-3.