

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND745005

Belongs ~~in~~ M/Y

Mission No. 41

13 May 1944

FIELD ORDER NO. 46

740

994

5/13/44

LT BECKER  
LT ERDMINGER  
P/O BRANDSTETTER

T/SGT JOHNSON P.A.

NOSE GUNNER

T/SGT HECK  
S/sgt sumakis  
S/sgt Hayes  
S/sgt Harris  
S/sgt Symkowiec  
Sgt Johnson J.W.  
T/sgt Colium

740

742

5/13/44

LT Griffen  
LT Lebsock  
LT Gilliam  
LT Stewardson  
S/sgt Childers

Sgt Louthan  
Sgt Manning  
S/sgt pierce  
S/sgt Carney  
Sgt Williams

740

198

5/13/44

LT Bethune  
LT Askissen  
LT  
LT Hoade  
T/sgt Riley

NOSE GUNNER

T/sgt Boone  
S/sgt Vick  
S/sgt Brown  
Sgt Fisher  
S/sgt Smith  
S/sgt Greland

740

270

5/13/44

LT Kelley  
LT Riley  
LT Ames  
LT Conner  
S/sgt Dunn

S/sgt Lewis  
Sgt Martin  
Sgt Macemie  
Sgt Earle  
Sgt Harper

740

299

5/13/44

LT Moore  
LT Ennis  
LT Gustafson  
LT Butler  
T/sgt Logan

T/sgt Wort  
S/sgt Kruse  
S/sgt Franceschini  
S/sgt Bisschoff  
S/sgt Balough

234

5/23/44

Lt Scribner  
Lt Grisson  
Lt Blanco  
Lt. Stelle  
S/Sgt Angelides

T/Sgt Dehart  
S/Sgt Thomas  
S/Sgt Quast  
S/Sgt Somers  
S/Sgt Hodgson

740

002

5/23/44

Lt Crawford  
Lt Johnson  
Lt Anna  
S/Sgt DeLong

T/Sgt De Selas  
S/Sgt Crystal  
S/Sgt Fortson  
S/Sgt Mott  
S/Sgt Paul

740

100

5/23/44

Lt Mason  
Lt West  
Lt Fogarty  
Lt John  
S/Sgt Lint

T/Sgt Yarnall  
S/Sgt Long  
Sgt Fisher  
S/Sgt Miller  
S/Sgt Mansfield

740

740

5/23/44

Lt Johnson  
S/Sgt Robertson  
Lt Randall  
Lt Daniels  
S/Sgt Freeman

T/Sgt Thigpen  
S/Sgt Jackson  
S/Sgt Merrill  
S/Sgt Fry  
S/Sgt Johnson, R/S.

HEADQUARTERS  
455th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF,

13 May 1944.

FIELD ORDER)  
NUMBER 46)

Maps; 1/500,000 of NAPOLI, FIRENZE, ROMA, and BOLOGNA.

L. a. ENEMY DEFENSE:

- (1) Target is BOLOGNA MAIN M/Y. Secondary target is any active M/Y in the PO VALLEY. There are thirty-three heavy A/A guns in the target area.
- (2) There are ninety enemy fighters in the target area but little opposition is expected.

b. FRIENDLY FORCES:

- (1) None.
  - (2) One Group of P-38s will rendezvous with this Wing at CARRAIA at 1348B and provide penetration, target and withdrawal cover.
2. Thirty-six plus spares B-24s of this Group will attack BOLOGNA MAIN M/Y at 1430B using 1000# GP bombs with .1 second nose and .025 second tail fuzes.
  3. This Group will attack in two units of 18 plus spares ships each, in a nine ship front, second unit stacked down. Lead ships will sight for range and deflection, box leaders for range, others toggle on leaders. Pathfinder force will stand down. Bombing altitude will be 21,000 feet, intervalometer setting 50 feet. Target elevation is 150 feet. Rally right. Route back will be to 42 50N 14 30E to Base. Each ship in first attack unit will load three artons of window, dispensing to begin two minutes before the IP and continue until clear of flak.

4. No change.

5. a. Command ..... 6440 Kcs.  
A. G. L. .... 4585 Kcs.  
Interplane ..... "B" Channel  
Collective call sign ..... Ringway Two Three.  
Squadron call signs: 740th ..... Yachtclub  
741st ..... Stumble  
742nd ..... Windscreen  
743rd ..... Deafdumb.

(Continued F.O. 46, 13 May 1944)

Fighter call sign ..... Keyword Two.  
Recall signal ..... Mudpie.  
IFF to be used as per latest instructions.

b. None

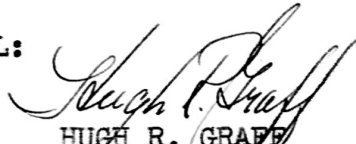
c. (1) None.

(2) Group leader ..... Major GRAFF  
Deputy group leader ..... Captain BECHTOLD

By order of Colonel COOL:

HUGH R. GRAFF  
Major, Air Corps  
Operations Officer

OFFICIAL:

  
HUGH R. GRAFF  
Major, Air Corps  
Operations Officer.

ANNEXES:

1. Briefing Outline
2. Mission Statistics.
3. Opns Order 304 Wg, No. 123.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 ea Sq Opns
- 1 Gp S-2
- 1 Gp S-3

(Annex 2, F.O. 46, 13 May 1944)

BRIEFING OUTLINE.

1. No. of aircraft on mission ..... 35 B-24s.
2. Group leader ..... Major GRAFF
3. Deputy group leader ..... Capt. BECHTOLD
4. Second unit leader ..... Lieut. LIBERTY
5. Second deputy leader ..... Lieut. WALTERS
6. Other Group on mission ..... 459, 454, 456 BGs.
7. Fighter escort ..... One Group P-38s.
8. Bomb load ..... 10 6/1000# GP .1 N, .025 T.
9. Ammunition ..... 5200 rounds .50 cal.
- 10 Fuel load ..... 2700 gals, full oil service.
- 11 Time at stations..... 0840B.
- 12 Take off instructions ..... Taxi to south at 0955 for T/O to North at 1010B.

ORDER OF TAKE OFF:

1st Attack Unit			2nd Attack Unit		
253	665	190	257	749	989
294	283	741	216	855	261
184	583	198	481	249	
994	982	081	259	280	
239	271	234	938	105	
748	347		250	949	
879	278		099	166	

- 13 Bomber rendezvous ..... 1st Combat Wing (459,454) at SAN GIOVANNI AT 4000 feet at 1105B.  
 2nd Combat Wing (455,456) at SAN GIOVANNI at 5000 feet at 1108B.
- 14 Course to target ..... See ROUTE OUT on Opns Order 123.  
 To FRASSINORO (44 17N 10 34E) to IP to Target.
- 15 Time at target ..... 1430B.
- 16 Return course ..... ~~CAPRAIA~~ To 42 50N 14 30E to Base.
- 17 Initial point ..... ZOCCA (44 20N 11 00E)
- 18 Axis of attack ..... 174 degrees Mag.
- 19 Bombing formation..... Nine ship front, second unit stacked down.
- 20 Bombardier Information ..... Lead ship sight for range and deflection, box leaders for range, all others toggle on leaders. Bomb altitude 21000' IAS 160 mph, Int. setting 50' target elevation 150 feet.
- 21 Direction of rally ..... Right.
- 22 Weather forecast:  
 See NORGE .

(Annex 2, F.O. 6, Mission #41, 13 May 44)

MISSION STATISTICS

42 A/C Scheduled.

35 Off:

454th ship cracked up on runway. By order of Colonel Upthegrove two 740th-ships Paci 937 and Kelley 270, and five 742nd ships Keil 570, Nelson 494n Watson 240, Brimage 771, and Hespeller 230, did not take off.

740th Bomb Sq:

8 A/C Off

7 Over target

8 Returned

1 Early return: Bethune 198 at 1145B.

0 Prior return

741st Bomb Sq:

11 A/C Off

11 Over target

11 Returned

0 Early return

0 Prior return

742nd Bomb Sq:

5 A/C Off

~~5~~ Over target

~~5~~ Returned

~~0~~ Early return

1 ~~E/R~~ ~~Prior~~ Return: Gorecki 261 at 1525B. changed to E/R by S-2.

743rd Bomb Sq:

11 A/C Off

11 Over target

11 Returned

0 Early return

0 Prior return.

Combat time: 5:35.

455 E. BOMBARDMENT GROUP

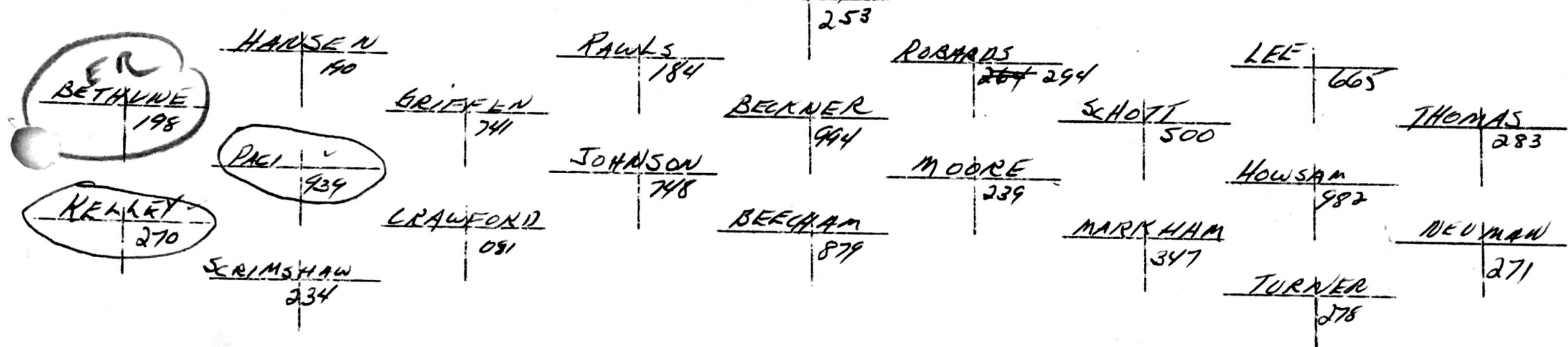
A.P.O 520

MISSION NO. 41

FORMATION DIAGRAM

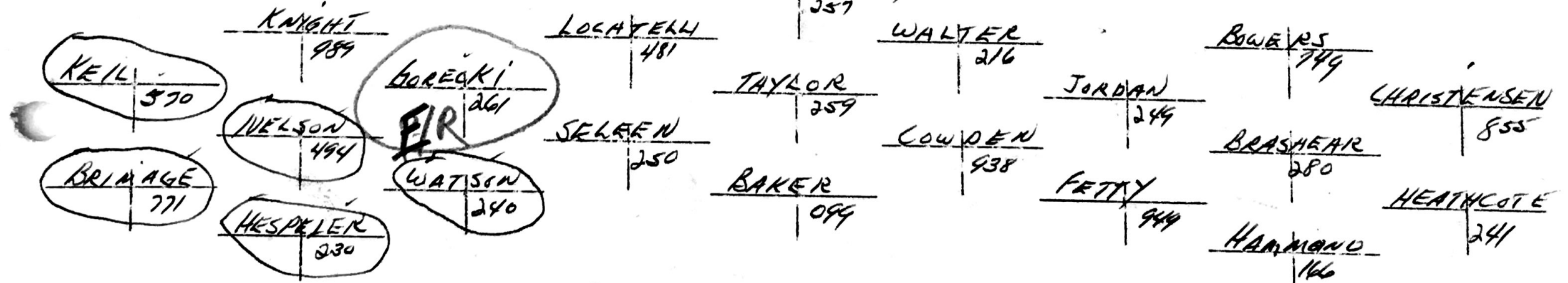
DATE 13 May 44

1ST SECTION  
BRAFF-TRAYER



2ND SECTION

GORSKI-LIBERTY



○ EARLY RETURNS  
○ DID NOT TAKE OFF

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 745005



Stat

CONFIDENTIAL  
HEADQUARTERS 304TH BOMB WING (H)  
A-2 SECTION APO 520

CONFIRMING MISSION REPORT

1. HQ. 455TH BOMB GROUP (H) AAF MISSION NUMBER 41 DATE 13 May 1944

2. STATISTICAL SUMMARY		TOTAL TO DATE	
A. Sorties	<u>33</u>	<u>1406</u>	
B. Early Returns	<u>2</u>	<u>96</u>	
C. A/C Bombing	<u>33</u>	<u>1299</u>	
D. Tonnage Dropped	<u>98.</u>	<u>2902.81</u>	
E. Our Losses, Flak	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	
E/A	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	
Missing	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	
F. Damaged			
Flak	<u>0</u>	Severe <u>0</u>	Slight <u>27</u>
E/A	<u>0</u>	" <u>0</u>	" <u>246</u>
Other	<u>0</u>	" <u>0</u>	" <u>4</u>
Other			<u>8</u>
Other			<u>12</u>
F. Victories Dest in Air	<u>0</u>	<u>56</u>	
Probable	<u>0</u>	<u>46</u>	
Damaged	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	
Dest on Gnd	<u>0</u>	<u>27</u>	
Damaged	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	
G. Casualties Miss in A	<u>0</u>	<u>145</u>	
Killed	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	
Wounded-serious	<u>0</u>	<u>4</u>	

3. At 1025 hours 35 B-24's took off to bomb BOLOGNA MAIN W/Y

4. Escorted by 30 P-38's

5. a. 2 ret'd early one because of ill crew member, jettisoned 6 bombs in sea.  
one because of late takeoff, couldn't catch up with formation, returned bombs.

b. 0 ret'd prior

6. a. 1 A/C dropped 10 x 500 lb. (2.5 tons) G.P., .1 sec nose, 1025 sec. tail  
32 A/C dropped 191 x 1,000 lb. (95.5 tons) G.P., .1 sec. Nose, .025 sec. Tail  
(No) (type) (fusing)  
bombs on Primary target at 1445 hrs. from 20,500 to 22,000 ft.

b. 1 of above returned 1 x 1,000 lb. (.5 tons) to base, release  
no place reasons  
mechanism inoperative.

c.      dropped      x      lb. (     tons) bombs on       
other target, where, why

d.      returned      x      lb. bombs to base       
give disposition of any bombs not dropped  
give reasons

e.      jettisoned      x      lb. bombs at       
place, reasons.

7. a. 34 A/C returned at 1605 hours.      A/C are at      place

b.      A/C lost at     ,      place      circumstances  
time

c.      A/C missing and last seen at     ,      place  
time

circumstances

8. Personnel casualties were     ,      position      degree of injury

C O N F I D E N T I A L

9. RESULTS: Good concentration on east end of Marshalling Yards. One very large explosion observed. A few bombs carried over into city.
10. ENEMY RESISTANCE:
- a. Fighters: No enemy aircraft observed or encountered.

b. Flak: Slight, inaccurate, heavy flak encountered at target.

11. OBSERVATIONS:

a. Communications: At 1338N/1324E at 1455 hours, from 17,000 ft a forty or fifty car train headed south. New M/Y at BOLOGNA well filled with RR cars, at 1426 hours, from 21,000 ft.

b. Enemy Air Installations and Activity in addition to encounters: At 4337N/10.3E, near Ancona, at 1500 hours, from 15,000 ft, a long row of red colored buildings. ANCONA A/D at 15,000 ft at 1455 hours, 20 to 25 A/C on ground. At PISA A/D (4341N/1023E) at 1404 hours, from 18,000 ft, 5 large A/C on ground.

c. Flak Positions:

d. Smoke Screens, Camouflage, Balloons etc:

e. Naval: At ANCONA harbor at 1500 hours, from 14,500 ft a large 2 stack warship at anchor. 15 to 20 vessels on 60 degree heading, at (4132N/1220E) at 1240 hours from 17,000 ft.

12. WEATHER: Base to west coast of Italy, 4/10 to 5/10 stratocumulus, tops 6,000 ft, and 3/10 cirrus based at 30,000 ft. Over water patches of stratocumulus tops at 5,000 ft. Inland 6/10 to 8/10 cumulus topping the mountains at 6 to 8,000 ft. These decreased east of the highest hills to 2 to 3/10 at the target area. Visibility over entire route was 10 miles in haze. In the target area were 2 to 3/10 cumulus tops at 5,000 ft and 2 to 3/10 cirrus at 30,000 ft.

13. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN: Full coverage of target area obtained with K-22 cameras.

14. COURSE: Base to 4132N/1415E to 4129N/1403E to 4119N/1402E to 4103N/1351E to 4047N/1326E to 4035N/1005E to 4303N/0950E to 4358N/1010E to 4412N/1110E to Target. Axis of Attack 008 degrees. Target to 4340N/1340E to Base.

Time Received \_\_\_\_\_

Time Forwarded \_\_\_\_\_

Initials/Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Initials/Signature \_\_\_\_\_

C O N F I D E N T I A L

MISSION NO. 41

MISSION STATISTICS

DATE

UNITS PARTICIPATING	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	LAST
	BOLOGNA	ANY ACTIVE M/Y in PO VALLEY	

UNIT	A/C OVER TARGET				ABORTIVES				CLAIMS			DISPOSITION OF BOMBS				A/C LOST	AMM. EXP.		
	OFF GROUND	FRI- MARY	SECON- DARY	LAST RESORT	TOTAL ABOR.	MECH- FAIL- URE	ARM- FAIL- URE	OTHER	DES- TROYED	PROB- ABLE	DAM- AGED	EFFECTIVE NO.	TYPE	JETTISONED NO.	TYPE			BROUGHT BACK NO.	TYPE
740	8	7	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	42	1000#	6	1000#	0	1000#	0	600
741	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	66	1000#	0	1000#	0	1000#	0	737
742	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	1000#	0	1000#	6	1000#	0	0
743	11	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	59	1000#	0	1000#	1	1000#	0	1700
GROUP	35	33	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	191	1000#	6	1000#	7	1000#	0	3037

NOTE: 1 A/C No 583 743RD Sg. drpd 10x500# bombs on tgt. for total of 2.5 tons.

HEADQUARTERS 304TH WING (US)

APO 520  
12 May, 1944  
2130B.

455  
Operations Order)  
Number 123)

1. a. (1) See latest Intelligence Summaries.

b. (2) Operations for 13 May 1944. Plan Able. Six Groups B-17's, 5th Wing, will attack BRENNER ROUTE Rail Communications at BOLZANO, BRONZOLO, AVISIO, ~~xxx~~ and TRENTO at 14:30B. Three Groups B-24's, 49th Wing, will attack PO VALLEY Rail Installations at FAENZA, and CESENA. Key Point time 12:11B. Four Groups B-24's of 47th Wing will attack Rail targets in PO VALLEY at PIACENZA and FIDENZA, Key Point time 12:41B. Four Groups B-24's of 55th Wing, will attack M/Y at PARMA and MODENA, Key Point time 12:31B. 306th Wing - fighters will give close escort and target cover for 5th Wing. 52nd FG will give escort and Target cover for 47th Wing. Fighters will give cover on penetration, over target area, and on withdrawal for units attacking PO Valley Targets.

2. Thirty-six plus spares B-24's of all Groups this Wing will attack M/Y in the BOLOGNA Area as follows:

TARGET: 459th BG will destroy CASTEL MAGGIORE M/Y - See attached photos.

ROUTE BACK: 454th BG will destroy SAN RUFILLO Rail Installations with Aiming Point 912448 on MAP SHEET 87 1-100,000.

3. a. 455th BG will destroy BOLOGNA MAIN M/Y - See attached Target Charts.

b. 456th BG will destroy BORGO PANIGALE M/Y - See attached Target Charts.

SECONDARY TARGET: Any active M/Y in PO Valley.

FIGHTER RENDEZVOUS: One Group P-38's will rendezvous with this Wing at CAPRAIA at 13:48B and provide penetration, target and withdrawal cover.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 1st Combat Wing (459th - 454th) at SAN GIOVANNI at 4,000 ft. at 11:05B.

2nd Combat Wing (455th - 456th) at SAN GIOVANNI at 5,000 ft. at 11:08B.

LEAD: 459th BG with 454th, 455th and 456th BG's in order.

ROUTE OUT: Base to ISERNIA (41°35'N, 14°14'E) to Turn Point VENAFRO (41°29'N, 14°03'E) to Turn Point MARZANO (41°19'N, 14°02'E) to Turn Point MONDRAGONE (41°06'N, 13°54'E) to Key Point VENTOTENE (40°47'N, 13°26'E) to Turn Point PIANOSA (42°35'N, 10°05'E) to Turn Point CAPRAIA (43°03'N, 09°50'E) to FORTE DEI MARIE (43°58'N, 10°10'E). Then as follows: 459th BG - going West of MODENA to IP to Target.

S E C R E T

(Operations Order Number 123 d/d 12 May, 1944., continued)

454th, 455th and 456th BG's - to FRASSINORO (44°17'N,  
10°34'E) to IP to Target.

Time at Key Point 12:21B at 10,000 feet. Stay at  
10,000 feet until reaching coast.

INITIAL POINT: 459th BG - NONANTOLA (44°40'N, 11°03'E),  
454th, 455th and 456th BG's - ZOCCA (44°20'N, 11°00'E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 459th BG - 119°M.  
454th BG - 73°M.  
455th BG - 64°M.  
456th BG - 55°M.

TARGET TIME: 14:30B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 459th BG - 19,000 feet. 454th BG - 19,000 feet.  
455th BG - 21,000 feet. 456th BG - 20,000 feet.

BOMBING FORMATION: 454th and 456th BG's will bomb in a column of six  
~~ship~~ ship boxes, boxes stacked down. 459th and 455th  
BG's will bomb in a 9 ship front with second attack  
units stacked down.

TARGET ELEVATION: BOLOGNA MAIN and SAN RUFILLO - 150 feet.  
BORGO PANIGALE - 130 feet.  
CASTEL MAGGIORE - 110 feet.

RALLY: 459th BG - Left until clear of flak then right to BRISIGHELLA  
(44°14'N, 11°46'E).

454th, 455th and 456th BG's - Right.

ROUTE BACK: to 42°50'N, 14°30'E to Base.

3. a. 455th BG - Intervalometer setting 50 feet.

b. 459th, 454th and 456th BG's - Intervalometer setting minimum.

x. All Groups will load 1000 pound G.P. bombs with .1 sec nose and  
.025 sec. tail fuzes.

4. Omitted.

5. Command on 6440 Kc for bomber to bomber and VHF Channel "A" for Bombers  
and fighters. Collective call signs for bombers (459th - RINGWAY TWO ONE) (454th -  
RINGWAY TWO TWO) (455th - RINGWAY TWO THREE) (456th - RINGWAY TWO FOUR). Call signs  
for fighters - (1st FG - KEYWORD TWO).

Recall signal: MUDPIE.

Air Force Formation will be close column of Wings with 49th Wing leading,  
304th Wing second, 55th Wing third, and 47th Wing fourth.

Window will be employed in accordance with SOP. Each aircraft of lead  
attack units will load three cartons of Window, dispensing to begin two minutes  
before the IP and continuing until clear of flak.

Pathfinder force will stand down.

Do not attack FLORENCE.

By order of Colonel UPTHEGROVE:

*John K. Brown, Jr.*  
JOHN K. BROWN, JR.,  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
A-3.

S E C R E T  
- 2 -



(495 B 6 9411)  
BOLOGNA, Italy

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NDI 780005

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 715015



BOLOGNA MI

(455 B 0 AM 41-119) (5-13-1926) (74-10000) (10°) S-989





DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND 745015



(455-86 4M 41-304) (5-13-1926) (44-20,000) (3580) 5.934  
POLAROID 1/4