

Operation No. 225--VERONA MAIN MARSHALLING YARDS, ITALY--14 February 1944.

MISSION NUMBER 225

VERONA MAIN MARSHALLING YARDS,
ITALY

14 February 1944.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority AND 945005

S E C R E T

HEADQUARTERS FIFTH WING (US)

301st
APO 520
13 February 1944
1430A

OPERATIONS ORDER) Opns Order No 328 this Hq dated 12/2/44
is hereby rescinded.

NUMBER 330)

1. a. No change.
- b. (1) No change.

(2) B-24's, escorted by P-38's, are attacking VERONA, ITALY EAST MARSHALLING YARDS on 14 February 1944, and also FERRARA and PRATO, ITALY MARSHALLING YARDS.

2. Maximum B-17's of the 2nd, 99th, 301st and 97th Bomb Gps, covered by maximum P-47's of the 325th Fighter Group, will attack and destroy the VERONA, ITALY, MAIN MARSHALLING YARDS on 14 February 1944. This is Plan "A".

ALTERNATE TARGET: Any line of communication in North Central Italy.
BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 1025A - 2nd & 99th Bomb Gps at FOGGIA TOWN, 6,000
1029A - 301st & 97th Bomb Gps at LUCERA TOWN, 7000
1030A - 301st & 97th Bomb Gps will line rendezvous
at assembly altitudes with the 2nd and
99th Bomb Gps at LUCERA.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 2nd - 99th - 301st - 97th Bomb Gps.

ROUTE OUT: RENDEZVOUS to PONZA ISLAND to (42 deg 20 min N 10 deg 45 mi.
E) to CALCINATO (45 deg 27 min N 10 deg 25 min E) to I.P.
to TARGET.

INITIAL POINT: LAZISI (45 deg 30 min N 10 deg 44 min E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 116 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1315A.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 2nd Bomb Gp - 21,000 ft.
99th Bomb Gp - 22,500 ft.
301st Bomb Gp - 24,000 ft.
97th Bomb Gp - 21,500 ft.

TARGET ELEVATION: 240 ft.

RALLY: Right turn.

ROUTE BACK: RALLY to (42 deg 20 min N 10 deg 45 min E) to PONZA to BAS

3. a. The 325th Ftr Gp will furnish twelve (12) P-47's to stand by for manhole operation. It will in addition, furnish maximum P-47's to cover the target area from 1310A, or five (5) minutes before bomber target time, and cover the bomber withdrawal to maximum limit of endurance.

b. The 97th Bomb Gp will bomb area No. 1 as shown on target chart No. 4-109-NH. Bomb load will be M47-A1 incendiaries with M47-A1 fuses.

c. The 2nd, 99th, and 301st Bomb Gps will bomb as shown on target chart attached to Opns Order No 328. Bomb load for these groups will be 500's with .01 second nose and .01 second tail fuses.

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S E C R E T

S E C R E T

(Ops Order No. 330 cont'd.)

4. No change.
5. a. Command radio 6440 Kes,
 - b. VHF Channel "B" for bombers and "A" for fighters.
 - c. Bomber call sign Searchlight, (2nd BG - Searchlight one), (99th BG - Searchlight two), (301st BG - Searchlight three), (97th BG - Searchlight four).
 - d. Fighter call signs, (325th Ftr Gp - Seedcake).
 - e. "Bombs /way" signal will be sent.
 - f. I. E. F. will be used as per existing instructions.

By Order of Colonel LAWRENCE:

Stephen W. Henry

STEPHEN W. HENRY,
Colonel, Major, Air Corps,
AGS-1, A-3, Officers.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 ea CG, A-2, A-3, P.I.
- 2 ea Bomb Gp, 5th Wg
- 1 ea Ftr Gp, 5th Wg
- 1 ea CG, 15th AF.

S E C R E T

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Hq, 301st Bomb Gp (H), AAF
A. P. C. 520
1200A, 14 February 1944.

FIELD ORDER)

NO.....204)

Maps: G.S.G.S. 4072, 1:500,000 scale of Napoli, Roma, Firenze, Venezia; G.S.G.S. 4080, 1:1,000,000 scale Plotting Sheets of Greece and Adriatic; Target Charts of VERONA, ITALY, NO. 4-109-NA; BRESCIA, ITALY, NO. 4-104-NA; PARMA RR JCT, ITALY, NO. 4-123-NA.

1. See Annex No. 2.
2. This Group will attack and destroy the VERONA MAIN MARSHALLING YARDS, ITALY, on 14 February 1944 at 1315A.

RENDEZVOUS: LUCERA, 7,000 feet, 1029A.

ROUTE OUT: LUCERA to PONZA ISLAND to (42°20'N 10°45'E) to CALCINATO to (45°27'N 10°25'E) to I.P. to Target.

INITIAL POINT: LAZISI (45°30'N 10°44'E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 116°

INTERVALOMETER: 150 feet.

APPROACH ALTITUDE: 25,000 feet.

BOMBING ALTITUDES:

32nd Bomb Sq	- 25,200 feet.
352nd Bomb Sq	- 25,500 feet.
32nd and 352nd Bomb Sqs	- 24,900 feet.
353rd Bomb Sq	- 24,300 feet.
419th Bomb Sq	- 24,600 feet.
353rd and 419th Bomb Sqs	- 24,000 feet.

CRUISING FORMATION: Two Group Stagers.

BOMBING FORMATION: Two Group Stagers.

BOMBING SPEED: 155.

BOMB LOAD: 12 x 500 lb. G.P. per a/c, .1 nose and .01 tail fusing.

RALLY: Right.

ROUTE BACK: Rally to (42°20'N 10°45'E) to PONZA IS. to Base.

SECONDARY TARGET: Any LINE of COMMUNICATIONS in NORTH CENTRAL ITALY.

LAST RESORT: BRESCIA AND PARMA M/YDS, ITALY.

3. a. The 32nd Bomb Sq will form the first flight of two elements of the first Group and lead the Group.
- b. The 352nd Bomb Sq will form the second flight of two elements of the first Group.

The 32nd Bomb Sq will form the first element of the third flight of the first Group and occupy positions No. 21 and 22 of the second element of the same flight with the 352nd Bomb Sq filling the No. 23 position of the same flight.

d. The 353rd Bomb Sq will form the first flight of two elements of the second Group and lead the Group.

e. The 419th Bomb Sq will form the second flight of two elements of the second Group.

f. The 353rd Bomb Sq will form the first element and the 419th Bomb Sq the second element of the third flight of the second Group.

x. (1) The 352nd and 353rd Bomb Sqs will furnish 1 a/c each for reserves.

(2) For positions in formation and a/c carrying cameras, see Annex No. 1.

4. No change.

5. a. (1) Signals for period concerned are:

0700 - 1300 **RY** - F - O
1300 - 1900 **GY** - H - Q
1900 - 0100 **RG** - M - Z

(2) Call Signs:

32nd Bomb Sq - Black 1.
352nd Bomb Sq - Black 2.
32nd and 352nd Bomb Sqs - Black 3.
353rd Bomb Sq - Black 4.
419th Bomb Sq - Black 5.
353rd and 419th Bomb Sqs - Black 6.

(3) Frequencies: 6440 and 4990

Channel "B" Bombers
Channel "A" Fighters

b. Command Posts:

(1) Ground: LUCERA.

(2) Air:

(a) First Group Flight Commander Captain BOSWORTH.

(b) First Group Deputy Flight Commander Lieutenant ROCKSTEAD No. 12
position of first flight.

(c) Second Group Flight Commander Captain KISSELBURGH

(d) Second Group Deputy Flight Commander Lieutenant ROSE No. 12
position of first flight.

By order of Lieutenant Colonel BARTHELMESS:

P. J. O'CARROLL,
Major, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

OFFICIAL:

P. J. O'Carroll

P. J. O'CARROLL,
Major, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

ANNEXES:

1. Battle Order.
2. Intelligence.

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 ea Sq
- 1 ea S-3.

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BATTLE ORDER
ANNEX NUMBER 1 to FIELD ORDER NUMBER 204
301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF

First Group

32nd Bomb Sq	10	Bosworth	1482	
" "	12	Rockstead	1584	
" "	13	Tanner	0428	
" "	21	Moore	1853	
" "	22	Berner	3157	
" "	23	Derner	3144	
352nd Bomb Sq	11	Cline	1601	C-12"
" "	12	Koeckritz	1426	
" "	13	Ernsberger	1437	
" "	21	Miller	1872	
" "	22	Damm <i>PETERSON</i>	9986	
" "	23	Hall	1701	
32nd Bomb Sq	11	Pearson	1664	
" "	12	Walsh	7813	
" "	13	Walker	1129	
" "	21	Hayes	8076	C-24"
" "	22	Paxton	1398	
352nd Bomb Sq	23	Whitten	0329	

Second Group

353rd Bomb Sq	10	Kissleburgh	1397	K-20
" "	12	Rose	1652	
" "	13	Snyder	5874	
" "	21	Charbonneau	1671	
" "	22	LaForge	1697	
" "	23	Lawrence	3392	
419th Bomb Sq	11	Boyd	7446	
" "	12	Barr	7964	
" "	13	Hatch	1182	
" "	21	Hubel	0403	C-12"
" "	22	Campbell	0504	
" "	23	Board	1893	
353rd Bomb Sq	11	Gunschel	1703	
" "	12	Cockreham	7526	
" "	13	Ahearn	0095	
419th Bomb Sq	21	Lewis	5870	C-24"
" "	22	Young	0465	
" "	23	Coppedge	5944	
352nd Bomb Sq	R	Hammar	1605	
353rd Bomb Sq	R	Wood	8077	

HEADQUARTERS 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 14 February 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 2

TO:

FIELD ORDER NO. 204

MAPS: Navigational, 1:500,000's; Napoli, Rome, Firenze, Venezia.

Target Charts: Verona, Italy No. 4-109-NA.
Dresda, Italy 4-104-NA.
Parma RR Jct., Italy 4-123-NA.

I. A. Targets:

Our last raid on VERONA was highly successful, but repairs meanwhile have rendered most of the east RR yards servicable. About 600 freight cars and eight (8) locomotives with steam up were photographed in this section 7 Feb 44, and since 1 Feb 44 there has been a complete turnover in this section of the yards. In this area, BRESCIA and PARMA are almost equally important and vulnerable with the primary.

II. Same as Intelligence Annex No. 2 to Field Order No. 201.

III. Same as Intelligence Annex No. 2 to Field Order No. 201.

IV. Same as Intelligence Annex No. 2 to Field Order No. 201.

V. Same as Intelligence Annex No. 2 to Field Order No. 201.

HEADQUARTERS 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
New Zealand

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT:

MISSION: 14 February 1944, VERONA RR YARDS, Italy.

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: 8 to 10 Me 109's, with yellow and red noses, and FW 190's, attacked our formation in the vicinity of the target area. They were very aggressive, making three and four passes. Most attacks came from frontal level and low 10:30.
- B. Flak: Slight inaccurate heavy flak was encountered over the target.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

- A. Communications: A new large runway with revetments seen at 45 deg 26 min N, 10 deg 24 min E. Seven (7) vessels observed in Elba harbor. 10 medium vessels seen in Piombino Harbor.
- B. Flak Positions: Pin-pointing of flak positions rendered impossible by overcast.
- C. Smoke Screens: Negative.
- D. Airdromes: Negative.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Total Losses: 1 (missing)
- B. Damage:
 - (1) From flak - 6 (minor)
 - (2) From fighters - Negative
- C. Victories: 2 Me 109's destroyed, one damaged.
- D. Correction on telephone mission report: Negative.

EDWARD T. BRIGHAN,
Major, Air Corps,
Intelligence Officer.

Obs

HEADQUARTERS 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 15 February 1944

SUBJECT: Combat Claims.

TO : Commanding General, Hq., Fifth Wing (US), APO 520. Attention A-2.

1. Transmitted herewith are Combat Claims for the following named personnel, organizations as indicated, of the 301st Bombardment Group (H).

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>AIR</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>CLAIM</u>
T/Sgt	John C. Gillis	32381507	32nd Sqdn	1 Me 109 Dest.
S/Sgt	Raymond J. Merrick	37081752	419th Sqdn	1 Me 109 Dest.

For the Commanding Officer:

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

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Opus Off
Cliff Clark

HEADQUARTERS 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
APO 520 17 February 1944

SUBJECT: Supplement to Combat Claims.

TO : Commanding General, Hq., Fifth Wing (US), APO 520. Attention A-2.

1. Transmitted herewith is the Combat Claim for the following named personnel, organization as indicated, of the 301st Bombardment Group (H). This claim took place on our raid to VERONA RR YDS., Italy, 14 February 1944.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ASN</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>CLAIM</u>
S/sgt	Virgil W. Scott	17068755	353rd Sqdn	1 Me 109 Damaged

For the Commanding Officer:

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



DECLASSIFIED
Authority NND 745005

MISSION NUMBER 225DATE 14 February 1944STATION Lucera, ItalyPRIMARY TARGET Verona Main M/Yds, Italy : X: LAST RESORT TARGET : :SECONDARY TARGET : : OPPORTUNITY TARGET : :

	SQ	A/C NUMBER	PILOT	ON TARGET	JETTISONED	RETURNED	ALTITUDE.	ENEMY ACTION		VICTORIES	
								A/C	PSML	DEST	PROB D/GD
1	353rd	1703	Gunschel	12 x 500			18,000				1
2		7526✓	Cockreham	do			18,000				
3		0095	Ahearn	"			18,100				
4		8077	Wood	"			22,500				
5	419th	7446	Boyd	"			22,700				
6		7964	Barr	"			22,500				
7		1182	Hatch			12 x 500	24,000	Minor		1	
8		0403	Hubel			do					
9		0504	Campbell	12 x 500			22,900				
10		1893	Bond		12 x 500			Msg	10 Msg		
11		5870	Lewis	12 x 500			17,800				
12		0465	Young	do			19,000				
13		5944	Coppedge	"			18,000				
14											
15											
16											
17											
18											
19											
20											
21											
22											
23											
24											
TOTAL		37 a/c		396 x 500	12 x 500	36 x 500		3 Minor 1 Msg	10 Msg	2	1

REMARKS: 1 a/c, No. 3157, returned early due to mechanical difficulty. Slight, inaccurate, heavy flak as well as 8 to 10 E/A were encountered. 3 a/c received minor damage and 1 a/c, No. 1893, is missing with crew of 10. 2 E/A destroyed and 1 E/A damaged. 15,335 rds Cal. .50 expended.

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Authority AWD 745 005

MISSION NUMBER 225Date 14 February 1944STATION Lucera, ItalyPRIMARY TARGET Verona Main M/Yds, Italy. : X : LAST RESORT TARGET

SECONDARY TARGET : : OPPORTUNITY TARGET

	SQ	A/C NUMBER	PILOT	ON TARGET	JETTISONED	RETURNED	ALTITUDE.	ENEMY ACTION		VICTORIES	
								A/C	PSNL	DEST	PROB
1	32nd	1482	Bosworth	12 x 500			23,500				
2		1584	Rockstead	do			23,100	Minor		1	
3		0428	Tanner	"			23,400				
4		1853	Moore	"			24,500				
5		3157 ✓	Berner			12 x 500					
6		3144	Derner	12 x 500			24,500	Minor			
7		1664	Pearson	do			24,500				
8		7813	Walsh	"			24,000				
9		1129	Walker	"			24,200				
10		8076	Hayes	"			24,500				
11		1398	Paxton	"			25,000				
12	352nd	1601	Cline	"			25,000				
13		1426	Koeckritz	"			25,300				
14		1437	Ernsberger	"			25,300				
15		1872	Miller	"			25,000				
16		9986	Peterson	"			25,000				
17		1701	Hall	"			24,700				
18		1605	Hammar	"			23,000				
19	353rd	1397	Kisselburgh	"			22,800				
20		1652	Rose	"			22,800				
21		5874	Snyder	"			23,200				
22		1671	Charbonneaux	"			22,500				
23		1697	La Forge	"			24,000				
24		3392	Lawrence	"			24,000				
TOTAL											

REMARKS

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U. S. SECRET
(Equals BRITISH MOST SECRET)

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

14 February 1944.

SUBJECT: Tactics Report (Weather).

TO : Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.

1. Following is a detailed account of the weather enroute on the mission of 14 February 1944.

- a. Enroute - Route Out
Lucera - Ponza Is.: 2/10 cumulus-stratus at 5,000', mod. haze.
Ponza Is. - (42°20'N 10°45'E): clear with haze.
(42°20'N 10°45'E) - Target Area: increasing low cloud up to 8/10
in Po Valley at 8,000'-12,000'.
4/10-6/10 cirro-stratus cloud bank extending
from west into Po Valley.
- b. Return -
Same as route out -
Target Areas: Brescia - immediate area C.A.V.U.
hazy, vis. 30'.
Pontedera - immediate area C.A.V.U.
hazy, vis. 30'.
- c. Evasive Action: Finding Verona overcast, formation turned west for
secondary (Brescia). In avoiding cirro-stratus layers, #2 Squadron
of the second Group was forced out of position and was unable to
drop with rest of Group. #2 Squadron dropped on Pontedera on the
way home.

For the Commanding Officer:

P. J. O'CARROLL,
Major, Air Corps,
Operations Officer.

- 1 -

U. S. SECRET
(Equals BRITISH MOST SECRET)

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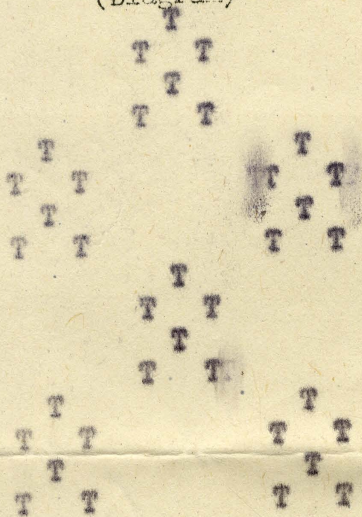
301st
GROUP

14 February 1944.
Date of Mission

Briefing Sheet

1. Target VERONA N/YDS., ITALY
2. I. P. LAZISE (45°30'N 10°44'E)
3. Intervalometer Setting ^b 150
4. Approach Altitude ^b 25,000
5. Bombing Altitude 25,200
6. Bombing Speed (Indicated) ^b 155
7. Number & Type of Bombs per Ship (with fuse setting) ^b 12 x 500-lb
1/10 nose .01 tail
8. Auto Pilot or PMI ^b PDI
9. Method of sighting (how many leaders are to sight, and how the Wing Bombard are to bomb) Op leaders for range and deflection -- all others for range only.
10. Rally direction Right airspeed ^b 160
11. Rendezvous time and place LUCERA 1029
12. Course to target LUCERA - PONZA IS. (42°20'N 10°45'E) - CALCINATO - I. P. - Target.
13. Return course Target - (42°20'N 10°45'E) - PONZA IS. - Base.
14. Cruising speed 155
15. Position in wing, cruising ^b 3d, bombing ^b 3d
16. Point of climb (41°08'N 13°54'E), speed of climb 150
17. Target time 1325A
18. Position of escort to bomber formation ^f _____

Cruising Formation
(Diagram)



Attack Formation
(Diagram)

(SAME AS CRUISING FORMATION)

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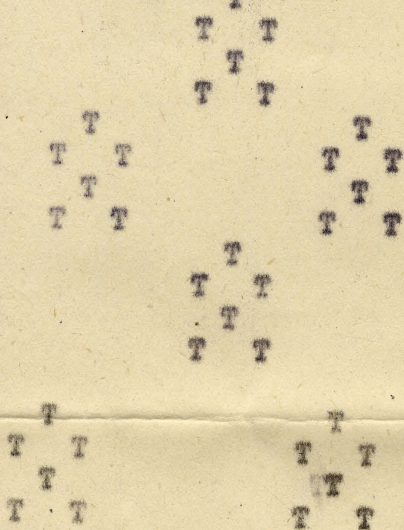
301st
GROUP

14 February 1944.
Date of Mission

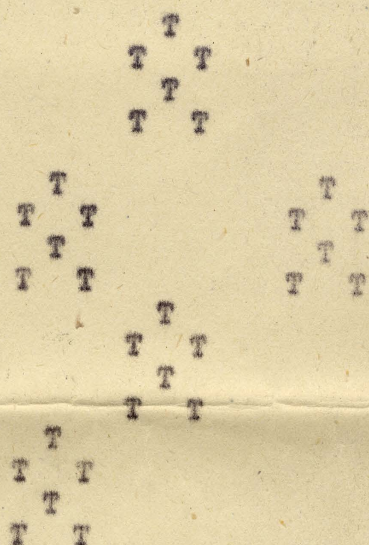
Attack Sheet

1. Target BRESCIA M/YDS., ITALY
2. I. P. (45°22'N 10°08'E)
3. Intervalometer Setting ^b 150'
4. Approach Altitude ^b 24,000
5. Bombing Altitude 23,500 axis 05°
6. Bombing Speed (Indicated) ^b 155
7. Auto Pilot or PDI run ^b PDI
8. Method of sighting (how many leaders sighted and how did the wing bombardier bomb) Group leaders for range and deflection -- all others for range only.
9. Rally direction Right airspeed ^b 155
10. Rendezvous time and place LUCERA 1030
11. Course to target LUCERA - PONZA IS. (42°20'N 10°45'E) - CALCIATO - I.P. - VERONA
I.P. - Target.
12. Return course Target - (42°57'N 10°42'E) - (42°20'N 10°45'E) - PONZA IS. - Base.
13. Cruising speed 155.
14. Position in wing, cruising ^b 3rd, bombing ^b only one on target
15. Point of climb (41°08'N 13°54'E), speed of climb 150
16. Target time 1355A
17. Position of escort to bomber formation ^f _____
18. Length of bomb run (in seconds) ^b 180
19. No. of bombs salvoed on target ^b 95 lbs.

Cruising Formation
(Diagram)



Attack Formation
(Diagram)



301st
GROUP

14 February 1944.
Date of Mission

Attack Sheet

1. Target PONTEDERA H/YDS., ITALY
2. I. P. LARI
3. Intervalometer Setting ^b 150'
4. Approach Altitude ^b 19,000
5. Bombing Altitude 18,000
6. Bombing Speed (Indicated) ^b 155
7. Auto Pilot or PDI run ^b PDI
8. Method of sighting (how many leaders sighted and how did the wing bombard bomb) Sq leader for range and direction - others for range only
9. Rally direction Right airspeed ^b 160
10. Rendezvous time and place LUCERA 0930
11. Course to target LUCERA - FONZA IS. - (42°20'N 10°45'E) - CALCINATO - VERONA -
PIESCIA - L.P. - Target.
12. Return course Target - FONZA IS. - Base.
13. Cruising speed 155.
14. Position in wing, cruising ^b 3rd, bombing ^b only Sq on target.
15. Point of climb (41°08'N 13°54'E), speed of climb 150
16. Target time 1454A
17. Position of escort to bomber formation ^f _____
18. Length of bomb run (in seconds) ^b 120
19. No. of bombs salvoed on target ^b 20

Cruising Formation
(Diagram)



Attack Formation
(Diagram)



This flight is the
one shown to the right
in "Attack Formation"
(Diagram)



TN(V556A-301 B.G.-41958-Ship 970)(11-2-44)(1:55)(214" 17900')(150) P. EDERRA A/D - I T A

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↑ N (V556-301 B.G. - 419 5g - Ship 870) (14-2-44 - 14:55) (24" - 17800') (15°) PONTEDERA A/D - I

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