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 HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGIC AIR FORCE  
 A.P.O. 520 U. S. ARMY

D/GJB/ef

14 February 1944.

## INTOPS SUMMARY NO. 207

PERIOD: 2400 hours 13 February to 2400 hours 14 February 1944.

## A. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS.

	HE.	MT. B.	ESC.	SWPS.	MISC.	TOTAL
Missions	9	3	4	0	2	18
Sorties	268	45	126	0	2	441
Tonnage	599.5	84	0	0	0	683.5
E/A Dest. (Air)	2	0	17	0	0	19
E/A Dest. (Grd)	0	0	0	0	0	0
E/A Probable	0	0	4	0	0	4
E/A Damaged	1	0	2	0	0	3
Lost	1	0	0	0	0	1
Missing	7	0	3	0	0	10

1. CECCHINA-ALBANO ROAD, Night 13/14 February: 14 Wellingtons of the 231 Wing dropped 27 tons of 250 lb. and 4,000 lb. bombs between 2256/0005 hours from 5,000/10,000 feet. There were no encounters and no flak at the target and no losses were reported. Haze made observation difficult, but bombing appeared well concentrated on roads in the target area. Fires were reported in ALBANO, CECCHINA and in a group of white buildings south of CECCHINA.

Two additional Wellingtons of this wing dropped 1,169,000 nickels in the ROME Area without incident.

2. CAMPOLEONE-CECCHINA ROAD, Night 13/14 February: 29 Wellingtons of the 236 Wing dropped 57 tons of 250 lb. and 4,000 lb. bombs in two waves, at 1911/1925 hours and again at 0100 hours from 500/12,000 feet. Slight heavy and light flak was reported from the target area. There were no encounters and no losses. Bursts were observed on roads in the target area, although haze made accurate observation of results difficult.

3. MODENA M/Y: 54 B-17's of the 2nd, 99th and 301st Bomb Groups finding their primary targets overcast dropped 156 tons of 500 lb. bombs between 1315 and 1426 hours from 20,000/24,200 feet. The 2nd Bomb Group saw 30 E/A but had no encounters. The 301st Bomb Group reported that all cameras were frozen. Flak at the target was reported as intense to moderate accurate heavy. 36 B-17's of the 97th Bomb Group on this mission were unable to locate target due to cloud cover and did not bomb. Bomb strike photos from the 99th Bomb Group show good concentration on through tracks, sidings, warehouses, rolling stock and on the central section of the M/Y to West of station. 2 warehouses were partially damaged and a small amount of rolling stock was destroyed. All through lines were cut. There were direct hits on several industrial properties on the North side of the yards and direct hits on the tracks at the NW choke point (on the line from MILAN and MANTUA). There were concentrations on residential and industrial buildings and on probable barracks south and SW of the West end of the yards with extensive damage probable.

4. PERSCIA M/Y: 23 B-17's of the 301st Bomb Group finding their primary obscured, dropped 69 tons of 500 lb. bombs between 1315 and 1426 hours from 20,000/24,200 feet. No photos available, but visual observation reports scattered hits on the railroad.

5. VERONA M/Y: 9 B-17's from the 2nd, 99th and 301st Bomb Groups dropped 27 tons of 500 lb. bombs on this primary target between 1315 and 1426 hours from 20,000/24,200 feet. No bomb strike photos are available and visual observations were impracticable due to weather.

6. TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: Between 1315-1426 hours from 20,000/24,200 feet - 13 B-17's of the 99th and 301st Bomb Groups finding the primary target overcast dropped 15 tons of 500 lb. bombs on PONTEDERA A/D and the PIAGGIO A/C FACTORY; and 24 tons on railroad bridges at PARMA, SASSUOLA, RUBIERA, and South of VICENZA. 1 A/C jettisoned and a second returned its bombs to base. Bomb strike photos in respect of RUBIERA show 2 direct hits on road bridge and direct hits on the RR lines at both ends of the RR bridge, and also on both fills of the highway overpass East of the River. The line to REGGIO EMILIA was cut in four places. There were scattered hits on residential buildings in the area and direct hits on the road near the actual overpass fill with crater damage. No other bomb strike photos are available but visual observations report direct hits at PONTEDERA and on the PIAGGIO

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A/C Factory.

NOTE: On all the above missions (para. 3 to 6) 25/30 Me 109's, FW 190's and Mc 202's were encountered and the B-17's were escorted by 47 P-47's. The total number of early returning A/C of all groups mentioned was 16 bombers and 10 fighters. Claims are as follows: By bombers - 301st Bomb Group: 2 Me 109's destroyed, 1 Me 109 damaged. By fighters - 325th Fighter Group: 7 Me 109's and 1 Mc 202 destroyed, 4 Me 109's probably destroyed, 1 Me 109 and 1 Mc 202 damaged. Losses: 1 bomber lost in collision with Me 109, 5 chutes seen. 3 bombers and 2 fighters missing.

7. MANTUA M/Y: 20 B-24's of the 376th Bomb Group dropped 45.25 tons of 500 lb. bombs at 1325 hours from 20,000/22,500 feet. 11 A/C returned early, one salvoed bombs and 2 are missing. 12 Me 109's were seen between VERONA and MANTUA but there were no encounters. Crews report slight accurate heavy flak from MANTUA, ANCONA and BOLOGNA. Malfunction of the cameras was caused by the extreme cold and bomb strike photos are not available. Crews report the majority of bombs overshot the target. There were a few scattered hits in the NW end of the M/V, some near the locomotive shop in the marshalling area and a few bursts in the town just SW of the M/Y. The bombs of the B-24 that salvoed hit the main highway from PARMA to MANTUA near the town of SUZZARA.

8. VERONA WEST M/Y and MASSA M/Y: 21 B-24's of the 450th Bomb Group, escorted by 43 P-38's of the 1st and 14th Fighter Groups dropped 47 tons of 500 lb. bombs at 1326 hours from 24,000/25,000 feet. 21 bombers and 22 fighters returned early. 5 of the early returning bombers dropped 14.25 tons on MASSA M/Y (4508N/1047E) at 1329 hours from 24,000/25,000 feet. The escort encountered 15/20 E/A in the VERONA area and destroyed six. Most crews reported moderate accurate heavy flak in the target area. There were no losses but two bombers and one fighter are missing. Bomb strike photos of VERONA were cloud covered but those of MASSA M/Y showed good coverage of the extreme East end of the M/V. Crews report bursts in the East M/Y at VERONA but weather hindered observations of results.

9. TERESA M/Y: 18 B-24's of the 98th Bomb Group dropped 37 tons of 500 lb. bombs at 1318 hours from 20,000/21,300 feet. There were no early returns, no encounters, no losses. Moderate accurate heavy flak was reported in the target area. Bomb strike photos show concentration of bursts on N end of M/Y's - industrial plants hit and several explosions.

10. PRATO M/Y - PISA M/Y - TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: 11 B-24's of the 449th Bomb Group dropped 27 1/2 tons of 500 lb. bombs at 1235 hours from 20,000/22,000 feet on PRATO M/Y. 14 other B-24's of the same bomb group dropped 35 tons of 500 lb. bombs on PISA M/Y at 1235 hours from 20,000/22,000 feet. 7 other B-24's bombed targets of opportunity such as PISA and FONTEDEIRA Airdromes and a road and rail junction near VAIANO (4358N/1108E) dropping 17 1/2 tons of 500 lb. bombs at approximately 1235 hours from 20,000/22,000 feet. 3 A/C returned early. There were no encounters or losses and no flak. 3 A/C attempting photographs had cameras frozen thus causing malfunctioning. No bomb strike photos are available and no results were observed visually.

11. AREZZO M/Y: 36 B-24's of the 454th Bomb Group dropped 80 tons of 500 lb. bombs at 1227 hours from 20,000 feet. 2 A/C returned early. Moderate accurate heavy flak was reported at the target. 4 unidentified A/C approached the formation at the I.P. but did not come within range. Five miles beyond target one Me 109 made one pass from one o'clock out of the sun at the high right element, opening fire at 300 yards. There were no losses or claims. Bomb strike photos show incomplete cover due to clouds. There was a concentration of strikes in the central part of the yards. The majority of bombs fell beyond the tracks in the brick works area, but there were 12 hits in the tracks area. There were scattered hits in the SW end of the M/Y in the vicinity of the choke point, and on branches to PRATOVECCHIA and MONTE S. SAVINO, although no damage was apparent. 1 string fell across the line to CASTIGLIONE and PERUGIA and explosions were visible following the bursts.

12. 154th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (Weather): One P-38 flew a weather recon mission without incident.

13. 15th Combat Mapping Squadron: 3 P-38's took off on photo recon missions. One A/C returned early with engine trouble, one A/C found all target areas haze obscured, and one sortie was successfully completed although moderate inaccurate heavy flak was encountered enroute and near CIAMPINO A/D.

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B. OPERATIONS OF ALLIED UNITS.1. M/TAF:

a. TEF: 13 February additional - 4 B-26's bombed railroad south of CASTIGLIONECELLO with good results; 3 B-25's dropped nickels in the PONTECORVO area; total sorties for the day were 105. 14 February - B-25's attacked PERUGIA M/Y scoring direct hits on the choke point and the marshalling yards; 3 B-25's dropped 1,200,000 leaflets in the CIVITATI and MANOFELLO areas.

b. RAF: 13 February - Sweeps of AVEZZANO-AQUILA roads found no movement. Total sorties were 24. Night 13/14 February - Bombers bombed and strafed M/T on roads between CIVITACASTELLANA and VITERBO and ROME, in the beach head area and South of ROME.

c. XII/US: 13 February - Army targets F-877366 and F-876422, railroad guns areas F-8243 and F-9146, supply dump F-8848, troop concentrations areas F-8539, F-8548, and F-8837, gun positions G-0829 and tanks and M/T at G-0135 were bombed and beach head patrols were flown. Claims were 3 FW 190's, 1 Me 109 destroyed, 7 FW 190's, 1 Me 109 damaged, 5 M/T destroyed and 14 M/T damaged without loss. Total sorties were 722. Night 13/14 February - 16 Beaufighter patrol sorties were unable to make contact with at least 7 enemy aircraft in the ANZIO area.

2. ITALIAN AIR FORCE: 14 February - Mc 205's flew weather recon and offensive recons of DALMATIAN Coast. Anti-submarine patrols were flown and one sighting reported of submarine crash-diving off OTRANTO.

3. MACAF, 242 Group: 14 February - The usual harbor protection, reconnaissance and convoy patrols were flown. U-boat seen to submerge by a Cent 506 on convoy protection patrol (see para. 2 hereof).

4. MIDDLE EAST: No reports received.

5. EIGHTH AIR FORCE: 13 February - 266 B-17's and 128 P-24's escorted by 189 P-47's and 43 P-51's attacked seventeen specified targets in the P/S DE CALAIS area dropping 1,138 tons of bombs. Four targets sustained considerable damage, six others suffered damaging hits or near misses, bombs fell in three other target areas. Very little enemy air opposition is reported, bombers making no claims. Flak varied from slight to intense and was generally accurate. Of 50 estimated enemy fighter A/C reaction, claims are 6 enemy a/c destroyed, 1 probably destroyed, 8 damaged, all claimed by escort for the loss of one fighter and 3 B-17's missing. One B-17 was ditched but seven crew members were rescued.

6. NINTH AIR FORCE: 13 February - 166 B-26's attacked six special targets in the P/S DE CALAIS area dropping 246.25 tons of bombs and securing good results at five targets and poor on one other. 16 B-26's attacked a coastal battery with 24 tons of bombs with uncertain results. All B-26's returned safely.

C. INTELLIGENCE.1. Enemy Air Situation and Activity:

a. Situation: Partial coverage of VITERBO and VITERBO NO. 2 on 13 February showed a decrease of 9 single-engine fighters since 8 February, there being 57 present on 13 February. At TURIN-CASELLE 8 Me 210/410's present on 7 February had left; at TURIN-VENARIA REALE single-engine fighters had increased from 15 to 19 since 7 February.

b. Activity: The battle area effort of 13 February approximated 55 sorties mostly in the early morning, and varied little from preceding days effort of 60 sorties. More than half of the day's offense was concentrated into one formation of 30 to 35 FW 190's and Me 109's which dive-bombed ANZIO Harbor. Three FW 190's and 1 Me 109 were destroyed in aerial combat and 7 FW 190's and 1 Me 109 were damaged. Italian fighters were reported for the first time over the beach head, AA claiming 2 Re 2001's destroyed. On the night of 13/14 February an unestimated number of enemy aircraft bombed ANZIO for the second successive night; details have not been reported.

- a. Tactics: Nothing to report.  
 c. Markings: Nothing to report.  
 e. Defenses: Nothing to report.

2. Enemy Ground Situation and Activity:

a. Situation: ITALY - On 13 February on the beach head the day was generally quiet except for patrol clashes in North and Central sectors, the taking of a railway bridge at F-8632 by the Allies and an enemy attempt to build a bridge at F-8333,

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which was beaten off. In the MINTURNO sector there was active patrolling by both sides; the enemy holds CASTELFORTE (G-8500) in strength. In the CASSINO sector an enemy patrol south of S. ANGELO was repulsed. In the Northern sector there was enemy patrol and artillery activity in the evening. The 8th Army front was quiet.

BALKANS: Partisans report fighting at SENJ, (RJ-70), OGULIN (RJ-93) and South of KOCEVJE (RJ-67) and claim successful action between BRINJE (RJ-90) and JUREVANE (RJ-91) and BRINJE DABAR (WP-19).

b. Activity: On the night of 13/14 February movement south and southeast on the CIVITA CASTELLANA-ROME and VITERBO-ROME roads until 2000 hours, and normal traffic on the PROSINONE-VELLETRI-TIVOLI and ROME roads were observed; there was no movement seen on the minor roads. On the morning of 14 February there was heavy traffic into ROME from VALMONTONE and heavy traffic north of ROME; direction of the latter was not stated.

3. Naval and Shipping: Nothing to report.

4. Rail Lines of Communication: The ALESSANDRIA railroad yards, where the MT. CASSINO line branches to GENOA and the East Coast, were covered in reconnaissance photographs of 13 February. There had been a considerable decrease in the abnormal car content noted on 27 January. (Intops Summary No. 190). Lightly loaded yards at NOLI LIGURE, on the ALESSANDRIA-GENOA line, and at GENOA, on the RIVIERA line, indicate that little traffic is being routed down the West Coast. Repairs are continuing on the CECINA bridge; 2 spans, however, are still down, blocking the West Coast line.

5. Bomb Damage: Ground sources report severe damage to the railroad yards, refinery, oil storage, torpedo factory and the naval shipbuilding yards and the sinking of 2 U-boats and 1 MTB in the Wellington attack on FIUME on the night of 21/22 January.

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ENEMY FIGHTERS DISPOSITION

APPENDIX TO INTOPS NO. 207

<u>AIRDROMES</u>	<u>FIGHTERS</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AIRDROMES</u>	<u>FIGHTERS</u>	<u>DATE</u>
<u>ROME AREA:</u>			<u>YUGOSLAVIA:</u>		
ORVIETO	15*	7 Feb	BELGRADE/ZEMUN	9	23 Jan
ROME/LITTORIO	5	5 Feb	KRALJEVO	1	10 Jan
VITEPEO A/D	26	13 Feb	LJUBLJANA	1	2 Feb
VITEPEO #2	21	13 Feb	MOSTAR	10	31 Jan
Total	67		NIS	5	10 Jan
Total (German)	52		SARAJEVO/BUTMIR	5	10 Jan
<u>FLORENCE AREA:</u>			<u>ALBANIA:</u>		
IESI	3	8 Feb	PERATE/KUCOVE	7	22 Jan
Total (German)	3		Total (German)	7	
<u>N. ITALY</u>			<u>GREECE:</u>		
AVIANO	11	1 Feb	KALAMAKI	21@	3 Feb
BOLZANO	1	31 Jan	ELEUSIS	23	12 Feb
CASCINA	10*	7 Jan	LARISSA	8	3 Feb
FERRARA	1	10 Feb	Total (German)	31	
GORIZIA	3	6 Feb	<u>BULGARIA:</u>		
LAVARIANO	24	1 Feb	KARLOVO	15	22 Jan
MANIAGO	18	31 Jan	PLODIV	2	30 Jan
MILAN/BRESSO	13*	12 Jan	SOFLA/BOJOURISHTE	20	22 Jan
MILAN/LONATE POZZOLO	6*	7 Jan	SOFLA/VRAJDEBN.	30	30 Jan
MONFALCONE	2	31 Jan	Total (German)	67	
MONFALCONE/RONCHI	2	6 Feb	<u>HUNGARY:</u>		
OSOPPO	22	6 Feb	BUD.PEST/BUDORS	28*	23 Jan
PIACENZA	8	6 Feb	BUD.PEST/TOKOL	2	31 Jan
POGGIO RENATICO	3*	10 Feb	BUD.PEST/VECSSES #1	7	1 Feb
REGGIO/EMILIA	49*	10 Feb	GYOR	17	1 Nov
SAVIGLIANO	4*	20 Jan	Total	54	
TRENTO	7*	31 Jan	Total (German)	26	
TREVISO	2	8 Feb	<u>RUMANIA:</u>		
TURIN/AERITALIA	8*	7 Feb	BRASOV	15	23 Jan
TURIN/VENERIA/REALE	19	13 Feb	BUCHAREST/COTROCENI	6	23 Jan
UDINE N & S	31*	6 Feb	BUCHAREST/COTOPENI	18	10 Jan
VERGIATE	1*	6 Feb	BUCHAREST/PIPERA	15	23 Jan
VICENZA	3	8 Feb	GALATZ	3	23 Jan
VILLAORBA	3	1 Feb	PLOESTI/TARGSORUL	26	10 Jan
Total	250		ZILISTEA	4	23 Jan
Total (German)	119		Total (German)	87	
<u>FRANCE:</u>			<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>		
AIX LES MILLES	33	8 Feb		722	
AVIGNON/CHATEAU BLANC	8	5 Feb	<u>GERMAN TOTAL</u>	548	
CVERS PIERREFIU	20	18 Jan			
MARSEILLES MARIGNANE	130	8 Feb			
NIMES COURBESSAC	20	15 Jan			
ORANGE/CARCITAT	18	8 Feb			
TOULOUSE/BLAGNAC	14	31 Jan			
Total (German)	90				

\* Believed to be Italian.  
@ Part Cover.

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