

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: February 8, 1945

MISSION NBR. 214

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Southeast Goods Depot

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0815-0825 hours to attack the Vienna Southeast Goods Depot. Two aircraft returned early. Twenty-six aircraft dropped 49.75 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1251 hours from 24,000 - 26,000 feet. One early return dropped 2 tons on a target of opportunity (Railroad between Klagenfurt and Maribor - 46.37N-14.31E) at 1220 hours from 23,000 feet. The other early return jettisoned 2 tons in Adriatic due to engine failure. Partial load of .75 tons was jettisoned at I.P. by one aircraft due to electrical malfunction. Twenty-six aircraft returned to base at 1535 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

The 450th Bomb Group took the Wing Lead position after rendezvous was effected with other three groups at San Vito. Slight deviations were made in briefed route to I.P. because of cloud conditions. Turn was made on bearing slightly short of the I.P. and target attacked on headings of 60 to 75 degrees. All boxes bombed by synchronous PFF methods. A right rally was executed immediately after bombs away and approximately briefed course flown back to base. Escort of 30-35 P-51's rendezvoused with the formation at 1240 hours at 48.03N-15.30E and provided penetration, target and withdrawal cover to Janosnaza (47.08N-17.10E) where they withdrew at 1315 hours. Route weather ranged from 5/10-10/10 cumulus with tops reaching 18,000 feet in target area. Just beyond the target the undercast broke for a few miles north and east but similar conditions were experienced on the return with only scattered clouds over the Adriatic.

III RESULTS

The 1st and 2nd boxes bombed individually by synchronous PFF methods. Both experienced normal runs, having rate and course killed. Photo coverage thru opening directly over the target show bombs hitting in the north end of the South Ordnance Depot. Explosions were discernible as direct hits were made on the installations.

No coverage is available on #2 box but calculations based on small portions of visible terrain indicate that bombs hit in target area.

The third and fourth boxes bombed as one unit. A normal run was experienced and bombs are believed to be in the target area.

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VI. ENEMY RESISTANCE (continued)

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: The lead box experienced only moderate, inaccurate flak at the primary target. This was of predicted variety and several hundred yards left and low, becoming more accurate as right rally was executed. The second box experienced similar condition on the bombrun with additional flak concentration right and low. Tracking fire which was reported as fairly accurate was experienced on the rally for approximately 2 minutes. The third and fourth boxes reported moderate, accurate flak on the bombrun and rally. The fourth box had been crowded to the left on the run which may have placed it closer to concentration observed by the lead box. One aircraft in the third box received on minor hole over the primary target.

Other flak experienced enroute was as follows:

(1) Northwest of Zagreb at Brezice (45.55N-15.40E), Moderate, accurate, heavy flak was encountered by 3 boxes and two ships received minor damage. Reports of flak in this area differed slightly in the coordinates given but due to navigation difficulties it is believed that all were from the same source.

(2) Cakovec (46.23N-16.25E) slight, inaccurate, heavy.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1235 hours from 25,000 feet, two unidentified aircraft (small) were observed to go down in flames. One was seen to hit the ground. No chutes.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None
B. Damage: From flak - 3 minor.
C. Casualties: None
D. Victories: None