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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 1, 1945

MISSION NBR. 232

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-two B-24 type aircraft took off at 0815-0838 hours to attack the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery. Three aircraft returned early because of mechanical difficulties. Twenty-nine dropped 52.75 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on the primary target at 1232-1237 hours from 25,000 - 28,000 feet. Of the three aircraft returning early one jettisoned 2 tons at 47.42N-17.15E due to engine failure. One jettisoned 2 tons in Adriatic for the same reason. The other early return jettisoned .5 tons in the Adriatic in an unsuccessful attempt to overtake the formation. The balance of the load, 1.5 tons was returned to base. Partial loads of 2.75 tons were jettisoned at various points enroute in order to maintain formation position. Twenty-nine aircraft returned to base at 1528 hours. None lost, none missing, none at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous with other groups and escort was effected as planned and the prescribed route flown to the target and return. The target was attacked on headings varying from 220 degrees to 240 degrees. Bombing was by synchronous PFF method due to solid undercast in the target area. A left rally was executed immediately after bombs away. Escort of 20-30 P-51's picked up the formation at 1130 hours at 46.50N-16.50E and withdrew at 1330 hours at Vrbanovec (46.16N-16.31E). Due to failure of PFF equipment in the third squadron a 360 degree turn was executed near the I.P. in order to form in trail with the squadron following. Bombs were dropped on the leading squadron after the change of formation position.

III. RESULTS

Solid undercast prevented visual observations of results. Photos failed to show any terrain features. Interrogation disclosed that the leading and second squadrons experienced an excellent bombrun and had course and rate killed. The target was believed to have been well hit. The leading squadron of the second force over the target experienced difficulty on the bombrun and dropped on ETA. Strikes are calculated to be to the right of the target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak:

<u>Squadron</u>	<u>Tgt. time</u>	<u>Bombing Alt.</u>	<u>Flak Exp.</u>	<u>Lost at Tgt</u>	<u>Sev. Dam</u>	<u>Slight Dam.</u>
1st	1232	25,000	S I H	0	0	0
2nd	1233	25,500	M I H	0	0	2
3rd	1237	26,500	M I H	0	0	1
4th	1238	28,000	M I H	0	0	0

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

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IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

B. Flak: (continued)

The lead squadron experienced only a few scattered bursts before bombs away. About 10 seconds after rally was started a barrage type concentration came up 1 mile behind the formation at the bombing altitude.

The second squadron received moderate inaccurate flak for about one minute before bombs away, none after.

Flak was low and a considerable distance to the left on the third and fourth squadrons.

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: From flak - 3 ships holed minor.

C. Casualties: None

D. Victories: None

E. Radar Observations and Report: First Force reports excellent coordination. Picked up target early and observed seven angles to kill course and rate.

The Second Force lost the Mickey on the lead Squadron and had difficulty on the run and observed only three angles. The target faded but bombardiers believed synchronization to be good.