

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 16, 1945

MISSION NBR. 241

TARGET: Wiener Neustadt, Austria - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-two aircraft took off at 1015-1032 hours to bomb the Wiener Neustadt Marshalling Yard. Thirty-one aircraft dropped 59.5 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on the primary target at 1347-1403 hours from 21,000 - 23,000'. During penetration one aircraft jettisoned a partial load of .5 tons of bombs in the Adriatic because the aircraft was pulling excessive power. One aircraft flying #10 position in a squadron, last seen penetrating weather at approximately (42.00N-17.00E), is now missing, and 2 tons of bombs are not accounted for. Because of a take off accident only 2 aircraft of the fourth squadron of 10 aircraft were able to get off. Thirty-one aircraft returned to base at 1644 hours. None lost. One aircraft is missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed. Bombing was by visual method with three squadrons of 10 aircraft each bombing in trail. One aircraft made an individual run on the target following the first squadron. 15-20 P-51 aircraft made rendezvous at 1325 hours, (46.24N-16.14E), at 23,000'; and 15 withdrew at 1430 hours, (45.29N-16.22E), at 20,000'. Target weather was CAVU. Route weather was .6 to .8 strato-cumulus at 12,000', clearing just before the initial point was reached.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photo assessment shows: X-2 squadron bombed first and the concentration was 1000' over the aiming point. Y-1 squadron put excellent concentration across locomotive depot to the right of briefed AP. X-1 squadron made 360 turn and put excellent concentration on assigned aiming point.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
- B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1303 hours from 20,000' at 45.30N-16.17E): B-24 aircraft in open field, looked intact.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: One aircraft is missing: last seen at 1125 hours, (42.00N-17.00E) at 10,000' in heavy cloud bank in steep bank and climbing. Icing conditions present. It is probable that this aircraft crashed in Adriatic.

One B-24 aircraft not included in those listed as taking off caught fire and blew up on take-off. Aircraft was completely demolished and three of the crew were killed.

- B. Damage: None
- C. Casualties: None
- D. Victories: None