

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 25, 1945

MISSION NBR. 248

TARGET: Cheb/Oberchon, Czechoslovakia - Airdrome

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 0730-0733 to bomb the Cheb/Oberchon Airdrome, Czechoslovakia. There were no early returns. Forty aircraft dropped 78.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1144-1146 hours from 18,500 - 21,500 feet. Forty aircraft returned to base at 1558-1615 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was effected as planned and the route was flown as briefed to the Initial Point. The target was attacked by squadrons in trail employing the offset bombing method because smoke from previous bombing by leading groups obscured the target. The axis of attack was 330/340 degrees. A left rally off the target was accomplished by all squadrons and the route to base was flown as briefed. Escort of 20-50 P-38's made rendezvous with the bomber formation at 1035 hours at 46.10N-14.20E and an additional 40-50 P-38's rendezvoused at 1105 hours at 48.06N-13.53E. The two forcers of escort provided P.T.W. cover until 1330 hours in the Zagreb area where they departed at 20,000 feet.

III. RESULTS

Photos show heavy smoke over the target which makes complete assessment of damage impossible, however calculations indicate that bombs hit the assembly shops and the south end of the marshalling yard causing explosions. A huge column of smoke is seen rising from the target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: A total of 16 enemy aircraft were observed in three sightings. At 1254 hours from 19,800 feet 10 unidentified aircraft flew beside the formation but stayed out of range at 47.12N-14.26E. At 1230 hours from 20,000 feet in the Linz area, 4 ME-210's flew low beneath our formation. 2 unidentified aircraft were observed flying out of range at 1246 hours, from 20,000 feet in the Graz area.

B. Flak: Nil at target. No route flak was encountered, but bursts were observed as coming from Celje, Yugoslavia and directed at a preceding formation.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1210 hours from 14,000 feet all marshalling yards on rail line between Stainach and Neumarkt were seen to be very active and yellow boxes (probably ammo boxes) were piled beside the tracks.

At 1003 hours from 11,500 feet the word "TITO" was spelled out on the ground at 48.48N-15.32E.

At 1425 hours and 1430 hours at 14,000 feet a B-24 was observed on the ground at each of the following coordinates: 43.50N-15.05E and 43.25N-16.20E.

VI. CONCLUSION

Losses: None Damage: None Casualties: None Victories: None