

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: December 11, 1944

MISSION NBR. 191

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0745-0805 to bomb the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery in Austria. Three aircraft returned early. Twenty-four aircraft dropped 46.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on target at 1230 hours from 25,500 feet. Four leaflet bombs were dropped on the target. One aircraft dropped 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs at Ilz, Austria, when returning early due to supercharger malfunction in two engines. One aircraft jettisoned a full load of 2 tons of bombs, four minutes after target release time when these bombs failed to release at target. One aircraft jettisoned .5 tons and one jettisoned .25 tons in the Adriatic; these partial loads failed to release at target. Twenty aircraft returned to the base at 1544 hours. One aircraft was lost to flak. One aircraft is missing. Three aircraft landed at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were as briefed, thence to the I.P. Weiselburg from which bomb run was made on 69 degrees True. The target was obscured by an effective smoke screen and smoke of previous bombing, but bombing was visual from an altitude of 25,500 feet. Rally was left and then right around Vienna defenses, and then on briefed course back to base. An escort 45-60 P-51's and 25-50 P-38's made rendezvous at 1120 hours, altitude 23,000 feet; and withdrew at 1320 hours, 20,000 feet, in Lake Balaton area. Weather was CAVU enroute and at target.

III. RESULTS

From bomb strike photo assesment: bombs away photos indicate bombs fell in new refinery area and bursts in NE corner of refinery. Results were generally unobserved due to smoke.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: At target, flak was intense, accurate, heavy; at Gyer, flak was moderate, accurate, heavy and at Nagykaniza, moderate, accurate, heavy.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1400 hours from 12,500 feet, B-24 of Group that was hit in #3 and 4 fuel tanks over target bailed out crew just north of Kutina, Yugoslavia. Crew carried 11 men and 13 chutes were observed. Statement on 13 men must be erroneous but believe all men got out. Ship crashed and burned in center of Kutina. Kutina is in enemy hands.

At 1051 hours from 18,000 feet, believed P-51 crashed in river.

At 1305 hours at 20,000 feet, two ME-109's attacking lone B-24, Gyor area.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: One B-24 lost to flak and one missing.
B. Damage: Fourteen aircraft damaged (minor) by flak.
C. Casualties: None