

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: January 8, 1945

MISSION NBR. 206

TARGET: Linz, Austria - North Main Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-seven B-24 type aircraft took off at 0833-0853 hours to bomb the Linz North Main Marshalling Yard, Austria. Two were early returns. Twenty-five aircraft dropped 48.25 tons 500 lb G.P. bombs on the target at 1307 hours from 25,000 - 27,000 feet. One of these twenty-five aircraft had a rack malfunction and jettisoned .75 tons in the Adriatic Sea. One early return had a gas leak and jettisoned 2 tons in the Adriatic and returned 1 ton to base. Nineteen aircraft returned to base at 1634-1700 hours. One aircraft landed at friendly field but returned to base the same night. None lost. None missing. Five aircraft still at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed to the I.P. area where the formation overshot their turning point and came in from north of the briefed I.P. on an axis of attack of 100-110 degrees. Bombing was done by attack units with each unit using PFF method. A left rally off the target was accomplished and then the route was flown as briefed to Weitersfelden. A PFF malfunction in the lead ship and solid undercast resulted in the route home being flown to the left of the briefed course carrying the formation about 20 miles west of Graz and thence to Zagreb, to Vis, and to base. Escort of 40 P-51's effected rendezvous at 1200 hours at Caorle at 25,000 feet and withdrew from the formation at 1400 hours. Weather enroute was 8/10-10/10 cumulus up to 13,000. Over the target there was 10/10 undercast up to 26,000 feet.

III. RESULTS

The lead ship of the first attack unit sustained a mickey malfunction in the Salzburg area enroute to the target. This ship, however, identified the target when 9 miles out and managed to kill course but used a pre-set dropping angle and the attack unit dropped its bombs on the lead ship.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: At the target it was moderate, inaccurate, and heavy. At Zagreb it was moderate, accurate and heavy: 3 of our aircraft sustained minor damage here.

V. OBSERVATIONS

None.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: 6 aircraft sustained minor damage (3 over target, 3 at Zagreb).

C. Casualties: None

D. Victories: None