

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: January 15, 1945

MISSION NBR. 207

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Railroad Targets

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0838-0856 hours to bomb railroad targets in S.E. Vienna, Austria. Three aircraft returned early. Twenty-four aircraft dropped 46 tons 500 lb G.P. bombs on the target at 1314 hours from 25,000 - 26,000 feet. One of these twenty-four aircraft jettisoned .5 ton in the Adriatic to reduce load to stay in formation. The three aircraft that returned early due to engine trouble, jettisoned 6 tons in the Adriatic. Disposition of bombs on one missing aircraft not know. Twenty-one aircraft returned to base at 1604-1614 hours. One aircraft landed at friendly field but returned to base the same night. None lost. One aircraft missing. Two aircraft still at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed to the I.P. and the target was attacked by PFF on an axis of 251 degrees. Bombing was done by attack units. A slight right rally was effected and the route to base was flown as briefed. Escort of 35 P-51's rendezvoused at 1220 hours at Kapsovar at 25,000 feet and provided P.T.W. cover. 30-35 P-51's withdrew from the bomber formation at 1350 hours at Kutina at 25,000 feet.

III RESULTS

The 1st Attack unit picked up the target with its "Mickey" equipment when still 60 miles out. The operator reports having most of drift killed when they reached the I.P. Good returns on the scope permitted positive identification of the target and results are believed to be excellent. The second attack unit reports the same axis of attack as the 1st unit, however, an oversensitive set made target identification difficult. Bombs were released between two large blips on the scope and results are believed good. Photo coverage shows 10/10 undercast, and no bomb bursts are visible.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: At the target it was moderate to intense, inaccurate, and heavy.

V. OBSERVATIONS

Eight parachutes observed at 1350 hours from 17,000 feet near Vrazien (46.19N-16.21E). The aircraft from which these parachutes emanated was not seen.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: One aircraft missing reported to have had one engine on fire.
B. Damage: 3 aircraft sustained minor damage from flak.
C. Casualties: None
D. Victories: None