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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: January 19, 1945

MISSION NBR. 208

TARGET: Brod, Yugoslavia - North Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0900-0919 hours to attack Brod, Yugoslavia, North Marshalling Yard. Two aircraft returned early. Twenty-five aircraft dropped 47.25 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on the primary target at 1213 hours from 22,500 - 24,000 feet. One B-24 type aircraft was lost to flak just before bombs away and this aircraft's 2 tons of bombs are not countered on the target. Two aircraft returning early jettisoned two full loads totaling 4 tons of bombs in the Adriatic Sea. One of these because of inability to keep altitude with two superchargers inoperative, and one because the group formation could not be found. Three aircraft jettisoned 1.75 tons of bombs in the Adriatic Sea, after these bombs had failed to release over the target because of rack malfunctions; one aircraft returned .25 tons of bombs due to same reason; and one aircraft jettisoned .25 tons of bombs in the Adriatic Sea while enroute to the target with one engine inoperative. Twenty-five aircraft returned to base at 1424 hours. One aircraft lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvoused with the 449th Bomb Group over Manduria Italy, and on course to San Vito at 1019 hours at 12,000 feet. The course was flown as briefed to the I.P. Batrina (45.12N-17.39E), from which point the target was attacked on axis of 96 degrees True. Bombing was by visual method in column of four boxes. "Chaff" was dispensed as briefed. Rally off the target was sharp right and route on withdrawal was flown as briefed. One box of seven aircraft dropped short due to accidental bomb release by lead aircraft. One box made three 360 degree turns over the target and attacked on axis of 155 degrees.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photos show a heavy concentration of bombs among rolling stock in the center and east end of marshalling yard, causing two fires. Photo of bombs away from one box show bombs short and falling in direction of small unidentified railroad siding. Photo coverage shows bursts on a canal about 4000 feet north of target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: At the target was moderate, accurate and heavy. One aircraft was lost to this flak before bombs away, and four aircraft sustained minor damage.

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: One aircraft to flak at target, last seen in flat spin, with left outboard portion of wing missing; no chutes seen.
B. Damage: Flak at target, four aircraft sustained minor damage.
C. Casualties: None
D. Victories: None