

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: January 31, 1945

MISSION NBR. 210

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Eighteen B-24 type aircraft (Red Force) took off 0800-0809 hours to bomb the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery. Eighteen aircraft dropped 34.25 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on the target at 1312 hours from 24,000 - 24,500 feet. One of these aircraft had a rack malfunction and jettisoned .25 tons in the Adriatic Sea.

Eighteen aircraft of the Blue Force took off at 0900-0911 hours to bomb the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery. Sixteen aircraft dropped 31 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on the target at 1416 hours from 24,000 - 26,000 feet. Two aircraft returned early due to engine failure. One of these aircraft jettisoned 2 tons at 45.25N-17.20E; while the other jettisoned 2 tons at 41.10N-17.35E. Twenty-eight aircraft of the two Forces returned to base at 1515-1525 hours and 1635-1645 hours. Four aircraft landed at friendly fields; three of these aircraft have since returned to base. None lost. Two aircraft missing. One aircraft still at friendly field.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed by both Forces, and the target was attacked by PFF method on an axis of 227 degrees. The Red Force bombed as an attach unit because of a "Mickey" malfunction in the second box of this Force. The Blue Force bombed by boxes. A left rally was effected by all aircraft and the route to base was flown as briefed. Escort of 40-50 P-38's rendezvoused at 27,000 feet with the Red Force at 1153 hours at 47.50N-17.18E and provided penetration, target and withdrawal cover and withdrew at 1458 hours at 45.50N-16.28E. 30 P-38's rendezvoused at 27,000 with the Blue Force at 1253 hours in Lake Balaton area and provided penetration, target and withdrawal cover and withdrew at 1425 hours at 46.20N-16.20E.

III RESULTS

The Red Force leader picked the target with his "Mickey" equipment when 20 miles out, and despite interference, the target was identified and a normal run was accomplished. The second box of this force experienced equipment failure so dropped its bombs on the lead box. Results for this force are believed to be good. The first box of the Blue Force experienced a normal run, results believed to be good. The second box of this force followed the lead box and accomplished a complete synchronous PFF run. Results believed to be good. Photo coverage shows 10/10 undercast and no bomb bursts are visible.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: Red Force reported nil flak at target. Blue Force experienced slight, moderate, inaccurate heavy flak at target.

V. CONCLUSION

Losses: None. Damage: None. Casualties: None.