

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: February 2, 1945

MISSION NBR. 211

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-three B-24 type aircraft took off at 0800-0822 hours to attack Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, in Austria. Three aircraft returned early. Thirty aircraft turned back at 1156 hours from 47.40N-17.25E at 24,000 feet because of unfavorable weather.

Twenty-eight aircraft returned 54 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs to base at 1455-1515 hours. Three aircraft jettisoned 6 tons in the Adriatic when making early returns. One aircraft jettisoned 2 tons in the Adriatic when one engine failed. Two ton bomb load of one aircraft not accounted for; this aircraft at friendly field because of mechanical difficulties.

None lost. None missing. One at friendly field (Vis).

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Group executed remote assembly over Monopoli and departed there on course at 8000 feet at 0919 hours. The route was then flown as briefed to 47.40N-17.25E where Wing lead ordered the formation to turn back. The first alternate target could not be attacked because of 10/10 cloud cover, it being briefed for visual bombing only. From the turnback point the route was flown to 45.34N-16.00E to 45.14N-14.40E to Base. Weather was generally clear to vicinity of 46.18N-17.19E from which point it built up until point of turnback was reached. At the latter point the haze became impenetrable. Fifteen P-38 aircraft rendezvoused at 1130 hours at 46-15N-17.16E at 25,000 feet. Withdrawal not observed.

III. RESULTS

None

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1140 hours from 23,300 feet at Czelldomolk (47.15N-17.09E), six to ten tracks in marshalling yard full.

At 1220 hours from 20,000 feet at 45-57N-17.14E, silver, unidentified aircraft on ground. Terrain snow-covered but no snow on aircraft.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: None

C. Casualties: None

D. Victories: None