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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: February 7, 1945

MISSION NBR. 213

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty B-24 type aircraft (Red Force) took off at 0745-0812. Twenty aircraft dropped 39 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1241 from 24,000 - 24,500 feet. Twenty B-24 type aircraft (Blue Force) took off at 0931-0947. Sixteen aircraft dropped 31 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1424-1432 from 23,500 - 24,500 feet. One aircraft dropped 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on rail line, as target of opportunity, near Kaumberg, Austria (48.02N-15.54E). One aircraft got off late and returned 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs to base, in making an early return, when unable to catch formation. Two aircraft jettisoned 4 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs at (40.05N-17.30E) and (40.17N-16.30E) in making early returns due to engine failures. Thirty-three aircraft of the two forces returned to base at 1535 and 1656 hours. Five aircraft landed at friendly fields. Three of these aircraft have since returned to base. One aircraft crashed just south of the field after the crew bailed out. Two crew members were killed when chutes failed to open. One aircraft is missing. Two aircraft still at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed by both forces and the target was attacked by PFF (1 Box) and visual method, (3 Boxes) on an axis of 149 degrees. Bombing was accomplished by boxes of 10 aircraft each. A right rally was effected by all aircraft and the route to base was flown as briefed. 20 P-51 aircraft made rendezvous with Red Force at 1120 hours, at (47.10N-14.40E), 22,000 feet, and withdrew at 1330 hours, at (44.55N-15.39E), 20,000 feet. Twenty-four P-38 and 20 P-51 aircraft made rendezvous with Blue Force at 1320 hours, at (45.45N-15.05E), 22,000 feet, and withdrew at 1445 hours, at 48.19N-15.56E), 21,000 feet. Route weather was generally clear over land, but 6/10 to 10/10 cloud cover over Adriatic up to 15,000 feet. Weather at the target was CAVU.

III RESULTS

The lead box of Red Force found the target obscured by smoke and made a PFF run. Bomb strike photos show bombs bursting in the town of Transdorf 10,000 feet SW of target.

Three boxes made visual runs and bomb strike photos show bursts in the barracks area adjacent to the west side of the target, and also bursts in the NE section of the refinery possibly scoring a hit on the new distillation unit. Calculations indicate one box concentrated bombs across the north edge of the target.

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

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IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE (continued)

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Red Force reported flak at target as moderate, inaccurate to accurate, heavy.

Blue Force reported flak at target as moderate to intense, unaccurate to accurate, heavy.

C. Smoke Screens: Effective smoke screen at target.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1250 hours (47.10N-16.03E) 22,000 feet 4 chutes seen; believed to be from B-24 headed for Russian line.

At 1402 hours, from 24,000 feet, at Amstetten (48.07N-14.52E) 300-400 units in marshalling yard; numerous engines very active in yard.

At 1453 hours, from 17,000 feet at Ptuj (46.25N-15.32E), marshalling yard loaded to near capacity and active.

At 1510 hours, from 17,000 feet at Karlovac (45.30N-15.32E), marshalling yard well filled and active.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: One aircraft crashed south of base after crew bailed out. Plane was damaged by flak at target.
One aircraft is missing. Believed headed for Russian lines from Vienna area.

B. Damage: Eight aircraft sustained minor damage due to flak at target.

C. Casualties: Two killed in bailing out of aircraft south of base.

D. Victories: None