

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION NBR. 215

MISSION DATE: February 9, 1945

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Two B-24 type aircraft took off at 0903 hours to attack the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery. One aircraft took off late, at 0933 hours. Three aircraft dropped 4.5 tons of 500 lb RDX on the target at 1221 and 1300 hours; the first two aircraft bombing together at the earlier time. Bombing was from 23,700 - 25,100 feet altitude, respectively. All bombing was by synchronous PFF method. The aircraft returned to base, in logical sequence, at 1530 and 1642 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Two aircraft of the Group element departed San Vito on course at 0931 hours, 4000 feet altitude and one aircraft, taking off late, never caught the other aircraft. The route was flown as briefed by all aircraft; the target being attacked on an axis of 62 degrees True. All aircraft executed a sharp right rally and flew the withdrawal course as briefed. The first two aircraft could not synchronize properly because the bombing range circle was out on radar equipment, and the bomb release was made on pre-set data of bombardier. The second of these aircraft also had equipment difficulty and could not take the lead. The third aircraft experienced radar difficulty just short of bomb release time and released bombs in the center of the flak area. Weather enroute was 5/10 clouds at 6000 feet over the Adriatic, building up from Northern Yugoslavia to the Initial Point from 8/10 to 10/10 at 15,000 and 22,000 feet, respectively. Target weather was 10/10 cloud cover with tops at 16,000 feet. No escort was provided. Chaff was dispensed as briefed.

III. RESULTS

None observed

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Target: moderate, inaccurate, and heavy. No battle damage was sustained.

V. OBSERVATIONS

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: None

C. Casualties: None

D. Victories: None

E. Radar Report and Observations: The lead aircraft could not kill rate efficiently because the bombing range circle was out. Course was good. The second aircraft had radar equipment malfunction and dropped on the lead ship. The third aircraft, bombing alone, had the scope vision dim so greatly that no clear definition of the target was possible and consequently bombs were in the center of flak area.