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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: February 15, 1945

MISSION NBR. 219

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Matzleinsdorf Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Eighteen B-24 type aircraft (Red Force) took off at 0815-0825 hours to bomb Vienna/Matzleinsdorf Marshalling Yard. One aircraft returned early. Seventeen aircraft dropped 33 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1252 hours from 24,000 - 25,500 feet altitude. One aircraft returned 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs to base; in making an early return caused by engine failure.

Eighteen B-24 type aircraft (Blue Force) took off at 0915-0925 hours to bomb Vienna/Matzleinsdorf Marshalling Yard. One aircraft returned early. Seventeen aircraft dropped 31.75 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1345 hours from 24,000 - 25,500 feet altitude. One aircraft jettisoned 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs in the Adriatic in making an early return. One aircraft jettisoned .5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs in the Adriatic enroute to the target; to enable the aircraft to hold formation. One aircraft jettisoned .75 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs in the Adriatic after these bombs had failed to release over the target.

Red and Blue Forces returned 34 aircraft to base at 1538 hours and 1624 hours, respectively. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was made over San Vito by both forces and departure and route to the initial point were flown as briefed. From the I.P. (Wilhelmsberg, 48.06N-15.36E) the target was attacked on an axis of 80 degrees T. Each force used two boxes of nine aircraft each, in trail and bombed by synchronous PFF method. A right rally was made off the target to Illmitz (47.46N-16.48E) and withdrawal route flown as briefed.

12-15 P-51 aircraft made rendezvous with Red Force at 1220 hours at Judenburg (43.43N-15.53E) at 24,000 feet and withdrew at 1416 hours at Drevnik (43.26N-16.05E) at 10,000 feet.

15-20 P-51 aircraft made rendezvous with Blue Force at 1306 hours at 46.45N-14.40E at 24,000 feet, and withdrew at 1430 hours at Zagreb at 18,000 feet.

Route weather was generally CAVU until the vicinity of initial point was reached. From which point the weather built up to 8/10 with tops at 12,000 feet. Visibility was unrestricted.

III RESULTS

Red Force: From bomb strike photos: the bombs of one box hit in an open field approximately 18,000 feet south of the target. The bombs of second box hit near Amme Luthers aircraft components factory.

Blue Force: No terrain visible on photos. No results observed.

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

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IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Red Force experienced flak at target as intense/accurate/heavy.
Blue Force experienced flak at target as slight to moderate/
accurate/heavy.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1229 hours, 40 miles SW Zagreb at 20,000 feet, B-17 joined Blue Force, had large Y on vertical stabilizer and #446195; left at about 1330 hours on heading about 180 degrees T.

At 1200 hours, 46.30N-15.10E from 24,000 feet, one ME-110 in distance. No definite tactics observed.

At 1158 hours, Zagreb area, 24,000 feet, four unidentified aircraft painted black, single engine; crossed below formation at about 19,000 feet.

At 1314 hours, 4 miles northeast Judenburg (47.10N-14.40E), 25,000 feet, 15 single engine aircraft on airdrome.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: 19 aircraft sustained minor damage from flak at target.

C. Casualties: One officer killed in action, flak at target.
One man suffered minor wounds from flak at target.

D. Victories: None

E. Radar observations and report: The lead box of the Red Force turned on the I.P. by PFF and completed bomb run, giving 5 angles. Rate and course were both killed.

The second box of the Red Force made the turn on PFF and called 4 angles when Bombardier indicated that he had sighted target and called for 10 degrees right correction. Correction was made and Mickey Operator attempted to line on small return on new course. Bombs were dropped 7 miles south of briefed AP.

The lead box of the Blue Force made turn and complete run on PFF, killing rate and course on 6 angles.

The second box also made complete PFF run. Rate was killed on 4 angle called when return lost clarity and operator decided not to risk further adjustment.