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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: February 17, 1945

MISSION NBR. 221

TARGET: Linz and Graz, Austria - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-four B-24 type aircraft took off at 0915-0933 hours to bomb the tanks works at St. Valentin, Austria. Three aircraft returned early due to engine failures. Due to adverse weather conditions, 16 aircraft dropped 30.5 tons 500 lb RDX bombs on the Linz Marshalling Yard (the PFF primary target) at 1401 hours from 25,500 - 26,500 feet. 15 aircraft became separated from the formation, due to weather, and dropped 28.5 tons of bombs on an alternate target, the marshalling yard at Graz, Austria, at 1424 hours from 24,000 - 25,000 feet. The 3 aircraft that returned early jettisoned 4 3/4 tons in the Adriatic Sea and returned 1.25 tons to base. Partial loads were jettisoned, to maintain formation, as follows: .5 ton at 47.00N-15.10E; and .5 ton just north of Graz, Austria. Thirty aircraft returned to base at 1637-1700 hours. One aircraft landed at friendly field but returned shortly thereafter. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed to the vicinity of the I.P. for St. Valentin. At this juncture the formation became separated due to weather. 16 aircraft made a PFF run on Linz Marshalling Yard and bombed by boxes. A left rally was effected and the route home was flown as briefed. The 15 aircraft that lost the lead attack unit in the vicinity of St. Valentin proceeded from there to the I.P. for Graz Marshalling Yard and bombed this target as an attack unit employing the PFF method. A right rally off the target was effected and the route home was flown as briefed. 40-50 P-51's rendezvoused at 1330 hours in the Graz area, and withdrew from the bomber formation at 1430 hours near Graz. Route weather varied from CAVU to 8/10 stratocumulus up to 9000 feet, while at the targets it was 9/10-10/10 cirrocumulus up to 20,000 feet.

III. RESULTS

No photo assessment is possible for attack on Linz Marshalling Yard due to solid undercast. Photos take over Graz Marshalling Yard show that the bombs fell about 1.5 miles beyond the target and straddled the railroad tracks east of Graz.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: Moderate, accurate, heavy at Linz. Intense, accurate, heavy at Graz. Moderate/intense, accurate, heavy at Bruck.

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

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V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1523 hours a crashlanded B-24 was observed at 43.56N-15.35E from 13,000 feet.

6-8 unidentified enemy aircraft in Linz area at 1400 hours flying at 28,000 feet.

At 1515 hours from 15,000 feet, 10-15 single-engine enemy aircraft were observed on the ground at Karlovac, Yugoslavia.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: None
- B. Damage: ✓ 1 aircraft sustained major flak damage, and 16 aircraft sustained minor damage.
- C. Casualties: 1 officer suffered minor flak wounds.
- D. Victories: None
- E. Radar Observations and Report: X-1 box made a normal PFF run observing 5 angles.

X-2 dropping as a box also experienced a complete PFF run with 7 angles observed. Solid undercast obscured bomb strikes.

Y-1 and Y-2 failed to attack the PFF primary but made a run on #5 alternate. 6 angles were observed when Bombardier picked up target visually and made a few refinements on rate. Course was reported as excellent. Intervalometer malfunctions caused bombs to drop long.