

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: February 19, 1945

MISSION NBR. 223

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Penzinger Goods Station

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0745-0819 hours to attack the Penzinger Goods Station at Vienna, Austria. One aircraft returned early because of elevator malfunction. Twenty-five aircraft dropped 47 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1321 hours from 24,000 - 26,000 feet. Two others dropped on targets of opportunity as follows: One dropped 2 tons at 47.23N-15.06E (Leoban Marshalling Yard) from 22,000 feet at 1258 hours. One bombed an airdrome at 45.46N-13.39E, dropping 2 tons from 22,000 feet at 1322 hours. One-half ton was jettisoned at 45.45N-15.30E (Adriatic) by one aircraft due to electrical malfunction. One ton was jettisoned by another aircraft between 47.50N-15.35E and 48.10N-16.15E in order to lighten load because of supercharger trouble. Twenty aircraft landed at 1612 hours. Four others which landed at friendly fields for fuel have since returned. One aircraft was lost when the crew bailed out over the field because of severe flak damage which cut control cables and hydraulic system. Two others are still at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was effected as planned and briefed route was flown to Initial Point at Michelbach. A strong head wind over the Adriatic and southern Europe delayed the formation and the attack was executed one hour and six minutes later than briefed target time. Ground speed on bomb run was 102 knots. Attacks were executed by boxes in trail on headings varying from 60 degrees - 75 degrees. A sharp right rally was executed and the briefed route flown to base. Bombing was visual. Escort of 30 P-51's picked up formation at 43.40N-15.30E at 1028 hours. Penetration, target and withdrawal cover was provided to Gloggnitz (47.42N-15.51E) where the escort departed at 1330 hrs. from 28,000 feet. 5/10-8/10 altocumulus with tops at 15,000 was experienced over Adriatic and Yugoslavia to the Austrian border. CAVU conditions prevailed from there to target and similar cloud conditions were encountered on the return.

III. RESULTS

The aiming point was partially obscured by smoke from previous bombing and hampered visual sighting to some extent. The first two boxes dropped short and over respectively. Bombs from these units striking from 1500 ft. short to 2000 ft. over with very little damage except to adjacent buildings.

The next two boxes dropped into the smoke and only a few bombs can be seen bursting on the extreme south edge of the target.

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S-2 Narrative Report (Continued)

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IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: No enemy aircraft were seen or encountered

B. Flak: All four boxes experienced intense, accurate, flak of barrage type at the target. Eight aircraft received minor damage. One was severely damaged and had to be abandoned over the base on return. No route flak was reported.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1300 hours from 25,000 feet Moosbierbaum was observed to be covered by an effective Smoke Screen.

At 1300 hrs. from 24,000 ft. at 48.03N-15.54E an airdrome was reported to contain 30 single-engine aircraft. Some were taking off.

At 1044 hours from 20,000 ft. a B-24 or B-17 type aircraft was observed on the ground at Vir Island.

At approximately 1345 hours a conversation was heard on radio between a fighter and a B-24 which indicated that the B-24 was in trouble and intended to land at Pecs (46.03N-18,12E). The fighter call sign was "Impish". Another fighter "buzzed" the field at Pecs and advised that it was okay to land. Subsequent conversation indicated that bomber had landed as "Impish" advised bomber to clear the runway in order that he might land because of a fire in an engine.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Total Losses:

From flak	0	(Abandoned over home base)
From fighters	0	
Other reasons	0	

B. Damage:

From flak	8	(minor)
From fighters	0	
Other reasons	0	

C. Casualties: None

Slight bruises received by crew bailing out.

D. Victories: None

E. Corrections on Telephone Mission Report: Number of aircraft bombing primary reduced to 25. One additional on target of opportunity.