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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 4, 1945

MISSION NBR. 234

TARGET: Zagreb, Yugoslavia - West Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

A change of plans just before briefing designated Zagreb West Marshalling Yard as the primary target for the 47th Wing in lieu of a communication target in eastern Austria. Thirty-five B-24 type aircraft comprising two forces took off at 1000-1018 hours. Unfavorable weather prevented visual bombing and thirty-two aircraft returned 76 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs to base. One aircraft jettisoned 2.5 tons on a mountainside at 44.04N-17.15E due to engine failure. One aircraft returning early with a feathered engine jettisoned 2.5 tons in the Adriatic. One other landed at Vis and disposition of bombs is unknown. Thirty-three aircraft returned to base at 1530 hours. One still at friendly field.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Attack forces executed a local rendezvous and departed on course at five minute intervals. The Wing column was split with 10 minute spacing between Groups. The briefed route was flown to 45.19N-17.10E where a radio call from the Wing Air Commander instructed that the alternate (Brod M/Y) would be attacked. Subsequent developments disclosed that this message had been garbled as the primary target was open and two Groups bombed visually. The 450th Group altered course upon receipt of above message and proceeded to the alternate I.P. (Slav Pozega) for an attack on Brod M/Y. A 9/10 undercast of stratacumulus with tops at 15,000 ft. prevailed throughout the target area and after searching for an opening on several headings a bombrun was executed by all four squadrons but the target was found to be completely obscured. No escort were observed enroute or in the target area. The return route was direct from Brod to the coast to base. The message which diverted the formation from the primary was later reported to be: "Weather looks bad up ahead. If the target is obscured we will proceed to the alternate." Obviously the first part of the message was not received by either of the four persons monitoring "C" channel VHF.

III. RESULTS

Non-effective sorties. No bombs were dropped on military targets.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Scant, inaccurate flak was experienced at Brod by the first squadron to execute a bombrun. Due to almost solid undercast and lack of ground check points it is probable that the formation did not pass directly over the target. Successive squadrons turned off the bombrun before reaching the bomb release point when it was evident that the target would be obscured. Flak reported by these squadrons was up to the formation level but well ahead.

V. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None  
B. Damage: 1 aircraft holed (minor) from flak.  
C. Casualties: None  
D. Victories: None