

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 9, 1945

MISSION NBR. 236

TARGET: Maribor, Hungary - Locomotive Depot and Wagon Repair Shop

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-nine B-24 type aircraft took off at 1017-1053 hours to bomb the repair facilities and rolling stock at the Maribor Loco. Depot and Wagon Repair Shops. Adverse weather conditions prevented attacks on the primary target. Three Squadrons attempted to bomb a secondary alternate, the Celje Marshalling Yard but found a 9/10 undercast which prevented visual bombing. One Squadron dropped on the railroad line in the vicinity of St. Stefan (46.48N-14.51E). One aircraft returned early. Ten aircraft dropped 19.5 tons of 500 lb G.P. bombs on a target of opportunity at St. Stefan from 23,500/24,500 ft. Twenty-one aircraft returned 41 tons to base. The aircraft returning early jettisoned 2 tons in Adriatic. Disposition of bombs of missing aircraft is unknown. Six others jettisoned 12 tons in the Adriatic on return due to fuel shortage. Thirty-six aircraft returned to base at 1700 hours. One landed at friendly field and has since returned to base. One aircraft is missing and is believed to be lost.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

The plan provided for execution by two forces. Rendezvous was effected as briefed but cloud conditions over the Adriatic caused the formations to split and the Squadrons continued on as individual attack units. The briefed course was flown by all Squadrons to Toplice (46.08N-15.00E) where word was received from the Wing Air Commander that the primary target was cloud obscured. One Squadron proceeded on to the north with intentions of bombing an alternate at Kaphenburg (47.27N-15.17E). Unfavorable weather conditions continued and this Squadron turned back just west of Graz and dropped through a break in the clouds on the railroad line near St. Stefan (46.48N-14.51E). The three other Squadrons proceeded to Dravograd (46.36N-15.01E), the IP for alternate #12 (Celje M/Y). All three Squadrons executed a bombrun but experienced 10/10 undercast and returned bombs to base. All Squadrons reported 20-30 P-38's at 1310-1320 hours in the vicinity of 43.50N-13.50E at 22,000'. Last reported by one Squadron at 1430 hours at 45.05N-16.20E. Return weather was reported as 8-10/10 undercast with high cirrus. Snow and sleet was experienced in the lower Adriatic.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strikes of Squadron dropping on railroad at St. Stefan were cloud obscured and no results were observed visually.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
- B. Flak: None

V. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: 1 other reasons than flak or fighters.
- B. Damage: None
- C. Casualties: None
- D. Victories: None