

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 14, 1945

MISSION NBR. 239

TARGET: Varazdin, Yugoslavia - Railroad Bridge

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 0846-0907 hours to attack the railroad bridge at Varazdin, Yugoslavia. 10/10 cloud cover at the primary and all alternates prevented execution of the plan and bombs were returned to base. Two aircraft jettisoned 5 tons of 1000 lb G.P. bombs in the Adriatic due to fuel shortage. Forty aircraft returned to base at 1455 hours. None lost, none missing, none in friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Remote rendezvous was executed over Cassa at 16,000 ft. and the Wing column departed on course at 1035 hours. Briefed route was flown to primary I.P. and bomb run completed on prescribed axis but bombs were not released due to solid undercast. The formation proceeded to the I.P. assigned for alternate #13 (Zagrab West M/Y), 10/10 undercast also covered this area and extended south into the target. A wide circle was flown to the west and the group leader approached the alternate target again on a slightly different heading but cloud cover prevented visual bombing so the formation returned to base on the briefed course.

Eight P-51's were observed at Bostanj (46.01N-15.17E) at 1150 hours flying past the Group formation at 21,000 ft. No other friendly fighters were seen. Enroute out and return the Adriatic was spotted with 3/5-tenths scattered cumulus at 4,500 ft. with haze hampering visibility. Over the Yugo Mts. and on to target area 5/10 cirrostratus was experienced at 18,000 ft. with occasional breaks showing stratocumulus at 8000 ft.

III. RESULTS

None

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1140 hours from 22,500 ft. the M/Y at Karlovac (45.30N-15.32E) was observed to be well filled with rolling stock estimated at 300-400 wagons.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: None

C. Casualties: None

D. Victories: None