

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 19, 1945

MISSION NBR. 242

TARGET: Landshut, Germany - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 0915-0942 hours to bomb the marshalling yards at Landshut, Germany. One aircraft turned back early because of engine failure. Thirty-nine aircraft dropped 69.4 tons of 100 lb demolition bombs (GP and TNT) on the target at 1406-1425 hours from 17,000'. Three aircraft jettisoned partial loads of .85 tons at several points (48.05N-13.50E), (48.34N-12.32E) and (48.20N-12.30E) due to rack malfunctions. The aircraft returning early jettisoned 2 tons in the Adriatic at 43.20N-15.20E. Thirty-nine aircraft returned to base at 1725 hours. None lost. None missing; none at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was effected as planned and the prescribed route flown to the I.P. The escort was not contacted at the briefed rendezvous point but 25-30 P-38's were observed in the vicinity of the I.P. at 1400 hours at 17,000'. No withdrawal cover was provided. Escort was last seen in the target area at 1410 hours. The target was attacked on the prescribed heading of 355 degrees True by all squadrons. The second squadron in column was unable to pick up the target and made a second run. All squadrons bombed visually as individual units. A right rally was executed and the briefed route flown to base. Route weather was reported as 3-6/10 broken clouds over the eastern Adriatic and Yugo Mountains with some haze. In the target area 3/10 cumulus with tops at 10,000' and a high layer of alto-stratus based at 18,000' was reported.

III. RESULTS

Three squadrons placed a heavy concentration of bombs across the M/Y hitting rolling stock and adjacent buildings. Fires and explosions were observed. One squadron made a 360 degree turn and dropped 3000' short of the target in an open field.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

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

V. OBSERVATIONS

Observations on marshalling yards throughout southern Germany adjacent to the route were generally of all facilities loaded to capacity. A few of the larger yards were: At 1306 hours from 17,000' at St. Vert (46.47N-14.12E) two yards loaded to capacity (400 cars). At 1435 hours from 16,000' at Lambach (48.05N-13.54E) east end of M/Y jammed with rolling stock.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: None
- B. Damage: None
- C. Casualties: None
- D. Victories: None