

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 23, 1945

MISSION NBR. 246

TARGET: St. Polten, Austria - South Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off at 0815-0835 hours to attack the rolling stock and trackage in the souht marshalling yard at St. Polten, Austria. There were no early returns. Thirty-seven aircraft dropped 66.55 tons of 100 lb GP bombs on the target at 1205-1220 hours from altitudes varying from 20/24,000 ft. One aircraft jettisoned 2 tons midway between the initial point and the Target thru a misunderstanding of instructions from the Squadron leader. Thirty-eight aircraft returned to base at 1510 hours. None lost; none missing; none at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Remote rendezvous was executed over Cazza as planned and the Wing column departed on course at 0956 hours at 14,000 ft. Escort of 20-30 P-38's was contacted at Vrbovska (45.22N-15.05E) at 1105 hours, 20,000 ft. Formation rounded I. P. (Cuttenstein) at briefed hour and altitude. The bombrun was started on briefed axis of 330 degrees TC but the formation was running a collision course with the 449th Group preceding them so the leader elected to execute a 360 degree turn in order that the leading group might clear the target area. The second Squadron followed the Group lead and made the turn. Number three Squadron in the Group column elected to continue the run which was executed without interference. Number four Squadron made a 360, cutting inside of Squadron number two and completing the run in number three position. The rally was executed as planned and the briefed route flown to base. All Squadrons bombed visually. Escort was last observed at 1340 hours over the Yugo Coast at 43.30N-15.00E at 18,000 ft. Target weather was reported as clear with slight haze. Visibility at target was 15 miles. Except for a few scattered cumulus clouds (tops 5000') over the Adriatic route weather was clear with 15-30 miles visibility.

III. RESULTS

All four Squadrons scored a heavy concentration of hits on the target covering the briefed aiming points and causing explosions, fires and extensive distruction to trackage and rolling stock.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1320 hours from 16,000 ft. a B-24 was observed to have crash-landed 12 miles west of the landing ground at Zara.

At 1350 hours at 43.48N-15.20E from 12,000 ft. a single engine aircraft (believed to be a P-51) was observed in the water.

VI. CONCLUSION

Losses: None Damage: None Casualties: None