

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 26, 1945

MISSION NBR. 249

TARGET: Bruck Ad Lietha, Austria - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-two B-24 type aircraft took off at 0830-847 hours to bomb the Bruck Ad Lietha Marshalling Yard, Austria. There were no early returns. Thirty-two aircraft dropped 60.85 tons of 100 lb G.P. bombs on the primary target at 1201-1219 hours from 18/21,500 feet. One aircraft experienced a rack malfunction and jettisoned a partial load of 0.3 tons in the Adriatic at 43.45N-15.30E. Thirty-two aircraft returned to base at 1555-1615 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was effected as planned and the route was flown as briefed to the I.P. At this juncture a heavy haze over the target made it very difficult to pick up, so the formation proceeded beyond the I.P. to change the axis of attack to 53/60 degrees. Bombing was by Squadrons in trail, and the visual method was employed. The second and fourth Squadrons over had difficulty picking up the target on the first run and made a 360 degree turn to make a second run. A right rally off the target was accomplished by all Squadrons. The two Squadrons that bombed on the first run made a 360 degree after the rally to wait for the two Squadrons making a second bomb run. The route to base was then flown as briefed. Escort of 20-30 P-51's made rendezvous with our formation at 1135 hours at 46.55N-14.50E. At the target there were 7/10 altostratus clouds above the formation at 22,000 feet while below it was clear but very hazy and visibility was estimated at 10 miles. Enroute the weather varied from clear to 7/10 cirrostratus over the Adriatic and Yugoslavia, and 4/10 cumulus at 10,000 feet along the early portion of the route.

III. RESULTS

Photos substantiate crew reports that the bombs fell north and south of the target. A few scattered hits were scored on the yard, a motor convoy parked on the highway north of the yard sustained several direct hits. One explosion is seen. Most bombs however were in the open fields adjacent to the M/Y.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: One ME-109 was observed south of Sopron from 20,000 feet. It was being attacked by 6 P-51's.

B. Flak: Nil at target, and no route flak was encountered.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1220 at Parndorf (47.58N-16.52E), from 21,500 feet, 100 unidentified aircraft on airdrome.

At 1222 at 47.31N-16.46E, from 19,000 feet, 30-50 unidentified aircraft on Airdrome. One report states 200 aircraft dispersed around this field.

VI. CONCLUSION

Losses: None Damage: None Casualties: None Victories: None