

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: March 30, 1945

MISSION NBR. 250

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - North Station and Goods Depot.

I. CHRONOLOGY

Four B-24 type aircraft took off at 0747-0800 to bomb Vienna North Station and Good Depot. One aircraft returned early. One aircraft dropped 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on an alternate, Graz Marshalling Yard, at 1134 hours from 24,000', by visual method. One aircraft jettisoned 1.5 tons at (48.35N-16.15E) at 1145 hours from 20,000'. Two aircraft jettisoned 4 tons in the Adriatic. Three aircraft returned to base at 1420-1505. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

The plan called for a "Lone Wolf" operation. Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed to just beyond the initial point. One aircraft returned early after an engine failure. The three remaining aircraft found insufficient cloud cover at the primary target and turned north after proceeding about three miles on the bombing run. One of these made a run as briefed and bombed the first alternate, Graz Marshalling Yard. Another aircraft experienced an engine failure and returned to base. The third of these aircraft returned to base after the pilot judged cloud cover to be insufficient at the first alternate. There was no escort. Target weather was CAVU. Route weather was 2/10 alto cumulus at 14,000' over Yugoslavia. In the Lake Balaton region a strata layer at 21,000' afforded protection to Vienna area, where target was clear.

III. RESULTS

Results at Graz Marshalling Yard (first alternate) not observed because of smoke.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None  
B. Flak: At Graz S/I/H. (Approximately ten bursts observed at a distance).

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. Losses: None  
B. Damage: None  
C. Casualties: None  
D. Victories: None  
E. Radar Observations and Report: The one aircraft to bomb was started on run by mickey operator observing three angles, and several course corrections. From 12 miles out the bombardier completed a visual run.