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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 1, 1945

MISSION NBR. 252

TARGET: St. Polten, Austria - Marshalling Yard

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-two B-24 type aircraft took off at 0945-1003 hours to bomb the St. Polten Marshalling Yard, Austria. There were no early returns. Thirty-two aircraft dropped 76.25 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1352-1354 hours from 17,000 - 20,000 feet. One aircraft had a rack malfunction over the target and subsequently jettisoned a partial load of .75 tons in the Adriatic. Thirty-two aircraft returned to base 1642-1705 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. Bombing was by squadrons in trail on an axis of 330/340 degrees and the visual method was employed by all squadrons. A left rally off the target was accomplished, and the route to base was flown as briefed. Escort of 25-30 P-51's rendezvoused at 1257 hours at Lese ((46.34N-14.55E) and provided P-T-W cover. 20 P-51's stayed with our formation until 1445 hours at 46.04N-14.30E. At the target there was a 10/10 layer of cirrostratus clouds at 21,000' while below the formation it was clear. Enroute the cirrostratus layer was at 17/18,000' and made it difficult for our aircraft to reach their bombing altitudes.

III. RESULTS

Photo cover substantiates the crew reports that a heavy concentration of bombs fell on the briefed A.P. and the yard was well covered. Fires and explosions are visible.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: One JU-88 was observed flying 500 yards above the formation and about 800 yards out. The enemy aircraft followed the formation for a few minutes but made no attempt to attack.

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

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1427 hours and from 16,700 feet an estimated 500 units of rolling stock crowded the marshalling yard at Ljubljana (46.04N-14,30E).

At 1400 hours and from 19,000 feet 100 or more barges were observed lined up along Danube River at Melk (48.14N-15.20E).

VI. CONCLUSION

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