

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 2, 1945

MISSION NBR. 253

TARGET: Sulm River, Austria - Railroad Bridge

I. CHRONOLOGY

Thirty-three B-24 type aircraft took off at 1059-1116 to bomb the Sulm River Railroad Bridge, in Austria. Thirty-three aircraft dropped 78.5 tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1412-1440 hours from 15,000 - 17,500'. Thirty-three aircraft returned to base at 1658 hours. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous and route were flown as briefed. Bombing was by four squadrons of eight aircraft each in trail. One aircraft made an individual run on the target. Bombing was by visual method. 30 P-38 aircraft made rendezvous as escort at 1327 hours, (45.00N-16.30E), 17,000'; and withdrew at 1520 hours, Zara, 15,000'. Target weather was CAVU. Route weather was generally CAVU, with 2/10 to 8/10 cirrus, in Yugoslavia, at 25,000'.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strike photos show:

1st Sq: Scored a heavy concentration of hits on the bridge. Heavy damage caused at the north end of the bridge.

2nd Sq: Concentration was slightly short with a few bombs walking into the target.

3rd and 4th Sq: Most of the bombs fell short of the target.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1500 hours, Vrbobsko (45.22N-15.05E) from 14,000': 200 units rolling stock in M/Y.

At 1340 hours, Sisak (45.29N-16.22E) from 14,000': 250 units rolling stock in M/Y.

At 1400 hours (46.18N-16.13E) from 17,000': 100 unit motor transport convoy heading east toward Varazdin.

At 1412 hours, Radkersburg (46.42-15.59E) from 15,000': 250 unit motor transport convoy heading east.

VI. CONCLUSION

A. Losses: None

B. Damage: None

C. Casualties: None

D. Victories: None