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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: April 5, 1945

MISSION NBR. 254

TARGET: Dravograd, Yugoslavia - Railroad Bridge

I. CHRONOLOGY

In conjunction with attacks by all heavy bomb wings on communications targets in north Italy and Yugoslavia the 47th Wing was ordered to destroy the one serviceable rail crossing over the Drava River at Dravograd, Yugoslavia.

Thirty-two B-24 type aircraft took off at 0730-0746 hours to bomb the Dravograd Railroad Bridge. Thirty-two aircraft dropped 78 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the primary target between 1140-1147 hours from 17,000'. Total loads of all aircraft were dropped on the target. Thirty-two aircraft returned to base at 1411 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous was effected as planned and the briefed route flown to the target and back to base. Only escort observed was in the target area where 8 P-38's were seen just after the rally at 1146 hours at 19,000'. Fighters remained in the target area. No specific escort had been assigned the Wing on the plan. CAVU conditions prevailed at the target and enroute except for a few scattered cumulus clouds at 5000' over the Adriatic and high cirrus based at 30,000' in the target area.

Bombing was visual by all Squadrons. The lead squadron overshot the I.P. and executed a 360 degree turn so bombed last in Group formation. A right rally was executed and briefed route flown to base.

III. RESULTS

Both approaches received a heavy pattern with several direct hits observed on the bridge itself. One squadron put a heavy concentration of bombs into the smoke directly on the briefed aiming point. Storage buildings immediately south of the RR bridge were hit and a large explosion was observed. The last Squadron over hit north of the target and bombs were observed bursting on the power dam beyond the bridge.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
- B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 1203 hours at Skrad (45.26N-14.55E) from 17,000' approximately 200 tank cars were observed in M/Y.

At 1055 hours just west of Latisana (45.47N-13.00E) from 19,000' six new runways were observed. No aircraft were present.

VI. CONCLUSION

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