

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION NBR. 269

MISSION DATE: April 20, 1945

TARGET: Mairhof, Austria - Railroad Viaduct (47.15N-10.50E)

I. CHRONOLOGY

The efforts of the Air Force were directed against communications targets in Northern Italy and Southern Germany. The objective was the blocking of the Brenner Line and feeder lines over which supplies are moved to the Italian Front.

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 0745-0807 hours to bomb the railroad bridge at Mairhof, Austria. One aircraft turned back soon after rendezvous because of engine failure. Thirty-nine aircraft dropped 94 tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs on the primary target at 1226 hours from 16,500 - 18,000'. The aircraft returning early jettisoned 2.5 tons in the Adriatic at 42.44N-16-35E. Thirty-nine aircraft returned to base at 1535 hours. None were lost; none missing; none at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvous with 449th Bomb Group was effected as planned and the briefed course flown to the I.P. at Scharnitz (47.23N-11.16E). The target was attacked on an axis of 243 degrees T. A left rally was executed and the prescribed course flown to base. 20 P-51's contacted the formation at 1133 hours at 46.42N-13.21E at 18,000'. Penetration, target, and withdrawal cover was provided to Cremona (45.08N-10.02E) where the escort departed at 1305 hours at 17,500'. Bombing was visual with squadrons attacking in trail. CAVU conditions were reported at the target.

III. RESULTS

Visual observations were confirmed by bomb strike photos. The lead squadron placed a very heavy concentration of bursts on the railroad bridge scoring several direct hits. Both approaches were heavily hit.

The target was partially smoke obscured for the following three squadrons. However calculations made from bombs-away photos indicate that most bombs fell on the A.P.

The bombs of the last squadron hit short and developed into the smoke across the east approach.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

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

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CONCLUSION

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