

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: November 5, 1944

MISSION NBR. 166

TARGET: Podgorica, Yugoslavia - Troop Concentrations

I. CHRONOLOGY

Six B-24 type aircraft took off at 0955-1000 hours to bomb troop concentrations at Podgorica, Yugoslavia. Six aircraft dropped 13.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the target at 1223 hours from 19,000 feet. 1.5 tons were returned to base due to release malfunction. Six aircraft returned to base at 1330 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

450th Bomb Group departed on course to I.P. (Bar) at 13,000 feet following the 376th and 449th Bomb Groups. The briefed route was flown to and from the target. Due to a slight error in timing the 376th Bomb Group was immediately below the formation at the bomb release point thus necessitating a 360 degree turn and a second run. CAVU weather was reported at the target. Enroute 1/10 - 5/10 cumulus was reported at 5000 feet.

III RESULTS

The entire southeast quarter of the town at H-17 on Target Chart No. 8-11-NA was covered with bomb bursts. The bomb pattern extended over into the northeast quarter of town.

Bombardier's Combat Mission Report: Mission was flown as briefed. I.P. was hit perfectly and the run was started. On the run the 376th Group at a lower altitude flew under our formation and we were forced to do a 360 degree turn and make a second run. The second run was very satisfactory. On approaching the target, Capt. Leavitt of the 721st Squadron, the lead Bombardier, noticed the center of the town had already been bombed. Using excellent judgement, Capt. Leavitt moved his Aiming Point several hundred feet to the right of the town's center. Backed up by his box, Capt. Leavitt laid an excellent concentration of bombs on the Aiming Point.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: None
B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CASUALTIES

None

VII. FLIGHT LEADERS:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>
Alexander	Leavitt	Suey			

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: November 5, 1944

MISSION NBR. 167

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Florisdorf Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Twenty-eight B-24 type aircraft took off from base at 0730-0750 hours to bomb the Florisdorf Oil Refinery at Vienna, Austria. No early returns. One prior return turned back just before I.P. due to oxygen failure and jettisoned 1.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs and .5 tons of 500 lb bombs (24-72 hours delay) through overcast at 1200 hours from 16,000 feet. One aircraft jettisoned .25 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs in Adriatic at 1420 hours from 23,500 feet. Aircraft carried split bomb loading as follows:

	<u>500 lb RDX</u>	<u>500 lb Incendiary Clus.</u>	<u>500 lb 24-72 hr. delay</u>
Thirteen aircraft	19 tons		
Fourteen aircraft		27.5 tons	
Thirteen aircraft			6.5 tons

No bombs returned to base. One prior returned landed at 1454 hours. Twenty-six aircraft landed safely at base at 1506 hours. One aircraft landed at Foggia-Main for fuel, returned later. None lost. None missing. None at friendly fields.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Group formation rendezvoused with 98th Group over San Vito D' Normanni at 4000 feet at 0824 hours, and with rest of 47th Wing units on course to Vis. Route to the target was flown as briefed. Penetration to target from Initial Point (Auggenthal) was on an axis of 166 degrees T., a total of 12 degrees off briefed axis. Rally to left off the target, endeavored to maintain a course of less than 70 degrees as briefed, to avoid heavier concentration of anti-aircraft fire. Scant, inaccurate, and heavy flak was encountered at Gyor off the briefed course. Remainder of route to base was flown as briefed. 40 P-38 type aircraft provided escort at 1105 hours, at 28,000 feet. Withdrew at 1300 hours at 15,000 feet. P-51 type aircraft provided escort at 1125 hours, at 28,000 - 30,000 feet. Withdrew at 1340 hours at 14,000 feet over Yugoslav coast. The weather enroute consisted of strato-cumulus over Yugoslavian coast at 12,000 feet and changing to broken strato-cumulus at 12,000 - 15,000 feet to target area. At the target, a 10/10 undercast of strato-cumulus completely obscured the target.

III RESULTS

Group formation of two attack units bombed the target on PFF and it is believed that all bombs were in target area. 10/10 undercast did not permit observation. Two PFF operators in the 1st attack unit and 1 PFF operator in the 2nd attack unit believed target well hit. Photographs did not divulge location of bomb bursts. Eight aircraft attempted photos.