

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION NBR. 178

MISSION DATE: November 17, 1944

TARGET: Vienna, Austria - Florisdorf Oil Refinery

I. CHRONOLOGY

Forty B-24 type aircraft took off at 0645-0712 hours to bomb the Vienna Florisdorf Oil Refinery. One early return. Thirty-eight dropped 56 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs, and 17.5 tons of 500 lb (6-72 hour delay fuse) bombs on the target at 1140 hours from 24,000 - 25,000 feet. 7 leaflet bombs were also dropped on the target. One jettisoned full load of 1.5 tons RDX and .5 tons long delay at 47.29N-15.00E in order to keep up with the formation. Partial loads jettisoned (all long delay fuse bombs) were .5 tons at 42.15N-16.04E, in order to keep in formation; .5 tons because of engine trouble; and .5 tons because of rack malfunction. .25 tons RDX bombs jettisoned because of rack malfunction. .25 tons RDX bombs returned to base because of rack malfunction. Thirty-five aircraft returned to base at 1420-1445 hours. Four stopped at friendly fields to refuel and have since returned. None lost. None missing.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

Rendezvoused with the 449th Bomb Group at 4000 feet at 0736 hours on course to San Vito and followed briefed course to target where attack was made under PFF conditions on axis of 160 degrees and back to base as briefed. Escort of 30-40 P-38's were met at 0950 hours at Gespic at 18,000-25,000 feet. They departed at Split at 1316 hours at a altitude of 17,000 feet. Weather enroute ranged from clear to 4 to 8/10 undercast with 10/10 in Lake Balaton region. Target conditions were 10/10 alto-cumulus up to 15,000 feet.

III. RESULTS

All boxes of attack units dropped on PFF. A good bomb run was made on target and concentration thought to be in NE industrial district.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Flak at target was intense, inaccurate, heavy, barrage type, with black and white bursts and some that threw off white streamers. Four of our aircraft were holed.

V. OBSERVATIONS

At 0940 hours from 17,000 feet near Miranie (44.00N-15.35E) a B-24 apparently under control, seen to crash-land.

VI. CASUALTIES

Four aircraft received minor flak damage.

VII. FLIGHT LEADERS:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>	<u>PILOT</u>	<u>BOMBARDIER</u>	<u>NAVIGATOR</u>
Stevens	Myers	Chittero	Venclik	Kemp	Cozart
Redding	Glass	Fanshell			