

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

S-2 NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION DATE: December 3, 1944

MISSION NBR. 187

TARGET: Linz, Austria - Industrial Area

I. CHRONOLOGY

Three B-24 type aircraft took off at 0712-0715 hours to bomb Linz Industrial Area using PFF methods and bombing by individual aircraft. In compliance with briefing instructions to turn back in case cloud conditions did not provide adequate protective covering. Two aircraft returned early and the third dropped on the second alternate (Villach Marshalling Yard). One aircraft dropped 2 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the Villach Marshalling Yard at 1042 hours from 23,000 feet. Six bombs were fused .1-.01 and two were 6-72 hour delay fusing. The two early returns jettisoned 2 bombs each, (1 ton, 6-72 hour delay fusing) and 1 bomb (.25 tons) propaganda, in the North Adriatic. 3 tons were returned to base. The two early returns landed at 1211 and 1226 hours. One other landed at 1318 hours.

II. ROUTE AND ASSAULT

The three aircraft took off at one minute intervals at 0712 hours as briefed and departed on course from San Vito at 0740-0742 hours at optional altitudes. The briefed route was flown to the point of turnback by the two aircraft returning early. The third aircraft turned from briefed course to bomb the alternate. Course was flown to Villach towards first alternate, Klagenfurt. Due to lack of protective cloud cover, the route was retraced to Villach which was bombed by PFF through 8/10-9/10 undercast. The return route was flown to base. 3/10-5/10 scattered cumulus with 10-15 mile visibility was reported over the Adriatic. The Venice area was practically CAVU. Mountains were clear except for heavy ground haze in the valleys. Villach was almost completely covered with strata-cumulus deck at 15,000 feet.

III. RESULTS

Bomb strikes were unobserved due to 8/10-9/10 undercast. A good run was made and Mickey-Bombardier team reported bombs definitely in target area.

IV. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: Two aircraft believed to be ME-109's were seen at 45.10N-12.35E heading towards the last of 3 B-24's which were headed North. No attack was observed. Calls were put out for fighter protection and 2 P-51's were seen headed North 10 minutes later by returning aircraft.

B. Flak: None

V. OBSERVATIONS

None

VI. CONCLUSION

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