

CONFIDENTIAL

REPORT IS  
464TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (M)  
APO 520, U.S. Army

LD 8 BVB Job

119.1

30 March 1945

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

TO: Commanding General, 55th Bombardment Wing (M)  
APO 520, U.S. Army

1. On 30 March 1945, four (4) scheduled B-24's took off to bomb the primary target specified in Operations Order No. 157, 29 March 1945.

Assembly and take-off were accomplished as prescribed, the four a/c arriving over Aleria at time 0334 hours, and departing thereafter at thirty (30) second intervals.

2. The lead a/c, B-24 No. 44-49648, flew the course substantially as briefed until the initial point, Malvey (48°26'N-17°21'E) was reached at 1119A hours. As the weather over the primary target was clear, the decision was made to bomb the second alternate target, the Kopfenberg Tank Works. Using Malvey (47°12'N-15°50'E) as an initial point, the target was bombed after which a rally right was executed to (47°37'N-15°15'E), and thence to (47°49'N-15°35'E), to (46°30'N-16°21'E) and from there to base.

3. A/C No. 44-49653 flew the course substantially as briefed until (47°50'N-17°46'E) was reached at which point it was decided to attack Kopfenberg Tank Works. Using as an initial point (47°20'N-16°14'E), the target was attacked after which a sharp rally right was executed to (47°17'N-15°58'E) and thence back to base.

4. A/C No. 44-49683 flew the course as briefed to (47°12'N-17°57'E), at which point the decision was made to bomb the first alternate target, Graz, due to visual conditions over the primary target. Turning to (47°38'N-17°40'E), a/c continued to (46°52'N-16°20'E), thence turning north to (47°14'N-15°57'E), and from there scope, located a mountain peak, mistaken by the PF operator for Graz on the scope, located seven miles north of the target. Because of scattered weather conditions over Graz, it was decided not to make a second bombing run, and the a/c returned to base.

5. A/C No. 44-49589 flew the course as briefed to (47°03'N-18°01'E) at which point it was decided to bomb the first alternate target, Graz. Proceeding to the selected initial point at Birkfeld (47°21'N-15°41'E), the target was bombed after which a rally right to (47°07'N-14°59'E), was executed. From that point back to

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, contd

base the route was as briefed.

6. A/C No 44-49048 was over the Kanfenberg Tank Works at 1232A hours, dropping two (2) tons of 500 lb BDX bombs (A fused .1 nose and .01 tail, A fused long delay) from 25,500 feet on an axis of attack of 236°.

A/C No 44-49653 was over the Kanfenberg Tank Works at 1135A hours, dropping two (2) tons of 500 lb BDX bombs (similar fusing as above) from 24,000 feet on an axis of attack of 278°.

A/C No 44-49589 was over Graz W/Y at 1224A hours, dropping two (2) tons of 500 lb BDX bombs (similar fusing as above) from 25,000 feet on an axis of attack of 208°.

7. Photos were returned from two (2) a/c, showing bombs away and no impacts. Bombs away photos from a/c No 44-49653 (V:Z) show the point of bomb release to be over an unidentifiable section of terrain. Neither the impacts nor the tank works are visible on these photos. Bombs away photos from a/c No 44-49589 (E:A) show the point of bomb release to be approximately 2,000 feet due east of the north choke point of Graz North W/Y. No impacts are visible. The estimated area of impact is in the city between Koflachner Freight Yard and the Mur River.

8. A/C No 44-49688 made an abortive attempt to bomb Graz W/Y, as the PFF operator failed to identify the target correctly. One ton of 500 lb BDX bombs (long delay fusing) was jettisoned at (43°30'N-15°20'E) at 1225A hours. One ton of 500 lb BDX (.1 nose and .01 tail) was returned to base, including one propaganda bomb.

9. Bombing Recapitulation is as follows:

2 A/C dropped on Kanfenberg	4 Tons
1 A/C dropped on Graz	2 "
1 A/C jettisoned	1 "
1 A/C returned	1 "
TOTAL	8 Tons

10. Two (2) a/c attempted photographs. Selected prints attached.

11. At Kanfenberg, S to MAH flak of minimum duration was encountered. No flak was encountered at Graz, but MM flak was observed.

12. Four (4) unidentified PFF's were observed at (43°10'N-15°16'E) at 1240A hours, ten thousand feet below the sighting a/c and heading north.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Ltr Warr Miss Ent, contd

One (1) enemy SIF was observed at (45° 21' N - 17° 31' E) at 1006A hours at an altitude of 13,000 feet and was reported by crew members to attack a B-24 a/c. Both a/c disappeared into the clouds but the B-24 reappeared as the host.

Six (6) unidentified SIF were observed over Gyor at 1100 hours at 26,500 feet, one thousand feet above the four (4) miles ahead of the sighting a/c.

Three (3) SIF were observed over Gyor at 1217A hours at 26,500 feet, one thousand feet above the three (3) miles ahead of the formation.

Despite all these sightings, no T/W were encountered.

13. A/C No 44-42048 used PFF for navigation and bombing. PFF equipment was in excellent working order, except for the Fluxgate Compass which became defective shortly before return to base. The target was picked up on the scene thirty miles away. Five sighting angles were given, from 65° through 46°. C-1 was used on the bombing run, and worked satisfactorily.

A/C No 44-42653 used PFF for both navigation and bombing. All PFF equipment worked satisfactorily. C-1 was used on the bombing run.

A/C No 44-42688 used PFF for navigation and for the attempted bombing run. The target was picked up forty (40) miles away. A mountain was mistaken on the scene for Gyor, hence causing the abortive bombing run. All PFF equipment functioned satisfactorily. C-1 Automatic Pilot was employed on the bombing run.

A/C No 44-42589 employed PFF for both navigation and bombing. The target was picked up on the scene twelve (12) miles from the target but was very hazy and indefinite. Two sighting angles (68° and 65°) and one course correction (10°) were given. PFF equipment was in fair condition, being limited in range and target definition. C-1 Automatic Pilot was used on the bombing run.

13. Weather conditions reported enroute are as follows:

Base at take off, 7/10-8/10 stratus at 3,000 feet with 7/10 altostratus at 2,000 feet, visibility 15 miles.

Over Adriatic, 4/10-6/10 stratocumulus, tops at 7,000 feet.

Over Adriatic, 4/10, 1/10-2/10 stratocumulus over the Dalmatian coast with 2/10 over the Dinarics, tops at 10,000 feet.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Ltr Narr Miss Int, contd

From Binaries to target area, 6/10 stratocumulus with large patches of middle and high clouds, tops at 16,000 feet and 22,000 feet respectively.

At Gros, 6/10 stratocumulus, tops at 10,000 feet with 4/10 cirrus at 22,000 feet, visibility unlimited.

At Zandenberg, 8/10 stratocumulus, tops at 10,000 feet with 4/10 multilayer, tops at 22,000 feet, base unknown, Visibility unlimited.

Similar conditions on return, with 2-10 - 3-10 strato-cumulus, base at 3,000 feet tops at 5,000 feet, at base on return.

15. No observations were reported by returning crew members.

16. The four (4) a/c landed at this base as follows:

- a. A/C No 44-49688 at 1330A hours
- b. A/C No 44-49653 at 1340A hours
- c. A/C No 44-49589 at 1421A hours
- d. A/C No 44-49048 at 1453A hours

17. Track chart of routes flown enclosed.

FOR THE COMMANDING OFFICER:

EVROD V. BRIDGEMAN  
Captain, Air Corps  
Actg Intelligence Officer

2 Incls

- 1. Track Chart
- 2. Selected Prints