

HEADQUARTERS
464th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
APO 520 U S Army

LSD/FFE/jmm

319.1

13 February 1945.

SUBJECT: Narrative Mission Report

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

1. On 13 February 1945, eighteen (18) scheduled B-24 a/c plus three (3) designated spares took off at 130A hours to bomb the Graz Marshalling Yards, Austria as prescribed in Operations Order No 71.

The twenty one (21) a/c formed into one (1) attack unit, led by Lt Col James H. Gilson, Commanding Officer of the 779th Bombardment Squadron (H).

2. The Group form-up was as prescribed. Wing formation was made in a satisfactory manner, the 464th Bombardment Group (H) falling into correct Wing position at 1235A hours at 4600N-1620E.

3. Twenty one (21) a/c were over the target at 1501A hours (briefed target time 1500A hours) and dropped forty one and one half (41 1/2) tons of 500 lb RDX bombs (.1 nose and .01 tail fuse) from 22,500 feet on a heading of 120°.

A/C No 42-78692 jettisoned one quarter (1/4) ton at 4710N-1525E at 1505A hours due to a bomb shackle malfunction which caused one (1) bomb to hang up over the target.

A/C No 42-78433 jettisoned one quarter (1/4) ton at 4713N-1538E at 1504A hours due to a bomb rack malfunction.

Recapitulation of Bombs

Dropped on Target	41.50 tons
Jettisoned	<u>.50 tons</u>
Total	42.00 tons

Bombing was accomplished by visual means. Bombing as one (1) attack unit, the Group Leader used the C-1 Automatic Pilot on the bomb run.

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

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

Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, 464th Bomb Gp (H), 13 Feb 45, cont'd

Bomb strike photos showing at least two (2) dozen direct hits on tracks and among several columns of freight cars, are visible in the north central portion of Graz north marshaling yard. Three (3) additional hits are on the south choke point. The north choke point was probably cut by earlier bombing. Heavy smoke from previous bombing obscures additional hits along the western edge of the yard.

4. Flak at the target was reported to be S to MH. Crews report the flak encountered at Graz as of the barrage type and time in flak as ranging from one (1) to three (3) minutes.

No enemy a/c were observed or encountered.

5. No fighter cover was provided for the Group, either on penetration, over target, or on withdrawal.

6. Weather encountered on the mission was as follows:

Clear on take-off.

Along entire route visibility twenty (20) miles with trace of cirrus clouds at 22,000 feet.

Over the Dalmatian coast, 3/10 stratocumulus, tops 8,000 feet.

From mountains to target, 2/10 stratocumulus, tops 8,000 feet, breaking to clear over target, visibility twenty (20) miles.

On return, similar weather conditions prevailed.

7. No flak damage was suffered by any of the twenty one (21) a/c.

8. Observations reported by returning crew members:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Altitude</u>	<u>Observation</u>
1455A	4712N-1445E	22,000	Airfield with fifteen (15) twin engine a/c on tarmac.
1546A	4513N-1629E	19,000	Large pontoon bridge over river.

9. Route was flown as briefed. Track chart showing route flown inclosed.

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

Ltr Narr Miss Rpt, 464th Bomb Gp (H), 13 Feb 45, cont'd

10. Twenty one (21) a/c landed at this base between 1700A and 1719A hours.

11. Six (6) a/c attempted photographs. A selected print is attached.

For the Commanding Officer:

FRANCIS F. ELDER
Major, AC
Intelligence Officer

2 Incls
Incl 1 - Track chart
Incl 2 - Selected print