

HISTORY

of the

484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

1 November 1944 to 30 November 1944

The outstanding record which the group was making received fitting recognition when it was awarded the coveted War Department Distinguished Unit Citation on November 6, 1944. The presentation was made by Major General Twining, Commanding General of the 15th Air Force in a colorful ceremony at our field.

Early that morning all flying and ground personnel of the group not engaged in the combat mission for that day were drawn up in formation for the review that was to take place after the official presentation. In an impressive ceremony General Twining read over the public address system the War Department General Order citing the 484th Bombardment Group as a Distinguished Unit. The outstanding attack by the Group was made August 22, 1944 on the Vienna Lobau Oil Storage plant which at that time was one of the most vital targets in the 15th Air Force attack area. Everyone had a proud feeling as the General tied the blue battle streamers to the Group's colors, and gave the right to every man in the organization to wear the distinctive gold framed blue ribbon bar on the left side of the blouse.

The 15th Air Force Band gave us our first opportunity overseas to march to military music. In a surprisingly fine display of marching ability we paced in review before a reviewing party consisting of General Twining, Colonel Lee, Wing Commander, Lt. Colonel Busch, Deputy Group and our Red Cross girls - - Ellie Mae Haddock and Jo Ryan.

During the month of November the operations of the 484th Bombardment Group (Heavy) were severely handicapped by the weather. Under very poor conditions fourteen (14) missions were accomplished, but most of the bombing was done by instrument. Three hundred and sixty-six (366) sorties were flown during the month with 41 aircraft returned early. A total of 497.65 tons of explosives were dropped on enemy installations in Germany, Austria, and Yugoslavia. Fifty-three (53) of our combat crew members are listed as missing since these missions.

Following is a short summary regarding each mission:

Mission No. 94, 1 November 1944, Vienna Ordnance Plant, Austria

Twenty-nine of our Aircraft took off to bomb this vital industrial target at Vienna but because of a 10/10 undercast it was impossible to find the target. Part of the formation was able to get through to Kapfenburg, Austria, and drop 15 tons of bombs on installations in that area. The rest of the formation returned their bombs to the base. One ship failed to return.

Mission No. 95, 4 November, 1944, Augsburg, Germany.

The M/Y at Augsburg, a distribution point of vital military traffic on the most important route to the whole southeastern front, was the target for the Group on this date Bombing was done on instruments, and the operators are of the impression that very good results were accomplished. In all, this Group rained 67 tons of explosives down on the target.

Mission No. 96, 6 November 1944, Vienna South Ordnance Depot.

This was a planned Pathfinder mission because the target was covered with 10/10 undercast. Bombs were dropped by instruments so results are unknown.

Mission No. 97, 7 November 1944, Sarajevo M/Y's, Yugoslavia.

We were able to get in our first visual bombing during this month on this mission, but the target could only be seen through holes in the clouds. The bomb hits were slightly over the target, but a great deal of damage was done. Twenty-eight (28) planes were over the target, and sixteen (16) of them were damaged by flak which wad M-A-H.

Mission No. 98, 11 November 1944, Rosenheim M/Y, Austria

Twenty-six (26) aircraft took off to bomb the M/Y's at Linz, but because of bad weather to was necessary to bomb a target of opportunity, the M/Y's at Rosenheim. Thirty-three (33) tons of bombs were dropped on the target, but results were unobservable.

Mission No. 99, 16 November 1944, Munich West M/Y, Germany.

Thirty -three (33) aircraft took off to bomb the Munich West M/Y's on this date, but again operations were hampered by poor weather conditions. It was again necessary to drop by instruments and once again results were unobserved.

Mission No. 100, 17 November 1944, Vienna/Florisdorf, Austria  
Blechhammer South Oil Refinery, Germany

For this mission our forces were split up, and both targets were attacked. It was the same story in both areas with clouds making it impossible to see the target. Bombs were dropped on both targets by instruments, and the operators were of the opinion that they were able to do a good job on the installations.

Mission No. 101, 18 November 1944, Villafranca A/D, Italy

Because of increased activity by the hostile Italian Air Force in this area a counter air activity was necessitated. This Group dropped 38 tons of bombs on the airdrome in a very good pattern. The weather was clear over the target, and visual bombing was used for a change.

Mission No. 102, 19 November 1944, Vosendorf Oil Refinery, Vienna.

It was imperative that we bomb the Oil Refinery at Vosendorf for it is one of the active sources of oil and gasoline supply for enemy forces in Hungary and Italy. Thirty planes were dispatched to the target, but again the weather was poor. Instrument bombing was again used. After bombing the target white smoke and explosions were seen through the undercast. All planes returned to the base, although 15 planes were slightly damaged by flak.

Mission No. 103, 20 November 1944, Blechhammer Oil Refinery, Germany

The Blechhammer Oil Refinery was the Number 1 target in Europe at the time that this mission was run. This refinery was turning out 20,000 gallons of gasoline monthly. Twenty-seven planes were sent over this target and fair results were observed. Two (2) planes were lost on this mission.

Mission No. 104, 21 November 1944, Motor Transports and Troop  
Concentration in the Sarajevo Area.

A unique mission was planned for the Group on the 21st of November. The German Army was spread out along a road in Yugoslavia making their way North from Greece. It was unfortunate that the weather was very bad, and only one of our planes had a chance to drop on these troops. The rest of the formation found it necessary to return their bombs to the base.

Mission No. 105, 22 November 1944, Munich East M/Y's Germany

On this high priority target in Germany it was necessary to bomb by Pathfinder methods. No results were observed, but the instrument operator thinks that the results were good. Thirty-one (31) tons of bombs were dropped on the target.

The weather conditions made this our last mission for the month.