

HISTORY

of the

484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

1 January 1945 to 31 January 1945

The year 1945 started at a slow pace and January was a quiet month for operations and group activities. The mud was a constant problem and the steady rains, with occasional snow, made the winterized tents and houses comfortable indoor places to stay. The movies shown in the squadrons and at headquarters theaters were slightly better than the usual run, and the attendance, as always, was at capacity.

Fuel oil was made available on a rationed plan for each tent or house so that everyone had enough heat to take the sting out of the penetrating cold winds of sunny Italy. Everybody was safety conscious, and, as a result there were no tents burned down this month. This is a good record when taking into consideration the increased personnel in each squadron.

Squadron S-2 sections have been devoting special attention to new talks, and interest among the men is keen. Mess halls have maps showing the fronts, and there is daily comment on the Russian advances and the wiping out of the German bulge in our lines. The Pacific Campaign doesn't suffer from neglect either in the news discussions.

Each squadron received new crews during the month so that it was built up to its maximum strength. In spite of this, the new men were absorbed smoothly into the Group. Orientation talks given by the different sections to these new crews impressed upon them our record and traditions, as well as operational policies. Strength of the Group is now at its highest level, more than had been expected, but this Group is functioning well against these unexpected demands.

The operations of the 484th Bombardment Group were greatly reduced by poor weather conditions during the month of January. One hundred and sixty sorties were flown on the six missions accomplished. There were 168.85 tons of bombs dropped on enemy installations. Two planes were lost during the month.

A short summary of each mission follows:

Mission No. 126, Trento North M/Y, Italy, 4 January 1945

The importance of Trento as a target lay in the fact that it is situated on the double track Bologna-Brenner Pass line. On this date the yards were found to be well stocked with cars. Twenty-eight aircraft were dispatched to the target, and fifty-two tons of bombs were dropped. There were any hits in the target area, and a large explosion was seen in the middle of the yards.

Mission No. 127, Zagreb West Sidings, 5 January 1945.

Twenty-one planes took off to bomb this target visually, but because the sidings were cloud covered and not visible, all bombs were returned to the base.

Mission No. 128, Vienna South Station, 15 January 1945.

This target was the Number One communications target in the Fifteenth Air Force operational area because of its nearness to the Russian lines. Two primary lines to the front make it possible for the enemy to feed vast supplies to the forces on the Russian front. Twenty-five aircraft dropped thirty-seven tons in the target area by PFF, but the results were unobserved.

Mission No. 129, Brod Highway Bridge, 19 January 1945.

At this time Brod was considered to be the key communications target in Yugoslavia. It was the junction for lines from Zagreb, Belgrade, and Sarajevo. The whole Fifteenth Air Force was going into this area. Fifty-four tons of bombs were dropped in the bridge area. The target was believed to be well hit.

Mission No. 130, Linz North M/Y, Austria, 20 January 1945.

The Linz M/Y was a high priority communications target because of its location which formed a bottle neck for heavy traffic. Thirty-five tons of bombs were dropped in a good pattern on the target.

Mission No. 131, Moosebierbaum Oil Refinery, 31 January 1945.

On this high priority oil target forty tons of bombs were dropped by Pathfinder Methods. Results were unobserved, but the operators are of the opinion that a good job was done. This was the last mission flown by the Group in the month of January.

HEADQUARTERS  
484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

4 January 1945

MISSION: 126

TARGET: Trento North M/Y

1. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: M A H flak would start low in front of formation and raise altitude so that rear elements of formation were hit. 12-15 guns fired from platform west of target.

2. OBSERVATIONS:

A. Communications: None

B. Enemy Air Installations: None

C. Naval: One (1) large transport type vessel at Pola, 19,000 ft at 1020. Six (6) ships in Trieste Harbor.

D. Miscellaneous: Smoke screen at Verona. (May be smoke from attacks.) Monfalcone - smoke screen.

3. CONCLUSIONS:

A. Total losses: One (1) missing

B. Damage: Three (3) by flak

C. Victories: None

D. Correction of telephone mission report: None

4. REMARKS:

A. None

HEADQUARTERS  
484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

5 January 1945

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 127

TARGET: Zagreb West Sidings.

1. ENEMY RESISTANCE:

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: None

2. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

A. 1 ME-210 or 410, dark colored at 20,000 at 4515N-1525E at 1111 from 19,000.

3. CONCLUSIONS:

A. Total losses: None

B. Damage: None

C. Victories: None

D. Correction of telephone mission report: None

4. REMARKS:

A. No bombs dropped because target was not visible.

HEADQUARTERS  
484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

15 January 1945

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 129

TARGET: Vienna South Station.

1. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: M to I - I - H Barrage type fire, 3 to 5 minutes  
duration.

2. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

A. Communications: None

B. Flak Positions: None

C. Naval: None

D. Ground: None

3. CONCLUSIONS:

A. Total losses: 21 men, 2 aircraft.

B. Damage: None

C. Victories: None

D. Correction of telephone mission report: 2 aircraft missing and  
1 aircraft at Vis.

4. REMARKS: None

HEADQUARTERS  
484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

19 January 1945

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 130

TARGET: Brod Highway Bridge.

1. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Barrage type, moderate, inaccurate to accurate, heavy.

2. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

A. Communications: Truck dump, 4447-1805 at 1235 from  
19,000 feet. Picture taken

B. Flak Positions: Visograd (Pictures taken of gun location)

C. Naval: None

D. Ground: None

3. CONCLUSIONS:

A. Total losses: 21 men, 2 aircraft.

B. Damage: One (1) major.

C. Victories: None

D. Correction of telephone mission report: 2 aircraft missing and  
1 aircraft at Vis.

4. REMARKS: None



HEADQUARTERS  
484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
APO 520 US ARMY

31 January 1945

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 131

TARGET: Brod Highway Bridge.

1. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: None

B. Flak: Sto M-I-H. Red Force, 1 barrage to rear and below.  
Blue Force, 3 possible concentrations, 2-3,000 below  
but very inaccurate.

2. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

A. Communications: All RR and M/Y in North Yugoslavia  
seemed loaded and active.

B. Flak Positions: None

C. Naval: None

D. Ground: None

3. CONCLUSIONS:

A. Total losses: None

B. Damage: No major, 2 minor.

C. Victories: None

D. Correction of telephone mission report: 2 aircraft missing  
landed at Friendly Field.

4. REMARKS: None