

HISTORY

of the

484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

1 February 1945 to 28 February 1945

During the month of February the 484th Bombardment Group flew a total of 17 missions. Of these, eight were PFF, or instrument bombing missions, six were visual missions, and three were non-available missions. A total of 443 sorties were flown with 808 tons of bombs dropped on enemy targets. Fifty-three planes returned early during the month. Thirteen aircraft were lost, and 102 men were listed as missing, 12 killed, and 4 wounded.

A short summary of each mission flown during the month follows:

Mission No. 132, 1 February 1945, Moosebierbaum Oil Refinery.

A maximum effort was planned to attack this number one priority target in the 15th Air Force operational area. The Air Force was attempting to cripple the gasoline production of Germany in order to keep the German fighters out of action, and the motorized equipment from moving. The target was cloud covered, but 36.5 tons of bombs were dropped by instruments. Results were unobserved, but later photo recon showed that the target was successfully attacked and bracketed with bombs despite its small size and adverse weather conditions.

Mission No. 133, 5 February 1945, Regensburg Winter Harbor Oil Storage

Large amounts oil were shipped to this target from Roumanian oil fields before their capture by the Russians, making this target important. Thirty-six B-24s reached the target, but found it cloud covered. Forty-two tons of bombs were dropped by instruments and results were unobserved. Photos later showed results to have been very good. Two planes failed to return.

Mission No. 134, 7 February 1945, Florisdorf Oil Refinery.

Following the Air Force policy of attacking oil targets, the Florisdorf Oil Refinery was the target on this date. The target area was smoke covered, but the bomb fell into this area and great deal of damage was believed to be done. Forty-three tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 135, 8 February 1945, Vienna Central Repair Shops.

The very important servicing and repair points for railroad facilities were the targets for the 49th Bomb Wing on the mission. This was planned PFF mission, so the 9/10 cloud cover was expected. Thirty tons of bombs were dropped on the cloud covered target with results being unobserved.

Mission No. 136, 9 February 1945, Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery.

Two planes were dispatched to this target under cover of heavy clouds and dropped on the target by PFF. Results were unobserved.

Mission No. 137, 13 February 1945, Vienna Central Repair Shops.

The 484th Bomb Group returned to this target, and this time was able to bomb visually. Thirty-one tons of bombs were dropped just short and to the right of the target. This was the first target which was visual to the bombardiers this month.

Mission No. 138, 13 February 1945, Maribor W Marshalling Yard.

A successful mission was carried out against the M/Y's at Maribor in Yugoslavia. The weather over the target was CAVU and the crews were able to do their best work. Thirty tons of bombs were dropped in an excellent pattern covering the M/Y.

Mission No. 139, 14 February 1945, Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery.

The 484th Bomb Group again tried to put the Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery out of business on this date. The target was dimly visible when this group arrived, and the bomb run was to be visible. At the last minute another Bomb Group crowded over and the lead Bombardier was prevented from swinging completely on the target. The pattern was largely to the right, but the bombs from one box landed completely in the target area.

Mission No. 140, 15 February 1945, Trieste Harbor.

This M/Y was loaded up to 65 percent of capacity with some 600 cars. Still larger loading was expected at the time our formation would reach the target. Weather conditions necessitated a PFF run and the other operators believe the target to be well hit. Fifty-six tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 141, 16 February 1945, Rosenheim M/Y

The 484th Bomb Group bombed the first alternate target, Rosenheim M/Y visually. Sixty-five tons were dropped and good results were reported. Direct hits, smoke and fires were seen.

Mission No. 142, 17 February 1945, Trieste Harbor.

On this mission the 484th Bomb Group bombed the third alternate target, Trieste, Harbor after an unfortunate accident. The two lead planes, Able 11 and Able 12 collided on the way to the target and it was necessary for the leader of the second attack unit to come up to lead the formation. Twenty tons of bombs were dropped on the target on the second bomb run. The first run found the target obscured.

Mission No. 143, 19 February 1945, Graz South East M/Y.

For the third mission in succession it was necessary for the Group to bomb an alternate target. This time it was the first alternate, Graz. The formation took off to bomb the Vienna South Station, but a strong headwind caused excessive fuel consumption, making it impossible to reach the Primary target and return. Thirty-nine tons of bombs were dropped to the west of the target.

Mission No. 144, 20 February 1945, Pola Harbor Installations.

Again it was necessary for the formation to go to an alternate. This time the primary target was the Bolzano M/Y, but it was obvious on the route out that the solid undercast would extend over Bolzano. The Group leader elected to go to the first alternate, Pola, The target was bombed by boxes, and hits were seen in the target area.

Mission No. 145, 21 February 1945, Vienna South Station.

Communications targets in Vienna were under attack on this date, and the 484th Bomb Group went to the Vienna South Station. Forty tons of bombs were dropped on the target with results believed to be excellent. The main weight of bombs fell in the target area with a few scattered hits slightly North and East. Over the target the Lead and Deputy Lead ships were hit by flak but they were able to get their bombs out and lead the formation over before going down.

Mission No. 146, 22 February 1945, Donauworth M/Y.

Twenty-three A/C took off to bomb this target, but because of adverse weather conditions all returned their bombs to the base. Runs were attempted on the alternates, but they were also closed in.

Mission No. 147, 23 February 1945, Knittelfeld M/Y.

The 484th Bomb Group was scheduled to hit the Amstetten M/Y on this date, but weather again forced the formation to go to the third alternate, Knittelfeld M/Y. A great deal of difficulty was experienced in picking up the target in the 7/10 undercast, but good results were made. One box scored direct hits on the M/Y and on the round house, while other boxes fell short. Forty-five tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 148, 24 February 1945, Bolzano M/Y.

The 484th Bomb Group was briefed to bomb the M/Y at Bolzano but because of adverse weather conditions all bombs were returned to the base. Attempts were made to bomb alternates, but they were all closed in.

Mission No. 149, 25 February 1945, Linz North Main M/Y.

The Linz M/Y was bombed on this date using offset bombing methods because of a very effective smoke screen. However, just before bombs away another Bomb Group rallied under this Group forcing the Bombardier to hold his bombs. The results were a scattered pattern starting short of the target with some bombs in the area. Thirty-four tons were dropped on this target.

Mission No. 150, 27 February 1945, Augsburg M/Y.

Because of its key position in the enemy rail network from West to East or from Italy to the North, Augsburg was made the target for the day. The target was covered with smoke from previous bombings so that PFF methods had to be used. Results could not be observed, but hits were believed to have been made in the target area. Fifty-six tons of 1000 pound bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 151, 28 February 1945, Bressanone M/Y

The object of this mission was to close the Brenner Pass, but the target was missed. The M/Y was to be bombed in a column of boxes, but poor terrain features and faulty navigation from the IP to the target caused the bombs to hit over the target. This was the last mission for the month of February.