

HISTORY

of the

484TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY)

1 April 1945 to 30 April 1945

During the month of April the 484th Bombardment Group flew twenty-one combat missions against the enemy in Germany, Austria, and Italy. Six hundred and eighty-eight sorties were flown with only thirty-four early returns. Three hundred and sixty-four tons of bombs were dropped on enemy installations. Nineteen of our air crew members are missing.

Following is a short summary of each mission flown during the month:

Mission No. 172, 1 April 1945, Villach M/Y, Austria.

The first target for the month was a target of opportunity. A run was made on the primary target, the Bruck M/Y's, but cloud covering made it necessary to abandon it. A PFF run was made on the target at Villach. During the run the Bombardier saw the M/Y's through a break in the clouds. A small correction was made, and the bombs were seen to hit the south choke point. Sixty-three tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 173, 2 April 1945, St. Polten M/Y, Austria.

This target was attacked in order to temporarily block traffic headed for the Russian Front. The bombing was done visually by boxes, and the results were excellent. The bomb pattern was very good with all bombs landing on the target. Twenty seven planes dropped 65 tons on this important communications target.

Mission No. 174, 5 April 1945, Brescia M/Y, Italy.

Reports indicated that the cars at Brescia were filled with German war equipment and Italian machinery being moved to Germany. Twenty eight aircraft were dispatched to the target. It was attacked visually and by boxes. A good bomb pattern covered the target area. It was necessary for the lead Bombardier to make two runs on the target because of cloud cover.

Mission No. 175, 6 April 1945, Brescia Small Arms Plant, Italy.

A phase of the production of ammunition was done at this plant so it was picked as the target for the 484th Bomb Group. All bombing was done visually by boxes in trail. Twenty seven planes dropped 65 tons on the plant with very good results.

Mission No. 176, 7 April 1945, Klagenfurt M/Y, Austria.

Communications targets in North Italy and in Austria were under attack by the Fifteenth Air Force on this date. The 484th Bomb Group attacked the Klagenfurt M/Y's. The bomb run was started on by instruments, but in a short time the Bombardier was able to pick up the yards visually. Results were believed to have been good.

Mission No. 177, 8 April 1945, Pardenone M/Y, Italy.

The 484th Bomb Group was briefed to attack the M/Y at Bronzolo, but weather made it necessary to attempt a run on Pardenone. Some hits were seen in the yards, but the pattern was widely scattered. Five hundred and eighteen bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 178, 9 April 1945, Area Apple

On this date the Fifteenth Air Force attacked one of its most important objectives. It was to be a mission in direct support of the British Eighth Army. An area in front of the troops was saturated with bombs enabling the Eighth Army to move up into the Po Valley. For safety the friendly troops were well marked with signs placed on the ground. This mission was highly successful, and received the commendation of the British Army.

Mission No. 179, 10 April 1945, Area Baker.

This mission was the same as the one on the preceding day except for the change in the area to be bombed. The Eighth Army had advanced, and so did the Fifteenth Air Force. On this mission Frag bombs were used, while on the preceding one, 100 pounders were used.

Mission No. 180, 11 April 1945, Bronzolo M/Y, Italy.

The 484th Bomb Group attacked the Bronzolo M/Y on this date. This attack was designed to follow up the two previous missions in cooperation with the ground forces. It was planned to further block and cut critical escape routes. Visual sighting was used since the weather over the target was clear. On the first run the lead Bombardier had a malfunction, so a second run was necessitated. Fifty-two tons of bombs were dropped, and many hits were scored in the yards.

Mission No. 181, 12 April 1945, St. Veit RR Bridge, Italy.

This was one of the less important communications targets bombed on this date, but would have been one more obstacle in the supply route of the enemy. The bridge was well hit by the four boxes which bombed in trail. Sixty-five tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 182, 14 April 1945, Malcontenta Ammunition Factory, Italy

Ammunition was a critical item for the enemy in North Italy so the Air Force attacked powder plants in this area. Our Group attacked the target by boxes in trail. Three boxes bombed while one failed to recognize the target so its bombs were returned to the base. Fires and explosions were seen in the target area, and a good job of bombing was accomplished.

Mission No. 183, 15 April 1945, Nervesa RR Bridge.

The Blue Force of the Group bombed this target visually with three boxes. This attack was made while another force went out to bomb troop concentrations at the front. The results were varied. Poor target coverage and bad weather contributed greatly to the trouble encountered on this mission. Most of the bombs fell short and to the right of the briefed aiming point.

Mission No. 184, 15 April 1945, Troop Concentrations on the Fifth Army Front.

This was another important mission for the Fifteenth Air Force. The area before the Fifth Army was to be bombed by the greatest number of bombers that the Air Force could muster. Again the target area was well marked by artificial aids. The area was well hit and the Fifth Army was able to move out the next day. The largest number of planes ever put up on a combat mission flew on this mission for the Group.

Mission No. 185, 16 April 1945, Troop Concentrations on the Fifth Army Front.

The Fifteenth Air Force continued its offensive against the Germans occupying the area opposing the Fifth Army. This time the weather proved a hazard, but it was possible to identify the target and to drop 40 tons on the area.

Mission No. 186, 17 April 1945, Troop Concentrations on the Fifth Army Front.

For the third time the Fifteenth Air Force went to the Italian Front. Again the results were good; enabling our ground forces to move forward.

Mission No. 187, 19 April 1945, Vipiteno RR Bridge, Italy.

The Group went over the primary target, Avisio RR Viaduct, but smoke from the preceding Groups made it impossible for the Bombardiers to pick up the aiming points. The alternate was picked up, but by a freak accident the bombs fell short and to the left. A burst of flak between the lead ship and the deputy lead caused the vertical gyros to tumble in both ships.

Mission No. 188, 20 April 1945, Lusia Road Bridge, Italy.

The 484th Bomb Group hit the primary employing a formation of six bombing boxes in trail. All boxes used the auto-pilot and sighted visually. The target was easily picked up and all hit with compact patterns. The center span of the bridge was knocked out. This was a highly successful mission.

Mission No. 189, 21 April 1945, Altnang Puchiem M/Y, Austria.

The Group bombed the second alternate on this date with good results. The weight of this highly concentrated attack fell on the center of the marshalling yard. All stock within a belt, 600 feet wide, stretching across the center of the yard, was totally destroyed. A little difficulty was experienced with cloud cover. Seventy-five tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 190, 23 April 1945, Badia Road Bridge, Italy.

Because of the rapid advance of the Allies in Italy the Germans were in a state of disorganization. The Fifteenth Air Force was endeavoring to disrupt supply lines in order to further that disorganization. The approaches to the bridge were destroyed, and one box destroyed a span. Eighty-one tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 191, 24 April 1945, Rovereto M/Y, Italy.

The Rovereto M/Y is located on the main Brenner route. Twenty-eight planes were sent to the target. The target was smoke covered, but hits were believed to have fallen into the target after first falling short.

Mission No. 192, 25 April 1945, Linz M/Y, Austria.

With the Russians in Vienna, Linz became the hinge of the German defense in this area. Twenty-eight planes were dispatched to the target. On the bomb run heavy and accurate flak was experienced. The lead ship was hit, as was the deputy, and as a result, bombs were dropped short. Two aircraft were lost over the target.

Mission No. 193, 26 April 1945, Spittal M/Y, Austria.

The 484th Bomb Group was briefed to hit Ammunition Stores in Northern Italy, but due to weather, the primary target was abandoned. Two boxes bombed Spittal M/Y, and two boxes returned to the base. Thirteen A/C bombed, and most of their bombs burst in the target area. This was the last mission for April, and the last mission flown by the Group in the Mediterranean Theatre.