

workers however run to the woods adjoining the south end of the factory.

11:32 AM First formation of enemy planes in the Sopron area. A second formation is now spotted in the Kaposvar area headed north and is about 15 minutes from Wiener-Neustadt. An attack on Wiener-Neustadt is imminent.

11:42 AM Enemy planes over Lake Neusiedl. There is air combat with German fighter planes.

11:50 AM A new formation appears north of Sumek, Hungary. A force of 120 planes are headed north.

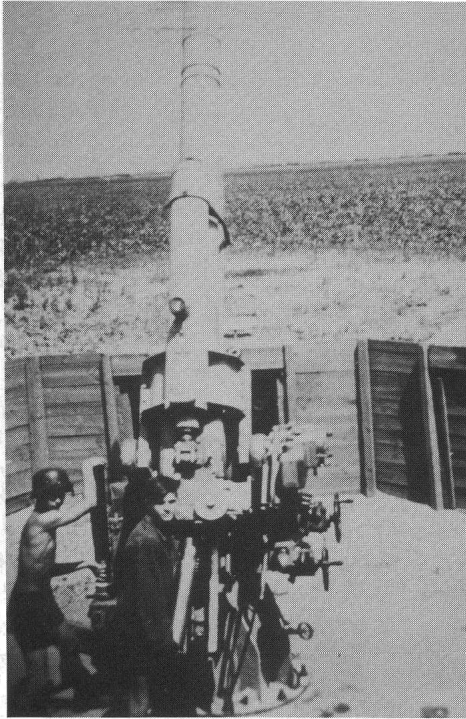
11:50 AM The formation approaching from the Sopron area makes a course change to Wiener-Neustadt. Bombing attack imminent.

12:03 PM Many formations approaching Wiener-Neustadt. 120 planes are located over Lake Neusiedl headed south..

12:15 PM Enemy planes over Parndorf. This formation consists of the planes from the 99th, 2nd, 463rd, 97th, and the 301st Bomb Groups. Their target is Fischamend. The IP is Parndorf. Those of us in Ebergassing can also see many tiny black spots in the eastern sky. You can hear a far droning which is constantly growing louder. I look through the binoculars and recognize the high tail assembly of the Boeing B-17. I shout to my friends, "They are Fortresses" These are the first American planes I can see close up. Above Wiener-Neustadt I can only see glittering dots. We know this attack was meant for Fischamend.

12:19 PM The first planes reach Fischamend. The roar of over 500 engines fills the air with undescrivable loudness. The four flak batteries positioned near Fischamend begin to fire. You can see the black flak burst between the planes of the first formation. Suddenly one plane goes down on fire. I can see seven parachutes. Then the earth begins to quake. The noise level raises from the bursting bombs and the engines of the bomber fleet. Thick smoke rises from Fischamend only six miles away. The whole scene is beyond imagination not real, unearthly. When the first formation turns south to Ebergassing, I run into the cellar and wait until the attack is over.

13:01 PM Air attack siren sounds the all clear. In the afternoon I ride my bicycle to Fischamend to see what it looks like.



Big Bombers, heavy guns with little soldiers age 16. Flak Battery near Wiener Neustadt in the spring and summer of 1944.

The whole works were destroyed. (even today the ruins can be see). Only the first formation dropped their bombs early. The bombs did not hit the works but fell in the wood a half mile away where many people sought shelter. 150 casualties were found. After this attack the production of the ME-109 at the Fischamend works were split up to many small factories. On this same day Wiener-Neustadt was bombed by the 47th wing and Bad Voslau by the 304th Bomb Wing.

The maxim after this raid was to try and get out of the village as far as possible. 2 km from Ebergassing my mother and I dug a little slit trench to use as shelter during air attacks. We used the trench for the first time on 23 April 1944 when bombers hit the Schwechat-Heidfeld Henkel factory.

23 April 1944

1:00 PM Air raid warning on the radio

1:06 PM Enemy formation reported over Zagreb heading north

1:16 PM First bomber wave over Nagykanisza, Hungary

1:26 PM First formation over Lake Balaton. Second wave over Koprowitza. An attack on Vienna is probable.

1:39 PM Enemy bombers over Papa, Hungary

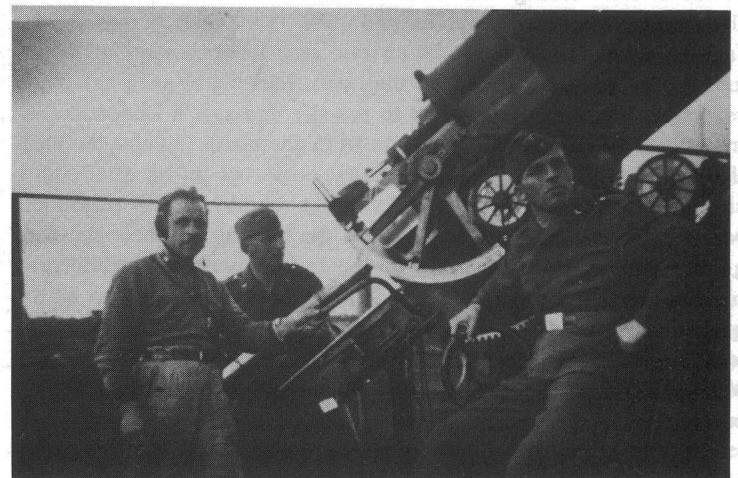
1:51 PM Air raid warning on the radio

1:53 PM Enemy bomber formation crossing Lake Neusiedl heading west

2:16 PM Bombers reported over Eisenstadt. Air attack to Wiener-Neustadt

2:21 PM More bomber formation and escort fighters crossing Lake Neusiedl. Some minutes later we could see the planes coming from the northeast flying over Fischamend toward Schwechat. The planes are B-24 Liberators.

2:42 PM The flak batteries near Fischamend begin to fire. The smoke from the guns hide the last wave of about 30 planes from our view. The Fischamend flak battery is equipped with eight 10.5 MM guns. Suddenly the left inner engine on one plane is burning with a bright flame. The plane falls off into a spin, and levels off for a short time. Three crew members jump. The plane begins to spin again, 2 more crew members jump. Then the plane heads down vertically and crashes 1 mile east of Fischamend. The plane burned for some time giving off a large cloud of smoke. Twenty minutes later the plane blows up probably due to bombs still in the airplane.



A hot day, a little pause, waiting for the next wing.