

During this raid, I stayed in the slit trench far away from Ebergassing. In the clear weather I could see the formation approaching from the west and bombing Atzgersdorf refinery. It looked like a parade. A few ME-110 fighters tried to attack the formation but they had no success. One ME-110 succeeded in breaking into the formation but soon afterwards she went down burning out of the formation and crashed. When the formation reached our area the flak began to fire and we had to dive back into the slit trench.

**30 May 1955**, 16th of June, and 26th of June 1944, I had similar experiences.

**26 June 1944** The attack was made on the airfield at Heidfeld-Schwechat near Ebergassing. The raid was flown by the 47th Bomb Wing. Approaching from the east coming over Bratislava the groups were welcomed by heavy flak fire. Suddenly a plane #4228777 went down burning, piloted by Chandler of the 98th Bomb Group.

**8 July 1944** On the 8th of July some bomber groups approaching from the west over Vienna attacked Zwolfaxing airfield. On the approach one B-17 was shot down in flames and crashed near Siebenhirten. Again the deafening noise of battle, earth shaking, the concussion of the exploding bombs can be felt. jolting the buildings. Two bombs fall into a wooded area about a half mile from Ebergassing. After the attack I go into the

wood to hunt for bomb splinters. I found some as large as two hands.

**August 23-24, 1944** Several bomb groups coming from the west crossed over the Danube north of Ebergassing and flew on by. One single B-24 came out of the west flying very low, engines on fire and with its undercarriage extended. The plane tried to land near Gotzendorf airfield. The pilot shot green Very lights. Suddenly the airfield 2 cm flak batteries began to fire. I could see the shells hit the fuselage and wings. The pilot tried with one last effort to zoom the plane. After a few hundred meters the plane now on fire tipped over on her left wing, and crashed. A huge cloud of smoke marked the plane's final resting place. After the all clear sounded I rode my bicycle over to the airfield but because this was a military area I was not allowed to get in close, but could only see the wreckage from a distance of 400 meters. I had hoped to identify the plane, but even after all these years I have been unsuccessful. I list this plane among the "Missing in Action" entries in my journal.

Until April 1945 many raids took place. Then the war was over, the skies were quiet once more. But for a boy of 13 the on again off again drama taking place in the space above my home has had a lasting affect on me that lives on till this day.

The End

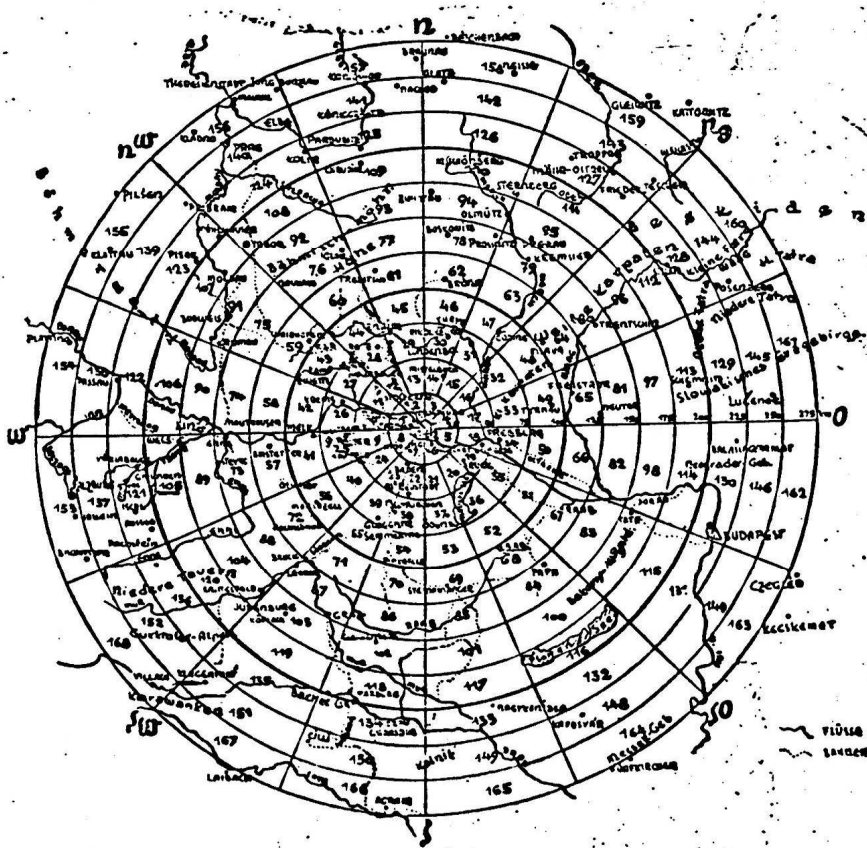


Chart of the Vienna area showing the segmented sections that would be similar to the grid squares referred to in the text. By looking at a map with a grid overlay, and listening to the coded message coming over the radio, you could determine the location of the bomber formation.