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General of the 15th Air Force in a colorful ceremony at our field.

Early that morning all flying and ground personnel of the group not engaged in the combat mission for that day were drawn up in formation for the review that was to take place after the official presentation. In an impressive ceremony, General Twining read over the public address system the War Department General Order citing the 484th Bombardment Group as a Distinguished Unit. The outstanding attack by the group was made August 22, 1944 on the Vienna Lobau Oil Storage plant which at that time was one of the most vital targets in the 15th Air Force attack area. Everyone had a proud feeling as the General tied the blue battle streamers to the Group's colors, and gave the right to every man in the organization to wear the distinctive gold framed blue ribbon bar on the left side of the blouse.

The 15th Air Force Band gave us our first opportunity overseas to march to military music. In a surprisingly fine display of marching ability we passed in review before a reviewing party consisting of General Twining, Col. Lee, Wing Commander, Lt. Col. Busch Group Deputy Commander, and our Red Cross girls, Ellie Mae Haddock and Jo Ryan.

### **Operational History December 1944**

During the month of December 1944, the 484th Bombardment Group was able to accomplish 16 missions, an amazing number when the weather for the month is taken into consideration. A total of 290 sorties were flown bringing the groups total to date at 4,427. Early returns for the month totaled 27. Two hundred and fifty nine aircraft (total sorties) dropped 449.65 tons of bombs on enemy installations. During the month we destroyed 7 enemy fighters while losing four of our planes.

### **Missions For December 1944**

Mission 121, 2 December 1944, Blechammer South Oil Refinery, Germany

Blechammer South Oil Refinery was the first target for the group for the month of December. It was one of the high priority targets for the 15th Air Force. When we attack it, the refinery was only putting out 40% of capacity, but was under repair. The weather was clear over the target, but our bombardiers were hampered by smoke. 40 tons of bombs were dropped, and the target area was believed to be well hit. Flak was I-A -H (intense, accurate, and heavy) in the target area, but no planes were lost, although two were damaged.

Mission No 122, 3 December 1944, Innsbruck M/Y, Austria

Latest intelligence information accounted for 685 cars in the yards, and two planes were sent to this target to bomb by instruments under cover of the weather. Three tons of bombs were dropped, and the Mickey operators believed results were good.

Mission 123, 6 December 1944, Maribor South M/Y's, Yugoslavia

35 aircraft were sent to this target, but because of poor weather conditions, the formation became separated before reaching the objective. 10 planes bombed at Maribor, but results were unobserved, while the rest bombed at Graz M/Y's, the first alternate. results at this target were also unobserved. Weather was 10/10 at both targets. One aircraft failed to return to base.

Mission 124, 7 December 1944, Innsbruck M/Y's, Austria

Under cover of night two planes were dispatched to this target. One airplane returned early, but the other went on to drop 1.5 tons of bombs on the target. Results were unobserved.

Mission 125\*, 8 November, 1944, Moosbierbaum, Austria  
Mission recalled a/c bad weather two aircraft only.

Mission 126\*, 9 November 1944, Linz, Austria  
33 aircraft were recalled from this mission a/c bad weather

Mission 127\*, 10 December, 1944, Brux, Czechoslovakia  
27 aircraft were recalled a/c bad weather

Mission 128 11 December 1944, Graz M/Y's, Austria

28 airplanes took off to bomb the Blechammer Refinery on this date, but weather conditions forced them to turn to the forth alternate, the Graz M/Y's it was hazy over the target, and results were thought to be poor.

Mission 129, 12 December 1944, Blechammer South Oil Refinery, Germany

Under cover of 10/10 undercast two planes were sent to this target to bomb by instruments. Three tons of bombs were dropped on the target with results unobserved.

Mission 130, 15 December 1944, Linz Main M/Y's, Austria

26 aircraft were sent to destroy this target. The target is the main bottle neck of German traffic moving from the west to the east. The weather again was poor, necessitating the use of instruments. 41 tons of bombs were dropped, but results were unobserved.

Mission 131, 16 December 1944, Brux Synthetic Oil Plant, Czechoslovakia

Our target for 16 December was the Brux Synthetic Oil Plant which was rated as the number two priority target in all of Europe. 27 aircraft were sent to this target, but again it was the same old story on the weather. It was 10/10 over the area to be bombed, but the formation continued on instruments. Results were unobserved, but generally thought to be good. 36 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No 132, 17 December 1944, Odertal Oil Refinery, Germany

Odertal Oil Refinery had been under attack before this date, but was still able to produce 4000 tons of gasoline a month. On this day 30 B-24's attacked it, dropping 52.5 tons of bombs. Results were