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Special Narrative For February 1945

Contrary to expectations, good weather plus pathfinder planes made it possible for the group to have a record operational month. Good maintenance enabled us to keep our formations flying over Germany in strength so that we did our full share in the all out offensive against the enemy. Combat missions were flown 15 consecutive days which is a record not matched even during the clear summer days.

One of the principal events of the month is the completion of the chapel. The chapel is to be used for all religious services and the group is proud of it. Construction was begun in January and completed by the Italian workers who took pride in building a church in the middle of February. Brig. Gen. Lee, Commanding Officer of the 49th Bombardment Wing, officially dedicated the chapel which was crowded with men of this command. Capt. Carter, Group Chaplain, 484th Bomb Group HQ has the appreciation of everyone for this job.

Work has been started on a Group Dispensary and it should be ready for use in March or early April. This dispensary with facilities for the care and short term hospitalization of our sick personnel is a definite improvement over present accommodations. It will make it unnecessary to send men who are not seriously ill to the field hospital in the area and save a lot of inconvenience.

We had the surprise and honor of being visited by General Spaatz and General Eaker on a tour of inspection. We were ready for them, but they did not get an opportunity to visit the squadrons.

One change worth recording here is the appointment of Major Hogan, former 826 Squadron Executive Officer as Group Executive Officer. Lt. Col. Johnson Group Executive Officer since the Groups activation, left for the United States.

During the last half of February we had some relief from the rain. The mud began to dry up quickly, making walking and driving more attractive. From now on it will be a matter of dodging the dust.

Operational History For March 1945

During the month of March weather conditions were an improvement over the previous month. 20 missions were flown, 610 sorties and only 26 early returns. Tonnage dropped during the month totaled 1168.10 tons. 63 combat crew members were listed as missing in action.

Missions For March 1945

Mission No 168, 1 March 1945, Moosbierbaum Oil Refinery, Austria

35 of our aircraft took off to bomb an important industrial target at Moosbierbaum, but because of 10/10 undercast it was necessary to bomb by instruments. No results observed, but a good run was made and good results were expected. 51 tons of bombs were dropped on the target and one ship failed to return.

Mission No 169, 2 March 1945, Linz Benzol Plant, Austria

28 of our aircraft took off to bomb the Linz Benzol Plant in Austria. Again it became necessary to bomb by PFF methods due to 10/10 undercast. 53 tons of bombs were dropped a little left of the course, but in the target area. Despite the short bomb run good results were obtained

Mission No 170, 4 March 1945, Graz Main M/Y's, Austria

33 of our aircraft took off to bomb the Graz main M/Y's in Austria. This attack was of vital importance to further disrupt the already disorganized rail system from Vienna to the Hungarian front and south to Yugoslavia. The run on the target was started by PFF methods but was picked up visually in time for the bombardier to make necessary corrections. 59.5 tons of bombs were dropped and bomb strike photos showed a tight concentration of bombs on the target. One of our aircraft was lost.

Mission No 171, 8 March 1945, Hegyeshalom M/Y's, Hungary

39 of our aircraft took off to bomb the RR cars at Hegyeshalom marshaling yards in Hungary. Again the importance of this attack was the disruption and disorganization of military supplies and traffic enroute to the front and its destruction would be an effective support for the Russian ground troops. Two forces were flown this day and good results were obtained by both. 57.25 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No 172, 9 March 1945, Graz M/Y's, Austria

38 aircraft took off to bomb Bruck M/Y's but due to adverse weather conditions it became necessary to bomb the alternate, Graz Station and M/Y. This was bombed in two units with nine ship fronts. Handicapped by 10/10 undercast PFF methods were employed. Difficult was encountered by both units on the bomb run and no results were observed, but in spite of this results were believed to have been good. 80.25 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No 173, 12 March 1945, Florisdorf Oil Refinery, Austria

39 of our aircraft were dispatched to bomb the remnants of the Florisdorf Oil Refinery. Complete cloud cover 10/10 was encountered over the target and it was necessary to bomb by instruments. 62 tons of bombs were dropped and no results were observed.

Mission No 174, 13 March 1945, Regensburg Main M/Y's, Germany

28 of our aircraft took off to bomb the Regensburg M/Y's in Germany. Again due to complete cloud cover over the target it was