
selected crews. The benefits of this program became evident soon afterward by the manner in which the attack units in formation were led and in the improvement in navigation and bombing.

Most of the men were realizing that the air war in Europe was assured and that targets were becoming very limited. But there was no relaxation and the morale of the group was maintained at a high level. The group officers began to give increased attention to entertainment of the men and the Information and Education Program assumed increasing importance.

Operational History April 1945

During the month of April the 484th Bombardment Group flew 21 combat missions against the enemy in Germany, Austria, and Italy. 688 sorties were flown with 34 early returns. 364 tons of bombs on enemy installations. 19 of our crew members are missing.

Missions For April 1945

Mission No. 188, 1 April 1945, Villach M/Y's, Austria

The first target of 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 bomb 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 the south choke point. 63 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 189, 2 April 1945, Polten M/Y's, 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. 27 planes dropped 65 tons of bombs on this important communications target.

Mission No. 190, 5 April 1945, Brescia M/Y's, Italy

Reports indicated that the cars at Brescia were filled with German war equipment and Italian machinery being moved to Germany. 28 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. 191, 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 Bombardment Group. All bombing was done visually by boxes in trail. 27 planes dropped 65 tons of bombs on the plant with very good results.

Mission No. 192, 7 April 1945, Klagenfurt, M/Y's, Austria Communications targets in Northern Italy and in Austria were

under attack by the 15th Air Force on this date. The 484th BG attacked the Klagenfurt M/Y's. The bomb run started on instrument, but in a short time the bombardier was able to pick up the target visually. Results were believed to be very good.

Mission No 193, 8 April 1945, Pardenone M/Y's, Italy

The 484th BG was briefed to attack the M/Y's at Bronzolo, but weather made it necessary to attempt a run on Pardenone. 28 aircraft scored some hits, but the pattern was widely scattered. 66.5 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 194, 9 April 1945, Area Apple, Italy.

On this date the 15th Air Force attacked one of its most important objectives. The 484th BG dispatched a force of 21 aircraft in two assault waves each. One aircraft returned early and two casualties were reported. It was a mission in direct support of the British Eighth Army. An area in front of 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. 100 pound bombs were used in this attack. This mission was highly successful, and received commendation of the British Army. 78.75 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No. 195, 10 April 1945, Area Baker, Italy

This mission was the same as the one on the preceding day except for the change in the area to be bombed. 21 B-24s in two attack waves were dispatched by the 484th BG. One returned early. The Eighth Army had advanced, and so did the 15th Air Force. On this mission frag bombs were used. 67.75 tons of bombs were dropped.

Mission No 196, 11 April 1945, Bronzolo, M/Y's, Italy

The 484th BG dispatched 28 aircraft to attack the Bronzolo M/Y on this date. The 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 enemy escape routes. Visual sighting was used since the weather over the target was clear. On the first bomb run the lead bombardier had a malfunction, so a second run was necessitated. 52 tons of bombs were dropped, and many hits were scored in the yards. 6 aircraft returned early.

Mission No 197, 12 April 1945, St. Veit RR Bridge, Italy

27 aircraft were dispatched by the 484th BG to bomb one of the lesser important communication targets, but still was one more obstacle in the supply route of the enemy. The bridges were well hit.

Mission No 198, 14 April 1945, Malcontenta Ammunition Factory, Italy

Ammunition was a critical item for the enemy in North Italy so the Air Forces attacked the powder trains 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