

Americans had with them, and which we did not have any more.

The Bomber Group that bombed Korneuburg was the 484th. One plane was shot down. I have found an eye witness report and a flak map of this crash. The eye witness is a teacher who supervised the school boys who served as flak helpers in a battery.

Here is a translation of this report: On June 26th 1944, I had the duty to supervise the flak helpers in the flak battery Haschhof and to hold the classes. At nine in the morning air attack alarm was announced. Immediately I went to the command stand of the battery and there I could observe the following:

Around 9:30 one bomber formation was approaching from the direction of Korneuburg. The batteries started to fire at the formation after a short while. Between the planes of the formation I could see the clouds of the exploding flak shells. While the flak was still shooting at the formation I could see a white trail of smoke on one plane in the third row of the formation. The formation passed the battery and turned to the direction of Tulln. Three or four minutes later I could observe the plane with the trail of smoke crash down nose ahead burning brightly. I could not see when the plane hit the ground as the mountains were in my way. This is the end of the eye witness report.

This plane with the number 31 42-94748 of the 825th squadron crashed down near the village of Chorherrn near Tulln. This was the last time we went to the slit trench in the gravel pit. I told my mother that I would not go there any more. I could observe the raids better from our home and I could also use my binoculars there which I was not allowed to use outside the house.

When the airfield at Zwolfaxing was bombed on July 8th, 1944 and several bombs fell down only 200 (two hundred) meters away from the slit trenches in our gravel pit, nobody went there any more and I added a few bomb fragments to my collection of shell fragments.

Starting with July more and more targets on the outer edge of Vienna were bombed and I had found a place where I was rather safe from shell fragments and from where I had a good view to three directions, North, East and South. There was the wall

of the house in the East I used this hiding and viewing place until the end of March 1945. From this place I could observe all the formations coming from the Southeast very well and I was not hit by the fragments of the shells shot by the batteries of the Viennese flak barrier that began over Ebergassing. Only when the bombers approached directly over Ebergassing to Vienna I did have to seek shelter in the house as the flak in Fischamend shot earlier and I could have been hit by one of the fragments. Furthermore some very clever men told me that the Americans could see me and would drop bombs on me, Felix the target!

July 26 is again a day of raids where several targets close to Ebergassing are bombed, Weiner Neustadt aircraft engine factory, Vosendorf oil refinery and Zwolfaxing air field. The formations approach from the West. We can feel the explosions of the bombs very heavily. The windowpanes rattle but it is cloudy, so that I can only watch the formation that is approaching Zwolfaxing. This formation consists only of about thirty B-24's which are attacked by the flak before they reach the airfield. Two of them crash down on fire in the target area. A third



*High schools boys checking out a shot down bomber.*

one gets hit in the fuselage and breaks into two parts. I cannot see the hit, I only watch the two parts, the tail section and the wings with the control section witch break away.

In 1973 the widow of a bombardier of the 460th Bomb Group who died in one of the crashed planes visited me and I

showed her the place where the bomber hit the ground and the target Zwolfaxing. Still today this village has a military camp for tanks.

Around mid-1944 you could read in the faces of a lot of people that they did not care any more what would happen to them. You could not do anything against the air attacks you only could take them as a given.

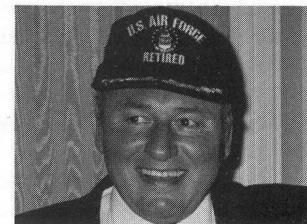
There were more and more air attack alarms. In May there were only four a day and one by night. In June we had five per day and two by night and in July we lived through seven by day and three by night. In August there were nine by day and three by night. Already in June bombs fell down close to Ebergassing and in September the city of Vienna itself was bombed for the first time.

From that point on the daily routine was controlled by the US bombers and the US fighters. Because of the strafing fighters the farmers would bring in their harvest during the night and the factories started their work only at noon if they did not work around the clock. In January 1945, our school closed down as there was no coal available to heat the class rooms.

When in January 1945 my father came home for three weeks leave after 21 months of military service, he said that at home it was worse than on the front. During this time every day there was an air attack alarm and by the mid-March nothing was working any more.

On March 30th, 1945 I saw my last B-24s flying in three groups and B17s flying in four groups over us.

As of April first the planes over us were IL2s, PE2, and A20 Douglas Boston. And then on April 3rd at 4:30 in the afternoon, after we had spent the day in the basement because of artillery fire, three Russian soldiers showed up in front of our house, we thought that we had the worst behind us and we were wrong. But that is another story.



*Felix Rameder*