

Pilots Jlimsey

1st Attack Unit

Able flight

Jerry	Dufour	A	Lead
Amos S	Pollard	A	
Russell K	Bolton Jr	A	DNT
Ensley B	Weimer	A	
Edmund J	McLaughlin		
Kenneth	Rounds (D)		DNT

Baker Flight

Richard P	Owsley	B	ER
Leo Frobom	B		
Grady W	Leese	B	
Ray A	Foss (D)	B	
John C	Nowacki	B	
Dana A	Stewart	B	DNT
James E	Kennedy	B	DNT

Charlie Flight

Rodney T	Stewart	C	
Stanley H	Mauldin	C	
Richard G	Vance	C	ER
Richard L	Calkins	C	
Nelson D	Parker	C	
John F	Konop	C	ER

Second Attack Unit

Dog flight

Merle P	Yanney	D	DNT
John S	Howell	D	MIA
William F	Gaskill	D	
Jospeh C	Reichal	D	ER
Austin R	Stanford	D	to 461
Ralph E	Parks	D	to 461

Easy flight

Cecil R	Ellis (D)	E	to 461
Wallace E	Lamay	E	to 461
Howard	Steinberg	E	to 461
Robert G	Davis	E	to 461
Reed	Sprinkel	E	to 461
Alva M	Schick	E	ER
Clarence R	Hangey	E	to 461

The 451st & 484th bombed Moosbierbaum by PFF with Major Dufour as lead with Capt. Stoddard as lead bombardier. The target was overshot due to weather, but was again picked up and identified on the scope in time for a well synchronized bombing run. Good results were expected, although none were

observed. 14 aircraft in three boxes comprised the attack force. The formation shown above totals 20 aircraft meaning there were at least six aborts, and we know the Howell crew abandoned ship near Lake Balaton. 31 Aircraft of the 451st bombed with two attack forces, the first attack unit with three combat boxes, and two boxes in the second attack unit. The target was identified in time to make a long smooth PFF run with the briefed axis of attack followed. Due to the complete undercast, the results were unobserved.

The 461st lead by Col. Lawhon with Lt. Churchill as bombardier had 24 aircraft attacked Graz M/Y. The first bomb run was unsuccessful due to inability to pick up the target on the Mickey set. A 360 turn was made and another bomb run was initiated. Approaching the target the first deputy leader had a premature release and most aircraft in the formation dropped off this release. Two attack units in on A, C, D, F formation were flown. The C Box was so far behind A that it was necessary to drop off the second attack unit leader. The second attack unit leader had previously turned the lead over to the deputy because of a PFF malfunction, however on the bomb run this aircraft had a PFF malfunction too so the bombardier dropped off the first attack unit. Cause of the release malfunction in the deputy lead aircraft has not yet been determined. The bomb bay doors failed to fully open from the bombardiers position so the auxiliary was used. Just as soon as the door came open the bombs fell out. The 461st was not having a good day also.

Escorts of P-51s and P-38s provided target cover for the attacking groups. Lead navigator Capt. Murphy 484th received an excellent rating for his work in navigating the mission through very bad weather to the primary target. Ironically the recall code for the mission was "Dogface."

The letter shown immediately after this report is from John Howell ,who you will remember from the foregoing ,bailed out near Lake Balaton Yugoslavia,

Lt John H Howell
484th Bomb Group
824 Sq. APO 520
New York

April 8, 1945

Dear Mom & Edith:

The war is sure shaping up good about now and one of the best parts of it as far as we are concerned is that the Russians have taken Vienna, particularly since we have been hitting it so hard lately. That's the place we went down on February 1, 1945 so naturally we don't like the town at all. It was one of the most heavily defended towns in Austria. Vienna had large oil refineries, and factories, but kept pretty well neutralized.

Yesterday I got my first letter from Barbara since I went down and sure did sound good. Not having heard anything about her and the baby from Feb. 1st, is a long wait.

I just got your letter mailed the 31st of March, the one with the report from the War department. I hadn't realized that they had given you such a detailed explanation. Naturally we were cautious against giving out such facts because of security reasons and weren't supposed to write home for ten days.