

SECRET
(equals British Secret and Most Secret)

HEADQUARTERS 301ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), AAF
Office of the Intelligence Officer
A.P.O. 520 3 November 1943

NARRATIVE MISSION REPORT
Covering:
MISSION OF 2 NOVEMBER 1943
WIENER NEUSTADT, A/C Fcty.

1. 23 B-17's of the 32nd, 352nd, 353rd, and 419th Sqdns. of the 301st Bomb Group took off at 0650 A to bomb WIENER NEUSTADT, A/C Fcty., GERMANY. 3 a/c returned early due to mechanical difficulties. 20 a/c were over the target at 1315 A and dropped 120 x 1000 G.P. bombs with .1 nose and .025 tail fusing at a heading of 58 degrees from a mean altitude of 24,600 ft. 6 x 1000 GP's were jettisoned and 12 x 1000 GP's were returned to base. 4 of our a/c were shot down over target by E/A from which seven (7) chutes were observed to have opened. 8 a/c received damage, 5 of which constituted minor flak damage and 6 of which constituted minor damage due to e/a. Some of the above a/c received damage from both flak and fighters. 2 of our personnel were injured, one of which was seriously injured by enemy aircraft and one minor injury due to flak. 16 a/c returned safely to Comiso A/D by 2030 A. 11 a/c returned to base by 1200 A on 3 Nov. 1943. 5 a/c remained at Comiso A/D pending favorable weather for return. 21 sorties were involved in this mission.
2. Ref: Target Chart No. CP-1. The bombing as a whole was not too accurate with some sticks falling south of the target area. A few direct hits were scored on the work shops and buildings in the south sector of the target (T,U-8). A heavy concentration of bombs was noted among buildings in the north sector of the target (T-9,10).
3. Intense heavy flak was encountered over the target, accurate as to altitude and in-accurate as to deflection.
4. 40 to 45 E/A were encountered, namely Me-109's and FW-190's. Our crews claim 11 Me-109's destroyed, 3 FW-190's destroyed, and 5 Me-109's and 3 FW-190's prob. destroyed, and 3 Me-109's damaged. After review by the C.O. per Ops. Memo. #25, dated 20 Dec. 1942, XII AAF, combat claim report will follow. E/A were encountered in a 20 minute running fight at the target. Concerted attacks were made from 3 to 9 O'clock level and to within 75 yards of the B-17's. Attacks were made by flights of 3 and 6 E/A abreast concentrated on 1 B-17. Level attacks were made rendering turret fire impossible and upon breaking off the attack the E/A exposed it's belly which is believed to be armored.
5. 6 of our a/c attempted photos; and usual report will follow.
6. The weather was 5 to 6/10's enroute and CAVU over Target.
7. No Observations.
8. GROUP FORMATION LEADER: Lt. Rhoad makes no comment.

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