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Authority NND 745005

By NARA Date 2/23/12

C O N F I D E N T I A LHEADQUARTERS FIFTH WING (US)
APO 520 U S ARMY

E-JMH-ED/krl

319.1

25 February 1945

SUBJECT: Nav-Bomb-PFF Analysis of Mission of SCHNECHAT & LOBAU O/R's, VIENNA, AUSTRIA
on 20 February 1945.TO : Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, APO 520.
(Attn: Tactics Section)

1. Navigation Analysis:

a. Wing Rendezvous -

1st Wave - TERMOLI

BriefedActual

463rd	8,000 ft	0933A	12,500 ft	0935A
97th	9,500 ft	0933A	12,000 ft	0934A
483rd	6,500 ft	0933A	10,000 ft	0939A

2nd Wave - West Tip LAKE LESINA

2nd	8,000 ft	0934A	10,000 ft	0934A
301st	9,500 ft	0934A	10,500 ft	0934A
99th	6,500 ft	0934A	9,700 ft	0936A

b. Keypoint (SIBENIK)

1st Wave-	463rd	14,000 ft	1027A	15,000 ft	1033A
	97th	15,500 ft	1027A	17,000 ft	1032A
	483rd	12,500 ft	1027A	14,700 ft	1035A

2nd Wave -	2nd	14,000 ft	1031A	13,000 ft	1029½A
	301st	15,500 ft	1031A	14,000 ft	1031A
	99th	12,500 ft	1031A	16,800 ft	1034A

c. Target data (Briefed and Actual altitude, time and axis of attack)

1st Wave -

463rd	26,000 ft	1300A	216 degs	26,000 ft	1303A	230 degs
97th	27,500 ft	1300A	216 degs	27,700 ft	1303A	219 degs
483rd	24,500 ft	1300A	216 degs	25,000 ft	1311A	230 degs

2nd Wave -

2nd	26,000 ft	1304A	216 degs	26,000 ft	1302A	228 degs
2nd (D box)	KAPFENBERG			25,000 ft	1326A	158 degs
301st	27,500 ft	1304A	216 degs	27,500 ft	1303A	224 degs
99th	24,500 ft	1304A	216 degs	24,500 ft	1309A	190 degs

d. Five-tenths cumulus and strato-cumulus clouds, bases at 4,000 ft, tops at 8,000 ft at rendezvous, forced Gps to rendezvous 2 - 3,000 ft high

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and several minutes late.

- e. Weather caused no difficulty in navigation. The 97th Group reported route flak at CAHAREC (4624/1626) and (4643/1622).
- f. Escort for the 1st Wave was first sighted at 1133A at (4539/1605). Briefed rendezvous was 1207A at (4716/1707).
- g. Escort for the second wave was first sighted at 1155A at (4642/1652). Briefed rendezvous was 1211A at (4716/1707).

2. Bombing Analysis:

- a. The 463rd, 97th and 483rd Bomb Groups were briefed to attack and destroy SCHWECHAT O/R, VIENNA, AUSTRIA on 20 February 1945. The 2nd, 301st and 99th Bomb Groups were briefed to attack and destroy LOBAU O/R, VIENNA, AUSTRIA on 20 February 1945. The bomb load for all Groups was 500 lb RDX fused .1 nose and mixed .01 and .025 tail.
- b. The 463rd had a seven minute visual off set bomb run from an altitude of 26,000 ft and with an indicated air speed of 150 mph. The bombing formation was sqdns in trail with the intervalometer set at minimum. Thirty seconds before bombs away the 2nd Bomb Group cut in front of B Squadron. The prop wash tumbled the Lead Ship Gyro but since the bombardier already had his rate set up he let the bombs go. The briefed axis of attack was not followed because the Group cut short of the IP. The bomb strike photos show the bombs of two sqdns hitting short and to the right of the target with scattered hits in the target area. No malfunctions were reported.
- c. The 97th Bomb Group attacked the primary by using a six minute PFF bomb run from an altitude of 27,700 ft and with an indicated air speed of 145mph. The formation was sqdns in trail with the intervalometer set at 150 ft. All sqdns started their run by PFF using FLORISDORF M/Y as their aiming point but the lead of the 2nd attack unit (C & D boxes) could see enough of the target area for the lead bombardier to make some last minute corrections. Strikes were seen in the SCHWECHAT O/R and also the rail yards. No malfunctions were reported.
- d. The 483rd Bomb Group using FLORISDORF M/Y for their aiming point, had a six minute PFF synchronous bomb run from an altitude of 25,000 ft and with an indicated air speed of 150 mph. The bombing formation was A & C boxes in trail with B & D flying high right off of A & C boxes. The intervalometer setting was 150 ft. The bombing was believed to be good from the study of bomb strikes through holes in the undercast. One aircraft bombed POLA, ITALY with results being unobserved due to sharpness of rally. No malfunctions were reported.
- e. The 2nd Bomb Group leading the 2nd Wave attacked the primary (LOBAU O/R). A box bombed visually. B & C box set up a visual course and bombed by visual off set method. D box being off to the right in course held the bombs and bombed target of opportunity (KAPFENBURG TANK WORKS) visually. A, B & C boxes bombed from boxes in trail using a ten minute bomb run

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from an altitude of 26,100 feet and with an indicated air-speed of 150 MPH. The intervalometer setting for all boxes was minimum. A and B boxes hit short but bombs carried through the target area. C box hit left and outside of target area. D box bombing KAPFENBURG TANK WORKS, hit short but bombs carried through the target area. One aircraft had a bombsight malfunction; one aircraft had rack trouble and one aircraft had intervalometer malfunction,

- f. The 301st Bomb Group bombed the primary target using FLORISDORF for their aiming point due to scattered low cloud blocking out target area. The Group bombed squadrons in trail, using a seven minute PFF run from an altitude of 27,500 feet and with an indicated air-speed of 145 MPH. The run was started by PFF, but the clouds cleared just before bombs away, giving the box leaders time to make last minute off-set corrections. No bomb strikes were observed and no malfunctions reported.
- g. The 99th Bomb Group attacked the primary, VIENNA LOBAU O/R, using a five minute visual bomb run from an altitude of 24,500 feet and with an indicated air-speed of 150 MPH. The Group started the bomb run by PFF with squadrons in trail. About five minutes before bombs away the clouds cleared and all box leaders were able to take over from the Miki and make a visual run. A & B boxes hit to the right of the MPI about 1,500 feet. C & D boxes got good hits in the center of target area. Pictures from all four boxes show the same coverage. No malfunctions were reported.

FOR THE COMMANDING GENERAL:

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