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MISSION NO. 214

FEBRUARY 27, 1945

At 0855 hours, twenty-eight B-24's took off to bomb the Augsburg marshalling yards, escorted by P-38's.

Twenty-one aircraft dropped 118 x 1000 lb. (59ton) RDX, 1 second nose and .01 second tail fuse bombs on the primary target at 1336 hours, from 24,000 to 25,500 feet. Three aircraft dropped 14 x 1000 lb. (7 tons) RDX, bombs on the Innsbruck marshalling yards (target of opportunity) at 1402 hours, from 21,000 to 25,000 feet. One aircraft dropped 9 x 1000 lb. (9 tons) RDX bombs on buildings at Wessobrunn (4752N/1101E) (target of opportunity) at 1353 hours, from 23,000 feet. One aircraft dropped 6 x 1000 lb. (3 tons) RDX bombs on trackage at Schwaz (4721N 1142E) (target of opportunity) at 1350 hours, from 22,000 feet. One aircraft dropped 4 x 1000 lb. (2 tons) RDX bombs on Villach marshalling yards at 1304 hours, from 22,000 feet. This aircraft dropped out of the formation before reaching the primary target because of engine trouble. The PFF equipment in D box lead aircraft was inoperative, therefore this box did not drop on the primary. Two aircraft toggled on C box. Three aircraft bombed Innsbruck, visually. One aircraft bombed Wessobrunn. One aircraft bombed Schwaz. Twenty-four aircraft returned at 1618 hours. One aircraft is at Falconara A/D. two crew members reported injured on landing.

Three aircraft are missing, one was hit by flak in No. 4 engine just before reaching target. Immediately dropped his bombs and closed the bomb bay doors, peeled off and headed for Switzerland. A ground station intercepted a radio message from pilot saying that he was at Zurich Switzerland and was ok. One aircraft with No's 1 and 4 engines shot out by flak just before reaching target, but continued on and dropped it's bombs, turned from the target and was headed for Switzerland on a 270 degree heading; and one aircraft while on bomb run, No 1 engine was smoking badly, and aircraft losing altitude gradually, dropped out of formation and radioed that he would try to make it to Switzerland. Personnel casualties were 33 crew members missing in action and one engineer-gunner suffered severe flak wounds on hands and arms.

Results: Results unobserved, photos show scattered hits in open country. Bombing was accomplished by PFF at the primary. At Innsbruck, bombs fell in builtup area, west of the marshalling yard. Bombing was accomplished visually.

Enemy Resistance: Fighters: None seen or encountered.

Flak: Intense, accurate, heavy flak was encountered at the target. Intense accurate, heavy flak was encountered at Innsbruck.

Observations: Communications: Approximately 200 wagons observed in Rattenberg marshalling yard (4720N/1153E) at 1400 hours, from 19,200 feet. About 200 wagons were reported in Lienz Marshalling yard (4650N/1246E) at 1231 hours, from 23,200 feet. Military Installations: Nine aircraft seen on airdrome at Aviano (4602N/1237E) at 1215 hours from 20,000 feet.

Axis of attack: 220 degrees mag. Bomb run: 8 minutes Rally was a sharp right then left.

Weather: Over the Adriatic there was 2/10 altostratus, at 12,000, tops at 15,000 and cirrostratus at 19,000, and a few patches of stratocumulus at 7000 feet. Inland to the south slopes of the Alps, there was 6/10 stratocumulus, tops at 9000 feet, and 5/10 altostratus, increased to

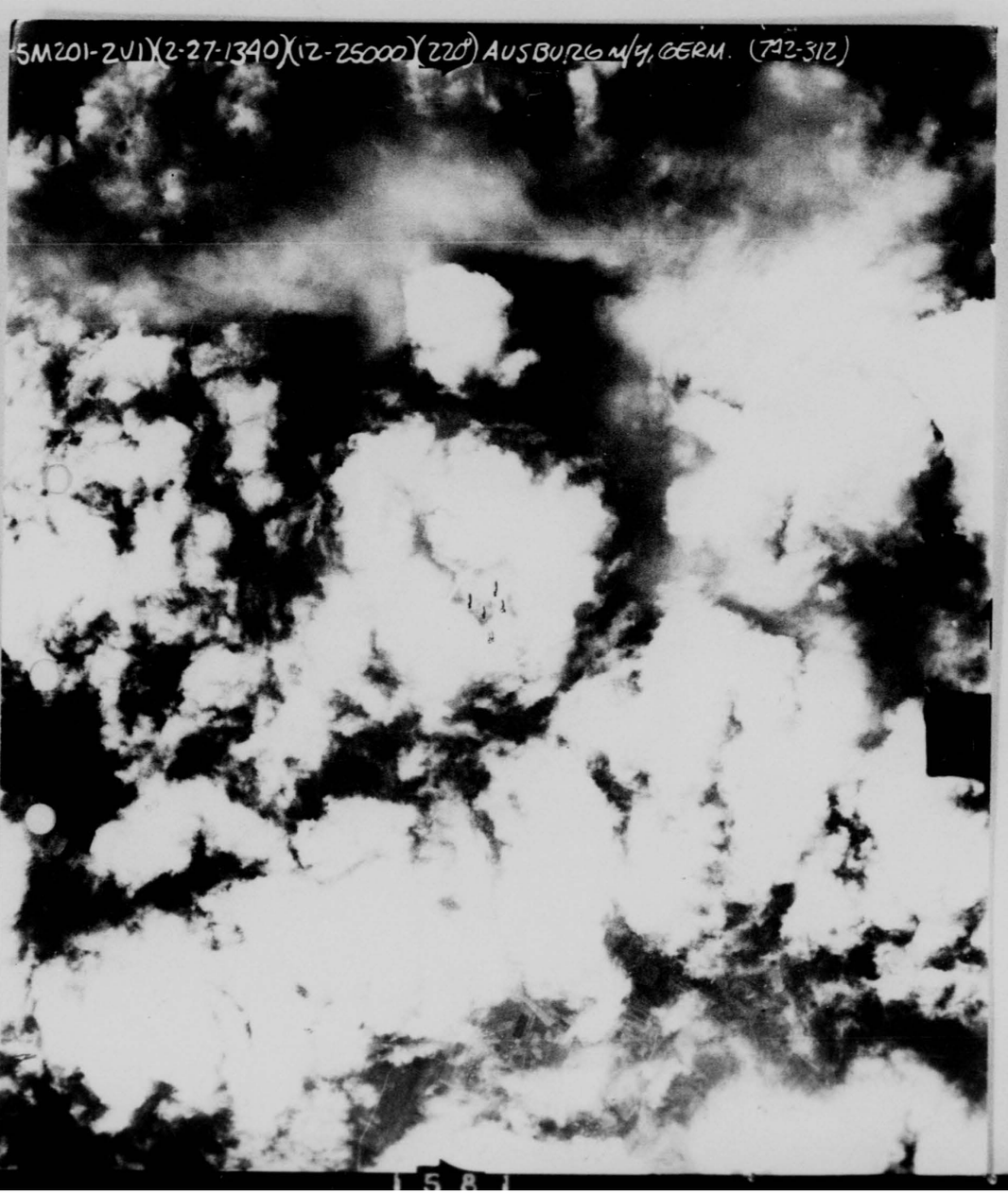
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