

12 March 1945.

1. MISSION AND TARGET: To dive bomb the railroad bridge at Knittelfeld, Austria and then to strafe rolling stock on the railroad connecting Bruck and Klagenfurt, Austria.
2. AIRCRAFT AND CHRONOLOGY: Lts Ward, Hite, Capt Chateau, Manning, Capt Wilson, Lts Coles, Green, Grace, Amadon and Kohlman, Marsh, Huntington, Dunne, Miskulin, Hagen and Lamphere, Clark and Kepford up from Salsola L/G at 0815 hours. Two P-38's, Lts Hagen and Lamphere were to return to base after having taken pictures of the bombed bridge. There were no early returns. 18 P-38's were in dive bombing area from 1050-1100 hours. Of this 18, 14 actually dropped on the target. Then 18 P-38's were strafing from 1100 hours till 1130 hours. Of this 18, 14 actually fired. 18 P-38's down base at 1320 hours.
3. ROUTE: Base across Adriatic making landfall at 0945 hours at Zara at 1,000 feet. From here direct to target arriving there at 1050 hours at 9,000 feet. Thence strafing from Bruck to Klagenfurt and departing the latter at 1130 hours. Yugoslavia was departed at 1205 hours in the vicinity of 45 degrees N, 14 degrees 45 minutes E to base.
4. REMBEZVOUS, FORMATION AND ASSAULT: Fighters with Pet Dog leading, Cragmore, high left and Springcap low, right set course over base in good formation at 0840 hours. Cragmore arrived in target area at 1045 hours at 9,000-10,000 feet. Pet Dog dive bombed first with Cragmore and Springcap following respectively. Cragmore and Springcap dive bombed on a practically west to east heading. Cragmore began their dive at 9,000 feet and releasing bombs between 3500 and 4,000 feet. Then breaking to the right and reforming squadron about 10 miles southeast of target. After reforming squadron at 5,000-6,000 feet in this area, 71st commenced strafing. Red flight strafed between Bruck and Zeltweg from 1100 to 1110 hours. Then White Flight covered the ground between Zeltweg and St. Lorenzen from 1110 to 1120 hours. Finally Blue Flight strafed the remaining rail lines from St. Lorenzen to within 8 miles north of Klagenfurt. During this time the two spares strafed the L/Yds at Knittelfeld. Cragmore reformed the squadron 10 miles east of Klagenfurt at 10,000 feet before setting course for base.
5. RESULTS OF BOMBING: Bombing was visual but bridge appeared to be intact at conclusion of bombing. The disposition of bombs is shown below. All bombs were 1,000 lb G.P. armed with inst. fuse and .0025 fuse.
 - a. 14, 1,000 lb bombs in target area at 1030 hours from 3,500 feet.
 - b. 1015 hours from 10,000 feet 1 bomb at 46 degrees 15 degrees E.
 - c. 1045 hours 10 miles south of target dropped when belly tanks were dropped
 - d. 1105 hours, 1 jettisoned 15 miles east of target failed to release on bomb run.
 - e. 1215 hours in Adriatic at 48 degrees 40 minutes N, 15 degrees 32 minutes East, failed to release at target.

6. RESULTS OF STRAFING: Strafing areas have been divided into 3 geographical sections and by flights.

	Locomotives destroyed	Damaged Freight Cars	1 Armored R.R. car	Dam.
Red #1, Lt Ward			1	30
Red #2, Lt Hite				
Red #3, Capt Chateau		1		4
Red #4, Lt Manning				4
White #1, Capt Wilson		1		
White #2, Lt Coles				
White #3, Lt Greene		2		
White #4, Lt Grace		1		3
Blue #1, Lt Amadon	2	1		5
Blue #2, Lt Kohlman	1	1		7
Blue #3, Lt Marsh		4		3
Blue #4, Lt Huntington	1	2		12
Spare 1, Lt Hagen	3	4		
Spare 2, Lt Lamphere		3		
Totals	7	20		68

and 1 Armored railroad car.

Green flight provided top cover during entire strafing times.

7. ENEMY AIR RESISTANCE AND ACTIVITY: None.

8. FLAK: Scant, inaccurate light at P-33's from Knittelfeld. Moderate, accurate, light flak from Vicinity of Zeltweg. All along strafing lines light flak and small arms fire was encountered. As this flak is mobile positive positions were not determined.

9. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS: Between 1110-1130 hours. 10-13 aircraft were observed on A/D at Zeltweg. Of this number 6 aircraft were single engine, balance twin engine, Observed from 500-4,000 feet above desk.

10. WEATHER: Adriatic: Thin stratus at 10,000 feet. Covering 9/10's continuing up to target. Sgt Area 4/10's stratus at 15,000 feet, visibility below, good.

11. AIR SEA RESCUE: None.

12. RADIO SECURITY: Broken by Sprinckap calling P.t Dog about weather at 0925 hours. Beaucoup chatter in target area.

13. FRIENDLY AIRCRAFT SEEN IN DIFFICULTY: None.

14. ENEMY AIRCRAFT SEEN DESTROYED BY OTHER GROUPS: None.

15. VICTORIES AND LOSSES: 6 P-33's received minor damage from small arms and 20 mm fire, plus U.S. 50 cal.

1. Lt Amadon; 2 holes one in each boom in front of horizontal stabilizer.
2. F/O Miskulin: 20 mm in left gondola door.
3. Lt Huntington: left wing center section pierced by 20 mm.
4. Lt Greene: horizontal stabilizer.
5. Lt Ward: 50 cal in prop.

16. CURTLES: Aircraft 13; AS, 13, MES; 0, Crew credits: 13.