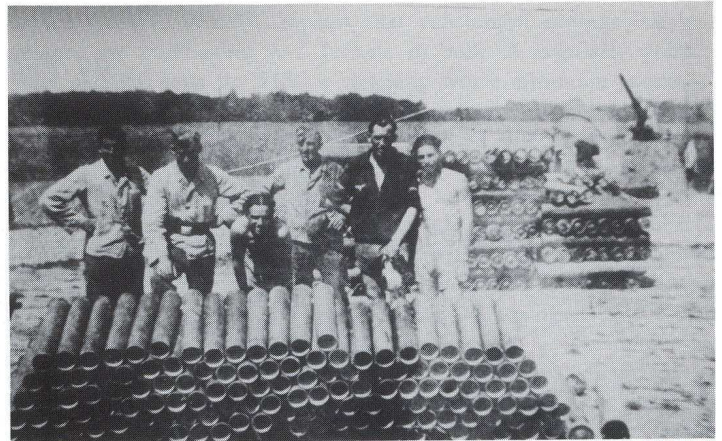


Bomb strike on a flak gun position near Wiener-Neustadt May 10, 1944

Vienna. The outer ring of flak defenses was located here. The flak would begin to fire when the bombers were approaching Ebergassing. It was always the same routine. The flak would shoot a barrier barrage and the bombers flew through. It was some sight. First the roaring of hundreds of aircraft engines, then the cracking of the flak guns and the bursting of shells in the sky, and then the crashing sound of a fallen airplane. When a plane dropped out of formation it would give off a strange howl that was probably caused by overspeeding engines. We waited for the parachutes to appear. When a target near Ebergassing was bombed I could hear the whistling of the bombs. There was a common saying, like a rule, a bomb you could hear would not hurt you.

After 20 minutes the attack was over until the next official announcement informing of another attack, (Editors note: if the 15th was up in force sometimes there would be a time lapse between bombing groups going to the same target). If there were no more attacks signal sirens would hoot a continuous tone for one minute.

13 August 1943 It started on the 13th of August, 1943. The 9th Air Force flew her first air raid to Austria. We had daylight saving time when the clocks were advanced two hours. At 1:30 PM, I was fishing in a brook besides the carpet factory in Ebergassing when I heard a dull rumbling, and the earth was quaking. I thought this was the result of practice firing of the German Army. Suddenly the sirens in the factory were hooting. I kept on fishing. Ten minutes later the director of the factory came running to the brook where I was fishing and cried that I should go home at once because there was an air attack warning. So I ran home, but my mother was working in a field about one mile out of the village so I went to her. I met her in the open field. She pointed in the direction of Wiener-Neustadt which lies 20 miles away and said there was bombing. I saw three huge clouds of smoke rising 30,000 feet straight up in the sky drawing towards the west. In that same evening our neighbor who was working in Wiener-Neustadt told us about the attack. He was assigned to the flak guns. They had 3.7 CM flak cannon in position on the roof of the workshop hall. Shortly after the air attack warning many-people were walking slowly across the air field to the air raid shelter. He saw planes approaching in a V formation from the



160 shells were fired on October 5, 1944 from Battery 4/284 at Neudrfl-heuthal south of Wiener Neustadt. Note the empty shell cases in the foreground. Live ammo is stored just behind.

south. The leader of the flak position looked through his binoculars and cried, "They are Americans!" The flak crew were only able to shoot a few shells at the bombers. They had to seek shelter because the bombs were coming down. Some bombs broke through the roof on which the flak guns were positioned and exploded in the working hall. The attack came as a surprise. There were many casualties to the people in the factory and to those who did not reach the air raid shelter.

24th September 1943 This raid could not be observed because of fog. It was not directed at Wiener-Neustadt.

1 October 1943 I could observe the second attack formation from the third attack of this day. This formation consisted of the 98th and 376th Bomb Groups who flew through heavy flak fire. I could see some aircraft being shot down but couldn't make an exact observation because the location was 20 miles away.

2nd November 1943 I had to pass this first attack by the 15th Air Force in the school bunker.

12th April 1944 I saw from close up the first air attack on Fischamend-Market.

9:45 AM the first aerial danger warning came over the air.

11:00 AM the radio announced: enemy planes approaching from southeast, 40 Km east of Karlstadt in Yugoslavia.

11:07 AM a further announcement: enemy planes in the Zagreb area.

11:10 AM new approach from the south. 100 planes near Panjaluka, Yugoslavia.

11:15 AM highest aerial danger. In Fischamend in the ME 109 Works III, one worker told the others about the announcements. Everyone became nervous and got scared. Many of the workers had been transferred from the Wiener-Neustadt works I and II, after they were destroyed, to Fischamend.

11:20 AM 27 planes of the first wave headed for Steinamanger, Hungary (Szombathey).

11:25 AM Air attack warning. All workers leave the factory, many of them running to seek shelter in the two bunkers built in nearby hill. These bunkers are supposed to be bomb proof. Most