



2 CM Guns near Ternitz. Youthful gun crew waits for low flying Mustangs.

The formation kept on flying and bombed Schwechat-Heidfeld which is 7 miles from Ebergassing. Wiener-Neustadt and Bad-Voslau were also bombed this day.

10 May 1944 This raid was meant for Wiener-Neustadt. I could observe many planes from the condensation trails. The sky above Wiener-Neustadt was covered with flak clouds. No bombs dropped near Ebergassing.

24 May 1944 On this day I had a unique experience. Shortly after 9:00 AM I sat in the classroom in our school 3 Km away from Ebergassing as ME-109 fighters stationed at Gotzendorf airfield rushed over the school. We got nervous. Half an hour later the principal enters the class room and says, "You are still here? An air attack warning will soon be announced!" We hurried out of the school, took our bicycles and rode home to Ebergassing as fast as we could. Suddenly the air raid sirens began hooting but we kept on riding. As we reached the open field we already heard the roaring of engines. I looked up to the sky and saw a Liberator formation coming through the clouds from the north. At that moment the flak guns began to fire. We threw ourselves into a ditch along side the road hearing the whistle of the bombs. I was overcome with fear. The deafening noise from the roaring engines, the flak gun booms, and the whistling of the falling bombs was unbearable. The earth began to shake as if we were experiencing an earthquake. The sound of exploding bombs was added to the din. I looked south and saw dark clouds of smoke over the village of Moosbrunn about two miles away. Then it was all over. In Moosbrunn there was no war industry, only a glass works. Years later researching for my hobby, history of the air war, I found that the 304th Bomb Wing was supposed to bomb the airdrome at Munchendorf which is two miles west of Moosbrunn. The last two

groups approached from too far east, when the formation was clear of the overcast they could not correct their course. They saw a factory and dropped the bombs. This was written up in the report of the 304th Bomb Wing, 454th, 456th, and 455th Bomb Groups.

29th May 1944 It was a wonderful spring morning, warm with a clear blue sky. But there was a war raging and this was good bombing weather.

8:39 AM The Reichsender Ostmark announced, "Heavy bombing formation over Styria." This was the first information about the beginning of a heavy attack.

8:46 AM "Heavy bomber formation over Istria, Yugoslavia approach-

ing the southern border of Reich areas.

8:58 AM 200 bombers over Klagenfurt, the capital of Carinthia heading north for lower Austria. Other groups over Istria heading north. About 4000 American airmen are up in the air in order to destroy the WNF Werk ME 109 factory at Wiener-Neustadt.

9:00 AM Attack on the ME-109 factory at Wiener-Neustadt.

9:31 AM Enemy bomber group from Klagenfurt now over St Poltin to the west of Vienna heading east. There is an air battle over St Poltin. ME-109s of JG 27 attack the bombers.

9:42 AM Bomber formation over Wiener-Neustadt, heavy flak firing, bombs explode in the airdrome area and in the ME-109 factory Werk II.

9:50 AM A new bomber formation attacks Wiener-Neustadt.

9:53 AM 50 B-17 Fortresses approaching Wiener-Neustadt from the north.

9:58 AM Fortresses drop their bombs starting a great fire at the Wiener-Neustadt airdrome. The flak guns respond with heavy firing.

10:15 AM American parachutes can be seen falling west of Wiener-Neustadt. The Police report states that on May 29th 1944 an American bomber was shot down above the district of Gutenstein near Wiener-Neustadt. One of the crew, Phillip J Coroll ASN 17054328 landed slightly wounded. He was captured and taken to the Gutenstein local prison at 11:00PM where a local magistrate caretaker Ferdinand Panzenbock guarded the prisoner. The guard took him home and gave him dinner and allowed Coroll to walk around the house. For that humane treatment Coroll gave Panzenbock some cigarettes when he was taken away by the military police. As a consequence, Panzenbock was arrested, tried by a special court and imprisoned for a year.