



Aircraft reporting duty on service with Battery 2./695 (o). (HR)

Nothing particular happened on the following Monday, but Tuesday, 25.VII.44 was a different story: „Alarm was sounded at 05:30 hrs. 2 Lightnings. Could have fired, but no azimuth readings from either side. Hell of a fuss in the Madhouse (our name for our bunker).

Expected more alarms, but instead National-Socialist indoctrination. Subject Enemy Propaganda! Lecturer NCO Josten. Action stations again at 10:00. Seems as if the enemy wanted to attack Vienna, took us on instead. Lots of firing, but not as much as during the night. The reason: Metzger. He always want to fire accurately, but doesn't grasp that the more salvos we fire the better our chances. Nevertheless, battalion scored 7 kills. The Eis-Flak [Railroad AA] shot particularly well. One direct hit. The machine was blasted into smithereens. Things back to normal at 01:00 hrs. Linz was attacked.”



B-24s of the 451st Bomb Group hammering the "Herrmann Göring Steel Works" in Linz; smoke from the target area can be seen in the background. (HF)

No classes that afternoon. Several alarms were sounded, an FW 189 mistakenly identified as a Spitfire, later the Railroad AA fired at an unidentified aircraft, but we could not see anything. Günter Wiesinger wrote about this attack on Linz:⁴¹

⁴¹ Wiesinger Günther : Bombs on the Ostmark : Journal "öfh nachrichten" 2/93

Days of major combat

»Of the some 165 days during which sorties were flown against Austria (by the 15th USAAF), one can be singled out - July 25, 1944. The first raid on Linz took place that day..

The Americans assembled around 450 B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators for this attack. Fighter escort was provided by an estimated 200 P-51 Mustangs and P-38 Lightnings. The payloads consisted almost entirely of 1 000 pound (454 kg) bombs. The attack was flown at an altitude of between 6 000 - 7 000 meters. Logically, this armada did not go undetected by German radar.«

The first German fighters of II./Jg 27 took off from the Fels airfield at Wagram at 09:59, soon to be joined by machines of II./Jg 302 from Götzendorf. Together with the Messerschmitts of I./Jg 300 from Wörishofen and the Focke-Wulfs of II./Jg 300 flying from Holzkirchen, around 80 aircraft attacked the bomber force, engaging in a fierce aerial battle with the escorting Mustangs and Lightnings. According to Italian reports, another 18 Italian Messerschmitts under the command of JG 53 in Tulln attacked a number of the departing bombers in the early afternoon. Wiesinger continues:

»American losses on this day were relatively high. There are strong indications that the AA also scored exceptionally well.«



AA Assistants with 2./695 (o): the K 3 is loading the 88 mm gun with a shell. (HR)