

Captain William Hall Missions

Compiled and edited by
Ruth Hall

Date	Target	Notes
11/05/44	Vienna, Austria	
11/07/44	Isarco-Albes, Italy	
11/15/44	Linz, Austria	Single ship sortie – day
11/22/44	Salsburgh, Germany	
12/02/44	Blechhammer, Germany	
12/03/44	Villach, Austria	Single ship sortie – day
12/08/44	Villach, Austria	<p>Single ship sortie – night</p> <p>Newspaper clipping (Dad’s notes – Round the clock raid. Night raid by Hall crew Villach</p> <p>Fifteenth AAF takes up 24 hour work day</p> <p>MAAF Headquarters, December 7 rail yard on lines leading out of Vienna were bombed by Liberators early today in the first round-the-clock bombing by the Fifteenth AAF. Yesterday Libs attacked Hungary targets in cooperation with Russian Army operation.</p> <p>Today’s targets were Klagenfurt, Villach and Salizburg. No results were observed because of the bad weather, little opposition was encountered.</p> <p>Directly in the path of the Red Army, other planes dropped bombs in Hungary, and reconnaissance photos show results were good.</p> <p>Near Bratislava in what the Germans call Slovakia a formation of Liberators was attacked by enemy planes. Gunner report destroying 11 German planes before arrival of Lightnings drove the opposition away.</p> <p>Despite clouds which prevented observation of the results, two rail yards at Maribor, in northern Yugoslavia, were bombed.</p>
12/12/44	Blechhammer, Germany	Single ship sortie – day
01/31/45	Austria	
02/01/45	Maribor, Yugoslavia	
02/14/45	Vienna, Austria	<p>Newspaper clipping (Dad’s notes – Hall crew to Vienna)</p> <p>Fifteenth AAF continues oil hits; Blasts communication lines Vienna Rolling Stock Neutralized; Hungarian from faces shortages.</p> <p>February the 13th was a good day for the Fifteenth AAF and a bad day for the German railway system. Reconnaissance pictures showed bull’s eye with resulting devastation at five Vienna targets and rail yards at three points on the main line to the German armies in Yugoslavia.</p>

		<p>That was the highlight of the week's operation for four straight days communications in Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia and Italy were pounded. On St. Valentine's Day familiar oil targets in the Vienna area were bombed with indifferent results, but even then rail targets were hit.</p> <p>The major single target was the cluster of rail yards and depot in southern Vienna where much of the material and personnel for the Hungarian front is staged.</p>
02/16/45	Regensburg, Germany	
02/20/45	Trieste, Italy	
02/23/45	Villach, Austria	
02/27/45	Augsburg, Germany	<p>Newspaper clipping (Dad's noted "on this raid")</p> <p>15 straight days MAAF HQ February 27 – Operating for the 15th straight day. The Fifteenth AAF attacked the rail yards at Augsburg, 30 miles northwest of Munich. Heavy smoke from hits scored by the first arrivals caused many of the Liberators and Flying Fortresses to bomb by instruments.</p> <p>P-38 Lightnings yesterday cut spans on tow rail bridges and damaged two others to run the Fifteenth's consecutive operating string to 14 days. In these attacks the fighters destroyed the locomotives and hit nine rail cars loaded with troops.</p> <p>Fortress bomb-strike photographs showed a heavy concentration of bombs on today's target, which was last attacked January 16 by the Eighth AAF and November 4 by the Fifteenth AAF. The bombers escorted by Mustangs and Lightnings, met intense flak. The Augsburg yards are a junction of the main lines to Munich, Nuremberg, Stuttgart and Switzerland.</p>
03/12/45	Vienna, Austria	
03/15/45	Not disclosed	
03/16/45	Progersko, Yugoslavia	
03/19/45	Mahldorf, Germany	
03/23/45	Gmund, Austria	
03/26/45	Czech.	
03/30/45	Graz, Austria	<p>Single ship sortie day (Dad's notes on the newspaper clipping. This was one of our single ship raids)</p> <p>Newspaper clipping states</p> <p>In Austria. The days operation brought this month's total of bombs dropped by the Mediterranean Allied Strategic Air Force to more than 31,000 tons, surpassing last May's total of 30,373 tons.</p> <p>Targets hit were rail yards and stations at Vienna and Graz, 85 miles southwest of Vienna, on lines important to German forces opposing the Russians. Clearing weather permitted some of the bombers to drop visually and hits were observed. The target areas were swept</p>

		<p>by P-38s and P-51s before the bombings. All bombers returned safely.</p> <p>Medium bombers of MSARA today bombed line targets after being grounded for four days. Fighter bombers ranged across northern Italy bombing and strafing enemy communication and supply dumps.</p>
04/01/45	Non effective	
04/07/45	Tactical target	
04/16/45	Tactical target	
04/17/45	Tactical target	
04/19/45	Rosenhiem, Austria	
04/25/45	Linz, Austria	<p>Newspaper clipping (Dad's noted "Our last raid of the war") 2,000 cars, locomotives pounded by Fifteenth at Linz.</p> <p>MAAF HQ, April 25 – The Fifteenth AAF delivered a heavy blow to one of the largest known enemy concentrations of rail cars and rolling stock on the southern front today as strong forces of B-24s and B-17s hit the Linz, Austria main station and rail yards.</p> <p>Pre-attack reconnaissance showed more than 2,000 units of rolling stock were in the north and south yards and the station yards, all of which were heavily hit.</p> <p>Meanwhile, it was announced that the total of German vehicles destroyed or damaged in the Po Valley by MAAF planes during the past week reached 6,000.</p> <p>Tactical Are Force planes struck at Brenner line targets as far north as Teinach, in Austria in addition to bombing and strafing enemy vehicles and river craft.</p> <p>Linz, the Fifteenth AAF target is one of top importance to the Wehrmacht. The fall of Vienna, hub of most rail lines in this section, had left the Linz-Budejowice-Progue line as the closest effective north and south line for the eastern front.</p> <p>Armaments from the Herman Goering works at Linz are handled through the yards considered vital in the preparation of defenses for the so called southern route and the handling of forces for that area.</p> <p>Liberators also attacked the rail yard at Weis, Austria 20 miles southwest of Linz on the Salzburg line.</p> <p>In addition to escorting the heavies, Fifteenth AAF fighters flew many reconnaissance north of the Adige River and east of Verona in Italy. P-38s dive bombers knocked out both approaches to two bridges and damaged at least three others.</p>

The below information is what my Dad had written:

Captain William Thomas Hall

I, William T. Hall, was a pilot of a B-24 Liberator. I trained at Maxwell Air Field, Alabama. I was married there to Helen Merry on May 11, 1944. I then trained with my crew at Davis-Monthan Field, Tucson, Arizona. We flew our plane to Italy via Azores, North Africa and landed in Pantanella Air Field on the spur of Italy. I flew 28 sorties which represented 34 missions over Europe. I flew not only formation missions, but night missions and single sorties. I was promoted to Captain in March of 1945. I received the Air Medal, 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, the Distinguished Flying Cross and three Squadron Unit Citations.

I was discharged in August of 1945 and entered St. Bonaventure University in January 1946. I was recalled to active duty in January of 1951 for the Korean War and released from active duty in April 1951.