



The Campaign

-*-

Prior to October, 1944, heavy bombers of 15 Air Force had made several isolated attacks on the Brenner communications system. It was not until 4 November, 1944, that aircraft of the Mediterranean Allied Tactical Air Force struck their first blow in a concentrated program of Brenner rail line attacks that was to continue uninterrupted until 25 April, 1945. B-26s of 42 Bomb Wing, after a few scattered attacks in October, initiated the Battle of the Brenner on 4 November. The 42 Wing continued to send a large effort against the Brenner until 21 November, 1944.

Fighter bombers of XXII Tactical Air Command joined the battle in late November, 1944, and made a large contribution to the interdiction program. During the winter but particularly in April, 1945, after the start of the 15 Army Group spring offensive, 15 Air Force heavy bombers returned to the Brenner on several successful missions. From 21 November, 1944, to 25 April, 1945, the weight of the campaign was carried by B-25s of 57 Bomb Wing. Except when close support of the army took precedence,

