

55BW Mission Summary No. 91, 26 Aug 44 (Cont'd).

1. On 26 August 1944, 58 B-24 a/c of 59 a/c scheduled took off from 0640-0647B to bomb the FERRARA RR BRIDGE. Group assemblies were made in usual areas with Wing rendezvous accomplished from 0734 - 0745B. There were no early returns.

57 a/c were over the target from 0945-0950½B. From 22,300-23,000' 54 a/c dropped 157.5 tons of 1000 lb GP bombs (.1N, non-delay tail) on the PT. One a/c of the 460th Group, unable to keep up with the formation, dropped its bomb load on PIOVE railroad tracks (4517N-1201E) and then completed mission over briefed target.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show the FERRARA RR BRIDGE covered with smoke, and assessment not possible. Strikes believed in the area of the bridge.

465 Gp - Photos show the FERRARA RR BRIDGE has received several direct hits and near misses.

Reconnaissance photographs show damage to the approaches serious enough to prevent use of the bridge. The bridge is damaged from direct hits but is still standing.

Flak at target was M/IAH. Formation was subject to flak for 3 minutes. Flak from battery was encountered at NEVOLENTE (4516N-1158E) and SIH northwest of LAKE CONACCHIO.

No escort. No enemy aircraft observed.

Weather: Generally clear over ITALY at take off. Clear over ADRIATIC, with 2/10 cirrus, tops 25,000', over N ITALY. 3-5/10 cumulus over ITALY on return. Visibility 10-20 miles throughout.

56 a/c landed from 1200-1205B, mean landing time. 2 a/c landed at friendly fields.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 26 Aug 44 at 0640B 31 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the FERRARA RR BRIDGE.

From 23,000' 30 a/c were over the target at 0950½B. 27 a/c dropped 81 tons of bombs. One a/c, with an engine on fire, was unable to hold formation and dropped its bombs on the railroad at PIOVE (4517-1201E). 3 a/c jettisoned their bombs, two over the ADRIATIC and the other just after the target.

The route was flown as briefed.

29 e/c returned to base, mean landing time 1205B. 2 a/c landed at friendly fields, PESCARA and FOGGIA. One of these (FOGGIA) has since returned.

3. 465th Bomb Group. On 26 Aug 44, 27 a/c of 28 scheduled took off to bomb the FERRARA RR BRIDGE et 0647B.

27 a/c over target and 27 a/c dropped 76½ tons of bombs at 0945B from 22,300'.

Tons dropped on target	76½
Tons jettisoned	4½
Total	81 tons

27 a/c landed at 1200B.

Route was flown as briefed.