JULY, 1944

The list of Wing missions in July is as follows:

Serial Number (June)	Mission Number (Current)	Date	Target	Groups Participation			
1.	54	2 July 44	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY	460	464	465	485
2.	55	3 July 44	TIMISOARA, RUMANIA	460		465	485
			BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA		464		
3.	56	5 July 44	TOULON, FRANCE	460	464	465	485
4.	57	6 July 44	PORTO MARGHERA, ITALY	460	464	465	485
5.	58	7 July 44	BLECHHAMMER, GERMANY	460	464	465	485
6.	59	8 July 44	VIENNA, AUSTRIA	460	464	465	485
7.	60	12 July 44	NIMES, FRANCE	460	464	465	485
8.	61	13 July 44	PORTO MARGHERA, ITALY	460		465	485
			MANTUA, ITALY		464		
9.	62	14 July 44	MANTUA, ITALY	460	464	465	485
10	63	15 July 44	PLOESTI, RUMANIA	460	464	465	485
11.	64	16 July 44	WIENER NEUDORF, AUSTRIA	460	464	465	485
12.	65	19 July 44	MUNICH, GERMANY	460	464	465	485
13.	66	20 July 44	FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY		464	465	485
14.	67	22 July 44	PLOESTI, RUMANIA	460	464	465	485
15.	68	24 July 44	VALENCE, FRANCE	460		465	485
16.	69	25 July 44	LINZ, AUSTRIA	460	464	465	485
17.	70	26 July 44	ZWOLFAXING, AUSTRIA	460	464	465	485
18.	71	28 July 44	PLOESTI, RUMANIA		464	465	485
19.	72	30 July 44	BUDAPEST, HUNGARY	460	464	465	485

Of these operations, the most outstanding success was achieved in the attack upon the Zeppelin Luftshiffbau at FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY, on 20 July. Reconnaissance photographs taken after the attack showed the entire plant between 75% and 95% destroyed, with destruction or severe damage to every installation. It is the more remarkable that this result was secured with three of the four bombardment groups of the Wing participating, and a fact of related significance is that the Zeppelin Works was the first of three targets at FRIEDRICHSHAFEN which were attacked with conspicuous success by this Wing. Almost equal success was achieved by the Wing in attacking its assigned portion of the Hermann Goering Tank Works at LINZ, AUSTRIA, on 25 July 1944. In spite of a functioning smoke screen the bombardiers secured excellent concentrations on and around briefed aiming points on this high priority target, with the result that the extensive plant, only recently completed, was rendered completely inoperative and was so severely damaged that it is improbable that it will be of value to the enemy for the remainder of the war.

In air battles our bombers during the month of July destroyed 76, probably destroyed 35, and damaged 27 enemy fighters. On the ground, although few missions were flown for the purpose, 17 enemy aircraft

were destroyed and 18 were damaged. In the air battles the Wing's ratio of victories to losses by enemy aircraft rose from 4.2 in June to 6.4 in July. This is the highest ratio of all bombardment wings in the Fifteenth Air Force for the month.

The ultimate factor in the success of the Wing's operations is the high standard of bombing accuracy attained and held. From 16% of bombs striking within 1000 feet of the briefed aiming point in March, the figures were 21.9% in April, 23.4% in May, 26% in June, and 36% in July. The average for the Fifteenth Air Force was in these months successively 18.5%, 16.3%, 33.2%, and 33%. Thus the 55th Bombardment Wing, a newcomer to combat, within four months assumed the lead in bombing accuracy for the Air Force. In the matter of bombing accuracy, it is noteworthy that one of the bombardment groups of the Wing, the 460th, made an enviable record during this period, its average of strikes within 1000 feet of briefed aiming point rising to 53.9%. Its nearest competitor was the 483rd Bombardment Group of the 5th Wing, whose average was 47.4%. The 465th Bombardment Group of the 55th Wing also made an excellent record during July, averaging 42.5%.