

55BW Mission Summary No. 44, 11 June 1944 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 11 June 1944 between 0600-0615B, 107 B-24 a/c of 112 scheduled took off to bomb SMEDEREVO M/Y, oil storage and train ferry. There was 1 early return.

Group assemblies were made without incident, and line end Wing rendezvous were effected as ordered. Fighter escort was not seen.

106 a/c were over the target at 0904-0908B. 102 a/c dropped 252.5 tons of 500 lb GP bombs (.1N, and .01, .025T fusing) from 19,500 to 21,000 feet with good to excellent results. 2 a/c jettisoned full load, 1 a/c (the early return) returned bombs to base, 1 a/c dropped bombs due to malfunction before reaching target.

There were no e/a encountered nor seen. There was no flak at target. MAH was encountered over BELGRADE by a/c off course, and MIH near the IP.

106 a/c landed between 1130-1145B, none lost, none missing, none at friendly fields.

Route was flown as briefed except by one attack unit which did find IP and flew over vicinity of BELGRADE.

Weather was clear with high cirrus on route out, CAVU at target and with 5/10 cloud at 11,000 on route back.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 11 June 1944, at 0610 hours, 39 scheduled took off to bomb the installations at SMEDEREVO, YUGOSLAVIA.

The attack units assembled at 0659 hours in the regular assembly area. Rendezvous was made with the 485th between ALTAMURA and GRAVINA at 0707 hours. Wing rendezvous was over SPINAZZOLA at 0717 hours as scheduled. No fighter escort was seen.

The Group experienced flak of S-MAH intensity in the BELGRADE Area. No A/A protected the primary target.

From 19,500-21,000 feet, 38 a/c were over the primary target at 0904 hours. 35 a/c dropped 85.5 tons of 500 lb GP bombs, .1N, and .01, .025T fuses. One a/c dropped bombs just after IP due to reck malfunction, three a/c had eight bombs hung up due to malfunctions and jettisoned in ADRIATIC. Results: Target hit by a good bomb concentration in M/Y and stores area on JEZAVA River and cutting tracks to M/Y adjacent. Other bombs from second attack unit hit refinery to east, where fires were started. Many bombs fell short in DANUBE.

Weather: CAVU. Route was flown as briefed to IP, thence flown to west of briefed course by 5 to 8 miles. Turn was made 10 miles north

of VALTEVO, continuing wide of briefed IP and using a point 10 miles north of POPOVICE as an IP.

38 a/c returned to base.

3. 465th Bomb Group. On 11 June 1944 at 0615B hours 33 a/c of 36 scheduled took off to bomb the SMEDEREVO Oil Refinery near BELGRADE.

The Group assembled over the assigned area at 0706B hours at 7,000 feet without incident. The Wing rendezvous was accomplished over SPINZZOLA at 0717B hours at 7,000 feet without incident.

33 a/c went over the target at 0908B hours and 33 a/c dropped 82½ tons of 500 lb GP bombs (.1N, .01, .025T mixed fusing) at 21,000 feet at 0908B hours. Strike photos show that the target was covered by an excellent pattern of bombs with several bombs falling slightly short in the river and a hit or a near miss is believed to have been made on a barge in the river. The highway running between the river and the refinery received several direct hits. Several large fires were started and the smoke could be seen from 65 to 100 miles after leaving the target. The boiler house received a direct hit.

There were no e/a encountered.

No flak was encountered enroute or at the target.

Weather enroute to and from the target was described as generally clear with some high cirrus. Over the target CAVU and the target was visible from some distance.

No a/c from this group were damaged and all returned safely to the home base, landing time 1135B.

Route was flown as briefed.

4. 485th Bomb Group. On 11 June 1944 at 0600 hours, 35 B-24s of 37 a/c scheduled took off to bomb the SMEDEREVO Oil Refinery and train ferry (Primary Target). The 35 a/c formed in two attack waves.

Assembly was over ALTAMURA at 6,000 feet. Formation at assembly was satisfactory. Rendezvous with the 460th Bombardment Group was accomplished between ALTAMURA and GRAVINA at 0707 hours at 6,000 feet. Rendezvous with the 465th Bombardment Group was over SPINAZZOLA at 0717 hours at 6,000 feet. No fighter escort was observed either enroute over the target, or upon withdrawal.

No e/a were encountered or seen.

35 a/c were over the target at 0905 hours. 34 a/c dropped 84½ tons of 500 lb GP bombs (.1N, .01 & .025T fusing) from 20,000'. The target was well covered by a concentration on the main cracking

plants. Last a/c over the target reported large fires in the target area which was well covered by smoke.

There was 3/10 cirrus at 25,000 feet enroute. From IP to target, weather was CAVU with unlimited visibility. On return route 5/10 cloud coverage at 11,000 feet existed.

No flak was encountered over the target or at any point enroute or on the return trip. Some flak was observed at a distance over BELGRADE which was described as being moderate and heavy.

Return was made without incident. 35 a/c landed, moan landing time, 1145 hours.

Route was flown as briefed.

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