

55 BW Mission Summary No. 37, 2 Jun 44

1. General Summery. On 2 June the 55th Bombardment Wing attacked the Marshaling Yards at CLUJ. 138 B-24s took off from 0515 to 0530 hours. Group and Wing Rendezvous were accomplished as ordered with exception of the 485th Bombardment Group, which proceeded alone to the target. There were nine early returns. Fighter rendezvous was made 0841 to 0930 hours with P-38s, P-47s and P-51s.

From 0920 to 0930 128 a/c dropped a total of 253 tons of 500 lb. GP Bombs, from 20,000 to 22,000 feet. Results are termed as fair. One a/c jettisoned bombs.

No flak was encountered anywhere enroute or over the target. No encounters with enemy aircraft were reported, although one identified fighter was observed.

The route was flown approximately as briefed. A total of 127 B-24s landed at 1250-1440 hours. One aircraft of the 464th Bomb Group landed at BARI for gas, and another of the same Group is listed as missing.

Weather was clear with some haze. Visibility averaged 10 to 15 miles.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 2 June 1944 at 0525 hours, the 37 a/c scheduled took off to bomb the M/Y at CLUJ, ROUMANIA.

The Group formed in its assembly area on time. Escort of P-47s and P-51s were contacted at 0930 hours, just before the IP. Fighters furnished penetration, target and withdrawal cover, leaving the formation 45 minutes after target at (4611-2355).

From 19,000' to 20,500', 34 a/c dropped 67 tons of 500-lb GP bombs, .1N and .01 & .025T fuses, on the primary target at 0933 hours.

One a/c jettisoned three bombs at (4551-2312), another a/c jettisoned one bomb in ADRIATIC, both due to release malfunctions. The first attack unit selected an aiming point in about the middle of the M/Y, where it was not obscured by smoke. Here the pattern developed nicely, cutting across the repair shops and main tracks. The second attack unit had to drop bombs through smoke, their bombs also falling to the right of briefed aiming point across the area of repair shops and tracks.

The route was flown as briefed. Weather: 2/10ths scattered cumulus, 10-15 miles visibility enroute. Over target, 2/10ths cumulus, visibility 15 miles.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 2 June 1944 at 0520B hours, 35 B-24 a/c of 39 scheduled took off to bomb CLUJ M/Y (Primary Target).

Assembly was on line between ANDRIA and CANOSA at 0557B. Formation at assembly was without incident.

Rendezvous with 465th and 460th Bomb Groups was made on course to MOLFETTA at 0612B.

Rendezvous with fighter escort consisting of approximately 25/30 P-51 a/c of the 306th Fighter Wing was effected without incident at 44 deg 30 min N - 21 deg 15 min E between 0835B and 1040B.

One a/c returned early.

34 a/c were over the target at 0932B hours (target time was 0928B hours). 34 a/c dropped 68 tons of 500 lb GP Bombs (.01 and .1 -. 025 fusing) at 21,000'. One a/c which returned early brought bombs back. Fires and explosions were observed on target with some bombs felling short and over. Numerous hits were seen in target area.

There was 3/10 cumulus, visibility 10 miles at target area. While enroute it was 4-5/10 cumulus, 10,000' with visibility 10-15 miles.

Return was made without incident. 32 a/c landed at 1245B. One a/c landed at BARI 1230B for gas, then proceeded to home base, landing at 1440B. One a/c, No. 41-29361, is missing.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 2 June 1944 at 0515 hours 35 aircraft were scheduled to take off to bomb the CLUJ M/Y, ROUMANIA. 32 a/c took off at 0515 hours.

The Group assembled over ANDRIA at 0613 hours at 4,000' and made Wing rendezvous over SPINAZZOLA at 0628 hours at 5,000', Escort of P-51s and P-38s of the 306th Wing joined the formation at 0841 hours at BERETTYO UJFAH at 19,000' and left the formation at 0940 hours 30 miles south of target at 19,000'.

There were 3 early returns.

No enemy aircraft were observed, Scant heavy flak was observed at SARAJEVO, but none was encountered by the formation.

29 a/c went over the target at 0930 hours at 22,000'. 28 a/c dropped 54½ tons of 500 lb GP bombs with .1 nose and mixed .01 and .025 tail fuses. Bomb strike photos reveal Mean Point of Impact as interpreted and briefed on southern extremity of target area covered by bombs of 1st attack unit with consequent pattern mostly south of the assigned aiming point and first bomb striking the Aiming Point. Pattern of 2nd attack unit centered in assigned target area.

Weather enroute: A slight cumulus building up to 18,000'; clear to 2/10ths cloud over target; a front 50 miles NW of target with a heavy cumulus-nimbus build-up; slight front 150 miles south of route on return.

29 a/c landed at 1250 hours mean landing time.

Route flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 2 June 1944 at 0530 hours, 34 a/c scheduled took off to bomb CLUJ M/Y (PT).

Assembly was over ALTAMURA at approximately 0555 hours.

Rendezvous with other Groups of the Wing was not effected. The 485th arrived at rendezvous point approximately 15 minutes early.

Rendezvous with fighter escort, P-51s of the 306th Fighter Wing (Some P-38s were seen in the distance) was effected at 0901 hours at 47 deg 14 min N - 22 deg 02 min E. Fighters remained with the bomber formation through the target area.

1 a/c returned prior to bombing due to turbo trouble at 0945.

No e/a or flak was encountered on the route to the target.

32 a/c were over the target at 0923 hours (target time 0928), 26 dropping bombs. A second bomb run was made at 0938 hours when the remaining six a/c dropped bombs. 32 a/c dropped 63½ tons 500 lb GP bombs, fused .1 Nose and mixed .01 and .025 Tail, from 21,500'. Some bombs dropped on first run were observed to have hit the east end of the M/Y and some bombs fell south of the M/Y in the city of CLUJ. The bombs dropped on the second run were observed to fall in the target area which was, however, obscured by smoke and results could not be seen. Crews believed that bombs of second run hit in the target area.

The weather over the target was mostly clear, with a few scattered clouds. There was slight to moderate haze.

No e/a were seen over the target or on the return route. Slight to moderate, heavy flak was seen at a distance over the cities of PANCEVO and BELGRADE.

Return was made without incident.

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