

55BW Mission Summary Mo. 113, 11 October 1944 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 11 October 1944, 79 B-24 a/c were scheduled and 82 a/c took off between 0728-0842A to bomb a target in the VIENNIA, AUSTRIA, area. There were 4 early returns.

Group assemblies, line rendezvous and Wing rendezvous were effected as ordered. Fighter escort was seen by Groups between 0928-1118A at 4341N-1558E, and 4740N-1530E, providing penetration, target and withdrawal cover, remaining with Groups until close to bases.

78 a/c were over VIENNA area at 1144-1147A, and 77 a/c dropped 191.25 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs, fused .1N, .01T, from 21,200-23,400'. 5 sortie a/c jettisoned 3 tons, 1 early return jettisoned 2.5 tons. 10 tons of bombs were returned to bases by 4 early returns, and 7.5 tons by 3 spare a/c. No sortie a/e returned bombs.

Results: Visible strikes and bombs away indicate that the majority of the bombs fell in the south residential area of VIENNIA. Possible damage was caused to residences and rail facilities in that area.

Flak at target area was MI to IAH. Due to deviations from briefed route, due to weather, other flak was encountered at GRAZ, SOPRON, BRUC, ZAGREB, MAPFENBERG, TROPALAIICH and PETFURDO.

No e/a were seen or encountered.

71 a/e were down at bases between 1440-1520A. 2 a/c were lost to flak at target. 1 a/c is missing. 2 a/c landed at friendly fields.

Due to cloud conditions, route flown deviated from route briefed.

Weather: 2/10 stratocumulus and scattered alto-stratus at take-off. Clear over ADRIATIC to Northeast of Spur where a front was encountered with 8/10 to 10/10 cumulus to 13-15,000'. Clear again in North ADRIATIC. From coast of YUGOSLAVIA to target, course led through active cold front. 8-10/10 multilayer clouds up to 20,000' with cumulus and cumulus-nimbus to 25,000'. At target 10/10 alto-cumulus, tops 18,000'. Visibility in clear air 15 miles. On return; multilayer clouds up to 23,000', with swelling cumulus and cumulus-nimbus to 26,000'. Tops of clouds lowered over DINARICS to 16,000' and over ADRIATIC to 12,000'. 4/10 swelling cumulus and 7/10 alto-cumulus, base 10-12,000' at base on return. Vapor trails seen and encountered North of ADRIATIC from 17-22,000'.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 11 October 1944, at 0735A, 21 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb a target in the VIENNA, INDUSTRIAL, area.

Group assembled over field as scheduled. Rendezvous with 485th was 3 minutes late. Wing rendezvous accomplished at 0830A. Fighter

escort, P-38s, first sighted at 0928A at 4341N-1558E, furnished penetration, target and withdrawal cover. They left formation at 1225A at 4615N-1605E.

1 a/c returned early because of #4 engine failure. Bombs were Jettisoned in ADRIATIC.

20 a/c over VIENNA at 1147A. Because of solid undercast Group bombed by PFF. From 23,000', 19 a/c dropped 47.25 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs at 1147A. 1 a/c jettisoned 1 bomb immediately after target time, and another a/c jettisoned 10 bombs manually above the bomb line. Group leader used auto pilot on bomb run.

Results: Visible strikes and bombs away indicate that the majority of bombs fell in the South residential area of Vienna. Possible damage was caused to residences and rail facilities in that area.

IAH flak experienced over the target.

Due to adverse weather conditions, route was not flown as briefed. En route landfall was made near TRIESTE, and course was flown West of briefed course to IP. On return, landfall made at top of ADRIATIC and thence route was flown to the Spur.

18 a/c returned to base with mean landing time of 1510A. 1 a/c landed at FOGGIA, with 1 dead crew member, and has since returned to base, 1 a/c is missing.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 11 October 1944, beginning at 0715A, 18 scheduled a/c and 3 spares took off to bomb a VIENNA, INDUSTRIAL, target.

Group assembly and Group and Wing rendezvous as ordered without incident.

21 a/c over target at 1144A (briefed target time 1113A) and 21 a/c dropped 51.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs, .1N, .01T fusing, from 23,400'. 3 of these a/c jettisoned a total of 1 ton of bombs.

Recapitulation:

Dropped on target	51.5 tons
Jettisoned	<u>1.0 tons</u>
Total	52.5 tons

Bombing was on PFF and the 1st attack unit leader used C-1 auto pilot. The 2nd attack unit leader dropped on Group leader as the a/c contained no PFF equipment.

Results: Complete undercast prevents assessment of results.

IAH flak at target variously reported as being from 7 to 10 minutes in duration. Reports indicate barrage type flak with no definite area of greatest intensity.

50 P-38s were first observed at 0934A at 4303N-1530E, being constantly reported in vicinity of formation from that time until return to base.

No a/c missing, but 2 a/c landed and remained at friendly fields.

Route was not flown as briefed due to weather conditions.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 11 October 1944, at 0734 hours, 22 a/c of 22 scheduled a/c took off to attack an industrial target in the VIENNA, AUSTRIA area.

Line rendezvous and assembly were made without incident. Wing rendezvous accomplished at 0827 hours. An escort of P-38s joined at 1100 hours near GRAZ providing penetration, target and withdrawal cover as far as the Adriatic Sea on return.

1 a/c returned early due to loss of two superchargers. Bombs were returned to base.

21 a/c over VIENNA at 1144 hours. Bombed by PFF. Fifty-two and one-half tons of bombs, 500 lb RDX, were dropped. Target was not visible due to 8/10ths cloud cover. 1 a/c jettisoned 1 bomb 15 minutes after target because of rack malfunction.

Recapitulation:

Dropped on target	52.5 tons
Jettisoned	.5 tons
Returned to base	<u>2.5 tons</u>
	55.5 tons

Results: Visible strikes and bombs away indicate that the majority of the bombs fell in the South residential area of VIENNA. Possible damage was caused to residences and rail facilities in that area.

To enemy a/c encountered. Flak at target was IAH for 9 minutes.

18 a/c landed at 1520A. J a/c landed at friendly field. 1 a/c was hit by flak at target and broke up.

Several variations were made from the briefed route to avoid weather.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 11 October 44 at 0742A, 18 B-24 a/c scheduled, and 3 spare a/c took off to bomb the primary target in AUSTRIA.

Assembly was at 0755A at 2,500' as ordered. The 485th proceeded to rendezvous point, arriving there at 0827A, and circled while waiting for the 460th Group. Rendezvous was made with the 460th Group leading at 0830A at 6,000'. 25 P-38 a/c joined the formation at 1118A at 4740N-1530E. The escort remained with the formation until 1200A, departing at 4745N-1641E.

The 3 spare a/c returned to base after following the formation over the ADRIATIC and failing to find a vacancy in the flight. 2 a/c returned early. 16 a/c were over the target of opportunity at 1147A. 16 a/c dropped 40 tons of 500 lb RDX Bombs from 21,200'. Bombing was visual and by PDI. The weather conditions being unfavorable for the use of the Autopilot.

Results: Visible strikes and bombs away photographs indicate bombs fell in the residential and industrial areas of MAPFENBERG and xxxCSFLD. Clouds prevent complete assessment.

From IP to the target of opportunity, moderate inaccurate to moderate accurate flak was encountered for five minutes. No e/a were encountered.

Return was made without incident with 16 a/c landing, mean landing time 1440A.

Route was not flown as briefed due to cloud conditions.