

55BW Mission Summary No. 109, 24 Sept 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 24 Sept 44, 122 B-24 e/c were scheduled and 123 a/c took off to bomb targets in GREECE. 63 a/c took off between 0750-0820A to bomb SALONIKA M/Y, and 60 a/c took off between 0920-0935A to bomb SCARAMANGA harbor, installations and shipping. There were 6 early returns.

Group assemblies and line rendezvous were effected as ordered with modified altitude and timing caused by cloud conditions. No fighter escort was scheduled.

117 a/c were over targets, 60 a/c over SALONIKA at 1114-1116A, and 57 a/c over SCARAMANGA at 1303-1305A. 110 a/c dropped 272 tons of bombs (58 a/c dropped 142 tons of 500 lb GP, fused .1N, non-delay T, on SALONIKA; 52 a/c dropped 130 tons of 500 lb RDX, fused .1N, .1T, on SCARAMANGA). 6 sortie a/c jettisoned 8 tons, 1 early return jettisoned 2.5 tons, 5 sortie a/c returned 12.5 tons, and 5 early returns brought 12.5 tons of bombs back to bases.

Results: The SALONIKA West M/Y received two concentrations of bombs. The first Group over the target scored probable hits on all through tracks and an estimated 50 units of rolling stock. The second Group dropped their bombs generally in the smoke of the first and added to the destruction. It is believed that all through tracks were cut and an estimated 50-75 goods wagons severely damaged.

A number of hits were scored on the SCARAMANGA Harbor Installations. Reconnaissance photographs show a 500 ton submarine sunk, two 200' vessels sunk, and considerable damage to installations. The large workshop is badly damaged, the large hangers are damaged and still on fire, and a number of smaller unidentified buildings are damaged or demolished.

Flak at SALONIKA was IAH; at SCARAMANGA, S-MIH. Other flak: SAH at KONITSA, IOANNINA, and at 3938N-2050E.

One Group saw 8 e/a; three Groups saw none. There were no encounters.

113 a/e were down at bases between 1331-1335A from SALONIKA, between 1551-1605A from SCARAMANGA 1 a/c was lost, 1 a/c is missing from the SCARAMANGA mission, 2 a/c landed at friendly fields.

Route was flown as briefed.

Weather: Route to target: 2/10 cirrus and 2-3/10 cumulus, tops 8000' from bases to ADRIATIC coast; 2/10 over ADRIATIC and STRAIT of TORANTO. Over GREECE (mountains) 3-4/10 cumulus, tops 10,000-12,000'. At Target: SALONIKA, 1/10 cumulus, visibility unlimited; SCARAMANGA, clear, visibility 20 miles. Return: little change from route to target except increase in cumulus over Southern ITALY to 5/10. At Bases: 4/10

cumulus, bases 3000', tops 6000' scattered alto-cumulus at 10,000'.  
Visibility enroute 20-30 miles.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 24 Sept 44 at 0750/, 31 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the SALONIKA West M/Y, GREECE.

Group assembled as planned and made rendezvous with 485<sup>th</sup> at 0911A.

3 a/c returned early; 2 returning bombs to base and 1 jettisoning ten bombs in ADRIATIC.

As Group leader neared PT, it was discovered that altimeter and air speed indicator were inoperative. For these reasons Deputy Group leader, Maj. Glenn L. Chamberlain, took over lead position at 1059A. 28 a/c over target at 1116A. From 23,400', 27 a/c dropped 67.5 tons of 500 lb GP bombs. Due to malfunction 1 a/c failed to bomb target and jettisoned in ADRIATIC.

Results: Bombs concentrated in center and on east choke point of SALONIKA West M/Y. Complete assessment prevented by smoke from previous bombing.

IAH flak for approximately 6 minutes over PT and on rally. Several flak cars firing from main RR line running NW from SALONIKA. Other flak SAH at KONITSA (4003N-2042E) and at IOANNINA (3940N-2050E).

Route flown as briefed.

28 a/c returned to base, mean landing time 1335A.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 24 Sept 44, 26 of 28 scheduled a/c and 3 spares took off at 0935A to bomb Submarine and Harbor Installations at SCARAMANGA, GREECE. There was 1 early return.

Group form-up and line rendezvous executed in satisfactory manner.

28 e/c over target at 1303A and 23 a/c dropped 57.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs from 23,000'. 5 a/c failed to release on target. Dog Box leader had rack malfunction and bombs would not release by sight or toggle switch. 3 other a/c in Dog Box did not release for reason that box leader did not drop. 1 a/c did not release when the intervalometer failed to function. These 5 a/c returned 12.5 tons of bombs to base. Group leader used C-1 auto pilot. Second attack unit leader started bomb run using C-1 but finished on PDI because of amount of correction necessary.

Results: A good concentration of bombs is visible on the SCARAMANGA Harbor Installations. Direct hits are visible on main jetty, seaplane hangars, workshops, slipways and docking facilities.

Direct hits are probable on a 210' submarine, and on three merchant vessels. One near miss is visible on another merchant vessel.

Flak at target S-MIH. At 3938N-2050E SIH flak observed.

2 FW-190s observed at 3812N-2330E at 1300A flying at 9000' in opposite direction from that of formation at 23,000'. 6 ME-109s observed first at 3910N-2110E at 1400A flying parallel to formation at formation's altitude of 15,000'. E/a left formation at 3940N-2002E at 1425A, having made no effort to attack.

28 a/c landed at base between 1540-1602A.

Route flown as briefed.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 24 Sept 44 at 0920A, 31 scheduled a/c took off in two attack units to bomb Installations at SCARAMANGA, GREECE.

Group assembled at 10,000' at 1032A and Wing rendezvous accomplished at 10,000' at 1044A.

There were 2 early returns, both of which returned bombs to base.

Flak at target was SIH, said to come from TATOI A/D near target. Scant flak observed at 3932N-2050E about 5 miles south of IOANNINA, probably coming from A/D at that point.

29 a/c over target at 1305A and 29 a/c dropped 72.5 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs from 24,000'. Bombing visual using A-5 auto pilot by first attack unit and second attack unit bombed visually using PDI due to fact that A-5 went out at IP.

Results: Numerous hits scored on the SCARAMANGA Harbor Installations. Direct hits scored on the large workshop and possible two or three direct hits scored on the sub pens. Many bombs fell in smoke obscured area occupied by hangers and workshops.

29 a/c landed at 1605A, mean landing time.

Route flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 24 Sept 44 at 0820A, 32 a/c scheduled took off to bomb the SALONIKA West M/Y (PT). No early returns.

Assembly at 0909A at 11,000' and rendezvous with 460th at 0920A with 485th leading.

32 a/c over target at 1114A (target time 1115A). 31 a/c dropped 74.5 tons of 500 lb GP bombs from 23,200'. 4 of these a/c jettisoned a total of 12 bombs in ADRIATIC on return because of bomb

rack malfunctions over target. Another a/c jettisoned 10 bombs in ADRIATIC. IP located without difficulty and target identified early on bomb run. Bombing was visual with first wave using auto pilot. Second unit attempted to use C-1 pilot but had to revert to manual control after C-1 became inoperative.

Results: Bombs are concentrated in the area of the SALONIKA. West M/Y. 45 strikes are visible in the yard proper scoring probable direct hits on all through tracks. Numerous direct hits or very near misses were scored on an estimated 50 units of rolling stock. Several fires were observed to have resulted.

No e/a were encountered or seen. Over target IAH flak was encountered for 3-4 minutes. This flak was extremely accurate with the first bursts hitting the lead box.

Return made without incident. 28 a/c landed, mean landing time 1331A. 1 a/c landed later after discharging wounded crew member at BARI. 1 a/c is at BARI for repairs. 1 a/c lost to flak over target. 1 a/c is missing.

Route flown as briefed.