

8. August Personnel losses and gains:

	KIA	USA	Group
Pilots	14	31	64
Co/Pilots		9	0
Navigators	9	11	32
Bombardiers	8	19	32
Engineers	11	70	33
Radio Operators	13	26	32
Armorer Gunners	6	43	51
<u>Gunners</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>75</u>
Totals	84	211	319

Compiled by:
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 484th Bomb Group Statistical Officer

Missions For September 1944

During the month of September the 484th Bombardment Group flew but five missions. The greater part of the month was spent in ferrying urgently needed supplies into southern France. This unique operation by a bomb group will be fully explained in the following pages. On its five bombing missions the group flew 142 sorties with but three early returns. These missions were flown during the first six days of September, and four times the targets were railroad bridges which were very valuable to the enemy. The other mission was flown against a ferry slip, also of great importance. A total of 192.75 tons of bombs were dropped on these briefed targets. Good fortune smiled upon us during the month as no losses were suffered.

Mission No. 80, 1 September 1944, Ferrara RR Bridge, Italy

Thirty-four planes took off to bomb this strategic bridge in Italy, but the mission was uneventful. On reaching the target it was found to be covered by a 10/10 undercast, and it was necessary for all planes to return their bombs to the base.

Mission No. 81, 2 September 1944, Mitrovica RR Bridge, Yugoslavia

Although this target in Yugoslavia was obscured by smoke and haze, the group turned in a very creditable performance. The target was well hit by the 133 thousand pounders which fell in a closely knit pattern.

Mission No 82, 3 September 1944, Smederevo Ferry Slips

This mission was the first of its type to be experienced by the group, but was carried out very successfully. Direct hits were scored on the ferry slips and the causeway, and several boats in the vicinity suffered the devastating

effects of our bombs. Although not spectacular, this mission was a demonstration of the ability of our crews who were busily engaged in making successful missions seem commonplace.

Mission No. 83, 5 September 44, Smederevo Ferry Slips, Yugoslavia

Because of a very bad break in the weather, this mission must be termed unsuccessful. Arriving over the target a 10/10 undercast was encountered, and it was impossible to bomb the target by visual means. Through necessity all bombs had to be returned to the base.

Mission No 84, 6 September 1944, Sava East River Bridge, Italy

The weather cleared, and the group went after the same target as on the previous day. This time the bridge was heavily pounded, as was the marshaling yard which was slightly to the right of the briefed course. During the course of this highly successful raid 12 of our aircraft suffered minor damage from flak which was intense, accurate, and heavy.

Missions 85 through 91 cargo shipments to Bron or Istres, France

Dates 9/11/44 to 9/22/44

Supply Operations for September 1944

The following is a report of supply operations performed by a detachment of the 484th Bomb Group (Pathfinder) in France from 22 September to 2 October 1944

These were the only bombing missions carried on by this group for the month of September, for during the remainder of the month our aircraft were needed for the essential operation of ferrying badly needed supplies to the southern France invasion front.

On 21 September 1944, the advance contingent of personnel including the group commander, operations officer, administrative personnel, cooks, carpenters and supplies were flown to Istres, France, in two B-24 Airplanes. Housing facilities were procured in an apartment settlement in the town and a mess hall was set up.

On 22 September 1944, twelve B-24 airplanes and crews flew



Robert Altman 484th BG

Unloading at Lyon, France 7-1)