

55BW Mission Summary No, 80, 13 Aug 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 13 Aug 44, 114 B-24 a/c scheduled, took off between 0815-0832B to bomb gun positions in the area of SETE, FRANCE. There were 4 early returns.

Group and line rendezvous were effected without incident but Wing rendezvous was unsatisfactory in that some groups were late in making rendezvous. Fighter escort of P-51s was observed from 1308-1435B on course and remained with the bombers until a point near CORSICA on return.

110 a/c were over targets, attacking 8 targets by individual boxes, between 1308-1318B.

108 a/c dropped 258 tons of 500 1b RDX bombs, .1N, .025T fusing, from 15,400-17,600'. 3 early returns and 5 sorties jettisoned full bomb loads. 1 early return and 3 sorties returned full bomb loads. 5 sorties jettisoned 7 bombs.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show Gun positions:

R-671013 bombs concentrated 500 feet South of gun position.
R-772101 no photos. Photos of 464 indicate strikes in target area.
H-836145 approximately 20 direct hits in the perimeter of the gun emplacement.
-911096 6 near misses on gun emplacement.

464 Gp - Photos show Gun positions:

R-671013 bombs missed from 700-5000'.
R-772101 6 direct hits on gun positions at East end of target. 4 hits on central gun positions.
R-836145 15 hits on 4 gun positions.
R-911096 numerous hits cover gun positions.

465 Gp - Photos show Gun positions:

S-150263 direct hits on 1 emplacement and near miss on another in the SW portion of the target.
S-150227 good concentration on jetty in target area.
R-959096 10 direct hits in gun position area.
R943108 no photos.

485 Gp - Photos show Gun positions:

S-150263 several near misses on installations at East end of target.
S-105227 several strikes on end of jetty containing gun position.

R959096 pattern lies in Eastern edge of target.

R-943108 several strikes on trench system and 2 weapon pits 200' East of a gun emplacement.

Of the 8 gun positions attacked 5 received direct hits and 1 additional received very near misses.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 13 Aug 44, at 0825B, 30 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the gun positions in the SETE-NARBONNE area of FRANCE.

The Group formed its 2 attack units at 0921B. Rendezvous with 485 was accomplished as scheduled and Wing formed over SPINAZZOLA at 0940B with 460 leading. Escort of P-51s was not contacted until the rally point and then for only a minute.

From 15,400-17,000' 4 boxes, totaling 30 a/c, were over the Able, Baker, Charlie and Dog targets at 1311, 1309, 1309, 1308B respectively. Tonnage of 500 lb RDX bombs was released as follows:

7 a/c (A); R-671013; - 17.5 tons
8 a/c (B), R-772101, - 20.0 tons
8 a/c (c), R-836145; - 19.5 tons
7 a/c (D), R-911096, - 17.0 tons

Automatic pilot was used by the lead ship of all 4 boxes. Due to release malfunctions, 2 a/c jettisoned 4 bombs short of the target areas.

SIH flak was encountered over the Primary target.

29 a/c returned to base with a mean landing time of 1515B. 1 a/c landed at a friendly field and later returned to base.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 13 Aug 44, 28 scheduled B-24 a/c took off at 0828B to bomb Gun positions in the SETE arca of South FRANCE. 3 spares took off with formation but returned to base. 1 a/c returned prior to bombing.

The Group form-up, line rendezvous and Wing rendezvous were executed as prescribed.

27 a/c were over respective targets and bombed by individual boxes with 500 lb RDX bombs as follows: 7 a/c of Able box wero over Gun position R-671013 at 1318B. 5 a/c dropped 12½ tons of bombs from 16500; 1 a/c returned 2½ tons of bombs to base, because of rack malfunction; 1 a/c jettisoned 2½ tons at 4307N 0330E, to keep up with formation.

7 a/c of Baker box were over Gun position R-772101 at 1317B. 5 a/c dropped 12½ tons of bombs from 16,500'; 1 a/c returned 22 tons of bombs to base; 1 a/c jettisoned 22 tons because of malfunction. 7 a/c of Dog box were over Gun position R-836145 at 1318B and dropped 17½

tons from 16,100'. 6 a/c of Easy box were over gun position R-911096 at 1315B and dropped 14 3/4 tons from 16,300'. 1 of the 6 a/c jettisoned 1/4 ton because of rack malfunction.

A-5 pilot was used by leaders of A and E boxes; C-1 was used by leaders of B and D.

D and E boxes encountered SIH flak at their respective targets.

4-30 P-51s observed by the 4 boxes from 1308-1350B between 4324N0340E and 4246N0513E.

27 a/c landed at base from 1650B to 1713B.

4. 465th Bomb Group. 28 a/c were scheduled and took off at 0815B, 13 Aug 44, in 2 attack units to attack gun positions at SETE, FRANCE.

The group assembled over CORATO at 10,000' and made Wing rendezvous at 0943B at SPINAZZOLA at 10,000'. Escort of P-51s joined 1350B near MARSEILLE and gave withdrawal support to the CORSICAN coast.

There was 1 early return. 5 bombs were jettisoned at 4239N0609E and 5 jettisoned at 4246N0514E.

There was no flak encountered.

7 a/c from Able box attacked gun position S-150263 at 1315B from 17,000' and dropped 17 1/2 tons of bombs. 7 a/c from Baker box attacked gun emplacement S-105227 at 1315B from 17,500' and dropped 17 1/2 tons of bombs, 6 a/c from Charlie box attacked gun position R-959096 at 1314B from 17,400' and dropped 15 tons of bombs. 7 a/c from Dog box attacked gun positions R-943108 at 1316B from 16,800' and dropped 14 3/5 tons. 1 a/c from Dog box returned bombs to base. 1 a/c jettisoned 1 bomb at 4312N0400E. A total of 64 3/5 tons were dropped, and all bombs were 500 lb RDX. Lead ship of each box used A-5 pilot.

26 a/c landed at 1715B. 1 landed at a friendly field and has since returned to base.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 13 Aug 44 at 0832B, 28 a/c scheduled took off in 2 attack units to bomb SETE gun installations. Assembly was over ALTAMURA at 0900B at 10,000'. Wing rendezvous, 460, 464, 465 Gps was over SPINAZZOLA at 0929B at 10,000'. Rendezvous was satisfactory.

Rendezvous with fighter escort, which consisted of approximately 16 P-51s was effected at 4303N0330E at 1300B, and departed at 4215N0835E at 1435B.

2 a/c returned prior to bombing.

No e/a seen or encountored. SIH flak was encountered over SETE for approximately 1 minute.

26 a/c were over target from 1311-1317B (briefed 1257B). 25 a/c dropped 62 tons 500 lb RDX bombs between 16,500-17,600'. After reaching the IP the Gps broke off into 4 boxes: 7 a/c of Able box dropped 17.5 tons of bombs on S-150263 gun position at 1314B at 17,000'. 5 a/c of Baker box dropped 12.25 tons on S105227 gun position at 1317B at 17,600'. Box used PDI on bomb run, A-5 inoperative. 1 a/c of Baker box returned 1 bomb to base because of rack malfunction. 6 a/c of 7 a/c of Charlie box dropped 15 tons on R959096 at 1312B at 16,500'. This box used PDI, malfunction of A-5. 1 a/c of Charlie box returned 10 bombs to base because of bomb rack malfunction. 7 a/c of Dog box dropped 17 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons on R-943108 at 1311B at 16,800'. Used PDI. 1 a/c jettisoned 1 bomb at 4310N0350E - rack malfuncntion.

26 a/c landed, mean landing time 1659B.