

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 lb 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 area 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 were 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 ¼ 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 17½ tons of bombs. 7 a/c from Baker box attacked gun emplacement S-105227 at 1315B from 17,500' and dropped 17½ 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 t 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 encountered. 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 Charlic box returned 10 bombs to base because of bomb rack malfunction. 7 a/c of Dog box dropped 17¼ tons on R-943108 at 1311B at 16,800'. Used PDI. 1 a/c jettisoned 1 bomb at 4310N0350E - rack malfunction.

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