

55BW Mission Summary No. 81, 14 Aug 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 14 Aug 44 from 1225-1252B, 115 scheduled B-24 a/c of the 55th Bombardment Wing took off to bomb gun positions in the ST TROPEZ arca in Southern FRANCE. There were 2 early returns,

Group assemblies were accomplished from 1336-1341B. Some difficulty involved in Wing rendezvous due to 1 a/c crashing on takeoff. Rendezvous accomplished at 1350B.

2 Groups observed fighter escort of a few P-51s and P-38s from 1557-1724B. Escort joining at approximately 4250N0640E.

A total of 112 a/c were over the target with 105 B-24s dropping 261 tons 1000 lb GP bombs, .1 and .025 fusing. Bombing altitude varied from 15,700-17,500': Target time: 1631-1649B. 10 tons were jettisoned and 162 tons returned to base.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show gun positions in ST TROPEZ, Area.
Able box on S-205513 no hits in target arca.
Baker box on U-546259 bombs dropped approximately 3500' SE of the target.
Charlie box on U-525177 strikes extend approximately 1500-3500' West of the target.
Dog box on U-448178 no bombs in target arca.

464 Gp - Photos show gun positions in ST TROPEZ area.
Able box on Z-122888 strikes in water adjacent to target.
Baker box on Z-276958 strikes are in water adjacent to gun positions.
Charle box on Z-516092 strikes indicated in target arca.
Dog box on Z-396918 several direct hits in target area with probable hits on gun position.

465 Gp - Photos show gun positions in ST TROPEZ arca.
Able box on S-205513 concentration on East edge of target area.
Baker box on U-546259 majority of bombs hit in immediate target area. 2 or 3 near misses probable on one emplacement.
Charlie box on U-522180 main concentration North of target area.
Dog box on U-448178 strikes indicated in target area.

485 Gp - Photos show gun positions in ST TROPEZ arca.
Able box on Z-122888 1 or 2 strikes on East gun emplacement. 3 or 4 strikes on Eastern coastal defense guns.
Baker box on Z-276958 bombs dropped in water between LEVANT Island and PORT GROZ Island.
Charlie on Z-516092 bombs fell 1 mile West of the target.
Dog on Z-396918 2 or 3 strikes on Southern end of gun battery; remainder of bombs 800 feet West.

No e/a or flak encountered.

113 a/c landed at bases from 1930-1940B.

Weather: 6/10 cumulus at takeoff with tops at 10,000' 4-5/10 over CORSICA with top at 13,000'. Clear over target with visibility 10-20 mi. at target.

2. 460th Bomb Group. on 14 Aug 44, at 1235B, 28 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb gun positions on the FRENCH coast in the ST TROPEZ area.

From 15,700-16,500', 4 boxes totaling 27 a/c were over Able, Baker, Charlie and Dog targets at 1631, 1632, 1633, 1634B respectively. Tonnage of 1000 lb GP bombs, .1, .025 fusing was released as follows:

6 a/c (A) S-205513	- - 15.00 tons
6 a/c (B) U-546259	- - 15.00 tons
7 a/c (c) U-525177	- - 17.50 tons
7 a/c (D) U-448178	- - 17.50 tons
Total 65.00 tons	

27 a/c returned to base with a mean landing time of 1930B. 1 a/c turned back near the IP, landed at CAPODICHINO, NAPLES, and later returned to base.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 14 Aug 44, 28 scheduled B-24 a/c took at 1225B to bomb gun positions in the ST TROPEZ area of Southern FRANCE.

28 a/c were over their respective targets, and 25 a/c dropped 61 tons of 1000 lb GP bombs. Able box - 7 a/c were over the target X-122888, 1649B, 6 a/c dropped 15 tons from 17,500'; Baker box - 7 a/c were over target Z-276958 1648B, 6 dropped 15 tons from 17,350'. Charlie box - 7 a/c were over target U-516092 at 1647B, 7 dropped 17½ tons from 17,500'. Dog box - 7 a/c over target Z-396918 at 1646, 6 dropped 13½ tons from 17,100'.

Recapitulation of bombs	
Dropped on targets	61 tons
Jettisoned	2½ tons
Returned to base	11½ tons
Destroyed in crash on takeoff	2½ tons
Total	77½ tons

28 a/c landed at this base from 1930B-1955B. Route was flown as briefed.

4. 465th Bomb Group. 28 a/c were scheduled and took at 1252B on 14 Aug 44, to attack gun emplacements at ST TROPEZ, FRANCE. There were 2 early returns.

The group encountered no flak or enemy a/c.

Bombing: 6 a/c of Able box dropped 15 tons on S-205513. 7 a/c of Baker box dropped 17½ tons on U-546259. 6 a/c of Charlie box dropped 15 tons on U-522180. 7 a/c of Dog box dropped 17½ tons on U-448178.

26 a/c landed at 1940B. Route was flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 14 Aug 44, at 1246B, 31 B-24 a/e scheduled, took off to bomb gun positions in ST TROPEZ Area, FRANCE. There were no early returns.

31 a/c were over the target at 1639B (briefed 1630B). 28 a/c dropped

70 tons 1,000 lb GP bombs at 17,000'. 7 a/c of Able box dropped 17.5 tons on Z122888. 6 a/c of Baker box dropped 15 tons on Z-276958. 1 a/c from Baker jettisoned 5 bombs in water near the target. Another a/c from this box returned 5 bombs to base. 7 a/c of Charlie box dropped 17.5 tons on U516092. 1 Charlie a/c returned 5 bombs to base. 8 a/c of Dog box dropped 20 tons on Z396918.

31 a/c landed, mean landing time 1940B. Route as briefed with some deviation at IP.