

55BW Mission Summary No. 85, 20 Aug 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 20 Aug 44, between 0625-0638B, 90 B-24 e/c of 3 Groups (1 Group stood down) were scheduled, and 92 a/c (including 2 speres which continued with formation) took off to attack CZECHOWICE O/R at DZEIDZICE, POLAND. There were 6 early returns.

Group assemblies, line rendezvous, and Wing rendezvous were effected as ordered. Fighter escort was sighted at 0917B et 4507N-1731E and remained with formation until 1335B at 4312N-1642E.

85 a/c were over target between 1107-1108B, and 85 a/c dropped 209 tons of 500 lb GP bombs (.1N, .025T fusing) from 19,000 - 20,800'. 2 early returns jettisoned 5 tons; 11 sorties jettisoned 8.5 tons. 3 early returns brought back 7.5 tons to bases; 1 sortie returned .25 ton.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show CZECHOWICE O/R with a very heavy concentration of strikes in the target area. Direct hits were scored on the distillation units, petroleum treatment plant, wax extraction plant, finished products storage tanks and numerous minor installation.

464 Gp - Photos show CZECHOWICE O/R with no strikes visible in the target area.

465 Gp - Photos show the CZECHOWICE O/R with a good concentration of strikes in the target area. Strikes are visible entering the smoke covered target and emerging on the other side with smoke obscuring the results.

Reconnaissance photographs are expected to prove the refinery out of action with heavy damage to a number of major installations.

No flak was encountered at target nor enroute. 1-8 e/a were seen; none was encountered.

Route flown es briefed.

85 e/c were down at bases between 1432-1446B (mean landing time). None lost, none missing; 1 a/c landed at friendly field.

Weather: ITALY and ADRIATIC 2-3/10 alto cumulus. DINARIC ALPS 4-6/10 cirrus (tops 22,000') and 2-4/10 cumulus. Target: clear. Return: CZECHOSLOVAKIA and HUNGARY 3-5/10 cumulus; YUGOSLAVIA 5-7/10 cumulus (tops 16-17,000'); ADRIATIC end IT/LY 2-3/10 cumulus. Visibility on entire route 10-15 miles.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 20 Aug 44, at 0634B, 31 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the CZECHOVICE O/R.

The Group formed its two attack units at 0720B. The rendezvous with the 464 and 465 was made over SPINAZZOLA at 0739B, and the 460 lead the Wing. Fighter escort of P-51s was contacted at 1002B at 4312N-1918E. They furnished penetration, target and withdrawal cover and were last seen at 1335B at 4312N-1642E.

4 a/c returned early.

From 19,000' at 1107B 27 a/c dropped 66.75 tons of 500 lb GP bombs on the PT. The lead a/c used Automatic Pilot on bomb run but the leader of the 2nd unit elected to retain control of his a/c. 3 a/c failed to drop 1 bomb each. 1 bomb jettisoned in ADRIATIC; 1 brought back; 1 dropped accidentally 5 miles from base.

1 ME-109 seen just before the IP at 1045B and 2 ME-210s were seen over the target area at 1106B. These e/a did not attack.

27 a/c returned to base with mean landing time of 1440B.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 20 Aug 44 28 scheduled B-24 a/c and 2 spares took off at 0625B to bomb CZECHOWICE O/R.

Form-up, line rendezvous and Wing rendezvous made as briefed without incident.

2 a/c returned early.

28 a/c were over the target at 1108B (briefed 1110B) and 27 a/c dropped 67½ tons of 500 lb GP bombs from 20,800'.

3 a/c jettisoned 5 tons of bombs; 1 a/c jettisoned 2½ tons of bombs at 4131N-1633E; 1 a/c jettisoned ¼ ton at 4930N-1830E; 1 a/c jettisoned 2½ tons at 4940N-1955E. 1 a/c returned 2½ tons to base.

A-5 used by Gp leader. Leader of 2nd unit did not use A-5 as it was inoperative; however, on return trip the A-5 worked satisfactorily.

There was no flak at the target.

1 unidentified T/E a/c was observed at 4940N-1852E flying to rear and at right angles to formation at 1114B. E/a was at 20,800'. No attempt was made to attack formation.

Rendezvous with 20 P-51s made at 0917B at 4507N-1731E. Good cover given on penetration, over target and on withdrawal to 4613N-1840E at 1215B, where last of escort was seen.

27 a/c landed at base between 1420-1445B. 1 a/c landed at 1605B after landing at friendly field.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 20 Aug 44, 31 a/c scheduled took off at 0638B to attack the CZECHOWICE O/R.

Group assembly accomplished et 0725B at 7,000' at ANDRIA. Wing rendezvous at 0739B at SPINAZZOLA at 7,000'. P-51s escorted the bombers, joining at 0942B near BUDAPEST, over the target and a few P-51s escorted formation back to coast of YUGOSLAVIA, leaving at approximately 1330B.

There were no early returns.

No flak at target; moderate flak between IP and target just N of course. Lead group and 465 flew slightly S of briefed course to avoid flak area. 8 e/a seen in target area being attacked by escort. Of these, 2 ME-210s seen at IP and 4 ME-410s and 2 ME-110s at target. 2 JU-88s seen in BUDAPEST area. No encounters.

31 a/c dropped 75 tons of 500 lb GP. 3 a/c jettisoned 2 bombs each just after leaving target due to rack malfunctions. All jettisoned bombs dropped in HUNGARY or POLAND, with exception of 2 dropped in ADRIATIC. Bombing done visually using A-5.

31 8/c landed et 1446B.