

55BW Mission Summary No. 88, 23 August 1944 (Cont'd).

1. On 23 August 1944, 118 B-24 a/c took off from 0756-0826B to bomb the MARKERSDORF A/D. There were 6 early returns.

Group assemblies made as briefed from 0849-0902B with Wing rendezvous at 0911B. Fighter escort of P-51s were met at 1130B at 4540N-1520E and thence to target. P-38s also gave target cover. Escort departed at 1430B et YUGOSLAV coast.

112 a/c were over the target from 1232-1243B at 22,400-23,500'. 87 a/c dropped 211.25 tons of 500 lb GP (.1N, non-delay tail fusing). Of the total tonnage, 146.25 tons were dropped on the MARKERSDORF A/D, and 65 tons on a target a few miles west of the PT. 28.5 tons were jettisoned and 42.5 tons were returned to bases.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show the bombs to have fallen on an unidentified target.

464 Gp - Photos show MARKERSDORF A/D with the main concentration of bombs in hangar area. On the landing area seven single engine fighter a/c were destroyed and three damaged. Three hangers received numerous direct hits and near misses observed on a fourth.

465 Gp - Photos show MARKERSDORF A/D with the only strikes visible appearing beyond the target on course. Strikes in target area are probable.

485 Gp - Photos show bombs to have fallen on unidentified target.

Later photographs show several aircraft to be on fire and one large hanger still burning.

No flak was encountered at target; SAH encountered at 4343N-1640E, 4331N-1704E, 4325N-1714E. A total of 40 e/a were observed, composed mainly of FW-190s and ME-109s, with 1 ME-163.

Weather: Enroute clear over ITALY and ADRIATIC, increasing to 2-4/10 cirro-cumulus. Over target 4-6/10 cumulus. Visibility throughout 10-15 miles.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 23 Aug 44 at 0800B, 31 scheduled a/c dispatched to bomb MARKERSDORF A/D in AUSTRIA. 2 early returns.

The Group passed west of the target, which was, at the time of the bomb run, partially obscured by cloud. 29 a/c were in the formation. From 23,000', at 1236B, 26 a/c dropped 65 tons of bombs on

the auto bahn under construction west of the target. 3 a/c failed to release bombs, which were jettisoned.

Route flown as briefed.

29 a/c returned to base with mean landing time of 1515B.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 23 Aug 44, 28 a/c scheduled took off at 0756B to Bomb MARKERSDORF A/D, AUSTRIA.

28 a/c were over the target at 1232B. 25 a/c dropped 61 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons of bombs from 23,400'. 3 a/c jettisoned near target.

Recapitulation of bombs:

Dropped on target	61 3/4 tons
Jettisoned	8 1/4 tons
Brought back to base	<u>2 1/2 tons</u>
Total	72 1/2 tons

28 a/c landed at base between 1500B and 1523B.

Route flown as briefed.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 23 Aug 44, 31 e/c scheduled took off at 0818B to attack MRKERSDORF A/D near VIENNA, AUSTRIA. 1 return.

30 a/c went over the target at 1243B at 22,400'. 28 a/c dropped 67 $\frac{1}{4}$ tons of bombs. 2 a/c did not drop on target, having jettisoned in order to keep up with the formation.

Recapitulation of bombs:

Tons dropped on target	67 1/4 tons
Tons returned to base	1/4 tons
Tons jettisoned by sortie a/c	<u>7 1/2 tons</u>
Total	75 tons

30 a/c landed at 1525B.

Route flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 23 Aug 44, at 0826B, 28 a/c scheduled took off to bomb MARTERSDORF A/D.

There were 3 early returns.

25 a/c were over the target at 1236B (target time 1210B). a/c dropped 17.25 tons of bombs. 5 1/4 tons were jettisoned. 16 a/c returned 160 bombs to base.

25 a/c landed at 1525B.