

55BW Mission Summary No. 93, 28 Aug 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 28 Aug 44, between 0710-0716B, 116 B-24 a/c took off (113 scheduled plus 3 spares) to bomb SZOWY Oil Refinery in HUNGARY. There were 5 early returns; 2 spare a/c returned.

Group assemblies, line rendezvous, and Wing rendezvous were effected as ordered. Fighter escort joined formation at 0950B near (4530N-1710E) and remained with formation until 1150B near BANJALUKA.

108 a/e were over target between 1038-1043B. 103 a/c dropped 255 tons of 500 lb GP bombs (fused .1N .025T) from 20,000-22,400'. 8 sorties jettisoned 12.5 tons, 2 early returns jettisoned 5 tons. 1 sortie returned 2.5 tons, 3 early returns brought back 7.5 tons, and 2 spares returned 5 tons, to bases.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show the SZONY Oil Refinery to be covered by smoke from previous bombing at the time of attack. Bombs away and what few strikes that are visible indicate the concentration probably fell in the target.

464 Gp - Photos show the SZONY Oil Refinery with the bombs from the first attack unit falling slightly to the right of the briefed aiming point. The second attack unit scored numerous strikes in the central portion of the refinery. Direct hits were scored on the maintenance and repair shops and on several storage tanks. The boiler house received several near misses.

465 Gp - Photos show the SZONY Oil Refinery to have received a good concentration of bombs in the target area. Direct hits were observed on the intermediate product tanks, the oil storage tanks, rail sidings, and other installations of the refinery. Several very near misses were observed on the distillation unit and pump house.

485 Gp - Photos show the SZONY Oil Refinery to be covered by smoke from previous bombing at the time of attack. Bombs away and the few strikes that are visible indicate the main concentration fell in the target.

Reconnaissance photos show considerable damage to the refinery. The distillation units appear to have been damaged. 3 of the intermediate product tanks were damaged one of which is still burning. The boiler house was damaged considerably by blast. The maintenance and repair shops were heavily damaged. The rail sidings have been blocked in 4 places and about 5 tanks cars are damaged. Several oil storage tanks and a number of miscellaneous buildings were damaged. The refiner is believed to have been rendered inactive.

Flak at target was SIH. SIH was encountered at BARC and at (4737N-1831E).

No e/a were seen by 3 Groups; one Group saw 3 e/a. There were no encounters.

107 a/c were down at bases between 1325-1342B. No a/c was lost, none is missing. 2 a/c landed at friendly fields.

Route was flown as briefed.

Weather: CAVU en route, at target, and return. Visibility 15 miles over ADIATIC, 30 miles at target.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 28 Aug 44, 0710B, 30 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the SZONY O/R in HUNGARY.

Group assembly and rendezvous with the 485 were without incident. The Wing formed over SPINAZZOLA at 0814B, as scheduled, the 460 flying in the #3 position. The fighter escort, P-38s, first seen at PIOTVACA 4558N1714E at 1003B, furnished penetration, target and withdrawal cover. They left the formation at BAMJALUKA 4446N1712E at 1150B.

2 a/c returned early.

From 22,000', 28 a/c were over the PT at 1041B. 24 a/c dropped 58.5 tons of 500 lb GP bombs. Due to sight malfunction, 1 a/c dropped its bombs short of the target, and 4 other a/c were unable to release bombs on the target due to rack malfunction. Bombs were disposed of as follows: 10 bombs at 4545N1717E, 6 bombs just after target, 10 bombs south of DITONISCA and 10 bombs returned to base. Both attack units used the automatic pilot on the bomb run.

The Group encountered SIH flak over the target area. SIH flak is also reported 10 miles SE of the target.

28 a/c returned to base with a mean landing tiro of 1330B.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 28 Aug 44, 28 B-24 a/c and 3 spares took off at 0716n to bomb SZONY O/R, HUNGARY.

1 scheduled a/c and 2 spares returned early.

Form-up, line and Wing rendezvous were executed as prescribed. 28 a/c were over the target at 1038B (briefed 1045B) 27 a/c dropped 67½ tons of 500 lb GP bombs from 20,000'.

1 a/c jettisoned 2½ tons of bombs at 4735N1330E at 1044B because of rack malfunction.

Recapitulation of bombs:

27 a/c	Dropped on target	67½ tons
1 a/c	Jettisoned	2½ tons

3 a/c	Returned to base	7½ tons
31 a/c	Total	77½ tons

Group leader used A-5 automatic pilot up until 1 minute before bombs away, but finished run on PDI because bombardier unable to turn plane while A-5 was on. Leader of second attack unit bombed with aid of C-1 automatic pilot.

SIH flak reported at target. SIH flak encountered at 4737N-1331E.

3 unidentified e/a observed at 1042B in immediate vicinity of target.

Rendezvous made with 30 P-38s at 0950B at 4530N-1710E. P-30s last seen at 1150n at 4430N-1700E after affording cover for the formation over target.

28 a/c landed at base between 1315B and 1335B.

Route was flown as briefed.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 28 Aug 44, 27 a/c scheduled took off in 2 attack units at 0710n to attack SZONY O/R.

Group assembly over ANDRIA at 0803B at 6,000', and Wing rendezvous at 0812B over SPINAZZOLA at 6,000'. Escort of P-38s joined formation at 0955B at 4600N-1720E and left at 1210B at coast of YUGOSLAVIA.

There was only one early return.

Flak at target SIH; SIH encountered at PICSME, 4730N-1830E. SIH flak at BARC, 4557N-1727E. No enemy a/c seen or encountered.

26 a/c over target at 1039B at 20,900'. 26 a/c dropped 64 tons of 500 lb GP bombs.

Tons dropped on target	64
Tons jettisoned by sorties	1
Tons jettisoned by E/R	2½
Total	67½

1 a/c jettisoned 2 bombs 3 miles south of target because of rack malfunction. 1 a/c jettisoned 2 bombs at PIOTMACA, 4553N-1714E, in order to keep up with formation.

26 a/c landed at 1340B, and no a/c are lost or missing.

Route was flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 28 Aug 44, 28 a/c scheduled took off to bomb SZONY O/R (Primary Target).

Group assembly over ALTAMURA at 0705B at 7,000' was satisfactory. Wing rendezvous over SPINAZZOLA at 0750P at 8,200', was satisfactory.

25 P-38s joined formation at 1000B at 4542N-1722E, furnishing cover over target. They departed at 1150B at 4450N-1655E.

1 a/c returned early.

26 a/c were over the target at 1043B (target time 1043B). 26 a/c dropped 65 tons of 500 lb GP bombs at 22,400'. At beginning of bomb run briefed aiming point was visible; however it became obscured by smoke before bombs were released. By use of check points bombing was accomplished visually. Both automatic pilots malfunctioned and were not used on bomb run.

1 a/c turned back at 0925B at 4336N-1655E, and landed safely at VIS.

No e/a were encountered or seen. Flak encountered only over target, for period of 1 minute. Flak SIH to SAH.

Formation over base at 1317B. Seventh plane in landed with nose wheel unlocked and blocked runway for approximately 45 minutes. 18 other a/c landed without incident making a total of 25 a/c down at 1403B. 1 a/c returned to base at 1434B after landing at FOGGIA.

Route flown as briefed.