

55BW Mission Summary No. 94, 29 August 1944 (Cont'd).

1. On 29 Aug 44, between 0710-0730B, 115 B-24 a/c were scheduled, and 117 (115 scheduled plus 2 spares) took off to bomb a target at MORAVSKA OSTRAVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 9 scheduled a/c and 2 spares returned early.

Group assemblies, line rendezvous, and Wing rendezvous were effected as ordered. Fighter escort joined formation at 1050B at 4835N-1805E and remained with formation until 1330B at 44001-1655E.

106 a/c were over target between 1114-1117B. Due to complete overcast, First Alternate Target, MORAVSKA OSTRAVA town, was bombed by PFF and offset. 75 a/c dropped 183 tons of 500 lb GP bombs, fused .1N, .01T. Due to malfunction one entire group was unable to drop bombs. Bombing was from 22,200-23,200'. 18 sorties jettisoned 34.5 tons. 5 early returns jettisoned 12.5 tons. 19 sorties returned 47.5 tons, 4 early returns brought back 10 tons, and 2 spares brought back 5 tons of bombs to bases.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show no military damage. Bombing by PFF.

454 Gp - Photos show several strikes in the industrial area of MORAVSKA OSTRAVA. Damage was caused to industrial plants and rail facilities. One heavy A/A gun was destroyed.

465 Gp - Photos show no military damage. Bombing by PFF.

Flak at target was S-MIH.

E/a seen by Groups were 0, 1, 2, 4. None was encountered.

103 a/c were down at bases between 1455-1500B. 2 a/e were lost; 1 a/c landed at a friendly field.

Route flown as briefed.

Weather: Enroute CAVU to DANUBE, thence North 1/10 coverage increasing to 9/10 at target. Same on return.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 29 Aug 44, at 0710B, 31 a/c scheduled were dispatched to bomb a target in MORAVSKA OSTRAVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Group assembly and rendezvous with the 485th were accomplished without incident. Wing formed over SPINAZZOLA at 0812B as briefed, the 460th in the #4 position. Fighter escort, P-38s and P-51s, first sighted at 4910N-1800E at 1055B, furnished penetration, target and withdrawal cover, leaving formation at 1210B near BUDAPEST, HUNGARY.

4 a/c returned early.

Finding 8-9/10 cloud cover over the target, the leader chose to bomb MORAVSKA OSTRAVA town (Alternate Target), using PFF. From 23,200', 27 a/c over target at 1117B. 25 a/c dropped 62.5 tons of 500 lb GP bombs. The lead ship used the automatic pilot, but the leader of the 2nd attack unit chose to retain control of his a/c. Due to release malfunctions, 2 a/c failed to bomb the target, and jettisoned bombs.

SIH flak encountered over the target.

Route flown as briefed.

25 a/c returned to base with mean landing time of 1500B. 1 a/c landed on VIS and has since returned to base. 1 a/c was lost, reported to have crash landed in YUGOSLAVIA. Crew members were seen to leave the wreckage.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 29 Aug 44, 28 scheduled a/c and 2 spares took off at 0710B to bomb a target at MORAVSKA OSTRAVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2 spare a/c returned to base as briefed.

Form-up, line rendezvous with the 465th and Wing rendezvous made as planned and without incident.

1 scheduled a/c returned early.

27 s/c over target at 1114B (briefed target time 1112B), and 27 a/c dropped 67 tons of 500 lb GP bombs from 22,200'.

One of the a/c over the target jettisoned 1/2 ton of bombs at 4713N-1919E at 1214B due to rack malfunction causing 2 bombs to hang up.

Recapitulation of bombs:

Dropped on target	67 tons
Jettisoned	½ ton
Returned to base	7½ tons
Total tonnage 30 a/c	75 tons

On the bomb run it was decided to bomb by PFF due to cloud coverage over the target and the first alternate target, the industrial area of MORAVSKA OSTRAVA was bombed. The leader of the first attack unit used both the C-1 automatic pilot and PFF. The leader of the second attack unit did not use C-1 automatic pilot as it was inoperative during the bomb run.

Flak at the target was S-MIH.

1 e/a, an ME-110, was observed at 1114B in the target area flying in the opposite direction at 3,000'. No encounters.

Rendezvous with fighter escort at 1050B at 4835N-1305E with 20 P-51s. Some P-51s were also observed during the mission. 8 P-38s were observed at 1056B at 4853N-1802E. P-51 a/c last observed at 1330B at 4411N-1708E, and P-38s last observed at 1320B at 4429N-1713E.

1 a/c is lost.

26 a/c landed at base from 1445-1507B.

Route flown as briefed.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 29 Aug 44, 28 a/c scheduled took off in two attack units at 0730B to attack the industrial area of MORAVSKA OSTRAVA.

Group assembled over ANDRIA at 0801B at 5,000' and the Wing assembly over SPIAZZOLA at 0812B accomplished at briefed altitude. Escort of P-51s and P-38s met at 1110B at IP and provided target cover, withdrawal and escort back to coast of YUGOSLAVIA, where they departed at 1330B.

There were 2 early returns.

Flak at target was S-MIH. No other flak encountered enroute. Two SEF, possibly FW-190s, were seen between IP and target at 1105B. No attacks were made on the bombers.

26 a/e over target at 1114B and 23 a/c dropped 54 tons of 500 lb GP bombs from 23,000'.

Recapitulation of bombs:

Dropped on target	54 tons
Jettisoned by sortie a/c	11 tons
Jettisoned by early return	2 tons
Brought back to base	2g tons
Total	70 tons

Bombing done by PFF.

26 a/c landed at 1455B (mean landing time) and no a/c lost or missing.

Route flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 29 Aug 44, 28 a/c scheduled took off at 0716B to attack a target at MORAVSKA OSTRAVA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

Group assembly effected at 0802B at 7,000', was satisfactory. Rendezvous with Wing formation on course over SPINAZZOLA effected at 0813B at 7,000'.

Rendezvous with fighter escort, consisting of 20 P-51s, made at 1110B at 4949N-1817E. P-38s joined formation after target at 1120B. Escort left the formation at 1332B t 4400N-1655E.

2 a/c returned early.

26 a/c over target at 1116B (target time 1112B). Entire formation failed to drop on target because in the lead ship the release linkage chains were broken and the racks would not release.

19 a/c returned 186 bombs to base; one of these jettisoned 4 bombs. 7 a/c jettisoned 70 bombs.

4 unidentified a/c seen in BUDAEST area. No enemy a/c attacked the formation. Flak at target was S-MIH.

Return was made without incident. 26 a/c landed at 1455B, mean landing time.

Route flown as briefed.