

JUNE, 1944

Following is the list of Wing missions during June, 1944:

Serial Number (June)	Mission Number (Current)	Date	Target	Groups Participation			
1.	37	2 June 44	CLUJ, RUMANIA, M/Y	460	464	465	485
2.	38	4 June 44	TURIN, ITALY, M/Y	460	464	465	485
3.	39	5 June 44	FAENZA, ITALY, M/Y	460			
			FERRARA, ITALY, M/Y		464	465	
			FORLI, ITALY, M/Y				485
4.	40	6 June 44	Dacia Romana O/R,	460	464	465	485
			PLOESTI, RUMANIA				
5.	41	7 June 44	LEGHORN, ITALY, Port	460	464	465	485
			Installations				
			(Alternate Target)				
6.	42	9 June 44	MUNICH, GARMANY (East	460		465	485
			M/Y, Riem A/D,				
			Alternate Targets)				
7.	43	10 June 44	TRIESTE, ITALY, M/Y	460		465	485
8.	44	11 June 44	SMEDEREVO, YUGOSLAVIA,	460		465	485
			O/R and Train Ferry				
9.	45	13 June 44	Milbertshofen Ordnance	460		465	485
			Depot, MUNICH, GERMANY				
10.	46	14 June 44	PETFURDO, HUNGARY, O/R	460	464	465	485
11.	47	16 June 44	Lobau Oil Plant,*	460	464	465	485
			VIENNA, AUSTRIA				
12.	48	22 June 44	CASTEL MAGGIORE M/Y,	460			485
			ITALY				
			BOLOGNA M/Y, ITALY		464	465	
13.	49	23 June 44	GIURGIU, RUMANIA, Oil	460	464	465	485
			Plant and Storage				
14.	50	25 June 44	SETE O/R, FRANCE	460			485
			BALARUC O/R, FRANCE		464	465	
15.	51	26 June 44	Florisdorf O/R, VIENNA	460	464	465	485
16.	52	28 June 44	Titan O/R, BUCHAREST,	460			485
			RUMANIA				
			Frahova O/R, BUCHAREST		464	465	
17.	53	30 June 44	SPLIT, ITALY (Target of	460	464	465	485
			Opportunity)				

*On this important mission the 55th Bombardment Wing led the Fifteenth Air Force, and Colonel George R. Acheson, Commanding Officer, flying with the 464th Bombardment Group leading, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his and the Wing's achievement.

Of these operations, the attacks on the Lobau and the Florisdorf Oil Plants in VIENNA and the Milbertshofen Ordnance Depot in MUNICH were the most significant from the standpoints of importance of the targets and the degree of success secured. Excellent results were also attained in the attacks upon SMEDEREVO and PETFURDO Oil Refineries as well as the oil targets at SETE and BALARUC. Very considerable enemy air opposition was encountered in the attacks upon the two oil targets in VIENNA, which were effectively countered with excellent results by the gunners of the Wing formations. Indeed, the Wing was notably

successful in its victories over enemy aircraft: claims for the entire month were 84 e/a destroyed, 50 e/a probably destroyed, and 44 e/a damaged. The ratio of victories to losses rose markedly during the month, as follows: ratio of victories per 100 sorties was 3.9 (it was 1.2 in May), ratio of victories per 100 encounters was 17.3, and ratio of victories per loss was 1.8. A total of 481 enemy aircraft was encountered during the month, as compared with 118 in the month of May.

The outstanding award of distinction was the conferring of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Colonel George R. Acheson, Commanding Officer of the 55th Bombardment Wing. This was for his achievement in leading the Wing and the Fifteenth Air Force on the mission to attack the Lobau Oil Refinery in VIENNA on 16 June 1944. On this attack of a highly significant target an excellent bombing result was secured by the Wing, directly due to the leadership of Colonel Acheson, who took the formation on its bombing run in the face of intense and accurate heavy flak and held the formation through an engagement with enemy fighter aircraft which was of major proportion, 100-120 e/a being seen, 73 e/a being encountered, of which 7 were destroyed, 6 probably destroyed, and 13 were damaged. On the other hand, the Wing's losses were well below the figure representing the calculated risk. For this achievement Colonel Acheson was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on 19 June 1944 by Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, and on 22 June 1944 the decoration was made at the SPINAZZOLA Airfield (operated by the 460th Bombardment Group).