

55BW Mission Summary No. 95. 1 Sept 44 (Cont'd).

1. On 1 Sept 44, 115 B-24 a/c of the 55th Bombardment Wing took off from 0705-0751B to attack the SZOLNOK RR BRIDGE and the SZAJOL M/Y. There were two early returns. One B-24 crashes after takeoff.

Group assemblies were made in briefed areas. Wing rendezvous accomplished from 0815-0821B. 20 P-51s joined bombers at 1030B. One group reported that fighters did not return with Wing formation beyond DANUBE RIVER. Other units report escort as far as YUGO coast on return.

No e/a were encountered. 7 e/a, composed of 1 FW-190, 1 ME-109, 1 JU-88, and 4 unidentified a/c, were observed over YUGOSLAVIA and HUNGARY. SIH flak was encountered at target.

From 19,500-22,600', 56 a/c dropped 135.5 tons of 1000 lb RDX .1ND fusing. 67½ tons were dropped on the SZOLNOK BRIDGE and 61½ tons were dropped on bridge at MEXO TUR. 10½ tons were dropped on a bridge outside SZOLNOK.

From 20,200-21,100', 51 a/c dropped 127½ tons 500 lb GP bombs, .1 and .025 fusing, on SZAJOL M/Y.

A total of 10 tons was jettisoned and 2.5 tons returned to bases by all units.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show the SZOLNOK BRIDGE has received either one direct hit or two very near misses near the center of the bridge. Additional strikes have hit the southeast approach to the bridge.

465 Gp - Photos show several near misses on the SZOLNOK BRIDGE.

Reconnaissance photographs show the southeast approach of the bridge to be blocked. There is one hole in the center of the bridge and the metal girders appear to be out of line. The bridge is expected to be out for three days to one week.

464 and 485 Gps - Photos show the SZAJOL M/Y to have received numerous strikes from both groups. It is not possible to separate the strikes by groups. The eastern three-fourths of the M/Y is well covered. Numerous direct hits were scored on several goods wagons with near misses on a number of others.

Reconnaissance photographs show that all through tracks have been cut and most of the rolling stock rendered inactive. At least 42 tank cars and 45 goods wagons are wrecked. Eight tank cars are still burning at the time of photography.

On route: 2/10 cirrus at 20,000' and 2/10 alto cumulus with tops at 6,000' enroute. CAVU over target and on return.

112 a/c landed at bases from 1342-1400B. No a/c missing. 1 B-24 crashed after takeoff.

Route flown es briefed.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 1 Sept 44 at 0705B, 31 scheduled a/c dispatched to bomb the SZOLNOK RR BRIDGE, HUNGARY.

From 22,600', 31 a/c over target at 1103½B. 16 a/c dropped 40 tons on the PT. Because of failure in target identification, 9 a/c from the 2nd attack unit dropped 21½ tons on bridge at the IP, and 4 a/c dropped 10½ tons on the bridge nearest the town. 1 a/c jettisoned at 4622N-1944E; 1 e/c jettisoned just past the IP; 1 a/c jettisoned 1 bomb in the ADRIATIC.

31 a/c returned to base with mean landing time of 1355B.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 1 Sept 44, 28 a/c scheduled took off et 0715B to attack the SZAJOL M/Y, HUNGARY.

1 a/c returned early.

27 a/c over target at 1103B and 26 a/c dropped 65 tons of 500 lb GP from 20,200'. 1 a/c returned 2½ tons to base.

There were no encounters. 1 JU-88 was observed at 1200B at 4521N-2029E flying at 18,000'; 2,000' below the formation, and at right angles to the course of the formation. 1 FW-190 was observed at 1100B in the target area. This e/a came in high from 7 o'clock and closed to within 700 yards of the formation, breaking away without attacking. 4 unidentified a/c were observed at 1135B at 4606N-1940E.

27 a/c landed at base from 1322B to 1400B.

Route flown as briefed.

4. 465th Bomb Group. On 1 Supt 44, 28 a/c scheduled took off at 0736B to attack the SZOLNOK RR BRIDGE, HUNGARY.

There were no early returns. 1 a/c crashed after takeoff.

27 e/c over target at 1102B at 19,500' and 11 a/c dropped 27½ tons of 1,000 lb RDX bombs. 16 a/c dropped 40 tons of bombs on a RR Bridge at the town of MEXO TUR, the IP, at 1058B.

27 a/c landed at 1352B.

Route flown as briefed.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 1 Sept 44 at 0751B, 28 a/c scheduled took off to bomb SZAJOL M/Y.

1 a/c returned early.

27 a/c over target at 1103B. 25 a/c dropped 62½ tons of 500 lb GP at 21,100'. 2 a/c jettisoned 10 bombs each at 4705N-2010E at 1107B.

27 a/c landed, mean landing time 1342B.

Route flown as briefed.