

55BW Mission Summary No. 98, 5 Sept 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 5 Sept 44, between 0650-0700B, 93 scheduled B-24 a/c took off to bomb SZOB RR Bridge, HUNGARY. There was 1 early return. Group assemblies, line rendezvous, and Wing rendezvous were effected as ordered.

Fighter escort joined formation at 0925B et 4411N1656E and gave excellent cover, leaving formation at 1246B at 4211N1745E.

92 a/c were over target at 1050-1051B. 85 a/c dropped 208.5 tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs (.1N, non-delay T fusing) on Primary Target from 16,500-17,800', and 1 a/c, unable to release at Primary, dropped 2.5 tons on 1st Alternate Target, SUBOTICA M/Y. 6 sorties jettisoned 9.5 tons, 1 early return jettisoned 2.5 tons, and 4 sorties returned 7.5 tons of bombs to bases.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show the SZOB RR Bridge to be the center of the heaviest concentration of strikes. Numerous direct hits on the tracks of both approaches are visible. Additional strikes which are in the target area are obscured by smoke from previous bombing.

464 Gp - Photos show the SZOB RR Bridge with numerous strikes in the area of the bridge. One very near miss is visible on the east end of the bridge.

485 Gp - Photos show the SZOB RR Bridge to be obscured by smoke from previous bombing. The pattern of bomb strikes begins west of the target and continues across the target area. Several near misses are observed on the bridge but the smoke prevents complete assessment.

Reconnaissance photos show the bridge to have received a very near miss which may have caused blast damage. There is no structural damage evident. Both approaches to the bridge have all through tracks cut. The bridge is serviceable but the approaches will be out for several days.

No flak was encountered at target. SI-AH flak was encountered at TOKOD and TARDOS.

No e/a were seen nor encountered.

92 a/c were down at bases between 1333-1350B, none lost, none missing, none landed at friendly fields.

Route was flown as briefed.

Werther: Generally clear on route, a few altocumulus clouds over ADRIATIC, patches of cirrus and alto cirrus over DINARIC ALPS and

HUNGARIAN plains. Target clear, visibility 25 miles. Return, 8-10/10 stratocumulus over DINARIC ALPS tops 10-12,000'. 1/10 small cumulus at bases on return. Visibility generally unrestricted.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 5 Sept 44, at 0650B, 31 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the SZOB RR Bridge in HUNGARY.

Group assembly and Wing rendezvous were effected without incident. The fighter escort, P-51s, first sighted at 0956B at 4540N1710E, furnished penetration, target end withdrawal cover. They were last seen at 1150B at 4520N1930E.

1 a/c returned early. Bombs were jettisoned in the ADRIATIC.

From 16,800, 30 e/c were over the PT at 1050½B. 29 a/c dropped 72.5 tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs on the RR Bridge. 1 a/c failed to release bombs on the PT. This a/c went to the AT, the SUBOTICA M/Y and dropped 2.5 tons. Both attack units used PDI on bomb run.

No flak was encountered but SIH flak was observed at MOR 4723N1812E and TOVAROS 4740N1820E.

30 a/c returned to base with a mean landing time of 1340B.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 5 Sept 44, 31 scheduled a/c took off at 0700B to bomb SZOB RR Bridge, HUNGARY. Group assembly and Wing rendezvous were executed as planned and without incident.

31 a/c were over the target at 1050½B and 25 a/c dropped 62½ tons of 1000 lb RDX bombs from 15,500'. 6 a/c failed to drop on target. 8 tons were jettisoned, 7 tons were returned to base.

Recapitulation of bombs

Dropped on target	62.50 tons
Jettisoned	8.00 tons
Returned to base	7.00 tons
Total	77.50 tons

Target visibility was excellent and bombing was visual. The first attack unit bombed on PDI as the automatic pilot would not bank and was inoperative. The second attack unit used automatic pilot.

No flak defense was encountered at the target but S-MIH encountered between the IP and the target being variously reporting the following positions. TARDOS 4740N1827E and TOKOD 4743N1839E. E/a were observed.

Fighter escort was described as excellent with the 325th Fighter Group predominate. A/c from the 52nd and 332nd Fighter Gps were also observed. Escort was first observed at 0925B 4411NxxxxE and withdrawal was at 1246B 4241N1745E. 20-50 fighters being in the vicinity at all times.

31 a/c returned to this base landing between 1328 and 1340B.

4. 485th Bomb Group. On 5 Sept 44, at 0700B, 31 B-24 a/c scheduled took off to bomb SZOB RR Bridge, HUNGARY PT. Group assembly and Wing rendezvous were accomplished without incident.

30-40 P-51s joined the formation at 1000b at 4545N1711E providing penetration and target cover. They departed at 1040B at approximately 4241N1745E.

There were no early returns.

31 a/c were over the target at 1051B. 31 a/c dropped 73.5 tons of 1,000 lb RDX bombs at 17,800'. Two a/c jettisoned 6 bombs at 4748N1805E. 1 a/c returned 2 bombs to base.

No e/a were encountered or seen. There was no flak at the target.

Near the IP, at 4747N1845E, SIH to SAH flak was encountered.

31 a/c landed, mean landing time 1350B.