

55BW Mission Summary No. 99, 6 Sept 44 (Cont'd).

1. General Summary. On 6 Sept 44, between 0655-0716B, 115 B-24 a/c were scheduled and 117 a/c took off to bomb the NYIREGYHAZA (HUNGARY) M/Y. There were 5 early returns.

Group assemblies and line rendezvous were effected as ordered. Wing rendezvous was effected late because one Group was 2 minutes early at rendezvous point.

Fighter a/c were first seen at 0940B at 4446N1800E; furnished excellent cover, and remained with formation until 1400B at 4250N1652E.

112 a/c were over target at 1112-1114½B, 111 a/c dropped 274 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs, fused .1N, .025T on Primary Target from 15,100-16,500'. 3 sorties jettisoned 2 tons, 2 early returns jettisoned 3 tons, 4 sorties returned 4 tons, and 4 early returns brought back 9.5 tons of bombs to bases.

Results:

460 Gp - Photos show the NYIREGYHAZA M/Y to have received a concentration of bombs in the roundhouse area. Numerous direct hits were scored on the roundhouse and the turntable. Several hits were scored on the tracks in the roundhouse area.

464 Gp - Photos show the NYIREGYHAZA M/Y with the majority of the bombs striking the center of the yard. Additional strikes fell in a barracks area southwest of the marshalling yard.

465 Gp - Photos show the NYIREGYHAZA M/Y to have received a heavy concentration of strikes in the center of the yard. Numerous hits were scored on the good wagons and tracks in that area.

485 Gp - Photos show the NYIREGYHAZA M/Y to have received a heavy concentration of strikes in the north portion of the yard. Numerous direct hits were scored on the tracks in the area of the north choke point. Additional strikes fell in the area of the warehouses adjacent to the Marshalling yard.

Damage is expected to have been severe. The center of the marshalling yard received numerous hits and all through tracks are expected to have been cut. A large percentage of the goods wagons present are believed to have been destroyed or damaged. The roundhouse is probably practically destroyed and the turntable heavily damaged or destroyed.

Flak at target was nil. SIH was encountered at IP. SAH at 4300N1907E, and SIH at 4326N1652E.

No e/a were encountered. 2-10 e/a were seen.

111 a/c were down at bases between 1434-1445B. There were no losses, no a/c is missing; 1 a/c landed at a friendly field.

Route was flown as briefed.

Weather: On route, 8/10 alto cumulus over ADRIATIC and 3/10 cirrostratus over YUGOSLAVIA and HUNGARY. Target 1/10 cirrus, visibility 25 miles. Return, 4-6/10 stratocumulus, visibility 10-15 miles.

2. 460th Bomb Group. On 6 Sept 44, at 0700B, 31 scheduled a/c were dispatched to bomb the NYIREGYHAZA M/Y, HUNGARY.

The Group formed without incident but the scheduled rendezvous was not accomplished due to the 485 being 2 minutes early. 460 joined Wing formation at 0816B, 5 miles out of SPINAZZOLA. The fighter escort, P-51s, first sighted at 1000B at 4538N1830E, furnished penetration, target and withdrawal cover. They left the formation at 1330B at 4312N1640E.

From 15,500', 31 a/c dropped 77 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs on the PT. at 1114½B. 2 a/c returned 2 bombs to base, Both attack units used the auto pilot on the bomb run.

No flak was encountered over the target, but SIH flak was experienced between the IP and the target. 3 e/a were observed on the mission. There were no encounters.

31 a/e returned to base with a mean landing time of 1435B.

3. 464th Bomb Group. On 6 Sept 44, 28 scheduled a/c together with 2 spares, took off at 0655B to bomb NYIREGYHAZA, (HUNGARY) M/Y. Group assembly and Wing rendezvous were executed without incident. 1 spare returned.

29 a/c were over the target at 1112B (briefed 1100B) and 28 a/c drop 68 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs from 16,200'. 1 a/c returned 2 tons to base; 1 a/c jettisoned } ton and returned 3/4 ton to base. The returning spare brought back 2½ tons.

#### Recapitulation of Bomb Disposition

Dropped on target	58 tons
Jettisoned	1 tons
Returned to base by a/c over target	3.5 tons
Returned by spare a/c	2.5 tons

Bombing was visual, 1st attack unit used C-1; 2nd used PDI.

There was no flak at target; SIH flak was encountered at the IP 4802N 2122E which was generally below the formation.

10 FW-190s were observed at 1136B at 4705N2122E low at 1500' and about 10 miles from the formation in the 4 o'clock position. 1 ME-109 was reported at 1134B at 16,600'.

Fighter escort consisting of Fighters of the 52nd, 325th and 332nd Fighter Groups furnished very close cover to and from the target. The rendezvous with the fighters was earlier than planned taking place at 0940B at 4446N1800E when 16 P-51s of the 52nd Fighter Group were first sighted. The escort was last observed at 1400B over the ADRIATIC at 4250N1632E.

29 a/c landed at this base between 1423 and 1445B.

4. 465th Bomb Group; 28 a/c were scheduled and took off at 0715B, 6 Sept 44 to bomb NYIREGYHAZA M/Y. Group assembly and Wing rendezvous was satisfactory. There were 2 early returns which jettisoned 2 bombs off DRAC Island and returned remainder of bombs to base. P-51s joined at 1000B at OSIJEK and provided penetration, target cover, and withdrawal cover, and left bombers at 1325B at YUGO coast.

SIH flak was observed near the IP. No e/a were seen or encountered.

26 a/c went over the target at 1112B at 15,100' and dropped 64 tons of 500 lb GP bombs. 1 a/c jettisoned 4 bombs 15 mi. SE of target. The 1st attack unit used A-5; the 2nd dropped by PDI. 1 a/c made an emergency landing at a friendly field and returned at 1845D.

Tons dropped on target	64
Tons jettisoned by sortie a/c	1
Tons jettisoned by E/R	½
Tons returned by E/R	4½
Total	70

25 a/c landed at 1445B.

5. 485th Bomb Group. On 6 Sept 44, at 0716B, 28 B-24 a/c scheduled took off to bomb the NYIREGYHAZA M/Y, HUNGARY. Group assembly and Wing rendezvous were satisfactory.

Approximately 30 P-51s joined the formation at 1000B at 4530N1840E. They provided close cover over the target and on return to the YUGO coast, departing at 1330B at 4312N1640E.

There were 2 early returns. 1 a/c turned back at 1027B. 10 bombs were jettisoned at 1055B on an A/D at 4545N1907E. This a/c encountered SAH flak at 4300N1700E and received several indirect hits. 1 a/c turned back at 0923B. 10 bombs were returned to base. This a/c encountered SIH flak for 45 seconds at 4326M1652E, but was not damaged.

26 a/c were over the target at 1114 $\frac{1}{2}$ 3 (briefed 1100B). 26 a/c dropped 65 tons of 500 lb RDX bombs from 16,500'. The lead bombardier, being unable to see the briefed aiming point, synchronized on a row of shop buildings on course and slightly short of the briefed aiming point.

No flak was encountered over the target. At the IP 4802N2122E, SIH flak was encountered for 1 minute. No e/a were encountered. 2 ME-109s were observed to have been destroyed by P-51s. at 4710N2110E.

26 a/c landed, mean landing time 1440B.