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AN OPERATIONAL HISTORY OF THE FIRST 100 MISSIONS OF THE 455TH BOMB GRP. (H)

HEADQUARTERS
455TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
AWARDS AND DECORATIONS OFFICE
APO 520 U.S. Army

ITALY
1 November 1944

In compiling the data contained in this volume, many officers and enlisted men of the Group Headquarters have contributed long hours of their off-duty time. I want particularly to express my thanks to Sergeant Byron Hutchins for his splendid work in preparing the typed material; to Sergeant Walter Benson for his photo copy work; to Captain Clarence Wilson and Staff Sergeant Jacob Oliker for reconnaissance photos; to Major Alvin E. Coons and his men of the S-2 Section for Bomb-fall plots and technical data concerning the missions; to Private Earl Gallatin and Staff Sergeant Anthony Spiak for their work in mimeographing; and to the men of the photo section for the many hours spent in preparing the photos used.

In making the history outlined in this volume many combat crew-men have made the supreme sacrifice. It is to these men, who day after day fought their way to their targets through opposition from weather, enemy flak, and enemy aircraft, and unfailingly completed the duties assigned them that this operational history is dedicated.

Edwin S. Harris

EDWIN S. HARRIS,
Captain, Air Corps.

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BOMBS AWAY!!!
THE FIRST 100 MISSIONS
455th BOMB GROUP H.
COPENHAGEN
ZEALAND
Hamburg
BERLIN
Hannover
Magdeburg
Leipzig
Dresden
Chemnitz
PRAGUE
WARSAW
Königsberg
Danzig
Minsk
Stettin
Rostock
Kiel
Lübeck
Bremen
Dortmund
Frankfurt
Nürnberg
Stuttgart
Munich
Strasbourg
Mulhouse
Zürich
BERNE
Lyons
Marseilles
Toulon
Nice
Genoa
Turin
Milan
Venice
Trieste
Padua
Verona
Bologna
Rimini
Ancona
Pescara
Leghorn
Pisa
Lucca
Parma
Modena
Ferrara
Mantua
Pavia
Alessandria
Savona
Bastia
CORSICA
Barcelona
Tarragona
Montpellier
Cannes
Monaco
Avignon
Grenoble
Besançon
Dijon
Metz
Nancy
Reims
Lille
Brussels
Antwerp
Rotterdam
Amsterdam
The Hague
Cologne
Düsseldorf
Essen
Kassel
Hanover
Brunswick
Wolfsburg
Potsdam
Cottbus
Frankfurt
Posen
Poznan
Bydgoszcz
Gdynia
Danzig
Königsberg
Tilsit
Kaunas
Memel
Bialystok
Grodno
Brest-Litovsk
Lublin
Lodz
Kalisz
Breslau
Wroclaw
Katowice
Krakow
Przemysl
Lwow
Tarnopol
Stanislawow
Czernowitz
Kolomea
Stryj
Drohobycz
Boryslaw
Sambor
Lemberg
Jaroslaw
Tarnow
Rzeszow
Debica
Mielec
Sandomierz
Radom
Kielce
Ostrowiec
Skarzysko
Tomaszow Maz.
Pabianice
Lodz
Zgierz
Leczyca
Skierniewice
Sochaczew
Plock
Mlawa
Ciechanow
Przasnysz
Ostrow
Lomza
Grajewo
Suwalki
Augustow
Sokolka
Bialystok
Slonim
Baranowicze
Pinsk
Brest-Litovsk
Kobrin
Kovel
Lutsk
Rovno
Dubno
Ostrog
Shepetovka
Zhitomir
Berdichev
Kazatin
Vinnitsa
Khmelnik
Mogilev
Orsha
Vitebsk
Polotsk
Smolensk
Gomel
Bobruisk
Slutsk
Pinsk
Kovel
Rovno
Lutsk


PARIS
ZURICH
NICE

MISSION NUMBER 1 — 12 February 1944.

The target was supply dumps and bivouac areas along the road between CAMPOLEONE and CECCHINA, ITALY. This area was heavily defended with anti-aircraft. Enemy fighters were in the area in unknown numbers. The bomb line was approximately 3 miles south of the town of CAPOLEONE.

At 1324 hours, 41 B-24's took off. Four A/C returned early, three due to mechanical failures and one because it lost the formation in the overcast. 35 A/C returned to home base at 1725 hours. One A/C landed at POMPEII and one at BARI. One A/C jettisoned 10 X 500 lb. G.P. bombs before landing because of difficulty with nose wheel. 380 X 500 lb. G.P. bombs were brought back to base.

No bombs were dropped as the target was completely overcast.

Two A/C, thought to be FW-190's, were seen in the distance at 1420 hours west of PONZA Island.

The aiming point for the lead ship was the R.R. junction at CAMPOLEONE. Each successive leader ½ miles north. Each leader was to sight for range and deflection, all others for range only. Intervolometer setting 390 feet. I.A.S. for bombing 160 MPH.

GROUP LEADER	Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Hugh R. Graff
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain David S. Thayer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	Captain Jack D. Reeder
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	None
ESCORT	None
BOMBS	10-500 pound demolition Nose fusing - .1 sec. Tail fusing - .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds

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MISSION NUMBER 2 17 February 1944

The German Commander Kesselring shows every determination to exert a maximum pressure against the Allied forces south of ROME, and especially to drive the Allied forces in the beach-head into the sea. It is against this pressure that all units of the 15th Air Force will make a maximum, all out effort, given favorable weather. From dawn to dusk a maximum number of sorties in close support of our troops will be flown to the limit of our capabilities. While 5 groups of B-24's of the 47th Wing are making a concentrated attack on one of the most active and vital of German communication points, the PADOVA M/Y, a maximum B-17's and fighters of the 5th Wing are standing by to make 2 sorties each against the German forces operating against the Allied beach-head in the ROME area.

In the early evening of 15 February there was constant traffic south-east on the ROME-FROSINONE road and south in the ARCE-SORA area and on 16 February there was light scattered movement on the roads to and from the beach-head. Indications are of a very heavy enemy attack coming from northwest of beach-head.

Maximum B-24's of three groups of this Wing will attack three targets in the battle area in close support of our ground forces. All three groups will stand by for assignment of an additional mission during the day.

The target was troop concentrations near GROTTO-FERATA and FADETE. Enemy fighters were known to be in the beach-head area in unknown numbers. The bomb line was 3 miles south of CAPOLEONE.

At 0915 hours 27 B-24's took off, 4 of which returned early. 22 A/C dropped on the target at 1122 hours from 20,000 feet. One A/C jettisoned bombs at sea. 21 A/C returned at 1237 hours, one A/C landing at a friendly field. No enemy aircraft or flak reported.

The majority of bombs fell in the target area. A cluster of 24 bombs fell 1½ miles NE of FRASCATI and a few scattered bombs fell just to the east of the town. One string struck 3/4 miles SW of target area, scoring one hit on a single track RR line running from FRASCATI to ROME.

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MISSION NUMBER 3 22 February 1944

The most decisive air action of this War is now in progress. All Allied Air Forces will continue to operate at maximum effort until the German Air Force is driven from the sky. Only extreme weather conditions can prevent the Fifteenth Air Force from participating.

ZARA, target for this group, is an Italian held port in the Yugoslavian coast and is an important point for supply of German troops in the Balkans. Supplies come down the coast from TRIESTE and FIUME, usually in small craft and generally at night.

Partisans are reported to have ousted the Germans from OTOCAK and GRANCANICA, and to be advancing down the DOROJ - TUZLA railroad line, wrecking it enroute.

Four (4) heavy dual-purpose batteries comprise the defenses of this area. On 17 January, B-24's encountered moderate, inaccurate, heavy flak here.

Our group will bomb the harbor and installations at ZARA, YUGOSLAVIA. The primary purpose is to divert fighters from the PO VALLEY, where they are located in force. The aiming point for the lead wave are the docks and installations on the main-land. Aiming point for the second wave are the docks and installations to the west.

At 0830 hours 39 B-24's took off, one returning early. 37 A/C bombed the target at 1147 hours from 19,500 to 21,000 feet. One A/C jettisoned its bombs at sea. No flak or enemy aircraft encountered.

Large strings of bombs fell in a southwesterly direction starting in the bay to the northwest of the city and carrying through to the port and main part of city. Many hits were made in port area and in the built-up area on the peninsula as well as in city on the mainland. Scale of photos prevents specific determination of damage.

GROUP LEADER	Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Harp, Jr.
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain William E. Keefer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Wayne Smith
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	None
ESCORT	None
BOMBS	10-500 pound G.P. bombs Nose fusing .1 sec. Tail fusing .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds

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304 BOMB WING (U.S) A-2 SECTION

ZARA YUGOSLAVIA

BOMB FALL PLOT 455 BOMB GROUP

MISSION NO. 3 FEB. 22 1944 1147 HRS.
∴ BOMB BURSTS ALT. 19,500 – 21,000 FUSING .IN. .025T
BOMBS DROPPED 362 x 500 G.P. BOMBS PLOTTED 172



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MISSION NUMBER 4 25 February 1944

Target for this group is the GRAZ THALERHOFF AIRDROME. This target is the most important German Air Force fighter airdrome known in southern Austria. Recent coverage photos show from 20 to 35 S/E fighters, probably Me-109's. There are extensive hangars and installations on the airdrome suitable for assembly, and ground sources indicate that Me-109's are being assembled there. Destruction of the installations would further cripple German Air Force production as well as destroy finished aircraft.

Since the primary purpose of our effort is to provide diversion for forces attacking REGENSBURG, it is necessary that every effort be made to reach GRAZ area even if overcast. All units will adhere to routes and times to assure complete success of diversionary effort. This is a coordinated attack with the Eighth Air Force and briefed crews may expect snow enroute and at the target.

At 0842 hours, 37 B-24's took off, 3 A/C returning early. 31 A/C dropped bombs on the target at 1205 hours from 21,000 to 23,000 feet. 3 A/C jettisoned their bombs. One A/C, with engine trouble, left formation and is missing, last seen near 46° 02'N - 15° 40'E. 30 A/C returned at 1420 hours.

E/A were active before and after the bomb run. 15 to 20 fighters, including Me-109's, FW-190's, and JU-88's, in the vicinity of the target flew parallel to the formation but did not press attack. 2 FW-190's and 2 Me-110's attacked over the target, diving on the second wave of the formation from above at 10 o'clock. Moderate, inaccurate and heavy flak was reported just before the I.P.

The wooded area was well covered and hits were made on hangars to the east of the target. A large concentration of bombs fell in the SE corner of A/D, covering several buildings. A cluster of bombs were observed straddling the hangars on west side of the field.

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GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Harp, Jr.
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace W. Lanford, Jr.
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt James W. Knight
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	454th and 456th
ESCORT	None
BOMBS	10-500 pound demolition
	Nose fusing - .1 sec.
	Tail fusing - .01 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
A/C MISSING IN ACTION	One - Lt Cleland, 740th
E/A DESTROYED IN AIR	One probable

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MISSION NUMBER 5 — 2 March 1944

The beach-head at Anzio is being heavily attacked by the enemy and the situation is critical. Enemy aircraft number over 60 in the ROME area.

The target is the town of CISTERNA, ITALY. The aiming point is the south edge of the town

At 0835 hours, 39 B-24's took off, 6 A/C returning early. 30 A/C dropped their bombs on target at 1106 hours from 21,500 to 22,500 feet. 3 A/C jettisoned their bombs in the sea. 33 A/C returned at 1228 hours. No fighters were encountered. Flak at the target was moderate to intense and heavy.

The bombs covered the western part of the town starting southeast of the railroad station. They cover the station area and a large sector east of the road to VELLETRI well north-west of CISTERNA and extend across this road for about 1,500 feet. Small scale of photos prevent exact estimation of damage.

GROUP LEADER	Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Hugh R. Graff
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major David S. Thayer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Earl R. Howsam
ESCORT	P-37's and P-38's in area
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	454th, 456th, and 459th
BOMBS	20 clusters of frag bombs, instantaneous and fusing
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds

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MISSION NUMBER 6 — 3 March 1944

Maximum B-24's of all Groups of the 304th Wing are bombing airdromes in Central Italy.

Our group will attack the airdrome and dispersal area of FABRICA DI ROMA, ITALY. Enemy fighters may be encountered in the ROME section.

At 0845 hours 35 B-24's took off, 5 A/C returning early. 30 A/C dropped bombs on the target at 1130 hours from 20,000 feet. No E/A were encountered and there was no flak at the target.

No aircraft were destroyed by the bombing. Approximately 8 or 10 craters were made in the landing strip but landing grounds still serviceable. One string of bombs fell across western end of landing area.

GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	1st Lt Henry C. Kelly
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Alvin I. Fisher
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	P-47's
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound demolition
	Nose fusing .1 sec.
	Tail fusing .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds

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MISSION NUMBER 7 7 March 194.

All groups of the 304th Wing will attack airdromes in Central Italy. Our group will attack the airdrome and dispersal area of FABRICA DI ROMA AIRDROME, ITALY. Enemy fighters may be encountered in ROME AND FIRENZE sections.

At 0840 hours 37 B-24's took off, one A/C returning early. Area escort provided by P-47's. 36 A/C dropped on the target at 1145 hours from 21,000 feet. No flak or enemy fighters seen at the target.

A string of approximately 20 bombs are seen bursting in a northwesterly direction starting in the center of the landing ground. Small scale photos prevent statement as to whether any aircraft were hit or damaged. 155 bombs are seen bursting on both sides of the Tiber River approximately 8 miles east of the target.

GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Horace W. Lanford
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Myles L. Walter
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	None
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound demolition Nose fusing .1 sec. Tail fusing .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2300 gallons of gas

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MISSION NUMBER 8 — 15 March 1944

Enemy ground forces have caused a stalemate in ground operations at CASSINO and BEACHHEAD areas. Maximum B-17's will attack "A" Section of CASSINO. Maximum B-24's of all groups of the 304th Wing will attack and destroy the "B" area of CASSINO Town. A few enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area. Ground forces will make a full tactical effort against the enemy immediately after our bombing efforts.

At 0926 hours 40 B-24's took off, none returned early. 34 A/C dropped on the target at 1055 hours from 15,000 feet. 1 A/C dropped with the 456th after joining their formation by mistake. 5 A/C bombed VALLEROTONDA Town by mistake. 40 A/C returned at 1120 hours.

44 bomb strikes were plotted in two strings, one 4,000 feet and the other 7,000 feet east of CASSINO. No damage is apparent. 14 bomb bursts are observed in unindentified open ground not in CASSINO area.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Bernard M. Keogh
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	None
ESCORT	None - P-38's top cover in target area.
BOMB LOAD	Six 1000 pound G.P. Nose fusing .1 sec. Tail fusing .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2300 gallons of gas

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MISSION NUMBER 9 — 17 March 1944

Maximum groups of B-24's of this Wing will attack and destroy the aircraft plant and parked aircraft at BAD VOSLAU AIRDROME. It is possible to kill 100 fighters on the ground at this target. Enemy fighters may be encountered over Yugoslavia.

At 0855 hours, 39 B-24's took off to bomb BAD VOSLAU, AUSTRIA, escorted by P-38's. 5 A/C returned early. 32 A/C dropped on the secondary target at VIENNA, AUSTRIA at 1304 hours from 23,000 feet. The area was completely overcast so bombing was on ETA. One A/c returned bombs and one jettisoned in the sea. 34 A/C returned at 1535 hours. No fighters were encountered. Flak was heavy, moderate and accurate over the target.

Results were unobserved due to complete overcast.

GROUP LEADER	Major Hugh R. Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Robert L. Cook
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	P-38's in, P-47's out
BOMB LOAD	40-100 pound M-47 incendiary
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2700 gallons of gas

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MISSION NUMBER 10 — 18 March 1944

All groups of this Wing will attack the MANIAGO Airdrome, Italy. Enemy fighters may be encountered. There will be no fighter escort.

At 0810 hours, 39 B-24's took off without escort. 2 A/C returned early and 2 A/C returned prior. 35 A/C dropped frag bombs on the target at 1108 hours from 22,000 to 23,000 feet. 35 A/C returned at 1337 hours. No enemy fighters were encountered. No flak at the target.

Bomb pattern of the first section was short and to the left but extending into aiming point. Target believed well covered by remainder of Group. Hits were made on the runway and in revetment area. 5 enemy fighters were destroyed on the ground.

GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major William E. Keefer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Wayne Smith
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	None
BOMB LOAD	20-120 pound frags Fusing instantaneous
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2300 gallons of gas
E/A DESTROYED ON GROUND	5

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MISSION NUMBER 11 — 19 March 1944

Maximum available B-24's of all Groups of this Wing will attack and destroy STEYR-DAIMLER PUCH A/C Factory, at STEYR, AUSTRIA. 50 to 60 twin-engine fighters may be encountered in the area of FIUME.

At 1000 hours 40 B-24's took off to bomb STEYR-DAIMLER PUCH A/C factory but attacked the secondary target, GRAZ THALERHOF A/D, AUSTRIA because the wing formation leader turned off the primary. Escort was provided by 16 P-38's from BOS NOVI, YUGOSLAVIA, to the target area. No escort was provided on return. 4 A/C returned early and 36 A/C dropped their bombs at 1339 from 21,000 to 22,000 feet. The flak at the target was moderate, heavy and inaccurate. 34 A/C returned at 1545 hours. 2 A/C collided in mid-air on the return trip.

Eight Me-109's made a pass at the formation from above coming down over the lead ship of the second element in F Box. One E/A was destroyed and another probably destroyed.

Two strings of bombs were seen bursting in open fields 20 miles SSE of GRAZ THALEROF A/D. No damage resulted to the target.

GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain David G. Bellemere
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Russell J. Welsh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Julio C. Locatelli
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	454th, 455th, 459th
ESCORT	1 group P-47's and 1 group P-38's to cover withdrawal
BOMB LOAD	40-100 pound incendiaries
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2300 gallons of gas
E/A CLAIMS	1 destroyed, 1 probably
E/A ENCOUNTERED	8 Me-109's
A/C MISSING	2 A/C, #296, and #497, collided on return trip. Lt. Lundwall, 740th Lt. Pidcock, 740th 20 men killed in action

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MISSION NUMBER 12 22 March 1944

Enemy ground forces are attempting to move critical supplies by rail through Northern ITALY to their ground forces in the battle line. Troops are also moving through the marshalling yards.

All available B-24's of this Wing will attack VERONA East M/Y. One group of P-38's will escort. 100 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 1150 hours, 41 B-24's took off to bomb VERONA East M/Y, ITALY, escorted by P-38's. 7 A/C returned early and 1 A/C returned prior. 32 A/C dropped on BOLOGNA M/Y, ITALY, at 1615 hours from 20,500 to 21,500 feet because primary target was blanketed with cloud cover. 1 A/C dropped on RIMINI, ITALY. 33 A/C returned at 1753 hours. Flak at the target was moderate, inaccurate, and heavy. 2 Me-109's passed under formation from 1100 o'clock but did not attack.

There were 19 strikes in the area southeast of the main station with possible hits on warehouses. There were about 5 hits in the trackage area at the main station. There were 43 additional hits in area east of the large roundhouse with little damage resulting.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Hugh R. Graff
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt James W. Knight
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	2 groups P-38's
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound G.P.
	Nose fusing .1 sec.
	Tail fusing .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2700 gallons of gas
E/A ENCOUNTERED	2 Me-109's

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MISSION NUMBER 13 24 March 1944

The target is the STEYR-DAIMLER PUCH A/C factory at STEYR, AUSTRIA. 50 to 60 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 0810 hours, 35 B-24's took off to bomb the STEYR-DAIMLER PUCH A/C factory but weather forced them to turn back. 1 returned early. 32 A/C dropped on the RIMINI M/Y, ITALY at 1240 hours from 20,000 to 21,000 feet. 2 A/C jettisoned bombs at sea. 31 A/C returned at 1350 hours. Flak at the target was slight, inaccurate, and heavy. No E/A were encountered. The attack units bombed separately.

The main concentration of bursts were found in two east-west strings extending inland about 1½ miles. The first string lay across south-eastern edge of town about 3/4 quarters of a mile from the marshalling yards. The second string extends 1½ miles south of the marshalling yards.

GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Harp, Jr.
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace W. Lanford
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Clyde P. Brunson
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	1 group P-38's in and 2 groups P-38's out
BOMB LOAD	40-100 pound incendiaries
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2700 gallons of gas

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MISSION NUMBER 14 — 26 March 1944

Maximum B-24's of this wing will attack and destroy the STEYR DAIMLER PUCH AIRCRAFT Factory. 250 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 0815 hours, 38 B-24's took off to bomb STEYR-DAIMLER PUCH A/C Factory. 2 A/C returned early and 6 A/C returned prior to bombing. 19 A/C dropped bombs on the target of opportunity, RIMINI, ITALY at 1231 hours from 17,000 feet. The formation was unable to proceed to primary and alternate targets because of weather. 9 A/C returned bombs and 2 A/C jettisoned, after becoming separated from the formation. 19 A/C returned at 1345 hours. No E/A were encountered and flak at RIMINI was slight, inaccurate, and heavy.

Bombs were dropped in western area of town of RIMINI one to one and a half miles southwest of M/Y. No military damage.

GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambro on
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major William E. Peifer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Harry J. Prosser
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	3 groups of P-38's and 1 group of P-47's
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound G.P. Nose fusing .1 sec. Tail fusing .025 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2700 gallons of gas

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MISSION NUMBER 15

28 March 1944
VERONA M/Y. ITALY

Maximum B-24's of all groups of this wing will attack and destroy VERONA EAST M/Y, ITALY escorted by one group of P-38's. 40 to 50 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 0900 hours, 38 B-24's took off to bomb the VERONA EAST M/Y. 17 A/C returned early. the 1st attack unit became lost from the formation in heavy clouds and turned back. 21 A/C dropped on the target at 1228 hours from 19,000 to 20,000 feet. 21 A/C returned at 1430 hours. Flak at the target was intense, accurate and heavy.

20 to 30 Me-109's were seen in the target area. 14 of these made individual attacks but did not press them, as they broke off at about 1,200 yards. P-38's closed in to prevent further attacks. 8 E/A were seen to go down and 1 P-38.

The yards sustained at least 25 direct hits and damage inflicted on stock and railway facilities. Locomotive and repair shops were again hit.

GROUP LEADER	Major David S. Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Russell J. Welsh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Robert C. Christenson
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 456th, 459th
ESCORT	one group of P-38's
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound G.P.
	Nose fusing .1 sec.
	Tail fusing .01 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2700 gallons of gas

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MISSION NUMBER 16 29 March 1944

Maximum B-24's of all groups of this Wing will attack the MILAN / LAMBRATE - SERRIATE M/Y, escorted by one group of P-38's. 50 to 70 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 0830 hours, 40 B-24's took off. 1 returned early and 1 returned prior. 38 A/C dropped on the primary target at 1224 hours from 22,000 to 23,000 feet. 38 A/C returned at 1430 hours. No enemy A/C seen or encountered and no flak at the target.

A good concentration of bombs covered the well stocked M/Y from east end to 3,000 feet west of the seaplane basin. Trackage, rolling stock facilities received severe damage.

GROUP LEADER	Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain David G. Bellemere
SECOND SECTION LEADER	1st Lt Lawrence F. Liberty
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Myles L. Walter
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION	454th, 455th, 459th
ESCORT	one group of P-38's
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound G.P.
	Nose fusing .1 sec.
	Tail fusing .01 sec.
AMMUNITION	5200 rounds
FUEL LOAD	2700 gallons of gas

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 17 30 March 1944

Groups of this Wing will attack the industrial center of SOFIA, escorted by one group of P-38's. 60 to 70 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 0730 hours, 36 B-24's took off to bomb SOFIA, one returning early and two returning prior. 19 A/C dropped on what was believed to be the primary target at 1006 hours from 21,500 to 22,500 feet. 5/10 to 7/10 undercast made identification of the target difficult. 13 A/C, making up the second attack unit, did not bomb because of non-identification of the target. These A/C returned their bombs to base. 33 A/C returned at 1307 hours. No fighters encountered and flak at the target was moderate to intense, heavy, and accurate.

No observations were made of bomb results because of heavy cloud cover. The lead navigator caught one glimpse of a fairly large city and an airfield and the bombardier picked up the city in his sights and set it for rate. Clouds then covered the city. Heavy flak began coming up through the overcast and the bombardier ran out the rate and dropped bombs. The second attack unit, which had not seen the city, did not drop its bombs. The city was not positively identified but the intensity of the flak indicates that the target may have been SOFIA, though it is believed that bombs may have fallen short.

GROUP LEADER	Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND SECTION LEADER	1st Lt Richard A. Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt John W. Nash
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ..	454th, 456th, 459th
LEAD NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Fred A. Gross
LEAD BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Harold Z. Ohlmeyer
BOMB LOAD	40-100 pound M-47 incendiaries

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MISSION NUMBER 18 2 April 1944

The target is STEYR-DAIMLER PUCH A/C Factory, in AUSTRIA. The secondary target is KLAGENFURT A/D. 61 heavy flak guns may be expected at the primary target. 175 to 200 single-engine and 40 to 50 twin-engine enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area.

At 0755 hours, 35 B-24's took off escorted by P-38's. 1 A/C returned early and 3 A/C returned prior. 30 A/C dropped on the STEYR WALZLAGERWERKE at 1218 hours from 21,000 to 22,000 feet. Decision to bomb the above installation was made because a low cumulus cloud covered the STEYR DAIMLER-PUCH A/C Factory. Also the lead A/C, flying at an indicated air speed of 150 mph, could not lose ground with reference to the group ahead. This group was stepped down in depth so that the first box of the 455th Group, which had a briefed bombing altitude of 21,740 feet, could not slide under and clear the ships ahead. The group could not lose altitude because of the presence of B-17's which had cut across beneath the formation. The WALZ-LAGERWERKE to the right of the briefed target was plainly visible and had not been hit as yet. Consequently a hasty decision was made to make the bomb run on it rather than the briefed target. 26 A/C returned at 1500 hours. 4 A/C were lost. Flak was intense, heavy and accurate.

75 to 80 enemy fighters attacked the group 15 miles west of GRAZ and continued the attacks until the target area. Most of these were Me-109's, FW-190's, and Me-110's. 20 to 25 Me-210's and JU-88's attacked the formation while making the bomb run. Large groups of S/E fighters picked up the formation and attacked on the return trip. 27 enemy fighters were destroyed, 17 were probably destroyed, and 3 were damaged to a loss of 4 of our bombers.

Hits were observed on buildings and installations and at least one explosion and resulting fire was reported. Later reconnaissance photos showed complete destruction of the ball-bearing plant.

Collection of Garrett Bragg

Steyr, Austria

Collection of Garrett Bragg

304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

YR - DAIMLER - PUCH (AERO ENGINE WORKS) STEYR AU

BOMB FALL PLOT 2/4/44 455 BG

N NO. 18 1218 HRS. ALT. 21,000-22,000 FUSING .I

G POINT BOMBS DROPPED 300 x 500 GP BOMBS PLOTTED



Collection of Garrett Bragg


STEYRWAFFEN
FLUGMOTORENFABRIK
WALZLAGERWERK
(STEYR, AUSTRIA)
ATTACKED APRIL 2ND, 1944
APRIL 26
2
3
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MISSION NUMBER 19 — 3 April 1944

Each group of this wing will attack and destroy the North-half of BUDAPEST MAIN M/Y. One group of P-38's will give escort on the withdrawal from the target. 71 heavy anti-aircraft guns are in the target area and 150 single-einge and 50 to 60 twin-engine fighters may be encountered.

At 0715 hours, 34 B-24's took off escorted by P-47's and P-38's. 3 A/C returned early and 3 A/C returned prior. 28 A/C dropped on the primary target at 1109 hours from 20,500 to 21,500 feet. 28 A/C returned at 1345 hours. Personnel casualties were one bombardier killed and a navigator seriously wounded by flak. One pilot and four gunners received slight wounds. Flak was intense, heavy and accurate.

One unescorted A/C returning to base prior to bombing was attacked by one ME-109. Gunners claim it was hit. Two ME-210's flew with the formation over the target but stayed out of range.

Bombs fell to the west and south with none in the target area. A string of bombs carried into oil refinery located to the north of M/Y's. Scattered hits on unidentified industrial installations to south of yards. Hits in residential area 4,000 yards south of target.

GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Harp, [illegible].
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambros[illegible]
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Jack D. Saino
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	454th, 456th, 459th
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound G.P. Nose fusing .1 sec. Tail fusing .025 sec.
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES	1 fatal - bombardier, flak 1 serious - navigator, flak 5 slight - flak wounds

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Fagg


UDAPEST/FERENCVAROS M/Y
TACKED ON 3 APRIL 1944 BY 15th AIR FORCE
P.R.W. D.B. 45. 12 APRIL 1944
3
4
5

MISSION NUMBER 20 4 April 19[illegible]4

Each group of this Wing will attack and destroy the BUCHAREST M/Y and RR repair facilities. 90 anti-aircraft guns may be expected in target area and 205 enemy fighters may be encountered in the target area, as well as 42 enroute.

At 1011 hours 36 B-24's took off escorted by P-38's. 1 A/C returned early and 1 returned prior. 34 A/C dropped on the primary at 1414 hours from 19,500 foot. 34 A/C returned at 1726 hours. Flak was moderate, inaccurate and heavy, barrage type.

15 to 20 ME-109's and FW-190's made two unaggressive passes at formation but the formation fired upon them and they were driven off. The wing destroyed 16 E/A on this mission and the 459th lost 1 A/C.

The target was partially obscured by smoke, probably from previous bombings, but strings of bombs cut directly across the M/Y and many hits were observed on main-line trackage, rolling stock, railroad repair buildings, and the round house.

GROUP LEADER	Lt-Col Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND SECTION LEADER	1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Harry J. Prosser
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain James E. Moeller
OTHER GROUPS ON MISSION ...	454th, 456th, 459th
BOMB LOAD	10-500 pound G.P. Nose fusing .1 sec. Tail fusing .025 sec.
E/A DESTROYED IN AIR	1 E/A, Me-109
E/A ENCOUNTERED	15 to 20 E/A

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BUCHAREST CENTRAL
M.A.P.R.W. D.B 41. 7.44
ATTACKED · 4·4·44.
N
12
7
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8
10
B

MISSION NUMBER 21 7 April 1944

Photo reconnaissance shows that the blocks in the rail lines South of FLORENCE are having effects. Large increases of rolling stock in the yards at PARMA, BOLOGNA, AND TREVISO and train lengths in several small yards along the MILAN-RIMINI line suggest that inbound traffic from the MODANE, RIVIERA, BRENNER and TARVISIO lines is unable to proceed South.

469 B-24's and B-17's of the 15th A.F. were dispatched to attack Marshalling Yards at TREVISO, MESTRE, BOLOGNA, and FERRARA.

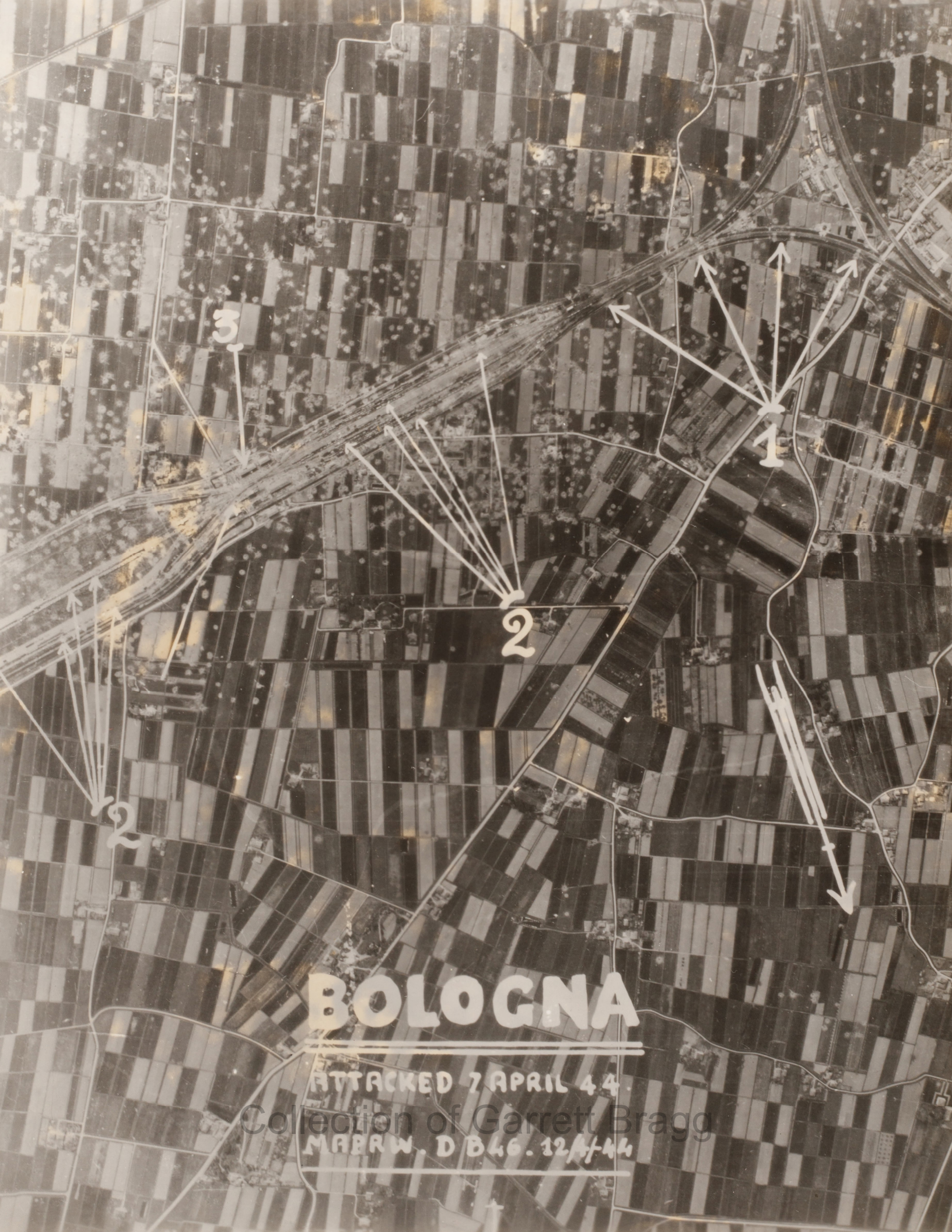
142 A/C of this Wing attacked the BOLOGNA M/Y, ITALY, and 131 A/C dropped bombs on the target. No enemy aircraft were seen and flak was slight and inaccurate. There were no losses. The 459th completely smothered the target area with a heavy concentration of bombs. Other photos show strings covering much of the new central yards and at the choke point of the yard.

At 1000 hours, 36 B-24's of this Group, 3 A/C returning early and 1 A/C prior. 32 A/C dropped 100 pound G.P. bombs at 1323 hours from 21,500 to 23,000 feet. 32 A/C returned at 1515 hours.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Jack D. Reeder
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND SECTIO LEADER ..... 1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... Major Horace Lanford
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Leroy V. Brown
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain David G. Bellemere

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BOMB CONCENTRATION
OMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
LOGNA NUOVA M/Y
B FALL PLOT 455BG
ON NO. 21 1323 HRS. 7/4/44
B BURSTS X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
1000-22000 FUSING .1 M. .025 I.
S DROPPED 1278 X 100 GD
S PLOTTED 190
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 22 12 April 1944

417 B-24's and 224 B-17's were dispatched to the following targets: FISCHAMEND MARKT AIRCRAFT FACTORY, WIENER NEUSTADT AIRCRAFT FACTORY, BAD VOSLAU ASSEMBLY PLANT AND AIRDROME, and the SPLIT CEMENT PLANT.

159 A/C of this Wing attacked the BAD VOSLAU ASSEMBLY PLANT AND AIRDROME. 140 A/C dropped 100-pound G.P. bombs on the target. Some 70/80 enemy A/C were encountered in the target area. Attacks were pressed against some groups for 30/45 minutes by S/E fighters and by T/E fighters attacking in groups of 4/6 in line. One group got split up and sustained the brunt of the attack. Four B-24's were lost and 2 others are missing from the Wing. The target was well covered. Three hangars NW of A/D were smothered. 69 fighters and 39 bomber/transports were present. 10 fighters and 8 bomber/transports were destroyed and 7 fighters and 3 bomber/transports damaged. The 456th lost the B-24's, (3), and 60 E/A were destroyed in the air, and 28probably destroyed by the Wing.

At 0835 hours, 39 B-24's took off, 6 returning early and 1 A/C prior. 30 A/C dropped 100-pound G.P. bombs from 20,000 feet. 2 A/C jettisoned bombs. 32 A/C returned at 1435 hours. 50 to 60 E/A attacked between the IP and the target, trying to break it up. Claims are 4 ME-210's, 2 ME-109's, and 1 JU-88. Flak was intense, heavy and accurate for other groups but did not reach this group.

GROUP LEADER	Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Harp
SECOND SECTION LEADER	1st Lt Richard A. Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Meriwether Jones
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Harold Z. Ohlmeyer
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Fred A. Gross, Jr.
E/A CLAIMS	7 destroyed in air
	5 probably destroyed
	3 damaged
E/A ENCOUNTERED	50 to 60 E/A, mostly T/E

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 23 13 April 1944

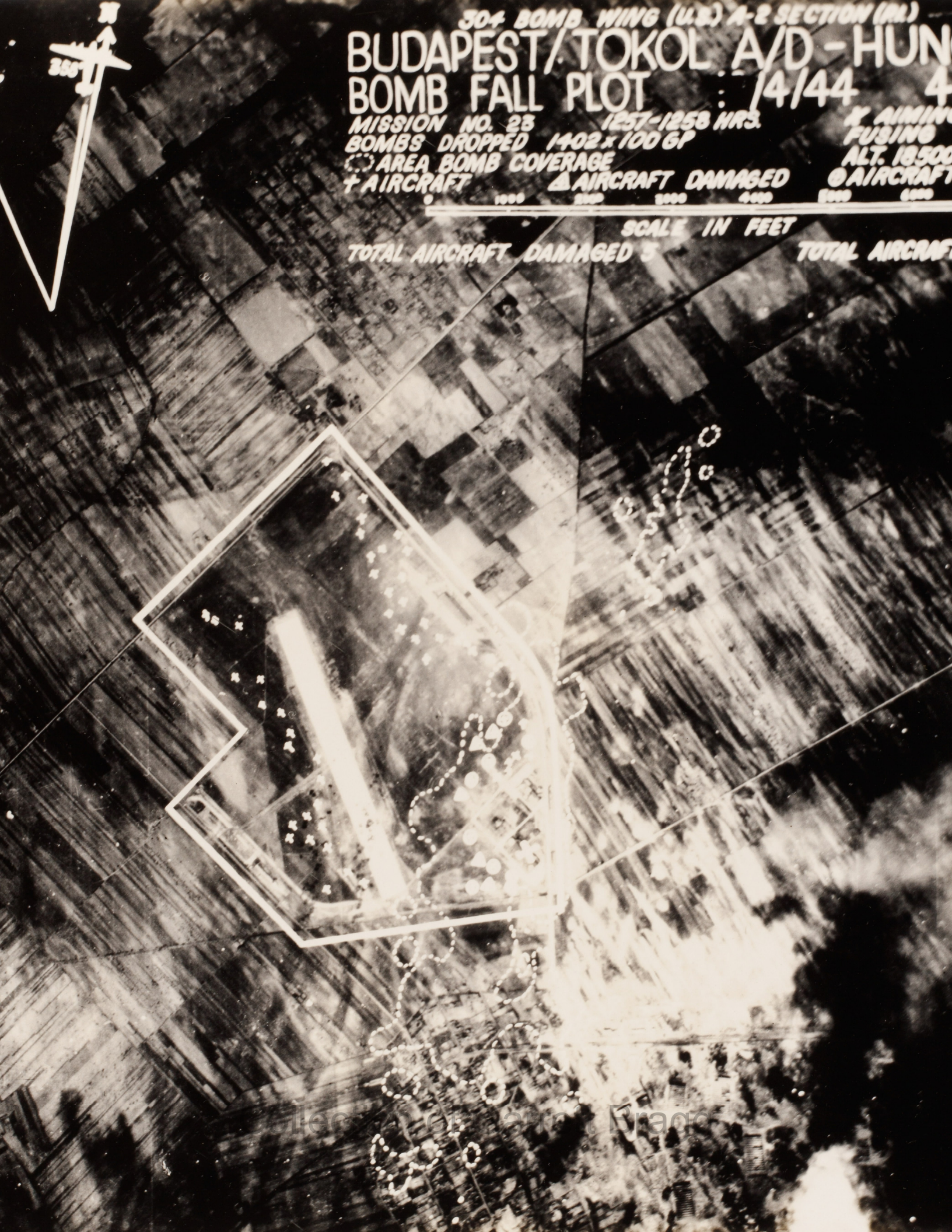
There has been a substantial increase in fighters on A/D at WEINER-NEUSTADT and BUDAPEST areas. 365 B-24's and 215 B-17's were dispatched to the following A/D's: GYOR A/D, BUDAPEST/VESCES A/D, BUDAPEST/TOKOL A/D, and DUNA REPLOGEPGYAR A/C COMPONENTS PLANT.

131 B-24's of this Wing bombed the BUDAPEST/TOKOL A/D, 124 A/C dropping on the target. Flak was moderate to intense and accurate. 30/35 A/C were encountered at the I.P., attacking through the bombing run. Total claims were 12 E/A destroyed in the air, 4 probably destroyed, and 5 damaged. 4 B-24's of the 454th were lost to E/A and 2 B-24's of the 459th were lost to flak on the return trip. The assigned target was well covered. Of 66 E/A present on the field, mostly T/E, 44 are claimed as destroyed, and 14 damaged.

At 0925 hours, 36 B-24's took off carrying 100-pound G.P. bombs. 36 A/C dropped on the target and returned at 1525 hours. 3 or 4 ME-210's attacked and 15 E/A were seen at the target but did not attack. Claims are 2 destroyed in the air and 1 probably destroyed. 9 E/A were destroyed on the ground and 5 were damaged.

GROUP LEADER	Lt. Col. Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace W. Lanford
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major David S. Thayer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain James E. Moeller
E/A CLAIMS	2 destroyed in the air
	1 probably destroyed
	9 destroyed on the ground
	5 damaged on the ground

Collection of Garrett Bragg


304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (HQ.)
BUDAPEST/TOKOL A/D - HUN
BOMB FALL PLOT : /4/44
MISSION NO. 23 1257-1258 HRS.
BOMBS DROPPED 1402 x 100 GP
AREA BOMB COVERAGE
AIRCRAFT
AIRCRAFT DAMAGED
SCALE IN FEET
TOTAL AIRCRAFT DAMAGED 5
TOTAL AIRCRAF

MISSION NUMBER 24 — 15 April 1944

Through railroad lines at both PLOESTI and BUCHAREST have been opened after extensive repairs. 406 B-24's and 229 B-17's were dispatched to attack the Marshalling Yards at Bucharest and Ploesti.

This Wing will attack the BUCHAREST M/Y and railway installations. There are 94 guns in the target area and 205 enemy fighters may be encountered. At 0825 hours 145 B-24's took off with the 456th leading. Finding the primary target overcast, the 456th and 459th bombed the NIS M/Y, the last resort target. The 455th and 454th bombed the BUCHAREST INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT, the secondary target but results were unobserved due to clouds. Two B-24's of the 459th were missing.

At 0825 hours, 39 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-47's and P-38's. There were 3 prior returns and no early returns. Bombs were dropped on the secondary target from 21,000 feet using 10-500 pound G.P. bombs. 36 A/C returned at 1504 hours. Flak was slight, inaccurate and heavy. A straggler was attacked by 10 E/A, who pressed to within 250 to 300 yards. Two of these were destroyed.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Ralph D. Sensenbrenner
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND SECTION DEPUTY ..... 1st Lt Harry F. Houser
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John B. Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Raymond Mc Glasson

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BUCHAREST CENTRAL M/Y.
ATTACKED 1ST AND 24TH APRIL BY 15 A.F.
D.B.
13
2

MISSION NUMBER 25 16 April 1944

381 B-24's and 201 B-17's were dispatched to the following targets: BRASOV MARSHALLING YARD, TURNU SEVERIN MARSHALLING YARD, and AIRDROME, and BELGRADE AIRCRAFT FACTORY and AIRDROME.

167 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb the BRASOV M/Y. Upon arriving at the secondary target, weather in the direction of the primary target was 9/10 cirrostratus and a decision was made to bomb the secondary targets, TURNUL SEVERIN A/D and M/Y. The second combat wing, the 455th and 456th, bombed the A/D and installations and obtained a good concentration of bombs in the target area. There were no encounters with E/A and all planes returned safely.

41 B-24's of this Group took off and 3 of these returned prior. 38 A/C dropped 10-500 pound G.P. bombs on TURNUL-SEVERIN A/D from 18,000 feet and returned at 1306 hours. No flak or enemy fighters were encountered.

A large hangar and adjacent buildings received several hits. Of the approximate 80 E/A shown on the field, 15 were destroyed.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain David G. Bellemere
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Myles L. Walter
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Leroy V. Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 26 — 17 April 1944

389 B-24's and 196 B-17's were dispatched to Balkan targets with a total loss of 1 A/C. Targets included BELGRADE M/Y, A/D and A/C FACTORY, and SOFIA M/Y.

The 304th Bomb Wing and the 47th Wing were to attack the SOFIA M/Y, 23 returning early.

139 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb SOFIA. with the 454th leading. To prevent arriving at the key point ahead of schedule, the lead group did considerable S-ing. This caused some confusion and the 455th got spearated and joined the 47th Wing by mistake since visibility became poor over Yugoslavia. One 6-plane box of the 455th got entirely lost and returned to Base. Since formations of the 304th and 47th Wings arrived at the target at the same time, some groups were unable to make bomb runs quite as briefed. Enemy opposition was not severe and no A/C were lost. Total of 6 E/A were destroyed and 3 damaged by crews of the 456th and 459th from air opposition.

37 B-24's of this Group took off, 8 A/C returning early. 6 of these lost the formation. 29 A/C dropped 20-100 pound G.P. bombs from 21,000 feet on the primary target and returned safely. Only 2 E/A attacked the formation and these were driven off.

At least 60 hits were scored on trackage and wagons on the north side of the target area. Some bombs fell 1500 feet to the NE of the target causing no military damage.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Harp, Jr.
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard A. Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Meriwether Jones
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Fred A. Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Harold Z. Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg


304th BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION
SOFIA M/Y - BULGA
BOMB FALL PLOT 45
MISSION NO 26
AREA BOMB
ALT. 20500-22
BOMBS DROPPED 1160 x 100 GP
SCALE IN FEET
N
OF IMPACT X
CLOUD COVERED AREA



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 27

20 April 1944

423 B-24's and 217 B-17's were dispatched to attack Marshalling Yards at FANO, VICENZA, TREVISO, TRIESTE, and shipping at MONFALCONE, R.R. Bridge at TAGLIAMENTO, and harbor of VENICE.

The 455th Group was to attack the MONFALCONE Ship Building Yards and the other Groups of this Wing the TRIESTE M/Y. However, the 454th, finding their target completely overcast, attacked with the 455th. The 455th encountered 20 E/A which attacked the second section aggressively for 20 minutes after the formation had left the target. One B-24 lost by E/A and 4 E/A destroyed. 1 additional A/C crashed on landing and is lost. 1 additional A/C crashed on take-off and is lost. The 456th was attacked by 10 ME-109's and destroyed 2 E/A. Hits from the 454th were observed in the target area but results of bombing by the 455th were obscured by clouds.

42 B-24's took off with 1 early return. 40 A/C dropped 10-500 pound G.P. bombs from 19,000 feet. 39 A/C returned. 1 crew was MIA, 1 top turret gunner and 1 tail gunner severely injured. 4 E/A were destroyed, 2 were probably destroyed, and 6 damaged. Flak was slight and inaccurate. Cloud cover prevents assessment of bomb damage.

GROUP LEADER	Lt. Col Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY LEADER	Major William E. Keefer
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Herbert O. Nelson
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain James E. Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner
E/A DESTROYED	4 E/A destroyed
	2 E/A probably destroyed
	6 E/A damaged
E/A ENCOUNTERED	20 E/A attacked second unit
OUR LOSSES	1st Lt Willard Sampson, 742nd
	1st Lt Robert Cook, 743rd crashed upon landing but all of the crew were saved.
	1st Lt John Bethune, 740th, crashed on take-off but all of the crew were saved.

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 28 — 21 April 1944

17 Bomb Groups were dispatched but all were recalled owing to weather. However, 7 Bomb Groups apparently were unable to receive the recall signal and proceeded to their target, the BUCHAREST MARSHALLING YARDS. These were the four Groups of the 304th Wing and three Groups of the 49th Wing.

150 B-24's of this Wing took off in two combat wings. The formation drifted several miles north of the briefed route, but arrived in the vicinity of the target successfully. Complete undercast covered the target, so the first Wing used the Pathfinder Method in bombing. (454th and 455th). The second wing was unable to drop, having Pathfinder equipment inoperative, and proceeded to the last resort target. When the last resort target was also found cloud covered, the second wing returned them to Base but over Belgrade a ship jettisoned his bombs to lighten its load and planes of both Groups saw his bombs falling and followed suit. Results of bombing at Bucharest and Belgrade were not observed because of undercast but Pathfinder operator of 455th estimates that there is a good possibility that the primary target was hit.

E/A were encountered for more than an hour starting before Bucharest was reached. 3 B-24's of the 455th were lost near the target. 2 B-24's of the 454th and 1 each of the 456th and 459th also were lost. Total e/a destroyed by the Wing were 10, with 13 probably destroyed, and 19 damaged.

36 B-24's of this Group took off with 1 early return and 1 prior return. 34 A/C dropped 10-500 pound G.P. bombs from 20,500 feet. 30 A/C returned. 30 to 40 enemy fighters attacked for 20 minutes.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Horace W. Lanford
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Major David W. Thayer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Daniel Neuman
E/A CLAIMS ..... 5 destroyed
8 probably destroyed
7 damaged
OUR LOSSES ..... 1st Lt Meriwether (NMI) Jones, 742nd Squadron
Capt Clifford Norgard, 741st
1st Lt Wilmer Wallick, 740th

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 29 — 23 April 1944

416 B-24's and 222 B-17's attacked targets at WILMER NEUSTADT A/C FACTORY, BAD VOSLAU A/D, and SCHWECHAT A/C FACTORY.

142 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb the BAD VOSLAU A/D in two combat wings and proceeded on course to the target. The target was covered by an excellent concentration of bombs from all Groups. A force of 50 to 60 E/A, mostly ME-109's, were encountered by the 456th on the bomb run. They had 2 B-24's shot down. The 459th also lost a B-24. Total claims were 12 e/a destroyed, 7 probably destroyed, and 8 damaged. The 454th and 455th were not attacked.

34 B-24's of this Group took off with 8 returning early and 1 prior. 25 A/C dropped 10-500 pound G.P.-RDX bombs on the primary target from 21,000 feet. 25 A/C returned at 1630 hours.

Some hits were seen in the target area but most bombs fell short of the A/D. None of the aircraft on the field were destroyed.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Harp, Jr.
GROUP DEPUTY LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Henry F. Houser
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 2nd Lt David C. Brothers
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 2nd Lt Harry L. Crotzer

Collection of Garrett Bragg


SMOKE OBSCURED AREA
280°
290°
LAU ASSEMBLY PLANT
VD - AUSTRIA
ALL PLOT
MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
Collection of Garrett Brago



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 30

24 April 1944

381 B-24's and 194 B-17's were dispatched to attack targets at BUCHAREST AND PLOESTI MARSHALLING YARDS.

130 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb the BUCHAREST M/Y in two combat wings, 454th leading. Concentrated hits were scored in the northwest part of the assigned M/Y, but numerous bombs were scattered in other parts of the city. Enemy air opposition was almost non-existent. Only the trailing Group, the 459th, had any encountered and those by 3 E/A.

35 B-24's took off with 2 A/C returning early and 1 returning prior. 32 A/C dropped 500 pound bombs on the primary target from 21,500 feet.

Hits were scored about 1000 feet northwest of target area and to north of large car and locomotive repair building. Bombing of preceding 454th created smoke and prevented determination of all bomb hits of this Group. Damage to trackage, rolling stock and railroad facilities to north of and adjacent to northern large repair building was made.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain David G. Bellemere
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Major Russell J. Welsh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Myles L. Walter
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brooks Ire
GROUP BOMBARIDER ..... 1st Lt Leroy V. Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection Dick Taylor Jr.

MISSION NUMBER 31 — 25 April 1944

278 B-24's and 174 B-17's were dispatched but only the 304th Wing bombed. The 5 Wing and 47th Wing returned because of bad weather enroute.

144 B-24's of this Wing attacked the TURIN AERITALIA AIRCRAFT FACTORY, ITALY escorted by P-47's. 118 A/C dropped on the target. The 456th was attacked in the target area by 6 FW-190's and their claims were 6 E/A destroyed against the loss of 1 lost. Flak was intense and accurate and heavy. Total wing losses were 4 and 3 were missing in action.

There were at least 8 direct hits and 3 near-misses on assembly type buildings. The A/D was left well cratered. Total E/A destroyed on the A/D were 22 fighters and 9 bombers. Total damaged were 2 fighters and 1 bomber.

At 0350 hours 37 B-24's took off with 1 early and 2 prior returns. 33 A/C dropped 500 pound G.P. bombs from 19,000 feet on the primary target. 1 A/C dropped its bombs on a road causing a landslide which covered the road. 32 A/C returned to base with 1 A/C making a forced landing at Naples.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Hugh R. Graff
SECOND SECTION LEADER	1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Robert C. Christenson
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain James E. Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg

304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

RIN AERITALIA A/D & A/C FACTORY - ITALY

MB FALL PLOT 25/4/44 455 BG

SION NO 31 308-1309 HRS :: BOMB BURSTS X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

BS DROPPED 328 x 500 GP FUSING .1 N. .01 T. ALT. 21 000 FT

BS PLOTTED 268 + A/C ⊕ A/C DESTROYED ⛺ A/C DAMAGED

SCALE IN FEET



MISSION NUMBER 32 28 April 1944

302 B-24's and 197 B-17's were dispatched to attack port and harbor installations at PIOMBINO and SAN STEFANO, ITALY.

184 B-24's of this Wing and of the 376 Bomb Group attacked SAN STEFANO. 168 A/C dropped on the target and reported good concentration along docks and warehouse areas. A heavy concentration covered most of the town carrying across the hills in a SW direction. Flak was moderate and accurate. One A/C of the 455th, hit by flak, collided with another and both went down. The 459th lost the only other plane on the operation.

36 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-47's and 3 A/C returned early and 1 A/C returned prior. 32 A/C dropped 500 pound G.P. bombs from 21,000 feet on the primary target. 29 A/C returned to base. One landed at Naples. 2 A/C were lost over SAN STEFANO when one was hit by flak and crashed into the other. No fighter opposition encountered.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard A. Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Henry A. Kelly
OUR LOSSES ..... 1st Lt Jerome Slater, 741st
1st Lt Richard A. Callan, 741
20 men Missing in Action

Collection of Garrett Bragg

SCALE IN FEET

ALTITUDE 19,800 - 22,400 FT.




2
4
PORTO SAN STEFANO
TTACKED ON 28 AND 28/29 APRIL 1944 BY 15TH A.F.
M.A.P.R.C. D.B.58. 29 APRIL 1944.

MISSION NUMBER 33 — 29 April 1944

573 bombers of the 15th Air Force were dispatched to TOULON, FRANCE where 1312 tons of bombs were dropped. This is the largest number of bombers dispatched and the greatest weight of bombs dropped on one target in this theatre.

124 B-24's of this Wing were dispatched with P-38 escort. 31 B-24's of the 456th became lost near Naples in adverse weather and returned to base. There was little fighter opposition. The 455th was attacked by 4 Me-109's singly without effect. Flak was intense accurate and heavy. A chemical smoke screen prevented accurate assessment of the bomb pattern however photos show several hits on large munition building and factory buildings near the Naval Base. 454th lost one plane to flak.

31 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb the TOULON MUNITIONS FACTORY, one returning early and one prior. 29 A/C dropped 1,000 pound G.P. bombs from 21,500 feet and returned to base. 4 ME-109's attacked the group. Claims on these fighters are 1 probably, 1 damaged. Bombs of the lead bombardier struck southwest corner of the briefed target area and the remainder of bombs fell short, striking the harbor.

GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace W. Lanford
SECOND UNIT LEADER	Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt George O. Keahey
LEAD GROUP	459th
LEAD NAVIGATOR	Captain James E. Moeller
LEAD BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner
E/A CLAIMS	1 probable
	1 damaged

Collection of Garrett Bragg


304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
ON MUNITION FACTORY — FRANCE
B FALL PLOT 29/4/44 455 BG
NO. 34 X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT 1220-1231 HRS.
DROPPED 171 x 10000 GP FUSING .1 N. .025 T.
PLOTTED 81 ·:· BOMB BURSTS ALT. 21,200-22,500 FT.
SCALE IN FEET

MISSION NUMBER 34 30 April 1944

Considerable activity and an increase in rolling stock was disclosed by 29 April reconnaissance photographs of the MILAN-LAMBRATE Marshalling Yards.

Air Force Wings were dispatched to bomb Marshalling Yards at Alessandria, Milan, and Milan/Bresso A/C Factory in Italy.

130 B-24's of this Wing were dispatched to bomb the MILAN M/Y, ITALY. Flak was scant to moderate, inaccurate and heavy. 6 E/A, mostly ME-109's were encountered in the target area and one was shot down by the 455th. No planes were lost. There were numerous hits in R.R. shops, in the M/Y, and amongst rolling stock and facilities.

32 A/C took off escorted by P-38's with 3 returning early. 29 A/C dropped 500 pound bombs on the primary target and returned. Bombs fell into m/y and carried over into buildings on the north side. 6 E/A attacked and one was destroyed.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Harp
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Wayne A. Smith
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John B. Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Captain Ross D. Strode
LEAD GROUP 454th
E/A CLAIMS ..... 1 destroyed

Collection of Garrett Bragg


SMOKE OBSCURED AREA
1000'
2000'



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 35 2 May 1944

15th Air Force targets were in Northern Italy--the Spezia Dock and Harbor Installations, Castel Maggiore M/Y, Parma M/Y, and Verona M/Y.

113 B-24's of this Wing were dispatched to attack the Verona M/Y but owing to bad weather enroute the mission was abandoned. The 36 B-24's of 455th were credited with sorties.

While over the Adriatic Sea, the weather became heavily overcast and attempts were made to get around the front, first to the east, and then to the west. Leaders of the formation picked up a message which was believed to be a recall so the 456th and 459th returned to base. The other two groups continued on to the target although they became separated. The 455th finally turned back without bombing. The 454th bombed the FAENZA railroad bridge, the secondary target. There was no opposition from fighters or flak.

38 B-24's of this Group took off with 1,000 pound bombs but returned them to base.

GROUP LEADER ..... Lt-Col Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Captain Alfred Asch
SECOND SECTION DEPUTY ..... 1st Lt Wayne A. Smith
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain James E. Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Captain Jack Horner
LEAD GROUP 455th

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 36 5 May 1944

177 B-17's and 346 B-24's attacked Ploesti M/Y and pumping station with 1,255 tons of bombs. The operations were opposed by a total of 100/125 enemy fighters.

158 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb PLOESTI M/Y and MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, the 456th leading. The first group to bomb, the 456th, was able to make a successful visual bomb run and get a good concentration of bombs in the M/Y. Smoke at the target from smudge pots and previous bombing, in addition to 6/10 strato-cumulus undercast, necessitated bombing by pathfinder methods by 2 groups. The last group, the 455th, reverted to visual bombing, using check points outside the immediate target area. Observers reported fires in the target area with black smoke rising to 18,000 feet. Intense, accurate and heavy flak caused the loss of 3 B-24's of the 456th Group. 1 A/C of the 455th was shot down by enemy fighters in the target area. Total claims are 1 E/A damaged.

39 B-24's took off with 2 returning early and 1 prior. 36 A/C dropped 500 pound G.P. bombs on the primary target from 20,000 feet. One A/C was lost over the target in a low glide with fighters attacking it. 19 E/A were observed in the target area with only 4 making aggressive attacks.

GROUP LEADER	Major David W. Harp
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Wilbur S. Bechtold
SECOND UNIT LEADER	Major Robert C. Welsh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Richard J. Deeble
E/A CLAIMS	1 damaged
OUR LOSSES	1st Lt Victor McWilliams, 741st. 10 men M.I.A. 2 men injured

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection Carter Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 37 6 May 1944

208 B-17's and 522 B-24's were dispatched against Roumanian rail centers and against the Brasov A/C Factory, dropping a total of 1595 tons of bombs. An estimated total of 80/90 enemy fighters were encountered in the Brasov area. At Campina, fighters were experienced and aggressive pressing attacks from all angles. Claims total 14 destroyed and 6 probably destroyed. 3 B-24's and 1 B-17's were lost.

152 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb m/y and military installations at Campina, Rumania, the 459th leading. Large oil fires were already burning in the target area when formation arrived, possibly in an effort to screen the objective. In spite of the smoke, concentrations of hits were observed in the m/ys, on nearby railway lines, and other military installations.

Intense, accurate and heavy flak was in the target area, shooting down one a/c of the 459th and contributing to the loss of 3 others. 45 E/A were in the target area making aggressive attacks upon the bombers. Total claims are 14 destroyed and 5 probably destroyed.

36 B-24's of this Group took off with 2 returning early and 1 prior. 32 A/C dropped 500 pound bombs on the primary target from 20,000 feet and returned. 1 A/C is missing and is believed shot down by enemy fighters. Four chutes were seen. Personnel casualties were a nose gunner killed by a flak wound in the head and 10 crew members missing in action.

GROUP LEADER	Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND SECTION LEADER	1st Lt Robert Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt James Knight
E/A CLAIMS	1 destroyed 2 probables
OUR LOSSES	1st Lt William A. Beck, 742nd Missing in Action 1 nose gunner killed, 743rd

Collection of Garrett Bragg


304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
CAMPINA M/Y & MILITARY INSTALLATIONS
(ROMANIA) BOMB FALL PLOT 6/5/44 1130-1132 HRS. 455 BG
MISSION NO. 37 ∴ BOMB BURSTS X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
FUSING .T.N. .01 & .025 T. ALT. 20,700 - 21,900 FEET
BOMBS DROPPED 324 x 500 GP BOMBS PLOTTED 244
2000
3000
SCALE IN FE
ACCURACY WITH
WITH
N
1000'
2000'
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 163


CAMPINA
ATTACKED 6 MAY 1944 BY 15TH AF
M.A.R.R.W. DB'S 4 19 MAY 1944
N
6
5
4
3
2
1
9
8

DAMAGE TO RUMANIAN REFINERIES 7 May 1944

Attacks by Fifteenth Air Force heavy bombers on the PLOESTI Marshallying Yards and refineries and by 205 Group bombings on the CAMPINA Marshalling Yards and refinery since 4 April have reduced the refineries annual capacity by 6,510,000 tons - from approximately 8,300,000 tons to approximately 1,790,000 tons or from 166 percent of the annual PLOESTI crude oil production to less than 40 per cent. Adjacent to the sprawling PLOESTI yards are the modern ROMANA AMERICANA, STANDARD, CONCORDIA VEGA, and ASTRA ROMANA refineries and seven antiquated distillation plants. The modern STEUEA ROMANA refinery is built along both sides of the CAMPINA Marshalling Yards. Study of aerial photographs taken between the Ninth Air Force attack in August, 1943, and 5 April 1944 revealed that the damage done in the August attack had been sufficiently repaired to raise the capacity of the refineries to approximately 8,300,000 tons of crude oil per annum, 166 per cent of the estimated 5,000,000 tons annual petroleum production of the PLOESTI fields. Examination of reconnaissance photographs taken after the April and May bombing by the MASAF reveals that, with the exception of the modern ROMANA AMERICANA refinery and three of the distillation plants, all of the refineries listed have suffered extensive damage and have been put out of production for the time being. The annual capacity of the ROMANA AMERICANA plant is estimated at 1,100,000 tons and that of the three undamaged distillation plants at 690,000 tons.

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 38 7 May 1944

413 B-24's and 203 B-17's were dispatched to attack marshalling yards and rail communication facilities at BUCHAREST. 1,298 tons of bombs were dropped. An estimated total of 60/65 enemy fighters opposed the effort, 20 of which were destroyed. 2 B-17's were lost and 3 B-24's are missing.

146 B-24's took off to bomb BUCHAREST M/Y, RUMANIA with the 454th leading. The trailing group, the 459th, became separated by bad visibility and returned early. The other 3 groups bombed the target as briefed but many bombs were scattered outside the target area. Some bombs hit the M/Y. Flak was moderate to intense, accurate and heavy. A few aggressive E/A were encountered in the target area. There were no observed losses but 2 B-24's of the 454th are missing.

35 A/C took off with 2 returning early and 4 returning prior. 29 A/C dropped 500 pound bombs from 20,000 feet and returned. 8 E/A attacks were made against this Group with a claim of 1 destroyed. There were no losses by this Group.

GROUP LEADER .....Major Horace W. Lanford
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER .....Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND SECTION LEADER .....1st Lt Robert A. Robards
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt George O. Keahey
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Jackson McWilliams
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Charles Loercher
E/A CLAIMS ..... 1 destroyed.

Collection of Garrett Bragg


IN 1000' { PERCENTAGE OF BOMBS DROPPED) 2%
" " " " PLOTTED) 19%
IN 2000' { " " " " DROPPED) 2%
" " " " PLOTTED) 20%
BOMBS IN 1000' RADIUS - 5
BOMBS IN 2000' RADIUS - 54
110°
120°
304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
EST CHITILA M/Y - ROMANIA
PLOT
7/5/44
455BG
.38
1129 - 1151 HRS.
BOMB BURST
T OF IMPACT
FUSING N. .01 & .025 T.
ED 286 X 500 GP
ALT 19,000 - 21,000 FEET
ED 248
1000
2000
SCALE IN FEET


6
5
4
7
3
9
3
2
1
BUCHAREST M/Y.
ATTACKED 6/7, 7/8 MAY BY 205 GROUP
AND 7 MAY BY 15 A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. DB. 71. 11. MAY. 1944.

MISSION NUMBER 39 — 10 May 1944

211 B-17's and 587 B-24's were dispatched. Due to weather enroute, 272 of the B-24's returned to base and were not given sortie credit. 402 A/C dropped 1004 tons of bombs on targets at WIENER NEUSTADT area with good to excellent results. 21 A/C are lost with 7 missing.

157 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb the WIENER NEUSTADT A/C Factory, the 455th leading. Visibility over the Adriatic Sea became quite restricted causing the second combat wing to lose contact with the first. The 459th and 454th therefore returned their formation to base. The first combat wing proceeded to the target and scored a number of hits on the A/C Factory. Numerous bombs also fell to the north of the assigned target. 2 B-24's were lost at the target by flak by the 456th. It was intense, accurate and very heavy, holing all ships of the formation except two. A total of 27 E/A were encountered at the target. These enemy fighters shot down 2 B-24's of the 456th in aggressive attacks. Another A/C of the 456th is missing having been last seen leaving the formation at the IP.

40 B-24's of this Group took off with 1 returning early. 39 A/C dropped 500-pound RDX bombs from 19,000 feet and returned. Personnel casualties were a bombardier seriously wounded by flak and a radio operator and bombardier slightly wounded by flak. Bombs of the first attack unit dropped from 5 to 7 miles east of the target. Bombs released when lead ship was hit by flak and bombs were dropped. The second attack unit hit the target. 10 to 12 ME-109's and FW-190's were in the area but attacks were unaggressive. 1 E/A was destroyed.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Harold C. Brooks
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain James E. Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner
PERSONNEL CASUALTIES	3 wounded, 742nd and 740th
E/A CLAIMS	1 destroyed.

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 40 12 May 1944

The entire effort of the Strategic Air Forces were in support of the ground forces. Targets were enemy lines of communications, Army headquarters and harbor and shipping installations and airdromes. Poor weather conditions militated against the complete success of the operations. A total of 2035.5 tons of bombs were dropped.

167 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb communications targets in Northwestern Italy, the 456th leading. At Capraia Island, the groups broke up as scheduled and proceeded to assigned targets. The 456th found its primary target overcast so bombed Chiavari docks and m/ys. The 459th and 454th bombed their briefed target, La Spezia quay area. The 455th also bombed La Spezia after finding their briefed target completely overcast. Much of the bombing at La Spezia was unobserved because of a 5/10 undercast but some bombs hit the docks and near vessels in the harbor. No E/A encountered and flak at La Spezia was scant and inaccurate.

41 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb their briefed target, 2 returning early and 1 returning prior. 22 A/C dropped 500 pound bombs on La Spezia from 20,000 feet. 14 A/C returned their bombs to base because clouds obscured the target. 2 A/C jettisoned their bombs. 38 A/C returned to base.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Major Alfred Asch
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Henry F. Houser
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg

ACCURACY: WITHIN 1000' (BOMBS
WITHIN 2000' (BOMBS
(BOMBS
(BOMBS

STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 14
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 38

304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

ZIA HARBOR & INSTALLATIONS - ITALY

PLOT 12/5/44 0938-0939 HRS. 455 BG

40 (TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY)

.025 T. X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

ED 220 x 500 GP

BOMBS PLOTTED 80

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000

SCALE IN FEET

Garrett Bragg


SPEZIA
ATTACKED 12TH. MAY. 1944 BY 15 A
MAPRW. DB: 74. 14 MAY 1944
10
6
6
4
2
1
5
3
N

MISSION NUMBER 41 13 May 1944

Continuing in support of the ground forces, the Strategic Air Force concentrated the full weight of their effort during this period on enemy lines of communication. A total of 1,093 A/C were dispatched, dropping 1,974 tons of bombs. A total of 70 E/A opposed the effort.

148 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb railroad m/ys in the vicinity of BOLOGNA, ITALY, the 459th leading. Results of attacks by the 454th, 455th, and 456th were quite good and rail installations in each case received concentrated hits. Photos of the 459th however show only a few [illegible] on its objective. No E/A were encountered and flak at targets was scant and inaccurate. The only losses were one a/c of the 454th and the 459th which crashed on take-off; also one B-24 of the 459th is missing.

35 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb the Bologna Main Marshalling Yards. Two returned early and one prior. 32 A/C dropped 1,000 pound bombs on the target from 22,000 feet and returned to base. There was a good concentration of bombs on the east end of marshalling yards and one very large explosion occurred. Some bombs carried over into the city.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Hugh C. Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Myles Walters
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 2nd Lt Henry Manning

Collection of Garrett Bragg


ACCURACY WITHIN 1000'
WITHIN 1000'
(BOMBS DROP
(BOMBS DROP
(BOMBS PLOTT
N
MB WING (W.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
A MAIN M/Y ITALY
PLOT 13/5/44 455 BG
1425-1426 HRS.
BOMB BURSTS
ALT. 19,600-21,800 FT
191 x 1000 GP



Collection of Garrett Bla

MISSION NUMBER 42 — 14 May 1944

1072 A/C were dispatched and 1718 tons of bombs were dropped on communication targets and airdromes in Northern Italy. Opposition was light as only 15 E/A opposed the day's effort. One E/A was destroyed and one probably destroyed in the air while 19 were destroyed and 1 damaged on the ground. Not a single bomber failed to return to base. 2 P-38's were lost.

161 B-24's took off from this Wing to frag bomb airdromes in the Po Valley, the 454th leading. They proceeded on course to Ficarolo, where the two combat wings separated. The first wing, the 454th and 455th, bombed the Piacenza A/D and the second wing bombed the Reggio Emilia A/D. All Groups made concentrations of hits on their assigned targets. The 454th and 455th had difficulty seeing the objective because of partial cloud cover. Enroute, the 459th got ahead of the 456th and bombed first. There was no enemy opposition except scant and inaccurate flak at the target of the 456th. No losses were incurred.

42 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Piacenza A/D with one returning early. 41 A/C dropped 20-pound frag bombs from 20,000 feet and returned to base. The area to the north of the runway appeared to be fairly well covered so far as could be observed through the clouds. One box dropped short because the leaders dropped early. Part of these bombs hit in the dispersal area.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Herbert O. Nelson
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Elmer Kelley
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Fred A. Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER .....1st Lt Harold Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 44 19 May 1944

A total of 1109 A/C were dispatched to military targets in the battle area, including rail communications, ports and oil storage targets in Northeast, Central, and Northwest Italy. 1,738 tons of bombs were dropped on these targets. Escort was provided by 147 P-38's, 101 P-51's, and 40 P-47's. The operation was notable for the complete absence of fighter opposition. There were no claims - 3 bombers and 2 fighters are missing.

161 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb Genoa Harbor Installations in two combat wings, the 456th leading. The first combat wing, the 456th and 459th, found the primary target 10/10 overcast and bombed a target of opportunity, Leghorn Harbor and industrial installations. Many hits were reported and confirmed by photos in the harbor and dock installations. The 454th also bombed a target of opportunity, La Spezia Harbor installations, with fair results. Many hits were observed in the dock area. The 455th bombed the primary target, finding a few breaks in the overcast at the target area. Results were unobserved because of cloud cover and photos were of no value because of clouds. No enemy air opposition was encountered and flak was scant and inaccurate. However, 2 B-24's are missing and 2 more B-24's landed at friendly fields.

41 A/C of this Group took off with 4 returning early and 1 prior. 36 A/C dropped 500-pound bombs from 18,000 feet and returned. Target was picked up before the beginning of the bomb run and was obscured by clouds before bombs away. During rally, hits were observed on the east side of the harbor and smoke was seen rising from the city.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Horace Lanford
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Major David S. Thayer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt George Keahey
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Robert Cahill
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Charles Loercher

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 45 22 May 1944

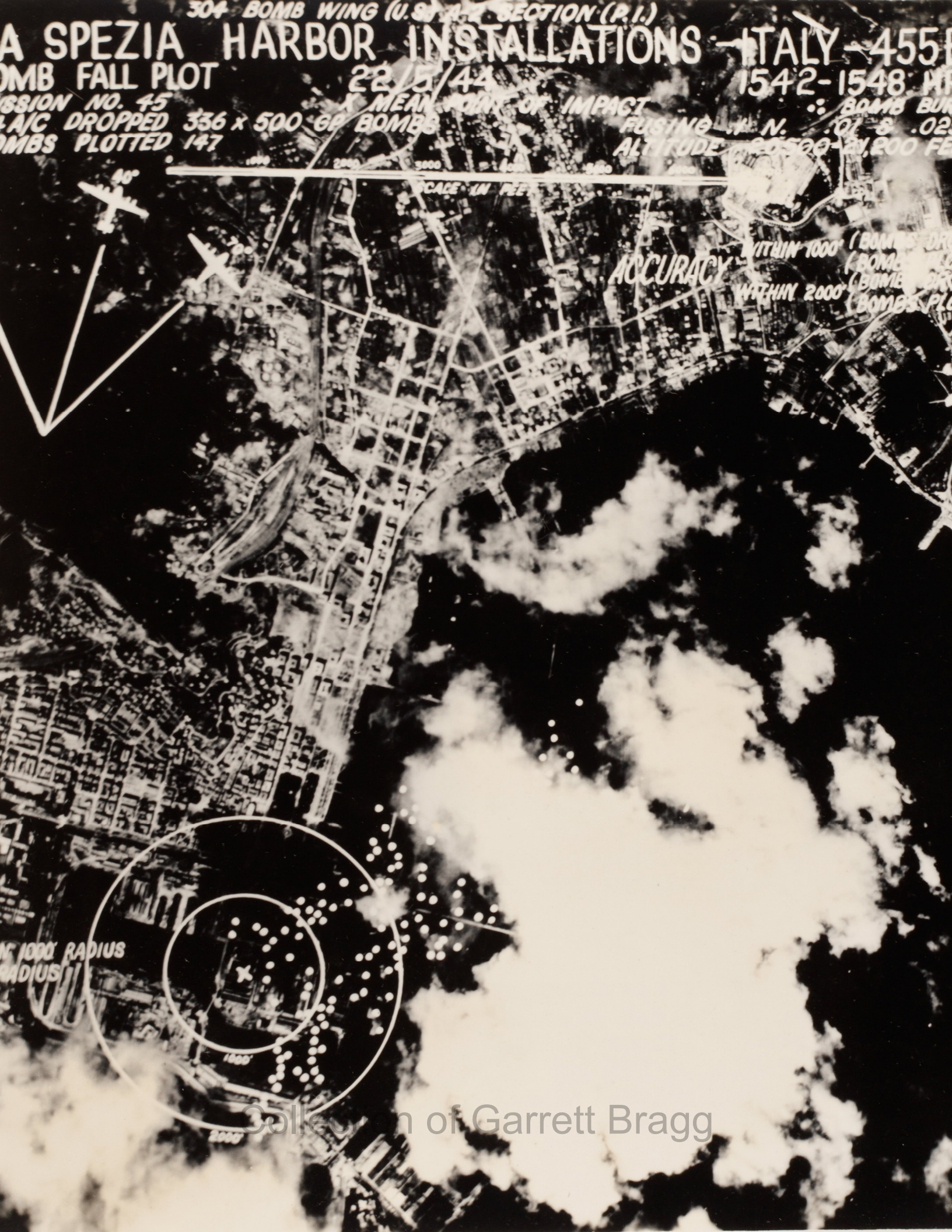
A total of 1026 aircraft were dispatched, including 201 B-17's, 585 B-24's, 133 P-38's, and 100 P-51's. In difficult weather conditions due to clouds, 1415 tons of bombs were dropped on communication and military targets in Central and Northwest Italy. There was no enemy air opposition and very little flak was encountered. One B-24 is missing and one P-38 was lost on take-off.

157 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb La Spezia commercial port, oil depot, m/y, and dry docks in two combat wings, the 459th leading. Before leaving the home vicinity, the 456th became separated from the rest of the formation in the overcast and returned to base. Targets were partially overcast, making accurate aiming difficult. Numerous hits were secured on docks and oil installations however. A few bombs struck the m/y and many dropped in the water. The only enemy opposition encountered was scant to moderate, inaccurate flak and there was no known losses. One a/c of the 459th Bomb Group is missing, having left the formation and headed toward Corsica.

42 B-24's took off from this Group with 6 a/c returning early and 2 prior. 34 A/C 500 pound bombs on the primary target at 1542 hours from 19,600 feet and returned to base. A good pattern of bombs fell in the vicinity of the m/y and in oil storage facilities. Crews report that a train, with engine under steam, was hit. Three large oil tanks were reported on fire.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard Miller
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt George Scrimshaw

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 46 23 May 1944

Missions flown the entire day by Fifteenth Air Force were concentrated on attacks on troop concentrations and to cause road blocks in the rear of the battle area in Italy. 574 B-24's and 147 B-17's were dispatched. Cloud cover considerably interfered with the day's bombing and a number of Groups were unable to attack. The total of bombs dropped was 928 tons.

162 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb enemy troop concentrations in two combat wings, the 454th leading. Target of the first wing, the 454th and 455th, was the NEMI area; target of the second wing was the MARINO area. The target area was covered with 7/10 undercast with clouds directly over the aiming points. Targets were identified by check points and were reported seen on the bombing runs at the time of bombs away. Results of actual strikes were not observed but pictures show some hits of 456th in the water of the lake. No a/c of the 454th dropped and half of the 455th and 456th also were unable to pick up aiming points and so returned bombs to Base. The only enemy opposition was scant, inaccurate heavy flak. There were no losses from enemy action but 2 B-24's of the 456th collided in the air at Base on return and were lost.

40 B-24's took off to bomb Nemi area troop concentrations escorted by P-38's. 29 A/C dropped 500-pound bombs on the primary target from 21,000 feet. The rest returned bombs to Base because the attack unit leader did not drop through the overcast.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David S. Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Winfield Bowers
SECOND SECTION DEPUTY ..... 1st Lt Myles Walters
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt David Woodlock
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Leroy V. Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 47 24 May 1944

The Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1,151 aircraft during the day comprising 214 B-17's and 575 B-24's, 44 P-47's, 102 P-51's and 169 P-38's. Poor route and target weather interfered with the complete success of the day's operations.

155 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb MUNCHENDORF A/D in two combat wings, the 455th leading. In southern Austria the 454th became separated and, finding the weather more hazardous worse toward the primary, bombed the Secondary, GRAZ-THALERHOF A/D. Partial undercast and restricted visibility prevented accurate aiming, and only a few strings of bombs hit the target. No pictures show hits on the secondary target at Graz. The second attack unit of the 455th failed to pick up the primary and dropped on a target of opportunity, VARAZDIN M/Y, enroute back to base. Moderate to intense, very accurate, and heavy flak was encountered at the primary target shooting down one B-24 of the 455th. Another a/c of that Group and one each from the 454th and 456th are missing. Approximately 10 to 15 E/A attacked the 454th after target time and one ME-109 is claimed destroyed.

39 B-24's took off to bomb the Munchendorf A/D. 2 A/C returned early and 3 returned prior. 19 A/C dropped 20-pound frag bombs on the primary target from 19,000 feet. 14 A/C dropped frags on Varazdin M/Y from 15,000 feet. 1 A/C jettisoned its bombs. 37 A/C returned. 1 A/C was lost from flak and one is missing. Flak hit made bombsight of lead ship inoperative and bombs were salvoed. Remainder of the first unit dropped on leader. Photos show a concentration of hits approximately 2 miles from a/d. Bomb run into the sun and 4/10 undercast prevented second attack unit from picking up target.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Hugh Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur C. Bechtold
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt Winfield Bowers
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Bernard Keogh
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Leroy V. Brown
OUR LOSSES ..... 20 men Missing in Action
2nd Lt Richard Jones, 740th
1st Lt John Brashear, 741st

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 43 25 May 1944

The Strategic Air Force dispatched during this period a total of 1,000 A/C comprising 133 B-17's, 545 B-24's, 102 P-51's, 155 P-38's. Targets were in France and Northern Italy.

156 B-24's of this Wing took off to frag bomb PIACENZA A/D in Northern Italy in two combat wings, the 456th leading. All groups secured concentrations of hits in the target area, destroying a number of e/a. Heavy flak was quite [illegible] inaccurate. E/A attacked all Groups, but few attacks were aggressive. The 456th received the heaviest concentration, reporting approximately 60 encounters. Total initial claims are 9 e/a destroyed, 7 probably destroyed, and 4 damaged. Total casualties of the mission were 3 crew members wounded by e/a fire in the 455th. Their a/c was the only loss. It crash landed at Penna Point enroute back to base.

39 B-24's took off with 2 returning early. 37 A/C dropped 20-pound frag bombs on the primary target from 20,000 feet and 36 A/C returned. One a/c was jumped by 4 ME-109's and belly landed at a field near Penna Point, Italy.

GROUP LEADER	Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND UNIT LEADER	1st Lt James W. Knight
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt James Cowden
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Fred A. Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Harold Ohlmeyer
OUR LOSSES	3 men wounded
	1st Lt Horst Schoene, 743rd crash landed
E/A CLAIMS	4 destroyed
	1 probably destroyed

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AIRCRAFT PRESENT - 40
DESTROYED - 0
DAMAGED - 0
A/C DESTROYED BY PREVIOUS
2ND
MPI
1ST ATTACK
304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
PIACENZA A/D - ITALY - 45
BOMB FALL PLOT 25/5/44 1322-13
MISSION NO.
X MEAN POINT OF I
ALTITUDE 19,700 - 22,200 FT. AREA BOMB COVER
37 A/C DROPPED 8220 x 20 FRAG BOMBS
SCALE IN FEET

MISSION NUMBER 49 — 26 May 1944

1078 A/C were dispatched by Strategic Air Force, comprising 547 B-24's, 196 B-17's, 184 P-38's and 93 P-51's. With the exception of BIHAC where troop concentrations were attacked, and a dive bombing and strafing attack on ZEMUNIK Airdrome, all day bombing missions were directed against communication targets in Southern France on which a total of 1607 tons of bombs were dropped. There were no encounters with E/A and very few were seen. No flak was encountered except at NICE and the VAR River Bridge. 1 B-24 lost to flak and 4 B-24's are missing.

147 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb my's in southern France in two combat wings, the 459th leading. Targets were CHAMBERY M/Y and GRENOBLE M/Y. Both targets were reported well hit. No enemy opposition was encountered either by flak or fighters and there were no losses. One B-24 of the 455th landed at Pomigliano A/D and one of the 456th landed in Corsica.

36 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb the Grenoble M/Y, escorted by P-38's. 1 A/C returned early. 35 A/C dropped 500-pound bombs from 19,000 feet and 34 A/C returned. One landed at Pomigliano A/D. Good concentration of bombs on m/y. Pattern carried across siding beyond m/y and into mountains. Some hits in river. A small concentration hit the tracks north of the yard.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Harp
GROUP DEPUTY LEADER ..... Major Russell Welsh
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... Major David S. Thayer
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt William Arnold
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Robert Cahill
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Michael Callan

Collection of Garrett Bragg


504 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
NOBLE M/Y - FRANCE - 455 BG
FALL PLOT 26/5/44 1041 HRS.
NO. 49 X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT :: BOMB BURSTS
DE 19,000 - 20,200 FUSING .1 N .01 & .025 T.
DROPPED 341 x 500 GP BOMBS BOMBS PLOTTED 158
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000
SCALE IN FEET
ACCURACY WITHIN 1000' : BOMBS DROP
WITHIN 2000' : PLOTT
: DROP
: PLOTT
TRP
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 4
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 11
2000'

MISSION NUMBER 50

27 May 1944

1,099 A/C were dispatched by Strategic Air Forces, comprising 199 B-17's, 554 B-24's, 156 P-38's, 134 P-51's, and by night 50 Wellingtons and 6 Liberators. With the exception of the attack on the Yugoslav target of Razanak the day's effort was concentrated on Marshalling Yards and Airdromes in Southern France, on which 1,523 tons of bombs were dropped. Enemy fighter reaction was weak, flak at Marseilles, Montpellier and Salon was moderate.

148 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb MONTPELLIER/FREJORGUES A/D installations, hangars, and dispersal area, the 454th leading. Good concentrations of hits were obtained by all Groups, covering the a/d and installations. The leading group, the 454th, encountered moderate, extremely accurate, and heavy flak at the Key Point, Cap Roux, and had one B-24 shot down by it. Numerous other a/c received flak damage. Upon observing the first group being hit, the others took evasive action and avoided serious damage. Moderate, heavy and accurate flak was encountered at the target. In all, 53 planes received flak holes on the mission. Enemy air opposition consisted of a few, unaggressive attacks from 9 e/a. No damage was suffered and there were no claims.

38 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's. 1 a/c returned early and 37 A/C dropped 100 pound G.P. bombs from 19,500 feet and returned. Bombs appeared to be scattered over the western half of the field. Smoke and dust from previous bombings made observations difficult.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Jack D. Reeder
DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND DEPUTY LEAD ..... 1st Lt Alvin Fisher
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Harry Crotzer
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Word Gidden

Collection of Garrett Bragg

304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

MONTPELLIER / FREJORGUES A/D - FRANCE - 455 BG

BOMB FALL PLOT

27/5/44

1024 - 1028 HRS.

MISSION NO. 50

ALTITUDE 19,900 - 20,600 FEET

37 A/C DROPPED 1440 x 100 GP BOMBS

X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025 T.

AREA BOMB COVERAGE

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

SCALE IN FEET



MISSION NUMBER 51 28 May 1944

The Strategic Air Force dispatched 329 A/C comprising 138 B-24's of the 304th Bomb Wing and 42 P-51's as escort, attacking targets in Northwest Italy. 99 P-38's strafed and dive-bomed targets in Yugoslavia. At night 39 Wellingtons and 8 Liberators operated.

138 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb a target in Northern Italy in two combat wings, the 455th leading. The primary and secondary targets were completely overcast so the first combat wing proceeded to bomb a secondary target, GENOA harbor installations, which had been observed open while enroute to primary. The second combat wing became separated and the 459th bombed another target of opportunity, VERCELLI M/Y. The 454th found no satisfactory target and returned bombs to base. Groups bombing Genoa obtained good results on the dock installations and ships at dock. The only enemy resistance was moderate, accurate, and heavy flak at Genoa but it caused no serious damage. The 459th lost one B-24 in a crash shortly after take-off.

40 B-24's took off with 2 A/C returning early. 38 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs on Genoa Harbor installations from 19,000 feet and returned. The main concentration of bombs fell on the west side of the dock area and approach wharves, some bombs carrying over into the marshalling yards northeast of docks. Fires started along the docks and to the north of indented harbor.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Kenneth A. Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Hugh C. Graff
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt Wayne Smith
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Alvin Fisher
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg

304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

NOA HARBOR INSTALLATIONS - ITALY - 455BG

FALL PLOT 28/5/44 1104 - 1108 HRS.

N NO. 51 SECONDARY TARGET ∴ BOMB BURSTS

DE 19,500 - 20,000 FT. X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025 T.

DROPPED 376 x 500 GP BOMBS BOMBS PLOTTED 278

MISSION NUMBER 52 29 May 1944

The Strategic Air Force dispatched 1,343 aircraft, including 712 B-24's, 168 B-17's, 243 P-38's, 152 P-51's, and 58 night-bombing Wellingtons. One of the most successful operations ever launched against the German Air Force included attacks on airdromes and aircraft factories in the Vienna area, troop and supply concentrations and airdromes in Yugoslavia in support of the Partisans, and West Coast harbors in support of the ground forces in Italy. A total of 130/170 enemy fighters attempted interception, principally in the Wiener Neustadt area.

151 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb enemy troop concentrations in Yugoslavia, the 459th leading. The 459th bombed PRIJEDOR; the 454th BOS NOVI; the 455th BOS KRUPA; and the 456th ZEGAR and ZAVALJE. All targets received concentrations of hits except Zavalje, which was missed, the bombs falling in open country to the west. There was no enemy opposition and no losses were sustained.

40 A/C of this Group dropped 100 pound GP bombs from 14,000 feet and returned. Good concentration of bombs in the vicinity of the town. Direct hits reported on bridge across the Una River. Many fires reported but majority of strikes were to north and east of the town.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David S. Thayer
DEPUTY LEADER ..... Captain David G. Bellemere
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... Major Russell Welsh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Robert Christenson
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Leroy Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg


304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
BOS KRUPA - YUGOSLAVIA - 45
BOMB FALL PLOT
29/5/44
MISSION NO. 52
ALTITUDE 13,8000 - 15,200 FT.
4C A/C DROPPED 1574 x 100GP BOMBS
AREA BOMB COVERAGE
X MEAN POINT OF FUSING .1 N.
SCALE IN FEET

MISSION NUMBER 53 29 May 1944

This was the second of a double-mission flown by the 304th Bomb Wing on this date. 147 B-24's took off to bomb enemy troop concentrations in Yugoslavia with the 455th leading. The 455th bombed BANJA LUKA; the 456th DRVAR; the 459th LIVNO; and the 454th KNIN. All groups made good bomb patterns on their objective. The only enemy opposition encountered was very scant, heavy flak at the targets Drvar and Knin. Enroute, however, the 455th got off course and had 15 a/c holed, one severely, by moderate, accurate, and heavy flak at Mostar, wounding serisously one waist gunner.

39 B-24's took off to bomb Banja Luka, Yugoslavia, escorted by P-38's. 37 A/C dropped 100 pound GP bombs on the target from 18,000 feet. 2 A/C bombed with other groups. All A/C returned to base. The first attack unit had an excellent pattern through the center of the town. The second attack unit bombed on the south-eastern edge of the town.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major William E. Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard I. Miller
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Harold Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg


304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
BANJA LUKA - YUGOSLAVIA - 4
BOMB FALL PLOT 29/5/44
MISSION NO. 53
ALTITUDE 19,000-19,200 FEET
37 A/C DROPPED 1460 x 100 GP BOMBS
AREA BOMB COVERAGE
X MEAN POINT
FUSING .1 N.
(SECOND M
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET
64°
70°
STRONG CONTINUES 2 MILES

MISSION NUMBER 54 30 May 1944

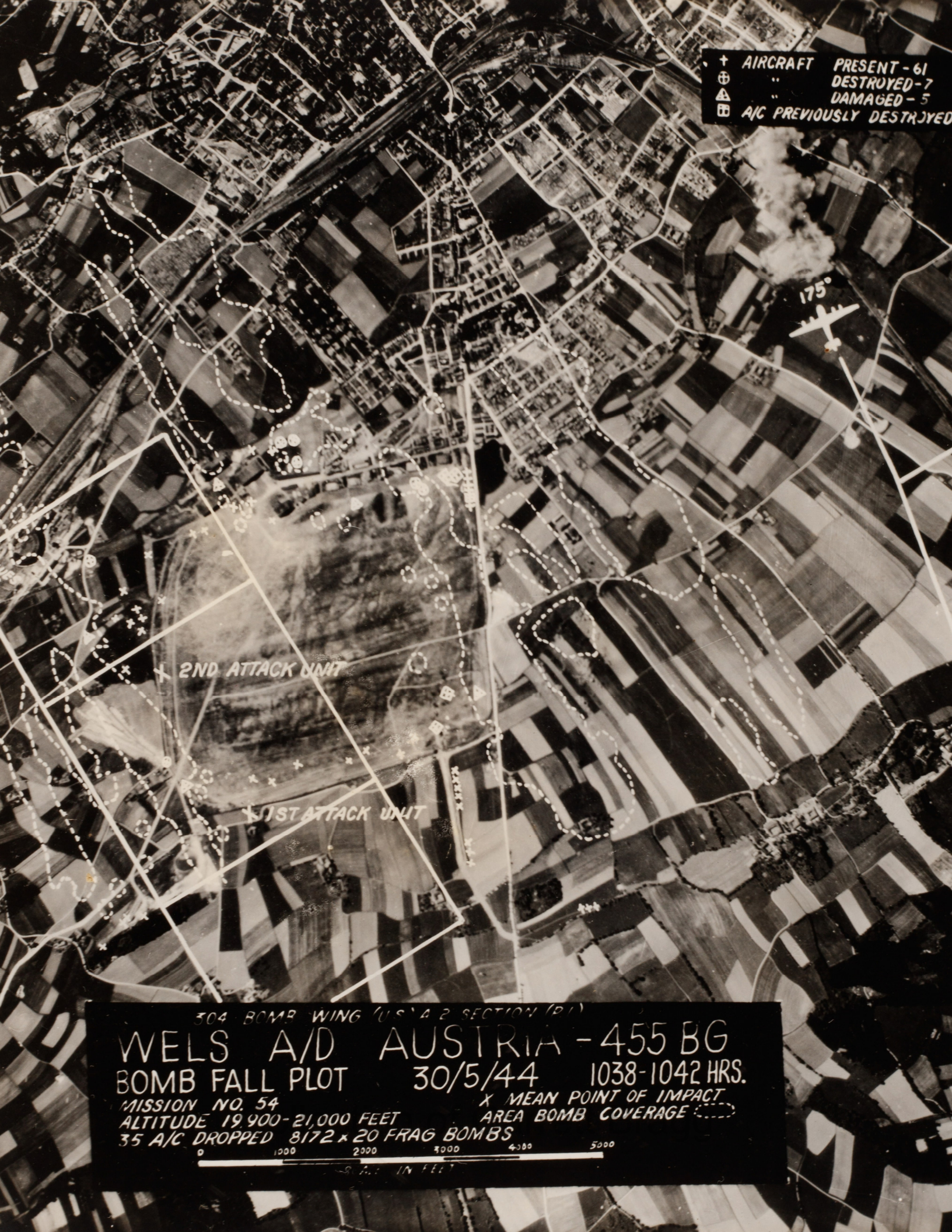
820 A/C were dispatched by Strategic Air Force, comprising 481 B-24's, 56 B-17's, 137 P-38's, and 95 P-51's. Primary attacks were carried out on dispersal component plants of the Wiener Neustadt Complex. Enemy air opposition was not strong, the number of encounters being 25/30 though some 50/60 enemy aircraft were seen. (The noticeable tendency to attack only straggling bombers or those split up from the main formation was again conspicuous and was emphasized by the fact that no apparent attempt was made to intercept the bombers before they reached their targets, attacks being made on them as they returned.

147 B-24's took off to frag bomb dispersed A/C on WELS A/D, Austria, the 454th leading. Enroute the 455th got ahead of the 456th and led the second wing across the target. Good bomb patterns were made by all Groups on the a/d and dispersal areas, destroying many of the 50 to 60 a/c reported to be present on the ground. The sole enemy opposition encountered was scant, inaccurate, heavy flak at the target, reported only by the 456th which had three ships holed. One B-24 of the 455th went down over the target, believed hit by bombs from another A/C of the same formation.

37 B-24's took off to bomb dispersed a/c on Wels A/D. 2 A/C returned early. 35 A/C dropped 20 pound frag bombs from 20,000 feet, with 34 A/C returning. 1 A/C was lost in the target area, believed hit by bombs from another plane of its formation. The first attack unit hit to the right of the assigned target area on the west side of the field, carrying over into the edge of the town. Second attack unit reported hits on east dispersal area in assigned target area.

GROUP LEADER	Major Horace Lanford
DEPUTY LEADER	Major Jack Reeder
SECOND UNIT LEADER	Captain David Belemere
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Harold Brooks
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Robert Cahill
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Richard Callan
OUR LOSSES	10 men Missing in Action, 741s 2nd Lt Kenneth Fetty

Collection of Garrett Bragg


AIRCRAFT PRESENT - 61
" DESTROYED - 7
" DAMAGED - 5
A/C PREVIOUSLY DESTROYED
175°
2ND ATTACK UNIT
1ST ATTACK UNIT
304 BOMB WING (USAAF) SECTION (B1)
WELS A/D AUSTRIA - 455 BG
BOMB FALL PLOT 30/5/44 1038-1042 HRS.
MISSION NO. 54
ALTITUDE 19,900-21,000 FEET
35 A/C DROPPED 8172 x 20 FRAG BOMBS
X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
AREA BOMB COVERAGE
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET

MISSION NUMBER 55 31 May 1944

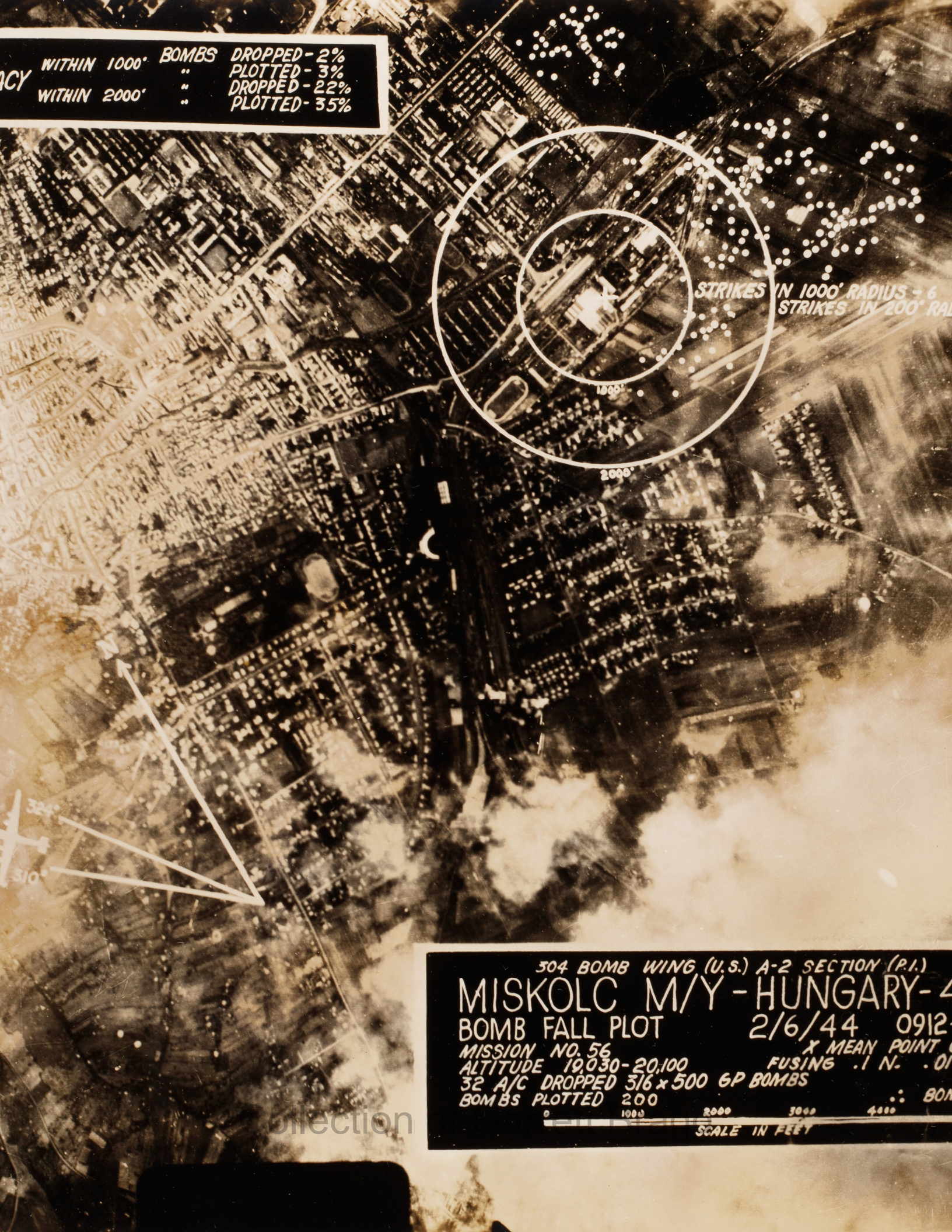
Strategic Air Forces dispatched 835 A/C comprising 501 B-24's, 56 B-17's, 145 P-38's, and 99 P-51's. 1,119 tons of bombs were dropped on the Ploesti Oil Refineries where an effective smoke screen rendered both bombing and observation of results more difficult, though columns of black smoke and numerous fires are reported extending as far as BUCHAREST. Enemy opposition consisted mainly of Me-109's, and about 50/75 aircraft and flak at the target was intense and accurate.

147 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb the UNIREA SPERANTZA OIL REFINERY at Ploesti, Rumania, the 456th leading. Enroute, the 454th got into the lead position and was the first group to bomb. The target was completely covered with smoke from smudge pots, but, by using check points, bombing was accomplished visually in most cases, although PFF equipment aided in determining the bomb release location. Smoke and flames from oil fires were observed in the target area and the smoke rose to 15,000 feet. One B-24 of the 456th was damaged by flak and the crew forced to bail out near the Base. An a/c of the 459th was show down by e/a shortly after the target. One ship of the 454th is missing.

37 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's. 1 A/C returned early and 5 returned prior. 31 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs on the target from 20,000 feet and returned. Crews estimated that bombs fell directly to the east of the m/y and to the west of the main road to Bucharest. Bombing was accomplished by use of Pathfinder and ETA methods. 12 to 15 Me-;09's in the target area made unaggressive attacks at the formation. 1 was destroyed and 1 probably destroyed.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin C. Ambrosen
DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt Wayne Smith
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt George Scrimshaw
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg


ACY
WITHIN 1000' BOMBS DROPPED - 2%
" PLOTTED - 3%
WITHIN 2000' " DROPPED - 22%
" PLOTTED - 35%
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 6
STRIKES IN 200' RA
1000'
2000'
304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
MISKOLC M/Y - HUNGARY - 4
BOMB FALL PLOT 2/6/44 0912-
MISSION NO. 56 X MEAN POINT
ALTITUDE 19,030 - 20,100 FUSING .1 N. .0
32 A/C DROPPED 316 x 500 GP BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED 200 BOM
0 1000 2000 3000 4000
SCALE IN FEET



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 57 4 June 1944

A total of 924 A/C were dispatched comprising 44 Wellingtons and 565 B-24's, 56 B-17's, 156 P-38's, and 97 P-51's. The operations were directed against communications targets in NW Italy and on both sides of the Franco-Italian border; cloud cover at primaries necessitated some groups attacking alternate targets. There was no enemy opposition.

153 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb a target in Northern Italy in two combat wings, the 454th leading. Finding the objective overcast, the formation bombed the secondary target, GENOA WEST M/Y. All groups secured concentrations of strikes in the m/y, but numerous strings hit east and some struck west of the target. No e/a were encountered, but the 454th lost 2 B-24's to intense, accurate, heavy flak at the target and one other is missing. One a/c of the 459th crashed shortly after take-off, killing 3 members of the crew. Flak at the target progressively lessened and the last two groups reported only slight and scant fire. A total of 3 ships were severely damaged by flak and 34 others were holed.

38 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 36 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs on the secondary target from 19,000 feet and returned. 2 A/C landed at Borgo A/D, Corsica. Good hits reported on south choke point of west m/y and some bombs carried over into the city proper. Other strings hit the central area of m/y. Fires were observed burning in m/y.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Alfred Asch
DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard Miller
SECOND SECTION LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt William McWard
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Harold Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg

304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

GENOA / SAMPIERDARENA M/Y - ITALY - 455 BG

BOMB FALL PLOT 4/6/44 1043-1055 HRS.

MISSION NO. 57 SECONDARY TARGET X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

ALTITUDE 17,500 - 20,000 FEET (REVISED) FUSING .1 N. .025 T.

36 A/C DROPPED 352 x 500 GP BOMBS ∴ BOMB BURSTS BOMBS PLOTTED · 313

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

SCALE IN FEET

ACCURACY WITHIN 1000' BOMBS DROPP
" PLOTT
WITHIN 2000' " DROPP
" PLOTT

STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 62
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 136

1000

1000


GENOA
ATTACKED 4 JUNE 44 BY
MAP V DR 101 5 JUN

MISSION NUMBER 58 6 June 1944

The main offensive effort of the Strategic Air Forces for this period were directed against Oil Refineries and Marshalling Yards in the PLOESTI-BRASOV Areas. 565 B-24's, 56 B-17's, 154 P-38's, and 87 P-51's were dispatched.

158 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb BRASOV M/Y in two combat wings, the 456th leading. Enroute, the 459th got into the lead and arrived at the target first. Fire in the lead a/c prevented the 459th from dropping on the briefed target so a target of opportunity, a munitions plant, was hit. The other groups each secured several strings of hits on the targets. One box of the 454th failed to drop because of bomb door malfunctions in the lead a/c. It selected and hit railway tracks in Ramnicul-Valcea. Flak at the target was scant to moderate, and only eighteen unaggressive e/a were encountered. There were no losses but one B-24 of the 459th is missing. Claims are 1 FW190 destroyed.

40 B-24's took off from this Group escorted by P-38's. 2 A/C returned early and 1 prior with 37 A/C dropping 500 pound GP bombs from 19,500 feet and returning. A good concentration reported across two m/ys and some bombs carrying across into oil refinery. Nine Me-109's were encountered and made aggressive attacks up to 200 yards, breaking under formation.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Hugh Graff
DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Lawrence Liberty
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... Captain David Bellemere
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Robert Cahill
GROUP BOMBARIDER ..... 1st Lt Michael Callan

Collection of Garrett Bragg


1
5
7
2
3
BRASOV M/YD.
ATTACKED 6 JUNE 44 BY 1 A.F.
MAP RW. DB 102 6 JUNE 44

MISSION NUMBER 59 7 June 1944

Strategic Air Forces were dispatched 577 A/C. Objectives were shipping and harbor facilities in NW Italy and communication targets in NW Italy and Southern France. There was no enemy air opposition.

161 B-24's took off to bomb targets in Northern Italy with the 459th leading. The 459th found its primary target overcast and dropped on a target of opportunity. The 454th bombed its primary, VOLTRI shipyards. The 455th was unable to locate its primary in the heavy undercast and bombed VOLTRI as a target of opportunity. Results were largely obscured by clouds. The 456th bombed SAVONA M/Y after finding its primary overcast. Enemy opposition was negligible, consisting only of scant, inaccurate, heavy flak encountered by the 455th at Voltri. One B-24 of the 454th is missing.

40 B-24's took off from this Group to bomb a target in Northern Italy, escorted by P-38's. 3 A/C returned early, 1 prior, and 1 A/C bombed with another group. 35 A/C dropped 1000 pound GP bombs on a target of opportunity, Voltri shipyards from 19,000 feet and returned. Target was obscured by clouds, making observations of results impossible. It is believed that most bombs hit in the water. Some hits were observed on shore installations, believed to have been east of the target.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Horace Lanford
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt Wayne Smith
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Harry Prosser
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Robert Cahill
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1ST LT Michael Callan

Collection of Garrett Bragg


ACCURACY: WITHIN 1000' BOMBS DROPPED - 5%
" PLOTTED - 23%
WITHIN 2000' " DROPPED - 12%
" PLOTTED - 52%
SMOKE OBSCURED AREA
BOMBS IN 1000' RADIUS — 19
BOMBS IN 2000' RADIUS — 44
1000'
2000'
N
140°
130°
304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
BRASOV M/Y - ROMANIA - 455 BG
BOMB FALL PLOT
6/6/44
0912-0913 HRS.
MISSION NO. 59 (REVISED)
X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
ALTITUDE 19,700-20,400 FT
:. BOMB BURSTS
FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025 T.
37 A/C DROPPED 360 x 500 GP BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED — 84
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET

MISSION NUMBER 60 — 9 June 1944

The Strategic Air Forces dispatched a total of 967 A/C, comprising 543 B-24's, 61 B-17's, 108 P-51's, 161 P-38's, and 39 P-47's. A heavy overcast throughout the primary targets in the Munich area necessitated a complete mission revisal and most of the aircraft bombing was on alternate targets. Approximately 120 T/E and S/E aircraft opposed the day's operation.

156 B-24's took off to bomb targets in southern Germany, the 455th leading. Primary targets were overcast so all Groups dropped on first alternate, MUNICH EAST M/Y by Pathfinder. The PFF equipment of the 455th and 459th became inoperative, requiring them to determine point of release by ETA. Results could not be determined because of heavy undercast. Enroute to the target, e/a shot down 3 B-24's of the 459th north of Udine, Italy and also lost one ship to intense, accurate flak at Munich. One of the 459th a/c and one from the 455th are missing. Initial claims are 7 e/a destroyed, 4 probably destroyed, and 4 damaged.

40 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 1 a/c returned early and 2 a/c dropped on targets of opportunity and returned. 37 A/C dropped 1000 pound GP bombs from 21,000 feet and 36 returned. 1 a/c is missing and was last seen under control. Results were not observed but bombs probably started short and to east of target carrying over into built-up section of town and to river on the east. Pathfinder equipment used in a start of the bomb run but it became inoperative and bombs were released by ETA. 5 e/a made unaggressive attacks on formation. Prior return shot down 1 e/a.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY LEADER	Major William Keefer
SECOND UNIT LEADER	1st Lt Bernard Keogh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Julio Locatelli
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Jack Horner
E/A DESTROYED	1 destroyed
OUR LOSSES	10 men Missing in Action, 2nd Lt Almon Catlin, 743rd

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Gar

MISSION NUMBER 61 10 June 1944

The Strategic Air Forces dispatched a total of 893 A/C comprising 55 B-17's, 91 P-51's, 143 P-38's, and 533 B-24's to bomb targets in Northern Italy.

153 B-24's of this Wing took off to frag bomb parked aircraft along the perimeter of FERRARA A/D, in Northern Italy, the 454th leading. All Groups secured good patterns of bombs on the A/D and a number of E/A were destroyed on the ground. Moderate, accurate flak was encountered at the target but no E/A opposition was met. There were no combat losses but 1 a/c of the 459th crashed at the group assembly point shortly after take-off.

41 B-24's took off from this Group escorted by P-51's. 1 A/C returned early and 2 dropped their bombs in the Adriatic Sea. 38 A/C returned after dropping 20 pound frags from 19,000 feet. The first attack unit because of malfunctioning A-5 mechanism, bombed to south of assigned area, hitting edge of field. Second attack unit secured hits on east dispersal area and east side of field, carrying over into the town.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David W. Harp
DEPUTY LEADER ..... Major Jack D. Reeder
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Elmer Kelley
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Harold Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg


1ST ATTACK UNIT
2ND ATTACK UNIT
STRIKE CONTINUED
304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
FERRARA A/D - ITALY - 455
BOMB FALL PLOT 10/6/44 1040-1044
MISSION NO. 61
ALTITUDE 19,000-19,900
38 A/C DROPPED 8694 x 20 FRAG BOMBS
X MEAN POINT OF IM
AREA BOMB COVERAGE
0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET
IRCRAFT PRESENT 30
" DESTROYED 0
" DAMAGED 0
/C PREVIOUSLY DESTROYED - 8

MISSION NUMBER 62

11 June 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 1107 A/C comprising by night 41 Wellingtons, and by day 532 B-24's, 181 B-17's, 146 P-51's, and 130 P-38's. Oil storage facilities in the Balkans provided targets for the effort. B-17's returning from Russian bases attacked an airdrome in Roumania. Total enemy air opposition is estimated at 90/100 A/C.

154 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb Giurgiu quaysidings, train ferry slips, and oil storage targets in two combat wings, the 459th leading. Hits were made on objectives by all Groups and oil fires were observed after the bombing. Some bombs however fell in the river and some others struck on the land near the targets. Only one E/A was encountered and it is claimed as destroyed by the 455th. Flak at the target was moderate and fairly accurate. There were no known losses but one B-24 of the 455th is missing, 1st seen missing at the IP.

39 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's. 38 A/C dropped 250 pound GP bombs from 19,000 feet and returned. 1 A/C is missing, after leaving the formation at IP. A number of hits in the target but others carried over into water. 7 enemy aircraft were in the target area but only one Me-109 attacked, making a pass to 50 yards. A tail gunner fired 50 rounds and E/A seen to crash.

GROUP LEADER	Major Hugh Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace Lanford
SECOND SECTION LEADER	Captain Wilbur Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Horst Schoene
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt George Kline
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Richard Callan
OUR LOSSES	10 men Missing in Action
	2d Lt Earl Brawninger, 743rd
E/A CLAIMS	one Me-109 destroyed

Collection of Garrett Bragg



304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

GIURGIU QUAY SIDINGS - ROMANIA - 455 BG

BOMB FALL PLOT 11/6/44 0904-0907 HRS

MISSION NO. 62 :: BOMB BURSTS X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

ALTITUDE 18,600-20,300 FEET FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025

38 A/C DROPPED 652 x 250 GP BOMBS BOMBS PLOTTED-223

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

SCALE IN FEET



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 63 — 13 June 1944

The Strategic Air Force dispatched 1,094 aircraft comprising 543 B-24's, 167 B-17's, 144 P-51's, and 147 P-38's. Day effort was concentrated on targets in the Munich area, the majority of which were well bombed. Some 150 E/A were encountered, many of which were not particularly aggressive except against stragglers. Attacks were mainly carried out by twin-engine fighters firing rockets or by single-engine fighters against the rear elements.

159 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb the Bayerische Motorenwerke at MUNICH, GERMANY, the 456th leading. All groups secured good patterns of bombs on the objective, but smoke hid much of the results of the second wing. No A/C are known lost to E/A or flak but 1 plane of the 459th went down in a mid-air collision with an unidentified B-24 at the target and 1 of the 456th crashed at sea after flak damage. The 459th has 2 others missing and one each from the 455th and 456th. Intense, accurate, heavy flak at the target killed a co-pilot and a navigator, and 6 were killed in a crash resulting from flak damage. Total claims are 8 e/a destroyed and 1 probably destroyed.

39 B-24's took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 3 A/C returned early and 3 jettisoned their bombs at sea. 33 A/C dropped 1000 pound GP bombs from 22,500 feet. 1 a/c is missing. A good concentration of bombs on the assigned target area with some bombs falling on A/D and carrying into city. Smoke pots in the target area limited observations. About 50 ME-109's were seen in the Udine area and in the target area with 30 E/A attacking the formation.

GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin Ambrosen
GROUP DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Richard Gosline
SECOND UNIT LEADER	1st Lt Alvin Fisher
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt William Crawford
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Raymond McGlasson
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Ross Strode
E/A CLAIMS	3 Mc-109's destroyed
OUR LOSSES	10 men Missing in Action
	F/O High Massey, 742nd
	2 men killed, 741st
	1 man injured, 741st

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 64 16 June 1944

948 A/C were dispatched to attack oil refineries and oil storage targets at Vienna and Bratislava which were most effectively attacked. The enemy fighter reaction was considerable, probably amounting to 200/250 sorties. Fighter claims are 39 destroyed and bomber claims are also considerable, totalling 31 E/A destroyed.

159 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb their oil targets in the Vienna area, the 459th leading. The first combat wing, the 459th and 454th, secured an excellent concentration of hits on the NOVA SCHWECHAT oil refinery but a cloud immediately covered the target preventing the second wing from accurately aiming at its target, the VIENNA WINTER/HAFEN oil storage area. Heavy flak in the area shot down one B-24 from the 455th and another from the 459th, and holing 52 A/C that returned to base. 2 ships, from the 459th and 456th, were lost to E/A in the target area and one other from the 456th was seen to crash. Total claims are 3 E/A destroyed, all by the 459th.

41 B-24's took off from this Group escorted by P-38's, P-47's, and P-51's. 1 A/C returned early and 3 prior. 37 A/C dropped 250 pound GP bombs on the target from 21,500 feet and 35 returned. 1 A/C is lost over the target and 1 A/C is missing. Clouds in the target area made observation extremely difficult. Fire and explosions were reported by some crews. 25 to 30 ME-110's and 5 to 10 ME-109's and FW-190's were in the vicinity of Lake Balaton but did not attack this Group.

GROUP LEADER	Major William Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Wilbur Bechtold
SECOND UNIT LEADER	Captain Lawrence Liberty
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER	1st Lt Arja Adair
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Leroy Brown
OUR LOSSES	20 men Missing in Action
	2nd Lt Harley Snider, 741st
	1st Lt Nelson Wurtz, 741st
	3 men injured

Collection of Garrett Bragg



BOMB FALL PLOT - 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

VIENNA WINTER HAFEN OIL STORAGE AREA - AUSTRIA - 455 BG

MISSION NO. 64 1050-1054 HRS. ALTITUDE 22,000-22,500 FEET

FUSING .1 N. .025 T. X-MEAN POINT OF IMPACT .:: BOMB BURSTS

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000

SCALE IN FEET


VIENNA - LOBAU
OIL BLENDING PLANT
ATTACKED 16.6.44 BY 15 AF
MAPRW DB 117 24.6.
1
2
3
4
5
6

MISSION NUMBER 65 — 22 June 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1143 A/C. Targets were marshalling yards and communication centers in N.W. and N.E. Italy. Adverse weather somewhat interfered both with the operations and with the observation of results. Enemy reaction is estimated at 50/60 sorties. Flak was varied ranging from moderate and accurate to none at all.

147 B-24's of this Wing took off in two combat wings, the 455th leading, to bomb the Chivasso Motor Transport Repair Depot and Turin Fiat Mirafiori Motor Works. The first combat wing secured an excellent concentration of hits on the Chivasso Motor Depot, completely blanketing the target. The second combat wing also secured an excellent concentration on their target, the Turin Fiat Motor Works. One B-24 of the 454th crashed on take off, killing 8 of the crew. No enemy fighters were seen and there was no flak at Chivasso.

42 B-24's took off to bomb Chivasso Motor Transport Repair Depot escorted by P-51's. 42 A/C dropped 250 pound GP bombs from 16,500 feet and returned. The target was entirely covered by bomb strikes.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Alfred Asch
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Loyd Beacham
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg

FALL PLOT – 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

) M/T REPAIR DEPOT – ITALY – 455 BG

65 1052-1053 HRS. 22/6/44 X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

00-16,700 FT. FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025 T. .: BOMB BURSTS

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

SCALE IN FEET

42 A/C DROPPED 748 x 25

BOMBS PLOTTED- 5

ACCURACY

WITHIN 1000' BOMBS D

BOMBS P

WITHIN 2000' BOMBS D

BOMBS P

STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 426

STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 504

1000'

2000'

N

70° 30'



BOMBS-AWAY

BEFORE

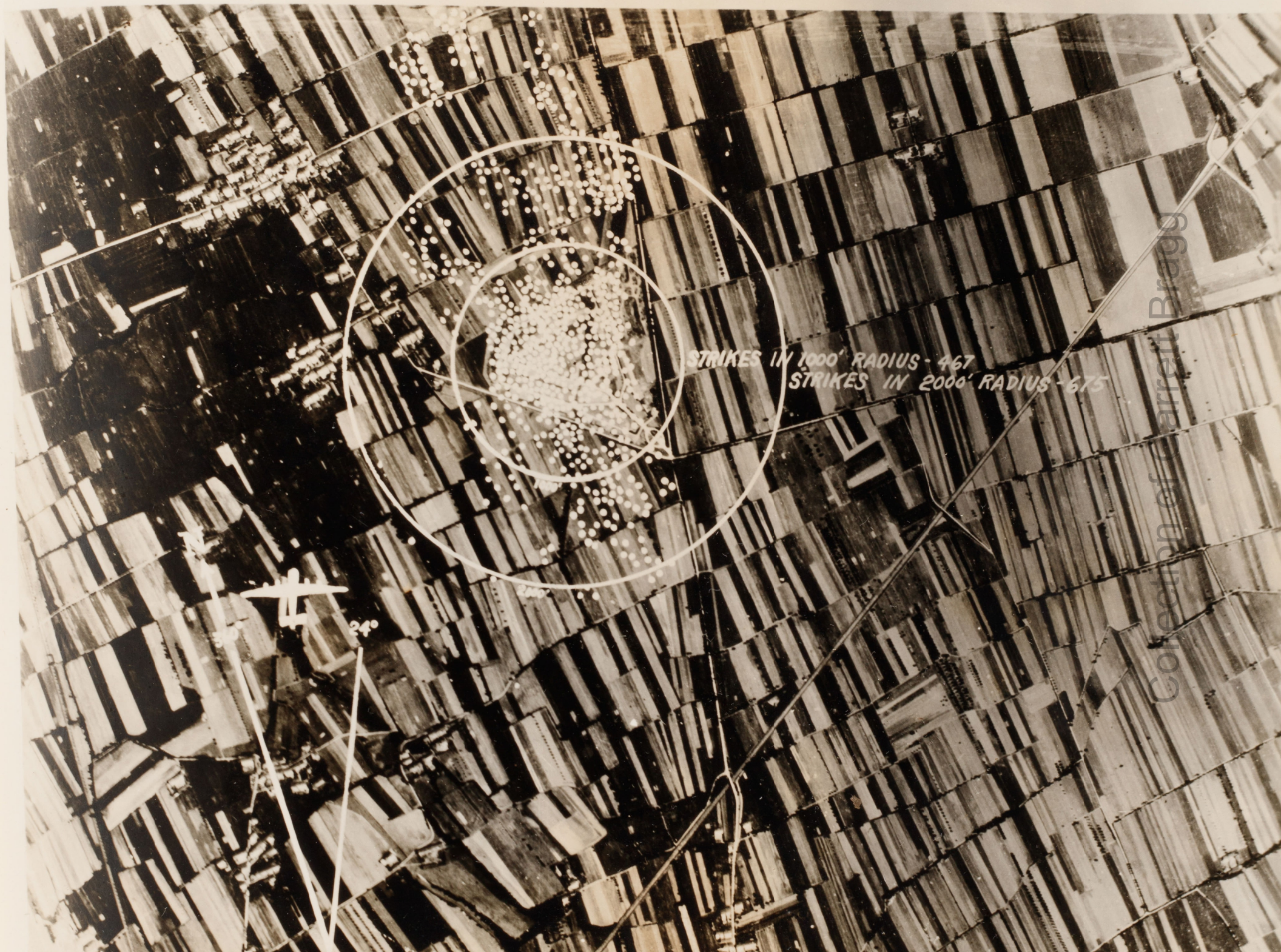
STRIKING

DEVELOPING

DEVELOPING

DEVELOPING

Collection of Steven F. Udvar-Hazy


STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 467
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 675
24°



Collection of Garrett Brace

MISSION NUMBER 66

24 June 1944

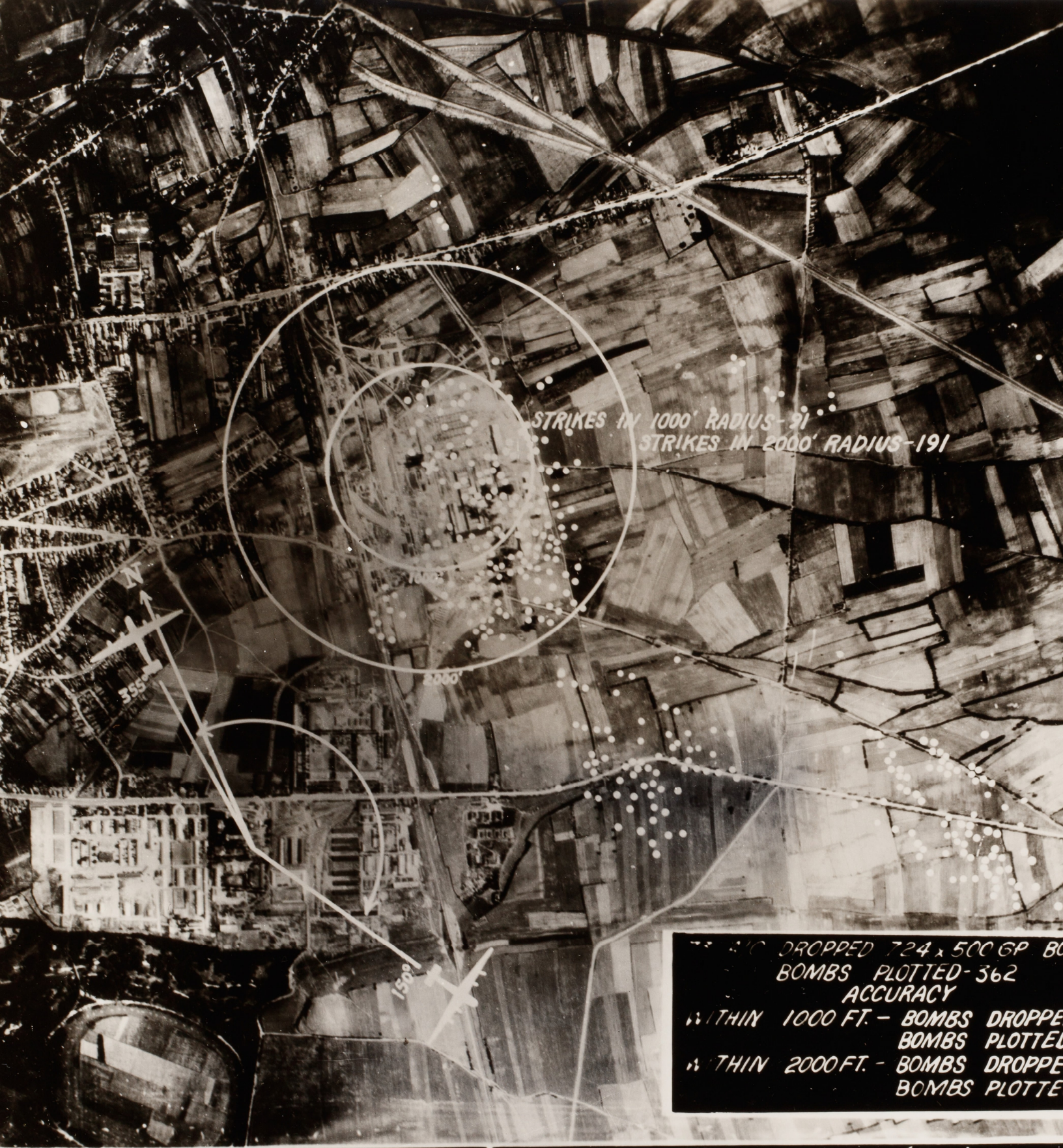
Strategic Air Force dispatched 688 A/C comprising 322 B-24's, 55 B-17's, 132 P-38's, 131 P-51's, and 48 P-47's. Attacks were directed against oil refineries and communication targets in the Eastern Danube Valley. About 80 enemy a/c attempted interception in the PLOESTI area and about 10 in the SOFIA area. Smoke screens at PLOESTI again rendered both bombing and observation of results difficult.

162 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb theCRAIOVA RAILWAY REPAIR DEPOT in two combat wings, the 456th leading. Enroute the 459th got ahead in its wing and it bombed before the 456th. An excellent pattern of bombs struck the objective, but a number of bombs were scattered in the vicinity. Enemy opposition was negligible. There was no flak at the target and only one a/c of the 459th was holed by e/a fire. It was attacked while straggling near the target. One B-24 of the 459th ditched, cause not known, and 8 members of the crew were rescued.

39 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P51's and P-38's. No a/c returned early but 2 returned prior to bombing. 37 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs from 17,500 feet and returned. "A" box on approach to the target lost sight of it in the clouds, did 360 degree turn, and made another run. The other three boxes dropped on the first run. Crews report that the bombs struck on the eastern side of the target, carrying well across the eastern half of the repair yards and over. Fires reported in the target area.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Horace Lanford
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Lawrence Liberty
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Ralph Sensenbrenner
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt George Kline
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Michael Callan

Collection of Garrett Bragg



COMBINED BOMB FALL PLOT 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

CRAIOVA R/R REPAIR DEPOT - ROMANIA - 455 - 456 BG

455 BG MISSION NO. 66 0922-0945 HRS. 24/6/44 ALT. 17,500-19,600' FUSING .1 N. .025

456 BG MISSION NO. 64 093-0932 HRS. 24/6/44 ALT. 16,000-18,800' FUSING .1 N. .025

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000

SCALE IN FEET



Collection of Garret Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 67

25 June 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 988 A/C comprising of 579 B-24's, 168 B-17's, 89 P-51's, 128 P-38's, and 24 P-47's. The main effort was directed against targets in Southern FRANCE. The target of one wing was covered by local clouds preventing bombing. Enemy opposition was moderate with only 30/35 E/A opposing the effort. Flak was generally scant, inaccurate, heavy.

153 B-24's took off to bomb communications targets at Avignon, France, the 459th leading. The first combat wing, the 459th and 454th, secured an excellent concentration of hits on its target, the western part of the Avignon M/Y. The 455th had a good concentration on its target, the Arles Railroad Bridge, but actual destruction of the bridge was not observed. Bombardiers of the 450th were unable to pick up their objective, the Avignon Railroad Bridge, in time to aim at it effectively and only one box dropped, securing only a number of near misses. No severe opposition was met. Only two groups reported scant flak at the target and the 459th was the only one to be attacked by E/A. 15 ME-109's made unaggressive passes at this Group, one being claimed as probably destroyed. No known losses were sustained but one B-24 of the 459th is missing.

39 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Arles Railroad Bridge escorted by P-51's and P-38's. 2 A/C were early returns. 37 A/C dropped 1000 pound GP bombs from 14,500 feet and returned. Bridge appeared to be bracketed but no hits were observed on bridge itself. It is probably that the bridge is down or severely damaged.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Daniel Neuman
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard Miller
DOG BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Lawrence Liberty

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 68

26 June 1944

Strategic Air Forces dispatched a total of 1165 A/C comprising 575 B-24's, 165 B-17's, 144 P-51's, 131 P-38's, and 46 P-47's. The main effort was directed against oil refineries at Budapest and Vienna. In opposition to the attacks on plants in the VIENNA area the enemy put up probably the most aggressive opposition yet encountered. An estimated enemy effort of 150/175 fighters was noteworthy for a larger number of T/E A/C, chiefly ME-410's and showing a more than usual willingness to fight, they made every effort to draw off the escorting fighters so as to leave the bombers unprotected. Flak was intense, accurate and heavy.

161 B-24's took off to bomb MOOSBIERBAUM Oil Refinery, Austria, the 455th leading. An excellent concentration of bombs hit the target but smoke from bombs and fires started by the first group made observation of later strikes difficult. Moderate, accurate, heavy flak at the target caused the loss of 1 B-24 of the 459th Group. The first two groups each encountered 125 E/A and the others reported more than 40. Aggressive attacks from these shot down 13 B-24's of the 454th and 455th and 4 others are missing from the 456th and 459th, besides the one lost to flak. Total initial claims of all Groups are 53 E/A destroyed, 25 probably destroyed, and 7 damaged.

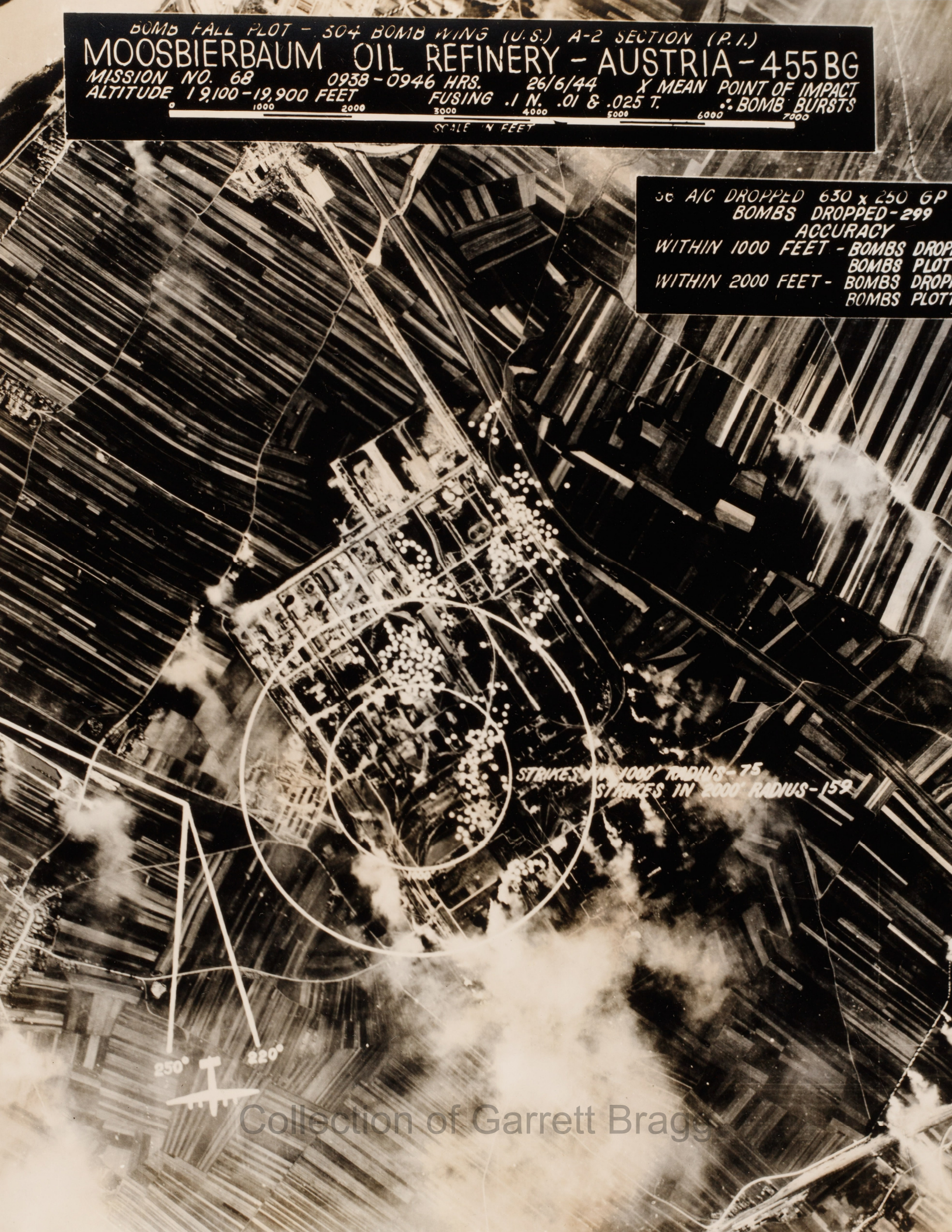
38 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 2 returned prior and 36 A/C dropped 250 pound GP bombs from 19,000 feet. 26 A/C returned to base. 10 A/C were lost in the target area due to action by enemy a/c. An excellent concentration of bombs struck the target with heavy black smoke rising from the target after the bombing.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain David Bellemere
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... Major Russell Welsh
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... 1st Lt Julio Locatelli
E/A CLAIMS ..... 33 destroyed, 12 probables
OUR LOSSES ..... 99 men Missing in Action.

742nd

2nd Lt Jack Montgomery
1st Lt Robert Montgomery
1st Lt Samuel Archibald
1st Lt James Brown
2nd Lt William Jackson
2nd Lt Robert Lebsock, 740th
2nd Lt Paul McCarthy, 741st
1st Lt Leon Jordan, 741st
1st Lt Bernard Keogh, 741st
1st Lt Ralph Sensenbrenner, 742nd

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 69

28 June 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 713 A/C consisting of 406 B-24's, 132 P-51's, 128 P-38's, and 47 P-47's. Bucharest M/Y's and oil refineries were attacked by two wings while KARLOVO A/D in Bulgaria was attacked by one. Some 65/70 E/A opposed the force in the Bucharest area. The majority of the E/A were not aggressive and appeared to be inexperienced.

148 B-24's took off to bomb KARLOVO A/D, the 454th leading. The 454th covered the A/D with frags and other groups secured good concentrations of GP bombs on hangars and other installations. Smoke from previous bomb bursts obscured some of the results. Enemy opposition was negligible and there were no losses or casualties.

31 B-24's took off to bomb Barracks and Stores at Karlova A/D escorted by P-38's and P-47's. 1 A/C returned early and 1 prior. 29 A/C dropped 100 pound GP bombs from 16,500 feet and returned. Bombs fell slightly short of target but carried up through barracks and hangar area. Previous groups bombs made complete observation difficult.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Harp
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Alfred Asch
SECOND BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Robert Lackner
THIRD BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
FOURTH BOX LEADER ..... 2nd Lt Paul Young

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 70

30 June 1944

Strategic Air Forces dispatched a total of 1141 A/C consisting of 562 B-24's, 156 B-17's, 151 P-38's, 154 P-51's, and 45 P-47's. The bombers were unable to pick up their primary targets due to adverse route weather; Enemy action which is difficult to assess due to adverse weather was 60/70 E/A.

150 B-24's took off to bomb primary target plan Able in two combat wings, the 456th leading. In the vicinity of Lake Balaton a lowering 10/10 overcast forced the formation to turn back and return to base. All returned bombs except the 456th Group which bombed a target of opportunity No enemy resistance was encountered and there were no losses.

32 B-24's took off to bomb Plan Able target, escorted by P-38's. 2 A/C returned early and 2 A/C returned prior. No bombs were dropped because formation turned back upon encountering adverse weather enroute.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major William Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Lawrence Liberty
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Cowden
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
DOG BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Wayne Smith

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 71

2 July 1944

The strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1128 A/C comprising 551 B-24's, 161 B-17's, 198 P-51's, and 140 P-38's against targets in the BUDAPEST area. A heavy overcast encountered over Budapest Almus Fuzito Oil Refinery militated against complete success of the day's operations. The other targets were successfully attacked. About 100/125 E/A opposed the effort of which 87 E/A are claimed destroyed or probably destroyed. In addition, 19 E/A were destroyed on the ground.

149 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb targets in Budapest in two combat wings, the 459th leading. Bombs of the first wing, the 459th and 454th, made a very good pattern on its objective, MANFRED WEISS M/Y, starting large fires in tank cars. The second wing hit the Budapest SHELL OIL STORAGE AND REFINERY. Bombs of the first group, the 455th, started such large fires that oil smoke covered the target, making it impossible for the trailing 456th to aim accurately at the objective. All groups encountered intense, accurate, heavy flak at the target area, which caused the loss of 3 A/C of the leading 459th. A few e/a made passes at the 455th at the target but not aggressively. The trailing 456th was subjected to aggressive encounters from 60 s/e enemy fighters which shot down 6 B-24's of the Group. One A/C of the 455th was lost in a crash at takeoff. Total claims are 12 e/a destroyed, 11 probably destroyed, and 7 damaged.

32 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Budapest Shell Oil Storage and Refinery escorted by P-51's. 2 A/C returned early and 1 prior. 15 A/C dropped 300 pound GP bombs and 14 A/C dropped 250 pound GP bombs from 18,500 feet and returned. 1 a/c was lost on a crash at the takeoff. Some bombs fell short on the east side of the target but numerous hits were observed on the oil refinery, starting fires in oil storages.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Cowden
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
DOG BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Wayne Smith
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Word Gidden

Collection of Garrett Bragg


29 A/C DROPPED
180 x 300 GP
242 x 250 GP
422 BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED - 234
ACCURACY
WITHIN 1000 FT. - BOMBS DROPP
BOMBS PLOTTE
WITHIN 2000 FT. - BOMBS DROPPE
BOMBS PLOTTE
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS -
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 219
278°
BOMB FALL PLOT - 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
HELL OIL REFINERY & STORAGE - BUDAPEST HUNGARY - 455 BG
ISSION NO. 71
1017-1020 HRS.
2/7/44
X-MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
LTITUDE 18,500 - 20,000 FEET
FUSING .1 N. - .01, .025 & NON DELAY T.
∴ BOMB BURSTS
0
1000
2000
3000
4000
5000
6000
7000
SCALE IN FEET



BUDAPEST / CZEPEL OIL REFINERY

TTACKED 2.7.44 BY 15 A.F.

MAPRW. DB 128. 3.7.44

MISSION NUMBER 72 — 3 July 1944

The Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 988 A/C comprising 167 B-17's, 428 B-24's, 138 P-38's, and 192 P-51's. Included in these figures were an Eighth Air Force Task Force operating from Fifteenth Air Force bases. Rail and oil targets in the Balkans were the main objectives and results were generally from good to excellent. Some 100 E/A, divided equally in the GIURGIU and BUCHAREST areas, opposed the effort. The E/A, mostly ME-109's, were generally very aggressive.

138 B-24's took off to bomb targets in Bucharest in two combat wings, the 455th leading. Although bombs were dropped visually, a partial undercast at the targets prevented accurate observation of results. A concentration of bombs hit the MALAXA LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, target of the 455th, 456th, and 459th. No hits were observed in the TITAN OIL REFINERY, target of the 454th, because of clouds. Enemy opposition was negligible. There were no losses.

28 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's. 24 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs on the primary target from 19,000 feet. All aircraft returned to base. A good concentration of bombs hit the target. Cloud cover hindered the bomb run and prevented complete observation of results.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Knight
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... Captain Robert Cook
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Jenkins
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg



ction of Garrett Brad

MISSION NUMBER 73

6 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1003 A/C comprising 167 B-17's, 454 B-24's, 161 P-51's, and 131 P-38's. The attacks were directed against a steel works, communications, and oil storage objectives in Northern Italy, with good to excellent results. Enemy air opposition consisted of a maximum of 25/30 aircraft, most ME-109's.

119 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb TRIESTE NORTH OIL REFINERY in two combat wings, the 454th leading. A good concentration of hits were obtained in the target and large oil fires were started. Hits were also reported on ships anchored near the refinery. No E/A were observed or encountered and flak at the target was scant, inaccurate, and heavy. There were no losses.

30 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 1 a/c returned early and 1 prior. 28 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs from 19,500 feet and returned. A good concentration of hits struck the target and the entire refinery area was well covered by the bomb pattern. Large fires were observed in target area.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain David Bellemere
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Jenkins
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Winfield Bowers
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg

BOMB FALL PLOT - 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

TRIESTE NORTH OIL REFINERY - ITALY - 455 BG - 6/7/44

MISSION NO. 73 1031-1032 HRS X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT

ALTITUDE 19,000 - 20,500 FEET FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025 T. ∴ BOMB BURSTS

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000

SCALE IN FEET



28 A/C DROPPED 280 x 500 GP BOMBS

BOMBS PLOTTED - 119

ACCURACY

WITHIN 1000 FT. - BOMBS DROPPED - 22%

BOMBS PLOTTED - 53%

WITHIN 2000 FT. - BOMBS DROPPED - 39%

BOMBS PLOTTED - 93%



Collection of Jeff Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 74 — 7 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1084 A/C, composed of 477 B-24's, 189 B-17's, 206 P-51's, and 151 P-38's. The main effort was directed against oil and airdrome installations in Western GERMANY, with a diversionary raid made against ZAGREB rail and air installations. Flak was generally intense, accurate, heavy at the targets. Some 275/300 E/A were airborne to oppose the effort in the VIENNA-BUDAPEST defense belt. Results in GERMANY were believed to be good although a very effective smoke screen was in operation over the BLECHHAMER Plants.

140 B-24's took off to bomb ODERTAL Oil refinery and Coking Plant, the 456th leading. Good concentrations of bombs fell on the objective by the first combat wing, but one attack unit of the 455th had a bombsight malfunction and its bombs fell short. The lead ship of the 454th had a bombsight malfunction and the majority of the bombardiers did not drop. The 459th dropped its bombs in the smoke-covered area but the smoke screen prevented observation of results. The enemy opposed this operation with intense, accurate and heavy flak and attacks by 25 fighters against the 454th. 3 B-24's of the 459th were lost to flak, 2 of the 454th were shot down by E/A. A total of 3 others are missing, 2 from the 454th and 1 from the 455th. Total claims are 3 E/A destroyed, and 1 probably destroyed.

29 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 24 A/C dropped 500 pound GP bombs from 20,000 feet and 23 returned. 2 A/C returned early and 3 prior. 1 a/c is missing. The first attack unit secured a good concentration of bombs in the target area. Two columns of smoke were observed rising to 15,000 feet. The second attack unit dropped short in open fields.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Alfred Asch
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Howard Miller
B BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Winfield Bowers
C BOX LEADER ..... Captain James Knight
D BOX LEADER ..... Captain Robert Cook
OUR LOSSES ..... 2nd Lt Ralph Chadwick, 741st
10 men Missing in Action

Collection of Garrett Bragg


ODERTAL OIL REFINERY
ATTACKED 7 JULY 44 BY 15 AF
MAPRW DB 133 8 JULY 44
13
11
10
14
12
9
20
8
1
15
18
7
6
5
4
16
17

MISSION NUMBER 75

8 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 916 A/C against oil and air installations in the area of VIENNA. Results were generally excellent. Flak was generally intense, accurate, and heavy. Some 100/110 E/A opposed the effort, the majority of which were aggressive.

125 B-24's took off to bomb parked a/c along edges of MUNCHENDORF A/D, the 459th leading. The 455th and 454th secured good patterns on the objective, but all of the 456th and the majority of the 459th had to abandon the primary because other formations were bombing it above them at the same time. Flak at the primary was moderate and mostly inaccurate. Unaggressive E/A attacked the 454th and 456th but there were no losses, and initial claims were 2 E/A destroyed.

31 B-24's took off to bomb a/c parked along the perimeter of Munchendorf A/D, escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 26 A/C dropped 20 pound frags from 21,000 feet. 1 returned early and 2 prior. 2 bombed with the 456th. There were hits in the target area, some bombs carrying over south and east of the target area. Smudge pots were effective making observations difficult.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Horace Lanford
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Robert Wigely
SECOND UNIT LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
SECOND DEPUTY LEADER ..... Captain Robert Cook
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Robert Crowley
GROUP BOMBARIDER ..... 1st Lt Sam Bakanauskas

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Courtesy of Garret Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 76 12 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 643 A/C comprising 473 B-24's, 123 P-51's, and 47 P-38's. The entire effort was directed against Rail facilities in southeastern France. Results were generally good. 40/50 E/A opposed the effort, the majority of which were aggressive. Flak varied from scant to moderate, accurate, and heavy.

123 B-24's took off to bomb MIRAMAS M/Y, France in two combat wings, the 455th leading. Good results were obtained by all Groups on the objective. Moderate to intense, accurate heavy flak was encountered at the target, holing 32 a/c. The only e/a encountered were three FW-190's which attacked the 459th but were driven off by the escort. There were no known losses but three B-24's of the 456th and one from the 454th are missing.

30 B-24's took off to bomb Miramas M/Y, escorted by P-51's. 1 a/c returned early and 29 a/c dropped 290x500 pound (72.5 tons) GP bombs on the primary target at 18,500 feet and returned. A good concentration of bombs hit the choke point of the marshalling yards. Some bombs fell short, hitting near to the chemical plant, and some fell east of the aiming point.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Russell Welsh
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Cowden
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Robert Crowley
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BOMB FALL PLOT - 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
MIRAMAS M/Y - FRANCE - 455 BG - 12/7/44
MISSION NO. 76 1138 - 1145 HRS. X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
ALTITUDE 19,000 - 19,300 FT. FUSING .1 N. .01 & .025 T. ∴ BOMB BURSTS
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET
330°
355°
N
DROPPED 290 x 500 GP BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED - 230
ACCURACY
1000 FEET - BOMBS DROPPED - 44%
BOMBS PLOTTED - 55%
2000 FEET - BOMBS DROPPED - 56%
BOMBS PLOTTED - 70%



Collection [illegible] Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 77

13 July 1944

712 aircraft were dispatched by Strategic Air Force including 317 B-24's, 108 B-17's, 134 P-38's, and 121 P-51's. The entire effort was directed against the remaining important oil storage facilities and the interdiction of the rail lines in Northeast Italy. Operations were effected slightly by adverse weather in the target area. Only a few aircraft were seen and no attempt at interception was made.

118 B-24's took off to bomb targets in northern Italy, the 454th leading. The first combat wing bombed its primary target, the oil storage at TRIESTE, and secured good concentrations of hits at both ends of the refinery area. The second combat wing, the 456th and 455th, were unable to bomb its primary because of complete undercast and bombed the secondary target, PORTO MARGHERA oil storage, and obtained a number of hits on the objective. One box of the 455th returned bombs to base because a cloud hit the target. No e/a were encountered. Flak was moderate, accurate, heavy at Porto Marghera, and scant, inaccurate, heavy at Trieste. There were no losses.

30 B-24's took off to bomb the primary target but bombed the secondary target, the oil storage at Porto Marghera, Italy, dropping500 pound GP bombs from 20,000 feet. 22 A/C dropped 220x500 pounds (55 tons). 6 a/c returned bombs to base and 2 prior returns. A good concentration of bombs hit on an oil storage area. Others hit in the water and some in buildings to the north of the oil storage area.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Gosline
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Paul Young
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... Major Alfred Asch
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 78

15 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1172 aircraft, including 165 B-17's, 542 B-24's, 231 P-51's, and 153 P-38's. The effort was directed against oil fields in the Balkans with PLOESTI as the main objective. Due to a heavy smoke screen and from 5 to 7/10th cloud cover at PLOESTI, bombing was principally by PFF methods and observation of results were difficult. Large columns of smoke rose to 25,000 feet and could be seen from a distance of 200/250 miles. 40/50 ME-109's and FW-190's were encountered but only a few made aggressive attacks on the bombers.

155 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb the Dacia Romano Oil Refinery and the Telejean Pumping Station at Ploesti, the 455th leading. All groups bombed by Pathfinder method, since the target was effectively covered by smoke, in addition to 6/10 to 9/10 cloud cover. Results were unobserved. No enemy fighters were seen or encountered. Flak at the target was intense, accurate, and heavy. Four B-24's were lost and four are missing.

41 B-24's took off escorted by P-51's. 39 A/C dropped 380x500 pound (92.5 tons) GP bombs from 20,000 feet and 38 returned. One a/c is missing and was last seen with one engine smoking. Another a/c is missing last seen with two engines feathered. Bombing was unobserved because of heavy smoke cover. Smoke could be seen fifty miles from the target.

GROUP LEADER	Major Alfred Asch
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin Ambrosen
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Abram Pendelton
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt Winfield Bowers
DOG BOX LEADER	1st Lt Edwin Keil
OUR LOSSES	20 men Missing in Action
	1st Lt Roy Johnson, 740th
	2nd Lt Bush, 742nd

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 79

16 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 826 A/C comprising 140 B-17's, 346 B-24's, 194 P-51's, and 146 P-38's. The effort was directed against oil and aircraft targets in the Vienna area. Due to heavy cloud cover, bombing was done principally by PFF. 100/120 E/A opposed the effort.

116 B-24's took off to frag prarked a/c along perimeter of Munchendorf A/D, Austria, in two combat wings, the 456th leading. The first combat wing, the 456th and 455th, found the target completely overcast and returned bombs to base. The second combat wing bombed visually but could not observe results due to cloud cover. Flak was intense, accurate and heavy at the target. The 456th was attacked by 5 ME-109's shortly before the target and destroyed 2 of them. 1 B-24 of the 454th crashed in friendly territory, killing 4 crew members.

29 B-24's took off to bomb the primary target escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 1 a/c returned early. 28 a/c returned bombs to base. No bombs were dropped because target was obscured by clouds.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Wilbur Bechtold
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... Captain Alvin Fisher
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Winfield Bowers
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt David Woodlock

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 80

17 July 1944

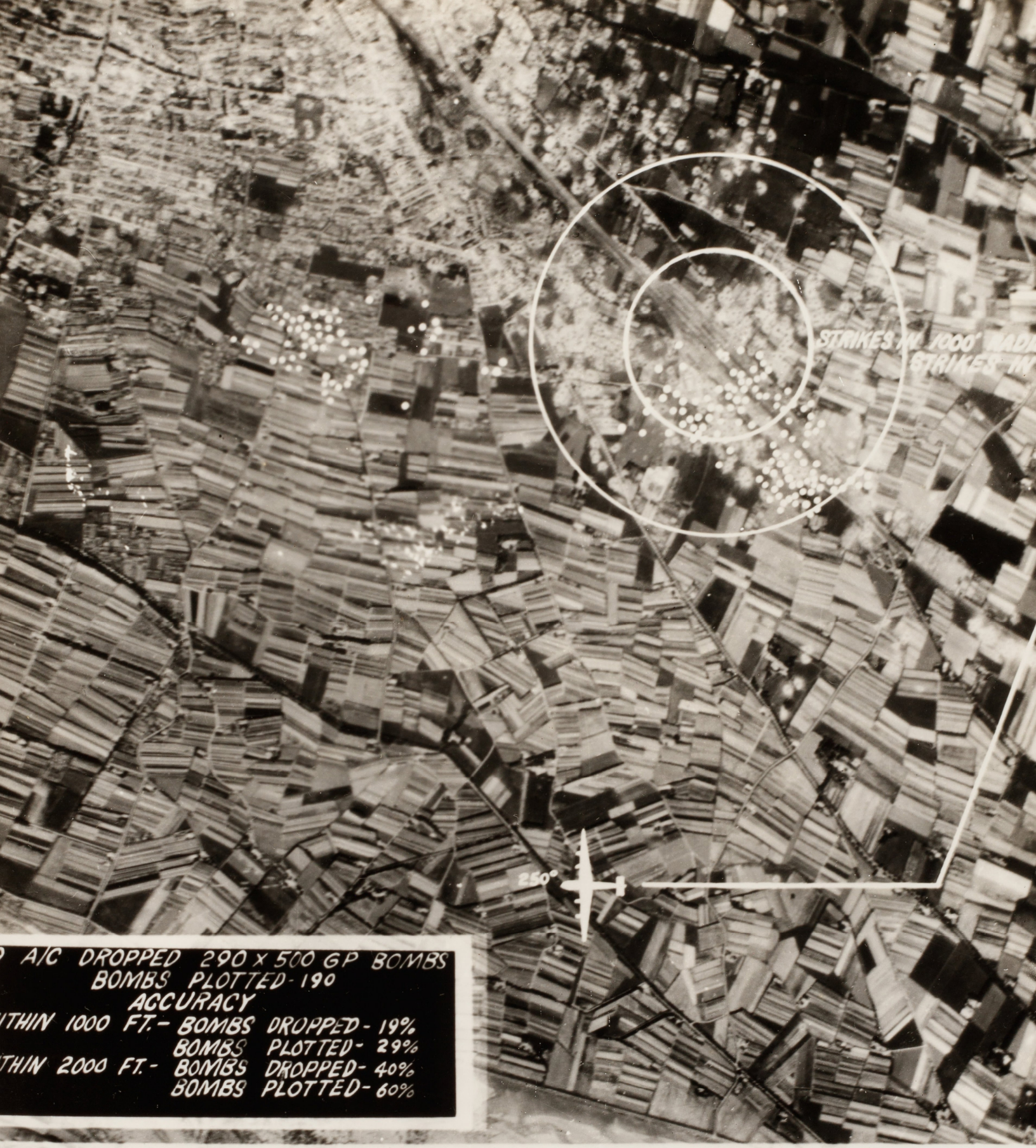
The Strategic Air Force dispatched a partial effort of 413 A/C, comprising 182 B-24's, 53 P-51's, and 87 P-38's. Operations were against bridges and M/Y in Southeastern France. E/A reaction was slight. 20/30 E/A were seen of which only 18 were encountered. The enemy pilots displayed no aggressiveness and no unused tactics.

118 B-24's took off to bomb targets in Southern France in two combat wings, the 459th leading. The target of the 456th, AVIGNON NORTH RAILROAD BRIDGE, received a good concentration of bomb hits. The 459th dropped a concentration near its objective, the AVIGNON SOUTH RAILROAD BRIDGE. The 454th and 455th both secured a good concentration of strikes on their objective, the AVIGNON EAST M/Y. Moderate, accurate flak at the target shot down one B-24 of the 459th and damaged thirty others of all groups. The 454th was attacked by five e/a and eight made passes at the 456th, but none were aggressive. One enemy fighter is claimed as destroyed. One B-24 of the 455th and two from the 456th are missing.

30 B-24's took off to bomb Avignon East M/Y, France, escorted by P-51's and P-38's. 1 A/C returned prior and 29 A/C dropped 290x500 pound GP (72.5 tons) bombs from 19,000 feet and 28 A/C returned. One A/C is missing and was last seen losing altitude with two engines shot out by flak. A good concentration of bombs on the assigned target, with some bombs hitting short and some carrying over. Bombing was done visually.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Harp
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Howard Miller
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... Captain Lawrence Liberty
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Edwin Keil
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Harold Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg



A/C DROPPED 290 x 500 GP BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED - 190
ACCURACY
ITHIN 1000 FT. - BOMBS DROPPED - 19%
BOMBS PLOTTED - 29%
ITHIN 2000 FT. - BOMBS DROPPED - 40%
BOMBS PLOTTED - 60%

BOMB FALL PLOT — 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

AVIGNON EAST M/Y — FRANCE — 455BG - 17/7/44

MISSION NO. 80 1322 - 1324 HRS. X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
ALTITUDE 20,000 - 20,400 FUSING .1 N .01 & .025 T. ∴ BOMB BURSTS

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET


AVIGNON EAST M/Y.
ATTACKED 17TH. JULY, 1944 BY 15TH.
M.A.P.R.W. B.B. 150. 20TH JULY. 1944
N

MISSION NUMBER 81

20 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 953 A/C including 140 B-17's, 360 B-24's, 141 P-38's, and 202 P-51's. The day effort was directed against counter air force targets in Southern GERMANY. General results were very good to excellent. Enemy opposition was 125/150 E/A in the target area and an additional 25/30 E/A in the UDINE area , 4/5 or which reappeared as the bombers returned. Flak was generally M/IAH.

145 B-24's took off to bomb Maybach A/C Engine Factory, Friedrichshafen, Germany in two combat wings, the 459th leading. Bombing by previous formations surrounded the target with smoke but the leading 459th was able to secure a very good concentration of hits in the target. The other groups found the objective totally obscured and were forced to use offset and RFF methods of aiming. Results of this bombing could not be observed but it is believed that all hits were in the target area. No E/A were encountered. Flak was moderate to intense and very accurate, shooting one B-124 down of the 454th and 1 of the 459th and holing 41 others. 3 a/c are missing.

37 B-24's took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 3 a/c returned prior and 34 a/c dropped 328x500 pound (82 tons) and returned. Bombs fell directly into target area which was covered with heavy smoke from previous bombing.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major William Keefer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Russell Welsh
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Cowden
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Harry Young
DOG BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Riley
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Willie Moore
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Sam Bakanauskas

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 82

21 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 903 A/C comprising 166 B-17's, 357 B-24's, 142 P-38's, and 238 P-51's, against targets in Germany. Bad route weather caused one Wing of bombers to return to base. Enemy fighters reacted moderately.

135 B-24's took off to bomb BRUX Synthetic Oil Plant, Czechoslovakia, in two combat wings, the 455th leading. Target was completely covered with smoke, primarily from previous bombing, and results could not be determined. PFF was used by some Groups. The only e/a encounters were experienced by the 456th when 10 JU-88's fired rockets at the formation near the target. Flak was intense, accurate, heavy, causing the loss of 3 B-24's: 1 from the 454th and 2 from the 456th. 1 each from the 455th and 459th are missing.

34 B-24's took off escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 1 a/c returned early and 2 returned prior. 31 a/c dropped 178x1000 pound (89 tons) bombs on the primary target from 19,5000 feet and 30 returned. 1 a/c is missing and last seen losing altitude. The target was completely obscured from previous bombing. The majority of the bombs fell in the smoke obscured area but some fell short. Bombing was accomplished by pathfinder methods.

GROUP LEADER.....	Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace Lanford
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Edwin Keil
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	Captain Robert Cook
DOG BOX LEADER	1st Lt James Riley
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Major Jack Horner
OUR LOSSES	10 men Missing in Action Major Horace Lanford, 741st

Collection of Garrett Bragg


9
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BRUX SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT.
ATTACKED 21/7/44 BY 15TH A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. D.B.168. 6/8/44.

MISSION NUMBER 83

22 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 1105 A/C consisting of 163 B-17's, 490 B-24's, 68 P-38's, and 156 P-51's against the Romano Americano Oil Refinery in PLOESTI. Fighter reaction to the PLOESTI mission was slight and ineffective.

127 B-24's from this Wing took off to bomb PLOESTI ROMANO AMERICANO OIL REFINERY, ROUMANIA in two combat wings, the 454th leading. Enroute, all but 4 of the 459th a/c became separated from the rest of the formation and returned to base. The objective was entirely covered with dense smoke, in part from smudge pots, but principally from previous bombing, and bombing was little better than fair, insofar as can be determined. 2 Groups used PFF and the other employed the offset method. 1 B-24 of the 454th crashed upon landing and one of the 455th crashed upon return to Italy. 2 others of the 455th had a mid-air collision over Jugoslavia and are lost. A severe cross-wind and dust storm made landing at the home airdromes very dangerous and most of the B-24's were forced to land at other bases.

30 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's. 1 a/c returned prior and 1 returned early. 28 A/C dropped 166x1000 pound bombs (83 tons) from 21,500 feet and 25 returned. 3 a/c are lost. Smoke obscured the target and no observations of bomb hits were made. Bombing accomplished by the pathfinder method.

GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Richard Gosline
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Loyd Beacham
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt Richard Jenkins
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Earl Pickerill
GROUP BOMBARDIER	1st Lt Glenn Nelson
OUR LOSSES	20 men Missing in Action
	2nd Lt Edmund Russell, 740th
	2nd Lt Samuel Hanssard, 741st
	collied in mid-air

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 84

25 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 794 A/C comprising 167 B-17's, 351 B-24's, 154 P-51's, and 74 P-38's against LINZ/HERMAN GOERING TANK WORKS IN AUSTRIA. The effort was opposed by about 175/200 very aggressive enemy aircraft, a substantial number of which were destroyed. Results were very good.

130 B-24's took off to bomb the HERMANN GOERING TANK WORKS in two combat wings, the 454th leading. All groups secured a good concentration of bombs in the assigned target area, although large fires and smoke from previous bombing obscured the target to some extent. The 459th encountered about 40 ME-109's and FW-190's from ten minutes before the IP through the target. These a/c were aggressive. Claims are 9 e/a destroyed, and 2 probably destroyed. One B-24 was lost to these fighters. Flak was intense, accurate and heavy and 2 B-24's are missing.

30 B-24's from this Group took off to bomb escorted by P-51's and P-38's. 2 a/c returned prior and 3 returned early. 25 A/C dropped 142x1000 pound GP bombs (71 tons) from 21,500 feet and 24 returned. 1 a/c was lost when the crew bailed out near San Severo. The main concentration of bombs hit in the east edge of the target and carried into the smoke-filled area. Bombing was accomplished visually.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Wilbur Bechtold
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt James Riley
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Rodney Teel
DOG BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt George Crum
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Captain Leroy Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BOMB FALL PLOT - 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)
RMANN GOERING TANK WKS - LINZ AUSTRIA - 455 BG - 25/7/44
SION NO. 84
1124-1125 HRS
ITUDE 21,900 - 22,800 FEET
FUSING .1 N. .025 T.
X MEAN POINT OF IMPACT
∴ BOMB BURSTS
1000 2000 1000 1000 2000
SCALE IN FEET
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS
STRIKES IN 2000
SMOKE OBSCURED AREA
260°
248°
25 A/C DROPPED 142 x 1000 GP BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED-23
ACCURACY
WITHIN 1000 FEET - 64%
WITHIN 2000 FEET - 95%

MISSION NUMBER 85

27 July 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 741 A/C composed of 109 B-17's, 319 B-24's, 143 P-51's and 87 P-38's. The effort was directed against Manfred Weiss Armament Works at BUDAPEST. Results are believed to be excellent. Some 100/115 E/A were encountered enroute. Flak was M/IAH.

117 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb the Manfred Weiss Armament Works at Budapest, Hungary in two combat wings, the 456th leading. This Wing was the last to bomb in the Air Force and the assigned target was smoke obscured. However a good concentration was secured in the area with some hits in a built up area and on an a/d east of the target. 50 to 60 ME-109's, 30 FW-190's made several attacks on the 455th and continuing until 30 minutes from the target. 5 B-24's were lost. Claims are 16 destroyed, and 18 probably destroyed. Flak at the target was intense, accurate and heavy but no other a/c were lost.

29 B-24's took off from this Group escorted by P-51's 1 a/c returned early and 4 prior. 24 A/C dropped 232x 500 pound (58 tons) bombs from 21,000 feet and 19 A/C returned. 5 were lost due to e/a. Some bombs fell into smoke-covered area on the assigned target.

GROUP LEADER	Major David Harp
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Alfred Asch
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Charles Rosenberg
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt Edwin Keil
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Harold Ohlmeyer
E/A CLAIMS	16 destroyed, 18 probables
OUR LOSSES	51 men Missing in Action
	2nd Lt Maxwell Gates, 741st
	2nd Lt Henry Dunekack, 742nd
	2nd Lt John Parish, 742nd
	2nd Lt Robert Gulbranson, 743r
	2nd Lt Eugene Potucek

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BUDAPEST / MANFRED WEISS
ARMAMENT WORKS
ATTACKED
MAPRW DB-161
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Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 808 A/C, comprising 133 B-17's, 270 B-24's, 115 P-38's, and 200 P-51's. The main effort was directed against oil targets in Roumania. 225/250 A/C opposed the day's operations. The Ploesti Refineries were again covered by a heavy smoke screen.

107 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb targets in Ploesti in two combat wings, the 459th leading. The targets were covered by an effective smoke screen and bombing was by use of Pathfinder methods. No observations were made of bomb strikes but crews of the 459th and 454th report that bombs fell into the smoke of their target area, the ASTRA-ROMANO Refinery, and the crews of the other groups also report seeing their bombs dropping into the smoke over their objective, the STANDARD OIL Refinery. No E/A were encountered but intense accurate heavy flak caused the loss of 4 B-24's of the 459th and one of the 456th. Four others of the 459th are missing.

24 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Astra/Romano Refinery escorted by P-38's and P-51's. 19 A/C dropped 186x500 pound G.P. bombs (46.5 tons) on the primary target from 22,500 feet and returned. 3 A/C returned prior, 1 early, and 1 A/C bombed a target of opportunity. Bombing was accomplished by Pathfinder methods. Check points before target indicate bombs fell in target area. Large columns of smoke observed rising to 16,000 feet on rally. No enemy aircraft or flak encountered except over the target.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Hugh Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Lawrence Liberty
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt George Crum
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Paul Young
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg


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PLOESTI
ASTRA ROMANA OIL REFINERY
ATTACKED 28th. JULY 1944 by 15th. A.F.
D.B.160.
D. M.A.P.R.W.

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 821 A/C composed of 252 B-24's, 168 B-17's, 212 P-51's, and 134 P-38's. The primary effort was directed against oil targets in Roumania where fair results were obtained. Some 60/70 enemy aircraft were encountered by the escort who succeeded in keeping all enemy aircraft away from the bomber formations.

87 B-24's took off to bomb MOGOSAIA OIL STORAGE, BUCHAREST, RUMANIA. Bombing was visual and the target was fairly well-covered, especially by the 454th and 455th. No e/a were encountered. Flak at the target was moderate, inaccurate and heavy. The hydraulic system of a B-24 of the 455th was rendered useless by flak, and this a/c was lost in landing at Base.

27 B-24's took off from this Group escorted by P-51's. 25 A/C dropped 246x500 pound RDX bombs (61.5 tons) from 21,000 feet and returned. 1 a/c returned prior and 1 returned early. 1 a/c, Major Ambrosen's, was lost when upon landing it could not be braked and rolled down the hill at the end of the runway. Bombs fell to the right of the assigned target area, barely reaching perimeter of target. Bombing was done visually.

GROUP LEADER	Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Richard Gosline
BAKER BOX LEADER	Captain Robert Cook
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt Richard Jenkins
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BOMB FALL PLOT - 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (PL.)
OSOAIA OIL STORAGE - BUCHAREST ROMANIA - 455 BG-31
NO. 87
E 21,200 - 22,400 FEET
1121 HRS.
FUSING - .1 N. .025 T.
X MEAN POINT OF
SCALE IN FEET
DROPPED 246x 500 RDX BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED - 20%
ACCURACY
00 FEET - 7%
000 FEET - 40%
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS-15
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS-80
55
102
BOMBS
ASM YDS.


BUCHAREST / MOGASA OIL STOR
ATTACKED 3/7/44 BY 15TH A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. D.B.169. 7/8/44.
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Strategic Air Force dispatched during this period a total of 956 A/C composed of 157 B17's, 446 B-24's, 136 P-38's, and 217 P-51's. The main effort was against industry in FRIEDRICHSHAFEN area and railroad communications in BRENNER PASS. 40/50 E/A opposed operations against Friedrichshafen; there was no fighter opposition to the Brenner Pass operations. There were no operations during the night.

122 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb a target at Friedrichshafen in two combat wings, the 454th leading. Adverse weather conditions forced bombing of the alternate target, ZAHNRAD-FABRIK WORKS, FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, by PFF method. There was 6/10 to 9/10 undercast at the alternate target and observation of results was impossible. Strike photographs, although largely cloud obscured show bombs falling across m/y to the southwest and carrying into the assigned target area. Enemy fighters were not encountered. Flak was reported as M/IAH. One B-24 is missing.

30 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's. 27 A/C dropped 250x500 pound GP bombs (62.5 tons) and 26 a/c returned. 1 a/c is missing, last seen lagging behind the formation with a feathered engine. 3 a/c returned early. Observation of results was impossible.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major David Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major Wilbur Bechtold
BAKER BOX LEADER .....Captain Lloyd Griffin
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... Major Jack Reeder
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... 1st Lt Ned Paul
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... 1st Lt Leroy Brown
OUR LOSSES ..... 2nd Lt Thomas Ramey, 743rd
10 Men Missing in Action

Collection of Garrett Bragg

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1,069 A/C. 188 B-17's, 548 B-24's, 170 P-51's, and 103 P-38's operated against targets in S.E. France and 30 P-51's operated from Russian bases to sweep the Ploesti-Bucharest area. E/A reaction was nil in the Roumanian area and approximately 10 Me-109's and FW-190's were seen over S. France.

149 B-24's took off to bomb oil and communications targets in Southern France, escorted by P-51's. Targets were as follows: 456th, Lyon/Vaise Oil Storage; 455th, Lyon/Port Herriot Oil Targets; 459th, Givors/ Rhone RR Bridge; 454th, St. Rambert RR Bridge. Results were good to excellent. Bombing was accomplished visually and all groups secured good coverage of bombs on briefed aiming points. No E/A were encountered nor was any flak experienced at the target. 1 B-24 is missing.

35 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Lyon/ Port Herriot Oil Storage escorted by P-51's. 34 A/C dropped 334x500 pound GP bombs (83.5 tons) from 18,500 feet and 33 a/c returned. 1 a/c is missing but no definite information has been received concerning it. 1 a/c returned early. The briefed aiming points were well covered. Large fires were observed and smoke rising to 20,000 feet could be seen 35 minutes past the target.

GROUP LEADER	Major Alfred Asch
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major David Harp
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Robert Kafka
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt George Crum
DOG BOX LEADER	1st Lt Richard Haney
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Harold Ohlmeyer
OUR LOSSES	2nd Lt Thomas Reynolds, 740th
	10 men Missing in Action
	Returned to base 7 August 1944

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BOMB FALL PLOT -304 BOMB WING(U.S.) A-2 SECTION (R.I.)
ON/PORT HERRIOT OIL STORAGE - FRANCE - 455 BG - 6/8
SSION NO. 89
ITUDE 18,800 - 20,000 FEET
1125 - 1126 HRS.
FUSING .1 N. .01 T.
X MEAN POINT OF IMP
∴ BOMB B
1000
2000
3000
4000
5000
SCALE IN FEET
N
305°
298°
STRIKES IN 1000' RADIUS - 249
STRIKES IN 2000' RADIUS - 269
34 A/C DROPPED 334 x 500 GP
BOMBS PLOTTED - 269
ACCURACY
WITHIN 1000 FEET - 93%
WITHIN 2000 FEET - 100%
LEAD BOMBARDIER - CAPTAIN OHL
OF PHOTO 18,800 F-12"


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LYON/PORT HERRIOLT OIL STORAGE.
ATTACKED 6/8/44 BY 15TH. A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. D.B.171. 8/8/44

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 852 A/C including 137 B-17's, 360 B-24's, 117 P-38's, and 238 P-51's. There were no night bomber missions. The main effort was against Blechhamer North and South Synthetic Oil Refineries. 60/70 enemy aircraft were encountered, mostly in the target and Lake Balaton area.

87 B-24's took off to bomb BLECHHAMER South Synthetic Oil Plant. The lead Group, the 459th, followed by the 454th and 455th, flew the assigned course while the 456th stood down. The first group to bomb was able to bomb visually but the two groups following used PFF methods. A very effective smoke screen prevented observation of results, although concentrations of bombs were observed to fall into the smoke-obscured area and columns of smoke rose to 10,000 feet. No enemy aircraft were seen or encountered. Flak at the target was reported as moderate to intense, accurate and heavy. 2 B-24's of the 459th are missing.

28 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's and P-38's. 24 A/C dropped 226x500 pound G.P. bombs (56.5 tons) from 21,000 feet and returned. 4 a/c returned prior to bombing. A very effective smoke screen prevented observation of results. Bombing was by Pathfinder method.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Hugh Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Howard Miller
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Edwin Neil
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... Captain Robert Cook

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BLECHHAMMER (SOUTH) SYNTHETIC
OIL PLANT
ATTACKED 7/8/44 BY 15TH A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. D.B. 172 8/8/44 PRINT NO. 1.
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MISSION NUMBER 91

10 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 916 A/C comprising 51 Wellingtons by night and 137 B-17's, 344 B-24's, 123 P-38's, and 225 P-51's by day. In addition, 52 P-51's of the Eighth Air Force carried out a special escort mission over Jugoslavia. Efforts were directed against oil refining installations in the PLOESTI area. 2/25 enemy aircraft were airborne in opposition to the day's operations.

88 B-24's took off to bomb the CAMPINA STEUA ROMANA OIL REFINERY. The lead Group was the 455th with the 456th and 454th in order. The 459th was not dispatched. All groups bombed visually, securing a fairly good concentration of bombs in the target area, with some hits south and some carrying north of the target. No enemy aircraft were seen. Flak at the target was moderate, inaccurate, and heavy. Two B-24's are missing, one each from the 454th and 456th.

29 B-24's from this Group took off, escorted by P-51's and P-38's. 26 A/C dropped 252x500 pound RDX bombs (63 tons) from 20,500 feet. 1 a/c returned early and 2 returned prior. Bomb pattern started at the MPI and carried over into the M/Y and tank farm along the north side of the M/Y. Bombing was accomplished visually.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Lt-Col William Snowden
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt George Crum
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	Captain Jack Prather
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Major Jack Horner

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BOMB FALL PLOT 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

JA ROMANA OIL REFINERY - CAMPINA - ROMANIA - 455BG - I

NO. 9/
DE 20,700 - 21,500 FEET
1105 - 1110 HRS.
FUSING .1 N. .025 T.
X MEAN POINT OF BOMB

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET



ROPPED 252 x 500 RDX BOMBS
OMBS PLOTTED - 155
ACCURACY
00 FEET - 25%
000 FEET - 70%

F PHOTO - 21,200' - F-


PLOESTI/CAMPINA STEAUA ROMANA
OIL REFINERY.
ATTACKED 10/8/44 BY 15TH. A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. D.B. 175. 11/8/44.
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MISSION NUMBER 92

12 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 847 A/C composed of 473 B-24's, 139 B-17's, 195 P-51's, and 40 P-38's. Primary effort was against gun positions on the South coast of France and the Northwest coast of Italy. P-51's strafed radar installations. There was no enemy air opposition.

146 B-24's took off to bomb enemy gun positions in Southern France in two combat wings, the 454th leading. Bombing was accomplished visually on eight different gun positions. Final results cannot be ascertained until bomb strike assessment is completed. There was no flak at four of the targets but the others suffered scant to moderate, inaccurate to accurate, heavy flak. No enemy aircraft were encountered. 2 B-24's are missing, one each from the 454th and 456th Groups.

40 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb gun positions in Southern France. 39 A/C dropped 390x500 pound RDX bombs (97.5 tons) from 17,500 feet and returned. 1 a/c returned early. A and C boxes reported some hits on the target with other bombs falling to the north and west of the assigned target. B and D boxes reported that the target was completely covered by bomb hits.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Captain Richard Gosline
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Harry Young
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Ethridge Preston
DOG BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Charles Rosenberg
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Captain Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg

BOMB FALL PLOT 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

UN HEAVY AA/CD BATTERY - T-667009 - FRANCE - 455BG - 12/8

ION NO. 92

UDE 17,600 - 20,500 FEET

1117 - 1121 HRS.

FUSING .1 N. .01 T.

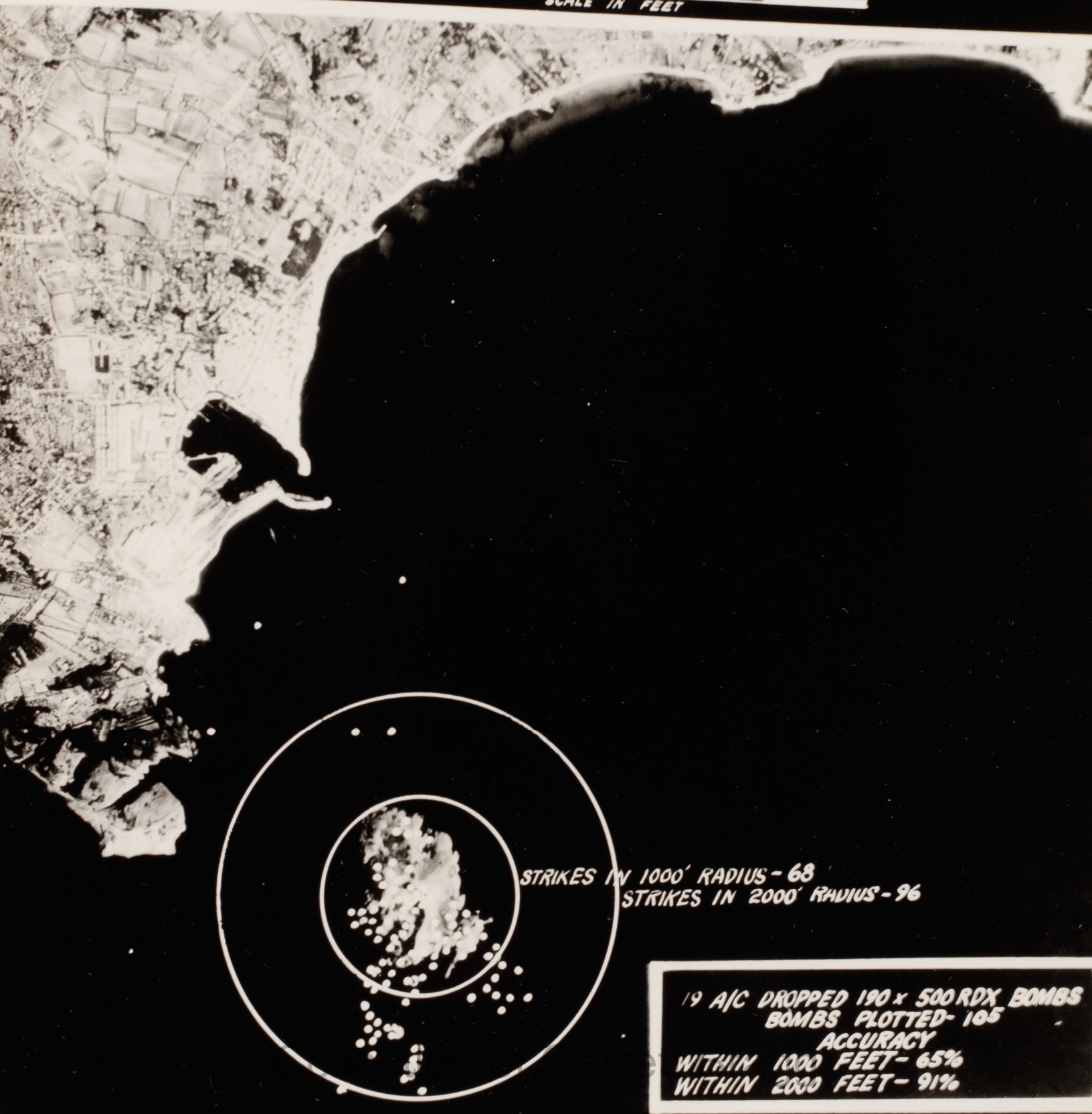
TARGET NO. 6 - B & D BOXES

X MEAN POINT OF IMP

∴ BOMB BU

1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

SCALE IN FEET



19 A/C DROPPED 190 x 500 RDX BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED - 105
ACCURACY
WITHIN 1000 FEET - 65%
WITHIN 2000 FEET - 91%

LEAD BOMBARDIER - LT. DEFENBAUGH

E PHOTO 20,300' • F-12"

BOMB FALL PLOT 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (P.I.)

GUN HEAVY AA/CD BATTERY - T-654019 - FRANCE - 455BG-12

SSION NO. 92 1117-1121 HRS.

TITUDE 17,600 - 20,500 FEET

FUSING .1 N. .01 T.

TARGET NO. 7 - A&C BOXES

X MEAN POINT OF

∴ BOMB

0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000

SCALE IN FEET



IC DROPPED 200 x 500 RDX BOMBS
BOMBS PLOTTED - 133
ACCURACY
IN 1000 FEET - 37°
IN 2000 FEET - 53°

ES IN 1000' RADIUS - 49
STRIKES IN 2000

BOMBARDIER - CAPT. STRODE

E OF PHOTO 14,300' F-12"

MISSION NUMBER 93

13 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 934 A/C composed of 459 B-24's, 167 B-17's, 205 P-51's, and 41 P-38's. The effort was against gun positions on South Coast of FRANCE and northwest coast of ITALY. Bridges in the RHONE Valley were attacked and an A/D near VALENCE dive-bombed. There was no enemy air opposition.

141 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb four RR Bridges in Southern France. All groups bombed visually and good bomb patterns were secured on Crest RR Bridge, Orange RR Bridge and Pont St. Esprit RR Bridge. A cluster of near misses was secured at Avignon RR Bridge by the 455th Group. Flak was moderate to intense, accurate and heavy at Avignon and Orange, but there was no flak at the other two targets. No enemy aircraft were encountered. 2 B-24's are missing: 1 each from the 454th and 456th.

36 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Avignon RR Bridge, France, escorted by P-51's. 33 A/C dropped 330x500 pound RDX bombs (82.5 tons) from 20,000 feet and returned. 2 A/C returned early and 1 returned prior. Target believed missed. Bombs fell 1500 feet east and 800 feet west of the bridge.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Hugh Graff
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Wilbur Bechtold
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Richard Jenkins
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt Robert Kafka
DOG BOX LEADER	1st Lt Edwin Keil
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain Beverly Brookshire
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Leroy Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg



Collection of Ga

MISSION NUMBER 94

14 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 788 A/C comprising 51 Wellingtons by night and 139 B-17's, 444 B-24's, 114 P-51's and 31 P-38's By day. The night attack was on GENOA Port and shipping. The day effort was directed against gun positions and radar installations on the South coast of FRANCE and the Northwest coast of ITALY. Enemy air opposition was slight.

127 B-24's took off to bomb eight gun positions in the SAVONA area, Italy. Bombing was accomplished visual No enemy aircraft were encountered. Flak was scant, inaccurate to accurate and heavy at three of the targets. One B-24 of the 454th is missing.

31 B-24s of this Group took off to bomb gun positions in the Savona area, Italy. 30 A/C dropped 180x 1000 pound GP bombs (90 tons) from 19,000 feet and returned. 1 A/C returned early. Bombs overshot the target and one box dropped to the left of its target. Bombardiers had fairly difficult time picking out the target. Bombing was accomplished visually.

GROUP LEADER	Major Alfred Asch
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Howard Miller
BAKER BOX LEADER	Captain Charles Rosenberg
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt George Crum
DOG BOX LEADER	1st Lt James Vandergrift
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Harold Ohlmeyer

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 95 — 15 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 748 A/C comprising 49 Wellingtons and 7 Halifaxes by night and 418 B-24's, 124 B-17's, 112 P-51's, and 39 P-38's by day. The night attack was on MARSEILLES Docks and Shipping. The day effort was directed against beaches and bridges in Southern FRANCE, rendering close support for the landings. There was no enemy air opposition.

196 B-24's of this Wing took off to bomb two beach targets in Southern France. Bombing was accomplished visually by 21 a/c of all Groups. Other a/c returned bombs to base because clouds hid target. Flak was scant, inaccurate and heavy in the target areas. No enemy aircraft were encountered. 3 B-24's crashed on take-off; 1 each from the 454th, 456th, and 459th.

28 B-24's of this Group took off to bomb Beach # 2630 on the southern coast of France escorted by P-38's and P-47's. 1 A/C dropped 40x100 pound GP bombs and returned. This a/c bombed with another group. 25 A/C returned bombs to base because weather conditions prevented identification of the target. 2 A/C returned early as the were spares.

Beginning 19 May 1944, Strategic Air Force, operating in support of projected landings, has dispatched 2360 bombers and dropped 4848.35 tons of bombs.

GROUP LEADER	Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Alfred Asch
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Robert Lafka
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	Major Edwin Ambrosen
DOG BOX LEADER	Lt-Col. Hugh Graff
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg

MISSION NUMBER 96

17 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 648 A/C during the day, composed of 53 B-17's, 330 B-24's, 37 P-38's, and 217 P-51's. The main effort was directed against the enemy's vital and rapidly depleting refinery industry at PLOESTI and at NIS A/D, the main base for enemy interception on penetration and withdrawal to PLOESTI area. Enemy air opposition was slight.

112 B-24's took off from this Wing to bomb oil refineries in the Ploesti area. The first combat wing, the 454 and 459th, bombed the Astra Romana refinery by PFF methods and the second combat wing bombed the Romana Americano refinery also by PFF. Both targets were obscured by smoke 10 to 12 ME-109's and 8 FW-190's were encountered in the NIS area by the 455th and 456th. Flak was intense, accurate and heavy at the target. 3 B-24's were lost to flak and 5 are missing.

30 B-24's took off to bomb Romana Americano Oil Refinery at Ploesti, escorted by P-51's . 2 returned early and 6 returned prior. 22 a/c dropped 216x500 pound RDX bombs (54 tons) from 23,000 feet and 20 returned to base. 2 a/c were lost to flak over the target. Bombs were seen to fall into the smoke-obscured area. Explosions were reported with black smoke rising from the target. Bombing was accomplished by a combination of "offset" and PFF. No bomb fall plot issued.

GROUP LEADER	Major Jack D. Reeder
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Major Horace Lanford
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt George Crum
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt James Vandergrift
OUR LOSSES	2nd Lt Paul Ditchett, 742nd
	2nd Lt Louis Stengl, 742nd
	20 men Missing in Action

Collection of Garrett Bragg


PLOESTI/ROMANA AMERICANA OIL REFINE
ATTACKED 17/8/44 BY 15TH. A.F.
ATTACKED 17-18/8/44 BY 205 GROUP.
ATTACKED 18/8/44 BY 15TH. A.F.
M.A.P.R.W. D.B.186 21/8/44.

MISSION NUMBER 97 — 18 August 1944

In the third successive attack on PLOESTI oil refineries and storage, Strategic Air Force dispatched 810 aircraft comprising 168 B-17's, 379 B-24's, 37 P-38's, and 226 P-51's. A successful day attack was also made on ALIBUNAR airfield. Approximately 27 enemy aircraft were encountered by the escort in the target area.

118 B-24's from this Wing took off to bomb the CAMPINA STEAUA ROMANA OIL REFINERY. Bombing was done visually though the target was partially obscured by smoke after the first group bombed. Smoke prevented accurate observation but a number of bombs were seen to hit the objective and oil fires were reported in the area after bombing. No e/a were encountered. Flak was moderate, accurate, heavy and there were no known losses. One B-24 of the 459th is missing.

29 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's. 1 returned early and 2 prior. 26 a/c dropped 199x500 pound GP bombs (49.75 tons) from 23,000 feet and returned. Bombs were dropped visually. Large concentration of bombs fell in area approximately 1500 feet south of target with near misses on cracking and distillation plants. Eleven hits scored among storage tanks and built-up area south of target.

GROUP LEADER ..... Major Edwin Ambrosen
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major William Keefer
BARLR BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt William Zane
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Ethridge Preston
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Captain John Tyykila
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Captain Ross Strode

Collection of Garrett Bragg


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CAMPINA / STEAUA ROMANA OIL REFINERY
ATTACKED 18/8/44
MARRAW DES

MISSION NUMBER 98 — 20 August 1944

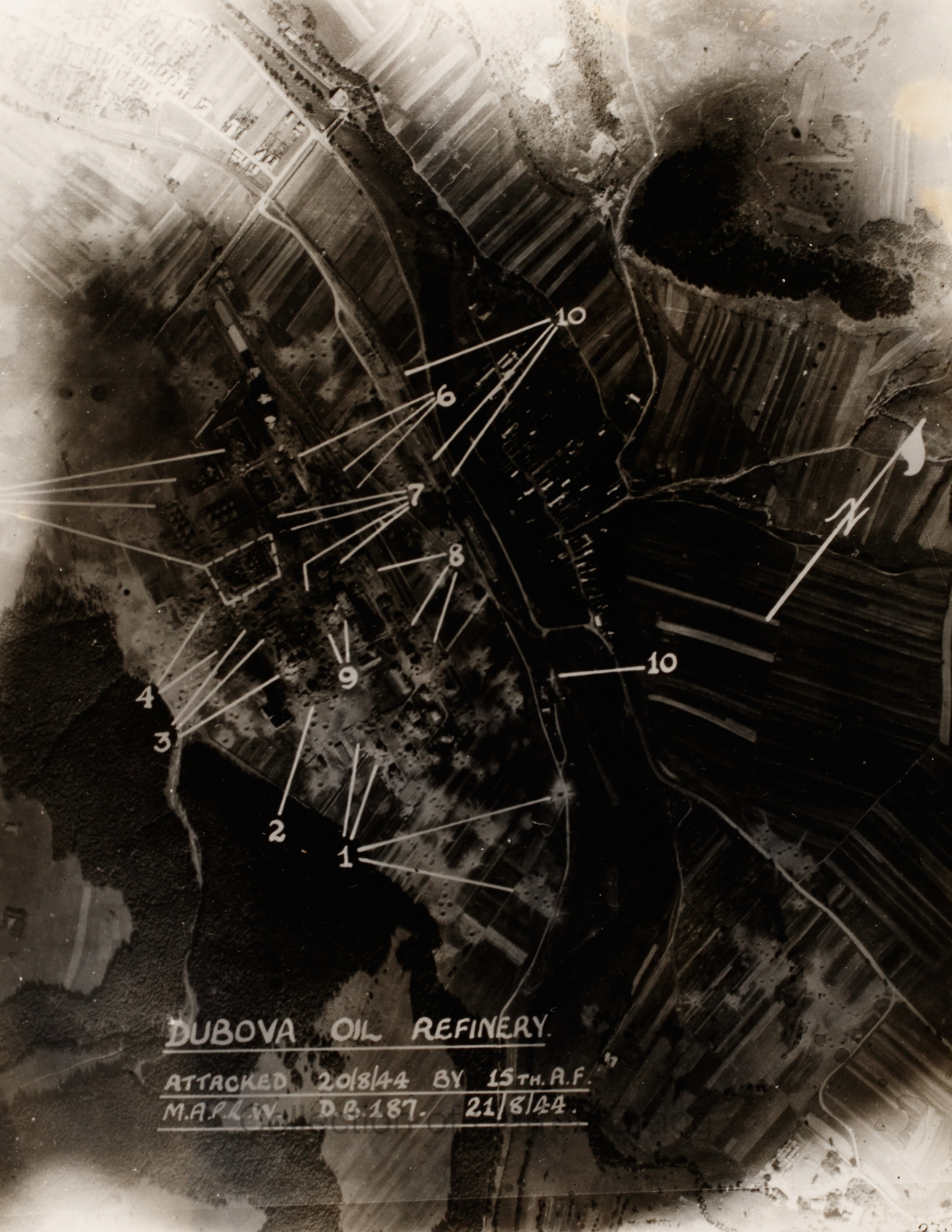
Strategic Air Force dispatched 770 A/C, composed of 382 B-24's, 140 B-17's, 213 P-51's, and 35 P-38's, to attack oil refineries in HUNGARY and POLAND and an airdrome and marshalling yards in HUNGARY. 25/35 E/A were seen in the BUDAPEST area, 19 of which were encountered. Losses sustained were the smallest in MASAF history for a mission involving such deep penetration of enemy territory.

89 B-24's took off to bomb DUBOVA Oil Refinery, Czechoslovakia. The 459th with the 455th and 456th following laid an excellent concentration of hits on their objective. There were many explosions and large columns of oil smoke. Enemy opposition was almost non-existent. No fighters were encountered and flak was very slight and inaccurate.

30 B-24's from this Group took off to bomb Dubova Oil Refinery escorted by P-51's and P-38's. 1 a/c returned early. 21 a/c dropped 198x500 pound GP bombs (49.5 tons) from 19,500 feet and returned. 7 a/c returned their bombs to base because "C" Box was forced out of position and could not line up on the target. 1 a/c jettisoned its bombs and returned prior. The main concentration of bombs fell in the target area. A large explosion followed the impact. Many bombs fell into the smoke-obscured area but were unassessable. Bomb fall plot issued.

GROUP LEADER	Major David Thayer
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Robert Cook
BAKER BOX LEADER	1st Lt Ethridge Preston
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	Captain Alvin Rosenberg
GROUP NAVIGATOR	1st Lt Edward Atwell
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Leroy Brown

Collection of Garrett Bragg


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DUBOVA OIL REFINERY.
ATTACKED 20/8/44 BY 15TH. A.F.
M.A.P. K.V. D.B. 187. 21/8/44.

MISSION NUMBER 99 — 21 August 1944

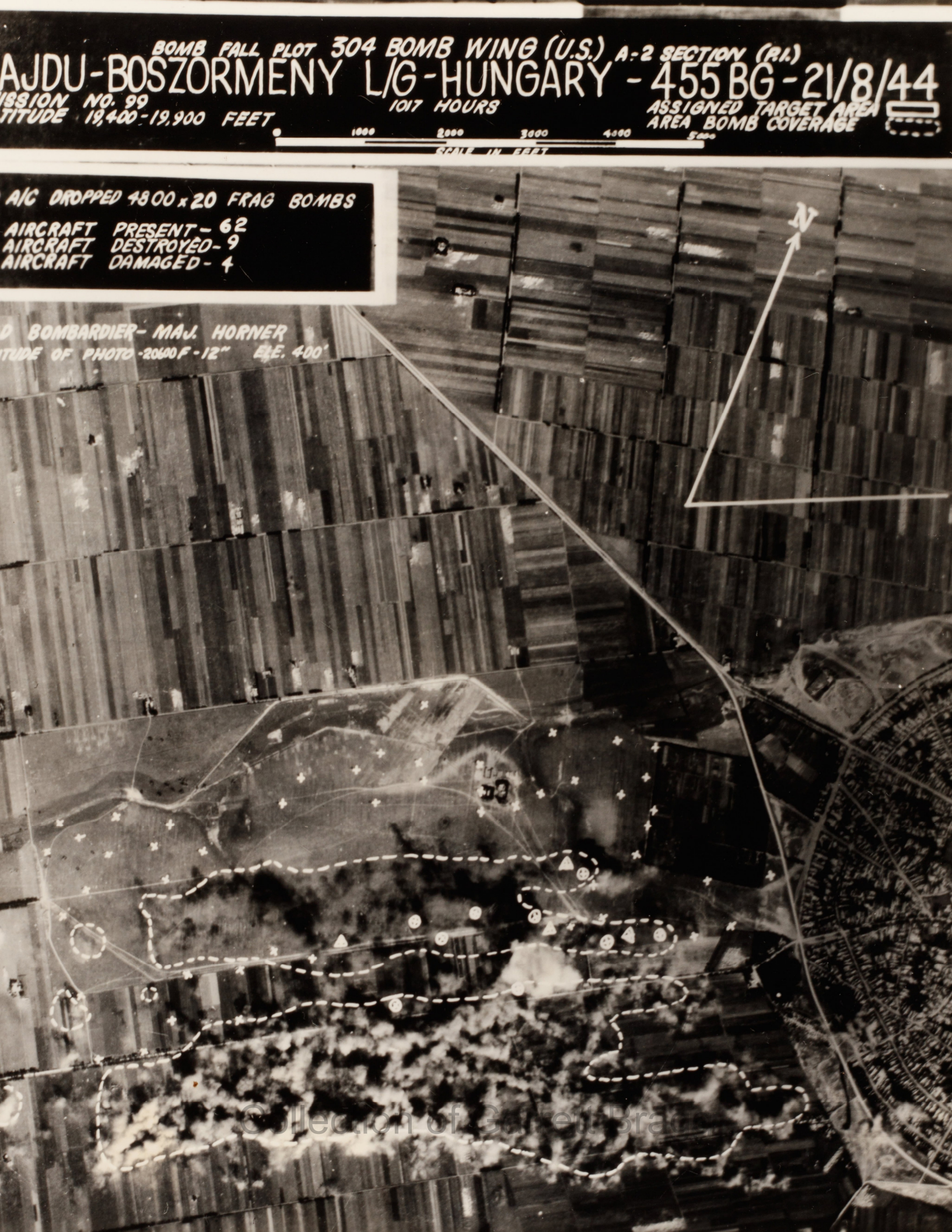
Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 493 A/C comprising 243 B-24's, and 149 P-51's against airdromes in Hungary and Yugoslavia.

130 B-24's from this Wing took off to frag bomb a/c on HADJU BOSZORMENY A/D, the 455th leading. A fairly good concentration of bombs was secured on the target. An undetermined number of a/c of the 459th dropped bombs near Balmaz Ujvaros, approximately 10 miles southwest of the target. 8 ME-109's and 6 FW-190's attacked the 459th at the target. 1 B-24 of the 459th was lost and also one each of the 455th and 456th are missing. Flak at the target was scant and inaccurate.

30 B-24's of this Group took off escorted by P-51's. 20 A/C dropped 720x20 pound Frags on the target. "C" box did not drop because box leader could not keep his bomb-bay doors open. 29 a/c returned and 1 a/c is missing, but later landed at Vis. The assigned target was well covered by the two boxes which dropped. 9 fighters were destroyed on the ground and 4 fighters damaged.

GROUP LEADER ..... Colonel Kenneth Cool
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER ..... Major William Keefer
BAKER BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Richard Jenkins
CHARLIE BOX LEADER ..... 1st Lt Gilbert Cole
GROUP NAVIGATOR ..... Major James Moeller
GROUP BOMBARDIER ..... Major Jack Horner

Collection of Garrett Bragg


BOMB FALL PLOT 304 BOMB WING (U.S.) A-2 SECTION (R.I.)
AJDU-BOSZORMENY L/G-HUNGARY - 455 BG - 21/8/44
ISSION NO. 99
TITUDE 19,400-19,900 FEET
1017 HOURS
ASSIGNED TARGET AREA
AREA BOMB COVERAGE
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000
SCALE IN FEET
A/C DROPPED 4800 x 20 FRAG BOMBS
AIRCRAFT PRESENT - 62
AIRCRAFT DESTROYED - 9
AIRCRAFT DAMAGED - 4
D BOMBARDIER - MAJ. HORNER
TUDE OF PHOTO - 20100 F - 12" ELE. 400'
N

MISSION NUMBER 100 — 22 August 1944

Strategic Air Force dispatched 1046 A/C, comprising 168 B-17's, 444 B-24's, 263 P-51's, and 91 P-38's. The effort was directed against enemy oil production and storage in Eastern Germany. It is estimated that 150 E/A opposed the operations.

122 B-24's took off to bomb Blechhammer South Synthetic Oil Plant, Germany, the 454th leading. As the target was smoke obscured, results of bombing was not observed. 2 Groups used RFF, one used offset, and the other bombed visually. Intense, accurate, heavy flak shot down 3 a/c of the 456th and one each from the 454th and 459th. One B-24 from the 454th was lost to e/a and 2 from the 459th ditched when they ran out of gas. 4 a/c of the 459th and 1 of the 455th are missing.

30 B-24's took off from this Group to bomb the Blechhammer South Synthetic Oil Plant, escorted by P-51's. 4 a/c returned prior. 26 a/c dropped 244x 500 pound GP bombs (61 tons) on the primary target from 22,200 feet and 25 a/c returned. 1 a/c is missing. Bombing results unobserved because of smoke and ground haze. Bombing accomplished by offset method. No bomb fall plot issued.

GROUP LEADER	Lt-Col. David Harp
DEPUTY GROUP LEADER	Captain Howard Miller
BAKER BOX LEADER	Captain Alvin Rosenberg
CHARLIE BOX LEADER	1st Lt William Riddel
GROUP NAVIGATOR	Captain Fred Gross
GROUP BOMBARDIER	Captain Harold Ohlmeyer
OUR LOSSES	10 men Missing in Action 2nd Lt James Kiernan, 740th

Collection of Garrett Bragg