

758th Bomb Squadron
459th Bomb Group

15th Air Force

M I S S I O N S

March 2, 1944

(Frag Bombs 180)

Today was No.1. The target was the beachhead front. We bombed enemy troop concentrations at Velettri, Italy. The flak was very heavy and accurate. We got 20 flak holes in the ship.

March 3, 1944

(500 lbs. - 16)

Bombed Viterbo airdrome. Hit target well. Plenty of flak but no fighters. Ship undamaged.

March 4, 1944

(1000 lb. - 6)

Bombed Cassino. Target well hit. Some flak. No fighters.

March 13, 1944

(Frag - 160)

Bombed airdrome in Italy. Target well hit. Destroyed 160 fighters. Flak very heavy.

March 22, 1944

(500 lbs. - 8)

Started out to hit railyards in Milano but had to hit secondary target at Balogna. Ran into very heavy flak over Ferraro. We were hit pretty badly. One engine was on fire but fire went out when Pilot feathered engine. Nose gunner and navigator seriously injured. We left formation and made our way home. Bombardier busy giving first aid to men hurt. Pilot had to salvo bombs through bomb bay doors. Nose of ship badly damaged. More than 100 flak holes.

March 27, 1944

Bombed Verona. Very heavy flak. F.W. 190's and M.E. 109's. Had P-38 escort. Saw some good dog fights. One of few times escort visibly did a damned thing. Carried 10 - 500 lbs. Hit target well. 20 flak holes.

March 29, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Started for Steyr, Austria. Bad weather. Flew all over Europe and ran into light flak but didn't drop bombs.

March 30, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed Sofia, capital of Bulgaria. Flak moderate. Hit target well.

April 6, 1944

(40 - 100)

Bombed railyards in Bologna. Flak light but we got hit - the only one. Hit target so well that pictures were posted. Big kiss from the 15th Air Force.

April 12, 1944

(100 - 20)

Double mission. Bombed aircraft factory in Wiener Neustadt, Austria. Flak heavy and plenty of fighters - M.E. 110's, 210's, 410's, 109's and 190's. Saw 8 B-24's blow up over target. Hit target well. Got few holes.

April 13, 1944

(40 - F)

Bombed aircraft factory in Budapest. Flak was heavy and quite a few fighters. Saw 7 ships blow up over target - 2 more just before Yugoslav coast.

April 16, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed Turnu Severin, Roumania. Good bombing with no flak or fighters.

April 17, 1944

(100 - 20)

Bombed Sofia again. Plenty of flak. We did a good job.

April 20, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed Trieste, Italy, railroad yards. Few M.E. 109's were encountered. P-38's handled things pretty well.

April 24, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed railyards at Bucharest, Roumania. Flak very heavy and few fighters were encountered.

April 25, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed airplane plant in Turnu. Ran into flak on way over and on way back from target.

April 29, 1944

(1000 lb. - 6)

Bombed Toulon, France. We did a good job on munitions factory. Heavy flak over target. Some fighters.

May 5, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed oil fields in Roumania. Flak was thickest I ever saw. Don't know how we got through. Some fighters.

May 6, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed railyards in Ploesti, Roumania. Ran into heavy flak and fighters. Fighters so aggressive they dove right through our formation. Ship along side of us hit by pocket of FW-190's and blew up. Too close for comfort! German pilot was wearing green pants - Honest to God! He was so close I couldn't get my gun aimed in time.

May 12, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed Spezia, Italy. Harbor missed completely. Little flak.

May 14, 1944

(40 - F)

Bombed Reggio Milia aerodrome. Blasted Hell out of it. No flak or fighters.

May 18, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed aircraft factory in Ploesti, Roumania. Target undercast at 10,000 feet so don't know results. Lost another ship which was damned good, considering the raid. Flak was heavy and we got 2 large holes in tail. Some fighters as usual.

May 22, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Today we bombed Spezia, harbor in Northern Italy. Few fighters, moderate flak. Results were not too good.

May 24, 1944

(40 - F)

Bombed airfield at Muhldorf, Austria. We didn't make the target so got credit for one mission on a double raid. No. 1 engine blew cylinders so we dropped bombs and barrelled home. Good thing no fighters saw us.

May 25, 1944

(40 - F)

Bombed airfield at Firenze, Italy. Flak was moderate. Fighters sneaked up, knocked down 2 P-38's - BOOM! Made one pass at us but missed.

May 26, 1944

(500 lbs - 10)

Bombed railyard in France (Chambery). Little flak. P-51's scared off fighters. Knocked Hell out of target. 8½ hours - 1 mission - PHOOEY!

May 28, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed railyard in Vercelli, Italy. Couldn't see target but bombed by mickey ship. Probably missed it 12 miles since I haven't seen mickey ship hit target yet.

May 29, 1944

(40 - 100)

2 missions - one day - same area.

Bombed troop concentrations in Yugoslavia. No flak or fighters. Blasted Hell out of things!

May 31, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed oil fields at Ploesti, Roumania. Flak so thick we couldn't see wing ship. I'll never tell you how we got through. 23 flak holes. We were attacked by ME 109's and they got the ship behind us. This was without a doubt the worst the 15th or the 8th has ever seen!

June 2, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed Miskolc, Hungary. Group finally discovered us-- we're flight leaders now! Lead C flight and were only flight to hit target.

June 13, 1944

(1000 lbs. - 6)

Bombed Munich, Germany. Airplane engine plant. Really tough. Lost No.4 engine on way to target but made it although we almost had to ditch. Attacked by fighters for two solid hours. Lost 5 ships - also lost a good friend - radio operator on Womack's crew with 47 missions. Hit in neck by flak. Died after about ten minutes. Swell fellow.

June 16, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed oil refineries in Vienna, Austria. Flak very intense, heavy and accurate. They hit No.2 in A flight directly and every ship had some holes. Good bombing. Could see smoke for 130 miles since it was 18,000 feet up. We were 20,500 feet. Fighters again for two hours. Luftwaffe knocked out? HELL!

June 24, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Bombed Craiova, Roumania. No flak or fighters. Again Plemons dropped his bombs on target "area" - followed by everyone else while big shot in "A" flight missed target by miles. Mickey ship again.

June 25h, 1944

Bombed Avignon, France. I'm really mad---- 1300 mile head-on attack by fighters - moderate flak - 1 mission--- PHOOEY! We really blasted the target. No holes today. Target was railroad yard.

June 30, 1944

(500 lbs. - 10)

Started out for the toughest mission the 15th or 8th ever tried. It was the oil fields at Breslau, Germany, just 180 miles southeast of Berlin. After reaching the 47th parallel, we were called back, so although the group didn't get any credit, we got credit for 1 mission. I hope I finish before they pull this again. We carried 500 and landed them.

July 2, 1944

(300 - 18)

Today was another tough one. Target was smack in the middle of Budapest and we really plastered it. Flak for 8 doggone minutes and some fighters. 20 holes in ship. No. 2 and No. 4 engine hit but no trouble. 2 more - Yea - Man!

July 7, 1944

(500 - 10)

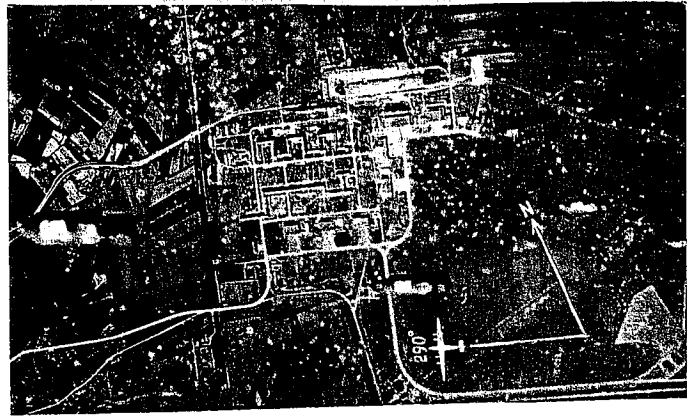
Wouldn't you know it? A puny single mission. Very little flak, no fighters - just a useless trip. We missed the target mostly but luckily hit two flak boats out in the water that were popping at us. Finita flak boats!

July 8, 1944

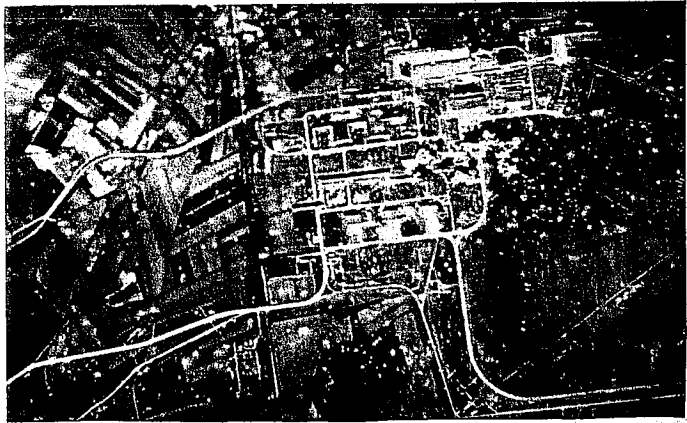
THIS IS IT MEN! The really rough nightcap. We went to Breslau, between Berlin and Hindenburg. We were last group in the air force but some other group got mixed up and got behind us and Whew! fighters knocked hell out of them. We didn't see any though. Longest mission yet. We were in flak for 30 minutes and I was praying every one of them. We just got two flak holes. We dropped 40 - 100 lb. incendiaries on the oil field. Smoke screen so we couldn't see the results.

Goodbye missions!

HELLO PITTSBURGH!



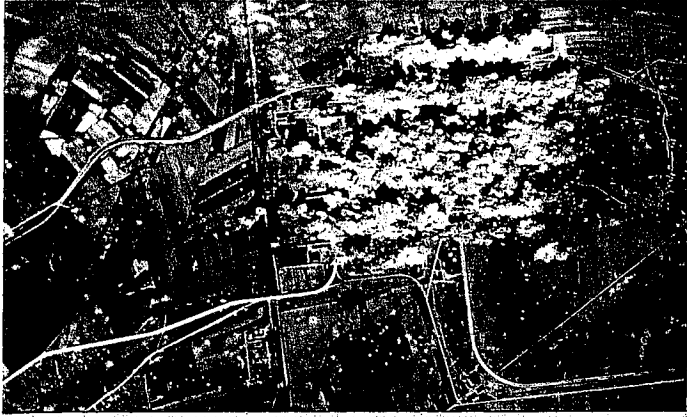
BOMBS AWAY



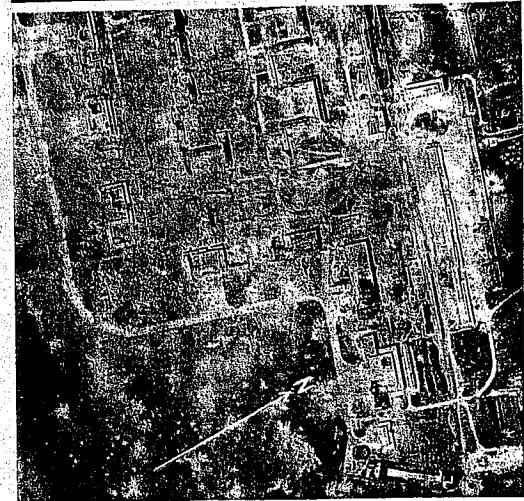
STRIKING



DEVELOPING



FULL COVER



RECONNAISSANCE 24 APRIL 1200 HOURS
(STEREO PAIR)

15TH AIR FORCE
304TH BOMB WING (H)
OPERATION 23 APRIL 1944
FROM 1414 TO 1422 HRS.
BAD VOSLAU, AUSTRIA
AIRCRAFT ASSEMBLY PLANT
1047 X 500 RDX BOMBS

A-2 SECTION (RI)