

Tiger & Panther Tank Works which was 2000 yards square. Fighter escort met us over the Adriatic Sea. Fighters were P-47, P-38, and P-51s. The group was hit extremely hard by ME-109s, Fockwulf 190s, and Ju 288s, for a total of 150 attacking enemy fighters. Our gunners set all kinds of records, one ball gunner shot down 8 fighters, another crew reported 13 enemy shot down. A third crew reported 12 more enemy destroyed. Our crew and one other had to abort before hitting the IP. Our #4 engine had dropping oil pressure.

Mission No 1

Pec, Yugoslavia. Ship #74. July 27, 1944

Bomb Load: 6 ea 1000 lb Demolition bombs, Fuel 2300 gals

The 461st Group was the only one taking part in the raid. Mission was on the marshalling yards in the City of Pec. We hit the wrong town. No fighter escort, no flak, or enemy fighters seen. Time: 4 hours 5 minutes

Mission No 2

Thorina, Greece. Ship 74. July 28, 1944
Bomb load: 6 ea 1000 lbs Fuel: 2300 Gals

The 461st BG was the only group to take part. Raid on rail bridgehead at Thorina. We completely destroyed the bridgehead and part of the town.

No fighter escort, No enemy fighters, and only one flak burst.

Bomb Accuracy 88.2%. Time: 5 hours 30 minutes.

Mission No 3

Budapest, Hungary. Ship No. unknown. July 30, 1944

Bomb Load 8 ea 500 lb high explosive. Fuel: 2700 Gals

Target: Duna Aircraft Factory. The 49th Wing composed of the 451st, 461st, and the 484th Bomb Groups hit the target along with other units. One B-17, and one B-24 was shot down. One FW-190 was shot down. The flak was extremely heavy, our ship was hit in the tail. Fighter attacks were not intense. The target was destroyed as far as the observers could see. A good bomb pattern was seen in the photos, but the target was missed. Time: 6 hours, 30 minutes.

Mission No 4

Bucharest, Rumania Ship No 74 July 31, 1944

Target: Prahova Oil Refinery. Bomb Load 8 ea 500 lb high explosives. Fuel: 2700 gals. 49th Wing comprised of the 451st, 461st, and 484th Bomb Groups took part. P-38s, and P-51s flew escort. Flak was extremely heavy, no enemy fighters were seen. 484th and 451st were hit hard with flak. As far as the observers could see, the bombs fell short, some hit the target. Time 7 hours, 30 minutes. Bombing height 23,000 feet.

Mission No 5

Target: Oberraderch Chemical Works. Ship #60 August 3, 1944

Bomb Load: 8 ea 500 High explosive. Fuel: 2700 Gals

49th Wing 451st, 461st, 484th BG, and 5th Wing (B-17's) took part. Fighter escort P-38s and P-51s. Opposition was about 74 flak guns, and 100 to 125 single engine fighters, and 15 to 25 twin engine fighters. We could not locate the target due to cloud cover. We bombed the first alternate target, which was Friedrichshaven Zahnabrik Works. Bombing accuracy was not known. Flak was moderate, but our ship did receive three holes in the left wing. Time: 7 hours. Bombing altitude 22,000 feet.

Mission 6

Miramas, France. Ship #60. August 6, 1944

Target: Marshalling yards. Bomb load 8 each 500 lb high explosive. Fuel: 2700 gals. Escort was provided by P-38s and P-51s. The flak was very heavy and accurate. A close burst hit our nose gunner Busbee, cutting his oxygen hose in two. The target was hit and completely destroyed as seen from the air. Time: 7 hours, 55 minutes. Bombing height 22,000 feet.

Mission No 7

See second paragraph of introduction for explanation.

Mission No 8

Ploesti, Rumania. Ship #65 August 10, 1944

Target: Xenia Oil Refinery. Bomb Load 8 ea 500 lbs. Fuel 2700 Gals. P-51s flew escort. We flew #3 in Able flight of second attack unit. 50 enemy

single engine fighters encountered by other bomb groups. The flak was like one big cloud, and was very accurate. There was a heavy smoke screen over the target so target damage could not be observed. Time: 7 hours, 25 minutes. Bombing altitude 21,000 feet.

Mission No 9

Genoa, Italy Ship #63 August 13, 1944

Target: Coastal guns. Bomb Load 9 ea 500 lbs. Fuel 2700 Gals. No fighter escort provided. We flew #4 position in C flight in the second attack unit. Encountered no enemy fighters, but ran into very accurate flak. Missed the target. Time: 6 hours, 45 minutes. Bombing Altitude 21,000 feet.

Mission 10

Southern France. Ship No # 68 August 14, 1944

Target: Coastal defenses. Bomb Load 8 each 500 lbs. Fuel 2700 gals. No fighter escort was provided. We flew #2 position in A flight in the first attack unit. Encountered no fighters or flak opposition. Target hit with very good pattern. Good mission. Time 6 hours, 5 minutes. Bombing Altitude 18,000 feet.

Mission 11

San Raphael, France Ship No # 63. August 14, 1944

Target: Coastal defenses and beach (264A) in preparation for the Invasion of Southern France. Bomb load 36, 100 lb general purpose demolition bombs. Fuel: 2700 gals. We had the most pinpoint target to hit, supposedly our group has the best bombing score. Our mission was to soften up the beach for the invasion forces. No flak or enemy fighters were observed. We hit the target with a good pattern. We observed many naval ships and aircraft carriers in the waters off of the target. Time: 6 hours, 15 minutes. Bombing height 14,000 feet.

Mission 12

Ploesti, Rumania. Ship unknown. August 17, 1944

Rumania American Axis Refineries. Bomb Load: 8 each 500 lbs high explosive. Fuel: 2700 gals. We were the second group to go over the target. 31 planes started over Ploesti, 20 made it over the target. The rest aborted.

Fighter escort: P-38s, and P-51s. Flak was