

Mission 23

Vienna, Austria. Ship #63. October 7, 1944.

Bomb load 8 each 500 lbs. Fuel: 2700 gals. The whole air force was to hit various targets in the Vienna area. There was no fighters to be seen, but the flak was very intense as always in this area. We dropped our bombs on a secondary target in Hungary, and received one mission credit. We destroyed the marshalling yards there. Time 7 hours, 35 minutes.

Mission 24

Venice, Italy. Ship #69. October 10, 1944.

Target: Marshalling Yard. Bomb Load 10 each 500 lb. Fuel: 2300 gals. We were escorted by P-38s which provided good cover. One ME-210 came out of the clouds and was surprised as we to see him. He quickly returned to the clouds upon seeing our P-38 cover. We encountered some flak. We did not drop our bombs because the target could not be seen. Time 5 hours 50 minutes.

Mission 25

Bologna, Italy. Ship #63. October 12, 1944

Target: German Store House. Bomb load 36 each 100 lb. This was an all out raid in conjunction with the Fifth Army to take the city of Bologna. Our escort was provided by P-38s. We did not see any enemy fighters. There was some flak, but it was very inaccurate. Our bombing was good. Time 6 hours, 40 minutes.

Mission 26

Vienna, Austria. Ship #65. October 13, 1944

Target: Oil refinery. Bomb load 8 each 500 lb. Fuel 2700 gals. We had P-38 escort which seemed to be spread out all over the sky. We saw two enemy aircraft that stayed out of range near the clouds, and never did attack. This was a real bad luck Friday the 13th. A plane blew up on take off, and we had a serious mid air over Mt Melfi during assembly. One crew was killed. The other ship made it back to the base. Our target was an oil refinery right in the heart of Vienna. The group took a lot of damage from very accurate flak. We could hardly get to the strip when we got home due to damaged ships cluttering the runway. Many had wounded aboard that had

to be tended to immediately. I flew with Herbert's crew today. He is a good pilot and commander. A large plume of smoke came up from the target. Time 8 hours, 40 minutes.

Mission 27

Blechhammer, Silesia. Ship #71. October 14, 1944

Target: Oil Refinery. Bomb load 7 each 500 lb. Fuel 2700 gals. Escort provided by P-38s and P-51s. We could not make Silesia due to poor weather encountered. We picked a target of opportunity in Czechoslovakia. Bombing results were good. Time 7 hours, 25 minutes.

Mission 28

Milan, Italy. Ship #71. October 20, 1944

Target: Automotive works. Bomb load 8 each 500 lb. Fuel 2700 gals. We had no escort. We saw four German airfields, two of which had no parked aircraft. Two of the airfields were observed to have single and twin engine fighters on them. Bombing results not known. Time 8 hours.

Mission 29

Augsburg, Germany. Ship #75. November 4, 1944

Bomb load 6 each 500 lb clusters of incendiary bombs. Fuel 2700 gals. Escort was provided by P-51s. We made it as far as the Alps, when 3 and 4 superchargers gave out. It was impossible to go on and we could not stay with the formation. We were flying number 4 position. I lowered the landing gear to signal those flying my wing. We dropped our bombs on a marshalling yard in Northern Italy. We must have hit oil storage, when the 15th returned from Augsburg they reported a black plume of smoke reaching 23,000 feet. This was my first mission as first officer. Time 5 hours, 35 minutes.

Mission 30

Sarajevo, Yugoslavia. Ship #60. November 5, 1944

Bomb load 9 each 500 lb Fuel 2300 gals. We had good escort provided by P-38s . We couldn't drop because of cloud cover. We returned to base with the bombs. Time 4 hours, 5 minutes.

Mission 31

Bolzano, Italy. Ship #60. November 6, 1944.

Target: Middle transformer. Bomb load 9 each 500 lb RDX explosive. Fuel 2700 gals. We took the Germans by surprise. They were just beginning to smoke the pass as we arrived. The flak was very intense. We were told that the flak guns were mounted up to 10,000 feet in the mountains which almost put us in a cross fire situation. One co-pilot was killed instantly by a burst that hit close to him. We had two main fuel cells punctured in the right wing that had to be replaced. Time 6 hours, 50 minutes.

Mission 32

Munich, Germany. Ship #63. November 16, 1944

Target: West marshalling yard. Bomb load 5 each 500 lb. Fuel 2700 gals. We had 52 P-51s fly very good escort for us. The flak was very intense, but we didn't go through it due to an accident. The P-51s seemed to be dog fighting above us. Through all of the confusion we dropped our bombs just past the IP. As far as I know, we did not hit anything. Time 7 hours, 25 minutes.

Mission 33

Villa Franca, Italy, Ship #60. November 18, 1944

Bomb load 36 each 100 lb frag bombs. Fuel 2700 gals. We were supposed to be escorted by 55 P-51s and RAF Spitfires. The fighters were also supposed to strafe air fields in the area. We hit the target and did quite a bit of damage. Time 7 hours, 5 minutes.

Mission 34

Munich, Germany. Ship #60. November 22, 1944

Target West marshalling yard. Bomb load 6 each 500 lb RDX explosive. Fuel 2700 gals. We were to be escorted by P-51s and P-38s which we did not see due to the poor weather we were flying in. We did not see the flak, but knew it was there because we could feel it. After bombs away the group split up due to a poor rally off the target. Ships were all over the sky in the clouds. Two ships collided, but both made it back to the base OK. I tried to enter our group three times, but the formation was so messed up I could not get back in. I joined another flight of three B-24s headed in the