

## Operational History For July 1944

During the month of July, 21 missions were flown by the 484th Bombardment Group striking virtually into every country within our range. Oil storage, marshaling yards, airdromes, factories, and communications in Germany, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary, Rumania, Austria, and Italy underwent attacks by this group.

For exemplary achievements under battle conditions, Distinguished Flying Crosses were awarded to the following:

Capt. William M Riddle of Walterboro, SC  
1st Lt. Thaddeus M Philips of Jep Hill, KY  
T/Sgt. Stanley J Hood of Chicago, IL  
S/Sgt. Kenneth R Randall of Portland, ME

Seventeen Purple Hearts and one Oak Leaf Cluster were awarded together with 40 Air Medals, and 282 Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

The month of July is particularly noteworthy for the fact that all operations were successfully carried on without the loss of a single plane through enemy action or from mechanical failures. This is credited to the long hours of training which our crews have accumulated, and the ability of our men "on the line" to "keep 'em flying".

In the month of July 1944, which marked the third operational month of this group in this theater, the Engineering Sections furnished for combat duty aircraft for 792 combat sorties of which 762 were used operationally, with 690 sorties over the targets in 21 missions. The group furnished on average 36.2 aircraft for mission assignments averaging 32.2 aircraft over the target areas. The number of aborts per mission equaled four aircraft which was the lowest in the wing for the month. The maintenance work of the Group when compared with other groups of the 15th Air Force is among the best.

During the month, 97 engine changes were accomplished, with three days as the average length of time consumed by this work. Twenty fuel cells and several wings and empennages were removed and replaced. In every instance the airplanes were returned to operation in the minimum length of time. Routine maintenance occupied the greatest portion of the work for the month. This included the periodic inspections and daily correction of defects recorded in the aircraft log books by flight crews.

It is well to note here that during the month of July no aircraft were lost or suffered major damage through combat flying or mechanical failure. All battle damage was repaired promptly and efficiently with the aircraft being of service the minimum length of time.

## Missions For July (Missions 39 through 59)

- 2 Budapest, Hungary, Racos Roundhouse
- 3 Bucharest, Romania, Romania-Morgasia Oil Storage
- 5 Beziers, France, Marshaling Yards
- 6 Aviano, Italy, Oil and Gasoline Storage
- 7 Blechammer, Germany, Synthetic Oil Refinery
- 8 Korneuberg, Germany, Oil Refinery
- 11 Toulans, France, Submarine Base
- 12 Nimes, France, Marshaling Yards
- 14 Petfurdo, Hungary, Oil Refinery
- 15 Ploesti, Romania, Creditul, Minier Oil Refinery
- 16 Weiner Neudorf, Austria, Aircraft Engine Factory
- 17 Tarascon, France, Railroad Bridge
- 18 Fredrichshafen, Germany, Dornier A/C Factory
- 19 Munich, Germany, Shleishein A/D
- 21 Brux, Czechoslovakia, Oil Refinery
- 22 Ploesti, Romania, Romana American Oil Refinery
- 25 Linz, Austria, Marshaling Yards
- 27 Budapest, Hungary, Manfred Weiss Armament Works
- 28 Ploesti, Romania, Romana American Oil Refinery
- 30 Budapest, Hungary, Duna Aircraft Factory
- 31 Bucharest, Romania, Prahova Oil Refinery

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In summing up the activities of 484th Bomb Group for August 1944, twenty missions were accomplished, dealing destruction and devastating doom to the enemy territory and countries within our

range. Factories, airdromes, marshaling yards, oil storage tanks, beachheads, railroad viaducts,, each in turn felt the effectiveness of our attacks. From the southern coast of France, and to southern Germany, from Northern Italy through Austria, and Hungary, our aircraft dealt severe blows to the various targets within that area.

Although we have suffered a minimum amount of losses, our crews deserve recognition for their unusual initiative, ingenious acumen in staving off enemy aircraft and fire, and above all the valor and courage displayed in critical moments. We must not underestimate the cooperation of the ground personnel and their combined efforts, these men have made the month of August one to be remembered in the annals of aerial combat



Red Cross girl Jo Ryan (center) serves donuts after a mission. 5-1)

Robert Alman 484th BG

history.

Of noteworthy attention is the mission to the Gun Positions near the St. Tropez area, France on the 14th of August. Although the invasion of southern France had its impetus early that morning, our unit at 1600 in the afternoon made direct hits on the beachhead.