

HEADQUARTERS 49TH BOMBARDMENT WING (H)

APO 520

U S ARMY

20 April 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 12)

1. a. See Latest Intelligence Summaries and Annex "A".

b. (1) Bombers: Six Groups B-17s of the 5th Wg will attack Ploesti Main M/Y, time at KP 1011B. 483rd BG (5th Wg) will attack BELGRADE IKARUN A/C Factory, time at KP 1044B. Four Groups B-24s, 47th Wg will attack PLOESTI North M/Y, time at KP 1024B. Four Groups B-24s, 304th Wg will attack Bucharest Southeast M/Y, time at KP 1034B. One Group (460th BG) B-24s 55th Wg, will join 49th Wg Bombers to form Composite Wg; 460th BG will attack BUCHAREST M/Y Roundhouse at S-2 on Target Chart 11-10-NA, time at KP 1044B.

(2) Escort: One Gp Fighters will line intercept Air Force formation at (43 deg 50 min N, 20 deg 20 min E) at 18,000 ft at 1055B and cover formation to maximum limit of endurance. Maximum P-38s will provide cover for bombers over BUCHAREST from 1220B to 1235B. Two Gps Fighters will provide Air Force formation with general cover on withdrawal, from maximum range. Type of escort A/C will be telephoned to Gps later.

2. Normal effort B-24s each 451st BG and 461st BG will attack BUCHAREST M/Y on 21 April 1944. This is Plan "A".

ALTERNATE TARGET: Bomb Industrial center of BUCHAREST on ETA. LAST RESORT TARGET: TURNUL SEDDRIN M/Y and Ship Building installation East of the M/Y. LRT Elevation: 490 ft.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 461st BG will rendezvous with 451st when 451st when 451st BG flies over TORRETTO at 0942B at 5,000 ft. on MC of 133 degrees. 460th BG will line rendezvous with 49th Wg over Spinazzola at 0952B at 5,000 ft. on a MC of 60 degrees.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: See Paragraph 1. B. (2).

WING FORMATION: Column of Gps stepped down.

AIR FORCE FORMATION: Close column of Wgs: 5th Wg, 47th Wg, 304th Wg, Composite Wg.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 451st BG lead- 461st BG- 460th BG.

ROUTE OUT: Base to SPINAZZOLA to Key Point to Turn Point #1 to Turn Point #2 to IP to Target.

KEY POINT: PUDUA (42 deg 17 min N, 18 deg 51 min E) Base alt 14,000 ft at 1044B.

TURN POINT #1: (44 deg 49 min N, 21 deg 20 min E); TURN POINT #2: COSTERSTI (44 deg 40 min N, 24 deg 52 min E).

INITIAL POINT: CARTOJANI (44 deg 27 min N, 25 deg 30 min E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 84 degrees.

AIMING POINT: See Paragraph 3. a and b.

TARGET TIME: 1230B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: (451st BG - 23,500 ft).

(461st BG - 22,500 ft).

(460th BG - 21,500 ft).

TARGET ELEVATION: Primary and Alt. - 310 plus or minus 30 ft.

RALLY: Right off Target to RALLY POINT, RADUJEVAC (44 deg 17 min N, 22 deg 41 min E).

ROUTE BACK: Target to Rally Point to Key Point to Base.

3. a. 451st BG will attack that portion of BUCHAREST M/Y at Q/P-6 on Target Chart 11-10-NA.

b. 461st BG will attack that portion of BUCHAREST M/Y at S/R-3/4 on Target Chart 11-10-NA.

- x. (1) Lead attack units of Gps will load four (4) cartons Window in each A/C. Dispensing will begin three (3) minutes before IP and will continue until five (5) minutes after bombs away..
- (2) Two Gps load 500# GP with .1 second nose fuse and .025 tail fuse.
- (3) Close formation and accurate timing imperative.
- (4) Do not bomb RUSE (43 deg 51 min N, 25 deg 57 min E).

4. No Change.

5. a. (1) Command Radio: 6440 Kc.

(2) Bomber Call Signs: (5th Wg, "Fruittart 1"), (47th Wg, "Fruittart 2"), (304th Wg, "Fruittart 3"), (451st BG, "Fruittart 41"), (461st BG, "Fruittart 42"), (55th Wing, "Fruittart 5"),.

(3) Fighter Call Signs: (Penetration "Goway 1") (Withdrawal "Goway 2" and "Goway 3"), (Top cover at BUCHAREST "Shortbread").

(4) VHF Channel "B".

(5) Visual Signals: SOP for 49th Wg. Red-Red flare will be used. Red-Red flare for abandoning Primary and on starting run on Alternafate.

Aldis Lamp: SOP for 49th Wg. 460th BG Amber Letter "G".

b. (1) Combat Wing Commander: Col. Eaton.

By Order of Colonel LEE:

LEROY L. STEFONOWICZ
Lt. Col., Air Corps
A-3

OFFICIAL:

LEROY L. STEFONOWICZ
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DISTRIBUTION:

1 ea CO, A-2, A-3, P.I.
6 ea Bomb Gp
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HEADQUARTERS FORTY NINTH WING (US)
APO 520

20 April 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX "A" TO
OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 12, 20 April 1944

PLAN: This operation continues the number one objective - direct support of the Russian Army. Thirty to fifty % of the capacity of the east-west rail lines in Roumania are being used for military requirements. Also, large refugee movements and oil shipments out of the PLOESTI area add to the congestion.

Our target, the BUCHAREST M/Y (and alternates as well) is one of the most vital choke points of all the rail centers which are being simultaneously hit on this combined attack. Previous attacks at BUCHAREST greatly damaged the main M/Y and this plan considers the destruction of remaining handling and repair facilities. The repair shops in the southeastern part of the target and the roundhouse at the northwestern end near which is reported switching control station for entire railway system should received particular attention. The alternate target, TURNU SEVERIN M/Y, is badly damaged but still active with siding along north edge of yard, the large work shops and loading points east of yard are vital objectives. (See marked T. C. 11-10-NA attached).

DEFENSES: There has been no change in the flak since previous report. The possibility of interception from enemy fighters is as follows: 25 single engine fighters from NISH-BELGRADE area; 50 to 60 S/E fighters from SOFIA airfields. The opposition in all target areas may total 60-70 S/E fighters and 20-15 twin engine fighters. However, encounters are considered more likely on the way home where BULGARIAN and ROUMANIAN fighters probably will limit their attacks to isolated elements. Estimate opposition over whole route could total 150-175 single engine and 20-25 twin engine sorties.

By order of Colonel LEE:

ARTHUR J. LUND,
Major, Air Corps,
A. C. of S., S-2.

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