

49TH BOMBARDMENT WING (H)

APO 520
16 April 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 9)

1. a. See Latest Intelligence Summaries and Annex "A".
 - b. (1) Bombers: Six Groups B-17s of the 5th Wg will attack BELGRADE M/Y and A/C Components Factory; time at KP 1059B. One Group B-24s of 55th Wg and Two Groups B-24s of 49th Wg will form a Composite Wg and attach targets at BELGRADE ZEMUN A/D; time at KP 1109B. Four Groups B-24s of 304th are attacking SOFIA M/Y. Four Groups B-24s of 47th Wg are attacking SOFIA Industrial Center and M/Y.

(2) Escort: Two Groups P-38s will furnish close escort and target cover for 5th Wg. One Group P-47s will furnish close escort and target cover for Composite Wing formation.
2. Wing Assignment: Normal Effort B-24s each 451st BG and 461st BG will frag dispersed A/C at BELGRADE ZEMUN A/D on 17 April 1944. This is Plan "Able".

ALTERNATE TARGET: No alternate Targets will be attacked.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 451st BG assemble over Base; 461st BG assemble over MELFI;. 461st BG will make line rendezvous with 451st when 461st flies over TORRETTO at 1012B altitude 5,000 ft. on TC of 128 degrees. 49th Wg B-24s will make line rendezvous with 460th BG when 460th BG flies over SPINAZZOLA at 1021B at 5,000 ft. on a True Course of 50 degrees.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: P-47s will make line rendezvous with Composite Wg near Key Point on route out.

WING FORMATION: Close Column of Groups stepped up.

AIR FORCE FORMATION: Close column of Wgs: 5th Wg leading, Composite Wg second.

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

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to Key Point to Turn Point to IP to Target.

INTERVALOMETER SETTING: 451st BG hangar line with setting of 120 ft; 461st BG runway and beyond with setting of 50 ft.

KEY POINT: ERCEGMOVI (42 deg 28 min N, 18 deg 32 min E) Base alt. 12,000 at Key Point; time 1109B.

TURN POINT: BIJELVINA (44 deg 45 min N, 19 deg 13 min E).

INITIAL POINT: STARNFASOVA (44 deg 59 min N, 20 deg 10 min E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 139 degrees.

AIMING POINT: See Para. 3.a and 3.b.

TARGET TIME: 1210B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: (451st BG - 23,500 ft).
(461st BG - 22,500 ft).

(460th BG - 21,500 ft).

TARGET ELEVATION: 250 ft.

RALLY: Right off Target.

ROUTE BACK: Direct.

3. a. 461st BG will frag A/C parker along the Southeast side of main runway of BELGRADE ZEMUN A/D.
- b. 451st BG will frag A/C parked in front Hangar line.
- x. (1) 3 cartons Window will be loaded on A/C of Group lead attack units. Dispensing will begin 3 minutes before IP and continue until 3 minutes after bombs away.
- (2) Fragmentation bombs will be loaded.
- (3) Unassigned Targets in Jugoslavia will not be bombed.
- (4) Maximum care will be exercised to avoid unnecessary bombing of CITY OF BELGRADE due to friendly occupation.
- (5) See Annex "B" for Group Formation.

4. No Change.

5. a. (1) Command Radio: 6440 Kc.
- (2) Bomber Call Signs: (5th Wg, "Lacework 1"), (451st BG, "Lacework 21"), 461st BG, "Lacework 22"), (55th Wing, "Lacework 3").
- (3) Fighter Call Signs: (5th Wg Escort, "Pixie 1" and "Pixie 2" on VHHF Channel "A"), (Composite Wg Escort, "Reckless").
- (4) VHF Channel B.
- (5) Visual Signals - 460th BG leader will fire Red Red (R R) flares at 20 second intervals during Wg rendezvous; 49th Wg Group leaders will fire two R R flares when 460th BG is recognized. Combat Wg leader will fire two R R flares at beginning of climb.

Aldis Lamp: Color: Red. (451st BG, letter "U"), (461st BG, letter "V"), (460th BG, Amber letter "G").

- b. (1) Combat Wing Commander: As designated by 55th Wg.

By Order of Colonel LEE:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

- 1 ea CO, A-2, A-3, P.I.
- 6 ea Bomb Gp
- 2 ea 306th Wing
- 1 ea CG, FAF

HEADQUARTERS FORTY NINTH WING (US)
APO 520

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX "A" TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 9
16 APRIL 1944

1. Plan Able continues the attack on airdromes and fighter factories and on rail communications supplying the GERMAN defense of ROUMANIA. Out target, the ZEMUN A/D at BELGRADE, is the principal base for transports flying critical supplies from ITALY, NORTH YUGOSLAVIA, and GREECE to the fronts. A 15th April photo shows 60 JU 52s and Glider Towers on the field. In addition the IKARUS and ROGOZARSKY factories at the A/D are believed to be making components for ME 109s. Be careful not to bomb town of BELGRADE as there many partisans there. Combines with our mission will be attacks on the M/Y at BELGRADE and alternates of rail centers and lines at NIS, SOFIA, KRALJAVO, SARAJAVO and way stations. On flak information there is no change from that already distributed and the axis of attack is planned with due consideration for flak positions. Fighter opposition at BELGRADE is considered negligible. Believed enemy fighter capabilities in general area at 50 to 60 ME 109s with a few Dewoitine 520s.