

12 May 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 43)

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

b. (1) Bombers: Six Gps B-17s, 5th Wg, will attack BOLZANO RR Bridge, Aviso RR Bridge, BRONZOLA M/Y, and TRENTO M/Y; time at Target 1430B. Four Gps B-24s, 47th Wg, will attack PIACENZA and FIDENZA M/Y; time at KP 1241B. Four Gps B-24s, 55th Wg, will attack PARMA and MADENA M/Y; time at KP 1231B. Four Gps B-24s, 304th Wg, will attack BOLOGNA Main, CASTEL MAGGIORE, BORGIO PANIGALE, and SAN RUFILLO M/Y; time at KP 1221B.

(2) Escort: Fighters will provide close escort, penetration, target cover and withdrawal protection for 5th Wg. 52nd FG will provide penetration, target cover, and withdrawal cover for 47th Wg. Fighters will provide general cover on penetration and withdrawal in PO Valley target area. 48 P-38s of 82nd FG will line rendezvous with 49th Wg at CAPRAIA at 1338B and provide penetration cover, target cover and withdrawal cover..

2. Normal effort B-24s, each 484th BG, 451st BG and 461st BG, will attack PO Valley rail communications on 13 May 1944. This is Plan "A".

ALTERNATE TARGET: Any M/Y in PO Valley except FLORENCE and RIMINI.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 451st BG will line rendezvous with 484th BG when 484th BG passes over MELFI on a TC of 276 degrees at. 461st BG will line rendezvous behind 451st BG approximately three (3) MINUTES AFTER 451st BG passes over MELFI on a TC of 276 degrees. Rendezvous altitudes: 484th BG - 5,000 ft; 451st BG - 6,000 ft; 461st BG - 7,000 ft.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: See Para. 1. b. (2).

WING FORMATION: Staggered column of Gps stepped up.

AIR FORCE FORMATION: Close Columns of Wgs. 49th Wg lead - 304th Wg - 55th Wg - 47th Wg.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 484th BG lead - 451st BG - 461st BG.

ROUTE OUT: MELFI to Turn Point #1 to Turn Point #2 to Turn Point #3 to Turn Point #4 to Turn Point #5 to Key Point to Turn Point #6 to Turn Point #7 to Turn Point #8 to Turn Point #9 to Turn Point #10 to IP to Targets.

KEY POINT: VENTOTENE (40 deg 47 min N, 13 deg 26 min E) Base altitude 10,000 ft at 1211B.

TURN POINT #1: BISACCIA (41 deg 01 min N, 15 deg 22 min E).

TURN POINT #2: ISERNIA (41 deg 35 min N, 14 deg 14 min E).

TURN POINT #3: VENAFRO (41 deg 29 min N, 14 deg 03 min E).

TURN POINT #4: MARZANO (41 deg 19 min N, 14 deg 02 min E).

TURN POINT #5: MONDRAGONE (41 deg 07 min N, 13 deg 54 min E).  
TURN POINT #6: PIANOSA (42 deg 35 min N, 10 deg 05 min E).  
TURN POINT #7: CAPRAIA (43 deg 03 min N, 09 deg 50 min E).  
TURN POINT #8: (43 deg 50 min N, 09 deg 55 min E).  
TURN POINT #9: FORTE DEI WARMI (43 deg 58 min N, 10 deg 10 min E).  
TURN POINT #10: BARGA (44 deg 04 min N, 10 deg 29 min E).  
TURN POINT #11: (44 deg 10 min N, 13 deg 10 min E).  
INITIAL POINT: 451<sup>st</sup> BG and 461<sup>st</sup> BG MARRADI (44 deg 05 min N, 11 deg 38 min E) 484<sup>th</sup> BG SAN SOFIA (43 deg 58 min N, 11 deg 54 min E).  
AXIS OF ATTACK: 451st BG and 461st BG 42 degrees TC; 484th BG 51 degrees TC.  
AIMING POINT: 451st BG and 461st BG - FAENZA H/I-6/7 on Target Chart 4-82-NA. 484th BG - CESENA 400 ft short of M/Y. (No Target Chart available).  
INTERVALOMETER SETTING: 451st BG 50 ft; 461st BG 55 ft; 484th BG 36 ft;.  
TARGET TIME: 484th BG - 1424B. 451st BG and 461st BG 1420B.  
BOMBING ALTITUDE: (484th BG - 18,000 ft)  
(451st BG - 19,000 ft)  
(461st BG - 20,000 ft).  
TARGET ELEVATION: FAENZA 110 ft; CESENA 95 ft.  
RALLY: 451st BG and 461st BG will rally right off to Rally Point. 484th BG will rally left to Rally Point and fall in behind 461st BG. No flak reported at either target.  
ROUTE BACK: Target to Rally Point (44 deg 19 min N, 12 deg 20 min E) to Turn Point #11 to LAKE LESINA to Bases.

3. a. 484th BG will attack CESENA M/Y.  
b. 451st and 461st BG will attack FAENZA M/Y.  
x. (1) Three Gps load 500# GP with .1 sec nose fuse and tail fused with .01 and .025 sec.

4. No Change.

5. a. (1) Command Radio: 4085 kcs.  
(2) Bomber Call Signs: (5th Wg, "Lacework"), (47th Wg, "Ringway 4"), (304th Wg, "Ringway 2"), (55th Wg, "Ringway 3"), (451st BG, "Ringway 12"), (461st BG, "Ringway 13"), (484th BG, "Ringway 11").  
(3) Fighter Call Signs: (5th Wg, "Kiddies"), (Escort for other bombers, "Keyword 1, 2, 3 etc.").  
(4) Recall Identification Codeword: (5th Wg, "Looselip"), (47th Wg, "Kind"), (304th Wg, "Mudpie"), (55th Wg, "Hotdog"), (49th Wg, "Holdtight"), (306th Wg, "Dainty").  
(5) VHF Channel: 5th Wg: "A". All others: "B".  
(6) Visual Signals: SOP for 49th Wg. Red-Red flare will be used. Red-Red flare for abandoning Primary and on starting run on alternate.

Aldis Lamp: SOP for 49th Wg.

- b. (1) Combat Wing Commander: Lt. Col. Keese.

By Order of Colonel LEE:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

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HEADQUARTERS FORTY NINTH BOMB WING  
APO 520 US ARMY

12 MAY 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX "A" FOR  
OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 43, 12 MAY 1944

PLAN: Plan ABLE for 13 May 1944 is designed to further the plan of 12 May 1944 by attacking all points along the PIACENZA-EIMINI railroad line.

Included in this effort will be the breaking of the BRENNER line in the Alps. Great quantities of supplies and material are funneled into Italy on rail lines through the BRENNER PASS. Once in northern Italy, loaded rolling stock is shunted into one of several important rail centers where trains are marshalled together for consignment to the front lines over the bomb-battered rail system of central Italy where transportation is depending more and more on motor trucks.

A new target along the southern line is CESENA, which is southeast of FORLI. Reports are that CESENA is a transshipment point where supplies are changed from rail to truck transport forward to the front lines. Successful execution of this plan will contribute largely in the disorganizing of the forward troops.

Latest photo reconnaissance shows 85 wagons in the marshalling yards at CESENA with a goods train of about 50 wagons moving west in the direction of FORLI.

The FAENZA M/Y are shown as serviceable by latest reconnaissance photos. Plan ABLE for the 49th Wing is the destruction of M/Ys at CESENA and FAENZA.

DEFENSES: (1) Flak: Latest reports available do not indicate an flak at CESENA or FAENZA.

(2) Enemy fighters: No additions to yesterday's annex. In the immediate target area 50-60 planes have been observed in the FORLI, BOLOGNA and FERRARA area. They are included in the totals set out in yesterday's annex (12 May 1944).

FAENZA: T. C. No. 4-82-NA and photos coverage

CESENA: Photo coverage.

(Note) Emphasize that all units refrain from attacking FLORENCE and RIMINI.

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

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10 cys ea Gp

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