

17 May 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 48)

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

b. (1) Bombers: Four Gps B-17s, 5th Wg, will attack ROMANO AMERICANA Oil Refinery in PLOESTI Area; time at KP 0849B. Two Gps B-17s, 5th Wg, will attack BELGRADE PANCEVO RR Bridge and BELGRADE SAVA RR Bridge; time at KP 0940B. Four Gps B-24s, 47th Wg, will attack UNIREA SPERANTZA Oil Refinery in PLOESTI area; time at KP 0906B. Four Gps B-24s, 55th Wg, will attack CONCORDIA VEGA Oil Refinery in PLOESTI area; time at KP 0926B. Four Gps B-24s, 304th Wg, will attack DAGIA ROMANO Oil Refinery and REDEVENTA Oil Refinery in PLOESTI area; time at KP 0916B.

(2) Escort: Fighters will provide penetration, target, and withdrawal cover for bomber force hitting PLOESTI. Penetration escort of main force will provide target and withdrawal escort for two Gps attacking BELGRADE RR Bridge. Flanking escort will be on the alert for shadowing stool pigeon A/C.

2. Normal effort B-24s each 484th BG, 451st BG, and 461st BG will attack XENIA Oil Refinery in PLOESTI area on 18 May 1944. This is Plan "A".

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: Same as primary target by pathfinder.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: BELGRADE ZENUM A/D Installations.

THIRD ALTERNATE TARGET: TURNU SEVERIN M/Y.

LAST RESORT TARGETS: BELGRADE SAVA, NIS, CRAIOVA M/Ys.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 451st BG will line rendezvous behind 484th BG over BOVINO on TC of 62 degrees at 0843B. 461st BG will line rendezvous behind 484th BG and 451st BG over CASTELLUCIO on TC of 62 degrees at 0851B. 484th BG will at 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: Left echelon of Wgs. 5th Wg lead - 47th Wg - 304th Wg - 55th Wg - 49th Wg. Two Gps attacking BELGRADE.

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

ROUTE OUT: Base to Key Point to Turn Point #1 to Turn Point #2 to Turn Point #3 to IP to Target.

KEY POINT: MIKULICI (42 deg 28 min N, 18 deg 25 min E) Base altitude 14,000 ft at 0936B.

TURN POINT #1: (42 deg 42 min N, 18 deg 38 min E).

TURN POINT #2: PECENISCE (44 deg 52 min N, 22 deg 23 min E).

TURN POINT #3: SINAIJA (45 deg 22 min N, 25 deg 32 min E).

TURN POINT #4: LUGULETUL (44 deg 36 min N, 25 deg 40 min E).

TURN POINT #5: OREKHOVA (43 deg 45 min N, 23 deg 56 min E).

TURN POINT #6: PIROT (43 deg 10 min N, 22 deg 35 min E).
TURN POINT #7: KALLMET (41 deg 52 min N, 19 deg 41 min E).
INITIAL POINT: HOMORACINI (45 deg 16 min N, 26 deg 01 min E).
AXIS OF ATTACK: Primary 181 degrees TC. 2nd Alternate 210 degrees TC. 3rd
Alternate 180 degrees TC. NIS M/Y 180 degrees TC. BELGRADE
SAVA M/Y 180 degrees TC. CRAIOVA M/Y 180 degrees TC.
AIMING POINT: Primary: I/J-2 on Target Chart 11-100B-NA; 2nd Alternate: N-
5/6 on Target Chart 8-3-NA; 3rd Alternate: L-10/11 on
Target Chart 11-19-NA; NIS M/Y: F-17 on Target Chart 8-102-
NA; BELGRADE SAVA M/Y: K/L-19/20 on Target Chart 8-3-NA;
CRAIOVA M/Y: N/O-12/13 on Target Chart 11-13-NA;.
INTERVALOMETER SETTING: Primary: 451st BG - 80 ft; 461st BG - 85 ft; 484th
BG - 90 ft. 2nd Alternate: 451st BG - 150 ft; 461st BG -
160 ft; 484th BG - 170 ft. 3rd Alternate: 451st BG - 30 ft;
461st BG - 36 ft; 484th BG 40 ft. NIS M/Y: 451st BG 50 ft;
461st BG - 55 ft; 484th BG - 60 ft. BELGRADE SAVA M/Y:
451st BG - 130 ft; 461st BG - 160 ft; 484th BG - 170 ft.
CRAIOVA M/Y: 451st BG 40 ft; 461st BG - 45 ft; 484th BG -
50 ft.
TARGET TIME: 1140B.
BOMBING ALTITUDE: (484th BG - 20,000 ft).
(451st BG - 21,000 ft).
(461st BG - 22,000 ft).
TARGET ELEVATION: Primary: 565 ft. 2nd Alternate: 242ft. 3rd Alternate: 164
ft. NIS M/Y: 610 ft. BELGRADE SAVA M/Y: 242 ft. CRAIOVA
M/Y: 395 ft.
RALLY: Right off Target.
ROUTE BACK: Target to Turn Point #4 to Turn Point #5 to Turn Point #6 to
Turn Point #7 to Bases.

3. x. (1) All A/C of Gps will load three (3) cartons Window. Dispensing
will begin in vicinity of (45 deg 22 min N, 25 deg 32 min E) and
continue until four (4) minutes after bombs away.
 - (2) Three Gps load 500# GP with .1 sec nose fuse and with mixed
.01 sec and .025 sec tail fuses.
 - (3) 484th and 451st BGs will be lead by Pathfinder A/C. Pathfinder
A/C will be used by Gp and Deputy GP Commanders of 484th BG. Gp
leader of 451st BG will use Pathfinder A/C.
 - (4) Additional fighter information to be telephones later.
4. No Change.
5. a. (1) Command Radio: 4085 kcs.
 - (2) Bomber Call Signs: (5th Wg, "Betty 1"), (47th Wg, "Betty 2"),
(304th Wg, "Betty 3"), (55th Wg, "Betty 4"), (451st BG, "Betty
52", (461st BG, "Betty 53", (484th BG, "Betty 51").
 - (3) Fighter Call Signs: (Escort will be "Shapely" with suffix
numbers to designate order of contact with bomber formation).
 - (4) Recall Identification Codeword: (5th Wg, "History"), 47th Wg,
"Hotseat"), (304th Wg, "Keeper"), (55th Wg, "Holdtight"),
(49th Wg, "Hotdog"), (306th Wg, "Riot").
 - (5) VHF Channel "A".
 - (6) Visual Signals: SOP for 49th Wg.

Aldis Lamp: SOP for 49th Wg.

b. (1) Combat Wing Commander: Lt.Col. Busch.

By Order of Colonel LEE:

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

OFFICIAL:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

1 ea CO, A-2, A-3, P.I.
10 ea Gps
2 ea 306th Wg
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HEADQUARTERS FORTY NINTH BOMB WING
APO 520 US ARMY

17 May 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX "A"
FOR
OPERATIONS ORDER NO.48, 17 May 1944

PLAN: The operation for 18 May has no change from the previous PLOESTI plan—except for the addition of two targets in the area. One, the UNIREA SPERANTZA, is shown to be undamaged in latest reconnaissance photos. The other, CISIO VIADUCT, is being attacked to prevent repair.

The importance of destroying the remaining oil capacity of the PLOESTI area has increased enormously because of the 8th Air Force's successful attacks on synthetic oil plants of Germany. The synthetic oil, prior to those attacks, had represented about 15% of Germany's total oil supply. Consequently the 2,000,000 ton capacity remaining at PLOESTI represents a large percentage of the enemy's dwindling oil supply.

It is established that the axis output of oil has been cut by 35-40% and completing the destruction at PLOESTI will increase this figure to over 50%--which is believed to be the critical point in the Axis war potential.

The ZENIA REFINERY is the specific target for the 49th Wing in Plan ABLE. This is not one of the largest refineries in the area but because it has been relatively undamaged it is a particularly important target.

It should be noted again that the boilers and distillation plants are the vital parts of a refinery. The destruction of these objectives will render the refinery inoperative for six to nine months. They are located in NE corner of the XENIA REFINERY as indicated by the aiming point selected for this operation.

DEFENSES: Latest flak information shows a total of 160 heavy guns defending PLOESTI area. Fighter interception from the 20-25 ME-109s in the NIS-BELGRADE area is possible both on the route in and back. In the target area the enemy support may be increased (by reason of recent inactivity in this area) to 100 S/E plus 25-30 T/E fighters.

There is the additional possibility that German fighters at the Russian front based at BRAILA and CONSTANTA—could be used for the defense of PLOESTI but to date there has been no indication of such use.

T. C. No. 11-100B-NA Marked for Ploesti
Flak Chart No. E 1187
Photo Coverage.

ARTHUR J. LUND,
Major, Air Corps,
1A. C. of S., A-2

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