

HEADQUARTERS 49TH BOMBARDMENT WING (H)
APO 520 U S ARMY

19 May 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 50)

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

b. (1) Bombers: Six Gps B-17s, 5th Wg, will attack LATICIANA RR Bridge, CASARA-TAGLIAMENTO RR Bridge, RIMINI RR Bridge, and PORTO MAREHERA Oil Storage installations; time at KP 0905B. Four Gps B-24s, 47th Wg, will attack SPEZIA Harbor Oil Storage and Rail installations; time at KP 0933B. Four Gps B-24s, 55th Wg, will attack BOLOGNA New M/Y, FAENZA M/Y, and FORLI M/Y; time at KP 0915B. Four Gps B-24s, 304th Wg, will attack GENOA Harbor and Rail installations; time at KP 0923B.

(2) Escort: Fighters will provide close escort for all tasks.

2. Normal effort B-24s each 461st BG, 484th BG, and 451st BG will attack RECCO Viaduct on 19 May 1944. This is Plan "A".

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: MODENA M/Y.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: FAENZA M/Y.

LAST RESORT TARGETS: Any active M/Y in PO VALLEY.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: None.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: See Para. 1. b. (2). 48 P-51s will provide target cover from 1021B to 1041B.

WING FORMATION: Column of Gps ten (10) minutes apart.

AIR FORCE FORMATION: Column of Wgs. 5th Wg lead - 55th Wg on ADRIATIC route. 304th Wg - 47th Wg - 49th Wg on LIGURIAN SEA route.

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

ROUTE OUT: Base 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 IP to Target.

KEY POINT: CAPRAIA (43 deg 02 min N, 09 deg 49 min E) Base altitude 15,000 ft. Time at KP (461st BG - 0943B), (451st BG - 0953B), (484th BG - 1003B).

TURN POINT #1: ISERNAI (41 deg 36 min N, 14 deg 14 min E).

TURN POINT #2: VENAFRO (41 deg 29 min N, 14 deg 02 min E).

TURN POINT #3: MONDRAGONE (41 deg 07 min N, 13 deg 54 min E).

TURN POINT #4: PONZA ISLE (40 deg 54 min N, 12 deg 58 min E).

TURN POINT #5: MONTE CRISTO (42 deg 20 min N, 10 deg 19 min E).

TURN POINT #6: (43 deg 45 min N, 08 deg 37 min E).

INITIAL POINT: (44 deg 04 min N, 08 deg 45 min E) 20 miles SE of SAVONA.

AXIS OF ATTACK: Primary 45 degrees TC. MODENA M/Y (1st Alternate) 45 degrees TC. FAENZA (2nd Alternate) 45 degrees TC.

AIMING POINT: Primary: 451st BG - F/G-5/6; 461st BG - F/G-5; 484th BG f-6 on Target Chart 4-90-NA; 1st Alternate MODENA M/Y: All Gpos

P-12/13 on Target Chart 4-111-NA. 2nd Alternate FAENZA M/Y:

All Gps H/I-6/7 on Target Chart 4-82-NA.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: (461st BG - 17,000 ft).

(484th BG - 17,000 ft).

(451st BG - 17,000 ft).

TARGET ELEVATION: Primary: 25 ft. 1st Alternate: 110 ft. 2nd Alternate:
110 ft.

RALLY: Right.

ROUTE BACK: Target to Key Point to Turn Point #5 to Turn Point #4 to Turn
Point #3 to Base.

3. x. (1) Three Gps will load two 2000# GP in front bomb bay and one
2000# GP in rear bomb bay of all Consolidated manufactured B-24s. Gps
will load one 2000# GP in left front bomb bay, two 1000# GPs in right
front bomb bay, and one 2000# GP in rear bomb bay of all Ford
manufactured B-24s. Fusing for all bombs will be .1 sec nose and .01
tail.

(2) Pathfinder A/C stand down.

(3) No window will be loaded.

(4) Before reaching IP Gps will go into an attack formation
whereby they will attack by individual boxes. Boxes will rally
right. Gps will reassemble and return to base.

4. No Change.

5. a. (1) Command Radio: 4085 kcs.

(2) Bomber Call Signs: (47th Wg, "Reckless"), (304th Wg,
"Thickrug"), (55th Wg, "Tankstop"), (451st BG, "Bartend 3",
(461st BG, "Bartend 1", (484th BG, "Bartend 2"), (5th Wg
attacking LATISANA, PORTO MARGHERA area are "Sandsail 1"),
(5th Wg attacking RIMINI area are "Sandsail 2").

(3) Fighter Call Signs: (5th Wg escort is "Keyword 1" and Keyword
2"), (47th Wg escort is "Butler"), (55th Wg escort is
"Cleargum"), (304th Wg escort is Greenherd"), (49th Wg escort
is "Airslug").

(4) Recall Identification Codeword: (5th Wg, "Holdtight"), (47th
Wg, "Keeper"), (304th Wg, "Lovebird"), (55th Wg, "Looselip"),
(49th Wg, "Kind"), (306th Wg, "Crank").

(5) VHF Channel "A".

(6) Visual Signals: None.

Aldis Lamp: SOP for 49th Wg.

b. (1) Combat Wing Commander: None.

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
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HEADQUARTERS FORTY NINTH BOMB WING
APO 520, US ARMU

18 May 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX "A"
FOR OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 50, 18 May 1944

PLAN: Plan ABLE directs the entire Air Force toward objectives which will have direct and immediate effect on the Italian battle. The critical point of the battle appears eminent and renders this bombardment support of paramount importance. There are to be coordinated attacks on the LATISANA and CASARRA bridges; the twin bridges north of RIMINI; the M/Ys at FORLI, FAENZA and BOLOGNA; the PORTO MARGHERA oil storage; the shipping facilities at GEONOA and SPEZIA; and the cutting of the west coast route at RECCO.

The RECCO VIADUCT—the primary target for the 49th Wing - is the one vital spot on the whole west coast line where a successful attack will completely sever the line for an indefinite length of time. Traffic cannot bypass the viaduct—located as it is in mountainous terrain with tunnels at each terminus. The viaduct is approximately 3,000 ft. in length, 45 ft. in width (with triple tracks), and of stone arch construction.

DEFENSES: The nearest flak is at GENOA (50 guns) and at SPEZIA (84 guns). The briefed course is completely out of range of these two points and there is no record of flak at RECCO. Also there is no flak recorded at either alternate target.

Fighter reaction in the northwest coast area (RECCO) is estimated at 40-50 S/E fighters (ME-109s, Macchi-205s and a few George-55s. They are based primarily at TURIN, BERGAMO and SAN GIOVANNI.

In the area of the alternate targets (northeastern Italy) enemy fighter strength totals 30-40 ME-109s and Macchi-205s which are based at FERRARA and BOLOGNA.

T. C. No. 4-90-NA Marked for RECCO VIADUCT.
T. C. No. 4-111-NA Marked for MODENA.
T. C. No. 4-82-NA Marked for FAENZA.
Photo coverage for Primary Target.

SPECIAL NOTE: The 304th Wing after attacking its target, GENOA, will rally right and should pass over the lead group of the 49th formation as the 461st approaches RECCO. The minimum altitude of the 304th will be 19,500 feet and the 461st altitude will be 17,000 feet.

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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