HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (Hv)
APO 520, U. S. Army

6 February 1945

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 55 )

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 55 )

This is Plan Able

Maps and Target Materials: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (WIEN, VENEZIA, FIUME) 1:500,000
Target and/or Briefing Charts No. 14-22-NA (VIENNA, North)
No. 14-40-NA (VIENNA/KAGRAN)
No. 4-51-NA (POLA, ITALY)
No. 4-29-NA (FIUME, ITALY)
Briefing Chart No. RC 14-2 (FLORISDORF Oil Refy, AUSTRIA)
Target Approach Chart, Target Photochart No. AC, TP 14-2 (FLORISDORF)
Minimum Briefing and/or Photocharts No. MP 14-71 (VIENNA, USTRIA)
No. MPC, MP 14-61 VIENNA, KAGRAN)
No. MP 14-41 (VIENNA/STREPERSDORF)
Illustrations No. 6(d) (iv) 11/1,2,3,4,5,6 (WIEN, FLORISDORF)
No. 1(a)(ii) 36/1,2 (WIEN, KAGRAN)
Report No. H(I) 159 (VIENNA/FLORISDORF)
No. H(I) 162 (VIENNA/KAGRAN)
Pathfinder Charts, RPC Series 1 (VIENNA)
Pathfinder Scope Photos No. 22-0 (51) 1
No. 22-0 (72) 1
No. 22-0 (71) 1
No. 23-0 (38) 1,2
No. 23-0 (57) 1,2,3,4,5

1. Plan able directs attacks against oil installations in the VIENNA area by maximum size force. The Fifteenth Air Force preliminary weather forecast indicates the possibility of visual bombing. It is the objective of this attack to inflict the greatest possible damage to these refineries, and thus make the maximum possible contribution to the coordinated attacks on enemy oil objectives currently being maintained by Fifteenth Air Force, Eighth Air Force, and the RAF. It is known that the enemy is making every effort to effect repairs to damaged oil installations, and is taking into account the advantage which weather, unfavorable to precision bombing, has afforded him. In spite of his efforts, recent attacks by Eighth Air Force and RAF Bomber Command have cut production of several of the major refineries to a level very dangerous to the enemy. The Eighth Air Force on 6 Feb 45 attacked three of the four largest refineries in its area. These factors, plus the loss of the SILESIAN coal and synthetic oil area, leave the VIENNA, the RUHR, and the LEIPZIG complexes as the major oil targets remaining to the enemy. The importance of the VIENNA plants cannot be overstressed.

Alternate targets have been selected as centers of enemy anti-shipping activity, which continues to grow and has now assumed the point that it has become a menace to Allied shipping in the ADRIATIC.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) VIENNA-FLORISDORF and - KAGRAN: Refer to map 4E451 (10 Jan 45) as amended by report 4E518 (22 Jan 45) and 4E531 (25 Jan 45). The axis of attack and the position of the targets are such that the southern defenses of VIENNA will be avoided. The favorable winds will make the expected time in flak 4 minutes. Intense accurate flak may be expected.

(2) POLA: Refer to map 3E429 (12 Jan 45) as amended by report 3E447 (16 Jan 45) and 3E491 (22 Jan 45). On 1 Feb 45, scant inaccurate flak was encountered. Since this area is a naval base and SIEBEL ferries may be present, moderate flak may be expected.

(3) FIUNE: Refer to map 3T86 (7 Nov 44) as last amended by report 4E491 (18 Jan 45). Scant flak may be expected,

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: No change. It is estimated that 40-50 SEF can be called upon for defense of VIENNA targets, but it is expected that the planned offensive fighter sweep will reduce the likelihood of opposition.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS:

(1) FLORISDORF: This oil plant was last attacked on 15 Jan 45 Reconnaissance photos of 27 Jan 45 show no fresh damage, and suggest that the plant is active. The estimated monthly production is 800 tons of gasoline.

(2) KAGRAN: This refinery has not been attacked since 16 June. Photo coverage of 16 Jan 45 show that the plant is active. Its estimated monthly output of gasoline is 500 tons.

(3) FIUME: This port city has a large artificial harbor, which (including the 6,000’ SUSAK harbor) has 30,000’ of quayage. On 29 Jan 45 a 5,000-ton motor vessel was present, a 300’coaster, 4 250-ton F boats, and 12 sailing vessels aggregating 1700 tons. This is a total of 8,000-tons of shipping. There were at that date 4 SIEBEL ferries in the harbor.

(4) POLA: See Intelligence Annex in Teletype FFW Easy 197, 30 Jan 45. On 30 Jan 45 there were a 1,000-ton motor vessel of 220’ length, a 500-ton coaster of 150’ length, a 500-ton oiler of 150’ length, a 300-ton vessel of 120’ length, and 2 F boats of 250 tons each present in the harbor, totaling 2,800 tons of shipping.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) Note that Red Force and Blue Force of each Wing are directed to each attack.

(2) 5th Wing (6 Groups) attacks VIENNA SCHWECHAT and LOBAU O/Rs.

(3) 47th Wing (4 Groups) attacks MOOSBIERBAUM O/R.

(4) 49th Wing (3 Groups) attacks VIENNA KORNEUBERG and FLORISDORF O/RS.

(5) 304th Wing (4 Groups) attacks MOOSBIERBAUM O/R.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide maximum target cover for Red and Blue Forces of all Bombardment Wings, will conduct a medium altitude fighter sweep before the Air Force Bombardment Wings attack (to intercept enemy fighters committed against bombers), will strafe e/a parked on VIENNA SEYRING and ZELTWEG A/Ds, and will provide chaff dispensing a/c in the lead of Red and Blue Forces of the 49th Bombardment Wing.

c. Fifteenth Air Force Intelligence Annex states as follows: Intelligence Officers of all echelons should exert enemy effort in planning and briefing to make tomorrow's operations historically successful. This is a great opportunity to duplicate the outstanding operations of this Air Force in December, to cut the strategic fuel position of the enemy to a new low and in addition to make a substantial and immediate contribution to the Russian drive in Central and Southern EUROPE where the enemy is largely dependent on VIENNA gasoline for his mobility and military life.

d. ESCAPE INTELLIGENCE: Current Bulletins, including No. 14.

e. POW CAMPS are located at DOLLERSHEIM (4837-1518) and at WOLFSRERG (465030-145030). These camps are located close to the planned route, particularly DOLLERSHEIM and they will be brought to the attention of all crews.

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL ACHESON:

DONALD. W. RIDDLE,
Lt Col, AC,
A-2.

DISTRIRUTION: “C”.