HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (HV)
APO 520, US Army

17 January 1945

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 16 )

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 16 )

This is Plan Able

Maps and Target Materials: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (WIEN, GRAZ, BOLZANO, VENEZIA) 1:500,000
Target and Briefing Charts No. 14-23-NA (VIENNA etc)
No. 14-41A .. NA (GRAZ).
No. 4-137-NA (UDINE) No. 14-44-NA (VILLACH)
Target Photochart No. TP 14-2 (FLORISDORF etc; shows PT)
Minimum Briefing and/or Photocharts Nos. 14-13. 14-38, 14-60, 14-69, 14-71 (VIENNA, etc)
Illustration No. 1 (g) (i) 148/7 (WIEN etc)
6 (d) (vi) 37/1, 2, 4, (WIEN. etc)
6 (d) (vi) 117/1, 2, 3, WIEN. etc)
6 (d) (vi) 118/6 (WIEN, etc)
3 (f) 47/1, 2, 3 (GRAZ)
4 (a) 13/1 (GRAZ)
6 (d) (vi) 134/2 (VILLACH)
15th Air Force Headquarters A-2 Analysis Section, Communications Report No. 1, 28 November 1944, Summary, VIENNA, AUSTRIA.
Pathfinder Chart No. RPC 1, 1 Supplement No. 1
Pathfinder Briefing Chart No. RPC 1-A, 1-A Supplement No. 1
Pathfinder Scope Photo No. RPC 1-D, 1-D Supplement No. 1, 1-E, 1-E Supplement No. 1. Pathfinder Relief Chart No. RPC 1-B, 1-C
Pathfinder Supplement No. RPC 1-F, 1-G
Pathfinder Scope Photos No. V-2, 29, 93
Pathfinder Chart No. 14, 14 Supplement No. 1
Pathfinder Briefing Chart No. 14-A.
Pathfinder Negative Relief Chart No. 14-B
Pathfinder Positive Relief Chart No. 14-C
Pathfinder Supplement No. RPC 14-F, 14-G, 14-H

1. This strategic plan envisages a coordinated attack by all Bombardment Wings of the Fifteenth Air Force against military objectives in the VIENNA Southeast communications. The primary objective is the destruction of communications facilities and the disruption of railway traffic. The secondary objective is the industrial installations in the vicinity of the targets. This area is the heart of the VIENNA communications system, and is well adapted to PFF as well as to visual bombing.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) VIENNA: Soc E map 4E251, 10 Jan 45. No significant changes in flak defenses are noted on this cover. The planned axis takes advantage of high velocity wind in the target area. When last attacked on 15 Jan 45, formation encountered MIH/IAH flak.

(2) GRAZ: See E map 4E158, 30 Nov 44 and Report 4E469, 13 Jan 45. When last attacked 8 Jan 45, the formation encountered S/MIH flak.

(3) VILLACH: See E map 4E81, 14 Nov 44; latest cover 13 Dec 44. When last attacked 8 Jan 45, SAH flak was encountered.

(4) UDINE: See E maps 3E233, 14 Dec 44; latest cover, 9 Jan 45. When last attacked 29 Dec 44, M/IAH flak was encountered.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: No change. See Intelligence Annex No. 15, 16 Jan 45.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS:

(1) VIENNA: Recent photo reconnaissance shows a generally light loading of VIENNA yards. The current significance of these targets is no less for this fact, however, since the facilities rather than content are the primary objective. The VIENNA loading and repair facilities, as well as the through routes, are vital to the enemy's supply of the Southern and Eastern fronts.

(2) GRAZ: Facilities in the main yard are now about 95% serviceable. The yard is heavily loaded to about 80% of its total usable capacity. Turnover has been 100% since 12 January, revealing considerable activity. The remaining yards are loaded from 30 to 80% of their capacity bringing the total amount of rolling stock present to 1920 mixed units at GRAZ.

(3) VILLACH: On this target there is no new information of general value. At latest cover approximately 625 mixed units were present, 375 in North yard and 250 in South yard.

(4) UDINE: No change. See Intelligence Annex No. 11, 12 Jan 45.

3. In addition to Primary and Alternate Targets assigned, KLAGENFURT and BRUCK M/Ys and VICENZA and TREVISO locomotive depots are listed as profitable targets of opportunity.

4. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack: 5th Wing (maximum effort, 6 Groups), 47th Wing (4 Groups), 49th Wing (3 Groups), and 304th Wing (4 Groups) attack VIENNA Southeast Communications area.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide close escort on penetration, at target, and on withdrawal for all Bombardment Wings, and will dispense chaff in advance of the lead of the 5th and 304th Bombardment Wings.

c. Escape Intelligence: current Bulletins.

d. POW camp at SZOMBATHELY, the only POW camp close to route, will be identified to crews to insure that no bombs will be jettisoned in its vicinity.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "C"