

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMB WING (H)
APO 520
US ARMY

9 August 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 148)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

5 Groups of 5th Wing attack ROMANO AMERICANO O/R at 1000B. Key Point Time: 0748B. Alternate Targets: GIURGIU O/S; IRON GATES CANAL.

3 Groups of 49th Wing attack XENIA O/R at 1013B. Key Point Time: 0806B, Alternate Targets: Same as 5th Wing.

3 Groups of 47th Wing attack UNIREA-SPERANZA and STANDARD O/Rs at 1045B. Key Point Time: 0847B. Alternate Targets: Same as 5th Wing.

3 Groups of 304th Wing attack CAMPINA/STEAVA. Key Point Time: 0907B. Alternate Targets: Same as 5th Wing.

Fighters of 306th Wing provide: escort for all Wings beginning 50 miles from target; chaff dispensing a/c for 47th Wing; offensive cover for 5th and 49th Wings.

2.

Normal effort of 3 Groups of the 55th Wing attack ASTRA-ROMANO O/R at 1055B, 10 August 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: GIURGIU O/S.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: IRON GATES CANAL.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 460th and 485th line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 6000 and 7000 feet. 460th approaching ALTALURA from TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTAMURA at 0800B.

464th rendezvous in normal area at 8000 feet over ANDRIA at 0757B.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0811B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Two separate columns of Wings: 1st column 5th and 49th Wings, 2nd column 47th Wing and 55th Wing (460-485-464) 304th Wing.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to keypoint SIPAN ISLAND (42 43N, 17 52E) to UZICE (43 51N, 19 51E) to ORSAVA (44 42N, 22 24E) to DRAGASANI (44 40N, 24 17E) to IP to target.

Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude: (43 14N, 18 45E). Key Point Time: 0857B at 12,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: COLACUL (44 41N, 25 45E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 38 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1055B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 460 - 22,400'; 485 - 23,200'; 464 - 24,000'.

TARGET ELEVATION: 500 feet.

RALLY: RIGHT to PUCHENII MOSNENI (44 49N, 26 06E).

ROUTE BACK: PUCHENII MOSNENI to BOROVAN (43 25N, 23 43E) to ULCINU (41 55N, 19 12E) to bases.

3.

a.

465th Group STAND DOWN.

x.

460th, 485th and 464th Groups load 10-500# RDX bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail.

Intervalometer settings: 460th, 485th and 464th - 150' using MPI as shown on enclosed target chart.

PFF will fly lead, deputy lead and 2nd attack lead in each Group. Lead crews will be best PFF crews and specially briefed. Leaders will be prepared to use visual, off-set or synchronous methods. See annotated photos showing off-set check points.

Leader will be briefed that a special P-38 weather plane with call sign TAILPIECE 48 will call Wing leader on channel "A" VHF when Wing is 20 minutes away from target giving leader the weather at target, direction of ground wind and effectiveness of smoke screen. With this information leader will have better idea of how he will attack and method he will use.

Wing will fly close RIGHT echelon enroute and column over target. Formation must be maintained during and after rally.

First Alternate: GIURGIU O/S.
IP: ATARNATI (43 55N, 25 28E).
Axis of attack: 92 degrees.
Rally: RIGHT to SHCHRKLOVO (43 44N, 26 02E).
Route back: Rally point to BOROVAN then route back as for Primary.
Method of attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer settings: All Groups 25'.

Second Alternate: IRON GATES CANAL.
IP: SISESTI (44 46N, 22 52E) .
Axis of attack: 253 degrees,
Rally: LEFT to (44 29N, 22 09E).
Route back: Pally to UZICE then reverse route out.
Method of attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer settings: All Groups 25 feet.

4.
No Change.

5.
a.
Command Radio: Assigned Group frequency for communication within the Group. VHF Wing Channel "B" for Group to Group within the Wing.

b.
VHF Channel "A" for Bombers to Fighters and Wing to Wing.

c.
Bomber Call Sign: 5th Wing - GREENHERD 1; 47th Wing - PIXIE 1; 49th Wing - GREENHERD 2; 55th Wing PIXIE 2 (460-PIXIE 2 Leader, 485-PIXIE 22, 464-PIXIE 23); 304th Wing - PIXIE 3.

d.
Fighter Call Sign For: 5th and 49th Wings - PUSSCAT for 47th, 55th and 304 Wings - CARTLOAD.

e.
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - BANKER; 47th Wing - YODEL, 49th Wing - PAINTER; 55th Wing - CRIME; 304th Wing - PROUDFOOT; 306th Wing - DIAMOND.

x.
Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 4 cartons Window in lead attack units dispensing 6 units every 20 seconds from IP until clear of Flak.

306th Wing will drop Chaff bombs ahead of lead group of 47th Wing.

Radio discipline must be enforced.
Standard bombs away signals will be observed.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JOHN N. MELCHER,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
5 cys 460th and 465th BGs.
3 cys 464th and 485th BGs.
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wing.
1 cy CG 15AF.