

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

14 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

:  
NUMBER 153)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

4 Groups of the 5th Wing attack BEACH 261 in two waves at 0700 and 0715B.

4 Groups of the 47th Wing attack BEACHES 263A and 263B with two waves on each Beach at 0705 and 0720B.

4 Groups of the 304th Wing attack BEACHES 263C and 264B with two waves on each Beach at 0710 and 0725B.

2 Groups of the 49th Wing attack BEACH 264A at 1210B, 1 Group attack Road from Beach 264A to town of FREJUS at 1220B.

1 Group of the 5th Wing attack highway bridge at VALENCE at 1300B.

2.

Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing attack highway bridges in PONT ST ESPRIT Area at 1300B, 15 August 1944. This is Plan Able.

ALTERNATE TARGETS: Nonc.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 485 and 460 line rendezvous from ALTANURA to GRAVINA at 9000 and 10000 feet. 485 approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERANO IN COLLE. 485 over ALTAMURA at 0914B. 460 approaching ALTANURA from TORITTO.

464 and 465 line rendezvous from CORATO to ANDRIA at 9000 and 10000 feet. 465 falling in behind 464 in 464 area prior to rendezvous. 464 over CORATO at 0912B.

Wing Rendezvous: 485 lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0925B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 55th Wing (485-460-464-465).

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to MELFI to CAPE BIANCO (4300N 0920E) to MENTON (4347N 0730E) to LANTOSQUE (4358N 0719E) to IP to Target.

Last Point to start climb to 15,000' - MONTALTO D. CASTRO (4222N 1136E). Altitude at CAPE BIANCO - 15,000'.

INITIAL POINT: DIEULEFIT (4432N 0504E).

TARGET TIME: 1300B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 485 - 14500; 460 - 15500; 464 - 14500; 465 - 15500.

TARGET ELEVATION: 200 + 30'.

RALLY: Left to NERS (4402N 0410E). See special instructions in Par. 3x.

ROUTE BACK: NERS to (4310N 0430N) to CAPE MURO (4144N 0840E) to Base.

3.

a.

The 485 Group will attack the highway bridge at PONT ST ESPRIT. Axis of attack - 228 degrees.

b.

The 460 Group will attack highway bridge at BOURG ST ANDEOL. Axis of attack - 242 degrees.

c.

The 464 Group will attack highway bridge at DONZERE. Axis of attack - 254 degrees. Load 10 500# GP bombs, fused .1 nose and non-delay tail.

d.

The 465 Group will attack highway bridge at LETIEL. Axis of attack - 275°.

x.

485, 460 and 465 Groups load 5-1000# Gp bombs fused .1 nose and .01 tail.

All Groups use MPI as shown on attached target chart. Intervalometer Settings: All Groups, 25'.

PFF stand down.

There will be no alternate targets. No targets of opportunity will be attacked. No targets will be attacked unless positively identified. No

bombs will be jettisoned over land, or in the sea between FRANCE and ITALY. If jettisoning is necessary it will be done in the ADRIATIC.

Due to the close proximity of friendly aircraft and surface craft in unprecedented quantities, gunners will NOT fire guns on this mission for practice or any other reason unless enemy aircraft are engaged.

All pilots, navigators and bombardiers will set time pieces by extremely accurate time tick immediately prior to take-off.

Bombing will be conducted as a Group each attack wave leader sighting for range and deflection. The high box of each attack unit will close laterally with his unit leader to insure an accurate pattern.

On rally from target, 485 Group will make a shallow 20 degree turn to the right to pick up 460 Group and then proceed to Rally Point. 460, 464, and 465 Groups will rally left and join in Wing formation as soon as possible. 485 will make wide turn at Rally Point to further aid Wings closing. Care will be taken by Group leaders to avoid flak defended areas at MONTPEILIER and NIMES. Wing will fly in column from Rally Point until over MEDITERRANEAN.

4.  
No Change.

5.  
a.  
Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication within the Group. VHF Wing Chennel "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 - 1 Group MAYFLOWER; 49th Wing - MIXTUB; 55th Wing - PIXIE (485 - PIXIE LEADER, 460 PIXIE 2, 464 PIXIE 3, 465 PIXIE 4).

d.  
Fighter Call Sign: Escort use FIRTREE 1, 2, 3 in order of contact.

e.  
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - MORTAR; 49th Wing - LOCKJAW; 55th Wing - GREASE; 306th Wing - COMIC.

x.  
Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped,

No Window will be carried.

Radio discipline must be enforced. Standard Bombs Away signals will be observed. IFF will be in "ON" position at all times.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea co, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.  
3 cys 464,485 Gp; 5 cys 460, 465 Gp.  
1 cy CG 306th Wg.  
1 cy CG XV AF.