

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

20 August 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 157)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

6 groups of 5th Wing Stand By for tactical targets.

4 groups of 47th Wing Stand By for tactical targets.

3 groups of 49th Wing Stand By for tactical targets.

4 groups of 304th Wing Frag and destroy dispersed A/C on HAJDU ROSZORMENY A/D at 1000B.

306th Wing, normal effort, 3 groups.

(1) Conduct medium altitude firhter sweep in vicinity of NIS A/D from 40 minutes before attack of 55th Wing, through attack, then escort 55th Wing on withdrawal. No strafing.

(2) Conduct medium altitude fighter sweep in vicinity of HADJU ROSZORMENY A/D from 40 minutes before attack of 304th Wing, through attack. No strafing.

(3) Provide close escort for 304th Wing on penetration, target and withdrawal.

(4) 2 Groups Stand Down.

(5) Special Instructions: Purpose of the medium altitude fighter sweep 40 minutes before Bomber attack is - First to hold the E/A on the ground so the Bombers can Frag them; Second, in case the E/A do try to take off on fugitive sorties, to remain close enough to the A/D to see and shoot them down.

2.

Normal effort, 4 groups, 55th Wing Frag dispersed A/C and destroy Installations on NIS A/D at 1000B, 21 August, 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 464th and 465th line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 7,000 and 8,000 feet. 465th falling in behind 464th in 464th area prior to rendezvous. 464th over ANDRIA at 0750B.

485th and 460th line rendezvous from AITAMURA to GRAVINA at 9,000 and 10,000 feet. 485th approaching AITAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE: 460th approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485th over ALTAMURA at 0757B.

Wing Rendezvous: 464th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0806B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: Bombers will meet 1 Group P-51s in target area. P-51s will escort Wing on withdrawal.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 464th, 465th, 485th, 460th.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOIA to Control Point ULCINJ (4156N - 1913E) to KRUSEVAC (4335N - 2120E) to IP to Target.'

Control Point Time: 0903B at 15,000 fcet.

INITIAL POINT: ALEKSINAO (4333N - 2142E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 152 degrees.

TARGET TIE: 1000B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 464th - 19,500'feet, 465th - 20,000 feet, 485th - 20,500 feet, 460th - 19,800 feet.

RALLY: Right to PRISTINA (4240N - 2110E).

ROUTE BACK: Rally point to Control Point to bases.

3.

x.

Bomb Load: All Groups, load 36 Frag Clusters.

Intervalometer Settings: All Groups, 175 feet.

Use MPI as shown on attached target charts.

PFF STAND DONN.

Avoid Flak areas at PODGORICA and MITROVICA (4253N - 2052E).

Brief crews not to mistake NIS/DRAZEVAC/TOPONICA A/D for NIS A/D.

Method of Attack: Close left echelon on Route Out and close column over target.

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: 55th Wing (BETTY), 304th Wing (PIXIE).

d.

Fighter Call Sign For: 55th Wing (GREENHERD) 304th Wing escort use (PLAYFAIR TWO), Sweep use (PLAYFAIR ONE).

e.

Recall Signs: 55th Wing (POORBRED), 304th Wing (RUMRUNNER), 306th Wing (BASEBALL).

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. No Window will be employed.

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 & 465th Groups.
3 cys 464th & 485th Groups:
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wing.
1 cy CG XV AF.