

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

23 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER :
160)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack SZEGED RR BRIDGE and VINKOVICI M/Y. Key Point (4624N - 1723E) Time: 0940B. This is a diversionary attack designed to flush VIENNA fighters without engaging them, thus reducing the threat of the Main Force.

4 Groups of 304th Wing destroy KOLIN O/R at 1200B. Key Point Time: 0948B. Alternate Target: Same as 55th Wing.

6 Groups of 5th Wing destroy parked A/C and INSTALLATIONS at PARDUBICE A/D at 1220B. Key Point Time: 1001B. Alternate Target: Same as 55th Wing.

3 Groups of 49th Wing destroy FERRARA RR BRIDGE. Key Point (4440N-1310E) Time: 1050B. Alternate Target: None.

Maximum effort of 7 Groups of Fighters of 306th Wing provide close escort for 5th, 55th, and 304th Wing on penetration, target and withdrawal starting at (4600N - 1600E), target cover for 5th, 55th, and 304th Wings with particular attention to 304th. No escort for 47th and 49th Wings.

2.

Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing attack and destroy PARDUBICE O/R at 1210B, 24 August 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: ST. VALENTIN Tank Factory.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: MARKERSDORF A/D.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 460 and 485 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 5,000 and 6,000 feet. 460 approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTAMURA at 0822B.

Groups Rendezvous: 464 and 465 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 7,000 and 8,000 feet. 465th falling in behind 464 in 464 area prior to rendezvous. 464 over ANDRIA at 0822B.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0833B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Close RIGHT echelon of Wings: 304h, 55th (460, 485, 464, 465), and 5th Wings.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to (4200N - 1620E) to Key Point BRBINJ (4405N-1500E) to TOPLICE (4608N - 1500E) to UNZMARKT (4712N - 1426E) to IP to Target.

Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude EBORNDORF (4536N - 1438E).

Key Point Time: 0958B at 12,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: HLINSKO (4945N - 1554E),

AXIS OF ATTACK: 340 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1210B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 460 - 20,000 feet, 485 - 20,800 feet, 464 - 21,600 feet, 465 - 22,400 feet.

TARGET ELEVATION: 700 feet.

RALLY: LEFT to LITOSICE (4959N - 1531E).

ROUTE BACK: LITOSICE to ZWETTL (4836N - 1510E) then reverse Route Out.

3.

x.

All Groups load 10 - 500# RDX bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail. Intervalometer settings: 25 feet. Use MPI as shown on attached target chart PFF lead. Wing will fly close RIGHT echelon enroute and close column over the target. This target is of the highest priority and must be destroyed. If this target is not destroyed the attack will have to be repeated immediately and enemy resistance may be expected to be stronger on repeat attack. Conservation of fuel is essential. Tanks will be topped off after preflight. Decision on execution will be made at midnight.

FIRST ALTERNATE: ST. VALENTIN TANK FACTORY.

Initial Point: WEISZENBACH (4826N - 1441E).

Target Elevation: 885 feet.

Axis of Attack: 213 degrees.

Rally: LEFT to WAIDHOFEN (4758N - 1447E).

Route Back: WAIDHOFEN to VNZMARKT then reverse Route Out.

Method of Attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.

Intervalometer Settings: 40 feet.

Bombing Altitude: (460 - 22,000 feet, 485 - 22,800 feet, 464 - 23,600 feet, 465 - 23,000 feet).

SECOND ALTERNATE: MARKERSDORF A/D.

Initial Point: RIVER JUNCTION at (4823N - 1544E).
Target Elevation: 902 fet.
Axis of Attack: 223 degrees.
Rally: RIGHT to MARBCH (4813N - 1508E).
Route Back: MARBACH to VNZMARK then reverse Route Out.
Method of Attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer Settings: 50 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 - PUSSCAT 3, 47th Wing - SAXHORN, 49th Wing - GOWAY, 55th Wing - PUSSCAT 2 (460 - PUSSCAT 2 LEADER, 485 - PUSSCAT 22, 464 - PUSSCAT. 23, 465 - PUSSCAT 24), 304th Wing - PUSSCAT 1.

d.
Fighter Call Sign: Escort for 5th, 55th, and 304th use FIRTREE with suffixed numbers in order of contact.

e.
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - RUMRUNNER, 47th Wing - TEAROOM, 49th Wing - BASEBALL, 55th Wing - FLATBUSH, 304th Wing - PING PONG, 306th Wing - POKER.

x.
Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 2 cartons Window in lead attack units of each Group dispensing 4 small bundles every 20 seconds from IP until clear of Flak. Standard bombs away signals will be observed. Radio discipline must be enforced.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy Co, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
5 cys 460 & 465 Gp 55BW
3 cys 464 & 485 Gp 55BN
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wg
1 cy CG XV AF.