

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

16 December 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 291) THIS IS PLAN ABLE

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

6 Groups of 5th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER North O/R at 1200A. K.P. Time: 0948A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: OSWIECIN, MORAVSKA OSTRAVA O/R.

3 Groups of 49th Wing attack ODERTAL O/R at 1219A. K.P. Time: 1004A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: Same as 5th Wing.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack ODERTAL O/R at 1231. K.P. Time: 1022A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: Same as 5th Wing.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack SALZBURG East and MLS Main M/Ys at 1200A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: VILLACH, ROSENHEIM, INNSBRUCK M/Ys.

154 Wx Recon Sq. A/C precede bombers out and back.

Fighters of 15FC provide: PTW cover for ODERTAL and BLECHHAMMER bombers, PTW escort for 47th Wing; strafe ROSENHEIM-WELS rail traffic.

2.

Maximum effort of 4 Groups of 55th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER South O/R at 1221A, 17 Dec 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: OSWIECIN O/R.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: MORAVSKA OSTRAVA O/R.

PROFITABLE TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: None.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 464 and 465 rendezvous in normal areas at 6,000 and 7,000 feet. 464 over ANDRIA at 0904.

460 and 485 rendezvous in normal areas at 8,000 and 9,000 feet. 460 over ALTAMURA at 0909A.

Wing Rendezvous: 464th lead over SPINAZZOLA at 0919A.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 5th Wing, 49th Wing, 55th Wing (464-465-460-485), 304th Wing.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to K.P. SPLIT (4330 1628E) to N. BUCOVEC (4618N 1643E) to JOKA (4808N 1730E) to STERNBERG (4944N 1718E) to IP to LEISNITZ (5016N 1753E) to target.

Start Climb to Bombing Altitude at: BUCOVEC. Key Point Time: 1012A at 18,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: OLBERSDORF (5010N 1733E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 72 degrees from IP, 80 degrees from LEISNITZ.

TARGET TIME: 1221A.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 464 - 23,000', 465 - 24,000', 460 - 23,500', 485 - 24,500'.

TARGET ELEVATION: 606 feet.

RALLY: RIGHT to ZORY (5003N 1842E).

ROUTE BACK: ZORY to ZILINA (4914N 1850E) to JOKA and reverse route out.

3.

x.

Bomb Load: 8- 500/ RDX fused .1 nose and mixed .01 and .025 tail.

Intervalometer Setting: 25 feet if visual, 100 feet if PFF.

MPI: See charts.

Use 3 PFF per group, but bomb visually by waves if possible. Use Turn-point LEISNITZ only if run is visual.

No unassigned targets will be bombed in YUGOSLAVIA and HUNGARY.

Because of possible wind shifts, K.P. time will be met and rest of route

flown at 160 MPH without attempting to adjust timing.

All Wings will fly same general route and adopt same policy so as to maintain proper spacing between Wing.

FIRST ALTERNATE: OSWIECIN O/R.

INITIAL POINT: CIADIE (4954N 1849E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 65 degrees.

RALLY: Right to SPYTKOWICE (5000N 1930E).

ROUTE BACK: SPYTKOWICE to MAKON (4944N 1941E) to ZILINA (4914N 1844E) then same as for primary.

Use MPI as shown on target chart. INTERVALOMETER SETTINGS: 25 feet visual, 100 feet PFF.

SECOND ALTERNATE: MORAVSKA OSTRAVA O/R.

INITIAL POINT: KATSCHER (5005N 1800E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 144 degrees.

RALLY: Left to FRYSTAT (4951N 1832E).

ROUTE BACK: FRYSTAT to ZILINA and same as for primary.

Use MPI as shown on target chart. INTERVALOMETER SETTINGS: 25 feet visual, 100 feet FFF.

4.
No Change.

5.
a.
Assigned Group Command Frequency and VHF Channel "B" for communication within the Group. VHF Wing Channel "C" for Group to Group within the Wing. VHF Channel "A" for Bombers to Fighters and Wing to Wing.

b.
Bomber Call Sign: 5th Wing - BELLBUOY, 47th Wing - PUMPUP, 49th Wing - SHOCKPROOF, 304th Wing - COALMAN, 55th Wing GOWAY (464 - GOWAY Leader, 465 - GOWAY 2, 460 - GOWAY 3, 485 - GOMWAY 4).

c.
Fighter Call Sign: 47th Wing - BARTEND, for 5th, 49th, 55t, 304th Wings: PIXIE. WX A/C - RECHIESS.

d.
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - SCARFACE, 47th Wing - PINGPONG, 49th Wing - MOONGLOW, 55th Wing - ASHTRAY, 304th Wing - POOLTABLE, 15th Pr FC - CATWALK.

Carpet will be employed by all units equipped. Employ Chaff per S.P. 32-2. Radio discipline must be enforced. Standard bombs away signals will be observed.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

DALE S. SEEDS,
Major, Air Corps,
A-3.

DISTRIBUTION: "C"