

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

18 December 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER :  
294)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack ODERTAL O/R at 1130A. K.P. Time: 0930A.  
ALTERNATE TARGETS: OWIECIM O/R, MORAVSKA OSTRAVA O/R, VIENNA/STASZHOF,  
SOPRON, GRAZ and MARIBOR M/Ys.

3 Groups of 49th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER SOUTH O/R at 1145A. K.P.  
Time: 0950A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: Same as 304th Wing.

6 Groups of 5th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER NORTH O/R Water Gas Plant at  
1155A. K.P. Time: 1003A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: Same as 304th Wing.

2 Groups each of 47th Wing attack ROSENHEIM Main M/Y and West Sidings  
at 1130A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: INNSDRUCK, SALZBURG, VILLACH and  
FREILASSING M/Ys.

154 Wx Recon Sq. A/C: precede BLECHHAMMER Force on route out and back,  
precede 47th Wing.

Fighters of 15FC provide: Strong PTW cover for bombers attacking  
BLECHHAMMER and ODERTAL, reduced effort for escort of 47th Wing.

2.

Maximum effort of 4 groups of the 55th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER South  
O/R at 1135A, 19 December 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: MORAVSKA OSTRAVA O/R.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: MARIBOR SOUTH M/Y.

PROFITABLE TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: ERSKEJUVAR, HEGYESHALON, GRAZ M/Ys  
and SOPRON City or M/Y.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 485 and 460 rendezvous in normal areas at 8000 and  
9000 feet. 485 over ALTAMURA at 0839A.

464 and 465 rendezvous in normal areas at 8000 and  
9000 feet. 464 over ANDRIA at 0837A.

Wing Rendezvous: 485 lead over SPINAZZOLA at 0850A.

Rendezvous altitudes subject to change.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

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

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to Key Point SPLIT (4330N - 1628E) to M. BUKOVEC (4618N - 1643E) to JOKA (4808N - 1730E) to LIPMIN (49321 - 1735E) to IP to target.

Start Climb to Bombing Altitude at: M. BUKOVEC. Key Point Time: 0940A at 16000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: OR. MMRRRLITZ (4959N - 1764E)

AXIS OF ATTACK: 45 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1135A.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 485 - 24,000, 460 - 25000, 464 - 21500, 465 - 25500.

TARGET ELEVATION: 606 feet.

RALLY: Sharp right to USTRON (4243N - 1849E).

ROUTE BACK: USTRON to ZILIMA (4914N - 1845E) to JOKA (4809N - 1730E) then reverse route out.

3.

x.

Load 8 - 500# RDX bombs fused .1 nose and mixed .01 and .025 tail.

Intervalometer settings: 100 feet PFF; 25 feet visual.

Use MPI as indicated.

Employ 3 PFF A/C but bomb visually by waves if possible.

Begin rally off target as soon as bombs are away maintaining constant altitude until clear of flak. The tactical scheme of maneuver involves a near simultaneous attack on BLECHHAMMER SOUTH and ODERTAL with rallies in opposite directions. To insure the success of the plan, units will make Key point times good and fly the briefed route at standard IAS without attempting to adjust timing beyond the Key point.

Brief all gunners to be alert for enemy fighters. On 18 December the GAF opposed formations of this Air Force for the second consecutive day.

FIRST ALTERNATE: MORAVSKA OSTRAVA O/R.

INITIAL POINT: VEROVICE (4932N - 1809E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 15 degrees.  
RALLY: Right to FRYSTAT (4952N - 1832E)  
ROUTE BACK: FRISTAT to ZILNA (4914N - 1815E) then same as for primary.  
Use MPI as shown on target chart.  
INTERVALOMETER SETTINGS: 25 feet visual; 100 feet PFF.

SECOND ALTERNATE: MARIBOR SOUTH M/Y.  
INITIAL POINT: POMINA (4616N - 1527E).  
AXIS OF ATTACK: 30 degrees.  
RALLY: Right to L. JUTC:C (1631) - 1612E).  
ROUTE BACK: L. JUTONNA to POPOVACA (4535N - 1637E) then same as for primary.  
Use MPI as shown on target chart.  
INTERVALOMETER SETTINGS: 25 feet visual; 100 feet PFF.

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 - SAXHORN, 47th Wing - SADLER, 49th Wing - IMPISH, 304th Wing - BELLBUOY, 55th Wing - FRONTROOM (485 - FRONTROOM LEADER, 460 - FRONTROOM 2, 464 - FRONTROOM 3, 465 - FRONTROOM 4),

c.  
Fighter Call Sign: 47th Wing - FOOTHOLD. For 304th, 55th, 49th, 5th - PLAYFAIR with suffixes. Wx A/C - PLATOON. For 47th Wing - CRANFORD.

d.  
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - PANHANDLE, 47th Wing - PARLIM, 49th Wing - POORBRED, 55th Wing - CALIFORNIA, 304th Wing - CONVERTIBLE, 15th Pr FC - TEAROOM.

x.  
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:

DEWITT L. JONES,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Assistant A-3.

DISTRIBUTION: "C".