

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (Hv)
APO 520 US ARMY

19 December 1944
1745A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 295)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 295)

This is plan Able

Maps: BRUX, PILSEN, and LINZ, see list cited in Intelligence Annex No. 278, 9 Dec 44, and add: Pathfinder Chart No. RPC 3-H, No. RPC-9; Supplement No. 1, Scope Photos BRUX, CZECH, Scope Photos No. 814R, 913R, LINZ, AUSTRIA. Add also: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE AIR (GRAZ) 1:500,000. SALZRURG: TC No. 13-13-NA, MEC and/or MP No. 13-56, 13-71, Pathfinder Scope Photograph
Illustration No. 3/Air/248/1; 3 (k) 63/1; 6 (d) (vi) 130/1, 2
VILLACH: TC No. 14-40-NA, MBC and/or MP 14-40.
Illustration No. 6 (d) (vi) 134/2

1. This plan concentrates the major striking force of the Strategic Air Force on the BRUX O/R. There is no new reconnaissance cover of this target available, but the commitment of this Air Force to deprive the enemy of all available oil resources in this area dictates repeated attacks on this target. One Bombardment Wing is dispatched to attack a GERMAN communications target. Several alternate targets are assigned, obviating the necessity of listing profitable targets of opportunity.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) BRUX: Refer to map 4E174 (2 Dec 44). In this concentrated defense the wind, unbalancing the defenses slightly, is being used to an advantage. The sharp rally is necessary to avoid the stronger defenses on the southwest area. Expected time in flak will be 5 minutes. On 16 Dec, intense accurate flak was encountered.

(2) PILSEN: Refer to map 4E83 (14 Nov 44) as amended by report 4E123 (25 Nov 44). On 16 Dec 44, a PFF mission, moderate inaccurate to intense accurate flak was encountered. The expected time in flak will be 4½ minutes.

(3) LINZ: Refer to map 4E152 (30 Nov 44). As far as is possible advantage is taken of the direction and speed of the wind. On 15 and 16 Dec, PFF missions, intense accurate flak was encountered but the majority of a/c received moderate inaccurate to accurate flak. Expected time in flak will be 5½ minutes.

(4) SALZBURG: Refer to map 4E209 (8 Dec 44). Moderate accurate flak was encountered on the PFF mission of 15 December. Expected time in flak will be 3 minutes.

(5) VILLACH: Refer to map 4E81 (14 Nov 44) as last amended by report 4E241 (13 Dec 44). Scant flak may be expected in the target area.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Strong capability of enemy to transfer fighters for defense of BRUX still obtains. 100-150 SEF are available to such operations.

(2) In the light of the strong commitment of enemy fighters to ground support of counter offensive on Western front it is probable that the transfer of fighters to defend BRUX will not be made.

(3) 5-10 ME-262 a/c may attempt to establish contact in the MUNICH area and northward.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET: See previous Intelligence Annexes.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th wing (6 Groups), 49th Wing (3 Groups), and 304th Wing (4 Groups attack BRUX Synthetic O/R.

(2) 47th Wing: 3 Groups attack Rolling Stock in FREILASSING M/Y, 1 Group attacks FREILASSING Locomotive Depot.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide strong cover for Air Force formation attacking BRUX on penetration, at target, and on withdrawal, and reduced effort penetration, target, and withdrawal cover for the 47th Wing.

c. POW camp: In addition to camps located near assigned Primary or Alternate targets, a POW camp at ERFURDING is close to route.

d. Escape Intelligence: Current Bulletins, including No. 8, dated 18 Dec 44.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
Lt Col, AC,
A-2.

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