

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (Hv)
APO 520, US Army

25 December 1944
1900A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 305)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 305)

This is Plan Able.

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE AIR (PRAHA, KRAKOW, TATRY, WIEN) 1:500,000

GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE AIR (GLIEWITZ, TESCHEN, VIENNA) 1:250,000

Briefing Chart No. BC 13-2 A (BLECHHAMMER)

No. BC 15-3 (PRIVOZ)

Target and Briefing Charts Nos. 13-108A-MA (BLECHHAMMER)

15-15-NA (MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA/PRIVOZ)

13-39-NA (ODERTAL)

14-12-NA (DEUTSCHWAGRAM A/D (shows
STRASSHOF M/Y)

Approach Chart, Target Photochart No. AP, TP 13-2, 13-2 ..

(BLECHHAMMER)

Approach Photochart, Target Photochart No. 13-6 (ODERTAL)

Minimum Photochart, Minimum Briefing Chart No. MP, MBC 13-144

(BLECHHAMMER)

No. MP, MBC 14-70

(STRASZHOF)

No. MP, MBC 15-51

(MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA)

Pathfinder Chart Nos. RPC 4, 4-A, 4-F, 4-G, Scope Photo No. 826R, 38, 65

(BLECHHAMMER, ODERTAL)

Pathfinder Supplement No. 23 Supplement (BLECHHAMMER)

Pathfinder Chart No. RPC 5, 5-A, 5-F, (PRIVOZ)

No. RPC 1, 1 Supplement No. 1, 1-4, 1-A Supplement

No. 1, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, 1-D Supplement No. 1, 1-E,

1-E Supplement No. 1, 1-F, 1-G.

Scope Photos VIENNA, Approach from E, No. 29, No. 93 (charts and photos listed "Not to be taken into air on offensive missions" will not be included in folder.)

Illustration No. 1(a) (iii) 57/4, 6 (BLECHHAMMER South)

No. 1(a) (iii) 50/1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (ODERTAL)

No. 6(d) (vi) 95/1, 2, 3 (STRASSHOF near WIEN)

1. This plan dispatches all Bombardment Wings to high priority oil targets. Alternates include oil targets of second priority and a communications target of very high and of immediate tactical priority (STRASSHOF M/Y). Targets of opportunity (DZIEDZICE /CZECHOWICE, SZELLDOMOLK, and SOPRON) are selected with reference to light or nil flak defense and their relation to strategic plan and the current tactical situation on the HUNGRIAN front.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) BLECHHAMMER: Refer to Map E2697 (5 Oct 44) as amended by Reports E2824 (14 Oct 44) and 4E274 (18 Dec 44). The route, as ordered, avoids the northern one-third of the defenses in this area. The expected time in flak will be 5 minutes. The diversion of forces on two separate axes and rallies will tend to lessen the intensity of fire on the two formations. However, intense accurate heavy flak may be expected.

(2) ODERTAL: The target lies in the northwestern perimeter of the defenses of BLECHHAMMER. Formation will be within close range of the 3 batteries in the northwest sector and at almost maximum range of the 2 'gross batteries.' Moderate accurate flak may be expected.

(3) MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA: Refer to Map E2717 (6 Oct 44) as last amended by Report 4E192 (4 Dec 44). Expected time in flak will be 3 minutes. Intense accurate flak may be expected.

(4) DEUTSCH/14 GRAM M/Y: The M/Y lies on the perimeter of the defenses of VIENNIA. Scant flak is to be expected. Refer to Map 4E154 (30 Nov 44) as last amended by Report 4E238 (12 Dec 44).

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Enemy can put up 70-80 SEF from VIENNA LAKE BALATON area, depending upon possible commitments in support of enemy ground forces. If airborne against formation, these fighters may establish contact anywhere from LAKE BALATON to the target area. It is estimated that an additional 40-50 ME-109 a/c and a few FW-190 a/c may attempt interception in the target areas.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS

(1) BLECHHAMMER South: Reconnaissance of 23 Dec 44 shows that primary objectives have not been hit. Repairs are proceeding, and the plant is capable of resuming production shortly after repair of damaged secondary installations. Steam from the water gas plant indicates that potential output of 15,000 tons of gasoline monthly may soon be resumed.

(2) ODERTAL: Reconnaissance of 23 Dec shows the lubricating oil plant and the cracking plant damaged, but that there is operational activity by other vital installations. The estimated current production is 4,000 tons per month.

(3) PRIVOZ: This oil plant, after being damaged, is in full repair and in operation. While a smaller plant than those assigned as primary targets it is a highly profitable alternate.

(4) The STRASSHOF M/Y has extremely high target value in view of the current supply need of the enemy on the HUNGRIAN front. For a description of the M/Y see Intelligence Annex No. 239, 5 November 1944. Latest reconnaissance shows 1680 mixed units present in the yard. DB Report No. 273 shows no damage to the yard and all tracks open. The destruction of this rolling stock and contents will greatly assist the RUSSIANS in their attacks before BUDAPEST and the LAKE BALATON area, besides temporarily interdicting further supply to those fronts.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of Attack:

(1) 5th Wing: 3 Groups attack BLECHHAMMER South O/R, 3 Groups attack ODERTAL O/R.

(2) 47th Wing: 2 Groups attack VIENNA/SCHWECHAT O/R, 2 Groups attack VIENNA/LOBAU O/R.

(3) 49th Wing: 3 Groups attack OSWIECIM O/R.

(4) 304th Wing: 4 Groups attack OSWIECIM O/R.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) provides penetration, target and withdrawal cover for formations attacking BLECHHAMMER and OSWIECIM, and provides penetration, target and withdrawal (also chaff dispensing a/c if desired) escort for formation attacking VIENNA Primary Targets.

c. POW Camps: En route POW camps near BRAUNSEIFEN, HOTZENPLOTZ (IP of force attacking ODERTAL) and CIESZYN will be identified to crews so that no bombs will be jettisoned in these vicinities. POW photomap furnished 17 November will locate POW camps in BLECHHAMMER area.

d. Crews will be briefed that, in penetrations of SILESIA, if damage to a/c will not enable them to return to bases, they should land at MIELEC (5018N-2127E) and RZESZOW (5003N-2200E). These are emergency landing fields only, as cited by Intelligence Annex, Fifteenth Air Force, 25 December 1944. The location of these fields will be carefully safeguarded.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "C"