

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

26 December 1944
1750A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 306)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 306)

This is plan Able

Maps and Target Materials:

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (GRAZ, BOLZANO) 1:500,000-

GSGS No. 3089 EUROPE Air (KLAGENFURT, UDINE) 1:250,000

Target and/or Briefing Charts:

No. 8-107-NA (MARIBOR)

No. 14-4-NA (KLAGENFURT)

No. 14-44-NA (VILLACH)

Minimum Briefing Chart, Minimum Photocharts:

No. MBC; MP 8-4 (MARIBOR)

No. MBC; MP 14-21 (KLAGENFURT)

No. MBC, MP 14-40 (VILLACH)

Pathfinder Charts Nos. RFC 14; 14 Supplement No. 1, 14-A, 14-B, 14-C, 14-F, 14-H No. 20, 20-A, 20-B, 20-F (Note RPC No. 14-A will not be taken into air on Mission)

Pathfinder Scope Photos KLAGENFURT, VILLACH

Illustrations:

No. 3(e)105/1,2,3 (KLAGENFURT)

No. 6(d)(vi)134/2 (VILLACH)

(Photographs of MARIBOR will be dispatched with Operations Order)

1. This plan calls for a large scale attack on vital railway communications targets, with primary objective being contents of Marshalling Yards, while one Bombardment Wing attacks oil targets in VIENNA. The present situation on the HUNGARY and YUGOSLAVIA fronts gives these rail targets immediate target value.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) MARIBOR: Refer to map 4E132 (25 Nov 44) as amended by reports 4E230 (12 Dec 44) and 4E278 (19 Dec 44). Moderate Accurate Heavy flak is to be expected. Weather conditions favor the axis of attack as ordered. Expected time in flak will be 3 minutes.

(2) KLAGENFURT: Latest report shows no flak visible.

(3) VILLACH: Refer to map 4E81 (14 Nov44) as amended by reports 4E199 (5 Dec 44) and 4E241 (13 Dec 44). Scant to Nil flak may be expected.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Nil or negligible opposition by e/a is expected at targets assigned to this command. Attacks against stragglers are possible.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS

(1) Ground sources have indicated heavy military traffic on the MIRIBOR-PRAGERSKO-CAKOVEL and the MARIBOR-CELJE lines. Reconnaissance cover on 25 December showed 1000 units in MARIBOR South M/Y, a 60% turnover, and an increase of 340 cars since 23 December.

(2) MARIBOR M/Y is located South of the city on the main line from VIENNA to Northern YUGOSLAVIA. The primary functions of this yard are classification and storage. The rapidity with which repairs have been effected following recent attacks indicates the importance the enemy attaches to this yard at this time. Recent reconnaissance has shown this yard to be increasing in activity and ground reports indicate that a high percentage of this traffic is military. Latest reconnaissance obtained 25 Dec 1944 shows 1000 mixed units of rolling stock and 2 locomotives present. A 60% turnover and an increase of 340 units is indicated.

(3) KLAGENFURT is located at the junction of rail lines from VIENNA and North YUGOSLAVIA. Facilities include a depot with its storage yard and a storage and classification yard with one large warehouse and numerous smaller sheds. Repair facilities are limited but there is one roundhouse for locomotive repairs present. Latest reconnaissance shows most of the damage caused by the attack of 19 December 1944 has been repaired and through tracks are serviceable. Latest reconnaissance shows 700 mixed units present.

(4) VILLACH M/Y is located on the main lines from MUNICH and VIENNA. These lines converge here and lead to North ITALY. Facilities include a station with three covered platforms serving seven tracks, goods sidings with transshipment sheds occupying a space 150' by 2500', and a sorting siding 10 tracks wide and 2500' in length. There is a passing loop 750' Northwest of the railway station which passes through a 890' cutting. The yard is used for classification, transshipment, storage, and locomotive repair. Latest reconnaissance shows approximately 500 mixed units present.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. COORDINATION OF ATTACK

(1) 5th wing: 6 Groups attack VIENNA/LOBAU, SCHWECHAT, FLORISDORF, KAGRAN, VOSENDORF, and KORNEUBURG O/Rs.

(2) 47th Wing: 4 Groups attack BRESSANONE and MEZZOCORONA RR Bridges and interdict the BRENNER Route.

(3) 49th Wing: 3 Groups attack PINZANO RR Bridges.

(4) 304th Wing: 4 Groups attack rolling stock in the GRAZ and RRUCK M/Ys.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide escort for all Bombardment Wings on penetration, at targets, and on withdrawal, and droopsnoots will attack the LATISANA Railway Bridge.

c. POW CAMPS: Besides camp at MARIBOR, camp near LEIBNITZ is close to route.

d. ESCAPE INTELLIGENCE: current bulletins.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "C"