

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

27 December 1944
1815A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 307)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 307)

This is Plan Able

Maps and Target Material:

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (PRAHA, LEIPZIG; WIEN, GRAZ, BOLZANO,
MUNCHEN) 1:500,000

GSGS No. 3089 EUROPE Air (PRAGUE, CHEMNITZ, LINZ) 1:250,000

Target Charts:

No. 15-16-NA (KRALUPY)

No. 14-50-NA (LINZ)

Briefing Chart No. 15-1 (PILSEN)

Target Photo Chart No. 15-1 (PILSEN)

Minimum Briefing Charts:

No. 15-55 (ROUDNICE)

No. 15-39 (PILSEN)

Minimum photocharts:

No. 15-55 (ROUDNICE)

No. 15-39 (PILSEN)

Pathfinder Charts No. RPC 3, 3-A, 3-D, 3-E, 3-F, 3-G, 3-H (RPC Nos. 3-A and 3-E will not be taken into air on mission)

Scope Photo: BRUX, CZECH.

Pathfinder Charts No. RPC 9, 9 Supplement No. 1, 9-A, 9-B, 9-C, 9-F
(RPC No. 9-A will not be taken into air on mission)

Scope Photo: LINZ, AUSTRIA

Illustrations:

No.1 (a) (ii) 65/1,2 (KRALUPY)

No.1 (a) (v) 16/1,2 (ROUDNICE)

No. 3 () 33/7 (PILSEN)

No. 6 (d) (vi) 79/1,5,6 (LINZ)

Report No. H(I) 256 (KRALUPY)

No. H(I) 219 (ROUDNICE - STETI/HNEVICE)

Target Information Sheets:

No. GQ 1655 (KRALUPY)

No. GQ 2021 (ROUDNICE)

1. This plan envisages attacks against oil and communications targets. Four Wings will attack oil refineries, storage, and tank cars. One Wing will attack objectives for the further interdiction of the BRENNER Route. with successful attacks of larger oil refineries, smaller refineries and storage assume higher priority.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. PLAK

(1) KRALUPY: No flak has been reported in this area.

(2) ROUDNICE: No flak has been reported in this area.

(3) 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 5 minutes.

(4) LINZ: Refer to map 4E152 (30 Nov 44) as amended by reports 4E301 (23 Dec 44) and 4E309 (24 Dec 44). Intense Accurate flak may be expected. Since the 30 Nov map report, there has been an increase of 20% in the flak defenses. The expected time in flak will be 6 minutes.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Although the bulk of GERMAN fighters appear to have been transferred to the Western Front, there is always the possibility of interception in the VIENNA-LINZ-STEYR area. Interception is unlikely at present, and nil or negligible e/a opposition is estimated if LINZ is attacked. Negligible or nil opposition in the KRALUPY-ROUDNICE area is estimated; however 30-40 SEF may be airborne to attempt interception of 55th and/or 304th Wing.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS

(1) The KRALUPY O/R, though one of the smaller oil plants, produces about 8% of the total refined in CZECHOSLOVAKIA. Its potential output is estimated at about 10,800 tons per year. The plant is active, and petroleum products are being shipped from it. The plant area is roughly rectangular in shape, measuring about 450 x 1800', on a SW-NE axis. The most prominent landmarks for target location are the main line railway and the diked stream which runs through the town. The outstanding features of the target are the distillation and processing units and the crude oil tanks.

(2) ROUDNICE: A careful study of available target materials will enable the identification of specific features of this target, and their recognition on the bombing run. The South section of the dead-end sidings is constructed similar to a M/Y, with choke points at each end. The sidings are 2000' long, and have tracks at its widest point, with an approximate capacity of 350 cars. The North section; measuring 500 x 1500', is an area for the storage of construction materials. The area contains several buildings, the largest of which is approximately 100 x 150', interspersed with dead-end tracks. The oil storage tanks are identified by annotations on the MBC, with legends on H(I) Report No. 219: This element of the target is located on the West bank of the ELBE River, and bends in the river will assist in target recognition. The total target area, as shown on MBC, H(I) Report, and Illustrations cited, is roughly triangular in shape, the base being 3300' long, the sides somewhat over 7000' long.

Within this area are 5 storage tank areas, each about 200' square and containing 5 cylinders each. Each cylinder is 21' in diameter, 170' long, and of 58,400 cubic feet (1300 tons) capacity. The connections of this storage center with BRUX, VIENNA/LOBAU, PARDUBICE, and KOLIN indicate its strategic importance. On 23 December, 336 tank cars were present in the sidings, indicating the constant transportation of fuel to the battle fronts. This enemy facility has high target value.

(3) PILSEN: See Intelligence Annex No. 227, 24 October 1944.

(4) LINZ: See Intelligence Annex No. 271, 4 December 1944.

d. PROFITABLE TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: In case Primary or Alternate Targets cannot be bombed, the following Profitable Targets of Opportunity are recommended: M/Ys PASSAU, WELS, AMSTETTEN in GERMANY, and the following M/Ys in ITALY: MESTRE, TREVISO, UDINE.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. COORDINATION OF ATTACK

(1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks REGENSBURG O/S and Goods yards.

(2) 47th Wing, 4 Groups, complete the interdiction of the BRENNER Route.

(3) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, attack VENZONE RR Bridge.

(4) 304th Wing: 2 Groups attack KOLIN O/R, 2 Groups attack PARDUBICE O,R.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide cover on penetration, at target, and on withdrawal for the 5th, 55th, and 304th Wings. No escort is provided for the 47th and 49th Wings.

c. Crews will be briefed to jettison no bombs near SPITTAL, ERPERDING, or WOLFSBERG.

d. ESCAPE INTELLIGENCE: current bulletins, including No. IX.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "C"

