

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

1 December 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)
:
NUMBER 268)

1. THIS IS PLAN ABLE

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

3 Groups of 5th Wing attack BLECHHAMER North O/R at 1230A. K.P. Time: 0920A. ALTERNATE TARGETS: OSWIECIM, TRZEBINJA, BOHUMIN, and MORAVSKA OSTRAVA/VITKOVICE O/Rs. Last Resort Targets: ALMASFUZITO, SZONY and PETFURDO O/Rs.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack ODERTAL O/R at 1220A. K.P. Time: 0945A. ALTERNATE and LAST RESORT TARGETS: Same as 5th Wing.

3 Groups of 49th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER South O/R at 1230A. K.P. Time: 0956A. ALTERNATE and LAST RESORT TARGETS: Same as 5th Wing.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack STRASHOF M/Y at 1228A. K.P. Time: 1018A. ALTERNATE TARGET: FLORISDORF O/R.

154 Wx Recon Sq a/c precede bombers on route out and back to prudent limit of endurance.

5th Photo Group - provide bomb damage and photo recon according to current priorities.

Fighters of 15FC provide PTW cover for bombers, strafe roads and railroads from STRASHOF to LUNDENBURG at 1030A.

2.

Maximum effort of 4 Groups of 55th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER South O/R at 1238A, 2 December 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: MORAVSKA OSTRAVA/VITKOVICE O/R.

LAST RESORT TARGET: ALMASFUZITO O/R.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 460 and 485 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 7000 and 8000 feet. 460 over ALTAMURA at 0853A.

Group Rendezvous: 465 and 464 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 9000 and 10000 feet. 465 over ANDRIA at 0851A.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA at 0904A.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Close column of Wings in order: 5th, 304th, 49th, 55th, (460-485-465-464), 47th Wings.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to 4200N 1620E to Key Point SPLIT (4331N 1627E) to N. BUKOVEC (4617N 1644E) to FELBAR (4757N 1728E) to PREROV (4927N 1727E) to IP to MILITSCH (5015N 1756E) to Target.

Start Climb to Bombing Altitude at M. BUKOVEC. Key Point Time: 1004A at 16,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: TROPLOWITZ (5009N 1738E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 68 degrees from IP, 74 degrees from MILITSCH.

TARGET TIME: 1238A.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 460 - 23,000', 485 - 24,000', 465 - 23,500', 464 - 24,500'.

TARGET ELEVATION: 606 feet.

RALLY: Sharp RIGHT to SKOLZOW (4948N 1848E).

ROUTE BACK: SKOLZOW to ZILINA (4913N 1844E) to FELBAR, then reverse route out.

3.

x.

Bomb Load: 8 - 500# RDX fused .1 nose and mixed .01 and .025 tail with 2 bombs per a/c fused long delay. 12 a/c per group will carry 1 leaflet bomb each. Screamer attachments will be used.

Intervalometer Setting: 25 feet if visual, 100 feet if PFF.

Use MPI as shown on inclosed target charts.

Use 3 PFF a/c but bomb visually if possible.

Use Turn Point MILITSCH only if bomb run is visual.

Wing Wx Ship will precede Wing to Key Point reporting weather to leader.

Fly very close right echelon en route to Key Point due to expected low visibility near the bases.

Start initial turn off target as soon as bombs are away, completing rally in a series of RIGHT turns of 15 degree bank and not over 30 seconds duration, maintaining a constant altitude and an IAS of not over 165 MPH.

5th Wing is attacking BLECHHAMMER North O/R at 1230 with a bombing altitude above 26,000 feet and a left rally to SKOLZOW. Extremely accurate timing is essential to make coordinated attack successful. No target in CZECHOSLOVAKIA will be bombed by PFF except assigned alternates.

FIRST ALTERNATE: MORAVSKA OSTRAVA/VITKOVICE O/R.
Initial Point: KATSCHER (5006N 1800E).
Axis of Attack: 145 degrees.
Rally: Right to FRYDEX (4941N 1821E).
Route Back: FRYDEK to FEL BAR (4757N 1728E, then same as for primary.
Use MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

SECOND ALTERNATE: ALMASFUZITO O/R.
Initial Point: GUTA (4755N 1800E)
Axis of Attack: 137 degrees.
Rally: Right to CSASZAR (4730N 1809E)
Route Back: CSASZAR to BEZERED (4652N 1701E), then same as for primary.
Use MDI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer Setting: 25 feet.

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 - PLAYFAIR, 47th Wing - PLATOON, 49th Wing - KEYWORD, 55th Wing - FLYWHEEL (460 - FLYWHEEL Leader, 485 - FLYWHEEL 2, 465 - FLYWHEEL 3, 464 - FLYWHEEL 4), 304th Wing - RADCLIFF, Wing Wx Ship - UPHILL WEATHER, 5th Photo Group - FALSETEETH, Wx Recon - Route Out - MOSES, Route Back - MOSES 2.

c.
Fighter Call Sign: Airslug with numbered suffixes, Strafing a/c: KIDDIES.

d.
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - DUCKSOUP, 47th Wing - BLACKTACK, 49th Wing - POKER, 55th Wing - TRUMPET, 304th Wing - DOGFACE, 15PFC - CONVERTIBLE.

x.
Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Chaff will be employed in accordance with Signals Procedure 32-2, Standard bombs away signals will be observed. Radio discipline must be enforced. If decision is made to bomb an alternate target or a target of opportunity, the Wing Leader must notify all Group Leaders of his intentions.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION: "C"