

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

14 July 1944
1830B

INTSLLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 125)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 125)

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BRASOV) 1:500000.

Zone Map of PLOESTI.

Target Chart No. 11-1012-NA (PLOESTI South).

Briefing Chart No. 11-101-B-NA (PLOESTI South, #4,5).

Pathfinder Chart No. 6 (PLOESTI, ROUMANIA, 1:130000).

Pathfinder Chart No. 22 (PLOESTI, ROUMANIA, 1:250000).

Illustration No. S.101/9,11,13,16,17, 112/1.

Photograph No. 5023 60PR/82/60 Sedn/24 Oct 43.

Target Photochart No. TP 11-1, PLOESTI, ROUMANIA 1:63500.

Interpretation Report D. 153 w/photo No. 4185, 60PR/402 22 May 44.

Interpretation Report DB 97, 122.

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK. No change, Flak at PLOESTI is manned by GERMAN crews; accuracy is to be expected. Volume will be intense. When Unirea Esparanza O/R was last attacked, 31 May 1944, IAH was encountered. Subsequent attacks, the most recent on 9 July 1944, on other O/Rs in same general area, have met with IAH flak. Axis and rally insure minimum time of exposure to flak and path of minimum volume. It should be noted that on attack 9 July 1944 flak was encountered 10 miles North of PLOESTI and near NEUM at 4255N1737E; these areas should be avoided in rally.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Opposition from e/a may begin Southwest of BUCHAREST and follow to target. Estimate 110 to 125 fighters in this phase. It is possible that on route out, 15-20 ME-109s from SOFIA area may intercept. A substantial proportion of e/a pilots are of RUMANIAN Air Force, less experience and less aggressive than GERMANS.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET. Objective of this attack is to complete the knockout of 2,500,000 tons capacity of enemy's oil resources. On 3 July a total of 6,000,000 tons capacity of crude and synthetic oil was still available to enemy, of which 3,500,000 tons is within range of Fifteenth Air Force. Of this the crude, obtained chiefly from PLOESTI, is of indispensable importance to enemy, for it is the only source of lubricants which cannot be made from synthetic oil. Destruction of targets on 15 July 1944 attack is essential to the interdiction of enemy's vital oil supply,

and if accomplished will affect, adversely and seriously, the capability of the enemy to continue the war.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, will attack ROMANO ADRICANO O/R in PLOESTI.

(2) 47th Wing, 4 Groups, will attack ROMANO AMRICANO O/R.

(3) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, will attack CREDITUL MINIER O/R in PLOESTI.

(4) 304th Wing, 3 Groups, will attack DACIA ROMANO O/R, and 1 Group will attack the TELEAJAN pumping station.

b. 306th Fighter Wing, 7 Groups, will furnish penetration, target, and withdrawal escort.

c. Escape Intelligence Officers will brief on Escape, covering all areas on route and using latest Special Intelligence Bulletins on current situation in RUMANIA.

d. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORNTION

(1) Crews will observe and report with as full detail as possible all data of e/a markings and tactics, determining (by noting their bearing before deploying for attack) their bases, if possible.

(2) Crews will note any new places of oil storage.

(3) It is not necessary to report content of M/Y's if content is under 500 units.

(4) Smoke screen: Crews will note and report

(a) Area covered by smoke screen.

(b) A rough estimate of the number and location of smoke generators.

(c) Stage of screen development at time of arrival of aircrews over target, i.e. beginning, well started, smoke beginning to merge, smoke completely merged over target, smoke diminishing etc.

(d) Effect of wind on efficiency of smoke screen.

e. Intelligence Officers will insure that Navigator's and Bombardier's target folders contain essential photographs, target charts, and PFF charts.

f. PHOTO INTELLIGENCE.

(1) Normal effort of ten type K-3B, K-17, K-22 aircraft cameras will be carried. Six cameras will have twelve inch cones, one will have a six inch cone, and the remaining cameras will have twenty four inch cones. The cameras with the six inch cone will be operated at a four second interval and all others will be operated at two second interval.

(2) The Photographic Officer will brief all cameramen in conjunction with the briefing of the curial gunners to insure successful operation of all cameras. Particular attention will be given to bombs awry photographs.

(3) Information for the strike assessment report will be found on Illustration No. S. 101/13 and Illustration No. S. 101/11. Latest previous damage is given in D.B. 122 and D.B. 97.

(4) Sufficient negatives will be printed to insure maximum photographic coverage as the bomb pattern develops.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
Major, AC,
A-2.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea CO, A-2 Duty 0, Fifteenth AF.
1 cy CG, 306th Fighter Wing.
1 cy ea CO, A-2, A-3, PI, 55th Bomb Wing.
2 cys on Gp, 55th Bomb Wing.