

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

21 July 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 133)

1.
  - a. See Intelligence Annex.
  - b.
    1. 6 Groups of 5th Wing destroy PLOESTI ROMANA AMERICANA Oil Refinery at 1100B, Key Point Time: 0855B, Alternate Target: PIATRA BRIDGE, IRON GATES CANAL RR INSTALLATIONS, NIS M/Y, CUJNIIJA BRIDGE, KRALJEVO BRIDGE.
    - 4 Groups of 47th Wing destroy PLOESTI ROMANA AMERICAMA Oil Refinery at 1115B. Key Point Time: 0915B, Alternate Target: Same as 5th Wing.
    - 3 Groups of 49th Wing destroy PLOESTI RONANA AMERICANA Oil Refinery at 1130B, Key Point Time: 0930B. Alternate Target: Same as 5th Wing.
    - 4 Groups of 304th Wing destroy PLOESTI RCMANA AMERICANA Oil Refinery at 1200B. Key Point Time: 1000B. Alternate Target: Same as 5th Wing.
    - Task Force of 2 Groups of 306th Wing strafe A/C parked on ZILISTEA and BUZALL A/D.
    - 5 Groups of Fighters of 306th Wing provide penetration, target and withdrawal cover for Bomber Formations.
2. 4 Groups of 55th Wing destroy PLOESTI ROMANA AMERICANA Oil Refinery at 1145B, 22 July 1944. This is Plan BAKER.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: PIATRA BRIDGE.

LAST RESORT TARGET: KRALJEVO BRIDGE.

BCMBER RINDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 464 and 465 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 9,000 and 10,000 feet, or below the overcast. 465 falling in behind 464 in 464 area prior to rendezvous. 464 over ANDRIA at 0841B.

485 and 460 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 7,000 and 8,000 feet or below the overcast. 460 approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 485 over ALTAMURA at 0843B.

Wing rendezvous: 485th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0854B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Column of Wings: 5th, 47th, 49th, 55th (485, 460, 464, 465), 304th Wings.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to Key Point ULCINJ (4156N - 1912E) to CARACAL (4408N - 2421E) to CCMANA (4411N - 2608E) to VASILATI (4418N - 2627E) to IP to Target. Last point to start climb to bombing altitude: (4320N - 2230E). Key Point Time: 0945B at 16,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: CATRUNESTI (4434N - 2624E)

AXIS OF ATTACK: 333 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1145B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 485 - 24,000, 460 - 23,000, 464 - 23,800 feet, 465th - 22,800 feet.

TARGET ELEVATION: 495 feet.

RALLY: RIGHT to CRCIOV (4505N - 2615E) then LEFT to SINAIA (4521N 2532E).

ROUTE BACK: SINAIA (4521N - 2532E) to KRAGUJEVAL (4401N - 2055E) to RAGUSA (4231N - 1823E) to Bases.

3.

x.

1. Bomb Load: All Groups load 5 1000# GP fused .1 nose and mixed .01 and .025 tail.

2. Intervalometer Settings: All Groups 100 feet.

3. Use MPI as shown on attached target charts.

4. PFF will fly lead, deputy lead, and 2nd attack wave lead in each Group if 2 PFF A/C are available they will fly lead and deputy lead. The 2nd attack wave dropping on 1st wave.

5. Bombing will be visual only in absence of smoke or cloud. Synchronous PFF bombing will be employed if smoke or cloud is encountered. PFF Operators will conduct synchronous bombing procedure in all case. In the event of PFF equipment failure, offset bombing using grid system will be employed.

6. Groups will maintain close right echelon enroute and close column of Groups over the target to assure maximum protection and

bombing accuracy. In case of PFF failure this will enable Groups to drop bombs on preceding Group.

7. Lead Ship will maintain 155 MPH after rally until Wing is reformed. 155 MPH will be maintained if any stragglers need protection.

8. First Alternate: PIATRA RR BRIDGE.  
Initial Point: HARSESTI (4432N-2448E).  
Axis of Attack: 245 degrees.  
Rally: Right to (4428N - 2340E)  
Route Back: Rally Point to KRAGUJEVAC to RAGUSA to Bases.  
Method of Attack: Column of Group using MPI as shown on target chart.  
Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

9. Last Resort: KRALJEVO RR BRIDGE.  
Initial Point: RATKOVIC (4355N - 2104E).  
Axis of Attack: 230 degrees.  
Rally: Directly to RAGUSA.  
Route Back: Rally to Base.  
Method of Attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart. Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

4. No Change.

5. a. Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication within the Group. VHF Wing Channel "B" for Group to Group within the Wing.  
b. VHF Channel "A" for Bombers to Fighters and Wing to Wing.  
c. Bomber Call Sign: 5th Wing - TANKSTOP 1, 47th Wing - TANKSTOP 2, 49th Wing - TANKSTOP 3, 55th Wing - TANKSTOP 4 (485 - TANKSTOP 4 Leader, 460 - TANKSTOP 42, 464 - TANKSTOP 43, 465 - TANKSTOP 44) 304th Wing - TANKSTOP 5.  
d. Fighter Call Sign For: Escort use FOOTHOLD 1,2,3,4,5, in order of contact with Bombers.  
e. Recall Signs: 5th Wing - BANKER, 47th Wing - PEANUT, 49th Wing - PAINTER, 55th Wing-YODEL, 304th Wing - CRIME, 306th Wing - PROUDFOOT.  
x. Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 3 Cartons of WINDOW in each A/C of lead attack unit, dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until clear of Flak.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW  
2 cys ea Gp 55BW.  
1 Cy CG 306th Fighter Wg,  
1 cy CG XV AF.

JOHN N. MELCHER,  
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A-3.