

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

24 July 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 135 )

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 135 )

This is Plan B

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

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (WIEN) 1:500000

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (GRAZ) 1:500000

Target Chart No. 14-50-NA (LINZ, AUSTRIA)

Briefing Chart No. 14-50-NA (LINZ, AUSTRIA)

Target Chart No. 14-4-NA (KLAGUNFURT A/D and A/C Factory)

Briefing Chart No. 14-4-NA (KLAGENFURT A/D and A/C Factory)

Photograph (with H(I) Report No. 259)

H(I) Report No. 259

Illustration No. 5(a)53a/2,4; No. 6(d)(vi)79/1

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) LINZ is heavily defended by flak. Target location is such that Intense flak is unavoidable, and Accurate flak should be expected. To counter enemy capability and lessen accuracy, a larger volume of chaff will be dispensed by bomber formations (4 minutes, 17 Groups), and fighter escort will also carry and dispense chaff. Pinpoint positions of flak at LINZ are shown on E Section Map No. 1936, 9 July 1944.

(2) Formation must adhere to ordered course, to avoid 24 Heavy Guns at WELS, 22 Heavy Guns at ST. VALENTINE, 66 Heavy Guns at STEYR, all of which to some extent overlap flak defense of LINZ. For locations at WELS see E Section Map No. 1936; for ST. VALENTINE and STEYR see E Section Map No. 1730, 15 June 1944.

(3) KLAGENFURT (LRT) is defended by 24 Heavy Guns, See E Section Map No. 1426, 20 May 1944.

b. Smoke Screen will probably be used at Primary Target. Location of smoke pots is shown on E Section Map No. 1936.

C. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Formations should expect interception by up to 30 SEF (mostly ME-109) in North ADRIATIC area on route out and/or return. Some Macchi 205 or, G 55's may be seen.

(2) Enemy is capable of sending up in defense of Primary Target approximately 75 ME-109 and FW-190 a/c and 60-75 LE-410 and ME-110 a/c.

(3) If contemplated operations in South GERMANY by Eighth Air Force are executed, above estimates will probably be reduced.

(4) Possibility should be mentioned that if present political unrest in GERMANY has affected GAF, e/a even if airborne may not establish contact. But this contingency does not subtract from above stated enemy capability.

d. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET. Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force advises that reports of political upheaval and disorder in GERMANY require special emphasis upon bombing targets in GERMANY, with priority on oil, ball bearing, and tank factories as targets, with counter air targets as advisable. The HERMANN GOERING Steel Works at LINZ is a new, modern plant completed within the past three months and now producing tanks, tank components, and other heavy armaments. Latest reconnaissance showed 20 Tiger or Panther tanks in vicinity of Building 32. Destruction of assigned target will not only reduce enemy capability of replacing armored equipment (thus assisting all ground force operations against enemy), but will greatly injure the prestige of Goering and contribute to present political disturbance.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination: with the exception of the 47th Wing, which stands down, all Wings of Fifteenth Air Force (5th, 49th, 55th, and 304th) attack the HERMANN GOERING Steel Works at LINZ.

b. 306th Fichter Wing provides penetration, target, and withdrawal cover.

### c. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION,

(1) Crews will give special attention to e/a, to observe whether or not aggressive, in the possibility of determining whether political disaffection has affected GERMAN Air Force.

(2) Crews will observe degree of accuracy of flak, to determine whether additional amount of chaff dispensed, and the dispensing of chaff by fighters is effective.

(3) If smoke screen is used, crews will observe to check accuracy of location of generators as shown on E Section Map No. 1936, and to determine any other factors of its effectiveness.

d. Escape Intelligence briefing will call attention to resistance movement in vicinity of targets, and will connect this with current political unrest.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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