

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

27 July 1944  
1730B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 138 )

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 138 )

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

Zone Map of PLOESTI

Target Chart No. 11-101B-NA (PLOESTI, South)

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

Pathfinder Chart No. 6 (PLOESTI, ROUMANIA) 1:30000

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

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

Strategic Approach Map, PLOESTI, Sheets 4,5,9,10,11,15,16,19,20 (as required by course and axis ordered)

Illustration No. S. 101/8,10,11,15,16.17

Photograph No: 5023 (PLOESTI, SOUTH) 60PR/82/60 Sqdn/24 Oct 43

No. 4095, 60/PR/882/60 Sqdn/24, Oct 43

Target Information Sheet No. BR 1 (A.M. No. S.101)

Interpretation Report No. D 153 (with Photos)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) No change. Intense flak will be encountered.

Degree of accuracy may be less owing to dispensing of chaff by fighters, and by larger volume of chaff dispensed by bombers.

(2) 16 Heavy Guns at 4419N-2339E (West of CRAIOVA) must be avoided, as ordered course is close to these coordinates, Source: MAAF, Flak Defended Areas, 22 July 1944.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force advises that enemy is still capable of putting up about 15 ME-109 a/c from NIS, although previously these e/a have not attacked. Probably 60-70 enemy fighters will oppose attack in area from BUCHAREST to target. Of these about one half will be GAF, remainder RUMANIAN ME-109 and IAR-80 a/c. E/A opposition should be substantially reduced since successful fighter sweep, 26 July 44. Fighter escort will give special support to lead Wing. Since this Wing is second in Air Force formation, escort should be ample.

c. The dummy of PLOESTI will be avoided. Crews will be briefed on this dummy. See Target Information Sheet BR 1, and PIR No. 1449, 11 Jan 44 and photograph therewith (No. 5028, 23SF/262/5PG/10 Jan 44).

d. Smoke screen is to be expected, and will be effective.

e. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET. Recent estimates indicate 60,000 tons produced in ASTRA ROMANA, which is again in production; STANDARD produces 25,000 tons,

Cracking plants are of major importance, since they greatly increase the percentage output of gasoline which is the primary objective at present. This attack should remove ASTRA and STANDARD for some time.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack: All Wings of Strategic Air Force with exception of 47th Wing, which stands down, and 1 Group of the 49th Wing, which will attack FLORINO Railhead and town, attack ASTRO ROMANA and STANDARD O/R's at PLOESTI.

b. 306th Fighter Wing provides 7 Groups for target cover, with special attention to lead Wing over target. Chaff-dispensing a/c will be included in those 7 Groups.

c. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION: as cited in Intelligence Annex No. 125, 14 July 1944.

By order of Colonel ACHESO.I:

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

## DISTRIBUTION:

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