

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

27 July 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 138)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack PLOESTI/STANDARD and PLOESTI
ASTRO/ROMANO OIL REFINERIES at 1000B. Key Point Time: 0752B.

2 Groups of 49th Wing attack PLOESTI/STANDARD and PLOESTI
ASTRO/ROMANO OIL REFINERIES at 1016B. Key Point Time: 0808B.

1 Group of 49th Wing attack RAILHEAD and TOWN of FLORINA, GREECE.
Alternate Target: BERAT O/R.

5 Groups of 5th Wing attack PLOESTI/STANDARD and PLOESTI
ASTRO/ROMANO OIL REFINERIES at 1020B. Key Point Time: 0803B.

7 Groups Fighters of 306th Wing provide adequate cover for bomber
force, provide window dispensing force in target area.

2.

Normal effort of 3 Groups of the 55th Wing attack
PLOESTI/STANDARD and PLOESTI ASTRO/ROMANO OIL REFINERIES at
1008B, 28 July 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 465th and 464th line
rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 7000 and 8000 feet. 464th
falling in behind 465th in 465th area prior to rendezvous. 465th
over ANDRIA at 0655B.

485th rendezvous in normal rendezvous area at 9000 feet
approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE and over ALTAMURA at
0901D.

Wing Rendezvous: 465th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0710B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Right echelon of Wings: 304th, 55th (465-464-
485), 49th, 5th.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOIA to Key Point RAGUSA (42 31N, 18 22E) to
KRUSEVAC (43 35N, 21 20E) to CARACAL (44 08N, 24 21E) to PRUNDUL

(44 05N, 26 14E) to HOTARELE (44 11N, 26 21E) to IP to target.
Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude - URATAR-NICA (43 47N, 22 19E). Key Point Time: 0800B at 14000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: CATRUNESTI (44 34N, 26 22E).

AXIS OF ATTAOK: 325 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1008B.

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

TARGET ELEVATION: 500 feet.

RALLY: LEFT to BRATESTII (4451N - 2532E).

ROUTE BACK: BRATESTII to DRAGASANI (4440N - 2417E) to KRUSEVAC (4335N - 2120E) to Key Point to Bases.

3.

a.

485 Group attack PLOESTI/STANDARD Q/R using MPI shown on inclosed target chart.

x.

465 and 464 groups attack PLOESTI ASTRO/ROMANO O/R using MPI as shown on attached target chart.

All Groups load 10 - 500# GP fused .1 nose and .025 tail.

Intervalometer Settings: All Groups 75 feet.

PFF will fly lead and deputy lead in each Group. Bombing will be by visual means if possible. If smoke or cloud obscures target synchronous Pathfinder method will be used. Bombardier Mickey Operator teamwork is essential.

Method of attack: All Groups will fly close RIGHT echelon on route out.

465 and 464 will form close column of Groups over the Target. 485 will fly close RIGHT echelon on 465 and 464 from IP to Target so that both targets are hit simultaneously.

Care will be taken to avoid 16 HG just West of CRAIVO on route back.

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 - BELLBUOY 4, 49th Wing - BELLBUOY 3, 55th Wing BELLBUOY 2 (465 - BELLBUOY 2 Leader, 464 - BELLBUOY 22, 485 - BELLBUOY 23) 304th Wing - BELLBUOY 1.

d.

Fighter Call Sign For: ENCORE 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 in order of contact with Bombers.

e.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - DEER, 49th Wing - SNOB, 55th Wing - VENISON, 304th Wing - WHISTLE, 306th Wing - HURRICANE.

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped.

Load 4 cartons Window in lead attack units, dispensing 6 units every 20 seconds from IP until clear of Flak.

306th Wing will dispense CHAFF bombs in the Target Area, Prior to Bomber Attack. Groups will check in at Wing Rendezvous on Channel B.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JOHN N. MELCHER,
Lt Col, Air
Corps,
A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

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