

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

24 June 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

:
NUMBER 105)

1. a. See Intelligence Annex.

b. (1) Normal effort of 3 Groups of B-24s of 49th Wing attack LA PONTET Communications Center and East AVIGNON M/Y at 0946B. Key Point Time: 0840B. Alternate Target: MIRAMAS N/Y. Last Resort: Same as 5th Wing.

(2) Normal effort of 6 Groups of B-17s of 5th Wing attack SETE M/Y and Oil Storage at 1000B. Key Point Time: 0841B. Alternate Target: MIRAMAS AMMO DEPOT. Last resort: PORT DU BOUC Oil Storage and Refinery.

(3) Normal effort of 4 Groups of B-24s of 304th Wing attack WEST AVIGNON M/Y and ARLES RR BRIDGE and AVIGNON RR BRIDGE at 0956B. Key Point Time: 0850B. Alternate Target: MIRAMAS M/Y. Last resort: Same as 5th Wing.

(4) Normal effort of 4 Groups of B-24s of 47th Wing destroy TOULON Submarines. Key Point Time: 0856B. Alternate Target: VAR and THEOULE RR BRIDGES.

(5) Normal effort of AZON Force attack TARASCAN RR BRIDGE. Key Point Time: 0858B.

(6) Normal effort of 6 Groups of Fighters of 306th Wing provide general penetration, target and withdrawal cover for bomber formation.

(7) Normal effort of 1 Group of Fighters of 306th Wing Strafe Roads in Northern ITALY.

2. Normal effort of 4 Groups of B-24s of the 55th Wing attack SETE and BALARUC Oil Refineries at 1010B, 25 June 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: MIRANAS AMMO DEPOT.

LAST RESORT TARGET: PORT DU BOUC Oil Storage and Refinery.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 465 and 464 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CARATO at 11,000 and 12,000 feet respectively. 465 on course over ANDRIA at 0636B.

485 and 460 line rendezvous from ALTANURA to GRAVINA at 11,000 and 12,000 feet respectively 485 on course over ALTAMURA at 0637B.

Wing rendezvous: 465 and 464 over SPINAZZOLA on course at assigned altitudes at 0645B. 465 and 460 approach from the NE falling in behind 465 and 464 at assigned altitudes at 0647B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 1 Group Fighters rendezvous with 5th and 55th Wings 35 miles from FRENCH COAST.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 2 columns of Wings: Left column, 5th Wing, 55th Wing (465, 464, 485, 460), 47th Wing. Right column: 49th Wing, 304th Wing, AZON FORCE.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to MELFI to (4136N - 1230E) to Key Point PALAZZO POINT (4222N - 0832E) to IP to Target.

Key Point Time: 0856B at 17,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: (4318N - 0352E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 465 and 464: 315 degrees. 485 and 460: 328 deg.

TARGET TIME: 1010B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 465 - 19,000 feet, 464 - 18,000 feet, 485 - 18,800 feet, 460 - 17,800 feet.

TARGET ELEVATION: Sea Level.

RALLY: Left.

ROUTE BACK: Rally to Key Point to Base.

3. x. (1) Bomb Load 8 500# GP fused .1 nose, 75% .025 and 25% non-delay tail.

(2) 465 and 464 attack BALARUC Oil Refinery. Intervalometer Settings: 465 - 150 feet, 464 - 75 feet.

(3) 485 and 460 attack SETE Oil Refinery. Intervalometer Settings: 485 - 75 feet, 460 - 50 feet.

(4) All Groups use MPI as shown on inclosed Target Charts.

(5) Ground running time will be kept to a minimum. Co-Pilot will use Auto-lean whenever possible. Every precaution must be taken to conserve fuel to minimize necessity of landings for gas at GHISONACCIA or POMIGLIANO. Do not lower turrets until 1/2 hour from Target unless needed. Retract turrets on route back unless needed. Top off tanks after pre-flight.

(6) Rendezvous altitude determined by possibility of towering Cumulus over mountain, if possible drop down to below oxygen level before starting climb to Key Point.

(7) Maintain close LEFT echelon enroute and close column of Groups over the Targets for maximum protection and bombing accuracy. Do not fly over ROME. 55th Wing will fall in behind 5th Wing if possible. In the event that closing is not accomplished leader must watch for returning B-17s in the Target Area.

(8) Radio will be used among Groups only if necessary to keep formations together, to give leaders information important to the success of the mission or to notify those concerned of forced landings or ditchings.

(9) PF A/C will be used by 465th Group for navigational aid only.

(10) Utmost precautions must be taken to insure accurate bombing so as to prevent needless loss of life among FRENCH civilians. Bomb only those targets specified. No bombs will be jettisoned over FRANCE.

(11) Load 3 cartons Chaff in alternate attack units, dispensing 6 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before the IP until clear of Flak. To be used only if attacking MIRAMAS.

(12) Lead Group will regulate speed to keep Wing Formation intact, maintaining average altitude on route back of 10,000 feet or below oxygen level depending on the cloud cover. Speed on route back after rally not over 150 miles per hour indicated.

(13) First Alternate: MIRAMAS Ammunition Depot.
Initial Point: East tip of LAKE VACCARES (4333N - 0438E).
Axis of Attack: 75 degrees.
Rally: Sharp RIGHT over middle of LAKE BERRE.
Route Back: Rally to 4250N - 0510E to Key Point To Bases.
Method of Attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on inclosed Target Chart.

Intervalometer Settings: 465, 464 - 50 feet, 485, 460
- 150'

Bombing Altitude: 465 - 21,000 feet, 464 - 20,000
feet, 485 - 21,800 feet, 460 - 20,800 feet.

(14) Second Alternate: PORT DE BOUC Oil Refinery.

Initial Point, Rally, Route Dack, Method of Attack
same as MIRANAS.

Axis of Attack: 118 degrees.

Intervalometer Settings: 465 - 75 feet, 485 - 150
feet, 464 - 150 feet, 460 - 150 feet.

Bombing Altitude: 465 - 21,000 feet, 464 - 20,000
feet, 485 - 21,800 feet, 460 - 20,800 feet.

4. No Change.

5. a. Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication
within the Group. VHF 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 - CRAWFORD 1, 47th Wing -
SHOCKPROOF, 49th Wing - SCHOOLROOM 1, 55th
Wing - CRAWFORD, 2 (465 - CRAWFORD 21, 464 -
CRAWFORD 22, 485 - CRAWFORD 23, 460 -
CRAWFORD 24), 304th Wing - SCHOOLROOM 2, AZON
- SANDSAIL.

d. Fighter Call Sign For: 5th Wing - MAYFLOWER, 47th Wing -
BOULDER, 49th Wing - GREENHERD, 55th Wing -
MAYFLOWER, 304th Wing - GREENHERD, AZON -
ROOSEVELT.

e. Recall Signs: 5th Wing - GREASE, 47th Wing - MORTAR, 49th
Wing - THRILL, 55th Wing - VENISON, 304th
Wing - WHISTLE, 306th Wing - BANKER.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DALE S. SEEDS,
Major, Air Corps,
Ass't A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
2 cys ea Gp 55BW.
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