

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

6 November 1944
2130A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 241)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 241)

This is Plon Easy

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BOLZANO) 1:500,000
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (VENEZIA) 1:500,000
GSGS No. 4164, ITALY 1:100,000, Sheet 4A (PRESSANONE) and Sheet
11 (M. MARMOLADA) shows ISARCO/ALBES RR Bridge. Sheet 21 (TRENTO)
shows ADIGE/ORA and ADIGE/ MEZZOCORONA RR Bridges.
Target charts: No. 4-95-NA (FANTEZZO RR Junction) shows ISARCO/ALBES
RR Bridge
No. 4-73-NA (BOLZANO/SAN GIOCAMO A/D) shows ADIGE/ORA and
ADIGE/MEZZOCORONA RR Bridges
No. 4-140-N: (LATISANA RR Bridge)
No. 4-80-MA (TAGLIAMENTO CSARSA RR and Road Bridges)
Minimum Briefing Charts: No. MBC 4-23 (ADIGE/ORA RR Bridge)
No. MBC 4-25 (ADIGE/MEZZOCORONA RR Bridge)
No. MBC 4-15 (ISARCO/ALBES RR Bridge)
Report No. HC 675; 7 Sept 44; ADIGE/ORA RR Bridge w/Photo No. 4029
Report No. HC 259, 20 Mar 44, ADIGE/MEZZOCORONA RR Bridge w/Photo No.
3022
Report No. HC 397; 31 May 44, ISARCO/ALBES RR Bridge w/Photo No. 3037
Report No. HC 502, 30 June 44, Photo No. 4012 (CASARSA) and Photo No.
3150 (LATISANA)
Report No. DB 243, 19 Oct 44, TAGLIAMENTO CASARSA w/Photo No. 4070

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) ADIGE/ORA RR Bridge: The importance of this bridge is evidenced by the fact that very recent reports show the area to be defended by 18 Heavy Guns. Route as ordered avoids the main defenses at BOLZANO. On 4 Oct, SAH flak was encountered.

(2) ADIGE/MEZZOCORONA RR Bridge: The latest reports show no flak at this target. Route as ordered avoids the 36 Heavy Gun defenses at TRENTO. On 4 Oct no flak was encountered.

(3) ISARCO/ALBES RR Bridge: No flak.

(4) LATISANA: No flak.

(5) CASARSA: No flak.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: E/a (fighters) believed to have belonged to the ITALIAN Fascist Air Force are operating in the UDINE area. These are capable of approximately 25 sorties.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS:

(1) Latest reconnaissance shows the BRENNER Route to be open. All other main routes from Southeast GERMANY are either blocked or partially blocked. This attack is designed to deny the enemy the use of his last main line of supplies to Northern ITALY.

(a) The ADIGE/ORA RR Bridge is a double track, steel, 3 span bridge 335' L. and 33' W. The highway bridge which has been used in the past to transfer supplies while repairing the bridge has been destroyed. Destruction of the rail bridge would completely sever this vital supply line.

(b) The ADIGE/MEZZOCORONA RR Bridge is a double track, double steel girder bridge 370' L., 33' W., and 25' High. Destruction of this bridge would sever the rail lines completely at a point difficult to repair.

(c) The ISARCO/ALBES RR Bridge is a double track, twin bridge of latticed girder construction. In addition to the bridge itself the approaches are particularly vulnerable to air attack. One hit on the approach to either side would be sufficient to cut both rail lines temporarily.

(d) These three bridges are the most vulnerable targets on the BRENNER Route. A successful attack on any one of these vital bridges would cut the best route available to the enemy for supplying his resistance in North ITALY.

(2) The LATISANA and CASARSA routes are shown to be serviceable on the latest reconnaissance. The destruction of these bridges would add further difficulties to the enemy communications problem between North ITALY and Southeast GERMANY and North YUGOSLAVIA.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. This is a coordinated attack on communications targets in Northern ITALY and Troop Concentrations in the BALKANS.

(1) 5th Wing: 6 Groups attack MARIBOR S M/Y.

(2) 47th Wing: 4 Groups attack the BRENNER Route.

(3) 49th Wing: 3 Groups stand by for BALKAN Targets.

(4) 304th Wing: 4 Groups attack Troop Concentrations in the towns of MITROVICA (4253N-2052E), SJENICA (4317N-2000E), NOVI PAZAR (4309N- 2031E), and PRIJEPOLJE(4323N-1939E).

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide target cover for 5th and 47th Wings. Remainder of fighter force will stand by for strafing attacks.

c. Escape Intelligence: See current bulletins.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

PERRY F. SOLLARS,
Major, AC,
Asst A-2.

DISTRIRUTION:

1 cy ea CG, A-2 Duty O, Fifteenth Air Force
1 cy CG, XV Fighter Command
1 cy ea CG, A-2, A-3, PI, 55th Bomb Wing
3 cys ea 464, 485 Gps, 55th Bomb Wing
4 cys ea 465, 460 Gps, 55th Bomb Wing