

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (Hv)
APO 520, US Army

11 October 1944
2100A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 210)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 210)

This is Plan Able

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (VENEZIA) 1:500,000

GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (BOLOGNA) 1:250,000

GSGS No. 4164 ITALY 1:100,000 (BOLOGNA) Sheet 87

GSGS No. 4164 ITALY 1:100,000 (IMOLA) Sheet 83

Target Chart No. 4-216-NA (BOLOGNA New M/Y - for general area)

Annotated Photograph Print No. 5003 showing Target #20, distributed with Operations Order (6")

Annotated Photograph Print No. 3059 showing Target #20, distributed with Operations Order (24")

Annotated Photograph Print No. 3081 showing Target #24, distributed with Operations Order (24")

Bomb Line Photos (Bomb Line as of 1150A, 11 October 1944), dispatched by special courier previous to briefing.

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) Ammunition Dump (Target #20): Target is located on the outer perimeter of the 52 heavy gun defense of BOLOGNA. It is within the range of all 52 guns, but within extreme range only of 22 heavy guns (full range of 30 heavy guns). For pinpoint positions of batteries, refer to E Map No. 2657 dated 1 October 1944, as amended by written E Report No. 2707, dated 4 October 1944. This information is as of 26 September 1944. It is possible that additional heavy AA guns, or dual purpose guns, have been brought within target area as enemy ground forces have retired northward. Railway flak may be within target area. Moderate to Intense, probably Intense and probably Accurate, Flak is to be expected.

(2) Stores Depot (Target #24): This target is located close to 12 heavy guns on road from BOLOGNA to IMOLA. Refer to E Map No. 2731, dated 8 October 1944. Strict adherence to ordered axis is necessary to avoid flak defense of BOLOGNA. Railway flak may be within target area, as well as additional AA and dual purpose guns as enemy has retired northward. Moderate flak, probably Accurate, is to be expected at this target.

(3) En route: Route circles out of range of 36 heavy guns at LA SPEZIA. Avoid 4 heavy guns at REGGIO. Route back brings formation between 20 heavy guns at ARGENTA and 20 heavy guns at RAVENNA. If course is flown as ordered, formation will be out of range of these guns.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: No opposition by e/a is expected on this Mission.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS: Strategic objective of this Mission is destruction of stores and ammunition of vital importance to the enemy in his defense of BOLOGNA, the key point of his withdrawal from the GOTHIC LINE. The quick capture of BOLOGNA will make it impossible for the enemy to hold any line in the PO VALLEY. The 715th Division is committed at the BOLOGNA axis, with the 344th Division in the line South of BOLOGNA. The 44th Division is committed at the IMOLA axis, while the 98th Division is re-forming in the IMOLA area. The present operation is designed to force the enemy to withdraw to the GARDA-ADIGE line, which will be tenable only if pressure in the BALKAS is relieved; or, since the RUSSIAN-YUGOSLAV operations appear certain to make this intermediate line tenable, to the ALPS North of the UDINE area. The enemy is fighting hard South of BOLOGNA to hold the FIFTH ARMY's drive Northward along Highway 65. A break through at BOLOGNA will require a general withdrawal by the enemy along his entire line. The denial to the enemy of stores and ammunition in the BOLOGNA area will be an important factor in his operations in this key area.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack: 11 Bombardment Wings of the Strategic Air Force attack Bivouac Areas, Stores Depots, Barracks, Vehicle Workshops, Ammunition Dumps and an Ammunition Factory in the BOLOGNA area.

b. The XV FIGHTER COMMAND provides 8 a/c to dispense chaff in the lead of each Bombardment Wing. In related operations, fighter a/c will strafe parked a/c on BRNO and VESKOV A/Ds, and communications between BUDAPEST and VIENNA.

c. It is of the utmost importance that there be no bombs dropped on friendly troops. Photograph of the Bomb Line, as of latest positions, will be produced by this headquarters in such quantity as is required, and dispatched to each Bombardment Group previous to briefing. Bomb Line will be exhibited at briefing of officers, and indicated thoroughly and in detail in the briefing. Photographs as reproduced will be included in Pilots and Navigators Folders in the lead and deputy lead a/c of each box. It is recommended that Navigators and Bombardiers make a careful study of Bomb Line previous to Briefing.

d. Escape: Escape Intelligence Briefing will cover data contained in Escape Bulletin No. 41, dated 17 August 1944. No further

information has come to higher headquarters since that date to modify the information contained therein.

e. This Operation is in direct support of the FIFTH ARMY's attack of BOLOGNA on 12 October 1944. With the bulk of the enemy's ground forces concentrated in the RIMINI sector, the situation is exceptionally favorable for envelopment by the FIFTH ARMY, with the possibility of destroying the defensive capabilities of the entire GERMAN force in ITALY. The FIFTH ARMY is attacking with the objective of breaking through the enemy defense of BOLOGNA and capturing this key city. The Strategic Air Force will reinforce the Tactical Air Force in this operation.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION: Standard.