

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

15 October 1944
1950A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 216)
TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 216)

This is Plan Able

Maps: GSGs No. 4072 EUROPE Air (GRAZ, WIEN) 1:500000
GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (GRAZ, LINZ) 1:250000
Target and Briefing Chart No. 14-15-NA (ST. VALENTIN etc)
Target Chart No. 14-16-NA (GRAZ etc)
Approach Chart, Target Photo Chart No. AC, TP 14-32 (HERMANN GOERING
etc)
Target Area Oblique, Target Photochart Oblique No. TAO, TPO 14-32
(HERMANN
GOERING etc)
Pathfinder Chart No. 20 (LINZ and STEYR, AUSTRIA) 1:180000
Illustration No. 3(d)143/1,2 (St. VALENTIN)
Target Information Sheet, Op No. GN 5055, 15 Nov 43, ST. VALENTIN

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) ST. VALEWTIN: Bomber formation will be subject to fire for approximately five (5) minutes from the twenty-six (26) Heavy Gun defense. Refer to "E" Map No. 2722 dated 5 Oct 44 as amended by Report E/2808 dated 13 Oct 44. Axis and rally ordered insure that the flak at STEYR will be avoided. Although time of exposure to flak appears to be considerable, strict adherence to course, axis and rally ordered will take formation through minimum intensity.

(2) GRAZ: See Intelligence Annex No. 203, dated 8 Oct 1944.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Enemy is capable of committing approximately 50 SEF from VIENNA area, and of transferring 100 SEF from NURENBURG area.

(2) It is possible that jet propelled fighters may be employed against formations in this operation.

(3) If e/a are committed the BRUX targets will probably be more defended by the enemy.

(4) No e/a opposition in the STEYR area is expected, but crews should be briefed on enemy capability as stated in this Intelligence Annex. This headquarters requires alertness of crews, especially gunners, to prevent surprise attacks which might be of serious consequence if crews are over confident. The conclusion is not to be drawn, since the enemy has not attacked on recent missions, that he will not attack - certainly it is not to be concluded that he cannot attack.

He can, and on any mission he may do so. Crews must be alert - and prepared.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET: The ST. VALENTIN Works is top priority target in Armored Force Vehicle field in the Fifteenth Air Force area. It is producing AFV on a large scale. It is believed that these are being shipped directly to the fighting fronts. On latest reconnaissance 100 tanks were seen ready for shipment.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack

- (1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks BRUX Synthetic O/R.
- (2) 47th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks ST. VAIENTIN Works.
- (3) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, attacks HERMANN GOERING Tank Works.
- (4) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks STEYR Daimler Puch Plant.

b. XV Fighter Command provides penetration and target cover for 47th, 55th, and 304th Wing, provides penetration escort for 5th Wing to prudent limit, and the remainder of fighter a/c provides penetration, target, and withdrawal escort and cover for 5th Wing.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

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