

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

9 September 1944  
1840B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 172 )

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 172 )

This is Plan Able.

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

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (GRAZ Sectional) 1:500,000

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

Target Charts: No. 14-20-NA (VIENNA, Southeast)

No. TP 14-2, scale 1:63,360

No. 8-107-NA (MARIBOR)

No. 4-116-NA (TRIESTE)

Pathfinder Chart: Nos. 1,1A, and 1B (VIENNA) 1:250,000, including

H2X Supplementary to Chart No. 1.

Photograph: 235-193 5 PG Nov 2 43, Print #5015 (VIENNA/LOBAU)

HI Report No. 323, dated 7 September 1944

Illustrations: No. 1 (a) (ii) 55/1 (WIEN)

No. 1 (g) (i) 148/7 (WIEN)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) VIENNA: Reference made to "E" Maps #2268, #2265, #2271, dated 12 Aug 1944, with amendments of "E" Reports #2273, #2316, #2414, and #2415. Also reference to "E" Map #2298, dated 16 August 1944.

(2) MARIBOR: Reference to "E" Map #2406, dated 26 August 1944. The defenses are directly South of city along RR and in vicinity of A/D. Latest report shows 3 Heavy Flak wagons in M/Y. Exact position unknown.

(3) TRIESTE: Reference to "E" Map #1954, dated 10 July 1944, and amended by "E" Report #2375, dated 24 August 1944. All AA positions are on outer extremities of quays, generally SW of city. Last two attacks on target in the TRIESTE area drew SIH flak.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) The enemy is now relying more heavily upon the fighter controller in fighter defenses. Fifteenth Air Force estimate that the enemy is capable of a scale of air opposition of from 60-75 SEF, the majority of which will be called from areas other than the VIENNA area. The fighter controller will have to decide as bomber formations approach the VIENNA and WELS areas whether to attempt defense of both or to mass fighters against the attack of either target area. In the past the enemy plan usually has been to choose an individual Wing for concentrated attacks.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET.

(1) SAURERWERKE Engine Works: The target is located in the Simmering Suburbs of VIENNA about 3½ miles SW of the center of the city and on the Southern bank of the DONAU Canal. The work produces heavy motor transports, and A.F.V. tank engines and gear boxes. Before the war 4000 workers were employed, but undoubtedly the plant now operates on a larger scale. At a time when the enemy needs all transportation facilities and tanks, a successful attack will materially reduce attempts of defense on all fronts.

(2) MARIBOR M/Y: The M/Y is on the direct Western route of communication from VIENNA through GRAZ to ZAGREB. The enemy is attempting defenses of the BALKANS as well as safeguarding evacuation routes. Any attack on the North to South routes from Central EUROPE to the BALKANS, will interrupt plans of defense or evacuation. Reconnaissance of 6 Sept shows 920 wagons present in M/Y.

(3) TRIESTE: From 1 September to 5 September there was a shipping turn over of 55,900 tons. Latest cover of 5 September revealed 35,000 tons present in the harbor. TRIESTE is the most active port at present in the ADRIATIC.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION.

a. This is a coordinated attack on industries in the VIENNA area and an airdrome in the WELS area.

(1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks LOBAU and SCHWECHAT Oil Refineries.

(2) 47th Wing, 4 Groups, attack VIENNA South Ordnance Depot.

(3) 304th Wing: 2 Groups, attack hangar and installations at HORSHING A/D. 2 Groups frag parked a/c on HORSHING A/D.

b. XV Fighter Command will provide close escort for 55th Wing.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JAMES D. BOOK,  
Major, A.C,  
Asst A-2.

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