

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

9 September 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 172)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

Night bombers attacking Wharves at RAVENNA night 9/10 September.

6 Groups of 5th Wing destroy VIENNA LOBAU Blending Plant and SCHWECHAT Oil Refinery at 1030B. Key Point Time: 0903B. ALTERNATE TARGETS: PFF on industrial center in SE VIENNA. Last Resort Targets: KAPFEMBURG Armament and Tank Components Factory, MARIBOR M/Y and RR Ships, VILLICH M/Y, TRIESTE Port Installations.

4 Groups of 47th Wing destroy VIENNA South Ordnance Depot at 1050B. Key Point Time: 0928B. ALTERNATE TARGETS: Same as 5th Wing.

100 a/c of 49th Wing stand by for Supply Operation to Airdromes vicinity of LYON.

4 Groups of 304th Wing: 2 Groups destroy Hangar Installations at HORSCHING Airdrome. 2 Groups Frag parked Aircraft on HORSCHING Airdrome at 1000B. Key Point Time: 0845B. ALTERNATE TARGETS: PFF on industrial center of LINZ. Last Resort Targets: WELS Ordnance Depot and M/Y, TRIESTE Port Installations.

6 Groups Fighters of 15th Fighter Command:

Provide Chaff dispensing Aircraft for lead Group of 5th Wing.

Provide close escort and top cover, 304th Wing.

Provide close escort for 5th, 47th, 55th Wings.

No escort for 49th Wing.

2.

Normal Effort, 4 Groups, 55th Wing destroy Diesel Engine Works of OSTERREICHISCHE SAURERWERKE at 1040B, 10 September 1944. This is Plan Able.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: PFF on Southeast Industrial area of VIENNA.

SECOND ALTERNATE TARGET: MARIBOR M/Y.

LAST RESORT TARGET: TRIESTE Port Installations.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 460th and 485th line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 6000 and 7000 feet. 460th approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485 approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTAMURA at 0747B.

464 and 465 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 8000 and 9000 feet. 465 falling in behind 464 in 464 area prior to rendezvous. 465 over ANDRIA at 0749B.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0758B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 2 columns of Wings. First column - 304th Wing; Second Column in order, 5th; 55th (460-485-464-465); 47th Wings.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to 4200N 1620E to Key Point ZAPUNTEL (4415N 1449E) to VRBOVSKO (4522N 1505E) to TOPLICE (4608N 1500E) to ST GEORGE (4712N 1430E) to HIEFLAK (4736N 1444E) to IP to Target. Time to start climb to bombing altitude: 0851B. Key Point Time: 0918B at 12000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: KI ZELL (4758N 1543E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 66 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1040B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 460 - 24000; 485 - 23200; 464 - 22400 465 - 23600.

TARGET ELEVATION: 575 feet.

RALLY: Right to MOSON (4751N 1717E).

ROUTE BACK: MOSON (4751N 1717E) to DURDEVAC (4603N 1703E) to PAKRAC (4526N 1712E) to VFJUC (4432N 1647E) to SCEDRO ISLE (4305N 1641E) to Bases.

3.

x.

Bomb Load: All Groups load 10 - 500# RDX, fused .1 nose and .01 tail.

Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

Use MPI as shown on enclosed target charts.

PFF will fly lead, deputy lead and lead of second attack each Group.

Formation will be close left echelon on Route Out, close column of Groups over the target, and close right echelon on Route Back. A tight Formation is essential.

Upon Rally, lead Group will maintain an indicated air speed of 165, losing 300 - 500 feet per minute until clear of Flak. After clear of Flak area, lead Group will slow down to 150 indicated to protect stragglers and reform, the Wing. Trailing Groups will cut to the right of the lead Group, in order to tighten up formation as soon as possible. All Groups will make every effort to attain Wing formation by the time the first Group has reached the Turn Point, MOSON.

In case PFF is employed in a preceding Group, the trailing Groups will drop on the preceding Group.

First Alternate: Southeastern Industrial area of VIENNA by PFF
Intervalometer Settings: All Groups - 150 feet.

SECOND ALTERNATE: MARIBOR M/Y. IP: MURECK (4642N 1547E). Axis of Attack: 210 degrees. Rally: Right to RIBNICA (4633N 1517E). Route Back: RIBNICA to TOPLICE (4608N 1500E), then reverse Route Out. Method of Attack - Column of Groups using MPI as show on Target Chart. Intervalometer settings: All Groups 25 feet.

LAST RESORT: TRIESTE Port Installations. IP: S PIETRO (4541N 1412E). Axis of Attack: 265 degrees. Rally: Loft to Turn Point (4500N 1320E). Route Back: Turn Point (4500N 1320E) to Turn Point (4200N 1620E) to Bases. Method of Attack - Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart. Intervalometer settings: All Groups 25 feet.

4.
No Change.

5.
a.
Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication within the Group. VHF Wing Channel "B" for Group to Group within the Ving.

b.
VHF Channel "A" for Bombers to Fighters and Wing to Wing.

Bomber Call Sign: 5th Wing - LACEWORK 1; 55th Wing - LACEWORK 2 (460 - LACEWORK 2 Leader, 485 - LACEWORK 22, 464 - LACEWORK 23, 465 - LACEWORK 24); 304th Wing - RINGWAY, 47th Wing - LACEWORK 3.

Fighter Call Sign For: 304th Wing - FLYWHEEL; Escort for 5th, 47th and 55th Wings use GREENHERD with numbered suffixes in order of contact with Bomber Formation.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - SCARFACE; 47th Wing - PICKPOCKET; 49th Wing - MOONGLOW; 55th Wing - ASHTRAY; 304th Wing - POOLTADLE; 15th Fighter Command - PING PONG.

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped.

All Groups employ Chaff in accordance with Signals Procedure 32-2.

Radio silence must be observed.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

EARLE L. OSBORNE,
Captain, Air Corps,
Assistant A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
5 cys 460, 465 Gps 55BW.
3 cys 464, 485 Gps 55BW.
1 cy CG 15th Fi Command.
1 cy CG XV AF.