

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

12 September 1944
1730B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 175)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 175)

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (KRAKOW) 1:500,000
GSGS No. 3992 EUROPE Air (GLENWITZ) 1:250,000
GSGS No: 3932 EUROPE Air (TESCHEN) 1:250,000
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BUDAPEST) 1:500,000
Target chart No. 16-3-NA (OSWIECIN)
Briefing Chart No. 20-3-NA (OSWIECIN)
Minimum Briefing Chart No. xRC 12 13 (SZOB RR Bridge)
Minimum Photochart No. MP 12-13 (SZOB RR Bridge)
Target Chart No. 8-40 NA (SUBOTICA)
Briefing Chart To. 8-40-NA (SUBOTICA)
Illustration no. 2(f)38/1,2 (OSWIECIN)
Photograph No. 5018; 60PR/228/60 Sqdn/4 Apr 44 (OSWIECIN)
H(I) Report No, 170, 13 Apr 44 (OSWIECIN)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) OSWIECIN - Intense flak, possibly accurate will be encountered. Pinpoint positions of guns shown on E Section Map No. 1574; 2 June 44, and amendments by E Section Reports Nos, 2306, 17 Aug 44; 2311, 17 Aug 44; 2327, 19 Aug 44; 2407, 25 Aug 44. When last attacked, on 20 Aug 44, MIH was encountered, but Heavy Guns have been added since that date, Course, axis, and rally prescribed avoid maximum exposure to flak. Note following flak defenses on flak photo: 4533-1728; SW tip of LAKE BALATON; VESPREM 4706-1755; TRENCIN 4854-1803; xxxxxx 5004-1956; 4849-1927; 4521-1738.

(2) SZOB - When last attacked, on 5 Sept 44, flak at target was nil. If this Alternate Target is attacked, check flak positions on North end of LAKE BALATON as shown on flak photo.

(3) SUBOTICA - No AA defenses were visible at time of latest coverage.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) The three (3) Bombardment Wings, 14 Groups, attacking through The VIENNA-BUDAPEST line, may be opposed by 50-60 SEF (including 15-20 ME-109 a/c from HUNGARIAN bases) and 30-40 SEF brought in from elsewhere in GERMANY for defense of VIENNA area.

(2) Interception South of GVOR is unlikely.

(3) 30-10 SEF may intercept on routes to targets.

(4) In defense of targets enemy may oppose with 50-60 fighters, including those which attack en route.

(5) 30-40 SEF may intercept on routes back, except that there will likely be negligible or nil opposition for formations withdrawing between VIENNA and BUDAPEST,

(6) Interception of formations withdrawing East of BUDAPEST is not probable.

(7) Total enemy fighter sorties will probably not exceed 100.

(8) Eighth Air Force attacked in BRUX and RUHLAND areas on 12 September, after attack on 11 September when 175 e/a were destroyed. These operations will certainly reduce scale of enemy fighter effort on 13 September.

(9) Nevertheless it must be borne in mind that on recent operations enemy aircraft have made effective attacks. Crews, especially gunners, must be alert for attacks, especially on Groups separated from formations, when cloud cover favors attackers.

c. OSWIECIN is defended by smoke screen.

d. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET - Oil targets of Fifteenth Air Force on 13 September and of Eighth Air Force on 12 September cover top priority synthetic oil targets. OSWIECIN is estimated to be producing 3,000 tons per month. These are the last remaining principal gasoline targets in Fifteenth Air Force territory.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th Wing, 5 Groups, attacks BLECHHAMMER North Synthetic O/R.

(2) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks ODERTAL O/R.

(3) 47th Wing: 2 Groups attack AVISIO Viaduct, 1 Group attacks ORA River RR Bridge, 1 Group attacks MEZZO CORONA RR Bridge.

(4) 49th Wing conducts supply mission to Southern FRANCE.

b. XV Fighter Command provides close escort on penetration, over targets, and on withdrawal for 5th, 55th, and 304th Wings, with

top cover for 5th and 304th Wings. No escort is provided for 47th and 49th Wings.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
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A-2.

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