

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

23 September 1944  
1630A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 187 )  
TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO.187 )

This is Plan Able

Maps GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (THESSALONIKE Sectional) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (ATHENA Sectional) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (VOLOS Sectional) 1:500,000  
Target Chart: No. 9-7-NA (SALONIKA)  
No. 9-1-NA (ATHENS/KALAMAINI)  
M.E.I.U./G.6544 January 1944 (THESSALONIKI)  
Map S/12 SALONIKA  
Map S/10 (SALAMIS & SKARAMANGA)  
Illustration No. S/10 (1) (SKARAMANGA)  
HI/FS No. 176 (SALONIKA)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) SKARAMANGA: Reference is made to flak mosaic, "ATHENS area - Heavy Flak", issued by MEIA and MAIU(E) No. G7330/F, dated 10 September 1944. There are 74 guns in the ATHENS area.

(2) SALONIKA: Reference is made to flak mosaic THES-SALONIKIA, issued by MEIU and MAIU (E), No. G7329/Fo, dated 9 Sept 44. This is e 44 gun defense.

(3) Avoid 24 gun defenses at BERAT on return from SALONIKA. as well as enroute. Refer to "E" map No. 1141, dated 11 April 1944 and "E Report No. 2103, dated 26 July 1944.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Fifteenth Air Force estimates no air opposition to this plan.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET

(1) The situation in Southeastern EUROPE is steadily growing more critical for the Axis Activities on the Western, Italian and North Russian lines will not permit reinforcement of troops in the BALKANS. Only one choice remains for the Germans; namely, evacuation of these areas as successfully as possible. In the past the Germans have been able to accomplish retreats and evacuation with a degree of

success. Frantic efforts are being made by the enemy to attempt successful evacuation from GREECE. Station complements have already been relieved from part of the AEGEAN islands. The present period represents the last few days remaining to GERMANY to evacuate by air, troops in GREECE. Fifteenth Air Force attacks under this plan are aimed to destroy rolling stock, rail facilities, subfacilities, airdrome facilities and parked aircraft.

(2) SALONIKA: Located strategically, this city is one of the foremost transportation centers in GREECE. The port facilities add importance to the rail center. In prewar days YUGOSLAVIA had a free zone for trade at SALONIKA. The most important rail line connecting CENTRAL EUROPE with GREECE is the Oriental Express line passing Southward through BEOGRAD, MIS, and thence to SALONIKA. Undoubtedly, this M/Y is used extensively for movement of personnel and supplies. Cover of 21 September 1944, show 410 mixed wagons in the M/Y which is the West Yard assigned as the Wing's target.

(3) SKARAMANGA: Located on the East side of the ELEUSIS BAY and near PIRANUS, one of the most active GRECIAN ports, the facilities for submarines at SKARAMANGA are excellent.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. 47th Bombardment Wing (3 Groups) attack parked a/c on ATHEN/ELEUSIS A/D.

49th Bombardment Wing (2 Groups) attack parked a/c on ATHEN/ELEUSIS A/D.

304th Bombardment Wing (4 Groups) attack parked a/c on ATHENS/TATOI A/D.

b. The XV Fighter Command will provide cover over ATHENS for 45 minutes preceding bomber attack. Also they will conduct a fighter sweep over the ATHENS - SALONIKA area 5 minutes prior to bomber attack.

c. No targets other than specified in order will be attacked. Western half of PELOPENESUS in friendly hands as well as many other points of the interior of GREECE.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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