

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

3 January 1945
2015A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO: 3 9

TO OPERATIONS OFER NO. 3)

This is Plan Baker

Maps and Target Materials:

GS GS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BOLZANO, VENEZIA) 1:500,000

GS GS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (BOLZANO) 1:250,000

GS GS No. 4164 ITALY 1:100,000, First Edition, Sheet 10 (BOLZANO)

Target Chart No. 4-132-NA (BOLZANO, etc.)

No, 4-215-NA (TREVISO M/Y)

No. 4-120B-MA (PORTO MARGHERA and MESTRE)

Communications Report No. H (c) 388, with photograph No. 3038
(BOLZANO)

1. Plan Baker is designed to further the interdiction of the BRENNER ROUTE and to destroy communications in Northern ITALY. Since Weather restricts operations of strategic bombing to this type of attack, targets have been selected to secure the greatest possible damage to the most profitable targets, and thus to give the fullest possible assistance to Allied ground troops in ITALY.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) BOLZANO M/Y: Refer to map 3E228(10 Dec 44) as amended by reports 3E280 (26 Dec 44) & 3E297(28 Dec 44). As far as possible advantage is taken of the direction and speed of the wind and the time in flak is estimated to be 23 minutes. Intense accurate flak was encountered on the mission of 29 Dec. 44. Enroute north of the target along the BRENNER ROUTE, the defenses of VIPITENO are to be avoided. Additional flak may be expected at intersections of highway and railroad lines.

(2) TREVISO M/Y: No flak has been reported at this target.

(3) MESTRE M/Y: Refer to map 3E262 (23 Dec 44). Strict adherence to rally, as ordered, is necessary to avoid defenses at VENICE and CHIOGGIA. Scant flak may be expected.

(4) Railway flak in addition to known flak as indicated by E Maps and E Reports may be expected at any

communications target in Northern ITALY. See Intelligence Annex No. 309, 30 Dec 44, paragraph 3.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: The enemy is capable of opposing formations with 15-20 ME-109 a/c flown by the Italian Republican (Fascist) Air Force, but it is estimated that nil or negligible opposition will be encountered.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS:

(1) BOLZANO: The Marshalling Yard at BOLZANO is located on the BRENNER ROUTE. This route has been open to traffic on a reduced scale for over two weeks. The recent period of weather preventing sustained operations has permitted repairs to progress during a period without further damage. Facilities of the yard at BOLZANO include a classification and storage yard 2,500' long and 600' wide, a 150° roundhouse, and both a passenger and a goods station. Other rail facilities in this area include a car repair shop, locomotive depot, and a freight yard, all within the area of probable damage from normal spillage. A successful attack on this Marshalling Yard would sever the BRENNER ROUTE.

(2) TREVISO: See Intelligence Annex No. 309, 30 Dec. 44, paragraph 2, c, (4).

(3) MESTRE: The railway installations at MESTRE serve both VENICE and the shipping and industrial center of PORTO MARGHERA. MESTRE is also the junction for the BOLOGNA-TRIESTE, MESTRE-UDINE (the only practicable alternative to the BRENNER ROUTE for traffic between GERMANY and NORTH ITALY), MESTRE-TRENTO, and MESTRE-POLESINE routes. The MESTRE Marshalling Yard is divided into the following sections: (a) 20 sidings West of the station, probably used for traffic to VENICE with an average length of 600 yards, (b) sorting sidings 1 mile West of the station containing 20 tracks, average length of which is 670 yards, (c) reception sidings, immediately North of (b), consisting of 8 sidings approximately 800 yards long. Another group lies Southwest of (b) and contains about 6 loop sidings about 700 yards long. A successful attack on this Marshalling Yard would destroy these classification and storage facilities and the supply content of the 310 goods wagons shown by the latest reconnaissance photographs to be present.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th Wing: 2 Groups attack the locomotive depot at VERON, 2 Groups attack the PORTO NUOVO M/Y at VERONA, and 1 Group attacks the PORTO VESCOVA M/Y at VERONA.

(2) 47th Wing: 4 Groups attack the BRONZOLO M/Y.

(3) 49th Wing: 2 Groups attack the M/Y and 1 Group attacks the Main Station at TRENTO.

(4) 304th Wing: 2 Groups attack the PORTO NUOVO M/Y and 2 Groups attack the PORTO VESCOVA M/Y at VERONA.

(5) Droopsnoots of the XV Fighter Command attack the CISMON RR Bridge.

b. XV Fighter Command will provide reduced escort for all Bombardment Wings on penetration, at targets, and on withdrawal, and will provide chaff dispensing a/c for the lead Groups of the 5th and 304th Bombardment Wings.

c. The POW camp near LIENZ lies close to prescribed route, and crews will be briefed on its location to insure that no bombs will be jettisoned in its vicinity.

d. Escape Intelligence: Current bulletins. Emphasis will be made in briefing on the experience of returned evaders and escapees that chits are of greater value than money in North ITALY.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
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A-2.

DISTRIBUTION: "C".