

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

9 August 1944
1800B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 148)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 148)

This is Plan A.

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

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (SOFIA) 1:500000

Zone Lap of PLOESTI

Target Charts: No. 11-101B-NA (PLOESTI, South)

No. 10-6-NA (RUSE, for GIURGIU)

No. 11-19-NA (TURNU SEVERIN for IRON GATE)

Briefing Chart No. 11-101B-NA (PLOESTI, South)

Pathfinder Chart No. 6 (PLOESTI, ROUMANIA) 1:80,000

Pathfinder Chart No. 22 (PLOESTI, ROUMANIA) 1:250,000 -

Target Photochart No. TP 11-1 (PLOESTI, ROUMANIA) 1:63,500

Strategic Approach Map, PLOESTI, Sheets 4,5,9,10,11,15,16,19,20 (as required by course and axis ordered)

Illustration No. S. 101/8,10,11,15,16,17

Photograph No. 5023. (PLOESTI, SOUTH) 60PR/82/60 Sqdn/24 Oct 43

No. 4095, 60/PR/82/60 Sqdn/24 Oct 43

Target Information Sheet No. BR 1 (A.M. No. S.101)

Interpretation Report No. D 153 w/photos

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) PLOESTI (Primary Target): No change. IAH will be encountered. Although ASTRA ROMANA O/R is in the heavily defended area of PLOESTI, it is on the Southern edge of the most heavily defended section. The axis and rally ordered, together with predicted wind, indicate time of exposure to flak as follows: 1 minute, 55 seconds on bombing run; 3 minutes, 35 seconds on rally. Total: maximum of 5 minutes, 30 seconds, less time reduced by wind. Formation will be in the maximum flak intensity 1 minute, 15 seconds.

(2) GIURGIU (1st Alternate Target): When last attacked, 3 July 1944, M-IAH was encountered. There are 17 Heavy Guns at GIURGIU and RUSE.

(3) When IRON GATES (2nd Alternate Target) was last attacked, 6 June 1944, bombers encountered no flak.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Although enemy is capable of putting up 1-12 ME-109s from NIS, no opposition on penetration or withdrawal is expected.

(2) About 60 SEF, most of them ME-109 with a few IAR 80s, expected at target. It is possible, but unlikely, that 20-25 SEF may be brought to target area from RUSSIAN front. Recent successful attack on BUZAU and ZILISTEA A/Ds should keep e/a opposition to minimum, Major part of e/a opposition will be absorbed by 5th and 49th Bombardment Wings; scale of effort against 47th, 55th, and 304th Bombardment Wings should be reduced.

(3) E/A opposition at either Alternate Target should be nil or negligible.

c. Dummy. See Intelligence Annex No. 138, 27 July 1944.

d. Smoke Screen. See Intelligence Annex No. 138, 27 July 1944.

e. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS: Successful attack on BLECHHAMMER plants requires the temporary breaking of production at PLOESTI. Rapid repairs of previous damage have been made. Strategic plan of this attack contemplates attempt to secure objective at PLOESTI by attacks on several refineries, rather than concentration upon one. ASTRA ROMANA, target of this Wing, produces 60,000 tons. If all of coordinated attacks on this mission are successful, the enemy will have lost his supply of crude oil and petroleum products as he has lost his supply of synthetic, with result that his army will be immobilized.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th Wing, 5 Groups, attacks FLOESTI ROMANA AMERICANA O/R.

(2) 47th Wing, 3 Groups, attacks PLOESTI UNIREA SPERANZA and STANDARD O/R.

(3) 49th Wins, 3 Groups, attacks PLOESTI XENIA O/R.

(4) 304th Wins, 3 Groups, attacks PLOESTI CAMPINA/STENA ROMANA O/R.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing provides escort for all Bombardment Wings, a chaff dispensing force, and offensive cover for the 5th and 49th Wings.

c. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION: In addition to items stipulated in Intelligence Annex No. 125, 14 July 1944, items covered in teletype FFAD 141, this hq, dated 8 Aug 44 re information desired of e/a will be required.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
Major AC,
A-2.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea CG, A-2 Duty 0, Fifteenth AF
1 cy CG, 306th Fighter "ing
1 cy ea CO, A-2, A-3, PI, 55th Bomb Wing
3 cys ea Gp, 55th Bomb Wing