

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

10 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 149) ::

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

3 Groups of the 49th Wing attack Gun Positions in GENOA Area from 1030B to 1050B. ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

5 Groups of the 5th Wing attack Gun Positions in GENOA Area from 1100B to 1140B. ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

4 Groups of the 304th Wing attack Gun Positions in MARSEILLE Area at 1110B and 1120B. ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack Gun Positions in MARSEILLE Area at 1135B and 1145B. ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

Fighters of 306th Wing will provide light target area cover for all Wings and strefe radar stations in SETE, MARSEILLES, and GENOA Areas.

2.

Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing attack Gun Positions in the SETE Area of South FRANCE at 1100B and 1110B, 11 August 1944. This is Plan BAKER.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 464 and 465 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 9000 and 10,000 feet. 465 falling in behind 464 in 464 area prior to rendezvous. 464 over ANDRIA at 0654B.

460 and 485 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 9,000 and 10,000 feet. 460 approaching ALTANURA from TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTANURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTAMURA at 0700B.

Wing Rendezvous: 464th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0709B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Loose column of Wings, 55th Wing (464-465 (First Wave) 460-485 (Second Wave)).

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to MELFI to Keypoint (4101N 1356E) to Control Point CAPE ROCCO (4213N 0832E) to IP to Targets.

Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude) 4234N 0630E).
Keypoint Time: 0748B. at 12,000 feet. Control Point Time: 0927B at 12,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: (4303N 0346E).

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 464 - 16,000', 465 - 17,000', 460 - 16,500', 485 - 17,500'.

TARGET ELEVATION: Sea Level.

RALLY: 464 and 460 LEFT to (4258N 0325E), 465 and 485 RIGHT to (4312N 0400E)

ROUTE BACK: Rally Points to (4253N 0437E) then reverse route out.

3.

a.

The 464 Group will attack gun positions as shown on attached target chart and annotated photograph at 1100B. Axis of attack: Able Box 290 deg, Baker Box 304 deg, Charlie Box 314 deg, Dog Box 317 deg.

b.

The 465 Group will attack gun positions as shown on attached target chart and annotated photograph at 1100B. Axis of attack: Able Box - 358 deg, Baker Box - 352 deg, Charlie Box - 323 deg, Dog Box - 322 deg.

c.

The 460 Group will attack gun positions as show on attached target chart and annotated photograph at 1110B. Axis of Attack: Able Box - 290 deg, Baker Box - 304 deg, Charlie Box - 314 deg, Dog Box - 317 og.

d.

The 485 group will attack gun positions as shown on attached target chart and annotated photograph at 1110B. Axis of Attack: Able Box - 358 deg, Baker Box - 352 deg, Charlie Box - 323 deg, Dog Box: - 322 deg.

x.

All Groups load 10-500# RDX bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail.
Intervadometer Settings: All Groups 25 feet.
Accurate navigation is essential.
Wing will fly close right echelon enroute.
Bombing will be conducted by individual boxes, boxes will break off at IP and assume their individual bomb runs. Boxes will reform as a group after rally.

Wing Rendezvous will be accomplished in the normal manner, at the Control Point the 460 and 485 groups will execute a 360 degree turn and then continue on course and maintaining at least 10 minute interval between second and third groups.

There are no alternate targets. Only the targets specified will be bombed. If bombing is not accomplished as specified bombs will be returned to the base. NO bombs will be jettisoned over FRANCE. Bombing will be by VISUAL means only. Any convoy encountered enroute will be avoided.

Group Leaders will fire a green-green flare to designate IP.

Box leaders will report success of their bombing to the Group leader on the Group command frequency. Group leader will report bombs away as follows: "3 boxes MS OK 1 box MF OK".

Groups will lose at least 3,000 feet on rally to avoid interfering with second waves attack.

All Groups will call Wing Duty Officer at 0520 giving weather at base.

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 Wing.

b.

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

c.

Bomber Call Sign: 5th Wing - BETTY 2, 47th Wing - KEYWORD 1, 49th Wing - BETTY 1, 55th Wing - CLEARSOUP (464 - CLEARSOUP Leader, 465 - CLEARSOUP 2, 460 - CLEARSOUP 3, 485 - CLEARSOUP 4), 304th Wing - KEYWORD 2.

Fighter Call Sign For: Escort for 5th and 49th Wings use BREWER. Escort for 47th and 304th Wings use EXCEED. Escort for 55th Wing PLATOON.

e.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - HURRICANE, 47th Wing - TEMPLE, 49th Wing - ORANGE, 55th Wing - PORTRAIT, 304th Wing - WHISTLE, 306th Wing - COMIC.

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 2 cartons Window in Lead attack unit of each Group dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from IP until clear of Flak.

Radio Discipline must be enforced.

AIR SEA RESCUE on VHF Channel "D".

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JOHN N. MELCHER,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
5 Cys 460th and 465th BGs.
3 cys 464th and 485th BGs.
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wing.
1 cy CG 15AF.