

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

13 August 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 152)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

4 Groups of the 304th Wing attack GUN POSITIONS in the GENOA area at 1030B and 1040B. Alternate Targets: None.

4 Groups of the 47th Wing attack GUN POSITIONS in the GENOA area at 1050B and 1100B. Alternate Targets: None.

4 Groups of the 5th Wing attack GUN POSITIONS in the TOULON area at 1030B and 1040B. Alternate Targets: None.

3 Groups of the 49th Wing attack same GUN POSITIONS as the 55th Wing at 1600 and 1610B. Alternate Targets: None.

1 Group of the 5th Wing attack same GUN POSITIONS as the 460 and 465 Groups at 1620B. Alternate Targets: None.

3 Groups of the 306th Wing attack RADAR Stations at TOULON, LA CIOTAT, CAP COURONNE, CEPET, MARSEILLES, CAP DANTIBES, ST. RAPHAEL, CAP CAMERAT, CAP BLANC, VARAZZE, CAPE MELE, MONACO and CAP FERRAT. Target times will be 20 minutes ahead of Bomber Target times in that area. At completion of strafing conduct medium altitude Fighter sweep of bomber Target Area.

2.

Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing attack GUN POSITIONS in ST. TROPEZ area of SOUTH FRANCE at 1630B and 1640B, 14 August 1944. This is PLAN ABLE.

ALTERNATE TARGETS: None.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 460 and 485 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 9,000 and 10,000 feet. 460 approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTANURA at 1338B.

Group Rendezvous: 465 and 464 line rendezvous from CORATO to ANDRIA at 9,000 and 10,000 feet. 464 falling in behind 465 in 465 area prior to rendezvous. 465 over CORATO at 1336B.

WING RENDEZVOUS: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 1349B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: None.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Loose column of Groups 55th Wing (460, 485, 465 & 464).

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to MELFI to LIDO (4144N - 1214E) to Control Point ALCIOLD POINT (4242N - 0903E) to (4250N - 0730E) to IPs to Targets.

Altitude at LIDO - 12,000 feet.

Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude (4228N - 0950E).

Control Point Time: 1548B

INITIAL POINTS: 460 and 465 (4310N - 0700E) 485 and 464 (4250N - 0640E).

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

TARGET ELEVATION: Sea Level.

RALLY: 460 and 465 RIGHT to (4320N - 0730E) 485 and 464 LEFT to (4340N - 0605E).

ROUTE BACK: Rally Points to PIOBINO (4256N - 1032E) to Base.

3.

a.

The 460th Group will attack GUN POSITIONS as shown on inclosed target chart and annotated photograph at 1630B. Axis of Attack: Able Box - 335 deg., Baker Box - 310 deg., Charlie Box - 295 deg., Dog Box - 290 deg.

b.

The 485th Group will attack GUN POSITIONS as shown on inclosed target charts and annotated photograph at 1630B. Axis of Attack: Able Box - 298 deg., Baker Box - 318 deg., Charlie Box - 359 deg., Dog Box - 330 deg.

c.

The 465th Group will attack GUN POSITIONS as shown on inclosed target chart and annotated photograph at 1640B. Axis of Attack: Able Box - 335 deg., Baker Box - 310 deg., Charlie Box - 295 deg., Dog Box - 290 deg.

d.

The 464th Group will attack GUN POSITIONS as shown on inclosed target chart and annotated photograph at 1640B. Axis of Attack:

Able Box - 298 deg., Baker Box - 318 deg., Charlie Box - 359 deg., Dog Box - 330 deg.

x.

All Groups load: 5 - 1000# GP bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail. Intervalometer Setting 50 feet. Wing Rendezvous will be accomplished in the normal manner, at the control point the 465 and 464 Groups will execute a 360 degrees turn and then continue on course maintaining at least a ten (10) minute interval between the second and third Groups.

Targets will be hit in two (2) waves ten (10) minutes apart, two Groups composing a wave. Bombing will be conducted by individual boxes, boxes will break off at the IP (designated by the Group Leaders firing a GREEN-GREEN flare) and assume their individual bomb runs. Boxes will reform as a Group after Rally.

Routes MUST be flown as briefed. Avoid all shipping by at least 10 miles.

Bomb ONLY briefed targets by VISUAL means. There are no alternate targets, if primary cannot be bombed, bombs will be returned to Base or jettisoned in the Sea. 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 MSOK. 1 box NFCK."

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

PIOMBINO A/D (4258N - 1038E) has adequate facilities for servicing and prepared landing strip 200 x 6,000 feet. Bombers will land here if they are unable to make Base. Do NOT land in CORSICA unless in extreme emergency.

PFF STAND DOWN.

All crews will be briefed on recognition of BRITISH and AMERICAN Naval A/C.

Attention of briefing Officers is directed to FLYING CIRCULAR #94, attached to this order.

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: 4 Groups SHORTBREAD, 1 Group PUSSCAT 2, 47th Wing - SAXHORN 2, 49th Wing - PUSSCAT 1, 55th Wing - PUSSCAT 3 (460 - PUSSCAT 3 Leader, 485 - PUSSCAT 32, 465 - PUSSCAT 33, 464 - PUSSCAT 34) 304th Wing - SAXHORN 1.

Fighter Call Signs: None.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - SNOB, 47th Wing - SHANTY, 49th Wing - SHAMPOO, 55th Wing - WOLF, 304th Wing - DIAMOND, 306th Wing - HURRICANE.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 2 cartons Window in lead 3 A/C of each box dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until clear of Flak. Radio discipline must be observed, IFF will be switched "ON" at all times.

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 460 & 465 Gps 55BW.
3 cys 464 & 485 Gps 55BW.
1 cy CG 306 Fighter Wg.
1 cy CG XV AF.