

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

15 August 1944
1600B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 154)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 154)

This is Plan A.

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BERNE Sectional) 1:500,000
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BOLZANO Sectional) 1:500,000

Target Charts: No. 13-60-NA (OBER RADERACH)

 No. 14-13-NA (INNSBRUCK)

 No. 4-138-NA (AVISIO)

Illustration No. 3(K)14/1 (OBER RADERACH)

Illustration No. 6(d)(vi)116/1 (INNSBRUCK)

Photographs: Print No. 5011, 15SG/575/5PG/18 July 44

Report No. D.B. 90 - Print No. 4301 (AVISIO)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) FRIEDRICHSHAFEN - Flak Map E 2083, based on sortie of 20 July shows concentration of guns to the S and SE of target. Length of time bombers will be exposed to flak should be considerably less than experienced on last attack on FRIDRICHSHAFEN target. In view of this factor and the right rally, flak to be encountered may be MAH.

(2) INNSBRUCK - This target was last attacked on 13 June, when M-IAH flak was encountered. Flak Map E 1735, based on sortie 14 June, amended by written report 29 July 1944 shows heaviest concentration to the S, SW, and W from city. The left rally will take bombers away from the area.

(3) AVISIO - The AVISIO VIADUCT is located on the edge of the TRENTO Belt of defenses. Flak map of 7 July, shows no flak defenses in immediate area of target. However, last attack on 3 August drew M-IAH flak which would indicate the enemy has increased considerably the flak defenses.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) In defense of FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, the enemy can draw upon fighters from the MUNICH, NURENBURG, and VIENNA areas. Total capabilities of enemy are approximately 150 SEF and probably a few TEF, according to Fifteenth Air Force Intelligence Annex dated 16 August 1944. Since 40 of these e/a must be committed by the VIENNA

area, as well as 40 from the NURENBURG area, the total opposition may be lower than the enemy air capability of 150.

(2) On 3 Aug 44, when the Wing attacked a target in the FRIEDRICHSHAFEN area, the e/a encountered were particularly aggressive and represented first line a/c.

(3) The latest photo coverage, 14 August, of the UDINE area revealed no SEF at VILLA ORBA which may indicate that opposition against bombers enroute or on return may not develop. However, Fifteenth Air Force advises that this is only a possibility and that 15-20 ME-109s may be airborne against bombers on penetration or withdrawal.

(4) The total air opposition will be influenced by whether the Eighth Air Force operates in South or Central GERMANY before the Air Force attacks. Past experience has shown the enemy unable to oppose successfully the Eighth and Fifteenth Air Force when attacks are simultaneous or approximately at the same time. Briefings will stress the fact that in a single attack by either of the two Air Forces, the enemy is capable of formidable air opposition.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS

(1) OBER RADERACH Chemical Works - There is an urgent necessity for the destruction of this plant. The plant originally produced 31% of the total production fuel for pilotless and jet propelled aircraft, Since attack on the other two large producers of fuel for jet propelled aircraft, this target becomes the most important remaining plant in EUROPE. In view of the enemy's present plans to produce and use operationally this type of aircraft, destruction of the Chemical works will constitute a major share in hindering such a movement.

(2) INNSBRUCK M/Y - The latest photo coverage of this yard, as of 26 July, showed a total of 470 wagons present in the yards and shops, Since the cover is not too recent, the figure may have increased or decreased. Destruction of this yard will temporarily cut rail communications lines feeding the ITALIAN front.

(3) AVISIO VIADUCT - Destruction of this viaduct will sever the main N to S line running from BOLZANO through TRIESTE to MODENA.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack

(1) 49th Bombardment Wing (3 Groups) attacks KEMPTEN A/C Factory.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing will provide 3 Groups of fighters for penetration escort, target cover, and withdrawal support. Particular attention by escort will be given to the 55th Bomb Wing.

c. Briefing Officers will include pertinent instruction on SWITZERLAND.

3. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

a. Crews will be briefed to report all information on e/a encountered or observed as to type, markings, encounters or approach showing probable origin of location of e/a.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

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