

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

17 August 1944
1800B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 155)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 155)

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

GSGS No. 4375 ROMANIA 1:350,000 (BUCURESTI)

GSGS No. 4375 ROMANIA 1:50,000 (PRAHOVA)

Zone map of PLOESTI

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

Pathfinder Chert 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)

Target Charts No. 11-100B-NA (PLOESTI, North)

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

 No. 8-21-NA (KRALJEVO)

 No. 8-42-NA (LAPOVO)

 No. 8-49-NA (CUPRIJA RR BR)

Briefing Cherts No. 11-100B-NA (PLOESTI, North)

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

 No. 8-42-NA (LAPOVO)

Photographs No. 5020, PLOESTI (North) 60PR/82/60 Sqdn/24 Oct 43

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

Illustration No. S/101/8,9,10,11,12,13,14,17

 No. S/102/4,5,6,12.

 No. S/112/2

Target Information Sheets No. 11-100-NA, 11-101-NA.

 No. BR 1,2,3,4,12

Interpretation Report No. DB 175, 11 Aug 44

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK: In view of the tactical plan of this attack, it is possible only to make the general statement that IAH flak is to be expected over whatever specific target is attacked. Relative intensity and time of exposure will depend upon IP and axis. It will be necessary for S-2 to make a flak analysis of each target run on the basis of the Operations Order, not available at the present time of writing. Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force estimates that capability of concentrated fire may be lessened by saturation attacks. The general area will be attacked by Wellingtons tonight. Units attacking from Southwest must make sharpest possible right rally.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force estimates enemy opposition from air on limited scale only. Maximum enemy effort will be 35-40 SEF in target area. It is possible that

following today's attacks enemy will conserve his effort on 18 August to the extent that not all of maximum capability will be airborne and that some of those airborne may not establish contact. It is considered that after operations against e/a at NIS on 17 Aug, fighters based there will not be available for operations against formations attacking PLOESTI on 18 Aug. The attack against NIS on 17 Aug appears to have been successful. As part of the strategic plan for 18 Aug ALIBUNAR A/D will be attacked, thus further reducing enemy's capability of opposing formations by e/a.

c. Smoke screens are to be expected, but tactical plan will reduce their effectiveness. Attack during night of 17/18 Aug will tend to exhaust capacity of generators, and extent of distributed attacks on 18 Aug will further exhaust them.

d. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET: An all-out effort is now being made completely to immobilize entire PLOESTI area for maximum length of time. This objective is coordinated with sustained attack on oil targets in GERMANY by Eighth Air Force. Results of previous attacks on enemy oil targets are already apparent in his limited capability of sustaining armored forces, aircraft, and transport operations. Success of this 18 Aug attack plus remaining oil targets in overall strategic plan will have quick and decisive result in immobilization of enemy's war equipment.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th, 47th, and 55th Wings attack one of designated targets listed in Operations Order.

(2) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, attacks ALIBUNAR A/D.

(3) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks CAMPINA STEUA ROMANO O/R.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing (5 Groups) will provide escort for Bombers.

c. Escape Briefing will cover all areas en route, and will include latest information.

d. PHOTO INTELLIGENCE: Every effort will be expended to secure the strike assessment report at the earliest possible moment. As soon as the assessment is complete it will be transmitted by telephone to this headquarters without delay. In the event of clouds or smoke obscuring the target an estimate of the probable point of impact will be made and immediately telephoned to this headquarters.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea CG, A-2 Duty O, Fifteenth AF
1 cy CG, 306th Fighter Wing
1 cy ea co, A-2, A-3, PI, 55th Bomb Wing
3 cys ea Gp, 55th Bomb Wing