

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

17 August 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

:

NUMBER 155)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

205 Group Night Bombers will attack PLOESTI the night of 17/18 AUGUST 1944.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack PLOESTI REFINERIES. Key Point Time: 0930B. ALTERNATE TARGET: CREDITUL MINIER O/R or COLOMBIA AQUIIA O/R.

6 Groups of 5th Wing attack PLOESTI REFINERIES. Key Point Time: 1030B. ALTERNATE TARGET: PLOESTI DACIA ROMANA, ROMANA AMERICANA, XENIA O/Rs.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack CAMPINA/STEUEA ROMANO O/R. Key Point Time: 1100B.

3 Groups of 49th Wing Frag A/C on ALIBUNAR A/D (4505N - 2058E) at 0910B.

6 a/c of 154 Weather Squadron provide observation ships over target area from 0930 to 1045B. See Paragraph 3x.

5 Groups Fighters of 306th Wing provide close escort for 5, 47, 55, and 304th Wings, conduct medium altitude sweep of ALIBUNAR A/D.

2.

a.

Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing attack PLOESTI targets 18 August 1944. 30 minutes from the Target the Wing Air Commander will decide which one of the seven targets he will attack on the basis of information transmitted to him at that time by a Weather Reconnaissance a/c over PLOESTI. If this information is not received, the Wing will attack the first Alternate Target.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: ASTRA ROMANO O/R.

SECOND ALTERMATE TARGET: UNIREA SPERANTZA/STANDARD O/R.

LAST RESORT TARGETS: KRALJEVO and CUPRIJA BRIDGES and LAPOVO M/Ys.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 460 and 485 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 6,000 and 7,000 feet. 460 approaching ALTAMURA from

TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTAMURA at 0713B.

Group Rendezvous: 464 and 465 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 5,000 and 7,000 feet, 465 falling in behind 464 in 464 area prior to rendezvous. 464 over ANDRIA at 0716B.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0729B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

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

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to ULCINJ (4156N 1912E) to SVODE (4259N 2217E) to POLANA MR (4355N 2304E) to COTOFENII (4428N 2340E) to Key Point DRAGASANI (4440N 2417E), If decision is made to attack XENIA, DACIA or ROMANA AMERICANA route will be DRAGASANI to BUSTERA (4526N - 2532E) to TELEAJENUL (4587N - 2557E) to IP to Target. Route to other Refineries DRAGASANI to IP to Target, Altitude at YUGOSLAVIA COAST 12,000 ft. Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude DAKOVICA (4223N - 2026E). Key Point Time: 1000B at 23,000 feet.

TARGET TIME: 1030B to 1100B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 460 - 24,400 feet, 485 - 25,200 feet, 464 - 26,000 feet, 465 - 25,000 feet.

TARGET ELEVATION: 500 feet.

ROUTE BACK: Rally Point to FERLINAND (4325N - 2312E) to SVODE (4259N - 2217E) to ULCINJ (4155N - 1912E) to Bases.

3.

x.

7 Oil Targets are assigned for attack as primary targets by this Wing. They are listed in order of priority with additional necessary information.

1. ASTRA ROMANA, IP COJAMA (4444N - 2551E), Axis of Attack: 37 deg.

Rally: PIT to LAKE SNAGOV (4444N - 2609E).

2. UNIRE SPARANTZA/STANDARD, IP COJAMA, Axis of Attack: 29 degrees.

Rally: RIGHT to LATE SNAGOV.

3. XENIA, IP VALENI di MUNTE (4512N - 2602E). Axis of Attack: 193 degrees. Rally: RIGHT to BRANISTEA (4442N - 2543E).

4. DACIA ROMANA, IP SAIMARI (4511N - 2612E). Axis of Attack: 209 degrees.

Rally: LEFT to GHERHITA (4448N 2615E) then RIGHT to FERDINAND.

5. ROMANA AMERICANA, IP VALENI di MUNTE. Axis of Attack: 168 degrees.

Rally: LEFT to CIORAN (4450N - 2625E) then RIGHT to FERDINAND.

6. COLOMBIA AQUIIA, IP BRANTESTI (4452N - 2532E). Axis of Attack: 81 degrees. Rally: RIGHT to CIOIOC (4441N - 2602E).

7. CREDITUL MINIER, IP SUSEMI (4446N - 2547E). Axis of Attack: 44 deg. Rally: RIGHT to GHERITA.

A P-38 Recon a/c will contact 55th Wing Leader between 1000-1005B and between 1015-1020B on Channel A. Information transmitted will include cloud coverage and height, direction and force of surface wind and smoke and assigned numbers of the targets which can be attacked visually. Wing Leader will decide after first weather flight broadcast which target he will attack on the basis of this information. He will then notify Group Leaders of his decision on Channel B, giving number of target to be attacked and take up the proper heading to the respective IP.

All weather a/c will be prepared to broadcast ten minutes before the times listed above, at the call of the Wing Air Commander. Wing Leader will attempt to contact weather ship at times listed above. If contact is not made, weather plane will start broadcasting on schedule. After the first transmission is completed weather a/c will pause for questions before starting repeat transmission. They will be properly identified by authentication code given in paragraph 5f.

All Groups load 8 - 500 # GP bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail. Intervalometer settings: 50 feet. MPI for PLOESTI targets will be the center of the Refinery. PFF will fly lead, deputy lead and second attack unit lead in each Group. Wing will fly close RIGHT echelon en route and close column over the Target. If radio contact is not made between Wing Leader and Groups at proper time giving them information as to which target is to be attacked, Groups will follow Wing Leader closely and attempt to determine by route he is following which target is to be attacked. Wing Leader will fire a GREEN GREEN flare at the IP and this signal will be passed on by each succeeding Group passing over the IP.

Use PFF for approach from IP. If Target is open last minute correction will be made to bomb visually.

Wing Leader must make sure his VHF is in perfect working order prior to take off.

LAST RESORT: 460th and 485th KRALJEVO RR BRIDGES.

Initial Point: BUKOVAC (4407N - 2128E).

Axis of Attack: 208 degrees.

Rally: LEFT.

Route Back: Rally to middle LAKE SKADARSKO to Base.

Method of Attack: Column of Groups.

Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

LAST RESORT: 464th CUPRIJA RR BRIDGE.

Initial Point: BUKOVAC (4407N - 2128E).

Axis of Attack: 208 degrees.

Rally: LEFT.

ROUTE BACK: Rally to Middle LAKE SKADARSKO to Base.

Method of Attack: Column of Boxes.

Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

LAST RESORT: 465 LAPOVO M/Y.

Initial Point: BUROVAC (4417N - 2122E).

Axis of Attack: 242 degrees.

Rally: LEFT.

Route Back: Rally to middle of LAKE SKADARSKO to Base.

Method of Attack: Column of Boxes.

Intervalometer Settings: 25 feet.

4.

No Change.

5.

a.

Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication within the Group. VHF Channel "E" 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 - SHAPELY, 47th Wing - CANTAB, 49th Wing - TRUEMAN, 55th Wing - ADMIN (460 - ADIN Leader, 485 - ADMIN 2, 464 ADMIN 3, 465 - ADMIN 4) 304th Wing - SOMEGLIRL.

d.

Fighter Call Sign For: 5th Wing - RUBBISH, 47th Wing - FREEZOL, 49th Wing - FLATBUSH, 55th Wing - THICKRUG, 304th Wing - PLATOON, Weather Recon Ship - ASHTRAY.

e.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - ABBOTT, 47th Wing - PANHANDLE, 49th Wing - PICKPOCKET, 55th Wing - BARFLY, 304th Wing - MOONGLOW, 306th Wing - PING PONG.

f.

Upon receiving weather broadcast leaders will request authentication of broadcast using one the 5 challenge reply pairs listed below.

Example of authentication procedure would be: Hello ASHTRAY this is ADMIN calling, what is your SWEATSHIRT. Weather Recon would then reply: Hello ADMIN this is ASHTRAY my SWEATSHIRT is BASEBALL.

Challenge SWEATSHIRT, Reply BASEBALL, Challenge POKER, reply BLACKJACK, Challenge RUMRUNNER, reply BOOTLEGGER, Challenge ROTATION, reply DUCKSOUP, Challenge MARSHLAND, reply POOLTABLE.

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 3 cartons Window in lead attack units of each Group dispensing 4 small bundles every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until clear of Flak. Radio

discipline must be enforced. Standard bombs away signals will be observed.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DEWITT L. JONES,  
Major, Air Corps,  
Ass't A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.  
5 cys ea 460 & 465 BG 55BW.  
3 cys ea 464 & 485 BG 55BW.  
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wg.  
1 cy CG XV AF.