

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

23 August 1944
1810B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 160)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 160)

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

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

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

GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (PRAGUE) 1:250,000

GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (VIENNA) 1:250,000

GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (GRAZ) 1:250,000

Target Chart No. 15-7-NA (FANTO O/R and PARDUBICE A/D)

Briefing Chart No. 15-7-NA

Target Chart No. 14-15-NA (ST VALENTIN)

Target Chart No. 14-26-NA (MARKERSDORF etc)

Illustration No. 1(a)(ii)45/1 (PARDUBICE)

Photographs: prints and wet negatives distributed with order.

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) Unless Heavy Guns have recently been brought in, target is undefended by Heavy Flak. E Report No. 1700 issued 12 June 44, sortie 28 May, is negative. It is noted that night attack on 21/22 July 44 drew scant flak.

(2) ST VALENTIN Tanks Works: Reference to & Section Map No. 1730, amended by Report No. E/2243, 10 Aug 44, indicates that with axis of attack ordered formation will be within range of 10 Heavy Guns, the target being in the Northeast sector of an area defended by 28 Heavy Guns. A prompt left rally will clear formation of Northern defenses of STEYR.

(3) MARKERSDORF: No Heavy flak.

b. Smoke screen at target is probable. Photographic coverage issued is for purpose of target identification study in preparation for offset bombing.

c. Oil Storage tanks are camouflaged by netting, and buildings are camouflaged by "protective coloring" paint to blend with surrounding natural features.

d. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) On route to targets it is possible that 15-20 ME-109s from VILLAORBA may intercept in area North of FIUME.

(2) The diversionary feint by 47th Wing may draw off some of enemy fighters in VIENNA area.

(3) Enemy capability of e/a airborne in VIENNA area is 60-70.

(4) It is expected that enemy will send 65-75 ME-109s and FW-190s into VIENNA area from MUNICH area. Some of these may establish contact in LAKE BALATON area, some near VIENNA, some Northeast of MUNICH.

(5) Enemy is capable of dispatching 40-50 SEF from NUREMBURG area, establishing contact in target area or on withdrawal through MUNICH-VIENNA line.

(6) Second sorties on return are to be expected, including some e/a from VILLAORBA searching for stragglers.

(7) These estimates are with reference to attacks by 3 Wings, 14 Groups. Attacking a/c will have adequate escort.

(8) It is possible that Eighth Air Force may operate in Central GERMANY, with earlier target times; if so e/a opposition will be on scale less than above estimates.

(9) It will be borne in mind that enemy has in recent operations directed concentrated and aggressive attacks against bomber formations, concentrating on single Wing and single Group within Wing. Lack of opposition by this wing on recent operations must not be allowed to induce the attitude of false security. Crews, especially gunners must constantly be on the alert for e/a.

e. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET: Apparently successful attack on KORNEUBURG and ODERTAL on 22 August 1944 leaves PARDUBICE and KOLIN the two top priority oil targets except for policing of PLOESTI. PARDUBICE O/R is the largest oil plant in CZECHOSLOVAKIA in current production, and the fifth largest in EUROPE. PARDUBICE is currently producing 3,000 tons of gasoline per month. Because of its proximity to GERMANY its importance is the greater at present, when enemy's need for oil is critical and shortages have already appeared with seriously crippling effect.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks PARDUBICE A/D installations and dispersed a/c.

(2) 47th Wing, in a diversionary effort, attacks SZEGED RR Bridge (2 Groups) and VINCOVICI M/Y (2 Groups).

(3) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, attacks FERRARA RR Bridge.

(4) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks KOLIN O/R.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing furnishes escort for 5th, 55th, and 304th Bombardment Wings.

c. Escape Intelligence Briefing will include latest information on CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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