

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

25 August 1944

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 162)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 162)

This is Plan Baker

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (VIENNA) 1:500,000
GSCS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (BOLOGA) 1:250,000
GSGS No. 4164 ITALY 1:100,000 FERRARA Sheet 76
Target Chart No. 4-78-NA (FERRARA, ITALY)
Briefing Chart No. 4-78-NA (FERRARA, ITALY)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) Flak defense of the RR bridge at FERRARA has been materially increased in recent days. E Map 1863, issued 2 July, amended by written reports E 2166, 31 July; E 2197, 4 Aug; 2336, 20 Aug; 2340, 21 Aug; show the target to be in a highly concentrated system of AA defenses. The maximum time in which formation will be exposed on course and rally ordered, is 3 minutes. Unconfirmed by E series Reports, there have been Heavy Guns reported in immediate vicinity of RCVIGO 4504N1147E. However, by adhering strictly to briefed route, this area will be avoided.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: There are about 35 SEF (based at AVIANO and GHEDI) which are within extreme limits of operational range of target. While it is possible that these may intercept, it is not probable, especially since 5th Wing will be operating within their practical range. When target was attacked 23 and 24 Aug 44 no e/a were seen. The fact that no fighter escort is furnished indicates the judgment that no e/a opposition is to be expected.

c. Latest flak map shows smoke generators placed for defense of target.

d. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET: Enemy troop movements make it imperative that FERRARA railway bridge be taken out. It is the last remaining bridge over the PO RIVER. Target is now heavily defended by flak that it is inaccessible to medium bombers and must be attacked from high altitude. Two Bombardment Wings have already been dispatched to this target; neither has been successful in destroying it. The satisfaction in the consequent judgment that the "first team" is now being sent in is balanced by the realization of the obligation thus imposed.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Strategic plan for 26 Aug involves attacks on communications in Northern ITALY and on enemy communications, 4/Ds, and Army Barracks in RUMANIA.

b. Coordination of attack is as follows:

- (1) 5th Wing: 2 Groups attack AVISIO viaduct
5th Wing: 2 Groups attack VENZONE viaduct
4620N1309E
5th Wing: 2 Groups attack BOGOVNICA Bridge
4555N1422E.
- (2) 47th Wing: 2 Groups attack Boat Ferry on DANUBE
between GIURGIU and RUSE (RUSCHUK)
47th Wing: 2 Groups posthole BUCHAREST/OTOPENI
A/D 4434N2605E.
- (3) 49th Wing: 3 Groups posthole BUCHAREST/OTOPENI A/D
4434N2605E.
- (4) 304th Wing: 4 Groups attack Army Barracks near
BANEASA (near BUCHAREST) 4630N2605E.

c. The 306th Fighter Wing provides escort for the 5th, 47th, 49th, and 304th Bombardment Wings, and a free lance force on OTOPENI-BANEASA.

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