

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

25 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 162)

1:

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

4 Groups of 304th Wing destroy German Army Barracks Areas near BANEASA A/D at 1035B. Key Point Time: 0735B.

3 Groups of 49th Wing Posthole OTOPEMI A/D at 1050B. Key Point Time: 0803B. Alternate Target: NIS M/Y.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack RUSCHUK Train Ferry near GIURGIU and Posthole OTOPEMI A/D at 1100B. Key Point Time: 0818B. Alternate Target: Ferry Terminal at GIURGIU and NIS M/Y.

6 Groups of 5th Wing attack AVISIO and VENZONI Viaducts and BOGOVNICA RR Bridges. Key Point Time: 0915B. Alternate Targets: PINZANO, CASARSA and LATISANA Bridges over the TAGLIAMENTO River.

306th Wing provide adequate penetration, target and withdrawal cover for 5th, 47th, 49th and 304th Wings and free lance cover in OPTOPENI-BANEASA Area.

2.

Normal effort of 2 Groups of the 55th Wing destroy FERARRA RR Bridge at 0958B, 26 August 1944. This is Plan Baker.

ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 465 rendezvous in normal area at 6000 feet. Over AMDRIA at 0724P.

460 rendezvous in normal area at 6000 feet, approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. Over ALTAMURA at 0734B.

465th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0735B. 460 over SPINAZZOLA at 0745B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: General Cover in target area.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: For Italian targets: Loose column - 5th, 55th, (465-460).

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to 4200N 1620E to Key Point (4440N 1310E) to PIOVEDIS (4517N 1201E) to ESTE (4515N 1140E) to IP to Target. Last Point to start climb to Bombing Altitude: 4200N 1620E. Key Point Time: 0925B at 21,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: BADIA POLESINE (4505N 1130E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 158 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 0958B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 465 - 22,500'; 460 - 23000'.

TARGET ELEVATION: 30'.

RALLY: Left to COMACCHIO (4442N 1211E).

ROUTE BACK: COMACCHIO to 4430N 1300E to 4200N 1620E to Base.

3.

x.

464 and 485 Groups stand down.

465 and 460 load 6 - 1000# GP Bombs fused .1 nose and non-delay tail. Intervalometer settings: 50'. Use MPI as shown on target chart.

The target will be attacked in 2 waves, (One Group comprising a wave), 10 minutes apart. Groups will bomb by attack units. This target must be destroyed.

Fly loose column enroute and column of attack units over the target.

Route must be flown exactly as briefed. Accurate timing is essential. Groups must remain 10 minutes apart. Wing VHF Ground Station will inform 460 at SPINAZZOLA of the exact time the 465 left on course.

PFF Stand Down.

If Primary Target cannot be bombed, bombs will be returned to base.

Following Flak areas must be avoided: PADOVA, OSTIGLIA, RAVENMA, MARINO, MEZZOGORO.

4.

No Change.

5:

a.

Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication within the Group. VHF Wing Channel "B" 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 - SEEDCAKE 1; 55th Wing - SEEDCAKE 2 (460 - SEEDCAKE 2 Leader, 465 - SEEDCAKE 22).

d.

Fighter Call Sign For: 5th Wing - SANDSAIL 1; 55th Wing - SANDSAIL 2.

e.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - PANHANDLE; 47th Wing - PICKPOCKET; 49th Wing - BARFLY; 55th Wing - FLATBUSH; 304th Wing - SCARFACE; 306th Wing - DOGFACE.

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped.

Load 3 cartons Window in lead attack unit of each Group dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until clear of Flak.

Standard Bombs Away signals will be observed.

Radio discipline must be enforced.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JOHN N. MEICHER,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

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