

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

26 Aust 1944

INTELLIGECE ANNEX NO. 163 )

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 163 )

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (PRAHN) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (T TiD) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (KHANO) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BUDAPEST) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BROGRAD) 1:500,000  
GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (GLELWITZ) 1:950,000  
Target Charts No. 13-108-NA (BLECHHAMMER South)  
No. 15-17-NA (BOHUMIN)  
No. 12-11-NA ( . . )  
Pathfinder Charts: No. 23 GERMANY (BLECHHAMMER) 1:250,000  
No. 23 A  
No. 23 Supplement  
Target Photochart No. TP 13-2 (BLECHHAMMER) 1:63,350  
Illustration No. 1(a) (iii) 40/1,4,5  
E (I) Reports No. 183,233,258 BLECHHAMMER  
No. 177 BOHUMIN  
D8 Reports No. 133,146,152, 172,186 (BLECHHAMMER)  
Target Information Sheet Op. No. G. 1569 (BLECHHAMMER)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) At BLECHHAMMER South IAH flak will be encountered. Ordered axis and rally insure maximum time of exposure to flak. For information of Intelligence and Operations Officers (it is not recommended that statistics be cited in briefing) the 5x4, 2x5, 13x6, and 1x8 batteries of heavy guns are pinpointed on section Map No. 2322, issued 18 Aug. 1944, sortie 6 July 1944, corrected by (written) Reports Nos. 2246, 3267, 2277, 2307, 8365 corrects information as of 25 August 1944. Latest information indicates 6x4 and 2x6 batteries of heavy guns unoccupied.

(2) BOHUMIN O/R lies within extreme range of flak defense of MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA (PRIVOZ) O/R, totaling 22 heavy guns. On ordered axis formation will be in range of 1x6 heavy guns N of target. Scant heavy flak is to be expected if this first alternate target is attacked, with possibility of Moderate. For pinpoint sec E Section rec No. 1820, 28 June 1944, and J Report No. 2562, 11 August 1944.

(3) SAMDrSERVAR A/D is defended by 3 heavy guns. Scant flak is to be expected if this Second Alternate target is attacked. Latest report is E Section No. 1586, 3 June 1944.

b. Smoke screen, doubtless effective, will be employed at BLECHHAMMER South. Positions of generators are shown on E Section Map No. 2009, issued 15 July 1944. Intelligence Officers will place all target informations material at disposal of Navigators and Bombardiers for study prior to briefing to assist in adequate preparation for offset on PMI bombing.

c. ENEMY AIRCRAFT. Intelligence annex Fifteenth Air Force advises as follows:

(1) Initial contact is expected in LAKE BALATON-VIENNA-GYOR line, by 35 ME-109 a/c from VIENNA plus 15 ME-109 a/c from South HUNGARY airfields.

(2) Past experience has shown that e/a from MUNICH area have established contact between LAKE BALATON and VIENNA areas, and it is within enemy capability of enemy to commit them on this occasion. In this event 35 e/a (ME-109 and FW-190) may attack, in which case VIENNA based e/a may follow formations toward target. See sub-paragraph (6) below.

(3) Enemy is capable of committing 25 SEF from MUNICH plus 40-50 ME-109 e/a from Central GERMANY. see sub-paragraph (5) below.

(4) Few second sorties in VIENNA-GYOR line are to be expected.

(5) The Force of e/a in target area may be reduced, by reason of two factors: commitments on RUSSIAN front, and possibility of operations in Eastern or Central GERMANY by Eight Air Force.

(6) Eighth Air Force may operate in Eastern or Central GERMANY; if so, this will probably result in e/a in MUNICH area being used against ENGLAND based bombers, or being retained at bases.

(7) Crews, especially gunners, must be briefed on recent enemy fighter tactics, particularly attacking a single Wing or Group, utilizing cloud cover, if any, to conceal approach.

d. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET. The objective of this attack is the policing of the potentially major source of synthetic oil.

BLECHHAMMER South repairs, following latest attack, are well advanced and will enable plant to resume production within a week unless destroyed. At present all primary oil objectives have been accomplished with success; gasoline production within operational range of Fifteenth Air Force has been reduced to less than 10% of total produced prior to 10 April 1944. It is expected that this attack will keep GERMANY's largest remaining synthetic oil plant out of production and immobilized for a considerable period in view of the

possibility that unavoidable weather any interrupt further policing. Every effort should be made to nit as many vital installations as possible.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

### a. Coordination of attach

(1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks BLECHHAMMER North O/R

(2) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks BLECHHAMMER South O/R

(3) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, will posthole BUCHAREST/CTOP

(4) 47th Wing stands down.

b. 306th Fighter Wing: 6 Groups furnish penetration, target, and withdrawal for 5th, 55th, and 304th Wings; 1 Group makes a medium altitude sweep in BUCHAREST area 20 minutes ahead of the 49th Wing.

### c. ????

(1) Crews will observe effects of smoke screen, and note number and location of generators.

(2) Full data of a/c will be reported, especially tactics. Exact time and place are essential data.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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