

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

26 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 163)

1.
a.
See Intelligence Annex.

b.

6 Groups of 5th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER NORTH SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT at 1200B. Key Point Time: 0910B. Alternate Targets: BOHUMIN O/R, MORAVSKA OSTRAVA/PRIVOZ O/R, SZEKESFEHERVAR A/D INSTALLATIONS, PECS M/Y.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack BLECHHAMMER SOUTH SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT at 1223B. Key Point Time: 0934B.

2 Groups of 49th Wing posthole OTOPENI A/D at 1030B. Alternate Target: NIS M/Y.

47th Wing - Stand Down.

6 Groups Fighters of 306th Wing provide penetration, target and withdrawal cover for 5th, 55th and 304th Wings. 1 Group conduct free-lance medium altitude sweep of BUCHAREST area 20 minutes before 49th Wing target time.

2.
Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing attack and destroy BLECHHAMMER SOUTH SYNTHETIC OIL PLANT at 1213B, 27 August 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: BOHUMIN O/R.

LAST RESORT TARGET: SZEKESFEHERVAR A/D.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 485th and 460th line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 5000 and 6000 feet. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485th over ALTAMURA at 0819B.

Group Rendezvous: 465th and 464th line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 7000 and 6000 feet. 464th falling in behind 465th in 465th area prior to rendezvous. 465th over ANDRIA at 0821B.

Wing Rendezvous: 485th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0830B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Close left echelon of Wings, 5th, 55th (485-460-465-464), 304th.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to key point SCEDRO ISLE (43 05N, 16 43E) to PITOMACA (45 58N, 17 14E) to ERSEKUJVAR (47 59N, 1 09E) to PREROV (49 27N, 17 27E)

5th Wing then direct to IP (JAGERNDORF (5005N 1742B) 55 and 304th Wings PREROV to MARH SCHONBERG (4958N 1659E) to IP to target. Last Point to start climb to be at Lake BALATON at 18,000':(4429N 1711E). Last Point to start climb to bombing altitude: ERSEKUJVAR Key Point Time: 0924B at 12,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: NEUSTADT (5019N 1734E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 92 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1213B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 485 - 22,600', 460 - 23,200' , 465 - 24,000', 464 - 23,000'.

TARGET ELEVATION: 606 feet.

RALLY: RIGHT to USTRON (4944N 1849E) keeping clear of GLEIWITZ flak.

ROUTE BACK: USTRON to ERSEKUJVAR then reverse route out.

3.

x.

All groups load 10-500 # GP bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail. Intervalometer settings: All groups 150 feet. Use MPI as shown on attached target chart.

Wing will fly close column enroute and over the target.

It is imperative that close formation of Wings be maintained for maximum fighter protection. In rally off target groups ad Wings must maintain compact formation with air speed sufficiently reduced to enable stragglers to regain proper positions.

PFF lead all groups.

Conservation of fuel is essential. Top tanks after preflight.

Bombardiers and Mickey operators must be briefed to expect conditions

necessitating bombing by PFF or offset methods.

Each PF team should be furnished full compliment of PF and offset charts for the primary target. In addition the deputy lead of the 2nd attack should have complete offset material.

First Alternate: BOHUMIN O/R.

Initial Point: RATIBOR (5006N 1813E).

Axis of Attack: 157 degrees.

Rally: LEFT to ZEBRZYDOWIC (4953N 1837E).
Route Back: ZEBRZYDOWIC to USTRON (4944N 1849E) then same as primary.
Method of attack: Column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer Settings: 75 feet.

Last Resort: SZEKESFEHERVAR A/D.
Initial Point: BICSKE (4729N 1838E)
Axis of Attack: 203 degrees.
Rally: LEFT to SAROSD (4703N 1838E)
Route Back: SAROSD to PITOMACA then same as primary.
Method of attack: Column of groups using MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer Settings: 50 feet.

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 - GREENHERD 1, 49th Wing - RADCLIFF, 55th Wing - GREENHERD 2, (485-GREENHERD 2 Leader, 460-GREENHERD 22, 465- GREENHERD 23, 464-GREENHERD 24), 304th Wing - GREENHERD 3.

d.
Fighter Call Sign For: 49th Wing - HEADTOP, escort for 5th, 55th, and 304th Wings use ENCORE with suffixed numbers in order of contact.

e.
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - MOONGLOW, 49th Wing - POOLTABLE, 55th Wing - ASHTRAY, 304th Wing - CATWALK, 306th Wing - SNAKEBITE & ROTATION.

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.

Radio discipline must be enforced.

Standard bombs away signals will be observed.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

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