

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

28 August 1944
1830B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 165)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 165)

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (TATRY) 1:500,000
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (WIEN) 1:500,000-
GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BUDAPEST) 1:500,000
GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (TESCUEN) 1:250,000
GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (BRNO) 1:250,000
Briefing Chart No. 15-15-NA (MORAVSKA OSTRAVA/VITKOVICE)
Target Chart No. 15-15-NA (MORAVSKA OSTRAVA/VITKOVICE)
No. 12-25-NA (SZOLNOK M/Y)
No. 12-36-NA (CZEGLED M/Y)
H(C) Report No. 513, 2 July 1944 (with photograph)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) MORAVSKA OSTRAVA: E Section Hap No. 1829, issued 28 June 1944, latest amendment written E Report No. 2262 dated 11 August 1944, shows that formation will be within range of 30 Heavy Guns at target. M-I flak is to be expected.

(2) En route avoid known flak at KOMARON (4745N-1807E) and at GYOR. On return avoid known flak at BROD (4509N-1802E) and at area approximately 20 miles Northwest of BROD (4512N-1738E).

(3) CZEGLED: written report No. E 1465, 24 May 1944 shows no AA defense.

(4) SZOLNOK: written report No. E 1634, 2 June 1944, shows 1 x 4 Heavy battery and 1 X 2 probable Heavy battery. Latest written report No. E 2376, 24 August 1944, covering town and A/D, shows no change in Heavy Gun offenses.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) No opposition is expected below LAKE BALATON.

(2) Enemy is capable of opposition by 40-50 fighters in defense of Northern targets, e/a establishing contacts between VIENNA area and target.

(3) Second sorties from VIENNA area are possible on return.

(4) Negligible or nil opposition on return route East and South of BUDAPEST.

(5) Opposition to be expected is well below enemy capability; not all e/a airborne will establish contact.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS: Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force advises that most successful attacks on BLECHHAMMER South and North have immobilized these major targets. Reconnaissance shows PLOESTI to be virtually deserted. It results that all major oil installations within operational range are out for some time, with possible exception of BRUX. Aside from counter-air attacks the primary objective of strategic bombing is to destroy the maximum amount of ground force equipment which is at present at points closest to the several battle lines. The plan for this operation is a coordinated attack upon an oil target (the destruction of which will clean up the bulk of oil production in CZECHOSLOVAKIA), a tank works, and two Marshalling yards at MORAVSKA OSTRAVA (VITKOVICE). These two yards contain more than 3,000 cars, mostly of military stores and are the focal point of one of the principal points of the distribution of material dispatched to POLISH front. Reconnaissance on 27 August 1944 showed yard to be active, with loaded cars on sidings.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

(1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks MORAVSKA OSTRAVA Main M/Y, PRIVOZ O/R, and BOHUMIN O/R.

(2) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks MORAVSKA OSTRAVA Tanks Works.

(3) 47th Wing: 2 Groups attack FERRARA RR Bridge. 1 Group attacks BOROVNICA RR Bridge, 1 Group attacks SALCANO RR Bridge.

(4) 49th Wing: 2 Groups attack SZEGED, 1 Group attacks SZEGED RR Bridge.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing, 7 Groups, (1) employs droopsnoots (P-38 a/c with Bombs) to attack LATISANA RR Bridge and (2) provides escort for 5th, 55th, and 304th Wings.

c. Crews will be briefed to insure that no bombs are dropped or jettisoned at or in the vicinity of CIESZYN (TESCMEN) (4945M-1838E); there is a Prisoner of War camp at that place,

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
Major, AC,

A-2.

DISTRTRUTION:

- 1 cy ea CO, 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 464 & 485 Gp
- 4 cys 460 & 465 Gp