

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

5 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 144)

1.
a.
See Intelligence Annex.

b
6 Groups of 5th Wing attack LE POUZIN O/S, and RR BRIDGE, and PORTES LES VALENCES M/Y at 1100B. ALTERNATE TARGET: VAR RIVER BRIDGE, LE TEIL HIGHWAY BRIDGE, LA VOULTE RR BRIDGE, PONT ST ESPRIT H/B, ARAMON H/B, and MIRAMAS M/Y.

4 Groups of 304th Wing attack LYON HERRIOT O/S, LYON VAISE O/S, GIVORS RR BRIDGE and ST RAMBERT RR BRIDGE at 1130B. ALTERNATE TARGET: Same as 5th Wing.

3 Groups of 49th Wing attack MIRAMAS M/Y at 1230B. ALTERNATE TARGET: Same as 5th Wing.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack SUBMARINES and DRYDOCKS in TOULON HARBOR at 1300B. ALTERNATE TARGET: Same as 5th Wing.

1 Group of 306th Wing DIVE BOMB A/C ON ORANGE PIAN DE DIEV and VALENCE/LA TRSORERIE A/DS. ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

4 Groups Fighters of 306th Wing Provide general target area cover for 5th, 55th and 304th Wing. Provide CHAFF dispensing A/C for 47th Wing.

2.
4 Groups of the 55th Wing destroy Oil and Communication targets in the AVIGNON AREA of Southern FRANCE at 1200B, 6 August 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: 460 & 485 - East half MIRAMAS M/Y.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: 465 & 464 - West half MIRAMAS M/Y.

LAST RESORT TARGET: All Groups - VAR RIVER BRIDGE.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 460 & 485 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 11,000 and 12,000 feet. 460 approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. 485th approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 460th over ALTAMURA at 0808B.

Group Rendezvous: 465 and 464 line rendezvous from CORATO to ANDRIA at 11,000 and 12,000 feet. 464 falling behind 465 in 465 area prior to rendezvous. 465 over CORATO at 0806B.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0819B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signaled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 5th, 304th, 55th (460,485,465,464), 49th, and 47th.

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to MELFI to TERRACINA to REVELLATA POINT (4235N 0841E) to (4320N 0642E) to MANOSQUE (4350N 0547E) to IP to Targets. Last Point to start climb at Bombing Altitude: REVELLATA POINT.

INITIAL POINT: LISLE-SUR-LA-SORGUE (4355N 0503E).

AXIS OF ATT .. CK: 460 - 233 deg, 485 - 248 deg, 465 - 277 deg, 464 - 294 DEG

TARGET TIME: 1200 B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: (460 - 20,000'', 485 - 21,000', 465 - 21,000', 464 - 22,000').

TARGET ELEVATION: 460, 485 - 25 ft., 465, 464 - 185 foot.

RALLY: 460, 485 LEFT to (4310N 0420E). 465, 464 - LEFT to (4352N 0433E) to (4410N 0420E).

ROUTE BACK: RALLY POINT to (4310N 0420E) to PALAZZO POINT (4222N 0833E) Then reverse route out.

3.

a.

460th Group attack ARLES/ROHNE RR BRIDGE using !PI as shown on inclosed target chart. Intervalometer setting: 25 feet.

b.

485th Group attack TARASCON/RHONE RR BRIDGE using MPI as shown on fnclosed target chart. Intervalometer setting: 25 feet.

c.

465 Group attack AVIGNON/RHONE RR BRIDGE using IPI as shwn on inclosed target chart. Intervalometer setting: 25 feet.

d.

464 Group attack LE PONTET O/S using NPI as shown on inclosed target chart. Load 10-500# RDX fused .1 nose and non-delay tail. Intervalometer setting: 40 feet.

4.

x.

460, 485, 465 Groups load 10-500/ RDX fusod .1 nose and non-delay tail.

Wing will fly close RIGHT echelon on route until roaching FRENCH Coast then fly clumn to IP.

Only specified alternates may be bombed. No targets of opportunity. will be attacked. No bombs will be jettisoned over FRENCH territory.

Bombing will be by visual means only. Do not bomb unless target is specifically identified.

PFF may be used for Navigational aid.

The MEDITERRANEAN Air Commander in Chief has directed that every bomber capable of participation in this attack will be airborne.

CORSICAN A/Ds will be used in emergency only. Every effort will be made to land at home field.

Every effort will be made to conserve fuel. Tanks will be topped off after pre-flight.

Crews will be briefed on proper procedure for letting down through overcast at home field.

First alternate: MIRAMA'S M/Y.

Initial Point: MAUSSANE (4344N 0449E) .

Axis of Attack: 135 degrees

Rally: Slight left to (4342N 0602E).

Route Back: (4342N 0602E) to 4320N 0641E) Then reverse route out.

Method of Attack: Column of groups using MPI as shown on target chart.

Intervalometer settings: All groups 50 feet.

Last resort: VAR RIVER BRIDGE

Initial Point: ST VALLIER (4342N 0602E)

Axis of Attack: 95 degrees.

Rally: RIGHT.

Route Back: Rally to PALAZZO POINT THEN direct to Base.

Method of attack: Column of groups using NPI as shown on target chart

Intervalometer sottings: 25 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.

VIF Channal "A" for Bombers to Fighters and Wing to Wing.

c.

Bomber call Sign: 5th Wing HEADTOP 1, 47th Wing - HEADTOP 2, 49th Wing HEADTOP 3, 55th Wing - HEADTOP 4 (460 HEADTOP 41, 485 - 42, 465 - 43, 464 - 44), 304th Wing - HEADTOP 5.

d.

Fighter Call Sign For: 5th Wing -PUMPUP, 55th Wing - DAYLONG, 304th Wing - MAYFLOWER.

e.

Recall Signs: 5th Wing - HOUND, 47th Wing - LEROY, 49th Wing - SNOB, 55th Wing - TAVERN, 304th Wing - PROUDFOOT, 306th Wing - FEATHER.

x.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 2 cartons Window in lead attack units dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until clear of Flak.

Radio discipline will be enforced. Standard bombs away signals will be observed.

Window will be dispensed only as specified. No window will be jettisoned after leaving the flak area. All window not used will be returned to the base.

By order of Colonel /CHESON:

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

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
2 cys ea GP 55BW.
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wg.
1 cy XV AF.