

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

11 December 1944
1830A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 281)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 281)

This is plan Baker

Maps:

(1) BLECHHAMMER South O/R and MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA O/R, see list cited in Intelligence Annex No. 263, 1 December 1944.

(2) OSWIECIN O/R:

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (KRAKOW) 1:500,000

GSGS No. 3982 EUROPE Air (GLATVITZ) 1:250,000

Target and Briefing Chart No. 16-3-NA (OSWIECIN)

Illustration No. 2(f)38/1,2 (OSWIECIN)

Report No. H(I)170, 13 April 44 (Still latest H(I) Report current)

Report No. DB 189; 23 Aug. 44, w/photograph

Report No. DB 217, 18 Sept. 44, w/photograph

1. plan Baker calls for the coordinated effort of all Bombardment Wings in a daylight (escorted) PFF attack on German oil resources. BLECHHAMMER South is the selected Primary Target because when last attacked vital installations were not seriously damaged, but the selected Alternate Targets are but slightly less important as current objectives in the sustained attack on enemy oil resources.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

BLECHHAMMER: Refer to Map E 2697 (5 Oct 44) as amended by Report E2877 (17 Oct 44). On 2 December, a PFF mission, moderate to intense accurate flak was encountered. Formation will be in flak approximately 5 minutes.

MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA: Refer to Map E2717 (6 Oct. 44) as amended by reports E2795 (11 Oct. 44), 4E120 (25 Nov. 44), and 4E19 (4 Dec. 44). This is a concentrated defense and moderate to intense flak may be expected. Expected time in flak will be 24 minutes.

OSWIECIN: Refer to Maps 2678 and 2679 (4 Oct. 44) as amended by Report 4E200 (6 Dec. 44). Moderate to intense accurate flak may be expected. Expected time in flak will be 3 minutes.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Intelligence Annex, Fifteenth Air Force, estimates that under expected weather conditions e/a opposition on penetration and withdrawal will be nil or negligible, and only slight in target area. Fighter escort will be ample for the number of bombers involved.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGSTS

(1) BLECHHAMMER South O/R: See Intelligence Annex No. 268, 1 December 1944. Reconnaissance following attack on 2 December 1944 shows that vital installations were not seriously damaged. While the plant at present appears to be inactive, it is expected that operations will begin in a few days unless further damage is effected.

(2) MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA O/R: See Intelligence Annex to. 268, 1 December 1944.

(3) OSWIECIM O/R: Latest information cites same estimate of production capacity: 3,000 tons monthly. The increased flak defense of this target indicates its importance to the enemy. This is the last O/R remaining in enemyoccupied POLAND, and as such it has particular target value.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of Attack: 5th Wing (36 a/c), 47th Wing (20 a/c), 49th wing (10 a/c), 304th Wing (20 a/c) bomb BLECHHAMMER South O/R by PFF in individual elements.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) provides stream escort along route on penetration and withdrawal for the Air Force stream to prudent limit of radius of action.

c. Escape Intelligence: Current Bulletins, including V and VI.

d. Prisoner of War Camps: Attention is directed to Station List of POW Camps, Headquarters Fifteenth Air Force, dated 17 November 1944, and to annotated photograph no. 5019 (BLECHHAMMER) dated 15 April 1944, issued to all units. POW Camps, nos. 76, 87, 109, and 110 are listed on the Station List as well as designated on the annotated photograph. Attention is directed to the discrepancies in these sources of information. Camp no. 87 (50421-06N-18-19-02E) is located correctly on the photograph; Camp no. 109, (50-22-01N-18-18-05E) is located correctly on the photograph; Camp no. 110 (50-17-03N-18-16-01E) is located correctly on the photograph. POW Camp no. 76, as shown on the photograph is a camp but not at the coordinates as given in the Station List. However, these coordinates (5020N-1808E) designate a fifth camp in the BLECHHAMMER area. Group S-2s will insure that proper corrections are made and that all crew members are briefed accordingly.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,
Lt Col, AC,
A-2.

DISTRIRUTION: "C"