

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

17 December 1944
1815A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 292)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 292)

This is plan Able

Maps and Target Materials: See lists cited in Intelligence Annexes Nos. 268, 1 December 1944, 281, 11 December 1944, and 291, 16 December 1944, and add: Target and Briefing Charts No. 13-33-NA (BLECHHAMMER North); Illustration No. 1(a)(iii)43/1,2; PIR No. G434, 2 December 1944; Reports No. DB 199, 2 September 1944; 263, 19 November 1944.

1. Plan Able directs maximum effort against enemy oil installations. Preliminary weather forecasts indicate a possibility of visual bombing. One Bombardment Wing (the 47th) will attack in the VIENNA area, one (the 304th) attacks OSWIECIN, and three are concentrated on BLECHHAMMER and ODERTAL. The policing effort of 17 December will be extended to cover both North and South refineries.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) BLECHHAMMER: Refer to map E2697 (5 Oct 44) as amended by report E2877 (17 Oct 44). The prescribed axis takes advantage of the strong winds. The diversion of forces on the rally attempts to divert the flak defenses. The expected time in flak will be 4½ to 5 minutes. Intense Accurate flak may be expected.

(2) OSWIECIN: Refer to map 4E217 (9 Dec 44). The favorable tail wind makes the expected time in flak 42 minutes. Intense Accurate flak may be expected.

(3) MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA: Refer to map E2717 (6 Oct 44) as last amended by report 4E192 (4 Dec 44). Expected time in flak will be 4 minutes. Intense Accurate flak may be expected.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) In the VIENNA area 40-50 SEF are available for operations, the number potentially available for interception depending upon commitments to support of enemy ground operations.

(2) A total of 25-30 SEF are available to oppose operations at BLECHHAMMER, ODERTAL, and OSWIECIN.

(3) Preliminary reports show that certain elements of the Air Force were heavily engaged by e/a on 17 December 1944.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS: See Intelligence Annexes Nos. 268, 281, and 291; 1, 11, and 16 December 1944.

d. PROFITABLE TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY: GRAZ M/Y, MARIBOR M/Y, ERSEKUJVAR M/Y, MEGTESHALOM M/Y, and SOPRON (city or M/Y) are recommended. The location of the HUNGARIAN government in SOPRON makes the city, as well as the M/Y, a target of high value.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. COORDINATION OF ATTACK

(1) 5th Wing (6 Groups) attacks ODERTAL O/R.

(2) 47th Wing (4 Groups) attacks VIENNA Florisdorf O/R.

(3) 49th Wing: 2 Groups attack BLECHHAMMER North O/R, 1 Group attack BLECHHAMMER South O/R.

(4) 304th Wing (4 Groups) attacks OSWIECIM O/R.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) will provide route cover through the VIENNA area on penetration and withdrawal for the Air Force formation attacking in the BLECHHAMMER area, target cover for the Air Force formations attacking BLECHHAMMER, ODERTAL, and OSWIECIM, and penetration, target cover, and withdrawal escort for the 47th Wing.

c. PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS: Besides POW camps near targets at BLECHHAMMER, the following near route will be located in briefing to insure that no bombs will be jettisoned in their vicinity: CYESZYN, BRAUNSHEIFEN, and at 4947N-1712E in the vicinity of STERNRERG.

d. ESCAPE INTELLIGENCE: No new information, see current Bulletins (through No. 7).

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

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

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