

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMBARDMENT WING (HV)
APO 520, U. S. Army

18 December 1944.
1930A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 294)
)
TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 294)

This is Plan Able.

Target Materials: See Intelligence Annex Nos. 268, 291, and 293, dated 1, 16, and 17 December 1944.

1. Under this plan, the Fifteenth Air Force will continue attacks against priority oil and communications targets in CENTRAL EUROPE. There are increased possibilities of visual bombing at BLECHHAMMER and ODERTAL. Execution of this plan provides a parallel to similar attacks executed against PLOESTI late this summer which inflicted immeasurable damage on that important area as a result of constant attacks.

2. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) BLECHHAMMER: Refer to map E2697 (5 Oct 44) as amended by report E2877 (17 Oct 44). The expected time in flak will be 4½ to 5 minutes. On 18 Dec 44, formation of this Wing in the order of their approach to the target, encountered IAH, MAH and SIH flak.

(2) 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.

(3) MARIBOR: Refer to map 4E132 (25 Nov 44) as amended by report 4E230 (12 Dec 44). Expected Time in flak will be 3 minutes. On 6 Dec., at 24,000 feet, a formation encountered moderate accurate flak.

(4) Enroute: The area between VIENNA and BUDAPEST is protected at all vital intersections and marshalling yards. In this area the defenses of GYOR should be avoided. Farther to the south, in the vicinity of MAGYKANIZSA, intense flak has been encountered.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

Fifteenth Air Force estimates a capabilities of fighters based in the VIENNA area to be 75-85 ME-109s and FW-190s; with an additional 30-40 SEF in the target area. It is probable that the GAF moved the VIENNA fighters to the target area on 17 December. In addition to the usual weather conditions and ground commitments,

the appreciated enemy scale of opposition under this plan will be limited as a result of the size of the GAF operations on 17 December. Preliminary reports of the operations on 18 December show that the GAF for the second consecutive day opposed our attacks, but in reduced strength. Approximately 25 SEF attacked several bombardment groups not of this command. This should not be taken as an indication that the GAF cannot put forth an effort in strength against this plan. On the contrary, it is advisable to consider a greater capability on the part of the GAF than stated as an estimate of the Fifteenth Air Force in this annex.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET. See Intelligence Annexes Nos. 268, 291 and 293. Latest reconnaissance showed the yard at MARIBOR to be filled completely, thus providing a profitable alternate target.

3. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack:

5th Bombardment Wing (6 Gps) attacks BLECHHAMMER NORTH
O/R

47th Bombardment Wing (2 Gps each) attacks ROSENHEIM
Main and West M/Ys.

49th Bombardment Wing (3 Gps) attacks BLECHHAMMER
SOUTH O/R.

304th Bombardment Wing (4 Gps) attacks ODERTAL O/R

b. The XV Fighter Command will provide strong penetration, target, and withdrawal cover for the force attacking in the BLECHHAMMER area.

c. P O W Camps: See Intelligence Annexes Nos. 292 and 293.

d. At SPITTAL (4647 - 1330) the POW Camp contains American civilians as well as POWs of various nations. This town will not be attacked under any circumstances.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

JAMES D. Book,
Major, AC,
Asst A-2.

DISTRIBUTION: "C"