

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

7 December 1944.  
1800A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 275)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 275)

This is Plan Able.

Maps: GSCS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (WIEN, GRAZ) 1:500,000

GSGS Mo. 3982 EUROPE Air (VIENNA, SOPRON, GRAZ) 1:250,000

Target and/or Briefing Charts No. 14-39-NA MOOSBIERBAUM)

No. 14- 2 - NA (WIENER NEUSTADT)

No. 14-41-N1 (GRAZ)

Briefing Chart No. BC-14-30 (MOOSBIERBAUM)

Minimum Briefing and/or Photocharts No. 14-65 (WOLLERSDORF: for WIENER NEUSTADT)

No. 14-55, 14-57 (GRAZ)

Approach Chart, Target Photochart No. AC; TP-14-30 (MOOSBIERBAUM)

No. AC, TP-14-3 (WIENER NEUSTADT)

Target Photochart, Target Area Oblicues No. TAO; TAO-14-30  
(MOOSBIERBAUM)

No. TAO, TAO-14-15 (GRAZ)

Pathfinder Charts No. 1A, PC 1B (VIENNA)

Pathfinder Supplement, Positive and Negative Relief Chart, South  
Central EUROPE, 1:2,892,000

Pathfinder Charts No. RPC 1, 1-A, 1-B, 1-C, 1-D, 1-D Supplement No. 1;  
1-E, 1-E Supplement No. 1, 1-F, 1-G, VIENNA, AUSTRIA,  
Approach from E.

Pathfinder Charts No. RPC 14, 14-A, 14-B, 14-C, 14-F, 14-G, 14-H (Note  
RPC Nos. 1-E, 1-E Supplement No. 1, and 14-A will not  
be taken in air on mission)

Illustration No. 2 (d) 28/1 (DONAU Chemie - MOOSBIERBAUM)

No. 6 (d) (vi) 121/1, 2, 3, 4 (WIENER NEUSTADT)

No. 3 (f) 47/1, 2, 3; No. 4 (a) 13/1 (GRAZ)

1. Since weather permits only individual PFF attacks, the combined effort is directed at MOOSBIERBAUM, which has been selected for its target value as an important distillation and aviation gasoline blending plant. It has timely value also in that its chemical facilities are reported as producing elements used in enemy's V-1 and V-2 weapons. Alternate target are selected as key points in enemy's communications system with direct reference to ITALY and BALKANS fronts.

## 2. ENEMY SITUATION

### a. FLAK

(1) MOOSBIERBAUM: Refer to map 4E17 (27 Oct 44). The axis, as ordered, takes advantage of the wind and makes the expected time in flak 3 minutes. The sharp rally is necessary to avoid the defenses of VIENNA as well as WIENER NEUSTADT.

(2) WIENER NEUSTADT: Refer to maps Z 2704 and 2705 (5 Oct 44) as amended by report 4E78 (13 Nov 44). The expected time in flak will be between 2 and 3 minutes. Strict adherence to route, as ordered, will avoid defenses of MEMIRCHEN.

(3) GRAZ: Refer to map 4E158 (30 Nov 44). Expected time in flak will be 3 minutes. On 17 Nov, scant inaccurate flak was encountered.

#### b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force estimates that 20 - 25 night fighters may be air borne against operations included in this plan.

(2) It is believed that the most important night fighter control centers are probably at ZAGRER and SZOMBATHELY.

(3) Intelligence Annex Fifteenth Air Force suggests that preliminary weather forecast indicates that there is only a remote possibility that night fighters will be able to operate effectively against our columns, and that encounters are likely to be nil or negligible.

(4) One of the PFF a/c of the 460th Bombardment Group on mission of morning of 7 December 1944 was followed by three (3) unidentified night fighters in the TRIESTE area. These e/a had wing lights on, indicating that they did not propose to attack. They may have been tracking our bombers to forecast future operations and to determine their tactics accordingly. It is essential that crews especially gunners, be alert on this mission.

#### c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS

(1) MOOSBIERBAUM: This target is selected as Primary for its importance as a distillation and blending plant for the production of aviation gasoline, and for the timely value indicated by the report that part of its production is elements used in the enemy's V-1 and V-2 weapons. Reconnaissance of 6 December 1944 shows the "old works" of the DONAU CHEMIE considerably repaired, undergoing additional construction, and with some operational activity. The new distillation unit (believed to be fitted with dismantled French equipment) appears to be almost ready to operate. This plant has an estimated capacity of 10,000 tons per month and may now be producing (or if not destroyed in two or three weeks will be producing) about 2,000 tons monthly.

(2) WIENER NEUSTADT Traffic Center: The Railway Traffic Center is located on the main, double track, rail line from VIENNA South to the battle area South of LAKE BALATON. Lines pass through this marshalling yard and then branch out to SOPRON, where they fan out to cover the Eastern front, and to BRUCK, where they divide again going to North ITALY and North YUGOSLAVIA. Facilities in the yard include storage and classification sidings, a passenger station, and a goods depot equipped with four covered sheds. Latest reconnaissance (6 December) shows approximately 1300 units of rolling stock in the WIENER NEUSTADT yards. An attack on this yard, if successful, will hinder shipment of supplies to the Southern and Southeastern fronts, destroy supplies en route, cause damage to minor industries, and affect the morale of the industrial workers in a district already made nervous by the advancing Russian armies.

(3) GRAZ M/Y: See Intelligence Annex No. 248, 13 November 1944. Latest reconnaissance (2 December) showed approximately 1100 mixed units present.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination: 5th Wing (10 PFF a/c), 47th Wing (12 PFF a/c), 49th Wing (6 PFF a/c), and 304th Wing (8 PFF a/c) attack the MOOSBIERBAUM Oil Refinery.

b. No fighter escort is provided.

c. It is recommended, in view of the anticipated difficulties of picking up target on scope, that all available target materials (on Primary and both [alternates]) be made available to PFF operators for pre-briefing study.

d. xxx xxxxx xxx, 1c and 72 will be located in briefing to insure that no bombs will be jettisoned in their areas.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

DONALD W. RIDDLE,  
Major, AC,  
A-2

DISTRIBUTION - "C"