

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

6 June 1944  
1900B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 88 )

:

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 86 )

This is Plan A.

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (TORINO Sectional) 1:500000.

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (FIRENZE Sectional) 1:500000.

Target Cherts: No. 4-223-NA (LA SPEZIA).

1. ENEMY SITUATION.

a. FLAK.

(1) LA SPEZIA - The entire city and target area is defended by a total of 72 Heavy Guns. East of the target are 2 X 4 batteries and 1 X 6 battery. Southeast of the target are 3 X 6 Heavy Gun batteries. Directly North are 6 Heavy Guns. To the West and Southwest are 2 X 4 batteries and 2 X 6 batteries. In addition on the Island of PALMARIA are a total of 14 Heavy Guns. Flak to be encountered will probably be MAH. Care should be taken not to fly over ELBA which in the past has been defended by moderate accurate heavy flak.

(2) LEGHORN - There are 4 X 4 Heavy Gun batteries so situated as to provide combined fire power of 16 Heavy Guns as protection for area of breakwater and harbor installations directly inland. On 19 May, MAH flak was encountered. Although the close proximity of flak batteries leave little choice as to axis of attack, care should be taken to avoid RR tracks to N-NNE of target where rail flak could be employed.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

Attacks on LA SPEZIA and LEGHORN will place formations within operational range of what may be termed the Fascist Air Force. The enemy has capabilities of from 30 to 40 fighters mostly G-55s and MACHI 205s. In the past, air opposition has been sporadic and interception may not be attempted to any great strength. Fifteenth Air Force states that air opposition should be negligible.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET.

(1) LA SPEZIA - In the sheltered coves of the Western side of the harbor are facilities for accommodating the largest vessels. The port is one of the most important Italian ports available

to the Axis. In the past it was used as the chief Naval Base in Western ITALY. Since the last attack, the harbor facilities have been repaired. In view of the destruction made on Northern land routes of supply available to the enemy this target assumes priority importance in transportation of supplies from FR'NCE to ITLLY. In addition, it has been indicated that one division of Axis soldiers are being moved to the ITALIAN Front from F1 NCE. Destruction of this port will hamper such movement of both troops and supplies.

(2) LEGHORN - At LEGHORN are shipyards of primary importance. The base has facilities for accommodating submarines, destroyers, large merchant vessels, cruisers and battleships. The port is one of the principle ports on the Western coast. Destruction of this target if attacked as an Alternate will be of extensive value in destruction of the German Army in ITALY.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION.

a. This is a coordinated attack against ports and port facilities and storages. In addition, ground route as communications connecting with Southern FRANCE are being attacked.

### (1) 49th Bombardment Wing:

2 Groups attack ANTHEOR VIADUCT.  
1 Group attacks VAR River Bridge.

(2) 304th Bombardment Wing (2 Groups each) attacks VOLTRI Shipyards and SESTRI PONTENTE Shipyards.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing will provide one Group of fighters for general cover in the GENOA and LA SPEZIA areas.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JAMES D. BOOK,  
Capt, AC,  
Asst A-2.

## DISTRIBUTION:

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