

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

19 November 1944.  
1730A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 259)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 259)

This is plan Able

Maps: GSGS No. 4072, EUROPE Air (PRAHA, TRAKOW, TATRY, WIEN) 1:500,000

GSGS No. 3982, EUROPE Air (GLEIWITZ, TESCHEN, BRNO) 1:250,000

Target and Briefing Charts No. 13-108A-NA (BLECHHAMMER)

No. 15-15-NA (MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA)

Briefing Chart No. 13-2A (BLEVHAMMER)

No. RC 15-3 (PRIVOZ)

Minimum Briefing Chart No. MRC 15-43 (ZILINA)

Pathfinder Charts No. PC 23A and PC 23 Supplement (BLECHHAMMER)  
1:250,000

Pathfinder Chart No. PC 34 (MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA) 1:250,000

Pathfinder Charts No. RPC-4, 4-A (BLECHHAMMER)

No. RPC-5, 5-1, 5-F (MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA)

Note: (PCs No. RPC-4A and 51 will not be taken in air on mission).

Special Scope photo 826R (BLECHHAMMER)

Target Photochart No. TP 13-2, 13-2A (BLECHHAMMER)

Target Area Oblique No. TPO 15-3 (PRIVOZ)

Target Photochart Oblique No. TPO 15-3 (PRIVOZ)

Target No. 1(a) (iii)43/ Perspective (Aug. 1943) BLECHHAMMER (GERMANY)

Approach Charts No. 1C 15-3 (PRIVOZ)

~~No. AC-15-22 (CADCA shows ZILINA)~~

Report No. H(I)185, 232, 258 (BLECHHAMMER)

No. H(I)189 (PRIVOSER etc)

Report No. H(C)518 (MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA)

~~No. H(C)505 (ZILINA)~~

Report No. DB 133, 146, 152, 172, 183, 241 (BLECHHAMMER)

Target Information Sheet, Op. No. GQ 1569 (BLECHHAMMER)

Photograph No. 3015, 60 PR 522, 26 June 1944, MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA.

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) BLECHHAMMER: Refer to E Map 2697 (5 Oct) as amended by E Report 2877 (17 Oct 44). On 17 November, a PFF mission, nil to MIH flak was encountered. Formation will be in flak approximately 5 minutes. Enroute additional flak may be encountered at the DANUBE River area.

(2) MORAVSFA/OSTRAVA and PRIVOZ: Refer to E Map 2717 (6 Oct) as amended by 3 Report 2795 (11 Oct). Moderate flak may be expected from all guns. Time in flak will be approximately 3½ minutes.

(3) ZILINA: No flak has been reported in this area.

#### b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Enemy capabilities in the VIENNA area remain at 60-75 enemy fighters. This force is also committed in the area South of BUDAPEST against the Russians. The enemy's scale of effort against penetration of the VIENNA line will probably be considerably less than his capabilities.

(2) Enemy can still put up 30 single engine fighters in the BLECHHAMMER area. Recent operations in this area have encountered no fighter opposition.

#### c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGETS

(1) BLECHHAMMER South Synthetic O/R is the number 1 oil target in the entire EUROPEAN Theater. Its estimated monthly production is 25,000 tons of gasoline per month. Destruction of this target at this time would deprive the enemy of his chief fuel supply during a period of increased activity on all fronts. This would be a great blow to the enemy's ability and desire to continue the war.

(2) PRIVOZ is one of the few refineries in EUROPE that is still producing at its normal rate. Annual throughput capacity is 50,000 tons. Its proximity to rail transport makes this more important since recent operations have caused the enemy to use a large part of his fuel reserves and depend upon day by day production.

(3) MORAVSKA/OSTRAVA is located in the heart of the industrial area of CZECHOSLOVAKIA. The main BRATISLAVA-PRECLAV-HRANICE double track line passes through OSTRAVA on its way North to GERMANY and POLAND. Other lines converging here are the single line to ORLOVA, where it joins the main line to HUNGARY, and the line South to RILA. More important than the through tracks, the yard has immense storage space and classification and repair facilities. It is estimated that three of four thousand units could be accommodated at one time. The destruction of all or part of this transportation center would immobilize numerous wagons loaded with badly needed supplies.

(4) ZILINA is the most important railroad junction in Northern SLOVAKIA being the focal point for double track lines SW to BRATISLAVA and East to PLESIVEC. 1 successful attack would cut the tracks to the area North of BUDAPEST and destroy supplies enroute from the industrial area of CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

## 2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of Attack:

- (1) 5th Wing, 6 Groups, attacks BLECHHAMMER South.
- (2) 47th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks BALKAN Rail Targets.
- (3) 49th Wing, 3 Groups, attacks BLECHHAMMER South.
- (4) 304th Wing, 4 Groups, attacks BLECHHAMMER South.

b. XV Fighter Command (Provisional) provides escort and target cover for the 5th, 49th, 55th, and 304th Wings and strafes rail traffic between BUDAPEST and VIENNA.

c. ESCAPE INTELLIGENCE: Current bulletins.

d. POW Comps in BLECHHAMMER area are cited in teletype FFW D 442, 7 November 1944.

By command of Brigadier General ACHESON:

PETE E. SOLLARS,  
Major, AC,  
Ass't. A-2.

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