

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

3 November 1944
1900A

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 234)
)
TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 234)

This is Plan Able.

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (WIEN, MUNCHEN, GRAZ, BOLZANO)
1:500,000

GSGS No. 3089 EUROPE Air (LINZ) 1:250,000

Target Chart No. 14-50-NA (LINZ)

Briefing Chart No. 14-50-NA (LINZ)

Target Chart No. 13-33-NA (SALZBURG; shows general area of
FREILASSING)

No. 14-18-NS (WELS)

Briefing Chart No. BC-14-7 (HERMAN GOERING etc)

Approach Chart, Target Photochart No. AC, TP-14-7

Target Area Oblique, Target Photochart Oblique No. TAO, TPO-14-7

Pathfinder Chart No. 20 (LINZ & STEYR, AUSTRIA) 1:180,000

Pathfinder Supplement No. RPC-9-F (LINZ, AUSTRIA)

Illustration No. 5 (a) 53a/4, 6 (d)(vi) 79/1 (LINZ)

Report No. H (I) 259, 7 June 1944.

Minimum Briefing Chart No. MBC-14-10 (FREILASSING)

Minimum Photochart No. MP-14-10 (FREILASSING)

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) LINZ: Refer to "E" Map No. 2728, 7 October 1944, No. 2783, 11 October 1944, and No. 2781, 11 October 1944, as amended by "E" Report No. 4 E 25, dated 31 October 1944. On 16 October MIH to IAH flak was encountered. Formation, on axis ordered, will be in flak approximately 5 minutes. En route, near IP, there are 8 heavy guns at RIED, which will be avoided by strict adherence to prescribed route.

(2) FREILASSING (SALZBURG): See Intelligence Annex No. 227, 27 October 1944.

(3) WELS: "E" Map 2781, 11 October 1944, shows this Alternate Target to be defended by 12 heavy guns capable of moderate flak.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT: Enemy capability of fighter defense of LINZ is estimated at 75 SEF. Whether e/a are committed depends upon weather conditions. The strong reaction of enemy against Eighth Air Force on 2 November 1944 is believed to have included a number of e/a

based near LEIPZIG, and the number shot down (186) indicates that perhaps 600 were airborne. While opposition on such scale is not possible in Fifteenth Air Force Theater of Operations, this strong reaction is a clear indication of the recouping of SEF strength by the enemy and his ability to commit, when he elects to do so, a substantial force of fighter a/c. It is recommended that while recent experience suggests negligible or nil e/a opposition, crews be briefed on enemy capability and to maintain alertness, especially for surprise attacks.

c. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET

(1) The LINZ Benzol Blending and Storage Plant, part of the Herman Goering Works, is the only oil target in the area of this strategic attack which is suitable for PFF bombing. The area in which these installations are contained is approximately 400' x 1200', with 6 storage tanks 35' in diameter, four (4) sizeable buildings (from W to E on H.I. Report No. 259 as follows: 60' x 160', 50' x 130', 50' x 80', 35' x 100', and 80' x 240') plus 4 smaller buildings. The building numbered "5" in HI Report No. 259 contains the vital installations of the benzol plant. Destruction of target will not only disrupt functions of The Herman Goering Works of which it is a part, but will deprive the enemy of vitally needed fuel resources.

(2) If target area is bombed by PFF, damage to the Herman Goering plant and the adjacent M/Y will be of high military value. A new directive of higher headquarters increases the priority of all GERMAN communications, especially of the MUNICH - VIENNA - LINZ - BUDAPEST line, which is the most vital military traffic route to the entire Southeastern front. Bills of lading for military goods captured in BUCHAREST confirms this estimate.

(3) FREILASSING O/R: See Intelligence Annex No. 227, 27 October 1944.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. Coordination of attack: Details of the strategic plan of operations against Oil, Industrial, and Communications targets in Southern GERMANY and AUSTRIA are as follows:

- (1) 5th Wing: 6 Groups attack REGENSBURG O/S.
- (2) 47th Wing: 4 Groups attack MUNICH West M/Y.
- (3) 49th Wing: 3 Groups attack AUGSBURG M.A.N. plant.
- (4) 304th Wing: 4 Groups attack LINZ Main M/Y.

b. XV Fighter Command (maximum effort) provides strong close escort for 5th Wing on penetration, at target, and on withdrawal; close escort for 47th, 49th, 55th, and 304th Wings and chaff dropping a/c for lead of 47th Wing, then top target cover over AUGSBURG.

c. ESCAPE INTELLIGENCE: Current bulletins.

By command of Brigadier General Acheson:

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

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