

HEADQUARTERS 55TH BOMB WING (H)
APO 320 U. S. Army

31 August 1944.
1900B

INTELLIGENCE ANNEX NO. 167)

TO OPERATIONS ORDER NO. 167)

This is Plan Able.

Maps: GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BUDAPEST Sectional) 1:500,000

GSGS No. 4072 EUROPE Air (BEOGRAD Sectional) 1:500,000

Target Charts: No. 12-26-NA (SZOLNOK)

No. 12-19-NA (SZEGED)

No. 8-21-NA (OSYJEK)

Photographs: Prints on SZOLNOK Bridge will be dispatched with order.

1. ENEMY SITUATION

a. FLAK

(1) SZOLNOK - "E" Report, based on sortie of 23 August 1944 shows only medium guns at this target. On the last two attacks of 28 and 29 August, SIH has been encountered. SZAJOL is just East of SZOLNOK, and same information will apply.

(2) Crews will be briefed that course must be maintained. Along the YUGO coast at ports, railheads, and road centers mobile flak may exist of which no information is available for definite pinpoints of locations.

(3) SZEGED - No flak encountered at this target on last attack of 29 August.

(4) OSIJE" - This target was last attacked on 14 June and no flak encountered. No late reports are available. It is possible that the enemy may employ mobile flak for defenses.

b. ENEMY AIRCRAFT

(1) Fifteenth Air Force estimates that the enemy has total air opposition capabilities of 50 to 60 SEF. This figure includes both the Hungarian ME-109s as well as fighters from the VIENNA area. The Annex suggests that no formidable air opposition is likely in defense of the targets despite the total capabilities.

C. SIGNIFICANCE OF TARGET

(1) This plan calls for a general attack by the Fifteenth Air Force against communication targets. These coordinated

attacks will sever communications lines available to the enemy for moving supplies and troops from the RUMANIAN and YUGOSLAVIAN Fronts. The targets for this Wing are two most important communication targets in the HUNGARIAN area.

(2) SZOLNOK RR. Bridge -- This is the most important bridge at SZOLNOK. The bridge is 1262 feet and 22 feet wide, with double rail track across the bridge. Support of the bridge is by steel spans, The M/Y at SZOLNOK have been temporarily blocked. Cutting this bridge will continue this stalemate of traffic.

(3) SZAJOL. M/Y - This M/Y is just East of the SZOLNOK RR Bridge. Since the attack of 29 August on the SZOLNOK M/Y, the yard at SZAJOL should have considerable cars in the yards. In view of the emergencies of the present front in RUMANIA, the AXIS must maintain supply routes for both a successful defense as well as for an orderly retreat.

(4) Attacks on either of the two alternates will constitute further destruction of communication lines running from the East BALKANS North and West to HUNGARY.

2. FRIENDLY SITUATION

a. This is a coordinated attack against communications targets in HUNGARY, YUGOSLAVIA, and ITALY.

(1) 5th Bombardment Wing attacks NIS A/D and MEZGRAJA Bridge.

(2) 47th Bombardment Wing (4 Gps) attack KRALJEVO RR Bridge and MITROVICA RR Bridge.

(3) 49th Bombardment Wing (3 Gps) attack FERRARA RR Bridge.

(4) 304th Bombardment Wing (4 Gps) attacks DEBRECZEN M/Y.

b. The 306th Fighter Wing will strafe the DEBRECZEN A/D and provide close escort to bomber formation.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

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

DISTRIRUTION:

1 cy ea CG, A-2 Duty O, Fifteenth AF
1 cy CG, 306th Fighter Wing
1 cy ea Co, A-2, A-3, PI, 55th Bomb Wing
3 cys ea 464, 485 Gps, 55th Bomb Wing
4 cys ea 460, 465 Gps, 55th Bomb Wing