

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

31 August 1944.

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 167)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

Night Bombers will attack FERRARA M/Y night of 31 August/1 September.

5 Groups of 5th Wing frag a/c parked on NIS A/D and attack MEZGRAJA Bridge at 1000B. ALTERNATE TARGET: SARAJEVO M/Y.

3 Groups of 49th Wing attack FERRARA RR Bridge at 1000B. ALTERNATE TARGET: None.

4 Groups of 47th Wing attack KRALJEVO and MITROVICA Bridges at 1015B. ALTERNATE TARGET: SKOPLJE M/Y.

4 Groups of 304th Wing destroy Rolling stock in DEBRECZEN M/Y at 1100B. Key Point (RAGUSA) Time: 0855B. ALTERNATE TARGETS: ORADEA, ARAD and NOVI SAD M/Ys.

Fighters of 306th Wing provide close escort for 5th, 49th, 55th, 304th Wings. Strafe a/c on DEBRECZEN A/D.

2.

Normal effort of 4 Groups of the 55th Wing destroy SZOLNOK RR Bridge and destroy rolling stock in SZAJOL M/Y at 1100B, 1 September 1944. This is Plan Able.

FIRST ALTERNATE TARGET: SZEGED M/Y.

LAST RESORT TARGET: OSIJEK M/Y.

Bomber RENDEZVOUS: Group Rendezvous: 465 and 464 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 6000 and 7000 feet. 464 falling in behind 465 in 465 area prior to rendezvous. 465 over ANDRIA at 0810B.

485 and 460 line rendezvous from ALTAMURA to GRAVINA at 8000 and 9000 feet. 485 approaching ALTAMURA from SANTERAMO IN COLLE. 485 over ALTAMURA at 0812B. 460 approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO.

Wing Rendezvous: 465 lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0821B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Individual Wings, 55th Wing (465-464-485-460).

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to key point GRUJ (4241N, 1745E) to CTELEC (4518N, 2051E) to VATTONYA (4618N, 2101E) to IP to target. Time to start climb to Bombing Altitude: 0940B. Key Point Time: 0909B at 12000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: MEXO TUR (4700N, 2038E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 306 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1100B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 465th - 19,500; 464th - 20,300; 485th - 21,100; 460th - 21,900.

TARGET ELEVATION: 300 feet.

RALLY: Left to KECSKEMET (4655N, 1941E).

ROUTE BACK: KECSKEMET to MILICI (4410N, 1905E) to key point to base.

3.

x.

465th and 460th destroy SZOLNOK RR BRIDGE. Load 5 - 1000# RDX bombs fused .1 nose and non delay tail.

464th and 485th destroy rolling stock in SZAJOL M/Y. Load 10 - 500# GP bombs fused .1 nose and .025 tail.

PFF lead for navigation.

Wing will fly close RIGHT echelon enroute and close column over the target.

It is essential that the 460th Group remain in close column with the 485th on the bomb run so that the 485th will not interfere, on rally, with the 460th bomb run.

It is recommended that due to the mobile flak positions along YUGOSLAVIA COAST, all groups take mild evasive action while approaching the coast. On return route avoid flak area at SAREJEVO.

First Alternate: SZEGED M/Y.

I.P. - KISTELEK (4628N, 1959E).

Axis of attack - 154 degrees.

Rally - Right to ST. KANJIZA (4604N, 2003E).

Route back - ST. KANJIZA to TP (4513N, 1920E) to MILICI (4410N, 1905E) to key point to bases.

Method of attack column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.

Intervalometer settings: All Groups 25 feet.

Last resort - OSIJEK M/Y.

I.P. - MIHOLJAC (4546N, 1810E)

Axis of attack - 120 degrees.

Rally - Right to VINKOVCI (4518N, 1850E).

Route back - VINKOVCI to TP MILICI (4410N, 1905E) to KP to bases.

Method of attack column of Groups using MPI as shown on target chart.
Intervalometer settings: All Groups 25 feet.

4.
No Change.

5.
a.
Command Radio: Assigned Group Frequency for communication within the Group, VHF Wing Channel "B" for Group to Group within the Wing.

b.
VHF Channel "A" for Bombers to Fighters and Wing to Wing.

c.
Bomber Call Sign: 5th Wing - TRUEMAN; 49th Wing - BURGLAR; 55th Wing - CARTLOAD (465th-CARTLOAD Leader; 464th-CARTLOAD 2, 485th-CARTLOAD 3, 460th-CARTLOAD 4); 304th Wing - GOWAY.

d.
Fighter Call Sign For: 5th Wing - PLATOON; 49th Wing - RECKLESS; 55th Wing - TANKSTOP; 304th Wing - MIXTUB.

e.
Recall Signs: 5th Wing - SCARFACE; 47th Wing - MOONGLOW; 49th Wing - ASHTRAY; 55th Wing - POOLTABLE, 304th Wing - CATWILK; 306th Wing - PINGPONG.

X.
Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 1 carton Window in lead attack units dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until clear of Flak.

Radio discipline must be enforced.

Standard bombs away signals will be observed.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

JOHN N. MELCHER,
Lt Col, Air Corps,
A-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

1 cy ea CO, A-2, A-3, PI 55BW.
5 cys 460, 465 Gps 55BW.
3 cys 464, 485 Gps 55BW.
1 cy CG 306th Fighter Wg.
1 cy CG XV AF.