

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

1 September 1944

OPERATIONS ORDER)

NUMBER 168)

1.

a.

See Intelligence Annex.

b.

Night Bombers attack BOLOGNA M/Y, night of 1/2 September 1944.

3 Groups of 304th Wing destroy NIS WEST & SOUTH M/Y at 0945B.

4 Groups of 47th Wing destroy KRALJEVO RR BRIDGE and KRALJEVO M/Y at 1000B.

3 Groups of 49th Wing destroy MITROVICA RR BRIDGE at 1000B.

5th Wing STAND DOWN.

Fighters of the 306th Wing: (1) Dive Bomb CUPRIJA RR BRIDGE. (2) Provide close escort on penetration, target and withdrawal cover for 55th and 304th Wings. (3) Strafe ROADS and RRs from NIS to CUPRIJA and as far NORTH as BELGRADE if weather permits. Strafing time: 1130B. (4) Repeat strafing attack in Paragraph 3. Strafing time: 1500B.

2.

Normal effort of 3 Groups of 55th Wing destroy SUPOVAC RR BRIDGE and ROLLING STOCK in NIS M/Y at 1015B, 2 September 1944. This is Plan ABLE.

ALTERNATE TARGETS: None.

BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: 460 rendezvous in normal area at 7,000 feet approaching ALTAMURA from TORITTO. Over ALTAMURA at 0813B.

465 and 464 line rendezvous from ANDRIA to CANOSA at 8,000 and 9,000 feet. 464 falling in behind 465 in 465 area prior to rendezvous. 465th over ANDRIA at 0815B.

Wing Rendezvous: 460th lead over SPINAZZOLA on course at 0824B.

FIGHTER BOMBER RENDEZVOUS: To be signalled later.

ORDER OF FLIGHT: Individual Wings: 55th (460, 465 and 464).

ROUTE OUT: SPINAZZOLA to Control Point STON (4251N - 1742E) to Turn Point (4352N - 2046E) to IP to Targets. Start climb to Bombing Altitude at rendezvous. Control Point Time: 0912B at 15,000 feet.

INITIAL POINT: DELIGRAD (4337N - 2135E).

AXIS OF ATTACK: 460, 465 - 143 degrees, 464 - 148 degrees.

TARGET TIME: 1015B.

BOMBING ALTITUDE: 460 - 20,000 feet, 465 - 21,000 feet, 464 - 19,500 feet.

TARGET ELEVATION: NIS M/Y - 610 feet, SUPOVAC RR BRIDGE - 574 feet.

RALLY: RIGHT to PRISTINA (4240N - 2110E).

ROUTE BACK: Rally Point to KOLAJ (4153N - 1929E) to MOLFETTA (4112N - 1636E) to Bases.

3.

a.

464 load 5 - 1000# RDX fused .1 nose and non delay tail. 464 Group will Bomb by boxes in column. Every effort will be made to hold tight formation, so that all 4 boxes drop before bombs of the first box strike the Target. Rally must be sharp RIGHT to avoid NIS Flak Area.

x.

Bomb Load - 460 and 465 load 10 - 500# GPs fused .1 nose and .025 tail.

Intervalometer Settings: All Groups 25 feet.

Use MPI as shown on enclosed Target Charts.

1 PF ship per group will lead for Navigation only.

Wing formation: close column of Groups enroute, over target and on route back. It is recommended that Groups take mild evasive action when approaching the YUGOSLAVIAN COAST. There are no Alternate Targets. If the primary target cannot be bombed, bombs will be returned to Base.

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.

Bomber Call Sign: 55th Wing - PLAYFAIR (460 PLAYFAIR Leader, 465 PLAYFAIR 2, 464 - PIAYFAIR 3), 304th Wing - LACEWORK.

d.

Fighter Call Sign For: 55th Wing - RADCLIFF, 304th Wing - KEYWORD.

c.

Recall Signs: 47th Wing - BIGHOUSE, 49th Wing - SAILFISH, 55th Wing - FRONTIER, 304th Wing - POORBRED, 306th Wing - RUMRUNNER.

X.

Carpet will be employed by all units so equipped. Load 2 Cartons Window in lead attack units dispensing 4 units every 20 seconds from 2 minutes before IP until Clear of Flak. Standard Bombs Away signals must be observed. Radio discipline must be enforced.

By order of Colonel ACHESON:

DEWITT L. JONES,
Major, Air Corps,
Ass't 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.