

HEADQUARTERS
IX BOMBER COMMAND

APO 683, %
Postmaster
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28 July 1943

FIELD ORDER NO. 58

Maps: Plotting series and topographic charts of entire area - BENGASI, CORFU, BRACOV, CONSTANTIA, INSTANBUL, CYPRUS.

1. a. See [Intelligence Annex](#).

b. Friendly ground situation: no change.

2. The Ninth U.S. Air Force will attack and destroy the 7 principal oil refineries in the PLOESTI area on 1 August 1943 employing 7 target forces in a minimum altitude attack in order to deny the enemy use of the petroleum products processed in that area.

a. ASSEMBLY: On the line Site 7 - DRIANA - TOCRA, leading element to depart TOCRA at 0530 GMT.

b. ROUTE OUT: BENGASI - TOCRA - Northern tip of CORFU - PIROT - 43°50' N 23°43' E - PITESTI - IP - TARGET

ALTITUDES: BENGASI to TOCRA to 38°20' N 20°08' E begin climb so as to cross CORFU at 10,000 feet until reaching PIROT. At PIROT begin descent so as to cross DANUBE at 3,000-5,000 feet. Remain at 3,000 to 5,000 feet until reaching PITESTI. From PITESTI to IPs maintain minimum altitude above terrain. From IP to target reduce altitudes to bombing level.

c. AXIS OF ATTACK: Target Forces No. 1 to 5 Incl - 127°

Target Force Blue - 132°

Target Force Red - 150°

d. MANEUVER Target forces Nos 1 to 5 Incl continue on attack course 127° AFTER ATTACK: for following times after crossing E-W RR along southern border of PLOESTI. Then turn right to a heading of 233° to LAKE BALTA POTELEL approx 120 miles from PLOESTI.

No 1 - 2 min 15 sec

No 2 - 2 min 15 sec

No 3 - 2 min 15 sec

No 4 - 2 min

No 5 - 1 min 45 sec

Target Force Blue turn right as soon as possible to a heading of 233°. Target Force Red turn right as soon as possible to a heading of 220°. All forces remain at minimum altitude until after crossing RIVER DANUBE then climb to 10,000 feet.

e. ROUTE BACK: From targets, all forces will proceed to LAKE BALTA POTELEL as directed in withdrawal plan. From there to BARKOVISTA to southern tip of CORFU to TOCRA to bases.

ALTITUDES: From target to LAKE BALTA POTELEL 3,000-5,000 feet. LAKE BALTA POTELEL climb to 10,000 feet holding this altitude until reaching CORFU. From CORFU to base utilize the most economical altitude.

3. a. Target Force No 1, Colonel Compton commanding, and consisting of 24 B-24s from the 376th Bomb Group will lead the formation and attack target No White 1 as indicated on Operations Map. Attack will be made in 4 waves of 6 airplanes each.

b. Target Force No 2, Colonel Baker commanding, and major Brown deputy leader, consisting of 21 B-24s of the 93rd Bomb Group, will fly No. 2 position in the route formation and attack target White No II as indicated on Operations Map employing 3 waves of six airplanes each plus one wave of three airplanes.

c. Target Force No 3, Colonel Baker commanding and Major Potts leading, consisting of 12 B-24s of the 93rd Bomb Group, will fly No 3 position in the formation and attack target White No III as indicated on Operations Map employing 4 waves of 3 airplanes each.

d. Target Force No 4, Colonel Kane commanding, consisting of 40 B-24s of the 98th Bomb Group, will fly No 4 position in the formation and attack target White No IV employing 4 waves of 10 airplanes each.

e. Target Force No 5, Colonel Johnson commanding and Major Brandon leading, consisting of 15 B-24s of the 44th Bomb Group will fly No 5 position in the formation and attack White No V as indicated on the Operations Map, employing 5 waves of 3 airplanes each.

f. Target Force No 6, Lt Colonel Posey commanding, and Captain Diehl leading, consisting of 18 B-24s of the 44th Bomb Group, will fly No 6 position in the formation and attack target Blue I as indicated on the Operations Map, employing 3 waves of 6 airplanes each.

g. Target Force Red, Colonel Woods commanding, and Captain Caldwell leading, consisting of 24 B-24s of the 389th Bomb Group, will fly the last position in the formation and attack target Red I as indicated on the Operations Map, employing 8 waves of 3 airplanes each.

x. See [Bomb Loading Annex](#).

4. See Airdome Annex.

5. a. COMMUNICATIONS: See Communications Annex.

b. (1) Ground: No Change.

(2) Air: Colonel Compton in lead aircraft. Deputy leader, Colonel Baker, in lead aircraft 2nd target force.

By command of Brigadier General ENT:

JOHN C. KILBORN,
Colonel, AC,
A-3.