

AIR FORCE FORMATION 17 DEC 1944

ORDER OF FLIGHT: 5TH - 49TH - 55TH - 304TH

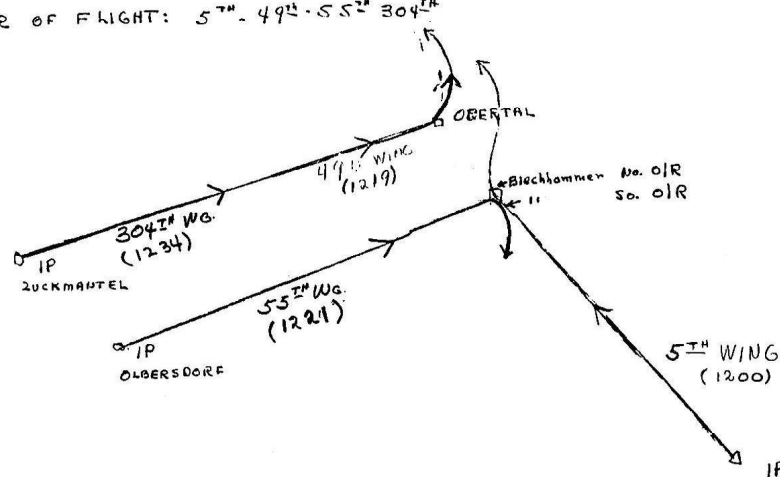


Diagram of Bomb Wings attacking Odertal and Blechhammer. The 5th wing (B-17s) were to swing by Odertal after bombing Blechhammer to draw off fighters and flak. The 55th was to swing right after bombing Blechhammer to divide the defences.

Bombardier 1/Lt Dierksmeier

D-11 Mickey operator 1/Lt W A McWhirk

Bombardier 2/Lt M P Goodman

A-11 Mickey used for navigation and bombing, set operated well during entire mission.

A-12 Mickey used for navigation and bombing, set function OK.

D-11 Set used for navigation only set worked fair, followed through on bomb run, and it appeared to be excellent.

(4)

Sir Frank Whittle an RAF officer began his efforts to build a jet engine in England in 1929.

Other 15AF Activity December 16 to 17 1944:

- 5th Wing 6 Groups Blechhammer North Refinery
- 55th Wing 4 Groups Blechhammer South Refinery
- 304th Wing 4 Groups Odertal Oil Refinery
- 47th Wing 2 Groups Salzburg Marshaling Yard
- 47th Wing 2 Groups Wells Marshaling Yard

**Excerpts From Intops Summary #514
16 to 17 December 1944**

Strategic Air Force dispatched a total of 1150 aircraft during the period including 194 B-17s, 464 B-24s, 201 P-38s, 227 P-51s 38. RAF operated 38 Wellingtons, 12 Liberators by day, and 3 B-17s and 11 B-24s by night.

The main effort was directed against oil plants in Eastern Germany, while bombing and strafing attacks were made on RR communications in Southern Germany. Harassing attacks were also made on retreating enemy troops in Yugoslavia. Approximately

120/150 enemy aircraft the first major reaction to the 15th Air Force penetrations into Germany since August 1944.

A total of 56 missions, 1085 sorties, dropped 1374 tons of bombs, destroyed 48 enemy aircraft (E/A), 5 E/A probables, and damaged 7 E/A. The 15th lost 24 aircraft.

Night Operations 30 supply canisters were dropped in Northern Italy by 1 B-17 and 1 B-24 from the 885th Bomb Squadron. Leaflets were also dropped.

Day Operations On 17 December units of the 5th Wing bombed Blechhammer North from 26,000 to 29,000 feet, Moravska Strova Oil refinery, targets of opportunity, and dropped 848,000 leaflets. 463rd BG could not participate because of unserviceable runways and stood down. Bombing was by the synchronous PFF method. Flak at Blechhammer was M I H and S I H at Moravska Ostrova.

Two Me 109s were seen attacking a B-24 east of Brno. One Me 109 attacked a straggling B-17 after the target making four aggressive passes before disappearing in the clouds. The 2 and 301 BGs each lost one B-17.

Blechhammer South Oil Refinery 105 B-24s were dispatched from the 55 Bomb Wing dropping by the PFF synchronous method. Flak was M I H at the target, at Gyor and Nagykaniza, 4 B-24 were reported MIA. One enemy jet fighter was seen near the target area.

Gross Stiehlitz This target of opportunity Marshaling yard was attacked by 6 B-24s.

Two Me 262s passed one formation in the Pilsen area, two unidentified single engined fighters (SEF) closed in on the rear on another formation in Stuttgart area but were not encountered. Three Me 262s in line abreast made a head on pass on a formation North-east of Innsbruck, the center Me 262 firing, but no results were observed. Three enemy aircraft E/A believed to be Me 262s were observed

Air Sea Rescue Three B-17s of the 483rd BG (5th Wing) completed a special search.