

TARGET FACTORY

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VOL. 2, NO. 4

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

FIGHTER GROUP TOPS 1,000



LT. COL. DADE: 1 WEEK, 3 RECORDS

His 56th Fighter Group became (1) First in ETO to pass 900-mark, (2) First to pass 1,000-mark, (3) 95 victories in one day, new Division record -- all three hurdles jumped during this week.

56TH THUNDERBOLTS SMASH ETO RECORD, THEN MELT OWN MARK

Destroying 95 German planes on Friday (13), 56th Thunderbolt Group became the first fighter group in the ETO to reach the fabulous 1,000-victory mark. Coincidentally, this day was the second anniversary of the Group's first mission.

The 95 planes were destroyed by strafing airfields near Eggebek, after escorting bombers on a mission, bringing total credits for the Group to 686½ destroyed in air, 317½ on the ground -- 1004 altogether.

"Every man on the mission cooperated," stated Lt. Col. Lucien A. Dade, Jr., Group C.O, who led the attack and got three Me-110s. "It's indeed an honor and privilege to command such a splendid group of men."

On April 10 the 56th had regained scoring leadership of the ETO from 4th Mustang Group by destroying 43 Hun planes, for a total of 906½ victories.

Top man of April 13 was 1st/Lt. Randal L. Murphy, who claimed 10, including five Hellis and an FW-190.

2AD BOMBING LEADS 8AF AGAIN IN MARCH

Continuing their record aiming, 2AD's "Bombs on the Target" Lib formations again topped 8th Air Force accuracy through the month of March.

Figures just released by Operational Analysis Section (Eq 8AF) show 2AD Groups averaged 5% more hits than the next highest division within 1000 feet of assigned MPIs, on visual targets for the month.

March bomb tonnage by 8AF was 73,500 (U.S.) tons -- eclipsing for the first time the record invasion month of June 1944.



LIBS ARE BIG OIL BURNERS:

Regensburg oil storage fused from 100% hits within 2000 feet by four of five squadrons of 466th and 467th Bomb Groups, one of 97% from 458th Group.

At same time, Regensburg ordnance depot rocked with 98% (78% within 1000') from 392nd Group. Messerschmidt plant and airfield were blanketed by 446th, 448th and 93rd Bomb Groups.



BEST RUNNER-UP OF THIS WEEK



BACK TO FURTH - 445TH LEADS HITS

Famed as the victim of a record knockout from 240 Lbs during the 'Big Week' attacks on aircraft production in February 1944, Furth aircraft center got in the way again this week until 2nd Wing put it away once more.

445th Bomb Group captured the encore honors, averaging 94% in 2000', and (better) 80% within 1000' of the

vital MPis. Lead bombardiers were Lt. Hurl, Lt. Messer, Lt. Barwick.

309th and 452d Groups followed powerfully with 98% and 82%, respectively. In 2000', 70% and 50% averages within 1000 feet of the MPis.



RECON PHOTO A/F: 456th, 467th, 488th
Star job here by 466th Bomb Group, placing 94% within 2000' of assigned MPis, 76% within 1000'. 467th hit 98% in 2000', 56% in 1000'.

TARGET VICTORY

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

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VOL. 2, NO. 4 APRIL 11, 1945

RECON PHOTO OF LANDSBERG A/F: 93RD, 448TH, 446TH GROUPS

Landing field and dispersal areas saturated, with at least 55 craters left on the runway. Many more on perimeter tracks, revetment, and ammunition stores. At least 8 aircraft damaged or destroyed. 93rd Group averaged 94% in 2000', 80% in 1000' of MPis. Lead bombardiers were Lt. Eberwiller, Larson and Probert. 448th hit 90% in 2000', 60% in 1000'. Insert at lower right shows the field during attack.

Passed by SHAEF field press censor.
May be retained or mailed home.

SOUVENIR SUPPLEMENT



SALUTE THE GROUND MAN

2nd AIR DIVISION

WEEK APRIL 8-14, 1945

"As the final victory, which must be ours, draws near, we have thought it befitting to designate a week to recognize and commend the personnel of the ground echelon of 2nd Air Division for their tremendous efforts in creating this great team.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as I know every man who has had the opportunity to fly with the 2nd Air Division please, would have been to supply them with the means to perform their part of the team's work, the long hours with little glory, and they are grateful. As your Commanding General, I wish to offer you my sincere congratulations and to commend you on a job well done."

MAJ. GEN. W. E. KEPNER
Commanding, 2nd Air Division
(From an address, 8 April, 1945)





8th Air Force
Advices 'Target
for Today'



LIBERATORS - MUSTANGS - THUNDERBOLTS

2AD MISSION

FEATURES 64 OF 68 KEY OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND



2AD Staff
Conference
Plans the
Mission



Weather
Checks
the Route



Gen. Leeper
Consults
Operations
Staff

In March, 8th Air Force hit Germany with the largest forces and greatest tonnage in its history. 2nd Air Division starred in this record by topping the Air Force in precision-bombing accuracy. 2AD fighter planes reasserted their soaring leadership of the ETO -- one group this week became the first unit to destroy more than 1,000 enemy aircraft. Beyond ready comprehension are the thousands of sorties flown and the tons of bombs aimed -- vast in its execution is a single 2AD mission.

Tribute is offered this week to those who accomplish 64 of the 68 key operations in every mission. They frequently are overlooked by press and public -- the Ground Personnel of 2nd Air Division. Pictured here are a fraction of the equally-essential steps performed each time by 2AD personnel on the ground before the radio may announce 'Liberators, Mustangs and Thunderbolts of 8th Air Force attacked German targets today'.

Though they may be forgotten in the news flashes, the Ground Men, by their devotion to perfection, are earning the daily gratitude and praise of every combat flyer. Men with wings and men with other duties cooperate throughout each phase so that no one step, no one man, is independent -- the maximum reward to each of them is the final effort of this entire Air Division.

Cole Orders
to Bomber
and Fighter
Groups



Each Group Briefs
Its Flying Crews



Analysis of the Mission's Bomb Photos



Interrogation of Air Crews on Return



Plotters Track the Mission



Another Axis Target Balleysted

Line Crews Ground Planes



Ordnance Loads the Target-Dusters





Lt. Col. Sidney Woods, 4th Fighter Group, who shot down 5 FW-190s in a day, gives main credit to "the best ground crew in the world", S/Sgt. Federico Lanier, crew chief, Sgt. Robert Easley, his armorer.



W/Sgt. Stephen J. Dargo and "Tovarich" named for his Russian ancestry. Crew chief with 372nd Bomb Group, he has sent libs out on 136 missions, never had one mechanical turnback.



"Sheet Metal Surgeons... Metal Magic Ltd." I/Sgt. Mike Schrader, S/Sgt. Ed A. Nowik, and Sgt. Joseph J. Klimas, 955th Fighter Group, responsible for reclaiming of badly damaged and mangled aircraft.



Salvaged material and the ingenuity of S/Sgt. H. E. Dixon, Sgt. L.J. Acornio, devised a Hydraulic Brake and Flap Tester, saving hundreds of man hours at the 479th Fighter Group.



Durret and maintenance modifications have been originated by efficient armament officers such as 1st/Lt. William S. Dow, 445th Bomb Group, recently awarded the Bronze Star.



Salvage drive in fighter wing won by Quartermaster supply team of 479th Mustang Group. 2nd/Lt James E. Gariner, Pfc R.R. Giacinto, T/S C. W. Askren, T/S A. O. Clenser, Pvt. C.W. McKinley.



"Turnabout's fair play" at 56th Fighter Group. Officers on "KF" are Capt. Geo. S. Bostwick, 1st/Lt F. W. Queen, Jr., 1st/Lt. Perahing B. Trumble. In show-line are PFC Ed McMorrow, Pvt Dave Cook.



"Sweetheart of the 44th Bomb Group", Miss Arzalee Crowden, daughter of S/Sgt. Arzyle Crowden, won the title in poll. She has red hair and brown eyes, like many a grown-up pin-up.



Pvt. Vince Padilla, MP of 445th Bomb Group, won BAP Featherweight Boxing Championship this week, was presented cup by Lt. Gen. James S. Doolittle. He defeated a Golden Gloves titlist.



BEST HIT THIS WEEK

389TH ONLY 1/3-OF-1% FROM PERFECT

MEMMINGEN A/F OBLITERATED BY ALL SQUADRONS, ASSIST BY 453RD

Excellent bombing results have to step aside in these days of record aiming -- to make room for an exhibition of better than excellent. Just 1/3-of-1% less than perfect!

389th Group gave the show at Memmingen Airfield. How can you beat an all-three squadron average of 99-2/3% in 2000 feet, with 91% within 1000' -- and 48% within 500 feet of assigned MP's? What to top a lead squadron (Lt. A. L. Yarrance, lead bombardier) hitting 100% within 2000', 97% within 1000'? High Right got a couple of late-release bombs bringing their score to 99% in 2000', 85% in 1000', but nothing wrong with the aim since 60% were within 500 feet! (Lead bombardier, Lt. L. W. Moran). Low Left added the final 100%, with 90% in 1000' (Lt. J. D. Kroton, lead bombardier).

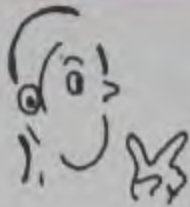
Reconnaissance shows repair hangars were burned, several buildings gutted, and at least 6 aircraft on the field destroyed or damaged.

Two squadrons of 453rd Bomb Group averaged 97 1/2% in 2000', 85% within 1000' on the same aircenter. Third squadron had a gross error. The first two lead bombardiers were Lt. B. D. Hart, and Lt. G. J. Armour.



BOMBERS: MUNITIONS EXPLOSIONS

389th Group again stole honors here, hitting 95% within 2000', 80% within 1000'. 448th Lead and 446th High Right squadrons placed 100% in 2000', with the giant fire-works obscuring part of remaining patterns.



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

735TH SQUADRON
ARMAMENT & ENGINEERING

Shortly after noon on 24 March, Lt. Irving R. Kraus, a pilot of the 735th squadron, 453rd Bomb Group, climbed out of the cockpit and started shaking hands with an excited bunch of ground men -- Capt. Harry F. Godges and M/Sgt. John C. Randall, squadron engineering officer and crew chief; Lt. Joseph H. Stangl and Sgt. Ralph I. Byers, both of the armament section, and some others.

"A perfect mission", said Kraus. "Caught up with the formation just before hitting the Wing IP. Everything went smoothly -- just as if nothing had happened. Boy, what a sweet job you boys pulled this morning."

Here's what he was talking about. Several hours ago the Squadron crews had been briefed for Mission "Varsity" -- the airborne supply of allied glider and paratroopers. The ground men of the 735 have a well-earned pride about their ability to put up maximum efforts. On D-Day every ship on their hard-stands participated. They have never had an engine go out on a take-off. On Christmas Eve, another big inning, they sent their whole line-up to bat, putting up all 17 of their 17 planes. It figured to be something on that order this morning, when the Fickle Finger intervened.

Just 23 minutes before take-off, Kraus's plane, "Silent Yokum", blew a piston in its Number One engine. It looked like one of those things you can't do anything about. All planes for this mission had been specially fitted and loaded for the job. There wasn't an-



SQTS. BYERS, RANDALL LT. KRAUS

other plane on the field ready to take the precious cargo to the troops making the last water-jump into the Reich. No one had to be told how much a Lib-load of medicines, motor fuel and ammo could mean at a time like this. The aircrew and ground men went into a huddle with the Group Commander, Lt. Col. Edward P. Hubbard. Other planes, bombed-up for a raid later in the day, were standing by. Why not transfer the cargo to one of these? It wasn't a question of how long it would take, but of how long before the last possible moment for take-off. And that was only 30 minutes.

Everybody went to work -- the Group Commander, the Air Exec, the Group Engineering officer sweated shoulder to shoulder with the squadron ground crew. Twenty-four 250 demos had to be unloaded from the new bomber and trundled away. Ammunition, waist windows had to come out of the red-lined ship. Oxygen pressure had to be released; the ball-turret cover plate had to come off. All this before the cargo could be shifted by a bucket brigade of eager brass and GIs.

"Men and equipment swarming all over the hardstand," said the flight engineer, S/Sgt V.S. Wirant. "Looked like a beehive or something".

At the end of 30 minutes the Lib roared down the runway on its necessary journey.

This is a teamwork story if there ever was one, and we're making our nomination this week on a multiple basis. It goes to the maintenance men -- officers and e.m. of the 735th -- because they've got what it takes when the chips are down.



KRUMMEL MUNITIONS: 392nd BEST
Lead and High Right built this pattern of 95% in 2000', 70% within 1000' of highly-explosive MPI. 458th, 466th, 467th each had one high-scoring sqdn.



AMBERG RAILYARD: 447th, 453rd
Two of three squadrons of 445th registered 100% in 2000', two of three had 90 and 95% in 1000'. 453rd sent only one squadron but hit 100% (90% in 1000').



RECHLIN A/F AND SEAPLANE STATION: 467TH SO NEARLY PERFECT

Hangars, workshops, and runways took heavy damage, with at least 18 aircraft damaged or destroyed. 467th Lead, 2nd and 4th squadrons did a bell-ringing 100% in 2000', with 100%, 95% and 85% inside 1000' of MPIs -- but 3rd squadron went wild with only 10%, to ruin the Group average. Lead bombardiers of the hot units were Lt. P.P. Reginger, Lt. S. Bensko, Lt. F.D. Brown. 466th, 458th, 389th and 445th also delivered high-point averages with 100% inside 2000' of their MPIs.



BAYREUTH ORDNANCE: 491st, 44th
Lead squadron of 491st commenced this bullseye, lead bombardier Capt. F. B. Walden crediting 100% (85% in 1000') -- 60% within 500'. 44th High Right planted 98% (with 70% in 1000').