

TARGET

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL
CONFIDENTIAL



WEEK ENDING
NOV. 11,
1944

FACTORY

2 YEARS - 342 MISSIONS



PLOESTI:
See page 2

CONFIDENTIAL --NOT TO BE TAKEN OUTSIDE U.K.

**2BD DELIVERS
1,000- POUNDER
EACH 4 MINUTES
SINCE NOV. 7 '42**

In the two years of its existence, from a tiny force to a major combat organization, 2BD has averaged in bomb tonnage -- a thousand pounds of blast every four minutes onto axis targets. Since November 7, 1942, the first combat operation (using only 6 planes!), the Division's Libs have attacked with 130,418 tons of bombs, completing 342 missions, 55,500 sorties.

The Division has hammered at targets as far north as Norway and as far south as Libya, and from France in the west to Poland and Rumania in the east.

Only 76 missions were flown in the first year, 266 of the total occurring since Nov. 7, 1943, with infinitely greater numbers of planes participating on each mis-

sion. The third year, if it must be completed, will see an incalculable concentration of target destroyers directed onto Hunland.

No ceremony marked the transition from the end of two years of continuous battle to the start of a new one. But Maj. Gen. William E. Kepner, commanding Second Division, sent to the groups a message which is reproduced on page 8 of this issue.

TARGET: VICTORY

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

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ALL CONTENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIALLY YOURS

Every combat man bears orders and other classified information which he knows to be nobody's business but his own. Any classified material must be respected...it is part of the battle.

Such information is frequently included in your "Target: Victory" -- which is CONFIDENTIAL. Remember that fact, and when you're through with it, either destroy your copy completely, or preserve it as the Confidential item which it is.

Major General Hodges, then commanding 2nd Bombardment Division, stated in the first issue of "Target Victory":

"This publication is dedicated to getting bombs on the target, and is for the officers and men who are directly responsible for accomplishing this objective. I have always felt that the more combat crews know about the results they achieve, the better will they be able to perform the difficult and dangerous tasks that are set for them.

"I have every confidence also in the intelligence, imagination and ability of the men who fly in combat to take the necessary action to improve their own technique...if basic material is provided from which they can draw their own conclusions."

His confidence has been proven correct...2BD men study their results in "Target: Victory"...they have improved themselves in a hundred small ways. They are their own best judges and critics.

But let's not air our information on public streets or before the girl friend...keep your 2BD "Target: Victory" confidential, and information passed to your hands will continue to justify the confidence of 2BD headquarters. The world will know by your accomplishments...the method is for your information alone.



PLOESTI

MOST FAMOUS RAID OF THE EUROPEAN WAR

The North African warfare of 1943 formed a prelude to invasion of the European continent. But the Libs' role in invasion was pre-broadcast when on August 1, 1943 they streaked at "cornstalk level" to attack the greatest oil production center of Europe -- Ploesti, Rumania. The longest round-trip operation in this theatre, 13½ hours, it achieved unprecedented success. The present 44th, 93rd, and 389th Bomb Groups constituted three of the five participating units.

The details are bywords in and out of the Air Force. Here in photos you see the dramatic moments of briefing, "bombing up", and the take-off of that mission. Others since have far passed it in magnitude but like "Lexington", "Chateau Thierry" and "D-Day", it will remain a signal milestone in U. S. battle history.





FIRST BOMBS ON D-DAY:

by heavy bombers came from 2BD, this photo 6 June, '44

1942 - 1944

by
Capt. Robert L.G. Moore
Division Historian

Two years in air war is a century of progress. The changes in tactics that evolve, either brought about by the enemy or by our own strategists, make yesterday sometimes seem a lifetime ago. Nothing brings this home more sharply to us in the Second Bomb Division than to look back to those dim



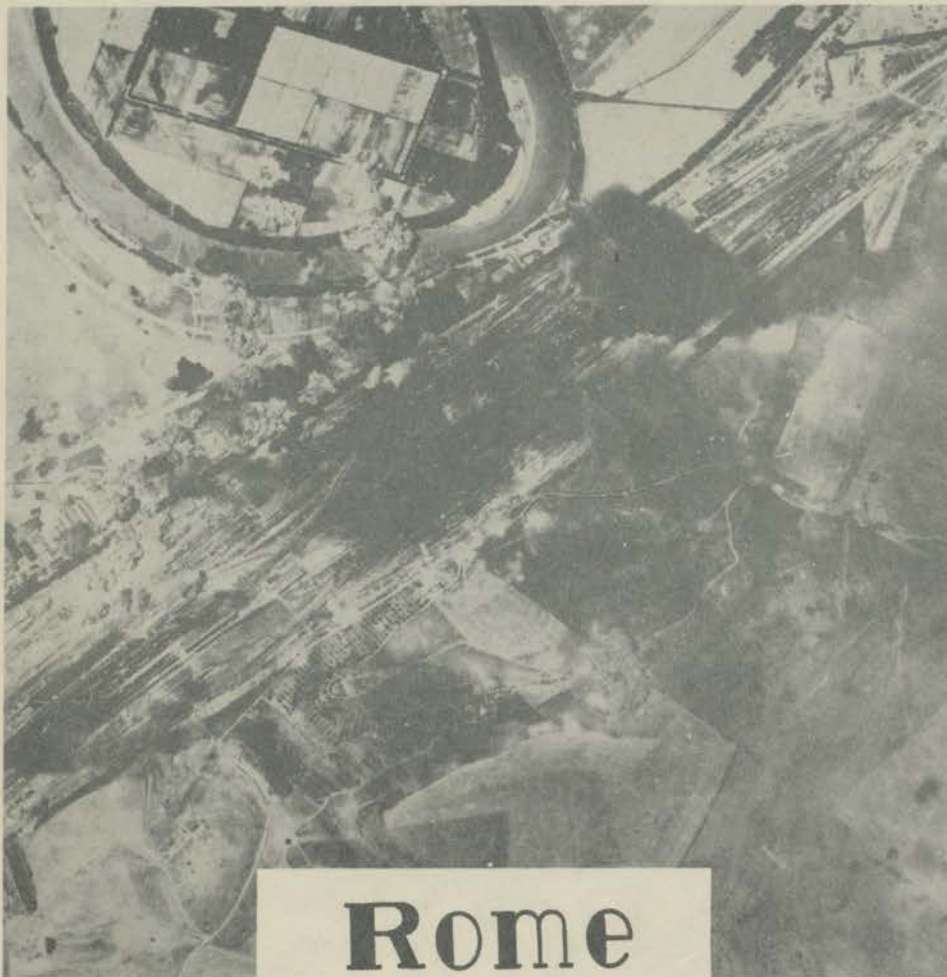
days of 1942 when we were an infant just being kept alive by an incubator. On November 7, 1942, when six B-24s of the 44th Group lumbered into the sky to fly a diversion along the French coast north of Cherbourg so that B-17s of the 1st Division (there was no 3rd Division then) could attack the submarine pens at Brest, the 2nd Division was born.

The 93rd Group, soon to join the Division, had been operational since Oct. 9, when in an attack on Lille they shot down 6 ME's, plus 5 probables -- the first of the Luftwaffe to fall before the guns of the B-24.

In the months that followed, trouble dogged our footsteps at every turn. Mission after mission was cancelled or recalled or undermanned. There were too many clouds, there were mechanical bugs. There remained

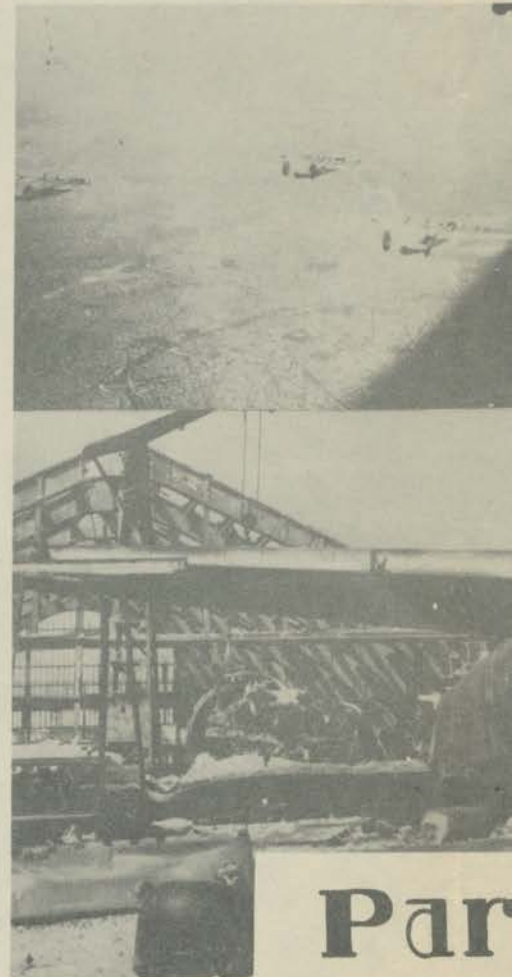
(Continued on page 4)

2BD - ONLY UNIT TO ATTACK



Rome

LITTORIO MARSHALLING YARDS: Mission of 19 July, 1943.



Paris

VILLACOUBLAY A/F, PLANE PLANT:

1942 - 1944

(Continued from page 3)

obstacles to challenge the most heroic. At times the whole future of the Eighth Air Force in England was in doubt. The far-seeing promises of air force commanders, backed by the confidence of General Arnold, saved the day at Casablanca in January, 1943, when the supply and production requirements to accomplish their objectives seemed near impossible.

From November 7, 1942, to May 29, 1943, a period of 6½ months, the

Second Division managed to fly 19 missions. * Last month, October, 1944, despite adverse weather, we flew the same number. But at least there was one bright spot -- the spectacular raid against Kiel

* (There were an additional 22 missions flown by the 93rd Group in its first North African adventure December 13, 1942, to February 20, 1943, under the operational aegis of the 12th and 9th AFs.)

on May 14th, when incendiaries were dropped for the first time in this theatre. It produced a War Dept. citation for the 44th Group.

Equally encouraging was the March 18th attack on Vegesack-- deepest daylight penetration into Germany to that time. In an hour and 40 minute running battle, without fighter support, they shot down 33 Jerries, lost 1 B-24.

So the wheels of progress spun -- sometimes fast, sometimes painfully slow, but the summer of 1943 was really the turning point for the B-24s. A dependable long-range bomber was needed for what were to be the two longest missions ever flown this side of the Atlantic.

(Continued on page 5)

ATTACK 3 EUROPEAN CAPITALS



Paris

PLANT: One of attacks 25 June, 1944.



Berlin

BERLIN ATTACK OF 29 APRIL, 1944: 215 from 2BD participated.

1942-1944

(Continued from page 4)

Naples, Rome soon felt the sting of the 2nd Division in July. Then came Floesti, August 1st -- 13½ hours of flying time -- Wiener Neustadt, August 13, 1943, Pisa, Italy, September 24, Wiener Neustadt again on October 1.

And a year had passed. Poland and Norway were soon to be scheduled, and the real assault on Hitlerland was about to begin. The story of the last of 1943 and all of 1944 is familiar to all of us. In a word -- Germany. Every city and town of importance in that country has been bombed, not once, by this Division,

but some more than ten times. For example, Brunswick 12, Berlin 10, Hamburg 10.

But what a change. The weather, to practical purpose, has been licked. H2X, GH, Micro-H, the magic symbols, have seen to that. Fighter support that is really fighter support. Great forces of bombers flying in excellent formation, improved fire power, more powerful bombs, electrically heated flying clothing, cameras to spot everything. (There were no cameras on those early missions.) The list is endless -- the improvement tremendous. But throughout all this far too short commentary, is a very strong human element. It is that

American characteristic of ingenuity, of guts, of daring that really has made all this possible.

For if they had not been men of courage and persistence in those early days, the air war would have been a very different thing today. We had a great mission to show the world -- that one could bomb in daylight with precision, no matter the obstacles or the enemy opposition -- and the 2nd Bomb Division is proud to be a member of the Air Force that proved that fact.

Four Congressional Medals of Honor were won by this Division in the process -- something no other unit in this theatre can boast.

BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



446th: METZ GROUND SUPPORT



PATTON ARMY ADVANCE COVERS LIB-BOMBED AREA; GH AIMED!

The proof of the bombardment is in the follow-up -- and the ground advance was rapid and successful. Sufficient leaks were sprung through the threatening fort area adjoining Metz so that the complete target zone of Thursday's (Nov. 9) attack is now crossed.

Another milestone for PFF -- our winter weapon -- it was, too. "Parallel smoke markers looked like Niagara Falls," reported one pilot. "The weather was pretty rough, but we found the target all right," stated a Group Leader.

446th caught an opportune cloud opening. "We could see the ground when we dropped our bombs. Then everything was blotted out by clouds of dust. It was a very good mission."

Dispersed and camouflaged, the enemy forts presented a challenging target -- identification even more difficult than the aiming. However, 446th strike photos showed 65% within 2000 feet for the Lead Squadron (with direct hits on fortifications). Low Left gathered 20% within 2000 feet of their MPI. The sharply coordinated lead bombardier and GH navigator were 2nd/Lt. Jack G. Harris and 2nd/Lt. Thomas J. Baxter.

BEST RUNNER UP OF THIS WEEK



SHARPSHOOT RHEINE M/Y: 491st

LEAD SQUADRON GLUES HITS ONTO TRACKAGE WITH PFF SIGHTING

Bombing as a unit, 491st corralled their pattern along the vital section of Rheine Marshalling Yard. The photo-count read 50% inside of 2000 feet, but the pattern of the "over" half made a good co-belligerent on dealing out the damage.

Again, H2X was the technique necessary -- no remarks on weather needed. The cloud "windows" however are giving frequent observation of extremely high-standard results. Lead bombardier for the 491st was 1st/Lt. R.R. Roberts ; Mickey operator, 1st/Lt. Joseph E. Willoughby.

Lt. Gen. Doolittle commented this week on a previous PFF job (Hamburg, October 30): "The determination to deliver our bombs on assigned targets was commendably demonstrated by the Second Bomb Division and its scouting force ... I wish to commend the entire Second Bomb Division on the skill shown in navigating thru extremely adverse weather, and in successfully completing the mission. Feats like this are progressively adding to the capabilities of the 8th Air Force."



PART OF 491ST
PATTERN VISIBLE



448TH A-1 DAMAGE
THOUGH SLIGHTLY
WIDE OF MPI

"...READY TO COMPLETE THE TASK..."

2nd Anniversary message
wired to all Groups
by Maj.Gen. W. E. Kepner,
Commanding 2nd Bomb Division

Two years ago today, on 7 November 1942, 2d Bombardment Division (then the 2d Bombardment Wing) flew its first combat mission, dispatching six B-24 airplanes. Since that time the Bombardment echelon of this command has flown 55,500 sorties, dropped 130,418 tons of bombs on the enemy, and shot down 1034 enemy airplanes.

From a small beginning, we have grown to a huge and highly efficient striking force which has wrought incalculable destruction on the enemy all over the continent of Europe, and played a vital part in breaking down his capacity and will to resist. Every officer and man should be proud, as I am, of being a part of an organization with this splendid record and with such tremendous capabilities.

Today, we stand confident of our strength and secure in the knowledge that the ultimate defeat of the enemy is certain. We are now ready to complete the task that has been so nobly carried on by the officers and men of this organization over the past two years.

My congratulations and best wishes to all of you on this anniversary. I know you will carry forward this splendid fighting tradition until the enemy is crushed for all time.

KEPNER



TO THE LAND OF
THE SUPERMEN



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN OF THE DIVISION"

COL. HUBERT ZEMKE

"Without question, the Colonel was the most outstanding commander I have known." In these few words, a squadron leader (and veteran of Pacific action) of Col. Zemke's 479th Fighter Group, labeled Hubert Zemke, known most to the public and press for his daring as a pilot.

"Our pilots had absolute faith in the correctness of his decisions, and I've never known a pilot to question whether Col. Zemke was right." Master tactician, he was a con-

stant student of new ways to beat the Hun in the air. "Boys, I took the group in wrong today." To hear that from their group leader, who then came out with a better plan, seemed to increase their confidence in him and whetted their desires to learn the most effective way to beat the Luftwaffe.

Col. Zemke's fame first came as leader of the 56th Fighter Group, the outstanding P-47 Thunderbolt outfit of the war -- today the highest scoring group of the Eighth Air Force.

In one of his Group's first battles, they knocked off 30 Huns, but lost five of their own planes. This loss rocked all of his pilots. He had a talk with the Group, they altered plan. In the next big fight, they destroyed 25 Jerries and lost but one Thunderbolt.

On October 30, escorting the Hamburg mission, his plane developed trouble, went down thru clouds. We think even the Jerries hope he got out okay. They'd like to meet him -- the "big Z" is a hero's hero in any air force.