WEEK ENDING DEC. 16, 1944

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL



EVERYBODY SEES TARGET



2BD PHOTO & BOMBARDIER: Find hits aplenty on Tuesday's MPIs. Maj. Ed Reed, Maj. J. B. Whittaker.

ALL GROUPS SCORE ON HANAU, ASCHAFFENBURG

"We've been waiting a long time for this, enthused one bombardier after Tuesday's mission (Dec. 12), "the weather was perfect!" Some excitedly announced that despite many missions it was the first time they had seen an enemy target. The novelty didn't disrupt the 2BD Groups' performances -- every

one scored hits inside the MPI rings of Hanau and Aschaffenburg marshalling yards.

Day's top-scoring Bomb Group broadsided two squadrons averaging 99% hits within 2000 ft. and 90% within 1000 feet of the MPI!

Not alone pulverizing rolling stock and rail facilities, for good measure the Deutsche Dunlop tire factory and a metalworks were heavily smashed and left in a roaring blaze. One squadron of the 389th, fighting a bombsight malfunction over the target, saved their bombs for Friedburg railyard, a target of opportunity, and turned the threat of a gross error into another successful attack (Photo, page 2).





BOMBARDIER LANDS DAMAGED LIB:

Brig. Gen. E. J. Timberlake, Jr., presents the DFC to 1st/Lt. Charles M. Blackwell, 93rd Bomb Group, for successfully returning his damaged bomber after the pilot and copilot were seriously wounded. He landed safely without further injury to crew or aircraft.

TARGET: //CTORY

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Published by Headquarters 2nd Bomb Division in the ETO

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VOL.1, NO.21 DEC. 16, 1944

SNARFU OF THIS WEEK

"HERE I COME - - WHEELS UP"



"As I came into the runway I heard the tower call and say, 'go around, your wheels are still up!. However, my prop had already dug in and I gave it the throttle to go around but she just settled in and slid down the runway."

thru the normal procedure of lower- also by feeling the gear fall into ing the landing gear but doesn't remember checking it. A red flare had been fired by the controller, but too late and at an angle so the Extensive damage to prop, engine, pilot did not see it.

ity to check his landing gear by

The pilot states that he went reference to light in cockpit and position.

This is 100% Snarfu (the R for Royally) -- due to carelessness. scoop, oil cooler, radiator, flaps, It's the pilot's responsibil- bomb shackle, pitot head and strut -- a "probable" without Nazi aid.

ET'S BRING' EM BACK SAFF



467TH GUNNER WINS COMMISSION:

Col. A. J. Shower swears in Edwin Branaman, 467th Bomb Group, to 2nd/Lieut. from his former grade of Staff Sgt. He completed 31 missions as waist gunner, now is assigned as sqdn. Cunnery Officer.



NO GROSS ERROR -- 389TH SQDN. SAVED BOMBS:

Delayed by bombsight malfunction over Hanau, High Right lead bombardier Lt. W.B. Moore held up the squadron's bombs till a good target of opportunity showed up. Friedburg marshalling yard got the works, dead center.

BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



467th TOPS 389th, 392nd AT HANAU

WEEK'S WINNER PLACES 2 SQDNS. 100% & 98%; ONE 95% INSIDE 1000FT./

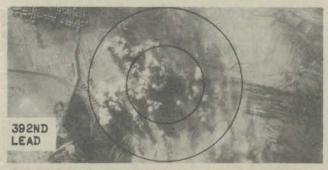
"The weather man batted 1000 per cent, " reported the crews after Tuesday's mission. We traveled above 10/10 on the way to the target, then as predicted, the visibility opened up perfectly."

Mickey men turned in the usual pinpoint job of navigation en route, but happily were able to view a full visual bomb run. And what a show -- even the "Achtung-ers" must have been impressed.

467th Group's Lead squadron, with 1st/Lt. Forest Brown lead bombardier, earned a place in the all-time Hall of Fame with 100% in 2000 feet, 95% in 1000 -- and 60% within 500 feet of the MPI: Lead Mickey navigator was lst/Lt. Sablentny. High Right ran a close second -- 98% in 2000, and 85% inside 1000 feet, with 2nd/Lt. Paul Regner lead bombardier.

389th and 392nd each showed one champion-style squadron. 389th's Low left directed 94% in 2000 and 80% in 1000 feet, with Lt. E.H. Guse lead bombardier. 392nd's Lead plastered 98% into 2000, with 60% inside 1000 feet -- 1st Lt. J. M. Connery, lead bombardier.

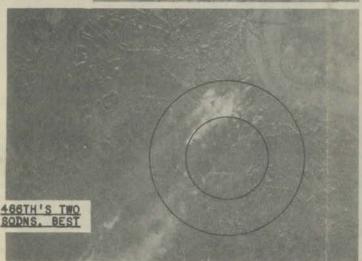
No exaggeration -- when better bombs are built, 2BD'11 bust 'em on Axis M.P.I.si











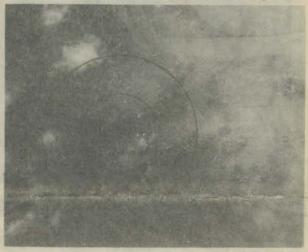
ASCHAFFENBURG GETS BOUNCED ON EVERY SYLLABLE BY 466TH, 448TH, 44TH:

The three Groups hitting Asch(etc.) marshalling center decided to strike like a Division. 466th had two sharp squadrons, Lead planting 100% in 2000, 20% in 1000, and High Right 77% in 2000, 27% in 1000 feet. Lt. Bookman and Lt. Morse wefs lead bombardiers. CH lead navigator was Lt. Holden. Hits were seen on an adjoining cellulose products mill and a multiple-arch rail-highway bridge as well as the loaded railyard.



448TH: LOW LEFT WAS TOPS

Low left, with Lt. Moll lead bombardier, found the mark with 80% inside 2000 and 40% in 1000 feet of the MPI. Lt. Nastoff was H2X navigator.



44TH: ONE TRY, ONE GOOD

Only High Right squadron attacked the Primary -- so they did a swell job. 70% in 2000, and 20% inside 1000 ft. Lt. Keenan was bombardier.



TARGET: VICTORY'S

HOMINATION FOR OUTSTANDING

MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION

MAJ. JOSEPH B. WHITTAKER

(Photo on page 1)

In this week when bombardiers rediscovered the visual bombsight. we turn our eyes to the top bombman of 2BD. Major J. B. Whittaker symbolises the ever-progressing

bomb standards of this Division.

Since April '44 when he came from 392nd Bomb Group to take over duties of Division Bombardier, Maj. Whittaker has "coordinated" ("that's all I do, " he insists, "the important bombardiering comes from the Groups") during both the greatest 4 months of visual bombing and the greatest 4 months of instrument bombing ever known. These were May thru August, and September thru December. 2BD's record visual accuracy was reached in August 1944.

*Group and squadron bombardiers can make or break the bombing power of a Group, " advises Maj. Whittaker. "Here at Division our job is to help them where we can.

He was one of the original officers assigned to 392nd Bomb Group in the States, along with the C.O.,

Col. Irvine Rendle. This Group brought the first B-24s with a nose turret (the H) to this theatre, in

August '43.

While "Whit" was Group Bombardier, the 392nd won a citation from Maj. Gen. Hodges for topping Division bombing accuracy for a sixmonth period, October '43 thru March '44. He flew on the 392nd Group's first mission, October 143, in which they battled the first enemy fighters known to fire cannon. He went back to fly with them on their 100th mission (D-day) and 200th (November 11).

"For a man who gets top results he's d --- d popular, states one of his associates. "Nobody can help but like him and his ideas. He's our star bombing coach, and one of 2BD's best-regarded officers."

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MINDEN CANAL -- ENCORE



PFF RELEASES STEAL SHOW:

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The Minden and Hamburg attacks (this photo over Hamburg Nov 21) smashed Hunpower as well as PFF records for bombing accuracy.

PROVE IT WASN'T "LUCK"; PFF RE-BREAKS AQUEDUCT

2BD Libs' cloud-penetrating attack of October 26 on Minden Canal, draining a 22-mile span of the key east-west trafficway, instituted a milestone of non-visual bombing accuracy. This pinpoint precision captured the admiration and plaudits of all observers -- but could they do it again?

The answer is yes -- on November 6 the 2BD Libs repeated the job, to end all arguments and further hamper the Germans' repair efforts. PRUs arriving this week reveal that the vulnerable aqueduct which lifts the Mitteland canal over the target was full 100% cloudthe Weser river sustained two fresh craters, plus severe damage to one of the principal supports from a heavy near hit.

The PRU photos, unfortunately too haze-covered to reproduce well

here, also show that direct hits destroyed a glass factory building near one of the canal locks, a storage depot and two positions of a 3gun flak battery.

WEEK ENDING NOV. 25, 1944

Bombs away shots show that shielded at time of attack, so no visual assistance was possible. Participating in this recordtying encore were the 93rd. 392nd, 448th, 453rd, 458th, 467th and 491st Bomb Groups.





TARGET VICTORY

TARGET: LICTORY

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

Published by Headquarters 2d Bombardment Division in the ETO

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VOL. 1, NO.18 NOV.25,1944

ACCURACY WINS BOTH WARS

The primary war, knocking out German production and front-line might, calls upon the peak in precision flying and aiming by our crews.

A second war, convincing the military and civilian hordes of Germany that we are invincibly advancing to our objectives, relies just as heavily upon accuracy in our attack. This is the warfare of morale.

We fear little from the VI and V2 weapons, because despite their persistence the accuracy of their delivery is so low as to make them almost cease to be a military or morale factor.

An example is the photo below. One of our group ordnance officers exhibits the results of a V-bomb attack -- the casualties a mouse and a rabbit.



Imagine the parallel effect in Germany of any wild-aimed bombs from our own attacks. Up goes their morale -- delayed is the date when they will proclaim that they can take no more.

Now more than at any time we must aim straight. First, to kayo the target. Second, to impress the Germans that we get what we go after. Accuracy is indisputably convincing.



"KIDNAPPED" HIS C.O. FROM JERRY'S CLUTCHES

While Lt.Col. Bert W. Marshall, now air executive officer of 355th Fighter Group, was leading a dive-bombing mission, anti-aircraft fire crippled his P-51 Mustang, and he was forced to crash-land a few miles from the enemy battery which had brought him down. His capture was almost certain.

lst Lt. Royce W. Priest observed a near-by oat field which would challenge his plane's ability to land and take off in it, but he predicted he could make it. Landing successfully, he jettisoned his parachute and dinghy to provide more room in the small cockpit. Then seated on squadron commander Marshall's lap, Lt. Priest took off, clearing a haystack by inches, and brought the plane safely to home base.

lst Lt. Priest earned a DSC for this accomplishment. But looking at the long-odd chances involved, the procedure definitely is not recommended as s.o.p.i More often than not, it will mean two planes lost, two pilots captured. Let Jerry be content with one if he can catch him.

491st M.P.s Saved 19 Flyers

Highlighting a year's service in the ETO, the 1261st Military Police Outfit, now serving with the 491st Bomb Group, has rescued nine-teen airmen.

All were saved from crashed bombers under conditions where the lives of the rescuers likewise were in imminent peril. Combat crawmen offer admiration and thanks, together with their ammiversary congratulations.

448th Sgt. Modifies Gun Charging

Malfunctions in the charging of guns in his Emerson nose turrets set T/Sgt. Joseph R. Voto to devising a prevention rather than cures.

The Sergeant, of 448 Bomb Group, designed a modification in the charging handles which did the trick. This improvement was adopted as s. o. p. for the 448th armament section, and later was recommended in an Air Force publication.





AIR-SEA RESCUE:

HOW LIB DITCHING PROCEDURE WAS MADE 4 TIMES SAFER

In March 1943, U. S. Air Forces in the ETO took a look at their ditching record and were plainly startled. Their record of airmen recovered from channel and North Sea set-downs was just one-fourth as good as the RAF, despite most earnest cooperation of the entire facilities of British Air Sea Rescue.

Priceless trained crews, dozens of American hometown boys, were being lost because of a slipup in the rescue procedure. The Air Force determined to find the trouble -- and they did. An exhaustive search rooted out that we needed better radio aids to speed up liaison with Air Sea Rescue -- and most important, greater Air Sea Rescue *consciousness* among the combat crews themselves.

A rigorous program of equipment improvement and crew instruction brought the U.S. rescue success to a par with RAF standards before March, 1944. But ditching of each type aircraft always has been a skill in itself, and the build-up of experience brought constantly revised improvements and techniques. Crews could acquire the skill necessary to save themselves only by repeated dry-run practice, and the methods continued to change till many crews admitted they were outright confused.

2nd Bomb Division stepped into this picture in April, 1944. What was good for one type of plane was out of the question in another -- and 2BD was concerned only with one problem -- the Lib. RAF procedure, B-17 or B-25 technique were somebody else's question -- and an American Emergency Rescue Service was set up at 2BD with a full-time American A/S Rescue efficer at each group base. The personnel were selected principally from ex-combat airmen, in some cases those who had accomplished successful ditchings. These men understood the value of their

CAPT. FRED W. GRAF. 65TH FIGHTER WING plots ditchers and searchers for rapid contact.

(continued on page 4)



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CAPT. EDWARD L. LARSON: 56TH FIGHTER GROUP

Leads detachment of Air Sea Rescue P-47s. In air to greet returning bombers and fighters, this unit darts to assistance, helping avoid delay and possibility of loss.

AIR-SEA RESCUE

(continued from page 3)

job, and the crews under their guidance went to work with a will and confidence that at last they were learning the technique devised only for B-24s and evolved by the results of first-hand experience.

Concurrently with this operation a gratifing increase in the percentage of successful ditchings appeared within 2BD. During the six months just completed the successful rescues averaged over three times higher than any time in the past. Where once safe rescue was ascribed nearly to "luck", now any emergency ditching is reasonably certain of success if proven methods are followed. Number one problem has been a standardization of procedure so the crew will act efficiently, and understand why they do what they are doing. Knowing the principle behind each action, they can take into account any special circumstance, and adapt their practice accordingly.

Not all the improvements have been in liaison, and crew training methods -- the rescue service itself literally has taken wings. Whereas in the past crews for search were kept alerted for split-second response to any call, an even speedier method has been activated. Fast P-47s and P-51s of a special A/S Rescue detachment (now a member of 2nd Division) take to the air to meet the bombers returning from a mission. At first B-24s were on this patrol, but speedier and more numerous single-engined ships make much better cover. Already flying over the trouble zones, with their radios tuned to frequencies of both the shore stations and the rescue boats, they speed in pairs to the aid of any distress call and may have the crippled plane located even before it takes to the water, and will drop small emergency dinghies to assist the ditchers. Circling the position, and radioing to the rescue launch and heavier equipment planes for assistance, the bugaboo of an extended search is elimi-

First response, if the rescue launch is far distant, may come from a Rescue B-24, delivering the "Lindholm Gear* (a self-inflating 7-man dinghy linked to 4 barrels of dry clothing, radio equipment, first-aid, flares, and food). Or a British Hudson or Wellington may parachute the non-sinkable, mahogany luxury boat, 23 feet long, with its Rube Goldberg habiliments that make a ditching almost equivalent to a yatching excursion.

This motor-powered, camouflaged, sail-assisted craft is employed normally where position of ditching makes approach of a rescue launch dangerous and difficult. Outfitted with warm and waterproof clothing, rations, maps and a compass, the crew can materially lessen the gap between themselves and their base, and the rescue launch will intercept them en route.

Case histories bear out that there is only one correct way to ditch a B-24, any variations being due to modifications present in some models. Latest approved procedure is outlined here, as standardized by Rescue officers concerned only with the B-2h as operated from 2BD bases:

1. Do not attempt to bail out over water -- ditch with all aboard.

In the past month, in two instances crew members were lost by taking to the "silk" over the sea. One plane, in icing difficulty, went momentarily out of control and three men left, without bail-out warning from the pilot, who later crash-landed the ship. Life cannot exist in the winter sea over 20 minutes. ditching dinghy and the help of other crew members makes rescue much more certain, and allows far more time for discovery.

2. If any doubt of crossing the sea or channel, use French bases.

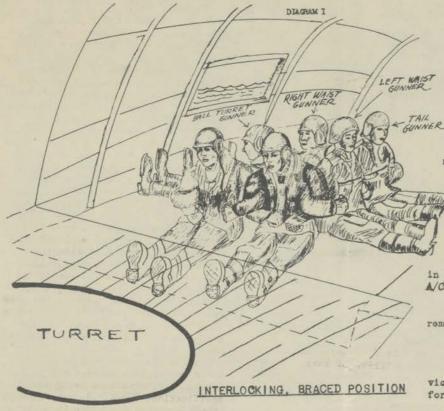
In the second case of bail-out the pilot headed the ship off the friendly coast of Europe on 2 engines, at a ground speed of only 108 mph. No contact was made with A/S Rescue. The last two engines went out, the crew bailed out, and were lost.

The necessity of ditching is much less frequent now that the alternate is provided of landing on French bases before starting across the water. Always consider this aid first.

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1. Side view shows positions of men in waist.

2. The following will be noted:

a. Linking of arms.

b. Position of feet; although in actual performance men facing side of A/C must bend their legs.

c. Wearing of steel helmets.d. Parachute harness has been

removed.

e. Mae wests remain uninflated.

3. Personnel will brace for a violent forward shock and will prepare for a second shock to follow.

3. Start preparations while ditching is only a possibility.
Use all three radio facilities

Use all three radio facilities
-- IFF, MF/DF and Channel "D". One
or two may fail to contact, the third
may save your ship. Repeat calls
every ten minutes.

When ditching becomes imminent within 10 minutes, transmit steadily.

Remember to use trailing wire antenna when out of formation. This increases range, and transmits a strong blip at moment of impact. 4. Know correct ditching positions, and use them.

Pilots: Seats locked forward, Sutton harness fastened.

Flight Deck: Stand, well-braced, do not sit. Avoid the turret. Use canvas bulkhead if available.

Waist: The arms interlocked, legs braced position is proved the best, and this needs practice to assure full cooperation. Ditching belts o.k. if interlocking position is not well rehearsed. Stay back of No. 6 station. If roof escape hatch has been installed, o.k. to use the command deck.

5. Answers to your questions are available, now, on your base.

Do not allow any confusion of method among members of your crew. This outline can touch only the high spots -- complete details are obtainable from the A/S Rescue officer at your Group. See him and establish a definite procedure for your crew. His name is listed here:

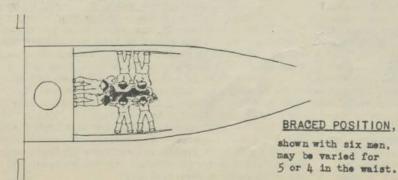
2nd Combat Wing 389th Bomb Grp - Lt. R. B. Parish 445th - Lt. Kenneth D. Cunningham 453rd - Lt. Leonard Apter

14th Combat Wing

44th Bomb Grp - Capt. Chas. M. Allen 392nd - Lt. Harold E. Schildknecht 491st - Lt. Rosslyn Price

20th Combat Wing 93rd Bomb Grp - Capt. Miller Hogan 446th - Lt. Joseph A. Grimm 448th - Lt. Edward K. Schultz

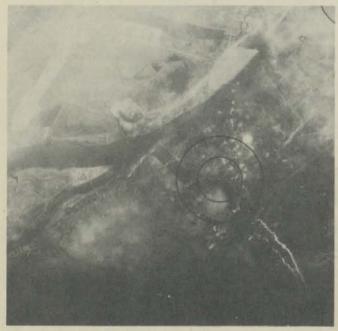
96th Combat Wing 458th Bomb Grp - Capt. H.P. Kittleband 466th - Capt. Milton E. Hinman 467th - It. John J. Harmonowski



BESTHIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



467th TEAM TORCHES HAMBURG OIL



487TH PATTERN: TIMELY VIEW OF TARGET --

confirmed superior coordination of the PFF run. Direct hits were seen in distillation plants, cracking plant, extraction dept., boiler house. train sidings, and at least 30 hits on oil storage.

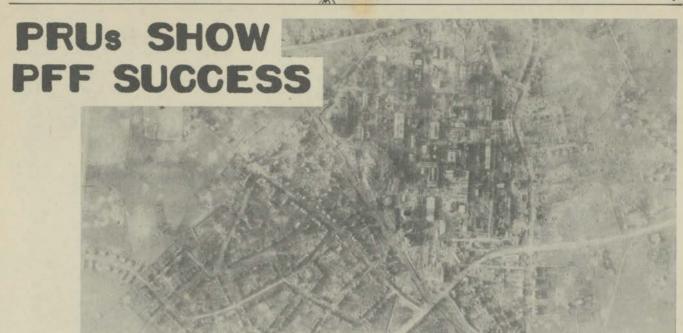
ALERT H2X CREW CHECKS VISUALLY 45 SECONDS BEFORE "BOMBS AWAY"

Approaching the I.P. the code word was given for a cloud-obscured attack. Mickey Operator 1st/Lt. J.W. Holt and Lead Bombardier lst/Lt. C. J. Good prepared to coordinate on the run. The Pilotage Navigator lst/Lt. E. R. Stevens picked up their position through a break in the clouds, gave a slight course correction, and the bomb-run was on, over complete 10/10 undercast.

Course and rate were synchronized for a precise PFF job. Only 45 seconds before bombs away they identified a section of the target through a cloud break, and set in minor course and rate adjustments before their bombs were released. Teamwork of this crew points out an example for all to shoot at.

Bombardier of a follow-up squadron, lst/Lt. L. P. Rhoades, and Pilotage Navigator Maj. O. A. Holmes, while flying on the Group lead, were able also to synchronize for rate.

Group pattern totalled 85% within 2000 feet. using a wide intervalometer setting. Bursts blanketed the major part of the oil refinery of Ebano Asphalt Werke, and a large portion of the oil refinery of Rhenania-Ossag Mineralolwerke.



BOTTROP/WELHEIM OIL REFINERY:

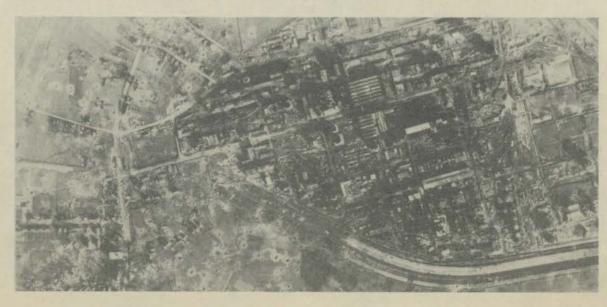
Attacked November 11 thru a blanket of cloud, production center shows on new Photo Reconnaissance to have suffered a dense pattern of direct hits and blast damage.

Including results of a RAF attack on October 31, destroyed are cooling towers, tanks, coke ovens, and three processing plants; heavily damaged -- distillation and regeneration plants, power plant, and additional tanks.

PATH-FIND 2 SYNTHETIC OIL PLANTS

STERKRADE OIL & CHEMICAL WORKS:

These Ruhr plants hid much more effectively than the traditional ostrich, with the aid of weather soup on November 6. Five 2BD Groups (44th, 389th, 446th, and 489th) connected, however, as PRUs show severe damage to important buildings, backen pipe lines, smashed storage facilities.



FLYING TIGER T/SGT. NOW GROOMS MUSTANGS

The original roll of the famous 1st Pursuit squadron, Gen. Claire Chennault's "Flying Tigers", carries the name of Glenn L. Yarberry, now a flight chief with the '361st Fighter Group.

In 1941, after a year and a half in the Army, T/Sgt. Yarberry



T/SGT. GLENN L. YARBERRY

inspecting internal wing bracing of a P-51 Mustang brought in for repair.

volunteered for service in China, where he was needed because of his inline engine experience. He serviced the P-40 Tomahawks of the "Tigers" for almost ten months.

"Talk about cigarette troubles! Expensive liquor?" says Yarberry. "We paid \$2.10 a pack for cigarettes, toothpaste \$2.80 a tube, and Scotch was \$48.00 a fifth.

"We were getting \$400 a month. which sounded good considering regular army pay. Out in China I found 400 smackers didn't go far."

He was one of the last men leaving Rangoon when that city fell. Almost daily their airdrome was strafed by Jap planes. The Americans often couldn't hear the enemy coming because they were warning up their own

In 1942 Yarberry left the "Ti-

gers" and joined the Ferry Command, to help service planes evacuating Chinese refugees. Now as flight chief he supervises maintenance of the P-51 Mustangs in his squadron.

COAXES P-47 HOMEWARD VIA FLAK ALLEYS

His Thunderbolt fighter peppered by a barrage of flak near Paderborn, Germany, Lt. David M. Magel of 56th Fighter Group, found himself with a good engine and wings and practically nothing to control them.

Control cables were cut, so he could use no elevator, left rudder control was knocked off, trim tab shattered, and even the tail wheel was burned off.

He could steer in only a general direction, so attempted to herd the unruly powerhouse back toward England, like urging the ball along in a pinball machine.

Twice en route he ran into more flak, but was practically helpless to avoid it so plunged through and coaxed the fighter on back to England.

Sighting an airfield he had to bring the ship in at 150 miles an hour and the plane was wrecked. Lt. Magel, however was uninjured. His fellow fliers and squadron commander, Maj. Harold E. Comstock, termed the feat "almost unbelievable".



NOMINATION FOR OUTSTANDING

"MAN OF THE DIVISION"

1ST/LT. GEORGE P. BRADLEY 1ST/LT. JAMES W. EVANS T/SGT. ALLEN V. TUTEN

His third DFC was earned by Lt. George P. Bradley, of 458th Bomb Group, for bringing home his flak-riddled Lib safely with the combined ingenuity of Bombardier Lt. Evans and Engineer T/Sgt. Tuben, who also won DFCs for their accomplishment.

Gasoline lines, hydraulic lines and radio were shot out, and capsule-sized (five-feet tall) Bombardier Lt. Evans, who weighs 100

pounds, clambered about the open bomb bay repairing broken fuel lines. A minor slip meant a fall, and when he lost his footing out he plunged, dangling on a 12-foot safety rope. Gunners pulled him back to the catwalk.

Likewise busily working on the fuel lines was Sgt. Tuten, who also was forced to grab the safety rope to avoid disaster.

Lt. Bradley landed the plane, minus some of its controls. His first DFC had been won in bringing home a Lib with the main wing

spars severed, and no aileron control. When a crew chief climbed out on the wing to inspect damage the entire wing tip fell off.



LT. EVANS, SGT. TUTEN, LT. BRADLEY