

JULY 16-29,
1944

TARGET: VICTORY

BREMEN PINPOINTED THRU 10/10



CLOUDS NO BARRIER
Everybody released perfectly
--everybody hit successfully.

"ALLIED DEVICES"
DEFY CLOUD COVER
WITH ACCURACY

Bremen has been hit hard -- her highest priority targets blasted successfully on Saturday -- in spite of perfect cloud and smoke "protection".

U-boat shipbuilding works, warehouses, oil industry, and railroad facilities are severely damaged. Several vessels are sunk in the harbor.

Early reconnaissance reports show that seldom has a visual raid been so successful -- and this one was done through 10/10 cloud screening.

Saturday's raid on Bremen (July 29) raises a new standard. The latest "Allied devices" to which Hitler has attributed our "technical superiority" are progressing more rapidly than his plans for revised buzz-bombs.

(Continued on page 2)



"RAMROD TO ST. LO"
Paralyzing bombardment leads
Allies' greatest land advance.

RETURN TO "GOTHA"

PICTURES ON PAGES 4 & 5

TARGET: *VICTORY*

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

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in the ETO

ALL CONTENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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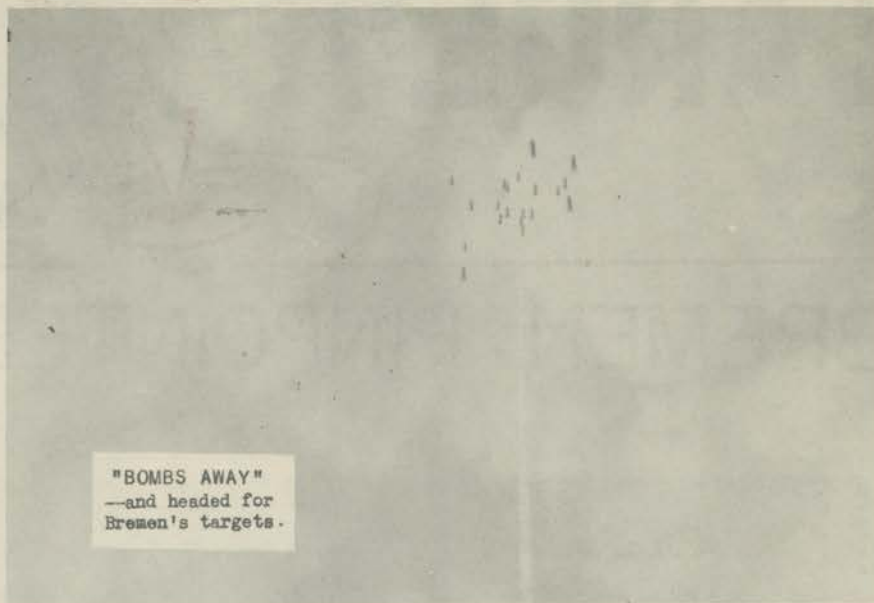
ONLY ONE TARGET

One goal above all others governs each of our operations in this theatre. Every target we attack with success rolls up an advance toward that final goal: the day of Victory.

As combat crew members we command a precious opportunity each time we turn on an I.P. for a run to the target. Bombardier, pilot, navigator, gunner -- if we do a prize job today we need never return to this target.

Today's target is part of our supreme objective: the Victory that lies now so near ahead. There is only one route -- by smacking that M.P.I.

The purpose of this publication, "Target: Victory", is to report to all combat crew members on how well we do that job -- and assist to bring that precious day a few raids earlier.



"BOMBS AWAY"
--and headed for
Bremen's targets.

" BREMEN PINPOINTED THRU 10/10 "
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

Second Division Liberators participating in the raid preferred the cloudy sky -- it was safer flying -- but the Germans have expected the sky covering to assist them also. Instead the improved "Allied devices" brought us a landmark victory.
Even more damage is expected to be

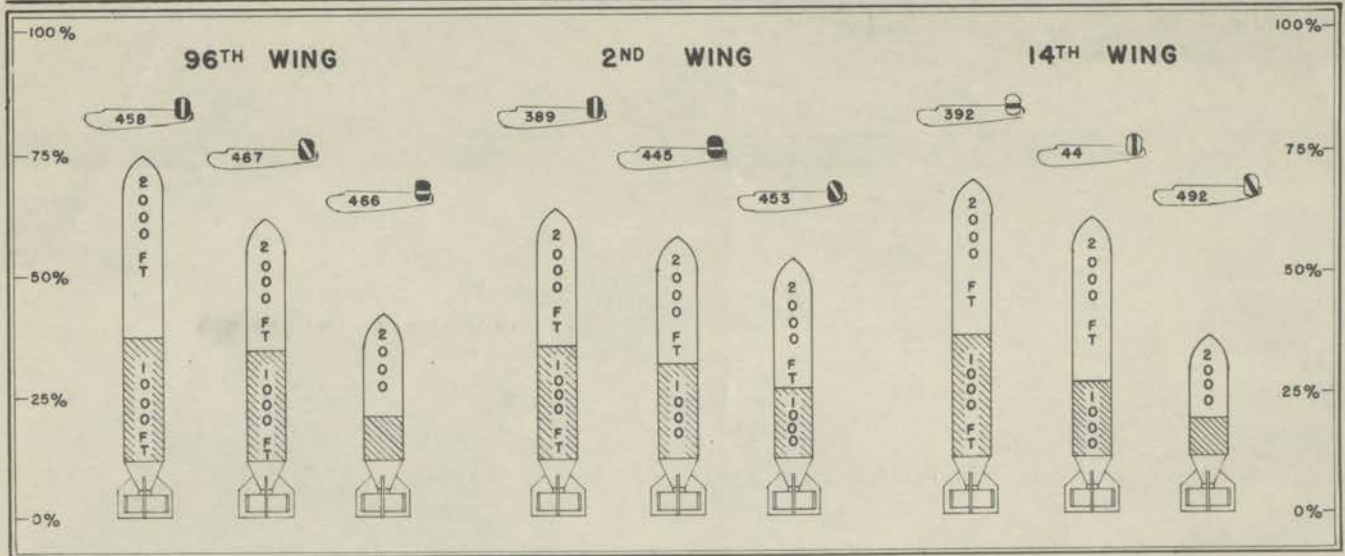
reported when further reconnaissance is completed.

"Heartiest Congratulations" have been issued by the Commanding General of the 2nd Bombardment Division to "all participating in this successful mission".

**"... dedicated to getting
bombs on the target..."**

This publication is dedicated to getting bombs on the target, and is for the officers and men of the combat crews 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 techniques and performance, and to correct their own errors if basic material is provided from which they can draw their own conclusions. If this publication can accomplish these things, it will amply justify its existence. I have every hope that it will do so.

James F. Hodges
JAMES F. HODGES
Major General, USA
Commanding



HOW DID YOUR GROUP SCORE ON "INVASION" BOMBING ATTACKS ?

Summary Of Visual Target Hits In April - May - June

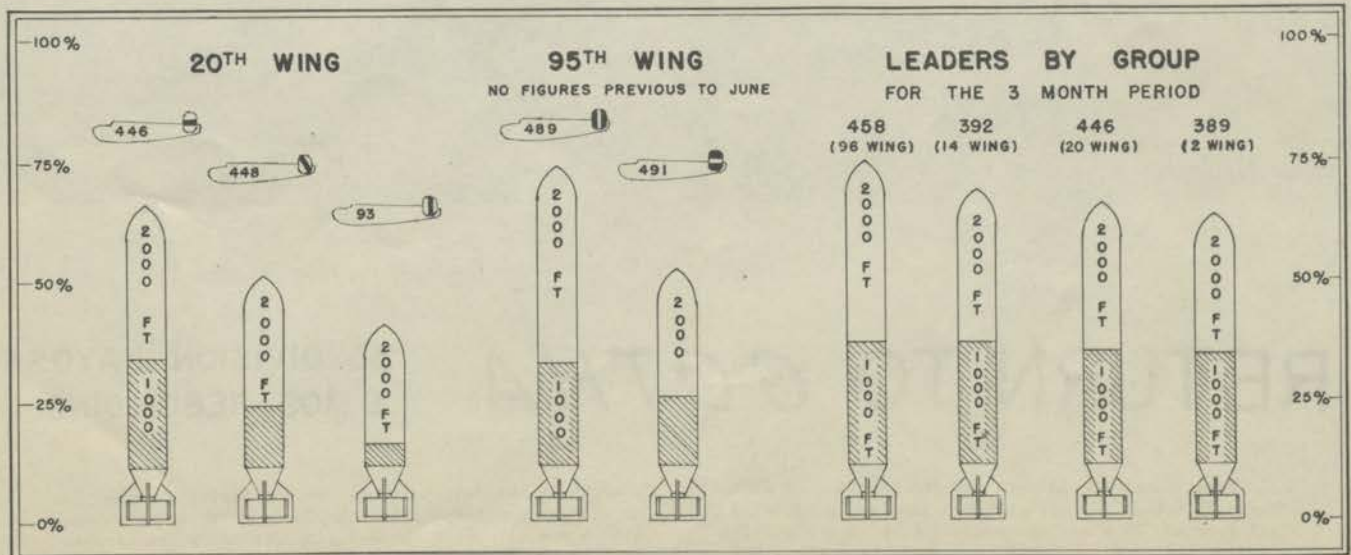
First gauge of bombing results is accuracy. How close were the hits, and how many of them blasted within 1,000 feet of the M.P.I.?

No cut and dry problem is a rating of Groups for accurate bombing. Targets differ -- damage may not always parallel accuracy -- no average can be conclusive. Ratings by this standard may be unjust. But analysis indicates that the Groups build up their accuracy with experience -- and herein is reflected top-flight teamwork.

For the combat crews' information, and a standard to be appreciated by all, we submit these figures from the monthly Operational Research Section report by Eighth Air Force. If your Group rated low here, very likely other features offset this. Remember, this is not the whole story -- but every man in the ETO likes to see those hits fall into the jackpot!

Covered in this summary are hits recorded only on visual targets, excluding PFF, incendiary, fragmentation and postholing missions.

BEST ACCURACY BY WINGS: 96th LEADS





RETURN TO *GOTHA*

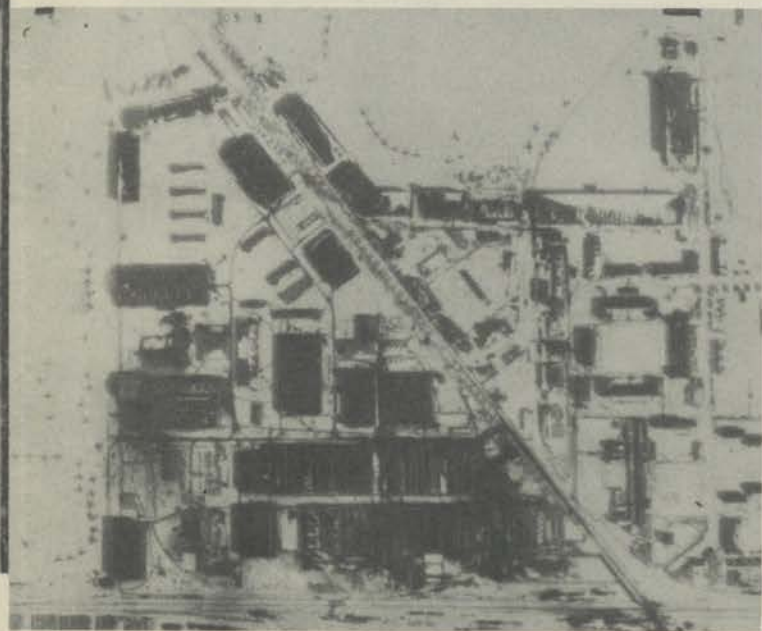
2D DIVISION KAYOS
6 MOS. REBUILDING

Reminiscent to old ears was the briefing of July 20. "Target: Gotha" -- this customer had been a big-time job last February 24 that none would forget. A precision success, the kind you don't have to go back to. But after 6 frantic months this Jerry plane and tank production center was about to become lethal again.

So on the July morning, the 2nd Division formed for an encore to Gotha. Hell, they'd done it before -- they did it again! Note the A-1 pinpointing of the target, both in the February attack (snow-covered ground) and the return engagement. The town stands unscathed, but retired is its most dangerous possession.



NO FEATHER, in Hitler's aching helmet is this scene of inferno and precision bomb-aiming on one of his proud centers of Luftwaffe and Panzer production. Fragmentation bombing followed, rendering the airstrip useless, its planes a scrapheap.



TARGET:

Exceptionally clearcut in winter dress before the February demolition.

RECONSTRUCTION:

Snow several months gone, rebuilding well progressed, soldiers singing "Lily Marlene" -- so back to the scene in summer come the 2nd Division Liberators for an encore of July 20. Last time the Jerries took 9 weeks in simply removing debris.



BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



445th GIVES ONE-TWO (AND 3) TO LEIPHEIM



LEIPHEIM:
Experimental airplant

GROUP SOCKS 62%

WITHIN 1,000 FEET;

LEAD 100% IN 2,000

Let's all get together and imitate this job by the 445th. You can read those figures again. They're not a misprint.

Lead squadron planted 100% within 2,000 feet of the assigned MPI, 62% of its hits within 1,000 feet. High right synchronized with 90% in 2,000, and topped the leader with 70% within a thousand! Low left gave them both a close run for it.

Net result: Group average for all three squadrons — 62% and 83%, respectively, within one and two thousand feet.

That's ace bombardiering, "hot" piloting, a top-grade unit all around!

BEST RUNNER UP OF THIS WEEK



LAUPHEIM:
Leaders "had it".
Followup snafued.

453rd GUNNING FOR PERFECT RECORD

Leaders Red Hot On
"Vic." Circle Score;
Muffed On Follow-up.

Hard luck (you know the initials) of the week, but danged close to being sensational!

Competing with the entire Division on that Gotha attack, the lead and second squadrons plunked their peace offerings 95% and 100% within that 2,000 foot circle. Along with 55% and 60% in one thousand feet.

Something missed on the Anchor squadron -- 55% and 5% they delivered. But a fourth squadron, flying with another Group, paid off in diamonds. 100% they spread in 2,000 and 70% in one thousand. Now, if only this member had been the third entry of the Group -- look at the score! Two 100% and one 95%. That's rationing bombs, and next they'll be rationing targets!



GOTHA:
Best 2 out of 3.



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

LT. COL. VANCE

If a more notable performance has been achieved in a B-24 or any aircraft, we have yet to learn of it. To Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance, Jr., of the 489th Bomb Group goes our publication's highest acclaim.

Heavy flak over the target at Wimereaux, France, amputated Col. Vance's foot, killed the pilot of the plane in which he was flying as command pilot, and knocked out three of the engines.

Taking over the controls from a position on the floor, Col. Vance put the plane -- which by now had lost its remaining engine -- into a glide to maintain speed, and reached the English Coast, in itself an almost impossible feat with a four engined bomber.

Over the coast, he ordered the crew to bail out. Knowing that both the navigator and radio operator had been wounded, and, from a snatch of conversation over the interphone and certain that one of them had been unable to jump and was still aboard, he turned back to sea to try to ditch the plane in an attempt to save this man's life, passing up the chance to parachute to safety himself. He knew, as he did so, that a 500 lb bomb still hung in the racks.

Lying on the floor and using a side window for observation in making a landing, Col. Vance successfully ditched the B-24. As the plane was sinking, he was blown free of the wreckage by an explosion.

In the water, he clung to pieces of the wreck until strong enough to inflate his life jacket. Despite his grave injury, he attempted to enter the wreckage and locate the injured crewman. Only when he failed to find anyone, did he abandon search and maintain himself afloat until picked up by an air sea rescue launch.

Who better to be our
"Man-of-the-Division"?

("Target - Victory" will nominate an outstanding man of the Division weekly)

AIMING POINT KEY TO HITS

SUGGESTIONS TO BOMBARDMENT FOR BULLSEYE IDENTIFICATION

To accomplish precision bombing, one of the primary needs is to locate a positive aiming point, with its location relative to the target accurately known. Then get perfect synchronization of the bombsight on this aiming point.

When clouds, smoke, or ground haze are present at the target, the bombsight may be synchronized on an aiming point short of the target area and the bomb release delayed a calculated number of units of tangency with the use of the grids. In each instance however, the bombing accuracy achieved depends not only upon the mechanical perfection with which the bombsight operates, the exactness of the data fed into the sight, and the skill of the bombardier in operating his equipment, but upon definite identification and synchronization on an aiming point, location of which relative to the target is accurately established.

No matter how skillful the synchronization, errors in aiming point identification assume increased importance in affecting bombardment accuracy under combat conditions, and it is imperative that highest emphasis be placed upon aiming point selection and recognition.

One of the best ways for bombardiers to sharpen up their target and aiming point identification is

through the optics of the bombsight -- facilitated by using the A-2-A highboy trainer rather than the present attempt to synchronize on a mock target on the bug with photo illustrations, the Gerling Perspective and the R.A.F. Target Charts. The present use of the highboy becomes unquestionably monotonous, and this recommended technique results in marked improvement of interest, identification, and target and aiming point consciousness for the bombardier.

The potential capacity of our present equipment can better be exploited if leader bombardiers recognize the importance of skill in target and aiming point identification, and further their training in this direction. Camera bombing and the target identification program in our Division has resulted in better bombing, and these forms of training should continue to be emphasized. This type of training challenges the abilities of all leader bombardiers in faster identification, thus giving them an opportunity for better bombing runs.



"NO, I'M FLYING FORMATION WITH THE 448TH DOWN THERE!"