

RESTRICTED

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# TARGET FACTORY

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1945

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VOL - 2, NO 8

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

## GREETINGS to GEN. PECK



BRIG. GEN. WALTER R. PECK  
See statement on page 2.



### GEN. KEPNER TAKES COMMAND EIGHTH AF —GEN. PECK AT 2AD

On 10 May, Brig. Gen. Walter R. Peck succeeded Maj. Gen. William E. Kepner as commanding general of 2nd Air Division. General Peck, of Lima, Ohio and Seattle, Wash., formerly commanded 96th Combat Wing, and has long experience in the buildup of American airpower toward its present efficiency. At one time he commanded the combat crew replacement centers for the ETO. Gen. Kepner succeeded Lt. Gen. James E. Doolittle as commanding general of the 8th Air Force. "I desire to express my appreciation and a commendation for all personnel of 2nd Air Division," stated General Kepner on his departure. "You have shown a devotion to duty and patriotism that should bring pride to us all. We have each and every man and woman contributed to making the 2nd Air Division outstanding among all such units in the world."

## ADIEU to GEN. KEPNER

ASSIGNMENT "How the Lusty Infant Grew"

Pages 3-6



FIRST TRIP



COLOGNE

## MISSION: "TROLLEY"

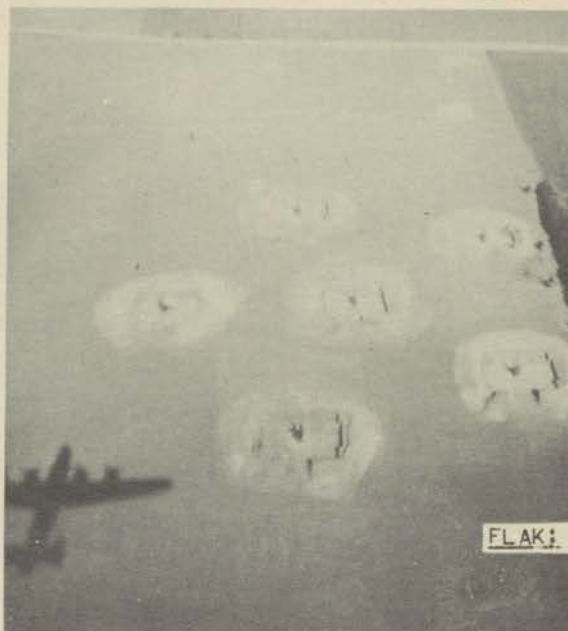
"I don't know who I ought to thank," commented many a 2AD ground man, "but it's the best break that's been handed to me in the Army."

Enthusiasm rippled as the word got out that those who have had to stay behind at their bases while the combat missions were being flown were now being taken on an aerial sight-seeing tour to visit the newly-surrendered areas on the continent. It was an official trip, designated Mission: "Trolley".

On repeated days a stream of Liberators and Fortresses took off from the 8th Air Force bomber bases, and civilians in Holland, Belgium, France and Germany thought they were witnessing an air parade. Targets were visited at Ludwigshafen, Aschaffenburg, Frankfurt, Koblenz, Cologne, Dusseldorf and noted industrial centers of the Ruhr valley.

The heat of recent warfare had barely cooled from the quiet flak batteries as the bombers swept over them at what a few days before would have been a suicide altitude.

"The bombers have really done a job over there," sums up the opinion of appreciative mechanics, clerks, engineers and administrative personnel who in many cases had experienced their first trip in a plane.



FLAK!

## "... the ultimate objective..."

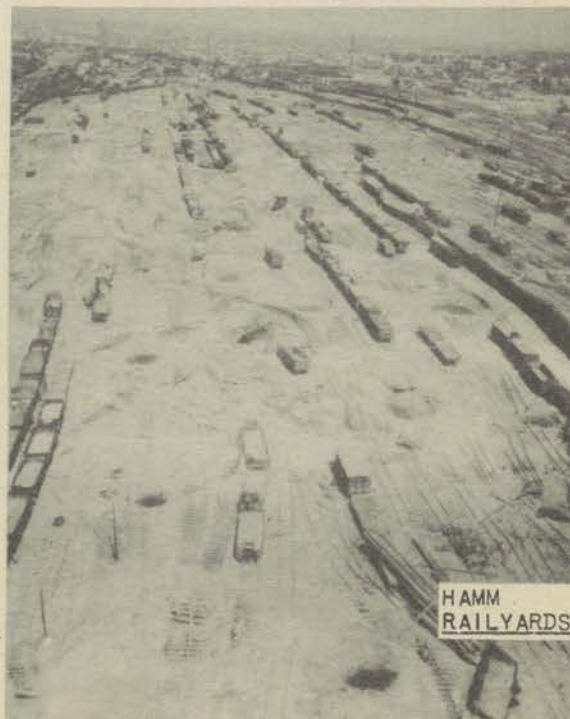
TO ALL OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE 2D AIR DIVISION:

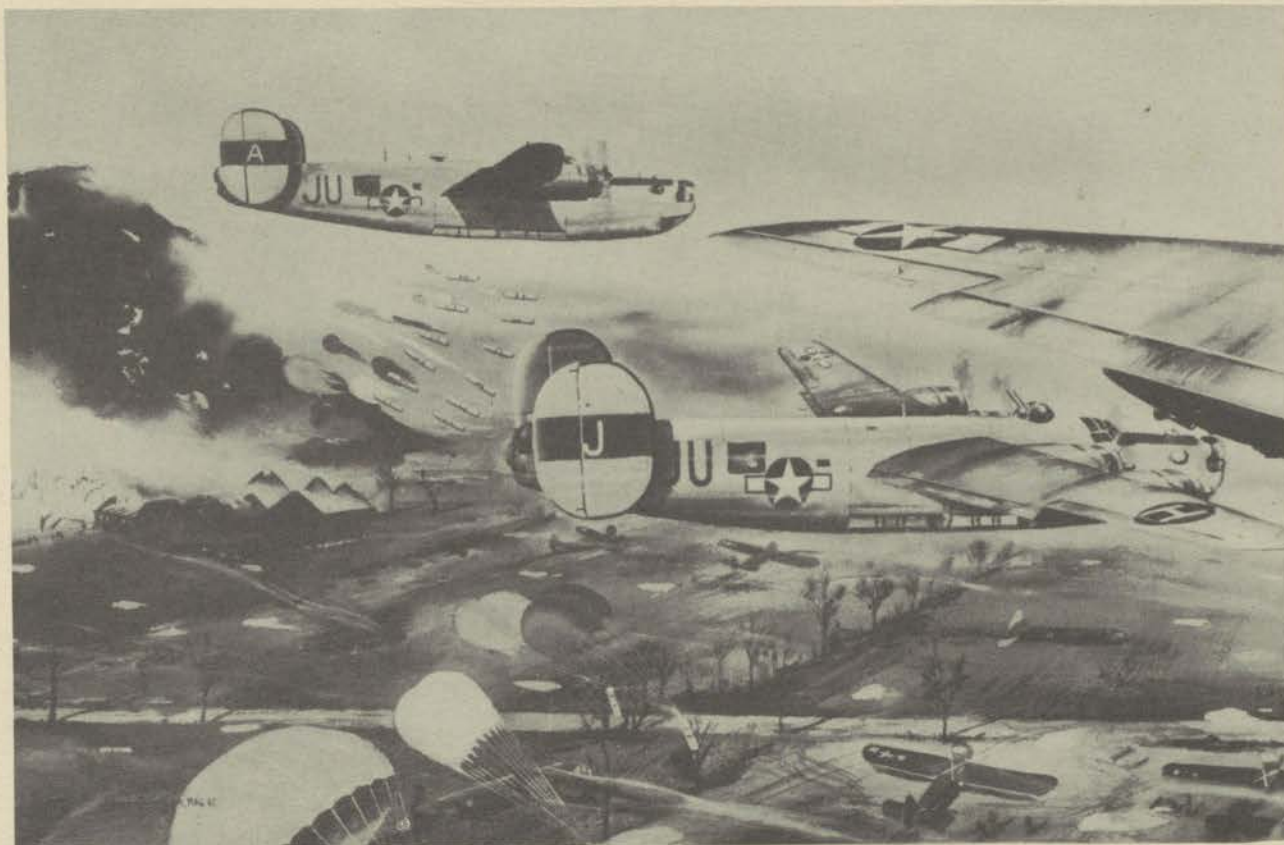
You have finished the task you came here to do, at the very peak of your efficiency. At this point the 2nd Air Division can be considered the most effective organization of its kind anywhere in the world. The inventory of your accomplishments is a challenge to the imagination. The enemy on this front was determined, well equipped and resourceful. Through the gallantry and skilled airmanship of the combat crews and the tireless work and devotion to duty of those on the ground, you have destroyed him. All of you can carry in your hearts the knowledge and satisfaction that you have served your country well indeed.

We still have a war to fight. It will take time, hard work and great courage and determination to finish that war. But you and I know that we are on the march to final victory over our last enemy. Keep your spirit strong and carry on the great tradition you have established in the 2d Division wherever you may go, whether in the service or in civilian life. Let us all remember that the ultimate objective for which all of us work and fight is a better and more decent world in which to live.

I salute all of you and wish you the very best of luck.

*Walter R. Peck*  
 WALTER R. PECK  
 Brigadier General, U. S. A.  
 Commanding

HAMM  
RAILYARDS



**LOWER and CLOSER** to the enemy than any other heavy bomber unit, on three occasions the Libs of 2AD Groups bore in at near "muzzle height" -- Floesti, on 1 August 1943; Holland, 18 September 1944; Rhine-crossing, 24 March 1945. On latter occasion sketches for above painting were made by Major John T. McCoy, Jr., who accompanied 446th Bomb Group in resupply to First Allied Airborne Army. Floesti was longest mission in ETO, 13½ hrs.

## ASSIGNMENT: 2ND AIR DIVISION--AND HOW THE LUSTY INFANT GREW

"This is our final edition of Target: Victory," grinned the Director of Operations. "I think the crews are going to want to see a roundup of what was accomplished over here by themselves and by those who have been here and gone. Let's see a bang-up farewell."

That was a very fair request. A capsule history of 2nd Air Division is something all the oxygen-eaters want to see. But in reconnoitering through the files of "Target: Victory", the Ops section, Intelligence, Photo, History, Statistics, and in hangar gab with the earliest old-timers, it becomes apparent that since 6 September 1942 (when the then 2nd Bombardment Wing arrived at the base in England, same month the three Eagle squadrons became the pioneer U.S. 4th Fighter Group) every day has made history for some units of this Bomber and Fighter division. Some days carved air force history that future time never can erase.

So what are we going to include as most memorable in the history of this precocious air team? Shall it be the infant steps, when six Libs of 44th Bomb Group comprised a mission (7 Nov., 1942)? The first encounter with the Luftwaffe (9 Oct., 1942, Lille, first Lib mission) when 93rd Bomb Group shot down 6 ME's plus 5 probables? Or the nearly thousand-plane turnout of 2AD bombers and fighters on Christmas Eve, 1944 -- when 8th Air Force answered Von Runstedt's bulge salient with 3,000 droning daylight sky-dreadnaughts?

Bombing section is bound to whip out some uphill charts, bullseye target photos, and accentuate the fact that for the climax four months of the war, when 8th Air Force cut loose on smashing every record anyone had visualized for

air warfare -- 2nd Air Division's all-squadron, all-Group teamwork emplaned its bombing results at the top of 8th Air Force. "That's why we came over here," they argue convincingly, "to put bombs on the target."

Now you get into the fighter viewpoint. The boys who talk with tilted hands and sprain their wrists doing Split-S's in the ops room will bury modesty in recounting about the five fighter groups of 2AD, comprising 65th Fighter Wing. This wing, commanded by Brig. Gen. Jesse Autcom, racked up more victories on enemy aircraft than any other organization over here. This single wing owns 3,650 confirmed destructions of enemy aircraft, and two of its fighter groups are the only units in the ETO to reach the 1,000-victory mark. Col. Everett W. Stewart's 4th Mustang Group, famous before birth as it grew out of the legendary American

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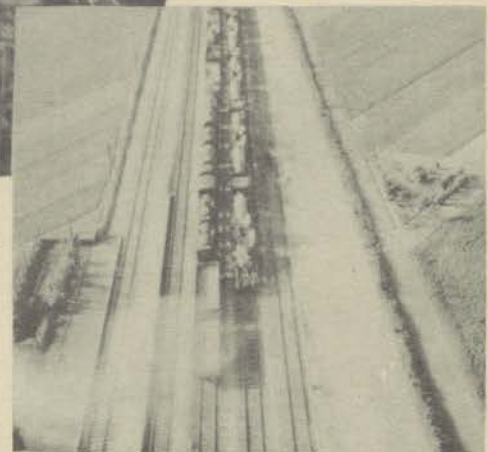


LOCOMOTIVE ROUNDHOUSE  
AT GIESSEN:

One of 2AD targets visited on photo mission "Hollywood", which gathered valuable evidence of the effect of heavy bombardment in the heart of Germany.

V2'S: TOO LATE

Transport from their launching sites was 3,000 miles and hour. To reach the site might take weeks, in the war of rails and roads.



ASSIGNMENT: 2AD. HOW THE LUSTY INFANT GREW

(Continued from page 3)

Eagle squadron of British Spitfires, wound up hostilities in a long-lived dead heat with Lt. Col. Lucien A. Dade's 56th Thunderbolt Group. At the victory whistle, the 4th (originally Col. Don Blakeslee's unit) credited just over a thousand enemy planes destroyed, matching the 56th Thunderbolts (former Col. David Schilling outfit) -- and there's still a helmetfull of pending claims that will keep analysts buzzing for weeks to determine the absolute title holder of the two.

The spotlight on these two pioneer outfits dazzled some of the press attention away from Lt. Col. Claiborne H. Kinnard's 355th Mustangs, third-scoring group of the ETO with 862 credits, and the newer 361st (Lt. Col. Roy B. Caviness c.o.) and 479th (Col. Kyle L. Riddle) Mustangs, who moulded their immortality in the campaigns of invasion, buzz-bombs, and strafing as well as sky battles with Jerry's last-word fighter models. 479th destroyed the first enemy jet in aerial combat, 29 July 1944, and 9 months later downed the last Jerry jet craft to fall to the 8th Air Force, 25 April 1945.

But now we're talking organizations and statistics, which are no more than the reflection of the personalities who have built them. A memory book of 2AD lore cannot overstress such individuals as Maj. Gen. James P. Hodges, founder of 2nd Bombardment Division (then 2nd Bomb Wing), who gave the division its maxim "bombs on the target" (now Asst. Chief

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## BOX SCORE

### BOMBERS

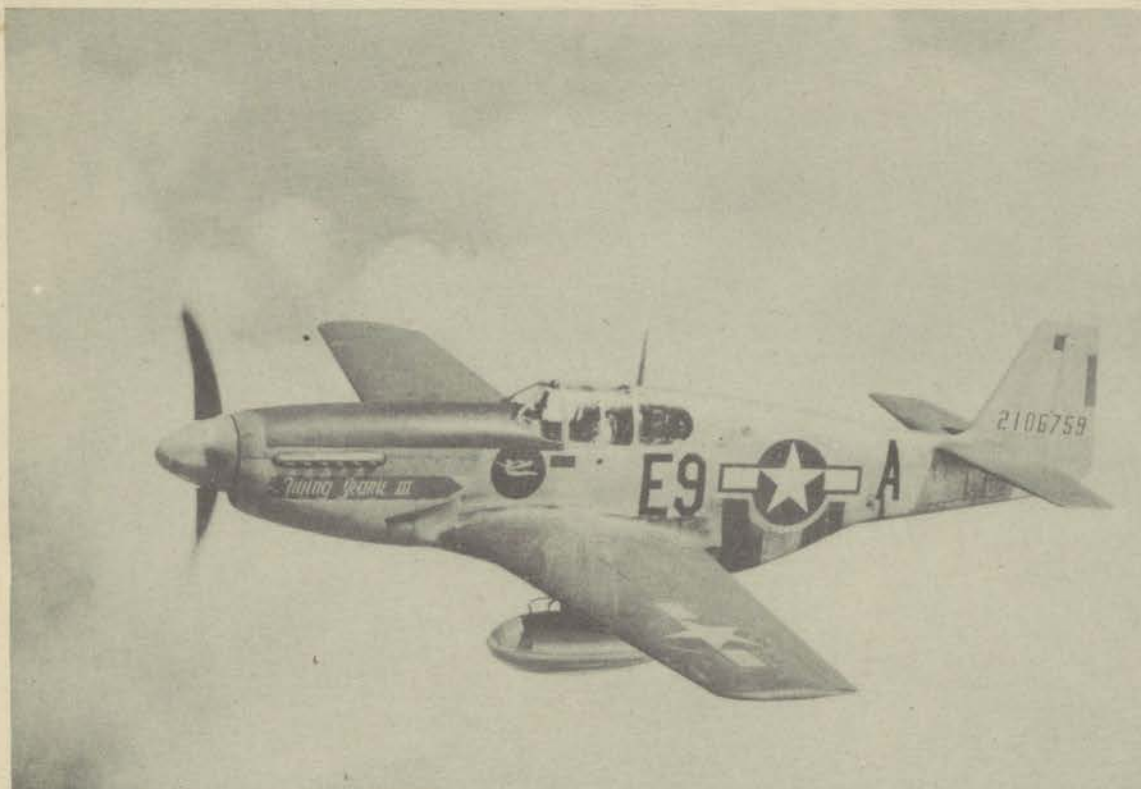
Total missions flown by 2AD Libs	-	449
Bomb tonnage, total all missions	-	199,354.34 tons
Enemy a/c destroyed by Libs, confirmed	-	1,079
Total 2AD bombers lost in action	-	1,066

### FIGHTERS

Enemy a/c destr. by Fighter Wing, confirmed	3,650
" " " " probables	1,424
Enemy a/c destroyed in air, confirmed	1,951½
" " " on ground, confirmed	1,698½

### TOP-SCORING FIGHTER PILOTS

Capt. John T. Godfrey, 4th Group, total	-	36
(18 destroyed in air, 18 destroyed on ground)		
Lt. Col. Francis S. Gabreski, 56th Group	-	28 in air
(Greatest air total, plus 3 on ground, tot. 31)		
<u>Top-scorers still on operations:</u>		
Lt. Col. Claiborne H. Kinnard, 355th Group	-	25½
(8 destroyed in air, 17½ on ground)		
Maj. Felix Williamsen, 56th Group	-	14 in air
(Leading air scorer active, no ground claims)		
Maj. Robin Olds, 479th Fighter Group	-	13 in air
(Also 11 destroyed on ground, for total of 24)		



SPITFIRES AND LIGHTNINGS  
TO MUSTANGS AND THUNDERBOLTS

(Continued from page 4)

of Air Staff for Intelligence, Washington, D.C.), or Maj. Gen. William E. Kepner, who succeeded him as 2AD commander and now has followed Lt. Gen. Doolittle as head of 8th Air Force. Gen. Kepner, among innumerable distinctions, has flown higher than any other pilot of 2AD -- 60,613 feet, a record balloon ascension in 1934 for scientific research. Indelible are the personal feats of Congressional Medal of Honor winners Brig. Gen. Leon W. Johnson, now commanding 14th Bomb Wing, Lt. Col. Addison E. Baker (MIA), Lt. Col. Leon R. Vance, Maj. John J. Jerstadt (MIA), 2nd Lt. Lloyd H. Hughes (MIA). Long-standing will be the records of 65th Wing's fighter aces, Col. Hubert Zemke, Col. David Schilling, Lt. Col. Francis Gabreski, Lt. Col. John Elder, Lt. Col. Gordon Graham, Lt. Col. Arthur Jeffrey, Lt. Col. Claiborne Kinnard, Maj. Duane Beeson, Maj. George Bostwick, Maj. Fred Christensen, Maj. Paul Conger, Maj. Fred Gladych, Maj. Fred W. Glover, Maj. James Godson, Maj. Gerald Johnson, Maj. Robert Johnson, Maj. Walker Mahurin, Maj. Gerald Montgomery, Maj. Pierce McKennon, Maj. Louis N. Norley, Maj. Robin Olds, Maj. Felix Williamson, Capt. Don Gentile, Capt. "Tex" Brown, Capt. William Cullerton, Capt. George Gleason, Capt. John Godfrey.

Aces too were created among the Lib crew gunners. Lt. William G. Morton, T/Sgt. John Pitcovich, S/Sgt. Albert H. Oser each destroyed 6 enemy fighters in air battle; T/Sgts. Willard W. Scott and Ravelle A. Bennett downed 5½ and 5. A total of 1,079 confirmed enemy aircraft were destroyed by gunners of 2AD Libs, plus 285 more probables and 337 known damaged. This number tops the total of 2AD bombers missing in action for all causes, 1066, only 346 of which are known to have fallen to enemy fighters.

Vignettes of 2nd Division life must include the famed Lib "Witchcraft", 467th Bomb Group, crew-chiefed by M/Sgt. Joe Ramirez to a record 128 consecutive missions, without ever a mechanical turnback. Planes like unstoppable "Suzy Q", which was riddled, crash-landed, and rebuilt more often than any other Lib, lead the Naples mission minus one engine, and lived to carry Brig. Gen. (then Col.) Leon W. Johnson on his Congressional-Medal-of-Honor Ploesti mission. Add such unit records as 93rd Bomb Group's total 391 missions (top for ETO); the 359 enemy aircraft shot down by Libs of the 44th Bomb Group; first ETO use of pathfinder instrument bombing, by 93rd and 389th Bomb Groups, followed by successful "cloud" bombing by all of 8th Air Force. The luminous career of ex-movie star Col. James M. Stewart, who ascended through the Libs' pioneer days eventually to earn command of the 2nd Combat Wing. The convincing

(Continued on page 6)



COL. HUBERT ZEMKE:

Introduced to Stalag Luft I some American rule -- and came out alive.



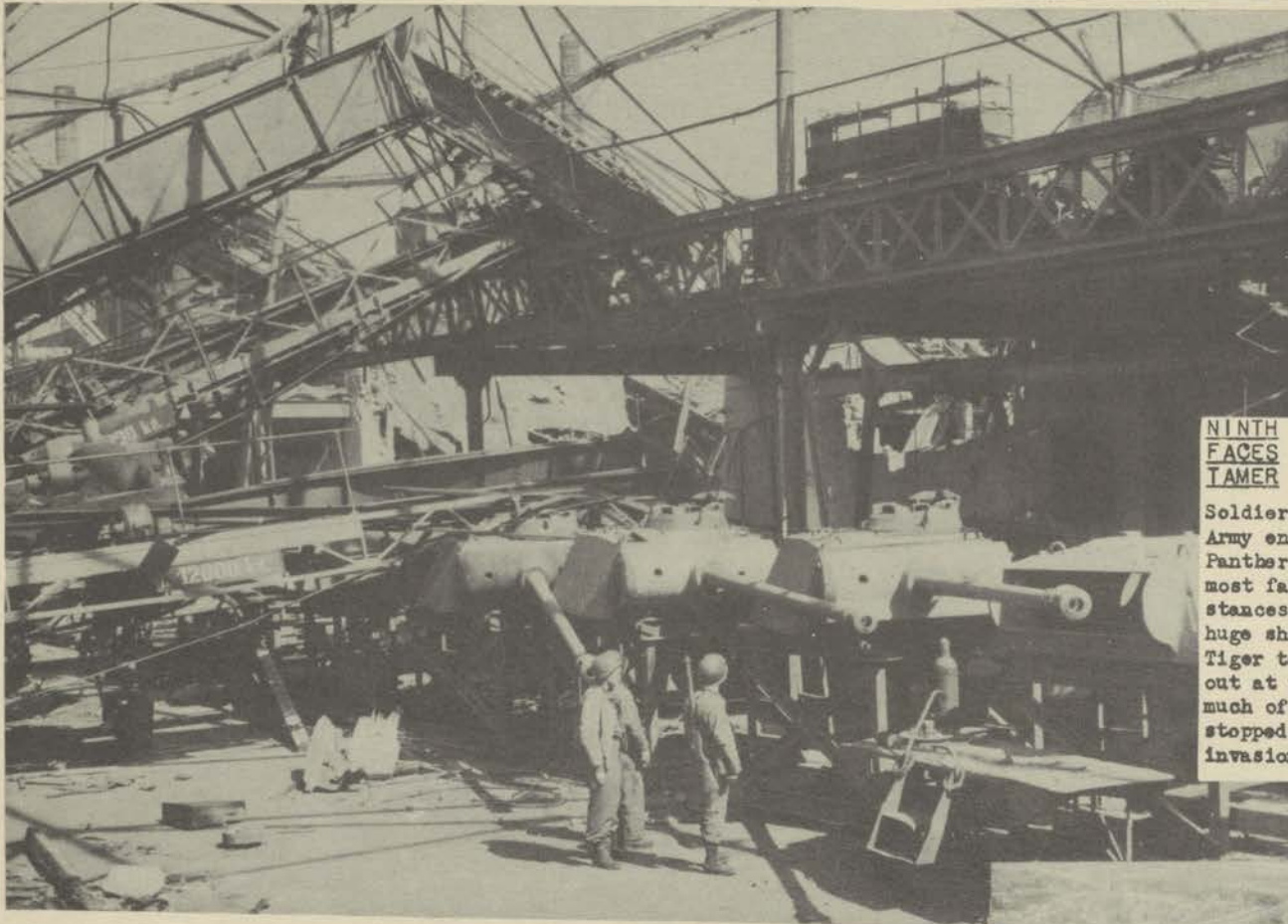
MAJ. FELIX WILLIAMSON

Top-scoring fighter pilot, in air credits, still on active status.



LT. COL. FRANCIS S. GABRESKI

Greatest number of air victories by any 8AF pilot, back from prison camp.



NINTH ARMY  
FACES A  
TAMER TIGER:

Soldiers of U.S. Ninth Army encounter German Panther tanks under the most favorable circumstances at Hanover. A huge share of these and Tiger tanks were bombed out at their lair, and much of production had stopped before the final invasion of Germany.

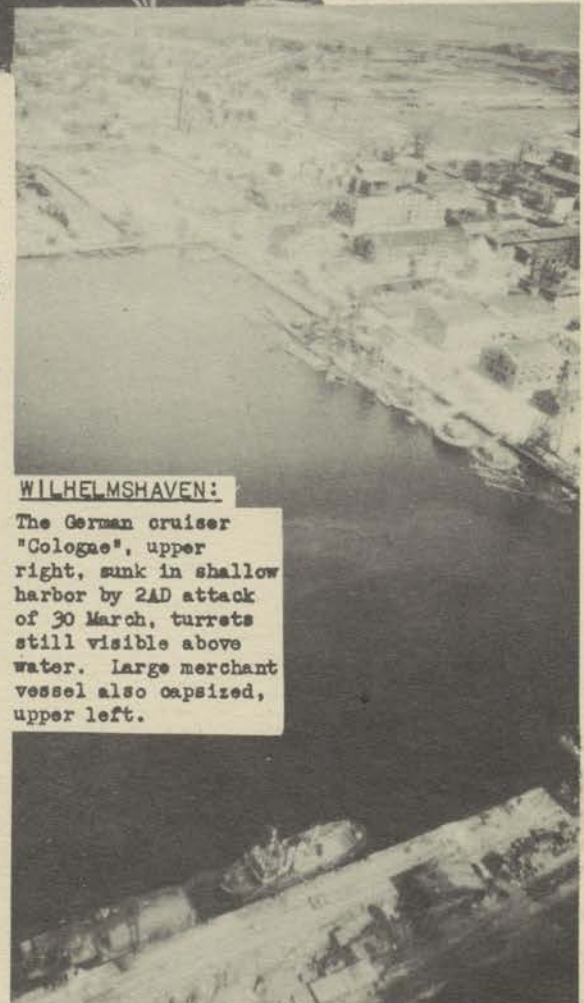
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achievements of Sgt. Ben Kuroki, Japanese-American gunner, who translated prejudice into praise as he valiantly downed at least three enemy aircraft during a hard-fought tour. Lt. Darrel McMahan, who alone attacked and strafed intense flak batteries to divert them from his flight leader's crippled fighter as it limped home at 2000 feet. Lt. Richard Hruby, first pilot in any theatre successfully to ditch a B-24 in the sea and save all members of his crew, without injury -- a milestone in Air-Sea Rescue technique. The shocking MIA of persuasive leader Col. Hubert Zemke (56th and 479th Fighter Groups) on his "last" mission, followed by his eventual return from a Nazi prison camp where RAF and USAAF associates relate how he assumed command and all but ran the Nazis themselves in his efficient administration.

"I desire to impress upon higher commanders specifically," Gen. George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, had stated in our first month of war, January 1942, "their responsibility for taking all measures which will contribute to our control of the air. Every day brings additional proof that without this control, operations whether on land or sea or in the air will probably fail. This fact must be a primary consideration to all Staff planning."

This control of the air was the mission of 8th Air Force. Not by weight of numbers lone -- for over half its battle the 8th fought a numerically superior foe. The portion contributed by bombers and fighters of 2nd Air Division was by many measures an outstanding third of the 8th's eventual achievement of General Marshall's goal. At the beginning it could be little more than a hope and a prayer.

The story begs to be told in far more dramatic detail than this summary can hint. An all-inclusive history soon will go into production at Washington, D.C. Incidents of interest and value that previously may have been overlooked are earnestly desired, so that the saga of 2AD may more truly reproduce "the way it was". If you know any such items, please communicate with "Target: Victory" or with the Division Historian, Headquarters 2AD, APO 558.



WILHELMSHAVEN:

The German cruiser "Cologne", upper right, sunk in shallow harbor by 2AD attack of 30 March, turrets still visible above water. Large merchant vessel also capsized, upper left.



Magdeburg/Rothensee refinery, still smoking from last 2AD attack as photo Lib visited plant the day after VE-day.

#### THE BATTLE OF OIL:

Most heavily defended targets in Germany were the oil centers. Nevertheless a rebuilding force was required at each important plant, near the size of the operating forces. Some entire German tank units fought as infantry because there was no fuel for the tanks. "Tactical bombing," Gen. Doolittle described, "is knocking over the milk pail every day, while strategic bombing is an effort to kill the cow."



Dr. Alfred Albrecht, in charge of attempting to rebuild Misberg refinery as fast as bombers tore it down, admitted he fought a losing battle, was relieved to have his job come to an end.



TARGET:  
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING

## "MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

In this week of recollection and farewell, it is impossible to confine Man of the Division to an individual. For any man we might select, there will be a score of equal or greater merit who would be neglected.

This week's Man of the Division is the man who previously has been overlooked. Not just by this department, but more than likely by the whole cavalcade of recognition. Possibly he earned the Congressional Medal of Honor on a final mission, but his action was never witnessed -- all that is known is that he never returned.

The kiss of greatness upon notable individuals has not brought us to victory, nor has it created the achievements of this Division. Vic-

tory has been hastened by the notable great, and lives have been saved, but the unconditional Allied success is due to an effort as democratic as the spirit which motivated it.

The enemy opposed by 8th Air Force feared no individual in the organization. But they at first respected and later feared a morale, a teamwork, a crushing effort of tens of thousands in whom they could find no weak point sufficient to prevent the accomplishment of every mission assigned to it.

"Commendation" was made by the German intelligence to the security discipline and radio procedures of 2nd Bomb Division in a captured document dated April 1944. Flaws and malpractices discovered in other organizations repeatedly did not appear among 2AD units, they commented. In no element of the military is the vulnerability more democratic than in the network of classified communication. This "enemy commendation" was earned by the least soldier of lowest rank as completely as by the commanding general.

Man of the Division is the man or woman who closed his mouth when he had information that should not be let out. Man of the Division is the supply clerk who climbed out of bed at 0200 to get

an aircrewman an essential exchange of equipment for a mission. Man of the Division is the salvage parts worker whose failing left eye kept him out of the air but who set about to prove that possibly he could contribute even more on the ground. He is the man whose inventions grew to save ten thousand man-hours, and put planes in the air that enemy action thought to have grounded.

Man of the Division is the 491st Group M.P. who on two different occasions battled his way into a crashed and burning bomber to bring out as many of the injured crew members as possible. He is the ordnance officer who under similar conditions carried endangered bombs from a blazing plane, to prevent injury to the airbase and personnel.

Man of the Division is he who never was there at the right time to do anything so dramatic, but gave more than required devotion to his possibly minor task at hand. He may have felt he was wasted, his job unimportant. Let him ask himself, in what condition would his fellow men have been had none done his job for all the weeks he dedicated to it? Over the period of the operations of 2nd Air Division, the efforts of the least of us amass to a mighty force which was one of millions that crushed the aggressor armies.

