

# TARGET: VICTORY

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VOL. 2, NO. 5

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

## 467<sup>TH</sup> SMASHES AIM MARK

### TOPPLE ACCURACY RECORD AS ALL SQDNS. 100% IN ONE THOUSAND FT.!

First group in 2AD history to achieve the perfect bomb score of 100% average within 1000 feet of the assigned MPI, for all squadrons, is 467th Bomb Group in its attack on heavy coastal gun installations near Royan on 14 April.

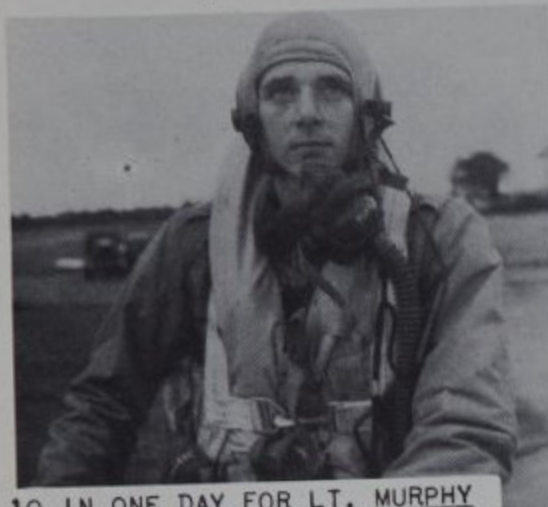
The previous all-Group record was held by 445th Bomb Group, who racked up a three-squadron average of 100% within 2000 feet, 97% within 1000 feet at St. Malo on 13 August 1944.

467th's new record was tied later this week by 466th Group, averaging 100% within 1000 feet on 18 April at Passau marshalling yard. However, 467th retained the crown by outpointing the rivals within the daggerpoint 500-foot circle, scoring 55% versus 53% for 466th. (Splitting a hair, true, but the pinnacle of improvement is fast-growing bald.)

467th's history-making attack thundered 2,000-pounders onto a casemated coastal battery at Pte. de Grave, near

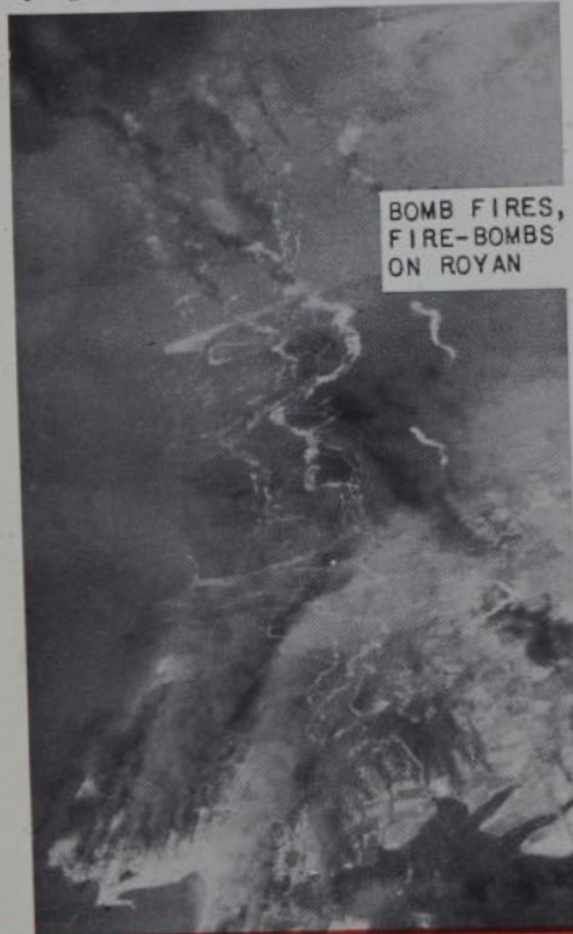
Royan, along the fortified approaches to Bordeaux harbor. In this area a pocket of over 12,000 Germans had continued to hold out till this week.

Climax followed next day when the area was re-sieged with a new type of firebomb designed for hard-to-reach installations. Ground troops and French naval vessels lying offshore opened up immediately after for the final onslaught to this stubbornly held German fortress within France.



10 IN ONE DAY FOR LT. MURPHY

A new all-time record, 1st/Lt. Randel L. Murphy destroyed 10 German planes on 13 April by strafing. "I didn't realize I was setting a record," said the 56th Thunderbolt Group pilot. "I was interested in making sure those planes never would fly again." Also has downed 2 Fw's in air.



BOMB FIRES,  
FIRE-BOMBS  
ON ROYAN



"SENSATIONAL BOMBING WON VICTORY", FRENCH

389th Bomb Group bayoneted these 2,000-pounders onto fortifications. Two of four squadrons both smashed 100% within 1000 feet of MPI. (Lead hit 85% within 500 feet). Lead bombardiers were Lt. J.K.Koster, Lt. R.M.Leonard. French ground forces enthused gratefully over the stunning effect of this bombing which precluded their victory.



# BEST RUNNER-UP OF THIS WEEK



## Ground Safety Ideas Will Win Paris Trip

"Life is tough in the STO," states a 292nd Bomb Group roadsign. "Get Rough-or still don't blow. Drive Safely."

The Ground Safety program on this station features a white flag flying on accidentless days -- replaced by a red flag on the day of an accident. Other safety signs are of the "Barns Shove" type, placed along station roads with warnings such as:

"Under the English mud -- he was laid to rest -- he loved to walk -- three abreast -- Will you be next?"

Each 21D station is conducting a contest throughout April for (1) a winding ground safety poster and (2) a winding safety slogan, with local prizes at each base. Winners of the entire division will receive a 48-hour trip to Paris. See your Station Safety Officer for details. There's just barely time left to get your entry in.

## Passau Marshalyard 466th's 100% Record

Remnant of not only this week but for all-time bombing records -- all three squadrons scoring 100% within 1000 feet of assigned EPZ's. Lead bombardiers for 466th Group were Lt. Berteloff, Lt. Monahan, and Lt. Pinkerton, each perfect.

Reconnaissance shows all lines are severed or blocked by craters and damaged rolling stock. Severe damage to goods depot also, and road bridge out.

It's a standout job in the greatest of all interdiction campaigns, assisting the Russian as well as Western front forces to confuse and unfix the Eac.



KLADNO RAIL JUNCTION: 448TH, 93RD

Were inspired interdiction -- 448th hitting 100% in 2000' with 84% in 1000'; 93rd Lead 100% in 2000', 62% within 1000'



FALKENELL R.R. BRIDGE: 390, 445

390th averaged 100% in 2000', 90% in 1000'. All bridge approaches were smashed, also a small roundhouse and connecting lines. 445th had one miss, and one 100% squadron.



## History-making Hits by 467th Bomb Group



PHU, PTE, DE SUDAC: 302, 44TH

This was oldest of the harbor forts -- and completely disabled by 392nd Group's pinpointing. Three of six attacking units hit 100% within 1000 feet. 44th Group duplicated this on another target nearby. PIC also shows damage of incendiary patterns and French tactical air attacks.



# BEST HIT THIS WEEK

"Open the port of Bordeaux to Allied shipping," was the objective. Transport to South France, otherwise routed around Gibraltar through the Mediterranean, was taking too long, too many ships. The 116 Bldgts, leached onto the Bordeaux port gates had stayed too long.

All 242 rose to the occasion. The MPis were many, but tiny and tough. At Pte. de Grave -- target no. 19, 167th broke all previous 242 records by scoring 1st, 2nd and 3rd squadrons each in turn 100% within 1000 feet of their assigned MPi! Lead bombardiers were 1st/Lt. Shenberg, 1st/Lt. William C. Vandyfield, 1st/Lt. F. F. Rogner. Group average -- 100% perfect.

Direct or near hits resulted on three of the four mounted giant guns at target 19. Emplacements were smashed and underground shelters breached. All rail lines were out, and occupied flak positions destroyed.

Incendiaries followed next day, then a third day of air attack, with sea and land cooperation. Bordeaux harbor now is open. The shipping time is halved, and the result is as though a twin fleet of equal size had been launched by this streamlined war far from the giant fronts.





TARGET:  
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING

## "MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

S/SGT. NARMON G. ROSE

For Man of the Division this week we are nominating S/Sgt. Narmon G. Rose, right waist gunner of the 392nd Bomb Group, who on one harrowing mission won the Silver Star, the Purple Heart, the Air Medal along with the undying gratitude of his crew.

Rose's plane, the aptly-named "Gorgeous Ghoul" on which the pilot, 1st/Lt. Kenneth A. Smith, won the DFC for the same mission, was just going into a 3-engine bomb run over Oberphaffenhofen when an Me-109 made an attack "so close," said Smith, "I was scared witless and felt like turning my face away and saying 'OK. Let's have it.'"

Guns of the "Gorgeous Ghoul" opened fire, and the Jerry swerved away, pouring his bullets into another Lib which went down in flames. But the maneuver

gave Sgt. Rose a good deflection shot. He nailed the Messerschmidt with a solid burst. Smoke, flame and finally the pilot came out of the enemy fighter.

Five minutes past the target, flak started coming up. Suddenly there was a sickening jolt as the "Gorgeous Ghoul" caught a direct 80-mm hit which exploded inside the waist. Over the interphone came an angry scream from Sgt. Rose, "The sons-of-bitches have cut off my leg."

It was true. Not only that, but the explosion had killed the other waist gunner and set one side of the plane on fire. With muscles and hunks of flesh dangling from the stump below his knee, Rose picked up the mangled corpse of his fellow gunner and used it to smother the flames. When Lt. Fred Duffy, the bombardier, arrived to give aid, he found the fire extinguished and Rose, oblivious to his own condition, sobbing bitterly over the use he had been forced to make of his mate's dead body.

"Be careful," he said as Duffy knelt to apply the tourniquet, "you're stepping on my foot."

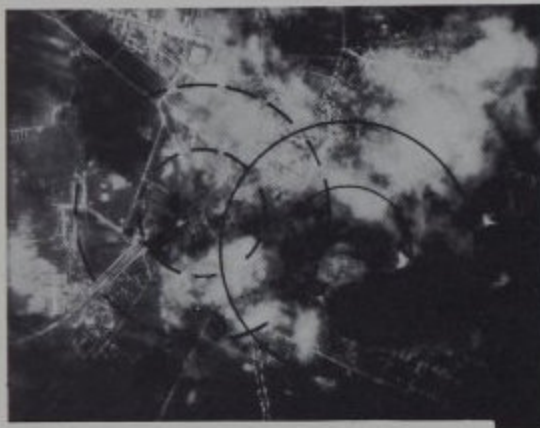
But Duffy had just thrown the foot, boot and all, out the waist window.

Meanwhile, with the oxygen system out, Lt. Smith had to go down to the deck over the heaviest flak area of the Reich. Fuel was running low, two of the remaining engines were hit, when a P-47, piloted by 1st/Lt. Harold C. Mil-



BRIG. GEN. JOHNSON, LT. KEN SMITH  
ler who had been flying escort, went down below and ahead of them to draw the enemy fire. "It was the most gallant gesture I've seen," said Smith. The bomber got home with fifteen minutes worth of fuel and 96 flak holes. Sgt. Rose was still conscious when the medics gave him a blood transfusion.

He's back in the States now, but his crew members, still flying the same ship, renamed "Duffy's Tavern", haven't forgotten their indomitable waist gunner. "He saved our lives and the bomber when he put out that fire."



LANDSHUT M/Y: 458TH BEST

458th Lead and 2nd squadron hit 100% in 2000', 85% and 97% within 1000' of MFI.

## Victory over Other "V" Weapon - "V-d"

Maj. Gen. W. E. Kepner, commanding 2AD, has awarded a commendation to 458th Bomb Group for consistently low rate of venereal disease among its personnel.

"Venereal disease," states the commendation, "can put a man out of action just as effectively as enemy bullets. Success in the fight against this menace is a real contribution to the final defeat of the enemy"

The level at 458th was lower than that of the other stations from September 1944 thru February 1945, and much lower than among 8AF as a whole.



FLAK ISLAND AT LAST BOWS TO THE BOMBERS: R.A.F., AT HELIGOLAND

2AD crews have many bitter memories of this "floating inferno" -- a constant ambush to navigation error, guardian of the sea approaches to Germany. On 18 April it turned from checkpoint to prime target for the Royal Air Force bombers. This reconnaissance photo shows the thoroughness of their job. Almost the entire area of Heligoland is cratered, and fires are burning in underground oil storage. Heavy gun revetments are severely damaged, most buildings and several boats are destroyed. Also heavily hit are the airfield, submarine shelters and repair facilities, and flak guns.