

TARGET



WEEK ENDING
AUGUST 19,
1944

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

RESTRICTED

VICTORY

2BD ACCURACY ZOOMING



KOTHEN: 392ND
3 squadrons averaged 95%, 90%
and 75% -- good but not best!

COMPETITION FOR OUTSTANDING HITS TIGHTENS RACE

Near an all-time high soared the accuracy of the 2nd Bomb Division this week -- in spite of one of its busiest schedules, including targets with every type of problem and difficulty.

Group accuracy of 90% and better no longer set records -- it is becoming a standard. Competition for the best results of the week tightened into a coordinated pattern of efficient teamwork. Tribute is due to each Group, each Squadron, and each crew member in the Division.

Such records increase the eminence of the 2BD Libs in the ETO, and bring much closer the day of Victory.

All Groups understand the lack of finality in any statistical ratings of relative accuracy. Targets vary, conditions are never uniform. But it's our best test in the long run. So keep 'em scoring!



PLANTLUNNE A/F BULLSEYED BY 448TH:
Two 95% and a 90% -- would have been sensational
a few weeks back. Now it's typically good 2BD job.



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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PASS IT AROUND

The purpose of this publication is to report to the combat crewmen on how they are doing. With the information they can make their own self-criticism. Sometimes we will suggest ideas that are working for other crews.

Either way, information is the beginning. And the more crew members thinking about the same results, the better and quicker the improvements will develop. Modern combat relies on the whole team.

A flight surgeon and psychiatrist states in current "Air Force" that bomber crews face a strain foreign to fighter pilots. In that they seldom witness the results of their work. This notably increases their nerve strain.

So we're all interested in what and how we're doing. Let's get the most out of these target reports. There's only one copy issued for each crew. Pass it around. Let the entire crew keep posted. And if you have any suggestions on further information you need, let us know. We'll try to get it for you.



DIJON/LONGVIC A/F: 446TH

All three squadrons averaged 90% within 2000 ft., 55% in 1000.



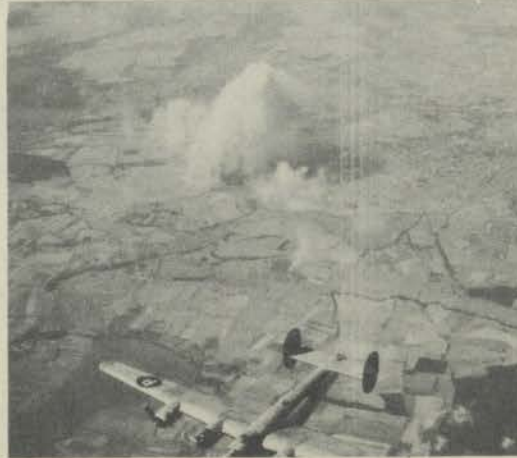
NANCY/ESSEY A/F: 44TH, 392ND

Both Groups averaged above 97%!
35 planes were standing on field



DOLE/TAVAUX A/F: 467TH

An exceptionally notable pair of before-and-during photos. Here you see 95% hits, 73% of them within 1000 ft!



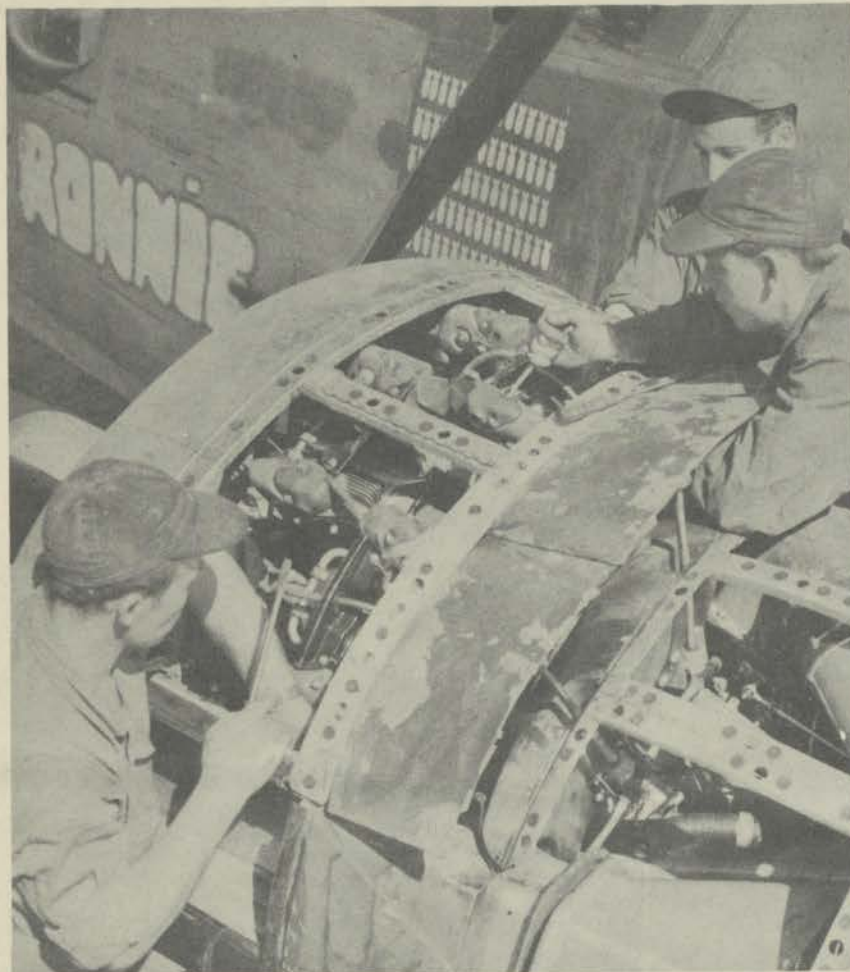
WOIPPY/METZ: 458TH, 467TH

An aero-engine works on the losing side. Both Groups had two over-95% squadrons.

2-4 1944

RECOVERED BY QIAN T2

"RONNIE" SETS MISSION RECORD



78-VET LIBERATOR PRIDE OF AIRCREW AND MAINTENANCE

"Ronnie", of the 446th, has set a new record among heavy bombers of its type for consecutive missions without turnbacks in the ETO. The plane has flown 78 missions without a mechanical abort. It came back for the first time on its 64th consecutive mission, but only because of personnel error.

"Ronnie" is the pride of the 704th squadron -- and of M/Sgt. Michael P. Zyne, the crew chief, and Sgts. S.A. Bowen, E. T. Anderson, and Cpl. B. Bokke, who worked long extra hours to put the ship into the air.

The story of the plane, both inspiring and tragic, began during training in the States. S/Sgt. Ronald Gannon, of Zanesville, Ohio, waist gunner was a tall, well-liked boy and a crack shot. Then before the Group came overseas, something happened to Ronnie. His coordination seemed to be gone. Finally he went to the hospital and died of the same obscure paralytic disease which caused the death of the baseball star, Lou Gehrig.

One of those who knew Sgt. Gannon is Sgt. Zyne. "It's too bad he couldn't come over here," said the crew chief. "He was a swell kid. But 'Ronnie' is doing the job for him."

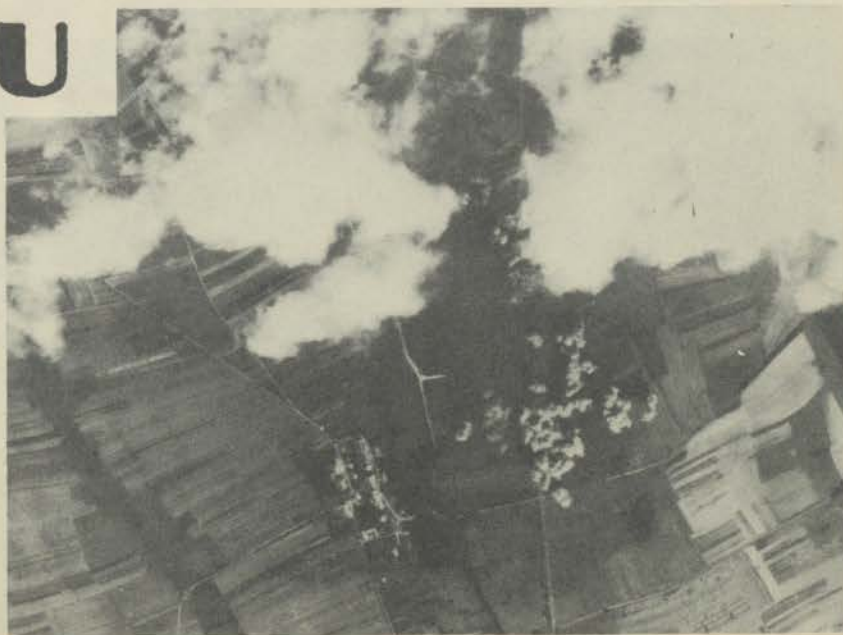
SNARFU

Yes, that R belongs in the word. Because when the 2BD does something, bad or good, they do it up royally.

We all can be thankful that this sort of thing is rare nowadays. This week someone undertook to help the continentals with their Summer plowing. Note the peaceful green fields disturbed here.

The reason -- it seems someone up in the nose got trigger-happy, and stepped on the wrong button, and away went his bombs. Followed by those of most of those behind him in the squadron! The rest of the Group, however, waited and did a commendable job on the target, 20 miles away.

Moral -- you put it into words. Some of ours can't be printed. But don't let this happen to you.





BEST HIT BY A GROUP



ST. MALO:

SURRENDER OF

STARTLING AC

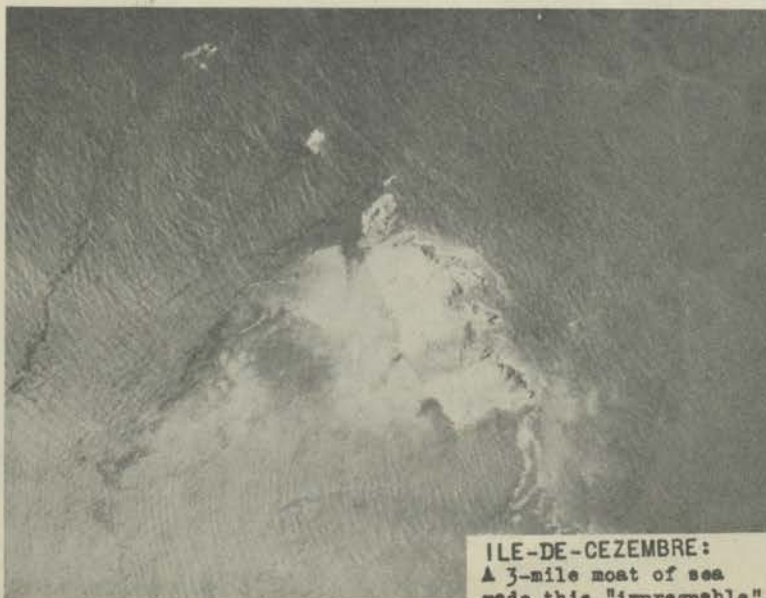
389th A WHISKER

WINNER OVER

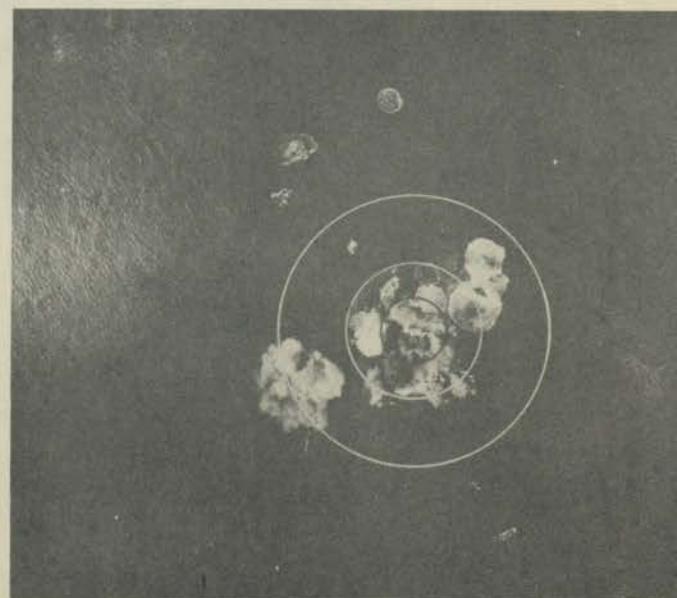
453rd , 445th

It will take a long time to get over being proud about this 2ED precision job! Note the targets -- each a tiny white spot in the water, but containing a tremendous concentration of coastal defense guns, which were being trained on the French city as Allied land forces attempted to enter.

The 389th seized this opportunity to level 99% of their huge bombs onto the target circle, 87% of them within 1000 feet of the MPI! 453rd Group nearly duplicated this, with 100% in 2000 and 78% in 1000 feet, followed by 98% and 81% from the sharpshooting 445th. Within 48 hours, the superman's forts wanted no more!



ILE-DE-CEZEMBRE:
A 3-mile moat of sea
made this "impregnable".



GROUP THIS WEEK



PINPOINT TARGET:

That tiny offshore island was a powerhouse of heavy calibre guns.



COMMAND PERFORMANCE:

Allied ground forces watched this display of 2BD's finest aiming.

OF TWO ISLAND FORTRESSES AFTER ACCURACY BY THREE 2BD GROUPS

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INVASION BY AIR:

Two-thousand pounders shower with the precision of a Greek God's lightning.



PAIR OF STRIKES

Note their two individual MPis on Metz/Frescaty airfield. The 389th struck on upper end of installations, leaving an inferno. 453rd struck below this, with a 95% average, to share score honors.



MAGDEBURG: 93RD SYNTHETIC OIL AND AIRCRAFT COMPONENTS

Best marksmen here were the 93rd Group, settling for no less than 90% average. Collaborators were the 489th, 496th, 448th, 467th and 458th. All had at least one high-striking squadron, but others that were too low for the competition.



BEST RUNNER UP OF THIS WEEK



44th STARS AT LYON/BRON A.F.

NOTHING BUT 100%^s IN SHARPSHOOTING SPREE

Winning best runnerup title this week was no slight task! The 44th had to go bullseye-batty to do it, and how their bombs did pay off! A clean 100% landed inside the 2000 ft. money circle -- and 70% of them were within one thousand feet! Three hangars were destroyed, and all important shop buildings took direct hits. At least 4 aircraft were seen demolished on the ground.

The 44th brought along their buddies, the 392nd, plus the 489th and 491st, and everybody averaged from 85% to 100%. Did someone ask why the Luftwaffe is vanishing!



GUNNERS' NEW BIBLE

PHOTO-PACKED "G.I.F." IN DEMAND AT ALL BASES

Introducing the new Gunners' Information File, General H. H. Arnold, Commanding Army Air Forces, states, "There is no unnecessary theory in this book ... you will use every bit of it. It is your round-trip ticket into combat."

This generously photo-illustrated book has just been distributed to Gunnery sections of all Groups. See it, ask for it immediately. There aren't enough to go around, read it and pass it on. Refer to it again later. No denying, this absorbing and informative Manual No. 20 is Air Forces' best publication for the combat gunner.

"Precision bombing is a matter of teamwork in which every man's work is crucial," continues General Arnold. "The gunner can feel honest pride -- and a sense of grave responsibility -- in the importance of his job. Now that the terrible striking power of our bombing has been proven, the enemy is doing everything within his power to keep our missions from getting through. Remember that all your training is designed for the day when you

-- and you alone -- can fight off a fighter plane. In that moment, untold responsibility will lie in your hands. Your own safe return, the lives of the other crew members, and the success of your bombing mission -- which may be as important as any battle gone down in history."

"In the last analysis air combat always boils down to two men shooting at one another -- and the best man almost always wins. The best life insurance in combat flying is to know your job better than the enemy knows his. This is no idle sermon; it has been proven over and over again."

"This Information File will help you. In its pages you will find -- for study, review, or reference -- the facts that a

(Continued in Column 3)



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

T/SGT. GEORGE ROBY

Engineer gunner on a B-24 of the 445th Group, T/Sgt. George Roby, Los Angeles, Calif., has been awarded the Soldiers Medal for heroism. Three members of his crew agree that they owe their lives to his courage and initiative.

The plane, piloted by 1st Lt. J.D. Salisbury, was badly damaged by flak as it dropped its bombs on Berlin, but made it back as far as the North Sea, where it became necessary to ditch.

Thrown into the sea by the impact, Roby swam back with a badly broken right hand, to climb on the damaged bomber and release the dinghies before the plane sank.

Three other crew members, still dazed by the crash, were unable to reach the bomber. Disregarding his broken right hand, Sgt. Roby guided a dinghy to rescue the others, and refused to give up the paddle till rescue came 22 hours later.

"All three of us give Roby full credit for our survival," said Lt. Salisbury.

(Continued from Col. 2)

gunner needs in combat. It begins with a section which contains all the information necessary to keep the machine gun working when you need it most."

Here are the sort of understandable photos, and gathering of the whole gunnery picture between two covers, that we starved for back in gunnery schools -- with latest slants on problems we are meeting today. Photos of every cycle in .50 caliber operation, every movement in gun stripping, adjustments, adapters, harmonization, sights and aiming methods, malfunctions -- and every type of turret found in combat today. Even a section on .45 pistols and .30 caliber machine guns.

Drop into your Gunnery office, and look this book over. Officers as well as enlisted gunners, you'll be glad you found this new combat pal.



"HE SAYS THE NEW GUNNERS' INFORMATION FILE IS SO WORTH-WHILE HE WON'T FIRE A SHOT TILL HE FINISHES IT!"

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