

PUBLISHED BY HEADQUARTERS 2ND AIR DIVISION

# TARGET: VICTORY

WEEK ENDING  
MARCH 21,  
1945

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
To be safeguarded in accordance  
with Army Regulations # 380-5.

VOL. 2, NO. 1

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

## 2 A.D. BOMBING HOLDS TOP



### 8AF's SHARPEST MONTH'S SCORE LED BY BULLSEYE-BUSTING LIBS

Shades of Davy Crockett (whose crack-shot reputation had the wild game surrendering), 2nd Air Division's Liberators look like provoking the same notion inside thicker Jerry skulls. After leading 8AF accuracy in January, 2AD repeated its bombing leadership thru February, revealed in final analysis by OAS Section, Headquarters 8th Air Force. March is continuing the war-winning pace, as photos in this issue illustrate.

8th Air Force scored a new record in February for percentage of visual bombs hitting within 1000 feet of the MPI. This was aided somewhat by low level attacks on February 22 and 23, though 2AD scored its all-time record on the 25th, bombing from usual high altitudes.

— 2nd Air Division now leads the bomb accuracy within 1000 feet of assigned MPIs (OAS ratings) in 6-month aver-

ages, September 1944 thru February 1945. No finer tribute could be paid to the "Bombs on the Target" Libs and the men who fly them.

Gen. Henry H. Arnold, commander of U.S.A.A.F., states in a message to Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle, commanding 8AF: "My sincere commendations to all Eighth Air Force combat and service personnel for their recent magnificent effort. Despite almost prohibitive weather during part of this period ... complete defeat of the Germans is surely hastened by your perseverance."

#### REMAGEN BRIDGE, ARADO JETS, OR--

1st/Lt. Norman D. Gould, 56th Fighter Grp., destroyed Me-109 carrying bombs to raid Remagen bridge. Later shot down an Arado 234, latest German jet. A strafing ace also, he's a former bomber gunner.



#### THIS IS BERLIN!

Largest daylight attack (on March 18) choked Tegel bomb and gun plant and Borsig tank works in MPI rings. 2AD's top 5 squadrons averaged 99% in 2000', 81% within 1000' of MPIs! (From the 453rd, 392nd, 389th and 467th Bomb Groups.)



**"SCORING YOUR BOMBS"**

Pages 4-5



".....the merit.....lies in the.....efficiency....."

"The month of February has witnessed the immense might of American air power striking some of the greatest aerial blows of the war, forcing Germany closer and closer to the brink of ultimate defeat. However, the merit of the month's operations and the staggering tonnage of bombs lies in the destructiveness of this might and the efficiency with which it has been employed against the enemy's economic and military resources.

"The outstanding characteristic of the month's operations was the fervor and spirit with which the Eighth Air Force carried on the battle of oil, relentlessly pounding the Achilles' heel of Germany. Flying in the face of adverse weather con-

ditions, the Eighth Air Force has permitted the enemy no rest and has seized every opportunity to destroy the vital roots of the enemy's power. The continued employment of this immense aerial might against the foundations of German military power will guarantee a more

speedy victory.

"The commanders, flight crews, and ground personnel of the 8th AF are to be commended for their magnificent achievement. They can be sure that their Air Force is playing a major role in destruction of the German war machine."

## CARL SPAATZ

Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding, USSAF Europe

"It is most gratifying to forward the above commendation and I personally wish to add my appreciation for the spirit and determination exhibited by you and every member of your command in achieving this record month for the Eighth Air Force."

## J. H. Doolittle

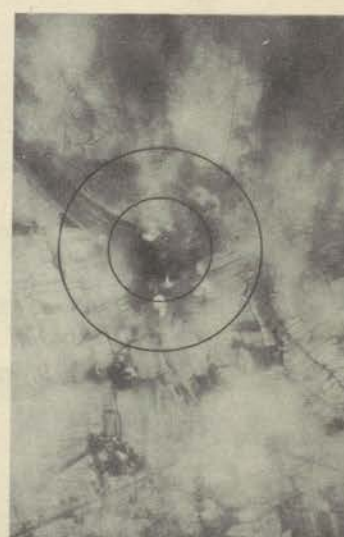
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding, 8th Air Force

"I am particularly proud of the part played by this Division in the splendid record of achievement made by the Eighth Air Force during the month of February which merited the foregoing commendation by General Spaatz and appreciation by General Doolittle. This is not only because of the extent and volume of our effort and the splendid enthusiasm and combat spirit which was shown, but also because of the highly superior quality of our bombing. For in this greatest of

bombing months, we led the Air Force in bombing accuracy. My congratulations to every officer and man on this splendid record, which continues to build the tradition of 2d Division as a truly great combat organization."

## W. E. Kepner

Major General, USA  
Commanding, 2 AD



**WHILE CLOUDS FAN-DANCED, SHARP-EYED BOMBARDIERS SPIED MPI'S:**

**BIELEFELD:** Gee-H by 392nd, 93rd

The "tight-wire" rail viaduct at Bielefeld was a challenge for the best visual aim. Cloud breaks here showed bullseye pattern by Gee-H of 392nd, rifling 100% into 2000', 85% inside 1000'. 93rd Lead sneaked in 80% within 2000-ft.

R.A.F. knocked out additional spans, with 95% inside 1000'--50% within 500 ft! using the new 10-ton superbomb.

**NIENBURG RAIL-BRIDGE:** 466th, 467th

Sweating out a straight visual run above the stratus veil early this month, these two Groups saw a train pull onto the bridge just before their bombs collided. 466th went bullseye batty, with 2 squadrons 100% in 2000', 96% within 1000' of MPI. 467th's lone squadron smacked 100%

## TARGET **VICTORY**

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR  
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

Published by  
Headquarters 2d Air Division  
in the ETO

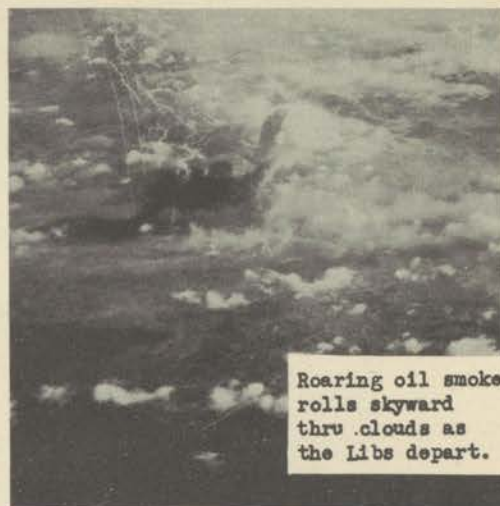
ALL CONTENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

VOL. 2, NO. 1 MARCH 21, 1945

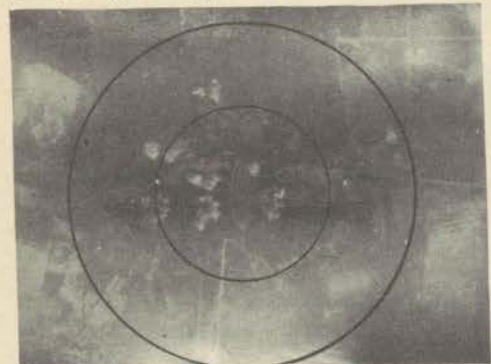




**BAUMENHEIM: 93RD, 389TH, 448TH**  
Experimental aircraft center raked with first of knockout hits from 93rd (averaging 96% within 2000'), 389th (89% avg. in 2000'), and 448th's 100% and a 35%.



Roaring oil smoke rolls skyward thru clouds as the Libs depart.



**ZOSSEN: GERMAN ARMY HEADQUARTERS**  
445th made the only bullseye on this haze-obscured brain center. Lead squadron collected 100%, with 80% of hits inside 1000 feet of the MPI.

## FAREWELL, MAGDEBURG ROTHENSEE

Exuberantly received was reconnaissance of the March 3rd coup de grace to Magdeburg/Rothensee. Thirteen times 8th Air Force had battled over this synthetic oil plant, one of the three largest in Germany. Flak was always intense .. the weather usually disappointing, damage insufficient.

This 14th trip did it. 2AD Lib bomb patterns pummeled the entire target area, causing heavy fires and explosions. Most production units caught direct hits. Main credit belongs to 20th Wing, whose 446th and 448th Bomb Groups averaged 92% inside 2000', 53% within 1000' of the difficult MPI, and the same Wing's 93rd Bomb Group hitting one squadron 95% in 2000', 80% within 1000'. Additional scoring blows came from 389th, 392nd, 44th, 491st and 445th Bomb Groups.

The "scalp", a huge PRU photo of thorough defeat, hangs in 2AD headquarters Operations -- a victory diabolically long denied.

## SOMETHING NICE ABOUT NAVIGATORS!

2AD's new bombing records have our bombardiers as cocky as Betty Grable in Iceland. The pilots always were that way anyway. Nobody much credits the navigator, unless a mission snafus. Then...!

In all justice, a major reason for this high-powered bombing accuracy is the elimination of gross errors, accomplished mainly through better target identification, making a perfectly coordinated run possible. The best bombardier is helpless unless the formation is perfectly headed toward the target before he takes over on the bombsight. This indispensable victory is being won by the navigators. It's a battle every mile of the mission.

First comment of Congressional Medal-winner Col. "Killer" Kane after the Ploesti raid was to his navigator: "Damn fine navigation ... you saved our skins and you're the hero of this ship".

Says international smile merchant Bob Hope, "Those navigators! Imagine hitting a little island in the middle of a great big body of water. I can't even find the soap in the bathtub ... but a navigator can find anything. He just takes out some maps, shoots the sun, draws a circle on his map, trisects the circle, figures the number of degrees in each angle against his compass reading, cuts the cards, and before you know it he's located the only blonde in town."

Pleads G.I. Joe in the foxhole: "Show me the way to go home." You can do it, navigators. You are doing it!

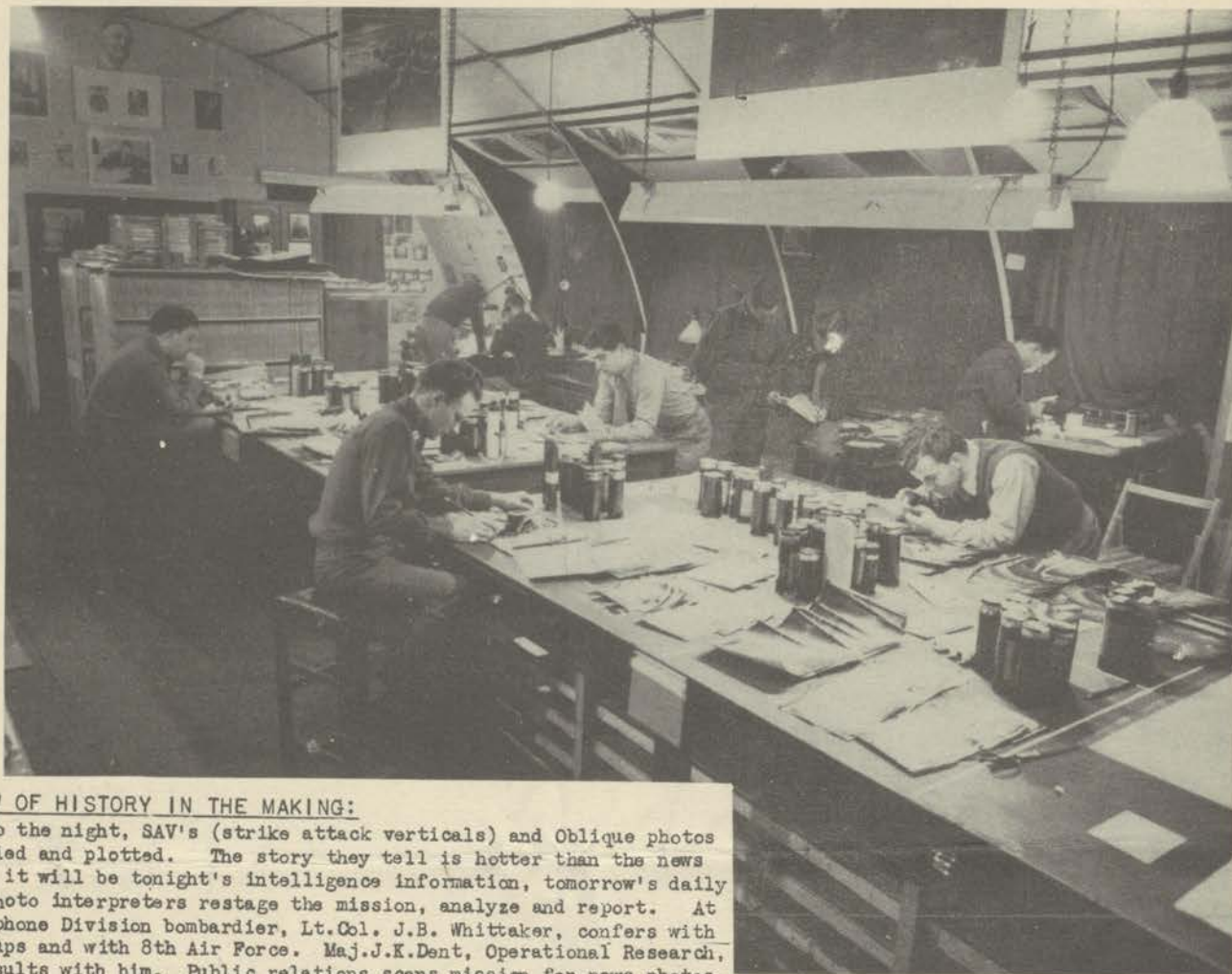


"LONG FLIGHT"



BOB SCHENCK





#### PREVIEW OF HISTORY IN THE MAKING:

Deep into the night, SAV's (strike attack verticals) and Oblique photos are studied and plotted. The story they tell is hotter than the news wires -- it will be tonight's intelligence information, tomorrow's daily news. Photo interpreters restage the mission, analyze and report. At the telephone Division bombardier, Lt. Col. J.B. Whittaker, confers with Bomb Groups and with 8th Air Force. Maj. J.K. Dent, Operational Research, here consults with him. Public relations scans mission for news photos.

# SCORING YOUR BOMBS



**PERCENT HITS, 75 -- DAMAGE SEVERE:**  
Capt. H.L. McCormick, photo interpreter, affixes the briefed MPI and analyzes the hits of each squadron participating in today's mission, makes immediate report.

How are such evaluations as "Best Hit of the Week" determined? How conclusive is a bomb scoring of, say, 65% within 1000 feet of an assigned MPI?

Without overemphasis, bomb score is the heart and key of 8th Air Force operations. Evaluating each Group's accuracy upon its briefed MPI must be unbiased and unquestionable. Strike photos of each day's mission rush by special courier to 2nd Air Division photo interpretation specialists. "Strip" prints, exquisite in detail, trace the path of the aircraft and its bombs, from the instant of release till past the target area.

Within a few hours of landing time, the effectiveness of each squadron's bombs (on a visual mission) is adequately determined to influence the next day's operation plans. Division operations, intelligence, bombardier, all join in the evaluation.

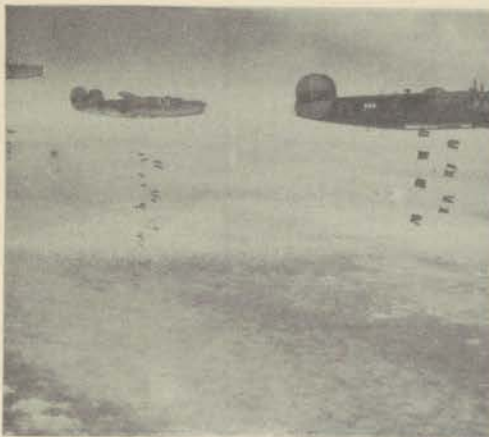
After preliminary pressure has relaxed, in about 48 hours, complete reexamination is made. Reconnaissance is then arriving, and by the time final evaluation enters the record, there can be little

doubt as to the destination of every direct hit, near hit or miss.

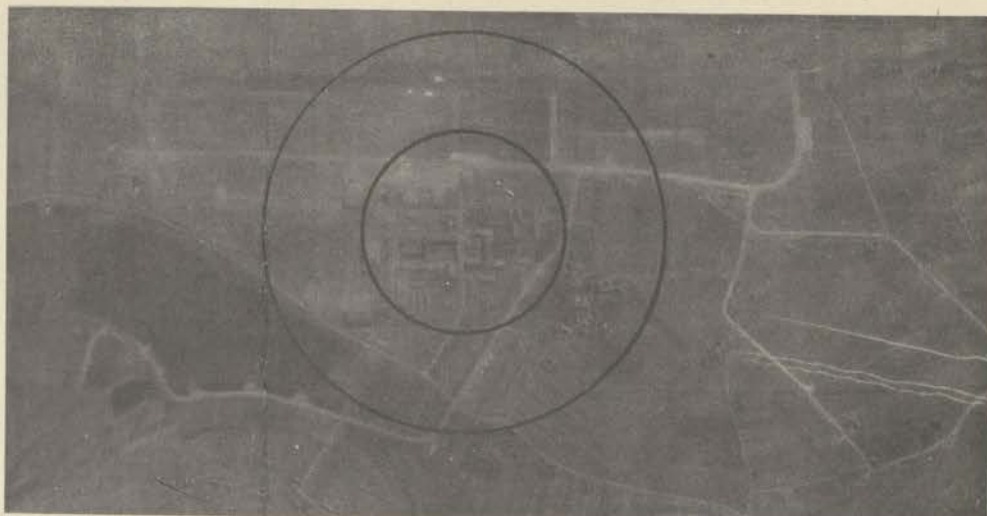
Winning the weekly "Best Hit" by a Group is no minor honor. It indicates an important battle won with more than customary distinction. One superbly hitting squadron cannot carry a Group's burden. The "Best Hit" is the result of perfectly executed attack by lead, second, third and any additional squadrons.

Constantly improving precision and competition among 2AD Groups is a healthy condition. Keep the Luftwaffe on the ground, smash the munitions in the factory, destroy the resources, and halt the transport -- these are all the results of battering the 1000' circle around an MPI.





AT THE INSTANT OF "BOMBS AWAY" -- the vertical "strip" photos commence, will be exposed thru balance of run.



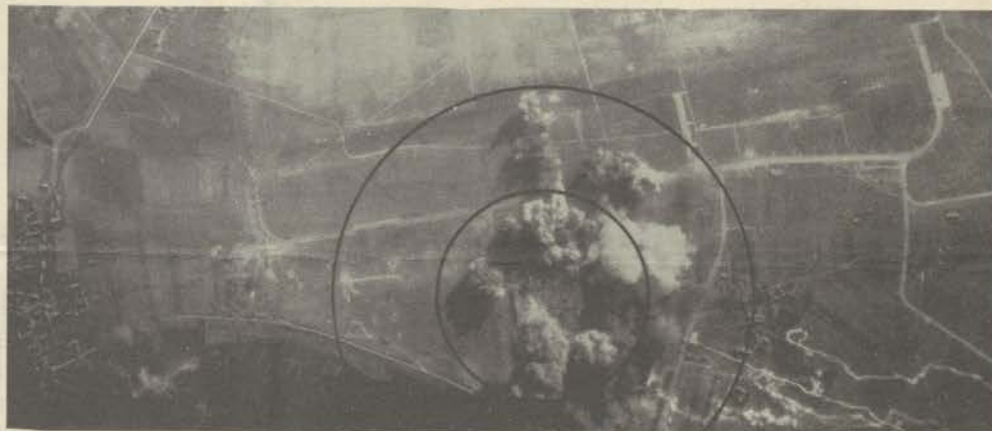
NEUBURG A/F: MARCH 19TH, TARGET BEFORE ATTACK

Fifth photo in SAV strip -- the bombs, already released, are out of sight, but aimed for MPI, which is center of plant producing newest-type German jet aircraft.



STUDYING THE BOMB RUN "STRIP":

First photo shows smoke marker released, some of bombs visible in air. Track of aircraft is mapped on the run-up, target will appear just before the first bombs hit. Photos show impact of each burst.



PATTERN OF 44TH GROUP'S LOW LEFT SQUADRON:

Hits scored 98% of bombs within 2000-ft., 38% within 1000-ft. Lead squadron (lower foreground) delivered 100% in 2000-ft., 60% within 1000-ft. of assigned MPI. High Right squadron's pattern, following, filled remainder of the MPI.



OBLIQUE, LEAVING THE TARGET:

Today's target, Neuburg airplant, appears thoroughly riddled with bursts. Let's analyze bursts more closely (upper right).

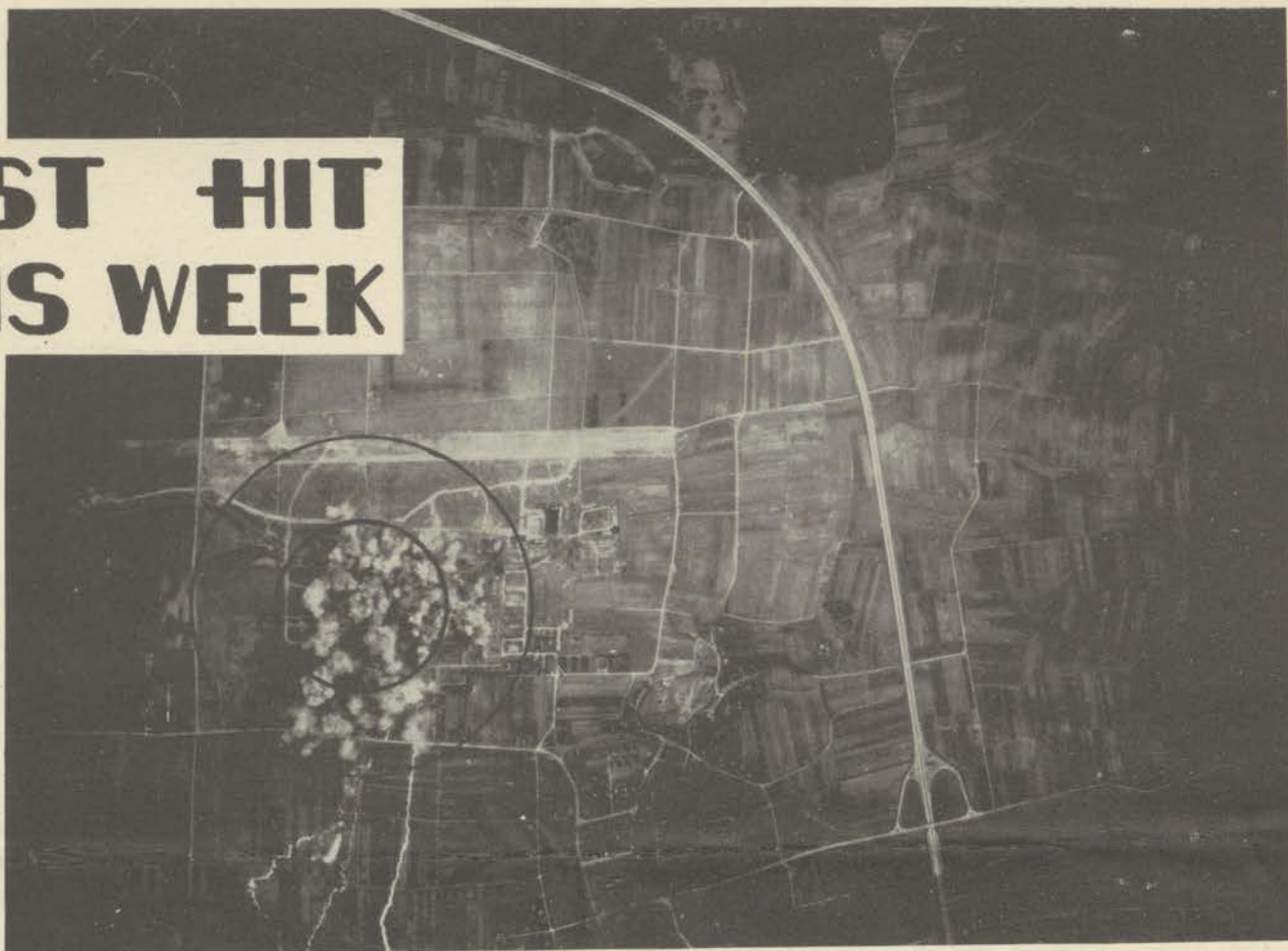


NEXT BOMB GROUP FOLLOWS IN: HITS A LESSER SCORE

Possibly failing to identify MPI thru smoke, next Group places pattern short -- this score (dotted line) was 40% within 2000', none within 1000'. With exception of marshalling yards, smoke covering is not sufficient reason to change MPI!



# BEST HIT THIS WEEK



## 467<sup>TH</sup>, 466<sup>TH</sup>, 458<sup>TH</sup> JUNK JERRY JETS

### 96<sup>TH</sup> WING'S ALL-100% LEIPHEIM JOB TOPPED BY GROUP'S 85% AVG IN 1000'!



#### CUSTOMER OF 2AD FIGHTERS, BOMBERS

This experimental air center at Leipheim has offered frequent hunting both to strafers of 2AD fighter groups and the heavy bombers. Constantly being "rebuilt", it now sprawls senseless again.

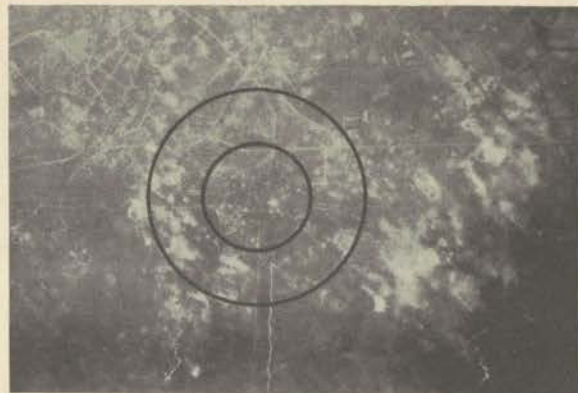
It's daily more apparent that the Luftwaffe's last stand relies on racy jet-propelled fighters. The surest place to smash them is in the incubator ... that's why this attack on Leipheim, assembly and testing center for Me-262s, represents a gigantic air battle won before the breathless Jerry could swing his saved-up Sunday punch.

Best score was by the 467th Group, building upward from excellent to perfect. All three of its squadrons smacked 100% within 2000' of the MPI ... Lead corraling 70% inside 1000' (Lt. A. MacGrew, lead bombardier). To beat that, 2nd squadron bullseyed 90% within 1000' (Lt. J. Boyer, lead bombardier). So what does F/O Overlock, leading 3rd squadron, produce but 25% within 1000' of the MPI. Group average, 100% inside 2000', 85% within 1000' of the assigned MPI!

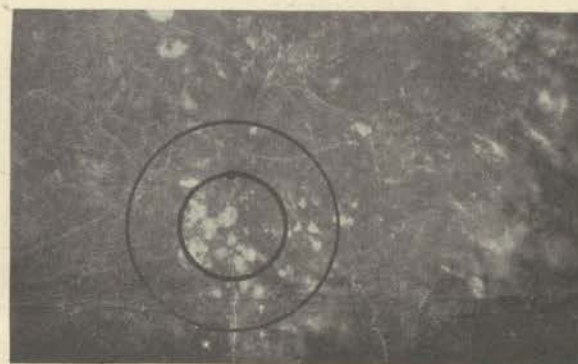
Only such non-mortal competition could nose out the similar delivery of 466th and 458th Bomb Groups on the same target. 466th averaged 100% in 2000', 79% within 1000' ... 458th averaged 99% in 2000', 60% within 1000'. Lead bombardiers were Lt. Friganovitch, Lt. De Boer, Lt. Farnholtz (from 466th); and Lt. G. S. Griffith, Lt. E. J. Jacques, Lt. V. H. Hughes (from 458th).

All three Groups are members of 96th Bomb Wing. Our best hit usually selects one Group only, but such a performance by an entire combat Wing is even more worthy of acclaim and study by all other units of 2nd Air Division.





**BEST RUNNER-UP  
OF THIS WEEK**



## MODEL RAILYARD ATTACK BY 491<sup>ST</sup>

### "BOMBS DETONATED LIKE XMAS TREE LIGHTS" IN GUTERSLOH MARSHAL-YARD

Battered Bielefeld, Osnabruck and Hamm rail centers diverted super-important cargoes into nearby Gutersloh marshalling yard ... a juicy target that invited four 2AD Groups. Top score honors were scooped up by 491st, piling on three ace-synchronized squadrons that averaged 98% within 2000', and 80% inside 1000' of their MPIs, aimed visually by Gee-H lead crews.

High Right was best squadron (Lt. Blair, Gee-H lead bombardier from 44th Group), blasting 100% into 2000', 85% within 1000'. Low Left (Lt. Laughlin, also Gee-H bombardier from 44th Group) hit 100% in 2000', 80% in 1000'. Lead squadron (Lt. Mellotte, also Gee-H from 44th Group) registered 95% in 2000' and 75% within 1000' of the payoff hub.

Lt. Col. Lawrence G. Gilbert, division lead command pilot, reported: "I watched the bombs detonate like Christmas tree lights in the marshalling yards. It was a joy to watch bombing like that. The yards were full of freight cars." Reconnaissance reports heavy concentrations of h.e. and incendiaries blanketing all but North Central part of the marshalling yard. Direct hits on goods depot, showing severe roof damage; locomotive sheds and adjacent building half destroyed; direct hits on the main station and platforms. At least 165 craters among rolling stock, 2 near hits on rail-over-rail bridge, and several industrial buildings nearby are damaged.



**HEMMINGSTEDT OIL: MARCH 20TH**

Each Group sent one squadron to an encore on this recently drubbed petroleum refinery. Best was 392nd's squadron with 95% inside 1000'; 389th's hitting 90% within 1000'; 491st's 80% in 1000 feet.

100% in 2000 feet were hit by 466th, 448th and 93rd Groups' squadrons.





TARGET:  
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING

## "MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

LT. COL. JOHN A. BROOKS

Lt. Col. John A. Brooks, III, is a curly-haired, quick-spoken, eager young man from Greenville, Ohio, who commands the Division scouting force. Bomber crews have had many occasions to thank Johnny Brooks and his scouts for last moment poop and previews concerning what gives over the target. But on 9 February Brooks' contribution to the Magdeburg mission was somewhat more than academic.

He was leading an element of four P-51's through the Dessay area when he and his men spotted two formations of Me-109's, about a hundred in all, in the very act of queuing up to attack the target-bound Liberators. It is not the duty of the scouting force to mingle with the enemy interceptors, but Brooks evidently liked the 25-to-1 odds. As he said later, "It was too good a chance

to miss."

Leaving two men of the flight to ride top cover, he and his wingman, Lt. William E. Whalen, piled into the lower formation. Brooks singled out the leader and promptly blew him from the sky. Then he pounced on the Jerry wingman and made a second kill. While this was taking place, Whalen sent three more of the enemy down in flames, and the demoralized Herrenvolk began putting on a great exhibition of getting the hell out of there. Some of them opened fire on their own planes; others hit the deck in full retreat, and one obliging superman picked off a brother Aryan with a jettisoned fuel tank. The Liberators were not effectively attacked that day, and all 4 of the scouting Mustangs returned safely.

Lt. Col. Brooks has just been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, our second highest military honor, for his "determination to destroy the enemy in the face of tremendous odds." He



LT. WILLIAM E. WHALEN



LT. COL. JOHN A. BROOKS

already holds the Silver Star for gallantry, the Distinguished Flying Cross with one cluster and the Air Medal with three clusters. A West Pointer, like his father before him, Brooks flew an E.T.C. tour in Libs before going to his present assignment. Thus he becomes one of the few men ever to be decorated both as a bomber and a fighter pilot.

He is a veteran of many of the Division's most famous missions, including the historical low-level attack on Ploesti. He trained with the 93rd; was operations officer for the 389th, and served as air controller at Division Headquarters. Here is a man whose versatile service and high achievements in this command give luster to the title for which we are nominating him. We make him our candidate for Man of the Division because he personifies the energy, ability and high conception of duty which have made this Division's history a proud record.

## 467th Lib Be "Witches" 8A.F. Mission Records



The famed B-24, "Witchcraft", has now surpassed all 8th Air Force records for 4 engine bombers, by completing 122 consecutive missions without mechanical turnback, and it is still going after more. No one flying on this 467th Bomb Group Lib has been wounded or killed, although the plane has received more than 325 flak holes during its "tour".

Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz, commanding the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe, has sent a letter of commendation to Master Sgt. Joe R. Ramirez, who has been the ground crew chief since the plane was assigned back in the United States on 14 January, 1944. He was awarded a second Bronze Star on the completion of the ship's 100th mission 14 January 1945.

"Witchcraft" has worn out, or lost through flak, 17 engines, and the present pilot, 1st Lt. John W. Rice, is the 35th pilot to fly the ship.



### AIRFIELDS LIB-BATTERED MARCH 21:

Achmer A/F (upper right) caught 90% in assigned areas from 389th, 76% from 453rd, 63% from 445th, 35% from 44th Group.

Hesepe A/F (above) collected 86% in pay-off zones from 466th, 78% from 467th, 64% from 458th, 49% from 93rd Bomb Group.

Essen A/F (right), attacked by one squadron per Group, got 98% in 2000' from the 389th, 95% from 448th, 90% from 466th, and 80% within 2000' from the 392nd.

