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COPY 63

PUBLISHED BY HEADQUARTERS 2ND AIR DIVISION

WEEK ENDING
APRIL 25,
1945

TARGET VICTORY

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VOL. 2, NO. 6

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

Classification
changed to
REMOVED
By auth of;
CG. 9658W
Date JUN 1945
init. M.B.

2AD LIBS OVER AUSTRIA

First 8AF Austria Attack; Rip Salzburg Rails as Libs Return



8AF SKEET CHAMP: ROUNTREE
Top shot of 8th Air Force skeet finals was Capt. P.L. Rountree, 2AD station adjutant, scoring 48 out of a perfect 50. 2AD team lost by one point to 1st AD, who scored 229 points out of 250.

In the first attack on Austria ever made from 8th Air Force bases, 2nd Air Division's Liberators on April 25 roared deep into the Hun redoubt sector. Simultaneously with RAF attacks on Hitler's mountain headquarters at Berchtesgaden, inside the German border, the B-24s battered marshalling yards at Salzburg and Hallein, both in Austria.

1000 feet, 87% within 2000 feet of assigned MPIs.

This mission signalled a return to Austria for three of 2AD's Groups -- 44th, 93rd and 389th, who had attacked Wiener-Neustadt from North African bases on August 13, 1943, and October 1, 1943, in conjunction with units of 9th and 12th Air Forces. During the same period these Groups participated in the famed Ploesti oil raid of August 1, 1943.

NEW ALL-TIME RECORD

Final recapitulation of bombing of coastal fortifications in the Royan area shows that an all-time all-Division accuracy record was erected on April 14. Average of all Groups was 76% within 1000 feet of assigned MPIs, 86% within 2000 feet, despite various interference and mechanical difficulties that caused five squadron gross errors to be included in this all-time high average!

The new Redoubt attacks achieved accuracy typical of the records 2nd Air Division is writing into history. Bomb score of all Groups averaged 62% within

The previous all-Division record, 56% in 1000 and 84% in 2000, on February 25, included but two gross errors.



MOUNTAIN PEAKS BOW TO LIBS:
At Bad Reichenhall, in the Redoubt, 458th and 491st planted damage to railyard near Berchtesgaden. Lower photo, at Salzburg 448th Lead smashed 100% within 2000' and 1000', 75% within 500 feet of MPI. Lead bombardier was Lt. W. Wombold.



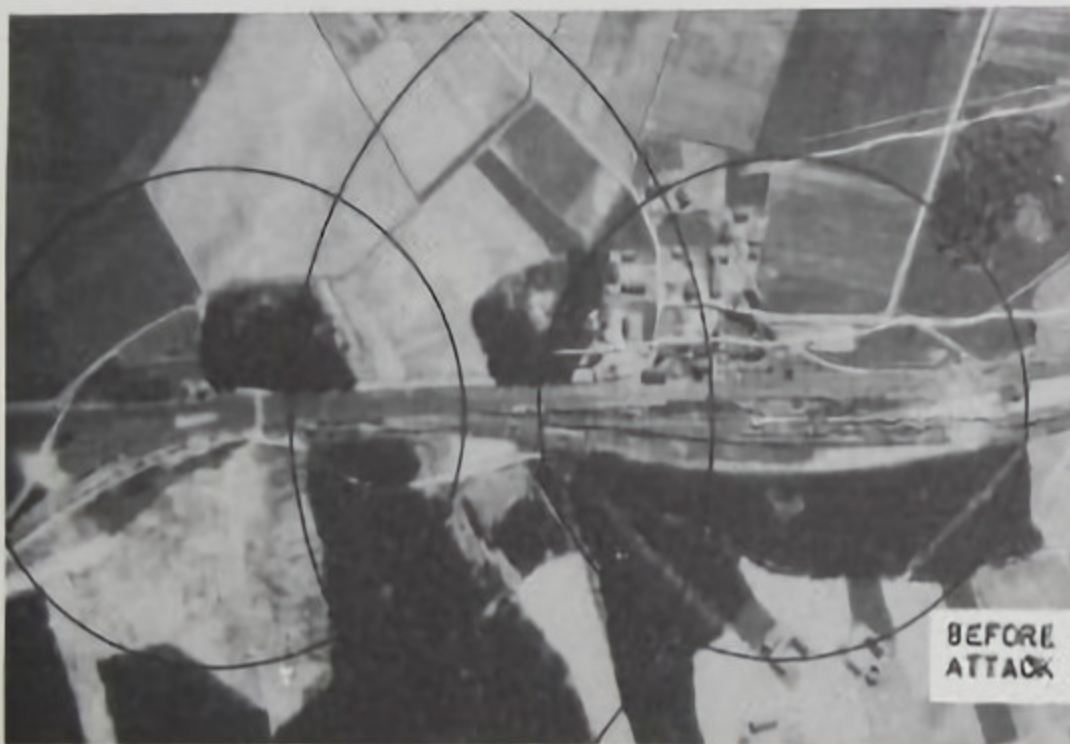
"BEST HIT THIS WEEK"

BEST RUNNER-UP OF THIS WEEK



IRLACHING --- TEAM JOB BY 44th, 392nd

Twin MPI's Slash Rails, Ruin Rolling Stock



BEFORE
ATTACK

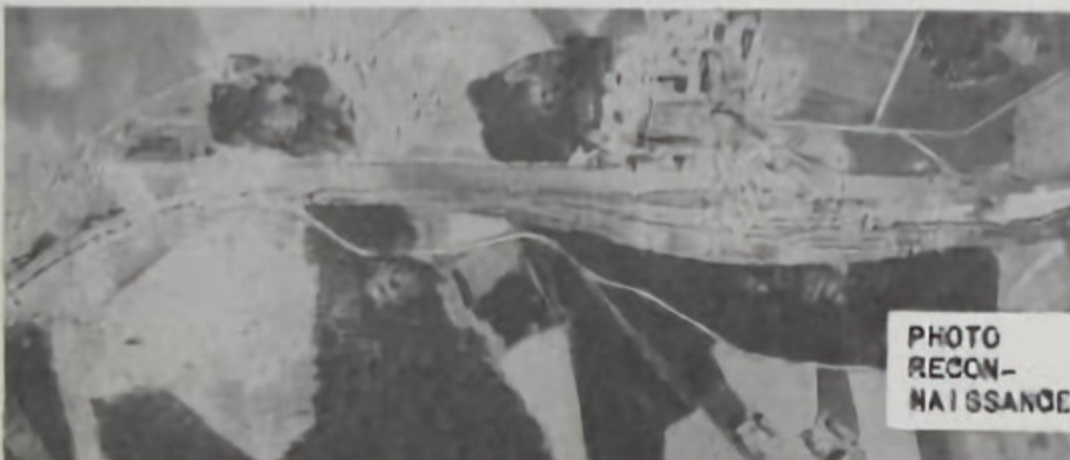


PHOTO
RECON-
NAISSANCE

Interdiction performed by the numbers -- bullseye strikes by all three squadrons of 44th Bomb Group on the rail junction MPI (at left in photo) -- ditto by all three squadrons of 392nd Bomb Group on their MPI (right) in the railyard at Irlaching, in shrinking Germany.

Discovery and identification of these lesser-sized keyspots of Hun retreat and regrouping is a victory in itself. Intelligence and navigation earn commendation for this, equal to the pilots and bombardiers who produce the bombing pattern.

44th Group's three squadrons averaged 97% in 2000, 92% within 1000 feet of their assigned MPI. Lead bombardiers were Lt. V.A. D'Angelo, Lt. W. S. Laughlin, Lt. G. W. Peberthy. Group lead navigator was Lt. R. R. Shaffer.

392nd Group averaged 97% in 2000, 90% within 1000 feet, for their three squadrons. Lead bombardiers were Lt. T. J. McGarry, Lt. H. E. Hickok, and Lt. D. L. Flory. Lead navigator was Capt. J.J. Delach, Mickey Operator Lt. J.B. Conrad.

Reconnaissance shows all lines cut and re-cut, with prolific destruction among the rolling stock in the messed-up railyard.



BEST HIT THIS WEEK



BEFORE
ATTACK

PRAGUE-MUNICH RAIL K.O. AT KLATOVY

Two Sqdns. of 389th
Average 85% in 500ft.

In fleeing to the farthest hole of the Reich or its satellites in the mountain redoubt, the Hun megalots do not escape the pounding of 2AD Liberators. Star accuracy job of this week is by 389th Bomb Group, at Klatovy Railyards -- in Czechoslovakia.

Photo before attack shows key junction and loading yard, previously unattacked -- on the direct line linking Prague, Czechoslovakia, with Munich. The 389th strike photos illustrate lib-battering with a razor-edge sharpness. Reconnaissance photo shows all lines severed, most facilities wrecked, after one attack.

389th Lead and High Right squadrons averaged 9% in 2000 feet, 9% in 1000, and a phenomenal 8% within 500 feet of their assigned MPI. A few hung-up bombs prevented the 100% score. Low Left funneled 100% into 2000 feet, and smoke concealed the patterns within 1000 and 500 feet. However, the extremely accurate pattern of the preceding two squadrons was not spoiled, so we'll estimate at least 8% within 1000 feet for the Low Left squadron also.

Lead bombardiers on this No-Redoubt-about-it exhibition were Lt. J.D. Clark (Lead), Lt. E.G. Easper (High Right), Lt. L.W. Beran (Low Left).

45th Bomb Group followed this performance, with Lead and Low Left scoring 100% and 90%, respectively, within 2000 feet, but High Right squadron planted (Spring plowing style) only 20% within 2000.



SWIESEL R.R. BRIDGE: 467th, 458th
467th's three squadrons pounded 100% within 2000', 82% in 1000'. Lead bombardiers, Lt. C.A. Shanburg, Lt. A.H. Bosisto, P/O W.L. Overlock. Two squadrons of 458th hit 99% in 2000', third squadron had a gross error.



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

1ST/LT. FRED S. RISINGER

An act of heroism implies personal sacrifice to the welfare of others. In most cases the wartime hero gets hurt bad. Other times he is luckier.

Here is an incident of most deliberate, heroic action, with a happy ending that left nobody hurt seriously. In the log of 2AD warfare it will be forgotten quickly, but the men at 448th Bomb Group keep talking about it, and they admire the nerve and initiative of 1st Lt. Fred S. Risinger.

Lieut. Risinger, co-pilot, was standing by while his crew, in turn, bailed out of their shot-up Lib. Radio operator, S/Sgt. Richard N. Kudukis, snagged his ripcord handle on one of the plane's gadgets, and popped the chute before he could jump.

The bromide about "bring it back for a trade-in" ceased to be funny. Jumping with that fouled chute would be asking for an overcoat of terra firma. There was no exchange to be had, the Sgt. thought -- but Lieut. Risinger, the co-pilot, quickly took off his own untampered chute and strapped it onto the radio operator. "Go ahead, jump", he insisted. "I'll make it all right."

Gathering up the partly-opened chute, Lieut. Risinger repacked it as best he could before jumping from 6000 feet, facing the extreme danger of shroud lines becoming snarled in the air and causing the chute to fail to open properly.

Tumbling in the air from the

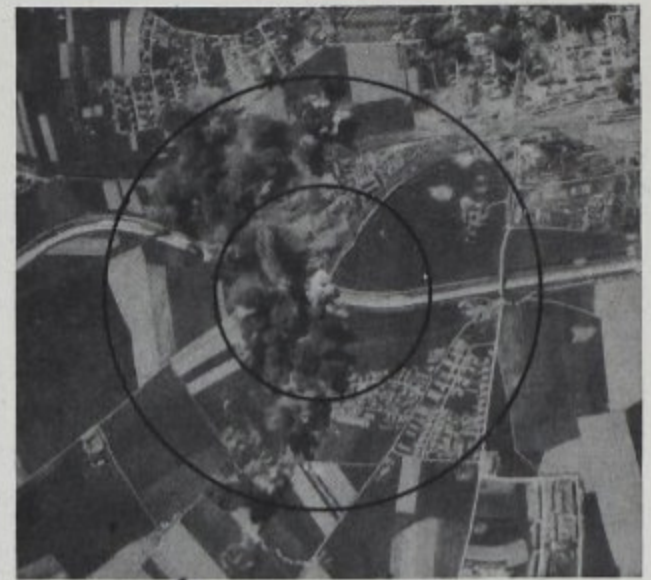


LT. RISINGER

plane's slipstream with part of the chute flapping about him, he waited until his hurtling body was parallel with the earth, then released the rest of the parachute. Luckily the balance of the chute opened without fouling, and Lieut. Risinger landed with only a slight bruise on the forehead after he hit the ground and the wind in the chute dragged him a few feet.

The 448th Group Lib had been shot up while participating in the low-level supply mission to airborne troops who had landed East of the Rhine in the biggest glider and paratroop operation in the history of warfare. Flying at tree-top level at a speed 10 miles an hour less than normal cruising speed, a fusillade from Nazi .50 and .30 caliber machine guns and 20 mm. cannon broke loose at them. The big ship, a teasing target at such low speed, was riddled with the fire. Controls were shot out, left wing tank punctured, hydraulic system shot out, two tires flattened, one throttle shot loose, the only cable left was the co-pilot's wheel.

The pilot and co-pilot managed to fly the crippled ship back to England. Near the coast, over an emergency landing field, the pilot had to order the crew to bail out, after setting the ship on a course out to sea. All the crew landed safely -- which is our happy ending.



MUHL DORF BRIDGE AND M/Y: 93rd, 448, 446

Top-scoring 93rd Group averaged 93% in 2000', 73% in 1000'. 446th hit 93% in 2000', 35% in 1000'. 448th Low Left racked 100% in 2000', 98% in 1000', 95% within 500 ft. (Lead bombardier, Lt. W.J. Southern)



SALZBURG R.R. CENTER & BRIDGE: 389th BEST

Two squadrons of 389th averaged 100% in 2000', 91% in 1000', 47% in 500 ft. Lead bombardiers, Lt. J.K. McConnell, Lt. F. E. Wegge. 93rd followed with 95% in 2000', 87% in 1000. Lead bombardiers, Lt. Minister. Lt. Dondero. 445, 446, 448 added hits.



TRAUNSTEIN TRANSFORMER STN.: 466th, 467th

Blanketed the power source near Salzburg, with 95% in 2000', 84% in 1000' by 466th; 95% in 2000', rest smoke-hid for 467th.



HALLEIN M/Y, AUSTRIA: 44, 392

Between Salzburg and Berchtesgaden, this rail center was choked with 97% in 2000' by 44th; 98% in 2000', 80% in 1000' by 392 lead, gross error by high right, low left was smoke-obscured.

