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TARGET FACTORY

WEEK ENDING
28 MARCH
1945

CONFIDENTIAL

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VOL. 2, NO. 2

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

DAY ALL HITS, NO ERRORS



WHAT IF HE'D HAD SIX FINGERS?

Lt. Col. Sidney Woods, 4th Fighter Group deputy c.o., who shot down five (count his fingers) FW-190s between Berlin and the Russians March 21st, winning a DSC. 4th now leads 8AF victories. (See page 3.)

RECORD BROKEN TWICE IN SAME WEEK, GROSS ERRORS 0-2

On Thursday 22 March, all Groups of 2nd Air Division successfully attacked their assigned targets, without a single squadron scoring a gross error. This marks an all-time high for overall accuracy by the Division. The previous record was set on 25 February, when only two squadron zeros were registered. Thursday's ill-fated targets were German airfields and an artillery center.

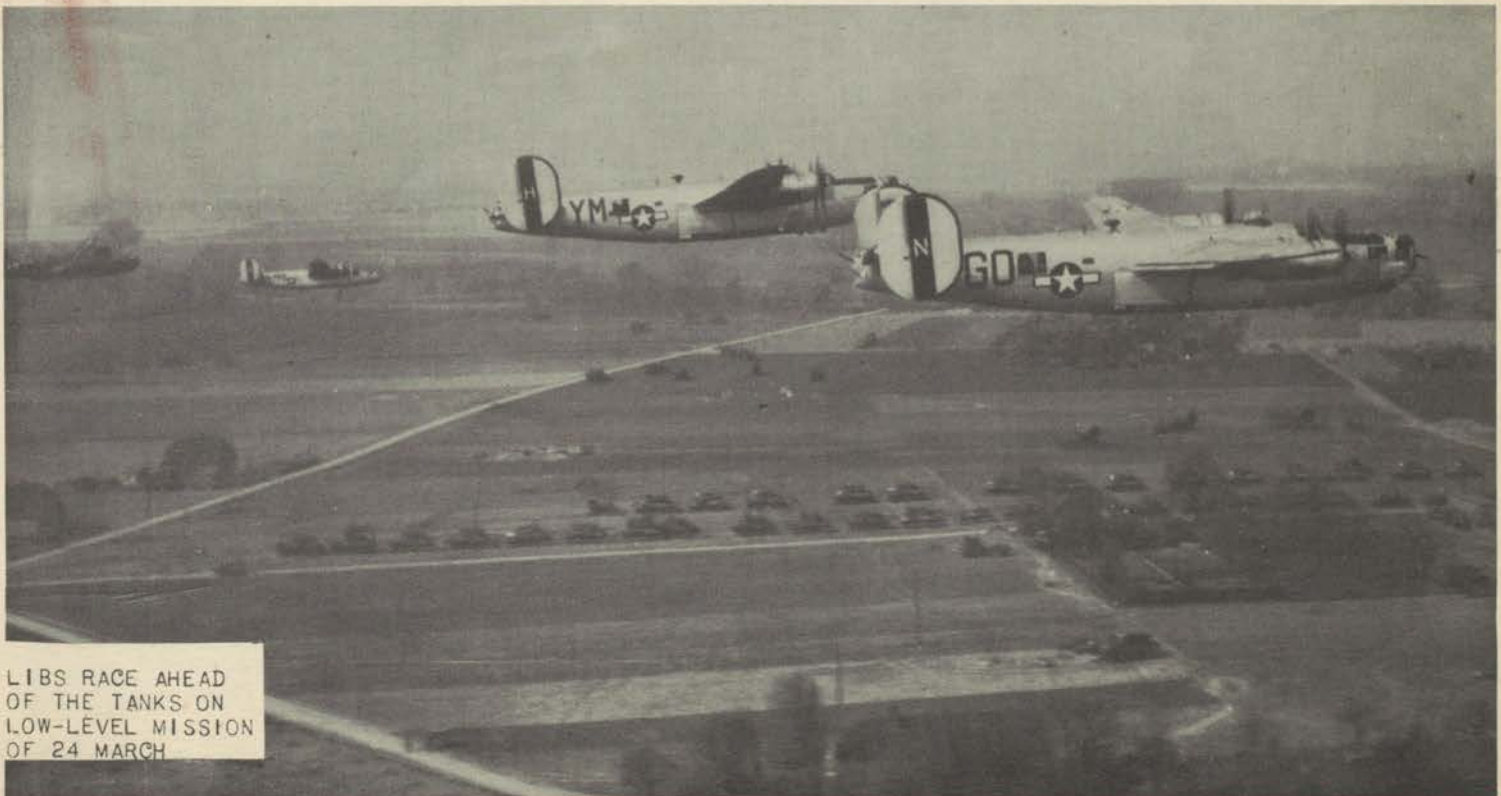
Again on Saturday 24 March, the old mark was unseated when all attacked successfully except two squadrons which held their bombs for a last resort target. One of the two failures was due to error in target identification, the other to prop-wash interference over the primary. Total score of the squadrons which attacked assigned aircraft centers on this day averaged 90% within 2000', 50% within 1000' of briefed MPis.

Score by all Bomb Groups of the

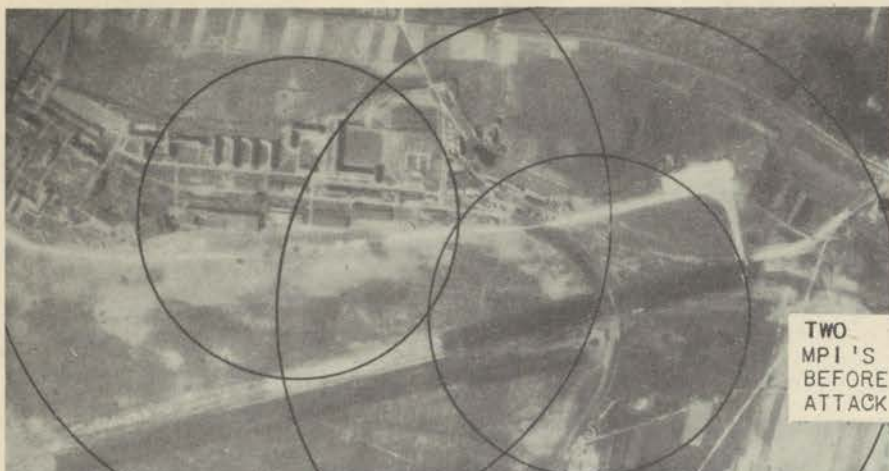
Division on the error-less day, Thursday, averaged 89% within 2000', 49% within 1000' of assigned MPis.

These high percentages are the more notable since extended intervalometer settings are used on this type of spread-out target.

Other high point of the week was 2AD's parachute supply mission at "deck level" on the 24th, successfully cooperating with gliders of IX Troop Carrier Command, battling across the Rhine in advance of General Montgomery's British and American 12th Army Group.



LIBS RACE AHEAD OF THE TANKS ON LOW-LEVEL MISSION OF 24 MARCH

TWO
MPI'S
BEFORE
ATTACK448TH, 446TH, 93RD TOP DAY ON KITZINGEN A/F AND PLANT:

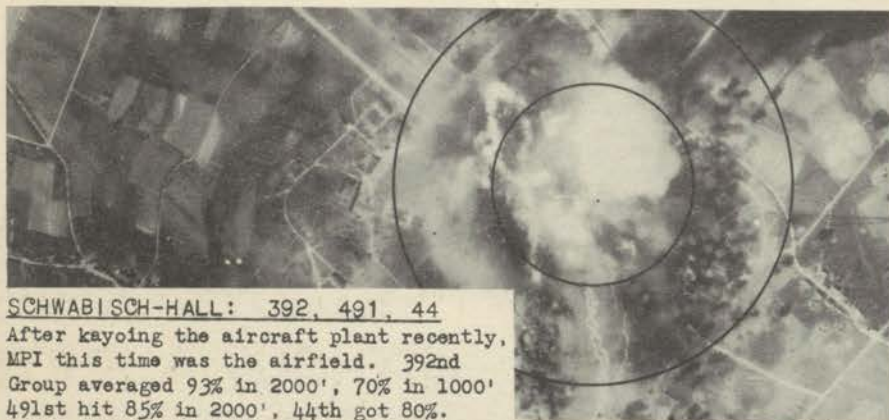
March 22, errorless day, three squadrons of 448th Bomb Group averaged 99% in 2000', 64% within 1000' of MPI. A fourth squadron with 448th, from 446th Group, bullseyed plant area 100% in 2000' and 1000', 90% of bombs within 500 feet! Lead bombardier was Lt. R. S. Alexander. 93rd Bomb Group placed extended patterns into assigned area targets of field.

**2 A.D. LAYS NO GOOSE-EGGS**

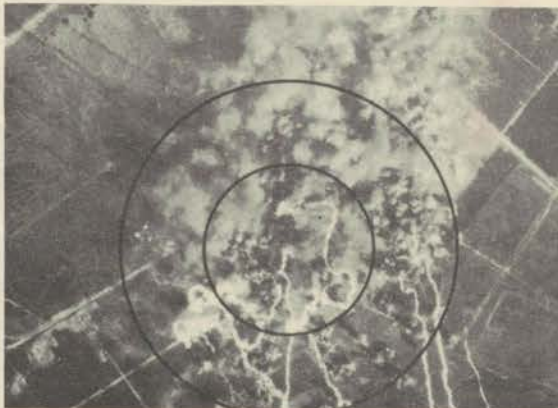
This page brings to life the impact of a day on which every squadron hits, without gross errors. Such a day shrinks the war by far more than 24 hours -- let the experts guess exactly how long. To combat crews a gross error, a target snafu, means a mission that must be flown over, costing more planes, more airmen. Even more important, an embryo egg of the German serpent is allowed to hatch -- by the time a new attack can return, the victim may have launched its threat. To Jerry's misfortune, 2AD's crews are leaving no bombing records to hark back to -- they are blasting accuracy history with the heads of their bombs on the remaining Axis MPIs.

GIEBELSTADT: 2D WING KAYO

Wing's three Groups averaged 96% in 2000', 389th placing 57% in 1000', 453rd 55%, 445th 53%.

SCHWABISCH-HALL: 392, 491, 44

After kayoing the aircraft plant recently, MPI this time was the airfield. 392nd Group averaged 93% in 2000', 70% in 1000' 491st hit 85% in 2000', 44th got 80%.

NORDHORN: 466, 467, 458TH

First two Groups averaged 90% within 2000', 60% in 1000'. 458th Group placed 76% in 2000'.

STORMEDE: 1 SQUADRON PER GROUP

Hottest squadron was from 446th, 100% in 2000', 78% within 1000'. 453rd made 95% in 2000', 70% in 1000'. 93rd, 491st and 389th also hit over 90% within 2000 feet.

TARGET VICTORY

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

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VOL. 2, NO. 2 MARCH 28, 1945

4th FIGHTER GROUP REGAINS TOP SCORING CROWN — 867!

Col. Everett Stewart's 4th Mustang Group has spurred ahead of the 56th Thunderbolt Group to take the lead as the highest-scoring fighter outfit in the Eighth Air Force. While Lib target markers and bombs were still falling on Achmer air-drome March 21st, the scarlet-nosed 2nd Air Division Mustangs raked the 'drome



COL. EVERETT W. STEWART
From Gen. Ike's home town, Abilene, Kansas, he too commands the top.

at low-level to destroy nine enemy planes parked there. It brought the group score to 856 enemy planes destroyed (520 in the air; 336 aground), wresting the lead from the 56th Group (2AD Thunderbolts), which has 854 credits -- 675 of them knocked out of the air.

Next day the 4th's Mustangs got 11 FW-190s in a dogfight 15 miles from the Russians on the Oder. The FWs had three bombs each slung under them and were forming for a mission when Lt. Col. Sidney Woods, of Somerton, Ariz., led the outfit to attack. Woods, who has shot down a Zero and Jap bomber in Pacific fighting, ran roughshod through the Huns. He got five FW-190s with cockpit strikes, and none of the pilots got away. For this action Col. Woods received the DSC.

The 4th's Mustangs had flown from England to Dresden, where they picked up 15th Air Force heavies and escorted them to Ruhland. Then the 4th flew to Berlin,

encountering 15 190s taking off from Furstenwalde A/F, southeast of Berlin. One FW, chased by a Mustang, jettisoned its bombs on its own airdrome.

The famed 4th was activated in England Sept. 12, 1942, when the three Eagle Squadrons of the RAF transferred to the AAF. It has always see-sawed in the lead as high-scorer of the Eighth Air Force with the crack 56th, now commanded by Lt. Col. Lucien A. Dade. The 56th (former Zemke and Schilling outfit) was first to destroy 100, 200 and 300 Huns. The 4th took over and was first across the 400 thru 700 marks, and relinquished the lead at the 800-mark.



FIRST JET FALLS TO 392nd GUNNER

Staff Sergeant John P. Malley, Philadelphia, Pa., became the first gunner in 2AD to shoot down a jet-propelled fighter. The 392nd Group nose gunner destroyed the "squirt" on a mission to Magdeburg.

"The engineer called out that two bombers were going down," Malley related. "There was no flak then, so I figured it must have been enemy fighters, but I could not see any. I watched the two bombers fall, and while doing that I saw a fighter following them down. I could identify it as an Me-262 -- a twin-engine job with a single fin.

"He broke away from the two bombers and came up to attack our formation. He was coming so fast it was hard to track him. I opened up at 2,000 yards and he began firing a few seconds later. My tracers went into one of his jets. Smoke and flames shot out, and he broke away. Our navigator saw him break up and go down."



448th BOMBS WAY TO A "B"

Col. Charles B. Westover (left), c.o. of 448th Bomb Group, receives 20th Wing's "B" for Bombing pennant from Brig. Gen. E.J. Timberlake, Jr., Wing commander. 448th topped the Wing's bombing in January-February, owns the "B" for a month.

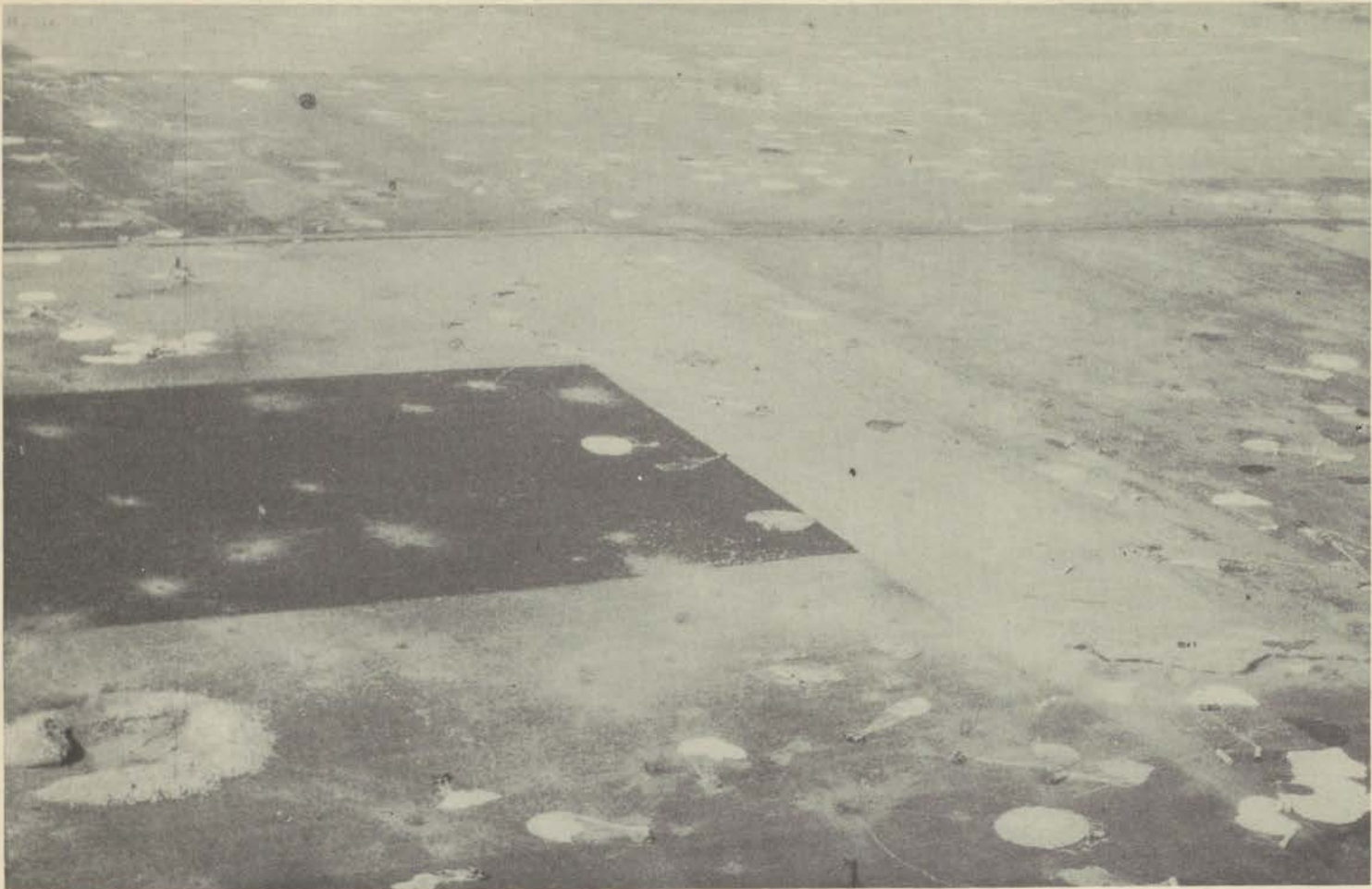


DESTROYS JU-188 WITHOUT A SHOT

"Sit down and say that again, slowly," asked the squadron intelligence officer when 1st/Lt. Thurman C. Long, 335th Mustang Group pilot returned from a strafing mission in Central Germany to report that he had destroyed a Ju-188 bomber on the ground without firing a shot.

"We had spotted a German airfield with several planes on it," Long explained. "The Germans saw us and started throwing flak all over the sky. We observed a lot of planes parked in a wooded area, and decided to drop our tanks there, hoping they would burn the enemy planes.

"I dropped my tanks directly onto a JU-188. There was a big explosion and the bomber began to burn like fury. Some of the other boys set the woods afire, and I'm sure the Huns lost some more planes."



GENs "MONTY", WILLIAMS COMMEND RHINE-JUMPING, 'CHUTE MISSIONS

Climax of this week was 2AD's low-level support to the combined airborne and armored drive across the Rhine into North-west Germany. Winged above advancing tanks and artillery in close cooperation with British and American glider forces, vital re-supplies were parachuted from the speeding Libs onto the battlefields.

Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery conveyed to Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz "and to all ranks in the U.S. Strategic Air Forces my grateful appreciation for the quite magnificent cooperation. Please convey thanks to all your crews and ground staff."



"Virtually 100% recovery of all supplies dropped by your bombers," reported Maj. Gen. Paul L. Williams, Commanding General, IX Troop Carrier Command. "Please convey my deepest appreciation."

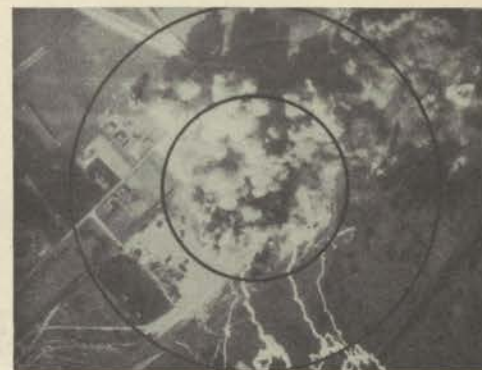
"Your air forces largely responsible for the success of the operation," wired Lt. Gen. Brereton, 1st Allied Airborne Army to Lt. Gen. Doolittle. "Bomber re-supply on D-Day beautifully carried out, as in our operations in Holland. Many thanks to you and all those under your command."

Maj. Gen. W.E. Kepner, Commanding 2nd Air Division adds "Congratulations to all of you on a job well done."



BUCHEN OIL: 448TH, 93RD

Precision aplenty in 448th's two squadrons 100% with 93% in 1000' (3rd hit 50%), plus 100%, 90% and 86% in 2000' by 93rd.



MUNSTER: ATTRITION OF A MARSHALLING CENTER

Smashed before this attack were most of Munster's railyards, as the yawning craters witness. Libs on 23 March were assigned three remaining keypoints to clog the last of the activity.

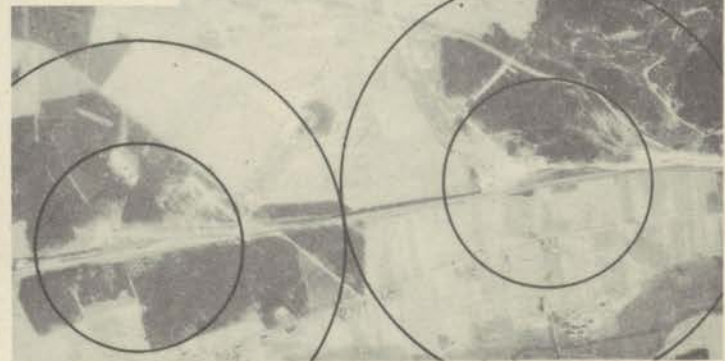
The junction at far left caught 98% in 2000', 40% in 1000' from 93rd Group's Low Left. Central MPI was drubbed by 448th (98% in 2000', 85% in 1000', Group average for two squadrons) and 446th (97% with 65% of hits within 1000 ft. of MPI).

389th, 445th, and 453rd clobbered other sections for a Wing average of 90% within 2000' (excluding one squadron gross error).

BEST HIT THIS WEEK



THREE MPI'S
OF GROUPS



467th CUTS OFF HITZACKER OIL

HUNS HIDE THE PETROL, LIBS GUARD THE SECRET



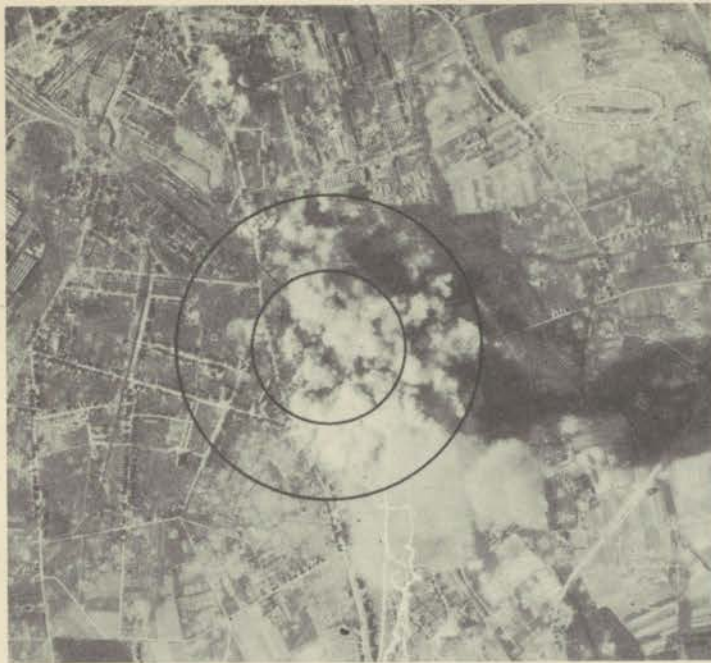
The Huns have stumbled onto one game that we like to join in as much as they do. They hide their melting oil supply, but by devious means we spy out the secret. Promptly our air forces chop off the transportation facilities so nobody else can get to it. The Jerries bury it, and we keep it out of reach.

Champions at the strategy this week were three squadrons of 467th Bomb Group, attacking the elaborate facilities at Hitzacker. Their MPI included the rail junction, sidings, platforms and bevy of oil cars at lower right of above target photo.

A Marine with a bayonet couldn't have been more accurate than 467th's Lead squadron. Every bomb blasted within 2000 feet, 95% within 1000 feet, and 70% within 500 feet of the assigned MPI! Lt. S. A. Conrow was lead bombardier. Second and third squadrons very nearly duplicated the perfection. 100% of their crater-makers piled within 2000 feet -- debris and smoke concealing the proportion within 1000 and 500 feet, but they looked to be mostly bullseyes. Lead bombardiers for these squadrons were Lt. Scharrschmidt and Lt. Bensko.

Nearest contenders at Hitzacker, on a nearby MPI, were two squadrons of 491st Group, with a third squadron from 44th Bomb Group flying on their High Right. Both 491st Lead and the 44th entry exploded 100% within 2000', corraling 85% into 1000', 55% in 500'. Lieutenants Erramonspe and Mendenwalt were lead bombardiers. 491st Low Left added 100%, with 75% in 1000', 45% within 500 feet -- Lieutenant Mellinger lead bombardier.

Final havoc, including hits on the storage facilities themselves, came from 458th, 466th and 392nd Bomb Groups. What is left to be hauled won't budge till possibly after the site is in Allied hands.



**BEST RUNNER-UP
OF THIS WEEK**



458th ONE-TWO-THREE'S OSNABRUCK

PRELUDE TO AIR INVASION NEAR-PERFECT RAIL K.O.

Osnabruck has been battered so often they should send up white flags with their flak. Miles of its former rail facilities are only pook-marked earth, but remaining sections still teemed with adipose freight cars, feeding the German Northwest front.

Day before the airborne invasion plunked into this sector, 458th Bomb Group performed the star job of pre-exploding the Hun's fireworks. Lead squadron placed 100% in 2000', with 85% within 1000 feet of the assigned MPI, to be outdone by Second squadron's 100%, with 95% inside 1000 feet, 40% within 500 feet. Third unit aimed at the jackpot, but part of its ships had a release malfunction, bombing late -- so they scored 85% in 2000', 50% within 1000 feet. Lead bombardiers were Lt. H. N. Bernard, Lt. R. A. Lukas, and Lt. J. A. Thomas.

Another solid job came from 467th Group, averaging 100% in 2000', 70% in 1000'. 466th had a sharp lead squadron -- 98% within 2000', the balance smoke-obscured. Osnabruck marshalling yard was in no condition for warfare next day, but the Allied airborne and land advance went off "tidily", as Gen. Montgomery expressed it.



EHMEN OIL STORAGE: 2ND WING

This pattern by 389th Bomb Group averaged 100% in 2000', 62% within 1000', on underground oil supply. 445th smacked 100% into 2000', with 1000' circle smoke-obscured. 453rd had 70% in 2000' and one squadron gross error.



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

S/SGT. ADOLPH V. CARBONE

This week our nomination goes to Staff/Sgt. Adolph V. Carbone, 491st Group waist gunner, awarded the Silver Star for gallantry, whose courageous performance in a slugging gunfight over Germany helped his crew to reach friendly territory before bailing out.

At start of a bomb run over Misburg more than a hundred enemy fighters waged a determined attack, hoping to save some of Hitler's doomed oil supply. Carbone and his fellow waist-gunner were casualties on the first pass. With his right arm almost disabled and his clothing soddy with blood from his chest wounds, Carbone pulled himself off the floor. FW-190s and Me-109s came in for another sweep at three o'clock, and he met them with a blaze of .50 calibres. The enemy tried coming in at nine o'clock, but

Carbone stepped across the body of his unconscious companion and met this charge also. By now the plane was obviously disabled prey, and the Jerries redoubled their efforts to bring it down. Back and forth across the waist leaped Carbone, shooting from both hips till loss of blood exhausted him.

He collapsed. As he did so, a direct hit smashed into one of the guns. Knowing that the Hun would strike at this breach in the bomber's defense, Sgt. Carbone, with almost incredible determination and stamina, staggered to his feet and tried to bring the gun back into action. Whether the sight of him still at his post put off the attackers, Carbone never knew. He had passed out again.

When he came to this time, battle had lapsed. Carbone calmly reported two wounded men in the waist. When the radioman came back to give aid, Carbone made him take the other man first. "We have to bail out," the Sgt. was told. "Okay," he said, and scorning any help he clipped on his chest pack and went out with the crew. He is now recuperating in the Zone of Interior.

"Sheer guts," was how his Squadron c.o., Lt. Col. Charles C. Parmele, described Carbone's performance. That's what it takes to win wars -- a lot of joes like this Carbone.



WURZBURG: SINGLE SQUADRON, 445TH

On that error-less 22nd March, lone High Right squadron of 445th attacked this secondary, an artillery headquarters. They made it look like a production -- crashing 100% within 2000', 90% in 1000', 60% within 500 feet of the MPI. The lead bombardier was Lt. J. V. Antilla.



2 A.D. MEMORIAL FUND MOUNTING

Voluntary contributions by members of 2nd Air Division for the proposed 2AD Memorial in Norwich are swelling ahead of quotas estimated to assure the required endowment.

The planned Memorial to men of the Division who have been killed in action or who died in line of duty consists of a Hall of Memory entrance to the Municipal Library that will be erected in Norwich after the war. On its walls will be a plaque for each Bombardment Group, with names of the deceased and records of the organizations, and the Hall will be dominated by a central piece of sculpture symbolic of the achievements of the men of 2nd Division. Two rooms opening off the Hall will be fitted with reference books, fiction, periodicals, art and music written about America by Americans.

"Their memory thus is perpetuated," states Maj. Gen. W.E. Kepner, commanding 2AD, "in something of living spiritual significance which brings a daily influence of American thought and ideals to all visitors and to the people of this community with whom we have been so closely associated through these years.

"Together we have built the 2nd Division into one of the great aerial striking forces of history. Together let us build this fitting memorial to those who have sacrificed their lives in order that the ideals of our American democracy, and indeed all democracy, shall endure."

INCENDIARY BULLSEYE: 392nd

If there's any accuracy disadvantage in incendiary aiming, 392nd takes no stock in it. At Rheine marshalling yard, their Low Left squadron placed 100% of incendiary load within 2000 feet of MPI, 90% within 1000 feet (Lt. H. E. Hickok, lead bombardier). Lead squadron (bombardier, Capt. C. D. McMahon) had just delivered an equal 100% and 90% of H.E.'s onto the same MPI.