

TARGET:

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL

CONFIDENTIAL

WEEK ENDING
DEC. 2,
1944

VICTORY

OFFENBURG, 1ST, 2ND DIVN. CO-OP

GH, VISUAL TEAM UP ON M/Y



LEAVING OFFENBURG:

Explosions rose above clouds.

FIGHTERS UP; LIBS, ESCORTS DOWN 90

On three days out of this week, Jerry fighters accepted battle. 280 fighters knocked 76 out of the air, 14 more falling to lib gunners.

Sunday (Nov. 26) approximately 200 Germans attacked in the Misburg area. 59 were destroyed. Top squadron of the day, led by Maj. S. Larry Slugs, 355th Fighter Group, shot down 27. Capt. John D. Duncan's squadron, of 361st, downed 19.

Monday no attacks were made on bombers, but the 56th, 361st and 479th Fighter Groups sought out and destroyed 13. Wednesday the 280 fighters strafed trains, and rescued a crippled lib from concentrated flak by strafing batteries on deck.

Dog fights resulted Saturday inside the bomber formations, as 19 PEs and MEs were downed. Most Buns were repaired before they could get through to the Libs.

To its historic misfortune, on Monday (Nov. 27) Offenburg's marshalling center dealt under the combined onslaughts of 2nd Divn. Libs and 1st Divn. Fords. The day was uniquely clear (clouds 4 to 5/10), but even if GH instruments were necessary, Offenburg's number was up.

This German rail hub, less than 14 miles across the Rhine from Strasbourg, suggested the best

explosions with additional heavy blasts apparently from munitions clogging the distribution sidings. Most groups accomplished runs at least partly visual, GH alone carried the rail for others.

For a novelty, rain visibility handicap was the billowing, smoky chess of bomb-blast, instead of soggy weather. The 1st Divn. Fords attacked first, leaving a difficult MFI for the Libs

arriving 15 minutes later, as there was little surface wind to clear the air. Most squadrons' actual bomb strikes had to be unobserved though they were seen to fall apparently into the target haven.

Strike verticals and oblique photos taken by planes departing the target witness that damage will be expensive to the Germans.



FORTS HAD 'EM REELING,
LIBS KNOCKED 'EM OUT.

**PASS****BRASS**

FORT, LIB GRIDDERS' DEFENSE LOCKS 1st - 2nd DIVN. TITLE, 0-0

With 7000 (not the customary home title-game crowd of 70,000) yelling football fans and British caricature-seekers straining their suspens right up to the eventful "last minute of play", the Big Red of the 1st and the Fort 304th Bomb Group's Green Wave each fought off 60 minutes of the other's championship football, ending in a scoreless tie.

The teams carried the group championship titles of the 1st and 2nd Bomb Divisions, and an inter-Division champ was not decided, unless yardage gains are considered. The 1st Red's (PBD) gobbled up 174 yards, to the 304th Green's' 27 yards. First downs also favored the 2BDs, ten to five.

A British battalion and an American M.P. Co. were reviewed by Maj. Gen. W. E. Kerner, commanding 2nd Bomb Divn.; Brig. Gen. H.W. Turner, commanding 1st Bomb Division; and high-ranking British officers, to musical strains of Dorsetshire Regiment and 8th Air Force bands.

Atmosphere and color of an American "big game" invaded Norfolk's Carrow Road stadium (Nov. 30), including girl cheer leaders. Was Sgt. Jean and Joan Cobby, formerly of Fullerton Jr. College, Calif., flashing sweaters of the Big Red.

Rev. Jack Mitchell, ex-Kansas All-State high school back, scooted wriggled and plunged to numerous gains for the 1st Red, only to be nailed by the Green Wave's top line-men, Cpl. L. Valenti and Sgt. Sam Morro. Thrilling gains for the Red were provided also by T/Sgt. Leo Krotosznicki, End, Lt. Joseph E. King,

TREAT NORFOLK TO "TURKEY BOWL" PIGSKIN SHOW

fullback, and Lt. George Cherokee, former Ohio State guard, converted into a quarterback.

Cpl. Louis Gaidry's last-minute field goal attempt was blocked by S/Sgt. Paul W. Musselman, Green Wave tackle.

The British press was impressed; "To one unaccustomed to the atmosphere connected with American games the preliminaries and vast enthusiasms provoked by the 'cheer leaders' of both sexes were almost as intriguing as the game. No one could fail to realize the fierce intensity and desperately grim character of the play, and the call made upon the courage and skill of the players.

"At several stages we felt that the Champion Big Red team were slaying like winners, and their No. 22 made a number of magnificent efforts, but always something happened to keep the ball on the wrong side of the goal line."

**PARADE****BLOCKADE**

BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



467th SQDN (GH-LED BY 466th)-100%

Recall Summer Bullseyes On Offenburg Semi-Visual


Already tracking for a sharply synchronized GI run, 1st Lt. Clinton B. Emerich, lead squadron GH navigator, and 1st Lt. Irving Kastel, lead bombardier, picked up the target approaching beneath a broad opening in the clouds. Converting the final few moments to a visual-assisted run, they had applied the magic touch.

Bombs away spewed into the smoke bedlam that had been Offenburg marshalling yard, and a fringe of visible strikes defined the pattern -- 100% inside the 2000 foot ring around the MFI!


Follow-up low left dropped on this lead, and averaged a little short. The high right squadron also was synchronized visually, and their pattern raced into the MFI area, which by now was too smoke-shrouded to allow a count of strikes. 1st Lt. Harold E. Warman, GH operator, and 1st Lt. Henry E. DeClement, bombardier, directed this likewise-damaging release.



BEST RUNNER UP OF THIS WEEK



PATTERN OF
93RD BOMB GROUP



392ND -- LEAD
AND HIGH RIGHT

93rd, 392nd SLASH BIELEFELD RAIL SPAN

GE checked again with visual sighting this week, on the main Hanover-Ruhr rail line at Bielefeld. Aiming was good, but patterns fringed the tiny center of the MPI, a stilted viaduct. Approaches and tracking were destroyed by the 93rd (placing 70% within 2000 ft.), with 1st Lt. Jack G. Harris, bombardier, and 2nd Lt. Thomas J. Baxter, GE operator.

Damage was added by 392nd Group, with 1st Lt. W. H. Whitsett, GE, and 1st Lt. A. G. Brnilovitch, lead bombardier, both from the 11th Group. 392nd's High Right, with bombardier 1st Lt. R. J. Clark, landed 80% within 2000, 25% inside 1000 ft.


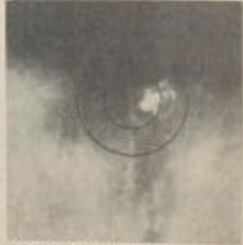
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MISBURG REFINERY HIT AGAIN:
491st and 445th topped moderately
damaging attack on this oil center.