

TARGET:

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL
CONFIDENTIAL



WEEK ENDING
DEC. 30,
1944

WINTER'S BIG WEEK

HALT HUN "BULGE" OFFENSIVE, BOMB RECORD STILL GROWING



SANTA CATCHES "LIBERTY RUN":
11-year old London evacuee christens
455rd Group's gift-laden Lib, before
Christmas run to treat Paris tots.

Winter's top surprise, more startling than the Runstedt counter-drive, was this week's crystal-clear bombing weather, which caused air offensive records to be shattered.

2nd Air Division bombed visually for 7 straight days, December 23 thru 29th, and continued Saturday, 30th, with instrument bombing attacks, mounting (on Mon., Jan. 1) to 10 straight days and still growing to near all-time consecutive records set during the peak good weather of Summer, 1944.

Results likewise shattered precedent. Inspired by incentive and opportunity, every Bomb Group in 2AD registered hits from en-

tire squadrons above 90%, all but two Groups achieving 100% scores in the 2000-foot ring. Breathtaking was the pinpoint accuracy on most targets — with keenest competition inside the smaller 1000-foot circle, 95%, 93%, and 90% of several squadrons' bombs blasting within this precision radius from the assigned MPI.



WEEK'S TOP FIGHTER ACE:

1st/Lt. George W. Gleason, of 479th Fighter Group, shot down three FW 190s Christmas Day.



WHITE CHRISTMAS: 389TH AT WAHLEN

100% of Squadron's bombs penetrated within 2000-feet of snow-blanketed MPI at this communication center. 85% blasted in 1000' circle.

CONFIDENTIAL -- NOT TO BE TAKEN OUT OF U.K. OR INTO THE AIR

"ALL THIS IN ONE DAY"

Pages 4-5

TARGET VICTORY

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR
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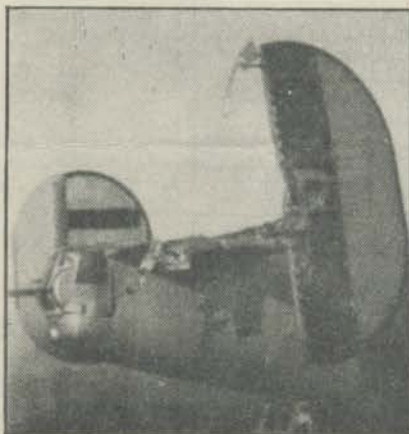
MISSING ISSUE OF
"TARGET: VICTORY" FOR
WEEK ENDING 23 DECEMBER

A damaging fire in the plant which prints "Target: Victory" made necessary the omission of the issue for week ending 23 December 1944.

By special arrangement, this issue covering the excellent visual bombing week ending 30 December is made possible.

It will be necessary also to omit the following issue (week ending 6 January 1945), but normal publication is expected to resume shortly thereafter.

Special regret is due to 392nd Bomb Group, whose high accuracy on Ahrweiler Communication Center December 23 topped the week ending that day. The Group's two squadrons averaged 97½% in 2000 feet, and 80% within 1000 feet of their MPI. Lead bombardiers (Cee-H crews from 44th Bomb Group) were 1st/Lt. J. R. Bumbicka and 1st/Lt. A. E. Jones.



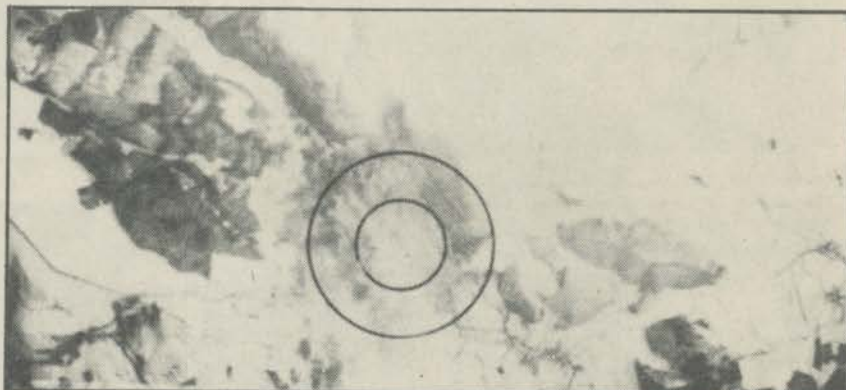
TAILS RATIONED? OKAY--

"Sahara Sue", of 93rd Bomb Group, brought her entire crew home safely despite a missing rudder and elevator. "Safe and sound, for Christmas," smiled pilot Capt. B.F. Baker.



HALLSCHLAG: 93RD PUTS 100% INTO 2000'

Low Left is top-scoring squadron, with 100% of their hits in 2000-foot circle, and 88% within 1000 feet of MPI.



466TH PILES HITS ONTO PRUM COMMUNICATIONS:

News-prominent Hun center collected 100% in 2000 feet from 466th's Lead -- 40% were within 1000'.



PELM: 445TH RIVETS 100% AROUND 85%

Target assigned at Pelm rooked with 100% in 2000-ft. ring, 85% in 1000', by Low Left.



OLD:



NEW:



WARMTH FROM G.I. BLANKET:

EQUIPMENT IMPROVEMENTS ARE MANY --

Revised heated suits, with more reliable double circuits. Successful hood designed and made by one Group equipment officer Enclosing of the waist windows has helped greatly.

FROSTBITE: MEDICS, EQUIPMENT OFFICERS AND CREWS SCORE A VICTORY

"Horror pictures" presented the ordeal of Frostbite as an enemy of altitude efficiency up to and including last winter. This year the picture is much more reassuring. In December of 1943 there occurred 256 cases among aircrew members in this Division, 143 in November '43, 123 in January '44. The medical history photos in severe cases were shocking.

November of 1944 showed only 25 cases, December had only 23 — despite tremendously increased air activity. The frequency, per crew airborne, has dropped to one-thirtieth of what it was in December '43.

How have the other 29 out of 30 cases been prevented? Great credit is due the equipment officers at each Group, for specialized care and testing of improved equipment (For example, their Ohm meters

find faulty circuits in heated suits before use). Likewise, station medical officers have recommended and devised improvements.

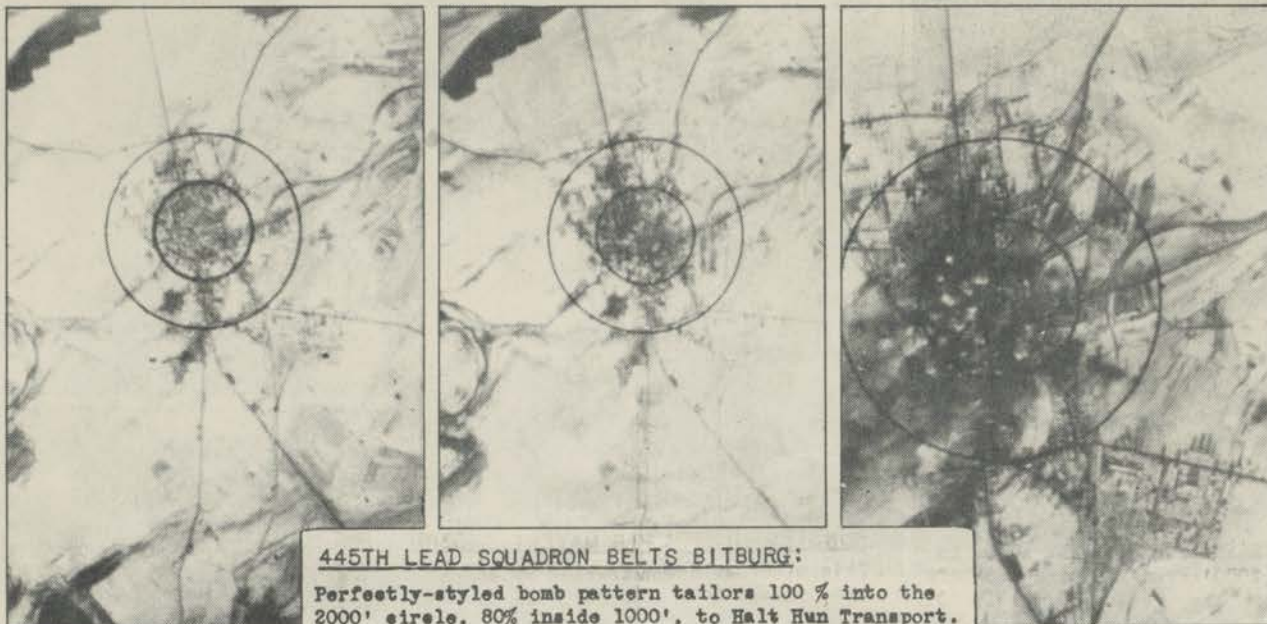
Third, that vital link — co-operation of the crew members themselves, has downed this altitude evil into the nearly-conquered class. Proper equipment now is supplied — protect yourself by using it properly.

LIL' ABNER

WITH APOLOGIES TO —
AL Capp

NOTE: A BLOOD DONOR UNIT WILL VISIT YOUR 2AD BASE DURING JANUARY





445TH LEAD SQUADRON BELTS BITBURG:

Perfectly-styled bomb pattern tailors 100% into the 2000' circle, 80% inside 1000', to Halt Hun Transport.

ALL IN ONE DAY

'T WAS DAY BEFORE XMAS - & 2AD WAS STIRRING!

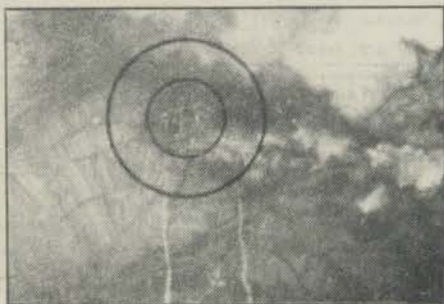


389TH CHOPS COCHEM: 98%

Lead hit this primary with 98% in 2000', 50% in 1000'

2nd Air Division's all-time record for planes attacking at one time was shattered on Sunday (Dec. 24) -- on which day 8th Air Force dispatched the greatest number of heavies (over 2000) ever sent out by any air force anywhere -- plus a fighter escort of over 800.

All 2AD Groups bombed visually -- on targets selected to paralyze the Runstedt offensive -- communication centers, bridges, railyards, highways. How expertly they succeeded is revealed to you here. Some good jobs, including targets of opportunity, were crowded out by lack of space -- but here you see the day's top scorers on assigned targets.



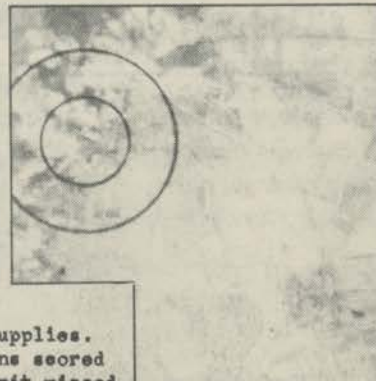
44TH FIZZLES PFAZEL:

High Right hits 98% in 2000', and terrifies 80% into 1000-ft.



448TH SCORES 4 OUT OF 5:

Euskirchen carried voluminous Hun supplies. 448th B Lead and three other sections scored 90%, 75%, 60%, 60% in 2000'! One unit missed.



491ST DOUBLE 100%S:

Rail bridge sought 100% in 2000' from Lead and Low Left, another section hit with 80%.

RUNSTEDT LOSES HIS MAYEN: 453RD

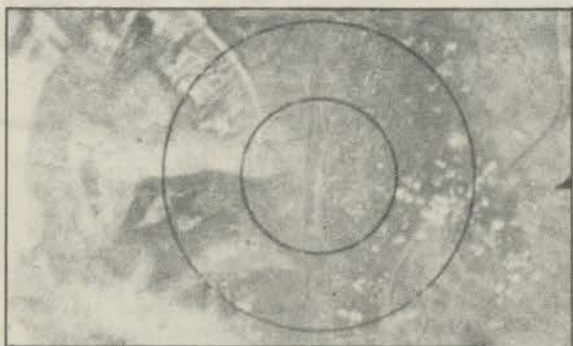
This accuracy demonstration by 453rd Lead placed 100% in 2000', 90% in 1000'

467TH: DAUN, GEROLSTEIN M/Y

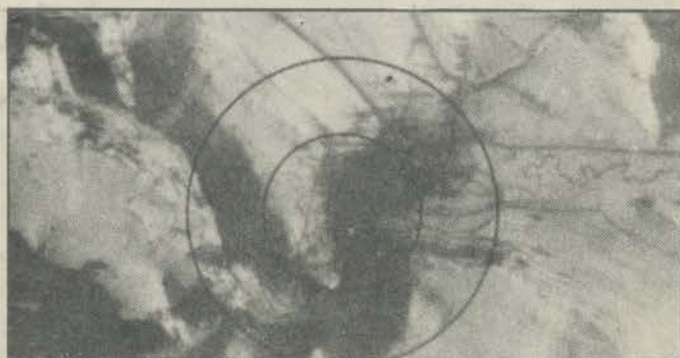
Daun Lead section placed 100% in 2000' 15% in 1000'. Gerolstein Lead and Low Left had 85% and 97% in 2000, 26% in 1000.

392ND DECORATES BRIDGE: PFAZEL

Rail-span got topped with disastrous but perfectly-formed bouquet of bursts.

AHRWEILER COMMUNICATIONS: 93RD

Pattern collected A-1 damage on land/water transport hub, though MPI score was only 55% in 2000'.

458TH AXES SCHOENECKEN: 100%

Low Left squadron pitched a smoking 100% in 2000', 70% in 1000', and 30% inside 500 feet.

BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



SINZIG BRIDGE
CROSSES STREAM--



-- NOW THE STREAM
CROSSES SINZIG BRIDGE

446th BRIDGE AIMING TOPS WEEK

4 SQUADRONS SCORE, 93rd LEAD CREWS DELIVER TWO 100%^s



SCORING HITS
MADE BY ALL
4 SQUADRONS:

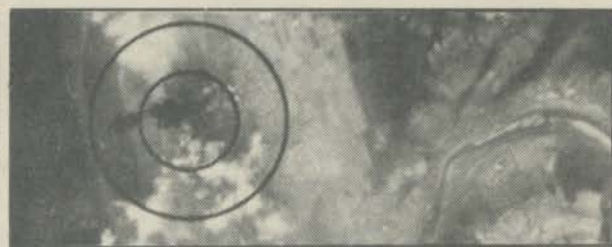
How's a Gee-H crew for a visual lead? To stand out in this record week's offensive, 446th Group had to practically rivet their bomb pattern onto the rail bridge MPI — and the lead had to be perfect, if not better.

Gee-H leads, from 93rd Bomb Group, tracked the 446th into Sinzig, then doubled on a Reich-shaking visual run — Lead and High Right both scoring 100% in 2000', with 93% and 89%, respectively, inside 1000 feet of the assigned MPI! Lead squadron punched 65% within 500 feet.

Lead bombardier was Lt. Kuk, Gee-H lead Navigator Lt. Kelly — High Right bombardier was Lt. Redden, Gee-H Navigator Lt. Aden, all of 93rd Bomb Group. The two additional squadrons scored 74% and 21% inside 2000' — with 2nd/Lieut. W. J. Horean and 2nd/Lieut. B. W. Deveau on the lead sights, both members of 446th Group.

Plenty of credit goes to the 93rd leaders, but it's the sharpshooting pattern of the entire 446th Group that makes this a championship knockout.

BEST RUNNER UP OF THIS WEEK



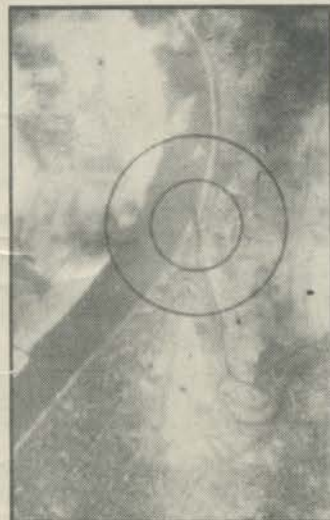
NOTHING BUT HIGH SCORES FOR GROUP AT NIEDERLAHNSTEIN

That jaw-breaking name of a marshalling yard lies on the outskirts of Coblenz -- a disastrous distance farther out than it did before the 467th sighted it.

The fat rail point was meat-axed by Lead squadron's 88% in 2000 and 75% in 1000 feet, thru the vitals of the marshalling yard. Following up, High Right matched this with 100% in 2000 and 65% within 1000 feet of the MPI.

This made a Group average of 94% inside 2000, 70% in 1000 -- a sensational day's teamwork for lead bombardiers 1st/Lt. C.J. Good and 1st/Lt. J. R. Andrews, and really smooth cooperation through the entire Group.

467th HOT ONE-TWO ON RAILYARD



446TH: 100%, 95% -- 52% IN 500-FEET!

Star hit of pre-Christmas day was High Right on Reinbaeh, with 100% in 2000', 95% in 1000', and 52% of hits within 500 feet of assigned MPI!

NEUWEID RAIL BRIDGE: 392ND

Low Left shellacked bridge MPI with 100%, placed 95% in 1000', and 50% within 500'.

BEST HIT BY A SQUADRON:

CHRISTMAS "LIB RUN" TO FRANCE

Amid the drone of record-setting air activity, children of Britain and France were linked in a Christmas party, through combined efforts of 453rd Bomb Group and the American Red Cross in Paris.

More than 1100 English children attended the Group's entertainment December 24, and vied for the honor of scrawling their signatures onto the B-24 rechristened "Liberty Run", while it was loaded with presents made by these boys and girls for other children in France. Also in the cargo were fruit, candy and toys from U.S. personnel at the base.

Before becoming Santa's chariot, this 2AD Lib had amassed a record of 74 consecutive missions over enemy territory without a mechanical turnback. A G.I. Santa Claus from the 453rd accompanied the gifts and directed their distribution at ARC Rainbow Corner in Paris, Christmas day.



French children were delighted with the air-borne Xmas treat.



A bookfull of personal greeting cards was presented to Paris orphans.



The givers sign their gift by autographing Santa's Lib.



TARGET:
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR
OUTSTANDING

"MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

COL. DAVID C. SCHILLING

Top fighter ace of the Division, (34½ destroyed, 24 of them in the air) — C.O. of the highest scoring Fighter Group in the ETO (804 victories, 621 in air) — winner of 22 clusters (6 to DFC, 2 on Silver Star, 13 on the Air Medal, 1 on DSC) —but for Col. David C. Schilling "things were not always like this".

Arriving in the ETO as squadron commander with the 56th Fighter Group, early Thunderbolt outfit, the

Dartmouth grad had to go 44 missions before downing a Hun fighter. On his first trip his plane was so badly shot up he was lucky to return at all. However, the former test pilot was a past master at making the P-47 outperform anything in the skies, and when he got his first FW 190 (Oct. 2, 1943) on bomber escort near Emden, he ran a string of single victories that won him the tag "One-A-Day-Schilling".

On Easter Sunday, '44, he and a wingman, separated from the Group, challenged 30 FW190s which were preparing to attack our bombers. He blew up one, and was quickly the prime target himself. In the melee he damaged another FW and his engine blew a cylinder head, which handicapped him and then possibly saved him.

He knocked down a second Hun, only to be followed along the deck by another FW. After a few bursts, the streaming oil and smoke misled the Jerry into breaking away. Then Schilling cut back the power and limped toward home. En route he added another Luftwaffe probable to his record. For this day's per-



formance he won his first DSC.

Saturday, Dec. 23, the 56th shot down 37 in air combat, one under the ETO one-day record — and Col. Schilling got 5 of them, winning a cluster to his DSC by enthusiastic order of Lt.Gen. Spaatz, plus a commendation for "outstanding heroism and splendid leadership" of the 56th Fighter Group.