

PUBLISHED BY HEADQUARTERS 2<sup>ND</sup> AIR DIVISION

# TARGET FACTORY

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR  
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL  
CONFIDENTIAL

WEEK ENDING  
FEB. 3,  
1945

## ROAR OVER RUHR

### BIGGEST RUHR CITY RAKED IN FULL-VISUAL ATTACK



#### 20TH WING BEST BOMBING: 448TH

At ceremonies honoring third anniversary of 8AF, Col. Troy W. Crawford accepts "B" pennant won by 446th Bomb Group for leading 20th Wing's bombing accuracy over a two-month period.

A daring daylight stab into heavily-defended Dortmund, half-million population capital of the Ruhr, heralded the Third Anniversary of 8th Air Force on Sunday 28 January. 2nd Air Division Libs penetrated extremely heavy flak defenses, to pummel the center of the Dortmund-Oberdecker Coking Plant, producers of benzol essential to German high-octane motor fuels.

Bomb accuracy on this MPI was flawless despite the defenses. At another plant, though the MPI was not hit, patterns extended through the South end of Dortmund-Eving marshalling yard, with hits on rail lines, a rail over road bridge,

and near hits to Municipal power station and factory buildings.

Attacks thru clouds on Hamm and Munster marshalling centers (Jan. 29) and Magdeburg (Feb. 3) could not be evaluated immediately, though the high standard of recent GeeH and H2X attacks indicates very probable effectiveness.



#### 8AF RETURNS FROM ROUEN!

American heavies' first mission -- a daylight raid on Rouen railyards, August 17, 1942. Twelve forts went out, to no little astonishment twelve returned. Strategically unmomentous, it promised great things to come -- such as 108 bombers (Libs and Forts) October 9, 1942. Beyond dream was the over-2900 attack by 8AF bombers and fighters on December 24, 1944.

Return from Rouen!  
Painted by Peter Hurd

8AF--GIANT AT THREE (Souvenir Supplement) Pages 3-6

## TARGET VICTORY

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## ENGINEER FLIES LIB'S BOMB-RUN



With both the pilot and copilot ill and unconscious, T/Sgt. Buford E. Glover, 392nd Bomb Group, took control on the bomb run over Germany. For nearly two hours he piloted the plane, including a descent on instruments, though he had never flown a B-24 before.

The pilot had suffered a relapse from a recent illness, and the copilot passed out from an oxygen failure. Sgt. Glover, newly assigned from medium bombers, held formation till past the rally point, then let down through cloud layers to where the oxygen supply was not needed.

"I'm sure we could not have returned if it had not been for Glover," stated the copilot, Lt. McFarland.



458TH BOMB  
GROUP TEAM



2ND AIR DIVISION  
COMMAND TEAM

## 2AD PISTOL TEAMS SWEEP 8AF FINALS

Championships of 8th Air Force were scooped up in final competition by both the Command and Station pistol teams of 2nd Air Division.

The sharp-shooting Command team, composed of members from five units of 2AD, scored an average of 95.55%, paced by Capt. Joseph B. Ramsey, Jr., of 491st Bomb Group, with 98.33%. Second place went to First Air Division, other competing teams including Third Air Division, Air Service Command, and Composite Command.

Champion station team, 458th Bomb Group, averaged 93.77%, topped by T/Sgt. William J. Bias (Far right in photo), airplane mechanic, with 96.83%. Team-mates were (left to right) Cpl. Benton S.

McConnell, ordnance; M/Sgt. Arden L. Olson, sub-depot mechanic; Sgt. Harold F. Montgomery, machinist; Maj. Ralph M. Herbert, squadron executive officer.

2AD Command team (left to right): Cpl. McConnell, 458th Bomb Group; Capt. P.L. Rountree, 2AD headquarters; Capt. J. W. Rose, 479th Fighter Group; Capt. J. B. Ramsey, 491st Bomb Group; Capt. Carl Fee, 467th Bomb Group.

### BRIG. GEN. HOWARD M. TURNER COMMANDING, 1ST AIR DIVISION

Commanding First Air Division, pioneer heavy bomber unit of 8th Air Force, is Brig. Gen. Howard McMann Turner, a veteran of such famed raids as Schweinfurt (ball-bearing plants, August 1943); Gelsenkirchen (first big penetration of "Happy Valley" (the Ruhr); and one of the first daylight attacks on Berlin, March 22, 1944.

For gallantry in the leading of these missions he has been awarded two Silver Stars and a DFC. He also has received the Air Medal and Oak Leaf Cluster.

Graduated from U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1924, the Iowa officer chose the Air Corps for his arm of service, and received flight training at Brooks Field and Kelly Field, Texas.

Before becoming 1st Division's Commanding General, he commanded a combat wing in his division. He will celebrate his 43rd birthday the 21st of this month.

# 8<sup>th</sup> AF--GIANT AT THREE



LIEUT. GEN. JAMES H.  
**DOOLITTLE**

Third birthday of 8th Air Force launches Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle on his second year as SAF Commanding General. He accepted command in January 1944, succeeding Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker (now Commanding Mediterranean AAF), and the original Commander of 8 AF, Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz (now Commanding US Strategic AF in Europe).

Into Lt. Gen. Doolittle's 48 years are packed a career as adventurous as the tale of Army aviation itself. After attending University of California, the Alameda youth enlisted as a flying cadet on Oct. 6, 1917, and was commissioned March 11, 1918, assigned to aviation section, Signal Corps reserve. He earned Master's and Doctor's degrees at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1924 and 1925.

The name of Doolittle became linked with aviation progress throughout the world. In 1922 he was awarded a DFC for the first Coast to Coast flight within 24 hours. He won the Schneider Seaplane Trophy race in 1925 (speed, 232½ mph for 350 km.).

From major in Special Reserve he was ordered to active duty July 1, 1940, assigned in charge of production for changeover of the auto industry to aircraft, to meet expanding requirements of AAF. Then came the startling and imaginative "Shangri La" plan -- first aerial raid on Japanese mainland, April 18, 1942.

Thereafter he commanded 12th Air Force, 1942; N.W. African Strategic Air Force, March 1943; 15th Air Force, Nov. 1943. He flew in 25 missions from African bases, including the first raid on Rome. He holds the Congressional Medal of Honor (for Tokyo raid), DSM, Silver Star, DFC and Air Medal with clusters.

## 2AD LIBS TEAM WITH FORTS SINCE 1<sup>st</sup> 100 BOMBER RAID

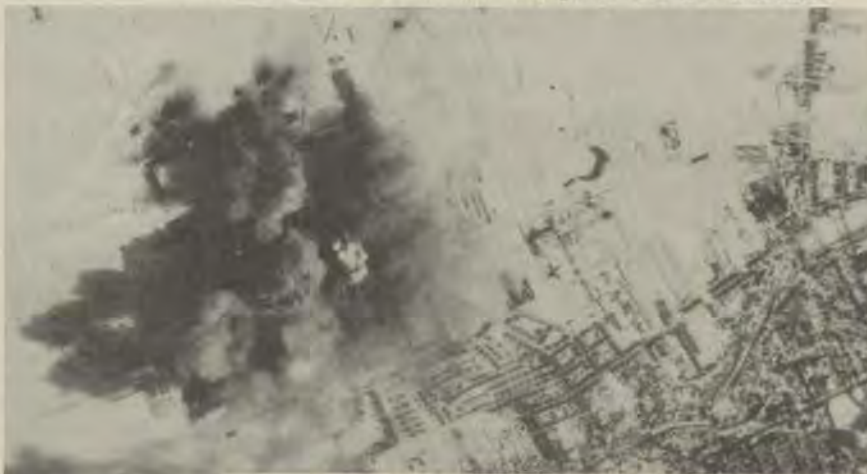
This week 8th Air Force observed the third anniversary of its birth--at Savannah, Georgia, January 28, 1942. A two-minute silence at attention on every bomber and fighter base of 2nd Air Division remembered the comrades who fell in building the achievements of this greatest of all air forces. Services at each post chapel were dedicated to all members, past and present, of the 8th.

On its day of birth the 8th Air Force possessed little more than a prayer -- not yet a wing nor an airplane, and no personnel. But on October 9, 1942, the 8th thundered 108 B-24 Liberators and B-17 Forts against Lille industrial plants -- the first 100-bomber raid in daylight. Seven weeks previous a "test tube" mission of 12 Forts had bombed Rouen railway yards -- but with the Lille 100-heavy-bomber mission the 8th had flung its flaming challenge of daylight precision en masse to the Luftwaffe, reigning lords of the sky over Europe.

Sixteen months of three-dimensional battle, straining valor and skill of the hardest, continued to block 8th's goal of air supremacy. Not even partnership of the immortal RAF assured mastery yet. Then in February 1944 came "The Big Week". Thousand-planes missions fought their way in on February 20, and for 4 out of 5 days, crunching German aircraft production at Gotha, Furth, Brunswick, Regensburg, Rostock, Oschersleben, Leipzig. Long-range Thunderbolts, Lightnings and Mustangs began to escort the heavies deep inside Germany. The Luftwaffe was outmaneuvered and outgunned -- able only after licking its wounds for long recuperative periods to mount any challenge to the Allies -- and never to best the fighters of the 8th or to turn back its bombers.

The decisive victory power of the 8th amasses in the span of 1944 -- 90% of its bomb tonnage was delivered in this one year. Five thousand pounds of bomb-blast onto the Axis for every three minutes on the clock was the year's tempo for the heavies of the 8th. A good third of this bombpower came from 2nd Air Division's Liberators -- over a third of the Hun fighters downed fell to guns of 2AD fighters and bombers.

Every airman and every ground soldier of 2AD has constructed some measure of this heroic record -- some to a degree beyond praise. Eight Congressional Medals of Honor have been bestowed to members of 8th Air Force -- five of them within the Bomb Groups of 2nd Air Division.



**GOHA: THE BIG LEAGUE'S "BIG WEEK"**

Turning point of air superiority to the Allies began on February 24, 1944. Perfectly executed was 2AD's hard-fought attack this day on plane and tank production center at Gotha. 9 weeks the Hun cleared debris.

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UNCLASSIFIED

**BORDEAUX:**

2AD's first famous pinpoint, breaching the harbor locks.

**MITTELAND CANAL:**

Sensational waterway breach by instruments, thru solid clouds.

**HOLLAND:**

"Bomber resupply beautifully executed. Many thanks to all..."  
Gen. Brereton, 1st Airborne Army.

" ... dedicated to  
bombs

No terroristic V-weapon is the 8th AF heavy bomber. Daring to pioneer daylight precision aiming, 8AF on every mission has been assigned a specific target calculated to defeat the Axis ability to make war. Precision has fulfilled its meaning. Mission upon mission selects not a city, but a factory; not a district, but a marshalling yard, a refinery, a v-weapon site, an airfield, a bridge

MAJ. GEN. WILLIAM E.

**KEPNER**

COMMANDING, 2ND AIR DIVISION



The combat and ground teams of 2nd Air Division are privileged to serve under an outstandingly colorful Commander. Since pinning on a Good Conduct Medal in the U.S. Marine Corps (1909-13), he has pursued a many-front career through Infantry, Cavalry, Air Corps, U. S. Navy (detached service) -- and holds virtually every rating for both heavier and lighter-than-air craft.

The Kokomo Indianan earned a DSC, Legion of Honor, Croix de Guerre and Purple Heart at Chateau-Thierry, where as a young officer he captured a German machine gun and turned it against the enemy. Rated a Command Pilot (prefers traveling about in first-line combat planes); Senior Balloon Pilot; Zeppelin Pilot (trained under Dr. Hugo Eckener); Aircraft Observer; Combat Observer, and Balloon Observer -- he acquired fame in 1928 by winning National and International Balloon Races. In 1934, as a Major, he led a record altitude ascension to 60,613 feet, earning a DFC. In the stratosphere the balloon burst, but all three aboard bailed out and saved their scientific data.

He became Chief of Staff, U.S. Air Defense Command, in 1940; Chief of Staff, 1st Air Force, 1941; organized and commanded 1st Air Support Command, 1st Army, 1941; Commanding General, 4th Fighter Command, 1942; Commanding General, 4th Air Force, 1943.

In 1943 he became Commanding General of 8th Fighter Command (ETO), his leadership playing a key part in the mounting Allied air superiority. While building an invincible fighter force, he emphasized it as "the first duty of the fighters to destroy the GAF and to bring the bombers home". Low-level fighter assaults were pioneered by his units shortly before the invasion and climaxed during Normandy operations.

Accepting command of 2nd Bomb Division's forces in August, 1944, he has coordinated top fighter Groups with the Liberator bombers into a force both versatile and unified -- 2nd Air Division.



**ST. MALO:**  
A tiny island fortress, pinpointed by the Libs.



**PLOESTI:**  
The Libs had to climb to get over the refinery.

to getting  
bombs on the target ..."

AF heavy  
mission aimed  
at a specific  
target's meaning.  
but a  
air yard,  
and a bridge.

The French remember in gratitude this aim; the Germans fear it. Maj. Gen. James P. Hodges, pioneer commander of 2nd Air Division, might have been referring in a larger sense to the purpose of every man in 2AD, and all of 8AF, when he outlined the first issue of this weekly "Target: Victory" as..."dedicated to getting bombs on the target..."



**ORLY:**  
Largest concrete hangars in West Europe, till 2AD hit.

# ROLE OF THE FIGHTERS

## TOP SCORING THUNDERBOLTS, MUSTANGS PAVE LIB RAIDS

Flying escort has one drawback -- the 8AF fighter pilots prefer to go hunting for a fight, rather than wait for the fight to come to them. In the heated skies over Europe, they have found plenty of action by both methods.

Topping the 8th Air Force in total victories are fighter groups of 2nd Air Division -- the famed 4th (Mustang) Group, formed from the "Spitfire" Eagle Squadrons, crediting over 775 Hun planes destroyed -- the 56th (Thunderbolt) Group, commanded by Col. David C. Schilling (he's destroyed 344), leading the ETO with 830 confirmed victories. Include on their wing the 355th (Mustangs), third Group in the ETO to down 600 Huns -- 479th (Mustang) Group, recently led by Col. Hubert Zemke (28 credits), now believed a prisoner of war, first group to destroy an enemy jet-propelled aircraft.

They've strafed locomotives, airfields, flak towers -- dive-bombed tactical targets -- rescued crippled bombers in the heart of Germany, escorted shuttle missions to Russia and Italy. Among the "Distinguished Service Cross" rosters of the above Groups you will recognize Col. Donald Blakeslee, Capt. Don S. Gentile (30 victories), Maj. James A. Goodson (30), Maj. Duane W. Beeson, Lt.Col. Francis S. Gabreski (31 victories), Maj. Robert S. Johnson, Maj. Walker Mahurin, Maj. Gerald W. Johnson, Maj. Paul A. Conger, Capt. Henry "Tex" Brown (30 victories). You'll find in these Groups leaders like Col. Everett W. Stewart, Lt.Col. Clalborne H. Kinnard, Lt.Col. Arthur F. Jeffrey, Capt. John T. Godfrey (36 victories, now a prisoner of war).

Rendezvous with the high-flying, slower heavies at prearranged positions and times calls for split-second planning. Coordination of these "big" and "little friends" is the specialty of 2AD operations controller for fighter support, youthful Col. Harold G. Lund, who can spout lore about his P-40 squadron's holding actions against the Japs on Java and Australia; P-39s and P-38s vs. Zeros at New Guinea; or P-47s and P-51s against the Hun.

Aside from the victories of their own guns, the fighter support, too, is "...dedicated to getting bombs on the target."

MAJOR GENERAL JAMES P.

## HODGES

FORMERLY COMMANDING,  
2ND BOMB DIVISION



LIASON--  
LT. COL. LUND

"In this air war your mistakes won't help you," stated a favorite maxim of Maj. Gen. James P. Hodges, "--they may help your buddies, and those who follow after". The moral was "better not make serious mistakes in the first place".

That posed a heavy responsibility in fathering the Libs' first missions in this theatre. The popular commander led the Division's first attack Nov. 7, 1942, and flew on others of the early B-24 missions, including those from African bases against Leghorn-Pisa and Wiener-Neustadt in October 1943. He pointed every action of 2BD -- its training, administration, and operations -- toward "Bombs on the Target". If he acquired a nickname, that was it. He launched the publication "Target: Victory" to further this aim. His experiences as Father of 2nd Bomb Division from infancy to its present bombing power, now qualify him keenly for his position as Assistant Chief of Air Staff for Intelligence, in Washington.

The founder of 2BD entered military service as a flying cadet at Georgia Tech, 30 September 1917, and served as a flying instructor during World War I at Payne Field, Mississippi. Attended aerial photography school, Langley Field, 1919; instructed at same school, 1919-23. In 1923-24 he mapped the city of Cleveland; transferred to Philippine Islands, 2nd Observation Squadron, 1925-28; attended Air Corps Tactical School, 1929; Army General Staff and Command School, 1934-36.

He served on General Staff, Air Corps, Langley Field, 1936-40; Commanded 21st Recon. Squadron, 1940-42; Chief of Staff, 3rd Bomber Command, 1942; Arrived in ETO July 1942, as Chief of Staff, 8th Air Force; Commanding Officer of 2nd Bomb Wing (now 2nd Division) August, 1942. Succeeded by Maj. Gen. W. E. Kepner, 1 August 1944.

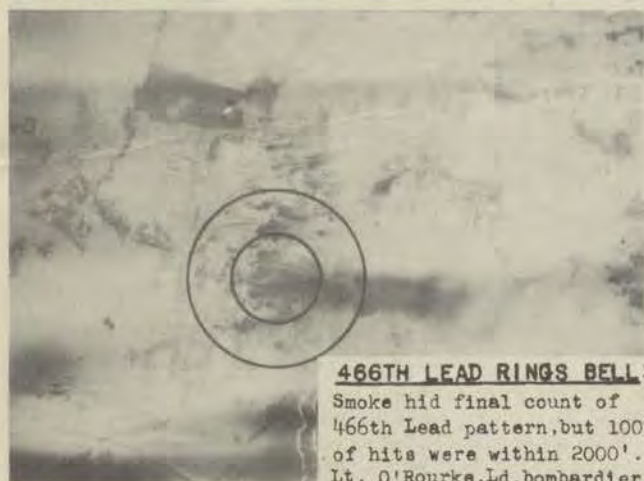
# BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



BEFORE  
ATTACK



392ND  
LEADS



**466TH LEAD RINGS BELL:**  
Smoke hid final count of  
466th Lead pattern, but 100%  
of hits were within 2000'.  
Lt. O'Rourke, Lt. bombardier.

## 392<sup>nd</sup>, NO MISS-- HUNS NO OCTANE

At Dortmund-Oberdecker, Ruhr valley coking plant for benzol that puts the octane "vitamins" in German motor fuel, knockout aiming of the week was hammered in by 392nd Bomb Group.

Lead squadron scored 96% in 2000' and 80% within 1000' of the MPI, following GeeH leaders from 44th Group, 1st/Lt. T. J. McCarry, bombardier, and Capt. J. J. Delach, GeeH navigator (doing the first mission on his second tour!). High Right planted 90% in 2000', 70% in 1000', with 1st/Lt. H. J. Clark (of 392nd) lead bombardier.

### MAJ. GEN. **PARTRIDGE** COMMANDING, EARLE E. 3RD AIR DIVISION

Before the U.S. entered World War II, Major General Earle E. Partridge, as commander of air corps flying schools, was training many of the fliers who now lead combat units in all parts of the world. On the fateful December 7, he was in the air war plans division of the office of Chief of the Air Corps, and shortly thereafter became a member of the joint strategic committee of Chiefs of Staff.

A Graduate of U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1924, he became a flier at Brooks and Kelly Fields in Texas. Attended Command and General Staff schools at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

In 1943 he commanded the New York Defense Wing, and the same year he came overseas as operations officer for the new 12th Bomber Command, based in North Africa. In November, 1943, he became deputy commander of 15th Air Force, and two months later came to England with Lieut. Gen. Doolittle, as deputy commander of the 8th Air Force.

Gen. Partridge is rated a Command Pilot, and has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with clusters.



## NO PURPLE HEART, SKID - CASUALTIES



A tell-tale flag waving from all vehicles is slowing down reckless drivers at 458th Bomb Group. Identity by number is easily noted from a distance, and 458th is hot on the trail of avoidable accidents.

With ice, mud, dark and fog to battle, 58% of 8AF's non-fatal casualties are due to other than enemy action, Ground Safety reveals.

572 man-days were lost in the first month of 1945 at 2AD due to slipping and falling on ice. Reckless driving costs even more, and the bicycle is a top danger item, usually due to carelessness.

It's only 5 days since the third fatal ground accident in 2AD this year... "be careful," pleads Ground Safety, "and you won't be number four."



TARGET:  
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING

### "MAN-OF-THE-DIVISION"

LT. COL. HARRY F. KING

The almost fairy-tale ascendancy of the 8th Air Force was Godfathered by the best possible ally to any airpower -- the RAF, and British War Ministry. Since the day of 2 AD's first mission (Nov. 7, 1942), a key man in 2nd Air Division victories has been flak liaison officer Lt. Col. Harry F. King, of British War Office staff, assigned to 2AD.

Seasoned as an anti-aircraft officer during the battle of Britain,

## 93rd OFFICERS DESIGN 8AF's CLOUD-BOMBING COMPUTER, AIDS



Unknown to each other, Major Oscar R. Street, Senior 93rd Group Bombardier (left), and Capt. William M. Hartness, GeeH squadron bombardier, started early in 1944 working on methods to improve technique of bombing through clouds.

At start of the record instrument bombing months in fall of 1944 they compared notes, and found that Major Street's PFF computer and Hartness's bombsight attachment both answered urgent needs. 2AD at once accepted the computer, which is now used by the entire 8th Air Force. The Hartness attachment went to Wright Field for final analysis and tests, and was desired for 8AF operations.

In bombardiers' lingo, the computer is a rapid method of converting slant range to sighting angle of the Norden sight in degrees and tangents. It eliminates many personnel errors and simplifies derivation of dropping angles in relation to bombing altitude and slant range to the target. The Computer has produced excellent results on combat missions.

including a year of flak liaison with the RAF -- his experience and planning unquestionably have saved hundreds of 2AD airmen and planes as he routed their missions into and away from enemy targets. Frequently he has flown on missions with our crews to investigate new enemy tactics, locations or equipment. Not only at 2AD is he regarded as one of the outstanding flak authorities of the air forces.

When a target is assigned, Lt. Col. King and his associates compute a "flak clock", determining power of enemy opposition at every axis of attack. A "Green" area on the clock is recommended; "Blue" is fair; "Red" areas are to be avoided. Most desirable altitude and approach are forwarded to Operations, who apply wind conditions, etc., in preparing the route as it will be flown.

At any moment the flak liaison can pinpoint to a dot the location of over 90% of the enemy's ack-ack. This sharply evaluated information arrives principally from never-ceasing recon photos, with additional leads from crew reports at interrogations. Any previously unreported



information is rapidly checked by reconnaissance, and flak liaison maintains a constant chess game to breach the enemy defenses.

"If you want to know the man most valuable in the successful operations of this Division," suggest leading 2AD officers, "you needn't look any further than our gift from Britain, Lt. Col. King."