

# TARGET:



WEEK ENDING  
OCT. 7,  
1944

A REPORT OF, BY AND FOR  
COMBAT FLYING PERSONNEL  
CONFIDENTIAL

# VICTORY

## VISUAL BOMBING BOOM

### EVERYBODY HITS AS ALL GROUPS SHARPEN SIGHTS



#### THE EYES HAVE IT

389th's High Right planted 90% in 1000' at Speyer testing airplant (97% in 2000)! Lead hit 87% in 2000, but Low Left was wild.

Indian Summer paid a visit this week, and the Bombardiers' War dance incited their bombloads to a drumming pow-wow amidst the Reich's highest-priority MPTs. Such red-hot competition among all bomb Groups seldom has been seen.

Every Group in 2BD turned in at least two very good jobs this week, as the collection of bulls-eye strike photos herein demonstrates. Best hit honors had to be shared among 4 record-making attacks -- 445th at Hamburg and at Kassel, 466th and 467th at the Krupp Works in Magdeburg.

This week by 2BD Groups constitutes a herculean war within the war -- all sections of the

Hunland, munitions factories, ordnance depots, shipyards, airfields, marshalling yards, can feel Allied thunderpower rolling closer and more decisively. Best suggestion would be a mass citation of the entire Division for this stellar week. Benefits of this flying, bombing and shooting precision will be tellingly present in the coming weeks' ground and air offensives.



#### KRUPP IS INJURED BYSTANDER AT 466TH VS. 467TH SCORE DUEL:

Krupp at Magdeburg stopped making Mark IV tanks while 467th delivered one of greatest bombing jobs of the war, only to be topped by the 466th Group, who squeezed in exactly 1% more hits within the 1000-foot ring! More about this on page 7.

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### BOW TO THE LIBS

A truly great bombing week such as this has been for the 2ED Libs flings a challenge to any bomber operating in any theatre. Every crew is proud of its plane, and every crew has its gripes. But all are gratified over the recognition now being won by the Libs in this theatre and the men who fly them.

Most crew members will remember when the Lib was predicted to be too difficult for formations and mass bombing. If they missed they heard, "I told you so." With a forgiving smile they went back to hit again, and month by month the bombing level of these broad-tailed birds has improved to make them a contender for the key bomber of this war.

High authorities marvel at such performances as were turned in this week. Daily newspapers are praising the specific achievements of the Liberators. They've been a "spirited" mount but the best men are riding them, as is evidenced by the most rapid rate of improvement of bombing standards to be found in a heavy combat organization. The plane is doing a great job and the men who fly it an even greater one.

Their spirit is epitomized in the current competition for superior accuracy and achievement.



WARM UP RUN  
ON PADERBORN

PADERBORN A/F, 100%, 100%, 95%, 100%: 458TH, 467TH

Strictly a pincushion was this advanced aircenter -- with a collection of perfect hits sighted thru the eye of a needle. 458th's hot three squadrons caressed 100%, 100% and 95% within 2000 feet (65%, 35%, 30% in 1000) -- and one squadron of the 467th got in the groove with 100% in 2000, 85% in 1000 feet! How this job could be topped is unbelievable, but 3 Groups did it this week!



THINGS REALLY HEATED  
UP BY 458TH AND 467TH!



### LIPPSTADT: ANOTHER AIRFIELD DESERTS HUNS

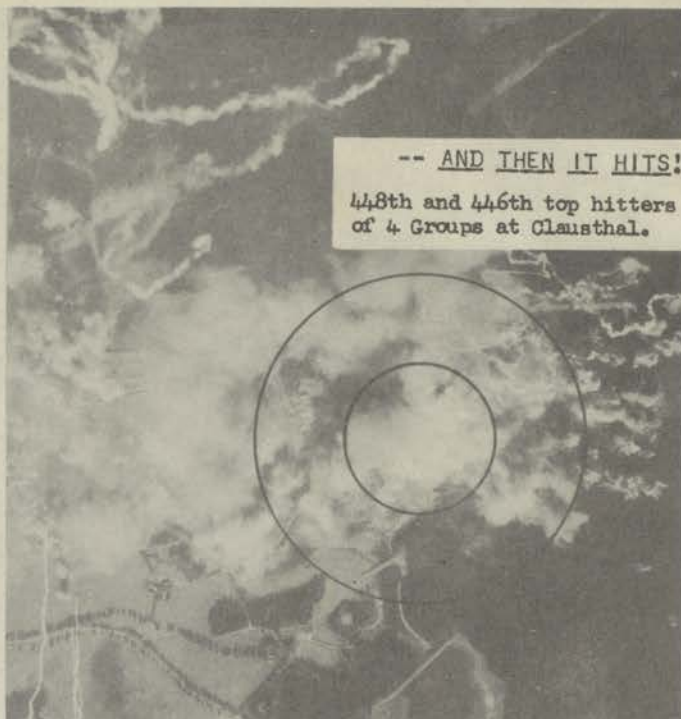
491st started for a precision record here, as their 3 squadrons placed 90%, 95% and 65% within 2000 feet. 392nd rolled in 80% average; 44th hit 70% from two squadrons, a third wild; 446th muffed here and 93rd, 466th and 467th attacked as a target of opportunity.

THE BLOW IS POISED --

Streamers point out target an instant before attack.

-- AND THEN IT HITS!

448th and 446th top hitters of 4 Groups at Clausthal.



## EXPLOSIVE FACTORY CHANGES POLITICS

The devil knows no loyalty, and with the fickleness of explosives, this plant went to work for the first side to light the fuse. Clausthal/Zellerfeld considered itself a heil-happy Nazi producer of terrorizing explosives. But on encouragement from the 2HD airmen, who knew where to place their bombs, the potent "stuff" switched parties and went to blasting for the Allied cause.

Three sharp squadrons of the 448th planted 100%, 90% and 75% in 2000 feet, and two out of four from 446th put 100% inside 2000! 93rd and 489th were off the MPI at this target.

HAMBURG/GLINDE DEPOT: 389TH, 445TH, 453RD

Key ordnance depot took 100%, 85% and 10% hits from 3 Squadrons of 389th Group; 98% from 3 of 445th; 100%, 98% and 55% from the 453rd. Presto -- no target left!





#### RHEINE MARSHALLING YARD

Photo just before attack. Hits destroyed trans-shipment sheds, main sorting sidings, locomotive repair sheds, rolling stock, a bridge and 5 factories adjoining the yard.

453RD, 445TH START ATTACK ON RHEINE, 389, 489 FOLLOW UP:

445th hit 80%, 100% and 35%. 453rd's lead planted 100%, Low Left only 5%, and High Right's pattern was lost in smoke. 489th Lead placed 90% inside 2000, and balance of all hits were smoke-obscured.

# LAND, SEA, and AIR

## LIBERTY-BOUND LIBS DISARM THE HUN IF HE WALKS, RIDES, SWIMS OR FLIES



#### HAMM

#### MARSHALLING YARD:

Broken cloud screening early in week revealed moderately successful hits by 445th, 389th, 44th, 392nd and 453rd.

Our heavy bombers have found their place in the war -- it's every place.

This week the 2BD Libs sought out every weapon that Fritz could use -- his rifles were intercepted at marshalling yards, his tanks at the factories, his explosives in their plants, his subs and ships at the dock yards, and his planes at their assembly and testing centers.

We may leave him two sheets, one to hide his modesty, the other to signal his surrender. He'll admit that America's secret weapon is the always-growing accuracy of her air attacks.



#### KASSEL: 3 TARGETS, 6 GROUPS

Scoring spree on tank and aero-engine works saw 389th score three squadrons 100%, 95% and 75%; 44th one squadron 100%; 491st one squadron 95%. 453rd, 392nd were wild or had no photos, and 445th won scoring honors, as detailed on Page 6.



HAMBURG/DEUTSCHE WERFT: 448TH, 93RD

Important Sub pens and Shipyard facilities, selected by these two groups as Target of Opportunity, well-chosen and well-hit!



WENZENDORF: BLOHM & VOSS AIRPLANT

467th outhit 466th and 458th here, 100% for their best squadron to 60% and 90% respectively for best squadron by the others.



LACHEN A/F: LARGE HANGARS WIPED OUT

445th, 453rd, 446th all had one or more squadrons hitting over 85%. 489th, 45%.

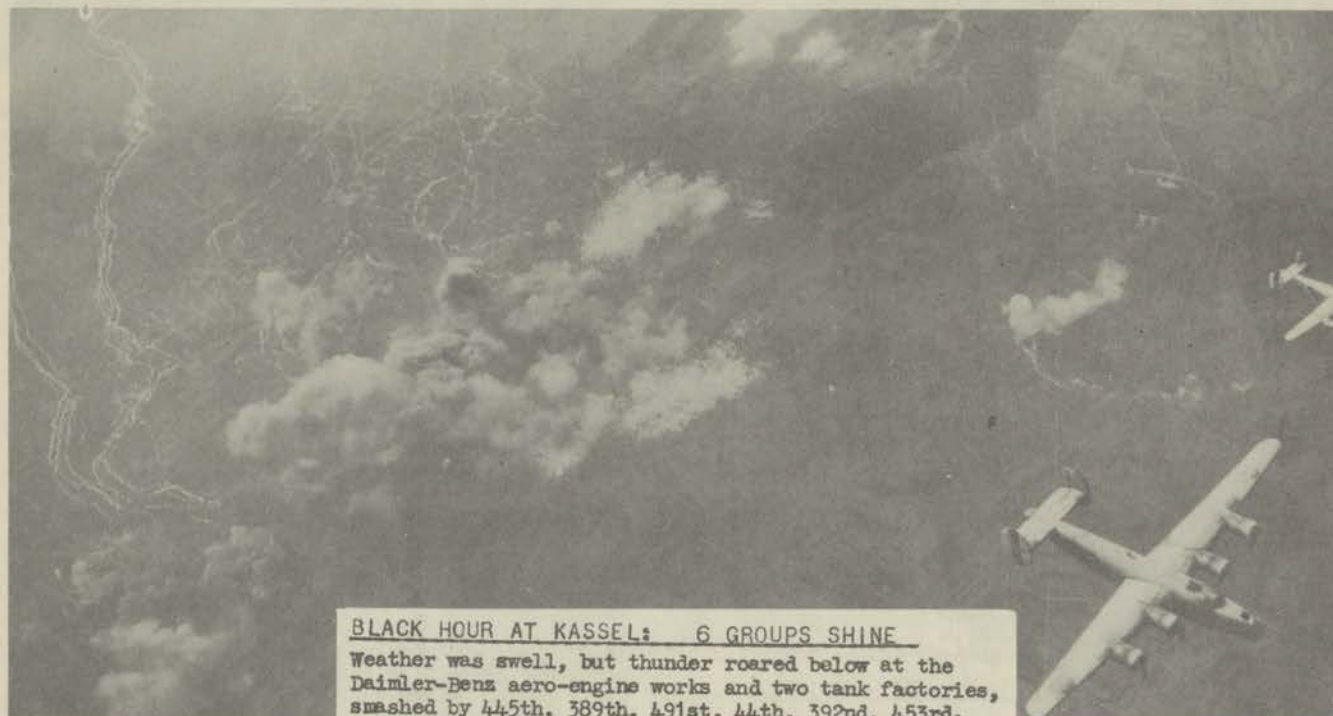


HAMBURG/KLOCKNER: AERO-ENGINES

44th's best job -- two squadrons 100%, one 90%, and a fourth wild but still adding damage! 392nd had one good flight (this is their photo) scoring 100%. One squadron of 491st delivered 85%.



# BEST HIT BY A GROUP THIS WEEK



## BLACK HOUR AT KASSEL: 6 GROUPS SHINE

Weather was swell, but thunder roared below at the Daimler-Benz aero-engine works and two tank factories, smashed by 445th, 389th, 491st, 44th, 392nd, 453rd.

## 445<sup>th</sup> DOUBLE-FEATURE STAR!



445TH TIES RING AROUND GLINDE DEPOT:



BULLSEYE COMMENCES ON KASSEL:

445th's 4-squadron knockout totaled 3 squadrons of H.E.s, 1 of incendiaries -- all four scoring 98%!

## 1st Group to Hamburg, Last Group to Kassel, Best Hitter on Both!

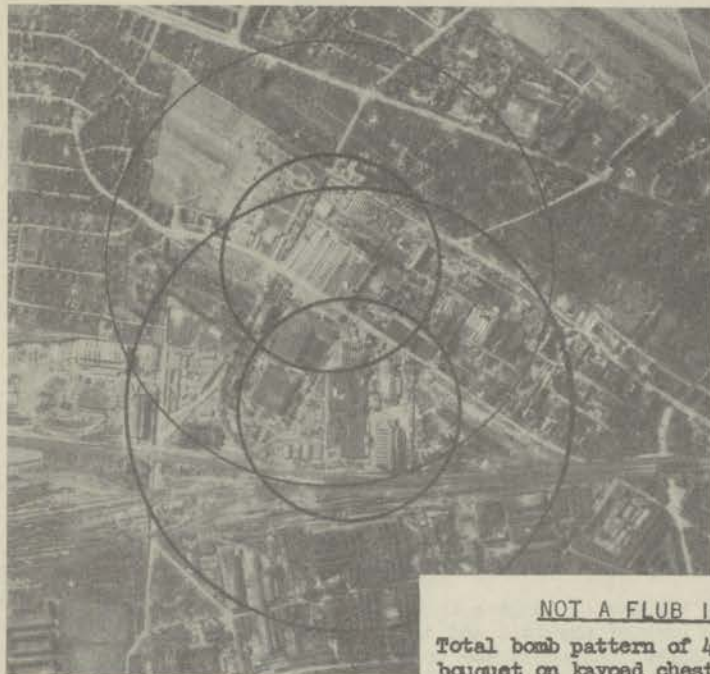
Perfectly impartial is the 445th Group as to whether they attack first or last -- but they insist on attacking best!

Friday, with their 3 squadrons first over the target, they greased 98% in 2000 and 65% in 1000 feet onto the Ordnance Depot at Hamburg/Glinde. Saturday as last Group to attack they anchored 95% in 2000, 60% in 1000, including fourth squadron delivering incendiaries -- to seal the fate of the Henschel Tank Works at Kassel! Gentlemen of 2BD, will you kindly attempt to top this!

The Hamburg/Glinde pattern handed severest damage to almost the entire plant -- large ordnance buildings, storage and loading sidings. Henschel's Works at Kassel (producers of Tiger Tanks and locomotives) was blanketed thru foundry, machine and assembly shops, storage, power plant, and railway facilities!

Lead Bombardiers were 1st/Lt. Arthur Kugel, Lead; 1st/Lt. C. H. Smith, Low Left; 1st/Lt. C. L. Dodgen, High Right, at Hamburg. 1st/Lt. Arthur Kugel, Lead; Capt. C. E. Painter, Low Left; 1st/Lt. C. H. Smith, High Right; Maj. A. J. Spehn, High High Right, at Kassel. All crews in the Division will salute these sure-hitting winners!

# BEST RUNNER UP OF THIS WEEK



### NOT A FLUB IN A CARLOAD:

Total bomb pattern of 466th and 467th formed a bouquet on kayced chest of Krupp's arms center.

## 466<sup>th</sup> EDGES 467<sup>th</sup> IN TANK-HUNT!

TOP-PRIORITY KRUPP  
TANK AND GUN WORKS  
GIVEN TOP POUNDING!

With the impact of an unsuspected surprise party -- Germany's top armament works played host on Saturday afternoon to a rough-house band of marksmen from 96th Wing. Magdeburg couldn't even get a smoke screen up before the hell-raisers made it unnecessary!

That bomb pattern is something to marvel at, gents, so we've given you an extra view on page 1 besides the strike shots here. For tight competition look at this -- 467th sharpened in 93% within 2000 feet, 49% in 1000 feet, leaving things smoky and rough for the 466th. But these characters had to equal the 467th's 93% and go them one better with 50% in 1000 feet! That's a tight nod, but such competition makes this super day's work all the sweeter to the record-chasing 466th.

Star-eyed lead Bombardiers for the 466th are 1st/Lt. J. G. Adams, Lead; 1st/Lt. W. R. Wagner, Low Left; Capt. G. C. Merket, High Right; for the 467th, 1st/Lt. R. S. Stewart, Lead; 2nd/Lt. L. P. Rhoades, Low Left; 1st/Lt. D. W. Simpson, High Right; 1st/Lt. M. C. Kinnaugh, High High Right. Just look at that bomb pattern and whistle long and slow!



### 467TH STARTED IT TIDILY:

Pattern of 467th's Squadrons, who led attack, is shown here. Bombardiers of 466th synchronized sharply to follow up with 1-point superiority! Net results: Direct or near hits on tank assembly buildings, armament shops, medium gun plant, steel foundry, power plant, rail facilities -- and bless somebody, two near hits on a 3-gun flak battery!

## "...THE GUNNER COMES INTO HIS OWN..."

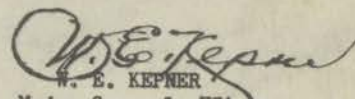
We have entered upon the final battle of Germany, and this is where the gunner really comes into his own. The Hun Air Force has embarked upon a last desperate struggle to ward off the inevitable destruction of German power. For months, the Hun has been hoarding and rebuilding his air strength against this contingency, and is prepared to shoot the works in a final effort to stave off disaster.

Many of you may have been lulled into a false sense of security by the conspicuous absence of the enemy while the GAF was licking its wounds and conserving its strength. A number of you have flown the major portion of your tours without experiencing a single fighter attack or seeing a single hostile plane. All of you gunners must know by now that such days are past and that, at any minute, on any mission, the Hun may attack in great strength and with the courage of despair. Attacks may come from any of the conventional single or twin-engine planes, or from the new jet-propelled force which the enemy has been building up.

This places a tremendous responsibility on you gunners. Your crews depend on you to bring them safely to the target and get them home again. No matter how skillful the pilot, how expert the navigator, how precise the sighting of the bombardier--all is in vain, unless the gunner, as the custodian of the safety of the airplane and crew, does his job. Even with the best fighter support in the world, numbers of the enemy are bound to slip through the protecting fighters and it is the gunner who is the last-line of defense.

I know that each of you will do his utmost to live up to these responsibilities. In order to do so, every gunner must be at the peak of physical and mental alertness--must take advantage of every opportunity for training and practice--must see to it that his guns and equipment are in perfect working condition at all times, particularly under extreme cold, and are thoroughly checked before each flight--and above all, must keep his eyes open every minute of time spent over enemy territory.

We have finally brought the Hun to bay in his own back-yard. Let's smash his power once and for all, with accurate and split-second shooting.

  
W. E. KEPNER  
Major General, USA  
Commanding



TARGET:  
VICTORY'S

NOMINATION FOR  
OUTSTANDING

### "MAN OF THE DIVISION"

CAPT. KENNETH L. GILBERT  
& "MISSOURI SUE"

The "Iron Man" of the Air Force has been found -- Capt. Kenneth L. Gilbert, 21-year old pilot of the 93rd Group, this week flew his 75th consecutive mission in the ETO without a rest or leave, and was asking

for more! Medics and a C.O. very fond of his enthusiasm at last succeeded in grounding him "for a time", and he may fly his veteran Lib, "Missouri Sue", to the States to show what the B-24 machine can take. Gilbert is modest about his "nine lives" achievement, but is proud as a new papa over the plane that stayed with him thru all 75!

"Missouri Sue" still has one of its original engines, bearing over 750 combat hours. The other three have been shot out and replaced. Capt. Gilbert admits "Sue" is a little "beat up", but still prefers to fly his dependable B-24. Much credit has been earned by M/Sgt. John L. Underwood, the crew chief who has serviced the ship from the beginning of its long tour.

Commanding Officer, Colonel Leland G. Fiegel, states: "Gilbert is an amazing young man and one of the finest pilots I have ever seen. He doesn't seem to worry about anything and takes to combat like a duck to water." He keeps himself in perfect shape -- no drinking, no smoking, early to bed.

"I've wanted to fly since I was knee-high," explains Gilbert, "and now that I'm doing so I love it."

Twenty-six of his missions were flown in 29 days, and he aborted only once, due to failure of the nose gunner's oxygen lines. He holds the Air Medal with 10 clusters, the D.F.C. with one cluster.