

Property of -
S/Sgt Guido Marchionda

31271011

Miss Maudie

303 Bomb. Exp.
360 Bomb. Exp.

"Hell's Angels"
"Smoky Stove"

Sonnie

Guido Marchionda

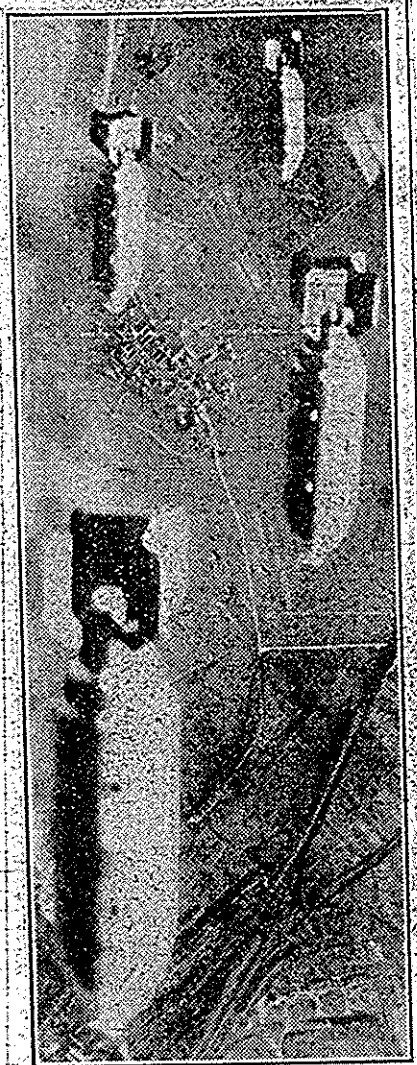
117 Cutaw St.
East Boston 20
Mass

Dec. 4. 1944



This is my first mission. I was a little excited but everything turned out well. We couldn't see the target but I believe we hit it. The picture here → is of a target sight near us that another squadron hit. All in all it wasn't bad for the first one.

Yard Birds



USAAF Photo
Bombs falling on Germany is an old story with Eighth AF crews by now. For the record, here's a dramatic shot of the raid on the Friedburg marshalling yards Dec. 4. The yards can be seen directly under the nose of the largest bomb. Objectives of this and similar Allied raids, together with a map of the Nazi railway system, are told on page 4.

This target is a railroad
Marshalling yard

Target - Soest

Flak - meager

Remarks -

Everything went O.K. No trouble at all

Dec. 11, 1944

2

This target was a synthetic oil plant
This is one of the largest in Germany

1,250 U.S. Heavies

This is one of the heaviest flak targets in Germany.
I saw plenty of flak. The sky was black w/ it in places.
We didn't get hit for the flak was low. I don't believe
we got very good results but maybe we hit it. Everybody
hates to go here for it's really bad. Well anyway it's over
with.

Target - Merseburg

Flak - Heavy

Hundredth and Lightnings
Eighth and Ninth, were dispatched
Tuesday.

In addition, an unspecified number of
Forts and Libs of the 15th Air Force,
based in Italy, carried out an attack in
bad weather on the Blechhammer oil
refinery in southern Silesia.

Early unofficial reports indicated the
Eighth lost nine bombers and 11 fighters,
some of which were believed to have
landed in friendly territory. There was
no enemy fighter opposition.

One of the few remaining large
synthetic-oil plants in Germany, the
Leuna plant, which covers one-square-mile
in area, has been bombed 18 times by the
Eighth. Yesterday's attack was made
through overcast, bombardiers employing
"electronic eye" instruments.

The neutralization of synthetic-oil
plants in western Germany has increased
the Germans' dependence on Silesian re-
fineries such as the Blechhammer and
Odertal, in the Reich, and the Oswiecim
plant in Poland, all within range of the
15th Air Force.

Eighth heavies pounded rail yards at
Hanau and Darmstadt visually, while rail
facilities at Aschaffenburg were bombed
both through clouds and visually.
Located in the area of Frankfurt.

Dec. 18, 1944

Target. ~~KOB~~ KOBLENZ

I have no clipping of this raid as I was unable to get the story and Stuper. We were sent on a raid the next day also and we couldn't land in our base.

This raid was on German communications to help our front line troops. The weather was terrible and we had a hard time. We made 2 bomb runs on our target. This target is one of the heaviest flak areas in Germany but we were lucky and didn't have any trouble. I hope we hit the target for I sure like to help the boys in the front lines.

We lost a crew on this raid. The weather was so bad that they crashed into a mountain in Scotland.

4
Dec. 19, 1944

Misspelled ↓

Target - BLANCHEIM - Blankenheim

I also have no clipping on this raid. We didn't get back to our base until 4 days later after the raid. We ran into bad weather (we could hardly see a thing) and we were diverted to a R.A.F. base about 50 miles from London called Sinton near the town of Dorney. This raid was made on the German front lines. This raid was to help our front line troops. The Germans have just broke the lines (our lines) and are moving into Belgium. We were supposed to hit rail and communications behind the Germans. I hope we have for things don't look too good for our boys.

I hope we have helped our boys. The weather is really bad and our Air Force can't get off the ground. This burns me up for I'd like to help our ground forces. We don't see any flash, maybe the "soup" was preventing us from seeing it. Well anyway I'm glad I didn't see any.

This article refers to the Raid on Dec. 24

Record Bomb Blow 8th AF's Yule Gift to Nazis

Over 2,000 Heavies—Biggest Single Mission—Unload on Christmas 'Eve'

While the weather closed in again yesterday to curtail air activity against the enemy, the Eighth Air Force was still counting up the results of its Christmas present to the Nazis, delivered Sunday by more than 2,000 heavy bombers and 900 fighters, the largest force of heavies ever flown on a single mission.

Sunday's big air attack was part of a weekend pattern, which continued yesterday, designed to pound the hell out of all communication lines supplying and reinforcing the German armies in their current counter-offensive. It was in direct support of the U.S. First Army forces which have been rolled back into Belgium by the weight of the German drive.

Taking advantage of clear weather, the Dec. 24 mission started for Germany in the morning and the first bombers were entering Germany as the tail of the tremendous column was leaving England.

Airdromes Hit

The Eighth started its Christmas blow last Saturday, when a force of more than 400 heavies, protected by some 700 fighters, struck at airdromes in the Frankfurt area from which the Germans had been operating tactical aircraft in support of their offensive. At least eight of the 11 airdromes attacked were rendered unserviceable.

Marshalling yards at Coblenz and rail centers near Trier, close to the Luxembourg border, Kaiserlautern and Homburg were also hit. The Luftwaffe came up to meet the attackers and lost 77 planes in the resulting dogfights.

Col. David C. Schilling, of Traverse City, Mich., 26-year-old commander of the 56th Fighter Group, top-scoring group in the Eighth Air Force, came out of Saturday's fights with a kill of five to



Col. David C. Schilling

become the Eighth's highest-scoring pilot now on active duty. His kill of five Saturday was the biggest individual score of the day, and brought his total to 34.

"My major trouble," Schilling said, after the attack, "was to get my fighters back into formation to come home when we were running low on gas. They just wouldn't quit fighting."

Sunday's big attack continued the pounding of the airdromes at Frankfurt. These lie across the Rhine just opposite the bulge the Germans have driven into

the 1st Army line. The heavies dropped 100-, 250- and 500-pound bombs on hangars and fields.

Most of the targets the heavies went for were tiny road junctions, railroad crossings, bridges. Clear weather enabled crews to see the targets and to bomb visually. Reports were that the bombing was all "good."

The fighters had a good day Sunday, too, taking on the Luftwaffe in a series of dogfights from which 75 of the Nazi fighters failed to return.

Luftwaffe Weakens

On Monday, the Eighth sent 400 heavies and 400 fighters into the attack. The Luftwaffe failed to put up quite as big a show of resistance and came out of the fighting with 46 of its planes shot down. In addition to the Luftwaffe, however, the attacking force ran through some moderate ack-ack.

The Ninth Air Force took part in the Christmas show, too, its fighters flying 1,172 sorties Sunday in support of the 1st Army. Its activities resulted in the destroying or damaging of 116 Nazi tanks and armored vehicles, 778 motor vehicles, 56 railroad cars and 28 horse-drawn vehicles. In addition, a fuel dump was blown up, rail lines were cut at 20 places, and two bridges were destroyed and two damaged.

The RAF, too, was out over the weekend, hitting at V2 launching sites in Holland on Sunday in addition to bombing airfields at Essen, Dusseldorf and Bonn and the Cologne marshalling yards.

The Eighth Air Force's three-day total of enemy planes knocked out was 218. Its losses for that time were 38 bombers and 40 fighters, some of which are believed to have landed safely in friendly territory.

Dec. 24, 1944

5

TARGET - MELZHOUSEN (Airfield Near FRANKFURT)

Here is another one I haven't a clipping for. The stars and stripes doesn't come out Xmas day and besides I wasn't back at our own base. This was one of the best raids the 8th air force had. The target was visible and it was an air field. We flew lead squadron and hit the target right on. I saw the target after being hit and it was nothing but a mass of flames and smoke. I believe all there in left of the airfield in a large hole. Won't those planes be surprised when they go back and no airfield there. This day a maximum effort was out and that means that every plane the U.S. could get off the ground was flying against the Germans. The sky was full of our planes. We didn't see much flak except a little at the front lines. Our ~~lead~~ lead ship got hit on the bomb bay door but nobody got hurt. By the way this mission was to help our front lines to stop the German drive in Belgium. On the way back we had a little excitement. We just left German territory and German FW-190 and ME-109 attacked some of our planes. The P-51 were taking care of them. I saw a dog fight but it was too far to see who shot down who. I know the enemy attacked a formation behind us. It's a good thing they didn't attack us. I know our air force knocked down a lot of German fighters. By the way we didn't get back to our base until Dec. 26. We had to land at another base for our base was closed in. I had a lousy Xmas. By the way on the way back to our base (we went back by truck, left the planes there) we had an accident nobody got hurt.

450,000 Tons Unloaded By the 8th AF in 1944

In 1944 the U.S. Eighth Air Force flew 357,272 combat sorties—196,314 by heavy bombers—160,958 by fighters—striking with nearly 900,000,000 pounds, or 450,000 tons, of high explosives and incendiary bombs at the enemy's industrial sources of war power, and at his armies and communications in the field. (The figures include operations through Dec. 30.)

More than 7,000 enemy aircraft were destroyed by fighter pilots and bomber gunners, not including any which may have been destroyed by bombs on airfields attacked.

Fighter pilots shot down 3,895½ Germans and destroyed 1,044 by ground strafing. Bomber gunners shot down 2,234.

Ground strafing and fighter bombing also heaped this additional trouble on the German armies:

	DESTROYED	DAMAGED
Railroad cars	6,675	21,143
Locomotives	3,300	2,295
Motor transport vehicles	4,014	3,037
Armored vehicles	128	138
Tanks	41	107
Gun positions and flak towers	245	473
Ammunition and fuel dumps	67	79

During the year 2,632 bombers and 1,446 fighters were lost.

Approximately 32 per cent of the year's tonnage of bombs was in direct support of the ground forces, including attacks on rail and road communication centers, gun positions and other tactical targets—since immediately prior to June 6.

Twenty-nine per cent of the year's tonnage was aimed at the German aircraft industry, 13 per cent at the oil industry.

The year's bombing operations in percentage of total tons:

Direct support of Allied armies	32%
German aircraft industry	29%
German oil industry	13%
Flying bomb launching sites, depots	7%
Tank, ordnance, motor vehicle plants	5%
Shipyards, port installations	2%
Ball bearings	1%
Misc. industrial, military targets	11%

The Eighth's reconnaissance wing flew more than 3,500 day and night weather and photo reconnaissance sorties. It demonstrated its versatility of operations by flying more than 1,000 night leaflet-dropping sorties—carrying news to communities where the Germans maintained a blackout on truth. More than 5,500 tons of supplies and weapons were delivered by bomber to the Maquis—much of this before D-Day—and to the Poles fighting in besieged Warsaw, and to Allied airborne troops invading Holland. About 9,800 tons of military and civilian supplies were freighted by heavy bombers into France after D-Day to relieve the critical shipping situation.

(Air highlights on page 5)

Dec. 31, 1944

6

Target - Neuss (Near Dusseldorf)

We hit a manufacturing yard here. We had a magazine flash but it was accurate. We had some flash water in the ship. I believe we hit the target very good. It wasn't a bad mission. We didn't encounter any fighters.

3rd Parries Thrusts; Bombers Hammer Arteries to Salient

With the Germans in the Ardennes bulge digging in for a defensive and attempting to build up strength for a possible second lunge into the Allied lines, the war in the air assumed even added significance yesterday as some Eighth Air Force heavies struck against bridges over the Rhine and Moselle Rivers, which form a triangle where they meet behind the Belgian-Luxemburg battle zone.

The attack on the Rhine bridges was the first reported such assault by Allied bombers other than one isolated attack on a single span in the Cologne area several weeks ago.

Apart from operations along the southern flank of the enemy salient,

where German attempts to cut the corridor into Bastogne were beaten off, there were no radical changes in the battle line, according to dispatches which covered activity 36 hours old at the time of release through censorship.

With reports from SHAEF and the fronts indicating that a renewed German counter-offensive was not to be discounted, the Eighth Air Force continued to strike to prevent the enemy from massing more troops and material in the breakthrough area west of the Rhine and Moselle. At a recent press conference, Gen. Eisenhower declared that it was in the area west of the Rhine that the main battle for Germany probably would be

fought. Not only were bridges targets for the Eighth, but rail centers in this region also were hammered.

What proportion of the 2,000 Eighth Air Force bombers and fighters employed yesterday was over the enemy's rear areas was not disclosed. Targets for the heavies—1,300 were in action, escorted by 700 Thunderbolts and Mustangs—included Hamburg, Harburg and Misburg, as the Eighth carried on its first strategic mission in nine days, as well as continuing its tactical support.

1,300 Heavies Out in Year's Final Blow

In their final blow of 1944—the ninth in as many days—the Eighth Air Force yesterday dispatched more than 1,300 heavy bombers, escorted by upward of 700 fighters, to smash at a variety of strategic and tactical targets in Germany, including six rail bridges over the Rhine and Moselle in the Coblenz area.

Other targets were oil refineries, rail yards, airfields and communications, as well as U-boat pens.

Yesterday was the second straight day in which the Eighth sent out more than 1,300 Fortresses and Liberators. Saturday's large-scale operation saw the heavies, covered by over 650 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, strike at German communications lines behind the battlefront for the eighth consecutive day.

In the first enemy fighter opposition encountered by the 8th in four days at least 52 German planes were shot down by 8th fighter-pilots.

Bombers Bag 26

The bomber-gunners claimed shooting down an additional 26 enemy fighters.

The Eighth lost 35 bombers and ten fighters Sunday, but some of the pursuits were believed to have landed in friendly territory, while Saturday's losses were eight heavies and three fighters.

The 364th Mustang Group, led by Maj. Samuel J. Wicker, of Sanford, N.C., who destroyed four Jerries himself, and Robert Lacy, of San Diego, Cal., bagged 26 in dogfights in the Hamburg-Hanover area.

In 200 sorties up to noon yesterday Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers attacked enemy rail installations at Bastogne, Trier, Neukirchen and Zulpich, shooting down five German aircraft, including a jet-

(Continued on page 2)

Air - - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

propelled fighter, against the loss of one fighter-bomber.

Enemy rail lines and gun positions in the Bastogne area were hit. A rail bridge across the Prüm River, 13 miles southeast of St. Vith, was knocked out and the St. Vith area bombed.

Also in daylight yesterday a force of RAF Lancasters pounded marshalling yards at Vohwinkel, almost due north of Solingen.

Targets for the heavies yesterday were oil refineries at Hamburg, Harburg and Misburg (near Hanover), the first strategic objectives hit in the nine-day period; U-boat pens at Hamburg; Me262 jet-aircraft factories at Wenzendorf, just south of Hamburg; two rail yards in the southwest Ruhr; six rail bridges over the Rhine, Moselle and other rivers opposite the battle area in the Coblenz area, and four detrainment points and communications centers handling traffic for German forces.

Six bridges and six marshalling yards in western Germany, including the rail yards at Kaiserslautern, Mannheim and Kassel, were attacked Saturday.

Unopposed by enemy fighters, Ninth fighter-bombers flew 500 sorties Saturday, attacking armored columns and communications and knocking out 32 German tanks and damaging 28. Pilots reported the destruction of 200 rail cars and 17 locomotives. More than 160 motor transport vehicles were destroyed.

The day's Ninth losses were five fighter-bombers.

Saturday night, RAF Halifaxes struck at the Kalk-Nord marshalling yard in Cologne, and Lancasters attacked concentrations of German troops and armor near Houffalize, ten miles northeast of Bastogne.

7
Jan 1 1945

Target - Gottingen (Near Kassel)

sh Big Luftwaffe Bid

This was a deep penetration
to Germany. We were told
we'd meet no fighters. Well
fighters were up but we
didn't get any. We hit a
large munitions yard and
we really hit it. There was
flamer and fire all over
the target. The flak was
moderate and very accurate.
Our ship got some holes in
it. One piece of flak made
a large hole right over my
head about 24 inches away.
We really savored this
mission. Well anyway
it didn't turn out as well
as we thought it would.

At Least 181 Nazi Craft Shot Down

The Luftwaffe, making a new bid to cut down Allied air supremacy, suffered severe losses along the Western Front yesterday as it struck heavily at airfields in what was described by Associated Press as its greatest air assault in three years.

Swarms of single-engined fighters and some jet-propelled planes raked fields in Belgium, raided the cities of Antwerp and Brussels, and strafed the mouth of the Scheldt. At a late hour last night, at least 181 of the raiders were reported downed.

Meanwhile, the Eighth Air Force carried its assault on German industry and transportation into its tenth straight day, as 800 Fortresses and Liberators pounded vital targets in the Reich.

The Eighth's heavies, escorted by more than 800 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, plastered an oil refinery at Dollbergen, northwest of Brunswick, other military and industrial targets in north-central Germany, and went after rail bridges in the Coblenz area. Early reports listed 17 fighters shot down battling the heavies.

Pays Heavily Everywhere

The Luftwaffe paid heavily all along the line. Lightnings and Thunderbolts of the Ninth Air Force tangled with 50 enemy planes over a U.S. airfield in Belgium, and knocked down 33 while losing only two. The RAF, tangling with 250 Nazi raiders over fields in Belgium in what the Second Tactical Air Force described as the biggest and most concentrated effort by the Luftwaffe it had encountered since D-Day, got a huge bag of 125, 84 by fighters, the rest by flak. RAF loses were four.

The Germans roared over Brussels in the first large Luftwaffe assault on the city since it fell to Allied hands. Six were downed there. At other points the Nazis strafed the mouth of the Scheldt and machine-gunned Antwerp at low level. The attacks were carried out by single-engined fighters and a few jet-propelled planes.

In Italy, U.S. Hayocs ushered in the New Year at the stroke of 12, blasting railway yards in industrial Milan in a

Jan. 3, 1945

8

Target - St. Vith

This was a good raid for it was a short raid. We hit German lines where they broke through in Belgium. There were heavy clouds over the target so we couldn't see our results. This was in support of our ground forces. The 1st Army. We didn't see any flak or fighters. We were supposed to disrupt German communications at this point. So far we haven't heard of our results. I hope we did good.

Heavies Hit Supply Lines For 12th Day

The 8th Air Force's relentless assault on supply lines feeding Nazi forces in the Ardennes salient thundered into its twelfth straight day yesterday as over 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators, protected by some 600 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, smashed road and rail centers at more than a dozen different points.

Striking deeper into Germany than on Tuesday the heavies rocked communications centers northwest of Karlsruhe and some near the Belgian-German border. Marshalling yards in the Cologne and Frankfurt areas took a beating. Bombing was mostly by instrument.

Evidently still on the floor after taking the count from Allied air might Monday, the Luftwaffe remained notably absent.

Three bombers and nine fighters, seven of which were believed to have landed in friendly territory, did not return from yesterday's mission.

The present offensive is the longest series of concentrated attacks made by the Eighth in three winters of bombing the enemy. Over 18,000 bomber and fighter sorties have been flown during the drive, and 26,000 tons of bombs have been deposited on Nazi targets. Fighter pilots and bomber gunners have reported 386 German aircraft destroyed by their fire.

A Reuter dispatch last night disclosed that in the first 16 days of the German offensive Allied air forces alone destroyed 1,647 Nazi planes, not counting ack-ack successes.

Houffalize, southwest of St. Vith in the center of the salient, was attacked by medium bombers through thick cloud. 21st Army Group headquarters reported.

Jan. 7, 1945

Target - Kall

This raid was on communication on the German lines. It is right near the battlefront. We had no trouble in this mission for the exception of the weather. It was really terrible and we really sweated it out. We couldn't see the results for the target was fully clouded. I took quite a few pictures in this mission with a K-20 camera in the waist. I hope they come out good.

1,000 Heavies Defy Ice, Fog, Hit Nazi Rails

Despite bitter cold, ice, fog and thick clouds which have stepped in as foes of the heavy bombers in the absence of opposition from the Luftwaffe, better than 1,000 Fortresses and Liberators, of the 8th Air Force, protected by approximately 650 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, yesterday hit rail facilities in an area stretching south from Hamm, northeast of the Ruhr, to Rastatt and Achern, southwest of Karlsruhe.

The blows followed Saturday raids by the 8th and RAF—the latter's 11th successive night of heavy bombing—when 800 Fortresses and Liberators shellacked marshalling yards at Cologne, Coblenz and Ludwigshafen and bridges across the Rhine at Cologne and Bonn, and the RAF's Halifaxes and Lancasters struck at the railway center and industrial town of Hanau, ten miles east of Frankfurt.

On both Saturday and Sunday the 55th Mustang Group dropped to the deck to shoot up locomotives and freight cars. Saturday's strafing also included an airfield in the Stuttgart area, with 13 enemy planes reported destroyed, four by 2/Lt. Albert J. Ramm, of Jamaica, N.Y.

All of the 8th's week-end bombing was accomplished by means of instruments. No enemy fighters were out either day and the rough weather obviously bothered Nazi ack-ack crews. Flak was only moderate Saturday, and returning pilots yesterday described it as meager. Temperatures upstairs hit a frigid 50 below, yesterday.

Seven bombers and nine fighters out of an escort of some 550 Mustangs did not come home from Saturday's mission. Losses yesterday were nine bombers and one fighter.

Thirty Marauders of the 9th Air Force hit a highway bridge at Prum Saturday afternoon in the only operation of the 9th for the day.

Jan. 8, 1945

10

Target- Schweick

This was a communication target behind the enemy lines. It was a good raid in a sense that we didn't have any flak or see any enemy fighters. We flew without close fighter support. The weather was terrible. We took off in darkness and really sweated out assembly. The temperature was 60 degrees below zero. I was cold during the trip. A few boys got frostbitten. The con tracks were really dense and we could hardly ~~stay~~ see the ships around us. We flew at 27,000 ft. to get above the clouds. There were clouds all over Europe I guess. The tail gunner took some pictures of this rail. I hope to get them. By the way we couldn't see the target, bombed by instruments.

Cunningham To Lead All Tactical AFs

While 8th Air Force heavy bombers, numbering more than 700, continued to battle through bad weather to hit supply lines to the Ardennes bulge yesterday, and ranged farther south to harry lines feeding the Saar sector, SHAEF came up with the



CONINGHAM

announcement that Air Marshal Sir Arthur Cunningham, commanding the RAF 2nd Tactical Air Force, had taken over direction of the U.S. 9th and 29th Tactical Air Commands.

The SHAEF announcement emphasized that the new arrangement was temporary and dovetailed with the change in ground command, where

Field Marshal Montgomery was put in charge of Allied troops along the northern sector of Rundstedt's thrust.

The 49-year-old Cunningham is a veteran airman, having joined the Royal Flying Corps in 1916. When the present war began he was in command of an RAF bombing group based in Britain. In February, 1943, he was appointed deputy to Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder in Tunisia and went up the ladder to command all U.S. and RAF tactical forces in Northwest Africa, Sicily and Italy.

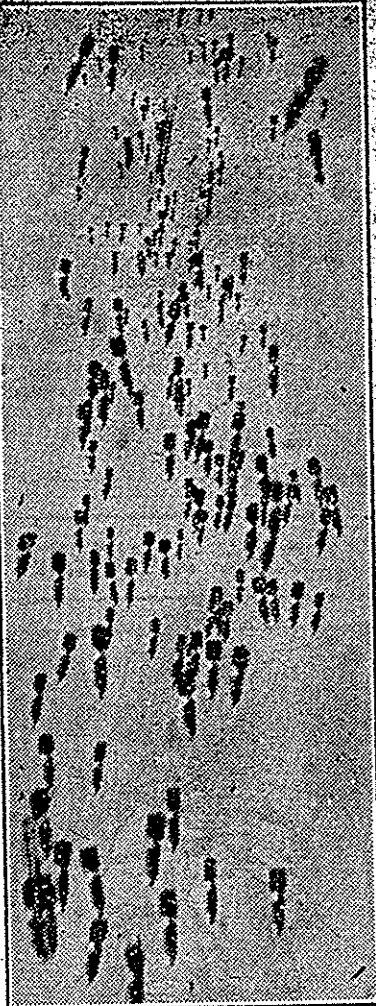
The 8th's Fortresses and Liberators, operating under a cover of 200 Mustangs, took off in a snowstorm and stiff gales and had to battle more snow and sub-zero weather over the Continent. Solid clouds once more made bombing by instrument necessary.

The heavies' chief blow was thrown at marshalling yards in Frankfurt. Transport facilities in eastern Germany, just opposite the Nazi salient, and within the bulge at points in Luxemburg and Belgium, also took a pounding.

Specific targets in the attack on Saar supply lines were not divulged. The 8th's report stated that marshalling yards and communications centers handling traffic to the Saar sector were hit. It was the 8th's 16th attack on German supply lines in the last 17 days.

The Italy-based 15th Air Force yesterday bombed communications targets at Linz, Austria, and on the main line between Munich and northern Germany. Bad weather also hampered the Fortresses and Liberators in this raid.

Hail of Hell



U.S. Army Air Force Photo
Bombs thick as hail pour on communications targets in northern Germany from a Flying Fort of the 303rd Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force in its raid over the Reich, Jan. 17. Most of the targets were bombed through clouds, but something gave after this shower. The 8th heavies were idle yesterday due to the weather.

I went on this raid and the date is wrong. It was at Ingolstadt on Jan 15.

Jan. 15, 1945

11

Target - Ingoldstadt

This raid was way in Germany, it was in the southern part of Germany. We could see the Alps and they are really big mountains. We were supposed to hit a jet plane airfield but we had to hit the marshalling yards at the town. It took over 19 hrs for this mission and we spent over 5 hrs in oxygen.

We didn't meet any enemy fighters although we were warned they'd come up. We also didn't see much flak. The only trouble we had was from 3 planes flying off our wing kept coming over to us and nearly barged into us all through the mission. We don't know if we hit the target or not. There were clouds all over the place.

675 Bombers Hit Nazi Rails; RAF Hits Oil

After its damaging raids on German industrial targets Sunday—pictures showed oil refineries and depots pock-marked with solid hits—the 8th Air Force switched back to straight tactical operations yesterday when over 600 heavy bombers thundered through heavy flak to hammer four railroad yards in southern Germany.

At least 675 Thunderbolts and Mustangs swarmed around the Fortresses and Liberators as escort, but the Luftwaffe offered no opposition. Six more kills

Hap Says 'Coordination' Beats 'Air Support'

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15 (ANS)—Gen. Henry H. Arnold, head of the USAAF, suggested today that all Air Forces personnel hereafter use some phrase other than "air support" for operations in which planes serve as spearheads in advance of ground troops.

Describing "air support" as an inaccurate term, Arnold proposed "air co-ordination" would be more suitable.

scored by U.S. fighters Sunday were recorded yesterday to boost their record to 155 and make it 189 Nazi planes destroyed in the air and on the ground by 8th fighters and bomber gunners. The 8th lost 19 bombers and 12 fighters.

Targets yesterday were yards at Ingoldstadt and Augsburg, north and northwest of Munich, respectively, at Rütlingen, south of Stuttgart, and at Freiburg, south of Strasbourg.

The RAF also was out yesterday as Lancasters continued their assault against German oil targets, hitting two benzol plants in the Ruhr.

The Italy-based 15th Air Force ended a seven-day lull by dispatching 500 heavies to bomb communications near Vienna and north of Venice.

Jan. 17, 1945

Target - Paderborn

This was a marshalling yard our secondary target. It was visible all the way into Germany except in the target so we couldn't see our results. We spent nearly 3 hrs in enemy territory. The flak was mager but thin was the area were German fighters came up yesterday. We didn't see any enemy fighters but yesterday they shot down over 180 enemy planes in their area. All together this wasn't a bad mission. I dropped the bombs on the target today and did it right on time with the lead ship.

Heavies Pound Nazi U-Boat, Oil Industries

Striking into the same general area in northwest Germany, where U.S. fighters and bomber gunners made record kills on the jack-in-the-box Luftwaffe Sunday, over 700 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force rocked the Nazi oil industry and U-boat works yesterday and blasted several transportation lines.

An escort of 350 Thunderbolts and Mustangs went along with the Fortresses and Liberators, but this time there were no enemy planes to offer resistance. Flak, though, was thick. Ten bombers and five fighters failed to return.

The heavies selected Hamburg as the northernmost target and plastered an oil refinery oil stores and U-boat installations in the well-battered German city. Just south of Hamburg, at Harburg, the Rhenania oil refinery, a select target, took a handy hammering. Bombing was visual in this area.

Let-Go at Railway Yards

Approximately 150 miles south of Hamburg, the bombers swung in over Paderborn and let go at railway marshalling yards, clouds necessitating the use of instruments. Several other undisclosed transportation targets were also pounded.

Some of the fighters roared in over railway lines in the area of Lingen, close to the Dutch border and came home with a score of three locomotives, 24 freight cars, five switching towers and a factory shot up.

The 8th's operations followed a night during which over 1,200 planes of the RAF flew deep into Nazi territory to pound oil plants, airfields and railway centers. Farthest penetration was to Brux, Czechoslovakia, where 200 Lancasters hit a large oil plant for the first time, the target previously having been one hit regularly by the U.S. 15th Air Force from Italy.

RAF lost 28 planes in the raids.

Jan 22, 1945

Target - Sterkrade

This raid was at a synthetic oil plant north of Essen. It was visual and we could see the target very plainly. The Germans tried to hide the target with smoke screen. The flak was the heaviest there ever has been in a long time. It was very accurate and we lost 3 ships from our group. We took off in very bad weather, for it was snowing at take-off time. Our ship got quite a few holes in it from flak. Every ship in the squadron had holes from flak. The target was completely demolished and there was black smoke all over the place. This is one of the roughest raids we made. Only our division flew and we were lucky we didn't draw any German fighters. This raid being no 13 made us a little scared.

200 Forts Blast Nazi Oil Plant

A large Nazi oil plant at Sterkrade, just west of Essen, which was put out of commission in November, was blasted again yesterday by 200 Flying Fortresses of the 8th Air Force which had to battle through intense flak and '65-below' weather over the target.

The plant had been hit three times by the RAF and four times by the 8th before the November report by photo-interpreters, but the RAF blasted it again last Thursday in a night raid, an indication of the speed of German bomb repair.

Over 100 Mustangs went along with the heavies, but met no fighter opposition as the bombers smashed the plant which sprawls over 413 acres. The 55th Fighter Group shot up an airdrome and a rail-yard on the way home.

Nine bombers were lost in the operation.

Allied planes also had a big day in northern Italy as the drive against Nazi rail points was continued. RAF fighter-bombers and U.S. Lightnings destroyed or damaged 155 vehicles, 24 locomotives and 125 railway cars. Twelfth Air Force Mitchells bombed rail routes leading to Brenner Pass.

Jan. 29, 1945

Target - Siegen

Nazi Tank Plant, Railroads Blasted By 1,150 Heavies

Renewed activities of the 8th Air Force grew in intensity yesterday as more than 1,850 planes—1,150 of them heavy bombers—knifed at railroads and a tank factory in the Reich. Six marshalling yards in West Germany and the Herschel and Sohn works, former locomotive and truck factory east of Cologne now turning out Tiger and Panther tanks, felt the weight of the 8th's bombs.

Biggest target of the day was the marshalling yard at Hamm, where it is usual for 10,000 railroad cars to be handled daily along the 30 miles of tracks. Rail lines serving the Ruhr at Kassel, where the Herschel and Sohn works are located, and at Coblenz were also hit.

The three other rail targets were marshalling yards at Neiderlahnstein, south of Coblenz, Siegen, northeast of Coblenz, and Munster, in northwest Germany.

There was light fighter opposition near Bremen, with the 55th Mustang Group coming out of it with four kills on Me109s. Other groups in the escorting force of 700 Mustangs and Thunderbolts swooped low to shoot up rail yards, airfields and road convoys.

The RAF continued its renewed offensive yesterday, too, as a strong force of Lancasters, covered by Mustangs of RAF Fighter Command, blasted the marshalling yards at Krefeld, just south of Duisberg.

Berlin, where evacuation of certain government offices is underway because of the Russian advances, according to reports from neutral countries, had further cause for worry Sunday night when RAF planes hit the German capital in three waves, spaced half an hour apart.

This raid was a marshalling yard in the middle of Germany. It was a little long and we traveled all over Germany, trying to get the German fighters to come up. We didn't meet any fighters although some groups did. We had wonderful fighter support all the way. The target was partly visible and I believe we scored some good hits. The prop- work was terrible all the way into the target. I was afraid something was going to happen. We didn't have any flak, but we could see the boys bombing Coblenz and they were getting flak. It wasn't too bad of a raid.

Feb 1, 1945

15

Target - Mannheim - Ludwigshafen

This is supposed to be one of the toughest targets in Germany. It is noted for its heavy flak. The target was obscured by clouds and the flak didn't hit us, but it did hit a few ships. The weather was terrible and we had to climb over some high clouds. The contacts were heavy at some places. We couldn't see if we hit the target or not. One squadron near us as we were going into the target was getting hit by flak. We were supposed to hit the marshalling yards on the bridge that spans the 2 cities. We don't know if we hit the target or not, I don't. I think we hit it, but will find out when I see the photos. All in all it wasn't too bad of a raid.

700 Forts Blast Nazi Rail Yards, Rhine Bridges

After a day of inactivity, more than 700 Fortresses of the 8th Air Force, shielded by some 300 Mustangs, thundered over the Reich yesterday to batter railroad yards at the twin cities of Mannheim and Ludwigshafen and two bridges across the Rhine at Wesel, a small town 20 miles north of Duisberg.

Heavy clouds over the targets forced the heavy bombers to zero in through instruments. The 1,000-plane force met no fighter opposition. One bomber and one fighter failed to return.

Meanwhile, the 15th Air Force, which loosed a record weight of bombs on the Moosbierbaum oil refinery near Vienna Wednesday, dispatched Liberators from its bases in Italy yesterday to attack military installations in Austria.

The Vienna oil refinery was hit by 1,357 tons of bombs, the greatest amount of bombs ever dropped by the 15th on a single target, surpassing the loads dropped on Cassino and Bologna last year.

Fighters and fighter-bombers of the RAF 2nd Tactical Air Force were over the Rhineland yesterday after 72 hours of inactivity, hitting road and rail centers in the Hamm, Munster and Osnabrueck areas. At the same time the TAF disclosed that in 18 days of operations during January, only 11 first-class flying days, it destroyed or damaged 4,180 pieces of German railway and motor equipment.

Feb-6 1945

16

Target - Einbeck (Leipzig)

We were supposed to go to Berlin in this raid but the weather was too bad over there so we bombed a different target. We spent nearly six hours on enemy territory and about 7 hrs on oxygen. This was supposed to be a rough mission. The only hard part about it was the height of the missions. We hit the target for it was visible and blew the town up. What was at the town I don't know, but we sure hit the place. We were supposed to meet a lot of German fighters but we didn't and I was glad.

1,300 Heavies Strike German Industry, Rails

Heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force slashed at Germany yesterday for the first time since Saturday's record blow on Berlin as over 1,300 Fortresses and Liberators, defended by some 850 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, attacked industrial targets in the center of the Reich, mainly in the Magdeburg, Leipzig and Chemnitz areas.

Two Mustang fighter groups, the 4th and the 55th, peeled off in sectors near Leipzig and Frankfurt-on-Main to shoot up rail targets and air fields. Between them they got 29 locomotives, 37 freight cars and three planes.

Pilots of the 55th riddled a Nazi troop train, sent frantic Jerries streaming out of windows and doors and left the locomotive and cars smoking. The 4th blew up an ammunition train, pouncing on it with a hail of bullets that set off an explosion in one car and touched off a rather 14 box cars filled with explosives.

The RAF, too, was busy during Monday, night and yesterday morning, with squadrons of speedy Mosquitoes stinging Berlin and rails and communications in northwest Germany. Wellingtons of Coastal Command ranged over the Dutch coast in bad weather to slam E-boat pens along the coast.

Meanwhile, reports filtered in from neutral capitals, according to Reuter, picturing Berlin fires still smoldering after Saturday's great raid, with time bombs exploding and rescue squads wearing gas masks in some district to combat the thick smoke. Many of the bombs cascaded on the center of the city smashed water mains, making firemen helpless against flames.

Feb-14, 1945

Target- Dresden

This was a large raid and we were over enemy territory for 5 hrs. The biggest surprise was no flak over the target. We got some flak coming back over the lines. Some ships got hit. It was a long tiresome raid lasted 9 1/2 hrs. I saw 5 enemy fighters FW-190. Our fighters were chasing them I did not see the results for I lost them in the clouds. The city of Dresden was hit and fire & smoke was all over the place.

STATEMENT
 (Feb. 14 (ANS)—Pretends the declaration on which the U.S., under the Yalta agreement, agrees to share with the Soviet Union the responsibility for the liberation of Germany and the restoration of its independence.



Koniev Near Saxony In 2-Pronged Drive To Split Germany

The heart of Germany rocked with tremendous explosions yesterday as more than 1,300 8th Air Force heavy bombers dropped tons of high explosives and incendiaries on transportation and industrial targets in three important cities—including Dresden, still blazing from the effects of a double RAF blow the night before, and threatened by the advance, less than 70 miles away, of Red Army troops. Both the 8th Air Force and RAF attacks on Dresden were in support of one offensive of Marshal Koniev's forces, smashing toward the city in a bid to cut the Reich in two, while another drive struck north toward Berlin.

German "Achtung" reports last night indicated continuing air attacks over western Germany.

Heavies Plaster Arms Factories

Heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force, idle since last weekend's operations, thundered out yesterday in support of Red Army salients aimed toward the heart of Germany, when more than 1,300 Fortresses and Liberators dealt solid blows to the industrial cities of Dresden, Chemnitz and Magdeburg. They dropped heavy explosives and incendiaries. Dresden, in the path of the Soviet offensive, and never before hit by a great weight of 8th AF bombs, was the focal point of the attack, which followed the RAF's double-barrelled blow on the city the night before. Of a force of 1,400 RAF bombers which struck oil and industrial targets in the Reich Tuesday night

Air - - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

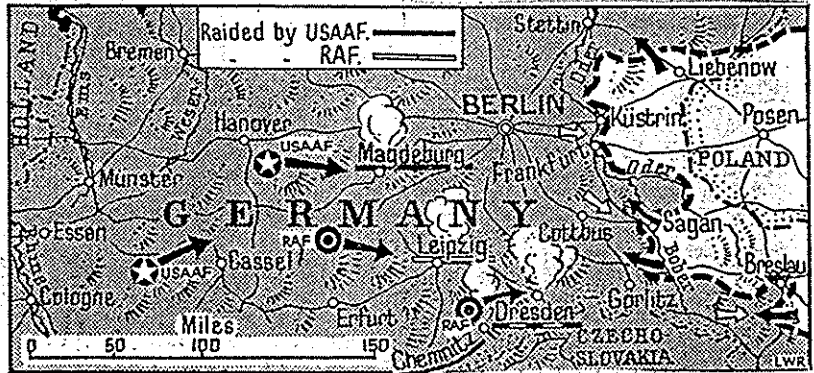
trial tools, has been reported to be housing thousands of evacuees from bombed-out areas, some of them even from Berlin.

Chemnitz, only 35 miles southwest of Dresden, also was pounded by Fortresses through clouds. This city has four railway yards, one large marshalling yard and railroad repair shops. Industrially, it is a machine tool and armaments center, turning out such war items as lathes, gear cutters, trucks, shells, turbines and steam engines.

Liberators in strong force concentrated on well-battered Magdeburg, which also suffered from RAF blows the night before. Two hours before the three-pronged air offensive, which took place shortly after noon, a small force of heavies attacked a six-span road bridge across the Rhine at Wesel, in the northwest corner of the Ruhr.

The bombers went out with a shield of more than 900 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, some of which carried out strafing attacks on communications targets in southwest and western Germany. Early reports last night gave the fighters 64 locomotives and 139 railway cars as their toll for the day.

Meanwhile, the 15th Air Force lent more force to the Allied air blow when Fortresses and Liberators based in Italy blasted oil targets and communications in Vienna and other formations of heavies ranged over Yugoslavia to hammer railroads for the second consecutive day.



Feb-15-1945

18

Target-Dresden

We went again to the same target that we went yesterday. Hence we nearly the same as yesterday. The mission was a little shorter for we made good time. We got good bomb results and hit the target. That city must be in ruins after that pounding. We don't get any flak from the target but got some from the lines and they were quite accurate. It was probably like yesterday's raid.

CAPTAIN D. H. HUNTER commanded the company. The squad didn't call him Hunter. They called him Captain Hunter. Not just to his face, but behind his back as well.

* * *
That was the way the men in the squad felt about the captain. Somehow when they said "Sir," they seemed to mean it. That's how things were between the brass and the men in the squad.

* * *
Wherever there were bullets and



Air - - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

from west and central Germany to the Eastern Front. Six main lines join in the city, which houses extensive marshaling yards and large repair shops. Marshal Koniev's forces were reported last night to be only 12 miles from the city.

Fortresses figured in the attacks on Dresden and Cottbus, while Liberators dropped heavy loads on a synthetic oil plant in Magdeburg. They met only a moderate barrage of flak and no fighter opposition save for one jet-propelled Me262 which was shot down by pilots of the 55th Mustang Group near Nuremberg.

Fifteen bombers and six fighters are missing from the 8th's operations.

Fighters did some strafing yesterday, shooting up areas south of Chemnitz and west of Berlin. Early reports last night listed 39 locomotives and 45 railway cars riddled by the fighters.

Key Rail City Near Capital Is Pounded

The 8th Air Force fashioned another mighty blow yesterday as its part in the growing air offensive in support of the advancing Red Army when it sent out more than 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators, covered by 450 Mustangs, to attack Dresden and Magdeburg for the second day in a row, and the key rail center of Cottbus, between Dresden and Frankfurt.

The raids followed a night in which the RAF again was out in strength, dispatching more than 1,300 planes, most of them heavy bombers, which rocked industrial Chemnitz before the rubble left by the 8th's raid Wednesday afternoon could be cleared, smashed an oil plant near Leipzig, and bombed Berlin, Duisburg, Mainz, Nuremberg and Dessau.

Meanwhile, Fortresses and Liberators of the 15th Air Force ranged out from

Nazi Oil Cut 4-5ths, They Still Have More

SHAEF, Feb. 15 (Reuter)—Heavy blows by Allied air forces and the Red Army have slashed German oil production by more than four-fifths, SHAEF announced today, warning, however, that the Wehrmacht could still muster enough fuel to launch another large-scale counter-offensive and that it is never expected that oil production will be sufficiently cut to prevent it from doing so.

The timeworn tag "Germany has no oil" will not necessarily prevent another "Ardennes," either on the Eastern or Western Front, it was said.

Italy for the third day in a row to bludgeon communications targets in the Vienna area, while medium bombers and fighter-bombers hit ammunition dumps and rail lines in northern Italy. In the 48 hours beginning Tuesday night, nearly 7,000 aircraft of Allied bomber commands have taken the air in the heavy

Feb 16, 1945

19

Target- Longendreer

This raid was at an oil refinery in the Ruhr valley, near Essen. The target was visual and we really hit it. I saw great fires burning and large columns of black smoke. I never saw such large fires. That oil was really burning up. The flak was heavy and accurate. We got a few holes in our ship and a very large hole in the tail. Our tail gunner had a narrow escape, he was very lucky. For a minute I thought we were going to get a direct hit, but thank God we didn't. This was really a rough mission and we had a terrible time getting back to the base. There was snow all over England and we had a hard time landing back at our base, but we did it and I sure was glad when we got back to our base.

* * *
They toted no fancy stuff. No razors. No shaving cream nor shaving lotion. No anything, except the stuff it takes to kill Germans.
* * *



Also Pound West Front Rail Lines

More than 1,000 8th Air Force heavy bombers struck powerful blows to destroy the remaining one-fifth of German oil production yesterday when they bombed oil refineries and benzol plants at Dortmund, Salzbergen and Gelsenkirchen, and raised more havoc with German rail communications to the Western Front by blasting the large marshalling yards of Hamm, Osnabruck and Rheine.

Out for the third successive day of improved weather, Fortresses and Liberators, escorted by approximately 200 Mustangs, hit two oil refineries at Dortmund and Salzbergen, as well as two plants making benzol, a vital compound for manufacture of synthetic oil, in the Ruhr industrial area, near Dortmund and Gelsenkirchen.

Blasted 3rd Day in Row

Other German oil targets and rail communications in the Vienna area were blasted for the third successive day by strong forces of 15th Air Force heavy bombers, as RAF medium and heavy bombers hit an oil refinery in northern Italy.

A special target which the 15th Air Force also attacked was the Obertraubling airdrome at Regensburg, base for the new jet-propelled Me262 planes.

Bombing of oil targets by the 8th heavies was done visually. There were no reports at a late hour last night of losses or of enemy opposition to the Forts and Liberators. USSTAF announced that the losses in Thursday's raids, previously announced as 15 bombers and six fighters, had dropped to 12 bombers and two fighters. The previously unannounced Wednesday losses were given as eight bombers and five fighters.

Dresden 'Heap of Ruins'

Dresden—pounded Wednesday and Thursday by the 8th, following a heavy two-wave night attack by the RAF—was described in German reports as "a heap of ruins." The Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm Dagens Nyheter declared that "tens of thousands" many of them refugees who had small chance to find shelter, had perished in the raids, while a Moscow report said that Dresden was now in the throes of panic, endless columns of refugees streaming into the city as others tried to leave.

Chemnitz, just 35 miles from Dresden and equally important to Nazi defenses in the east, suffered almost the same fate, according to Berlin Radio.

Feb. 23 1945

20

Target-Kitzengen

ies Continue Blitz on Reich Railways

This was a long raid it lasted nearly 10 hrs. We weren't supposed to hit this target but this was the only visual target around. We hit the target from 12,000 ft. This is a rarity for a heavy bomber. We usually bomb from 25,000 ft. The target was a marshalling yard and it was visual. We really hit it. I saw large fires and great clouds of black smoke. We had no flak for if we did we would have had a lot of trouble at that altitude. We saw a dog fight between our fighters and some German fighters. Too far away to see what happened.

Crews Say Good Hits Snarl Lines

The back-breaking blitz on German railway lines, slowed up somewhat Thursday night because of bad weather, roared anew yesterday afternoon when over 1,250 Fortresses and Liberators of the 8th Air Force dropped a pulverizing load of bombs on approximately 20 marshalling yards in southeastern Germany while heavy bombers of the RAF pommelled the communications center of Essen and hit a benzol plant at Geilenkirchen.

The 15th Air Force was out, too, heavies ranging from their bases in Italy to attack German communications for the 11th straight day, hitting rail lines at Vienna, Innsbruck, Klagenfurt and Villach.

The Fortresses and Liberators, again carrying out their missions from medium altitudes of from 6,000 to 15,000 feet, blasted yards in five towns situated on rail lines radiating from the key transport center of Nuremberg, at which the 8th struck two mighty blows earlier in the week. The attack thus took the form of a mopping-up operation, in which the bombers, having paralyzed the hub of this section of German communications, reached out to disable its smaller component parts.

The complete pattern of yesterday's assault by the 8th covered an area stretching from Schweinfurt south to Nuremberg and east to the Czech border, a much more compressed area than the one hit in Thursday's savage blow.

Crews returning from yesterday's raids, which took in the towns of Ansbach, Crailsheim, Kitzengen, Neumarkt, Schweinfurt and Treuchtlingen, reported rough weather on the way in, but fair visibility over the targets, with breaks in clouds over some yards affording good views for bombardiers. Some who saw the results of their bombing said they saw big red flashes burst in the yards, with rails, locomotives and cars knocked askew.

The protecting force of 650 Mustangs and Thunderbolts peeled off as usual to pour bullets and shells into airfields and rail yards along the route of attack. They destroyed 14 aircraft on the ground and caused severe damage to locomotives and other rolling stock. The

(Continued on back page)

Pinned Points

Air - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

bombers, which met no air opposition, and little flak, dropped a total of 3,250 tons on their objectives.

Damage reports on Thursday's great raids, which were carried out at from 6,000 to 15,000 feet and not at 1,500 feet as erroneously reported yesterday, revealed that great destruction was levelled on all targets hit, torn rails and blasted rolling stock, repair shops and roundhouses showing up in the photographs. Eight bombers and 19 fighters were missing from the raids.

Feb-24, 1945

21

Target - Hamburg

I have no clipping on this raid as the Stars and Stripes does not come out on Sunday. The paper carries the story of the raid the day after the raid. Well the target was loaded up and we couldn't see any results but it is believed that they hit it. Our particular objectives were the refinery plant. The flak was heavy over the target but it was very minimal. It was way off to the side and low. The sky was full of flak but we were lucky that it wasn't near us. We spent over an hour in the bombers just circulating around in circles. I got quite mad for I hated to waste all that time flying around doing nothing. Well all together the mission went off quite good and everybody made out O.K.

Feb-27, 1945

22

Target- Leipzig

This was a marshalling at Leipzig. This town has the largest train station in Europe. We were told we would get plenty of flak and maybe fighters. Well the target was clouded over and we couldn't see the ground. So we don't know if we hit it or not. The flak was heavier and quite a distance from our formation. We didn't meet any enemy fighters and of course it didn't get me mad. The mission was quite long for this city is only 40 or 50 miles from the Russian lines. Well although the mission wasn't bad except it was too long and we were on oxygen quite a while.

1,100 Heavies Keep Blitzing Reich's Rails

Carrying their relentless attack on Germany into its ninth consecutive day, more than 1,100 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force raided Nazi rail lines yesterday for the eighth time in their new offensive, 750 Fortresses pouring it on the traffic center at Leipzig while 350 Liberators attacked the marshalling yards at Halle, 20 miles northwest of Leipzig.

While the 8th hammered its targets, the 15th Air Force and the RAF made it a three-ply blow. Liberators and Fortresses of the 15th cut through intense flak to smash railway yards at Augsburg and a strong force of Halifaxes and Lancasters of the RAF attacked the railway center of Mainz, on the left bank of the Rhine, near Frankfurt, and a benzol plant near Gelsenkirchen.

Fortresses of the 8th, again bombing through clouds, lined up on the largest main station in Europe in flying over Leipzig. Huge sidings, crowded with warehouses and locomotive repair shops, fan out from the station for more than 430 acres. From the station stem main lines going to Berlin, Breslau, Dresden, Munich, Frankfurt, the Ruhr and the Rhineland.

Vast Marshalling Yards

Halle, on the main line from Berlin to Frankfurt, has vast marshalling yards and repair facilities. Libs which struck these yards through clouds included the veteran 93rd Bomb Group, which racked up its 350th mission yesterday. In its 29 months of activity, the 93rd participated in the invasions of North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy and the bombing of the Ploesti oil refineries.

The escort of more than 700 Thunderbolts and Mustangs continued strafing enemy airfields and rail lines yesterday, reporting destruction of more than 70 parked aircraft and damaging of 44 locomotives and 154 rail cars. One squadron of the 353rd Mustang Group, finding a hole in the clouds near Weimar, swooped down to make a spectacular raid over an airfield, leaving more than 50 planes burning, of which 36 were destroyed. Nobody on the field, on which all types of craft, even a battered Flying Fortress, were parked, made a move to resist.

In Monday's attack on Berlin, from which 16 bombers and seven fighters are missing, the 8th may have dropped its 500-pound "Goop" bomb, an incendiary that defies all extinguishing devices. The Associated Press reported yesterday, quoting officials in Washington, USSTAF said last night it had no knowledge of the bomb being in use Monday.

A Reuter dispatch from Stockholm reported huge fires started in the three railway terminals hit by the 8th, with many freight cars, loaded with food, munitions and other supplies for the Russian front, destroyed.

Feb-28, 1945

23

Target-Hagen

This target was a marshalling yard. We didn't take off from our field until 11:00 clock and that is considered a very late take off. We had a cloud cover all the way to the target except for a few broken places. We couldn't see the target, therefore we also don't see our bombing results. The flick was weak and inaccurate and quite low and in back of us. We didn't get back until 6:30 P.M. on account of the late take off. The weather wasn't too good at our base so we had to "sweat out" the landing. Well the mission went off quite good and the boys flew very good formation today.

8th's Blitz Is Non-Stop And Record

The 8th Air Force, further aiming to isolate the industrial Ruhr, continued its non-stop offensive against Germany's crumbling railway system yesterday as 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators blasted marshalling yards and other rail and industrial targets in the northwest area of the Reich, after its greatest two-week period of constant raiding and tonnage dropped.

Another afternoon raid—by RAF Lancasters, which made a concentrated attack on the Nordstern benzol plant near Gelsenkirchen—kept "Achtungs" ringing through Germany, while heavy and medium bombers of the 15th Air Force pounded the Brenner Pass.

The 8th Forts and Libs, escorted by more than 350 Mustangs, smashed targets at Kassel, on three main lines leading to the Ruhr and to central and southern Germany; Soest, 15 miles southeast of Hamm, and a junction of two main lines leading from the Ruhr; Schwerte and Hagen, on the southeast fringe of the Ruhr, both with extensive railway repair facilities, and Siegen, on a main line from the Ruhr to southern Germany and only 40 miles east of Cologne.

250 Mustangs Increase Fury

At the same time, a separate group of 250 Mustangs increased the fury of the aerial offensive by strafing and dive-bombing targets over a wide area of the Reich, as RAF Mitchells and Bostons—out twice—blasted two villages in the Canadian Army sector; Marienbaum and Sonsbeck.

USSTAF officials, announcing the unprecedented two-week offensive of the 8th, disclosed that in the 14 days of Feb. 14-27 the Forts and Libs dropped 36,000 tons of bombs—more than double the tonnage they dropped in the entire first year of operations over Europe—and were out in daily average strength of 1,075 bombers. The heavies were idle only one day, Feb. 18, in the past two weeks.

During the same period, USSTAF revealed, fighters shot up 825 locomotives, 2,791 rail cars and 669 motor vehicles, and destroyed 189 aircraft parked on German airfields.

A revised list of losses in Tuesday's raid showed that nine bombers and five fighters are missing. Sunday's losses, not previously announced, were three bombers and ten fighters.

March 2, 1945.

24

Target - Chemnitz

This raid was at the marshalling yards at Chemnitz. We took off for a night formation and when we assembled it was still dark. We really sweated that out. The target was covered with clouds so we couldn't see the results. The mission was quite long and tiring. We didn't get any flak at the target, but saw some near the target. Enemy fighters were up but they didn't hit our group and I didn't see any. I guess they hit some other group in front of us. Coming back we nearly ran out of gas and we just barely made it back to the base. We were going to land in another base but we took a chance and made it back to our base.

Fighters Knock Out 103 of Luftwaffe

Heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force and the RAF joined yesterday to strike savage blows directly in the paths of advancing Allied armies. Fortresses of the 8th's force, 1,200 B17s and B24s swept across Germany to assault the rail centers of Dresden and Chemnitz, objectives of the rolling Red Army, and Lancasters and Halifaxes of the RAF, lashing out in two separate raids, added tons of dynamite to the steel being poured into Cologne by the guns of Gen. Hodges' 1st Army.

At the same time, the 15th Air Force, carrying its operations into the 18th consecutive day, tripled the force of the blow when its Fortresses and Liberators bombed the area of Linz, Austria, and tore up railway yards at Brescia.

Bombers of the 8th, which gave Dresden and Chemnitz a two-day shelling Feb. 13 and 14, had to contend with heavy cloud yesterday, but other Fortresses and Liberators, which ranged over an oil plant and a tank plant in Magdeburg and oil targets in Bohlen and Rositz, near Leipzig, got on their targets in good visibility.

The bombers were escorted by 700 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, which, while carrying out their dual role of shielding the heavies and strafing Nazi gas and installations and rails, ran into determined enemy air opposition for the first time in almost seven weeks, knocking down 57 Nazi fighters and destroying 36 more on the ground.

One Mustang pilot, 27-year-old Lt. (Continued on back page)

Air - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Roscoe Allen, of Dunlap, Ill., ran low on oxygen, peeled off from his group, the 355th, and may have flown directly into a new record for fighter pilots in the ETO. Allen tangled with a group of 15 Me109s, engaged them alone in a 120-mile running battle, shot down five and may have destroyed two more, confirmation of which will have to await development of pictures taken by his gun camera. The current record is six.

Seven hundred RAF heavies made up the first force which attacked Cologne, attempting to hamper enemy escape routes by blocking roads with bomb craters and rubble and smashing the Deutz and Hohenzollern bridges over the Rhine. RAF pilots reported yesterday that clear weather over the city enabled them to lay their bombs in a concentrated pattern. Again, in the afternoon, 150 more heavies assaulted the Nazis' Rhine stronghold.

Six hundred more Lancasters and Halifaxes attacked the transport center of Mannheim and a synthetic oil plant near Dortmund.

March 3, 1945

25

Target - Hanover

We were suppose to go to another target near Hanover but couldn't go on account of the clouds, so we went to bomb a tank factory in the city of Hanover. The target was pretty visible and there was flak all around us. It's a wonder that we didn't suffer any hits. Just before bombing a way the formation broke up to prevent ~~the~~ planes from running into each other. We were lucky not to have any head on collisions between the flak and all the mess up I really sweated it out. We our ship only dropped bombs before the target, an account of a malfunction in the bomb racks. We just seemed to have a lot of trouble in this raid and it was a little rough. When we got back all the boys were talking about the narrow escapes they had. Well I'm glad that everything came out O.K. at the end! By the way I have no clipping on this raid as the star and stayer doesn't come out on Sundays.

March 10, 1945

26

Target - Schwerte (Dortmund)^{Near}

I have no clipping of this raid as the star & stripes doesn't come out on Sunday. This was a good mission because it was short for it lasted only 6 hrs and over the target we got heavier flak and it was inaccurate. The target was clouded up so we couldn't see the results. We were supposed to hit the marshalling yards at the town of Schwerte, we passed right over Dortmund and we were lucky not to get hit by flak. We were over enemy territory for only 1 1/2 hrs so that wasn't bad. We took off quite late but we still got back at 6 P.M. Well all in all it wasn't a bad mission.

March-11, 1945

27

Target - Bremen

This target was the submarine pens at Bremen. The only good part about the mission was that it was only 6 hrs long. The clouds were over the target so we couldn't see our results. The flak was very intense. There was flak all around us. Most of the flak was low and behind us. Our squadron didn't suffer any battle damage. We were very lucky not to get hit.

The German really threw up the flak at us. We came back on 3 engines as one of our engines went out after we had hit the target. It was shooting oil all over the place. Well anyway we also got a scare for every fighter were in the area but we didn't see any. I guess they attacked some other formations.

Heavies Hit U-Boat Yards, Continue Blitz on Oil, Rails

Bombing through clouds, more than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators of the 8th Air Force attacked German submarine construction yards at Bremen, Hamburg and Kiel yesterday and spiralled down loads on eight oil refineries in the first two cities.

At the same time RAF heavies rose in strength to smite the railway and communications center of Essen, close to the Western Front, as 1,000 planes of RAF Bomber Command, carrying an escort of 200 fighters, blanketed the city with high explosives.

The raids climaxed a big weekend for both the 8th and the RAF. On Saturday more than 1,350 Forts and Libs continued the drive to cut Nazi communications to the Ruhr by aiming an assault at interlocking rail lines running from the area. Three marshalling yards in and near Dortmund and other targets north and east of the Ruhr were bombed, also through clouds.

In all, almost 4,000 planes of the 8th took part in the weekend activities, for 500 fighters escorted Saturday's raiders and 750 P47s and P51s formed yesterday's protective cloak. One bomber and two fighters failed to return Saturday and one bomber and three fighters were yesterday's losses.

U.S. heavies met no enemy air opposition, but intense flak was reported over all targets yesterday after a relatively light barrage Saturday.

Lancasters of the RAF were out in daylight Saturday, too, making a concentrated attack on the synthetic oil plant at Schelven-Buer. And Mosquitoes Saturday night hit Berlin for the 19th day in a row.

March - 14, 1945

Target - Wesser River Bridge (Linden)

1,250 Heavies Strike Tank, Gun Factories Near Hanover

This target was a railroad bridge on the Wesser river right near the town of Linden. The target was visual and we could see the bridge. They only hit part of the bridge they did not completely demolish it. We encountered no flak although there was flak off to our left of the target. The flak was hitting some other groups, that was bombing another bridge down the river. The mission lasted about 6 1/2 hrs and it wasn't a bad mission at all. Everything ran along quite smooth except they didn't hit the target too well. So quite a few V-2 being launched also today.

The 8th Air Force swung back into the attack yesterday after a one-day lull, when 1,250 Fortresses and Liberators shook naval, industrial and communications targets from the Dutch coast south to Giessen, 45 miles east of the Remagen bridgehead. For the first time in days the bombers had clear weather, and bombing over all targets, except for one factory in Hanover, was visual.

Meanwhile, the 15th Air Force struck another blow to aid the Red Army, bombing oil targets between Komarom and Budapest in Hungary and within 35 miles of the Russian lines. Two large refineries which supply gasoline to German motorized units were the main targets.

The bulk of the 8th's bombing was done in the Hanover area. Two tank plants and a factory making half-tracks and self-propelled guns were hit in the city itself and at Hildesheim, less than 20 miles south of the city, a large castings plant was rocked.

Other targets in the area were oil refineries at Misburg and Nienhagen; marshalling yards at Seeze, and rail bridges across the Weser River at Vlotho and Bad Oeyenhausen.

Marshalling yards at Gutersloh and Löhne, north and south of Osnabruck, and at Giessen were pounded. The naval targets were E-boat pens at Ijmuiden, on the west Dutch coast, opposite Amsterdam.

Some of the Mustangs of the 650 escorting fighters ran into a group of 20 Luftwaffe planes apparently headed to attack the heavies, but cut them off before they could reach the bomber formations. Several were shot down, but the exact score was not revealed last night.

March 15, 1945

Target - Zossen

This target was the German General Staff headquarters 20 miles from Berlin. The target was visual and we really hit it. The target was completely demolished, it was completely covered with black smoke and fire. I guess we really got rid of a few bog shot Nazis. All of Germany was visual all the way in and we really got a good look at it today. The mission lasted 9 hrs and it was a little long. The Germans were taken by surprise and we didn't get any flak. Our group made a bomb run on the target. We didn't get back until 7:30 at night, it was nearly dark before we landed. We were lucky that fighters didn't attack us for we were straggling on the way back. With all fighters it wasn't too bad.

Bomb Rails Near Berlin Feeding East

BULLETIN

The headquarters of the German Army General Staff at Zossen, 20 miles south of Berlin, was attacked yesterday afternoon by B17s and B24s of the 8th Air Force.

Half of the 1,350 bombers in the task force attacked the headquarters and the remainder attacked the railyards at Oranienburg.

U.S. 8th and 15th Air Force heavies teamed up with Lancasters of the RAF yesterday to strike at vital German communications and industrial centers in three corners of the Reich.

Mustang-escorted Lancasters, loaded for the second time with the new ten-ton super-bombs, struck at the Armsburg Railway viaduct with unannounced results. Twenty-first Army Group HQ announced that Wednesday night's initial blow by the new 22,000lb. missiles knocked out seven central spans of the Bielefeld viaduct in an attack which appears to have cut off the last main German escape route from the Ruhr.

More than 1,300 8th Air Force Liberators and Fortresses, bombing visually, poured 3,500,000 lbs. of bombs—many of them in 2,000-lb. doses—on the rail yards at Oranienburg, 20 miles north of Berlin, which handle supplies for the German armies facing Marshal Zhukov on the Eastern Front, and other targets in the area.

Meanwhile, the Ruhland oil refineries between Berlin and Dresden were attacked with "good results" in the greatest effort yet made by Allied Air Forces in the Mediterranean. While B17s made the 1,400-mile round trip, Liberators attacked other oil refineries at Moosbierbaum, Floridsdorf and Schwechat, near Vienna.

A spokesman at Allied Mediterranean HQ also disclosed that 15th Air Force fighters and bombers joined Russian fliers for the first time Wednesday in simultaneous attacks in Austria, Hungary and Yugoslavia.

Italian-based heavies crossed southeastern Europe to hit German communications centers only 20 miles from the Russian lines in response to a direct request from the Moscow high command.

Oranienburg, the Nazi communications center attacked by 8th Air Force bombers yesterday, is also one of the chief military supply centers in the Reich, providing the German Army with ordnance, motor transportation and signal supplies, as well as guns, ammunition and other equipment.

Yesterday afternoon Halifaxes of the RAF Bomber Command, escorted by Spitfires and Mustangs, struck at two benzol plants, one near Essen and the other at Castrop-Rauxel in the Ruhr. Visibility was good and the bombs were reported to be well concentrated.

March-17,-1945

30

Target - Bohlen + Erfurt

I have no clipping on this mission as the Stars and Stripes do not come out on Sundays. We were going to hit the synthetic oil plant at Bohlen. We ~~were~~ were flying lead squadron and we made a bomb run and did not bomb at all. The other squadrons did bomb it. So our squadron went ahead and bombed Erfurt 40 miles away. The target was clouded up so we couldn't see our results. At Bohlen we had flash point before we got there and had some behind us but we didn't get hit. At Erfurt we had major flash and it was inaccurate. We were left alone because our bomber stream + fighters had gone away. They didn't wait for us. I surely thought that the Germans would send fighters after our formation for they had a good chance to do some damage to us. The raid was a little long for the target in night wear. Leipzig and near the Russian line. Well we made out O.K. and that's what counts.

March - 19 - 1945

31

Target - Plauen

We were supposed to go to Boblar again but the target was covered with clouds so we went to

Plauen. This was a rail yard and the

target was visible. We hit the target for after we left it it was covered with smoke.

This was a long mission and it took us 1 1/2 hrs. We had

hardly any gas by the time we got back to our base. We

had four enemy fighters but we didn't see any. The

flak was meager over the target and we didn't get

any hits. We were over enemy territory over 3 hrs. This was a really long mission.

Plane Plants, Airfields Struck By 1,200 Heavies

Rumbling through ineffective enemy air opposition, more than 1,200 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force swung deep into eastern and southern Germany yesterday to cut Nazi air strength at its source. Liberators struck at plane plants and airfields in the south and Fortresses thundered eastward to hit at industrial objectives in the Chemnitz and Leipzig areas.

Some of the 600 escorting Mustangs clashed with enemy fighters over northwest Germany and came up with their biggest bag in some time, as 39 Nazis, including five jet-propelled planes, were tumbled from the skies. Early reports last night gave one fighter group, the 78th, the fattest kill of the day—32, two of them Arados 234 jet-propelled fighter-bombers.

The Libs, bombing from clear skies, emptied their bomb bays over a factory making jet plane parts at Baumenheim, 20 miles northwest of Augsburg, and over airfields near Ingolstadt and Ulm, both in the general area of Augsburg. The latter field is believed to be assembling jet planes. Forts which attacked industrial targets at Plauen, west of Chemnitz, and war plants at Jena, southwest of Leipzig, had to bomb through clouds.

Before the 8th swung its 1,800-plane punch yesterday, Lancasters of the RAF, carrying 11-ton and six-ton bombs, were out in the morning to attack railway viaducts at Arnburg, southwest of Hamm, and at Bielsfeld, where the RAF christened its new 11-tonner last week.

USSTAF revealed yesterday that 25 bombers and five fighters are missing from Sunday's operations over Berlin. At the same time it announced that photographs taken during the attack showed excellently placed bombs carpeting the centrally located Schlesicher and North Station rail yards and fires burning in the Tempelhof airdrome and marshalling yards. Libs which struck at industrial objectives in the suburban areas also achieved good results, the photos showed.

March-20, 1945

32

Target - Hamburg

This was one of the roughest raids I went on. We hit the dock area in Hamburg and the target was visual. The flak was very heavy. Flak was all around us but we didn't suffer much battle damage from flak. Right after bombs away we got attacked by enemy fighters. They were ME-262 jet propelled fighters. They attacked 3 groups and we were one of them. At least 30 fighters attacked us. They attacked us for 38 minutes. They shot down 2 B-17's from our group. One of the B-17's was in our squadron. One of the fighters came so close by our ship that I saw the red marking it had on it's tail. I opened fire at him and as he was about 200 yds from us his tail broke off and caught on fire. The plane went on a spin and I didn't see the pilot get out. I believe I shot him down, but there were other fellows shooting at him. One sure thing he went down burning. All fighters our squadron shot down 3 ME-262 jets. I was scared and I was praying while firing. Well today we lost some boys.

Heavies Hit U-Boat Works

A force of 400 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force, with some 300 Mustangs providing protection, boomed over northwest Germany yesterday to attack oil targets and submarine building yards in the area of Hanover.

While Fortresses struck at a small oil refinery, the Blohm and Voss U-boat works and harbor targets in Hamburg, Liberators planted bombs on the Hemmingstedt oil refinery near Heide, 60 miles northwest of Hamburg.

RAF heavies also were over northwest Germany yesterday, hitting at rail targets in the area and bombing rail yards at Hamm and Recklinghausen, about 20 miles west of Hamm. Some RAF bombers were escorted by 8th Air Force Mustangs.

Heavies of the Italy-based 15th Air Force attacked rail yards at Amstetten and Wels in Austria, on the main line from Vienna to Munich and Regensburg.

March - 21, 1945

33

Target - Hopsten

This target was a jet airfield near the town of Hopsten. This was another visual raid. The target was really hit. The field was completely destroyed by the bombing. There were only 2 flak batteries there but they really shot us. I got a large hole right near the tail and 2 other B-17's got the engines hit. They were able to make it back to England. A few boys got wounded today but not too seriously. They'll be O.K. The mission was a short mission it lasted 5 1/2 hrs. It wasn't too bad except for the flak.

(Continued from page 1)

Leipzig, which had been attacked Monday in poor weather.

The bombers at Plauen were tackled by some 15 jet-propelled Me262s, but escorting Mustangs drove them off and shot down two. In the whole operation yesterday, nine enemy fighters were shot down and 43 more were destroyed on the ground.

RAF bombers also hit the Reich with a tremendous salvo yesterday. In the morning, while Lancasters were on their way back from blasting oil refineries in eastern and northwest Germany, more Lancs took off to bomb another oil target, the refinery at Bremen.

Later, Lancasters carrying 11-ton bombs, dropped their crushing loads on a railway bridge across the Weser near Bremen while other heavies struck at the railway yards at Munster, a blow aimed at communications running from the Ruhr to Osnabruck.

Mosquitos took just three minutes to wipe out Gestapo headquarters in Copenhagen yesterday, the United Press reported from 21st Army Group Hq. The fast bombers shot through heavy flak to blast the five-story building to the ground.

8th Punishes Luftwaffe's Airfields

In a savage blow aimed at crippling the Luftwaffe, which had appeared to be forming for a comeback in the past few weeks, U.S. heavy bombers and fighters yesterday thundered out to hammer 11 airfields, many of them bases for jet-propelled fighters and fighter-bombers, in northwest Germany, the Ruhr and southern Germany.

The 8th and 15th Air Forces combined to deliver this trip-hammer punch. The 8th had some 2,200 planes out, nearly 2,000 of which figured in the drive on air-dromes, while the 15th dispatched a separate force of Liberators to lash at the Neuburg drome, jet base 50 miles north of Munich.

The bombers and fighters carried out their assault under excellent conditions—ceiling visibility was unlimited. In the greatest blow of the whole operation, approximately 1,100 bombers of the 8th

RAF Sees—and Hits—Through Camouflage

Typhoon pilots of the 2nd Tactical Air Force yesterday reported that the Nazis, in a desperate effort to preserve their battered supply lines, have taken to painting rails, ties and even bolts along the top of idle rail cars to make them blend with the real tracks.

The pilots came low enough to see through the slick camouflage job, however, and decorate it with a bit of cannon and rocket fire.

and most of its 800 fighters zoomed in over nine fields in northwest Germany to wield a three-ply blow.

First the bombers came in for their run, followed by fighters which laid fragmentation bombs on runways and other vital spots on the fields. Fighters carried out the third phase of the attack by sweeping in to strafe the dromes.

In a later operation, approximately 100 Liberators, covered by 100 Mustangs, struck an additional blow, pounding the Mulheim airfield between Duisburg and Essen. The remainder of the 8th's bomber force soared deep into eastern Germany to hit once more a tank and armament plant at Plauen, south of

(Continued on back page)

March-24, 1945

34

Target - Twente - Enschede

I have no clipping on this mission as the Star and stripes doesn't come out on Sunday. This was a good mission for me. It lasted only 4 hrs and we weren't on oxygen too long. We hit a jet-propelled airfield just over the Dutch border into Germany. The target was visible and they scored direct hits on the target. The target was completely demolished. I flew with Colonel Preston on the scout ship today. We didn't carry bombs, all our job was to circle the target so we could see the bombing. I really got a good view of the bombing. The flak was heavier at the target and nobody got any damage. This was a short mission and it wasn't bad altogether.

April -
~~March~~ 6, 1945

35

Target - Leipzig

This is it

Today I finished my mission. It really is a great feeling! The target was Leipzig and I really sweated out the mission. We had moderate flak at the target but away from us. The weather was terrible and we had bad contrails. There ship flying behind us, collided with another airplane and they both blew up. I knew the boys for they slept in the same barrack I did. I really felt bad for I knew them very well and associated with them. The planes were burning like paper and broke in a hundred pieces. I don't see any chutes come out. I got a terrible feeling after that. I really sweated this mission out. Thank God I finished.

8th Smashes At Rail Targets

Attacking through an overcast, approximately 650 8th Air Force Fortresses and Liberators yesterday bombed railroad marshalling yards at Halle and Leipzig and other targets in central Germany.

The Libs struck at Halle, which lies on one of the main lines from Berlin to southern Germany and includes large repair facilities. The Leipzig yards, hit by B17s, constitute one of the most important railway traffic centers in the Reich.

Six hundred escorting fighters reported no enemy air opposition.

On the continent, the Allies have seized air bases within 180 miles of the Russian lines. Despite bad weather Thursday, 200 German planes were destroyed in the air or on the ground for a loss of 13 planes, SHAEF announced.

The 15th Air Force, flying more than 3,000 sorties, attacked railway yards and other communications targets in northern Italy for the second straight day.

Thursday's attack on south German ordnance depots by the 8th Air Force was termed "very successful" after examination of the first photographs of the damage.

The P51 pilot who shared in the destruction of eight German planes on the ground while returning from Thursday's mission was Capt. Gordon B. Compton, of Dallas, Tex., not Capt. Gordon B. Tomblin, as reported in yesterday's account.