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SOUVENIR SUPPLEMENT

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SALUTE THE GROUND MAN

2nd AIR DIVISION

WEEK APRIL 8-14, 1945

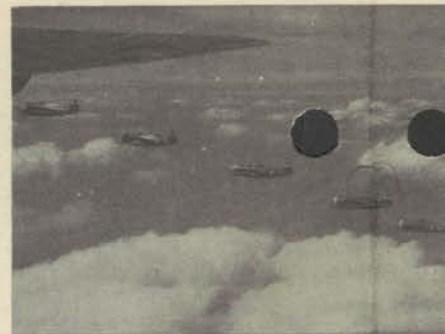
"As the final victory, which must be ours, draws near, we have thought it befitting to designate a week to recognize and commend the personnel of the ground echelon of 2nd Air Division for their tremendous efforts in creating this great team.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, as I know every man who has had the opportunity to fly with the 2nd Air Division planes, would thank you if it were possible. The flying personnel know what your efforts have been to supply them with the means to perform their part of the team's work, the long hours with little glory, and they are grateful. As your Commanding General, I wish to offer you my sincere congratulations and to commend you on a job well done."

MAJ. GEN. W. E. KEPNER
Commanding, 2nd Air Division
(From an address, 8 April, 1945)



8th Air Force
Advises "Target
for Today"



LIBERATORS - MUSTANGS - THUNDERBOLTS

2AD MISSION

FEATURES 64 OF 68 KEY OPERATIONS ON THE GROUND



2AD Staff
Conference
Plans the
Mission



Weather
Checks
the Route



Gen. Kepner
Consults
Operations
Staff

In March, 8th Air Force hit Germany with the largest forces and greatest tonnage in its history. 2nd Air Division starred in this record by topping the Air Force in precision bombing accuracy. 2AD fighter planes reasserted their leadership of the ETO -- one group this week became the first unit to destroy more than 1,000 enemy aircraft. Beyond comprehension are the thousands of sorties flown and tons of bombs aimed -- vast in its execution is a single 2AD mission.

Tribute is offered this week to those who accomplished the 68 key operations in every mission. It frequently overlooked by press and public -- the Ground Personnel of the Air Division. Pictured here are a fraction of the essential steps performed each time by 2AD personnel on the ground before the radio may announce "Liberators, Mustangs, Thunderbolts of 8th Air Force attacked German targets."

Though they may be forgotten in the news flashes, Ground Men, by their devotion to perfection, are earning daily gratitude and praise of every combat flyer. Men, wings and men with other duties cooperate throughout the mission so that no one step, no one man, is independent -- the reward to each of them is the final effort of this entire Division.

Code Orders
to Bomber
and Fighter
Groups



Each Group Briefs
Its Flying Crews



APRIL 11, 1945

TARGET VICTORY

Analysis of
the Mission's
Bomb Photos



Interrogation
of Air Crews
on Return



Plotters Track
the Mission

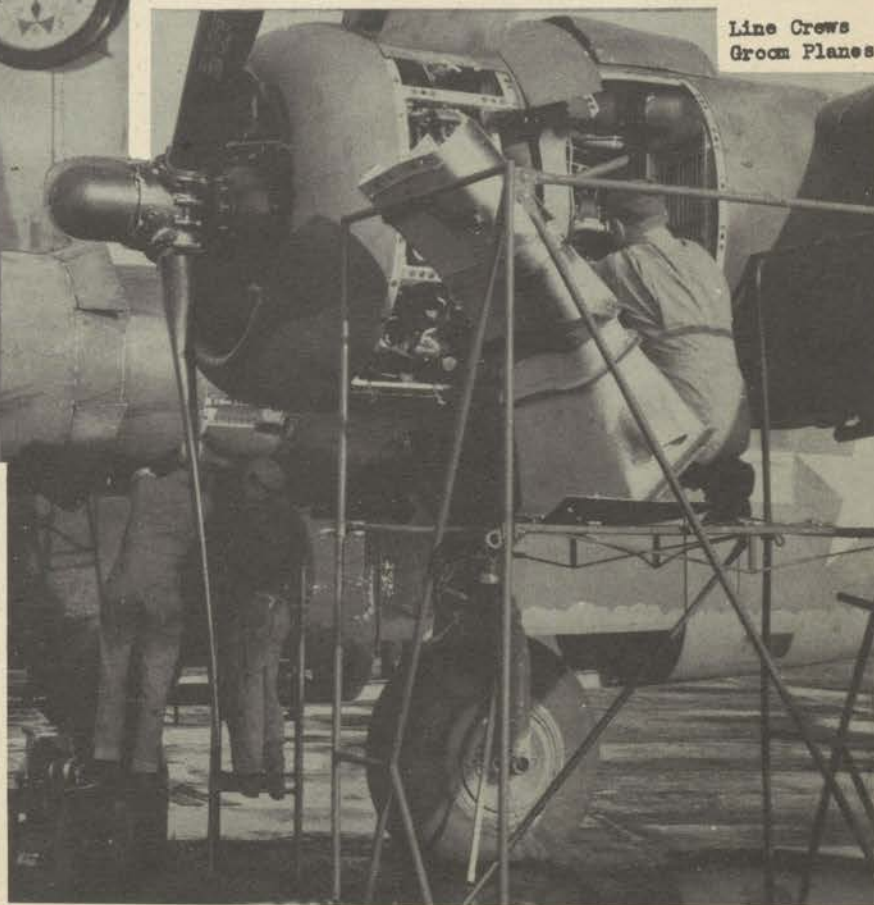


Ordnance
Loads the
Target-Busters



Another
Axis Target
Bullseyed

Line Crews
Groin Planes



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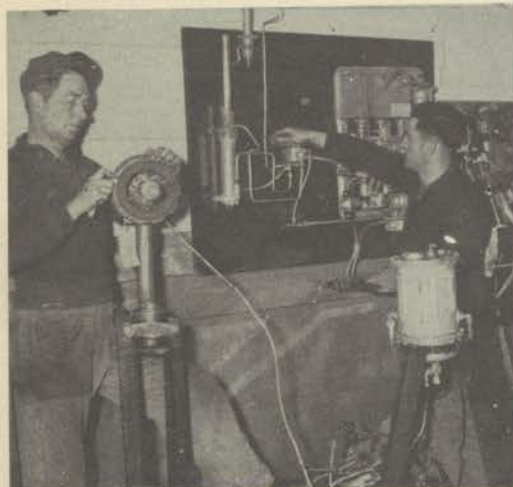
Lt. Col. Sidney Woods, 4th Fighter Group, who shot down 5 FW-190s in a day, gives main credit to "the best ground crew in the world", S/Sgt. Federic Lonier, crew chief, Sgt. Robert Easley, his armorer.



M/Sgt. Stephen J. Dergo and "Tovarich", named for his Russian ancestry. Crew chief with 392nd Bomb Group, he has sent Libs out on 136 missions, never had one mechanical turnback.



"Sheet Metal Surgeons...Metal Magic Ltd." T/Sgt. Mike Shrader, S/Sgt. Ed A. Nowik, and Sgt. Joseph J. Klimas, 355th Fighter Group, responsible for reclaiming of badly damaged and mangled aircraft.



Salvaged material and the ingenuity of S/Sgt. H. H. Dixon, Sgt. L.J. Aconfric, devised a Hydraulic Brake and Flap Tester, saving hundreds of man hours at the 479th Fighter Group.



Turret and maintenance modifications have been originated by efficient armament officers such as 1st/Lt. William E. Dow, 445th Bomb Group, recently awarded the Bronze Star.



Salvage drive in fighter wing won by Quartermaster supply team of 479th Mustang Group. 2nd/Lt James E. Gardner, Pfc R.R. Giacinta, T/5 C. W. Askren, T/5 A. G. Clauser, Pvt. C.W. McKinley.



"Turnabout's fair play" at 56th Fighter Group. Officers on "KP" are Capt. Geo. E. Bostwick, 1st/Lt T. W. Queen, Jr., 1st/Lt. Pershing B. Trumble. In ohow-line are PFC Ed McMorrow, Pvt Dave Cook.



"Sweetheart of the 44th Bomb Group", Miss Armalee Growden, daughter of S/Sgt. Argyle Growden, won the title in poll. She has red hair and brown eyes, like many a grown-up pin-up.



Pvt. Vince Padilla, MP of 448th Bomb Group, won 8AF Featherweight Boxing Championship this week, was presented cup by Lt. Gen. James E. Doolittle. He defeated a Golden Gloves titlist.