

August 1943

242nd Medical Diary:-

1 August 1943 – Inspection made this A.M. of messes. Officer Mess & Club: Service court dirty, i.e. broken dishes and tin cans are piled in the corner, as well as scattered about garbage rack. Spillage of vegetable waste, coffee grounds and other garbage has made the area unsightly, latrine in the mess is not clean. Lavatory is encrusted with dirt, and toilet has not been scrubbed in some time. Storage rooms are clean and contents put away. Kitchen and dish washing room are satisfactory. China, glassware and utensils are clean.

Consolidated Mess: The floor throughout the entire kitchen is very sloppy, slightly greasy and slippery. It seems a failing or perhaps a mania to have the kitchen floor awash for the greater part of the time. On the floor near sink for washing pots and pans were two grease and waste filled containers which were extremely sloppy. Material emptied into the sides of the containers was on the floor. Floors on both sides of the eating portions were wet and sloppy to walk in. The food storage rooms were clean and dry and dry stuff put away. The meat preparation area was clean, except for a pool of bloody water in the center which had drained off the frozen meat and had not been removed.

Combat Crew Mess: This mess is in the process of being moved to the new communal site which is closer to combat crew personnel. This mess is not open today. Officers are fed at the Club and EM at the Consolidated Mess. The present Airmen's Mess is to be used for a PX and bar for enlisted personnel.

2 August – Airmen's Mess opened in the new Communal Site this morning. Some difficulty in getting settled down was experienced, but on the whole I think it was accomplished very smoothly. Facilities are a little better in that they are a little better arranged and more convenient. The long distance from the kitchen to the officers' section has been eliminated.

4 August – There have been no operational missions since 30 July. Combat crews have been able to have leave and rest, and are now organized in training, test flights and ground schools.

Col. Strecker, Wing Surgeon, visited the station, accompanied by Lt Col Ryan, MC, and Major Davis, AC (Wing Inspector). The station hospital was thoroughly gone over by these officials, while the Consolidated Mess was visited next and a very unsatisfactory condition was found.

1. Floor over entire kitchen was wet and slippery.
2. Garbage can was left in the front kitchen.
3. Floor of flour storage in back aspect, two cases of flour on the floor, one of which is probably spoiled, and other kitchen utensils smothered with flour.
4. Improper segregation of wastes, – trash, broken china, metal and paper placed in same container, grease can $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.
5. Trench dug near north-west corner of mess hall partially filled with water and breeding mosquitoes.
6. Drain between west wing and kitchen wing on north side stopped up, and running over leaving a large pool of foul smelling liquid.

The officers then proceeded to the Airmen's Mess in the new Communal Site, now operating on its third day. Conditions were deemed satisfactory for the short period of operation.

8 August – Inspections were made and the following found: latrine in briefing room is quite odoriferous, and pails poorly cleaned. No toilet paper. Latrine near operations building was also dirty, paper and trash on the floor, toilets and wash basins not washed and no toilet paper.

Combat mess is running much more smoothly and facilities are better than at former location. Dispersal is considerable confusion about service entrance. In general, the mess was clean. Dirty lined was piled in a hamper in one storage room, but overflowed onto the floor and had considerable odors.

Consolidated mess shows a great deal of litter and poor co-ordination. The floor was sloppy and wet, making a great deal of muddy tracks all over the kitchen and supply section. Garbage was poorly separated, particularly metal, paper and glass.

Large shower building in communal site needed policing. Many showers were leaking, and hot water temperature was low. Recommendation has been submitted for use of shower building in new communal site.

Officers mess was in fair condition. Latrine was dirty (I have never seen it clean). Some silverware and china were greasy and dirty. Dish washing room was untidy with lots of rags and utensils laying around.

10 August – Lt Vernon Chadwick visited the station and went over the mess hall for possible cause of the occasional diarrhea. Washing the men wash some kits it appears that there is very little being done towards thoroughly washing the kits. Not enough soap suds are in the water, and it is not of a suitable temperature. The dish washer was operating at 180 degrees, and personnel were introducing cold water for increasing the pressure of the machine. Whether this is a default or a poor operating procedure remains to be seen.

11 August – A few officers eating in the Combat Mess developed diarrhea this morning about 04.30 hrs. The evening meal in the Combat Mess was blamed (as usual). The meal consisted of meat and vegetable stew, a canned preparation shipped from the States, potatoes, creamed peas, jam, bread and butter, and cooked desserts. The meat dish was prepared during the afternoon and served at the 18.00 hrs meal. I am unable to find any item of the diet to which a cause might be assigned. So far as I am able to ascertain, no other eating or drinking factors are involved. Thorough inspection of the mess does not bring anything revealing. It is possible the dishwasher is being operated at a temperature inconsistent with proper sterilization. A temperature of 100 degrees minimum is recommended. The Combat Mess itself was in good shape.

The Consolidated Mess has improved since yesterday. The floor is a little sloppy making a poor appearance. Store rooms were clean, but some mess personnel were dirty; dirty clothing and fingernails. One man, who was cooking meat was wearing an apron approaching a black shadow.

The Officers mess was untidy due to the installation of an additional sink. Several latrines was untidy in general with shower heads leaking.

During the later afternoon and evening of the 10th, the water was unusually cloudy having a brownish color. The men thought that this was the source of the diarrhea, particularly in light of the numbers of probably 25 to 30 from all four squadrons were affected.

381st BG Combat Mission #17 – Gelsenkirchen, Germany 12th August

19 aircraft took part. There were 3 MIA crews. 2nd Lt. Moon of the 532nd, 1st Lt. Wroblinka of the 534th, and F/O Evans of the 535th. Three aircraft aborted and the rest appear to have successfully bombed the synthetic oil factories at Gelsenkirchen, in the Ruhr, and Wesseling, just south of Cologne.

242nd Medical Diary :- 12th August – The diarrhea outbreak hit around 75 officers and men all told, and they reported on sick call, while other combat crew men were in serious difficulty on today's mission. The water which was cloudy had cleared considerably. Additional samples were sent for analysis from No 2 and No 6 Sites and the Communal Site.

This group participated in a raid over Germany this morning, involving the Ruhr Valley industries. Returning ships reported heavy flak, but weak fighter attack and extremely cold weather. Temperatures of –38 degrees indicated at briefing was said to have been reached, and 16 crew members have frost bite of the fingers and/or toes; from 1st to 2nd degree. No severe or necessarily partial froze the right side of one man's neck, sustaining 2nd degree burns. No other injuries were reported.

Three ships failed to return:

MIA 532nd T/42-5847

Moon, Theodore D.	2nd Lt	POW	Hamer, James W.	2nd Lt	POW
Pritz, Stephen J.	2nd Lt	POW	McNichol, Bernard	2nd Lt	POW
Ernharth, John F.	T/Sgt	POW	Fleming, Michael	T/Sgt	POW
Wheeler, John L.	S/Sgt	POW	Alsheimer, Wilbur	S/Sgt	POW
Wood, Howard F.	S/Sgt	POW	Mattfield, Paul A.	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 534th D/42-29954

Wroblicka, William	1st Lt	POW	Neeley, Claude E.	2nd Lt	POW
Harris, David E.	2nd Lt	POW	Schneider, Lester	2nd Lt	POW
Labusheivicz, Joseph	S/Sgt	POW	Smith, Fred M.	S/sgt	KIA
Jonson, Edwin M.	S/Sgt	KIA	Kratzner, John L.	S/Sgt	KIA
Phelan, John C.	Sgt	KIA	Cecil, Walter R.	Sgt	KIA

MIA 535th N/42-29950

Evans, Fred G.	F/O	KIA	Robbins, Joseph K.	F/O	POW
Lander, John F.	2nd Lt	POW	Watkins, Clarence	2nd Lt	POW
Dodge, Charles G.	T/Sgt	KIA	Kern, Herbert R.	S/Sgt	KIA
Messler, Walter V.	S/Sgt	KIA	Miller, Charles C.	S/Sgt	KIA
Doll, Stuart A.	S/Sgt	POW	Hackett, Kenneth L.	S/Sgt	POW

"Milan Fired in Heavy Raid; U.S. Fliers Hit Nazi Plants," on page 6 of the link

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3054011/posts?page=4>

Milan Fired in Heavy Raid; U. S. Fliers Hit Nazi Plants

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, Friday Aug. 13—Following an air raid alarm in northern Italy at 11:27 o'clock last night, frontier observers from hilltop vantage points only about thirty-seven air miles from Milan reported early this morning that one of the heaviest attacks against that Italian city yet witnessed was under way.

Anti-aircraft batteries were putting up a "wall of steel" against the invaders, who, nevertheless, were pressing home their attack. Two raiders were reported to have crashed in flames.

Dropping incendiaries and block-busters, the vibrations of which could be felt on the frontier, the raiders seemed to be concentrating once again on the northeastern suburbs, where several large fires were visible.

LONDON, Aug. 12 (AP)—A powerful fleet of United States Flying Fortresses, flying close to stratosphere level at 45 degrees below zero, blasted a fifty-five-mile stretch of the Ruhr and the Rhineland today in raids on synthetic oil factories and other picked targets.

[Government monitors in New York reported that the German-controlled Allouis and Calais radio stations in France went off the air late last night. The Berlin Deutschlandsender and the Paris radio followed, and the clandestine European station Atlantique broadcast a warning in German that Allied planes were over the Reich again.

shot down more than twenty of the swarms of enemy planes that tried to fight them off. The hundreds of American, Canadian and British fighter planes that escorted the bombers shot down at least three more.

Brig. Gen. Robert B. Williams, 41, of Albany, Tex., commanding the heavy bombardment wing, made the flight in person.

While the Fortresses were doing their big stuff, American Marauder medium bombers, attacked the German airdrome at Poix, France, thirty-five miles inland just south of the Somme, under cover of British Spitfire fighters.

British Typhoon bombers attacked airdromes at Courtrai, Belgium, and near-by Merville, France.

Strong forces of Allied fighter planes swept across the Channel toward Boulogne tonight and returned an hour later.

By moonlight Wednesday night British and Canadian night-shift planes had ranged wide over France, the Netherlands and Belgium, attacking moving trains and railroad bridges and laying mines in enemy waters. Rocket-like British Mosquito bombers attacked the Ruhr and the Rhineland.

Germany was first to announce the American raid on Bonn, reporting that the planes, taking advantage of clouds, had dropped bombs in the center of the city.

The big planes flew about 800 miles in all and were over enemy territory about two hours. In addition to the fighter plane resistance,

many residences as having been hit.

At least twenty-three persons were killed early today when a force of forty German raiders made the strongest Luftwaffe attack on England in several months, dropping high explosives and incendiary bombs on two towns on the southwest and south coasts.

[A German communiqué said a formation of heavy bombers raided the port of Plymouth, in the southwest, and military objectives at Bournemouth on the south coast.]

Apparently stung into some kind of retaliation for the RAF's pounding of Germany, the Luftwaffe sent about twenty planes over each town.

One German aircraft was destroyed, the Home Security Ministry said.

The Ministry announced that 167 civilians were killed, or missing and believed killed, and 210 were injured and detained in hospitals as a result of raids on the United Kingdom in July.

SAN LORENZO HOLDS MASS

Service in Rome Is Held Proof Italians Exaggerated Damage

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

BERNE, Switzerland, Aug. 12—Proof of exaggeration of Italian claims to the extent of damage inflicted on the Basilica San Lorenzo fuori le Mura was forthcoming in an announcement from the Vatican today that on Aug. 10, name day of San Lorenzo, mass was celebrated in the church, which had its damaged roof covered with tarpaulins. The services were conducted by Mgr. Carlo Respighi, Prefect of Apostolic Ceremonies, assisted by Mgr. Giacomo Ossola, Apostolic Vicar of Gimma, Ethiopia, who was formerly parish priest of San Lorenzo.

The services were held in the chapel of the saint, where his remains are buried. The Vatican announced that religious services will continue regularly henceforth dur-



242nd Medical Diary :- 13th August – The Wing Surgeon was called and advised of particulars regarding the diarrhea, which was causing so much trouble with combat crews. Explanation of efforts made and findings were reported. Requests for any suggestions brought promises of help.

Capt Sutton, Eighth AF Medical Inspector and Maj R.R. Cleland, 60HQ, S.O.S., Chief Surgeons office, arrived about 15.00 hrs. After talking over the entire situation, and inspection was made of the Consolidated and Combat Messes. It was of the opinion of the consultants that several factors were involved.

Firstly, the problem is one of food. This involves the use of leftovers, a questionable condition, uncleanliness of mess personnel, dirty clothes, improper disposal of wastes, and improper washing of dishes and utensils. Secondly, the water is not above suspicion but not believed to be the prime factor.

The following recommendations are being made:-

1. Installation of filtration and chlorination systems.
2. Opening of additional rooms to relieve congestion of the Consolidated Mess.
3. Screening of storage rooms in all messes.
4. Delivery of meat to base six times a week.
5. Placing of a water softener in Consolidated Mess in operation. Use of soda crystals and soap powder in washing dishes and utensils.
6. Ample, clean clothing for mess personnel.
7. Maintenance of high standard of personal cleanliness of mess personnel.
8. Proper use and/or disposal of wastes.
9. Feces exams for all food handlers.

14 August – About 14.00 hrs Capt Sutton and Major Cleland called per 'phone, stating they had reports of our last water sample which was 'Bad' but no comparison of previous reports was given. As an emergency measure chlorination by addition of bleaching powder to the water was recommended. This was to be done by adding about 3 pounds per day on basis of 60,000 gallon tank, to be added in three operations throughout the day, one pound in

each side at 06.00 hrs, 12.00 hrs and 20.00 hrs. One pound was placed in each side of the tank at 16.15 hrs.

Mission #18 – Brussels, Belgium 15th August

22 planes from the Group were credited with missions. 532nd-3, 533rd-8, 534th-5 (with one aborted at Ridgewell), 535th-6. All aircraft returned safely. The 534th diary said cloud cover caused all their aircraft to return with their bombs.

242nd Medical Diary :- 15th August – A chlorine testing set is not available at this station, hence no estimate of the chlorine content can be made. Several times during the day samples of water were taken at various sites, and the odor of chlorine was present. The quantity was not sufficient to produce noticeable alteration of taste.

The group participated in an air raid this afternoon late, over an aircraft works just outside Brussels, Belgium. 23 planes took off, two aborted, and 21 returned. Bombs were not dropped, due to poor visibility.

Mission #19 – Paris, France 16th August

6 aircraft participated on the mission to Le Bourget from each of the 532nd, 533rd and 534th. The 535th sent only 2, but the bombardier of one, Lt. Becker, got a confirmed shoot-down of an enemy aircraft.

"Le Bourget, as an important Nazi Air Force administrative and supply base, seven miles from the center of Paris, was the principal American target. It was heavily attacked with 'good bombing results,' said a joint American-British communique."

242nd Medical Diary :- 16th August – The group participated in a raid over enemy territory, bombing an aircraft installation near Paris. 20 planes took off, none aborted and all returned. Crew members reported a good pattern over the target area.

"Big Raids Hit Nazi Airfields; Fortresses Bomb Le Bourget," on page 4 of the link.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3055757/posts?page=6>

See photo of Le Bourget bombing, page 4 of the link.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3058289/posts?page=5>

Big Raids Hit Nazi Airfields; Fortresses Bomb Le Bourget

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Tuesday, Aug. 17—The Bomber Command of the United States Eighth Air Force wrote a thunderous finale to its first year of combat operations yesterday when large formations of its Flying Fortresses and Marauder medium bombers hammered German airfields across northern France in one of the greatest days of Allied air offensive of the war.

Last night, when the streets of London still echoed with the drone of Allied planes going overhead, the onslaught had continued for twenty-four hours. About twenty Nazi air bases in western Europe, where two-thirds of the Luftwaffe's fighters and a third of its bombers are concentrated, had been attacked in strength.

The Flying Fortresses, which blasted six Nazi fighter bases Sunday, ripped up three more with high-explosive bombs yesterday. The great Le Bourget airfield at Paris, a main Luftwaffe center, was one of those attacked.

Royal Air Force Bostons and the American Marauders maintained the attacks late into the evening.

The Bostons, one of them flying so low the pilot dodged chimneys, bombed the large steel works at Denain near Valenciennes. The United States medium bombers plowed up the enemy air base at Beaumont le Rouge and hit at other important targets.

Strong forces of Typhoons and Spitfires escorted the Allied bomber formations.

At least thirty-nine German planes were destroyed by the daylight bombers, which included RAF Venturas and their escorts of

American, British, Dominion and

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other Allied fighters. The Allies lost three Flying Fortresses, seven medium or fighter bombers and ten fighters yesterday.

The day's operations followed up RAF blows Sunday night ranging from Milan to Berlin.

British Mosquito bombers made the Berlin attack, the seventieth raid of the war on the German capital. The pilots reported meeting hot anti-aircraft fire.

RAF Fighter Command planes struck at Nazi airfields and rail targets in France and the Low Countries during Sunday night.

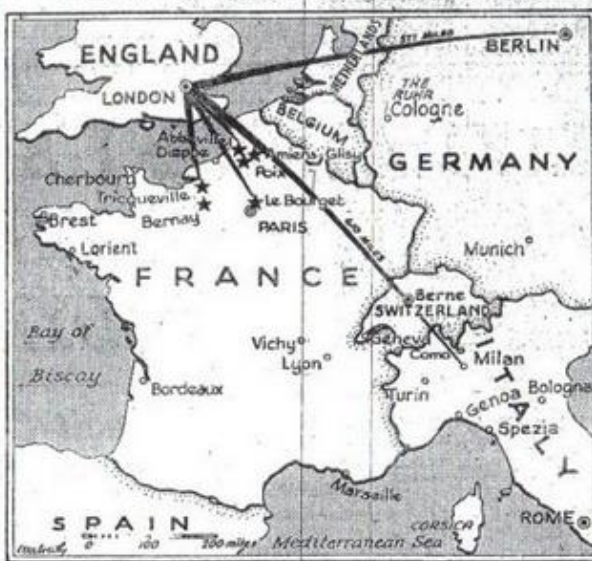
[The Nazis replied Sunday night with an assault against an English south coast town that a Berlin radio broadcast identified as Portsmouth. The Associated Press reported.

While this was the heaviest German assault delivered on the town in two years, the Germans paid a high price, losing six of some twenty-five raiders sent over Britain.

Last night an air raid alarm sounded in London just before midnight and gunfire was heard from outlying districts as German planes were reported over the Thames Estuary. The all-clear sounded soon afterward. It was London's first night alert since July 29.]

The solid success of yesterday's Allied aerial operations from Britain comes as the climax of a year in which the Bomber Command of

PUNISHING AIR BLOWS DEALT TO AXIS



AUG. 17, 1943

Alarms were sounded last night in northern Italy after the city of Milan had undergone three raids in four nights. At the other end of the Axis, Mosquito bombers harassed Berlin. An interesting, perhaps significant, development of the last two days has been the smashing attacks, led by Flying Fortresses, on advanced air fields in western Europe. Fields that were raided yesterday by Allied planes are indicated on the map by stars.

the Eighth Air Force not only dealt crippling blows to enemy targets but cut into his fighter force and established the position of the Flying Fortress as a dominant day air weapon on the western front.

Statistically the record is impressive. Attacking on an average of once every four days, the American bombers have dropped 15,722 tons of missiles during eighty-two missions against German targets grouped under four principal headings—submarine, Luftwaffe, war industry and transportation.

During the year 1,728 Nazi planes were destroyed, with 671 more possibly shot down and 670

damaged. This was accomplished for the loss of 419 American bombers.

The Bomber Command a year ago was headed by Major Gen. Ira C. Eaker, then a brigadier general, who now is chief of the Eighth Air Force. Brig. Gen. Frederick L. Anderson Jr. now heads the bombers.

Yesterday's attacks followed the pattern laid down in the air operations of the past year.

The Thunderbolts escorting the heavy bombers in the raid on Le Bourget destroyed seventeen Nazi planes while the Fortress gunners knocked down twenty more.

Le Bourget, as an important



Mission #20 – Schweinfurt, Germany 17th August

Of 25 aircraft that reached Germany (one aborted early) 10 were lost to German fighters. Another (Lt. Darrow of the 532nd) ditched in the Channel and all the crew were rescued.

MIA crews: 532nd – Jarvis and Painter, 533rd – Atkinson and Hudson, 534th – Simpson, Wright, King, and Fortner, 535th – Smith and Disbrow.

From the 535th diary:

"Sgt Bathrick heroically stuck to his guns after a 20mm shell exploded outside his ball turret, wounding him seriously. He refused to come up into the waist for treatment and eventually shot down the German fighter whose shell had wounded him. He remained in his turret until "Tinker Toy", his Fort, was out of fighter danger, even though his ammunition had been exhausted long before that time. Until he was sure all danger to the ship and crew was past, Sgt Bathrick continued to swing his empty guns at attacking e/a, thus disguising the fact that the weapons were actually "dead". He was hospitalised at the 121st General Hospital, Braintree, Essex, today."

242nd Medical Diary :- 17th August – The group took part in a raid over enemy territory, in this case going to Schweinfurt, the deepest raid over German territory so far. Flak was reported as light but fighter opposition extremely heavy; 26 planes took off, one aborted and 11 failed to return. One ship ditched in the North Sea and the crew subsequently rescued. Moral was particularly low this evening on return, particularly as soon as stories were compared and total losses realized.

MIA 532nd BS -/42-29731

Jarvis, Leo	1st Lt	POW	Nancinelli, Eugene	2nd Lt	POW
Riley, Richard F.	1st Lt	POW	Lockhart, William	2nd Lt	POW
Loren, Alg'n (534th)	T/Sgt	POW	Beynand, Harold	S/Sgt	POW
Persinger, Charles L.	S/Sgt	POW	Stecher, Harry L.	S/Sgt	POW
Grossman, Herman E.	S/Sgt	POW	Roehl, James E.	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 532nd V/42-30140

Painter, Jack B.	1st Lt	KIA	Nelson, Robert E.	1st Lt	EVD
Keays, William J.	2nd Lt	POW	Duke, Lloyd L.	2nd Lt	POW
Kowalski, Matthew B.	S/Sgt	POW	Balentine, Wm. C.	S/Sgt	POW
Kellogg, Allen P.	S/Sgt	POW	Genz, Raymond A.	S/Sgt	EVD
Whitman, Norman G.	S/Sgt	POW	Ragan, Everett B.	2nd Lt	POW
Mizell, James C..	S/Sgt	EVD			

MIA 533rd BS T/42-3092

Hudson, James C.	F/O	POW	Grant, William R.	2nd Lt	POW
Delaney, Ronald T.	2nd Lt	POW	Robinson, Kenneth E	2nd Lt	KIA
Vaughn, Edward R.	T/Sgt	POW	Pinsky, David	T/Sgt	POW
Vaughn, John M.	S/Sgt	POW	Wakefield, James A.	S/Sgt	POW
Thueson, Ford W.	S/Sgt	POW	Doyle, George A.	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 533rd X/42-29983

Atkinson, Challen P.	1st Lt	KIA	Dulberger, Murray	2nd Lt	POW
Frieberger, Fred	2nd Lt	POW	Marks, Julian M.	2nd Lt	POW
Hanna, Ricahrd J.	T/Sgt	POW	Kaska, Stanley C.	T/Sgt	POW
McGoldrick, James C.	S/Sgt	KIA	Katsarelis, Peter A.	S/Sgt	POW
Goss, Hubert A.	S/Sgt	POW	Hyk, John	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 534th F/42-29978

King, Reinhardt M.	1st Lt	POW	Peeples, Henry C.	1st Lt	POW
McGlynn, Edward S.	2nd Lt	POW	Petrillo, Francis A.	1st Lt	POW
Floura, Cecil L.	S/Sgt	POW	Unger, Maynard W.	T/Sgt	POW
Pollard, Albert A.	S/Sgt	POW	Mann, Julius D.	S/Sgt	POW
Dwyer, Robert E.	S/Sgt	POW	Lyons, Joseph R.	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 534th H/42-30028

Wright, Neil H.	2nd Lt	POW	Rogers, Jack W.	2nd Lt	POW
Haverkamp, Cliff. M.	2nd Lt	POW	Stracotenko, John M.	2nd Lt	POW
Allen, Earl R.	T/Sgt	POW	Sowell, Walter F.	S/Sgt	POW
Egliski, Paul J.	Sgt	POW	Bingenheimer, Ralph	S/Sgt	POW
Hill, James R.	S/Sgt	POW	St Michael, Wilfred	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 534th G/42-3227

Forkner, Hamden L.	1st Lt	EVD	Kelly, Joseph A.	2nd Lt	POW
Hyatt, Robert E.	2nd Lt	POW	Vincent, Edwin L.	1st Lt	POW
Shipe, Paul F.	S/Sgt	EVD	Shattuck, Chester E.	S/Sgt	POW
Stease, Ralph E.	S/Sgt	POW	Sobelewski, Edward	S/Sgt	EVD
Horton, Harry H.	S/Sgt	EVD	Chew, Lin F.	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 534th L/42-30245

Simpson, Weldon	1st Lt	KIA	Agler, Eldon H.	2nd Lt	POW
Mee, William H.	1st Lt	POW	Roraback, Douglas	2nd Lt	EVD
Warwick, Russell L.	T/Sgt	POW	Edwards, Robert L.	S/Sgt	POW
Beech, Frank M.	S/Sgt	POW	Gregory, Paul A.	S/Sgt	POW
Bassinger, Robin L.	S/Sgt	POW	Beasley, Chester J.	S/Sgt	POW

MIA 535th V/42-3225

Disbrow, Loren C.	1st Lt	POW	Chapin, Allen J.	2nd Lt	POW
Jones, David R.	2nd Lt	POW	Gaydos, George	2nd Lt	POW
Bruzewski, Otto F.	T/Sgt	EVD	Moore, Thomas R.	T/Sgt	EVD
Walters, Joseph J.	S/Sgt	EVD	Moulton, John H.	S/Sgt	POW
King, Ernest C.	S/Sgt	POW	Kiniklis, W. P	S/Sgt	EVD

MIA 535th M/42-3220

Smith, Harry M.	1st Lt	POW	Hawkins, Samuel J.	2nd Lt	POW
Noonan, John P.	2nd Lt	POW	Quinn, Lloyd W.	2nd Lt	POW
Lischke, Judd	S/Sgt	POW	Sylvester, Tony A.	T/Sgt	POW
Jupin, John	S/Sgt	POW	Elsberry, John V.	S/Sgt	POW
Blake, Harold L.	S/Sgt	POW	Colborn, Robert L.	S/Sgt	POW

Personnel in the ditched crew were uninjured, and picked up after about one hour, 15 minutes, their aircraft, 532nd -/42-29735, having sunk. They were: F/O George Darrow; 2nd Lt John Howcroft; 2nd Lt Ralph Waldman; 2nd Lt Philip Rofosa; S/Sgt Carl Hartnett; T/Sgt Jack Kaufman; S/Sgt Clarence Jones; S/Sgt James Baker; S/Sgt Richard Morrison; S/Sgt Paul Howard.

"Three formations of Flying Fortresses, described as the largest forces yet to make a daylight attack on Germany, left here and blasted Regensburg in the southeastern Reich, where Messerschmitt fighters are built, and Schweinfurt, sixty miles east of Frankfurt on the Main, which produces more than half of Germany's total output of ball bearings. . . "

"Thirty-six heavy bombers and five fighters of the American forces were missing after the operations, United States Army headquarters here announced. . . ."

"U.S. Planes in Shuttle Blow Attack Nazi Fighter Factory," on page 6 of the link

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airfields at Istres and Salon in southern France; airfields in the Low Countries and France (6).

U. S. Planes in Shuttle Blow Attack Nazi Fighter Factory

Bombers From Britain Strike at Regensburg, Schweinfurt—Fortresses From Africa Hit Near Marseille—RAF at Turin Again

By **FREDERICK GRAHAM**
By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 18—The United States heavy bomber offensive against Germany was broadened to a shuttle service with final landing in North Africa yesterday on the first anniversary of the Eighth Air Force's initial attack against occupied Europe.

Three formations of Flying Fortresses, described as the largest forces yet to make a daylight attack on Germany, left here and blasted Regensburg in the southeastern Reich, where Messerschmitt fighters are built, and Schweinfurt, sixty miles east of Frankfurt on the Main, which produces more than half of Germany's total output of ball bearings.

The first formation turned south after bombing Regensburg and crossed the Alps to North African bases for a trip of more than 1,400 miles.

The other two formations wheeled after completing their bombing runs at Schweinfurt and returned to Britain for round-trip flights of about 1,200 miles. They battled the stiffest Nazi fighter opposition yet encountered.

Thirty-six heavy bombers and five fighters of the American forces were missing after the operations, United States Army headquarters here announced. The Fortress gunners and escort planes that flew part way shot down at least thirty-three Nazi fighters.

The Regensburg-Schweinfurt attacks—the deepest penetration yet by American bombers into Germany—were part of all-day bombing assaults against Nazi-held Europe that included the first raids by American Flying Fortresses of the Allied North African Command over France.

The bombers from Mediterranean bases pounded enemy airfields at Istres le Tube and Salon, near Marseilles.

These bombing raids on the southern face of Adolf Hitler's European fortress and the shuttle service from Britain must sound ominous notes for the Germans, for they mean that the thin, tightly stretched Luftwaffe from now on must guard the back as well as the front door to Germany proper.

In the Regensburg shuttle raid the Eighth Air Force followed tactics adopted by the Royal Air Force in an attack from Britain on Spezia, Italy, the night of June

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"In the Regensburg raid and a companion attack on Schweinfurt, sixty miles east of Frankfurt on the Main, reports indicated, more than 100 of the German fighters were shot down [Berlin claimed fifty-eight American bombers were downed over Germany on Tuesday.]"

"Record Day in Air," the main subject of which is an RAF raid on Peenemuende, on page 2 of the link.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3056260/posts?page=5>

RECORD DAY IN AIR

3,000 Planes Smash 16 Targets in Non-Stop Attrition Drive

BERLIN RAIDED 71ST TIME

Other Blows Range From Baltic to France—New Night Raids in Europe Indicated

By The United Press.
LONDON, Thursday, Aug. 19—Royal Air Force and Canadian bombers attacked targets in Germany Tuesday night, singling out a secret German research and development plant on the Baltic coast for a 1,500-ton attack, and coast observers reported new streams of bombers beating steadily toward Europe last night on routes usually taken to Germany. Mosquito bombers gave Berlin its seventy-first raid of the war Tuesday night, topping off a twenty-four-hour non-stop attack that probably set a record in air war history.

The German mystery plant, hidden in a four-and-a-half-square-mile patch of woods at Peenemuende, in northeastern Germany, was ripped open by more than 1,500 tons of high explosives and incendiaries showered down by the RAF and RCAF bombers from a low level.

Nearly 3,000 British, American and Canadian planes carried out sixteen separate operations, closely

sixteen separate operations, closely coordinated, in the twenty-four-hour period at a price of thirty-six American and forty-one RAF heavy bombers in two major operations alone.

Northern Airdromes Attacked

Today American Marauder medium bombers, under an escort of British, Canadian and other Allied Spitfire fighters, maintained the attack by raiding German airdromes at Woensdrecht, the Netherlands, and Lille, France.

The raids were a complex pattern in Allied plans to cripple German industry from the first manufacturing processes to the finished products, to soften the path for the opening of a new front in

western Europe and to drain the blood from the German fighter air force.

[Government monitors reported that the Allouis and Paris radio stations shut down last night, indicating that Allied bombers might be raiding the Continent for the fifth straight night. An air alert in Switzerland indicated raids in the Lake Constance area of Germany, according to a Rome broadcast heard by the Columbia Broadcasting System. A large force of Allied bombers passed over Hungary from south to west, evidently bound for Austria, Reuter reported.]

The great four-motored bombers of the RAF, in their night raid, attacked heavily in bright moonlight the research factory at Peenemuende, sixty miles northwest of Stettin on the Bay of Pomerania at the estuary of the Peene River. The town, never before attacked, is the site of the biggest German research and development station, specializing in scientific work on aircraft radio-location and armament.

Loss of Bombers Heavy

Enemy fighters battled the raiders along a great part of their 1,200-mile round trip flight, and the forty-one bombers reported missing represented the greatest RAF loss since the heavy raid on Krefeld on June 21, when forty-four planes were lost.

An undisclosed number of German night fighters were shot down by the raiding force and RAF quarters indicated that the importance of the targets at Peenemuende justified the heavy losses sustained.

Supporting the main attack, speedy Mosquito bombers raided Berlin for the fourth time in the last five nights and RAF intruder

last five nights and RAF intruder planes stabbed at airfields and railway targets in France, the Low

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Countries and northwest Germany. Tuesday's raids by the United States Eighth Air Force were the greatest yet carried out by American fliers. An RAF commentator revealed that the American Flying Fortresses at Regensburg, fifty-five miles southeast of Nuremberg, heavily damaged at least four big buildings and six main shops, five of them severely, in what he called a magnificent raid on a major Messerschmitt aircraft factory.

Returning Fortress crews said they had demolished the factory and an adjacent assembly plant, one of the largest units of its kind

in Europe, which produced about 200 planes a month—probably one-fourth of Germany's single-engined fighter output.

In the Regensburg raid and a companion attack on Schweinfurt, sixty miles east of Frankfurt on the Main, reports indicated, more than 100 of the clouds of German fighters were shot down. [Berlin claimed fifty-eight American bombers were downed over Germany on Tuesday.]

The American Marauder planes, in their attacks on Netherland and French airdromes, met heavy anti-aircraft fire, but relatively light fighter opposition. The bombers returned without loss and only one Allied fighter was lost.

50 Nazi Planes Over Britain

About fifty German raiders participated in scattered air attacks on Britain last night, the most extensive in months. Bombs were dropped on six localities in eastern and southern England.

In no case was the attack concentrated, however, and the enemy planes appear to have scattered to create the impression of greater numbers. About half of the Nazi planes were long-range bombers and the others were fighter-bombers.

A communiqué said damage was slight and there were some casualties, none fatal. Later, however, it was learned that a woman and her son were killed when a bomb struck their home. Seven Nazi planes were shot down during the raids and three more were destroyed near their bases in France.

British-American air forces based in Britain and Africa have carried out an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 sorties against the Axis during the last twenty-four hours in a series of attacks that demonstrated the Allies' ability to attack virtually any point in Europe, an RAF commentator revealed.

In July, he said, the RAF Bomber Command carried out nearly twice the number of sorties as during the same month last year and dropped 10,000 more tons of bombs for a loss of only eleven more planes. Personnel losses per bomb dropped were just half those of

planes. Personnel losses per bomb dropped were just half those of last year.

Devers Lauds U. S. Fliers

LONDON, Aug. 18 (AP)—In a letter commending the United States Eighth Air Force on the first anniversary of operations against the Axis, Lieut. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, commander of United States forces in the European theatre, declared today that the record of 4.4 enemy planes destroyed for the loss of each one of ours was "a record of conspicuous achievement."

Nazis Staggering, Spaatz Says ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN NORTH AFRICA, Aug. 18 (AP)—

The German Air Force "is staggering," Lieut. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz declared in an address to American Flying Fortress crews returning from their bombings of French air-

fields yesterday north of Marseille.

The commander of the Northwest African Air Forces credited American daylight precision bombing with part of the decline of the German Air Force. "This, he said, 'has revolutionized warfare.'"

Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle, commanding the strategic force of General Spaatz's Northwest African Force, told the Fortress crews that their record of dropping more than 13,000,000 pounds of bombs on more than 153 targets and destroying 262 enemy aircraft in the air and hundreds more on the ground "beats the record of any heavy bomb group in any theatre of war."

La Scala Opera Destroyed

The Rome radio reported yesterday in a broadcast recorded by The Associated Press an official Italian announcement that the celebrated La Scala Opera House in Milan was destroyed during the British air raid Sunday.

Built in 1778 on the site of a church, the Teatro Della Scala seated 3,800 spectators and had an interesting museum.

The Rome broadcast said "the ruins that now replace the famous theatre, together with the devastation of neighboring historic buildings, form such a terribly sad scenery that one feels civilization itself has collapsed."

RAID SMASHED U-BOAT BASE

Fortresses' Blow at Trondheim Undid Three-Year Nazi Work

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Aug. 18—Three and a half years of work on the German U-boat base at Trondheim by Norwegian and foreign workers was undone in less than ten minutes by the American air raid on Trondheim on July 24, according to eyewitness reports reaching here.

The only section left undamaged within the target area was the big concrete U-boat dock, which can hold six submarines. However, it is difficult for the Germans to find any use for this "garage." Small workshops and other buildings have been entirely destroyed.

Farther away, at Strindheim, the German depot and some barracks were destroyed. In addition, three Norwegian houses were partly destroyed by fire. In the harbor a German floating dock, a destroyer, a U-boat, four steam tugs and 100 other German ships were sunk or heavily damaged.

The Norwegian civilian population has recorded relatively few casualties. According to reports, seven Norwegian civilians were killed. German casualties were more numerous. Most of thirty-five German officers who were in the house of the Trondheim Spirit Company were killed, among them the German city commander. A great number of German and foreign workers also were killed, but

the figures have been kept secret. The weather favored the attack. The alarm was given ten to twelve minutes before the first bombs fell. The planes came in two formations, each containing twenty-one. The Germans put smoke screens over the town, which caused difficulties for the German anti-aircraft batteries.

"American Flying Fortresses and their escorting Thunderbolts destroyed 307 German fighters in the twin raids on Regensburg and Schweinfurt, Germany, and the heavy assaults cost fifty-nine of the B-17 planes, a record bomber loss for an Allied air operation, United States Army Headquarters here announced tonight."

"307 Nazi Fighters Bag of U.S. Raiders," on page 5 of the link

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3060564/posts?page=4>

307 NAZI FIGHTERS BAG OF U. S. RAIDERS

**Regensburg-Schweinfurt Score
on Aug. 17, With Loss of 59
Fortresses, Announced**

By The United Press.

LONDON, Aug. 29—American Flying Fortresses and their escorting Thunderbolts destroyed 307 German fighters in the twin raids on Regensburg and Schweinfurt, Germany, on Aug. 17, and the heavy assaults cost fifty-nine of the B-17 planes, a record bomber loss for an Allied air operation, United States Army Headquarters here announced tonight.

The Fortresses that raided Regensburg, bombing a big Messerschmitt factory there and going on to North African bases in the first shuttle run of the United States Eighth Air Force, destroyed 140 enemy fighters.

The bombers that went to Schweinfurt, wrecked a bearings plant and returned to Britain, shot down 147 Nazi defense planes, as was reported last week.

Twenty more German fighters

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were destroyed by the P-47 Thunderbolts that escorted the formations to the German border on the way out and picked up the Schweinfurt raiders on their return flight. Spitfires of the Royal Air Force, which joined in the escort, downed thirteen additional Nazi planes, a communiqué at the time indicated.]

Twenty-three Fortresses were lost from the flight that bombed Regensburg, in the southeastern Reich. Thirty-six of the B-17s—a record number of American bombers lost over a single target—were missing after the raid at Schweinfurt, which is also in south Germany about sixty miles east of Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

By daylight today British and Canadian fighters attacked railway and canal targets in France and northwestern Germany, damaging several locomotives and barges. A Canadian Mustang destroyed one enemy fighter. One British plane was reported missing on patrol.

The RAF's heavy night bombers, grounded over Saturday night, were believed marshalling for another blow when conditions were

ripe, perhaps renewing the heralded battle of Berlin with another massive raid.

Biggest RAF Loss on Berlin Raid

In reference to the Regensburg-Schweinfurt raid figures, the previous record bomber toll was suffered by the RAF, which lost fifty-eight four-motored Lancasters, Stirlings and Halifaxes from an estimated 700 that blasted Berlin last Monday night.

The official figure of 307 German fighters destroyed by the Fortresses and Thunderbolts in the raids on Regensburg and Schweinfurt was regarded as conservative. Crews of the Fortresses attacking Regensburg claimed more than 300 of the foe shot down.

It was emphasized that the official total of enemy planes destroyed did not include the victims of the fifty-nine Fortresses lost on the twin raids. Experts noted that the gun-bristling B-17's customarily took a heavy toll from the enemy fighters that swarmed in for the kill against crippled Fortresses.

The previous record bag of enemy fighters by American bombers was the eighty-seven Nazis destroyed by Fortresses on June 11 in raids on Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven.

The tremendous enemy fighter toll taken by the Regensburg-Schweinfurt raiders, considered by Allied experts as a smashing victory despite the loss of fifty-nine bombers, was achieved on the first birthday of the Eighth Air Force. On Aug. 17, 1942, a dozen Fortresses raided Rouen in the first European operation of the Eighth Bomber Command.

The Regensburg-Schweinfurt attacks marked the deepest penetration of Germany by American bombers. The size of the participating formations was not announced, but they were described as the largest bomber forces ever to make a daylight attack on Europe.

Regensburg Cost 200 U. S. Airmen

LONDON, Aug. 29 (AP)—Commenting today on the Regensburg operation, Brig. Gen. Frederick L. Anderson, commanding the Eighth Bomber Command, said:

"Our bomber crews destroyed one of Germany's most important aircraft factories, one which had a potential production of more than 1,000 fighters over the next six months.

"They have also destroyed 140 of the enemy's first-line operational fighter planes in addition to the number probably destroyed or damaged. This was achieved at a cost of twenty-three bombers and less than 200 men listed as missing in action.

"It was a great accomplishment."

The announced toll of Nazi planes destroyed did not include a number of newly completed enemy

242nd Medical Diary :- 18th August – F/O Darrow and crew returned to this station after being rescued from their ditching. All appeared to be in good shape and were certainly being plied with questions from every side.

Capt Dosier, MC, epidemiologist from Surgeons Office, S.O.S., arrived at this station during the morning. He was conducted through the Consolidated mess by Lt. Col. Read, and arrived at the hospital just before noon. His appearance, it seems, was due to request from the Chief Surgeons Office, S.O.S., for help with our diarrhea outbreak.

The entire past history, i.e., outbreaks, food and water problems, mess halls, food handlers, etc., was re-hashed. The water tank and well area was inspected. The Combat Mess was done over, and the following difficulties noted: (a) wiping silverware with dishcloths; (b) Handling food with hands when unnecessary, (c) Dirty tables in kitchen and in meat room.

The Consolidated Mess was done over thoroughly and thought to be lacking in several aspects. Deficiencies noted: (a) Dirty floors; (b) Dirty tables in kitchen, mess halls and meat room; (c) washing of mess tables with chlorine solution instead of hot, soapy water; (d) Cooks without shaves; (e) Dirty and long fingernails in food handling in more than half those present; (f) Delay in emptying of waste, causing flies to congregate; (g) Dirty clothes on mess personnel.

Capt Dosier feels the problem is not one of water, but of mess hall trouble in which the features mentioned in the preceding paragraph are involved. He does not explain, however, the discrepancy between the reports from the 1st Medical Laboratory which shows Coli-Acrogenes, and those from 121st Station Hospital which show none.

No operational mission today as most crews are on pass.

Mission #21 – Gilze Rijen, Holland 19th August

9 aircraft participated on the attack on the airfield in Holland. One plane and crew failed to return (1st Lt. Orlando Koenig, 535th BS).

242nd Medical Diary :- 19th August – The group participated in a raid over enemy territory late this afternoon presumably over Holland. Seven ships were sent out, one aborted, and one, with a mixed crew, failed to return. There were no other injuries.

The loss of this latest ship seems to have the surprising effect on the combat crewmen, presumably because it was supposed to be an easy one. The line of reasoning, I presume is to the effect that if losses can be sustained on the simple ones, what chances has anyone on the others.

MIA 533rd /42-3010 (+ 535th BS)

Koenig, Orlando H. +	1st Lt	POW	Mangapan, Joseph L.	2nd Lt	POW
Spivey, Leonard L. +	1st Lt	POW	O'Loughlin, Edwd.	2nd Lt	POW
Perkins, Leo I. +	T/Sgt	POW	Everett, Arthur L. +	S/Sgt	KIA
Buran, Walter J. +	S/Sgt	KIA	Chester, Russell	T/Sgt	POW
Jones, Wilbert G. +	S/Sgt	KIA	Sabourin, Eugene A.	S/Sgt	KIA

H2H powder was increased $\frac{3}{4}\%$ in each side of the tank three times a day on August 18. No testing set is available and it could not be tested as scheduled in samples. The additional supply produced the desired results.



"During the [six day] period 123 German fighters of various types were shot down over their own fields, the Continental coast and the English Channel. The Allied losses were remarkably low for the damage done to enemy installations and planes. Eight Fortresses, two fighter-bombers and twenty-three fighters were lost by the RAF and the United States Eighth Air Force."

From "RAF's Day Bombers Cut Nazi Strength," on page 6 of the link. Mission #20 to Paris (Le Bourget) is also included in this article. <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3057004/posts?page=6>

"[American Flying Fortresses again attacked airfields in the Netherlands yesterday and they and escorting fighters shot down thirty-four enemy fighters . . .]"

From "Softening of Reich Called Above 50%," page 5 of the link. See also Hanson W. Baldwin's column on page 11, in which he contradicts some of the first article.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3056571/posts?page=5>

SOFTENING OF REICH CALLED ABOVE 50%

Pre-Invasion Bombings Are
Analyzed — Airfields Hit
Again—Fortress Victory

By RAYMOND DANIELL

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON, Aug. 19.—The job of softening up Germany from the air for a land invasion is more than half done. The second half of the job can be completed more rapidly than the first, for what has been arithmetical progression becomes geometric as the devastation spreads.

That means that preparations for an invasion of the Continent have progressed ahead of schedule and that what was regarded as a possible operation for 1944 is now held to be feasible this year in military circles.

[American Flying Fortresses again attacked airfields in the Netherlands yesterday and they and escorting fighters shot down thirty-four enemy fighters, while United States Army Marauders and RAF Mitchells battered airfields at Poix and Amiens-Gilly, in France, an Associated Press dispatch from London disclosed. Related reports on the Flying Fortress raid on the Schweinfurt

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ball-bearing plants last Tuesday said at least ninety-five enemy fighters were shot down.]

The battle of the Ruhr has been won. Its factories are idle or producing very little. Its population to a large degree is homeless or in flight from Allied aircraft. Hamburg, Germany's largest port, no longer exists as a city. Aside from Bremen and Berlin, which soon are to be visited by the Royal Air Force, there are no targets left in Germany that cannot be destroyed in a single night's attack on the scale of recent raids, when more than 2,000 tons of bombs were dropped.

The present bombing offensive, in which the United States Army Eighth Air Force is playing a large and important part, cannot be compared with raids earlier in the war by either side. Cologne, for instance, was raided more than 120

times, but its heart was destroyed in five heavy attacks, one by 1,000 bombers in May, 1942, when 1,500 tons of bombs were dropped, and four attacks in 1943 on a similar scale, although fewer planes were used.

Since February, 1943, when the RAF opened the Battle of the Ruhr in earnest, British bombers have made thirty attacks on German targets in which 500 to 1,000 tons were dropped. There have been sixteen attacks in which 1,000 to 1,500 tons were dropped, nine on a scale of 1,500 to 2,000 tons and eight in which more than 2,000 tons were dropped.

Thus air experts point out that the results of the bombing cannot be judged on the basis of four years of war, but on the achievements of the past few months, since heavy bombers carrying tremendous bomb loads have been massed here in sufficient numbers to test the theory that victory can be won through air power. Air theorists are counting upon the cumulative effect of bombing to complete the destruction of the German war industry in half the time it has taken to cripple it.

It is pointed out that each factory that is destroyed increases the load on those still operating, that refugees from the Ruhr complicate the housing problems in cities that have escaped raids and that future raids may be expected to cause twice as much dislocation.

Bombing on the scale to which Cologne, Hamburg, Duisburg and Dortmund have been subjected causes destruction of stores, clothing, food and similar necessities. The British know only too well how much drain air raids place upon supplies and how important was the help given by America through the British War Relief

Germany has no friends to whom she can turn, and her recent cancellation of clothing coupons indicates how serious is her plight where textiles are concerned.

50 German Planes Ragged

LONDON, Friday, Aug. 20 (AP)—American Flying Fortresses, escorted by United States and Allied fighters, hammered the German-held airfield at Vlisvogen (Flushing) and Guse-Hylen in the Netherlands late yesterday, shooting down thirty-four enemy fighters to boost the day's bag to fifty German aircraft.

A joint British-American communiqué reported "good bombing results" at the airfields, which were struck after United States Marauders and RAF Mitchells had battered enemy airfields at Poix and Amiens-Gilly, in France.

Total Allied losses for the day were set at eight fighters and four bombers. One fighter pilot was saved.

Allied Air Blitz Studied

Blows in France Believed Aimed at
Wearing Down Nazi Fighter Strength

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

The Allied air blitz and the war of nerves were keeping Hitlerian Europe in turmoil yesterday, as the Russians continued, against fierce German resistance, their slow advance.

The air attacks were interpreted by some observers as a prelude to actual Allied land invasion of the Continent of Europe. This might be true in the Mediterranean, although there is as yet little evidence of the bombardment pattern that preceded the invasion of Sicily. But the bombardments of Western Europe are plainly strategic, rather than prefatory to tactical operations. The new British restrictions in coastal areas and the shifting of a lot of troops into these areas, coupled with the heavy Allied medium-bomber and fighter-bomber attacks upon Axis airfields in France, have led many persons to assume that an invasion of the West was about to start—something that we undoubtedly hope the Nazis will think, too.

But the airfield bombardments have other purposes, and the costly raid at Dieppe a year ago yesterday showed the danger of attempting landings on so heavily defended a coast as that of Western France without a prefatory period of intensive air attack designed to destroy, neutralize, or "soften up" many of the enemy's coastal defenses.

Wearing Down Process

There has been no such period of air attack. It could, of course, be started tomorrow, but reports from Britain indicate that it has not been started yet.

The air attacks upon the German fighter bases in Western France, more concentrated recently than ever before, are rather plainly directed at wearing down the German fighter force. There are many ways of doing this. One is by shooting them down in the air—a job that the Flying Fortresses are doing at the rate of between four and five fighters shot down for every Fortress lost. Another is by attacking and strafing the fighters on the ground—something we are now doing. But with many dispersed fields, revetments,

and camouflage it is difficult to obtain decisive results this way.

There are many profitable targets at airfields, however. For instance, at La Bourget, near Paris, the maintenance shops of many of the German fighters based in France have made good targets. And, even if the raids on the enemy's airfields yield only minor results in actual planes destroyed, repeated and insistent attacks—particularly upon the fields nearest Britain—can make operation from those fields so difficult as not to be worth the effort.

This happened to several British fields in the Battle of Britain; it is happening to the Germans now.

Still An Air War

And as the German planes are forced to bases farther removed from the coast a deeper penetration by daylight bombers becomes possible, since the enemy fighters are not able to attack them until they have flown some distance inland.

The task will not be easy. The Germans have increased their fighter defense and there may be 700 to 800 enemy fighters in Western Europe. Our percentage of bomber losses has risen slowly but definitely.

But what is happening in Western Europe is still an air war.

In the Mediterranean, yesterday's air and naval attacks upon Italy seemed plainly designed to impede the communications of the Axis troops in the south. The heavy bombardment earlier this week of two German airfields near Marseille in France was, retaliatory and preventive in nature; the fields apparently harbored Nazi torpedo planes, which recently claimed to have inflicted heavy damage upon an Allied convoy in the Mediterranean.

The Russians have resumed their advance in the important Kharkov area but are still being counter-attacked heavily, and no definite victory has yet been won. The German position in the south, or indeed in Russia, is not yet gravely menaced by the Russian gains.

RAF'S DAY BOMBERS CUT NAZI STRENGTH

**Airfield Raids in West Shift to
Dornier Plant at Flushing
and Abbeville Rail Yards**

MOSQUITOS ATTACK BERLIN

**Night Blow Is Fifth Since Aug.
12—Dutch Airmen Join in
'Preparations for Invasion'**

By FREDERICK GRAHAM
By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES

LONDON, Aug. 20.—For the sixth successive day formidable squadrons of Allied bombers and fighters today blasted at the outer crust of Nazi-held Europe. The non-stop aerial hammering which has concentrated on enemy airfields was directed chiefly during the day upon a factory at Flushing, the Netherlands, that makes Dornier bomber frames and upon the railway freight yards at Abbeville, France.

The British Air Ministry announced that both targets were "bombed successfully" by Mitchells of the Royal Air Force at the cost of one plane. Its crew was safe.

Joining in the Flushing raid was a squadron of the Royal Netherlands Naval Air Service, some of whose numbers were from that city.

[The squadron has just been transferred from the RAF Coastal Command to the Bomber Command as part of "preparations for invasion," said Aneta, the official Netherlands news agency.]

Frenchmen of a Lorraine Fighting French squadron took part in the attack on the railway yards at Abbeville.

[Heavy bombers from Britain were striking over the Continent last night. The Associated Press reported from London.]

One Plane Lost Over Britain

One Plane Lost Over Britain

While the rim of enemy-occupied Europe is being softened the speedy RAF Mosquito bombers continue to harass the interior of Germany. Last night they bombed Berlin for the fifth time since Aug. 12, losing one plane in the attack.

As a sapper of German morale the Mosquito raids are probably extremely valuable. While the small twin-motored bombers are unable to drop devastating loads, they can do considerable damage, and they force Berliners to spend restless, perhaps sleepless nights.

The RAF's Fighter Command attacked airfields in France and Belgium and Nazi railway targets last night, as well as enemy shipping in the Channel. Fighters sank a German minesweeper and a motor-torpedo boat.

From Sunday up to last evening Allied daylight bombers, Flying Fortresses, medium bombers and fighter-bombers, based in Britain, made twenty-six attacks on Nazi airfields in France and the Low Countries. This figures out to an attack on a Nazi airdrome every three hours.

During the period 123 German fighters of various types were shot down over their own fields, the Continental coast and the English Channel. The Allied losses were remarkably low for the damage done to enemy installations and planes. Eight Fortresses, two fighter-bombers and twenty-three fighters were lost by the RAF and the United States Eighth Air Force.

Attrition Against Luftwaffe

The objective of the daylight attacks is obviously the systematic destruction of the Luftwaffe's forward bases, particularly those used by fighters. It is from the bases now being blasted that the Germans must put up fighters for the defense of the Continent should the Allied invasion strike from the west and it is from the same fields that Nazi fighters now rise to attack the RAF's and Eighth Air Force's heavy bombers headed toward targets within Germany.

Blasting the Nazi airfields is only part of the scheme, however. A secondary aim is to force the Luftwaffe fighters to accept combat and thereby to whittle down the enemy's strength. The Germans know this, of course, and are in an uncomfortable position deciding whether to try to halt Allied air attacks and take their losses or to husband their planes for the actual invasion.

The Nazi fighter opposition generally has been strong, but probably not as strong as it could be if the Germans decided that all-out defense now would pay dividends.

Since Sunday, in the airfields' attacks, Poix, France, has been hit six times, Flushing twice, Gilze-Rijen, in the Netherlands, and Amiens-Glisy, France, three times each; Woensdrecht, the Netherlands, twice; Lille three times and

lands, twice; Lille three times and St. Pol, Le Bourget, Abbeville, Berney, Triqueville, Beaumont le Roger, Vitry-en-Artois, Merville and St. Omar once each.

242nd Medical Diary :- 20th August – The mission scheduled for today was scrubbed. Part of the group are on pass, red., relatively inactive as far as duty is concerned. The commander of one aircraft was present when his navigator was mortally injured, since then I have learned that insinuations have been made that had he been on the ball, the man's life might have been saved. I personally re-assured the man the day following the accident that such was not the case, but apparently it has been a factor. The whole crew is leaving on a 48 hr pass and interview will be made on their return.

The men of the combat crews are as a whole depressed over the events of the past few days, as are the rest of us. Colonel Nazarro gave them a talk this morning in which he stressed the aims of the Air Force, together with the situation of the men existent at this time, and the necessity of pursuing the effort. In addition considerable information of informative and military statistical value more given to the crew members more clearly appreciate the entire picture.

In addition it was pointed out their association, now in the hands of the enemy, would certainly not appreciate our inactivity, in as much as each effort, though small, shortens their restriction. This produced a line of thought not heretofore encountered and started new thinking and rationalization. It is my belief that with this new thought and necessity for continuing the push, we will have little trouble. Unquestionably, any loss will be a costly one to the group at this time. If, however, it is a means to an end, I believe they will feel duty bound to do whatever they are called on to do.

21st August – No mission scheduled today as weather is unfavorable. The mess halls have been inspected daily, three times at meal times by a medical officer assigned to that mess hall. In them all the situation has improved. There is still a great difficulty in properly operating the dishwasher, that in maintenance of high temperature, sufficient soap and inspection, the rejection of dirty plates. Garbage is still not hauled away promptly in all cases and maggots were found in one can today. It appears to be a process of constant cleaning and re-checked.

Water samples sent to 1st Medical Lab., collected 9 August and four days in transit was reported bacteriologically potable. No new outbreaks of diarrhea have occurred since the seventh. A few sporadic cases, three I believe, have occurred and each one was thought due to dietary indiscretion.

Mission #22 – Villacoublay, France 24th August

Seven aircraft from the group took part in the mission, the eighth aborted from the 535th. No casualties were sustained. Here is part of the entry from the 534th diary: "With Major D. E. Kunkel flying the lead ship in a composite group, 3 of our squadron aircraft took off at 1430 to make a raid on the Villacoublay Repair Shops, Paris, France. Bombing results were good. Bombs were seen to fall on hangars, workshops and on the airfield. Only 4 E/A were seen and these stayed in sight for only two or three minutes. Comments of crews indicated complete satisfaction with the fighter cover.



242nd Medical Diary :- 24th August – A raid over enemy occupied territory conducted this date in which the group furnished seven ships. One aborted and five returned. The sixth ran short of gas, landed on the south coast, re-gassed and came home. No injuries. The target was an airfield and repair installation at Villacoublay.

There has been an improvement in the morale this evening after all ships returned. Many of the men show evidence of being quite tired, although still eager. A definite lessening of enthusiasm is noticed. Arrangements were completed to have a pilot, who ditched in the Channel, sent to 5th General Hospital for Marconi's Therapy. He has been increasingly nervous with loss of sleep since the experience. He was flown down during the afternoon. Three officers were to leave for Bournemouth, Hampshire, the R.R.C.'s, (Rest & Recuperation Center) Officers Club, for a few days rest, tomorrow.

Lt Col T.I. Badger, MC., Chief of Medical Section, 5th General Hospital, visited the station presumably to meet Colonel Tracy. He was conducted over the base, saw a few patients and seemed to enjoy the visit.

The RAF attack on Berlin is the main event in today's news. There are a couple brief mentions of the 8th AF on page 5 of the link.

"[Flying Fortresses of the United States Eighth Air Force followed up the Berlin raid with heavy attacks by daylight yesterday on three Nazi airfields in France. . . .]"

"Other large formations of Fortresses, the United States Eighth Air Force reported, attacked three Nazi airfields in France – at Villacoublay, near Paris; Conches and Evreux-Fauville."

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3058550/posts?page=5>

NAZI CENTER FIRED

**1,800 Tons of Bombs Hit
Foe's Capital—Attack
Costs 58 Bombers**

FORTRESSES DEAL BLOWS

**Shuttle Fliers From Africa
Wreck Bordeaux Factory—
Others Pound Airfields**

By RAYMOND DANIELL

By Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

LONDON, Aug. 24—The battle of Berlin has begun. The steadily lengthening hours of darkness have brought the German capital within the night bombing range of the heavy Royal Air Force formations that have already laid waste Hamburg and reduced Ruhr factories to smoking ruins; and last night saw the opening attack.

British and Canadian bombers raided Berlin during the night in an assault at least twice as heavy as any delivered there previously.

An estimated 1,800 tons of high explosives were dropped on the Reich capital along with tens of thousands of incendiaries.

From other than official sources it was learned that about 5,000 RAF fliers and American airmen, in the crews as volunteers, were on the raid. With seven men to each RAF heavy bomber, this indicated about 700 planes engaged.

Allied Fighters on Intruder Raids

The Air Ministry reported fifty-eight bombers lost and one British fighter missing from supporting intruder operations over enemy airfields in western Europe during the main attack.

[Flying Fortresses of the United States Eighth Air Force followed up the Berlin raid with heavy attacks by daylight yesterday on three Nazi airfields in France.

[At the same time Fortresses that had shuttled to North Africa after bombing a Messerschmitt plant at Regensburg, south Germany, on Aug. 17, wrecked a Nazi aircraft assembly plant at Bordeaux, France,

in an attack on their return flight to Britain.

[Big formations of RAF bombers were reported going out over the southeast coast of England again late last night.]

The Berlin attackers last night struck just before midnight in clear weather over the target. The bombers crews as they returned

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said they thought the results were good.

Swarms of German fighters rose to meet them as they approached the German capital. Some pilots said that in all their experience they had never met such fighter opposition.

The plane casualties—almost entirely from Nazi fighters, as enemy anti-aircraft fire was reported light and the defense put in the Luftwaffe's hands—were the greatest sustained by the RAF on a single raid. Fifty-five bombers were lost in a double raid on Pilsen and on Mannheim-Ludwigshafen in bad weather last April 18 and fifty-two in the 1,000-bomber raid on Bremen on June 25, 1942.

Berlin had had seventy-three previous raids by the RAF. Those, with the exception of the last previous heavy bomber attack on the Reich capital last March 29 when 900 tons of bombs were dropped, were mere fleabites to what is coming for the city.

The battle that is just beginning will be fought perhaps even more desperately than the battle of the Ruhr and the battle of Hamburg; and it will not be abandoned until Adolf Hitler's Government abandons Berlin or until every military objective within the city's environs is destroyed.

It may not be a continuous battle, but it will be one in which the blows are struck whenever conditions are best suitable for the Allied attacking forces.

Heavy Allied Losses Expected
The losses can be expected to be on a somewhat larger scale than the RAF has suffered in attacks on less jealously guarded targets in Hitler's Reich.

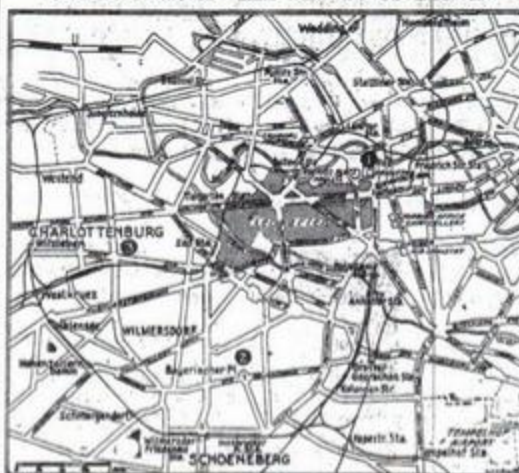
That the Monday night losses were heavy is not surprising when it is recalled how much warning the Nazis have had as to what was coming.

Quite authoritative reports have gone out of London and Washington recently that as soon as the nights got long enough for a cover of darkness on the round-trip flight of 1,200 miles from bases in Britain attacks that have all but leveled Hamburg and paralyzed the Ruhr would be repeated on Berlin.

RAF Mosquito bombers have carried out harassing raids on Berlin for two weeks to keep the populace there worried about when the big blow would fall.

Residents of the Nazi capital

OPENING NIGHT: THE BATTLE OF BERLIN



Aug. 25, 1942

In Monday night's tremendous RAF attack on the German capital three sections were reported to have been badly hit: the center of the city (1), the Wilmerdorf district, including the Bayerischerplatz (2), and the Charlottenburg district (3). An area of four square miles was said to have been devastated.

have been moving out when they could, and there have been reports from neutral sources that new air-raid shelters and slit trenches were being dug in all available places. It has been rumored that the Hitler Government might evacuate Berlin and already, it is known, some Government departments have moved from the city.

Fortresses in Double-Shuttle Blow

LONDON, Wednesday, Aug. 25 (AP)—Flying Fortresses that on Aug. 17 blasted a Messerschmitt factory at Regensburg, southeastern Germany, in the first daylight shuttle raid over the Reich, bombed and wrecked an aircraft assembly plant at Bordeaux, France, yesterday on the return leg of the journey that brought them from North Africa to their bases in Britain, officials announced early today.

Other large formations of Fortresses, the United States Eighth Air Force reported, attacked three Nazi airfields in France—at Villacoublay, near Paris; Conches and Evreux-Fauville.

A communiqué reported only four of the B-17 bombers lost from the whole of yesterday's hazardous operations, while the Fortresses and Thunderbolts and RAF fighters, which escorted the airfield raiders, knocked down fifteen Nazi planes. Seven fell to the Fortresses alone. The Thunderbolts downed six.

Brig. Gen. Frederick L. Anderson Jr., chief of the Eighth Bomber Command, called the complete North African shuttle "the great-

est operational flight the United States Army Air Force has made to date." Greeting the tired but happy returning crew members, General Anderson told them "the whole thing was magnificent."

Center of Berlin Smoking

Smoke was rising from the central and western sections of Berlin yesterday to a height of four miles as an after-effect of Monday night's RAF raid, a veteran reconnaissance pilot reported after a daylight flight over the heavily bombed Reich capital.

Flight Sgt. Keith G. Campbell, a 20-year-old Australian, said he first saw the smoke while flying over Osnabrueck, 200 miles from Berlin. He declared that the bombs dropped by the RAF apparently did a better job on Berlin "than at Düsseldorf after its heaviest raid."

"When I got in to Berlin," Sergeant Campbell said, "I could see whitish gray masses of smoke coming from fires burning in the western part of the town around Wilmerdorf and Charlottenburg. Smoke also was coming from the center of the city—a solid block of it. It was about the best I've ever seen on twenty-seven reconnaissance missions."

Some returning crewmen from the Monday night raid said their block-buster bombs left fires raging over a four-square-mile area of Berlin. The biggest explosions rocked the heart of the city, the fliers said. Most described Nazi anti-aircraft fire as light.

242nd Medical Diary :- 25th August – No missions have been scheduled today. Five new crews who have recently arrived are being flown locally.

Col R.J. Tracy, M.O., Surgeon, Eighth Bomber Command, was a guest of the station today. He was accompanied by Dr Bronx, a technical advisor on Gen Grant's staff, for flying equipment problems. The Colonel and the Doctor were conducted over the station and inspected the W.A.A.F. Site Infirmary and Station Hospital.

Lt Vernon Chadwick, VC, inspected the consolidated and airmen's messes this morning just before noon. In the consolidated mess the dishes were extremely dirty and had the

appearance of being washed in water not sufficiently hot and an inadequate quantity of soap.

The garbage cans at the airmen's mess were clean, but three had a considerable quantity of bread that was perfectly edible. This waste was called to the attention of the mess sergeant who explained it by stating that unless the K.Ps, were watched closely, they would throw bread away.

26th August – The raid scheduled for this morning was scrubbed after the planes were off the ground and headed for the Initial Point. All returned OK to base.

Colonel White, D.C., ETO Dental Surgeon and Major Rueter, D.C., Eighth Air Force Dental Surgeon visited the station. The hospital was looked over and dental clinic inspected and photographed under Col White's direction. These officers were impressed with the improved set up necessitated by lack of equipment.

Mission #23 – Watten, France 27th August

9 Fords of the 381st BG participated in the mission against German rocket-launching site construction. Bombing results were apparently unremarkable due to cloud cover. There were no casualties.

"Fortresses Pound Nazi French Bases," on page 3 of the link

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3059685/posts?page=6>

The airdromes and other targets struck by the B-17 bombers were not identified in the communique. Rocket-launching sites may be classified by Allies.

FORTRESSES POUND NAZI FRENCH BASES

RAF Night Raiders Strike in
Germany After Big U. S. and
British Attacks by Day

By The Associated Press.

LONDON Saturday, Aug. 25—
Hundreds of giant bombers that
sounded like the greatest air ar-
mada of the war thundered out
from British bases toward Nazi-
occupied Europe late last night in a
swift Royal Air Force sequel to
daylight-to-dusk raids yesterday
by United States Flying Fortresses
and medium Allied bombers on
Nazi airdromes and other targets
in France.

British officials announced
briefly early today that the heavy
bombers of the RAF attacked in
Germany again.

The night raiders, making an
early start, had streaked across
the straits in giant formations for
two hours last night, possibly
headed for Berlin.

The Flying Fortresses, partici-
pating in probably one of the
greatest series of day raids of the
war, teamed with American Thun-
derbolt and RAF and Allied Spit-
fire fighters to deal mighty blows
at Hitler's war production and
fighter plane nests in France yes-
terday, a joint American-British
communiqué said.

The Fortresses and their escorts
engaged in "many combats" with
Nazi fighters, with the Fortresses

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shooting down night and their es-
corts accounting for another eight.

Four of the Fortresses were
missing from the raid, but the crew
of one was reported safe. Seven
Allied fighters were lost during the
day's operations.

The airdromes and other targets
struck by the B-17 bombers were
not identified in the communiqué.
Watchers on the English coast said
the Fortresses streamed across the
channel for two hours, indicating
that the German air bases and per-
haps war factories in occupied
France had received one of their
heaviest blittings of the war.

Earlier in the day B-26 medium
Marauders of the United States
Eighth Air Force, also covered and
supported by Allied Spitfires, laid

heavy explosives across the Ger-
man airfield at Poix in Northern
France.

The Marauders and their escorts
shot down two Nazi fighters. One
Marauder was reported missing.

Other Spitfires returning from
an offensive operation encountered
a formation of Focke-Wulf 190s
and Messerschmitt 109s and de-
stroyed one Focke-Wulf. The total
day's bag was nineteen Nazi
fighters.

In other operations, the British
Air Ministry announced, Mustangs
damaged a number of locomotives
in Brittany and Spitfires shot up
a German coastal vessel off Dun-
kerque.

The RAF's Boston bombers
wrecked a power station at Gos-
nay during the evening. Three Al-
lied planes were reported missing
in these operations.

Earlier, an Air Ministry commu-
iqué said RAF bombers had mined
enemy waters Thursday night.
British naval planes operating
with the RAF Fighter Command
damaged four Nazi mine sweepers
during attacks on shipping in the
English Channel. All these British
planes returned safely, the commu-
iqué added.

Eighth Air Force headquarters
reported that the continuing Ma-
rauder raids were causing serious
damage to the Germans' front-line
airfields in France.

Photographs taken during the
Marauders' fourth raid so far on
the big Nazi fighter base at
Tricqueville, northwest of Caen, on
Wednesday, show eighty to 100
bomb bursts on the landing field
and perimeter track and between
seventy and eighty hits in the plane
dispersal area. At least three or
four hangars received direct hits.

The entire area of concealed han-
gars and plane servicing equipment
at Tricqueville was covered by
bursts, the announcement said. The
majority of shelters and hangars,
including the headquarters build-
ing, "must have suffered heavy
damage."

Since the Marauders began their
attacks from British bases six
weeks ago, they have averaged
almost a raid a day. They have
pounded some airfields as many as
seven times.

242nd Medical Diary:- 29th August – Raid scheduled over north eastern France this afternoon for a 17.00 hrs take off. Ten planes were sent out, none aborted and ten returned. Light fighters and flak attack were reported. Morale was high upon return. I believe the morale is increasing gradually now and new crews are keeping this too. I am convinced that operational fatigue was to have been a problem for some time to come, were it not for the intensive loss. Up to that point I am sure there was no higher morale and spirit in the Air Force. The Schweinfurt raid was so ghastly from the severity of the fighter attack, most personnel surviving feel they are living on borrowed time.

It is impossible for them to see how many heavy aircraft could possible get through such a dense fighter attack. As time goes on and the tension eased through comparatively easy missions, the situation is noticeably better. If the group could be built up to strength in men and ships, I am sure the most rapid recovery would be produced. A half-empty dining room is a rather sinister reminder.

Mission #24 – Amiens, France 31st August

Romilly-sur-Seine was the primary target for today, but due to cloud cover the target of last resort – Amiens-Glisy – was bombed instead. 19 aircraft from the group took part. Bombing results were recorded as “excellent,” and there were no casualties.

242nd Medical Diary :- 31st August – In a raid over Northern France the group sent a small number of planes. All returned from the mission, and there were no injuries.

“B-17s flying over Glisy field near Amiens on Aug. 31. Bomb bursts blanket the fighter plane base. The American bombers shot down five German planes during the raid.” On page 14 of the link.

<http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/chat/3068113/posts?page=6>



B-17s flying over the Glisy field near Amiens on Aug. 31. Bomb bursts blanket the fighter plane base. The American bombers shot down five German planes during the raid.

Associated Press