Record 208 Kills By U.S. Fighters Over Germany

Two hundred and eight German fighters were destroyed by American Thunderbolts and Mustangs in a series of great battles over Germany yesterday in which at least 1,300 Allied and enemy fighters took part.

This nearly doubles the previous best "bag" of 115 by the 8th Air Force fighters, and was made for a loss of 41 bombers and 28 fighters.

The battles developed when the American fighters escorted 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators to blast oil plants deep in Central Germany.

At the same time R.A.F. Lancasters carried out a concentrated assault on the plant at Homberg, one of the largest of the ten plants in the Ruhr. The target was blazed when the attack was completed.

The most furious fighting for the Americans developed over the vast flak fields of oil refineries at Gelsenkirchen near Leipzig—the same target as on September 11, when the previous record was set up.

Watching for American fighters—the second largest force ever dispatched.

German Desperation

The "hunch" was right. The Germans hurled about 400 fighters against the American hard-pressed armies in the field. There were many losses; the exact figure is believed to be the greatest force of interceptors they have ever put into the skies over the Reich.

In a statement regarding the German's desperation in their bid to save their already heavily-bombed oil plants.

All three rail targets were links in the supply lines between the eastern and western parts of Germany.

Nazi Rails Target For 1,400 Planes

After two days of operations limited by severe weather conditions heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force swung back into large-scale action over the weekend as they dropped crushing loads on Nazi lines of communications.

Over 900 Fortresses and Liberators were out yesterday with an escort of 500 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, hammering at industrial plants and marshalling yards along a 100-mile front through Germany in a concentrated attack.

The bombers blasted oil plants deep in Central Germany, also took a pounding.

1,400 Planes

Forces and the RAF fell on German communications, 900 Fortresses of the 8th Air Force, attacking in two giant waves, thundered over North-West Germany.

At Reich again

All-Out Blitz On Troop Trains

TORPEDO and ammunition trains shelling to the old libraries of the 8th Air Force, attacking in two giant waves, thundered over North-West Germany.

American bombers also attacked marshalling yards at Hamburg and Rheine and R.A.F. Mustangs were out yesterday with an escort of 500 Thunderbolts and Mustangs, hammering at industrial plants and marshalling yards along a 100-mile front through Germany in a concentrated attack.

The attacking planes, bombing through the clouds with the aid of the "electronic eye," purred off at an altitude of 20,000 feet while fighters, in the absence of any air opposition, were down to shoot up airfields and rail yards.

The attacks on Heilbronn, 25 miles north of Stuttgart, and Mannheim, key Rhine port, completed a one-two punch for the 8th, Saturday's force of 750 Fortresses and Liberators having numbered among its targets the Heilbronn yards and a road and rail bridge at Mannheim.

Two hours before the three-pressed air offensive, which took place shortly after noon, a small force of heavies attacked a steel truss bridge across the Rhine at Andernath in the northwest corner of the Reich.

Nazi Tanks, 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 industrial targets in the Hanover, Munster, and Hildesheim areas.

The aerial sleighhammer fashioned by bombers of the 8th and 15th Air Forces and the RAF fell on German communications and fuel supplies for the fourth day in a row yesterday as 1,100 Fortresses and Liberators were out yesterday, blasting at the huge yards and repair shops with more than 11,000 high explosive bombs and some 3,000 incendiaries.

The huge yards and repair shops, the later stretching out in a thin line for almost a mile, were ripe for the blow. Photo reconnaissance four days ago showed the yards teeming with activity, close to 3,000 cars amassing the rails. The city is a main switch-over for both fronts, north and east, and west lines intersecting.

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 heaviest blow was struck at Bremen, where some 1,000 of all types of transport facilities in eastern Germany, just opposite the Nazi salient, and within the bulge at points in Luxemburg and Belgium.

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.

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The 8th Air Force in daylight on a single mission by the Eighth, Air Force—1,600 Fortresses and Liberators, escorting by more than 800 Mustangs and Thunderbolts—comprised the bulk of approximately 3,500 warplanes of the U.S. Strategic Air Force, hurled against German targets Monday.

Manned by 16,800 airmen, more than 2,400 heavies and pursuits of the Eighth flew across the Rhine to smash rail centers in western Germany, while upward of 1,000 heavy bombers and fighters of the 15th, based in Italy, blasted rail and industrial objectives in Vienna and Austria.

Early unofficial reports indicated the Eighth lost 12 bombers and two fighters. Unopposed by enemy fighter opposition.

Big Air Mission Means 622 Millions in Planes

EIGHTH AF HQ, England, Dec 10—This is what is involved in an American mission by the Eighth Air Force to Germany by 1,500 heavy bombers and 900 fighters:

Crews total 15,000 men; planes' value is more than $622,700,000; aircraft form a column 100 miles long; and engines on planes generate 7,518,000 horsepower, equal to output of four Boulder Dam's enough gas is consumed to take 15,000 passenger autos from New York to San Francisco; the 21,200 30-cal. machine-guns, if placed at 50-foot intervals, would form a line of fire 200 miles long.