

180 Nazis KO'd in Air; Oil Bombed

Air battles flamed anew over the Continent yesterday as more than 850 Mustangs and Thunderbolts of the 8th Air Force, protecting a force of some 900 Fortresses and Liberators that plastered oil refineries and storage depots deep within the Reich, shot 149 attacking Nazi planes out of the air.

In addition, 31 enemy planes were knocked down by gunners of the heavies. Fighters shot up three more aircraft on the ground, making a grand total of 183 planes destroyed.

The figure represents a new record for fighters of the 8th, surpassing the previous mark of 134, set on Nov. 2 of last year, during a raid on the Merseburg oilplants.

The 357th Mustang Group, commanded by Lt. Col. Irwin H. Dregne, of Viroqua, Wis., took the largest toll of enemy aircraft, bagging 56 to set up a new record for 8th fighters. The 357th's score erases the old mark of 38 set by the 352nd Mustang Group on Nov. 2.

The bombers hit the large Hemmingstedt oil refinery near Heide, on the Danish peninsula; farther south plastered a synthetic-oil plant at Magdeburg, the Salzgitter benzol plant, and two oil storage depots, one at Derben, northeast of Magdeburg and one at Ehmen, northeast of Brunswick.

Some bombers pounded the Hermann Goering steel works at Hallendorf, south of Brunswick. Ray Lee, Stars and Stripes staff writer who went along on this raid with the Liberator Witchcraft of the 467th Bomb Group, reported a solid wall of flak but little fighter opposition over the target as the Lib completed its 100th mission without an abort.

Three large bridges over the Rhine at Cologne, two of them highway structures and the third the Hohenzollern road and railway bridge, were also attacked.

8th Strikes Nazi Industry

Over 600 Fortresses and Liberators of the 8th Air Force, escorted by Thunderbolts and Mustangs numbering more than 650, pounded industrial targets in many at will yesterday as Luftwaffe fighters again failed to rise to ward off the assault.

The heavies selected as their targets a synthetic oil plant at Ruhla near Dresden, and the Krupp armament works at Magdeburg, which produce Mark IV tanks. Rail heads were also hit, as the bombers dropped loads on marshalling yards at Dresden and at Dessau, 30 miles north of Leipzig.

The crack 4th Mustang Group zoomed in over an airdrome south of Berlin to destroy 25 planes parked on the strip.

Meanwhile, 450 unescorted Fortresses dumped high explosives near Point de Grave on the west side of the Gironde estuary in co-operation with elements of the French Army moving against the cornered Germans at Bordeaux.

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1,250 U.S. Heavies Hit Reich Again

Following up the previous day's terrific assault on rail objectives in the Reich, more than 2,000 U.S. heavy bombers and fighters for the second straight day hammered rail objectives in the Frankfurt area Tuesday, as well as the Leuna synthetic-oil plant near Merseburg.

Meantime, it was disclosed that all of the synthetic-oil plants in the Ruhr now had been knocked out of production by Allied bombing.

Upward of 1,250 Fortresses and Liberators of the Eighth Air Force, covered by approximately 900 Mustangs, Thunderbolts and Lightnings of both the Eighth and Ninth, were dispatched Tuesday.

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

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

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

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

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

Hit Rail Lines Feeding East Front

Berlin reeled from another mighty air attack yesterday when more than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators of the 8th Air Force showered an estimated 3,000 tons of bombs and incendiaries on three railway stations in the heart of the city. It was the 8th's 16th and most savage blow on the German capital.

The bombers and their escort of 700 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, forming an aerial procession almost 300 miles in length, droned over the city for more than an hour. Their first load dropped on the target at 11:54 AM, the exact minute planned Sunday night. The greatest daylight raid of the war on Berlin, it boosted to 18,000 tons the total tonnage poured on the city by the 8th, making it the 8th's most-bombed target, surpassing devastated Cologne, which has felt the weight of 15,000 tons.

675 Bombers Hit Nazi Rails; RAF Hits Oil

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

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

Hap Says 'Coordination' Beats 'Air Support'

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

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

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

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

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

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

1,100 Heavies Keep Blitzing Reich's Rails

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

700 Forts Blast Nazi Rail Yards, Rhine Bridges

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

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