Hit Rail Lines
Feeding East Front

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 sky 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; factory district, located in an oil-refinery area, and the Schorfheide benzol plant, and two oil storage depots, one at Dehn, 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, Sturts 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.

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 attackers offered no opposition. Six more kills...