Destricted: 180 Nazis
KO’d in Air:
Oil Bombed

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

Following up the previous day’s terrific assault on rail objectives in the Reich, more than 2,000 U.S. heavy bombers and 1,250 Mustangs and Thunderbolts hit the Hohenzollern road and the third the Hohenzollern road and the 467th Bomb Group, reported a solid wall of flak but little fighter opposition over the Magdeburg and one at Ehmen, northeast of Brunswick.

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 322nd Mustang Group on Nov. 2.

The bombers hit the large Hemmingsstedt oil refinery near Heide, on the Danish peninsula; farther south, blasted the Salzgitter benzol plant, and two oil storage depots, one at Denchen, 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 mission without an abort.

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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 700 Fortresses and Liberators 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 heaviest of targets was a synthetic oil plant at Ruhrort, near Essen, and the 357th Group, working at Magdeburg, which produce Mark IV tanks. Railheads were also hit, as the bombers dropped loads on marshalling yards at Dresden and at Osnabruck 50 miles north of Leipzig.

The crack 3rd Mustang Group zoomed in over an airrome south of Berlin to destroy 25 planes parked on the strip.

Meanwhile, 450 unescorted Fortresses dropped high explosives at Point de Grave on the west side of the Gerone, Germany, in cooperation with elements of the French Army moving against the cornered Germans at Bordeaux.

1,250 U.S. Heavies
Hit Reich Again

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Hit Rail Lines
Feeding East Front

Flak freed from another mighty air attack yesterday when more than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators of the 8th Air Force dropped 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, dived, over the city for more than an hour. Their first load dropped on the target at 11:54 A.M. precisely, as 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 fighter group offered no opposition. Six more kills were scored by U.S. fighters Sunday when they 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.

Targets yesterday were, at Ingolstadt and Neuburg north and northeast of Munich, respectively, at Ruhland, southwest of Stuttgart, and at Bubbel, southwest of Nuremberg.

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 halt by dispatching 500 heavies to bomb communications near Vienna and north of Venice.

700 Forts Blas
Nazi RailYards,
Rhine Bridges

After a day of inactivity, the 700 Fortresses and Liberators of the 8th Air Force, escorted by more than 700 Fortresses and Liberators, pounded oil refineries and storage depots deep within the Reich, destroyed 149 attacking Nazi planes out of the air.

In addition, an unspecified number of Forts and Libs of the 15th Air Force, based in Italy, carried out an attack against enemy oil refineries 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 16 times by the Eighth. Yesterday’s attack was made through overcast; bombadiers 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 Odem in the Reich, and the Oswiecim plant in Poland, all within range of the 15th Air Force.

Eighty pounds of oil at Hanau and Darmstadt, usually, while rail facilities at Altenburg were bombed both through clouds and visually, located in the area of Frankfurt.

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 railed Nazi rail lines yesterday for the eighth time in their new offensive, 750 Fortresses pouring on the traffic center at Leipzig, while 500 Liberators attacked the marshalling yards at Halie, 20 miles northwest of Leipzig.

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