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LSQ-BOMB-489-HI
FEB-1944

OUTLINE HISTORY, 489th Bombardment Squadron (M), 340th Bombardment Group (M)

Period: Month of February, 1944. **RESTRICTED**

Prepared by S-2 personnel under the supervision of 1st Lt. Jack A. Casper.

Station: Pompei L/G, Italy.

SQ-BOMB-489-HI
FEB 1944

A. Original Unit
(See Outline History for original period)

B. Changes in Organization
Administrative and operational channels remain unchanged.

C. Stations
Pompei L/G, Italy, 5 January 1944 - .

D. Battles (Missions)

- 2 February 1944 : Road junction at Marino, Italy.
6 planes.
- 5 February 1944 : West choke point of M/Y at Terni, Italy.
12 planes.
- 6 February 1944 : Nickelling mission over Atina, G8435, Italy.
3 planes.
- 7 February 1944 : Town of Cisterna, Italy.
12 planes.
- 7 February 1944 : Viterbo, Italy. North choke point of south M/Y.
6 planes.
- 8 February 1944 : Town of Cisterna, Italy.
11 planes.
- 9 February 1944 : Road and R.R. intersections from F881391 to F890380.
12 planes.
- 12 February 1944 : Enemy concentrations in vicinity of Campoleone, Italy.
12 planes.
- 13 February 1944 : F918499 to F925490 to F910475, Italy.
1 plane, flying with 488th Squadron.
- 13 February 1944 : Nickelling mission in vicinity of Pontecorvo, Italy.
3 planes.
- 14 February 1944 : East choke point of M/Y about 4 miles SE of Perugia, Italy.
6 planes.
- 15 February 1944 : Benedictine Monastery, Italy.
6 planes.
- 16 February 1944 : Enemy concentrations in vicinity of Campoleone, Italy.
6 planes.
- 17 February 1944 : Supply dump and MT concentrations at F679557, Italy.
6 planes.
- 18 February 1944 : Pin point at F917494 to F923480 (SE of Lake Albano), Italy.
6 planes.
- 19 February 1944 : F890340 - 899349 - 903338 - 893336, Italy.
6 planes.
- 19 February 1944 : F890340 - 899349 - 903338 - 893336, Italy.
6 planes.
- 20 February 1944 : F882388, Italy.
6 planes.
- 20 February 1944 : F901338 to F898356, Italy.
6 planes.
- 22 February 1944 : Road and R.R. junction at north choke point of M/Y at Foligno, It.
6 planes.
- 22 February 1944 : 150TH SQUADRON COMBAT MISSION.
Nickelling mission over Atina and Pontecorvo, Italy.
3 planes.
- 24 February 1944 : Fabrigo L/G, Italy.
6 planes.
- 28 February 1944 : Nickelling mission in vicinity of Terracina, Italy.
3 planes.
- 29 February 1944 : Road junction (troop concentrations) at F999360, Italy.
6 planes.

E. Marches (Diary)
None.

F. Campaigns
The 489th Bombardment Squadron (M), still stationed on the mainland of Italy, struck

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at the enemy 24 times, making a total of 156 individual sorties. 463,080 lbs. of bombs were dropped within the target area. On 4 of these squadron missions the enemy was subjected to propoganda leaflets instead of bombs.

G. Strength

At beginning of period : 287 Enlisted Men and 53 Officers.
At end of period : 280 Enlisted Men and 67 Officers.

H. Commanding Officer in Important Engagements

Major Parrish on the following missions: Road junction at Marino, Italy, 2 February; road and R.R. intersections from F881391 to F890380, 9 February; enemy concentrations in vicinity of Campoleone, Italy, 12 February; east choke point of M/Y about 4 miles SE of Perugia, Italy, 14 February; Benedictine Monastery, Italy, 15 February; enemy concentrations in vicinity of Campoleone, Italy, 16 February.

I. Losses in Action

Near the Ruins of Pompei plane #463 9K crashed for some unknown reason. It had been circling, waiting to fill in as a stand by plane. When it became evident that it would not be needed in such capacity, it started back and crashed shortly thereafter - this was on the 6th of February. The following men were killed: Lt. Capson, Lt. Karvel, Sgt. Luczak, Sgt. P.J. Miller, and Sgt. Wellington.

J. Former and Present Members Who Have Distinguished Themselves in Action

The following Officers and Enlisted men have been awarded the Purple Heart:

Dyer, Fred W.	Capt.	Parrish, Alexander H.	Major
Schmidt, Raymond A.	1st Lt.		
Demas, George (NMI)	1st Lt.		
Hutchinson, Charles A.	2nd Lt.		
Wright, Gerald K.	T/Sgt.		
Culver, William R.	S/Sgt.		
Duncan, Leland E.	Cpl.		
Turley, Arthur J.	S/Sgt.		

In addition to the Air Medal seven (7) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters have been awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

Hamilton, Jack M.	Capt.
Kemp, George W. Jr.	Capt.
Bagby, Wilbur E.	S/Sgt.

In addition to the Air Medal six (6) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters have been awarded the following officers:

Dyer, Fred W.	Capt.
Samson, George E.	1st Lt.

In addition to the Air Medal five (5) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters have been awarded the following officers and enlisted man:

Kaufmann, Leonard Jr.	Capt.
Wolfe, Warren M.	1st Lt.
Demas, George (NMI)	1st Lt.
Stegink, Gerald A.	F/O
O'Connell, Donald L.	S/Sgt.

In addition to the Air Medal four (4) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters have been awarded the following officers:

Parrish, Alexander H.	Major
Gaughan, James F.	1st Lt.
Schmidt, Raymond A.	1st Lt.
Weaver, Claude H.	2nd Lt.

In addition to the Air Medal three (3) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters have been awarded the following officer and enlisted men:

Taylor, Louis L.	1st Lt.
Gahn, Glenn E.	T/Sgt.
Johnson, Minot M.	T/Sgt.
Fowler, J. W.	S/Sgt.
Turpin, Joe P.	S/Sgt.
McIntosh, Cleo A.	S/Sgt.
Salisbury, Ray W.	S/Sgt.

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Jay, James W.	S/Sgt.
Bryan, Thomas G.	S/Sgt.

In addition to the Air Medal two (2) Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters have been awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

Akers, William L.	1st Lt.	
Shuck, John F.	1st Lt.	
Dobberteen, Franklin J.	1st Lt.	
Jeter, John M.	1st Lt.	
Wiese, Ludwig J.	1st Lt.	
Cruise, William H.	2nd Lt.	
Durrett, Carl V.	2nd Lt.	
Diana, Guy (NMI)	T/Sgt.	
Jereb, Vincent (NMI)	T/Sgt.	
Lydon, Edward M.	T/Sgt.	
Miller, Walter M. Jr.	T/Sgt.	
Hofmeister, Alex H. Jr.	S/Sgt.	
Cusintine, Peter J. Jr.	S/Sgt.	
Lang, Jack M.	S/Sgt.	
Miller, Peter J. Jr.	S/Sgt.	(deceased)
Spinks, William O.	S/Sgt.	
Turley, Arthur	S/Sgt.	
Waldroup, Hugh H.	S/Sgt.	

In addition to the Air Medal one (1) Oak Leaf Cluster has been awarded the following officers and enlisted men:

Rittenhouse, William L.	1st Lt.
Barnett, Charles P.	1st Lt.
Brown, John R.Q.	1st Lt.
Fields, Henry C.	1st Lt.
Neafus, Paul B.	1st Lt.
Roberts, George F.	1st Lt.
Teare, David J.	1st Lt.
Bulkeley, Louis E.	1st Lt.
Brugger, Herbert C.	1st Lt.
Cook, Edward W.	1st Lt.
Alexander, Ansley Q. Jr.	1st Lt.
Shoulberg, Stuart S.	2nd Lt.
Watson, Carl E.	2nd Lt.
Glos, Elton C.	T/Sgt.
Proctor, James T.	T/Sgt.
Trumble, Joseph W.	T/Sgt.
Charney, John (NMI)	S/Sgt.
Mourey, Joseph R.	S/Sgt.
Callahan, Russell J.	S/Sgt.

The following enlisted man has been awarded the Air Medal:

Wellington, Carl O.	S/Sgt.	(deceased)
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JAC/wfg

JACK A. CASPER
1st Lt., Air Corps
Assistant S-2 Officer.

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Prepared by S-2 personnel under the supervision of 1st Lt. Jack A. Casper

489th Bombardment Squadron (M)

Station Pompei I/G, Italy.

Sheet No. 1

Month of February 1944

DAY

EVENTS

1 - Nervous tension invariably is built up just prior to a mission. It is not openly evident, but it can nevertheless be sensed. Early this morning the boys prepared themselves for flying, but they were destined not to get into the air. The weather closed in over the field and at 1200 hours a stand-down was declared.

Today was pay day. By early evening a number of card and crap games were in full swing and by midnight there had been a very considerable exchange of money. One "character" came out on top with \$1300.

Capt Fields who has been adjutant of the squadron since its early days is no longer associated with us. He has gone to Group Headquarters where he will serve as Group Adjutant. Taking Capt. Fields place is Lt. Nickerson, who will also have charge of mess. Lt. Outler now has charge of supply and transportation.

2 - A road junction at Marino, Italy, was the target for today. Our bombardiers laid a good pattern commencing in the SW part of town and extending right through it. The road running into town was well covered with bombs. The flak was intense and accurate, holing four planes. Plane 105 9J, piloted by Lt. Fields with Lt. Mair at the co-pilot's controls, had its hydraulic system damaged. When it came time to land, it was necessary to crank the wheels down. This they did, but they were unable to lock them into place. S/Sgt. F. A. Vaudry, engineer-gunner, poured hydraulic fluid into the system, thereby causing the locks to go into place. It was fortunate for everyone in the plane that an engineer was aboard, for only an engineer would have known what to do to lock the wheels.

For dinner we had delicious fresh ham. Quite often lately we have had meals that could be correctly classified as good.

3 - Weather again was responsible for keeping our planes grounded. The crews were briefed to bomb Orte, Italy, but before they got to the planes, a stand-down was declared.

It has been weeks since we have had mail in any real quantity. On January 30 our APO was changed to 650. This is the 5th time it has changed within the past year. I suspect that the reason for the poor mail service lies in the fact that the ships and planes which ordinarily transport it to us have been sequestered for the forthcoming invasion.

About the invasion. The radio, the press, and everyone is speculating as to when it will occur. It is virtually assumed that it will come from across the English Channel. Feeling is mounting because it is suspected that it will come sometime next month.

4 - This evening the "Barber of Seville" was presented in Naples and a number of men from this squadron attended.

Station Hospital No. 262 was the rendezvous point for an Officers' Dance. From all indications those who were there enjoyed themselves immensely.

Here are the headlines appearing in today's Stars and Stripes: "Ten German Divisions Trapped in the Ukraine"; "Street Fighting Rages in Cassino"; "U.S. Forces Seize Two Strongholds in the Marshalls"; "Sofia Lies in Ruin"; "1,100 U.S. Planes Bomb Nazi Port" (Wilhemshaven); "Liberators Smash Nazi Rail Lines".

5 - Although that it appeared that the weather would prevent our flying a mission today, twelve of our planes took off and succeeded in bomb-plastering the marshalling yards at Terni, Italy. We interrogated the crews at Group S-2, where three Red Cross girls who have been assigned to the Group served the flyers and S-2 personnel hot coffee and doughnuts.

Today our Operations Officer was ordered to send to the 12th Bombardment Group (M) one pilot or co-pilot with a low number of missions. There were three men who were in this category. Cards were drawn. The unlucky (?) man was 2nd Lt. Erbland. I use the term "unlucky" because it is rumored that the 12th Group will be sent to India or some other place in that part of the world. The 12th is now inoperative and very shortly will be on its way. Maybe we shall follow them. Time will tell.

6 - Today was one of those days which all of us would like to forget. A tragic accident killed five of our men. We furnished three stand-by ships and crews for the three other squadrons. As is customary, these planes took off and circled while the formation was being made up. Not having to fill in, our three planes started back. Near the Ruins of Pompei plane 463 9K, piloted by Lt. Wiltshire, with Lt. Capson as co-pilot, Lt. Karvel, bombardier, Sgt. Luczak, radio operator, Sgt. P. J. Miller, tur-

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Station Comet I/G, ItalyMonth of February 1944

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ret gunner, and Sgt. Wellington, tail gunner, crashed. Witnesses revealed that the plane went into a dive and as it fell earthward, a wing came off. Shortly after it crashed, the 4 x 1000 pound bombs exploded. Lt. Wiltshire miraculously survived - how is not yet known - and will recover from the injuries he sustained. All the other crew members were instantly killed.

Fate worked in Sgt. Schmidt's favor and against Sgt. Wellington. The former had been originally scheduled but at the last minute was replaced by the latter.

Our 133rd squadron combat mission was a nickelling mission over Atina, Italy.

7 - Two missions were run today, both in the Rome area. The morning mission was over Cisterna, Italy, key to the Appian Way and Rome. The M/Y and the town were hit squarely and heavily. Our men are confident that this was one of the most successful missions we have run. The afternoon mission carried our planes to Viterbo, Italy, where they were to hit the north choke point of the south M/Y. This time they did not do so well, although they did hit a section of the tracks and the southeast part of town. On the way back from the target, our formation ran into some enemy ME 109's and FW 190's. They did not attack.

8 - We were out in force over Cisterna again. This mission today was every bit as successful as yesterday's mission over the same target.

A few more combat crew members were transferred to this squadron from the 12th Group. Where that Group is going is still a matter of pure speculation. Since it has been overseas longer than we have, where it goes will give us some indication of where we are likely to go eventually - either to another theatre or back to the States. Thus we await anxiously word of their disposition.

9 - Appearing in the February 8th issue of the Stars and Stripes, daily newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces for troops in Italy, are two interesting news items, which I make note of now in order later to see how the predictions contained therein work out.

One item stated that an Allied victory in Europe this year was predicted last week by a panel of four military experts speaking on one program, with the consensus being that the Germans would collapse within three to six months after the Allies invade the west. The experts held no quick prospects for the war in the Far East.

The other item stated that American Army troops overseas will become soldier-students within 48 hours after hostilities end in Europe under tentative plans already drawn up by Army officials. Study and training to prepare soldiers for the return to peacetime jobs will help span the period between the armistice and demobilization.

10 - Our squadron was stood down all day. It had been intended that we fly a mission in the afternoon, but late in the morning inclement weather necessitated the declaration of a stand-down. As a result of this status, Operations - S-2 has been virtually deserted.

Decorations were awarded this morning by Col. Jones to a number of our men (See "Photographs" and "Outline History"). The ceremony was colorful and impressive even though it was necessarily simple.

11 - Again a steady downpour of rain kept our planes grounded.

12 - At 1153 hours our bombardiers toggled out 46,000 pounds of concentrated destruction in the vicinity of Campoleone, Italy. Battling their way through a veritable barrage of flak, our airmen struck a telling blow at the enemy whose position is steadily worsening. This mission was intended to give close support to Allied troops in the Anzio beachhead area, where a ring of steel is inexorably closing around desperately fighting Jerry precariously situated between the main 5th Army Front and this new front just south of Rome. Col. Jones telephoned congratulations to Major Parrish for the excellent results obtained in this 138th squadron combat mission.

13 - Its top completely screened from view by low-hung clouds, Mt. Vesuvius appeared this morning in a garb of snow reaching from the lower slopes to where it imperceptively merged with the white cloud cover. The Lattar Mountains which rise out of the sea at Sorrento were equally beautiful in their winter dress. At frequent intervals during the entire day, our Mitchells, A-20 Bostons and B-26 Marauders droned gracefully through the cold skies like giant birds. Momentarily forgetting that these were terrible instruments of destruction, one seemed to feel that they were a part of all this natural beauty.

Today we struck at the enemy not with bombs but rather with a weapon more subtle and just as explosive. Three of our planes rained down upon him 600,000 leaflets ex-

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horting him to give up rather than prolong what is rapidly becoming a hopeless situation.

More decorations were awarded, this time to men who were unable to attend the first ceremony.

14 - The M/Y at Perugia, Italy, was the target for today. Capt. Hamilton, flying his 60th mission, led the Group over this dangerous target.

We eagerly await the passage of each day. Time seems to be skidding by at a very rapid pace, but it cannot pass too quickly to suit us. Some day in the distant future when our youth and war time days will be things of the past, we shall be wishing that we could slow up the inexorable scythe of time. In one sense time right now is running in our favor, for it is bringing us closer to that inevitable day when we can look at all of this in retrospect.

The anticipation of big things to come on the international scene continues to be very engrossing. Because we are so vitally affected by what happens all over the world, all of us are following the ever-changing world drama with great personal interest. From day to day we await new developments, following closely the slow but certain defeat of Germany and her nominal ally, Japan. What can be more interesting than history in the making?

15 - Today marks the completion of one year in the overseas service. At approximately 1730 hours a year ago today the U.S.S. Westpoint steamed out of San Francisco's Golden Gate headed for a destination that was to remain unknown to us for many days to come. Standing at the stem of this once palatial luxury liner, scores of us silently watched the gray skyline of San Francisco recede into the distance. Twilight changed to darkness and many of us still stood there alone with our thoughts. We pondered our fate as we slipped away from this land of ours, which even then was taking on a new meaning for us. One year has passed by. Much has happened to us within that period of time. As we begin another year overseas, we are prone to speculate about the ethereal future just as we did that momentous day a year ago. What does it hold for us?

16 - An army regulation requires that at periodic intervals a sex lecture be given to all enlisted men. Even in the combat zone this requirement is fulfilled. Today Chaplain Cooper gave a short talk about sex morality, after which was shown a moving picture depicting the grave dangers of illicit intercourse. All of this advice is timely in view of the amazing ease with which a woman may be acquired. They infest not only the surrounding towns and villages but even the camp area itself.

Enemy concentrations in the vicinity of Campoleone, Italy, constituted the target for today. Exceedingly bad weather caused this squadron to miss the area intended to have been bombed. Major Garske, flying with the 488th Squadron, went down in flames over the target area, his plane having been hit and knocked out of control. He was associated with Group Operations in the capacity of Assistant Operations Officer.

It is now Major Kaufmann and Major Fields.

17 - The Allies struck Berlin the mightiest air blow in history last night as 1,000 British aircraft unleashed well over 2,500 tons of high explosives and incendiaries in a 20-minute raid on the Nazi capitol. This was the 15th major assault since the "Battle of Berlin" began last November.

Our efforts were directed against an important supply dump and MT concentration in the Anzio area.

18 - Today was unusually uneventful. The mission was abortive because of bad weather over the target area.

Writing letters is a really difficult task. Censorship regulations are very rigid - of necessity - and consequently one's style is cramped considerably. Sitting down to write our daily letters sometimes - often - is a real ordeal. That will be a happy day when it will not be necessary to correspond.

19 - Twice today we struck heavy blows at the enemy in the Anzio beach head area, giving close support to our forces fighting fierce German counter-attacks. The 321st Bombardment Group (M) preceded us over the target. They ran into difficulties and lost a total of eight planes either from flak or fighters.

This afternoon radio-gunnery and S-2 personnel attended the first of a series of lectures dealing with airplane identification. It is important that those who fly be thoroughly indoctrinated in the identification of friendly and enemy aircraft.

The boys are piling up missions fast. As the weather improves and the days be-

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Station Pompei I/G, ItalyMonth of February 1944

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come longer, we are flying more often. The enemy is fighting a losing fight in this theatre (and elsewhere, too), but he is fighting well and with great vigor. He is a master at defensive warfare as well as at offensive fighting. But he is not quite as good as we are.

20 - Two missions again today in the Anzio beachhead area. The morning mission was probably successful but the afternoon mission was a complete failure because of bad weather which prevented the bombardiers from dropping any bombs.

For about the past month we have been fed better than usual - on the basis of our former standards. As a result there are very few complaints about food.

The other day two more men left for the States; namely, Lt. Schmidt and F/O Stegink, both having completed 51 combat missions.

Lt. Casper left for Africa to attend a specialized course in airplane identification.

21 - Stand-down.

Last night Verdi's "Aida" was presented in Naples as a regular Special Services feature. About thirty men from the Group helped make up a capacity audience. For four short hours war-weary soldiers thousands of miles from home were able to project themselves out of the present and into a realm of fantasy.

22 - During the morning our planes were over the M/Y at Foligno and in the afternoon we dropped leaflets over Atina and Pontecorvo.

Prime Minister Churchill in an hour and a quarter speech to the House of Commons gave a concise review of the war up to the present time. He said that he would give no assurances that victory in Europe would or would not be ours this year, but that it may not be far away.

For the first time great fleets of American bombers based in Italy and in Britain launched a co-ordinated attack on important German targets. For the past four days the Allied aerial bombardment has been the greatest yet. Churchill promised in his speech that the bombing of Germany will be even greater and more terrible in the months to come.

Capt. Dyer has gone to Group Operations to take the late Major Ganske's place as Assistant Operations Officer.

23 - The weather kept our planes on the ground all day. A mission had been scheduled but the crews were called back just before they were briefed.

Rumors are still running rampant. The latest rumor, backed up by the customary "facts", is that we shall eventually be moved to England. Actually the only certain thing is that sometime we shall move.

24 - Our target today was a secret landing ground in the Rome area. From all indications the mission was a successful one.

More new combat crew members were assigned to the squadron. They are fresh from the States.

For dinner we had fresh pork chops along with fresh butter. This was a real treat for us. Complaints about the food we are fed are practically non-existent now. Of course, the meals are nothing to enthuse about, but compared with what we were getting for some ten or eleven months, they are not bad. And if we do not get enough to eat at the mess hall, we can always buy nuts or fruit, which are still very plentiful.

25 - Stand-down because of bad flying weather.

26 - Another day of combat inactivity due to inclement weather. For approximately twenty-four hours steady it has rained.

27 - All day rain has fallen in torrents. Rainy days such as this one cause us to realize how fortunate we are to be living and working in buildings. Soon we shall have been here for two months. Even if we do not remain much longer than that, we shall have had some respite from the more primitive life to which we have become used to since arriving overseas more than a year ago.

Today Lt. Ziegler, squadron censor, left for Algiers where he will assume new duties with another outfit.

28 - Three planes of this squadron flew a nickelling mission in the Anzio area, dropping a total of 1,160,000 leaflets which were intended to inform the German soldiers of certain military and political facts about which they might not be aware.

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WEHR- ODER DIE TATSACHEN?

Im 5. Kriegsjahre fragen sich viele deutsche Soldaten in Italien: Kann die Niederlage Deutschlands noch vermieden werden? Die Antwort auf diese Frage gibt das OKW in «Wehrbetreuungs-vorträgen». Sie sollen den deutschen Soldaten davon überzeugen, dass Deutschland — allem Anschein zum Trotz — immer noch Siegesaussichten hat. Es folgen einige der Behauptungen, die deutsche Soldaten in diesen Vorträgen hören, - und die wahren Tatsachen.

1. « Der Rückzug des Ostheeres nach Polen und ins Baltikum war geplant: die Russen sollen in eine Falle gelockt und vernichtet werden... »

TATSACHE IST, dass das Ostheer in blutigen Kämpfen auf einer 2000 km langen Front aus der Kornkammer der Ukraine und fast allen übrigen russischen Gebieten vertrieben worden ist. Anfang Februar dieses Jahres sind 17 deutsche Divisionen im Dnieprbogen in einer Reihe von Kesselschlachten zwischen Kiew und Nikopol vernichtet worden - eine Wiederholung der Katastrophe von Stalingrad.

2. « Die Russen pfeifen auf dem letzten Loch... sie haben kolossale Verluste erlitten. »

TATSACHE IST, dass Russlands Millionenheere erst jetzt total mobilisiert sind. Die russische Kriegführung und die russische Panzer-, Flugzeuge und Kanonen sind seit dem Sommer 1941 um ein Vielfaches besser geworden. England und Amerika liefern fortgesetzt Tausende von Flugzeugen und Panzern an Russland.

3. « Durch die anglo-amerikanischen Terrorangriffe wird nur die Zivilbevölkerung getroffen, die deutsche Kriegsproduktion aber nicht merkbar beeinflusst. »

TATSACHE IST, dass nach Schätzung des englischen Kriegswirtschaftsministeriums die deutsche Kriegsproduktion infolge der alliierten Luftangriffe auf Essen, Köln, Düsseldorf, Hannover, Berlin und andere Städte schon Ende 1943 um mehr als 25 v. H. zurückgegangen war. Seit Anfang 1944 sind Ausmass und Wucht der alliierten Luftoffensive in ständigem Anwachsen begriffen.

4. « Wir haben viele neue Fabriken, die die anglo-amerikanischen Flieger niemals auffinden werden. »

TATSACHE IST, dass man einige Fabriken allerdings verlegen kann. Aber jeder erfahrene Industriearbeiter weiss, dass Häfen, Werften, Rangierbahnhöfe, Hochöfen, Bergwerke und dergleichen Anlagen nicht verpflanzt werden können. Von im Walde versteckten Fabriken aus kann man keinen Weltkrieg führen.

5. «Die Luftwaffe wurde von den Fronten abgezogen, weil sie für einen gewaltigen Schlag in Reserve gehalten wird...»

TATSACHE IST, dass die deutsche Luftwaffe einem Dreifrontenkrieg nicht gewachsen ist. Zwei Drittel der gesamten deutschen Jägerabwehr sind im Westen eingesetzt, können aber die immer stärker werdende alliierte Luftoffensive gegen Deutschland nicht aufhalten. Dagegen bauen England, Amerika, Kanada und Russland heute in bombensicheren Fabriken sieben- bis achtmal soviel Flugzeuge wie Deutschland.

6. «Ein furchtbarer Vergeltungsschlag ist in Vorbereitung... Er wird die anglo-amerikanische Luftoffensive zum Halten bringen.»

TATSACHE IST, dass die britischen und amerikanischen viermotorigen Kampfflugzeuge nicht für Verteidigungszwecke benötigt werden; dafür sind andere Waffen da. Kein «Vergeltungsschlag» der Deutschen kann die Luftoffensive beeinflussen, die von zahllosen Flugfeldern in England, Schottland und dem Mittelmeergebiet aus gegen deutsche Ziele geführt wird.

7. «Die Anglo-Amerikaner sollen nur gegen den Atlantikwall anrennen... der ist mit Kanonen gespickt. Die Anglo-Amerikaner werden es nicht schaffen.»

TATSACHE IST, dass den deutschen Soldaten in diesem Kriege ebenfalls erzählt wurde: 1939 - «Keine Bombe wird je auf das Ruhrgebiet oder Berlin fallen.» 1940 - «Die U-Boote werden England erdrosseln.» 1941 - «Der russische Gegner liegt gebrochen am Boden.» 1942 - «Kein anglo-amerikanischer Soldat wird je europäischen Boden betreten.»

8. «Die Führung wird demnächst die Geheimwaffe einsetzen... das wird die Lage schlagartig zu unseren Gunsten ändern.»

TATSACHE IST, dass eine Geheimwaffe, von der jeder deutsche Soldat und jeder ausländische Journalist spricht, ein Propagandawitz ist. Beide Seiten haben während des Krieges ihre Waffen andauernd verbessert. Kraft ihrer viel grösseren technischen Möglichkeiten bauen die Alliierten heute aber bessere Waffen als Deutschland, - und zwar in riesigen Mengen.

GH. 14.



- ODER DIE TATSACHEN ?

Im 5. Kriegsjahre ist es Zeit, dass der deutsche Soldat fuer sich selber denkt. Er kann weiter an die Fuehrung glauben, die Deutschland in den Krieg und bis an den Rand des Verderbens gebracht hat, — oder er kann den Tatsachen ins Gesicht sehen und dementsprechend handeln.

Die Wahl ist :

FUER HITLER STERBEN
oder
FUER DEUTSCHLAND LEBEN

"POLITICAL INSTRUCTION" - OR THE FACTS?

In the fifth War-Year many German soldiers fighting in Italy ask themselves whether Germany — attacked from East, South and West — can still avoid defeat. Hence the «Political Instruction» lectures, designed to persuade the German soldier that despite all appearances Germany still has a chance of victory. Here are some of the statements German soldiers hear at «Political Instruction» — and the facts.

1. «The retreat of the Ostheer into the Baltic States and Poland is a plan to trap the Russians and destroy them...»

THE FACTS: In one costly battle after another the Ostheer has been driven from the Ukrainian granary and almost all the rest of Russia. The latest news of this year is that 15 German divisions have been encircled and destroyed in a second «Stalingrad» inside the Dnieper bend.

2. «The Russians are at their last gasp... their losses have been colossal.»

THE FACTS: Russia's armies, millions strong, are only now fully mobilised. Russian tanks and planes and guns, as well as Russian tactics, have improved out of recognition since 1941. Britain and America continue to send thousands of planes and tanks to Russia.

3. «The Anglo-American air attacks are aimed only at civilians... they can't noticeably affect German war production.»

THE FACTS: According to estimates of the British Ministry of Economic Warfare, Anglo-American air attacks on Essen, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Hannover, Berlin, etc., had already lowered German war production by more than 25 percent at the end of 1943. Since then, the Anglo-American air offensive has been increased in weight and extent.

4. «Many brand-new German war factories are hidden where the Allied Air Forces will never find them...»

THE FACTS: Some factories can be moved, but every experienced industrial worker knows: ports, docks, railway yards, blast furnaces, coal mines, etc. cannot be shifted. No world war can be waged from factories hidden in forests.

5. *«The Luftwaffe is away from the front, because it's kept in reserve for a mighty blow...»*

THE FACTS: The German Luftwaffe cannot cope with war on three fronts. Two thirds of all German fighters—in the West—cannot prevent the increasing air bombardment of Germany. In bomb-safe factories Britain, America, Canada and Russia to-day build seven to eight times more planes than Germany.

6. *«A terrible stroke of retaliation is being prepared, which will stop the Anglo-American air offensive...»*

THE FACTS: The British and American four-engined bombers are not needed for defence purposes, for which other weapons are available. No German stroke of retaliation can affect the air offensive on Germany carried out from countless airfields in England, Scotland and the Mediterranean region.

7. *«Let the Allies run their heads against the Atlantic Wall, which is studded with guns... they'll fail.»*

THE FACTS: In the same way German soldiers were previously told: 1939: «No bomb will ever fall on the Ruhr, or on Berlin.» 1940: «The U-Boats will strangle England.» 1941: «The Russian enemy is broken.» 1942: «The Anglo-Americans will never set foot in Europe.»

8. *«We have a secret weapon... presently the leaders will use it to decide the war for us.»*

THE FACTS: A secret weapon—so secret that every German soldier and every neutral journalist talks about it— that's a propaganda joke. Through the war both sides have continually improved their weapons. Through their greater technical resources, the Allies can build better aircraft, tanks and guns—and many more of them.



— OR — THE FACTS?

In the fifth year of war it is time for the German soldier to think for himself. He can go on believing the untruths which have led Germany to war and approaching defeat; or he can look the facts in the face and act accordingly.

The choice is:
TO DIE FOR HITLER
or
TO LIVE FOR GERMANY

SECRET

Sheet No. 5

Station Pompei L/G, ItalyMonth of February 1944

DAY

EVENTS

For a short time this evening many of us thought that we were in for a heavy enemy raid. Heavy anti-aircraft guns all around the field set up a thundrous noise and red tracer bullets streaked high up into the sky. This was all reminiscent of evenings at Hergla. But we soon found out that this was just practice. It is easy to imagine just how the civilians must have felt, not knowing the real facts.

29 - It seemed that bad weather would keep our planes grounded. However, late in the afternoon our crews were called down to Group for briefing. The target was troop concentrations in the Anzio area, where the Germans are fighting desperately, launching one counter-attack after another. The situation has not yet become bad for the Allies.

Pay day. Gambling is always heavy on pay day and for a few days thereafter. Already a few of the men are not only broke but they are deeply indebted to others.

Walter F. Greve, Jr.
WALTER F. GREVE, JR.
Sgt., Air Corps
S-2.

WFG/wfg

SECRET

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SECRET

S.O.#2-78/14

Special Account, 489th Bombardment Squadron (M), 32nd Bombardment Group (M)

Period: Month of February, 1944

Prepared by S-2 personnel under the supervision of 1st Lt. Jack A. Ganser

Station: Pompei A/O, Italy

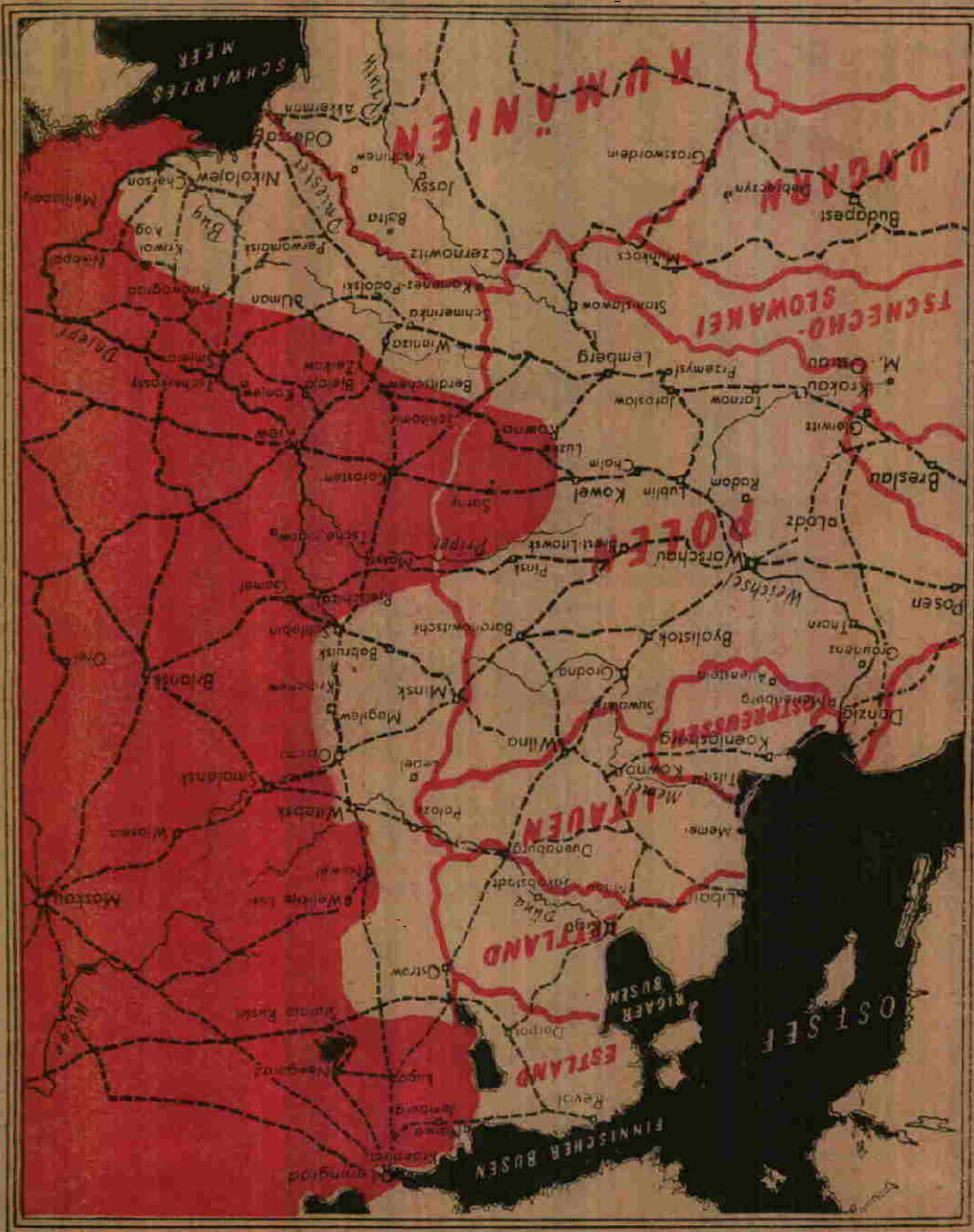
LOADS DROPPED DURING MONTH OF FEBRUARY

• 1944

115

SECRET

Grenzen von 1938-391



DIE OSTFRONT AM 20. FEBRUAR 1944

ENGLISH TRANSLATION FOR G N 26

Dropped on 5th Army Front
28 Feb 44

The Tragedy of the German 8th Army

The events leading up to the
Catastrophe in the Kaniev
sack, in February, 1944.

Already at the beginning of January of this year von Manstein's Army Group South, on the Dnieper Bend, was in a very difficult position.

Within the Dnieper bend itself the Russians had made two deep penetrations, south of Dnepropetrovsk and south of Cherkassy. Moreover, hundreds of kilometres to the west the Russians had crossed the 1939 Polish frontier, had struck southwest from Kiev and had taken Berditchev and Byelaya Cherkov, two great German

fortresses on the Army Group South's main lines of communication.

Two of the German armies in the Dnieper bend were especially endangered. The German 6th Army, which held Nikopol and a bridgehead on the Dnieper in front of the city, was threatened in its rear by the Russian thrust south of Dnepropetrovsk. The German 8th Army, west of Cherkassy, was threatened with encirclement.

***POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.**

Purely military considerations demanded a withdrawal. Hitler and the OKW, however, were governed by other considerations.

Firstly, the Dnieper bend held vast riches: the manganese of Nikopol, the iron of Krivoi Rog, and the granary of the Ukraine. Hitler had paid hundreds of thousands of German lives for these; to abandon them would mean a vast loss of prestige.

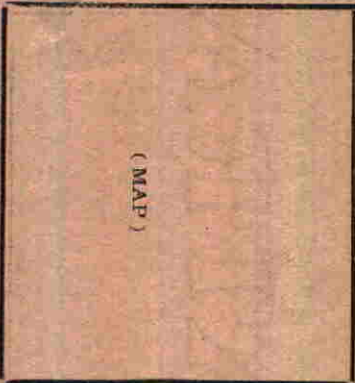
Secondly, a German withdrawal to the Bug would cause panic in Rumania and Bulgaria.

Hitler and the OKW ordered that every yard of ground should be held at any cost*.

THE RESULT

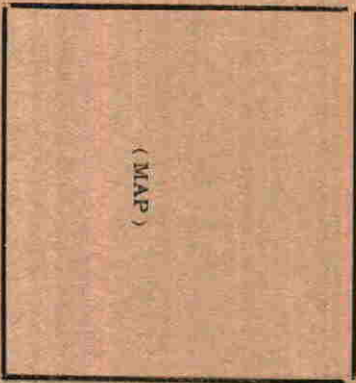
was inevitable. On January 8th vastly superior Russian forces broke into Kirovograd, the key position of the whole Dnieper bend. Five divisions of the 8th Army north west of Kirovograd were wiped out. On February 3rd two Russian armies broke through simultaneously from east and west into the 8th Army's rear and joined forces. 10 divisions of the 8th Army, still holding on near Kaniev, were caught in a sack.

At the same time two other Russian armies closed in from east and west on the 6th Army at Nikopol. On



(MAP)

The position on Jan. 3rd, 1944



(MAP)

The position on Feb. 3rd, 1944

February 10th Nikopol and the bridge-head fell.

THE FATE OF THE 8TH ARMY

Now it was again the 8th Army's turn. On February 5th, Hitler re-issued his order that the ten encircled divisions at Kaniev should hold on at any cost. He also gave his personal promise that they would be relieved. And, in fact, Field Marshal von Manstein threw in strong armoured and infantry forces, which drove a wedge in the Russian ring. They never, however, came near the doomed divisions.

On February 12th these divisions lost their last strong point and supply centre, Korsun. On February 17th the battle of the Kaniev sack was over. In this battle over 55,000 German officers and men were killed and over 18,000 captured. The whole 8th Army had as good as ceased to exist.

Such is the fate of any army that has for its Supreme Commander a politician and not a soldier. G N 26

THE EASTERN FRONT ON FEB. 20TH, 1944

(MAP)

(1938 - 9 Frontiers)

Dropped on 5th Army Front
28 Feb 44

FRONTPOST

Nr. 17

WOCHENBLATT FÜR DEUTSCHE SOLDATEN

24. Februar 1944



KRIWOI ROG, CHOLM UND STARAJA RUSSA GEFALLEN

Am 23. Febr. meldete das OKW die Räumung der grossen Industriestadt Kriwoi Rog im Dnjeprbogen.

In den Bergwerken von Kriwoi Rog werden jährlich 15 bis 20 Millionen Tonnen Eisenerz gefördert. Der Verlust dieser Gruben — zusammen mit dem Ausfall der Manganerzgruben in Nikopol, vor zwei Wochen — wurde vom britischen Kriegswirtschaftsministerium als ein «äusserst schwerer Schlag für die deutsche Kriegsmaschine» bezeichnet.

Im Nordabschnitt der Ostfront wurden, wie das OKW meldet, zwei weitere deutsche Stützpunkte aufgegeben: am 18. Febr. Staraja Russa, und, vier Tage darauf, Cholm. Am 23. Febr. berichtete Moskau, dass die Rote Armee sich in den Aussenbezirken des wichtigen Bahnknotenpunktes Dno befand. Die Russen stehen nördlich und südlich von Narwa, in Estland, und rücken von Norden auf Pskow vor.

Moskau hat die Namen der zehn deutschen Divisionen veröffentlicht, die vor einer Woche im Kessel bei Kanjew, im Dnjeprbogen, eingeschlossen und vernichtet wurden. Es handelt sich um die 57. I. D. Standort Bad Reichenhall; die 72. I. D. aus dem Rheinland; die 82. I. D. Standort Frankfurt a. M.; die 88. I. D. aus Bayern; die 112. I. D. Standort Darmstadt; die 167. I. D. aus Bayern; die 168. I. D. aus Schlesien; die 332. I. D. gleichfalls aus Schlesien; die 213. Sicherungsdivision; und die SS-Pz. Div. «Wiking».

All diese Divisionen waren schon am 3. Febr. von zwei russischen Armeen eingekesselt. Deutsche Kriegsgefangene berichten, dass ihnen am 5. Febr. ein persönlicher Befehl Hitlers vorgelesen wurde, «um jeden Preis auszuhalten». Am 17. Febr. war die Schlacht vorbei. Die Anzahl der gefallenen deutschen Offiziere und Mannschaften beläuft sich, nach neuesten Angaben, auf 55000, die der Gefangenen auf 18000.

Das OKW hat die Einkesselung erst nach dem Ende der Schlacht erwähnt. Am 18. Febr. wurde mitgeteilt, dass es «einer seit Wochen abgeschnittenen starken deutschen Kampfgruppe» gelungen sei, sich freizukämpfen. Am 22. Febr. indessen meldete das OKW, dass General der Artillerie Stemmermann im Laufe dieser Schlacht den Tod fand.

9000 t Bomben in 48 Stunden

Am 20. und 21. Februar wurden auf Deutschland mehr als 9000 Tonnen Bomben abgeworfen. Die Hauptangriffsziele waren Flugzeugfabriken.

20. Februar, 4 Uhr morgens: Die RAF wirft 2300 Tonnen Bomben auf Leipzig, wo 38 v. H. aller deutschen Einsitzer hergestellt wurden.

20. Februar, nachmittags: 2000 amerikanische Kampfflugzeuge und Fernjäger führen einen Angriff auf Flugzeugfabriken in Leipzig, Gotha, Braunschweig, Bernburg und Oschersleben.

21. Februar, 4 Uhr morgens: Die RAF wirft 2000 Tonnen Bomben auf Steingart, ein Zentrum der Flugzeugmotoren- und Bestandteile-Industrie.

21. Februar, nachmittags: 2000 amerikanische Kampfflugzeuge und Fernjäger

bekämpfen Braunschweig, Hannover und Ziele nahe der holländischen Grenze.

Von diesen vier Angriffen kehrten 133 alliierte Kampfflugzeuge und Jäger nicht zurück.

Am 22. Februar führten amerikanische Kampfflugzeuge von England aus wiederum Angriffe auf Flugzeugwerke in Bernburg, Oschersleben und Halberstadt. Am selben Tage bombardierte von Italien aus der stärkste Verband amerikanischer Kampfflugzeuge, der je vom Süden gegen ein einzelnes Ziel in Deutschland eingesetzt wurde, die Messerschmitt Werke in Regensburg.

Am 23. Februar unternahmen amerikanische Kampfflugzeuge erneut einen schweren Angriff vom Süden her, diesmal auf die Flugzeugwerke in Steyr, in Oberösterreich.

Südfront:

Im Landekopf südlich Rom liess während der letzten vier Tage die Kampftätigkeit nach. Vorher hatten die Alliierten den zweiten deutschen Grossangriff in diesem Abschnitt, der von 6 Divisionen mit starker Panzer- und Artilleriedeckung geführt wurde, nach ununterbrochenen zweitägigen Kämpfen abgeschlagen. Die 114. Jäger Div. erlitt besonders schwere Verluste. Diese Division war bis vor kurzem im Einsatz gegen die jugoslawischen Partisanen und hatte noch nie unter Artilleriefeuer gelegen.

Deutsche Truppenbewegungen im rückwärtigen Teil dieses Raumes lassen auf die Wahrscheinlichkeit einer neuen deutschen Offensive schliessen.

An der Südfront der 5. Armee wurden Höhenrücken westlich Monte Cassino genommen. Neuseeländische und indische Einheiten sind an der Cassino-Front eingesetzt worden.

Vom 16. bis 22. Februar einschliesslich flog die alliierte Luftwaffe 6800 Einsätze über der italienischen Front. Während derselben Zeit wurden 855 deutsche Flüge beobachtet, davon die meisten über dem Landekopf.

JAPANISCHE FLOTTE STELLT SICH NICHT

Die grössten amerikanischen Flottenstreitkräfte, die je im Stillen Ozean versammelt worden sind, unternahmen einen zweitägigen Angriff auf den japanischen Flotten- und Luftstützpunkt Truk in den Karolinen.

Trägergestützte amerikanische Flugzeuge schossen in Luftkämpfen 127 japanische Maschinen ab, zerstörten weitere 74 auf dem Boden und beschädigten 50. Am zweiten Tage des Angriffs stieg kein einziges japanisches Flugzeug zur Abwehr auf. 19 japanische Schiffe wurden versenkt, darunter 2 Kreuzer und 3 Zerstörer. Amerikanische Verluste: 17 Flugzeuge.

Das deutsche «Militärwochenblatt» bemerkte kürzlich: «Seit der grossen Seeschlacht im ersten Jahre des Krieges im Fernen Osten hat sich die japanische Flotte nicht ein einziges Mal zum Kampf gestellt. Die Gründe für diese Zurückhaltung sind uns unbekannt.»

DEUTSCHE FLUGZEUGPRODUKTION UND ERDTRUPPE

Der Chef der USA-Heeresluftwaffe, General Arnold, erklärte vor einigen Tagen, dass durch die alliierten Luftangriffe der letzten Woche rund ein Viertel der deutschen Jägerproduktion ausgeschaltet worden ist.

Ein englischer Luftfahrtsachverständiger äusserte sich hierzu am 21. Febr. im Londoner Rundfunk: «Dieser Rückgang der deutschen Jägerwaffe ist für die deutschen Erdtruppen von grösster Bedeutung.

Die zehn Divisionen der deutschen 8. Armee, die im Kessel von Kanjew aufgerieben wurden, hätten gerettet werden können, wenn v. Manstein genügend Luftstreitkräfte zur Sprengung des russischen Einschliessungsrings gehabt hätte. Er konzentrierte zwar jede zur Verfügung stehende Maschine zur Unterstützung der Entlastungskräfte, die vom Süden her vergebliche Rettungsversuche un-

ternahmen, aber die deutschen Staffeln könnten die Ueberlegenheit der Roten Luftwaffe nicht brechen.

Ganz ähnlich steht es in Italien. Die Deutschen hätten mit starken Luftstreitkräften die alliierte Landung wenn nicht verhindern, so doch ernstlich behindern können. Aber Kesselring hatte keine starken Fliegerverbände zur Verfügung. Die schweren Schläge der alliierten Luftwaffe trugen entscheidend dazu bei, Kesselrings Vorbereitungen zum Gegenangriff zu verzögern, und sie ermöglichten das Ausladen alliierter Geschütze, Panzer und anderen schweren Kriegsgerätes.

Die mächtigen alliierten Luftangriffe auf Deutschland werden dafür sorgen, dass sich die deutsche Luftwaffe in keiner besseren Lage befindet, wenn die alliierten Truppen in Westeuropa landen.»

CHURCHILL SPRICHT

Am 22. Februar hielt Churchill im britischen Unterhaus eine Rede. Hier einige Hauptpunkte:

3000000 wehrfähige Deutsche und vier Fünftel der gesamten deutschen Jagdgeschwader sind gegenwärtig zur Verteidigung Deutschlands gegen die anglo-amerikanische Luftoffensive eingesetzt.

Die britische Produktion an Kampfflugzeugen und Jägern ist weitaus grösser als die deutsche. Russland erzeugt ungefähr ebensoviel Flugzeuge wie Grossbritannien, und Amerika zwei- oder dreimal soviel wie Deutschland.

Seit Kriegsbeginn hat die Royal Navy 41000 Mann an Toten verloren, die RAF 48000 Mann an Toten und Vermissten.

Deutschland ist im Begriff, neue Angriffsmethoden gegen England

von der französischen Küste aus vorzubereiten, sei es durch unbemannte, ferngesteuerte Flugzeuge oder Raketenbomben, oder beides. Seit langem verfolgen wir diese Vorbereitungen. Die anglo-amerikanischen Luftstreitkräfte schlugen zu, wann immer sie Anzeichen dieser Vorbereitungen wahrnehmen.

Die Kämpfe in Italien haben 18 deutsche Divisionen an diese Nebenfront abgezogen — dies ergibt, einschliesslich der rückwärtigen Verbände, etwa eine halbe Million Deutsche, die somit auf anderen grösseren Kriegsschauplätzen, die kommen werden, nicht verwendet werden können.

Im kommenden Angriff auf Westeuropa werden britische und amerikanische Streitkräfte je etwa zur Hälfte eingesetzt werden.

SECRET

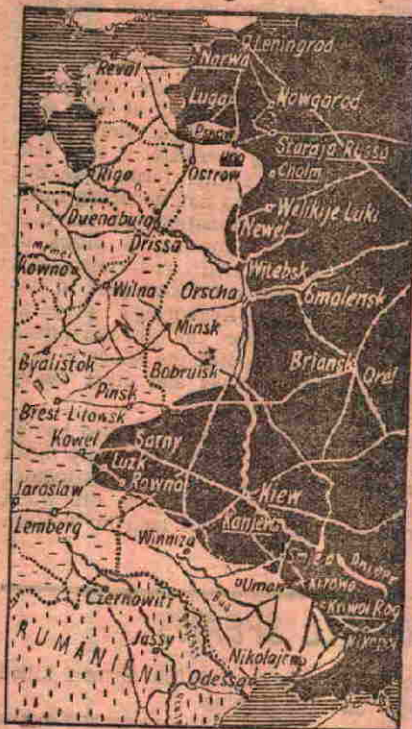
S.D.#3 Feb '44

Dropped on 5th Army Front
28 Feb 44**FRONTPOST**

No. 17

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER FOR GERMAN SOLDIERS

24th February, 1944

**KRIVOI ROG, CHOLM,
STARAYA RUSSA TAKEN**

On February 23rd the OKW reported the evacuation of the great industrial city of Krivoi Rog, in the Dnieper bend.

The iron mines of Krivoi Rog produce from 15 to 20 million tons of iron ore yearly. The loss of these mines, and of the manganese mines of Nikopol a fortnight ago, has been described by the British Ministry of Economic Warfare as a «major blow to the German war-machine».

On the northern part of the Eastern Front, the OKW has announced the evacuation of two further great German strongholds: Staraya Russa, on the 18th, and Cholm on the 22nd. On the 23rd Moscow reported that the Red Army was in the suburbs of the important railway junction of Dno. The Russians are north and south of Narva, in Estonia, and are advancing from north and north east upon Pskov.

Moscow has published the names of the ten divisions of the German 6th Army that were encircled and annihilated a week ago in the «sack» near Kaniiev, in the Dnieper bend. (Names given in German text.)

These divisions were first encircled by two Russian armies on February 3rd. Prisoners of war report that on February 5th they had read to them a direct order from Hitler to «hold at any cost».

By February 17th the battle was over. According to the latest figures, 55,000 German officers and men were killed and 18,000 captured.

The OKW made no mention of this encirclement until the battle was over. Then, on the 18th, it merely announced that «a strong German combat group, which had been cut off for weeks, fought its way through». On February 22nd, however, the OKW reported that Artillery General Stemmermann had been killed in this battle.

9000 Tons of Bombs on Germany in 48 Hours

On February 20th and 21st, more than 9000 tons of bombs were dropped on Germany. Main targets were aircraft factories.

Feb. 20th, 4 a.m.: The RAF dropped 2,300 tons of bombs on Leipzig. This city produces 33 per cent of Germany's single-seater fighters.

Feb. 20th, afternoon: 2000 American heavy bombers and fighters attacked aircraft factories in Leipzig, Gotha, Brunswick, Bernburg and Oschersleben.

Feb. 21st, 4 a.m.: The RAF dropped 2000 tons of bombs on Stuttgart, production centre for aircraft engines and parts.

Feb. 21st, afternoon: 2000 American heavy bombers and fighters attacked aircraft factories in Brunswick and near the Dutch frontier, also targets in Hannover.

From all these four attacks, 133 Allied aircraft did not return.

On February 22nd American bombers from England again attacked aircraft factories in Bernburg, Oschersleben and Halberstadt. On the same day American bombers from Italy, with fighter escort, attacked the Messerschmitt factory in Regensburg. This was the strongest air formation that has ever yet attacked a single target from the south.

SECRET

SECRET

S. D. # 4. Feb. 4

Alliierte Landung bei **ROM!**

Starke Divisionen der 5. Armee mit Panzern und schwerer Artillerie stehen jetzt zwischen Dir und Rom. Die HKL im Sueden ist umgangen. Ob Du Dich nach Norden oder Sueden wendest, Du hast den Feind vor Dir und im Ruecken. Die Schlacht im Sueden wird zur Kesselschlacht.

Unter dem Schutz schwerer Flotteneinheiten und der ueberlegenen alliierten Luftwaffe schliesst sich ein unerbittlicher Ring. Mit einem Schlag ist Deine Lage eine verzweifelte geworden. Jeder Versuch der Entsetzung oder des Ausbrechens kann nur zu blutigen Verlusten fuehren, wie bei Stalingrad.

Die unmittelbare Zukunft bringt Dir ein blutiges, sinnloses Stalingrad, oder ein grausames Spiessrutenlaufen unter dem Hagel der anglo-amerikanischen Flieger, oder eine geordnete Uebergabe wie bei Tunis.

SECRET

SECRET

15.7. - Feb. 44

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, 489th Bombardment Squadron (M), 340th Bombardment Group (M)

Period: Month of February, 1944

Prepared by S-2 personnel under the supervision of 1st. Lt. Jack A. Casper

Station: Pompei L/G, Italy

 ABBEY ATTACK

Briefed to destroy the Benedictine Abbey at Cassino (see diary for 15 February), The Avengers Group in routine fashion carried out an unfortunate necessity of war that has made worldwide headlines. The Germans had made this abbey an impregnable stronghold which our ground forces could not crack. Thus the Air Corps was called upon. Heavies and mediums were used. The bombing was devastating in more than one sense of the word and the repercussions were far-reaching. The following excerpts from a despatch issued in Washington appeared in the February 17 issue of "The Stars and Stripes":

"Condoning the attack on the German-held home of the Benedictine Order were President Roosevelt and Archbishop Michael J. Curley, Roman Catholic prelate of Baltimore and Washington . . . 'The Germans evidently took advantage of the American attitude toward such a monument and they took possession of that place in order to carry out their nefarious warfare', the Archbishop said."

In London the newspapers featured the bombing as the day's biggest story. And from the XII Bomber Command came this message of congratulations:

"Ground observers witnessing attack on Monte Cassino today unanimously agree that of all attacks, including four (4) B-17 Groups, the mediums stole the show. Congratulations to all concerned."



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SECRET

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS, 489th Bombardment Squadron (M), 340th Bombardment Group (M) Form 441 A. S.D. # 5 Feb. 44

SECRET

2nd Squadron Combat Mission
FIRST Mission of the Day

SORTIE REPORT
(Part A)

Sheet No. 1 Oprep. Ref. No. Date 1145 hrs. 15 Feb 1944 Squadron 489th B.S.

Type of Aircraft 6 Mitchells (a 7th plane, 9X, flew with and was interrogated by the 488th Sqdn.)
Aircraft No. Aircraft Letter 1st Flight, 2nd Box.

Captain
Crew

Time Up) 1005 hrs.
Time Down) 1130 hrs.
Total Time) 1 hr. & 25 min.

Aerodrome or L.G. Pompei, Italy.

Type of Cloud
Amount of Cloud
Base of Cloud
Visibility

Map or Chart
Reference
Cassino - 1:100,000
Rome - 1:500,000

General Weather C A V U, except on Bomb Run passed through cloud permitting only 4 seconds for sighting of target & making of corrections.

Task or Duty Bomb and Destroy Benedictine Monastery, Italy.

Time	Height	Place	Narrative
BOMBS - Carried		:	23 x 1000 (21 x 1000 - 1/10 sec nose & .025 sec tail fuses) (1 x 1000 - 6 hr. fuse (1 x 1000 - 12 hr. fuse
TIME OVER TARGET		:	1100 hrs.
ALTITUDE OVER TARGET		:	10,700' (indicated).
SPEED OVER TARGET		:	240 IAS.
RESULTS		:	Axis of attack 255° with sharp right turn off target after Bomb Run independent of Leading Box. Sketchy pattern starting immediately east of Abbey and proceeding through south edge of Abbey and terminating thereat. Direct hits were believed to have been scored on the monastery. Upon approaching the target, a slight cloud of yellowish smoke was seen over the monastery and upon leaving the target the 488th flight was observed to have laid a perfect pattern on the structure.
OPPOSITION	E A/C :	None.	
	A/A :	None on route out to target or over same. On route in a/a was seen coming from ATINA but was at least a half mile off on range as formation avoided ATINA per briefing instructions.	
		JAG/wfg	JACK A. CASPER 1st Lt., Air Corps Ass't S-2 Officer.
Distribution - Normal			

PART B (on reverse) to be completed according to relevant pro-forma in H.Q. R.A.F. M.E. Instruction 34.

SECRET

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