



E.T.O. REPRISE 1943-44

As the air war in Europe reached its peak during the fateful years of 1943-44 there were countless scenes of U. S. Army Air Force aircraft embroiled in the battle. Some of those scenes are recaptured on this and the following two pages through the exciting photos from the collection of Ray E. Bowers. There were the Flying Fortresses, the B-17s that carried the strategic air war deep into Germany, and there were the Liberators, that did the same thing.

There were also a myriad of lesser types that supported the air units in utility rolls. These ranged in size from the tiny Tiger Moths to large, war-weary bomb-

ers serving out their usefulness without armament. And there were also the cargo planes which supplied all of the units and gave transport to troops and supplies on their way to the battle fronts after D-Day.

Finally, there were the fighters ranging from the night variety of Black Widow to the day-time variety of Mustangs, Thunderbolts and Lightnings. On these pages we visit all in a kind of reprise of the outstanding pages from the Ray Bowers collection that appeared in past JOURNALS--covering the Lockheed P-38s in Vol 8, No 2; the Republic P-47s in Vol 8, No 4; and the North American P-51s in Vol 9, No 2.



Boeing B-17F of the 306th Bomb Group stands before hangars bombed out by the Luftwaffe at Wattisham, August of 1943.



Pilot of this Douglas C-47 turned in an outstanding job of taxiing. With a whole airfield around, he managed to find this drainage ditch squarely with both wheels.



Pilot of this Noorduynd C-64A didn't make a three point landing when he first touched down but he kept at it until he had a three pointer—two wheels and the nose,



This fearsome machine, named EL PISSTOPHO Jr, was used by the 353rd Fighter Group. It's a de Havilland DH82A Tiger Moth II bearing the RAF serial of: DE 745.



On the back of this photo of a Northrop P-61 Black Widow were the tragic words: First P-61 in Europe shot down by British Ack-Ack when they didn't recognize it.



Lockheed P-38 of the 38th Fighter Squadron, 55th Fighter Group bellied in near Manston in early 1944. Squadron is identified by GC code and the triangle on tail.



One of the many moments of danger is at its height as fire-fighting equipment goes to work to save this P-38 of the 55th Fighter Squadron, 20th Fighter Group.



North American P-51B Mustang, 42-106447, C5-L, of the 364th Fighter Squadron, 357th Group in summer of 1944.



Still bearing factory numbers on its rudder is a P-51C of the 374th Fighter Squadron, 361st Fighter Group.



Flaps and wings of this P-47D, 335th Fighter Squadron, 4th Group, have been shot up by 20 mm cannon shells.



Belly-landed Republic P-47D of the 56th Fighter Group, 63rd Fighter Squadron, in the spring of 1944.



For closers--a Consolidated B-24J from the Mediterranean-based 15th Air Force with tail markings of 485th Bomb Group.