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The Armstrong Whitworth "Whitley" Mk. IV Heavy Bomber (two Rolls-Royce "Merlin" engines).

The Armstrong Whitworth "Whitley" Mk IV heavy bomber has two Rolls-Royce "Merlin" engines.



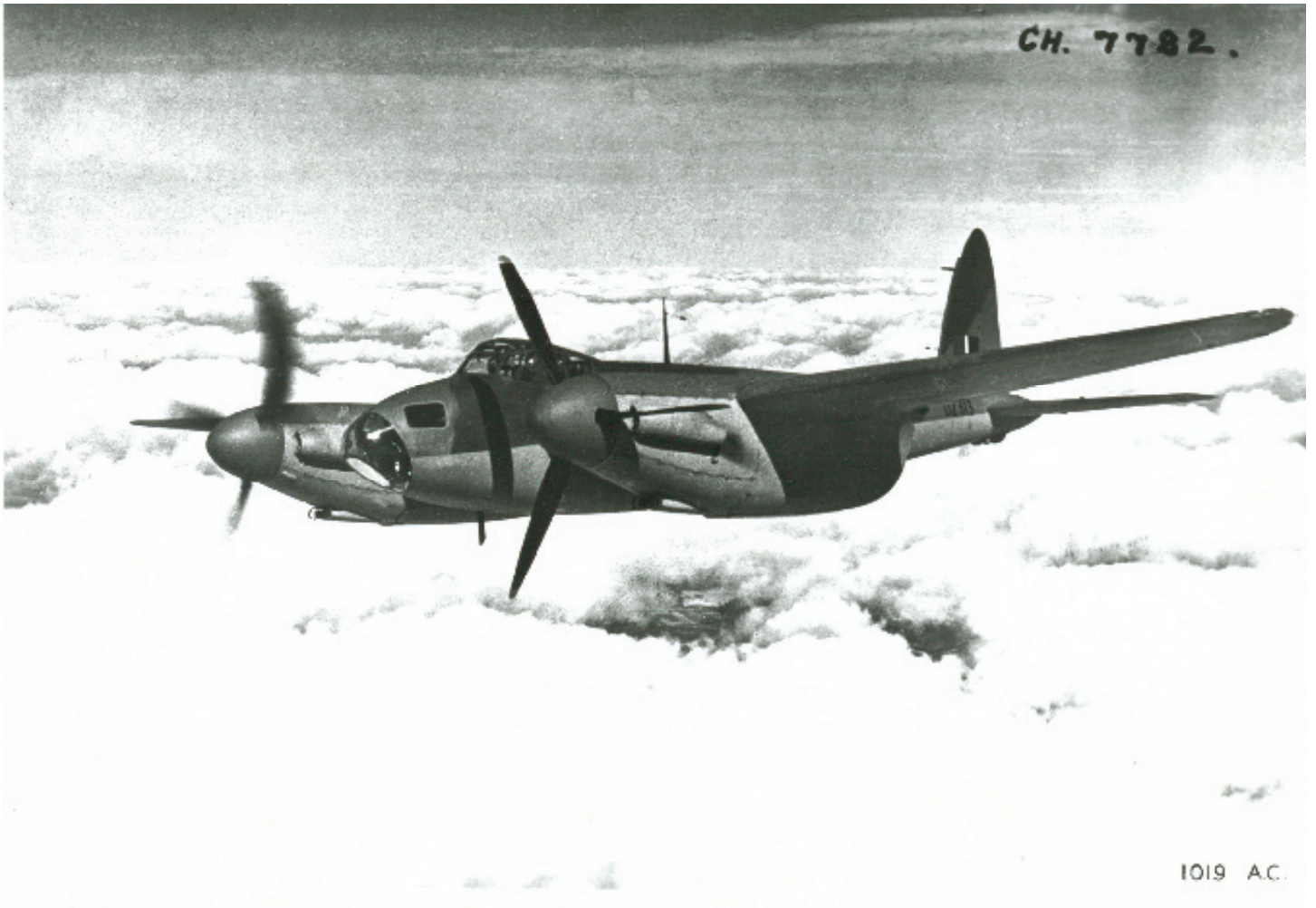
The AVRO Lancaster heavy bomber



The Halifax heavy bomber



The Sterling heavy bomber



The Dehavilland Mosquito light bomber



An early-model B-17 flies over Washington, DC on 12 March 1937. Below the aircraft are the munitions buildings, World War I temporary buildings that served as Army and Army Air Corps Headquarters early in World War II.



Twelfth Air Force B-17 drops bombs over Palermo, Sicily.



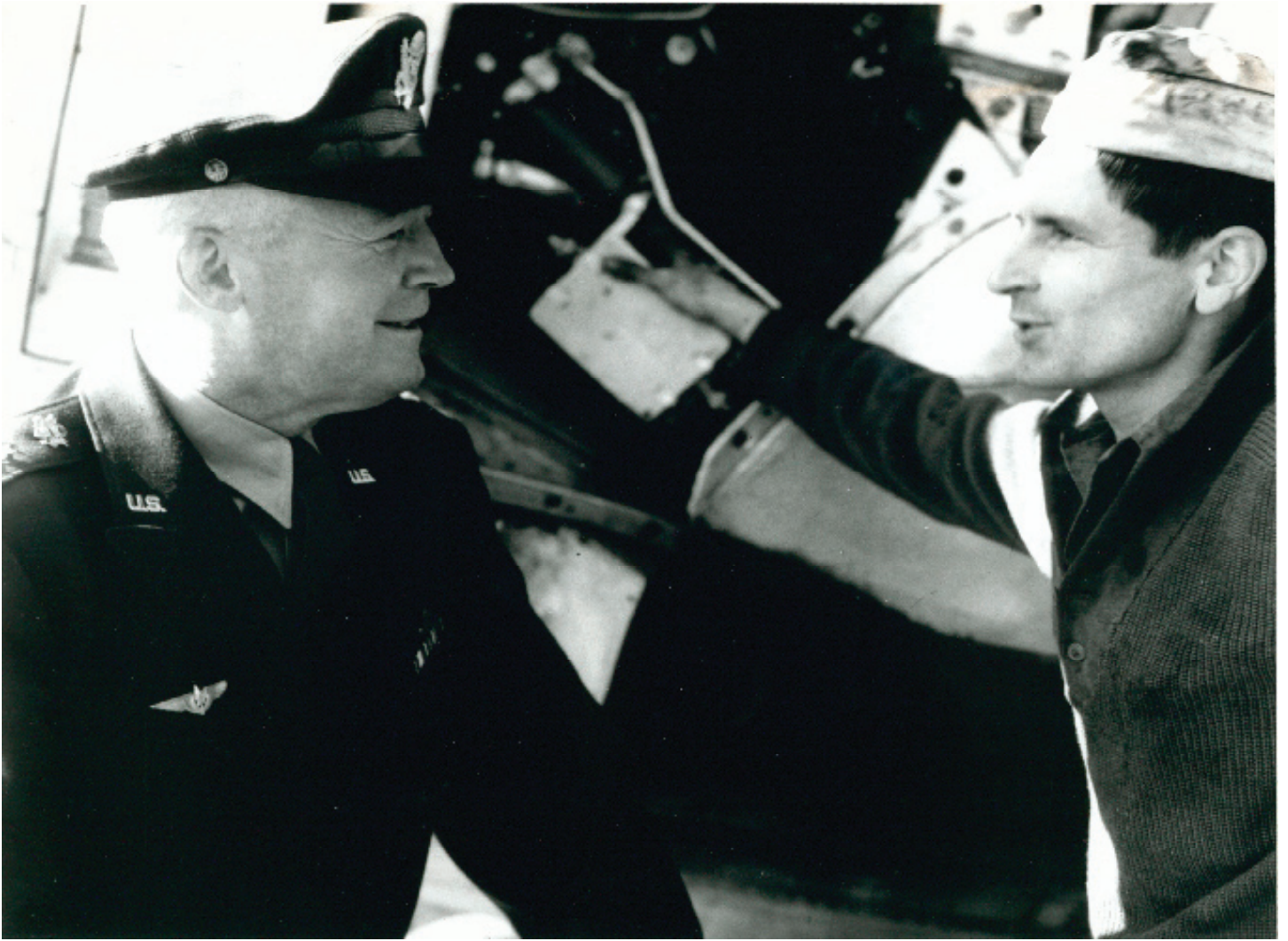
Summer 1941. Maj Gen Henry H. Arnold, commanding general of the Army Air Forces (AAF) and members of the AAF air staff. Left to right: Lt Col Edgar P. Sorenson, Lt Col Harold L. George (chief, War Plans Division), Brig Gen Carl A. Spaatz (chief, AAF air staff), General Arnold, Maj Haywood S. Hansell Jr., Brig Gen Martin F. Scanlon, and Lt Col Arthur W. Vanaman. All of these men would be general officers by the end of World War II.



Fall 1942, Tunisia. Maj Gen Carl A. Spaatz, commander of Twelfth Air Force meets with Air Chief Marshal Arthur Tedder, air officer commanding, Mediterranean Air Command.



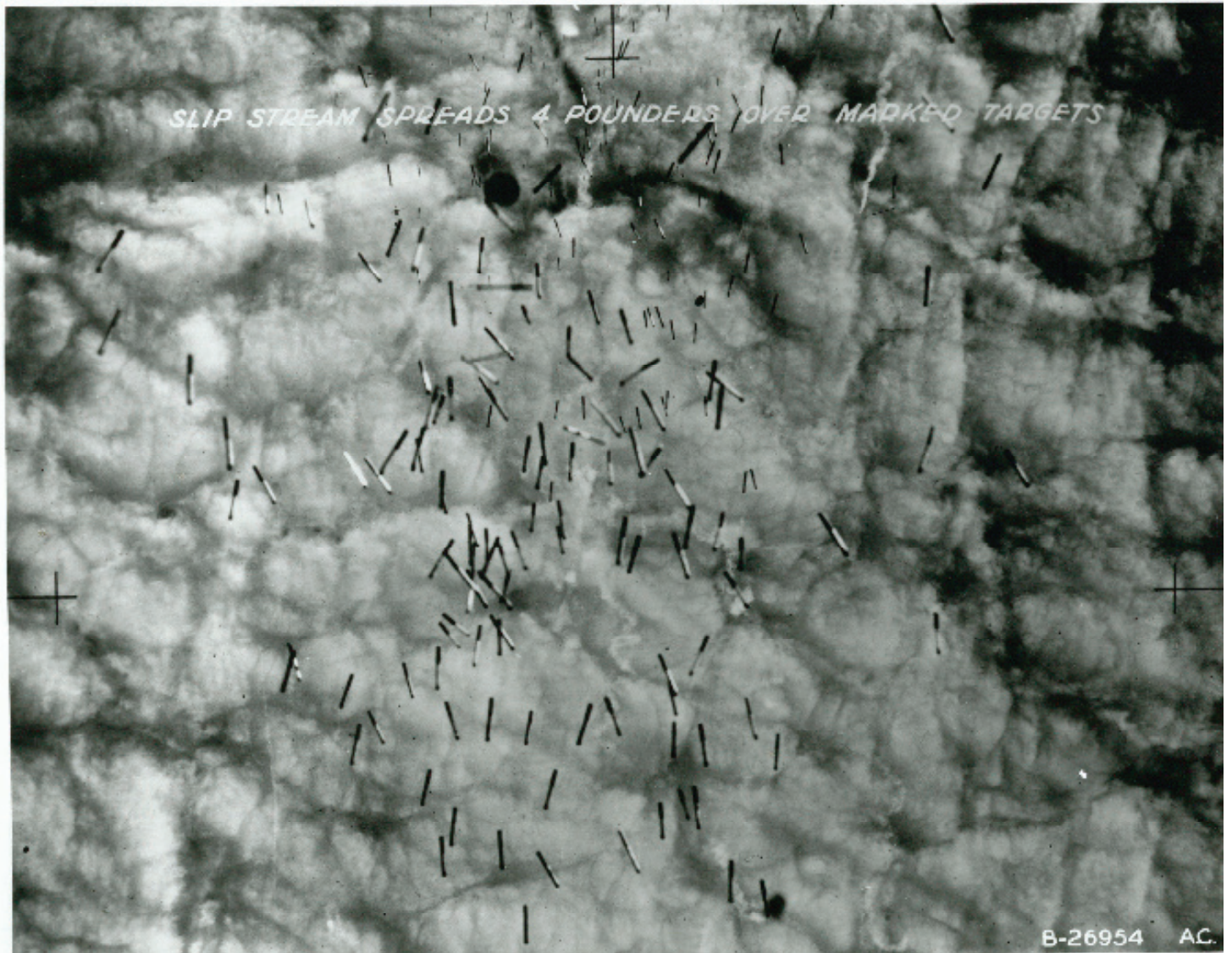
Maj Gen Frederick L. Anderson



December 1943. General Arnold cracks a joke with Sgt W. C. Crick, crew chief for a Twelfth Air Force P-47.



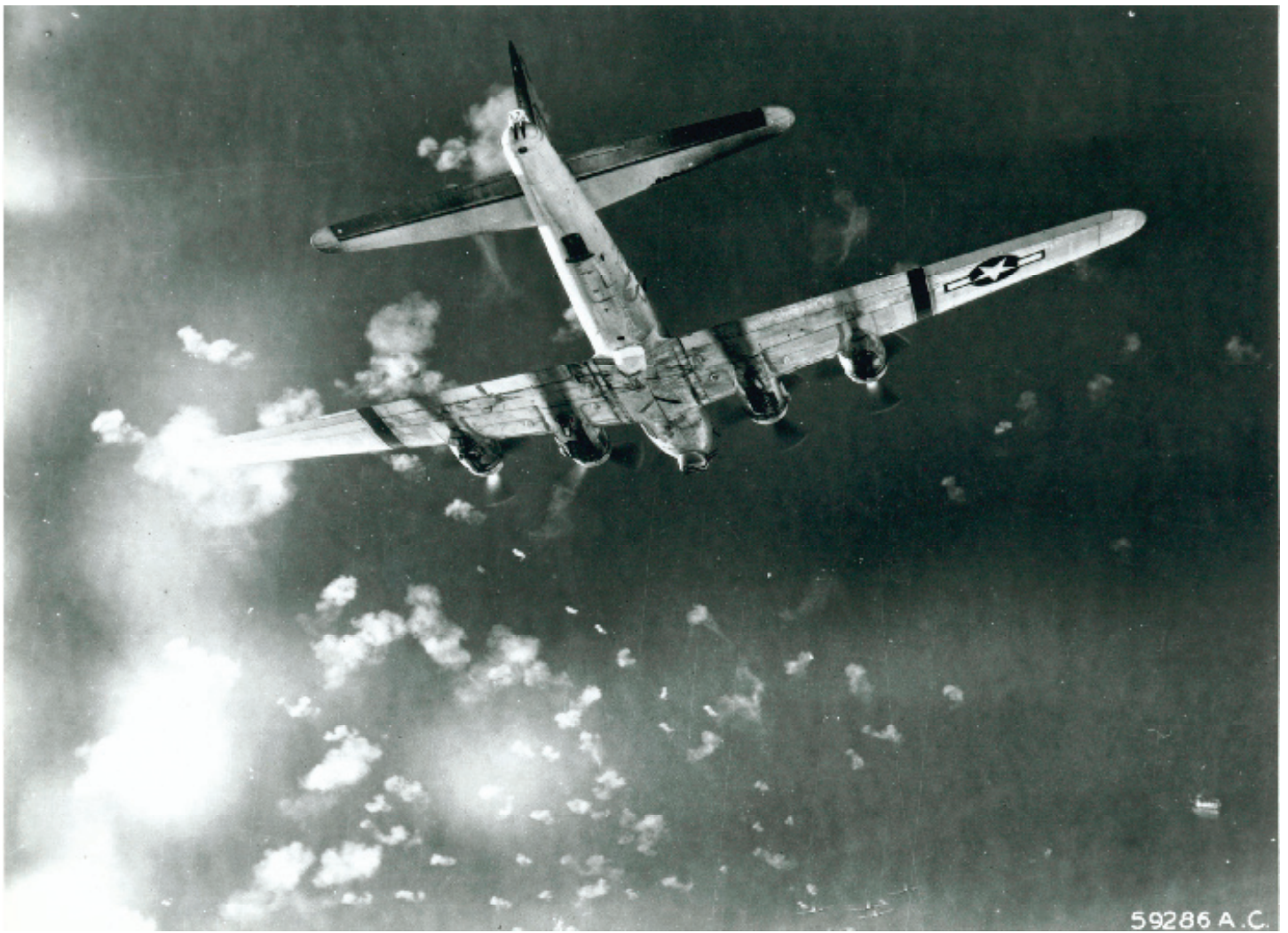
December 1943. General Arnold and Air Chief Marshal Charles A. Portal, chief of the Royal Air Force air staff.



The slipstream spreads four-pound incendiaries over a marked target. Note the smoke trail by the marking bomb (upper right) and the heavy cloud cover over the target.



A B-17G flies over Frankfurt in 1944.



B-17G with H2X radar extended from former belly turret position. Note heavy flak.



Late-model P-47s of the Twelfth Air Force have belly drop tanks and 500 pound bombs under their wings. This model has a much longer range than the P-47Bs used in 1943 and early 1944.



P-38s of the Fifteenth Air Force flew the middle leg in the escort relay system.



Fifteenth Air Force P-51Ds. The advent of this aircraft spelled the end for the Luftwaffe daylight fighter force.



An Me-110 night fighter variant with nose radar array was a defender of the Reich.



“Big Week.” The 91st Bomb Group strikes aircraft plants at Oschersleben, Germany, 20 February 1944.



March 1944. During a morale visit, Generals Spaatz and Doolittle sign “short snorters” (dollar bills) at Thorp Abbotts Airfield, home of the 100th Bomb Group.



The Abbey of Monte Cassino, Italy, under the bombs of the US Fifteenth Air Force, February 1944



An Eighth Air Force B-17 unloads on Berlin, 29 April 1944. Raids on Berlin in the spring of 1944 kept the pressure on the Luftwaffe by forcing it into action to defend its nation's capital city.



1944, Italy. Lt Gen Spaatz meets with Lt Gen Nathan F. Twining, commander, Fifteenth Air Force, and Brig Gen Edward P. Curtis, Spaatz's chief of staff.



A B-24 releases ten 500-lb. bombs over Ploesti, 24 April 1944. Although the official report cited the target as “marshaling yards,” the bombs “accidentally” fell on the refineries.



A Liberator heads for home, 24 June 1944. Note the extensive smoke screen (streamers extending from the fire pots, etc.) laid by the defenders to cloak the refineries.



The end of the road. On 18 August 1944 a heavy column of black smoke from damaged oil facilities rises through the ever-present smoke screen. When the Soviets captured the city four days later, they complained that the Americans had done too good a job wrecking the complex.



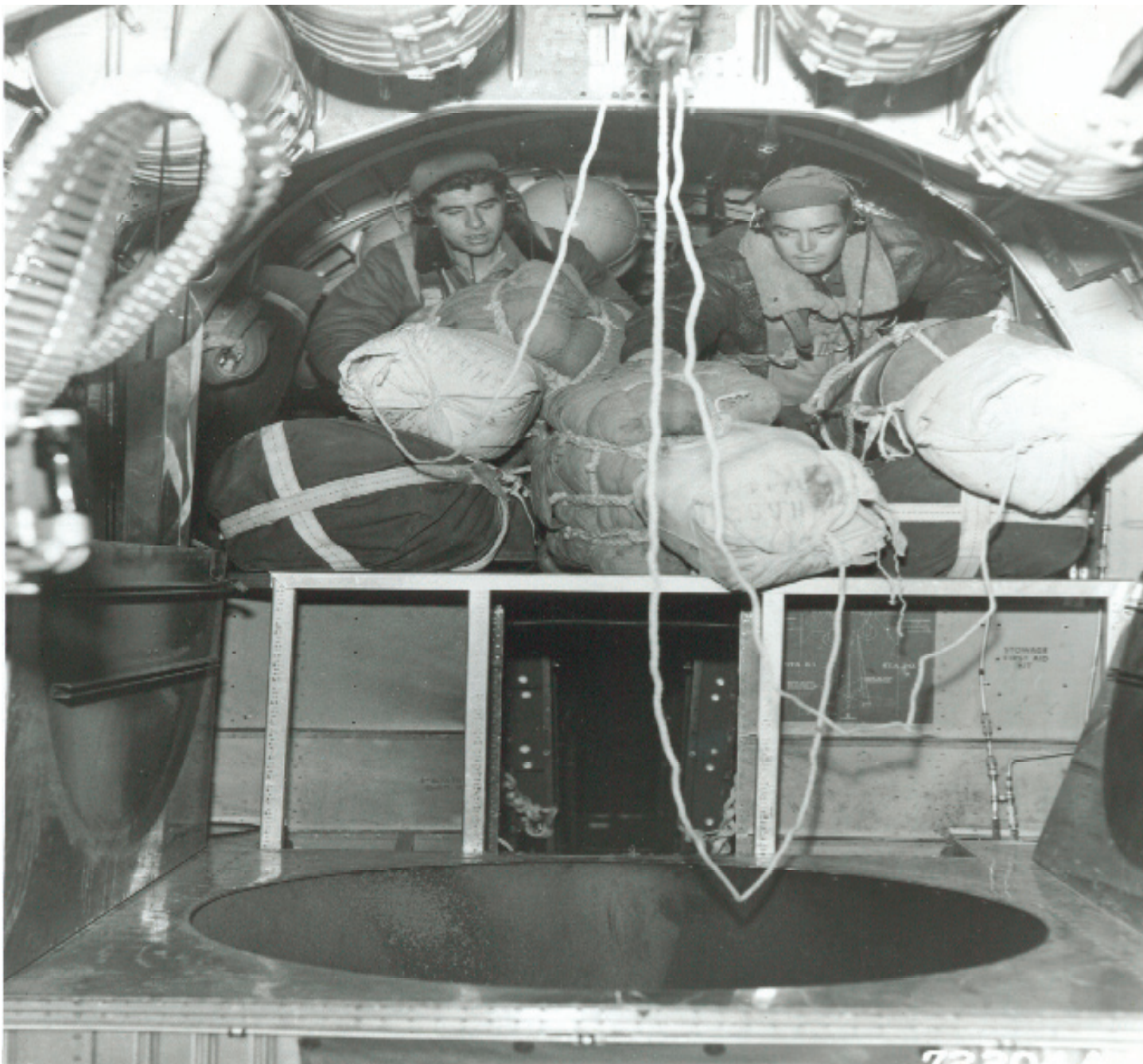
The Cost. A Fifteenth Air Force B-17 suffers a direct hit by antiaircraft artillery over Budapest, Hungary, on 14 July 1944.



The Result. Smoke from Budapest's smashed refineries rises over the city and spreads across the Danube.



In an attempt to impede German ground replacement capabilities (after the Germans' heavy losses in the summer of 1944), the Eighth bombed German depots and ordnance centers in the fall of 1944. Although the effort was not a success, it did sometimes achieve spectacular results. A 6 October 1944 raid on the Hamburg/Glinde area destroyed several large ordnance buildings and left fires burning 24 hours later, when an Allied photoreconnaissance aircraft took this picture.



Allied heavy bombers flew many wartime sorties to support and supply special operations and resistance movements in German-occupied Europe. Here, on 15 February 1945, TSgt Charles Locasto and SSgt John Padget of the 885th Bomb Group attach static lines to parachute drop packages for a mission over northern Italy.



The famous cathedral at Cologne suffered heavy damage during a series of Eighth Air Force attacks in the fall and winter of 1944-1945. This is a typical view of the gutted building originally captioned “Two American soldiers, on guard, view the Cologne Cathedral from under an arch of the wrecked Hohenzollern Bridge, 16 April 1945.” The ground-level shot, centering the building under the arch and in the midst of total destruction, emphasizes the ruined beauty of the building and the seeming recklessness of American bombing. The caption fails to mention that the “wrecked” Hohenzollern Bridge, obviously not far from the cathedral, served as a major railroad crossing of the Rhine and primary line of supply for German forces. As such it had a high priority for Allied air attack; however, these attacks failed. The Germans demolished the bridge themselves during their retreat.



A low-level aerial photo of the Cologne Cathedral shows it in the midst of a ruined city landscape, a stark example of area bombing. Notice the River Rhine running through the picture. The “wrecked” Hohenzollern Bridge (left edge of photo, center) and its entry arch are directly behind the cathedral, apparently only a couple of hundred meters away. Also note the destroyed Hindenburg Highway bridge, another key supply line and target, five city blocks or so away from the cathedral. Ninth Air Force medium bombers dropped it into the river.



This 19 March 1945 medium-altitude photo of Cologne shows the cathedral (bottom center) directly adjacent to a marshaling yard or train station, quite close to a key double-tracked railway bridge and not far from a highway bridge. An even larger marshaling yard and the convergence of two rail lines at the other end of the Hohenzollern Bridge are also visible. Given the inaccuracy of American bombing and the repeated attacks on transportation targets near the cathedral, one can only wonder that it still stands at all.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower shakes hands
with Lt. Gen. James H. Doolittle after award-
ing him the Oak Leaf Cluster to his Distinguished
Service Medal. 1/25/45/

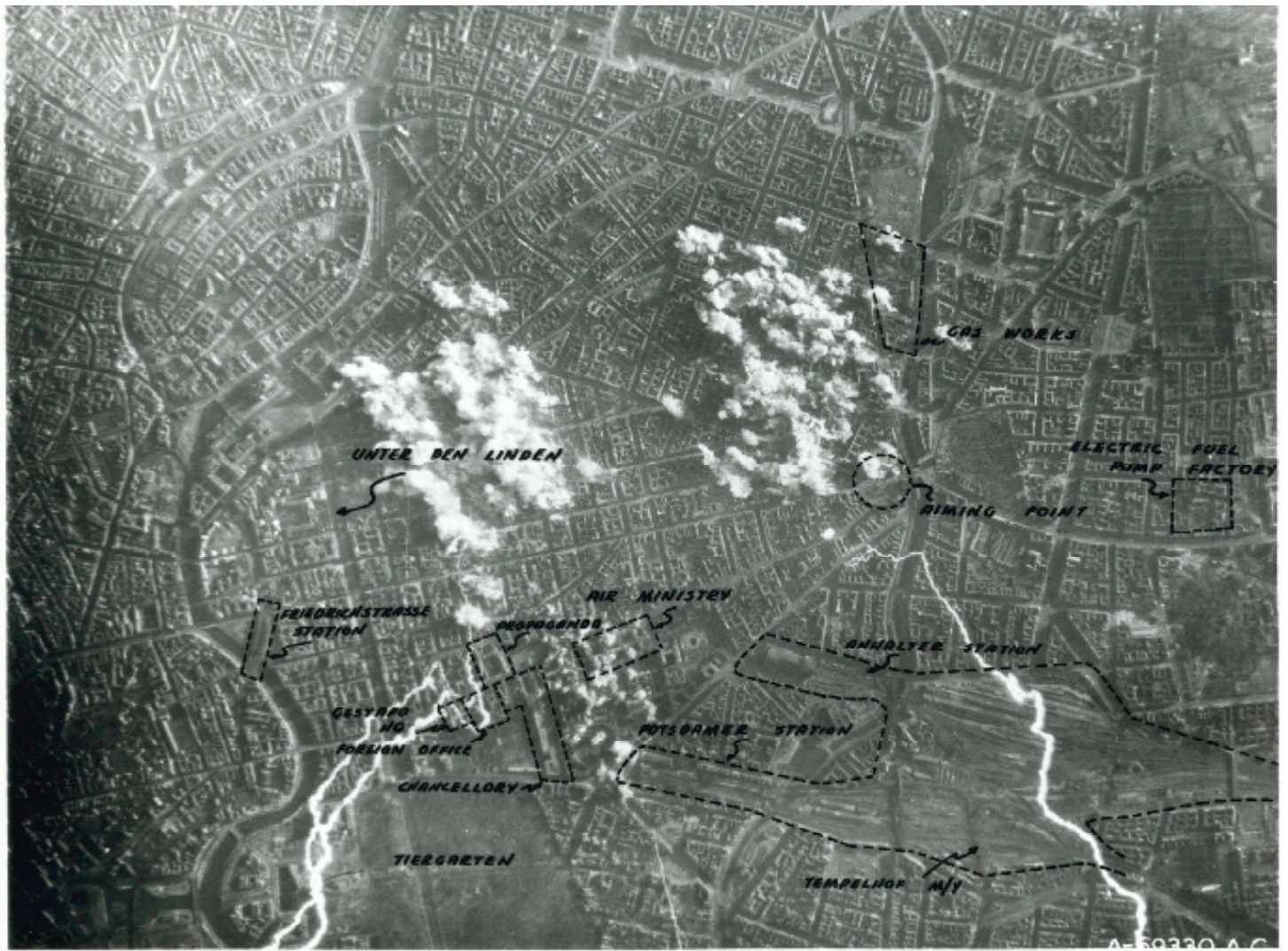
Signal Corps picture number SC-199387.



Lieutenant General Doolittle and Maj Gen Fred Anderson receive medals from General of the Army Eisenhower, 25 January 1945.



The Cost. A B-17 goes down over Berlin.



3 February 1945, Operation Thunderclap. Photo identifies government and military targets and shows bombs landing in residential areas.



18 March 1945. As many as 50 of these German Me-262 jet-propelled aircraft opposed a 1,000-bomber Eighth Air Force raid on Berlin.



24 March 1945. The Fifteenth Air Force takes a crack at Berlin. Bombs of the 301st Bomb Group land on the Daimler-Benz Tank Works.



Generals Spaatz and Doolittle attend a bomber crew debriefing, 31 March 1945.