

W W II - Rumania

#5 - A view of bomb damage at Podul Grand Bridge in the railroad yards at Bucharest, Rumania.

9

Px 77-28(2)



877-28 (1)

#6 - Ploesti story: Damage to Concordia Vega Refinery, knocked out by the bombers of the 15th Strategic Air Force.

6

WWII - Rumania



Px 77-28(7)

#7 - Ploesti Story: The twisted wreckage of pipes and tanks reaches from one edge of the refinery area to the other at Astra Romana, one of the Refineries of Ploesti wrecked by bombers of the 15th Air Force.

7

WWII - Rumania



Px 77-28 (8)

#8 - Ploesti Story: Looking down from the center power house stack at Concordia Vega Refinery, you can see the wreckage caused by repeated raids of the XV AAF on Ploesti Refineries.

2

WWII - Rumania



Px 77-28 (9)

#9 - Laboratory and office of the Astra Romano Oil Refinery at Ploesti, the most important one in Rumania. 15th AAF heavies bombed this plant four times.



WWII - Rumania



Px 77-28(10)

#10 - Storage tanks of the Astra-Romano Oil Refinery at Ploesti. Note bomb craters in the foreground. This refinery is the largest in Rumania, and one of the 15 at Ploesti attacked 23 times between April 5 and August 19 from the air.

WWII - Rumania



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Oct. 28 1953

PX 66-176

MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES PHOTO

RUMANIA

WW II : aircraft : Bombers

(MAAF PHOTO) 15TH AAF
DURING THE HEAVY BOMBER ATTACK AGAINST OIL & TARGETS AT PLOESTI,
RUMANIA, ON JULY 31, THIS B-17 FLYING FORTRESS MET ITS END WHILE
FLYING OVER THE TARGET AREA. THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION OF FLAK
TORE THE PLANE ASUNDER SENDING THE WING AND FORWARD SECTION TO EARTH
IN FLAMES. THE TAIL SECTION CAN BE SEEN IN THE UPPER PART OF THIS
PHOTOGRAPH.

PASSED FOR PUBLICATION

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

September 22, 1944

Gen. Arnold folder 2-44



WB

file

PSF War

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Herewith is a copy of a most interesting letter from General Eaker relative to his visit to the Floesti oil fields and the damage that he found. Several typical pictures are attached hereto with the description on the back of each one.

H. H. Arnold
H. H. ARNOLD,
General, U. S. Army,
Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

Incl:
Cy ltr to Gen. Arnold,
9/17, frm Gen. Eaker.
10 Photographs.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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Office of the Commander-in-Chief
HEADQUARTERS MEDITERRANEAN ALLIED AIR FORCES
A.P.O. 650

17 September 1944.

General H. H. Arnold, USA.,
Commanding General,
HQ. Army Air Forces,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear General,

Thanks very much for your kind letter which came yesterday commending us for our work. Both Cannon and Saville were here shortly after your letter arrived and I derived great pleasure from noting the appreciation and evident lift to their morale which your letter caused.

You were quite right about the three Commanders, Cannon, Twining and Saville. They have all done superior work. Yesterday afternoon we had a formal ceremony at which Saville was given a Distinguished Service Medal. Cannon spent an hour with me and then dashed off to finish the afternoon with Alexander at his headquarters. Cannon is having to work like a beaver to cover his two jobs with Alexander and Bevers, particularly since they are now so widely separated, but he is doing it in his usual efficient manner and keeping both these Commanders entirely satisfied and happy.

With the permission of the Russians and on the invitation of the Rumanian Chief of General Staff I last Thursday and Friday visited Bucharest and Floesti. I have, in a letter just written to Barney, outlined some aspects of this trip, but I will give you briefly a summarization of some of my overall impressions.

King Michael is a real monarch; there is no doubt but that he is running the country. I saw him in the presence of his ministers and there is not the slightest doubt that they take their guidance and control from him. The young boy, only 22 years old, is a real patriot. He is only interested in what will help Rumania and the Rumanian people. He is a firm friend and a great admirer of the United States and England and he wants the Government of his Country to model that of England and America.

The Ministers and senior military officials of Rumania are sincere and able men and they have the Army and the

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83D Letter, 5-3-78

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country, what I saw of it, the heart of it, under perfect control.

The Russians are giving the Rumanians a bad time. King Michael told me, however, that he believed things would grow better and not worse. In this I think he is right. The first wave of the Russian military which came in were tough babies, and they treated Rumania and the Rumanians as a conquered country. In their simple, direct way they are, of course, right - the Rumanians were on the other side of the fence but a short while ago, despite the fact that their hearts were always with the Allies and they are now fighting very valiantly on our side and alongside the Russian military and air forces.

Ploesti is a perfect example of what bombing can do to industry. The total overall result of our bombing of Ploesti was the complete destruction of the Rumanian oil industry to all intents and purposes. With great effort the refining capacity was at about 10% level on August 20, but the Germans were only able to get out but 2 to 4% because of the subsidiary attacks on the marshalling yards, tank cars, railroad bridges and the mining of the Danube.

Here is an interesting item- I talked to four of the managers of the principal refineries. They took me through the battered, broken plants and they told me that they could in ninety days bring their plants back to 15 to 25% normal capacity if they had the cooperation of the Russians. All their motor transport has been commandeered and they can do nothing toward cleaning up the wreckage without motor transport. The Russians are now hauling away the surplus motor fuel and products which were stored in the refineries and which had not been totally destroyed. When this is gone the Russians will find that they have killed the goose which laid the golden egg! When that day comes it is going to be interesting to see what they then do. At the present moment they are doing nothing but guarding the plants. There are no Russian engineers, oil experts, or supervisory engineers aiding the Rumanians in the recovery of the oil refinery capacity.

We have, with considerable initiative and industry, gone into the Ploesti area with bomb-evaluation and intelligence teams and they have done excellent work. We are, therefore, with the help of the Rumanians, going to have a perfect report, including the German figures on oil production, plus German motion-picture photographs of each of our attacks and all the Rumanian economic data on Rumanian petroleum production and export. The OSS has

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and Letter, 8-9-72

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worked with us like brothers and very efficiently in procuring these reports. Bill Donovan and his people deserve great credit for the work they have done with us.

I have sent back by today's couriers the best photographs we brought out, both motion and still. The whole report will be assembled and forwarded as fast as possible.

King Michael and the Chief of the Rumanian General Staff told me, and this was confirmed by the managers of the four principal refineries I visited, that there was very little loss of life in our attacks on the refineries because they always got the warning about an hour in advance, closed down the plants, and everybody took to the open fields as far away from the refineries as they could get. These officials also told me, however, that we had killed twelve thousand people the day we attacked the marshalling yards in Bucharest. They explained that this occurred because on that day they had a practice alert at 10.15 which had been well advertized on the radio and in the newspapers. When our bombers came over at 12.30 they gave the alarm but everybody thought it was a continuation of the practice. There were six thousand foreign workers on trains in the marshalling yards; these were practically all killed. About six thousand Rumanians were killed on the streets and in the buildings alongside the marshalling yards. I examined the marshalling yard and the area about it and it is perfectly understandable why there was so great loss of life. I have never anywhere else seen such destruction. Despite this the Rumanians showed no animosity toward us. In fact, people in the streets were as friendly and almost as enthusiastic as the people in southern France. The Germans, with their usual stupidity, took great pains on their last two days to make certain that the Rumanians hated them with a venomous hate. They dive-bombed the King's Palace and all the principal streets in the city, which was obviously pure spite-work. All the Rumanians I talked to told me that in every attack the Americans made it was quite obvious they were after purely military objectives. The Russian Commander, General Suhnen, told me that the Russians had been tremendously impressed with the evidences of our bombing they had seen around Floesti. They had no idea that such evident precision and destructive power could be caused by bombers attacking from high altitude.

It was a very worthwhile trip on my part. I am sending General Curry, General Cabell and General Born back to Floesti tomorrow so that they can continue where I left off. I am not at all certain that the Russians will extend them

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the cooperation they did me. The message from Moscow authorizing my visit pointed out that there were some American teams in Floesti without authority. It may be, therefore, that the permission which was extended to me to see everything in Bucharest and Floesti may not be further extended to include my assistants and staff. I want to find this out and that is one of the reasons for sending the two Operations Chiefs and General Curry back tomorrow.

The best to you as always.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ira C. Baker
IRA C. BAKER
Lieutenant General, U. S. A.
Commanding.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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SAVE

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON

January 11, 1945

*Arnold folder
2-45*

PSF War:



file

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT:

Subject: Photograph of Nagoya

Note the attached picture of Nagoya taken by one of the last squadrons to drop their bombs. The full effect of our incendiary attack obviously cannot be depicted by this picture, as some of the bombs are still on the way down. It does, however, give a general idea of what happened to Nagoya on January 3.

We are still awaiting pictures showing the city as a result of this incendiary attack after the smoke had cleared away.

H. H. ARNOLD

Commanding General, Army Air Forces

Incl: Photo of Nagoya



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Photo. in A-4 file