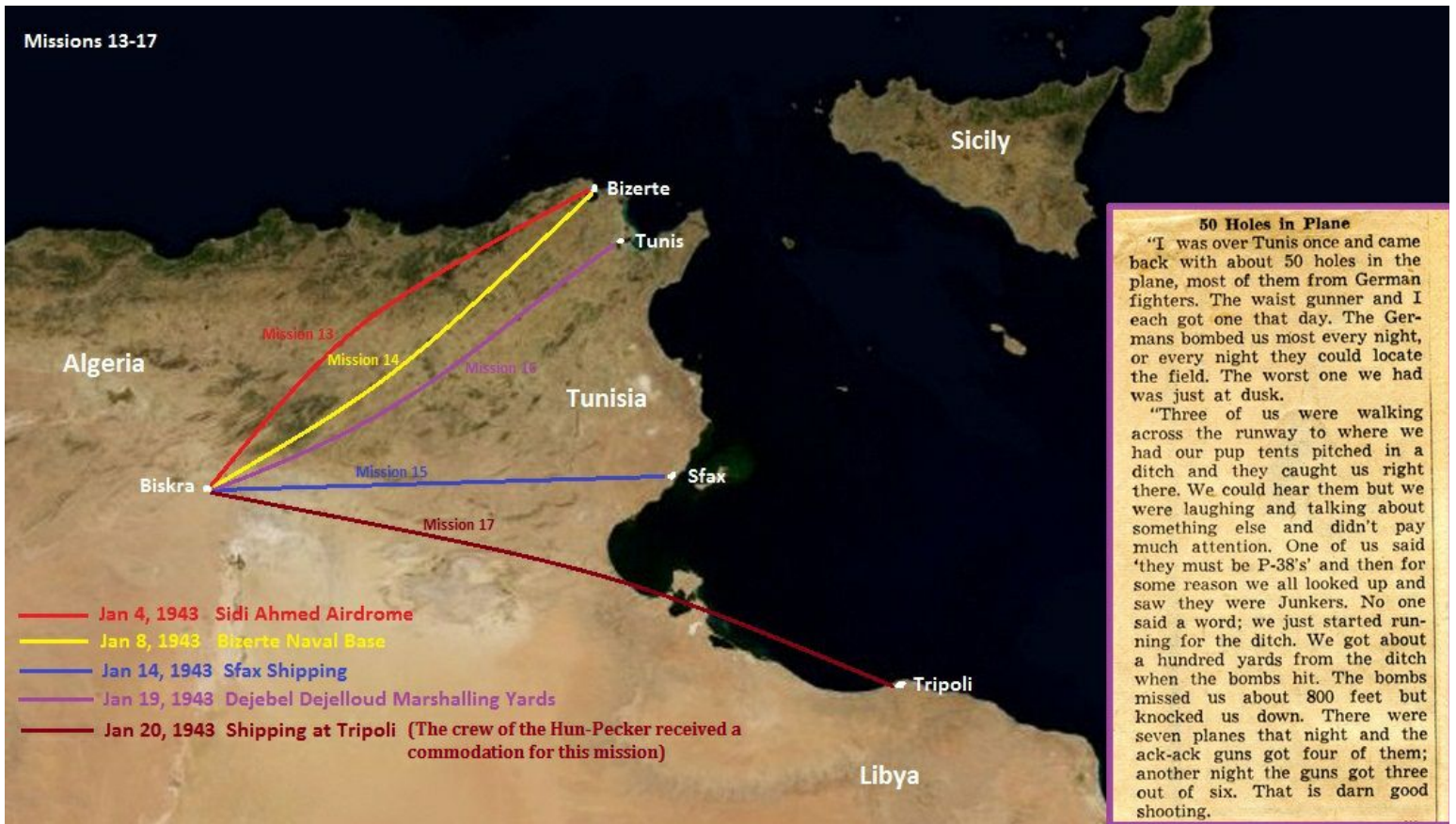


Missions 13-17



**50 Holes in Plane**

"I was over Tunis once and came back with about 50 holes in the plane, most of them from German fighters. The waist gunner and I each got one that day. The Germans bombed us most every night, or every night they could locate the field. The worst one we had was just at dusk.

"Three of us were walking across the runway to where we had our pup tents pitched in a ditch and they caught us right there. We could hear them but we were laughing and talking about something else and didn't pay much attention. One of us said 'they must be P-38's' and then for some reason we all looked up and saw they were Junkers. No one said a word; we just started running for the ditch. We got about a hundred yards from the ditch when the bombs hit. The bombs missed us about 800 feet but knocked us down. There were seven planes that night and the ack-ack guns got four of them; another night the guns got three out of six. That is darn good shooting.

## Missions 18-24



### Change Ships

The crew had to change ships, picking up a new Hun-Pecker and burying the old. The new Fortress ran into the same type of difficulties 17 missions later, over Gabes in Africa. Lt. Broderick again made a separate run on an airdrome, leaving his squadron behind by a matter of seconds.

Ten German fighters ganged up on the loose plane this time. The goddess of battle smiled on the Hun-Pecker boys again and they all returned unscathed. However, the plane was badly battered and was out of action for more than two weeks as ground crews worked on the necessary repairs.