

Missions 25-30





In all Sergt. Grandstrand is officially credited with downing four German planes with several other probabilities considered. He recalls some of the accurate bombing his crew members did. On one occasion they scored three direct hits on the Italian cruiser, Trieste, from a high altitude. Another time a hit was scored on an ammunition ship. There was a huge flash and that was all, he said.

Missions 37-41

Not All Easy

But the remainder of Grandstrand's crew flew their missions without a scratch. However, don't get him wrong. It wasn't all cream and butter, sitting up where the Nazis are out searching for your blood.

We don't envy Grandstand his 15 minutes spent on the way back from Palermo, Sicily. There were only 100 rounds left on the entire ship and they were all in the top turret guns. Dick stuck to his tail position, swinging his guns as threateningly as he knew how. For some life-giving reason, the relentless Nazi fighters stayed at a far distance, throwing lead all over the sky. Their marksmanship was just that little off.



German Propagandists

"Remember my telling you about Sally and Pete that dished our German propaganda from Tunis?" he continues. "We ran them out of Tunis and they are in Rome now; perhaps one of these days they'll be moving again. When they were in Tunis they referred to us as 'those North African gangsters,' now, since we went to Palermo one day they call us 'the North African bastards.' The more they hate us the better we like it."

“How come you were selected for the tail, Dick?”

Liked Solitude

“No one else in the crew wanted it. Those were the days when the ‘five seconds to live’ stories were running around. I thought I’d like it. You were all by yourself and there were two guns that were all your own. And the tail, let me tell you, is no more dangerous than any other position.”

“How close did you ever come to getting hit?”

“Well, there was one bullet hole six inches from my head.”



Missions 47-51

