

a visit to the Duxford last year.

You will be interested to know, (1) the large airdrome/inter-national/ is in Prague-Ruzyně today. (2) The army airdrome with a big airplane museum is in Prague-Kbely today- there are many planes from Czech aviation history and a couple planes from WW 11 a Spitfire, IL-2 Stormovik, La-5FN etc. including the Jet fighter Messerschmitt Me-262. Me-262 production totaled 1470 and, half of them fought during WW 11.

Me-262 was used as a night fighter too, it had a two member crew and radar as well. My father heard the jet Me-262 for the first time in fall 1944 when he visited some relatives in the middle Bohemia. The Germans and his relatives named these planes "Turbine" and according to a German official the jet fighter was also called "Turbin jager." My father saw an Me-262 in Cheb/ Eger/ airdrome in the summer 1945 .He liked it very much

I am looking forward to next your letter with your personal story.

Yours sincerely,
Radovan/Radek/ Helt

Czech Republic
Dear Mr. Markel,

I would like to thank you for all the documents about the 484th Bomb Group, which I have received from you. I also wonder if you have in your archives documents and photos which have something to do with the activities of the 461st Bomb Group during the 17 December 1944? I am greatly interested in these documents too, because majority of these planes crashed in Moravia.

Our group has already finished the research of places where American aircraft crashed in Moravia. In enclosures I am sending you a sketch, in this sketch there are all discovered places of plane crashes marked. In these days we are interested in explorations of places where on the 17 December crashed the planes of Luftwaffe. The attack against US planes realized Jagdgeschwader JG 300 (Stab,I,II Sturm.,III. and IV.Gruppe) and lost 51 fighters (15 Fw-190 and 36 ME 109). So far we have lifted up remains of 5 German planes and we have identified them. If you are interested in news about lost planes of Luftwaffe next time I will send them to you.

In conclusion I would like to ask you whether you can provide me with any copies of photos, which are connected with pilots and planes of the 17 December 1944. I would be very grateful for it. I would like to know whether you have all volumes of, "The Torretta Flyer?"

I am looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely
Jan Mahr

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Re: Odertal Oil Refinery

Dear Bud,

I just received your materials about Martin's plane, thank you very much. There is a lot new information for me, I would

like to use it in an article, where I will write about this action.

I also found information about German pilot who shot down the Martin's plane. It should be pilot of ME 109G-10 from III./JG 300. His name was Lt. Kraft. A witness of this fight allege that German pilot was shot down a few minutes after the Liberator crashed. Can you confirm this information? The Liberator crashed near Liebau (today Libina). There is forest today in this place where the Liberator crashed and today there are only three small craters standing. The crew has a small monument with their names in Libina. I found a few fragments from this Liberator as a plastic oval tablet where is written numerous numbers and inscription "Cal. Air Speed" and "True Alt." Unfortunately, the tablet is not complete, only a piece. I also found a few pieces from some covers and a piece of fuselage partition. There were also other small pieces, but I don't know what they are.

I also obtained information about a nearby village today called Vaclavov (Wanzeldorf) not far from Umperk. Do you know today name of Odertal? It is probably town in Poland today.

Sincerely,
Ladislav Fojtl

Air Man

Over the target
The bombs go away,
"An easy mission,"
I start to say.

Then comes the flak
It's all around
I suddenly wish
T'were on the ground.

A burst on the right
Four just ahead;
Now some on the left
I should have stood in bed.

I look at my pilot He says,
"Howdy, If they are not careful
They'll kill somebody."

Were soon out of range;
I take the toll. All's
okay, only one flak hole.

On the way home
I start to relax, dreamin'
I'm a civilian payin'
income tax.

Lt. Howard N. Hartman
Submitted By Al Kline
via the internet