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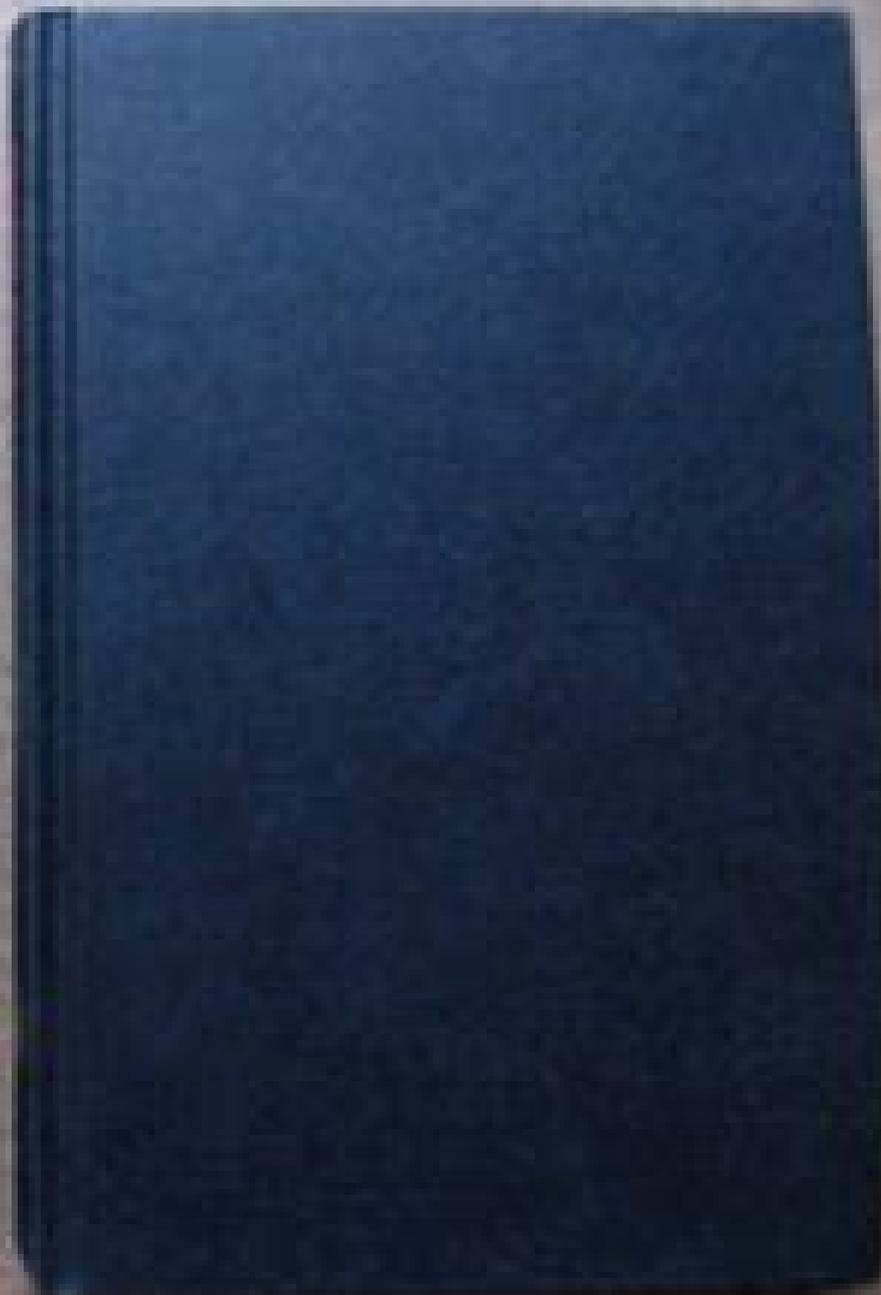
READING FOR LEARNING SERIES

TARGET PLOESTI

View from a Bombsight

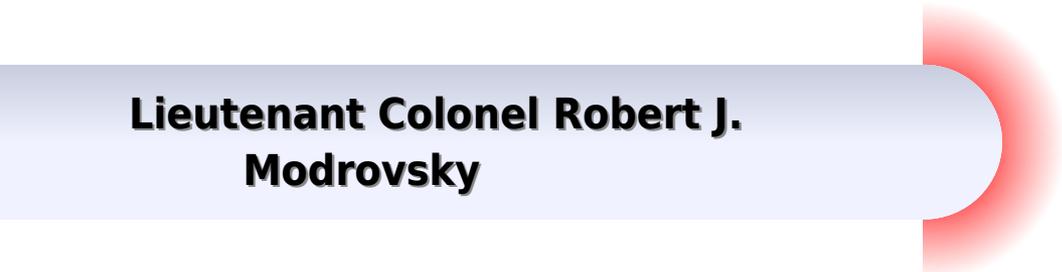


LEROY W. NEWBY



Target Ploesti

**Lieutenant Colonel Robert J.
Modrovsky**



Target Ploesti:

Target Ploesti Leroy W. Newby,1983 **1 August 1943 - Today's Target Is Ploesti: A Departure From Doctrine**
Lieutenant Colonel Robert J. Modrovsky,2014-08-15 The focus of this paper will be on the 1 August 1943 bombing raid on the Ploesti oil field and refineries by an American task force composed of bombardment groups of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces The Ploesti raid stood apart from the rest of the war in the air The idea for it and the unusual tactics employed came from the top it generated from General Arnold s headquarters and was approved by President Roosevelt Winston Churchill called Ploesti the taproot of German might It was not a part of any particular campaign but was considered vital in itself It was painstakingly planned and executed relatively quickly by the best prepared and most experienced force available at the time It was also fought with unparalleled bravery the sole action of the war for which five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded The purpose in examining Ploesti is to first gain a complete understanding of the events leading to the planning for the raid the raid itself and finally the impact on the Germans in its aftermath With this established the intent is to assess the raid while keeping one fascinating question in mind after building a doctrine for twenty years based on high altitude daylight precision bombing why in its first major bombing effort did the United States depart from doctrine and conduct a low level bombing mission on Ploesti the only low level bombing mission conducted in the war *1 August 1943 -- Today's Target is Ploesti* Robert J. Modrovsky,1999 The focus of this paper will be on the 1 August 1943 bombing raid on the Ploesti oil field and refineries by an American task force composed of bombardment groups of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces The Ploesti raid stood apart from the rest of the war in the air The idea for it and the unusual tactics employed came from the top it generated from General Arnold s headquarters and was approved by President Roosevelt Winston Churchill called Ploesti the taproot of German might It was not a part of any particular campaign but was considered vital in itself It was painstakingly planned and executed relatively quickly by the best prepared and most experienced force available at the time It was also fought with unparalleled bravery the sole action of the war for which five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded The purpose in examining Ploesti is to first gain a complete understanding of the events leading to the planning for the raid the raid itself and finally the impact on the Germans in its aftermath With this established the intent is to assess the raid while keeping one fascinating question in mind after building a doctrine for twenty years based on high altitude daylight precision bombing why in its first major bombing effort did the United States depart from doctrine and conduct a low level bombing mission on Ploesti the only low level bombing mission conducted in the war **"Grottaglie, and Home"** ,1989 [Air Force](#) ,1943 Vols 41 no 11 v 42 no 5 include Space digest v 1 2 no 5 Nov 1958 May 1959 *Air University Review* ,1984-07 **450th Bomb Group (H)** ,1996 The 450th Bomb Group H contained the 720th 721st 722nd and 723rd squadrons *Air Corps News Letter* ,1943 *Target Ploesti* ,1986-06-01 [Flak](#) Edward B. Westermann,2001
Air raid sirens wail searchlight beams flash across the sky and the night is aflame with tracer fire and aerial explosions as

Allied bombers and German anti aircraft units duel in the thundering darkness Such cinematic scenes played out with increasing frequency as World War II ground to a close were more than mere stock material for movie melodramas As Edward Westermann reveals they point to a key but largely unappreciated aspect of the German war effort that has yet to get its full due Long the neglected stepchild in studies of World War II air campaigns German flak or anti aircraft units have been frequently dismissed by American British and German historians and by veterans of the European air war as ineffective weapons that wasted valuable materiel and personnel resources desperately needed elsewhere by the Third Reich Westermann emphatically disagrees with that view and makes a convincing case for the significant contributions made by the entire range of German anti aircraft defenses During the Allied air campaigns against the Third Reich well over a million tons of bombs were dropped upon the German homeland killing nearly 300 000 civilians wounding another 780 000 and destroying more than 3 500 000 industrial and residential structures Not surprisingly that aerial Armageddon has inspired countless studies of both the victorious Allied bombing offensive and the ultimately doomed Luftwaffe defense of its own skies By contrast flak units have virtually been ignored despite the fact that they employed more than a million men and women were responsible for more than half of all Allied aircraft losses forced Allied bombers to fly far above high accuracy altitudes and thus allowed Germany to hold out far longer than it might have otherwise Westermann's definitive study sheds new light on every facet of the development and organization of this vital defense arm including

Ploesti 1943 Steven J. Zaloga, 2019-10-31 A new study of one of the most famous costly and strategically vital air operations of World War II the United States great airstrike against Nazi Germany's oil refineries

Targeting the Third Reich Robert S. Ehlers, 2009 Argues that air intelligence played a crucial but largely overlooked role in the successful execution of the Allied bombing campaigns against the Third Reich which in turn proved a decisive factor in both ending the war in Europe and ending it as soon as it did

The Bombing of Auschwitz Michael J. Neufeld, Michael Berenbaum, 2003 Could the Allies have prevented the deaths of tens of thousands of Holocaust victims Inspired by a conference held to mark the opening of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum this book brings together the key contributions to this debate

Air Force, 1957 **Time** Briton Hadden, Henry R. Luce, 1986

1 August 1943-Today's Target is Ploesti Air University (U S) Air War College, ROBERT J. MODROVSKY, 2025-05-22 The focus of this paper will be on the 1 August 1943 bombing raid on the Ploesti oil field and refineries by an American task force composed of bombardment groups of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces The Ploesti raid stood apart from the rest of the war in the air The idea for it and the unusual tactics employed came from the top it generated from General Arnold's headquarters and was approved by President Roosevelt Winston Churchill called Ploesti the taproot of German might It was not a part of any particular campaign but was considered vital in itself It was painstakingly planned and executed relatively quickly by the best prepared and most experienced force available at the time It was also fought with unparalleled bravery the sole action of the war for which five Congressional Medals of Honor were awarded The

purpose in examining Ploesti is to first gain a complete understanding of the events leading to the planning for the raid the raid itself and finally the impact on the Germans in its aftermath With this established the intent is to assess the raid while keeping one fascinating question in mind after building a doctrine for twenty years based on high altitude daylight precision bombing why in its first major bombing effort did the United States depart from doctrine and conduct a low level bombing mission on Ploesti the only low level bombing mission conducted in the war This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it This work was reproduced from the original artifact and remains as true to the original work as possible Therefore you will see the original copyright references library stamps as most of these works have been housed in our most important libraries around the world and other notations in the work This work is in the public domain in the United States of America and possibly other nations Within the United States you may freely copy and distribute this work as no entity individual or corporate has a copyright on the body of the work As a reproduction of a historical artifact this work may contain missing or blurred pages poor pictures errant marks etc Scholars believe and we concur that this work is important enough to be preserved reproduced and made generally available to the public We appreciate your support of the preservation process and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant

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Gung-ho ,1987 *U.S. News & World Report* ,1987

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