

## IRIS Public Record

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**Abstract** RECEIVED PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS FOR ATTACKS ON REGENSBURG, GERMANY AND PLOESTI, RUMANIA.

**Descriptive Notes:** ACTUAL PERIOD COVERED BY DOCUMENT IS 25 FEB AND 5 APR 45.

**Title**

**Added**

**Entries**

**Author:**

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**Major Command:**

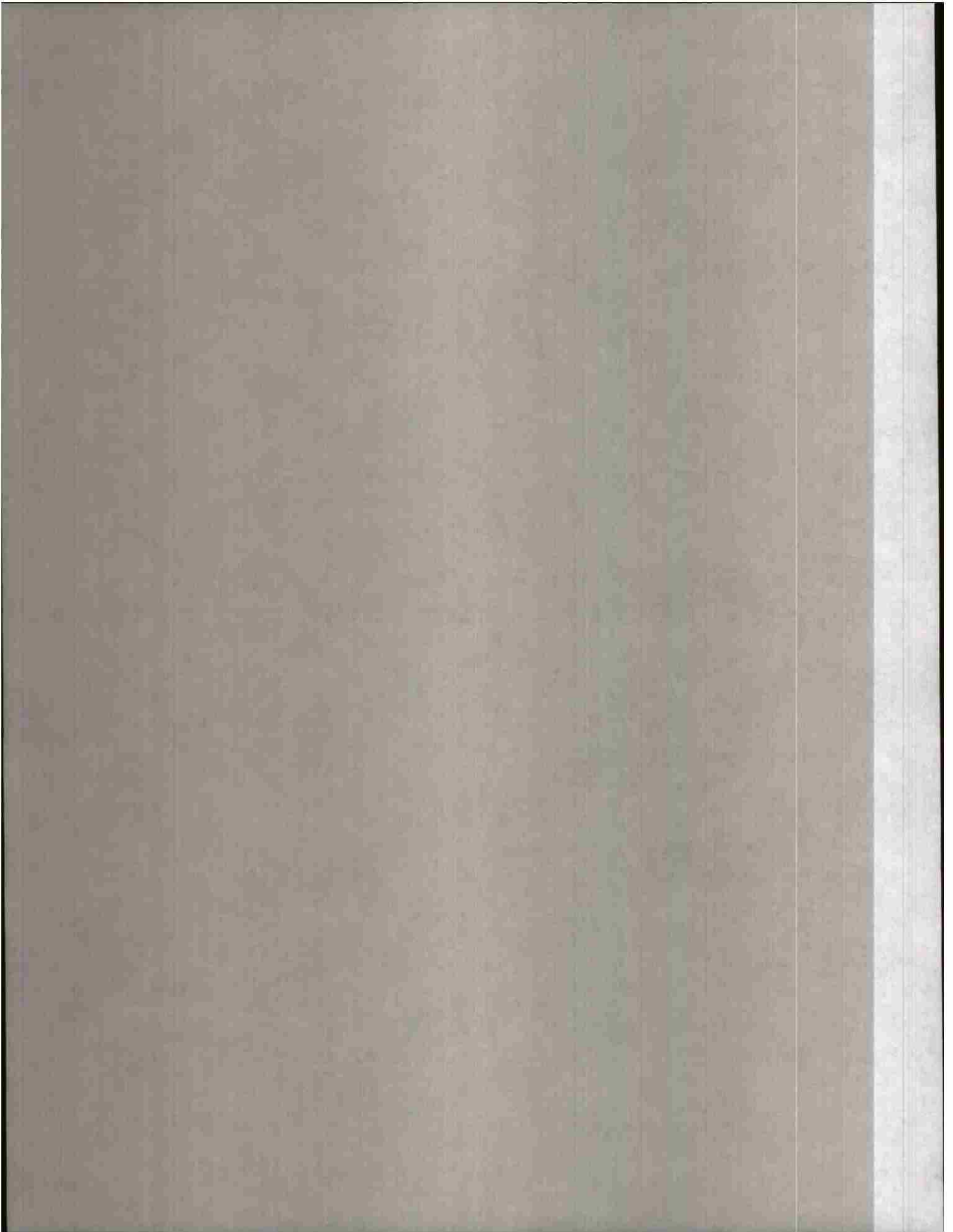
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No Administrative Markings Listed

Security Review Information:



GP-451-H1 (Bdms) MAY 1943	RETURN TO: Director Aerospace Studies Inst AFM Archives Branch McGuire AFB, Alabama
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P.R.C.

451st Bombardment Group  
May 1943

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GP-451-NI

May 1943

451st Bombardment Group (H)  
B-24's  
Fifteenth Air Force

Elements: 724th, 725th, 726th, and 727th Heavy Bomb Squadrons

Activated 1 May 1943 at Davis Monthan, Arizona

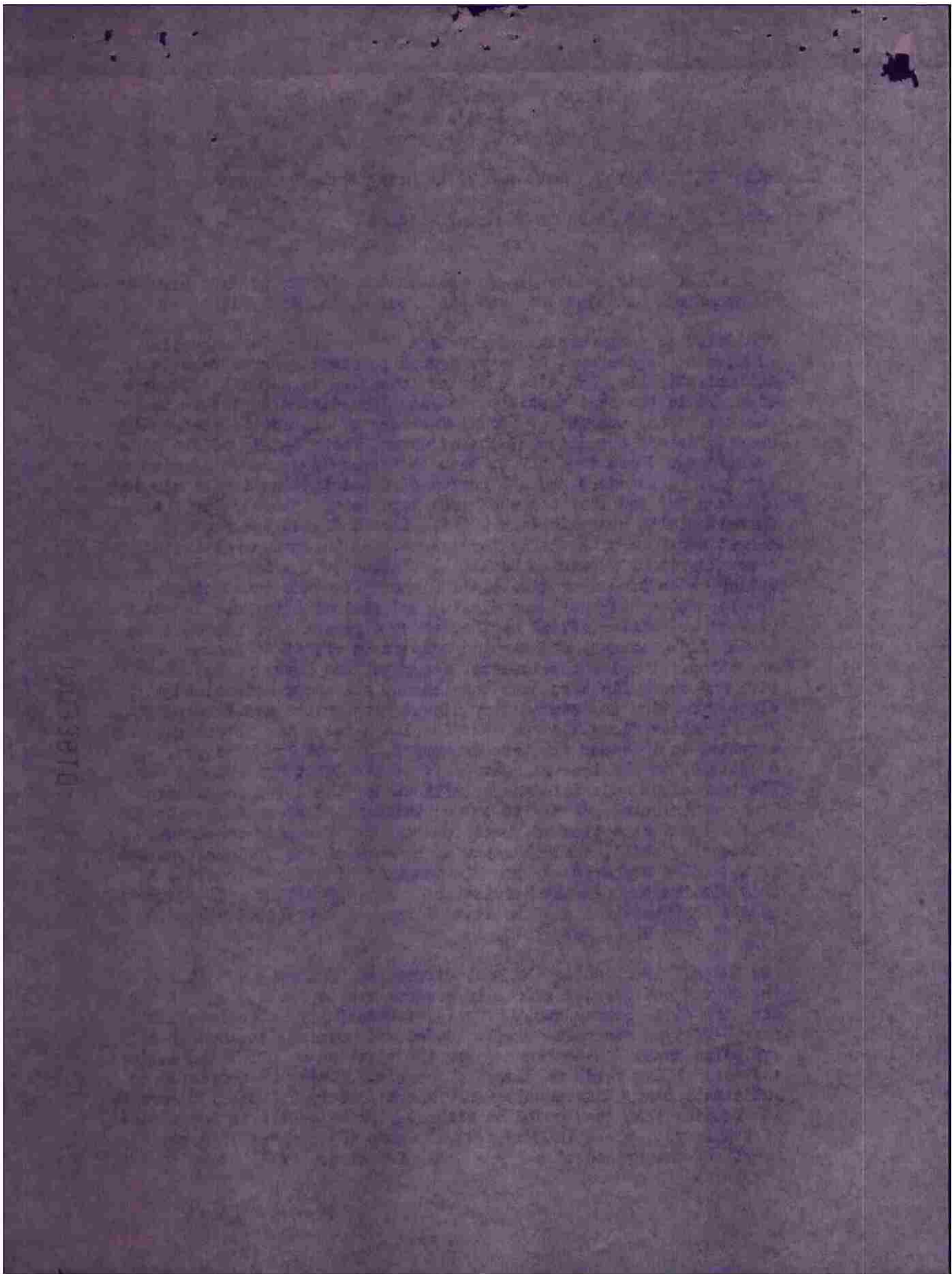
Typical of their outstanding combat in the air war against Germany are the two occasions on which they won the Presidential Unit Citation:

"Notified to prepare maximum aircraft in the group for a bombing mission to Regensburg, Germany, ground personnel worked feverishly, enthusiastically, and with untiring intensity to get all B-24 type aircraft in the best possible mechanical condition to insure the success of the operation. On 25 February 1944, despite the highly unsatisfactory condition of the airdrome, forty B-24's of the 451st Bombardment Group took off to bomb the Regensburg Prufoning aircraft factory. Commanders and all personnel participating in the mission had been briefed that the enemy was capable of intercepting the formation with approximately 200 fighters and that the route to the target would be without fighter escort. As the group penetrated enemy territory a running battle continuing to the target ensued, during which time approximately 200 enemy fighters intercepted the formation with well coordinated and vicious attacks. In the violent and bitter aerial battle, enemy aircraft used rocket guns, aerial flak, cannon, and machine guns in an effort to disrupt the operation. Despite the intense, accurate, and heavy antiaircraft fire and enemy fighters over the target, the group maintained a close formation and scored many direct hits on the assigned target. The formation flown and the coordination between the attack units resulted in 16 enemy fighters destroyed, 3 probably destroyed, and 6 damaged, to the loss of 6 aircraft of the 451st Bombardment Group. The tremendous material damage inflicted by the 451st Bombardment Group contributed greatly to the curtailment of aircraft production by the enemy at a time of great importance. The grim determination, outstanding skill, and unhesitating courage of the officers and men of the 451st Bombardment Group in accomplishing the objectives of this mission through the heaviest of enemy opposition reflect great credit on themselves and the armed forces of the United States." (Quoted from G. O. #67, 1944)

"On 5 April 1944, under the most difficult and trying conditions on the ground and despite extremely adverse weather conditions in the air, the 451st Bombardment Group (H) successfully assembled thirty-four B-24 type aircraft heavily loaded with maximum tonnage of high explosive bombs and set course for the vital enemy oil installations and marshalling yards at Floesti, Rumania. Having been briefed to anticipate heavy interception from approximately 200 enemy aircraft and knowing that they would be without fighter escort in the vicinity of the target, the 451st Bombardment Group (H) penetrated enemy territory determined to carry on the offensive. Well before arrival

P.R.C.

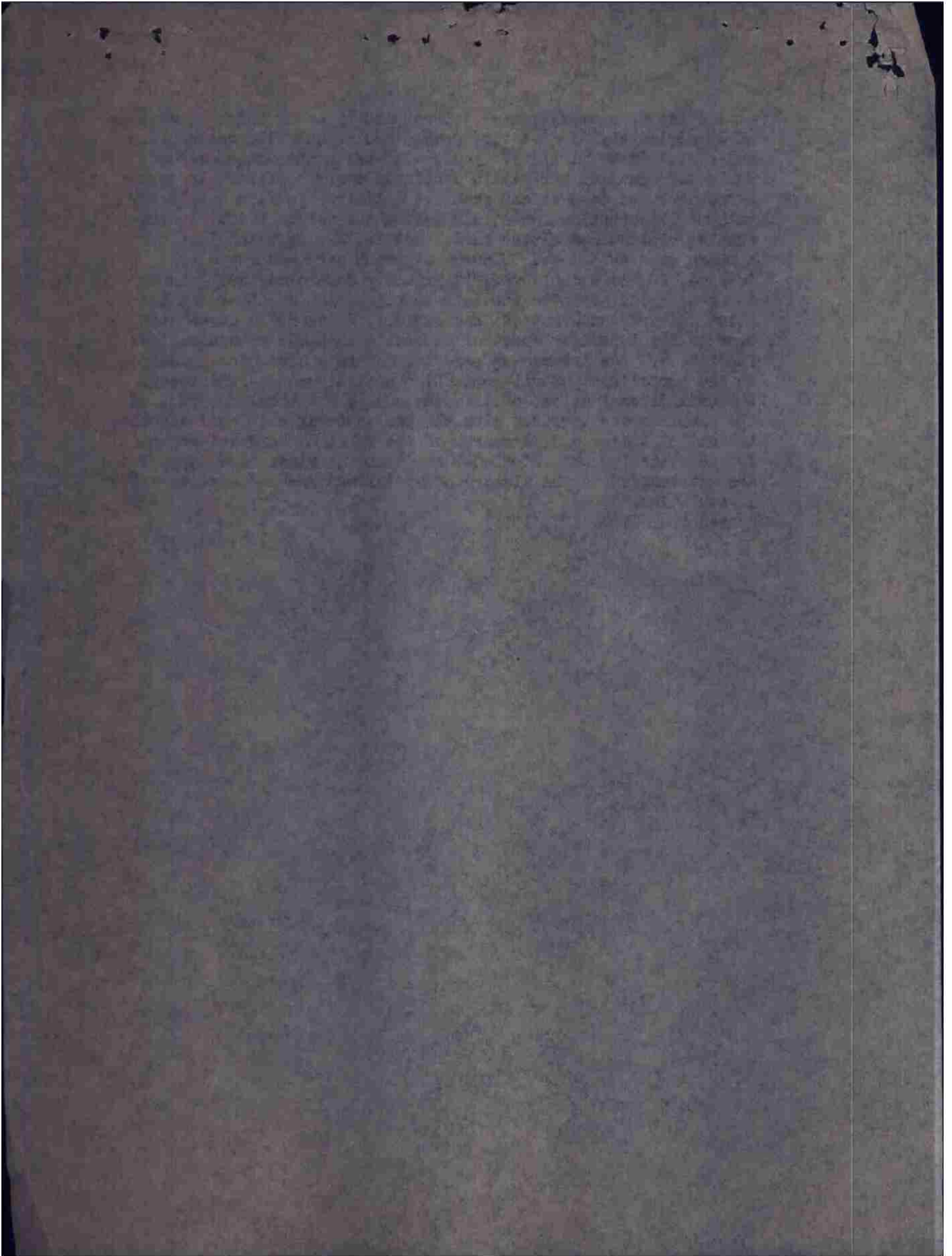
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at the target area they were intercepted by enemy which in waves of approximately 85 at a time opened the attack with rocket fire and closed in to within 100 yards with their automatic weapons. The savage running air battle continued over the target through a maelstrom of intense and accurate antiaircraft fire and lasted without interruption for 45 minutes on the return trip. In the ensuing violent and bitter aerial battle, during which 5 of our bombers were shot down, 35 enemy aircraft were destroyed or damaged; 20 known destroyed, 12 probably destroyed, and 3 known to be damaged. Despite the intense opposition of the enemy the 451st Bombardment Group (H) successfully delivered a devastating blow to the important enemy oil installations and communications facilities. The tremendous materiel damage contributed greatly to the curtailment of oil production and shipment by the enemy. The grim determination, outstanding skill, and heroic courage of the combat crews together with the professional skill and devotion to duty of the ground personnel of the 451st Bombardment Group (H) in accomplishing this mission through the heaviest enemy opposition are outstanding in the history of aerial warfare and are deserving of emulation."

(Quoted from G. O. #77, 1944)





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