

Registro documental del bombardeo de Pompeya en 1943 (Datos recogidos por Vance Tiede)

Despite No-Bombing lists and map overlays intended to protect cultural sites and public works that are routinely prepared by Civil Affairs staff officers, commanders retain discretion in deciding when the military necessity has priority over collateral damage (see attached Allied_strategic bombing policy, http://www.jamesmjasper.org/files/Dark_Side_of_Creativity.pdf , p. 103 at bottom).

During the Battle of Salerno, both American and British Air Forces carpet-bombed Wehrmacht supply trains and combat units [16. Panzer-Division, reinforced later by elements of Panzer Division Hermann Goering, 26. Panzer Division, 15. Panzergrenadier Division, 29. Panzergrenadier Division, 3. Panzergrenadier-Division (two battalions only), and 1. Fallschirmjaeger-Division (elements)] counter-attacking to wipe out the Allied beach head at Salerno, 12-14 September 1943.

<http://www.history.army.mil/armyhistory/AH67%28W%29.pdf>, pages 6-18.
<http://www.history.army.mil/books/wwii/salerno/sal-germancntr.htm>

In the case of Pompeii, British Vickers Wellington III bombers of RAF No. 40 Squadron based at Hani West Airfield, Tunisia, North Africa attacked Wehrmacht troop concentrations, roads, bridges, train lines and marshalling yards in the vicinity of the **port of Pompeii** in nighttime air raids 13 and 15 September 1943, and RCAF No. 424 Squadron also attacked the same targets in a night raid on 13 September 1943. American B-17s/B-24/B-25s of the 12th Bombardment Command, XII USAAF attacked the same region in daylight on 14 September 1943. Therefore, only an analysis of the bomb fragments or unexploded ordnance can determine whether USAAF or RAF bombs fell in the archaeological zone of Pompeii (see attached AFHR Maxwell AFB Research Request, <http://www.afhra.af.mil/main/contactus.asp>).

RAF aerial reconnaissance photos, 1940-1945:

<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/documents/Research/Research-Enquiries/e-Info-Sheet-6-Aerial-Photographs.pdf>

RAF No. 40 Squadron target Pompeii

<http://moore-familytree.s3-website-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Moore-Cyril-Italy.htm>

No. 20 Squadron

13th September 1943 - Night Bombing Operation Pompeii (32 of 48) 18.15hrs took off in Wellington HF796 flown by Sgt Ricketts. Posted Air Gunner, This was Cyril's 32nd bombing mission, **Ops to Pompeii**, Flying time 6 Hours 30 minutes

(Pompeii had a port used by the Axis Military)

15th September 1943 - Night Bombing Operation Pompeii (33 of 48) 18.15hrs took off in Wellington HF764 flown by Sgt Ricketts. Posted Air Gunner, This was Cyril's 33rd bombing mission, **Ops to Pompeii**, Flying time 6 Hours 20 minutes

(Pompeii had a port used by the Axis Military)

RCAF No. 424 Squadron target Pompei

<http://airforce.ca/awards.php?search=1&keyword=&page=39&mem=&type=rcaf>

BASSON, P/O Robert Arthur (J19840) - Distinguished Flying Cross - No.424 Squadron, RAF

13 September 1943 - Pompei (6.30)

<http://airforce.ca/awards.php?search=1&keyword=&page=146&mem=&type=rcaf>

COMBE, F/O Charles Joseph (J14215) - Distinguished Flying Cross - No.424 Squadron

13 September 1943 - Pompei (6.10)

<http://airforce.ca/awards.php?search=1&keyword=&page=431&mem=&type=rcaf>

LOFTHOUSE, WO (now P/O) James (R147155/J86689) - Distinguished Flying Cross - No.424 Squadron

13 September 1943 - Pompeii (6.30)

The American **111th Observation Squadron, XII USAAF** was responsible for conducting Bomb Damage Assessment and Mapping aerial photography, Naples-Salerno, 1943.. The 111th Obv Sqdn was placed under the control of XII ASC for reconnaissance both planned and on call; the squadron's planes were to report to the Ancon while returning from their missions and to XII ASC (Rear) in Sicily after landing. ***I will investigate if this unit's WWII Flight Intelligence Reports (FIR) and aerial photographs are now available in the US National Archives(, <http://www.archives.gov/publications/general-info-leaflets/26-cartographic.html#aerial2>.***

If so, I shall email you scans of any aerial photos of Pompeii, September 1943, that may be located.

Given the complexity (see below) of the combined Anglo-American Air Force missions supporting the Fifth Army's amphibious landing at Salerno (Operation Avalanche), it is unclear as to what unit was responsible for the collateral bomb damage to the Pompeii archaeological zone, 13-16 September 1943. However, **photographs (with a linear reference scale) of any unexploded Allied bomb (or fragments with markings) should be diagnostic as to being either American vs. British. I would be happy to pass any such photoscans to USAF and RAF ordnance specialists for possible identification.**

Press

The Times (London), 9 November 1943 interview with British officer regarding a September 1943 night air raid on Wehrmacht troop concentrations which **damaged the archaeological site at Pompeii**: <http://www.mummytombs.com/pompeii/primary.bomb.htm>

The Guardian claims the RAF bombed Pompeii in 1943: "The Pompeiiian building and its frescoes had been largely destroyed when the **RAF bombed the site in 1943**, as part of its casual assault on European civilisation.

Military Situation. On 9 Sep 1943, US Fifth Army landed at Salerno (Operation AVALANCHE). During 12-14 Sep 1943, six German Panzer/Panzer Grenadier divisions counterattacked the thinly-spread Allied troops at Salerno and almost drove the Americans back into sea; (USA) General Clark even made plans to relocate his HQ back aboard a naval vessel should Germans continue to advance. **On 14 Sep, (Royal Air Force) Air Marshal Tedder executed a series of precise air raids against key German lines of communications and supplies.** The strikes by air, coupled with ample naval bombardment, dwindled the ferocity of German counterattacks, and allowed the Allies to maintain their beachhead. Allied ground forces captured Pompeii 29 September 1943.
<http://www.wwiithenandnow.com/index.php/component/search/?Itemid=1&searchword=operation%20Avalanche&submit=Search&searchphrase=exact&ordering=newest>

Mission (flight hours) flown by RAF: ARMSTRONG, F/O Stanley William (J13824) - Distinguished Flying Cross - No.405 Squadron

13 September 1943 - Pompeii Roads (6.05)

14 September 1943 - Eboli (6.30)

16 September 1943 - Cisterna airfield (6.10)

18 September 1943 - Viterbo a/f (6.25)

<http://airforce.ca/awards.php?search=1&keyword=&page=19&mem=&type=rcaf>

Extracted from 9th & 12th **United States Army Air Force (USAAF)** War Diary

<http://paul.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/wwii/usaf/html/Sep.43.html>

TUESDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER 1943

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): In Italy, B-24's hit a marshalling yard at Pescara; RAF heavy bombers, under operational control of the IX Bomber Command, hit Potenza.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, elements of the British Eighth Army enter Bari; at Salerno, the US Fifth Army, throwing reserves and service troops into the line, and receiving much naval and air support, holds off enemy onslaughts against the beachhead; XII Bomber Command B-17's, B-25's, and B-26's attack highways, road junctions and defiles, bridges, town areas, railroads, marshalling yard, barracks, and numerous targets of opportunity, including several gun positions, in or

near Avellino, **Pompeii**, Torre Annunziata, Auletta, Baronissi, San Severino Rota, Battipaglia, and Eboli; US and RAF fighter-bombers and light and medium bombers of the NATAF fly well over 500 sorties, mainly against bridges, and towns in the battle area or around Battipaglia, Eboli, Potenza Torre Annunziata, Benevento, Auletta, and Avellino. C-47's drop more contingents of the US 82d Airborne Division S of the Sele River to strengthen the beachhead, and also behind lines near Avellino to disrupt communications.

WEDNESDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER 1943

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): In Italy, B-24's hit a marshalling yard at Potenza and attack railroads and warehouses in the areas around Potenza, Altamura, Gravina di Puglia, and Matera.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, B-17's of the XII Bomber Command bomb highways and a railroad at Torre del Greco while B-25's and B-26's hit highways and road junctions at or near Torre Annunziata, Battipaglia, Eboli, Serre, Auletta, and Polla. The XII Air Support Command and other NATAF elements attack buildings, railroads, highways and motor transport in support of US Fifth Army as German counterattacks astride Sele River subside. British Eighth Army forces reach Saptri, threatening the enemy with entrapment between US and British forces.

HQ 57th Fighter Group transfers from Sicily to Rocco Bernardo, Italy.

HQ 79th Fighter Group and its 85th, 86th and 87th Fighter Squadrons transfer from Sicily to Crotone, Italy with P-40's.

The 416th Night Fighter Squadron, Twelfth Air Force, transfers from Bone, Algeria to Bizerte, Tunisia with Beaufighters.

The 526th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 86th Fighter-Bomber Group, transfers from Barcelona, Sicily to Sele Airfield, Italy with A-36's.

THURSDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 1943

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): B-24's hit road junctions and a supply dump at Potenza, Italy, following a RAF raid of the previous night.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, B-17's of the XII Bomber Command hit bridges, rail line, marshalling yard, trains, and a railroad-highway intersection in the Benevento area, and roads and railway facilities in the Caserta area; medium bombers hit roads, railroads, junctions, and bridges at Isernia, Formia, Mignano, and Capua; XII Air Support Command fighter-bombers maintain continuous sweeps over the Salerno beachhead and surrounding battle zone while other US and RAF elements of the NATAF (fighters, light and medium bombers) blast enemy aircraft, motor transport, troop concentrations and communications targets in the Contursi and Eboli areas.

On the ground in Italy, US and British make patrol contact near Vallo della Lucania. The US Fifth Army ties in with Taranto invasion force to form an Allied line across S Italy.

The 111th Reconnaissance Squadron (Fighter), 68th Reconnaissance Group, transfers from San Antonio, Sicily to Sele Airfield, Italy with P-51's. A detachment remains at San Antonio until 30 Sep.

The 527th Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 86th Fighter-Bomber Group, transfers from Barcelona, Sicily to Sele Airfield, Italy with A-36's.

FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 1943

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Ninth Air Force): In Italy, B-24's, attack a marshalling yard, road junction, and rail junction at Pescara on the E coast; RAF heavy bombers again hit Potenza.

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, XII Bomber Command B-17's and B-26's bomb airfields at Ciampino and Pratica di Mare; B-25's attack small craft and barges off the mouth of the Tiber River; P-38's fly 27 dive-bombing missions against roads, junctions, railways, bridges, and targets of opportunity in the battle area and towns of Vallo della Lucania, Acerno, Nocera, Avellino, Gragnano Serre, Lioni, Fisciano, Monteforte Irpino, Cava de' Tirreni and Auletta; XII Air Support Command, NATBF, and other elements of NATAF escort naval vessels, and bomb rail and road

junctions, motor transport, a marshalling yard, town areas, and various targets of opportunity in the Pompeii, Torre Annunziata, Salerno, Campagna, Sarno, Solofra, Montella, and Acerno areas.

On the ground in Italy, US Fifth Army forces advancing on Altavilla are pinned down however, the enemy retires to the N, completing a withdrawal from the battleline during the night. The British Eighth Army begins a general advance N toward Potenza and Auletta.

Bomber Squadron Mission Summaries September 1943

http://57thbombwing.com/321stHistory/321_BG_1943-09.pdf

Allied Air Operations, 14 Sep 1943, Naples to Salerno

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/II/AAF-II-15.html>

"On the 14th, as the ground situation entered its most critical stage, NAAF went all out in direct aid to the Fifth Army. ¹⁰ Bombers, fighter-bombers, and fighters flew more than 2,000 sorties. Of these, NATAF's fighters and fighter-bombers accounted for more than 1,000 sorties on patrols over the bridgehead and offshore shipping and in bombing and strafing attacks against targets of opportunity in the battle area. A-36's and P-38's attacked troops, vehicles, roads, bridges, and yards around Battipaglia, Eboli, Auletta, Torre Annunziata, and Avellino. Fighters of DAF, scarcely needed by the Eighth Army in its rapid advance, swept north from fields at Reggio to strafe transport near Eboli. In all, the fighter-bombers dropped 159 tons of bombs during the day.

Heavies and mediums--with most of the heavies flying two missions--divided their attention between roads leading into the Salerno area and German concentrations of troops and supplies in the Battipaglia/Eboli sector immediately behind the battle front. During the day of the 14th bombers of all types flew more than 1,200 sorties. That night, Wellingtons and B-25's continued the assault with heavy attacks on Battipaglia and Eboli and on roads around Auletta and Controne, while light bombers hit roads leading to the battle area. The Wellington mission of 126 planes was the largest force of night bombers dispatched in the theater to date. The attacks cut the rail lines from Torre Annunziata to Castellammare, Salerno, and Naples, and at Battipaglia those from Naples to Metaponto and Reggio; they blocked the highway to Naples and severely damaged the roads to Castellammare and Metaponto. The towns of Battipaglia and Eboli were all but obliterated.

"On the night of 16 September, 340 RAF heavies and 5 B-17's bombed the yards at Modane in southeastern France in an effort to close the northern end of the Mont Cenis Tunnel." pp. 534-536