



Smithsonian

National Air and Space Museum

376th Bomb Group Photography [Mechanic]

2016

National Air and Space Museum Archives
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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	376th Bomb Group Photography [Mechanic]
Identifier:	NASM.2016.0003
Date:	(bulk 1940-1945)
Creator:	Mechanic, Bernard
Extent:	0.1 Cubic feet ((2 folders))
Language:	English .
Digital Content:	Image(s): 376th Bomb Group Photography [Mechanic]

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Mark Machanic, Gift, 2016

Preferred Citation

376th Bomb Group Photography [Mechanic], Accession 2016-0003, National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution.

Restrictions

No restrictions on access.

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

Technical Sergeant Bernard Mechanic was a gunner/radio operator with the 376th Bomb Group 9th Air Force. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal for his actions during Operation Tidal Wave on August 1, 1943, which was a raid on the Ploesti oil refineries. Due to navigation and pilot error as well as German aerial defenses, this raid suffered devastating losses, including 440 crew members killed and an additional 220 taken as prisoners of war.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of thirty-eight black and white photographs, mostly snapshots, relating to Sergeant Bernard Mechanic's service with the 376th Bomb Group, 9th Air Force. The images include the following:

Consolidated B-24 Liberators in-flight; images from his R&R leave to Tel Aviv; noseart; and images of Winston Churchill, Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, and Field Marshall Archibald Wavell. There is also one graduation certificate for the Aerial Gunnery and Fire Control School at Wendover, Utah.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Aeronautics
- Consolidated B-24 Liberator
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations

Types of Materials:

- Photographs

Names:

- Rommel, Erwin,, 1891-1944

Places:

- Tel Aviv (Israel)