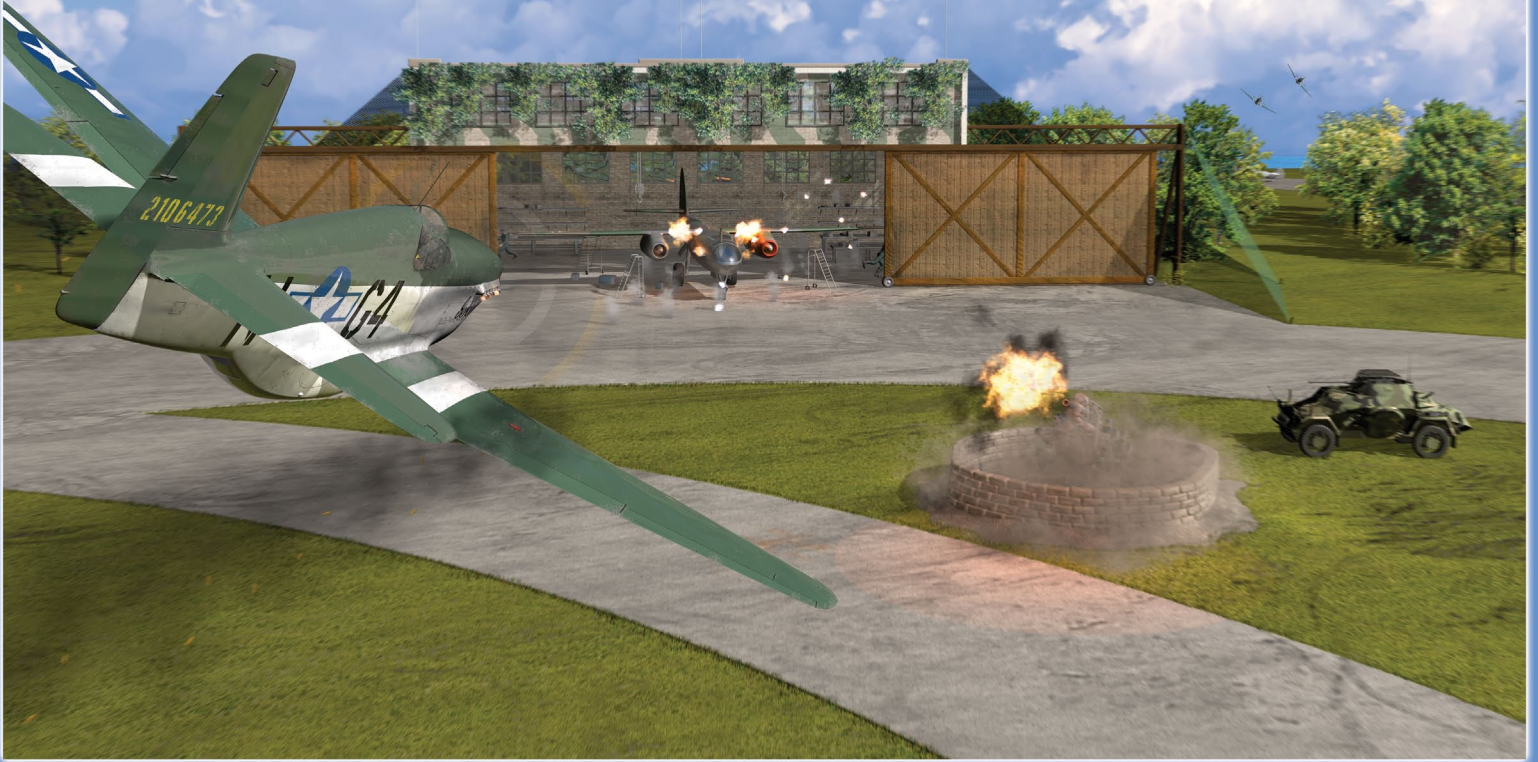


SAMPLE



“GERONIMO’S LUCKY STRIKE” - BY LEN KRENZLER

TED CONLIN OF THE 357TH FIGHTER GROUP SHOTS AN EXPERIMENTAL JET BOMBER IN IT’S HANGAR
MAY 21, 1944 - *Signed by Lt. R. T. Ted Conlin*

The Mission

Three P51 Mustangs of the 357th FG struck the experimental airfield Tarnewitz in northern Germany on May 21, 1944.

They were led by Lt. Harry Ankeny with Lt. R. T. Ted Conlin and Lt. Rod Starkey. Three or more aircraft were destroyed on the tarmac and Lt. Conlin was credited with destroying an Arado 234 twin jet bomber sitting in front of the hangar he attacked.

The jet was a highly secret new type and was of considerable interest to US Intel. All three aircraft returned safely to England after encountering heavy defensive firepower at the airdrome.

At the time Ted was a relatively new pilot. As Harry and Rod started their attack run across the airfield they applied full power to their mighty Merlin engines. Ted forgot and was soon left behind. As he crossed the airfield he shot into the first hangar he saw, not realizing the value of the target he had struck until later when Intel examined his gun camera footage.

A huge 88mm anti-aircraft gun was just to the right of his path and Ted remembers the crew frantically cranking it around to shoot at him. As he turned out over the ocean they continued to fire into the water throwing up gigantic splashes in hopes of knocking him out of the air. It was a terrifying experience that he will always remember, but the results were more than he expected.

The Target

The Ar 234 was the very first jet powered bomber built in the later stages of WWII by the German company Arado. It had a top speed of about 490 mph and was almost impossible to intercept at the time.

Most were used in the reconnaissance role but they also played a role in some important bombing missions which included the attempt to destroy the critical Ludendorff bridge where Ar 234s attacked relentlessly from March 7 to 17, 1945 with 1000lb bombs. The bridge finally collapsed on March 17.

The unconventional skid landing system installed in early Ar 234s was replaced by a tricycle gear with large tires adept at handling rough airfields.

Early jet engines were not what they are today. Although the performance was a true breakthrough they suffered frequent flameouts and required overhaul or replacement after only 10 hours of operation!

Edition Information:

245	20"x29" Chromira Paper Prints	\$180
24	20"x29" Chromira Artist Proofs	\$210
95	20"x30" Canvas Giclée Prints	\$480
10	20"x30" Canvas Artist Proofs	\$540
25	28"x42" Canvas Giclée Prints	\$880
5	28"x42" Canvas Artist Proofs	\$1100