

Clark Gable trades shots with Jerries

A UNITED STATES BOMBER STATION, SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Sept. 23.—(UP)—Capt. Clark Gable flew his fifth and final mission with the United States eighth air force today, manning a gun in the nose of the Flying Fortress Duchess but failing to hit "a damned thing."

Gable, a gunnery officer, has been here on special assignment making motion pictures of air battles to be used for instructing aerial gunners.

His mission completed, he will return to the United States soon to assemble the film.

The former Hollywood star rode in the leading Fortress of the force which raided German naval installations at Nantes, France, and the plane was peppered with anti-aircraft shell holes.

Gable was not injured.

The Fortress met some of the most accurate flak ever encountered but came through with light losses.

About 50 fighters intercepted them half an hour from the target and followed them all the way in.

Lieut. Col. Robert W. Burns, 26, Ecu, Miss., led the raid with Gable in his crew.

Gable made most of the trip in the waist section of Duchess, where he had his camera in action.

While over the target, however, he was at the nose gun.

"Today wasn't quite as tough as when we raided the Ruhr," he said, "but it still was tough enough."

"We managed to get a good number of flak holes in the Duchess."

"I'm going to celebrate completion of my fifth mission—by eating lunch."

Although no German fighters got very close to the Duchess while Gable was in the nose, one did fly close while he was manning the camera in the waist.

"I could see the pilot's features," Gable said.

"That guy won't be around very long if he keeps fooling around like that."

"I don't know how we missed him."

Dressed in green coveralls and wearing a "Mae West"—Gable said he fired the machinegun while relays of German fighters were attacking above Nantes but admitted that "I didn't hit a damned thing."

Burns said that although he was unable to see results of the raid "they should have been good."

"Visibility was excellent although we were forced to drop down to get under the cloud bank."

"The fighters were persistent as hell but coming out we feinted them into a fog bank and then beat it while they were scrambling around to look for us."

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