

This photo was taken during the early days of American heavy bomber operations from the United Kingdom. On the left is B-17F 41-24370 *Berlin Sleeper II*. This aircraft was originally flown to England by Lt. William Anderson (325th Bomb Squadron, 92nd Bomb Group) and was named *Paleface*. It was then transferred to the 342nd BS, 97th BG, and assigned to Lt. George D. Burgess and crew who had flown *Berlin Sleeper* 41-9042 on the 17 August 1942 mission to Rouen, France. He renamed his new mount *Berlin Sleeper II* and it flew its first 97th BG mission on 28 August 1942 to Meaulte. It would go on to fly its 100th mission on 13 September 1943 (piloted by Maj. Carl D. Hoffman). The aircraft is significant because it became the first Fort to fly 100 missions and crew chief M/Sgt. Ray Lambert went along to commemorate the event. The bomber would go on to fly its final mission to Ciampino, Italy, on 17 September 1943 and this brought the total to 103. The plane was flown back to the States (possibly for a War Bond tour) but is noted as having been written off at Eglin Field, Florida, during January 1945 after several accidents.

COLORS OF WAR

DELVING INTO THE CHALLENGE HISTORIC ARCHIVES, WE PRESENT A FURTHER SELECTION OF WORLD WAR TWO COLOR IMAGES
BY MICHAEL O'LEARY



B-17F 42-3089 *Captain Eddle* of the 96th Bomb Group shares ramp space with a P-47D Thunderbolt 42-8190 flown by the 5th Emergency Rescue Squadron. The Thunderbolt carries full D-Day Invasion stripes along with the in-theater yellow identification bands. The Fortress was initially assigned to the 335th Bomb Squadron, 95th Bomb Group, and was then transferred to the 338th BS, 96th BG, where it carried the coding BC-V. The Fort survived to return to the USA in January 1945.



One of the strangest, and least successful, WWII USAAF aircraft was the Curtiss O-52 Owl. The high-wing monoplane was designed for observation duties and the observer also had a .30-caliber machine gun for defense. This early production example has been completed in natural metal finish with Air Corps rudder stripes and the national insignia above and below each wing panel. Later aircraft would be camouflaged in Olive Drab and Neutral Gray.