

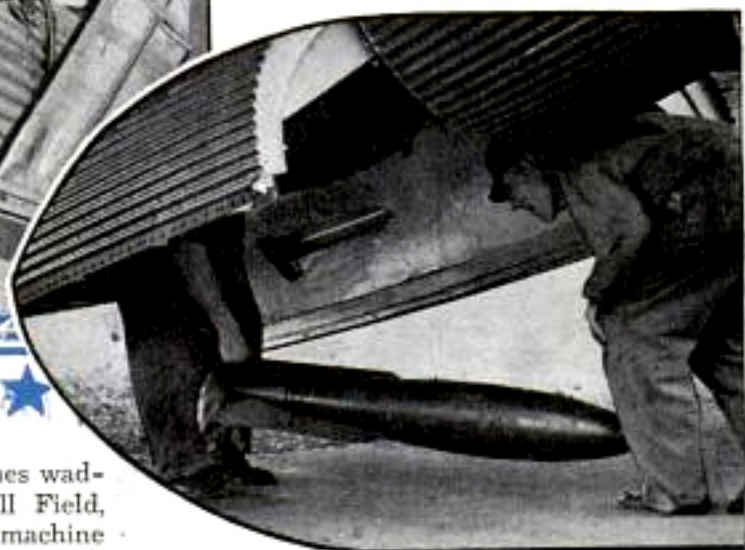
GIANT BOMBERS



bombers are considered ideal for defense against any enemy air attack which might be launched against Gotham, the treasure house of the United States.

The defensive work of the bombardment planes would be in the form of a fierce attack on the enemy air bases, which probably would be the decks of airplane carriers. Guided to their objective by the radio of a naval vessel or the buzzing antennas of scouting planes, these bombers could carry enough T.N.T. to put out of commission any airplane carrier now afloat.

Each of these planes can carry



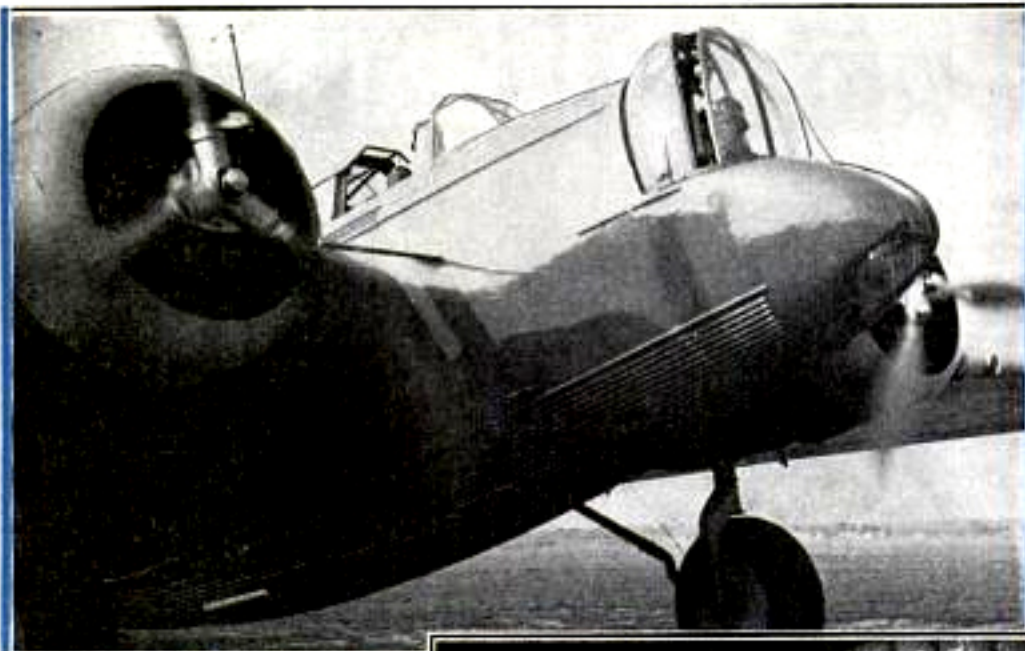
All photos by Harris and Ewing

Loading bomb into Martin bomber, and machine gunner demonstrating mobility of his weapon

FROM dawn to dusk, giant planes waddle from hangars at Mitchell Field, Long Island, these days as pilots, machine gunners and bombers learn to manipulate Uncle Sam's latest birds of death, monster bombardment ships intended to protect New York City's millions from enemy air attack.

Thirty of these flying death-machines, B10b Martin bombers, each capable of carrying a ton of bombs, have been delivered as a part of the new plan of the General Headquarters Air Force to convert the former observation unit into the most deadly bombardment group on American soil. Capable of a cruising speed of more than 210 miles an hour, these long-range

a ton of destruction ranging from 100-pound demolition bombs to 2,500-pound high-explosive bombs, one of which would wreck a shipyard, freight terminal or a fair-sized city. In defensive action, perhaps, some of the planes would carry smoke bombs, to help our fleet screen its defensive maneuvers. Other bombardment planes would carry bombs heavy enough to disable or destroy a battleship, and still



"laying eggs" on Manhattan. Besides the dashing young pilots, machine gunners and bombers who go sky-side, hundreds of ground men must keep the planes in the air and provide the bombs for them to drop. Drivers nurse their lumbering trucks onto the field loaded with T.N.T., and chemicals. Others bring in empty steel bomb cases. Hundreds of others load bombs in isolated tents, far from hangars.

Some of the men measure the amount of T.N.T. which goes into the 100-pound demolition bombs. Others work on the "big fellows," ranging from the 300-pounders up to the 2,500-pound giants. Still others insert the chemical cartridges which give smoke bombs their potency.

The "big Berthas" among the bombs are not intended for the destruction of a mobile enemy. In the first place, a miss costs too much. And second, very few enemy objectives deserve the dignity of being blown entirely into oblivion. These bombs are intended for objectives similar to New York City, railroad yards, dry docks, ammunition factories and shipyards. It is estimated that three of these 2,500-pound bombs, one landing in the down-



Army bombardment plans, poised for flight, and rows of reserve aerial bombs in storage

town financial district of New York City, another in midtown and the third in the uptown section, not only would put Manhattan Island out of commission, but would destroy residential houses a considerable distance away.

The development of Mitchell Field into a bombardment base is in keeping with a broad plan devised at the time the General Headquarters Air Force was created and the young officer, Maj. Gen. Frank M. Andrews, was placed in command. At Mitchell Field are the headquarters of the Ninth bombardment group composed of the First, Fifth and Ninety-Ninth bombardment squadrons and the Eighth photo section. In addition to these, there are the Ninety-Seventh observation squadron and

Guard NATION'S Gates

Weighing ingredients going into aerial bomb. Below, the "egg sack" of a bomber open and the demolition bombs beginning their earthward flight. Bottom, inserting chemical into smoke bomb

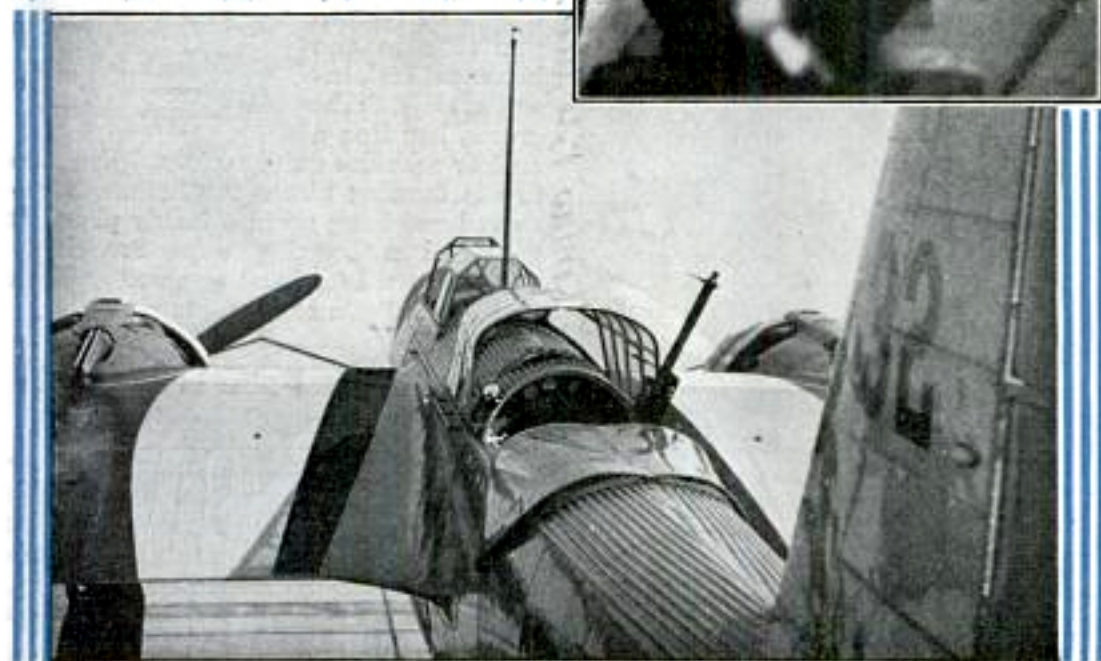
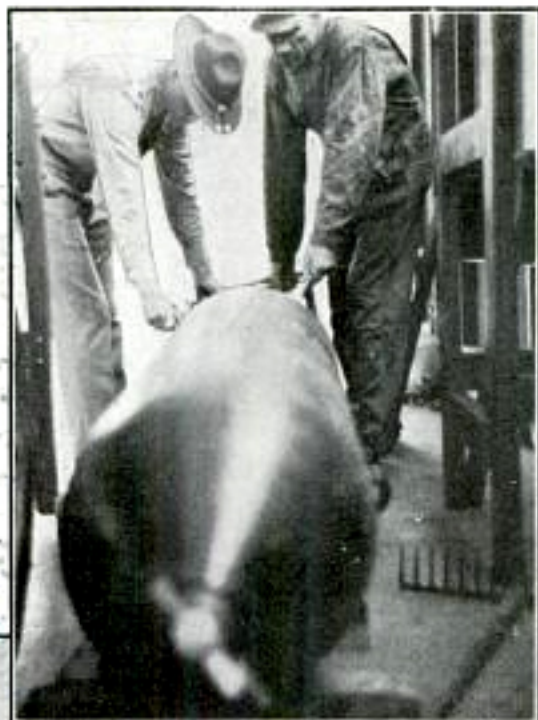


others would carry 100-pound demolition bombs. Direct hits from three of these would create such havoc on the flying deck of any enemy carrier that it would be unfit as a base for many days.

But it is not with their bombs alone that these flying fortresses would prove invaluable defenders of America's greatest city. Taking off without a burdensome load of bombs, these planes have a straightaway flying speed as high as any planes likely to attempt the bombardment of New York City. Spread fanwise over the ocean, their chattering machine guns could make a formidable ring of death through which an enemy would have to fly before

the Fourteenth photo section. Mitchell Field is a part of the Second wing of the air force organization. The wing includes the Second bombardment group and Eighth pursuit groups at Langley Field, Va., and the First pursuit group at Selfridge Field, Mt. Clemens, Mich. Of the other two wings, the first is located in the far west, the third in the south.

Units of the various wings are coordinated by a new system of "flying flagships." Each of these is equipped with radios powerful enough so that Maj. Gen. Andrews at Langley, for example, can maintain communication with Col. Walter H. Frank, commanding officer at Mitchell Field, and either or both of these officers can communicate with the commanding officer at Selfridge while all three are in



Rear machine gunner's cockpit in a bombardment plane and, above, fitting the wings to a 2,500-pound "angel of death," preparatory to loading it on bomber

the air directing their commands.

This development has changed the type of work done by commanding officers in the air force from that of the protected officer sitting in a bombproof dugout to that of a "Lord Nelson" moving into battle with his brother officers and men aboard the dreadnaughts of the sky. And although the B10b Martin bombardment plane is the largest, fastest and most for-

midable ship of its type now in service, orders for a super-dreadnaught fighter have been placed with the Boeing company. One of these ships was delivered, but it was destroyed. Additional ones will be in service shortly, and it is understood that a few will be commissioned to Mitchell Field where they will help other bombers, the new pursuit ships and scouting planes protect New York City.