

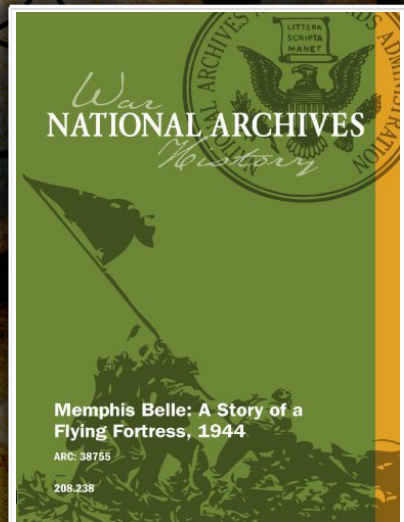


OVERVIEW

A thorough and vivid comprehension of what a daylight bombing is actually like for the young men who wing our heavy bombers from English bases into the heart of Germany is magnificently provided in a forty-one-minute fact film, recorded by Air Force photographers and entitled *The Memphis Belle*.

Dramatically, this picture is in the form of a personalized account of the twenty-fifth and final mission of the Memphis Belle. It faithfully records the experiences of that plane's crew, Capt. R. K. Morgan in command, on its last heavy raid on Wilhelmshaven before it was ordered home. But essentially it tells the story of all the fliers in the Eighth Bomber Command and of all the ground crews who shove them skyward. It is a story that every American should know.

This film, which is a beautiful synthesis of the visual with voice and musical score, was directed by Lt. Col. William Wyler, whose last Hollywood film prior to joining the Air Force was *Mrs. Miniver*. Colonel Wyler also flew that final mission in the Memphis Belle and photographed much of the picture, in association with Capt. William C. Clothier and Lieut. Harold J. Tannenbaum. Lieutenant Tannenbaum was killed on a bombing mission over France.



The Memphis Belle (1944)

About the Director



William Wyler was a leading American motion picture director, producer, and screenwriter. Notable works included *Ben-Hur* (1959), *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946), and *Mrs. Miniver* (1942), all of which won Wyler Academy Awards for Best Director, and also won Best Picture. He earned his first Oscar nomination for directing *Dodsworth* in 1936, starring Walter Huston and Mary Astor, "sparking a 20-year run of almost unbroken greatness."