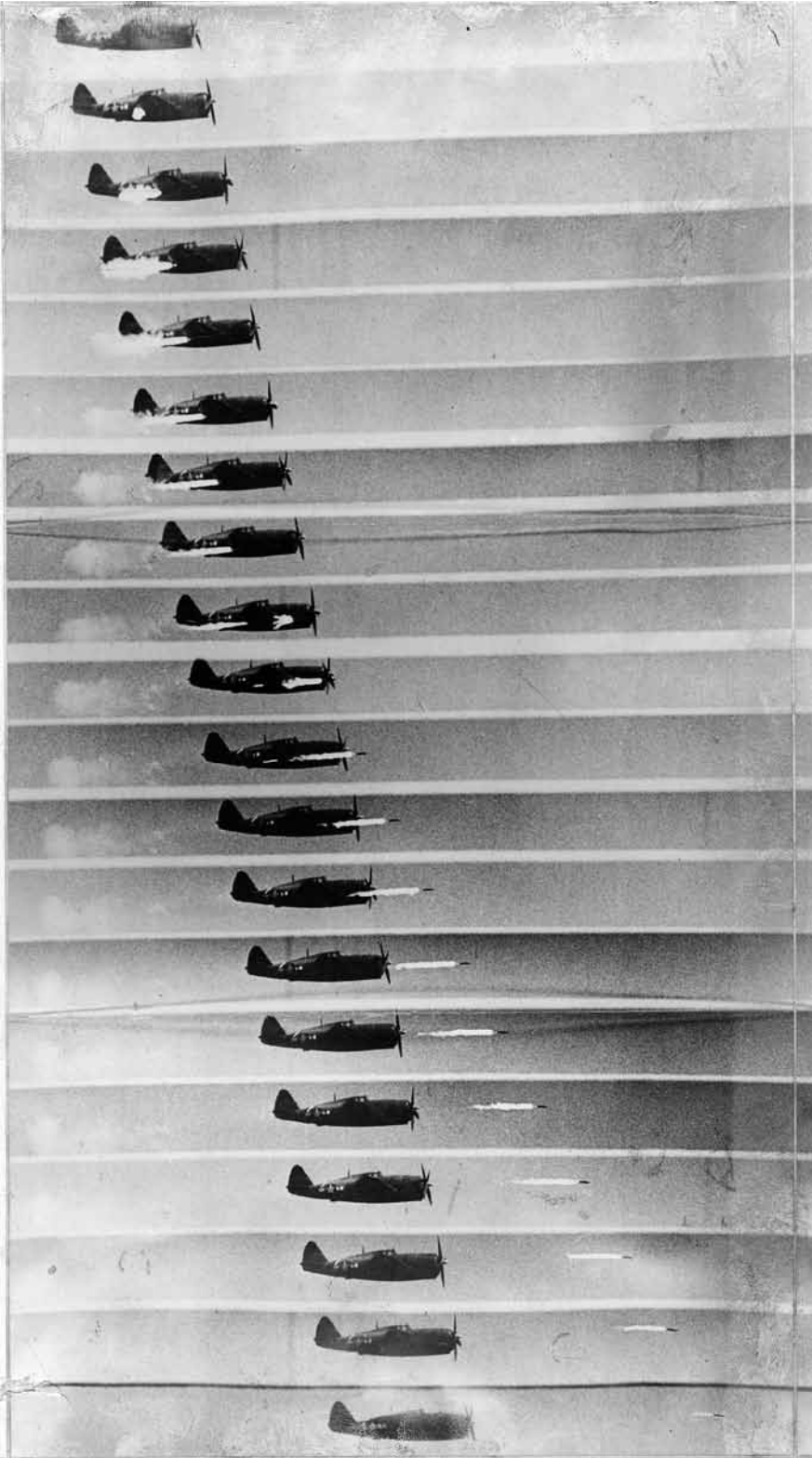


Flashback

Frame by Frame

USAAF photo. Text by Andrea K. Dudney



This World War II-era time-lapse photograph, taken by a high-speed camera, shows a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter-bomber test-firing its relatively new rocket guns. Late in the war, the "Jug" became what many believe was USAAF's best fighter-bomber. The Thunderbolt could carry about 2,500 pounds of bombs or M8 4.5-inch or 5-inch rockets, not to mention eight machine guns. All of this ordnance allowed P-47 pilots to destroy 86,000 rail cars, 9,000 locomotives, 6,000 armored fighting vehicles, and some 68,000 trucks, among other targets. ■