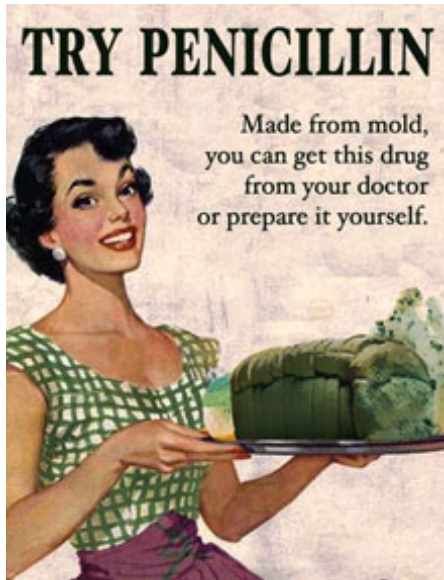


Bombs Away

Written by Jack Sparacino
Monday, 07 March 2016 14:42



Ka-*boooooom*. In this era of political bomb throwing, with negative ads and rancor having sadly demonstrated their grating effectiveness, it is worth considering how we came to so admire the power of a bomb. Or, frequently, clusters of them.

We won World War II in large part through a gargantuan bombing campaign against Nazi Germany (including aircraft, parts and munitions factories, rail lines and oil depots). In parallel, we struck Japan heavily. America's vaunted Eighth Air Force, acutely challenged in Europe, generated staggering statistics. They flew some 754,000 bomber sorties, dropped 1.5M tons of bombs (the RAF added 1.3M tons), lost nearly 10,000 bombers and earned 17 Medals of Honor. Even now, over 2,000 tons of unexploded Allied bombs are uncovered yearly in Germany.

The combat conditions our fine young men faced were, yes, *abominable*. They often flew at

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THE HOOVER COMPANY
Rochester, N.Y.

Bombs Away

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Now if I can just discover a really cool new product for carpets . . . I think I know just what to call