



GERMAN DEFENSE MEASURES

On 6 November operation "Bingo" was put into effect and a concerted effort against the Brenner pass line was begun by the 57 Wing. German opposition to this program consisted of three defense measures. Flak and fighter planes constituted the active defense and smoke screens made up the passive defense. By far the most effective of these was flak; fighter opposition and smoke screens were a poor second and third.

On occasion our aircraft encountered a limited number of enemy fighter planes but they were usually driven off by the defenses of the formations and the escorting fighters before inflicting any damage. The largest part of the activity in Italy was carried out by the Second Group of the Italian Fascist Republic Air Force, its Italian pilots manning ME-109s with German markings. This Italian unit, which had about 50 aircraft at the beginning of our Brenner campaign, used five or six airfields

