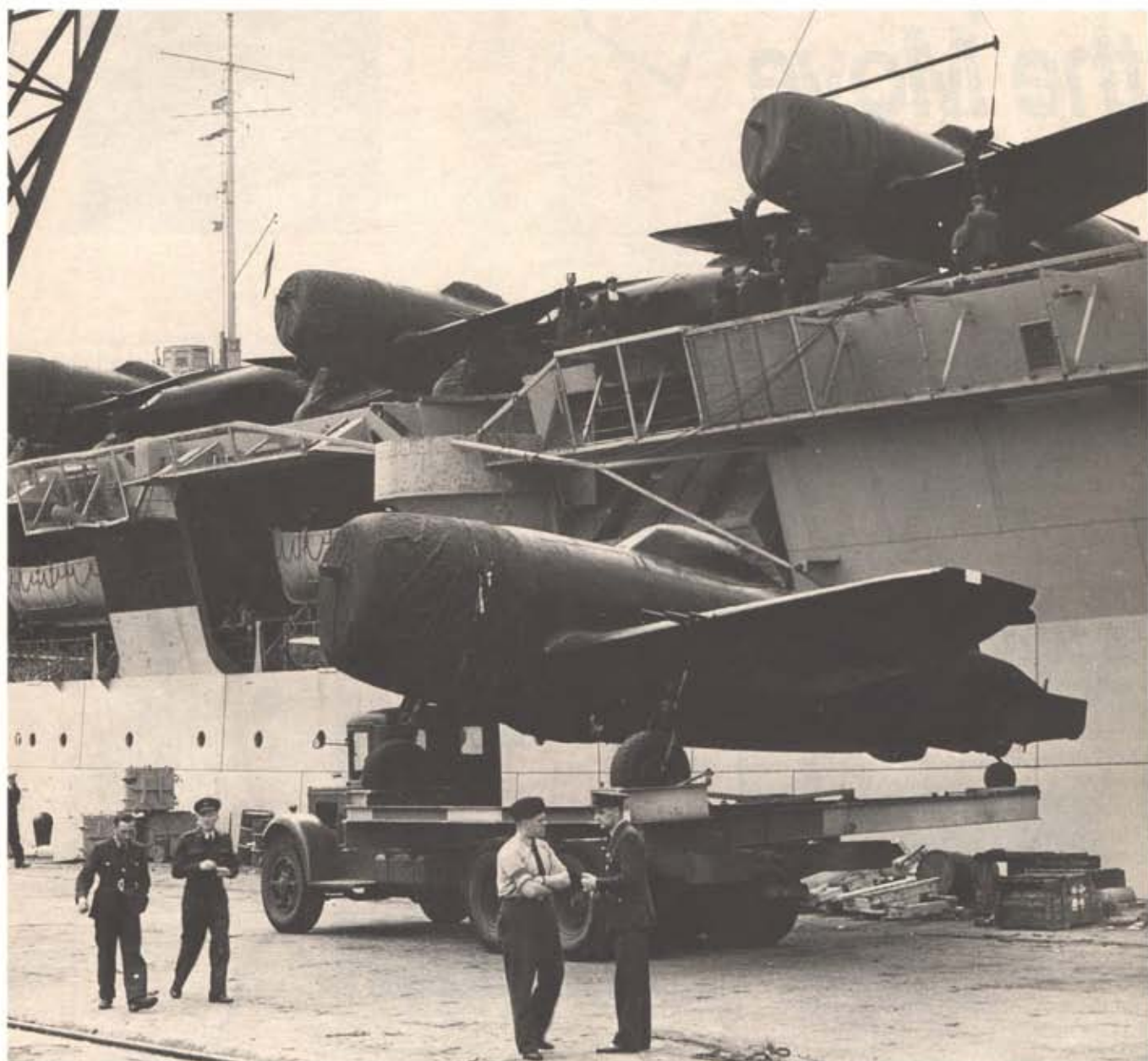


Unfinished Business



After the victory in Europe in May 1945, some of America's fighting men in the European theater could head for home, but US fighter planes were not through with the war. P-51 Mustangs, P-38 Lightnings, P-61 Black Widows, and P-47 Thunderbolts (shown here) gathered at Liverpool, England, high on the priority list for

redeployment. They were partially disassembled, taped for protection against the weather, and hoisted by sixty-ton cranes onto the decks of "pocket aircraft carriers" like this converted grain ship. The fighter planes then sailed for the States before returning to action half a world away to finish the war in the Pacific.