

Dear Bud-

Enclosed you will find some pictures from Italy 1944. They are the only ones I could find. After 30 moves while on active duty in the Air Force, things disappeared and my WWII pictures were no exception.

The crew picture is as we started out from Boise, ID., and joined the 826 Sq. of 484th B.G. in Nov. 1943. We were in the first bunch of crews to arrive in the 484th. The initial cadre of 826th were there i.e. J.B. Payne, Gus Trotter, Abner McDaniel & Dowd to name some.

Our crew stayed together thru the first several missions and then Bartlement was replaced by Rudolph as bombardier. Mike Porter left us to take his own crew shortly thereafter and Bob Goble

took his place.

Our first airplane "Umbriago" was shot down over Ploesti, flown by another crew - I believe it was a Lt. Roses' crew. We then got a silver replacement that came with "Cover Girl" already on the nose.

We finished our missions in fall of 1944, although not necessarily all together. Several crew members flew extra missions and finished ahead - but we all finished at about the same time - and all rotated back to the States.

I have lost touch with all of my crew members, but would like to hear from them or know something of them.

Hope this adds a little bit to our unit history. Yours truly,

C.T. (TIM) IRELAND Maj. Ge. USAF (Ret.)



Sgt. Robert Paine with "Cover Girl" (C.T. Ireland photo 826th Sq.)



Left to right standing: Norman D. Jagers-Radio/Op, Lloyd Hume-Nose/Gun, Donald L. Mathesius-Tail/Gun, Robert Pain-Ball/Gun, Lawrence Koenig-Top/Gun, Frederick Howland-Waist/Gun, Front row, kneeling, L to R: C.T. Ireland-Pilot, M.J. Porter-Co-pilot, Thaddeus Obstarczyk-Nav, and Donald L. Bartlement-Bomb. (C.T. Ireland photo 826th sq.)

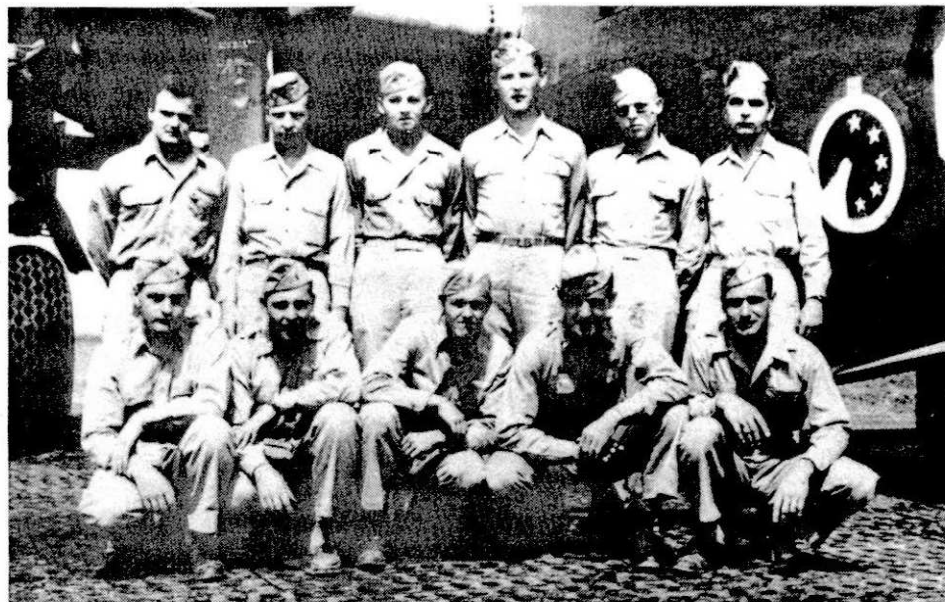
Dear Bud -

One story that caught my eye was the Escape Statement dated 20 March 1945 as told by a pilot, in the 484th Bomb Group, named Alva M. Schick. His airplane was shot down 7 Feb. 1945 on a mission to the Florisdorf refinery.

You have a chronological list of the missions flown by the 484th Bomb Group and this list shows that two airplanes were lost on that mission on 7 Feb. 1945. Schick's airplane was one of the two and the other was ours! Incidentally, that mission was flown 39 years ago today!

Thank you for helping my friend here in Denver, Ralph Branstetter, get started with a proposed reunion of his Bomb Group.

Again, thank you for a very well-written Torretta Flyer. Afraid we can't make the reunion in Orlando this year but we are looking forward to next year! Sincerely, **W.M. (Mike) HENDRICKSON** 824TH SQ.



Bob Swinehart 767th Sq. crew photo-standing from left: Frank Chema, Charles Westfall, Dick Roberts, Harry Place and Robert Swinehart. Kneeling from left: Larry Dixon*, John Vanrette*, Art Kenjorski, Russell Landis, replacement Radio Operator, and Jacob Herman, (killed in action) *=Deceased (Bob Swinehart photo 767th Sq.)