

Durham, NC

Dear Bud:

I wondered whether you had seen the a copy of the article "What became of the Big Bombers" from the American Legion Magazine of September 1979. In it there is a picture of "Toggle Annie", our ship. When I was at the Association 1983 reunion in Williamsburg, I met Harry Marshall and we talked about "Toggle Annie" He said he had a few missions aboard her. I was the original first pilot on her. We picked the plane up in March 1944 at Lincoln, Nebraska and our crew #52 flew her to Italy. We put the first 30 or so missions on her. She was out of commission for a short while in Corsica. We had received flak damage to the fuel lines on a mission to Southern France and on landing the nose gear jammed and was damaged, so for a while we flew other planes.

We named her "Toggle Annie" because we were not a lead crew on the early missions. We used to toggle switch drop our bombs as the lead crew dropped theirs .

After the reunion, Harry sent me this copy. I am quite proud that she survived so successfully. A few weeks ago, my son was looking at it and noticed my wife's name "Chickie" below the pilot's window. I had forgotten I had put it there. Hope you find the article interesting.

Sincerely,
Vince and Chickie O'Shea 826 Sq



"Toggle Annie"

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Minneapolis, Mn
Dear Bud:

The photo on the back page of Torretta Flyer No 15 of the 824 commemorative squadron flag base recalls a story about Kenneth Speith, (now deceased). He had come back to camp from Cerignola in a very obnoxious mood. Several of us zipped him up in a mummy type sleeping bag and strung him on that flag pole for a while until he straightened out. It is a shame I didn't have an opportunity to confront him with this story before he passed away. We could have had a few laughs over that. Perhaps he can hear me and is having the last laugh after all. I hope so.

Dexter Shultz 824 Sq

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Morris, Mn
Dear Bud:

I do enjoy getting the Torretta Flyer and all the other mailings about the Association and buddies from the group.

I was especially interested in Ralph Hallenbeck's story on pages 14-15 as I was flying in my usual nose gunner position in the deputy lead ship piloted by Major Jerry Dufour, who was our squadron commander. I saw the plane get hit and pull out of the formation on fire. I heard Major Dufour say over the interphone, "They got our leader, let's get going" and so we did.

That same evening Axis Sally announced on the radio that Col Hendricks was a POW.

I was a member of Capt. Bill Abbey's (now deceased) crew and we often flew some big wheels. He was a careful and skillful pilot and I had a high regard for him. May he rest in peace.

Now that our partner son is married, we have left the farm. Farming has been good to us in spite of what you hear in the media. Sorry we can't make the 1988 reunion, perhaps we'll see you at the next one.

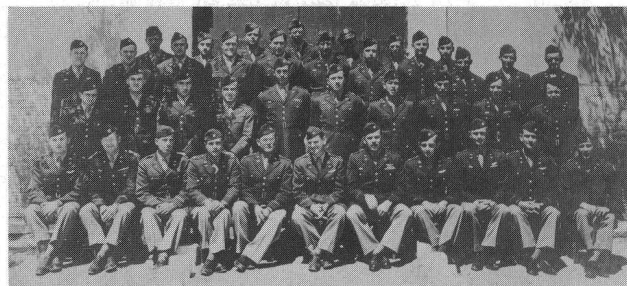
With best regards to you and Bea.
Bernard R Schneider, 824 Sq.

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Washington, DC
Dear Bud:

In regards to the photograph of the 461st Bomb Group Headquarters staff that is enclosed, I don't know the date this photo was taken nor do I know all of the personnel shown.

Hope you can find who the rest are.
Sincerely,
Carl H Peter 767 sq



Bottom row: Third from left /Wilcowitz 767 sq, fourth from left /Zuckor 767 sq, fifth from left / Bennett 767 sq. (May be Lee Lott), third from right Jim Knapp 767 sq. Second row; First on right/Peter Drill 484th Third row from the bottom: third from right/ Jack Sheppard 767 sq Fourth row for the bottom: third from left Carl H Peter, 767 sq

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York, PA
Dear Bud:

Enclosed is the story of my parachute jump. February 6, 1945 . At briefing that morning we were told that the weather was bad all the way to the target. We would have to wait to see if the mission was on. It was scrubbed later.