



*Our Crew From Top Left: Nick Rockawich-N, Allen-B, William Wright-P, Paul Utley-C/P, and Wally Robinson-T/G. Kneeling from left: William Smith, Jonas Plamer, F McNarney, Socrates Delianadis, and Jim Mackin. McNarney was replaced by Bill Rollins about December 1943.*

Yugoslavia, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Germany--and return. All this in nine hours.

11 July, 1944

Toulon, France. Subpens. No fighter opposition. Picked up a few flak holes.

12 July, 1944

Martialing yards. Southern France. Ran into heavy flak over the French coast and took a lot of hits. A hydraulic line in the bomb bay was ruptured and the fluid ran back and covered the tail turret. When the enemy fighters came in had to kick out the turret's glass in order to see out. That must have been the coldest spot in the plane, with the glass out, and there was a lot of oil whipping in. Back in Italy the weather was terrible and we couldn't find the base. It was so rough that we couldn't stay on the deck. There are no seat

belts to hold one in place, and we kept rising up and then slammed down.

The bail-out alarm went off about this time and we all put on our chutes and opened the escape hatch. The plane seemed to be flying O.K. and so nobody volunteered to go out first. It turned out that during a particularly hard bounce the pilot hit the alarm by mistake. We flew around trying to find a place to land and

then an engine quit. The gas was about gone so we went down under the weather and found an emergency strip. There were horses running around us as we landed--no other living thing was in sight. Found a road, and pretty soon a truck came along and we rode in to some sort of an Army base where they fed us and made arrangements for getting us home. Got back at 4:00 A.M. When Lt. Utley took off his heated suit a piece of flak fell out. Lost four of our Group.

15 July, 1944

Ploesti, Romania. Not too bad a mission for Ploesti. The usual flak, but no fighters. Lost one plane. Received Presidential Citation.

16 July, 1944

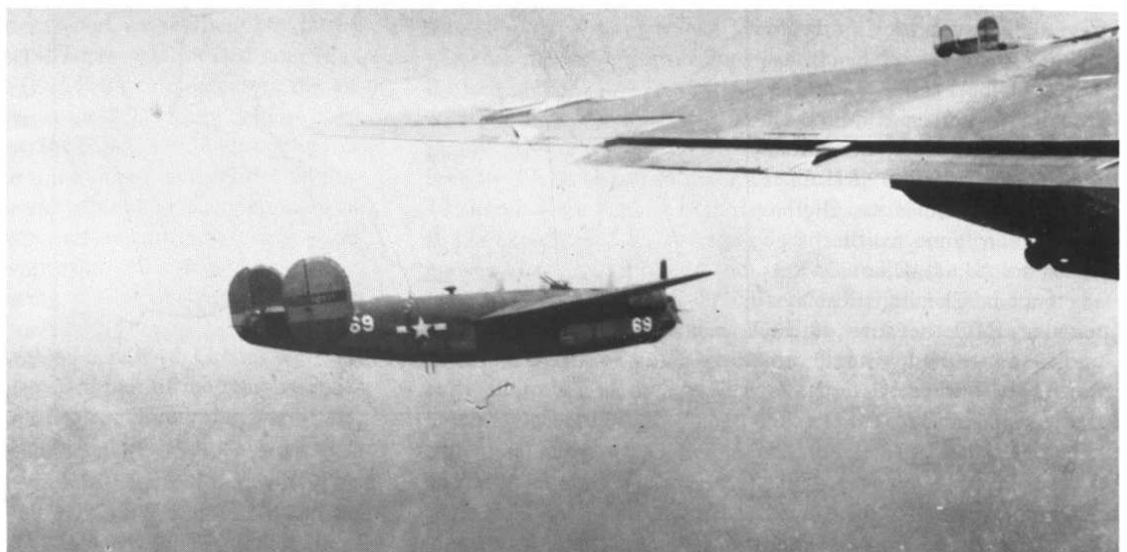
Vienna (Weiner-Neurdorf). Carried five 1,000 lb. demos. Lots of opposition. One lost.

18 July, 1944

Friedrichshafen, Germany, Jet aircraft plant. Very scary. Wanted to watch the bombs hit (can't tell from tail). Missed the target. Bombs landed in Lake Constance. Switzerland is on the other shore.

This was my last mission.

The End



*July 5, 1944 Toulon, France. The original #69 in which we flew most of our missions. It went down with another crew and we got a replacement which we called "Zombie of 69 the First."*