



461st BG 766 Squadron B squad Hammer Field, Fresno, California Winter 1943

Lexington, KY

Dear Bud:

I am enclosing a picture of our crew headed by first pilot Wilson B Wilkes. Did you know that a red headed gunner from Chicago had a dark room setup in the squadron milk house. We would go in there and help develop pictures for other crews.

I saw S/Sgt Low in Joliet about a year after we got out of the service. He came to settle his brother's estate. (He had been killed in a car crash). I also saw Clarence Bush in the early seventies during visits to Florida.

After 25 missions our crew was sent to rest camp in Cairo for a week. We did complete 50 missions then came home. Wilkes, Bush, Sparks, Low, Moore, and myself finished at the same time. The other members of the crew were bumped when we flew radar lead. Capt. Wilkes would fly co/pilot. Different bombardiers and navigators would be assigned to these missions. Our lead crew won the DFC for one particular mission, the details are outlined in the accompanying clipping from a Joliet newspaper.

Hope this finds you well,

Bob Moberly
824 Squadron

*Citation
With the 15th AAF In Italy*

SI/Sgt Robert G Moberly, top turret gunner of a B-24 Liberator has recently been awarded the distinguished flying cross (DFC) for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight over enemy territory. During a bombing mission on the vital oil installations in

Austria, Sgt. Moberly's crew led the wing formation. Enroute to the target, their formation was aggressively and persistently attacked by approximately 100 enemy fighters. Despite intense heavy and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire, together with continued attacks by enemy fighters, they brought the wing through the enemy defenses for a successful bombing run inflicting heavy damage on the target. Turning from the objective, tho their ship was heavily damaged by enemy fire, they remained in the lead of the wing formation, making a safe landing at the home base with a minimum



Photo 1 Back row left to right: Clarence L Bush-E, Frederick H Sparks-RIO, Robert G Moberly-UIG, Ralph F Moore-NIG, and Zehnder S Low-TIG, Kneeling left to right: Wilson B Wilkes-P, William F Oldroyd-C/P, and George B Hayes-N. Richard M Pearce-B is not shown.