

Clay Center, KS
Dear Bud:

Our crew left Mitchell Field, Long Island, New York around December 12, 1944. We ferried a brand new B-24J from Newfoundland, the Azore Islands, North Africa, and finally Italy. We left the plane somewhere south of the river and transferred by truck to the 765th squadron area. The river was flooding and we drove for hours before reaching the base at about midnight. We were temporarily housed in a tent of a crew that was reported missing in action that very day. Welcome to Italy. We flew our missions as a crew. We were very lucky, no purple hearts. We flew several different planes, but one I remember was Rhode Island Red II, No #32.

Some of our targets were: Munich, Linz, Vienna, Salzberg, Innsbruck, and Northern Italy places. On a trip to Europe in 1989 I revisited some of these places including the famous Brenner Pass.

My wife and I are retired and live about 150 miles west of Kansas City. We are frequent travellers who love to "Hit the Road."

I am not a farmer, but spend some of my time out at the farm fixing fences, spraying weeds, and cutting down trees in the pasture and watching the wheat grow. I enjoy meeting with a group of retirees at the local coffee shop nearly every morning, where we solve the world's problems.

Above. Charles Partridge. Bari Harbor behind, Spring 1945

Best Regards,
Charles Partridge 765th Squadron

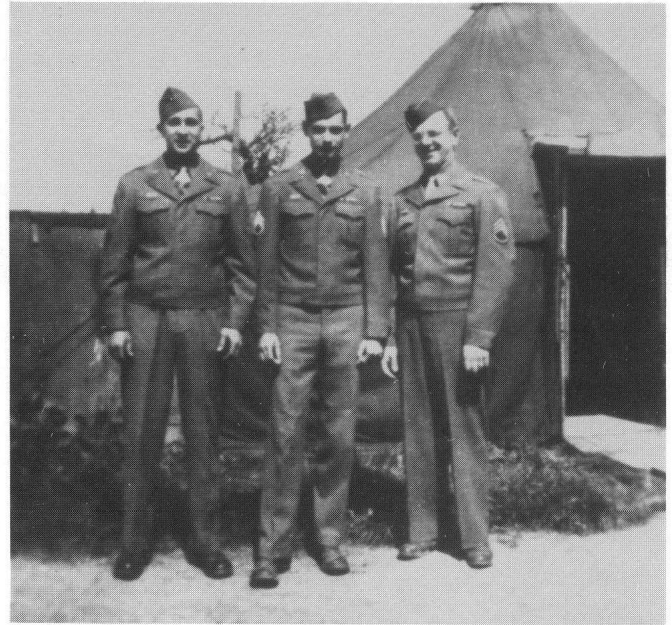


My Crew from top left: Joe Student-TIG, Dana Coolbroth-BIG, Albert Brown-RIO (WIG), Ralph Johnson-NIG, and Charles Partridge UIG. Bottom row from left: Ernest Skinner-P, Harold Zuber-CIP, Dave Jefford-N, and Bob Skelton-E (WIG). (Charles Partridge photo)

Haines City, FL
Dear Bud:

I am sending you a picture of myself and two buddies (below) I am still looking for. Our tent was #62 Sleepy Hollow. From the left, Lou Peterson, Ray Monson control tower operator, and Joe Mihelei, a crew chief. We were all from the 826 squadron.

I am,
Lou Peterson 826 squadron.



From the left, Lou Peterson, Ray Monson control tower operator, and Joe Mihelei, a crew chief. (Lou Peterson photo)

York, PA
Dear Bud:

In the next Torretta Flyer please print a request for me. As you know "OI 45" went down on a mission to Moosebierbaum February 7, 1945. I would like to know if anyone has a picture of this aircraft or knows the tail number. *

Just recently I made contact with Bob Pahl, radio operator from Dayton, OH through Charles McKew. He told me that Ernest Thyberg, ball gunner has passed away. Following is a partial list of the crew with their wartime addresses. If anyone has any information on the plane or crew, I would appreciate hearing from them.

Alva M Schick-P Nashville, TN; James K Calvert-C/P Covington, OK; Kenneth D Limbocker-B Loveland, CO; Neal Spierling-N, Lansing, MI; Claude T Torgerson-E Lake Crystal MN; Walter J Sysko -Dudley, MA; William C Holmes-G Marinette, WI. 825 Squadron.

Thank you,
Bud Pressel,
Phone 717/757/1218

* Editor: The tail number was provided through the courtesy of John Beitling of Kansas City, MO. The tail number is 42-52635.