
View From The Editors Desk

Books and Such

My sister asked me in a recent conversation what I would do if I were to win the lottery? "To Build a library" I responded quickly." She then went on to ask if I played the lottery often. Not at all was my reply. How do you expect to win she countered. I do have some schemes, but I won't tell you right now I said recovering quickly. She had caught me in a surprise psychological test, and I thought of books, a lot of books, or a library. Which brings me to the subject of books that this issue is built around.

You will note that several books are reviewed in this issue as well as the printing of a chapter from Roger Freeman's book, "The Experiences of War, The American Airmen in Europe" Arms and Armour Press, London, distributed in the USA by Sterling Publishing Co. New York. Published by permission of the author. Roger Freeman lives in England where he farms and writes books. He has produced many fine books that have become classics in the field of the Air War of World War II, such as "The Mighty Eighth War Manual," and "The Mighty Eighth War Diary." The latter book is a chronicle of all of the missions flown by the Eighth Air Force. If only such a work was available for the 15th Air Force. I am thinking of suggesting this to our British authors.

I purchased a paperback book, "Elusive Horizons" by Keith C Schuyler, Avon books, just recently reprinted. He describes flying a double mission on April 27, 1944. Roger Freeman's Eighth War Diary confirms double missions were flown on occa-



The flight crew of "Rhapsody In Junk" arrive for their second mission on April 28, 1944 as the fuel tanks are being topped off. Roger Freeman photo from the "Mighty Eighth War Diary."

sion when the days became longer as summer 1944 approached. This brings on the question, did any of the 15th Air Force bomber crews fly double missions?

Ian McLaughlan, another British author, was kind enough to send the Association a review copy of his work. "Eighth Air Force Bomber Stories," Patrick Stephens Limited Sparkford, England, available in the USA from Motorbooks International Osceola, Wisconsin.

The two daughters of one of our contributors, Felix Rameder, who wrote "My Mission List" which appeared in *Torretta Flyer* No 19- Summer Fall 1990, made a surprise visit to us last winter. They mentioned that their dad was looking for



Felix Rameder

some books, including the *Desert Rats*, by Michael Hill, which I had just purchased from Powell's books in Portland, Oregon, a short time before. I gave them my copy. Little did I know that it was out of print and hard to find. Unbeknownst to me, Felix on his own initiative wrote to Mike Hill asking him to send me a copy, if one was available. An autographed copy of the "The Desert Rats" arrived in due time, so I could review it for this issue. It is the story of the 98th's participation in the famous August 1, 1943 low level attack on the Ploesti Oil Refineries. At the time of the raid the group was based in North Africa, and assigned to the 12th Air Force. Later when the 15th Air Force was created, the 98th was moved to the 47th Wing 15th Air Force.

Real Heavy Bombers

Roy Nichols the engineer on Robert Fritt's crew, 825 squadron, tells about the transfer of B-24s from the 8th Air Force to the 484th, and what dogs they were.

They were much heavier than our