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# Letters to the Editor

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Big Creek School  
Big Creek, California

Editor Torretta Flyer

Dear Mr Markel

Our names are Robert Martin and Sydney Belanger. We are in the fourth grade at Big Creek School We are doing a research project about the B-24 bomber that crashed into Hester Lake on December 5, 1943. We are trying to learn about all the men in the 461st Bomb Group that died while they were stationed at Hammer Field, Fresno, California. If you have anymore information on the enclosed, please let us know.

## 767 Squadron Crew 61, Hammer Field

Bush, L.G.-Pilot  
Graham, S.A.-Co-Pilot  
Higgins, D.C.-Navigator  
McCrary, E.L.-Bomb  
Jackson, D.W.-Eng  
Bryson, H.S.-Gun  
Johnson, C.W.-Nose  
Novotny, Billy H. KLOD, Fresno 1-8-44  
Atz, John F.

## 765 Squadron Others on the Turvey Crew

Williams, W.H.-Gun  
Charrette-Gun  
Warner, R.C. -Nose KIA 1944  
Alexander, R. -Tail

## 765 Squadron Crew 35

Armory, Clement G. KLOD Fresno 1-8-44  
Grimm, W.J. -Pilot  
Waster, R.G.-Co-Pilot  
Simeroth-Nav  
Ahadi, Abe -Bomb  
Williams, M.D.-Eng  
Duchingshy, L.F.-Radio  
James, Jack B. -Top Gunner 1989  
Small, J.W.-Nose  
Stevenson, E. -Tail

## Hester Lake Plane

Turvey, Charles W.-0682921  
Hester, Robert M. -0755344  
Cronin, William T-0691961  
Fish, Ellis H. -0752711  
Burse, Robert O.-1084894  
Wendtke, Howard A.-15354576

## Crew 31

Tribe, R.V.-Pilot, KLOD Fresno  
Drucker, E.J.-Co-Pilot, KLOD 11-22-43  
Stewart, E.C.-Nav  
Ek Dahl-Bomb  
Berends, C.J. -Eng, KIA '44  
McCray, J.G. -Radio  
Masters-Top  
Holliday, D.E.-Bottom, 1982  
Kline, J.W.-Nose 1985  
Metzger, -Tail

Thank you.

Robert Martin  
Sydney Belanger

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Valley Streaun, NY  
Dear Beatrice and Bud

Enjoyed the winter edition of the Torretta Flyer and the story comparing the B-17 with the B-24. Enclosed is another man's opinion, which happens to be mine also.

On the February 21, 1945 mission to Vienna we came off the target with only number one engine left. We all bailed out 90 miles south of Vienna at Oberart, and not one of us received a scratch. Admittedly we were very lucky, but my precious B-24 saw to it on this mission that all ten men got out alive. The argument as to what plane was superior will never be settled, but as for me I'll take the B-24.

"In praise of the B-24. Having trained in both the B-17 and the B-24 and then completing 57 combat missions in the B-24, I offer the following comments. Both were great airplanes; however, the B-24, being developed three years later than the B-17, was certainly the superior machine. The B-24 was produced in greater numbers, 18,900

B-24s to 12,400 B-17s. The B-24 saw action in every war theater. It could carry a heavier bomb load farther and faster than the B-17. It not only was used for high-altitude bombardment, but had the versatility to work at lower altitudes for ground support, including mine laying, and also served as an excellent platform for submarine patrol."

Joseph M. Kovalcik 464th Bomb  
Group Via Ken Hubertz, 824 Sq

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Tempe, Arizona  
Dear Bud:

In response to your inquiry, I do not recall any particular rivalry between the 8th and the 15th AF.

I queried my brother, who was a bombardier with the 8th and he said the same and that he was aware of the 15th.

Saturday I met an attorney in Tucson who had been with the 8th AF before the 15th was active. He recalled that the 8th had furnished some personnel to the 15th at the time of its activation. The enclosed photo is of Floyd Creasman

Robert Cole, 484th BG Hq



Floyd Creasman, Pilot 826 sq. Robert Cole photo 826 sq.