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15th AAF In Italy

Dishing out double trouble to the Nazis these days are the Humrighouse twins, Sergeants Harry and Roy, from Uhrichsville, Ohio, aerial gunners on a B-24 Liberator in the Fifteenth Air Force in Italy.

With Harry in the ball turret and Roy at the nose position, the twins enjoy a sweeping view of the skies as they fly over enemy territory.

Together since their school days, they entered the army on the same date, and are aiming their one-two punch right at Herr Hitler's chin every time they take to the skies.

Separated for the first time in their lives at the induction center at Fort Hayes, Ohio, it took the intervention of their mother, Mrs. Bessie Humrighouse, to bring them together again in the army. She wrote a letter to Washington asking that her sons be kept together in the army, which resulted in their being brought together again shortly before they left for overseas service.

As combat men in a veteran Liberator group, the twins have been authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge as members of a heavy bombardment group which was cited by the War Department for "outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy."

Graduating from Uhrichsville high school in 1941, they were employed by the Westinghouse Electric Company in Canton, prior to entering the service in November, 1943. --30--

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Harry F Humrighouse,
826 Squadron.

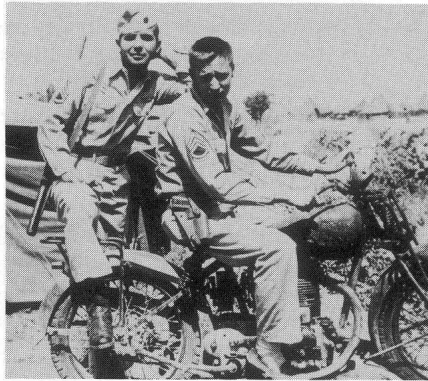


Ringgold, Georgia
Dear Bud & Bea:

Sorry I couldn't be at the KC reunion as my wife's health is poor and I must spend most of the time caring for her. I enjoy reading the Torretta Flyer and all the news from the past. I especially enjoyed the article written by my pilot Capt. Willie Kitchen. How well I remember that mission and the events that day (Torretta Flyer No 20). And

in Torretta Flyer No. 15. Our CO, Major Haldeman was a great leader and was respected by all. Our plane was named "Hot Rocks" No #70. In the photograph enclosed (below) T/Sgt Marvin Watson, engineer, and S/Sgt Patrick M Layne Jr. tail gunner on Willie Kitchens' crew. We used the English Enfield motorcycle for transportation around the base and into town.

Patrick M Layne Jr., 827 Squadron



T/Sgt Marvin Watson (left) and S/Sgt Patrick M Layne Jr. P. Layne photo.

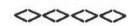
Dear Bud;

Because of our bomb sight we lost our beautiful B-24 J to another squadron. Here is how it happened. The crew: Pilot-Lloyd J. Breisch; Co/pilot- H. O. McAllister; Navigator-Alexander Sobelewski; Bombardier: Lesley L. Seyler; Engineer- Leroy Smith; Nose Gunner-John R. Brennan; Radio Operator-Edward J. Fahey; Waist Gunner-Richard K. Rutledge; Ball Gunner- Louis H. Heimbruch; Tail Gunner-Elbert Wallace

We were ordered from Tonopah to Hamilton Field, California, in early May 1944, and we were assigned to a brand new (Convair built B-24 J and ordered to fly to West Palm Beach, FL. At West Palm Beach we were given sealed orders with the following on outside of the envelope, "Proceed on a heading of 180 degrees for one hour, then open this envelope and proceed as directed." As soon as the wheels were up, the Navigator opened the envelope. The orders directed us to proceed via the "southern route" to Djida, Tunisia and report to "responsible representative of the 15th Air Force." We proceeded to Tunisia with stops at Trinidad, Forteleza, Brazil, Dakar, Marakech and Algiers. On arrival at Djida, discovered the 15th AF HQ had moved to Foggia, Italy. Proceeded to Foggia and re-

ceived assignment to 484th BG based at Torretta, near Cerignola. Arrived there approximately May 3, 1944. The crew was assigned to 827th Squadron, but the plane was assigned to another group because it had Norden bombsight and the 827th used Sperry bombsights. The new plane was named 'The Eunuch'. Derivation of the name is now unknown. I wonder if anyone remembers seeing it?

Sincerely
Lesley L. Seyler



North Andover, Massachusetts
Dear Bud:

On a recent visit to Las Vegas, I stopped to see the show where my wartime buddy Marty Allen (824 squadron and Association member) is performing. The accompanying photo is the result of that meeting.

Charles McKew, 824 Squadron.



Charles McKew (left) and Marty Allen

Riverdale, Illinois
Dear Bud:

Thank you for another interesting issue of the Torretta Flyer.

The Italian students' responses to the scholarship awards are very heartwarming and it's an activity that the association can be proud of.

I recently read, "The Muster Raid," by Ian Hawkins, your trip to England and the airfields of East Anglia reminded me of it. The "Bloody 100th BG and 95th BG took a terrible beating on those raids. It reminded me again to be thankful I was in the 15th Air Force.

A comment about issue #21 of the

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