

## Lawrence P Weakley, 824 Sq.

Lawrence P Weakley, 824 Squadron, Bombardier, has died from fibrosis of the lungs, a condition that is believed to be caused by too many hours of hard oxygen breathing from the 400 combat hours at high altitude he endured during WWII and Korea. He had suffered from prostate cancer some twelve years prior to his death, but the intervention of radiation therapy resulted in cancer negative tests since then.

Among his many decorations are: The (DFC) Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, and the WWII Victory Medal.

He had written a letter to me that was sent to me by his wife after his death:

Quote:

"Please excuse the delay in responding to the picture and short note regarding the Tailender

No #18 in the spring 1986 Flyer. The origin of the name refers to our departure from ZI (Zone of the Interior-Good Old USA) and not to any particular position in flight formation. The reason for the late departure from Lincoln, Nebraska was a bad

tooth, I know because the tooth was mine. The base dentist required an extra day to fashion 2 removable bridges so I could bite my nails in case of Me109s or flak getting too close.

The following day (approximately April Fool's day) we departed from West Palm Beach but only after digging out the left main landing gear which had managed to find a soft place in the taxi strip.

The 'Jackass' painting was the work of a sergeant based at Fortaleza, Brazil. His artistic skill may have been subject to question, but his work adequately expressed our feelings regarding the delays.

Incidentally the dental masterpiece which made us late was so uncomfortable that it resides under several fathoms of Caribbean water.

Our crew flew all but one mission in 'Tailender.' It, too, like us was rotated back to the States for much needed R&R after the European war was over. The photographer credited with the photo of No #18 was Forest Nance who had been designated as the original pilot of our crew when it was formed at Gowen Field, Idaho, according to Special Order No 335 dated December 1, 1943 which transferred eight crews to Harvard, Nebraska."

*(Crew photo above right)*



Photo above ; Standing left to right: Yvon R Lemay-E; William B Taylor-B/G; Fred W Allen-R/O; Louis A Eimer-U/G; and Peter J McMahon-N/G. Kneeling left to right: George G Gilpin-P; Delmer L Conner-C/P; Don L Kavanaugh-N and Lawrence P Weakley-B. Not shown William P Dunn-T/G who joined the crew at Torretta.



Lawrence P Weakley.

## Members Reported Deceased Since the Kansas City Reunion

Name	Unit	Duty	Name of Pilot
Armand Bottiglia	767	N	Robert Loubke
Morris B Burk Jr	824	U/G	Hilton W Goodwyn Jr
Wyatt L Busbee	767	N/G	Robert Woswurn
John J Connelly	824		
Marford Dannall	824		
George Dutcher	824		
John F Hahn	824	E	Robert E Bedwell
Tom Harper	824		
Arthur R Hotalen	825	B/G	Stevenson B Porter
Carlton B Jewett	766	C/P	John C Bontempo
Frank Johnson	824	R/O	Ed Nesheim
Raymond C Lung	767	U/G	Ralph Newton
Harold C Lynch	824	C/C	Crew Chief
Clement Martin	827	B/G	Samuel J Howes Jr
Eugene C McCarty	824	ORD	Ed Nesheim
Ralph Moore	824		
Leo Prone	824	L/B	
Dana L Rattray	827		
Francis J Riley	767		
James H Sullivan	826	C/P	James E Kennedy
Charles L Walling	826	G/C	
Herbert W Wingo	824		
Lawrence P Weakley	824	B	George R Gilpin