

**2/Lt David A Nickerson 824 Sq.**



David A Nickerson

David A Nickerson, Bombardier on Robert Kime's crew died January 4, 1995. He won the DFC in February 1945. He last lived in Chatham, Massachusetts. He maintained his membership in the Association from 1983 until 1989.

Adolph Marcus writes that "Knickers" was a quiet man keeping to himself and did not "hang out" with the other officers. "During the incident described below, Nickerson observed a mouse creep out of my heated suit to die quickly in the freezing air on the nose wheel door. The headline in the Stars and Strips a few days later read. 'Mickey Mouse is Dead!'"

After the war he stayed in the Air Force and was based at Stewart Field, NY. Our crew had several crew reunions after the war one time at Nickerson's home just above New York. We ate and drank the night away. I was lucky not to received a ticket on the ride back home. I am enclosing a letter from Nick's mother addressed to my sister dated March 8, 1945.

The Letter

Dear Mrs. Jaffe:

*I want you to know that I appreciate very much the clipping that you sent to me containing your brother's story of that horrible experience the boys went through last December.*

*I am enclosing a clipping which you may like to have. If only this thing (the war) would be over soon!*

*If you can spare the time I would enjoy hearing from you.*

With the best of wishes.  
Yours Sincerely,  
Elizabeth E Sweatman

This News clipping was enclosed with the letter

*15th AAF IN ITALY. "It seemed that more happened in those ten minutes than in all the rest of my career," said 2/ Lt David A. Nickerson, 20,118 South Main street, Sharon, Mass.*

*The Bombardier of a B-24 Liberator, he had just returned from a successful bombing mission on the largest oil refineries in Odertal, Germany, where he had been engaged in a violent air battle with more than seventy enemy fighters.*

*Coming through the heavy cloud cover, they were attacked from the rear as they approached the target. Wave after wave of fighters pressed home the assault. Firing rockets and machine guns they came in for the kill. In a few minutes ten bombers went down in flames.*

*Five fighters concentrated their attack on the plane. From every direction they swarmed in, After ten minutes of these attacks the aircraft was badly damaged; every turret and gun had been shot out, as well as the electrical and hydraulic systems, and part of the oxygen system.*

*Going into the target," continued Lt. Nickerson, "I had to go back and crank the bomb-bay doors open. One door wouldn't open so I bombed through the other door. After bombs were away the navigator, nose gunner and I had to go to the flight deck for oxygen. Our oxygen line had been shot away and our supply was exhausted."*

*"The pilot's oxygen line had also been shot away, but he had stretched the radio operator's line into the cockpit and had been using it. He filled oxygen bottles while the co-pilot took over the controls, until we got out of the enemy territory and went down to a lower altitude.*

*"It all seemed like a bad dream. However, we got out of that spot and finally landed safely, with only the memory of a tough mission."*

*He was recently awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement during aerial flights," and also wears the Distinguished Unit Badge.*

*Lieutenant Nickerson was graduated from Sharon High School in 1942, and was employed by the Bird Machine Co., So. Walpole, Mass, until entering the service in April 1943. Later he was appointed an aviation cadet. After completing the bombardier's course, he received his wings and commission at Childress Texas, May 20, 1944.*

*His mother Mrs. Elizabeth E. Sweatman, lives at 118 South Main in Sharon, Mass.*

2/Lt	George	Bouras (D)	824	N
1/Lt.	Richard E.	Brown	824	C/P
T/sgt	George E	Davis	824	E
T/Sgt	Robert L	Hughes (D)	824	R/O
2/Lt	Robert W	Kime (D)	824	P
S/Sgt	Adolf	Marcus	824	N/G
2/Lt	David A	Nickerson	824	B
S/Sgt	John B	O'Neill (D)	824	T/G
S/Sgt	Charles E	Ranck	824	B/G
S/Sgt	Arnold	Reiff	824	U/G