

Harper Woods, Michigan
Dear Bud:

In looking through my photo album I found a few pictures that might be of interest to you. I'm sorry I don't remember the names of any of the persons shown.

Sincerely,

Justine Hadden AJM-002
(Associate Member)

Editors Note: *Justine was one of the Red Cross girls who brought donuts packed in an ammo box out to the field in a Jeep*



Photo 1 Ellie's Bow Tie Cafe



Photo 2 Unknown Crew

Seminole, OK
Dear Bud & Bea:

After reading Allan Davidson's letter in Torretta Flyer No #28 (top page 22) concerning the two B-24s that collided on 17 February, 45 mission to Trieste (501 & 502)* I was flying that day, nose gunner on Kooker's crew. I did not see any parachutes exit from either aircraft.* Mickey ships, carried H2X radar.

Hershell Hendrix 825 Sq.

Marlborough, MA
Dear Bud

Having some body work done in the hospital, I was unable to attend the 484th cruise in 1994. I was, however, one of the unfortunate few to go on the first one in the early spring of 1944.

The troop train left Nebraska and steamed across the country to Newport News Virginia. Only a few days there while the convoy was being assembled. Much to our surprise, we were given a night on the town. We boarded a Liberty ship William D, Mosely sticks in my mind) though that may be the name of the destroyer my uncle served on then.

Five hundred men were put into a hold below the foredeck with swing down cots six high. To lie on one's back with knees up would poke the man above. Meals for the first few days were fair but became steadily worse. Cooked cereal in the morn was covered with a slimy coat over which undiluted canned milk and a spoonful of sugar was dumped. Oranges, if any, had blue spots and the bread was often moldy. The big meal was at midday with a mess kit cup of soup in the evening. Litow and I spent some time describing meals his mother or my grandmother made right down to the salt and pepper.

Weather permitting, some slept on deck and during the day reading and card playing (pinochle the favorite) were indulged.

We ran into a storm along the way and Litow and I would stand at the rail leaning against the deck housing while the ship rolled from two or three stories above the waves to a few feet above. Never got sea sick though.

We heard later that the group's planes which had gone earlier to north Africa, had been greeted by a German radio voice, welcoming Col Keese and the 484th to the war and hoping to meet them in the skies over Europe So much for loose lips. Also, there was a tale of a fracas in a barracks in Africa in which a crew member was stabbed.

The ship in front of ours in the convoy was carrying ammo and had booms with steel netting hanging from each side to intercept torpedoes. Navy gun crews with 50 cal. guns and a 3 incher at the stern were our defense along with the sausage shaped balloons with hanging cables that each ship pulled. The port and starboard gun crews practiced by releasing balloons and trying to shoot them down. sometimes a sausage balloon was shot down instead.

Playing cards on deck one afternoon when someone said "There's Gibraltar." I looked over my shoulder and sure enough, there it was. "deal the cards". Late that night we were awakened by the sound of plane engines and machine gun fire. It was safe to