

Hilton head, SC
Dear Bud

I'm commenting on Allan Davidson's letter in the Summer-Fall issue of the Torretta Flyer. He mentions a mission on 17 February 1945 to Trieste, Italy. (See page 22 Torretta Flyer No 28 Summer-Fall)

This particular mission is extremely vivid in my memory. I am alive today volunteering at a local hospital, the habitat for humanity, and playing a little golf because I wasn't on that mission. I flew as the Micky Operator regularly with Lt/Col. Abner McDaniel. However after 32 missions he sent me to rest camp that week. He had 28 missions and said that he would be even with me when I returned from rest camp.

However, when I returned from camp I went to his graveside service due to the mid-air collision mentioned in Allan Davidson's letter. When McDaniel hit the ship flown by Capt Larson he gave the crew the choice of bailing out or riding out an emergency landing with him. Those who bailed out survived, but when McDaniel landed his plane (either 501 or 502) it flipped over and most of the crew were killed. the Micky Operator who took my place was injured severely and was flown back to the states. We never found out what happened to him. He was from the Buffalo NY area.

Ken Larson the pilot of the other plane was also killed in the mid-air. he was a real fine peson and lived in the tent next to mine.

Best Wishes
John E Barth 826 Sq.

Dear Bud,

There is just no way any of us can thank you and your good wife sufficiently for all the work, care, energy and dedication you contribute to The Toretta Flyer.

I am sure that many thousands of families are uplifted and educated through your efforts, and you can certainly be proud of the publication, its aims and achievements.

Thank you for including the tribute to Tracy in your most recent issue...it sounds very much as though Reed Sprinkel had

something to do with that, and I shall be writing to him as well. Meantime you are keeping us in touch with you and with each other, and we all owe you at lot!

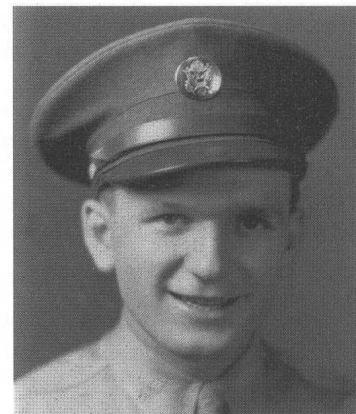
Sincerely,
Patricia Denninger
(Mrs Tracy Denninger)

Colonial Hts, VA
Dear Bud:

An interesting thing happened to me on the Fort Lee, VA golf course recently. We were short a man for our foursome. The starter assigned a Howard Baugh as a fill in.

During the course of the match, Howard and I started talking about the service. I mentioned the 15th Air Force in Italy. He also was in Italy as a P-51 fighter pilot. I mentioned our insignia being a red bow tie. He mentioned that he remembered flying escort for our group. Seems like he was still flying escort joining our foursome and all. He was one of the Tuskegee Airmen.

Sincerely
John S Lopinsky 824 Sq.



John S Lopinsky 824 Sq.

McDonough, GA
Dear Bud:

What a coincidence! In Torretta Flyer No #21 The unknown crew page 32 leading Charlie box to Odertal Oil Refinery on 17, December 1944 in aircraft No 40 (page 35), which just happened to be my 35th mission. I am submitting a picture of my crew taken stateside before deployment overseas.

Thank you for everything.
Jim Chafin 825th Sq.

My crew standing from left:

James T Chafin Jr-P
Harold J Harve-C/P
Bob C Emmons (D)-B
Elwin S Elswood-N

Kneeling from Left:

Jack D Leeth-E
Ivan K Edgett-R/O
Stanley L Krzyzanowsky-N/G
Earl K SHelley-B/G
Herbert W Abbott-U/G
George D Barnwell-T/G

