
Dear Walter: Your discharge papers should show all badges, medals, and campaign ribbons awarded prior to discharge. Your discharge papers are all that is needed to obtain your awards. Contact the National Military Record Center at 9700 Page Blvd. in St. Louis, MO. I'm sorry to have missed the 1998 reunion and didn't get a chance to meet you.

Bud, 484th BG Assn.



Lowell, MI
Dear Bud,

As you can see, I am writing this on my new computer. For years I have been telling people that the computer age has passed me by. But every time I say that, I am reminded that my father learned to run one when he was in his late eighties. So I guess I still have time. Last fall I saw in the local paper a notice about a night class in Windows 95, so I signed up for it. The class was three and a half hours once a week for ten weeks. The instructor threw a lot at us. Some stuck, some didn't. The only way to learn, I guess, is to wade right into it. For the first couple of weeks, I was ready to pack the whole thing up and send it back to South Dakota. But I have persevered. The thing that gets me is something comes up on the screen and I don't know where it came from, nor how to get rid of it. The nice thing about it is, it's easy to correct your mistakes without wearing out the eraser. This "spell check" is wonderful. Spelling was never one of my strong suits. Now all I need is a program to correct my grammar and syntax. I am also learning how to type, albeit with one or two fingers.

My main reason for getting a computer, was for the word processing feature. After hours and hours of trial and error, I was able to write my Saga of Toggle Annie. I guess I'm not much of an author; I had the Saga of Toggle Annie all finished and mailed out to my crew when I realized that my name was nowhere on it. I haven't ventured onto the internet as yet. I don't want the whole world to know how stupid I am.

I was the top turret gunner on a B-24 crew in the 826th Squadron, 484th Bomb Group, 15th Air Force in Italy. The 484th flew 208 combat missions between 4-29-44 and 4-27-45. My crew flew 24 missions between 12-27-44 and the end of the war, 19 of them aboard "Toggle Annie," serial number 42-52705, including the 100th mission, 4-14-45.

I am curious as to whether any B-24 can beat Toggle Annie's record of 107 combat missions in 360 days. Or, for that matter, any time frame. I guess the thing to do is claim the record and wait for someone to prove me wrong.

My research shows that of the sixteen original planes in the 826th Squadron, only Toggle Annie and one other returned to the GI after the war.

In response to Kenneth Johnson's letter in the Summer 1997 Journal, my crew is one of the few, I'm sure, that can boast of a 100% survival rate after fifty-two years. No canes. No walkers. No wheelchairs. Two and a half years ago I tracked them all down and we have held three annual reunions in Dallas, TX. Eight

showed up in 1995, nine in 1996, and seven this year. Hopefully next year all ten will make it. The Good Lord isn't going to leave us all here much longer. But as long as He does, I'll keep trying.

Out of the ten we have four widowers, which is definitely against the odds. The other six have all been married fifty years or close to it.

Allan Davidson
Lowell, MI



Russ Hawes
Ellicott City, MD
Dear Russ:

Thank you for the copy of the WWII magazine. It is a very interesting magazine.

The painting of "OI 45" on page 43 was commissioned by Bud Pressel of our organization. OI 45 S/N 42-52635 was shot down on February 7, 1945 with Alva Schick at the controls.

Thanks again.
Bud Markel
L-Hawes 6/25/98



Torretta Flyer
Bud Markel

Dear Bud:

I read with particular interest the Guest Editorial headed "The B-24 deserves respect" in Spring-Summer 1998 issue 33.

It has become a constant irritation and some concern that the true facts about items going back to the World War II period and before are not presented properly; mainly because the present history buffs, or the media, do not check. When the true facts are brought to their attention, it is usually ignored; (as Robert Dorr found out).

For example, the U.S. Army Air Corps became the U.S. Army Air Force in the Spring of 1942. I finally gave up trying to write articles and letters and my proper usage of the designation was routinely edited to the pre-1942 term.

Now to back up Mr. Dorr's editorial. After graduating aerial gunner's school in Las Vegas, I was processed via Salt Lake City to the 52nd Squadron in Boise, Idaho where crews were made up for training in heavy bombers. The bomber we used was the Boeing B-17.

The operations officer of the 52nd and one of the flight in-