

Dear Bud

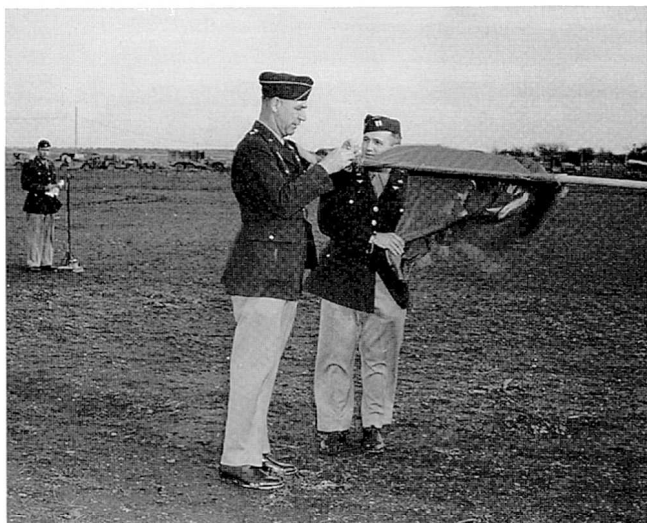
While reorganizing my dad's scrap book and records I found orders for (4) four unit citations. Does that number match yours? Were any of these unit citations ever issued?

Daniel Denney
Denney3aol.com

Hello Daniel

On two occasions, the 484th bomb Group was awarded Presidential Unit Citations for meritorious performance in combat. To the best of my knowledge the brass framed blue badge was given at one of the parades at Torretta in the fall of 1944.

Bud
bud484bg@aol.com



The (DUC) Distinguished Unit Citation then called the Presidential Unit Citation ribbon is attached to the flag of the 484th Bomb Group in the fall of 1944 at Torretta Airdrome.

Dear Bud:

Bud, I am the son of J.R. Dunn who was on the ship "Rumhound." My wife and I searched and found most of the crew and I have been talking to them on the phone and keeping in touch often. I have bad news though, the navigator of the Rumhound crew, 1/Lt Bernard J. Bossick of 513 Westlawn Rd, Columbia, South Carolina passed away .

He was a true soldier and on one flight saved the crew, during a storm en route that delayed their arrival to their destination and resulted in a high rate of fuel consumption. Due to his excellence of navigation, he guided the crew safely to the landing area with just enough fuel left to glide in. They surely would have crashed due to the lack of fuel and I would not be here today I'm sure.

Just wanted to let you know about our loss Bud. I am still going to send you the information on "Rumhound" and all the pictures the guys have sent to me, so you might run a little story about them. It would really make them very happy.

Thank you very much
Brad and Karen Dunn
htf@neto.com

Cheboygan, MI
Dear Bud:

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Richard Hugo's story in issue #34 of the Flyer. His rendition of the "nuisance raid" on Innsbruck was cleverly handled but I don't think he meant to call attention to the futility of the mission. It appears the details were offered, only as a backdrop, to provide a comparison to the intelligence officer (Lt. Barudi's) version of the mission and his own, ergo, the connection to *Catch-22* - the parody on military mentality. Each one saw the war from a different perspective.

In his story, Hugo mentioned that nobody was forced to fly and from my vantage point in the 824th Squadron, this was correct. Working out of the Operations Section, my perception was the same as Hugo's. The men who flew did so for their own reasons. It was assumed that if a man arrived at a point in his training where he became part of a crew and he stayed with it till he went overseas, he was pretty much committed to fly. The culling process generally took place long before he arrived in a combat zone.

I knew of cases where men requested removal from flying status and their requests were granted. These cases took place while they were in training

I was privy to one incident, however, where an enlisted air crewman refused to fly after arriving in our squadron. The man was a transfer from another outfit, believed to be the 8th Air Force, and it wasn't a pretty scene when he refused to board the truck one morning for the trip to the line. He was brought before the Operations Officer and dressed down properly and threatened with a court martial. With this prospect in mind, he went, reluctantly, down to the line. As it turned out, there was a stand-down that day and everybody returned to the squadron area. The man who refused to fly was transferred out of the squadron the very next day, as soon as orders could be cut.

I was particularly amused at Hugo's telling about the interrogation by their intelligence officer and his putting Hugo and his crew in for the DFC in spite of how much they down-played the importance of their mission. In my opinion, the crews who put their lives on the line the minute they got aboard the plane, deserved any and all the awards they got. But, as Hugo implied, his intelligence officer "kind of stretched the truth a little in this instance."

Those of us in the ground echelon shared in some of the awards earned, for the most part, by people like Hugo and the rest of those who flew. Unit Citations, Battle Stars, etc. were generally given to the group or squadron as a whole, therefore we, the ground folks, benefited as well. This didn't seem important till later in the war, when the army instituted the "point system." Points were