

Phoenix, AZ  
Dear Bud:

I was curious about the abbreviations shown after the names on the membership roster. Also in the columns heading Squadrons are numbers that I don't recognize. Most of the members of the association seem to be of flight personnel. Is this correct?

Cordially,  
George M Venslove, 824 Sq.



Atlanta, GA  
Hello, Bud Markel:  
484th BG Assn.

Thank you for your help in clearing up the matter regarding Crew Member Leo Hartman, Tail Gunner on the John Konop Crew of the 824th Squadron of the 484th Bomb Group of the 15th Air Force, based in Italy during WWII. That put to rest a lot of uncertainty about what happened to Hartman when he bailed out over the Adriatic Sea as our crew was returning from a mission with a very troubled B-24 aircraft which ultimately made somewhat of a crash landing at the base of our fine fighter escorts, The Tuskegee Airmen. John Konop did a masterful job in bringing that plane in as he did, and I always believed he was overlooked and most deserving of some medal which he should have gotten, but never received. Congratulations on the newsletter which I just received. The pictures are especially meaningful to me and bring back so many memories of that time, a very small time span for us all, but a tremendously large and impressive part of the history of the lives of all of us. Thanks to you for all you are doing to keep those memories alive and to help us various persons who experienced that time to, stay in touch.

Sincerely your friend,  
Frank B. "Burt" Vardeman, 824 Sq.  
[fburtv@aol.com](mailto:fburtv@aol.com)

### **Editor's Note:**

The abbreviations after the roster names are duty assignments shown in lower case in capital letters. Squadron numbers beginning with a 7 are from the 461st Bomb Group and service squadrons. At one time the 461st BG was part of the association. Flight crew members do predominate in the membership roster because there were more of them than any other group.

Dear Bud:  
Holmdel, NJ

### ***The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal.***

The New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal was created in 1856 and was instituted into the New Jersey revised statutes in 1924. It was created so the Governor may present in the name of the State of New Jersey, the Distinguished Service Medal, to any member of the state's organized militia, which is now the New Jersey National Guard.

In 1988, then governor Thomas Kean signed public Law 1987, chapter 388, which modified the criteria to enable the governor, with the assistance of the adjutant general to award the New Jersey Distinguished Service Medal to any resident of the state, who while serving in the active federal military service in time of war or national emergency was cited for "Especially Meritorious" Service by appropriate federal authority.

In order to be eligible for the award of this medal, a current resident of New Jersey must have been a resident of New Jersey at the time of entry into active federal military service, and received an honorable discharge from the respective branch of service.

The quality of this service must have been recognized through the award of the Bronze Star Medal, Silver Star Medal, and other Medals. In recognition for individual heroic actions, or the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received as a result of direct combat actions against an armed enemy of the United States.

Joe and Betty Dondero, 826 sq.

### ***Humor: The British Military Officer Fitness Reports.***

1. His men would follow him anywhere, but only out of curiosity
2. I would not breed from this officer.
3. This officer is really not so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.
4. When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
5. He has carried out each and every one of his duties to his entire satisfaction.
6. He would be out of his depth in a car park puddle.
7. Technically sound, but socially impossible.
8. This officer reminds me very much of a gyroscope, always spinning around at a frantic pace but not really going anywhere.
9. This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
- IO. When he joined my ship, this officer was something of a granny; since then he has aged considerably.
11. Since my last report, he has reached rock bottom and has started to dig.
12. She sets low personal standards and then consistently fails to achieve them
13. He has the wisdom of youth and the energy of old age.
14. This officer should go far, and the sooner he starts, the better.
15. In my opinion, this pilot should not be authorized to fly below 250 feet.
16. The only ship I would recommend this man for is citizenship.