

Sick Call

Edwin W. "Pat" Grogan is in a rest home with Alzheimer's Disease, reports his wife Grace R. Grogan, of 125 -5th st. Silverton, Oregon 97381. She welcomes correspondence from members and friends who know "Pat" Grogan -461st Hdqtrs.

Letter dated December 30, 1983, received from Rose Fornieri, wife of Vincent Fornieri (826th Sq. - missing in action 14 Oct. 1944, returned to duty 22 Nov. 1944)

"Dear Mr. Markel: I am sorry for the delay in sending the 1983 membership but unfortunately due to illness, there were priorities. Vince was hospitalized at Sloan Kettering-Cancer Memorial Hospital for a pancreatic resection earlier this year. Thanks be to God, his cancer was completely removed and although he is still recuperating, the prognosis is excellent. I do hope you've enjoyed a healthy and happy holiday season and pray that 1984 will bring better days for everyone. Thank you for your indulgence."

Sincerely, Rose Fornieri

Address: 1308 "C" Street, Elmont New York 11003



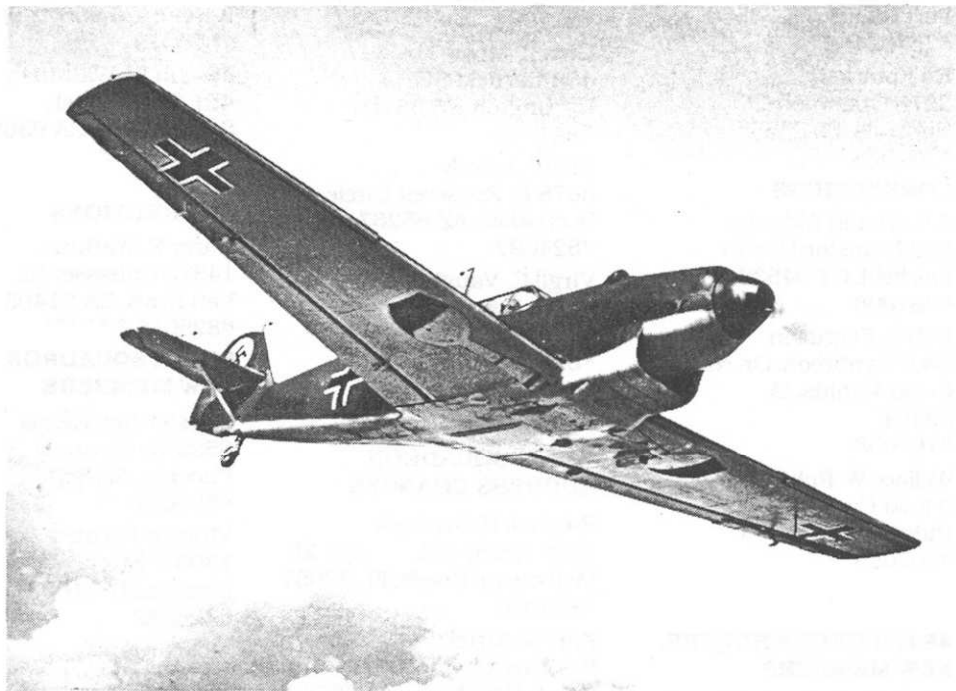
LT/COL. "Pat" Grogan (R), command staff 461st B.G. is shown with Brig/Gen Samuel M. Connell (L) and Maj. Burke (C). Photo taken 29 March 1944. (Harry Oglesby photo 767 Sq.)

Special Intelligence Report (continued from Flyer #9)

EDITOR'S NOTE

The aircraft on the front cover of The Torretta Flyer No. 9 is a FW190 symbolic of the German Air Force's emphasis on fighter planes. While this type of aircraft was suited to the defense of their homeland, the need for long range 4 engine bombers was evident during the battle of Britain when it was shown that the twin engine HE111 had insufficient range to penetrate deep into the English heartland to destroy war production. During the height of the battle of Britain when the English were nearly on their knees, a trickle of Spitfires and Hurricanes continued to be received by Fighter Squadrons from factories out of range of the German bombers. When targets were within range, the German bomber force could wreak terrible havoc. As exemplified by the devastating attack on Bari harbor in December 1943, sending to the bottom Allied shipping containing supplies for the newly formed 15th Air Force. The Douglas B-19 an early experimental bomber shown on the back cover, gives contrast between the Allied bomber forces and the fighters of Germany. The plane shown on page 28 of Torretta Flyer #9 is a Consolidated B-32 heavy bomber that was used briefly in the Pacific War. It was a big brother of the B-24.

With the start of raids into the REICH proper, which took them first to the RUHR district, then the industrial areas of the UPPER RHINE, then beyond the



MAIN. DARMSTADT, LUDWIGSHAFEN, the so-called defense of the REICH was initiated. We had a Fighter "Gruppe" of about thirty aircraft, at our disposal in HOLLAND. Twenty of them were operational. We also had at our disposal in the REICH the fighter schools with the so-called operational 'Schwarme'. They consisted of one or two 'Schwarme' that is four or eight aircraft piloted by instructors. We had at our disposal the so-called industrial 'Schwarme' manned by in-

dustrial test pilots. That was the fighting force which was the foundation of the REICH. What happened to this fighting force was that they also on account of their lack of experience had heavy losses and little success. Then we started denuding our front lines; we brought up fighter formations from the South, from the Southeast, from the East, from the West, in order to obtain more or less adequate fighting force with which to oppose that assault. 'Divisions' were