

Dear Bud:

I received your letter explaining the function of your organization and must apologize for my lengthy delay in writing. My father T/Sgt. Glen P. DeSpain 36024888, was a member of the Fifteenth Air Force based in Italy and may have been associated with members of your group. My father died in 1979 therefore all information that I am sending was obtained from his personal records and maybe of interest to you.

I had photocopies made of some documents, and copies of two pictures that you may find interesting. You may keep all material that I am sending.
Sincerely,
MIKE DE SPAIN (765th Squadron)

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
A. P. O. 520
19 July 1944
Mrs. Clara DeSpain
New London, Iowa
My dear Mrs. DeSpain:

In the days since you received word that your son, Technical Sergeant Glen P. DeSpain, 36024888, is missing in action, you have no doubt been asking yourself many questions regarding his possible fate. The following information may be of some help.

The B-24 on which Glen was a gunner was damaged during an attack on the oil fields at Ploesti, Roumania, on May 31, 1944, and it became necessary for the crew to bail out. This occurred

over Yugoslavia, and since all ten parachutes were seen to open there is a good chance that the men reached the ground safely. If they did, we can expect to hear from them at some future date. They may be prisoners of war, or in the hands of friendly Partisans of that country. Any information that is received will be sent on to you at once.

In the time he was with us, Glen made a great contribution to the success of many missions in which he participated. He loved his home and his country enough to risk his life to preserve them, and has been awarded the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf Clusters for his services. I earnestly hope that your faith in his safety will be rewarded.

Very sincerely yours,
N.F. TWINING Maj.Gen, Commanding

Dear Bud:

I read the Flyer from the first page to the last. It is very interesting and I sure enjoy it. I was so sorry to learn of the death of Col. Robert K. Dusenberry. I flew several missions with him during the summer of '44. He was then a 1st Lt. and known as "Duse". I salute Mrs. Dusenberry for carrying on as a member of this unique organization. Also, the other wives who are members. The picture of Col. Glantzburg brought back memories. He was known to us as "Big G.". I flew a number of missions with him also. I believe of all the men I have known he came the closest to being fearless. I am trying to round up some snapshots I have and get them to you. I have a crew picture that is large, so I will get a copy on the way. I remember that we flew the first B-24 that was not camouflage painted to the group. Man, it stuck out like a sore thumb.

Sincerely,
HUGH BAKER 765th Squadron



T/SGT. GLEN P. DE SPAIN (765TH SQ.) 3RD FROM LEFT
MIKE DE SPAIN (765 SQ.) PHOTO

Written on V Mail Letter Form:

May 31st 1944:

Hit by flak (AA) over Ploesti (Rumanian Oil Fields). Lost considerable amount of gas. Left formation and headed for home. Engineer doing what he could to prevent further loss of gas. Crew threw everything loose out of plane to lighten load. Hit second time by flak somewhere in Yugoslavia. Very little damage this time. Co-pilot wounded from shattered glass of right cockpit window done by flak, shrapnel. Sighted coastline and Adriatic (gas running very low) turned right and headed for Isle of Viz (Vis). As approached Isle of Corcula, the gas read nil and navigator told pilot he thought it was friendly-held. Pilot gave order to bail out. I was 1st to go out Bomb Bay.

Glen P. DeSpain (765th Squadron)
Father of Mike DeSpain, Member
461st/484th Bomb Groups Assn.



GLEN P. DE SPAIN'S CREW: TOP ROW: SAMUEL N. NORRIS, EDWIN BAUMAN, EVERETT C. KAMPS, EDMUND F. STEFENSON; BOTTOM ROW: GLEN P. DE SPAIN (4TH FROM LEFT), ARTHUR J. MINDRIN, BUFORT E. CULLER, JEFFERSON L. FARREL JR., JOSEPH S. CURTIN, HARRY P. RANIERI, Mike De Spain PHOTO