



Sidney D. Brodsky 766 Squadron, reported to be deceased by Mark Blitztein. No other information available at press time.



Bud Markel, President  
461st & 484th Bomb Groups

Thank you for your kind letter regarding my late cousin John O'Brien.

Prior to induction he worked for a hardware supply company here in San Francisco, California. After separation he rejoined the company and remained until retirement. He did not marry and lived with his sister and brother-in-law. He died of lung disease February 3, 1985 at age 63. The enclosed photo was taken in Italy.

Sgt. John P. O'Brien, an association member, was assigned to 461st Bomb Group headquarters.

## The Last Mission



Photograph of Crew 69, 767th Squadron, taken at Hammer Field Fresno, California prior to a high altitude training mission. This crew was lost on their first mission over Bihac, Yugoslavia in a mid air collision. Those identified are from left, William H Zumsteg pilot, and standing far right George M Felber Bombardier. Shipping orders from the United States to the Italian Theater show the crew of William Zumsteg as follows: John C Fuller Co/pilot, Donald C Higgins Navigator, Antonio Lerma Gunner, Andrew J Kadlecek Radio Operator, Woodrow P Clayton Engineer, Richard Karl Gunner, and James A Hatch Gunner. They were listed under crew number 62 assigned to ship 42-52388. The photograph was sent by Carl H Peter an original member of the crew, who was grounded prior to overseas shipment. Oscar R Ives, the ship's crew chief who was riding the waist during the mission and was the only one to survive as he tied down his parachute pack, enabling him to retrieve it and step out of the plane as it broke apart. Harry Hoermann 767sq Armament M/Sg who loaded the bombs for this mission said the collision took place right after bombs away when the ship lurched upward rapidly hitting the plane above. Reader comment is invited as information on the other crew is not available

