

Hi Bud

I am enclosing a photo of the crew of S B Porter 824 squadron. Hope to see you at the next reunion.

Bob Flippen, 825 Squadron



They are standing from left: J Hotelan, ball gunner; Robert Flippen, engineer; Jim Burgess, tail gunner; Joe Heck, nose gunner; and David Dixon, radio operator; Bottom row from left: A Bloomfield, navigator; Harris, co pilot; S B Porter, pilot; and C Lloyd, bombardier. Missing Bill Newsum, gunner. Bob Flippen photo 825 sq.

Wilmette, Illinois

Dear Bud;

The name of the airman to the right in the photograph on page 14, of the Winter 84 Torretta Flyer No 11 is Phillip Tuttle. But I suppose you long since found that out.

Emmett S Goff 825 Sq

Editors Note: No we did not. Thank you for the information.

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A MILK RUN

The following is excerpted from a letter to Ed Nesheim from Ralph Hallenbeck sent to us by Grant Hansen.

We went to the Orlando reunion several years back. Most every one there from the 824 squadron had been assigned after I was shot

down. May 30, 1944. It is interesting that someone remembers that practice bombing mission after all these years.

A hail of practice bombs came raining down on us

I remember the Adriatic incident only too well, maybe because of that plane that was coming over the top of us when part of its wing was clipped off. I jammed the stick forward and headed straight down to get away from it, jamming Maranti's head in the astrodome because the plane was going down faster than his head. I called over the intercom, "Don't bail out" because I knew my crew would be scared out of their wits. We pulled out at high speed just off the ocean. Then I saw the parachutes, and I circled to get the smoke bombs dropped on each guy as he hit the water. This was a good thing for once they were in the water we couldn't see them anymore. I remember calling rescue and circling till they came, and then flew over the Island as a hail of practice bombs came raining down on us. I had forgotten that the whole 15th Air Force was doing a practice mission on the Island of Pianosa that day. I was so

shook up and angry I went on the radio and announced, "Attention, all 15th AF aircraft, practice bombing is cancelled, all planes return to base. I repeat etc, etc. ." I didn't even think about not having the authority to do so. I was really ticked off especially when one guy had swam up to the island, only to hear the bombs and went back into the water.

We came around where the rescue plane was taxiing around picking up airmen from the sea as the smoke was dying down. With the load and the high waves he couldn't take off almost crashing as he hit the wave tops. After three tries he taxied about to burn off fuel and an hour later finally took off and headed for home. By then we too were low on fuel and returned to base. Every one thought we had gone in.

Later they were going to put us in for some kind of award

Later they were going to put us in for some kind of award, but I nixed that idea in a hurry, as I felt we were only doing what we were supposed to do.

Later I worked for General Twining when he was Chief of Staff. I was chief of his General Officers branch for assigning and promoting of Air Force General Officers world wide.

Ralph Hallenbeck, pilot 824 Sq.

Editors note: Member Ralph Hallenbeck is a retired Brigadier General USAF

Fort Morgan, Colorado

Hello Bud:

We had a great time in San Antonio, and are looking forward to Colorado Springs this fall. There-