



Top row from left: Isadore Levine, Navigator; Raymond M Strand, bombardier; may be crew chief Ernie Green; Robert E Hatch, pilot; Woodrow Smith, co pilot; Jack Lawless Jr, engineer, and Robert V Brown, gunner. Bottom row from left: Daniel W Chicarella, gunner; Kenneth L Smith, gunner; John Brancone, gunner; and Rudolph S Martino, gunner. Raymond M Strand photo 827 Sq.

Sincerely,
Ray Surette, 826 Sq.

It wasn't our first but turned out to be our last. The story about the island of Vis in Torretta Flyer No 11 was very interesting as we were picked out of the Adriatic Sea and taken to Vis, then back to the hospital in Bari.



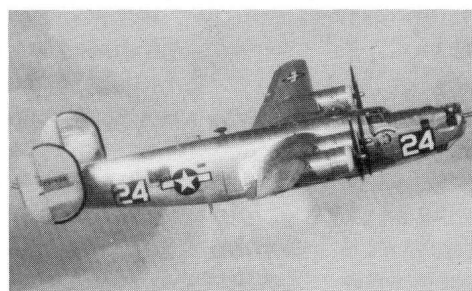
Standing from left: Jan Worclas, Top gunner; Jim Hazel, Tail Gunner; John Toney, Nose Gunner; Wallace "Red" McLemore, Ball Gunner; Charles Priest, Engineer; and Spaulding Tukey-Radio Operator. Kneeling from left: J B Winstead, Bombardier; Leo F Cooper, Pilot; E Landry, Navigator, and Vincent Eckund, Co Pilot.

Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dear Bud:

In reference to the photo on the front cover of Flyer No 12, we were in #23 on the October 7, 1944 mission to Vienna and almost collided with ship #29. You know how it is when you are trying to dodge flak and stay in position and everyone is heading for the same spot in the sky. Also the picture on the back cover, we were in ship #34 and got a good dose of flak injuring the radio operator Spaulding Tukey and engineer Charles Priest. Ploesti was one mean place. Charles Priest was returned to duty later, but was killed in action on Dec 17, 1944 on a mission to Odertal, Germany. Tukey was rotated back to the states and I just learned he passed away on August 22, 1983.

I was also interested in Frank Hokr's article, "One Way Trip and Back" to Odertal in the same issue.



The Tulsamerican, the B-24, built in Tulsa, that the crew of Leo F Cooper went down with on December 17, 1944

John F Toney 765 Sq.

461st & 484th B G Association
Dear Bud and Bea

Received the Spring and Fall issues of the Torretta Flyer No's 12 & 13, and was pleased to read through all of the news you've accumulated. Of particular interest was the selection of the young ladies for the scholarship grant and how this wonderful idea has become a reality.

I was in Lyon, France about the time of the article written by M/Sgt Harold C Jacobs and heard rumbles about the Nazi slaughter of civilians. My job was to photograph the bombing effects of the sizable Lyons Marshalling yards. It was

Dear Bud:

Have not attended any reunions yet, but still hope to make that one in Las Vegas. Found this photo in my album. This is myself with the only Harley in the 484th Group



and 826 squadron. I got the bike from a pilot who had returned from delivering gas, ammo, and bombs to Patton's

army via Lyon, France. I used the bike to ride out to outlying farms to trade for roosters and such. You know what mess hall food was like.

We had the only tent with a wood floor and cinder blocks 3 feet high and a gas furnace to keep warm in the winter.