

# MAC NAMARA'S STORY

By  
Joe Mac Namara, 827 Squadron

## MY BROTHER'S KEEPER

The lives of an air crew team depended on the skills of the 10 men that made up a B-24 crew. We have several stories in this edition that tell of the valor and sacrifice of individuals who put their duty before their own personal safety. Much has been written on what makes a hero act as he does. We can't answer to what qualities or what psychological make-up heroes come from. All we know for certain is that heroes pop up at the very time and moment when they are most needed. The members of the 461st & 484th Bomb Groups were well represented in this category.



Wedding photograph of Major Don Haldeman and his wife Lois  
July 27, 1940.



Joe and Doris Mac Namara,  
December 1943. He was the  
crew's bombardier

Oak Leaf Cluster.

The end

The letter that follows was received by Lois Haldeman, wife of Don Haldeman, Commander, 827 Sq. The letter was written by Joe MacNamara, the crew Bombardier. This letter is now housed in the Special Collections Branch, United States Air Force Academy Library for use by cadets studying the air war in Europe during World War Two. 10

January 31, 1945  
Wednesday afternoon

Dear Mrs Haldeman:

I don't know how to begin this and would give anything if I didn't have to write it. It is one of the toughest job I have ever had, and so it will probably be all bawled up and hard to understand, but I'll do my best to give you all the facts as I know them.

Before I go on, I want to ask you a favor. The story I am about to tell you is the same one I told to the officials in Washington, and they told me there that it was classified as