

saw them was the day before the crew boarded a bomber for a mission to Italy, only to be shot down. Luckily, in retrospect, Argo was not on the plane, having gotten sick from eating bad grapes. Hospitalized, someone else went on the mission in his place. His friends, Robert Bray, and Hubert Ball, along with the rest of the crew, were shot down by enemy bullets on the first bombing mission ever flown by the crew.

The plane was hit on the side and each of the crew bailed out. Everyone survived, but for each, it was the beginning of a long hard separation.

Landing in enemy territory, the crew split up to increase their chance of evading the enemy.

Each was later picked up and made prisoners of war. Somehow surviving the horrors of that experience, being moved from camp to camp, treated with neglect, and suffering from lack of food, the two friends, Bray and Bell emerged free men many months later, each weighing close to a hundred pounds. The two never saw each other until last week when their vacation routes crossed and they both decided to detour to Abbeville to see Argo.

Argo went on to finish the war completing 32 combat missions, eventually receiving a number of military medals.

"He took good care of us," Bray said of his friend, Argo. "He was 15 years older than the rest of us, a sort of father figure".

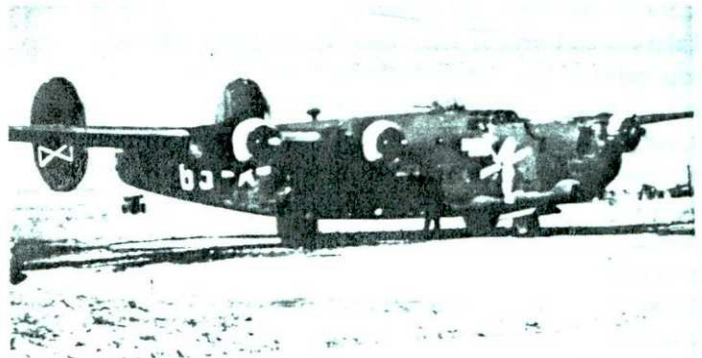


**Coy Argo (center) stands with his two World War II wartime friends Robert Bray (L) and Hubert Ball (R) neither of whom he has seen in 44 years until the Abbeville reunion.**

To Bud Markel, Editor Torretta Flyer

I am inquiring about the disposition of my aircraft "Salvo Sally" after my crew finished our tour of duty. The crew included: Floyd R Creasman, pilot; John T Harper, co-pilot; J Jordan Glew, Navigator; Marvin C Rudolph, bombardier; Edward Mc Donald, 1st engineer; Raymond B Hinz, 1st radio operator; Williard I Pearson, nose turret; Joseph M Hebert Jr,

tail turret; Timothy J Holland, upper turret, and S/Sgt Stromback.



My question is: Did Sally go down when piloted by 1st Lt Stone, and co-pilot Lt Ripple? Did the a B-24J, s/n 44-10484, that was shown in the spring 86 issue of the Torretta Flyer carrying the same squadron number 63, replace the original Sally? I note she is natural silver color, while the original Sally was a B-24H painted olive drab. I am enclosing a photo of the original Sally as she appeared parked in her revetment on the morning of August 14, 1944, the day after I finished my tour of duty.

Joe Hebert, 826 Sq

Editor Torretta Flyer:

After looking at page 32 of the latest flyer, you have a picture which is labeled unknown St/Sgt. I spent gunnery school with that young soldier and his name is Guy Edward Stottlemeyer of Hagerstown, Maryland. We were good friends but were separated when crews were established. I heard through the grape vine that this man had a medical problem related to bleeding at high altitude that couldn't be diagnosed on the ground. I also heard later on that he did not survive his first combat mission as a result. I would like to know the correct story as he and I were the best of friends, and ran around with each other, in fact we were called the,"terrible twins."

Yours very truly,  
Gilbert E Stover, 827 Sq.

461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association  
Office of the Editor, Torretta Flyer

Dear friend Bud:

Regarding the deceased list as it appeared on page 7 of Torretta Flyer No 14, a Julian R Rakower is shown. He was in the 824 squadron assigned to the Communications