

Bodfish,CA  
Dear Bud:

Received Torretta Flyer No 15 and enjoyed it very much. I find on page 31 you have a picture of plane #75, "The Purple Shaft" you show assigned to the 766 squadron, but actually it was in the 767 squadron. The crew that flew "Purple Shaft" was as follows: Henry Huggard (P) St Petersburg, Florida, Ralph H Keedle, (C/P) deceased, William D Marshall (B) address unknown, Charles F Murphy (N) Pittsburg, PA, Joseph T Augustine (E), James J Boyer (R/O), Corpus Christie, TX, Kenneth A Urban (N/G) address unknown, Marlo R (Pete) Henspeter,(U/G) Bodfish, CA, Robert E Scott (B/G) deceased, Anothony J Delcello (T/G) address unknown,

We flew all of our missions on good old "Purple Shaft". Urban, our nose gunner did get hit on one mission and I lost part of the plexiglass dome on a top turret on another, we always made it back even if the engines were feathered.

But the crew we turned it over to when we finished our missions left it in a field near Foggia, I don't know if it ever made it back to Torretta, because I saw it sitting sadly on that strange field before we left Italy.

We were on many of the trips you have reported on in the Flyer, as we were operational from February 19, through August 18, 1944.

This is all I can think of so I will close.  
Pete Henspeter 767 Sq

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Port Jervis, NY  
Dear Bud:

I read with interest the "Milk Run" article by Fred Roessler 827 squadron in issue 15 of the Torretta Flyer. As I recall we got shot up or shot at every time we went to southern France. The first time, coincidentally, was the railroad bridge of the Var River at Nice, France on June 7, 1944. (See Torretta Flyer #10). Our engineer Tom Key was killed and our radio operator was severely wounded by very accurate flak. We did destroy the western span of the bridge and also the center pier.

On July 12, 1944 we were hit over the marshalling yards at Nimes, France. We encountered extremely accurate flak and lost No 1 engine on the bomb run, and by the time we dropped our bombs and came off the target, the No 2 engine was also gone. Fortunately there were no enemy fighters in the area.

The decision was to head for Corsica as we could not keep up with the group with two engines out. One B-24 dropped out of formation and escorted us for a while.

On arriving in Corsica on final approach, #4 engine was trailing flames, actually it was torching out of the supercharger, probably from running at full power. As we rolled to a stop Dave Ward, the bombardier, hit the runway with a CO2 bottle, but by that time the fire was out.

Our crew on that mission was: Robert R Nichols-pilot (deceased), Barrow F Neale-Co/Pilot, David Ward-Bombardier, David Brown-engineer, Glenn Ross-radio/operator, Archie Williamson-nose gunner, William Dowling (deceased)-tail gunner, and John Hicks-ball gunner. I can't remember the name of the navigator.

Yours truly,  
John Hicks 826 Sq

Editors Note: The navigator could have been Carl H Voss. The crew list also shows a Alvin F Petrillo, and Albert L Krapf .They may or may not have been flying on this particular mission.

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Editor  
Torretta Flyer  
Sir:

In reference to Torretta Flyer No 15, page 20 the caption of my crew photograph should read. From left kneeling: Lt 1) Charles Dean co-pilot, 2) unknown, 3) Donald Herbert pilot, 4) unknown.

Keep up the good work.  
Angelo L Ferrara 767 Sq

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Houston, TX  
Dear Bud:

Enclosed is a photograph of Art Hughes' great crew #90. We can't find William Hart and Douglas Meifert. Taken at Topeka, Kansas about October 15-18,1944 before ferrying this aircraft to Italy.

Sincerely,  
Joe Bryant 765 Sq



**They are: starting at left 1) Leonard Wes Wager / co-pilot, 2) Arthur L Hughes/ pilot, 3) Bates Boles / bombardier, 4) Douglas P Meifert /ball gunner 5) Wayne W Boyce/ nose gunner, 6) Robert L Scanlon/ engineer, 7) Arthur W Bettinger/radio operator, 8) Joe Bryant/ tail gunner, 9) Dewey E Large/ waist gunner, Not shown William C Hart/navigator.**

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Editor  
Torretta Flyer  
Dear Bud,

Enclosed you will find a photograph of three ground crew men of the 461st Bomb Group, 767th Squadron taken at our field outside