

THE LAST MISSION

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The names of the deceased shown below come from members or members families, and represents names sent to us since the last edition of the Torretta Flyer. If there are any omissions or corrections to this list please advise the Association office.

The 461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association honors a person's memory by publishing their history in this section of the Torretta Flyer called "The Last Mission." To honor that memory the individual's history and achievements should be recorded. Unfortunately during the time of a family's bereavement it is difficult to obtain the material because of the emotional adjustments the survivors and family are experiencing. You will note that more is written about some of the members than others. This is because more material was available at the time of the writing of this edition of the Flyer. Surviving spouses, and family members are invited to send additional material, so that a proper history can be prepared for the deceased that will appear in the next edition of the Flyer.

A complete deceased list will be included in the supplement to the membership roster to be issued next year.



Robert S "Boxy" Simkins 826 Sq

Member Robert S Simkins a decorated bomber pilot of the 484th Bomb Group has passed away. Bob had a passion for flying, during WWII he flew 47 combat missions. He was shot down twice and was decorated with the Distinguished Flying

Cross. After the war, he served in the Air Force Reserve at Mitchell Field and later in the Air National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. He was born in Orangeburg, South Carolina. During the war Bob piloted a B-24 Liberator bomber and logged more than 700 hours of flight time, in which 190 were combat hours.

Assigned to the 484th Bomb Group he flew bombing missions into Germany and on November 1, 1944 was shot down near the Yugoslavian border. He managed to escape capture and was protected by partisans fighting against the Axis Powers. He flew five more missions, serving as a wing leader, but again was shot down. This time he was captured on January 23, 1945 and sent to prisoner of war camp. He was freed on April 29, 1945.

Following the war's end, Bob went into electronics. After working for RCA and others he eventually opened his own business, Coastal Communication, which specialized in designing and selling emergency mobile communication units.