

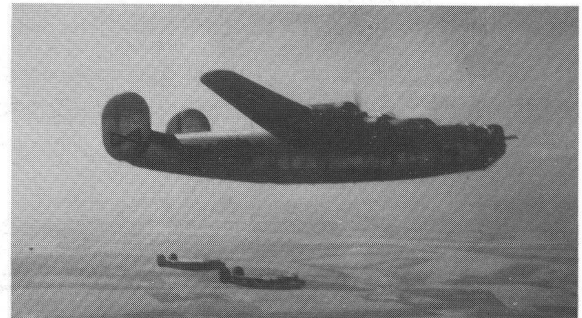
The downing of "Black Nan." A new Liberator "Stevonovitch II," from the 464th BG, a grey pathfinder was hit by one four gun anti aircraft battery on April 10, 1945, in support of "Operation Wowser" an attack on German troops in Italy led by General Von Vietinghoff, just under 3 weeks before the end of hostilities in Europe. Right after bombs away four flak shells burst near the 464th, the fourth shell hit "Black Nan" between the no 1 and no 2 engine. The final irony was because this was supposed to be a milk run, men who were about to finish their missions were sent along. One waist gunner survived.

The 464th BG, 484th and 461st and others were assigned to bomb Area Baker in support of the Eighth and the Fifth Armies led by Gen Mark Clark in the last spring offensive on the Italian mainland. The bombing completely crushed the German Armies in Northern Italy.

Operation Wowser was the greatest heavy bomber effort ever launched by the 15th Air Force in cooperation with Allied Ground Armies. The operation brought to peak of success the use of heavy bombers in a tactical role. A German officer, age 32 said during interrogation after a mass surrender of German troops below the Po River, "The effect on the moral of our troops was indescribable. We know now that you mean business in Italy and that we will not be able to stand up to these terrifying attacks much longer. I believe that my men were quite content to be taken prisoner after the last raid." (USAF photo via Lesley Seyler)



Crew of Lloyd J. Breisch, 827 sq. Top row from Left: P-Lloyd J. Breisch, C/P-H. O.McAllister, N-Alexander Sobelewski, B-Lesley L. Seyler, Bottom row from left: E-Leroy Smith, N/G-John R. Brennan, T/G- Elbert Wallace R/O Edward J. Fahey, W/G-Richard K. Rutledge, and B/G-Louis H. Heimbruch. The crew was assigned to 827th Squadron, but the plane was assigned to another group because it had Norden bombsight and the 827th used Sperry bombsights. The new plane was named 'The Eunuch'. Derivation of the name is now unknown. (Lesley Seyler photo)



The Eunuch ship 74, 827 Sq. (Lesley Seyler photo)

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