

Sam Lodato 766 Squadron

Sam Lodato, the radio operator on W P Hettinger's crew has passed away. A longtime member and early supporter of the Association, he helped out at the reunions with a happy smile.

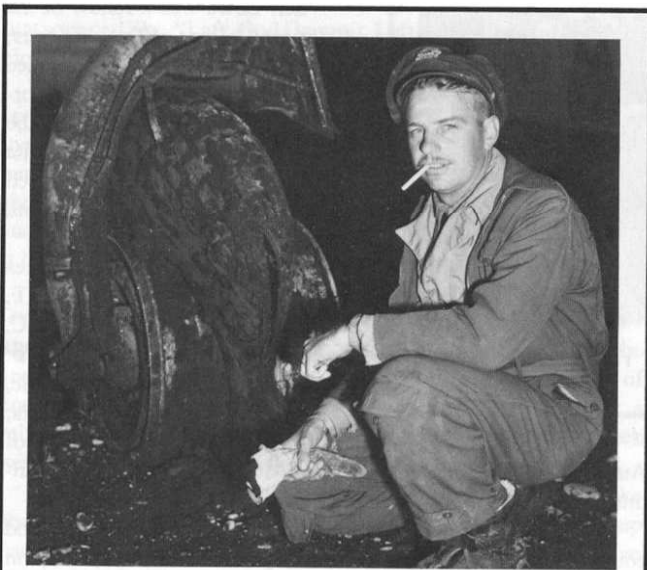
Stanley V. Olson, 824 Sq

Stanley V. Olson, 74, of Corpus Christi, died May 2, 1992. He was a B-24 Pilot in WWII, serving with the 15th Air Force, 484th Bomb Group. He entered service in December 1942, and received his wings and commission 1943 at Ellington Field, TX. Lt Olson is a veteran of over 30 combat missions over targets in Germany, Italy, France, Rumania, and Austria.

He celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his surviving wife, Eloise Kuns Olson. They spent time together in Houston with their children. Other survivors include two daughters, Anita Louise Amos, of Kilean, Texas and Vicki Lynette (Richard Ray) Henegar, of Houston; one brother, John Manuel Olson of Wichita, Kansas, and four grandchildren, Shannon Kae Amos, Ryan Neal Amos, Samantha Lea Henegar, and Kyle Ray Henegar.

'15th AAF In ITALY The crash alarm sounded and the motors in the waiting ambulances roared to life as the Lib circled the field to land. The tenseness of the scene was reflected in the faces of the waiting men. Although they had been joking and kidding each other a moment before, they had dropped their mask of casualness as they watched the big bomber come in to land.

The pilot of the plane, 2nd Lt Stanley V. Olson, of McPherson, Ks., had called the tower and said, "Our right tire is flat, get ready for a crash landing." The waiting knew that could mean anything from a mangled aircraft and inert bodies



Stanley V Olson, kneeling by the right main tire after it blew on landing." It was one of those times when I had to have a cigarette", he wrote on the back of the picture.

to safe landing and all hands walking away under their own power.

The Liberator was silhouetted against the sky for a moment as it glided down for a landing, one wing dipped to take the weight off the flat tire as it touched the muddy runway. For a few seconds the plane came straight down the landing strip, then the weight settled back to the right side, it skidded momentarily, slowly tilted over on the flat landing wheel and munched along like a big crippled bird. When the meat wagons came to a stop alongside the plane the crew were already on the ground looking over the damage and pumping Oley's hand for a swell landing. No one looking at these men would think they had flirting with death and serious injury just a few moments ago.

Stanley V. Olson, pilot of a B-24 Liberator in the 15th Air Force in Italy, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement during aerial flights over enemy territory." Olson, a first lieutenant at the time of his award, has since been promoted to the grade of Captain.

Despite the crippled condition of his plane and an attack by more than 50 enemy fighters. Olson led his formation on a successful bombing raid on an underground oil storage plant at Vienna, Austria.

A short distance from the target, the number three engine suddenly "conked" out. Determined to get to the target he continued with three engines

In the next few minutes, the Liberator formation was jumped by 69 ME 109's- and FW 190s. The entire attack was well dispersed along the route of approach and lasted fully a half an hour.

In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Lt. Olson's plane bombed the target and inflicted grave damage on the installations. After leaving the target area, it was forced to return to its base alone and, without the protective cover of the formation. Thirty holes were counted in the Liberator, when it was safe on its own field.

Parker C "Skip" Shaw, 827 Squadron

Dear Bea and Bud:

It is with great sorrow that I am sending you Skip's obituary notice. He succumbed to the Multiple Myeloma cancer he wrote you about in August. The disease was first diagnosed in May of 1991 and though advised it was incurable, we were ever hopeful and he fought long and hard. We both were so glad to have been a part of the Association even for such a short time. I wish you both well, and do take care of each other.

Best regards
Janet H Shaw

Bow, New Hampshire, Parker C. "Skip" Shaw, died December 1992 at his home. He was born in Marblehead Mass., and had moved to South Sandwich in 1926. He graduated from Laconia High School in 1940

He was a U.S. Eastern Amateur Association certified ski instructor and taught in Jackson and in Tamworth prior to and following service in the Army Air Corps in World War II as a B-24 combat gunnery crewman. He completed 50 missions, flying out of