

About This Issue

This issue of the Flyer contains only two stories as both are quite lengthy. To fit them in at full length most of our regular features have been omitted. The scholarship report, letters to the editor, obituaries, and other news will be included in the next issue slated for mid summer publication. Your patience in this matter is greatly appreciated.

484th Bomb Group History Page 4

The 484th Bomb histories were gleaned from a micro film reel, as you will note the first three months of combat operations were omitted, and are not available at this time, but will be included in a future issue of the Flyer. It took some time to assemble as the monthly reports were not written in the same style. This may be due to the fact that perhaps the original work had many authors. There were at least two micro film reels made of the 484th BG Historic Summaries that I know of and there may be more. For that reason some readers may find errors and / or omissions in the version printed in this issue. Please advise us of corrections so that they may be added to the record.

Micro films originate from Maxwell Field, Alabama, that is the prime repository of Army Air Force records of WWII. These film reel histories may not agree with the combat records in the National Archives.

The complete combat records of the 484th Bomb Group are stored in the National Archives at the Suitland, Maryland facility. The records are boxed generally by mission bundle. The bundles generally include, 1) the combat orders, and annexes or changes as they came from Group HQ, 2) Flimsies, 3) Mission Maps, 4) Aircraft numbers, by serial Number and nose number, 5) crew members assigned to each aircraft, and 6) bombing analysis. Members wishing to review the records may do so by first getting a pass at the main archive building in downtown Washington, DC.

The JU 88 Story Page 26

You may wonder why photos of a Junkers JU 88, an enemy aircraft, grace the front and back pages of this issue of the Flyer instead of the usual B-24? Read on.

When I first read the story "First Junker JU-88 Flight Across the Atlantic" by Maj./Gen. Warner E. Newby in the Friends Journal, the publication of the Air Force Museum, I was intrigued by the quality of the JU-88. You might remember that it was the JU-88 that bombed Bari Harbor in December of 1943, doing great damage to the ships anchored there. Much of the supplies intended for the 15th Air Force were sent to the bottom of the harbor and would not be recovered for many months afterwards. In that the 484th Bomb Group will be holding its 1995 reunion in Dayton, Ohio, where this same aircraft is on display, this makes a nice tie in with the 484th's "95" reunion. The story and photographs are reprinted by the gracious permission of the author, Maj./Gen. Warner E Newby.

You might remember also that the JU 88 was also used in coordinated attacks on bomber missions put up primarily by the 8th Air Force, and may have been utilized similarly against 15th Air Force missions as well. See Brian D. O'Neil's book "Half a Wing, Three Engines, and a Prayer." As a side note to General Newby's story, the Luftwaffe did not have high octane fuel available during the Battle of Britain as did the Spitfires and Hurricanes of the RAF. 100 octane fuel allowed higher power settings for the RAF aircraft. The JU-88 was designed to use low octane fuel as the story states. Further information on the JU 88 can be obtained from the book "Junkers JU 88, Star of the Luftwaffe" by Manfred Griebel.

The Torretta Flyer



Issue No 25 Winter-Spring 1994

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The Torretta Flyer is the official publication of the 484th Bomb Group Association. Normal distribution is limited to members only. Requests from non-members for copies should be directed to the editor.

Contributions of stories, articles, memorabilia, and graphic materials to the Torretta Flyer are always welcome. Clean typewritten manuscripts and Microsoft Word disks are preferable. Other forms also are acceptable. Please contact the editor for further information.

The Torretta Flyer reports primarily on the history of air warfare during WWII and the accomplishments of members of the 484th Bomb Group during WWII. From time to time the magazine will cover other subject matter related to aeronautical events as material becomes available. Readers are encouraged to submit their own stories or material from other sources.

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