

Tallahassee, FL
Dear Bud:

Here is a brief note on our tour to Italy this fall.

On October 16, 1994, a group of 484th Bomb Group veterans, on tour in Italy, returned to the old group and squadron grounds at Torretta Field, Cerignola, Italy. Following an early start from Bari, our tour bus reached Cerignola: and we rendezvoused



with Professor Albanese (Scholarship Program), who kindly assisted

us in pinpointing the 484th's operational base. We also had the benefit of prior information, from Bud Markel, about the leg of the autostrada (freeway) from Cerignola to the main autostrada, between Bari and Naples, cutting

through the field; and we were also assisted by some road signs and the fact that earlier returnees had thoughtfully painted the squadron numbers on various buildings in the individual squadron areas. However, locating the back roads to reach the various squadron areas was tricky and anyone going over to visit will be well advised to do all necessary location homework in advance. Linzy T. Davis, 461st Bomb Group, also successfully located his duty area.

I have included a photo of the road sign at Torretta and back to Cerignola. One of the houses in the vicinity was easy to identify as it had a strip of our old runway landing mat fashioned as a fence. For those interested, some of the paint jobs on the interior of the old building have held up fairly well. Some people are actually currently living in this old squadron building adorned by the World War II pinup. It was a beautiful Italian fall day and we all enjoyed the fresh air; and country atmosphere; and memories of past events.

Following the 484th air field tour we had a quick lunch in Cerignola with Professor Albanese; and then headed out for Amendola, between Foggia and Manfredonia, formerly the 97th Bomb Group field (where Reed Sprinkel apparently made his emergency landing - see Torretta Flyer #19, pages 32,33,34). It is now an Italian Air Force field. That is me Tom Carroll, member of the 484th Bomb Group Assn, in the Amendola picture. I also was a navigator with the 97th Bomb Group which moved from Cerignola to Amendola to make room for incoming B-24 groups. By the time we headed back to Bari it was turning dark and we were rolling home in the tour bus by the light of the silvery moon. A most enjoyable day for all.

Present on the tour: Carl R. Adams 826, Tom Carroll 484 BG Assn Member, Linzy T. Davis 461BG, Lyman N. Fairbanks 827, Joseph J. Gallo 827, William (Cal) Gilbert 461BG, Dorothy H.



Letters to the Editor



Hale 825 - Accompanied by her daughters, Debby Telles and Shelley Whalen. (Mr Hale, deceased, was on the same crew with Lynn Pennington and Donald D. Weber) Russell J. Hayhurst 827, Lynn Pennington 825, Bruce Smith 824, Donald D. Weber 825.

Wives, other family members, and friends were also present.

Pictures enclosed;
1. Torretta Road sign.
2 Tom Carroll - at Amendola - final 97th Bomb Group Field in Italy.
(now an Italian Air Force Base)

Scranton, PA
Dear Bud:

In response to your invitation to send in my recollection of service with the 484th Bomb Group, I offer the following:

The plane we flew the most was "Toggle Annie." My diary shows Toggle Annie flew her 100th sortie April 14, 1945. We flew her 101st April 15 and possibly two more April 16 and 17. If my memory serves me right our squadron flew its last mission April 27 so I am estimating that "Toggle Annie" flew 107 missions. My diary also shows we flew at least 12 missions in "Toggle Annie," one in 64, one in 65 and one in 53, and no plane was noted in 9 missions.

Also if I remember correctly "Toggle Annie" was the only original plane that went overseas with the group that was still flying combat when the war ended.

Al Davidson, 826 Sq.

No	Date	Target	Plane	Remarks
1	12/27	Venzone Viaduct	52	Missed target
2	12/29	Passau M/Y	52	No Flak
3	1/5	Zagreb, Yugo		Undercast, did not drop 1 sortie credit
	1/21	Vienna, Aust		Mission scrubbed a/c weather
	1/22			Stood Down
	1/23			Stood Down
	1/25			Briefed, no mission
	2/3	Mossbierbaum		Stood Down
	2/6	Mossbierbaum		Stood Down
4	2/7	Vienna		Visual Bombing Flak IAH. Odis eye injury from flak, picked up many flak holes. No 4 engine mount damaged by flak.
	2/9	Munich		Briefed, stood down
	2/11	Vienna		Briefed, stood down
	2/12	Vienna		Briefed, stood down
5	2/15	Vienna M/Y		Bombed by PFF, little flak
6	2/16	Rosenheim M/Y		Briefed for jet field North of Munich undercast, bombed alt Roesenheim, good hits. Fuel low, engine trouble flew back alone.
7	2/17	Triest Harbor		Target Wells or Vienna, but stood down a/c weather till 11:30 took off for Trieste. 501 & 502 collided and went down. Circled target twice, Moderate flak. Delk & Reed injured flak. Formation bad, sweated out return.
	2/18	St Valetin Tank Works		Mission recalled a/c weather.
8	2/19	Graz M/Y		Target Vienna, bombed Graz a/c head winds. Bombed visually, good hits, scant flak but accurate. No 1 Engine instruments shot out by