
The Last Mission

Edward J Bogan 825 Sq

Edward J Bogan age 71 died August 2, 1994, He was the bombardier on Thomas J Bolt's crew, 825 squadron. He is survived by his wife Audrey, sons James, and David, sisters Violet and Sophie, and grandchildren. He was a retired partner of the CPA firm Reilly, Penner and Benton, and a member of VFW Post 3091.

Edward H B Cornell 827 Sq

Dear Bud,

Enclosed is the obituary for Ed Cornell, bombardier, one of the original 484th crew members on Willie Kitchen's crew.

Ed and I reported into the unit in December 1943, joining Willie Kitchen's crew as bombardier and navigator, respectively. In January, we moved on to Harvard for combat training. From there, it was over to Africa via the southern route eventually to Cerignola. We were assigned aircraft #70 in the 827th Squadron.

Other members of the crew are Bill Miles, Copilot; Marvin Watson, Engineer; Willie Wong, Radio Operator; and Bob Day, Pat Layne and Larry Moxley, the Gunners. Shortly after arriving in Italy, Bill Miles was assigned to his own crew as Pilot, and Jim Spalding became our Copilot. Bill Miles was later killed in action.

On one of our early missions, Willie Kitchen was hit by a piece of flak and Spalding took over the crew. A short time later, upon loss of the key 827th staff on a mission, Eddie Cornell and I were pulled off the crew and reassigned as Squadron Bombardier and Squadron Navigator. We continued flying together frequently in lead and deputy lead positions. We finally finished mission requirements in the fall of 1944. Eddie returned to the States and I stayed over until March working as Group Navigator and briefing officer.

I've been able to keep in contact with most of our crew. Willie Kitchen lives in San Antonio; Pat Layne is in Ringgold, Georgia, and Bob Day is somewhere in Missouri (I've misplaced his address). We've all lost track of Willie Wong. Spalding, Watson and Moxley are deceased.

Edward H.B. Cornell, 72, a former CIA officer and a decorated World War 11 veteran. Mr. Cornell was born in New York City and moved to Haverford as a boy. He graduated from Haverford School in 1940 and attended Yale University. He joined the Air Force after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was a bombardier and flew 50 missions in Europe.

He graduated from Haverford College in 1949 and got a job with the CIA, working in the United States and at intelligence posts in Germany and Saigon. In 1968, he retired from the agency and became a real estate agent with Douglas MacFarland real estate. He remained there until 1987.

Survivors: wife, Charlene; daughter, Rebecca Ranieri; sons, Thomas, Edward H.B. Jr., Christopher, Curtis and Michael; seven grandchildren; a sister and a brother.

Reported by John Dunn, 827 Sq

David Edward Denney Jr. 824 Sq

David Edward Denney Jr. died on September 9, 1994. He was born in St. Petersburg, Florida, October 23, 1924.

Graduated from Woodlawn High School in Birmingham, Alabama in 1942, he was inducted April 15, 1943 at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. Assigned to the Army Air Corps April 22, 1943 at Ft. McPherson, Georgia, then ordered to Keesler Field, Biloxi, Mississippi for basic training. Attended Mechanic School at Keesler Field graduating December 13, 1943 as an airplane and engine mechanic for assignment to the 484th Bomb Group based Harvard, Nebraska for temporary duty. Assigned to the 824th Squadron in late winter of 1944, departed for the European Theater in March. Upon arrival in Italy he became the third man in the ground crew led by Sgt. Walter Rix for B-24, No. 11 at Torretta Air Base. No. 11 flew 56 missions without an engine failure, a record I believe. Promoted to corporal.



Reassigned to the North Africa Division of the Air Transport Command at Oran, Algeria in May 1945. With the war over he was free to travel and visited Egypt and Palestine in the fall of 1945, he was shipped back to the States aboard the S.S. Frederick Lykes arriving at Newport News, Virginia. Discharged at Ft. McPherson, Georgia, November 23.

After the War he attended Howard College (now Sanford University) in Birmingham and Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama. Transferred to the American University in Washington. Following graduation from AU in 1949 with a B. A. in history, he worked briefly as an ordinance procurement officer with the Navy Department before recall to active duty at the beginning of the Korean War. Accepted a reserve commission as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army, September 1950. Served with the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at Ft. Meade, Maryland, the U. S. Army. Security Agency at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, and the 2nd Armored Division at Ft. Knox, Kentucky. Promoted to first lieutenant. He was extremely proud of his military service.

After leaving the army and returning to Birmingham he worked for American Cast Iron Pipe and Nifty Paper Company prior to forming his own business, General Advertising Company, in 1960. Much later he became a free lance writer/editor. Having developed a strong interest in Spanish colonial history along the gulf coast, he founded a preservation group in the Mobile area to lobby for the creation of a historic park incorporating the site of the old Spanish fort and settlement on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay. Also founded the American Hispanic Ministry. He is survived by his wife, four children, two stepchildren and seven grandchildren.