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## Letters To the Editor

Freistadt, Austria

Dear Mr. Markel

Many thanks for your letter and for the Torretta Flyer.

In 1944 I was nine years old but my recollection concerning American Bombers and the condensation trails are quite clear. Today I send you memories of the air raid on Upper Austria on July 25, 1944 and I hope it will be interesting for you and possibly the readers of the Torretta Flyer.

On this hot summer day heavy bombs dropped on the vicinity of Pregarten, a village 14 miles Northeast of Linz, but with no industrial plants and military bases.

In 1991 I located the crash sites of eight American bombers shot down by German Fighters on July 25, 1944 in the district of Freistadt and Pregarten. I searched for eyewitnesses. I am primarily interested to know all about the fate of the crew members.

I have a request would you be kind to send me all the numbers of the Torretta Flyer?

Enc. four photos

Sincerely yours,

**Karl Affenzeller**

### *My Keepsake from the Air Raids* by Karl Affenzeller

On the 25th of July 1944 the air raids hit my native soil, too. On this hot summer's day, at 11 a. m., heavy fighting broke out between German fighter planes and American bombers which approached Linz. Then 300 bombs dropped all over the area called "Unteres Muhlviertel" These bombs had been intended for the armaments industry of Linz, the Hermann Goering tank plant. Unfortunately several people were killed. There was considerable material damage to plants, goods, and machinery also in the agricultural land of the communities neighboring Freistadt.

At that time I was only nine years old. Nevertheless, I still remember that day quite well, because then my mother took my brother and me, for the very first time to the spacious air raid shelter

*Editors Note: Karl Affenzeller and I have been exchanging letters since last May. The story following this letter gives us a look at what was happening on the ground during the daylight bombing campaign when the 484th Bomb Group was operational. This is a story about one misson.*



*Our air raid shelter 1938, after the German occupation, my mother and myself*



*Fragment of a 1000 Lb Bomb, found by a farmer in August 1944. Now a statue beside a creek*