
What's in this Issue and Other Things

Welcome once again to the Torretta Flyer, the official publication of the 484th Bomb Group Association. We try to vary the stories from issue to issue depending on what is available at the time of publication.

Joe Shugrue, 827 Sq, visited the National Archives on several occasions to obtain the material for the 16 November 1944 Mission to Munich. His report of the condition of the 484th mission files is distressing. Some mission records are missing entirely as evidenced by empty file folders. Others are incomplete or do not follow a standard form making research difficult.

This issue #30 features stories of another mission flown by the 484th Bomb Group. Issue #29 featured mission #132, 17 December 1944. We are following up this story with the mission of 16 November, 1944. Story starts on Page 16.

Through the kindness of correspondent John Bybee, an aviation historian, who has investigated the Dec 17, 1944 mission, we have more information to add to the story that appeared in the last issue on that subject. He has added information on some of the other 15th AF units that participated in this mission, including the 461st and 451st Bomb Groups, the other 49th Wing groups. The story starts on page 10.

We sorted our aircraft data base to extract the aircraft that were lost or damaged during March 1944 to May 1945 while the group was active from its base at Torretta, Italy. We don't have a handle on aircraft assigned to the 484th lost during training in the USA prior to deployment overseas. Page 38

The list of books on the German Air Force (GAF) or Luftwaffe comes from a library data base and is provided in this issue for members wishing to read more about the "War in the Air" from the Luftwaffe viewpoint. We all know from our own war experiences what the American viewpoint was. The number following the author's name is the ISBN numbers (International Book Sellers Number) that identify the book and its publisher, but do not reveal the books content. Page 39

Research Activities of the 484th Bomb Group Association

US Government budget restraints hamper proper maintenance of the material, and do not provide manpower to properly index the holdings. For instance at Maxwell AFB most of the record names are in card files and very little appears in computer data base files. Use of a computer data base program with key words and other techniques can reduce file searching time dramatically. As stated elsewhere in the News of the Association, the Group morning reports are held in the National Military Records Center in St. Louis, MO. We are hoping that Squadron morning reports are held there also. One object of all of this record seeking is to complete

the roster of personnel who at one time or another were assigned to the 484th Bomb Group. We want to organize personnel and equipment rosters so that they can be given to selected museums. This will include bound volumes of the Flyer and copies of our document files when this work is completed.

The Association has its own manpower problems, we need your help at three locations to copy the files pertaining to our wartime activities: 1) St. Louis, 2) Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL and 3) Washington DC. Members are urged to contact us to help on this project.



Changes In Bulk Mail Requirements

The United States Postal Service is converting to faster mail sorting by the use of sophisticated devices and procedures. This change requires bulk mailers use of the nine digit zip code. Most of the addresses in the country already are assigned nine digit codes. This will be followed by the addition of two more digits. You'll notice the association's address has used the 11 digit code for some time. The other requirement is the use of bar codes. The last mailing (Bulletin No 38, Notice of Annual Meeting) was sent out meeting these requirements even though it was sent first class. Some of you will notice that this first class mail was sent at a reduced rate. What we are asking our members to do is to find their nine digit zip code by asking your postman or calling the nearest Post Office, send the information to us, and use it with your return address when sending mail to us.

Request For Medals

Ben Franklin of the 15th Air Force Association advises 484th BG members who were awarded medals but did not receive them should contact HQ AFMPC/DPMS Att: Recog and Spcl Div 550 C Street West, Suite 12, Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714. Be advised you should include all pertinent documentation, and ask if further data is required, and also ask for forwarding address if this office is not the correct authority.

Officers should look through their 201 Files for an order specifying military decorations, Enlisted men review your wartime memorabilia collection. All personnel should include discharge papers.

The National Military Records Center 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63131-5100 should also be advised if you do not have the proper documentation.

In a future issue of the Torretta Flyer, the Association will publish a list of members who were awarded military decorations, watch for it!