

Brookfield, WI

Dear Bud:

Photo caption for Torretta Flyer:

1st Lt. Bernard Bossick visits with three Italians outside the Red Cross club building in Foggia in August, 1944.

Bossick was with the 824th.

Bruce Smith



Stamford, CT

Bud Markel:

Allan Davidson asked me to send this photograph directly to you. I am in the first row kneeling. The occasion was the 100th mission of Toggle Annie.

Best Regards

Wally Menn, 826 Sq.



Lowell, MI

Dear Bud:

At the Dayton reunion last year the chaplains choice of the 23rd psalm really hit home. On every mission I flew, as we turned onto the IP and headed down the bomb run, I sat in my upper turret and recited the 23rd psalm. I put special emphasis on the verse, "though I walk though the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil." I like to think that perhaps that helped bring us home safely twenty four times.

Last year after a determined search, I managed to track down nine of my crew members. We got together for a crew reunion in May of 95. All nine are relatively healthy, no canes or wheelchairs, eight made the reunion including the photographer Walter Menn. Four are widowers. See the original crew photo taken on the 100th mission of Toggle Annie submitted by Walter Menn on this same page. We didn't know the photographer's name until the reunion. He came rushing up to us after identifying himself in the crew photo on our T shirts.

Our second crew reunion in Dallas in May 96 almost ended in catastrophe when a fire in the main switchroom put out all the lights and filled the motel with smoke. At this point I thought briefly about calling the whole thing off, then I thought about the Trieste mission we flew 17 February, 1945. On that mission the lead plane and the deputy lead collided in mid air before we reached the IP. The group scattered, then regrouped and dropped our bombs on the second go-a-round. The following day of the reunion we regrouped to another hotel and continued our get-together.

I am attempting to write a history of "Toggle Annie" Nose No. #52, 42-52705, I know she rolled off the Ford assembly line at Willow Run on or about 9 January, 1944. After researching the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, I can document 83 of Toggle Annie's 107 missions. Of the original 16 planes of the 826 squadron, only Toggle Annie #52, and #50 Darling Darline survived the war and returned to the ZI. It was common practice to recycle the nose number when a ship was shot down or scrapped to complicate the research as pilots flimsey shows each aircraft assignment by nose number alone., as many National Archive files are missing. I ask the following questions of other crews who flew Toggle Annie: 1) Who can share their mission list with mine ? 2) Who flew Toggle Annie back to the States ? 3) Can any other plane top the 107 missions of Toggle Annie?

Sincerely,

Allan Davidson, 826sq.



Standing Left to right: Bob Reed-C/P, Dana Stewart-P, Odis Johnson-E, Lou Galgano-B/G, Kneeling from left: Darrell Johnson-N/G, Walt Nilson-R/O, J W Delk-T/G, Allan Davidson-U/G, and Walter Menn, photographer. Photo taken 26 May, 1996, Dallas, TX.