

rations of polenta (cooked corn meal) from time to time and when we arrived at a camp, we deposited a portion of our polenta in the common cook-pot.

We were badly infected by body lice and we occupied part of our resting time locating the vermin and eggs in the seams of our clothing and killing them between our thumbnails. We were never able to remove our clothes. At times, conditions, food, etc. were somewhat better for located along our escape route were

missions, groups of Allied Soldiers (American or British) with radio contact with Allied Headquarters in Italy. Their mission was to furnish information of a military nature of German troop movements, etc. We were also able to get some food (K or C rations) for the most part. At an American mission; I was able to get word to my wife who was pregnant that I was alive. At these missions we were joined by other American Airmen who had been shot down for months, some like us, for a short time. Some were wounded, one I recall, had an arm shot off at the elbow. By the time we reached our final destination, there were some 50 to 60 American Airmen along with a number of French and other nationalities, somewhat of an international brigade.

We were sworn to secrecy and were not able to talk about our experiences for some forty years and some of the details are not clear. For example the place from which we were evacuated, an airfield in the middle of a large field illuminated by flares, outlining a runway on which an American C-46 landed and flew us along with Yugoslav wounded to Bari, Italy HQ 15th Air Force and a hospital. With regard to the location of the airfield some 10 years ago, I obtained a top secret document, a copy of my interrogation upon return to Allied Control, which gave the map coordinates of the field. The airfield was close enough to a German airfield, so that one day they sent a fighter plane to strafe us, another day a light bomber that dropped a few bombs.

This digest of my experiences while being an Evadee (MIA) is written in a rather rambling fashion (Dean Smith would throw me and the story out of his-class!), and as a digest, does not include a description of many other events or feelings that we experienced during those days, prior to being returned to Allied control.. Signed Walter Chapman..

The foregoing was send in by Dick Olson, a new member of the Association, who is the son of Richard Olson (D) 826 Sq.



*Photo J E White 824 Sq. Crew . Top row from left: Robert Heath-N, William R Gifford-B, Thomas F Parker-N/G, Theodore R Gressen-B/G, and James D Gunnels (D)-R/O. Bottom row: Richard A Sites-T/G, Elmer B McCully Jr-C/P, Claud E Griffin-E, Thomas Reynolds (D)-W/G, and J E White-P.*



*Unknown Red Cross Girl, Bill Gracey photo*



*Photo 1 Left: Joe Revelas, Middle: Sgt Earl R Hall, right: Unknown. Photo Revelas 826 Sq*