
The 484th BG solicits contributions to the magazine as a way to preserve the stories and experiences of WWII veterans. Just drop a note to the editor at bud484bg@aol.com. Because of the irregular publication dates of the *Flyer* and not to disappoint non member applicants, subscriptions to the *Flyer* are on hold.

Scholarship Program

A memorial scholarship program was established by the 484th Bomb Group Association to remember and honor the deeds of members of the group who did not return from the war. The program was made a living memorial by giving scholarship awards to students completing high school.

Save Those WWII Documents

The World II War generation that Tom Brokaw talks about in his new book, are passing on at a faster rate now. These men of the heavy bomb groups now in their mid seventies need to tell their stories while still alive.. They need to make copies of: Their personal history, documents, books, pamphlets, manuals, tech orders, maps photographs, artwork, memorabilia, uniforms, artifacts of WWII. Also important is the recording of the veterans personal history and war experiences, via oral tapes while they still can. I say this because the internet has the renewed interest of younger generations, some offspring of veterans, some grandchildren, and from the general public not only in the USA, but also from Europe. All of this material can be held in a WWII Library for use by all interested parties. See my proposal below.

Help Sponsor a WWII Library

Instead of another war memorial or monument the 484th would like to see the creation of a WWII Library to house and store the history of WWII that is in private hands, meaning collectors, veterans, industry, and interested parties. Then veterans would have a place to store and display their, histories, documents, photographs, maps, memorabilia etc. If the nation can create and preserve the battlefield at Gettysburg, then it could also do comparable justice to the history of WWII, and its veterans. The proposed library could be ideally located within a newly closed military installation to eliminate land cost.

The objection of this editor to monuments is that they are static constructions, cold and indifferent, hiding under a green patina, ignoring any human presence. Cold stones just don't cut it. A library is alive with humanity, of all ages. The patrons of a library come and go, stop to read a book, or pick up paper. They attend lectures and listen to music, and readings. It's a place of social interchange, and where knowledge transfer and learning occurs. This creates a pleasant experience. If you support the idea of a WWII Library, E-mail me.

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Combat Colors.

The combat color of the 49th Bombardment Wing was insignia red. The rudder/fins tops were painted red as well as the inside of the rudders and also the horizontal stabilizers. The practice of painting the insides of the rudder/fins and horizontal stabilizers was not universally applied, because of combat needs. It happened that a ship that returned from a combat mission and could not be made airworthy in time for the next mission, would be towed to the bone yard. Here it would be stripped of any useful parts never to fly again. In the meantime a new aircraft would be ferried from the pool at Gioia Del Colle. It was not unusual for this new ship to be flown without any insignia at all until time could be found to do the painting. The 461st and 484th often borrowed parts from each other. Whole aircraft would also be traded back and forth between the two groups. All groups used a two digit code to identify squadron. Each Group had four squadrons.

49th Wing Bomb Groups (The Red Tails)

- 1) 451st Bomb Group based at Castelluccia, Italy: A large red ball on the bottom half of the rudder/fin.
- 2) The 461st Bomb Group based at Torretta: A long red dash on the lower rudder/fin.
- 3) The 484th BG also based at Torretta sported a red bow tie on the bottom half. It was surrounded on unpainted aircraft with black paint, on olive drab aircraft the bow tie was surrounded in white. Squadron numbers were again painted in red on silver airplanes and white on olive drab aircraft.

Only two digits from 1 to 99 were divided into quarters for the four squadrons, 824 Sq. 1 to 24, 825 Sq. 25 to 49, 826 Sq. 50 to 69, and 827 Sq. 71 to 99. Mickey ships equipped with bomb laying radar were painted gray overall, using a three digit code.

Cowl rings were often painted, and supposedly each squadron had a color. But this practice was not maintained through the war as replacement aircraft were flown into the airfield at Torretta, Italy very frequently and the overwhelmed mechanics did not have much free time to keep up the paint work.

Please refer to the book: *Aircom Aviation Series No S13, USAF Heavy Bomb Group Markings and Camouflage 1941-1945 Consolidated B-24 Liberator*. Look up the color page showing aircraft with red tail, (pages are not numbered in my copy) No templates were ever issued by the group. The mechanics copied the insignia from one plane to another. Notice on the cover of #77 a B-24 of the sister group 461st sporting a red bar followed by half of a bow tie. This was true also as groups exchanged parts to keep aircraft in the air.

Editors Note:

On page 39 and the last page of this publication are some examples of the variations of insignias that were employed by the 484th Bomb Group. The round background was used late in the war as a way of improving recognition from a distance. As the threat of fighter attacks against the bomber formations diminished due to lack of fuel, the bomber formations tended to spread out, thus the need of recognition from a greater distance.