

885 Bomb. Sq. (H) (Special)
2641 Special Group (Provisional)

"A UNIQUE Squadron in the 15th Airforce"

Predecessors:

122 Bomb. Sq. (H)
122 Liaison Sq. / 68 Tactical Recon. Gp.
122 Liaison Sq. / 68 Recon. Gp.
122 Observation Sq. / 68 Observation Gp.

Additions & corrections to roster:

Freche, John A.
725 Goucher St.
Terrytown, La. 70056

Aircraft & Aircraft Engine Mech.-
Gunner - Tow Reel Opr.
10 missions with 122 Observation
Sq. & 20 others in O-47 & A-20.

Miller, Charles E.
11 Cass Ave.
Atlantic, Ia. 50022
Phone 712/243-1097

"Charlie"

B-17 W Gunner.
Originally from 346 BS 99BG.
Member of the 3 original crews.

Parker, Jesse W.
1212 Brookwood Dr.
Tallahassee, Fl. 32308

"Jess"

Pilot & Asst. Photographic Officer.
Many missions with 122 Observation
Sq. in O-38/a*E, O-46, O-49, BC-1A,
P-43, DB-7, A-20 & B-18.

Col. Monro MacCloskey was Commander 122/885 from 10 April 1944 until appointed 15th Special Group (Prov) Commander January 1945 (redesignated 2641 Special Group (Prov.) 17 March 1945). Re-assumed command of 885 on 20 May 1945 after Group discontinued. Returned to states 28 May 1945 on "Colonel's Lady". (From Col. MacCloskey's "Secret Air Missions".)

Adding to the 3/B-17's the 122nd already had, 8/24's arrived 17 April 1944. Also during April a 4th B-17 was added that formerly was Gen'l. Eisenhower's.

On 1 April 1944 122nd had : 22 officers and 94 enlisted men (116).
On 30 April 1944 122nd had: 56 officers and 211 enlisted men (267).
(Assigned & Attached)

On 12 May 1944 named changed to 885 Bomb. Sq. (H) (Special) and officially assigned to 15th Airforce on 15 June 1944.

Besides "Miss Charlotte" & Crew (listed in first roster), there were 2 other B-17 Crews making the first supply/drop to the Underground on 20 Oct. 1943:

P. James R. Hugo - CP. William W. Ketcham - N. Robert L. Burchinal - BN. Joseph W. Wasilewski - E. Clayton W. Canaday - BT Charles E. Miller (later WG) - R. Emil J. Real Jr. - WG Emanuel Gyler - TG Walter P. Hirschfeld. They originally from 99th BG. (This info. from Erv. Meyers)

Later Ketcham was pilot - Donald F. Graves was Co-Pilot - Emmet F. Zeller was W Gunner. (This info. from Charlie Miller)

Charlie Ampegomian reports Watson Fassian passed away July 1991.

The 3rd B-17 Crew:

P. Warren T. Lyons - CP. Frank Pulliam Jr. - N. Robert M. Ellison - BN. John L. Foote - E. Bernard J. Nunner - R. Gerald Ahern - WG Robert J. Zapponi - BT Raymond B. Foster - TG Pershing E. Foreman. (This info. from Erv. Meyers)

"Miss Charlotte" took a flak hit under the left wing on that first mission. Had to come home on 2 right engines with 92 holes in the left. Barely made it back with 20 minutes of gas left. (From Erv. Meyers.)

Our first loss was on 27 April, 1944 when B-17 with Ketcham & Crew hit a mountain just outside of our base at Blida, Algeria. They, returning from a search mission:- British bomber lost the night before. ^{were} (My first day with the outfit.)

The Crew: Pilot William W. Ketcham - 1stLt.
Co-Pilot Donald F. Graves - 2nd Lt.
Nav. Robert L. Burchinal - 1st Lt.
Bomb. Joseph W. Wasilewski - 1stLt.
Engr. Clayton W. Canaday - T/Sgt.
R. Opr. Emil J. Real Jr. - T/Sgt.
WG. Emmet F. Zeller - T/Sgt.
WG. John P. Biggs - S/Sgt.
TG. Walter P. Hirschfield - S/Sgt.

--- (From Charlie Miller) --- (This search-mission he was not on.)

Leon A. Brooks' nickname is "Bobby" (listed in first roster).

John Freche of 122nd Obser. Sq. sent me history of 122nd Observ. Sq. It was great! There is a Squadron that kept track of one another - wish we did. Colorful history in the early days of the war and especially during the North African invasion.

Here's some phone numbers I omitted before: Joe Feldy 815/4597896. Geo. Moore 517/5431495. Albert Prochnow 402/2916260. Geo. Sefko - 214/2793595. John Thayer 804/8538982. Hal Watson 815/4850843. If anyone else would like their phone numbers listed please let me know.

885 Bomb. Sq. Christmas Menu: Fruit Cocktail - Stuffed Celery - Turkey Soup - Croutons - Olives - Pickles - Giblet Gravy *ROAST TURKEY & DRESSING* Creamed Potatoes - Hot Rolls - Bread - Buttered String Beans - Cranberry Sauce - Butter and Marmalade - Coffee - Cream and Sugar - Pumpkin Pie - Mince Pie - Cookies - Oranges - Tangerines - Fruit Punch. (25 Dec. 1944) Mess Hall decorated too!!

885th/as a lone squadron from Blida, Algeria and Maison-Blanche, Algeria and later ^{operated} from Brindisi, Italy until joined by 859th Bomb. Sq. (H) "Carpetbagger SQ." from England in Dec. 1944 - officially becoming Group January 1945:(first - 15th Special Group (Prov.) and later - 2641st Special Group (Prov.)).

885th had 76 officers and 336 enlisted men (412) when we were awarded our first Unit Citation. This was on 12 August, 1944. 2641st was awarded a Unit Citation on 17 Feb., 1945 but the number of men in the 2 squadrons at that time is unknown.

One more phone #: Charlie Ampagoomian - 508/2345054.

Hope everyone has a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!!

J. J. Mathiam 1421 23rd St. 8/15/2232638
J. J. Mathiam, Lt. 6/1354
REMEMBER? YOU BET!!
7 DECEMBER 1991
T.F.T. # 2