

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.

Add to Roster:-

Barney Old Coyote  
Box 1241  
Walker, Mn. 56484  
Phone 218/547-2769

Airplane Mechanic - Gunner A20 & B-17.  
22 Missions in 122 Obser. Sq. & 28  
others. Barney and Crew featured in a  
special news release in "The Stars and  
Stripes" on April 2, 1943 when they sank  
an enemy sub in the Mediterranean.

Crew of B-24 #998 "Miss Judy" :-

Pilot Fred C. Schwarze - Milton, Ma.  
CP Walter A. Hadank - Springfield, Ma  
Nav. Stuart H. Stillwell - Geneva, NY  
Bomb. Walter H. Friedhoff - Sioux  
Falls, SD  
NT Gunner Irving R. Groupe -  
Poughkeepsie, NY

Engr. Oscar K. Penner - Winber, Pa.  
Armorer-BT Gunner Alfred L. (Shorty)  
McCollum - Marietta, Ga.  
TGunner Lawrence V. (Vernie) Johnson -  
Petersburg, ND.  
Radio Opr. Thomas P. (Tom) Lins - Hous-  
ton, Tx.

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Philippe Castellano and fellow  
historians Brian, Bernard and Daniel  
came to the US in October to visit  
with their many friends in the Mid-  
west and East. Great to see them  
for the first time. They are a great  
bunch of guys who are very dedicated  
in their work.

They are returning to Mt. Mioul next  
August to put up a more permanent re-  
membrance plaque. All the relatives  
of the crew of "Miss Charlotte" are  
invited. I failed to say in the last  
Newsletter that the crash site was  
visited on 11 & 12 July 1992 by Philippe  
and crew. Ceremony was 11AM on the 12th.

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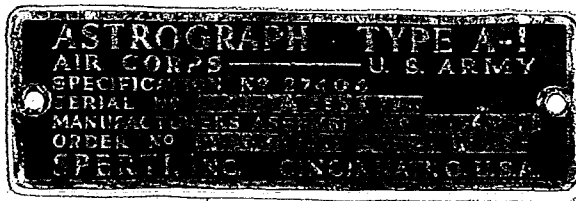
Additional information on the  
loss of the 2 planes of the 68th Ob-  
servation Sq. 8 Nov. 1942:

The 2 A-20B's lost between Mor-  
rison Field West Palm Beach, Fl. and  
Borinquen Field Puerto Rico enroute  
to N. Africa were manned by: Major  
Thomas E. Johnson, 1st Lt. Ervin E.  
Borts (Ferry Command Navigator) &  
S/Sgt. Elmer E. Williams in one and  
the other by 2nd Lt. James K. Parker,  
S/Sgt. James A. Smith, Cpl. Nich G.  
Picros. A "Mayday" was heard from  
Lt. Parker but nothing from Major  
Johnson. Maj. Johnson was the Temp-  
orary Commander of the Flight Echelon.  
(Later awards recommended for both  
Crews - Posthumously).

A G-53, two hours out of Puerto Rico  
saw some oil slicks and what appeared  
to be oxygen tanks on the water but  
B-18's sent out after the arrival of  
the A-20's at Puerto Rico could not  
find anything. The search continued  
for 3 days.

C. M. "Rusty" Williams of Orlando,  
Fl. supplied this additional info after  
conferring with Jessie Parker, Bobby  
Brooks and John Fresch. "Rusty" is  
the brother of S/Sgt. Elmer Williams.

He also came up with 2 books  
that mentioned the 68th: "The Flying  
Years" by Lou Reichers - Pages 291 -  
344. And Vol. 7 "Services Around the  
World" from The Army Air Forces in  
WW2 by W. F. Craven & J. L. Cate -  
Pages 64 - 71. Thanks "Rusty".



The above Astrograph tag was found at the "Miss Charlotte" crash site last July and according to Erv. Meyers, he believes it came off the projection machine which were mounted in several B-17's to make faster celestial fixes on Navigator's charts. This was to be used on the night the invasion of Italy was to take place. Erv. was the original Navigator on "Miss Charlotte" with a total of 70 Missions.

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Also found at the site was the "Mae West" worn by Pilot John Meyers -(John was no relation of Erv.) M-2048 was stinceled on it. Also an oxygen mask hose, one large and one small buckle, two small buttons, 2 hose clamps (one in excellent condition), 50 caliber shell - spent, metal clip from a clip board, some type of an insulator - marked Cornell Dubilier Type 9, piece of a flack suit and two different kinds of parachute material. Also broken containers & armor plate.

"885th Supports The Marquis" was the heading for a paragraph about the outfit on Page 18 of the 15th AF "Sortie" Vol. 7 #3 and then in Vol. 7 #4 Page 17 it mentions Philippe Castellano and his buddies in the work they are doing in searching for and documenting all crash sites of USAAF planes in their area. A very worthwhile and satisfying project for them and of course for us. We thank them!!

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Found a most interesting book Titled "Secret Squadrons of the 8th" by Pat Carty - 1990.

My brother H. F. "Matt" Mattison is pictured on page 22 playing the Sax. He played in a eleven member dance band called "The Sad Sacks". Traveled for awhile with a USO troupe. He was in the 8th AF Composite Command.

That was certainly a very pleasant surprise. He's now living in Ga. and he and wife "Lore" winters in Fl.

Great Books:-

"The OSS in WW2" by Edward Hymoff-1986.

122/885 covered on pages 118-125, 136 & 137 (where 885 mention<sup>ed</sup> as 858 in error), 152 - 154 and the Group mentioned on Page 288.

Also:- American Master Spy by Aldo Icardi - 1954.

885 dropped him in N. Italy in Sept. '44. 885 not mentioned by name but verified by Ben Matlick Co-Pilot of "Miss Charlotte".

And:- "WW2 Strange & Fascinating Facts" by Don McCombs and Fred L. Worth - 1983.

885 mentioned under heading "Air America" Page 6. Never knew the outfit was called "Air America". Anyone else heard of this?

Bill Zinsser formally clerk in the intelligence office 885 sent me some great "stuff" from his records while serving in the outfit. It was very much appreciated; very much. His report on the move from Maison Blanche to Brindisi was outstanding. He went with the truck convoy. It took a whole month!

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*Audrey + I celebrated our 40th wedding anniversary last Oct. 4th!!*

J. K. Mattison  
1421 23rd St.  
Peru, Illinois 61354

15 March 1993  
\*T.F.T. #5

\*Target For Tonight

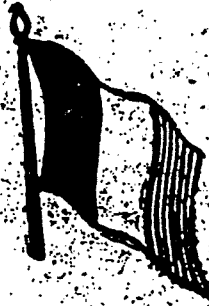
Note - If anyone can spare a few stamps would appreciate it very much!

**AU PEUPLE de FRANCE**

**et à l'armée d'occupation**

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**Déclaration  
du général EISENHOWER  
SUR LE STATUT DES F.F.I.**



Le Commandant Suprême possède aujourd'hui la preuve évidente que les forces allemandes d'occupation en France, se conformant aux déclarations faites le 7 juin 1944 par le commandant en chef des forces allemandes de l'Ouest, traitent les membres des groupes français de Résistance comme des francs-tireurs. En conséquence, le Commandant Suprême déclare :

1. — Les Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur constituent une force combattante placée sous le commandement du général Koenig. Elles forment une partie intégrante des Forces Expéditionnaires Alliées.

2. — Les Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur ont pris ouvertement les armes contre l'ennemi et ont reçu l'ordre de conduire leurs opérations conformément aux lois de la guerre. Elles sont munies d'un insigne distinctif, et le général Eisenhower les considère comme une armée placée sous son commandement.

3. — Dans ces conditions, les représailles exercées contre les groupes de Résistance constituent une violation flagrante des lois de la guerre : lois auxquelles les Allemands sont tenus de se soumettre. De tels forfaits ne peuvent que fortifier la détermination des Nations Unies de hâter la conclusion victorieuse de la guerre et de s'attacher à ce que justice soit faite.

4. — Le Commandant Suprême est résolu à ce que tous les efforts possibles soient mis en œuvre pour découvrir et traquer les auteurs des atrocités commises contre les membres des Forces armées placées sous son commandement. Des mesures sont déjà prises dans ce sens. Les coupables seront livrés sans délai à la justice.

**Quartier Général Suprême  
des Forces Expéditionnaires Alliées**