

885 Bomb Sq. (H) (Special)
"A Unique Squadron in the 15th Air Force"
Becoming 2641 Special Group (Provisional)
December 1944 on arrival 859 Bomb Sq. (H)
"Carpethbagger Sq." from the 8th Air Force.

Actually the Group was called the 15th Special Group (Provisional) for several weeks before the official and permanent change to the 2641st.

What Luck ! Found a few more to add to our 885 roster :

Melvin T. Doyle

B-24 Tail Gunner/Asst. Arm./Airplane mechanic (Asst.). Paul Cordes Crew. Originally from 449 BG. Completed 50 Missions in Dec. '44.
Address : 1065 Lomita Blvd. #184, Harbor City, CA 90710-1911 Phone 310-539-8130.

John O. Fredlund

B-24 Flight Engr. Also Paul Cordes Crew - from 449 BG and also completing 50 Missions with this Crew.
Address : 2681 Lake Park Circle West, Davie, FL 33328. Phone 954-423-3274.

Samuel L. Collier

B-24 Navigator. Also Paul Cordes Crew from 449 BG and also completing 50 Missions with this Crew.
Address : 11002 Huntwyck, Houston, TX 77024. Phone 713-465-2095.

Paul D. Cordes

B-24 Pilot. Originally from 449 BG and also completed 50 Missions. All these Missions were with the 885th, using "Swiss Itch", "Swamp Fox" and "Denny Dimwit".
Address : 151 Cindy Lou Place, Mandeville, LA 70448.

These 4 just recently found each other after almost 50 years. What a good feeling to see this happen !

Also :

Ralph Cavaliere

"Gabe" was B-24 Tail Gunner in Henry Loser Crew - originally from 464 BG 779 BS 55 Wing. 36 Missions with 885th and 9 other.
Address : 882 No. Broadway, No. Massapequa, NY 11758-2351-48. Phone 516-795-4813. Most Missions in "Smokey" or affectionately called "Queenie".

Ben Hunnicutt

Member Bill Simon's Crew - originally from 461 BG - 18 885 Missions and 6 others. Hope to have more on Ben and his Crew later.

Dale G. Smith

6356 Foster Rd. Mason, OH 45040. Phone 513-398-0635.
Dale was in Armament.

Carlos E. King

Also in Armament - originally from 756 BS. With 885 from April '44 until the end. Address : 203 McCartha Dr., Columbus, GA 31907-5525. Nicknamed "TOD"

Joe G. Miles

"Joe Willie" was in pre-flighting, fueling and airplane maintenance.

Address : 43825 236th Ave. SE. Enumclaw, WA 98022-9425. Phone 360-825-2356.

Malvin J. Parham

21 Missions and originally from 454 BG. More on "Mal" later.

Eldon B. Stombaugh

Hope to have more from "Stumpy" later.

B. W. McCullough

Ground Crew - hope more later.

Ted Parker

Believe B-24 Pilot - more later.

Also found relatives of "Dallas Lady" Navigator James Bryant : Edgar E. Bryant - brother and O. B. Bridier - cousin. Both are from Texas. Two wonderful people waiting to hear the details of the memorial dedicated to these brave men on Corne de Bouc Mountain. This was held on 14 September 1991 and sponsored by a number of French citizens and organizations along with my friend Philippe Castellano and his team from Aero-Re. L.I.C. of La Napoule - Mandelieu France. Another member of his great team is Gilles; who was added some time ago, whom I failed to mention before in an earlier newsletter when I mentioned all the members of his team.

Harold "Hal" Watson B-24 Pilot reports "Gus" Mandala from his crew passed away last year. "Hal" hopes to attend the 15th AF Assoc. reunion in Las Vegas next April. Hope I can to. We should all try to go if possible. For more information contact "Ben" Franklin, 15th AF Assoc. P.O. Box 6325, March AFB CA 92518. Dues \$20.

From Official Records :

On the first of August '44 the 885th had 85 Officers and 341 Enlisted Men for a total of 426 - assigned and attached. And at the end of August we had 98 Officers and 376 Enlisted Men for a total of 474 - assigned and attached.

AN ODE TO THE REGAL B-24

HER BOMB BAYS CATAPULTED
A MAELSTROM OF DESTRUCTION.
HER TURRETS, — A TORRENT OF FIRE.
A FORMIDABLE ARMOR IN MAJESTIC FLIGHT.
SHE DREW THE ENEMY'S IRE —
ENNOBLING HER CREW,
WITH HER MIGHT.
SHE WAS THE B-24 !
THE SPIRIT AND THE PRIDE,
OF THE ARMY AIR CORPS.

HER ENGINES SANG--
SHE WAS AN ANGEL OF MERCY.
HER ELEGANT SILHOUETTE --
FRAMED AGAINST THE SKY.
A COURIER OF PEACE, WE DARE SAY.
SHE WAS THE BEACON IN THE DARKNESS,
THAT GUIDED THE UNKNOWNNS,
ON PLAINS AND IN VALLEYS ON MOUNTAINS HIGH,
WHOM WE KNEW ONLY AS THE OSS.
THIS WAS HER OTHER SIDE.
SHE WAS THE B-24 !
THE SPIRIT AND THE PRIDE,
OF THE ARMY AIR CORPS.

-- IN MEMORY OF QUEENIE (SMOKEY)

Done this day, July 9, 1996

(Signed) Ralph Cavaliere : Ralph's "small tribute to a gallant lady"

Thank you !

Hope in my next newsletter I will have the complete story of 885 crash of B-24 #42-94919 on the night of 13 April 1945 near LIVIGNO in northern Italy - close to the Swiss border. A wonderful memorial service was held on Sunday 9 October 1994 in Livigno and nearby town of Bormio attended by officials of the area and Partisan survivors. My thanks to J. W. "Brad" Bradbury - former Pilot with the Carpetbaggers who has visited the site and gave me some wonderful pictures of the ceremony.

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Former Ground Radio-Opr. 122/885



T.F.T. #10
11-11-96

HONOR ALL VETERANS THIS DAY !!