



*The 461st*

# Liberaider



Vol. 5, No. 2

OCTOBER 1988

SOMEWHERE IN THE USA



MISSION #1  
461st Bomb Group (H)  
2 April, 1944

The first mission flown by the Group was that to the Bihac Marshalling Yard in Yugoslavia. This mission was led, of course, by Col. Glantzberg. Flight leader 1st Lt. Joseph Donovan was the lead pilot with Col. G flying as his co-pilot. Capt. Marion Pruitt, Group Navigator, was on the lead aircraft with 1st Lt. George V. Leffler, Group Bombardier. The Deputy Group Commander, Lt. Col. Philip R. Hawes, the Group Operations Officer, Maj. William Burke and four Squadron Commanders, Maj. James B. Knapp, Capt. James C. Dooley, Maj. Robert E. Applegate and Capt. Edwin T. Goree flew the mission either leading a flight or as Deputy leader in the No. 2 position in "A" Flight of each Section. Two of the Squadron Operations Officers, Capt. William Franklin and 1st Lt. William H. Tallant, also flew on this mission.

The weather was excellent. The bomb load was fragmentation bombs. All members of the crews

were intensely interested in watching their first bombs hit a target. As a result two aircraft collided over the target and were lost. One of the planes was piloted by 1st Lt. William H. Zumsteg, the other by 2nd Lt. Sidney S. Wilson.

Intops Summary No. 255, 2 April 1944

"35 B-24's of the 461st Bomb Group on their freshman mission dropped 61 tons of 20 lb frags between 1131 and 1137 hours from 19,000—20,000 ft. 5 A/C jettisoned 9.6 tons, while 1 A/C dropped 1.8 tons on Pianosa Is. 6 other A/C returned early. 4 enemy A/C were seen in the target area but there were no encounters and no claims. 2 B-24's were lost due to a collision at the rally point. Results reported by crew observations claim 40 to 60% of bombs hit target area with heavy smoke in the south part of the M/Y. Bomb strike photos give incomplete coverage of bursts.

Editor's Note: WERE YOU THERE? WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER? SEND YOUR COMMENTS TO ME  
GEROGE D. DICKIE, P.O. BOX 615, EAST SANDWICH, MA 02537

The 461st LIBERAIDER  
461st Bombardment Group (H)  
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Inactivated: 27 August 1945  
Incorporated: 25 November 1985

CORPORATE HDQRS: 313 Hill St., Box 638, Oakland, IA 51560

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Frank C. O'Bannon, President, 137 Via La Soledad, Redondo Beach CA 90277  
Sammy A. West, Vice-President, 2924 Garden Hill Dr., Colorado, Springs CO 80904  
Glenn H. Stempel, Treasurer, 313 Hill St., Oakland, IA 51560

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George D. Dickie—Editor—PO Box 615, East Sandwich, MA 02537  
The LIBERAIDER is published three times a year on behalf of the members of the organization and is mailed from Torrance Post Office, CA 90510-9703.  
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## A TRIBUTE IN TILE

As a means of raising money for the new March Field Museum, the museum Board of Managers are offering for sale high quality quarry tiles (6 in square) to pave the museum Heritage Courtyard and large Entrance Plaza. Each tile will be deeply etched with one or two lines (20 characters/line) identifying the person or organization purchasing the tile(s). The Courtyard tiles will be colored blue while the Plaza tiles will be sandstone in color. Your Officers and Dorectors voted to buy five tiles at \$50 each (two lines) in order to support the museum. The 461st Bomb Group tile is to be surrounded by 4 tiles recognizing the 4 squadrons. These tiles will be readily visible to museum guests for years to come. The museum will be located directly across the field from the flight line at March Field, California.

\* \* \* \* \*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

There are still hundreds of alumni of the 461st Bomb Group that we have not located. Frank O'Bannon has done a terrific job of locating those he now has in our Directory but he can use your help. This is one way we can all contribute to the well-being of our organization. Since we are all in the "Upper Age" bracket many of our crew members may have passed away. This information is as important as locating the living members. Here's how you can help.

1. If you haven't already done so, do everything possible to locate each member of your crew. Since each of them may have information that you don't, ask them to join the search. If you had some old "461st Buddies" you used to correspond with, pass on the word and ask for their help. Remember each new member located can usually supply names and addresses of 2 or 3 more. The Veteran's Administration is helpful in forwarding "unsealed" and "unsolicited" letters. Serial numbers and previous addresses are helpful.
2. Write short articles for local newspapers, radio stations, alumni magazines, etc. requesting that any 461st crew members or their families and/or friends contact you with information regarding the crew member.
3. Offer your services. We would like to get one volunteer from each state to correspond with all units of veterans organizations (A.L., V.F.W., etc) and V.A. hospitals in an attempt to locate lost crew members.

Remember, all it takes is time and a little aggressiveness. Now that most of us are retired we ought to have a little time available for projects like this. Get Aggressive, Get Involved for the benefit of the 461st Bomb Group. We should all respond to Item 1. If you can help with Items 2 and 3 contact Frank O'Bannon or your Squadron Director.

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POW DIARY (Continued)

By

Oran E. Fulton

765th Bomb Squadron

461st Bomb Group

1945

1-1 Starts new year. Snow still on ground. Did dishes today. Music in hall tonight. Phonograph records.

1-2 Snow still on ground. Drizzle tonight.

1-3 Ground slushy with mud. Glee Club practice today.

1-4 Froze last night. Got a darn good book.

1-5 Ground froze. Tried out for play tonight.

1-6 Ground still hard. Not too cold.

1-7 Cold last night, froze. Snowing today.

Windy today.

1-8 Snowed all day. Didn't get in play.

1-9 Temp. about zero degrees. Cold night. Stopped snowing.

1-10 Snow about 3 to 4 inches deep. Feet darn cold. Don't feel too sharp tonight. Have a cold, ears ringing.

1-11 Snow melting. Cold in head. Cake tonight. O.W.I meeting (OR, WA, ID).

1-12 Snow all melted. Slippery as heck. Feet have chill blanes (frost bite). Head cold remains.

1-13 Ice all over ground. Took a spill coming out of latrine. Air raid tonight. Overhead alert. Cold remains. Saw "Andy Hardy's Double Life" with Ann Rutherford and Ester Williams. Good film. Second Kriegsland showing.

1-14 Nice weather. Still have cold in head. On dishes. Air raid. B.L. Shafer's birthday-21-coke and chocolate.

1-15 J.W. Murphy's birthday. Cake was delicious.

1-16 Mom's birthday. Hope it was a happy one. Air raid. Snowy weather.

1-17 Snowed last night, continued today for a while. Cold remains. Started snowing tonight again.

1-18 Snowed until about noon. Windy and cold. Snow nearly all gone. Rain tonight. Still have cold.

1-19 Snow and rain today until noon. Drizzle. Glee Club practice.

1-20 Snowed a while today. Ground hard. 3 more days to my 2nd anniversary. Son now 3 mon. old.

1-21 Sunday. Didn't go to church. California Club meeting. Played pinochle tonight. Air raid this morning. Icy ground.

1-22 Dreamed I got mail dated 12-24-44 last night. Clear day. Icy ground. Glee Club practice. Snow still on ground. Cake tonight—very good.

1-23 Second anniversary. I have now been married 24 months; or 104 weeks; or 731 days; or 17,544 hours; or 1,052,642 minutes; or 63,158,400 seconds. Started snowing last night, off and on today. Snow 5 to 6 inches deep. Tried to survey it.

1-25 Been down 6 months. Snow still fast.

1-26 Glee Club practice. Snowed tonight. On dishes today. Boy was it cold.

1-27 Snowed until nearly 5. Don sang last night, nice sweet music. Slept pretty warm last night. Had cake for supper. Schiz and I baked a cake also.

1-28 Slept warm again. Snowing still from late last night. Nice snow storm tonight, 4 to 6 inches. Worked my hardest since Kriege put snow all around barracks.

1-29 Slept nice last night, warm. Glee Club practice was a fluke. Steinberg was over today.

1-30 Slept well again. Saw play "The Man Who Came To Dinner". Very good. Snow all melting.

1-31 Snow still melting. Water everywhere. Roll call inside morning and evening. COME ON JOE!

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*****
*                                     *
*          REUNION '89                *
*                                     *
*          SAINT LOUIS, MO            *
*          OCTOBER 11-15, 1989        *
*                                     *
*          GO FOR IT!                 *
*                                     *
*****

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At the '87 Reunion your Editor passed around copies of an interesting word puzzle for all those who like to accept a challenge. I promised to put the solution in the LIBERAIDER. Here is a copy of the puzzle and its solution.

### THE PUZZLE

#### A 45-year reunion

With their wives, half the crew of *The Beast*—one of the B-24s that flew the first American bombing raid on Hitler's Europe—attended a reunion on the 45th anniversary of that historic 1942 run against Romanian oil fields. Which man was *The Beast's* pilot? Which is from Corpus Christi, Texas?

1. Alex is a working newspaper editor.
2. Bart retired in East Providence, Rhode Island.
3. Clint, who's retired, was *The Beast's* tail gunner.
4. Dave has one grandchild; the other four men have 14 grandchildren among them.
5. Ed and his wife, Betty, are both retired.
6. The dentist has one more grandchild than the attorney.
7. Carol and her husband work together in Durham, North Carolina.
8. Ellen's retired husband and the still-working man from Boise, Idaho, discovered one has one more grandchild than the other.
9. Anne's husband still works as a cabinetmaker.
10. *The Beast's* radioman has three grandchildren.
11. Either the bookkeeper has one more grandchild than Dave or vice versa.
12. Donna's husband, who recently retired, was *The Beast's* engineer, the retired dentist was her bombardier.
13. The retiree from Anchorage, Alaska, has either one more or one fewer grandchildren than Anne's still-working husband.

### THE SOLUTION

Name	Wife	Occupation	Retired	City	Grandchildren	Crew Position
Alex	Carol	Editor	No	Durham	3	Radioman
Bart	Donna	Attorney	Yes	East Providence	4	Engineer
Clint	Ellen	Bookkeeper	Yes	Anchorage	2	Tail Gunner
Dave	Anne	Cabinetmaker	No	Boise	1	Pilot
Ed	Betty	Dentist	Yes	Corpus Christi	5	Bombardier

(Thanks to the FUN FARE section of the AARP magazine MODERN MATURITY)

\* \* \* \* \*

## MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS FOR REUNION '89

Holiday Inn Westport  
October 11-15, 1989

Remember Tarrytown, N.Y., Reunion '87? What a ball!  
This could be even better!

You could get kissed under the Arch!  
(Instead of on Flirtation Walk)

**Make your reservations early!**

Committee: Harry Oglesby (767), Chairman, Len Cole (461), Otto Muller (767)

\* \* \* \* \*

HEADQUARTERS  
461ST BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ARMY AIR FORCE  
APO 520  
c/o PM, New York, NY

6 June 1945.

201.22

SUBJECT: Commendation.

TO: Commanding Officers, 764th, 765th, 766th and 767th  
Bombardment Squadrons, APO 520 c/o PM, New York, N.Y.

1. It is with profound pleasure and a keen sense of deep personal pride, that I take occasion to transmit to all members of this command, the results of the recent Technical and Administrative Inspections to which we have been subjected.
  - a. Both 15th Air Force and 49th Bomb Wing Headquarters have informed me that our aircraft were in the finest overall condition of any Bomb Group which has cleared through the 38th Air Depot Group in Cioia to date.
  - b. Our Personnel Records and Administrative Practices have been found to be the most completely up-to-date and properly maintained of all 15th Air Force Units thus far inspected, with the result that we have been accorded the highest administrative rating in the entire Air Force.
2. The net result of these inspections is therefore readily apparent, namely:

“The 461st Bomb Group now holds the Number I rating in the 15th Air Force Hit Parade—both Technically and Administratively.”
3. I can all too readily appreciate that this much desired and oft hoped for result was not attained by mere chance. It could only have been achieved by virtue of the complete individual and collective effort of every Officer and Enlisted Man sincerely devoted to a common end. That so happy an end should have been realized, is therefore a circumstance most fortunate and deserving indeed. It is a commendable commentary upon our efforts of today and a happy augury for our future together. I wish therefore to extend my grateful acknowledgement and appreciation for these many tasks so well and thoroughly done.

/s/C.C. ROGERS,  
/t/C.C. ROGERS,  
Commanding

A True Copy:  
/s/RICHARD E. SHANNON,  
1st Lt. Air Corps.

Editor's Note: We knew it all along! It took the Air Force a few years to recognize the fact.



Editor's Note: Do you remember 22 July 1944, Ploesti, Rumania?

Mother Nature and the passage of time have a way of erasing bad memories of that very unpleasant day. However, my very sparse notes of that mission say "Colonel G in #62 1/2—#1 gas line in bomb bay cut—fighters—a spark would have done us in—Purple Hearts". I saw the Colonel's plane go down on the bomb run just before we got hit by flak but I have no recall as to what happened to him and the crew of #62 1/2. We made it back all alone. Can anyone fill in the details of the fate of Colonel G on that day?

## TRIBUTE TO COL. GLANTZBERG

It would be a gross misrepresentation of fact not to give due acknowledgement to the First Combat Commanding Officer of the 461st Bomb Group, Col. Frederic E. Glantzberg, known as "The Big G."

Col. Glantzberg was not the original Group Commander. Our original Group Commander was Lt. Col. Willis G. Carter. Col. Glantzberg replaced Lt. Col. Carter at Wendover Air Base, Utah, when Lt. Col. Carter became ill.

Col. Glantzberg was called "The Big G" by those who worked closely with him. This name was richly deserved for many reasons. Col. Glantzberg was a large, husky man with a commanding, intimidating appearance. The informal memos sent to his staff always ended with a large letter "G" about 3/4" high. Who can forget being summoned into his officer at Hammer Field, Fresno, California, with his huge German Shepherd dog draped in the doorway. As one would step gingerly over the dog, we would continuously growl and not stop growling as long as you were in the room. The Big G was intimidating enough, but that dog made it downright uncomfortable.

Who can forget the Big G riding around the area at Torretta Field on a large, Bay horse, with the peasants bowing as he rode by uttering, "Buon Giono Barbarossa."

No one knows how he pulled off the "Midnight Requisition" of a P-40, but he did. I am sure the original combat crews will remember the Big G riding shorgun in his P-40 during our orientation formation missions.

He was tough when he had to be, and soft and benevolent in private conversation.

He was a fine man, one hell of a soldier, and he molded the 461st into the finest group in the 15th Air Force.

It is with the greatest respect that this brief acknowledgement is written for Col. Frederic E. Glantzberg, "The Big G."

Claude W. Hisey  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
October 30, 1986

### WERE YOU THERE?

On November 14, 1947, the First Anniversary Ball of the Fifteenth Air Force Society was held at the Warick Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

One year before, a group of men met and determined to do something about keeping memories green. This organization did not survive but it did indicate that former men of the 15th Air Force were interested in a reunion.

One of the members was recognized by the society as having put forth great effort in getting the Anniversary Ball going. This member was no other than Joseph Boblansky of the 764th Bomb Squadron, 461st Bomb Group.

On leave from the 12th Air Force, March Air Force Base, CA, was 1st Lt. Frank O'Bannon, Jr., with his wife Millie, who heard about a PARTY. They came down from Germantown and spent the evening looking for former 461st Bomb Group members. No luck! Wonder how many times Joe and Frank passed each other that night.

Forty years later Joe and Frank did meet in Philadelphia prior to the 1987 Reunion in Tarrytown, N.Y. and even got around to talking about the reunion that almost took place forty years before.

\* \* \* \* \*

### LITTLE KNOW FACT

Out of the archives comes the note that the first Purple Heart awarded to a 461st Bomb Group member was given for action on 21 April 1944, 19 days after the 461st began operations in Italy. The recipient was Sgt. William G. Rollins. Your Editor would question posthumous awards to the two crews lost on the first mission (see Page 1). Any comments?

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#### **461st BOMB Group (H) 1943-1945, Inc.**

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