

## Final Fly-By

### MYRON G. PIGGOTT #678

759th Bomb Sqd.  
3/8/95  
17422 Mira Loma Cir.,  
Huntington Beach, CA 92647

### ALBERT A. ARTERS #427

756th Bomb Sqd.  
6/22/96  
23 Santin Circle,  
Bedford, OH 44146

### JOHN C. CARLSON #445

756th Bomb Sqd.  
4/7/97  
2812 - 32nd. St., S.  
Moorhead, MN 56560

### HARRY E. SOPP #921

758th Bomb Sqd.  
4/30/97  
160 Covert Ave.,  
Floral Park, NY 11001

### JOHN M. FOLCIK #283

757th Bomb Sqd.  
5/21/97  
372 Nevada St.,  
Lindenhurst, NY 11757-5223

### WILLIAM J. MILLER #273

756th Bomb Sqd.  
5/26/97  
P.O. Box-193,  
Marshall Creek, PA 18335

"THEIR MISSION; AND OUR HOMAGE  
TO REMEMBER THEIR SELFLESS PURPOSE;  
SHALL NEVER BE FORGOTTEN".

\* \* \* \* \*



JOINT STARS.  
THE MOST ADVANCED BATTLEFIELD  
MANAGEMENT AND MULTI-SENSOR  
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM EVER CREATED.

## " PERRY'S PAUPERS "

758th BS

This Combat Crew was known as "Perry's Paupers" finished OTU in mid-May of 1944. They were in a OTU class of 28-crews that took off for Italy from Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, FL on 24 May 1944. Their crew was the first of the OTU class to land in Italy on 31 May 44. When they arrived at a field in Southern Italy they were told that they had been assigned to the 459th BG/758th BS at Giulia Field. They were also told, like many other crews arriving in the MTO that they were to clear all personal gear out of the plane as it was staying there. They were to be picked up by a 758th BS plane named "CHERRY."

All of the 28 aircraft of the OTU class were outfitted with plywood cargo containers in the bomb bays before leaving the 'states.' They were loaded with a different assortment of supplies with the "Paupers" plane having sports equipment. When the time came to load their gear aboard "Cherry", somehow all the sporting equipment went too and became property of the 758th BS.

The first flight of Lt. Perry was on 3 June 44 which was a familiarization flight to Split, Yugoslavia. He didn't know it until he got back from his first combat flight that two others of his crew also flew on 3 June 44, on different aircraft. They were Lt. Frommer, Navigator and TSGT. Tolk, Flight Engineer who were last minute replacements for people that got sick. All three were in different aircraft.

On June 4th the crew flew their first combat flight together on Mission #53 to Genoa, Italy, Marshalling Yards. By 15 July 44 "Perry's Paupers" crew had completed over half of their 50-missions. This period also provided some interesting flights. Twice they returned to Giulia Field with two engines out on the same side, and four times with one engine out. Four members of the crew were hit by flak but none were hurt bad. Two were hit in the flak helmet, one in his flight boot and another was hit in his flak vest. From this point on the balance of the fifty missions was all 'down-hill.'

Of the 50-missions, the roughest would have to be Mission #58 on 11 June 44 to bomb the railroad terminal at Giurgia, Rumania. They were knocked out of formation just before the I.P. They had to feather engines #1 & #2 and did a fast 180 and headed for home. After crossing the Danube River and still just over 9000 feet the Pilot gave instructions to the crew. "We will fly as far as we can toward the 7000 foot mountain pass, then jump and walk the rest of the way back." The Ball Gunner came back with, "Tom, you said if I flew with you I'd never have to walk back." Lt. Perry came back with, "Johnny, I'll find you a horse." Actually, they did not have to jump as they were at 7500 feet when they slipped through the 7000 foot mountain pass. They had about 2000 feet when they were 40-miles from "Coffee Tower."

## 758th BOMB SQUADRON COMBAT CREW

"PERRY'S PAUPERS"



Standing: (L. to R.) Sgt. Joe Kelsey- Tail Gunner, Sgt. Charles Spiese- Gunner, Lt. John C. Kluun #685\*-Co-Pilot, Lt. Jacob Frommer- Navigator and Lt. Thomas Perry- Pilot. Middle Row: (L. to R.) Sgt. Ervin Tolk #645\*- Fl.Eng./Gunner, Sgt. Gordon Moffett- Radio Op./Gunner and Sgt. Charles A. Norman #653- Nose Turret Gunner.

Front Row: (L. to R.) Sgt. John P. Logan #1044- Ball Turret Gunner and Sgt. Kent E. Jones #050-\* Waist Gunner.

The last day this crew flew together as a complete crew was 23 Aug. 44 on Mission #96 to bomb a Railroad Bridge at Ferrara, Northern Italy. Lt. Perry, Pilot, finished his 50th Mission in 82-days on 24 Aug. 44- Mission #97 to bomb an Aircraft Factory at Kolin, Czechoslovakia. Sgt. Moffett, Radio Op./Gunner and Sgt. Chuck Norman #653- Nose Gunner also finished their missions in 82-days. As a crew they said they think they flew their tour of 50-missions in less time than any other crew. Can anybody out there 'top' this record?

\*- deceased

(More on page-15)

Courtesy- C. Norman #653

### 459th BOMB GROUP ASSN.

756th BS- 757th BS- 758th BS- 759th BS- Co. Hdq.,  
90 Kimbark Road, Rochester, NY 14610-2738



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