

FLYING  
BUMER

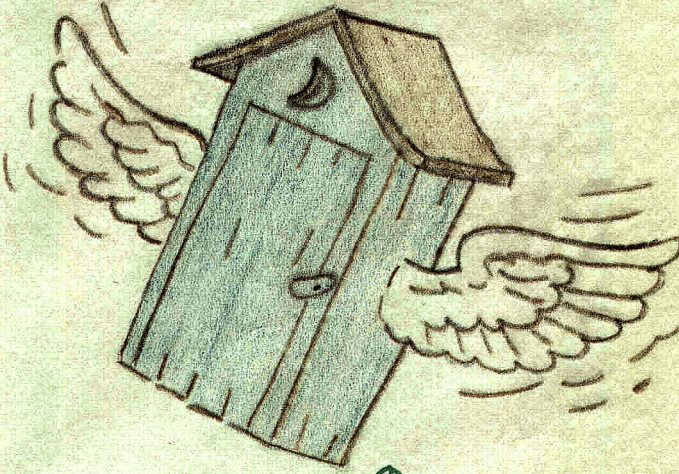




Red with yellow border



# FLYING BUMMA



↑  
Green with white wings  
Brown shingles and lines

This is a reproduction of name and  
illustration on Deane's B-24. (drawn by  
Joe Gwiazdan)





From: "Serge BLANDIN" <Serge.BLANDIN@Wanadoo.FR>  
To: "Tom Ensminger" <webmaster@carpetbaggerops.org>  
Subject: Fw: Buzz Tail II  
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2004 11:02 AM

----- Original Message -----

From: Tombrittan@aol.com  
To: skochaniewicz@yahoo.com  
Sent: Wednesday, October 06, 2004 12:20 AM  
Subject: Re: Buzz Tail II

Sean,

I have traced your grandfather in 492nd BG, 858th BS, in the Station AAF 179 (Harrington, England) Operations Log during August and September 1944. He flew B-24DSA-20 CF 42-63975, radio call letter G, named BR'ER RABBIT on nine operations (a further five when he was scheduled to fly this plane were scrubbed or aborted), B-24DSA-95 CO 42-40776, radio call letter F, named WIDOW, on two operations and B-24HSA-30 CF 42-50428, radio call letter O, on the last operation (September 30).

He was transferred to 859th BS and appears on Special Orders dated 17 December 1944 to move on or about that date from Harrington to Brindisi Airfield, Italy. The aircraft in which he, his crew and several passengers were scheduled to fly was B-24HSA-1 FO 42-7612, radio call letter Y, named NONA RHEA in its previous assignment as a daylight bomber to 446th BG at Bungay/Flixton..

Regarding B-24HSA-30 CF 42-50447, originally named BUZZ TAIL II, whilst I did write the short history, I did not donate the photo. Further research leads me to think now that the aircraft, as pictured in its natural metal finish, might have been originally assigned to 487th BG, based at Lavenham. That Group "traded-in" its B-24s for B-17s towards the end of July 1944. The plane was then modified at a Base Air Depot to Carpetbagger configuration which included the application of gloss black paint that would have concealed the name BUZZ TAIL II and the artwork. It was given the new name FLYING RUMOR during the period when it was at Harrington.

The same Special Orders mentioned above show that 42-50447, radio call letter G, was scheduled to be flown to Italy by 1st Lt. Joseph M. Gwiazdon and his crew with passengers.

I regret that I have no documents that might show your grandfather's subsequent operational record.

Regards,

Tom.

Dans un e-mail daté du 05/10/2004 19:30:56 Romance Standard Time, skochaniewicz@yahoo.com a écrit :

Tom,

I saw that you donated the photo of Buzz Tail II and wrote a little history on it at the B-24 site. From a MACR I just received, it turns out that my grandfather flew that plane. Actually it lists him piloting "Flying Rumor". I don't know if he had the plane when it was Buzz Tail II. I was wondering if you had any more information on the plane or it's crew. My grandfather's name was 1st Lt. Thomas O. McCarthy. I haven't been able to get his records from NARA (fire) and I am trying to piece together some sort of history about him.

Thanks,  
Sean Kochaniewicz

From: "Serge BLANDIN" <Serge.BLANDIN@Wanadoo.FR>  
To: "Tom Ensminger" <webmaster@carpetbaggerops.org>  
Subject: Fw: Buzz Tail II  
Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2004 11:01 AM

----- Original Message -----

From: Serge BLANDIN  
To: Tom Brittan  
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2004 12:02 AM  
Subject: Buzz Tail II

Tom,

It's been a while since I heard from you. Hope all is well with you and the family.

I can add a few tidbits to the story about Buzz Tail II ( Sean Kochaniewicz's email ).

In the night of 16-17 April 1945, B-24H 42-50447 then named " Flying Rumor ", belonging to the 859th Sq. ( 492nd BG ) and assigned to the 2641st Special Group of the 15th AF at this date, was shot down by a Ju 88 night fighter near the town of Tisnov ( Czech Republic ), W of Brno. The aircraft caught fire but all crew members were able to bail out safely and became part of the local resistance movements. The target was " Ely 4 ". The pilot was 1st/Lt. Thomas O. McCarthy !

An interesting article by Juraj Rajninec can be found in the Spring 1996 issue of " Briefing ", with pictures showing the wreckage and the crew.

Hope the above is of interest to you and Sean,

Best regards,

Serge



**From Deane Heiny's scrapbook**

**Credit to Mary Heiny if used.**