

From: <Tombrittan@aol.com>  
To: <defactohistorian@comcast.net>; <cfinstrom@cox.net>; <captmarkmaui@yahoo.com>  
Subject: Re: Robert J. Withrow  
Date: Sunday, February 12, 2006 12:16 PM

Tom and Mark,

42-63783 was originally an anti-submarine B-24DAS assigned to 479th ASG at St. Eval, Cornwall, England. When this Group ceased operations in Oct 43, the aircraft was assigned to 8 AFSC. It was converted to C-87 configuration and re-classified a CB-24.

As I have no further trace of the aircraft on my database, your information is particularly interesting. I agree with Tom E. that it was probably on a Sonnie operation but I thought that the planes on those operations were known only by the civilian N numbers allocated to them.

All the best,

Tom B.

Dans un e-mail daté du 12/02/2006 19:48:02 Romance Standard Time, defactohistorian@comcast.net a écrit :

Mark,

Fairly certain this would have been a Sonnie or other type of passenger flight, somewhere between Scotland and Sweden. I have some microfilm from this period, but have not scanned it yet, and a lot of it is worthless. I will keep an eye out for a report on this incident, most unusual!!!

Another message follows..  
TE, ret.

.....

I am particularly interested in hearing from anyone who was on board, or has knowledge of, a particular flight that took place on March 4th, 1945. Bob was the pilot, with 13 passengers on board. His plane (CB-24, Ser. No. 42-63783) was attacked by a German fighter. The following is from Bob's report:

"At the time we crossed the Coast I noticed a lot of anti-aircraft to our left and approximately two miles away. Came on into the field and could not make a radio contact. The weather was bad and I made one pass at the field and then went around. On the second attempt on the final approach, with wheels and flaps down, speed 130 MPH about 300 feet altitude, when all hell broke loose. I could see tracer fire going over and below the left wing. I turned away from this fire. My co-pilot at this time could see the attacking plane which came from below peeling off over the right wing. I had turned away from the fire and toward the attacking plane. It just seemed to make the attacking plane turn tighter and he peeled off into the ground where he blew up.

When the firing started we blacked out the plane and headed for Bovingdon where we landed. We returned here at approximately 0830 hours 4 March 1945. The approximate time the attack took place was about 0210 4 March 1945.  
(signed) Robert J. Withrow, Captain, Air Corps"

The report is headed "HEADQUARTERS, 1409th AAF BASE UNIT, EUROPEAN DIVISION AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND, APO 741 U.S. Army."

According to Ulla-Britt, Bob admitted that he actually "flew that other plane into the ground", and that it was his intention to do so. I don't know if Bob's aircraft had any weapons on board but, if not, this was probably the best (if not the only) defensive action that he could have taken to save his ship and the lives of his passengers.

Bob and his crew went back to the crash site. We have a photo of Bob standing behind the wrecked tail section, with the swastika plainly visible. A few other significant items were also collected from the wreckage, and were in Bob's foot-locker.

Thanks for sending the info on the awards criteria. We should re-visit this subject after you have all the facts about Bob's service. Thanks again for your help, Tom.

All The Best,

Mark Withrow

1980s and 1990s, the "new" internationalism (NII) was a call to action for the entire global community, including the United States, to address the needs of the world's poor. The NII was a response to the growing awareness of global poverty and the need for a more equitable and just world.

2000s, the NII was replaced by a more pragmatic approach to global development. The focus was on economic growth and poverty reduction, rather than on social justice and human rights. This approach was based on the idea that economic growth would create jobs and improve living standards, leading to a more equitable and just world.

2010s, the NII was replaced by a more holistic approach to global development. The focus was on sustainable development, which includes economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection. This approach was based on the idea that economic growth, social justice, and environmental protection are all essential for a more equitable and just world.

2020s, the NII is being replaced by a more comprehensive approach to global development. The focus is on addressing the root causes of global poverty and inequality, such as climate change, gender inequality, and social inequality. This approach is based on the idea that a more equitable and just world is possible only if we address these root causes.

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