

Tom,

Interesting, have not heard that name before, any pictures in other pubs?

Warm Regards,
TE, ret.

Tombrittan@aol.com wrote:
Gentlemen,

I have B-24H-15 (not 20) FO 44-50929 as THE NIGHT-KNIGHT in 406th NLS with radio call letter X.

The aircraft in the photo is not 44-50929 because if it was that one it would have a larger Navigator's "bay window" It's a B-24J-10, 15 or 20 or a B-24L-1, 5 or 10 - probably the aircraft that the crew "ferried" to England and from which they were separated on arrival.

Tom.

Dans un e-mail daté du 14/08/2006 21:08:30 Romance Standard Time, defactohistorian@comcast.net a écrit :
Beebs71@aol.com wrote:
Send the photo to Si,

Bill

Si, here 'tis, front and back. There will be a page for them on the website tonight or tomorrow. Bingham crew, 406th Night Leaflet Sq., picture sent to Bill by Robert Holmstrom, the orders have the correct names, passengers and even plane number (for Brittan). Will these scans be good enough for you or will you need the original (I have it here right now). Note that the crew pic appears to be a stateside pic, so some of the names on the orders don't match up with the crew pic. Butts for example belonged to Ed Canner's crew, but they crashed coming over from Cheddington and he finished with this crew. I will do some more research and see if I can have more details on their web page.

All The Best to all of the Addressees Herein,

TE, ret.

Subject: Re: Bingham crew
From: Tombrittan@aol.com
Date: Tue, 15 Aug 2006 03:25:48 EDT
To: defactohistorian@comcast.net
CC: alblue@cvn.net, dlstockton@msn.com, chris.gregg@389thbg.net, tjwil@ecn.purdue.edu, livo@digisurf.net.au, jimleddy@earthlink.net, b30.craig@gmail.com, marchese.nccs@worldnet.att.net, judepete@bigpond.net.au, b29mann@frontiernet.net

Tom,

Whoops! For B-24H-15 read B-24M-15 - wretched typo! I can't remember from whom I got the name THE NIGHT-KNIGHT but I see that Pat Carty lists a B-24H named THE NIGHT NIGHT and gives no name for 44-50929.

By copy of this I am asking for help from the Team.

Tom B.

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Written by Jennifer Nelson
Daughter of Robert Holmstrom
April 6, 2010

THEY FLEW IN THE NIGHT

Long ago was a man, who was just 17;
left home to win the war, or so it
seemed.

Dreaming to be a
pilot, Harrington Field he would be;
serving his country, so we could be
free.

It was labeled the War to end all
Wars; later to learn, there would be
many more.

The training was fierce, the goal was
unknown; how many months would he
be away from home?

The OSS chose him as part of the
crew; in the 406th, drop sites were
unknown until they flew.

Who is this Carpetbagger who served
in WW2? He is just a civilian who
served people like me and you.

Pilots were expendable, Morse code he
said no; He chose to be a gunner, in
hopes to exit safely through the Joe
Hole.

Average life as a gunner was 12 sec-
onds in combat; if you ditched down
to sea, you'd freeze in 5 minutes flat.

At 30 below zero, they flew in the
dark; with doors wide open, his mask
left a deep mark.

To help out people but not to fight;
this is why they could only fly in the
night.

They dropped bicycles, clothes and
sometimes a spy; these heroes never
looked back to wonder why.

The Night Knight so fully loaded they
scraped tops of trees; thank the Lord
they made it, to come home and love
you and me.

They depended on each other, they
watched each other's back; the danger
of their mission was the sky ever so
black.

If one of the crew put them in harm's
way; they pulled together or there
would be hell to pay.

Danger all around them, they never
could see; they look back now to real-
ize what they did, had to be.

25 successful missions on the B24; all
these men wanted to do more.

No internet, cell phones, only post-
cards or a letter; took months to
reach home, sooner would have been
better.

Mom never knew where her guy
would be; nor did she know the im-
pact or at what degree.

Two plus years later, the mission was
closed; his life went on, still no one
would know.

He was sworn to secrecy for at least
ten years; now 67 yrs later, still many
things we need to hear.

Grandmas attic is where they once
lived: were the treasures of their past.

His metals and certificates he could
finally prove; but that was not his
intention, he was just so moved.

Tears ran down his face, he realiz-
ed what he had; these things from
the past were important to my
Dad.

There were coins, maps, trinkets,
and images of bombs; but I cherish
the love notes he wrote to my Mom.
In the last few years she's just realiz-
ed; that the love of her life was
more than just wise.

I love to tell his story one we all
need to know; these are the rare
men if asked, would say, "When
can I go?"

I want you to know my Dad
wanted to do things right; and that
is why he was chosen to fly Secret
Missions in the Night!



Canister Drop



Our Banner in Savannah



Bingham Crew

Robert Kneeling on the left