









B24D 42-63980 at Harrington - Winter 1944  
"Playmate" and crew have just returned from  
a trip to the CBI. Crew members not named  
in this picture. Photo courtesy Rudy Rudolph  
and the 801st/492nd BG.

B24D 42-63980 "Playmate" 858th BS undated, probably late 1944



L-R:  
George Raffel - G  
Leonard Robock - RO  
Marlen French - B  
Jimmy Pastella - CP  
Blaine Davis - G  
Bill Alexander - E  
George Bledsoe - P

Photo courtesy George Bledsoe  
and the 801st/492nd BG

Piloted by Choper, Merrill, Moser, St. Clair  
and others in June of 1944.



June 8, 1989

Mr. Alwyn T. Lloyd  
17465 NE 11th St.  
Belevue, WA 98008

Dear Mr. Lloyd:

I am enclosing the photo of "Playmate" and am still looking for the one used on the dust jacket of my book. As soon as I locate it I will forward.

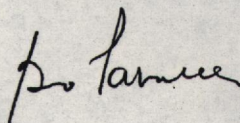
On November 29, 1944, Major Bestow R. Rudolph took off from Harrington in the "Playmate" accompanied by Colonels Gable and Chandler of the London OSS office and full crew. Playmate, S# 42-63980 was one of the oldest B-24s in Carpetbagger operations. Their mission was to fly to New Delhi, India, to study the possibility of Carpetbagger type operations in the CBI theater. General Donovan joined them there. Sites were inspected in North Burma, Calcutta and Dinjan.

It was determined that a Carpetbagger project was needed for the CBI theater but no part of the ETO Carpetbaggers would be used unless the entire group was available but rather that a new group be organized from units already there. The "Playmate" returned to Harrington on January 29, 1945, after flying 25,000 miles over 60 days.

On March 30, 1945, two Carpetbagger crews with two Carpetbagger B-24s were transferred to the 14th AF and left Harrington on PCS to Kunming, China to help establish Carpetbagger operations in the CBI theater.

Let me know when your book is available.

Best regards,





PLAYMATE

U.S. AIR FORCE  
1944







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