

4/27/95

Hi Russ -

I don't know if this picture of my crew has been sent in or not??

If so, I guess I missed seeing it!

Our original pilot Hoyt, was killed early on, Madden our original navigator was badly hurt in a crash landing. (don't think he made it?)

Louie Hoffnagel froze his hand on the "Black Thursday" raid, & was grounded & missed going down with us, 12/11/43 on the Emden raid.

(Nobodys heard from him since??)

Nesner replaced Ken Fox our original eng. who ^{was} badly wounded on the "Black Thursday" raid.

Sewald & Ken Smith are gone now but I think the rest of us are still limping along.

Sincerely Yours, Duncan Wm's.

Bailey's crew

FRONT Row Sgt. Hargus Tail G

Lt. R. Babel Co. P 1

Sgt. Tom Chandler Radio

BACK Row

Sgt. Dunford Waist G

Lt. Paul Bailey Pilot

Sgt Leroy Hollenberg
(Engineer)

Not pictured

Lt. Rodenberger N.

Lt. Robert Vickers B.

Sgt Boland - BALL T.

used

Plane 840

2/1/96

Hi Russell -

In the "Who Are They" thing -
in the January issue of the Echoes.

The U.S. photo is of the
enlisted men of John Noack's crew,
369th Sqd. (Shot down, 12/11/43)

Going from left to right.

Front row - Ken Smith - W.G.
Al Sewald - W.G. - Frank Wesner -
Eng.

Back row. Left to right.

Louie Hoffnagel - R - Duncan
Williams - B.T. - Thurman Smith
T.G.

I sent in a picture of the
complete crew a while back & it
was shown in the paper.

Some how Wesner & Sewald's
names were left out (even though
I had listed them on the original
photo??)

I'm glad this new one showed

up, because I've never heard the end of it!! 😊

Seward & Ken Smith are gone now. Hofnagel missed getting shot down with us, on the 12th/11/43 raid, because he was taken off flying status, after freezing his hand on the "Black Thursday" raid.

None of us have ever heard from him, or about him since we came home from the prison camps.

If you have any info. on him, please get in touch with us.

He probably was assigned to radio work or gunnery work, after being grounded.

Sincerely yours —

Duncan J. Williams

P.S. I've been having a "hellava" time, - getting some claims filed for some P.O.W. Presumptive conditions that I have. The V.A. claimed there was nothing in the records to show that I ever was a P.O.W.? After two years, letters from crew members, old official papers etc. they finally have it straight!!

3/10/92

Dear Russ -

I've just finished reading thru my "borrowed" copy of the "309th Squadron Combat Diary".

It sure brought back the "old days" & I enjoyed it very much.

Sure glad those days are over though I don't know how I was ever able to live through it all - & make it home again!!!

It's strange to me that my crew was not mentioned on more than half the raids we flew on??

We got over to Thurleigh on 7/15/43 with our pilot Robert Hoyt & co-pilot Robert Fallow & started flying raids soon after.

When Hoyt got killed we ended up with Noack for a

pilot + got shot th down on
12/11/43 which was my 18th.
raid. I only had 7 to go!!

Hell!! It doesn't really make
any difference but we were never
mentioned in the diary until
we had around 10 raids under
our belts. We were "old timers"!!

Thanks for doing such a
good job on your book + this
diary. It was great work!!

I've never done much to be
proud of in my life time but
I'm sure proud to have been
a "ball turret gunner" for the
369th!!!

Sincerely Yours —
Duncan J. Williams.