



(GAD-5-6-448)(5-2-44)(A/C 64477 - CRASH LANDING

From: <Tombrittan@aol.com>
To: <defactohistorian@comcast.net>
Subject: Re: 477
Date: Friday, January 27, 2006 08:54

Tom,

I meant to ask if Capt. Tarbell was Capt. Franklin S. Tarbell who flew 30 missions in 453rd BG from Feb 15 thru Jul 7, 1944.

Also, just noticed the Sep 17 entry. Yes JSA-50 CO 42-73477 is recorded elsewhere as having flown to 3 SAD, Watton, on 17 Sep 44 to have a broken generator bolt removed on # 4 engine. Must be our man!

Tom B.

Dans un e-mail daté du 27/01/2006 16:24:08 Romance Standard Time, defactohistorian@comcast.net a écrit :

Another teaser here...

From: <Tombrittan@aol.com>
To: <webmaster@carpetbaggerops.org>; <mackhall@adelphia.net>
Cc: <alblue@cvn.net>; <dlstockton@msn.com>; <patricia.everson@lineone.net>
Subject: Re: Photo donation
Date: Sunday, July 25, 2004 03:52 PM

Mack,

This "FEATHER MERCHANT" (B-24J-50 CO 42-73477) is a fascinating aircraft for several reasons.

It appears in official 448th BG records under several erroneous/spurious serial numbers:

42-43477 in Report of Aircraft not Attacking on the 21 Jan 44 mission to Raye-sur-Authie, France - William M Martin crew. (Over target but did not bomb because of 8/10 undercast. Bombs returned.)

42-52477 in Report of Aircraft not Attacking on the 29 Jan 44 mission to Frankfurt - Edward L Chapman crew. (Unable to stay in formation. Lack of airspeed and inability to climb even with power setting of 43 ins and 2450 RPM. Left formation 3 mins inside Belgium.) The "last three" are incorrectly shown as 577 on the Formation Plan after assembly.

42-64477 in the caption to the photo you have kindly supplied and which was taken on return from the 5 Feb 44 mission to Tours, France - Edward L Chapman crew. (The same photo is, in fact, reproduced on page 78 of James Hoseason's "The 1,000 Day Battle")

42-53477 in the Report of Aircraft not Attacking on the 3 Mar 44 mission to Heligoland - Joseph G Liebich crew. (Turned back 70 miles out from the English coast on course with # 1, # 3 and # 4 generators out. Bombs returned.)

The aircraft was one of the first two B-24J replacement ships received by 448th BG early in Jan 44, flying its first combat mission on 14 Jan 44. It was credited with only 17 sorties and aborted three times between then and 7 May 44, date of its last 448th BG mission.

I have few details of its later assignment to 801st BG (P), which became 492nd BG, but I can say that:

- 1) It was based at Leuchars in Scotland for at least part of its service and there is no trace of it in the Harrington Operations Log
- 2) On 17 Sep 44 it was flown to Watton, where 3 SAD removed a broken generator bolt on # 4 engine
- 3) It appears in 858th BS in Part I of the 6 Nov 44 Monthly Inventory Report of Aircraft
- 4) It was at BAD 2, Warton, at the time of the 6 Dec 44 inventory, where it still appears in 858th BS but in Part III
- 5) It does not appear in the 6 Jan 45 and subsequent inventories.
- 6) Its salvage by BAD 3, Langford Lodge, Northern Ireland, was recorded on 29 May 45 (that is not necessarily the date on which the salvage operation was performed).

All the best,

Tom.

Dans un e-mail daté du 25/07/2004 18:41:45 Romance Standard Time,
webmaster@carpetbaggerops.org a écrit :

> Mack,
>
> Many thanks for the photo, a great pic! Have copied others who may wish to
> review
> their records, as you state I have it listed as 73447.... Of course...
> mistakes
> can be made on photos too!

>
> Anyone hurt in this encounter?

>
> All The Best,
> TE, ret.

>
>
>
>
> >> ----- Original Message -----

>> From: Mack Hall
>> To: webmaster@carpetbaggerops.org
>> Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2004 10:31 AM
>> Subject: Photo donation

>>
>> This was the "Feather Merchant". Piloted by LT Ed Chapman, 7th from left.
>> My father was the tail gunner, SSG Kenneth L. Hall second from right.
>> Other sources claim the aircraft number as 73477. This official photo clearly
>> reads 64477. My father flew with this crew in the 448th BG, 713th BS,
>> Seething AAF, Station 146. Please feel at liberty to share and distribute this
>> photo in the public domain. (Damage caused by Me109's.)

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