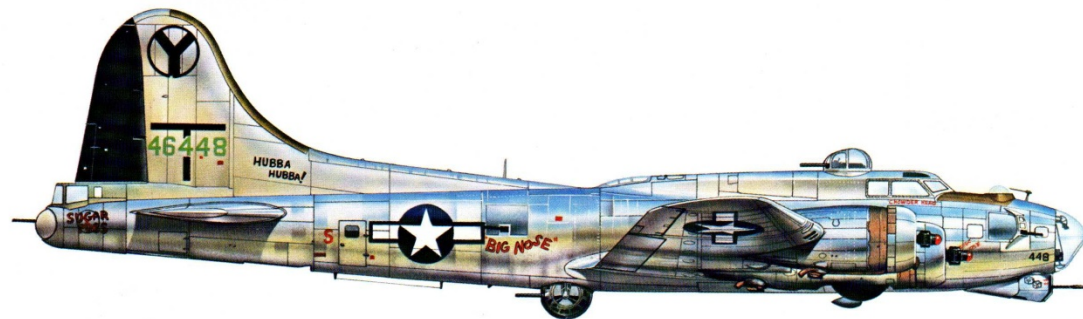
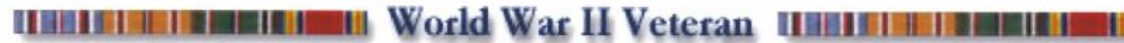


***Ed Wade in Italy with the 15th Air
Force During World War II
1944-1945***





World War II Honoree



Edwin C. Wade, Jr.

BRANCH OF SERVICE
U.S. Army Air Forces

HOMETOWN
Huntington, WV



ACTIVITY DURING WWII

SERVED AS RADIO OPERATOR GUNNER ON B-17 IN 15TH AIR FORCE, SECOND BOMB GROUP IN ITALY 1944-1945.



Basic training in Miami Beach
April, 1943



15th Air Force Insignias



20th Bomb Squadron



15th Air Force



49th Bomb Squadron



96th Bomb Squadron



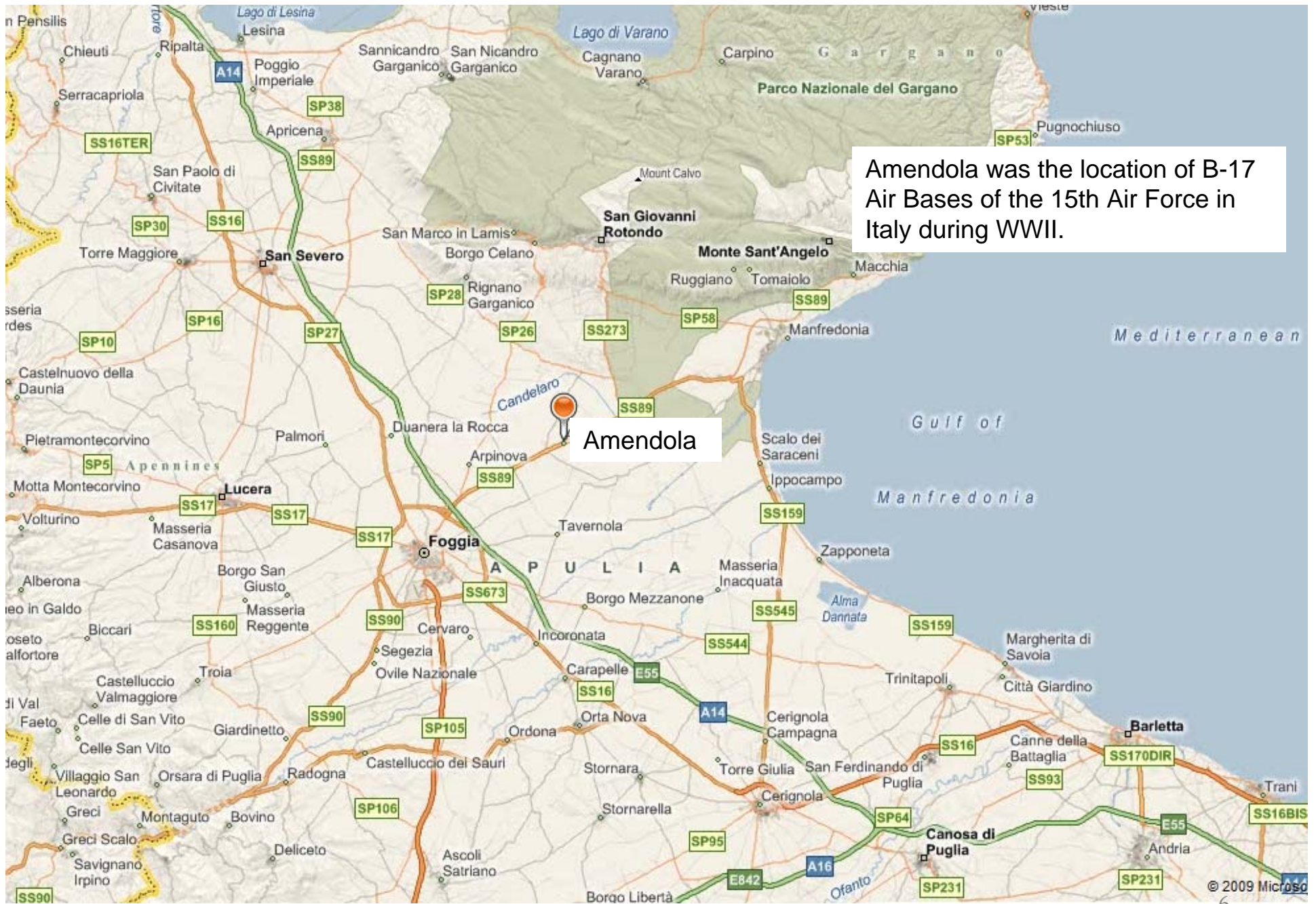
2nd Bomb Group



429th Bomb Squadron



My original crew flew to England in early fall of 1944 to be assigned to the 8th Air Force. Because of heavy casualties of the 15th Air Force over Ploiesti oil fields, our stay in England was cut short and we were transferred to Italy, near Foggia.



Amendola was the location of B-17 Air Bases of the 15th Air Force in Italy during WWII.

Amendola

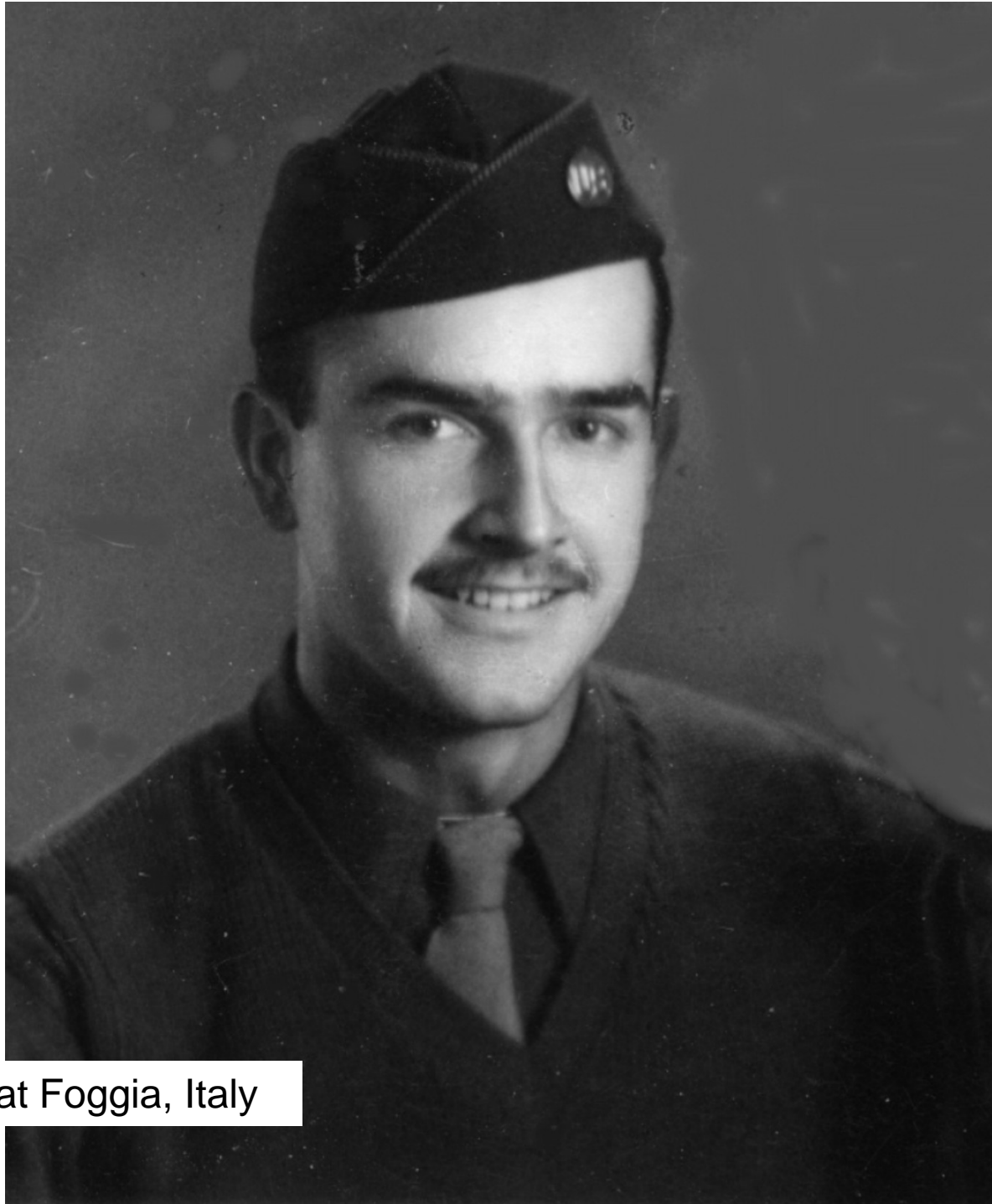
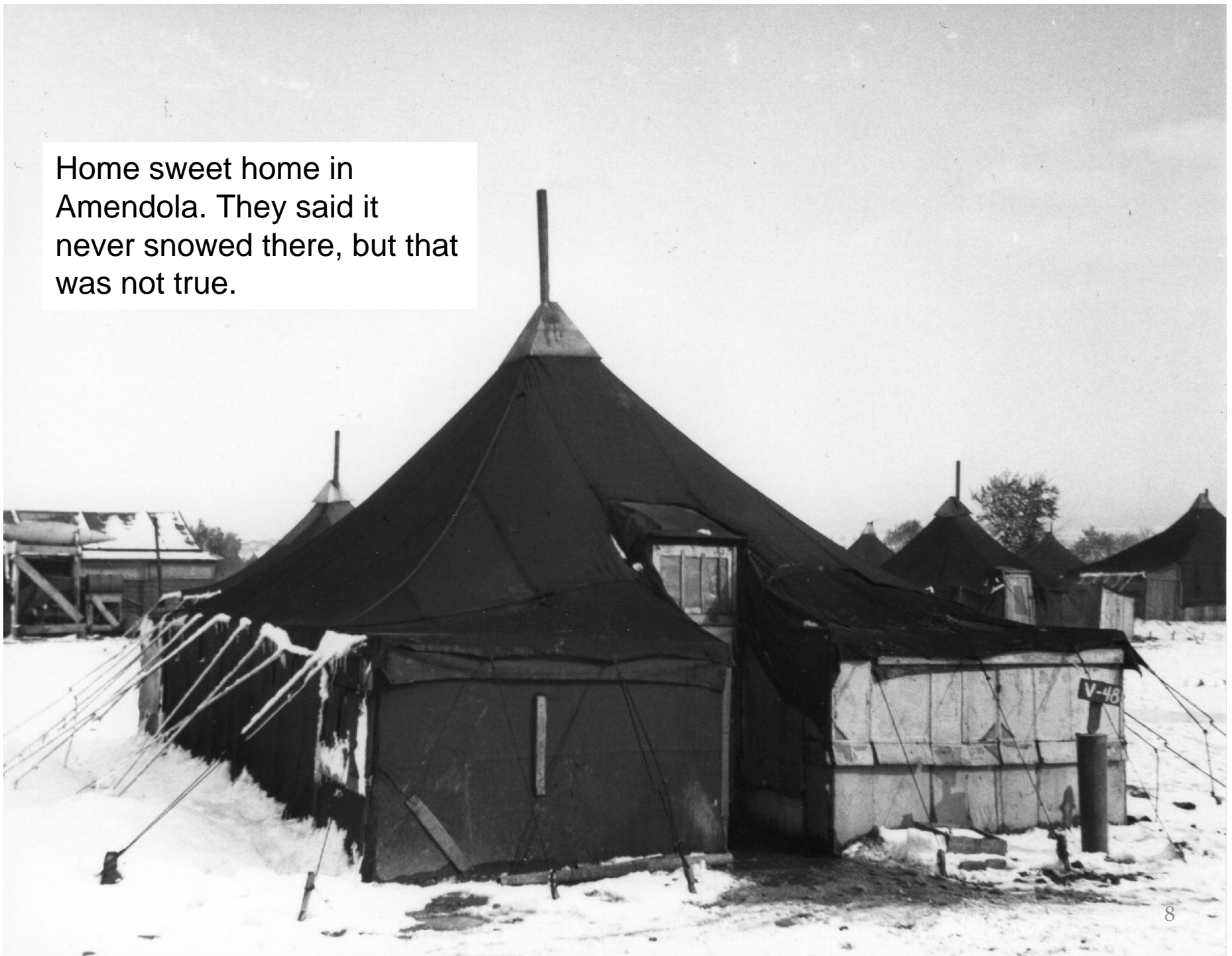


Photo taken at Foggia, Italy

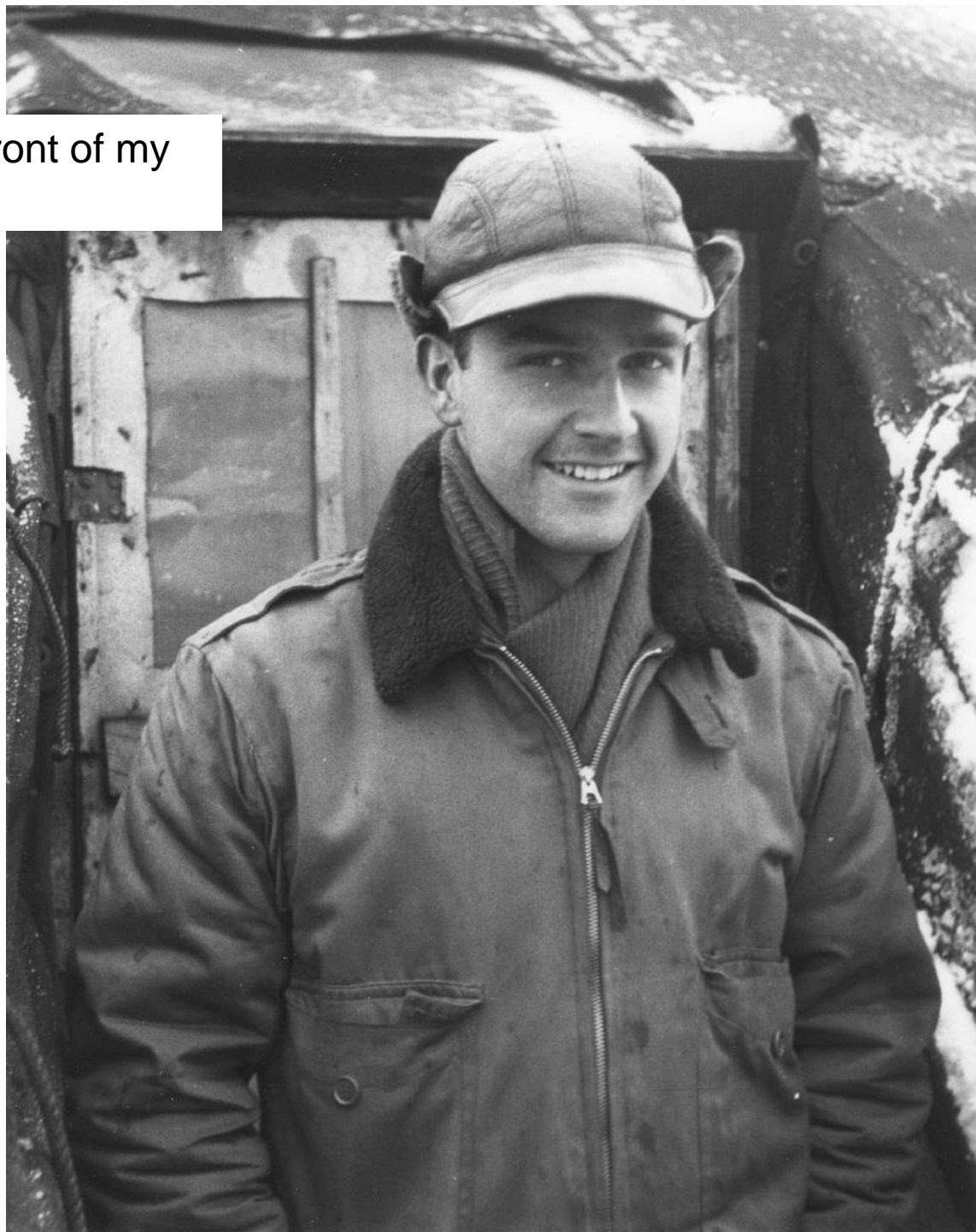
Home sweet home in Amendola. They said it never snowed there, but that was not true.



Ed (on the right) with Melvin Cook, ball turret gunner.



Standing in front of my tent.





Pistol practice



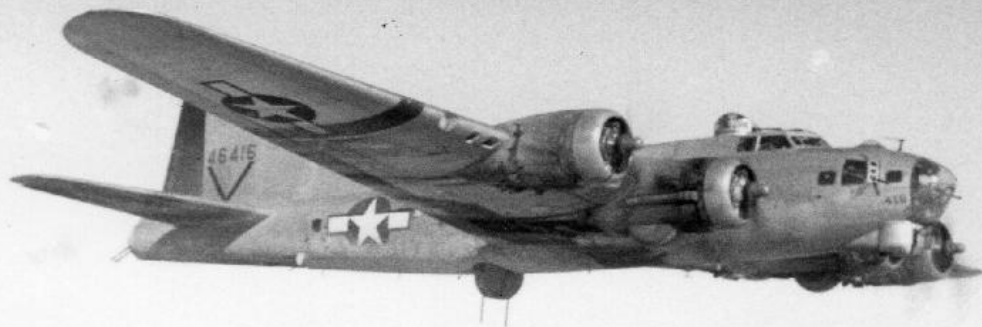
Taking a break in
the nose of our B-17

49th Squadron B-17

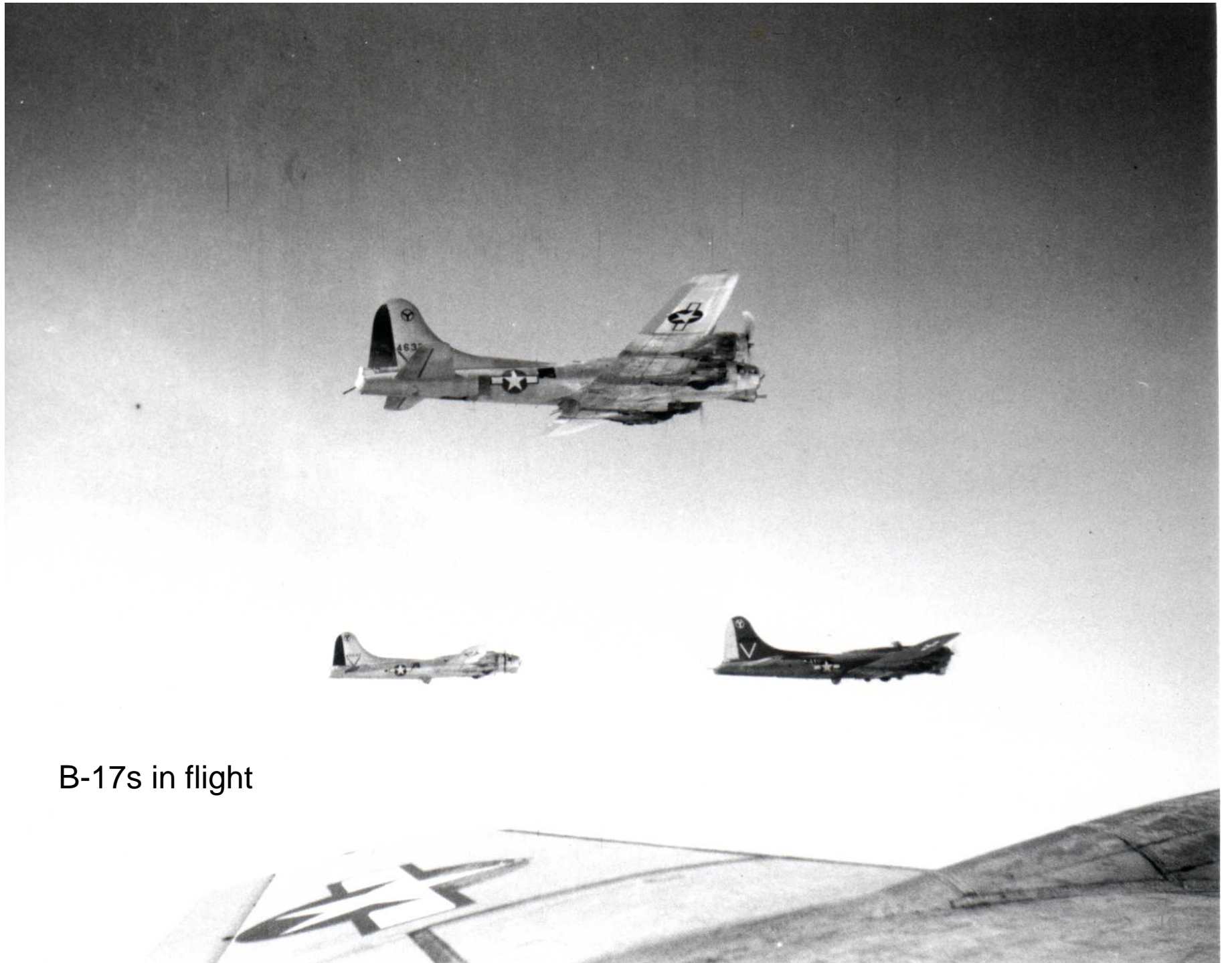




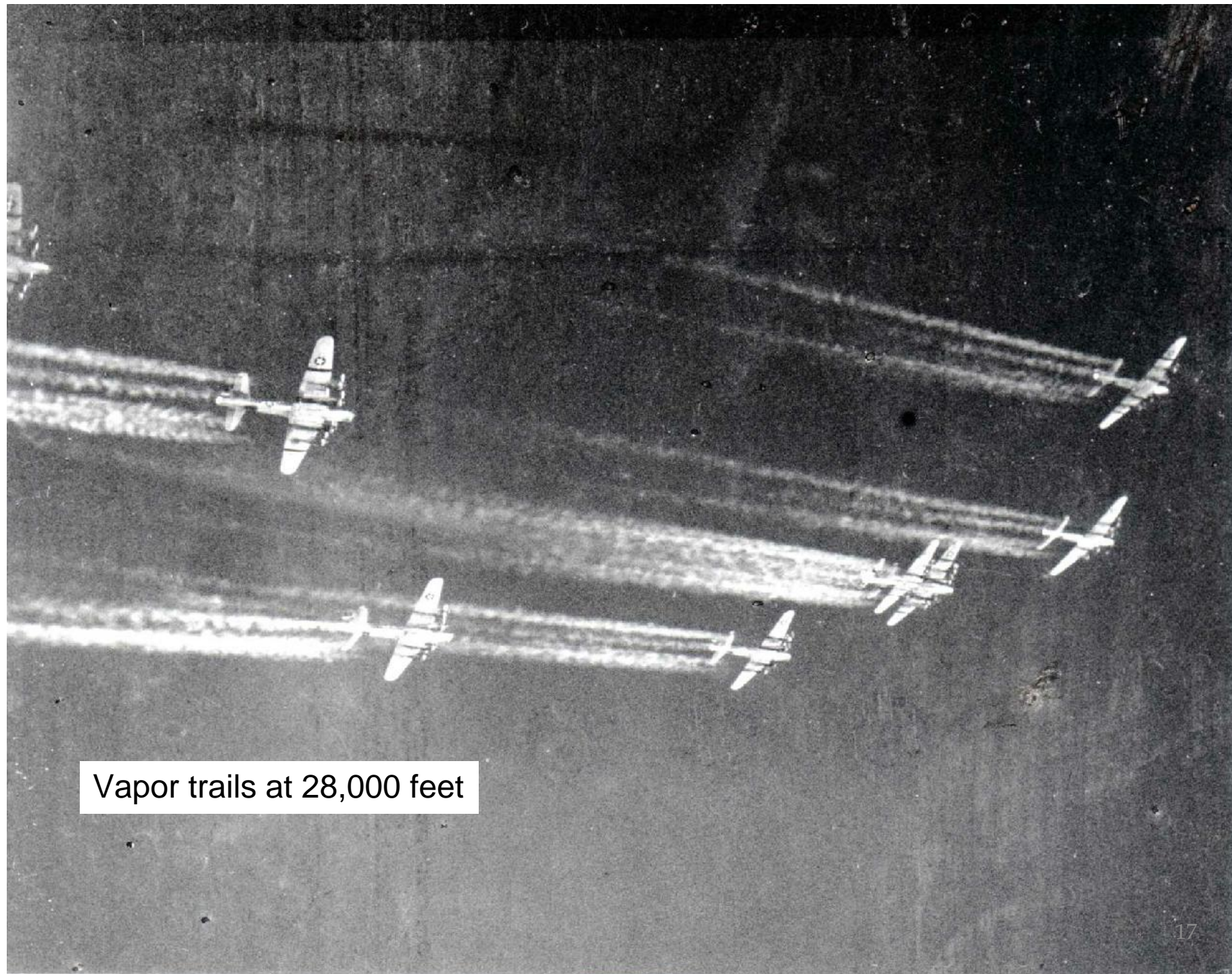
B-17 in flight



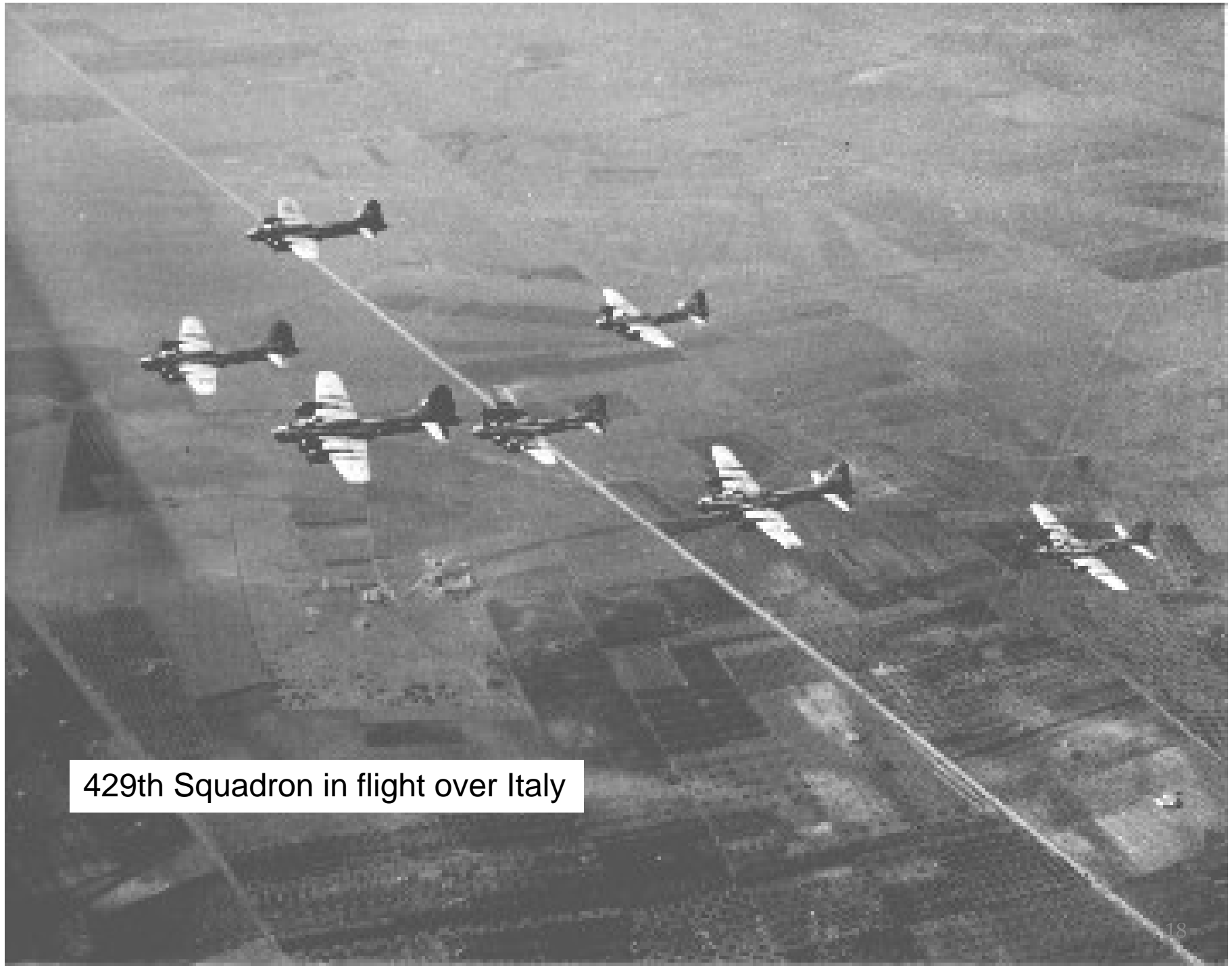
The shadows in the photo are light flak over Regensburg, Germany.



B-17s in flight

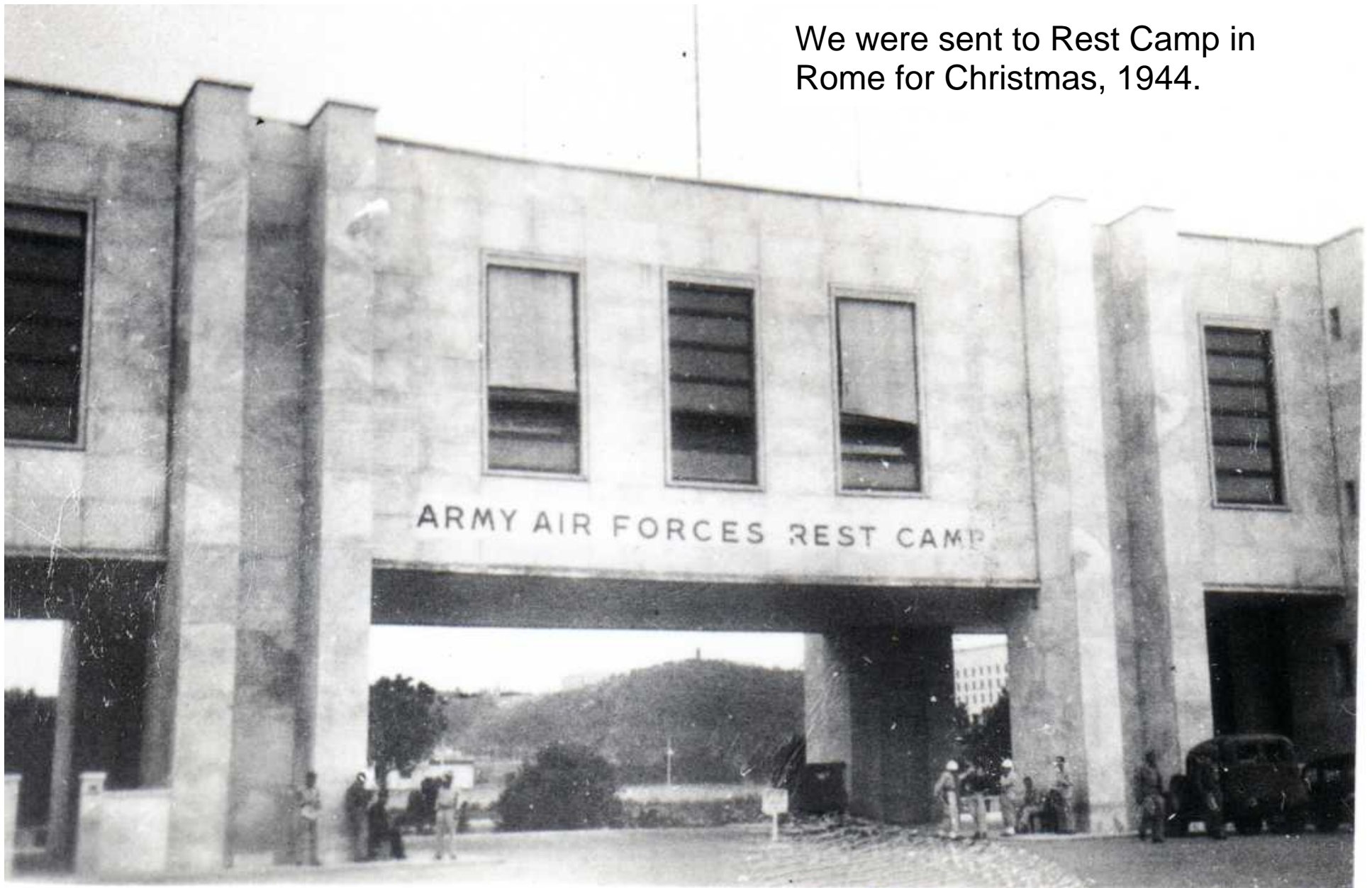


Vapor trails at 28,000 feet



429th Squadron in flight over Italy

We were sent to Rest Camp in Rome for Christmas, 1944.





Sight-seeing group in Rome

The Roman Forum



St. Peter's Basilica



The Coliseum



Inside the Coliseum





The Arch of Constantine



Victor Emmanuel Monument



The Church of St Paul



Mussolini spoke from here.

Herbert Taylor, Flight Engineer, overseeing the loading of 500 pound bombs for our mission to Floridsdorf Oil Refinery near Vienna, Austria on March 16, 1945.





Our pilot, Col. Richard Waugh, Commander of 2nd Bomb Group



1st Lt. Joseph Swift, Bombardier



1st Lt. Albert Pierard, Radar Operator



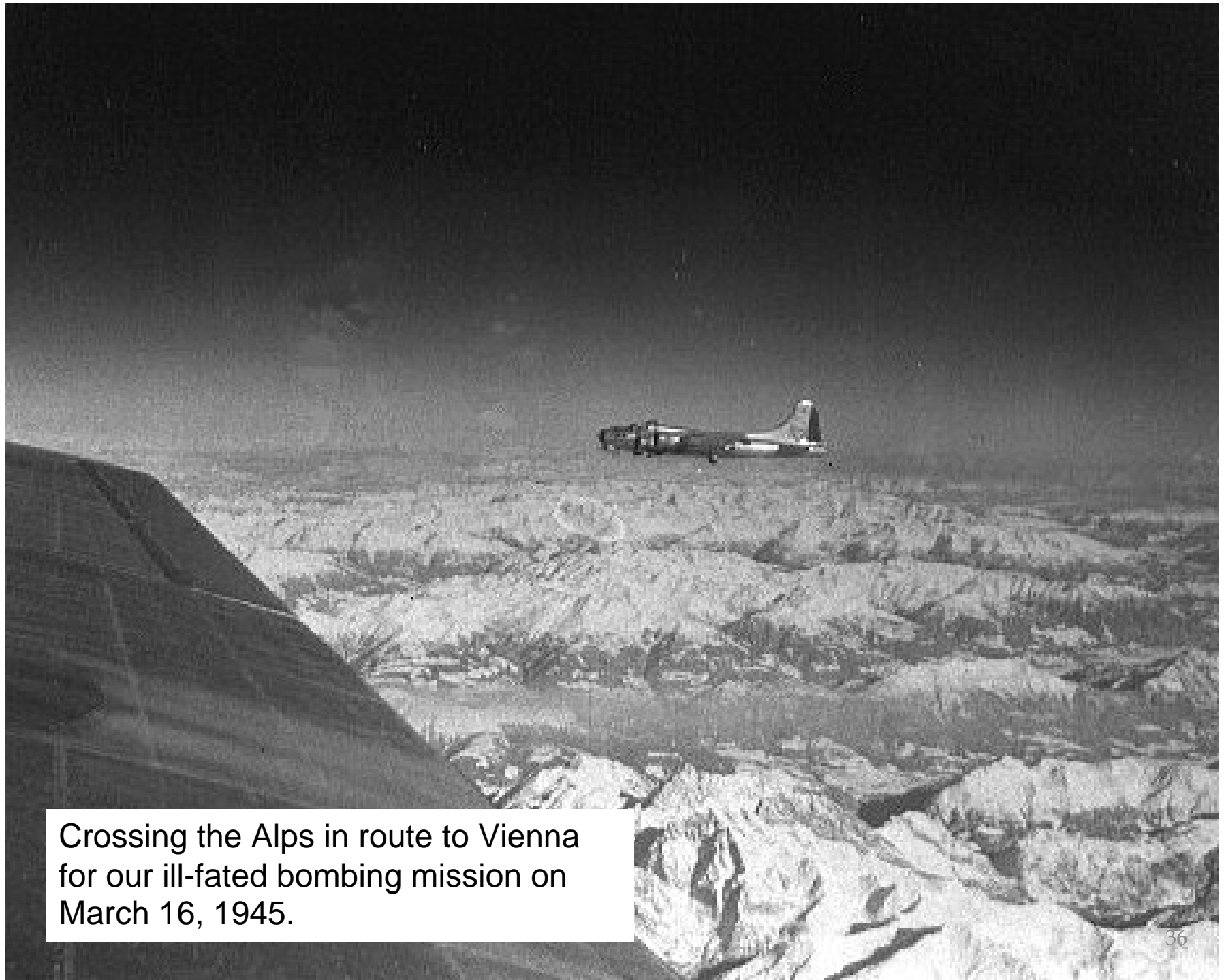
Tech. Sgt. Herbert Taylor, Flight Engineer



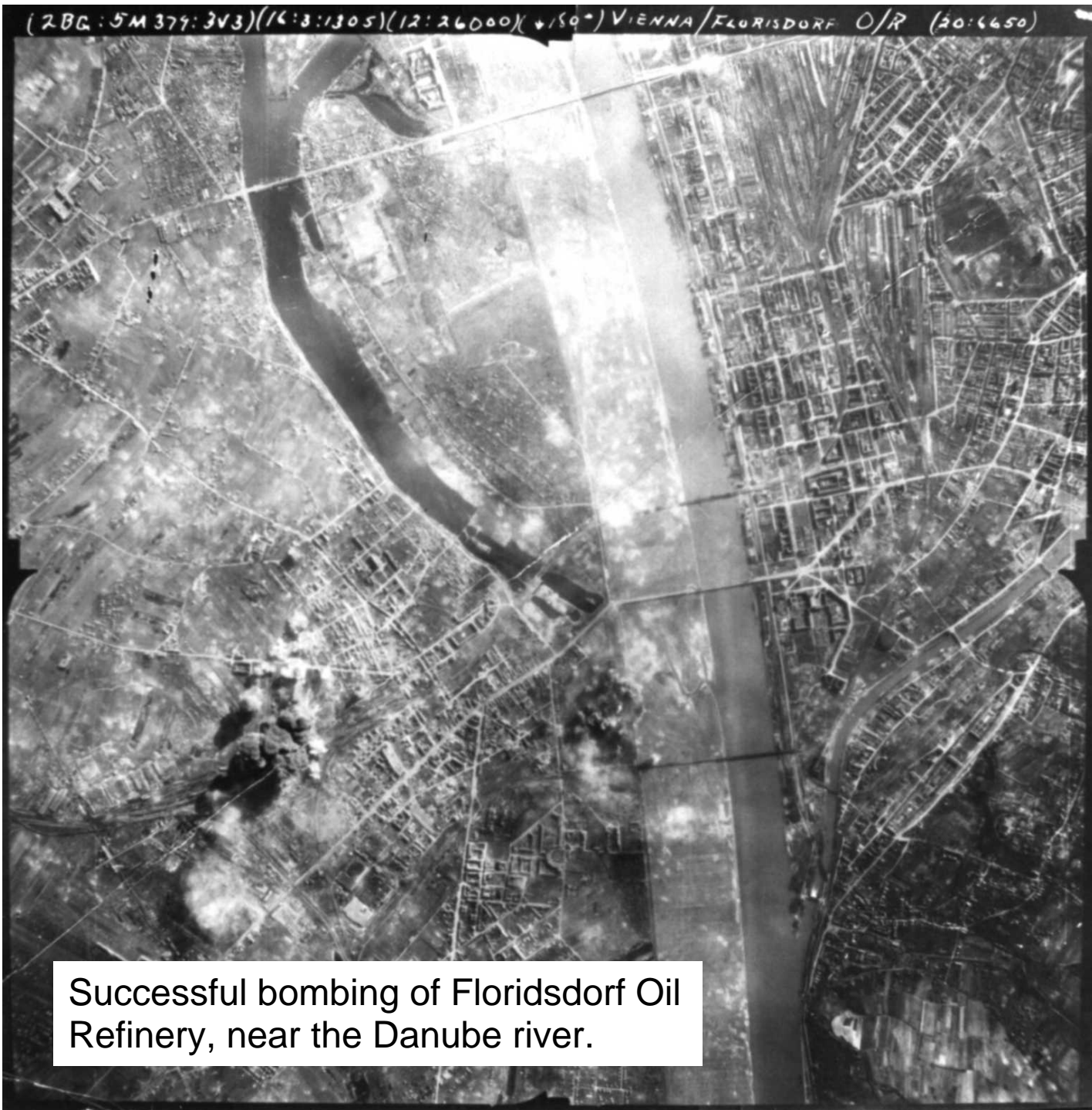
2nd Lt., Charles Freeman, Tail Gunner - Observer



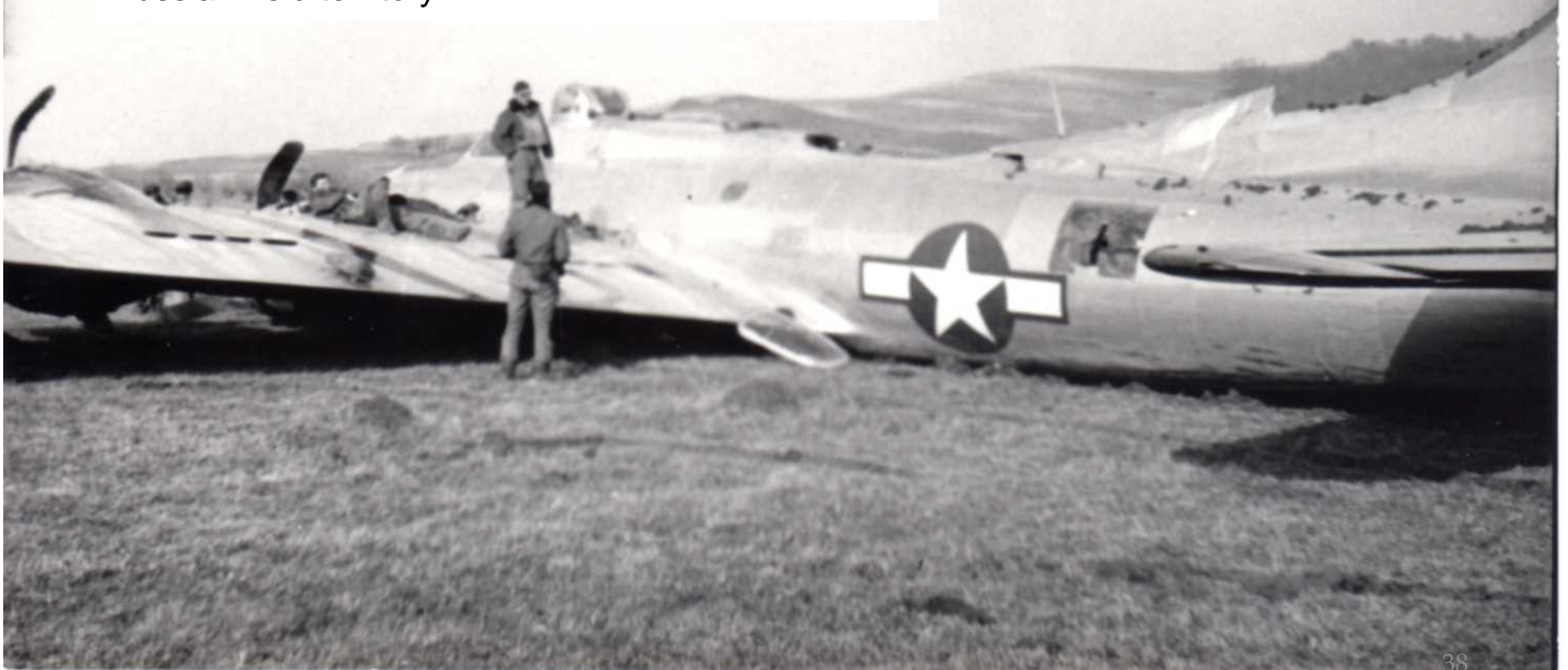
Tech. Sgt. Ed Wade, Radio Operator - Gunner



Crossing the Alps in route to Vienna for our ill-fated bombing mission on March 16, 1945.



During the bomb run, our plane was badly damaged, losing 2 engines. After the 3rd engine went out, we barely managed to get over Lake Balaton and crash land in a field in Hungary. I thought we were going to be buried alive as the dirt plowed up in the plane. Sgt. Anthony Calabrese is lying wounded on the wing. Col. Waugh is standing on the wing. At the time, we didn't know if we were in German or Russian held territory.



This is the Missing In Action write-up in my hometown newspaper.

E. C. Wade, Jr., Missing In Action



SGT. E. C. WADE, JR.

Tech. Sgt. Edwin Carter Wade, jr., son of Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Wade, College Row, has been missing in action over Hungary since March 15, his parents were notified in a War department message received yesterday morning.


Sergeant Wade is a radio operator on a B-17, based in Italy. He has been overseas since September 13, 1944, and will have been in the service two years on the 20th of this month.

He was graduated from Beaver High school and Bluefield college and after entering the service, received his training at Scott field, Ill., Buckingham field, at Fort Myers, Fla., and at Tampa, Fla. He is assigned to the 15th Air Force.

Just recently, he was awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

His father is president of Bluefield college.

This was my Identification Card with instructions in Russian. This came in handy to identify us as Americans to the Russian commandant who found us shortly after we crashed. We were lucky they didn't kill us.



U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE

IDENTIFICATION CARD

УПОСТОВЕРЕНИЕ ЛИЧНОСТИ
DOWOD OSOBISTY
LEGITIMACE
LEGITIMACIJA
SZEMÉLYAZONOSÁGI IGAZOLVÁNY
LEGITIMATION

Edwin C. Wade Jr.
SIGNATURE

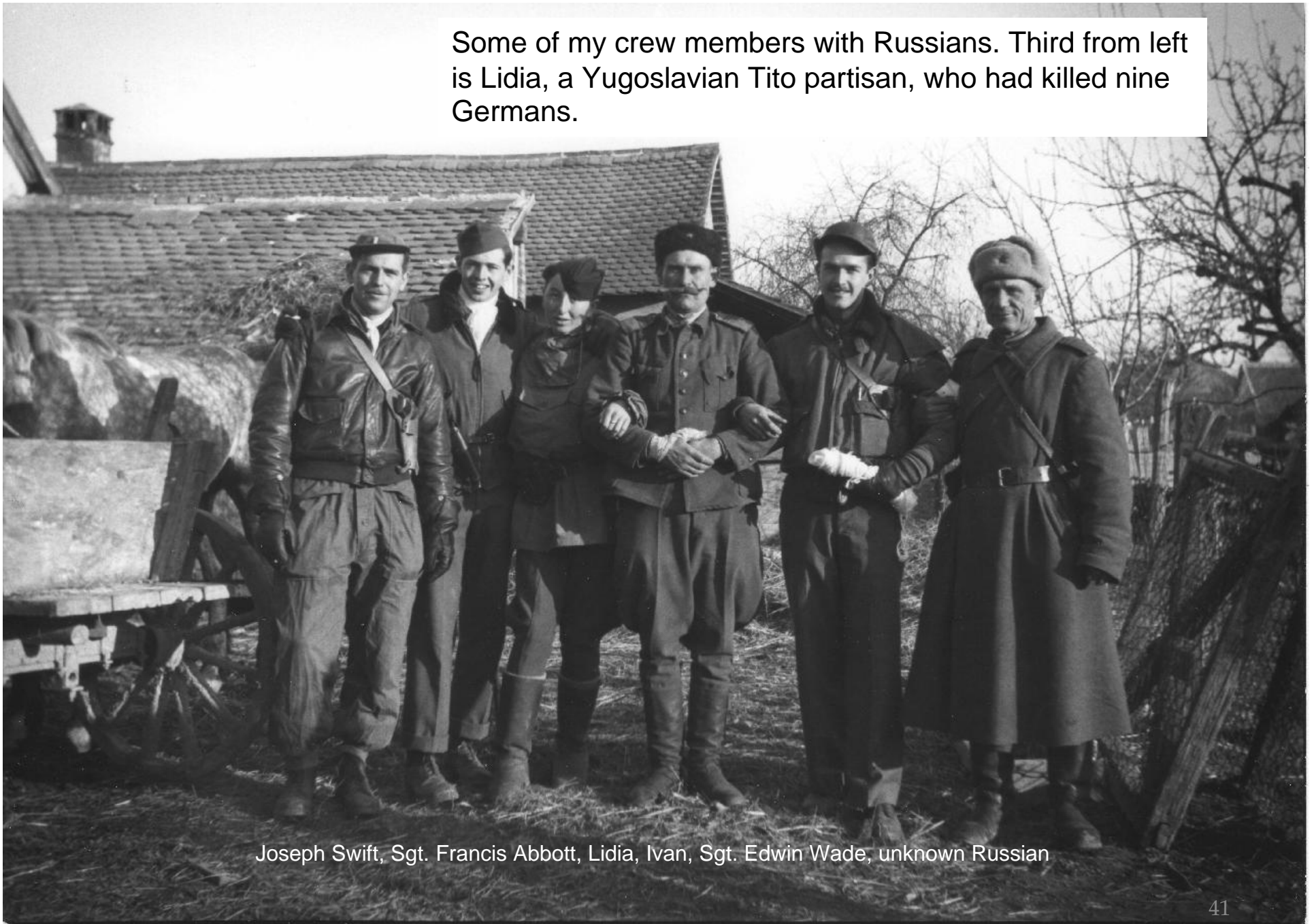
I AM AN AMERICAN AIRMAN.
PLEASE TAKE ME TO YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER AND NOTIFY NEAREST AMERICAN OR BRITISH MILITARY MISSION IN BELGRADE, BUCHAREST, POLTAVA OR OTHER NEARBY PLACE. ALSO, PLEASE ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION.

THANK YOU

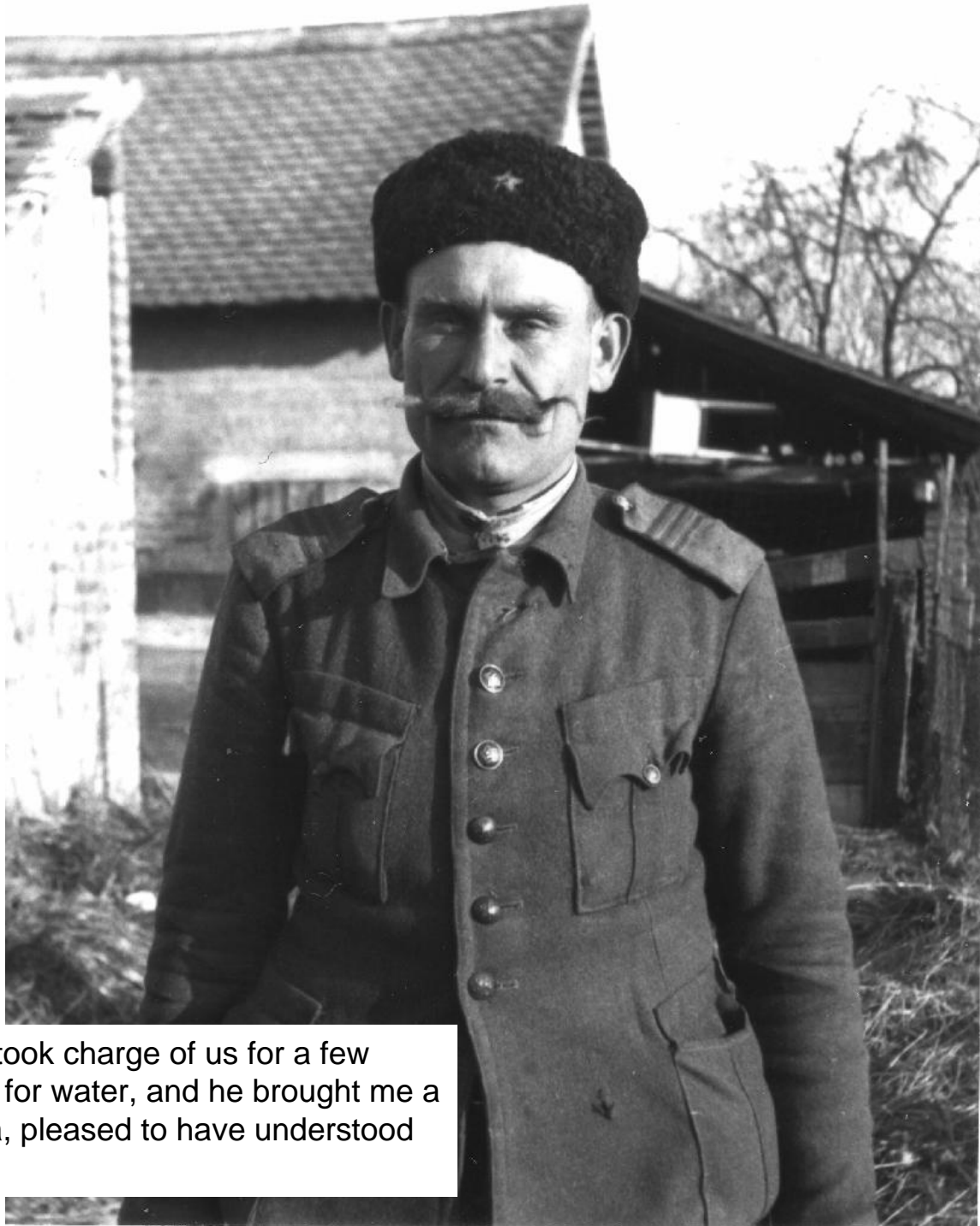
SHOW THIS TO RUSSIANS:

**Я АМЕРИКАНСКИЙ ЛЕТЧИК
ПОЖАЛУЙСТА ПРЕДСТАВТЕ МЕНЯ ВАШЕМУ КОМАНДИРУ
И УВЕДОМИТЕ БЛИЖАЙШУЮ АМЕРИКАНСКУЮ ИЛИ
БРИТАНСКУЮ ВОЕННУЮ МИССИЮ В БЕЛГРАДЕ,
БУХАРЕСТЕ, ПОЛТАВЕ ИЛИ В ДРУГОМ БЛИЖАЙШЕМ
МЕСТЕ. ТАКЖЕ РАСПОРЯДИТЕСЬ О ПЕРЕДВИЖЕНИИ.
БОЛЬШОЕ СПАСИБО !**

Some of my crew members with Russians. Third from left is Lidia, a Yugoslavian Tito partisan, who had killed nine Germans.



Joseph Swift, Sgt. Francis Abbott, Lidia, Ivan, Sgt. Edwin Wade, unknown Russian



This is Ivan, who took charge of us for a few days. I asked him for water, and he brought me a big glass of vodka, pleased to have understood my English.



Here is one of the families of Hungarian peasants who took us in. Lidia is in the back, out of uniform. We spent two weeks in Hungary before traveling by rail car to Odessa.



We had an arduous journey back to our base. It took over six weeks, and I was lucky to be alive.

Bombing target

Crash landing, same day.

Travel by German rail car to Bucharest March 29 – April 4, 1945


Arrived by Russian rail car in Odessa April 8, 1945

A British ship took us back to Naples

We took off from Foggia to bomb Vienna March 16, 1945

We arrived back in Naples April 27, 1945

The ship went around the Greek Isles and Sicily

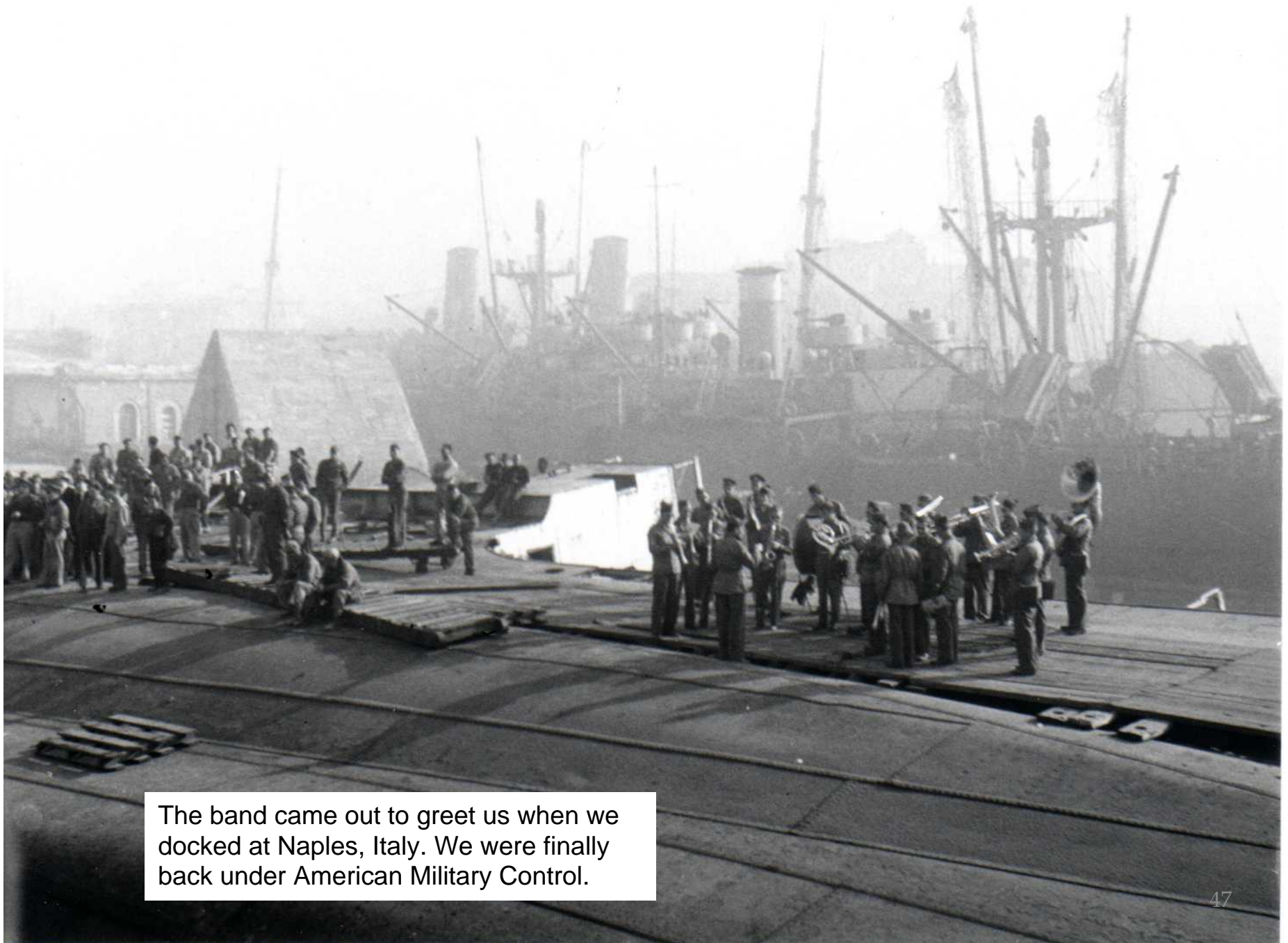


Traveling by German rail car, headed towards Bucharest, Romania.

Back: T/Sgt. Edwin Wade, T/Sgt. Herbert Taylor, Lt. Joseph Swift, Lt. Charles Freeman, Doc (Russian doctor), Lt. Albert Pierard.
Front: Lisa (Russian nurse), Sgt. Francis Abbott



Joseph Swift and Albert Pierard find two Russian friends during stopover at Velika Kikindka, Serbia



The band came out to greet us when we docked at Naples, Italy. We were finally back under American Military Control.

I made a short visit
back to base in
Amendola, and finally
got on a B-17 and flew
back to America, happy
to be home.

Reported Safe



T/SGT. EDWIN CARTER WADE

Tech. Sgt. Edwin Carter Wade, jr., who was recently reported missing in action over Hungary since March 15, has been reported safe, according to a war department message received yesterday by his parents, Dr. and Mrs. E. C. Wade, College Row.

The telegram, signed by J. A. Ulio, adjutant general, stated: "Am pleased to inform you that reports received from the United States military mission in Moscow stated your son, Tech. Sgt. E. C. Wade, jr., previously reported missing in military action, has returned to military control. Further information will be furnished when received."

Sergeant Wade had been on 26 missions at the time he was reported missing. He is a radio operator on a B-17, based in Italy with the 15th air force.

He has been in the service two years and has been overseas since September 13, 1944.

49th Squadron survivors at the 2006 2nd Bomb Group Reunion in Dayton, Ohio



The End

