

756th BOMB SQUADRON COMBAT CREW**(WM. ANDERSON CREW)**

(Time – 30 April 1944)

B-24 Combat Crew shown above are:

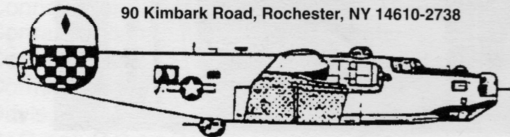
Standing (L. to R.): Marshal Kilinski—Ball Turret Gunner **Joe Carchidi #422**—Waist Gunner Clarence Williams—Tail T Gunner **John W. Liss #1341**—Waist Gunner Earl Powell—Fl. Eng. **Joe Meinkoth #421**—Radio Op. Gunner Front Row (L. to R.): William Anderson—Pilot, **Herb Ruby #418**—Co-pilot, **Wright Swanay #350**—Bombardier and Ralph Orrill—Navigator

Courtesy W. Swanay #350

459th BOMB GROUP ASSN.

756th BS- 757th BS- 758th BS- 759th BS- Gp. Hdq.

90 Kimbark Road, Rochester, NY 14610-2738

**ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED**

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Webster NY
Permit No. 149

Liss, John F #1341
8 58th Street
Newburyport, MA 01950-4225

"OF OBVIOUS VALUE"
Do not destroy

WILLIAM ANDERSON COMBAT CREW

756th Bomb Sqd.

This combat crew was assembled in Salt Lake City, NV sometime in late November of 1943. The crew was shipped out immediately to Gowen Field Boise, Idaho for Combat Crew training. Early in 1944 the base was assigned a new Commanding Officer, Col. John "Killer" Kane, who is remembered for his part in the first low-level bombing raid on the Ploesti Oil Refinery complex from Africa. He was a very good C.O. and primed his men for combat better than anyone had ever done before.

This crew left Gowen Field, ID on 1 April 1944 and went to Topeka, Kansas where they picked up their new B-24. They left Topeka, KS on 17 April for their first leg of their trip to Morrison Field, W Palm Beach, Florida. On April 19th they left Morrison Field, FL for the southern route to Europe. This part of the trip overseas took them through South America and across the Atlantic Ocean to Africa. They eventually arrived at Giulia Field, Italy, where they joined the 756th BS on 30 April 1944.

This crew flew their first combat mission on 6 May 1944 to bomb the oil refineries at Campina, Romania. This was the 459th Bomb Group's 33rd mission. The crew members were assigned to fly their first combat missions with other experienced crews of the squadron.

The plane that Pilot Bill Anderson was in was shot down and he ended up a P.O.W in Germany until freed on 29 April 1945. The plane that Gunner Marshal Kilinski was in got hit and blew up in midair He was listed as K.I.A.

Pilot **Walter Washko #186** was assigned to the crew, replacing Pilot Anderson.

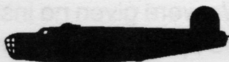
Bombardier **Wright Swanay #350** was shot down on a mission to Budapest, Hungary on 2 July 1944. This was his 39th mission and the 459th BG's mission #67 He was captured and interned a P.O.W until released on 29 April 1945. He was flying that day with the Walter Chance crew in the B-24 named "Fighting Mudcat." His Co-pilot was Jack Setliff

Navigator Ralph Orrill of this crew was K.I.A. while flying with another crew. That was late summer of 1944 and he was on his 43rd mission.

Pilot Walt Washko #186, mentioned above, was a member of the original crew when the group was formed and finished his tour ahead of his other crew members. This crew never flew as a crew again and they all finished their 50 mission flying with other crews.

W Swanay #350

* * * * *



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT

U.S. ARMY AVIATION MUSEUM

This museum, located at Fort Rucker AL, has more than 160 military aircraft on display. In their 70,000 sq. ft. of exhibit space there is one of the largest collections of military helicopters in the world. This starts with the Wright Brothers up to the present exhibits on Korea, the Persian Gulf and Vietnam. Included are recreated scenes of full-size figures with appropriate uniforms of the date.

* * * * *

8th AIR FORCE MUSEUM

This exhibit of over 3000 sq. ft. is located at Barksdale AFB, LA (Bossier City). It focuses on Strategic Bombardment and the 2nd Bombardment Wing of the "Mighty 8th" Air Force of WWII

* * * * *

NATIONAL D-DAY MUSEUM

This exhibit, located in New Orleans, LA, was designated by the U.S. Congress as the nation's WWII museum. The stories of WWII soldiers are told with film footage, pictures and personal artifacts. Interactive galleries cover the early days of war through D-Day. There is also a Pacific theater gallery of photos, Japanese artifacts and an animated map of area.

Editor
(Credits VFW 9/04)

* * * * *

