

92ND MEMBER PULITZER PRIZE WINNER IN 68

Per my previous note, I am enclosing the information regarding our Crew Member Sgt Rocco Morabito. We are very proud of Rocco and happy to announce he is alive and retired. I visited with him and two other crew members in Feb. of this year. With the exception of Lt. Beebe, our crew still keeps in touch. We are all in reasonable condition disregarding gray hair and-or weight. We are in the process of trying to find Lt. Beebe through the missing persons section at Randolph AFB, Texas. We are also trying to have a reunion of the eight men in the near future.

My 35 and last mission was Dresden, 17 April 45. For the most part our crew flew as a team. Most of us were aboard the II De France when Germany surrendered. The 92nd got rid of us in a hurry. Two of our members received Purple Hearts but did not suffer any long term injuries. Here is the info and prize winning photo.

(The Scene) Florida skies are overcast on a muggy day, 17 July 68, as the linemen report for a routine morning job in a Jacksonville suburb. The power lines are dead, they're told—except one. Lineman Champion hits it and is knocked unconscious. Other linemen, a block away, race to assist. Jimmy Thompson is first up the pole where Champion is hanging upside down. He begins mouth to mouth resuscitation. Another lineman follows Thompson up and together they bring Champion down. He regains consciousness halfway down and is sped off in an ambulance.



(The Photo) It's a routine morning for Rocco Morabito, too. In fact, a slow day. The veteran photographer for the Jacksonville Journal is in the same suburb on another assignment and passes the men working on the lines. He finishes the assignment and doubles back by the linemen again for whatever they might be worth in the rest of his film pack. People are shouting as he pulls up. He looks up and sees Champion, upside down, unconscious. Morabito shoots one quick picture, feeling helpless as he races to the car telephone. "Get Help" he tells the office, not knowing a distress call is already out. When Morabito returns, Thompson is up the pole, supplying the "KISS OF LIFE". He shoots again and again. He races back to the office and hand develops the film—three minutes past deadline but the paper is holding for these pictures, which will earn him a PULITZER.

E. W. Glatt (IL)

Editor's Note: I also heard from Rocco who furnished a copy of the picture for the Archives.

TALES OF THE 26 STATION COMPLEMENT

I am enclosing some pictures, many of which will be of no interest to anyone other than former members of the 26 Station Complement Sq. Of course William Fitzgerald and I were inseparable buddies during our two and one half years with the 26th, and have visited each other and corresponded through more than 35 years. We have many of the same pictures, sharing the same camera and the same happy moments, and the trials and tribulations of service life.

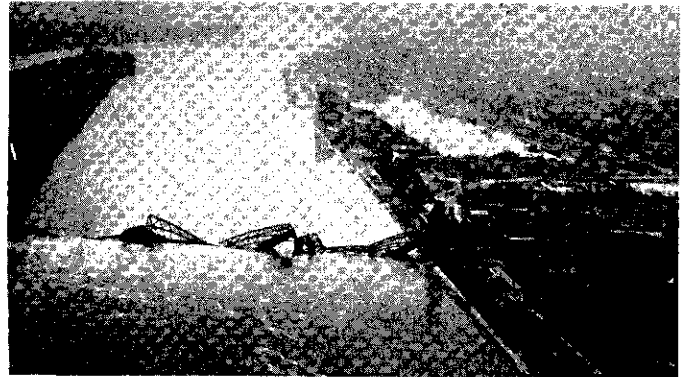
I flew into a 9th AF forward base at Etain, France in two plane loads of advance party when we moved to Belgium. I recall the astonished look and comment of the 9AF ground crew men — "Boy, you guys must have really fouled up or Jimmy Doolittle would never have sent you here". I guess there was quite a story to our winding up on the continent. As the need for a Combat Crew Replacement Center wound down in late 1944, Air Transport Command took over the base at Bovingdon. This left the old outfits there, including the 26th kind of orphaned units. Now this story was told to me by a friend of the 26th, who incidentally later became a man of the cloth, so I don't doubt his veracity. His job was a runner at the message center and as our Officer representation there had already left with the Headquarters, when orders came through to transfer to the 325th Photo Recon Wing, and ultimately Belgium. Since there was no one left to cut the orders but a Pfc, we received our orders and left 1 Jan 45.

We spent six months in Belgium. I returned with the truck convoy crossing the Channel from LeHarve to Southampton by LCT on July 4th. I would have to say this was the most meaningful time spent during my two and one half years overseas. We were privileged to take a flight over Germany from Cologne to Hamburg, over much of the devastation wrought by the Allied Air Forces, and indeed, it was awe inspiring. Enclosed are a few pictures.

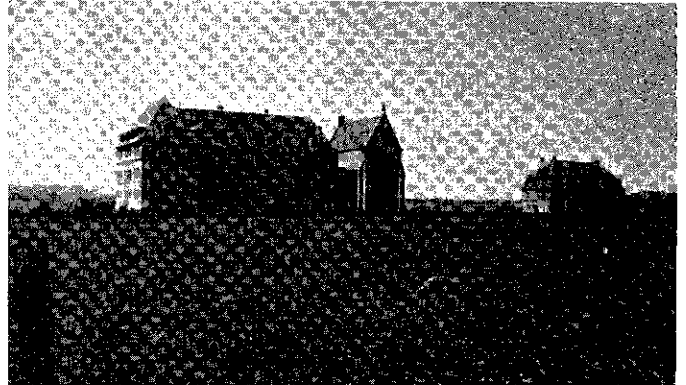
Ralph Reed (IA)

26 STATION COMPLEMENT

Photos Courtesy Ralph Reed (IA)



Remagen bridge where American troops made first crossing into Germany over the Rhine River



Belgium Agriculture college at Virton where a battalion of topographical engineers, the 2nd Photo Technical Sqdn and the 26th Station Comp. Sqdn made the maps for Gen. Patton's push through Germany. An attachment of the 325 Photo Wing Recon of High Wycombe, Eng. Commander - Brig. Gen. Elliott Roosevelt.