

Schad's Sojourn

by Paul J. Schad (777th)

Upon being assigned to the 464th in November 1943, I was co-pilot on Ed Porter's crew. We had completed phase training at Casper WY. My wife Dorothy was with me both at Casper and Pocatello. She passed in 4 Mar 1996.

Upon completion of training at Pocatello, we left Lincoln on 18 Feb 1944, then to Morrison Field and from there to Brazil. We flew from Belem to Dakar in West Africa and then on to Oudna Field near Tunis, arriving on or about 10 Mar 1944.

Shortly after arriving at Oudna, Colonel Bonner scheduled stand-by inspection of troops. Most everyone had packed their pinks and greens in a barracks bag for the trip over. We sorta got together and decided to wear them as they were, wrinkled and creased in every direction and they looked terrible. That was the raunchiest bunch of officers I ever saw.

The colonel didn't say a word about how we looked but that was the last stand-by inspection he ever scheduled. [Ed. of 464th BG newsletter - Too bad there are no pictures of this.]

While at Oudna, Lt. Porter was transferred to another squadron (779th) and I was upgraded to first pilot. Tommy Locke and John Nance checked me out and flew with me as instructors on my first three or four training missions.

We departed Oudna and arrived at Gioia del Colle for combat duty on 26 April 1944. I flew Yellow "S" on most of my missions. The first Yellow "S" got to be a wreck and they used it for parts and I got a new replacement aircraft, also designated Yellow "S", a North American 'G' model which was much better than the old Model "J" and I flew it the rest of my tour.

My 50th mission was to Budapest Hungary, 17 September 1944. We got two out of three ME-109s that hit our box that day.

After completing my missions, I was sent to Rome for a week's rest leave, then to Naples and home by boat. I was discharged in Nov 1945 at Randolph Field TX.

Schad's Crew: Paul J. Schad (P); Arthur M. Greshemer (CP); Harry H. Blau (N); Stanley G. Shiller (B); Samuel Lasky (R/BG); William R. Droschkey (E/TTG); Carl J. Zkiab (NG); Jack V. Teller (WG); Riney W. Hay (TG); Charles E. Cope (WG).