What's in this Issue

The term *Combat Express* defines the theme of this issue. It was the use of the regular numbered air forces to augment delivery of ammo, bombs, and fuel to General Patton’s Third Army Tactical Air Command. Patton’s use of his Tactical Air Force to attack enemy ground positions during August of 1944 consumed supplies at a faster rate than could be supplied through regular channels. Some of you participated in the 484th supply missions to Bron, France during September, 1944. The three stories immediately below support the theme.

1) **Air Ground Teamwork**  We are deviating from normal reporting of events pertaining to the activities of the 484th Bomb Group to bring you a report on Air Ground Teamwork on the Western Front. It is a story about the 19th Tactical Air Command’s Air Support of ground troops after the Western Allies invasion of Europe in June of 1944. We, in the 484th, think of fighter aircraft as defending the bombers from attack from the German Luftwaffe. This work shows how fighter aircraft were adopted to support ground troops. This report was discovered at Maxwell Field, Alabama. Starts on page 8.

2) **Supply Mission**  This is the story of the 484th’s first supply mission of September 11, 1944 to Bron, France in support of the Tactical Air Force employed by Patton’s 3rd Army. The Patton led 3rd Army was creeping up big chunks of the German opposition by using P-47s and P-51s to hit at strong points, tanks, and guns. In doing so his tactical fighter-bombers were running out of supplies. The 484th was called upon to alleviate this condition. Story starts on page 19.

3) **Combat Express**  This article from the December 1944 Air Force Magazine reports that medium bombers and cargo planes were also called upon to help carry munitions and fuel to the racing Third Army, sometimes even carrying the much needed supplies right to the tactical airfields themselves. Story on page 27.


**The Calvin Teel Story.** Sometime before he died, Calvin Teel wrote his own story, put together from his own remembrances, flight records and crew member Ralph Christensen’s diary. Submitted by Emmett Goff. Starts on page 28.

**Guest Editorial.** Robert Dorr, an Air Force veteran reminds us all to have greater respect for the venerable B-24 Liberator. See page 38.

**Morning Reports Received**

Copies of the Morning Reports of the 484th Bomb Group have been received just recently through the efforts of Orville Hommert and his wife, Katie. These reports contain personnel information, listing the comings and goings of any individual through 484th BG HQ by name, rank, MOS, and serial number. We will now be able to correct the master roster, and add new names as applicable.