



# THE MILITARY MEMORIES OF CAPTAIN CS NEEDHAM

**USAF**

**NOVEMBER 1942 – OCTOBER 1945**

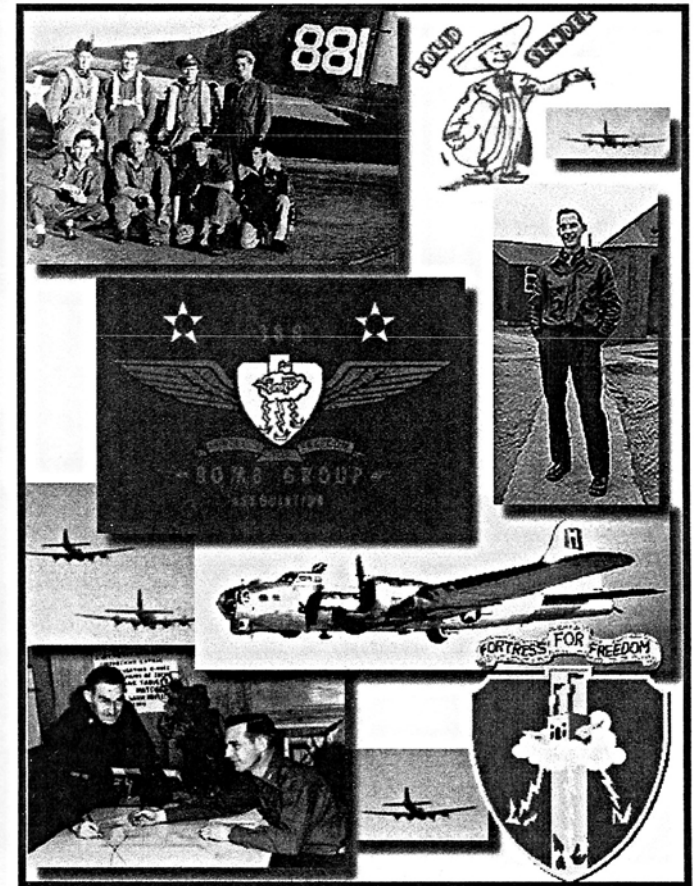
**JUNE 1950 – FEBRUARY 1953**



# USAF 388<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP

The 388th had over 5000 crewman during the war (July 17, 1943 to May 20, 1945). Most of these crewmen served a specific role on a crew of 10 men. The goal of each crewman was to survive long enough to be able to join the Lucky Bastard club. The unlucky ones either sacrificed their lives for us or spent some horrible time in a POW camp. CS Needham successfully completed 35 missions!

Captain C. S. Needham, Jr.  
USAF



November 1942 - October 1945  
June 1950 - February, 1953

# CS NEEDHAM JOINS ARMY AIR CORP

- **February - July, 1943 – Initial Training**
  - Gained 10 hours in flying Piper Cub Trainers
  - Was in class of “First Aviation Cadets Candidates
- **Aug – Nov, 1943 Maxwell Field**
  - Flight Training in BT 13 and PT23



PT-13



PT-23

• **DEC 1943 – MARCH 1944**

## **ADVANCED TRAINING**

- Flight Training in AT-10
- Graduated 44 “C” Class
- Commissioned as Lieutenant

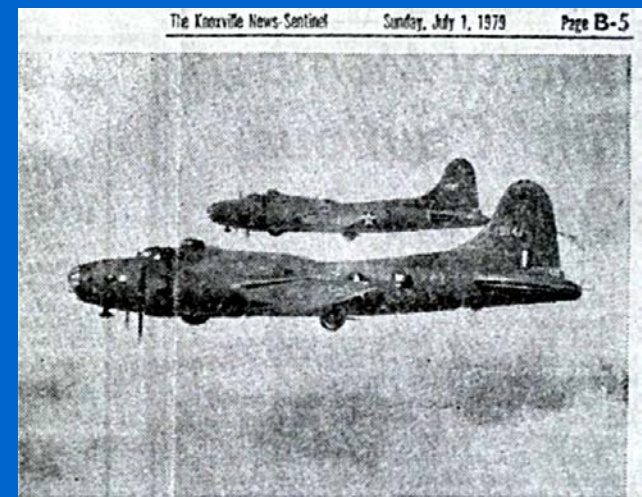


AT-10

• **April – June 1944 – B-17 Transition Training**

Chanute Field, Champagne, IL

- Commissioned as Lieutenant
- Flies B-17 low over Knoxville in training mission



The Knoxville News-Sentinel Sunday, July 1, 1979 Page B-5

A pair of B17 “Flying Fortresses” in flight.

# •JUNE – SEPT 1944 CREW TRAINING

- Intensive Flight Training with Crew Coordination
- Navigation Training
- Is selected as Pilot in B-17s

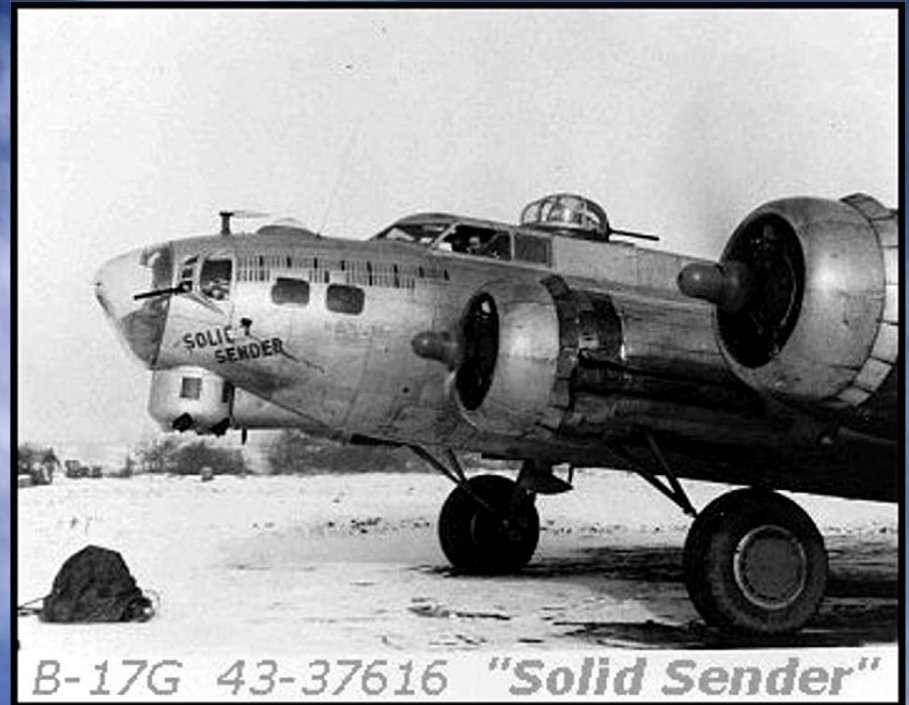
•October 12, 1944  
Picks up B-17  
S/N 43-38822



# • **NOVEMBER 16, 1944 – FIRST B-17 MISSION**

## – Crew of Solid Sender:

- Pilot: CS Needham
- Copilot: Pindell
- Navigator: Harris
- Radio Op: Norgeot
- Engineer: Blanton
- Bombardier: Inhacik
- Waist Gunner: Cribb
- Waist Gunner: Nowalk
- Ball Turret: Sears
- Tail Gunner: McDonald



# MISSION PHOTOS



Bombs Away



Vapor Trails

# MISSION PHOTOS



Flak over Germany



German Fighter Attacks



# MISSION #8 DEC 24, 1944 DARMSTADT

# 8 December 24, 1944

15

Darmstadt, Germany

We got up at 3:40 for briefing at 5:00. Today was the largest raid to the present. We put up nearly six squadrons. Total of 70 planes. The bomb load was 38 G.P. 100's. Target was air fields used against the front lines. We took off at 9:10, fifteen minutes late. All the points were made good but late sacks got late finally bombs went away 45 minutes late. It was my first visual target. We checked it. Fighter hit two groups today but we were spared. Our leader was shot up so he had to abort. We were not hit at all, once again no battle damage. I had to nurse three engines all day long. I also almost ran out of gas. I guess I had enough to go around the field once when I got back. One plane was lost in the group in front

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fus. It took six hours to the target two and a half back. I logged 8 1/2 hrs. We had plenty of flash at the line and also at a couple of other places and rockets at the target. We took off at dawn and landed at dusk. My position was number 3 high element high squadron

# MISSION #18 FEB 16, 1945 HAMM

#17 Feb. 16, 1945 37

Hamm

Today was more like a gentleman's war. We had briefing at 7:00. The target was marshalling yards, considered no 2 in Sw. We did not have too good a spot to fly today it was no 6 in the high squadron. All the points were made good. We were hit twice by flak before we got to the target. Then when we got to the target all "Hell" broke loose. My rudder was shot out, the oxygen system for the rear of the plane was shot out, the electrical instruments were shot out, No 4 gas tank got a huge hole. We got two wing spar shot up in each wing. Flak passed through the cockpit between my legs. One piece came in beside my leg and stopped

38 (66 repairs, one repair was "Repair skin")

against my leg, I thought I had had it. Steinfeld's flak suit stopped one piece a ammo. box saved Joe's one piece stopped in Cribbe jacket. The tail wheel was flat with a hole about the size of your fist. I seemed to be the only one that got hurt much today they just seemed to have my number. The landing was another bit of bad luck. I made a good one but due to the flat tail wheel and hydraulic system shot out on one side I had to ground loop to stop right in front of the tower. Everyone was thankful to get back without injury. The plane looks like a sieve, it was my own plane. We hit the target though so it is o.k. We came back with the formation. Logged 5:40.

# MISSION #19 FEB 20, 1945 NURNBURG

#18 Feb. 20, 1945 (clusten)

35

## Nuremberg

Briefing was at 5:30 with take off at 8:30. The target was the marshalling yard at Nuremberg, Ger. I flew <sup>low</sup> element lead for the low squadron. The weather was terrible and therefore we had to fly through clouds. They were so thick that the formation was all split up. The split up caused me to loose the element and the squadron. I finally found the lead squadron and since the low element was gone in that outfit I took that spot. I had ships from other groups on my wing. The group did not get back together until about five minutes before the D.P. The flak was really heavy before we got there and when we arrived it turned off like a faucet. The squadrons behind us really caught it.

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Here are three crew missing. One of them is out of this barracks. He was supposed to have gone down in flames. We all hope he got it out. It was Ellie. I did not give a hole. I logged 8:30 for the mission. Today I carried leaflets. Pettigrew's toggles were hit in the leg and also his bombade navigator has a hand injury. He lost an engine over the target.

I am over half through now. The squadron that lost the plane was the one I started out with. The Goodford is still watching over me. Clusten day.

# THE LEAFLETS

## Erst im Westen:

Rundstedts Verzweiflungsoffensive zerschlagen!

## Jetzt im Osten:

Ostpreussen abgeschnitten!

Die Rote Armee tief in Schlesien!

Die „Ruhr des Ostens“ lahmgelegt!

Zukovs Armeen in Brandenburg!

Evakuierung der Staats- und  
Parteibehörden aus Berlin im Gange!

W.G.35

## First in the West:

Rundstedt's desperation offensive annihilated!

## Now in the East:

East Prussia cut off!

The Red Army deep in Silesia!

The 'Ruhr of the East paralyzed!

Zukov's Army in Brandenburg!

Evacuation of the government!

# THE LEAFLETS



## CHURCHILL

„Der Präsident der Vereinigten Staaten und ich selbst haben wiederholt festgestellt: Die Erzwingung bedingungsloser Kapitulation befreit die Siegermächte in keiner Weise von ihren Verpflichtungen gegenüber der Menschheit oder von ihren Pflichten als zivilisierte und christliche Völker.

Wir rufen unsern Feinden jetzt zu: Wir fordern bedingungslose Kapitulation, aber ihr wisst, dass wir uns enge moralische Grenzen gesetzt haben, die wir nicht überschreiten werden.

Wir rotten keine Nationen aus. Wir schlachten keine Völker hin. Aber wir lassen uns nichts abhandeln. Ihr habt keine Ansprüche an uns. Ihr müsst bedingungslos kapitulieren. Unsere Sitten und unsere Wesensart werden unsere Handlungen bestimmen.

Wenn ihr jetzt kapituliert, wird die Nachkriegszeit für euch bei weitem nicht so schwer sein wie ein volles Kriegsjahr 1945.

Der Friede wird auf der Grundlage bedingungsloser Kapitulation erfolgen. Aber auch so wird er Deutschland und Japan sofortige, ungeheure Erleichterungen der Leiden und Qualen bringen, die ihnen sonst bevorstehen.

Wir Alliierten sind keine Ungeheuer. Wir sind ehrenhafte Menschen. Wir wollen Fackelträger der Zukunft sein.

Unser Streben geht dahin, aus dem blutigen Chaos, in das die Menschheit nun gestürzt ist, eine neue Welt erstehen zu sehen — eine Welt des Friedens, der Freiheit, des Rechts, der Gerechtigkeit — und ein System, das der ganzen Welt dauernde, unbedrohte Sicherheit schenken soll.“

W.G.35

### CHURCHILL

*"The president of the United States and myself have repeatedly established that our demand for an unconditional surrender will not in any way free us of our duties to humanity as a civilized and Christian nation.*

*We call now on our enemies to capitulate unconditionally but we also set for ourselves very tight moral limitations, which we will strictly adhere to. We do not intend to destroy this nation, nor eliminate its people, but we will not accept any compromise to our demands.*

*We owe you nothing and you must surrender unconditionally but you will be treated fair and in a human way.*

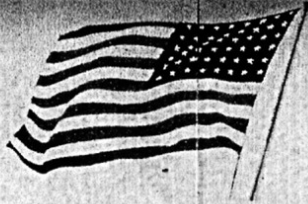
*If you surrender now, than things will be much better after the war than if we have to carry on the war to the end of 1945.*

*The peace will depend on unconditional surrender but it should be clear to Germany and Japan that many lives and much suffering will be avoided than if the war was to carry on to its bitter end.*

*The allied forces are not monsters but our honorable people and we want to be the torchbearer of the future.*

*It is our intention to change the bloody chaos in which mankind is now embroiled in to a new world of peace, freedom, justice, which will give the world continuing security and peace for all people."*

# THE LEAFLETS



## ROOSEVELT

„Was Deutschland betrifft, diese tragische Nation, die den Wind gesät und den Sturm geerntet hat, so sind wir und unsere Verbündeten uns völlig einig darüber, dass wir mit den Nazi-Verschwörern nicht verhandeln oder ihnen auch nur die geringste — offene oder geheime — Verfügung über die Machtmittel der Regierung belassen werden.

Wir werden ihnen keinen einzigen Bestandteil militärischer Macht — oder möglicher militärischer Macht — lassen.

Aber ich wäre der Grundlage meiner religiösen und politischen Überzeugung untreu, wenn ich jemals die Hoffnung und den Glauben aufgeben würde, dass in allen Völkern ohne Ausnahme ein Sinn für Wahrheit, eine Neigung zur Gerechtigkeit und eine Sehnsucht nach Frieden lebt — wenn sie auch im Falle der Deutschen unter einem brutalen Regime verschüttet sein mögen.

Wir erheben keine Anklage gegen die Deutschen an sich, denn wir können nicht glauben, dass Gott eine Menschenrasse auf ewig verdammt hat, und wir wissen, wie viele gute Männer und Frauen deutscher Abstammung in unserem Lande sich als treue, freiheitsliebende und friedliche Bürger erwiesen haben.

Alle in Deutschland, die für diese Tragödie der Menschheit unmittelbar verantwortlich sind, werden streng bestraft werden.

Das deutsche Volk wird nicht versklavt werden, denn die Vereinten Nationen treiben keinen Sklavenhandel. Aber die Deutschen werden sich ihren Rückweg in die Gemeinschaft der friedliebenden und das Recht achtenden Nationen verdienen müssen. Und wir werden bestimmt dafür sorgen, dass sie auf diesem steilen Wege nicht dadurch behindert werden, dass sie Gewehre tragen. Von dieser Bürde werden sie befreit werden — wir hoffen, für immer.“

### ROOSEVELT

*"As regards to Germany, this tragic nation, which has sown the wind and reaped the whirlwind, we and our allies completely agree that we won't carry on negotiations with the Nazi conspirators nor we do have the intension to leave them the slightest disposition for instruments of power (neither frankly nor confidential).*

*We won't leave them constituent military power or military power opportunities.*

*But I would be disloyal to my religious and political basic principles when I ever give up the hope and the faith that in all nations exceptional exists a sense of truth, an affection of justice and the desire for peace - although in the case of the German - it is blocked due to the bestial regiment.*

*We do not press charges against the German as we cannot believe that God damns a human race for ever and we know how many good men and women of German descent lives in our country are loyal, freedom loving and peaceful citizens.*

*All people in Germany who are directly responsible for this humanity tragedy will be strictly punished.*

*We won't enslave the German people, as the United Nations don't make slave trade. But the German have to deserve their way back into the community of peace loving nations and nations who respect the right. And we definitely will make sure that the won't be disabled from this liability on this steep way by carrying rifles. Than they will be freed of this liability - we hope for ever."*

# JUNE 1945

- **Flight Instructor in B-17 and B-29**
  - Also flew a variety of other aircraft
    - B-25, C47, C82, and C119

B-25



C-47



C-82

# 1950 – 1953 Korea War 51<sup>st</sup> Wing

- **Group Intelligence Officer – Suwan, Korja**
  - Brief/Debrief F-80 Pilots for results in bombing runs
  - Flew C-47 missions to Japan
  - Promoted to Captain



C-119



Captain Needham  
and Major Hardy



Captain CS Needham – Father and Husband  
WWII Bomber Pilot  
General Aviation Pilot (Aircoupe)  
Entrepreneur – Plasti-Fab Company



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