

HOW I "VOLUNTEERED" TO BECOME A GUNNER

I'm sending my orders from the USAAF to show how the Air Force got the Bomber Gunners. There are several thousand more that may send accounts of their path to Gunnery School.

When the USAAF needed Gunners, bomber production was at an all time high for all types - strategic and tactical. I had wanted to get into the Cadet Program but my application was five days late, and I received my Draft Notice. I went to Camp Wolters Reception Center. An order came out for volunteers to the Cadet Program. It was my second chance to enter Basic



Kenneth Scroggins' collections with nine large photo albums of his war years 1943-1945.

"Pilot" Training at Sheppard Field. Then on to Iowa State Teachers College at Cedar Falls, Iowa, Class of 43-c-17. On completion of the course and a few hours in a Taylor Craft, I was ready to go to Santa Anna, California.

However, "for the convenience of the government" without prejudice, Cadets with a certain Draft Service No. would be eliminated from the Cadet program. Sixty one Cadets were given the choice of Flight Engineering, Radio, Armorer, or Gunnery school. I choose Flight Engineering but along with the other 61 Cadets we were sent to Yuma, Arizona for Gunnery Training!

Fifty crews in B-24's went to Italy for combat. I flew



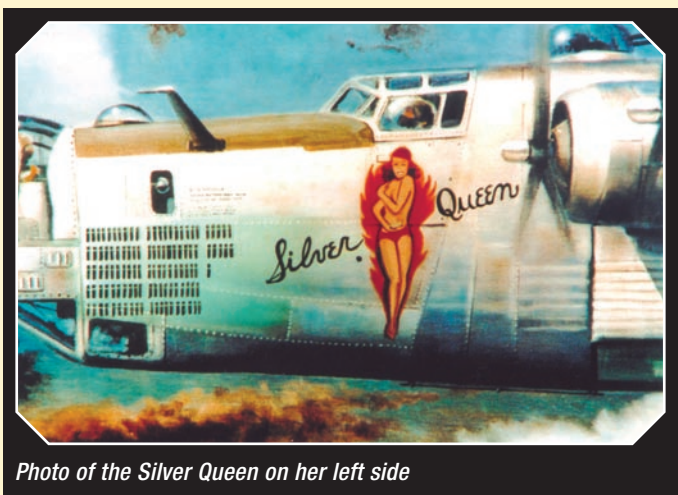


Photo of the Silver Queen on her left side



Photo of the Silver Queen right side.

30 missions with the 98th Bomb Group in the 344th Squadron. The 98th came to the states to transition to the B-29's. General Hugo Rush cut orders for the best of five crews to go the 464th Bomb Group to take slots until the wars end. We flew 3 missions when the war ended. We came home for the B-29's were grounded. Enough in Pipeline and over on Saipan and Tinian to finish the Japanese. I was sent to Barksdale Air Base to Engineering section and discharged on points,

October 28, 1945.

Keep 'em flying on paper and they always will!

Ex-S/Sgt. Ken Scroggins

344th Bomb Squadron

98th Bomb Group

15th Air Force

Below: Sixty-one enlisted men with draft service numbers, who volunteered for the Aviation Cadet Program, were eliminated for the "convenience of the Government without prejudice". They were re-assigned to Gunnery School. (Class of 43-C-17, 80th College Training Detachment -Iowa State Teachers College- Cedar Falls, Iowa 6 April 1944.)

