

SSgt Maurice R Jones
Tail Gunner, 64th Squadron

The first image is a copy of a newspaper article that ran in Maurice R Jones' hometown paper (Greenville, PA) sometime in early 1943, as best it can be determined. The photo is of the B-17 crew that SSgt Jones was attached to as a tail gunner. Unfortunately, we are not sure if this crew photo was taken at the end of the crew's assignment with the 31st Bomb Squadron or when they were assigned a new B-17 to take to Australia, and were then transferred to the 43rd Bomb Group. SSgt Jones is on the back row, 2nd from the right.

The second image is a photo of the plane crew with a B-24. M R Jones recollects that the photo of the B 24 crew and aircraft "*Tail Skid Tolly*" was probably taken in late 1942 or early 1943, when the crew was assigned to the 43rd Bomb Group in Australia. The plane was named by the pilot and crew because the plane had a predilection to hit the tail on the runway before the main gear (wheels/tires) hit the runway. Not sure when the plane was originally named. Research about this plane found a photo of the plane showing the drawing above the name, a mule dragging its rear end!

M R further recollects that the man on the back row furthest to the left as you look at the photo was the pilot, Harold M. Brecht, from Greenville, PA. M R clearly remembers Brecht, as he was from M R's home town. The man next to him was likely the co-pilot, and the third man was likely the navigator, but M R does not recollect their names. On the front row, the man furthest to the right as you look at the photo, is M R. M R believes that the man second furthest to the left is Wilbert Norman ("Wib"). No clear memory of the names of the other crew members.

The last image is a picture of *Tail Skid Tolly* taken from an on-line website.

LOCAL YOUTH SEES ACTION AT MIDWAY



Corp. Maurice R. Jones, Greenville R. D. 1, pictured second from the right in back row, is tail gunner on this U. S. Army "Flying Fortress" crew which saw action in the Battle of Midway. Members of the crew are: Front row left to right 2nd Lt. James A. Pickard, co-pilot, Walla Walla, Wash. 2nd Lt. Thomas C. Mustain, navigator, Omaha, Neb.; Staff Sgt. William H. Day, engineer, Mt. Vernon, Mo. Back row, left to right: Pvt. Robert Weinshank, assistant radio operator, Brooklyn; Staff Sgt. Theodore Goldblum, radio operator, Philadelphia; Technical Sgt. Theodore Hobbie, maintenance man, Ruidoso, N. M.; Corp. Maurice R. Jones, tail gunner, Greenville, Pa.; Sgt. Park Gough, maintenance man, Idaho Falls, Ida.

COUNTY FLIER IS PACIFIC VETERAN

Had Part as Gunner in Battle of Midway, Hurt at Pearl Harbor.

ARMY REPORTS BOMBING IN ACTION

Being the tail gunner in a U. S. Army Air Corps "Flying Fortress" may have its drawbacks, but it also has its brighter side too.

So says Corp. Maurice R. Jones, a Greenville district youth who is a veteran of the action at Pearl Harbor and Midway.

Corp. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wenzel D. Jones of Otter Creek Township, Greenville R. D. 1, told his parents in a recent letter that as a Flying Fortress tail gunner "you never see where you were going but you can always see where you have been."

A graduate of Jamestown High in 1939, Corp. Jones has been in the armed services better than two years. He was transferred to Hawaii last year and sustained minor wounds in the Japs' sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. At the time of the Dec. 7 bombing he was serving as an assistant mechanic on a bomber crew. As far as his family knows he still is located at Hawaii.

Corp. Jones is the second man from the right in the back row of the accompanying photograph.

This picture was taken shortly after the Flying Fortress crew came back from the Battle of Midway where they saw action against the Japanese. The Seventh Air Force described the crew's action thus:

"While searching for remnants of the defeated Japanese invasion fleet, they intercepted a big Jap patrol plane from Jap-held Wake Island (since bombed by U. S. Army planes). Before the enemy plane could flee into heavy clouds, the U. S. plane scored hits which may have disabled it."



24 VOLTS

TULLSKID TOLLY

E.M.R.



USAAF, 5th Air Force, 43rd Bomb Group, 403rd Bomb Squadron c 1943