

454th True Stories

Dorothy 'K'



B-24 41-29310

15th Air Force 304 Bomb Wing 454th BG 738th sqd

Photo contributor: Conrad Brown

454th

www.454thbombgroup.it



P - Louis C Kisylia*41-29310(H)

CP - Stanley E McChristian

N - Nathan (NMI) Lichtenholtz

B - Cyril M Bosak /Charles E Walk

E - Herbert (NMI) Colman/James H Kent/ Martin H Green

R - Donald T Dickson

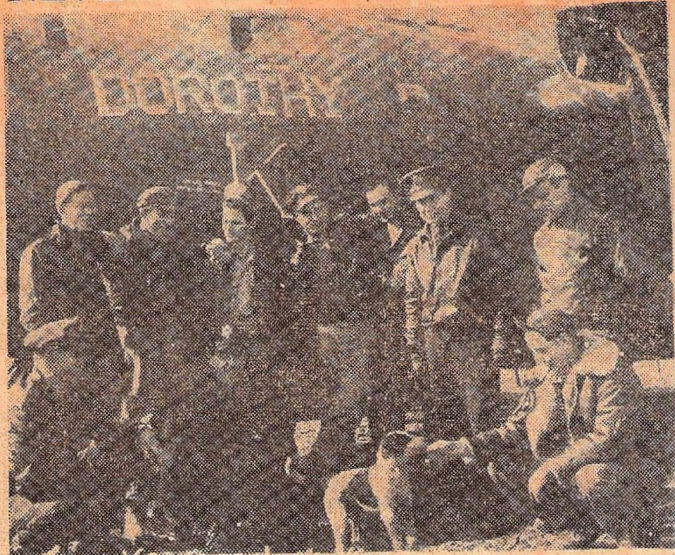
G - Delbert L Miller

G - Martin H Green

G - James H Kent

G - Kenneth E Brown

WHY SHE'S NEVER MISSING IN ACTION!



When the glamour seems to go out of her war job and her hours of toil seem all too long, Dorothy Kisylia, a packing department employe at the Gary Screw and Bolt works, remembers that her husband, Louis, is flying a Liberator bomber named for her against the nazis in Italy—and works just twice as hard. Left: Dorothy favors the photographer with a sunny smile over her workbench. Right: The “Dorothy K.” its crew and fox terrier mascot. Lieutenant Kisylia is the central figure among those standing.

War Worker's Morale High As B-24 Her Husband Flies

Dorothy Kisylia doesn't have to depend on appealing posters or inspiring patriotic literature to keep her morale riding high at her job in the packing department of the Gary Screw and Bolt works, where she is making an obscure but nonetheless important contribution to the war effort.

All the inspiration “Dottie” needed to carry her through all the months of war that may lie ahead was contained in a travel-stained letter which reached her hands a few days ago from her young husband, Louis C., who is piloting a Liberator bomber in what is becoming known as the “Battle of the Boot.”

Calls It “Dorothy K”

The message revealed that Kisylia, a junior lieutenant who arrived in the Mediterranean war theater just before Christmas, has named his B-24 the “Dorothy K” in honor of his bride of 15 months and the job she's performing as a factory worker on the home front while he freights tons of allied wrath to nazi strong points on the Italian front.

The letter enclosed a picture of the “Dorothy K,” its crew and its nameless canine mascot, and disclosed that the Liberator has had “more than a few chances” to make its presence felt in connection with the fighting at Cassino and at the Anzio bridgehead below Rome.

Established in May, 1943

Kisylia, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kisylia, 1156 Fillmore, left his job in the galvanizing depart-

ment of the Gary sheet and tin mills to enlist in the army air forces May 13, 1942.

He got his pre-flight training at Greenwood, Miss., and Douglas, Ga., and his wings at George Field, Lawrenceville, Ill. He is a Froebel high school alumnus. His wife is living with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Pavlovich, 1125 Harrison.

Commenting, in his letter, on his most recent sortie over the German lines, the lieutenant said:

“When I inspected the ‘Dorothy K’ after we got back to our base, I counted plenty of bombs in the ship, but we were short of one of our boys who was missing your name card.”

Gary Post Tribune, March 1944 with a brief story of the "Dorothy K", Lt Kisylia and his new wife of 15 months

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Gary Post Tribune, March 1944

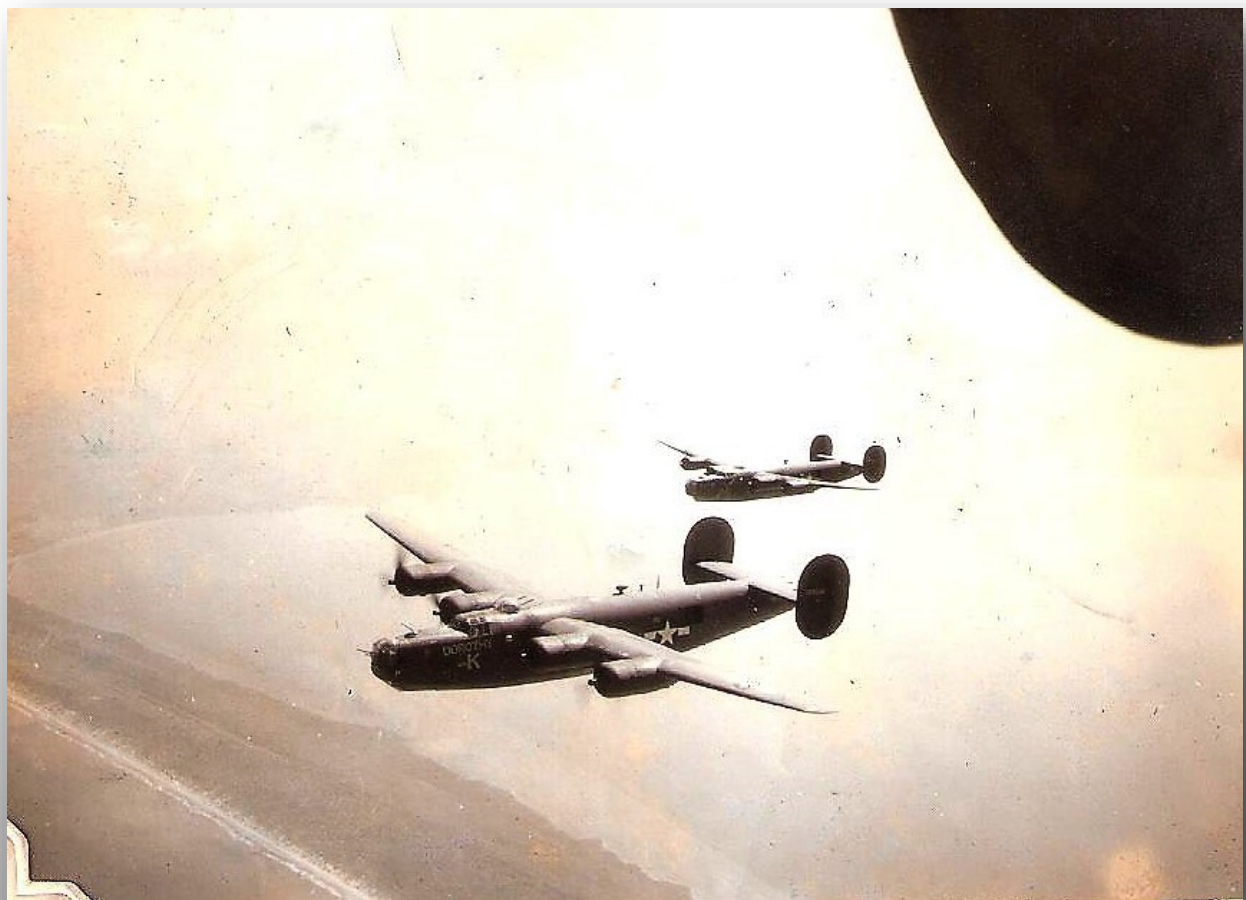
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Dorothy and Louis Kisylia



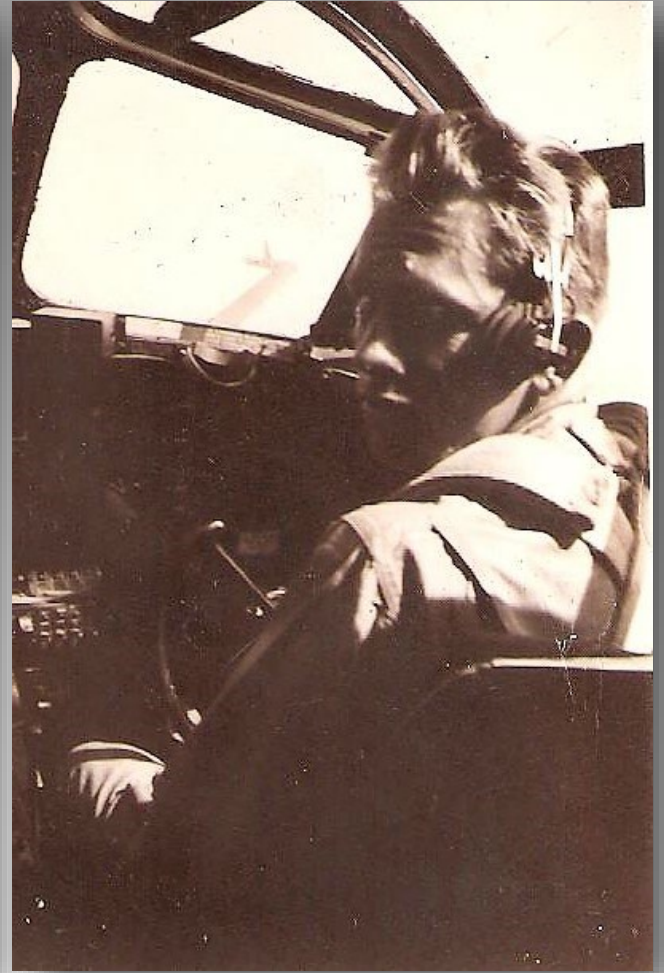
This was taken in Brazil. Unsure of the date; it was taken and mailed home from Lt Louis Kisylia to his wife Dorothy per the note inscribed on the picture.



B24 Doroty K mission over Italy



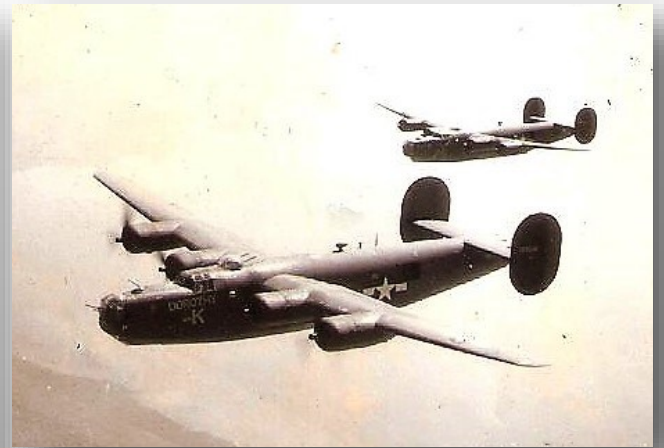
Pilot Lt. Louis Ki-



Co Pilot Stanley McChristian



Radioman/Nose Gunner
Donald T. Dickson





Lt. Louis Kisylia (P) and Herman "Pop" Coleman (E) in Italy inside the Dorothy K.



Lt. L.Kisylia 'pitching horseshoes' - San Giovanni Airbase - Cerignola Italy

San Giovanni Airbase people Cerignola Italy



Sammy Zeff



Pete Phillips



Vaughn Marker 738 armament



CP - Stanley E. McChristian



Louis Kisylia's photo album had several pictures of this ME109 with the caption "ME109 from Romanian Air Force returning our C.O. Col. Gunn". A total of 8 pictures were taken of the plane and with members of the crew from the "Dorothy K." (Left to right) Martin Green, E/G, Delbert Miller, G and Herbert "Pop" Coleman, E standing in front.





Three crew members of the "Dorothy K": from Left to Right: "Gwynn", "Pappy" and Herbert "Pop" Coleman



From Left to Right: Donald Dickson R/NG, Martin H. Green E/G, Herbert "Pop" Coleman E and Delbert Miller G.