

# STORY #3A SYNOPSIS

## Captain George Tudor



Born - Union, Iowa  
May 31, 1917

**OCTOBER 7, 1944**

**725<sup>th</sup> BS, 451<sup>st</sup> BG**

**B-24 Liberator: #41-28861**

**"Burma Bound"**

- Pilot
- Returning from bombing oil refinery in Vienna, Austria
- Shot up & out of fuel
- Vis runway blocked by stuck B-24; advised to bail out
- Seven crew members were wounded; couldn't bail out
- Made emergency landing; no brakes as hydraulic system was damaged
- Landing gear manually cranked down and parachutes tied to waist gun mounts to stop

# George Tudor after receiving his wings, July, 1943



# WWII Highlights

## Highlights

- Flew 19 missions for 451st Bomb Group
- Flew in mission to Markersdorf Airdrome; 451<sup>st</sup> BG awarded Distinguished Unit Citation; Group destroyed 29 enemy fighters in the air and 12 on the ground; nine B-24's shot down by Luftwaffe
- Last mission was to Vienna with an emergency landing on Vis
- Awarded Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal-2 oak leaf clusters,

# Captain George Tudor & crew



Captain George Tudor & crew flew the “Extra Joker” on all missions except one



Tudor & crew switched planes on the Markerdorf mission of August 23, 1944 as a different bomb sight was needed to lead the bomb run



The unit photographer was in Captain Tudor's plane and captured these photos of their B-24 being destroyed by German fighters



“Extra Joker” is lost on this mission with no survivors. The 451<sup>st</sup> BG received one of three unit citations for this mission.



Last mission, October 7, 1944: Captain Tudor fights to keep “Burma Bound” airborne with 7 wounded on board (including himself) from flak on bomb run, before emergency landing at Vis



The landing strip on Vis was partially blocked by a disabled aircraft, and due to damage to the hydraulic system, parachutes were tied to the waist gun mounts to stop the plane.



# Post WWII Highlights

- Married Jane Pattison 1948
- Two children, born 1957 and 1959
- 33 year career with American Airlines
- Retired to Maine, designed his home and enjoyed piloting his boat, the Extra Joker II
- Remained actively involved in the 451st Bomb Group Association, attending reunions from 1980-2008

George Tudor retired as a Captain with American Airlines after 33 years as a commercial pilot



George and Jane Tudor retired to Maine in 1978  
(proudly wearing his 451 BG hat)

