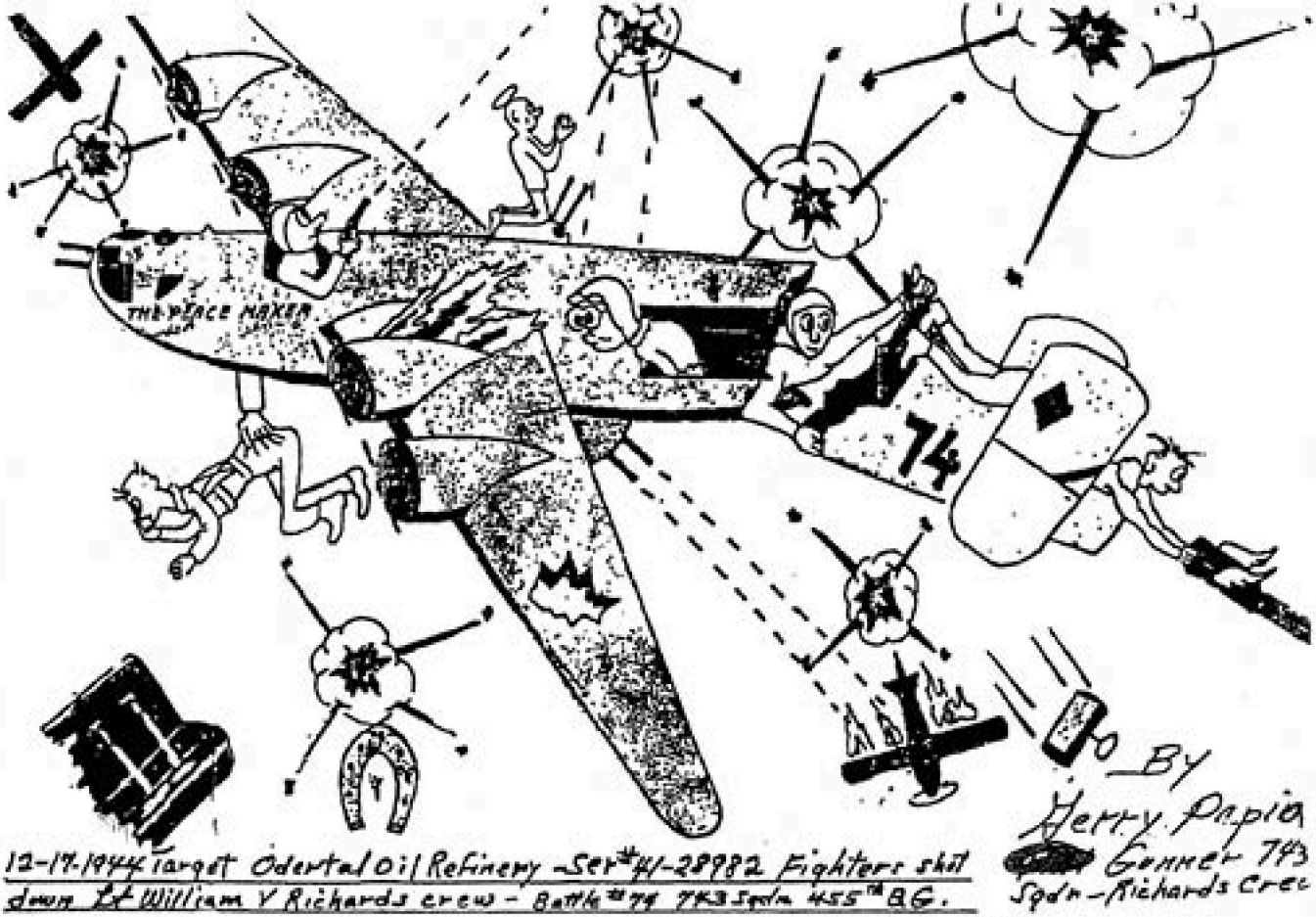


12-17-1944 Target Odertal Oil Refinery - Ser# 41-28982 Fighters shot down Lt William V Richards crew - Battle # 74 793 Sqdn 455th BG.

This cartoon is the work of the late Garry Papia, member of the William Richards crew. 15th Air Force, which was downed Dec. 17, 1944, during a running battle with three German fighters south of Budapest.

Harvey Hewit of Haverford, Pa., bombardier on the flight, says, "We bailed out in the middle of a battle where Russians were attacking the Germans defending Budapest. We evaded capture and the Russians picked us up. Three guys were wounded, two suffered broken legs upon landing and the co-pilot was killed.

"I am shown stopping our nose gunner from bailing out prematurely –that's my arm."