HAROLD D. HALL

Army Air Corps, Tech Sergeant

Served 26 months on active duty with the 15th Air Force Bomber Command, 455th Bomb Group, 743rd Bomb Squadron in the European Theater.

Hal flew 35 combat missions over Germany, Austria, and Italy. As a radio specialist, his assignment on missions was to jam the circuitry of the radar used by the Germans to aim and fire their antiaircraft guns.

One of the assignments of Hal's command was to fly from an airfield in Italy to knock out oil fields in Central Europe that were supplying the German armed forces and industry. Hal recalls somewhat vividly to this day the tragedy that befell two B-24s in his group while returning from a night mission. The planes slammed into a 7,000-foot mountain peak and the 11-member crews were killed. The plane on which Hal was flying had run low on fuel and made an emergency landing at a small, unmanned air strip along the Adriatic Sea. The crew was listed as missing in action for some hours, until it was able to establish radio contact with its base. Fortunately, Hal says, contact was made before word could be sent to his family that he was an MIA.

Decorations: ETO Ribbon with 3 Battle Stars, Air Medal, and 3 Oak Leaf Clusters