

# Robert W. Goble

## U.S. Army Air Corps

484th Bomb Group, 826 Bomb Squadron, 49th Bomb Wing Pilot



**Robert W Goble**  
U.S. Army Air Corps  
B-24 Pilot  
Flew 50 Missions Over Europe

In June of 1942, I entered the service at Ft. Thomas, Kentucky where I was sent by train to Atlantic City, New Jersey. I played coronet in the first Army Air Corps Band in Atlantic City. We practiced in the Convention Hall where the Miss America Contest has been held for years. While in the band, I applied for Aviation Cadet Pilot Training. My records seemed to be lost and I was sent to an Aviation Mechanics School in Goldsboro, North Carolina where we attended classes from midnight to 6:00 a. m. I was selected for Aviation Cadet Training in Nashville, Tennessee, where our group was given all kinds of examinations to determine if we would be sent to Pilot, Navigator, or Bombardier School or "washed out." Less than a fourth made it to Pilot Pre-Flight, which was at Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Alabama.

I was in the Class of 43 J, which was the next to the last class to be under the West Point system of discipline. Throughout Primary, Basic, and Twin Engine Pilot Training, I was the Squadron Commander of my class. I had Primary Pilot Training at Decatur, Alabama in a PT-17 Stearman, Basic at Courtland, Alabama in a BT-13 Vultee, and Advanced at Stuttgart, Arkansas in a Beechcraft A-T 10 twin engine. After receiving my 2nd Lt. Commission and pilot's wings, I was sent to Salt Lake City for assignment.

I attended twin engine advanced school hoping to fly P-38's, but the demand at the time was for bomber pilots, so I was sent to Colorado Springs as a B-24 Co-pilot. We trained at Harvard, Nebraska with our crew and the 484th Bomb Group was formed.

We left Harvard Nebraska in March 1944, and flew from Lincoln, Nebraska to West Palm Beach, Florida, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Belém, Brazil, Natal, and South America. From there we flew to Dakar, South Africa, Oran, and Tunisia, North Africa. In April 1944, we flew to our new field in Italy near Cerrignola, which had a gravel runway. We lived in tents in very primitive conditions. Our group headquarters was an Italian farmhouse. I flew approximately 30 missions with my original crew with missions all over southern France, northern Italy, Germany, Vienna, Austria, Budapest, and the Ploesti Oil Fields. I later flew as an instructor pilot with replacement crews. My flight leader was C. T. (Tim) Ireland, who was a good friend and West Pointer. He later retired as a Major General. After flying 50 missions, I was assigned as an instructor pilot and instrument check pilot in New Mexico and Texas.

In summary, my combat experience was with the 484th Bomb Group, 826 Bomb Squadron, and the 49th Bomb Wing from April 1944 to October 1944. My combat decorations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with Three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Presidential Unit Citation. I also received numerous combat medals.

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On February 1, 1948, I married Charlotte Newlin. We have four children, Steve, Karen, Roger and Jim and three grandchildren, Amy, Ann and Chase. In 1951, I became the owner of the Goble Furniture Company, retiring in 2001 at the age 80 years. I stay active playing golf, swimming and working in the yard. Charlotte and I have enjoyed attending reunions of the 484th Bomb Group all over the United States.

Robert W. Goble  
Casey, Illinois