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National Air and Space Museum

Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model
179B) "Flak Bait" Photographs [Best]

2015

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Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait" Photographs [Best]
Identifier:	NASM.2015.0012
Date:	(bulk 1943-1945)
Creator:	Best, Sherman V., Jr.
Extent:	47 Digital images
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

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Restrictions

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Biographical / Historical

Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait" (A19600297000) survived 207 operational missions over Europe, more than any other American aircraft during World War II. "Flak-Bait" was built at the Glenn L. Martin Company's Baltimore, Maryland factory and was completed in April 1943, when it was flown to England. The U.S. Army Air Force assigned it to the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group (nicknamed the 'Annihilators'), and gave the bomber the fuselage identification codes "PN-O." Sherman V. Best, Jr. was a member of the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group and served as co-pilot on one of "Flak Bait's" crews.

Scope and Contents

This collection consists of 47 images relating to Sherman V. Best, Jr.'s military service and the Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait." All were taken in the European theater during World War

II, with the exception of one image taken of "Flak Bait" on display at the National Air and Space Museum. The images are scans made from original prints loaned by the donor. The original prints range in size from approximately 2 by 2.5 inches up to approximately 4 by 5 inches. All the images are black and white, with the exception of one color image. Scans were made at 600 dpi and sized so that the longest side is 6000 pixels. In addition to images of various Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 aircraft including "Flak Bait," aircraft depicted in the photographs include the Douglas C-47 Skytrain and Lockheed P-38 Lightning. People depicted in the photographs include various "Flak Bait" crew members including Best (co-pilot); Henry "Hank" Bozarth (pilot); Russell Bassler (tail gunner); W.J. "Bill" Johnston (engineer gunner); McDonald Darnell, Jr. (radio operator); and Tom Gee. There are also photographs of various other military personnel (some of whom may also have flown on "Flak Bait") including George Lane; Robert M. Jones; A.F. Byrd; Robert F. Whittling; Joe Urbanovsky; and Irv Pincus. Other named aircraft shown in the photographs include Douglas C-47 Skytrain "Dragon Lady" and Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Lil Maggie."

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Douglas C-47 Skytrain Family
- Lockheed P-38 Lightning Family
- Martin B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait"
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Aerial operations

Types of Materials:

- Digital images

Container Listing

NASM-9A12266: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26B Marauder \(Model 179B\) "Flak Bait"; Darnell, McDonald, Jr; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of crew members from the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group posed in front of Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait," circa 1943-1945. Standing, left to right, are Sherman V. Best, Jr., Henry "Hank" Bozarth, and Tom Gee. Kneeling, left to right, are W.J. "Bill" Johnston, McDonald Darnell, Jr., and Russell Bassler.

NASM-9A12267: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26B Marauder \(Model 179B\) "Flak Bait", circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Partial left side view of Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait" on the ground, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12268: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal portrait of Henry "Hank" Bozarth, in uniform, in Beauvais, France, circa 1943-1945. Someone is making a lewd hand gesture in the glass window behind his head.

NASM-9A12269: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26B Marauder \(Model 179B\) "Flak Bait"; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of Henry "Hank" Bozarth posed beside the Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait," circa 1943-1945, probably in Beauvais, France.

NASM-9A12270: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26B Marauder \(Model 179B\) "Flak Bait"; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of Tom Gee posed beside the Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait," circa 1943-1945, probably in Beauvais, France.

NASM-9A12271: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of W.J. "Bill" Johnston (left) and Sherman V. Best, Jr. exiting an aircraft in Southport, England, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12272: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, 1944](#)

Notes: Informal view of Sherman V. Best, Jr., in uniform, taken in Beauvais, France, 1944.

NASM-9A12273: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of W.J. "Bill" Johnston (left) and Sherman V. Best, Jr. in Southport, England, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12274: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General; Darnell, McDonald, Jr, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of McDonald Darnell, Jr. (left) and Sherman V. Best, Jr. exiting an airplane in Southport, England, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12275: [Darnell, McDonald, Jr, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of McDonald Darnell, Jr., in uniform, standing in front of a hedge, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12276: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of Russell Bassler (left) and W.J. "Bill" Johnston in a pub in Southport, England, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12277: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of (left to right) Henry "Hank" Bozarth, Robert M. "Bob" Jones, and Sherman V. Best, Jr. taken in Beauvais, France, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12278: [Darnell, McDonald, Jr, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of McDonald Darnell, Jr., in uniform, posed standing in front of a car, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12279: [Douglas C-47 Skytrain Family; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of W.J. "Bill" Johnston (left) and Sherman V. Best, Jr. posed in front of the Douglas C-47 Skytrain "Dragon Lady," circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12280: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General; Darnell, McDonald, Jr, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of McDonald Darnell, Jr. (left) and W.J. "Bill" Johnston sitting on a fence, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12281: [Darnell, McDonald, Jr, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of McDonald Darnell, Jr., in uniform, posed by the nose of an unidentified aircraft, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12282: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa December 1944 to January 1945](#)

Notes: View of a Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder on a snow covered runway, likely Beauvais, France awaiting take-off, circa December 1944 to January 1945. Photo is taken from inside another aircraft on the runway, which is partly visible. Caption on the reverse reads, "Preparing for take-off on mission to the Bulge."

NASM-9A12283: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Left side view of a Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder (A/C No. 43-34611, PN-F) sitting on a snow covered runway in Beauvais, France, circa 1943-1945. Caption on reverse reads "Take-off for mission to Bastogne."

NASM-9A12284: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of three Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder aircraft on a snow covered runway in Beauvais, France, circa 1943-1945. Caption on reverse reads "Take-off for mission to Bastogne."

NASM-9A12285: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View, from behind, of two Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder aircraft in flight, taken from another aircraft, over Germany, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12286: [Darnell, McDonald, Jr; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of crew members from the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group, circa 1943-1945. Standing are McDonald Darnell, Jr. (left) and Russell Bassler. Kneeling are Sherman V. Best, Jr. (left) and Henry "Hank" Bozarth.

NASM-9A12287: [Lockheed P-38 Lightning Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: One-half left front view of Lockheed P-38 Lightning nose down on a runway, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12288: [Fieseler Fi 156 Storch \(Stork\); Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: One-half left front view of Fieseler Fi 156 Storch (Stork) sitting on a runway, circa 1943-1945. Two unidentified men are standing in the foreground.

NASM-9A12289: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of Joe Urbanovsky, radio operator in the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group, wearing a flight suit, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12290: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of Informal view of Sherman V. Best, Jr., pilot in the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group, leaning against a brick wall wearing a uniform and flight jacket, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12291: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, Germany, Air War Over, circa 1944](#)

Notes: Aerial view (taken from another aircraft) of two Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder aircraft involved in aerial combat, taken over Germany, circa 1944.

NASM-9A12292: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1944](#)

Notes: Close-up view of Sherman V. Best, Jr. at the controls of an unidentified aircraft, most likely a Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder during a mission, circa 1944.

NASM-9A12293: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, Germany, Air War Over, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Aerial view, taken from the cockpit of a Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder during a mission over Germany, circa 1943-1945. Three other Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder aircraft are visible.

NASM-9A12294: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, Germany, Air War Over, circa 1944](#)

Notes: Aerial view (taken from another aircraft) of several Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder aircraft in flight over Germany, circa 1944.

NASM-9A12295: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of the nose of a Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder which includes nose art of a small structure affixed with guns, circa 1943-1945. An unidentified man is standing beside the aircraft.

NASM-9A12296: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1944](#)

Notes: View of the inside of the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group Officers' Club in Beauvais, France, circa 1944. An unidentified man is sitting at a table.

NASM-9A12297: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1944](#)

Notes: View of tent for the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group at Beauvais, France, circa 1944.

NASM-9A12298: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1944](#)

Notes: View of three unidentified members of the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group standing outside a tent in Beauvais, France, circa 1944.

NASM-9A12299: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1944](#)

Notes: View of Henry "Hank" Bozarth, 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group, sitting inside a tent at Beauvais, France, circa 1944.

NASM-9A12300: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Informal view of Henry "Hank" Bozarth (left) and Sherman V. Best, Jr. (both in uniform) posed in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12301: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Aerial view of the airfield at Bordeaux, France showing bombing damage done by the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12302: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, circa 1945](#)

Notes: View of French civilians posed in front of a Martin (Glenn L.) B-26 Marauder at Bordeaux, France, circa 1945. At far right is Georges Pechaudre, a local wine and liquor merchant, beside him is Mrs. Pechaudre, holding their son Bernard, and at far left is Monsieur Pechaudre's sister-in-law.

NASM-9A12303: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General; Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of Captain George Lane standing by the nose of Martin B-26 Marauder "Lil' Maggie," likely in France, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12304: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General; Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26 Marauder Family, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: Close-up, partial left side view of Martin B-26 Marauder "Lil' Maggie," likely in France, circa 1943-1945.

NASM-9A12305: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1945](#)

Notes: View of members of the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group on the flight line at Le Culot Air Base, Belgium, circa 1945.

NASM-9A12306: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1945](#)

Notes: View of members of the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group riding in a truck, likely at Le Culot Air Base, Belgium, circa 1945.

NASM-9A12307: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26B Marauder \(Model 179B\) "Flak Bait"; Darnell, McDonald, Jr; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of crew members from the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group posed in front of Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait," circa 1943-1945. Standing, left to right, are Sherman V. Best, Jr., Henry "Hank" Bozarth, and Tom Gee. Kneeling, left to right, are W.J. "Bill" Johnston, McDonald Darnell, Jr., and Russell Bassler.

NASM-9A12308: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron; Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group; Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, 1945](#)

Notes: View of crew members from the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group standing outside their operations room in Beauvais, France, 1945.

NASM-9A12309: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron](#); [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group](#); [Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, France, 1945](#)

Notes: View of Capt. George Lane (right, 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group) and an unidentified man walking at Tille Airfield, Beauvais, France, 1945.

NASM-9A12310: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron](#); [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group](#); [Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa May 1944](#)

Notes: View of Robert F. Whittling (right, 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group) talking to two members of the Royal Air Force, Sgt. George Olsen (left) and (most likely) Flight Sgt. Joseph Carey examining guns on the nose of an aircraft in the European Theater, circa May 1944. Taken before the unit started night missions.

NASM-9A12311: [Martin \(Glenn L.\) B-26B Marauder \(Model 179B\) "Flak Bait," NASM](#); [Darnell, McDonald, Jr; Museums, Smithsonian, Exhibits, NASM, World War II Aviation \(Jul 76- ; 205\), June 22, 1993](#)

Notes: View of (left) McDonald Darnell, Jr. and Sherman V. Best, Jr. posed in front of the nose section of Martin (Glenn L.) B-26B Marauder (Model 179B) "Flak Bait" on display in the World War II Aviation gallery at the National Air and Space Museum's National Mall building, June 22, 1993.

NASM-9A12351: [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 449th Bombardment Squadron](#); [Military, USA, Army Air Forces, Units, 322nd Bombardment Group](#); [Wars and Conflicts, World War II, European Theater, General, circa 1943-1945](#)

Notes: View of members of the 449th Bombardment Squadron, 322nd Bombardment Group posed in front of a tent in Beauvais, France, circa 1943-1945. In the doorway, a captured flag with a swastika has been hung. From left to right are A.F. Byrd, Irv Pincus, Sherman V. Best, Jr. (kneeling), Henry "Hank" Bozarth, and Robert M. Jones.