

BOMBER BOYS: PORTRAITS FROM THE FRONT - MUSEUM RELEASE



MUSEUM INFORMATION RELEASE

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Bering Street Studio Releases New Traveling Exhibit “Bomber Boys: Portraits From the Front”

Gig Harbor, WA – [Bering Street Studio](#), a new traveling exhibition company that focuses on creating high-quality special exhibitions for smaller spaces and budgets, has recently released “Bomber Boys: Portraits From the Front,” a new traveling exhibition that was developed in honor of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. Featuring a series of candid portraits reproduced from a secret stash of World War II images, ephemera, and a diary from 1945, the exhibit highlights the combat, captains, crew, and camp life of the 445th bomb squadron of the 12th Army Air Corps stationed on Corsica and in Italy.

You are receiving this museum release because one or more of the men featured in “Bomber Boys” is from your state.

With a focus on the men who flew and cared for the B-25 medium bombers, the exhibit challenges visitors to play “The Game of Fate” just as boys—many not even of legal drinking age—did when inducted into World War II.

This amazing collection was saved and kept secreted away for nearly 60 years by Keith B. Lile, a tail gunner who survived 59 missions with the 445th bomb squadron. Found while cleaning out the hayloft of a horse barn in Gig Harbor, Washington, the collection has been made available for educational purposes by his family.

Men who served in the 445th came from all over the United States, from California and Texas to Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, Washington and states in between. Because of that diversity, the exhibit includes a “local bomber boy” section, which allows each museum venue to add objects and images from their own collection to the show. The complete list of men from the 445th featured in the exhibit also aids in identifying where many of the men lived and were born. There are, however, a number of images in the exhibit that remain unidentified, adding to the public crowdsourcing effort by the collection curators. Visitors are invited to submit information on anyone they recognize, and the exhibit will be updated as it travels.

An engaging combination of portraits, personal stories, and an introduction to the little-known history of the 12th Army Air Corps, “Bomber Boys” invites visitors to see beyond

the bravado and smiles to the question that plagued every airman, “How long will I live?” And some didn’t make it. Visitors are invited to share their memories of bomber boys past and are challenged to piece together the stories of the men depicted through clues placed throughout the exhibit.

Far from your typical studio portraits, many of these images were snapshots taken during stand down on base. A very few show combat. Most were taken to mark a significant event such as a 50th or 100th mission, while others were meant to be shared or sent home as a last remembrance.

“Bomber Boys: Portraits from the Front” is now available for booking and comes as a complete package, including marketing, curriculum, and public program materials as well as ancillary products.

The rental fee of \$7,500 for a 3-month run includes 2 days of installation services by Bering Street staff, as well as a volunteer and staff training session. Shipping and travel expenses are billed separately.

The exhibit can be adapted for spaces from 1,000 square feet to 2,000 square feet.

For more information about [“Bomber Boys”](#) see [Bering Street Studio](#) on the web or call 253.677.4870.

ABOUT BERING STREET STUDIO

Founded in 2014, Bering Street Studio provides traveling exhibits and interpretive services to museums and nonprofits across the country who strive to make history, art, culture, and the wonders of the planet accessible to all. We work with others to create amazing exhibits and interpretive products targeted to smaller spaces and budgets, and we develop special projects and products of our own in partnership with private collectors, foundations, and universities.

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