

SACK TIME (It's a dog's life!)

This is what Les L. Reichardt, the pilot of 42-5914, *Sack Time*, that crashed in Germany on mission 10, to Regensburg had to say about his dog, "Our mascot was "Roger Wilco." We were one of the original crews. We had a large Q painted on the fuselage. Our ball turret gunner, Ben H. Phelper, was the artist who painted Roger in the center of the Q. We were shot down on this mission and we all remained a guest of the Germans until 1945. However, Egbert R. Rude, my radio operator, had begged off that fateful day and went on to finish his tour with another crew. Egbert took care of Roger and upon completion of his tour, brought Roger back to the States. This was no little task. I am told, that Sgt. Rude smuggled Roger Wilco on board the Queen Mary for the trip home in his duffel bag and when the dog was discovered. Rude had to serve on KP the balance of the voyage. Subsequent correspondence with Sgt. Rude brought Roger to my home in Marion, Ohio to await my return from POW camp. Roger Wilco joined my wife and me on a tour of duty and was later to be a constant companion to our son, Les, Jr. Roger died in 1948."