



MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

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34TH BOMB GROUP H

34TH Joins AF Living Tree Memorial

The 34th Bomb Group is taking part in the US Air Force Museum's program for the living Memorial Trees and dedicatory Plaques on the Museum's grounds, at the Wright-Patterson AF Base in Dayton. Tree planting and marker base preparation will get under way the next coming months. Marker plate mounting will soon follow. Dedication of the Memorial will be on Sat Oct. 9th

There are currently over a dozen Memorials established, among which are POW/MIA Memorial, Bicentennial-99th B.G. Memorial, 75th Troop Carrier Sqd. Memorial, 91st B.G. Memorial, 44th B.G. Memorial, Second Schweinfurt Ass'n Memorial, 379th B.G. Memorial, 384th B.G. Memorial, 91st B.G. Memorial, Several others are being planned by other WW II Groups.

The 34th site is near the 8th AF Memorial. On the same side of the site sidewalk as the Nissen Huts (See sketch below)

Cost of the Memorial will be approximately \$1500.00 which will come from the 34th B.G. Memorial Fund. The AF Museum will be responsible for the maintenance of the Memorials.

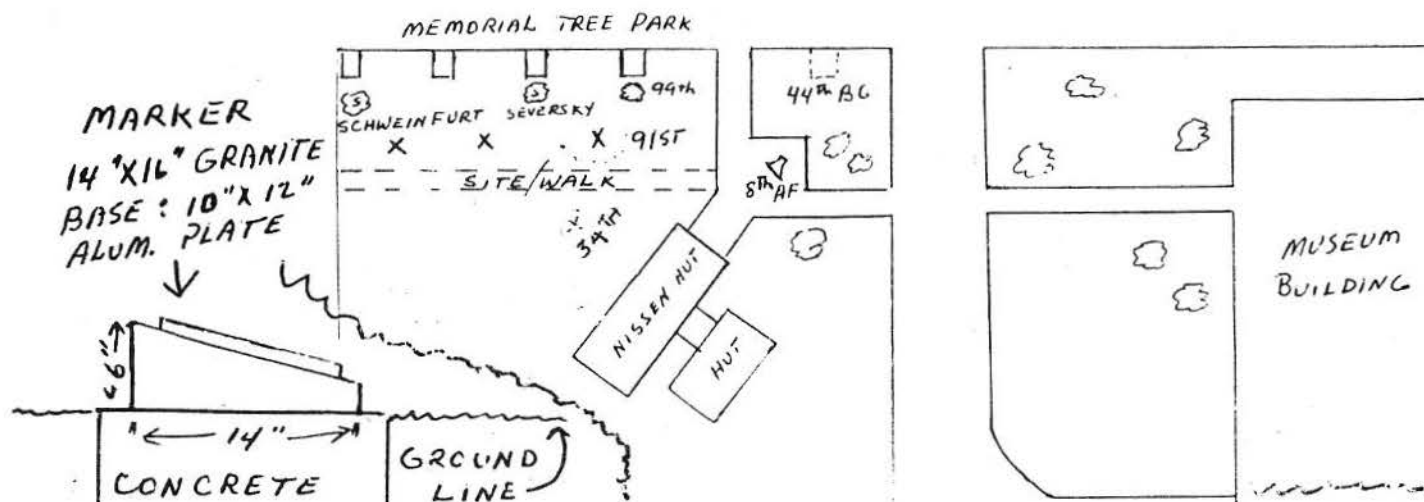
The living tree Memorial will be a 4" diameter oak, to be planted by the Siebenthaler Co. Landscape Nurserymen of Dayton Ohio. Cost of the tree will \$500.00 and will be guaranteed for one year. Tree planting will be last of Feb.

Cost of the Marker Plate will be \$455.00 and will be of aluminum. Wording to be same as on the Memorial at Mendlesham. It will be prepared by Meierjohan Wengler Inc. of Cincinnati Ohio.

The Marker Base will be provided by the Dayton Monument Co. It will be of grey granite. Cost of installing Marker Plate and Marker Base will be \$430.00, if the Museum installs the cement base. If the Monument Co. installs the cement base the cost will be \$615.00.

Plans for the Memorial were voted on at the reunion in St Paul last Fall. My wife and I have made several trips to the WPAF Museum, to complete the planning for the Memorial.

PUBLIC PARKING





Guy Gipson's Crew
and B24 "Off Limits"



Ray Summa.



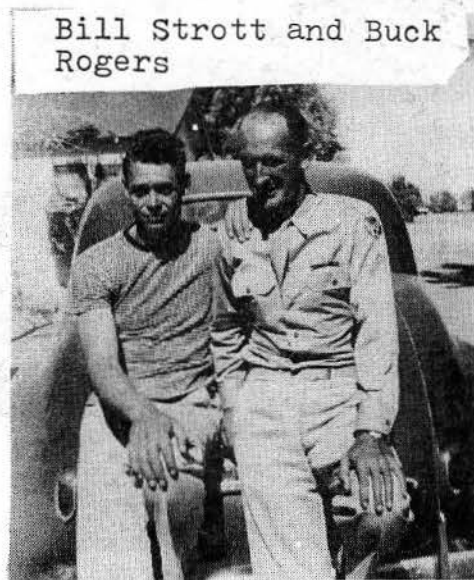
Radar Unit



Ed Bouty and Oliver
Bolduc.



4th Sqd Bomb Dokies.



Bill Strott and Buck
Rogers

Wanda Pine, Carrie and
Charles Smith & Hannah
Summa.



Bob Gay & Ben LeBailly



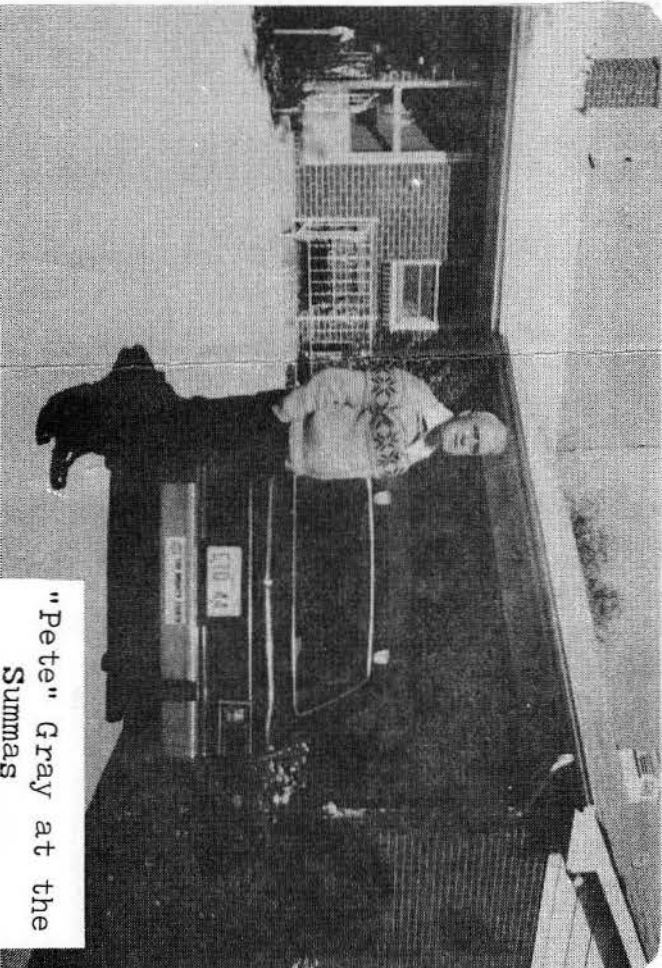
Fred Berguland
Malcolm Corum
Ken Lockwood
Ray Summa
Gerald Pine



Doug Underwood
Viv & Bill Creer



"Pete" Gray at the
Summas





MENDLESHAM, SUFFOLK, 1944-1945

Dear Fellow Members of the 34th B.G.

Well!!! it is that time again. Nothing eventful has happened so far this year but the nasty weather all over the country. I am sure we are all tired of it. I see by the calender that March 20th is the day spring arrives, so lets all think SPRING and maybe the weather will change.

First of all. Hannah and I would like to thank all of you who sent Christmas cards to us. We received many. We keep going thru them to read the messages you sent.

I will not say too much concerning the 34th B.G. Memorial as I already have one page on it. I would like to say this, the response has been great and if you have not sent in your donation for the Memorial, there is still time to do so. As you see from the front Memorial page all systems are go.

My wife, Hannah, and I made a trip to Washington D.C. in Dec to check on some records of the 34th B.G. which are located at the National Record Center at Washington. There are just 3 book of records at the Research Center but all the Bombing Mission reports are there. Guess we will have to make another trip to the Resaarch Center at Montgomery Ala. to get what we need.

Henry Jurgens called while we were in Washington and asked us to come to Del. as Paul Bourquin, one of the Engineering Officers from the 18th Sqd was coming for a visit. Paul lives in Pleasentville N.Y.

We were a little apprehensive about the weather, for it had been threatening all around us. The weather held up good and we made the trip without difficulty. We had a nice visit with Henry and Ruth and with Paul, whom we had not seen since we left Mendlesham in '45. We relived old memories of the 34th and the 18th Sqd. Scenes from yester years were recalled and our memories of the 34th were refreshed by our talks with each other. It was a short visit but worth every minute of it. Thanks, Henry and Ruth and also to Paul for the good memories we shared.

While in Pa. we stopped to see Clarence Bradford. Clarence is about the same and said to tell every one hello and he still would like to hear from more of you.

We took two days to drive from Washington D.C. to home. I stopped several times on the way home to call some of the 34th men who lived close to the Pa Turnpike and I 70. We did find a few of our men as you can see by the the list I am including.

On our way home, we stopped at the WPAF Museum at Dayton to present plans to the Museum of our proposed Memorial to be placed at the Museum. Bob Baughman of the Museum was glad the 34th is planning for a Memorial and let us choose a spot close to the Nissen Huts and close to the 8th Air Force Memorial being place there by the 8th AFHS.

I know you are all looking forward to the next reunion of the 34th B.G. It will be in Cincinnati and we will again rendezvous with the 8th AF. Besides the dedications of the 34th B.G. and the 8th AFHS Memorials, it will be the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the 8th AF. Dedication of the Memorials will be on Sat Oct 9th at the WPAF Museum.

Your Unit Contact and two members of the 34th B.G, who live at Cincinnati Ohio, Harold Witham and Robert Elsener, will meet with the Board Members of the 8th AFHS to review plans for the coming 8th AF reunion, at the Stouffers'

Bob Elsener as you recall was the 1st/Sgt of the 4th Sqd.

This will be April 23rd and after the meeting with the Board Members, we are hoping that some of you will meet us for a dinner, If any of you from the 34th who live close to Cincinnati, wish to meet us, for dinner, contact Harold Witham or Bob Elsener. Harold lives at 3393 Citrus Lane Cincinnati, Ohio 45329 Ph 521 6647. Bob Elsener lives just across the river at 119 Glazier Ave, Bellevue Ky. 41073. Each person will take care of their own check Harold will just make the reservations for dinner. Come on now, you men and ladies of the 34th B.G. who live close to Cincinnati, here is a chance to meet some of your old friends from the 34th who live close by.

I have been receiving a lot of letters lately from our members I will write a little from each. John Wooten, Crew Chief, 4th Sqd 609 S Lilac Ave Rialto Ca. 92376 says if any of you are coming that way, to stop for a visit He would like to see some of you. John, your old line chief, Lowell Larson, Lives close by.

Geroge Rohrbaugh, writes that he was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed by the Japanese. He is a member of " The Pearl Harbor Survivors". He was with the 481st Ord and came to the 34th B.G. and flew his missions with the Group as a Gunner in the 7th Sqd. How many of us can match his record? His letter was dated Dec 6th. You can imagine what he was thinking about.

Had several phone calls from Geroge Crump 34th B.G. Medic, who said to tell every one, he is still putting together his 34th B.G. book and anyone who has information about the 34th, to send it to him. He wonders, if any of you has the address of Thomas E Temple, head of the M.P. Unit at Mendlesham. Let's all help Geroge produce the book about the 34th B.G.

I received several pictures from Joe Rapisarda and Dave Palmer. Joe is from Richmond Va and was a Radar Man at Mendlesham. Dave was transportation Officer for the 34th and other Groups before and after the 34th. I will return your pictures soon as I have had them copied. Dave was formerly from Hawaii but has now moved back to Fla. to 5305 89th Ave Temple Terr. Fla

Some of you asked who was the Control Officer at the end of the runways, talking you in on those bad days and nights. He is Ray Grinrod from 10 Carriage Lane Lincoln R.I. I have heard from him and he would like to hear from some of you whom he talked in. We owe Ray and his boys a vote of thanks for the good work.

Mrs Ruth Stroud wrote about the death of her husband Walter. Crew Chief 4th Sqd. He had just had a By-pass Operation and was home and feeling pretty good and while watching TV, he had a heart attack and passed on. Walter's Pilot, Joe Marks, had taken time out of his busy schedule, flying the Air Lanes, to visit Walter, this last Oct at Walter's home. This seemed to perk Walter up and make him feel better. I did visit Walter this spring. Ruth, we are sorry about Walter.

Had a letter from Gerald and Wanda Pine, who are wintering in Guy Texas, away from that cold Wisc winter. Jerry's neighbors talked him into buying a pair cowboy boots and a nine gallon hat. Jerry said a ten gallon held too much Old Milwaukee Beer. He said he is glad to get out of the cold weather but would be glad to return to Wisc. as soon as the weather breaks. How about you Wanda? Have you bought cowgirl boots also?

Received a letter from Malcolm and Tillie Corum, who says Geroge and June Ritchie stopped by on their way home, from Ca. They were taking their sons car back as he had been shipped out with the Air Force. George and June are playing golf all across the country. That must have been some night out on the town by George, June, Ritchie, Jack and Dottie Blackham and Malcolm and Tillie Corum. Sure would have liked to have been there. Tillie says George likes her biscuits for breakfast.

By the way George and June have bought a retirement home in N.C. close to the golf courses. Just have to go out the back door and tee off. Have you moved to N.C. yet, George? Maybe we will see you down there one of these days as we usually spend some time near by at the Beaches on Emerald Isle. Send us your new address.

I had a letter from Rose Marie Anderson, former wife of Eldon Erwin, who was a Pilot in the 391st and went down on a mission over enemy territory

She was looking for the records of Erwin. She had never received them after his death. I was fortunate enough to have found some of the survivors of Erwin's Crew and I have sent her the addresses. She has contacted them and talked to them and says she will be at the reunion in Cincinnati to see them. Erwin had named his plane after her. "The Sunshine Rose". Some of the survivors of the crew are Roy Jones, Horace Lamar, Dirk Gombert, and Bud Babcock. This was the same plane which Jumping Joe Eaton went down on. Do you know where some of the other survivors are? *Same AA burst that hit us - especial*

We have found Steve Rutkowski, Crew Chief of the 391st, but a little too late. *Barcl* according to his wife Eleanor. Steve passed away in 1978. We are sorry to hear about Steve. He was the crew Chief of Oscar Hanson's plane. He often told his wife that Oscar was the one Pilot, he felt safe with when flying. Eleanor Rutkowski now lives at 20 S Nicholas Dr, Tonawanda N.Y. 14150. She would be glad to hear from some of Steve's friends.

Charles Lux says he will or has visited the Casinos at Atlantic City, which is not too far from where he lives. How much have you won or lost so far? Place a good bet for us.

Are any of you from the 34th B.G. Radio Hams? If so then you should get in touch with Clarence Hackney of 185 Middle Rd. Portsmouth N.H., 03801. His call letters are W1 DZZ. Clarence was a Crew Chief also from the 391st.

I have received several letters from Ken Lockwood. Ken was with the 18th Sqd as one of the flight crews. One letter was written Jan 20 and it was 38 years ago that he and his crew lost 2 engines and were forced to bail out and he spent 2 weeks in the hospital and flew the last two missions with Major Crabtree C.O. of the 18th Sqd. Thanks for all those letters Ken and keep them coming.

Will the person whom I talked to about the 34th emblem, please send me a copy of the drawing he has?

By the time most of you receive this letter, Hannah and I will be on our way to the So West. We hope to visit Texas and N.M. with stops in between. We will leave here Wed morning March 10th, First stop Little Rock Ak. We will travel from there to Shreveport La. Lonnie Crook has set up for us a tour of the 8th AF Base at Barksdall. I have been wanting to visit the Base now for some time and this gives us an opportunity to do so. While there we will meet Lonnie, Guy Gipson, Rabbi David Lefkowitz and possible Bill Kelly. All are from Shreveport except Bill, who is from W Monroe La. The tour of the Base will be on Friday with a dinner afterwards. As you know Guy Gipson was the first Pilot of my plane "Off Limits" and David Lefkowitz was the Jewish Rabbi at Mandlesham. Lonnie was an Instructor Bombardier. Bill Kelly was a Pilot in the 7th Sqd.

From here we will go to Dallas and say hello to some of those around Dallas especially to Joe Edwards, who lives in Grand Prairie Tx. not too far out of Dallas.

We will go from here to El Paso to meet Malcolm and Tillie Corum and Jack and Dottie Blackham. Jerry Pine and Wanda will join us here in El Paso. If any of you may want to talk or come to El Paso, get hold of Malcolm and Tillie and see when we will be there. We would enjoy seeing some of you from Texas.

Do not know how long we will be there, guess till Malcolm and Tille get tired of us hanging around.

We do hope to make Albuquerque N.M. this time and hope to see some of you in Albuquerque. Will try to let you know when we will be there.

As yet we do not know which way we will come back. It depends on the weather and road conditions.

Battery Press say they still have some of the 34th B.G. History books. The price is \$22.50 postage paid..If you should want one send the money to me and I will order your book sent to you. We of the 34th will get a percentage of the cost for selling the book. This will go in to our Memorial Funds. Here is a chance to own one of the 34th Books and also help the 34th out money wise. This book is a reprint of the original, by Edwin Smith, published in 1946 and second Edition in 1947.

I stated in our Dec newsletter that our 1982 membership dues are due. I have heard from quite a few of you but there still are a lot who havenot sent in their dues. Let me hear from you. When I came home from the reunion

last Oct, by the order of the Board of Directors of the 34th B.G. I sent out 240 letters to those who had never contributed to the 34th B.G. I had been sending newsletters to them for over a year. I received answers from 100 of those who sent were sent letters. The rest I have dropped from the mailing list. I had to do this as the cost of printing has gone up 25% and the cost of the mailing has doubled, even the non-profit mailing. Some of you will find a slip in your letter this time asking if you have sent in your 1982 dues. If you are in doubt look at the address label on the envelope. It will tell you if you have paid your dues. There should be your number and a one or a two after it. If there is no number then you have not sent any dues in. If there is a one after the number that means you have sent your 1981 dues in but still should send in your 1982 dues. Of course those with a 2 have sent in their 1982 dues. Now the dues are just \$5.00 a year and we are trying to keep them down. There are other Groups whose dues are \$12.00 to \$15.00 a year. We do hope we never have to go that high. While you are sending in your dues, send a little extra for our 34th B.G. Memorial Fund. Now let's hear from all of you who have not sent in your dues. I send you by return mail a 1982 membership card for the 34th B.G. Remember now, your dues and donations to the 34th B.G. as well as the 8th AFHS are tax deductible, you who have sent donations and dues, take advantage of this.

Another thing, we are associated with the 8th Air Force Historical, but we are an Organization of our own. When you send your dues to the 8th AFHS it is for their dues, which are \$8.00 a year. Send to 8th AFHS c/o Aida Kaye, 495 N.E. 157 Terr Miami Fla 33162, if you are sending in the AFHS dues. For the 34th B.G. dues, send to me and mark you check 34th B.G Ass'n

Had a nice letter and card from Sam Turnipseed who sent me a couple of names one was from the Gp Hdqg and the other one was the RAF Liason Commander of the Base at Mendlesham, when the 34th took over the Base. Sam says his own son, who had been ill, is better and Sam hopes to be in Cincinnati. We will look for you and Roy Jones, this fall.

Jim Hanson sent me a color photo of the B17, Jerry Christoherson, Oscar Hanson's son flew, which was used fighting fire in Montana. It is supposed to be the only B17F Model flying today. Of course it had been converted to a tanker to fight the fires. It looks a little different from those B17 we flew in during WW II but you can still see it is a B17.

Have just received a letter from William McDannold of Cameron Mo. Pilot of 7th Sqd who is just recovering from two Major Operations. Hope you get better fast now Bill and be able to come to the reunion in Cincinnati. Let us hear some more from you.

Just received a letter from Bill Fandel who is recovering from an operation. He says he is feeling better. Note the change of address for Bill. Hope you are well enough to attend the reunion in Cincinnati in Oct.

How many of you are planning to come to the reunion in Cincinnati. Oct 7th thru Oct 10th? Let me know.

I am enclosing a slip which tells about the reunion. Try to have it placed in your newspapers and magazines.

THERE IS A GIANT ON THE BEACH

He who does nothing makes only one mistake, he does nothing. He who makes no mistakes learns nothing, So I make a lot of mistakes, Now can I keep my job.

CHEERS

Ray L Summa

YOUR 34TH B.G. UNIT CONTACT

NEW NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Davy, Arthur
1425 Division
Stevens Point Wi 54481

Olson, Edgar
2001 Wilshire Dr
Frankfort Ind. 46041

Hall Herbert B
P.O. BOX 96
Scottville Mi 49454

Rankin, Earl
Rd 1 Box 248
Strasburg Pa. 17579

Knight James L
R #1
Belton Ky. 42324

Rentz, Ecine
2936 Catherine St
Shrevesport La. 71109

Vincens, Hilton P.
2213 Cypress Dr
Mearux La. 70075

Golterman, Richard 4
1800 Banbury Rd
Palatine Ill 60067

Moore, George W. 391
P.O. Box 1683
Phoenix Az. 85001

Dooley, John R.
474 Hedgewood
Zanesville Ohio.

Clawson, James Jr.
102 Vine St
Belle Vernon Pa. 15012

Labadua Steve
Box 403
Yukon Pa. 15698

Dufelmeier, Arthur J 7
603 Plum N.
Havana Ill. 62644

West, Rolly G.
Himyar Ky 40952

Weaver, Charley
89 Westview Dr
Reynoldsburg Ohio 43062

Walch, Steve
18 Westview Ct
Saginaw Mi 48602

Furlow Vince
1913 Michigan
Saginaw Mi. 48602.

Stelling Williard
1101 Illinois St
Ottawa Ill 61350

Banfield, Lawrence
8307 th St West
Rock Island Ill 61201

Beyer, John J.
P.O. Box 18
Kingsbury Tx. 78638

Croom, Edward H
Rt #5
Jackson Te. 38301

Copeland Bennie L.4
321 W Southern
Saginaw Tx 76179

Kerr, James 18
1900 Hurd Dr
Irving Tx. 75062

McSpaden Allen C.
P.O. Box 216
Wan Buren Mo. 63965

McGuan Robert J.
4616 SE 64th St
Portland Or. 97259

Finley, Dale L.
210 West
Crithersville Ind. 47229

Thompson, Lester E S^A
3250 Westchester Dr.
Granite City Ill 62040

Anderson, Rose Marie
157 S LeBaron
Mesa Az. 85202.

Bloom, Jerome A
1327 Sorce St
Ohilidelphia. Pa.

TAPS

Richard Zell.
John Melnick
Earl Williamson. 4th Sqd Engineering Officer. Jackson Ten (Cleveland Te)
Arthur Blarr Buffalo N.Y.
Walter Stroud. Crew Chief 4th Sqd. Sayre Pa.
Steve Rutkowski Crew Chief 391st Sqd. Tonawanda N.Y.
Gregory Handy. L.I. New York
Harold Yohe. Elwood Ind.
Jack Whittaker. Lone Wolf Okla.

Corrections and Address changes

Kincaid Gerald Change to 17012 41st St Bellevue Wa. 98008
Beaver, Joseph should be 1826 So 7th St Hartsville S.C. 29550
Amerman Kenneth Mrs Summer address 3301 Concord Ct Mishawaka Ind 46545
Bell Dwight 2307 Glenwood Dr Des moines Iowa 50321
Brune, Ralph Box 394 No. Myrtle Beach S.C. 29582
Casler Dudley address should be 305 Millett Ave EMesa Az. 85202
Marks Dan, 1369 Jane Dr Manahawkin N.J. 08050
Radford Robert Add apt #309
Langdon, James 689 N.E. 6th Ct #402 Boynton Beach Fla. 33485
Strona, John 4160 E Kingsley Apt H Montclair Ca. 91763
Hibbett, James L. 916 E Northfiels Blvd Murfreesburg Tn. 37130
Luhrsen, August 47800 Silver Spur, Palm Desert Ca. 92260
Weese Russell 2995 East Haven Ct So Columbus Ohio 43227
Buona, Ralph 4243 Regis Dr Erie Pa. 16510
Seofert, Walter 55 Columbia St, Hyde, N.Y. 14463
Cohen, Lou Ballard St instead of Hallard St.
St Lawrence Robert Z.C. to 03224
Merwin Ted change to Nerwin, Ted
Wingo Truman Change to 2822 Verda Pointe Santa Fe N.M, 85701
Fandel William Change to 4917 Ravenswood Dr Apt 261 San Antonio Tx 78227
Palmer, Dave Change to 5305 98th Ave Temple Terr Fla. 33617
Stanbury, Ralph Rte #3 Box 190 R. Bryson City N.C. 282716
Boulaine, Jean 15303 Walters Rd Houston Tx 77068
Smethills J.J. 2153 So Xavier St Denver Co. 80219

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Statement of Purpose

To bring together Veterans of Worlds War II, who were members of the USAF 34th Bombardment Group, both in England and the USA, to encourage Social Fellowship; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to perpetuate Americanism; to preserve the spirit of comradship among its members.; to perpetuate the memory of the dead and assist their widows and children.

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

Pilot, 4th Squadron, Crew #12, April - Aug 1944