



VOLUME IV

NUMBER II

JUNE 1982

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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391

Dear Fellow Members of the 34th Bomb Group Ass'n

"There is a Giant on the Beach"

Those who flew know the meaning of this, but those who did not fly, it means we have a mission scheduled and to conduct your self accordingly.

Yes, we do have a mission scheduled, in fact we have 3 missions scheduled. No 1--Reunion with the 8th AF in Cincinnati, Ohio, Oct 7th-10th. Your briefing is in this newsletter and also will be completed in the Sept Newsletter.

No2--Dedication of the 34th B.G. Living Tree Memorial at the WPAF Museum at Dayton Ohio Oct 9th 1982. Most of the briefing will be at the reunion meeting in Cincinnati.

No3--Restoration of the 34th B.G. Memorial at the old 34th Base in Mendlesham, England. Some briefing in this newsletter and the final briefing at the business meeting Oct 8th at the reunion. (Also see the Presidents report by President Malcolm Corum in this letter).

Bob Elsener, 1st Sgt of the 4th Sqd, Harold Witham, 18th Sqd, and my wife Hannah and myself met with several other representatives of the Units of the 8th AF, at the Stouffers Towers, Cincinnati Ohio, April 24th and were taken for a tour of the reunion facilities, by Murray Fein of Rambling Tours, who briefed us on the events and happenings of the upcoming reunion.

Tuesday eve. will be the kickoff Cocktail hour, for the early arrivals at the Stouffers Towers. (Cash bar). Tuesday nite and wed all day the registration desk will be open at the Stouffers Towers. All other days the desk will be open across the street at the Convention Center. Get your Hotel Room and then register.

Starting at 1:00 on wed will be the POW and Escapee and Evasion Symposium moderated by Roger Freeman. POWs, will be first and then after a break it will be the Escapee and Evasion. There will be a dinner for those attending the Symposium afterwards. (See brochures enclosed for the cost of this event)

Thurs. will be the official start of the reunion, and registration day for those who come on thurs. That evening there will be an Aero Club Dance at the Convention Center. A Beer Garden will be provided at the Center on thurs. nite, profits will go to the 8AFHS. Prizes will be awarded for various things at the dance. Rendezvous room at the Convention Center will be opened at 12:30 on thurs. for all of the Units having rendezvous. Each Unit can do its own thing.

I might add here: Be sure to register all guests, for each Unit having rendezvous will receive \$4.00, from the registration fee, if registered by Sept 17th.

Unit Contact breakfast will be held on thurs. at 8:00, followed by a workshop for the Unit Contacts and their helpers.

Friday morning will be the General meeting of the 8th AFHS, this will break for lunch by 12:00. In the afternoon, it will be the Business Meetings of the Units. There will be short break in the afternoon during the Unit meetings. The Wives of those attending, will be transported to the Ohio River Front, for a sight seeing trip, aboard two Paddle Wheel Boats. At 6:15 to 7:15 there will be a social hour, either in your rendezvous room or in the auditorium of the Center. The Rendezvous dinner will follow at 7:30

Now on Sat morning, after an early breakfast, we will board the buses for the WPAF Museum at Dayton. Please make this on time, for we are scheduled a very early and busy day. Dedication will take place at 11:00, for the 8th AF Memorial, following this the dedication of various other Memorial, from other Units of the 8th AF will take place. Remember the 34th has a Memorial to dedicate. Not too much time will be allotted to these dedications and taps will be played at the end for all Units having Memorials. A box lunch will be served and it is promised it will not be an ordinary box lunch, it will be catered. In case of rain (God forbid), there will be a large tent big enough to sit 2,000 people for the dedication and for use as a lunch room after the dedication. Several Dignitaries will attend the dedication. Gen LeMay, Gen Doolittle, Gen Harris and possible Jimmy Stewart. After lunch one is on his own, and can go sight seeing thru the Museum. Last bus back to Cincinnati will be at 3:00.

As you know, sat nite will be the 8AF Banquet and will be served in the Convention Center. If one get his reservation in by Sept 17th it is possible to sit with their own Unit. After this date one will be seated, where there is an opening.

Sunday will be the farewell breakfast.

I am urging each of you who would like to come to the reunion of the 8th AF, to do so this year, especially those east of the Mississippi, for this may be the last 8th AF reunion in the East until 1986.

There are 700 rooms at the Stouffers and 200 more at the Terrace Hilton available for this reunion. Those who register early will be given rooms at the Stouffers Tower. The rest will go to the Terrace Hilton just a block away from Stouffers and the Convention Center. In case all rooms at these Hotels are taken, there will be rooms at the Holiday Inns, but one will have to make his own reservation for the Holiday. There are several package deals one can get for the reunion. If you live around Cincinnati, write to Rambling Tours (Address on the brochure) for the reservation form you might want. Do it as soon as you receive this letter. Remember if you are coming to the reunion, send in your reservation early and if you have to cancel by a certain date, your money will be refunded, except for the 10:00 registration fee.

We are not supposed to bring our own liquor to the Convention Center and if one buys from the Center the cost is \$27.00 a bottle. So if you bring one be very discreet about it and keep it hidden until you reach the rendezvous room. Bring it in a brief case or a suitcase, but keep it hidden from the Guards until you reach the rendezvous room.

The theme for the 34th Rendezvous, will be the Ground Personnel and honor will be paid to those men of the Ground Forces of the 34th B.G. at the Banquet. As you can recall, a certain amount of glamour was attached to those who flew but not too much glamour was attached to those who "KEPT 'EM FLYING" and others such as the Medics, the Cooks, the KPS, The Base Maintenance Personnel, The Drs. the Technicians, the Barbers and all other of those "Ground Pounders", whom it took to keep the Base going.

Now the speaker for the evening, who in most opinions, is the most suitable person to give the talk at the Dinner, is Bob S. Gay, our Group Executive Officer. He is the one, of all Officers on the Base, had more to do with the ground personnel, than any other Officer. Bob joined the 34th B.G. in the early day, in the State of Washington and followed thru until the 34th was disbanded in 1945 at Sioux Falls S.D. He came to the 34th from the Tank Corps and before that he was with the Cavalry. As he once said, he did not want to die in a tank, so he transferred to the Air Corps.

There will be more about the reunion in the sept newsletter. I will say once more get those reservations in early.

My wife and I have made several trips to the WPAF Museum at Dayton and to Cincinnati to see about the Memorial. The Plaque is almost done and will be delivered to the Monument Co at Dayton when completed, for mounting on the stone. The oak tree has been planted at the Memorial site and it is one of the largest trees, which has been set out at the Museum. We have, as yet no idea, when the cement for the base will be poured but it will be ready for the dedication Oct 9th 1982. Money is still coming in for the Memorial and

and those of you who have not contributed and wish to do, send your contribution to me for I am also the Treasurer of the Ass'n. ALL MONIES LEFT OVER WILL BE USED TOWARDS RESTORING THE 34th B.G. MEMORIAL AT OUR OLD BASE AT MENDLESHAM. All donations are put in a sepearte account and is used only for the Memorial.

In a letter I received from Gene James, he says he and all his crew will be at the reunion in Cincinnati and any crew who expect to beat his crew with the most men there, had better start their engines now and have plenty of gas. Gene's crew had the most members present at the reunion in St Paul. Any crew want to take them on?

I received a most welcome letter from Bill Cheek and I will repeat part of it: Bill says, I would like to hear from anyone who flew the 7th April Mission to Rostrow. The 7th, 18th, 391st flew that day. We were attacked by ME 109s just as we reached the I.P. and went into the bomb run. Our leader reports 15 ME 109s, were after us. Records show we shot 1 down, 4 probables and damaged 8. I would like to hear from some of the others as to what they saw and remember.

I have thought of this many many times these last 37 years. I have tried to find all I can about this mission. the thing which has stuck in my mind is that the fighter that bored in on my aircraft, did not appear to be firing his guns. I have wondered about this. Roger Freeman wrote in his book about the G.A.F. doing some ramming tactics near the end of the war as the Japanese Kamakazi Pilots did. I have an 8th AF bulletien, which came out after this mission that suspected this but gave it no credence. I saw a book printed by Jane's London. copywrited 1981 that states the following--- the last major resistance put up by the G.A.F was april 7th 1945. Says the fighter pilots were aided by martial music played on their radios and they were to carry out suicide ramming tactics against the bombers. It is titled the "German Air Force"

Freeman also discusses this in his book "The Mighty Eighth"

The ME 109 that I shot down was coming in on us at 6 O'clock level. There was no way that I could miss hitting him. I think we were low Sqd. and my plane was tail and Charlie. I could see my tracers ripping into his plane. It begin smoking badly and to loose altitude and went right beneath me on the way down. His speed overtook us and I got a good look at him as he zoomed by us. The Pilot' head was leaning on the right side of his canopy, which leads me to believe he was personally hit.

The thing I am wondering about was that I was not aware of his guns firing. So then I could not figure out why he was attacking. Now this new news, I guess his intentions were to ram us. The 8th AF bulletien reports the 3rd Air Div. - ision lost 16 bombers that day and some of them went down due to ramming.

Any of you who remember this raid, write to me, Bill Cheek 301 E Maxwell St Lakeland Fla. 33803.

My wife Hannah and I went to Cincinnati April 23rd to be briefed on the reunion facilities. On friday evening we met some members of the 34th B.G., at the Stouffers Towers where the reunion will be held, for dinner. We had a wonderful time talking over old times with them about the 34th B.G. Harold Witham and Bob Elsener set up the dinner party and we had invited anyone from the 34th who lived close on in Cincinnati to come. There were 11 counting our wives. Bob Elsener, Harold and Lee witham, Clarence and Rita Arand, Myron and Jane Thompson, Lou and Anita Bolce, Hannah and myself. It was sure nice meeting you all. We enjoyed every minute of the time spent with you. We hope to see you this fall at the reunion.

I suppose a lot of you are wondering about our trip out west. We did enjoy our selves and saw things we had wanted to see for a long time. Saw a lot of the 34th B.G. people. We called a lot of you, but some how we missed several of you.

We stopped in Shreveport and saw Lonnie and Dorabelle Crook, Guy and Senia Gipson. Took a tour of the 8th AF Base at Barksdale. We did get to go into the Command Post on the Base and listened to the reports from several of our Posts across the World, including the Looking Glass. We saw a B24 and a B17 being restored at the Base, and had a look into the cockpit of one of the new fighters. We had a tour of the Museum at the Base and that night

Next stop was Grand Prairie Tx., where we stopped to see Joe and Verna Edwards, Joe was from the 391st and had taken the film, which I had shown at the reunion showing the B24, which was being brought home from England, He was the navigator of the plane. We had dinner at the Steak and Ale Restaurant, where we met Tom and Betty Foster. Tom was a Pilot from the 34th. He was just getting over an operation and was beginning to feel better. Hope you continue to feel better, Tom and we hope to see you and Betty at the reunion. We had a wonderful time visiting Joe and Verna. You should hear them both play the Cornet and their two sons jazz the piano, with Verna playing the Cornet. Quite a musical family. Joe and Verna we had a wonderful time with you and are looking for you in Cincinnati.

We called called several men from the B.G. and found some of you home and some not. I should have looked at the map before I made my plans to visit Tx. for I did not realize that Ft Worth and Dallas were that close. I am sorry I did not get in touch with all of you but next time we come that way, maybe we can have a gettogether somewhere close to both cities.

We drove from Grand Prairie to El Paso in one day, stopping to call men from the 34th B.G. along the way. Some one was right when they said, the real west began, just over the first hill from Ft Worth. We admired the oil wells and ranches across Tx. and wish the wind would blow some of them to Indiana instead of the dust.

We were greeted at the Corums by Malcolm and Tillie and Wanda and Jerry Pine who had flown up from Guy, Tx. to be with us. Malcolm's directions to his place were good but my Navigator gets lost as soon as we drive out of the Garage.

During one afternoon we argued which Sqd was the best, no decision. We only had 3 Sqd present. No one was there to represent the 4th Sqd.

Gerald, Wanda, Hannah and I took one day to visit old Mexico across the river from El Paso. Makes one glad he lives in the good Old USA. The only way the Taxi Driver could get thru the crowd was to lay on the horn.

Sat was a get together of 34th men who came to El Paso. Bill Creer flew in from Las Vegas (We missed you Viv). James Martin from Santa Anna, Jerry and Wanda Pine from Wis. and from El Paso, Malcolm and Tillie, Jack and Dottie Blackham, and Rosemary Fryer, sister to Austin who went down on a mission with the 34th B.G. and of course Hannah and I. We spent the evening at the Empire Club, where the food was good and the music was the kind we all loved.

Sunday mornig we all sat down to a breakfast with Tillie's home made biscuits Tillie you get the golden biscuit award.

We went from here to the White Sands Missile Range but weren't able to get near the Shuttle landing strip, so we went to the white Sands Park. It is something to see. Different than anything I have ever seen.

We went on to Albuquerque and met Warren and Millie Armstrong. Warren showed us the city of Albuquerque, also the B17 which was at the Airport and was to be sold the next day. One evening we had dinner at the Officers' club with Warren and Millie, Weller and Betty Franklin and Gerald Feit. Sorry I could not give you more advance notice as to the day I would be there. Maybe next time we can and be able to meet more of you. We enjoyed being with you at Albuquerque.

From here we went to the Carlsbad Caverns and took the long trip thru the Cavern. It is a wonderful place and if you are ever close to it better stop to see it.

We wound up in San Antonio Tx and called several of the 34th men there, who did not know the 34th was back together again. Here to we called Len and Velma Breau and Bill Fandel. We are sorry we could not spend some time with you, maybe next time we can. It was nice talking to you.

From San Antonio we started home, only stopping to call men from the 34th who lived close to the places we were going thru. I do want to say this; No money from the Bomb group has been used when we are on a trip visiting and trying to find our men from the 34th B.G. It gives us pleasure to do something for the 34th B.G.

To all of you whom we saw and visited, we want to thank all of you for your hospitality and the good times you showed us. Thanks a million.

I have been receiving several letters from Europe lately. One was from a person at Ipswich England wanting to know if we had located Robert Korf. I have not answered his letter yet as I have not been able to locate him. Robert S Korf was with the 34th B.G. and was a Lieutenamt at the time he left for the states in 1944. He was from Rockford Ill but is not listed there now. Some of you from around Chicago, try to find Bob.

Had another letter from a man in the Netherlands, asking about a B 17 which went down on Oct 7th 1944 just off the Coast. The crew of the life boat could not speak to the ones they rescued as the German's had a guard on the prisoners. He tried but the German Guard made him quit. It was a B17 S/N 43-38188 and was from the 34th B.G. It was one of the 56 Bombers lost that day by the 8th AF. Do any of you remember that day? Were any of you on that plane? Hille van Dieren Zuid 13a 8894 KH Formerun, Terschelling Island, the Netherlands would like to hear from you. This would be a chance to get in touch with the man who probably help save your lives. If you do get in touch with him let me know. Perhaps there is an untold story here.

Do not forget to send in your reservations early for the reunion. If you do it is possible you will be at the Stouffers Towers which is just across the street from the Convention Center.

When I asked for the drawing of the 7th Sqd emblem in March's newsletter I received two drawings and also 2 original patches. I will keep the drawings but as soon as I have the patches photographed I will return them. Thanks for your response and I can assure you I have taken good care of them. One from Trevett Wilson and one from Carl Nichols.

I have been receiving several photos from people. I am keeping these separate and will start to reproduce them as soon as the newsletter is out and I will send them back to you as soon as this is done. Thanks very much for lending them to me. I will try to use them one of these days in the newsletter.

Jerry and Wanda Pine just arrived today to help get the newsletter out. It was good to see them once again. We were together in Texas for awhile. So if you if you don't receive all your newsletter, you will have some one to blame it on beside Hannah and me. Ha. Of course it could be the Old Style beer Brass Monkeys, Manhattans or the Wisconsin Cheese, Jerry and Wanda brought.

By the way, if it is possible, we would like to see as many of the Board of Directors of the 34th B.G. on Wed for we have a few things to discuss. Also there will be an election of Officer at the business meeting on Friday afternoon., Oct 8th.

Just received a package from Doug Underwood, who sent me the history of the 34th B.G. as it appears in the records. Doug you did a wonderful job and I know it took a many hours of your time to do the research for the information I had asked for. Thanks a million.

Doug also sent the addresses to write to for information about different things. I will if there is space put them in the next newsletter.

I will leave you with two thoughts: Never make the same mistake twice, when there are so many new ones out there to be discovered. Also Please excuse my mistakes, just remember, the greatest artists were once beginners.

CHEERS



34th B.G. Unit Contact

DO NOT FORGET TO PLACE THE REUNION NOTICES IN YOUR HOME TOWN NEWSPAPER

Some of us on the Board have come up with an idea for the Unit dinner on Fri. nite that will serve 3 purposes and at the same time will solve 3 problems One--Getting everyone to contribute to the success of the reunion, whether they are in attendance at the reunion or not. Two--Giving the reunion a festive air and having everyone actively participating. Three-- Raising money and having fun doing it.

We shall call it "AUCTION USA",!! Its success will be up to each member of the 34th. We are asking each member to send us an item, to be auctioned during the dinner, which is typical of your area. A collectible from your home, a manufactured item from your company, a serious gift, whatever, surprise us.

Such as:

New England States--Syrup, Textile products, Jewelery.

N.Y., N.J. Pa. Ohio.--Wines, Pottery, Food stuff, Wood products.

W.Va. Va. Md. Ky. Ten. N.C.S.C. Small Appliances, Toys, Whiskey, Tobbacco, Candy

Fla. Ga. Ala. Miss. La.-- Fruit, Nuts, Souvenirs, Agricultural products.

Tex. Ark. Okla. N.M. Fruit, Oil Wells, Cotton products Etc.

Ind. Mi. Ill. Wi. Mn. Iowa Mo.-- Cheese, Dairy products, Plastic products, Candy

N.D. S.D. Neb. Kas--Art, Minerals, Leather goods, Wool products.

Mont. Wyoming Col. Nev.-Idaho. Wool products, Mineral fashioned into souvenirs

Alasks, Wa. Ca. Hawaii- Grapes, Fruit, Candy, Can goods, Raisins, Wood products.

These are just a few suggestions to go by.

Now when you send a gift, please enclose a letter, with your name, address, and a short history of your status of the last 38 yrs. Also give Sqd and what you did in the 34th B.G. (keep it short) We will post each letter with the gift on the "AUCTION USA" display table.

All letters will be answered and each gift acknowledged and the value is tax deductable. You will get an offical receipt if you want one.

George Ritchie, 7th Sqd. will run the Auction. Here is the procedure, if you plan to come to the reunion, please bring the gift and turn it over to Ray Summa, Malcolm Corum or George Ritchie, on arrival.

B If you are not coming to the reunion, please mail or send by U.P.S. to
George Ritchie Ray L. Summa.

7139 Woodchuck Hill

2910 Bittersweet Lane

Fayettevill N.Y. 13066

Anderson, Ind 46011.

They are both driving to the reunion and will bring the gift along.

C--Only as a last resort, should you mail the gift to the Hotel. You may but the timing is important. They can't arrive too early or too late. Plan it to arrive not over 2 days before the reunion, Mark each package to the attention of Malcolm Corum or Ray Summa C/O 34th B.G. Stouffers Towers, Cincinnati Ohio.

D-- Do not forget a letter, say hello, give personel history and a few comments.

E. You may send the gifts to Ray or George anytime, please do not put off or forget. Here is a chance to participate in the reunion in a personel way.

F-- The acknowledgement letter and receipt will be sent after the reunion, so please be patient, if send your gift early. Make it something good, some thing typical of your area-- meaningful to the recepiant, dollar value is not important. The gift must come from the heart.

G-- Speaking of dollars, All money earned will be used to move and rebuild the 34th B.G. Memorial at Mendlesham England (see Presidents message.)

We are very excited about this idea, with the cooperation of everyone doing something a little extra, should make this reunion more exciting and enjoyable.

This project can only be successful if everyone makes and effort, It is not asking too much, so please show us our efforts are appreciated and enjoyable, This year, you can be in Cincinnati, one way or another.

You may have family or friends who want to participate and donate a gift via their advertising budget, Ask a friend if he would like to help. Use no pressure--but ask them.

Dead line to send gifts Sept 10th

New names and addresses for June.

Gorski, Clarence 10901 No Star Way S.W. Tacoma Wa. 98498	Frischmuth, Otto 7 140 Palo Duro San Antonio Tx. 78232	Whiting Jack C 18 2914 Noyes Ave Charlestown W, Va. 25304
Perry, Harry P.O. Box 1817 Hendersonville Ky. 28279	Black, Wm B. 7 116 S Court St Tiptonville, Ten 38079	Ivey, Kivett 7 301 Meadow Rd. Goldsboro, N.C. 27530
Frankenstein, Hyman 137-10 64th Rd. Flushing N.Y. 11627	Holmes, Gerald 7 2514 Nottingham St Grand Prairie Tx. 75050	Rombro, Marvin J, Dr. 18 8 Stonehenge Circle Baltimore Md. 21208
Williams, Herbert H. 613 Bigler St Franklin La. 70538	Young Wooten L. 1209 Travis Hgth Blvd Austin Tx. 78704	Dickmann, Jerome 5531 Candielland Lane Grafton Wi. 53024
Quinn, Edward H. 32 Grove Lane Levittown N.Y. 11756	Ballardm Winston P. 417 Hammond Ave San Antonio Tx 78210	Fredette, Raymond H. 7 1127 Powhatan St Alexandria Va, 22314
Jalving, Marvin W. 4299 Indain Spg Dr SW Grandville Mi. 49418	Anderson , Kieth 3327 Work Rd. Ravenne Ohio 44256	Simmons, Fred L 4 Rt 4 184 Erwin Hill Rd. Ashville, N.C. 28806
Hoag David C Gp. M6222 Lincoln Spokane Wa. 99208	Mixon, James Rev. 109 Sorindal Birmingham Ala 71953	Eisenberg, Benjamin 5444 East View Park Chicago Ill 60615
Triplett Paul "Pete" Ap C. 3413 Traskwood Circle Cincinnati Ohio 45208	Gardner, Henry +. 391 Box 392 Mena Ak. 71953	Ellis, Charles W. 19727 St Ana Ct Saratoga Ca. 95070
Muntzer Willaim 4020 Hartel Ave Philidelphia Pa. 19136	Gerhardstein, Eugene 628 W Bauer Rd Naperville Ill. 60504	Baldwin, James Jr 391 1438 9th St No. Fargo N.D. 58102
Rice Ernest A Jr 4 P.O. Box 15772 Nashville Ten. 37215	Ratcliff David W 18 1117 Prospect Ave Pulaski Va. 24301	Schildman William W.7 RR #1 Alexander Ill 62601
Kelley, James 4 P.O. Box 692 Colorado City Tx 79512	Antkowiak Chester 391 527 W 3rd St Elyria, Ohio 44035	Terry John P. ~ 7 950 No Louise St #305 Glendale Ca. 91207

Taps.

John J. Walker
Gordon Barbaras
Bennie Copeland.

Change of Address:

Ken Ulm to P.O. Box 5782 Fullerton Ca. 92635
Moore, George 914 Lincoln Dr, Van Buren, Ak 72956 ()8807)
Charle Eberle , Clinton Gardens Bldg 1 #2 Clinton N.J.
Steve Feltovich 2255 Par Lane Ap 1009 Willoughby Hills 44094
Tom Murphy Box no 147
Fedra, John 658 Dellridge Ave St Paul Mn. 55119
Share, Jack 6 Wadsworth Cortland N.Y. 13045
Hudson Hawlet P.O. Box 914 Bonita Spgs Fla 33923
West, Rolly 2848 Haig Ave Kettering Ohio 45419
Eide, Geroge Memorial Home Maddock N.D. 58348
Bouline Jean 15303 Walters Rd. Houston Tx 77068
Ulrich, Clarence put W after 4343 Errun Lane
Bell Dwight 2303 Glenwood Dr Des Moines Ipwa 50321
Ross John J. 525 Nortern Blvd Great Neck N.Y. 11021
Change Jack Longmire's Box the Box 629
Mrs Bennie Copeland P.O. Box 586 Minco Okla 73059

Presidents Report

To All Members -- 34th Bomb Group Association Inc.

First let me pass on the desire and hope that all of you can and will attend the 34thAFHS reunion to be in Cincinnati, Ohio on 7-10 Oct. The 8thAFHS will dedicate a memorial at the Air Force Museum, Dayton on Saturday - 9 Oct. The 34thBGA will dedicate a memorial immediately following. I sincerely wish all of you to be there - it will be most rewarding to all. Along with this the Museum is a must for anyone who has been associated with airplanes, past, present or future.

We have been in communication with our English friends near Mendlesham since November of 1981 concerning the condition of the Mendlesham Memorial to the 34thBG. The Monument is in a state of disrepair and is deteriorating due to English weather and heavy traffic on A-140 (main route Ipswich - Norwich). Bill Creer has been and is in touch with Mr. George Steadman, principal trustee and owner of the land upon which the monument rests, Jack Blackham has been in touch with Mr. Ian Hawkins, neighbor of Mr. Steadman and professional engineer, concerning the monument. All of these gentlemen are interested in the restoration of the monument.

Now, what has gone on up until this time follows: Ian Hawkins sent plat map and contractors statement, concerning the rebuilding. Some suggested moving the monument to a new site near the old entrance road to Station 156 hanger and technical area. It is believed by those present at a conference at the Corum Homestead on 20 March that the present site is where it should be - if we consider moving it back from the Road (A-140) about 20-25 ft.

The members attending also agreed that the monument should remain about the same size and physical shape. A report on this meeting will be read to the general membership in Cincinnati. Those attending the meeting were Ray Summa, Gerald Pine, Jim Martin, Bill Creer and Malcolm Corum (Jack Blackham planned on attending but had to work that day).

It will take the efforts of all of us and donations from all to properly restore this symbol of the 34thBG's participation in WWII.

The monument is located near the old check point going to Ipswich (south) at the end of the long runway (west end). Ray plans on placing some Xerox of photos to indicate the size and shape, plus the inscription on the bronze plaque in the next issue of Mendlesham Memories (be looking for it). See the LeBailly story attached.

We have had a suggestion from Jack Blackham that the Association obtain a copy of the 34thBG History - have everyone at the reunion in Cincinnati sign the book and present this book to Mr. and Mrs. (Joan) George Steadman to show our appreciation of his dedication to the 34th Bomb Group. We have the book, all that we need is your autograph when you are in Cincinnati (Jack will be in charge of book if he attends Cincinnati). Don't forget to add your name and squadron to this great book. Thanks Jack for the idea.

Will close out for the present, will report to you again prior to reunion. If you have any suggestions or ideas or comments, please let me hear from you. Hopefully, I will see all of you in Cincinnati. Corral gate is open, water your horse and come on up to the house for refreshments - you're welcome anytime.

Respectfully,

P.S. Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to telephone and offer words of encouragement, suggestions and comments.

Malcolm

*THANKS - TO THOSE WHO TRAVELED LONG DISTANCES TO BE AT
THE EL PASO MEETING -*

'MENDLESHAM MEMORIAL'
How It Originated

In the spring of 1945 as we were getting ready to wrap up the base facilities at Mendlesham if was brought to my attention that we had considerable funds accumulated at the officers club. Someone as I recall but not sure who I think it was Joe Ray (I believe Gp. I.G. at the time) formerly pilot, lead pilot etc. and Cecil Duke our (Intelligence Officer) came up with the idea of erecting a memorial to those we had lost.

We gathered as many people together as possible - and found that everyone was for it - We touched base with George Steadman, local farmer, and he agreed to furnish the land for the monument. We hired someone - local brick masons I believe, to erect a brick base for the future Bronze Plaque - (then we took off in all directions). Some years later, spring of 1949, when I was assigned to Dept. of Defence, Public Affairs Office in the Pentagon, a large bundle of papers arrived on my desk. The original was a letter from George Steadman and the people of Mendlesham pointing out that the brick base was still standing but nothing had been done about the Bronze Plaque. I searched around and found Bill Creer in a key slot in the Pentagon and either through him or other contacts in the finance office we were able to retrieve enough money for a bronze plaque -- also enough to pay for some upkeep, and the artist expense.

We had contacted a Capt. E. S. Smith now living in Baltimore - formerly member of 34th Gp. in England. He, being an artist agreed to find out the cost of a bronze design that he would prepare. Then he prepared the design and I guess Bill Creer and I ok'ed it. E. S. Smith --- had it cast in bronze at a Baltimore foundry.

Then in August 1949 Capt. Smith agreed to be called to active duty - we made arrangements for him to ride a USAF aircraft with the plaque, to England where on 22 August 1949 it was unveiled by Capt. Smith and a USAF honor guard from some USAF Base in England.

In 1967 while I was commanding the 16th AF in Spain I went to Mendlesham for Armistice Day - Veterans Day or whatever they call it and attended a ceremony, they hold each year at the monument. This is done by the local Mendlesham people, as there are no USAF units near there.

At the old base East Anglia Broadcasting has a T.V. Station - but a few of the old Quonsets were left and about 100ft. of runway, (see 12 o'clock High - show how it was).

So thats how I remember that.

E. B. LeBailly

Malcolm - hope you can decipher.

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

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



