



VOLUME IV

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# ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

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391

FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION.

Whether we are ready or not, the Holiday Season is upon us. So with this in mind, my wife, myself and all the Officers of the 34th B.G. Ass'n, wish to say to you;

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS

I expect all of you are waiting patiently for a report of the 34th B.G. Ass'n Rendezvous at Cincinnati Ohio. If you will permit me to tell it in my own words, I will make a report of the happenings at the reunion.

Time began for us on Tuesday morning Oct 5th, when I had a Memorial Committee meeting of the 8th AFHS at the WPAF Museum Dayton O. Upon arriving at the Museum, my wife and I placed a wreath on the 34th B.G. Memorial at the Museum, then I continued on into the Museum for the meeting. Here, the first thing Bob Vickers, Reunion and Memorial Chairman and John Woolnough, Editor of the 8th AF News, congratulated me, for having the most preregistered members from the 34th B.G., for the reunion. I had told them we would have 200 registered, but as it turned out we had 191, by Sept 17. This made the day for me. I did not do it alone, for I had the help of a lot of you, who were trying to find your crews and get them to come to the reunion.

After the meeting at the Museum, we went on to Cincinnati, to the Stouffers Towers where the reunion Hdq. was to be. Upon arriving at the Hotel, it seemed that we were not the only ones to be holding a reunion, for the cars were lined up around the block waiting to get in and unload. There were two other reunions going on that week, one was already in progress and another Organization was coming in. They were expecting over 1000 to their reunion and here the 8th AFHS was expecting over 2000. After registering and unpacking in our rooms, we went down to the Lobby to greet anyone from the 34th who were arriving early. Here we met Gerald and Wanda Pine and Malcolm and Tillie Corum.

Tuesday night was registration night for early comers to the reunion. Also a cocktail party was to be held. We attended the cocktail party and met more of the 34th B.G. people who had come early to be rested up for the Symposium the next day. George and June Ritchie had come early and "Hank" and Mary Lambert had come early, also. "Hank" was interested in the Symposium as he had been a P.O.W., having gone down on a mission. Several others from all the Groups had come early also.

Next day, Wednesday, was the Symposium, I have a write up of it, by George Ritchie and will let him tell it. He can tell it better than I can, it will be a little later in this letter. George, also was a P.O.W. having been shot down on a mission with Walter McAllister's Crew.

After the Symposium and dinner on Wednesday night, there was another cocktail party for those who had just checked in that day at the hotel. Things were picking up for there were a lot more of the 34th arriving and the news that the 34th was No 1 in registration was happy news to all.

Thursday morning was the Unit Contact breakfast and workshop for all Unit Contact and wives. This I had to attend, to learn some procedures in forming Groups, charters, by-laws and other things pertaining to the Organization. I left the meeting early to take part in the Board of Directors meeting of the 34th B.G. The meeting had started when I arrived as it had taken me sometime to cross over to the Center, as I had stopped to greet a lot of our men on the way. I soon caught up with the business, which had gone on before I arrived and gave the financial report and the summary of the events for the dedication of the Memorial, to be held on Saturday at the WPAF Museum. The business meeting was adjourned and we then proceeded to officially open the hospitality room. With help from several of those present, Bob Wright opened up our

hospitality room, cocktail bar. He then proceeded to act as bartender while the rest of us did a lot of Hangar Flying. "Pete" Gray and Charles Smith were at the heights of their glory for their first crew and the last crew they had were holding a crew reunion at the rendezvous.

Gerald Holmes was the first crew and Randall Martin their last. "Pete" did Randall's Crew get any of that Southern Bourbon, you promised them? I do hope you have some pictures of the crew members who were there. Would be nice if you had a picture before overseas and a picture of the crews members who were at the reunion. Would be a good one for the next Mendlesham Memories.

Several crews had reunion this year. I did not get them all but I know part of Gerald Holmes' crew were there. Randall Martin had rounded up most of his crew and 8 of them were there and so were part of his ground crew. Randall did real good. He had written me several times enclosing a letter to all his crew. Each time he had found one or two more and finally a letter came. Randall had found all his crew and all would be at the reunion except 3. One had just passed on and the other could not make it this year. He also sent me a letter from the wife of the one who died. She said he would have been the first to accept the invitation to be at the reunion, had he been alive to do so, this was Roy Fleming.

Part of Walt McAllisters crew had come. Bill Cheek had rounded up several of his crew and they were present. Two of Jimmy James' crew had come, he is still looking for some of his crew. Part of "Gene" James' crew had come also. 3 Of Myron Thompson's crew were there. Several of John Schroeder's crew came. J.W. "Soapy" Thompson was finally able to get away from his grainery business, due to wet weather, and was able to attend the reunion. He was on Schroeder's crew. I know there were more crews represented than I have down here, so if I have left any crews out, please forgive me this time, maybe next year I will be able to get them all down. Better yet, someone from each crew, even the ones I have mention, send me a list of those from your crew who attended the reunion. I would like to know who they were.

We closed the hospitality room in order to get ready for the Aero club dance. This is a thursday nite affair at all the reunions of the 8th. Several prizes are awarded every year to those who wear their old uniforms and various other things. Several of our men wore their old uniforms and they all seem to fit as they did years ago. Jack Blackham was one of these. I have a picture of Jack in his uniform.

Friday seemed to be the business sessions of the 8th AFHS and the B.G. Election of Board Members of the 8th AFHS was held and several people, who had come from Europe and had helped our men escape from the Germans, were introduced to the people attending the business meeting. All of them received a standing ovation for the work they had done, helping our downed flyers back to England. The 34th B.G. was recognized as having the most preregistered people at the reunion and I guess I left a little too soon for one of our men gave a speech about the 34th B.G. and the work I had been doing to bring them back together again. Thanks Ralph Applegate.

After a lunch in the Hospitality Room, our wives went on a River Boat trip on the Ohio River. Some of the ladies, thought their busses had been hijacked to Ky., for the drivers got lost and crossed the river into Ky, for a story about this ask Wanda Pine.

While the ladies enjoyed themselves on a boat trip, the 34th B.G. held their business meeting.

A report of the election Committee was given. Walt McAllister headed this committee. The nominees were presented to the Group and nominations were asked from the floor. No nomination came from the floor. A motion was made and seconded, that those chosen, be accepted unanimous by the Group. This passed and Robert Wright, Gerald Pine and Ralph Bush were elected to be officers in the 34th B.G. Bob Wright President, Gerald Pine V. President, Ralph Bush to be on the Board of Directors. Everett Rose was to be on the Board also, as he had been acting as a Board member, instead of Bob Wright, when Bob was elected V. President last year.

After the election, Bob Gay and Bob Wright showed slides of the Mendlesham Memorial and Bob Gay gave a report on the Memorial and told of its condition and the reason it must be moved. It was deteriorating very badly and was next to the road on undeeded ground. The Ipswich, Norwich Hiway was being widened and the Memorial would be torn down as the hiway would be on the spot where the Memorial stood. He then suggested a vote be taken to see if we of the 34th would take on the project of rebuilding the Memorial in another location and the ground would be deeded to the 34th B.G. Ass'n Inc. by Mr George Steadman, on whose ground the old Base stood. He gave a report of the cost. The motion passed and we are to take on the project. Bob then said, he would give a check for \$500.00, for the rebuilding of the Memorial and he would see to it; that the Memorial was started, for the estimate was just be good until Nov 1. His offer for \$500 gave incentive to the rest and we were busy. Dana Schrupp, myself and other, for quite a while taken donations and pledges for the rebuilding of the Memorial. All pledges are not in at this time so I will not say the total



until the March Newsletter, when I will break it down and let you all know the exact amount raised for the Memorial. At the same time I will have the exact cost of the rebuilding and moving the Memorial, at Mendlesham. *I will ask at this time, if any others of you would like to send a donation towards rebuilding the Mendlesham Memorial, you can send it to me, please say Memorial donation on your check, I have all the money now in a seperate account, except that which we have already sent over to England. You see we not only have to rebuild our Memorial, but we should perpetuate it at least for our lifetime.* While we were taking pledges and donations, Bill Creer got up and told us, If you can not raise the money at this time, so we can start the project, I will lend the Group the balance, at a reasonable amount of interest, even if I have to mortgage my Shopping Center in Las Vegas. (Now Bill we are even for the remark about me needing a dictionary along with my news typewriter.) He also stated, he did not think he would have to lend the 34th the money, for he had the same faith in the 34th as he did when he was the Commander. I also have the same faith, Bill and the men are proving it every day. I might add here, Bob Gay has already set the plans in motion for the rebuilding of the Memorial in England.

Our Business meeting was adjourned with the benediction by Rev Don Forseman. It was opened by our Chaplain, Father Fred Brooks.

The 34th B.G. Rendezvous dinner was attended by over 200 of our people. There was quite a mixup to start. You see, we were in the same room as several more B.Gs, who were supposed to be in one section of the room but when we arrived, they were scattered all over the room. and had taken several of the tables meant for the 34th B.G. I am sorry about the mix up and confusion, as the banquet started. There were supposed to room to set up one more table if there was not enough room, but the Caterer would not set up another table.

Well, any way, the banquet was opened with a prayer by our Chaplain Father Fred. and after the dinner, Gen Bill Creer, introduced our speaker for the evening, Robert S. Gay, who was the Group Executive Officer and whose signature appears on more of the 34th B.G. records than any other signature. Bob was to the ground forces of the 34th, what the C.Os of the Sqd and the CO of the 34th was to those who flew. Bob was a ground pounder along with a lot of others of us.

Bob talked on the days work of the ground crews and what it took to run the Group for one day. After his talk, with the help of Bob Wright at the projector, Bob showed some slides taken in England, when he was there on Memorial Day this year. The slides were of Mr and Mrs George Steadman and their family, also of towns and cities and surrounding places near our old Base. They were very good slides, Bob, they brought back a lot of memories to all of us who were there.

Now it was time for "AUCTION USA". George Ritchie had asked to have charge of this. I would at this time like to thank all who helped in the Auction, especially George and June Ritchie, Tillie Corum, Walt and Ruby McAllister, Eli and Rose Baldea and Robert and Pauline Smith, all of the men, who helped, were on Walt's crew. (Just as I sat down to write this, I received a call from Walt McAllister, telling me that Robert Smith had passed away on, Sat. nite (Oct 30th), with a heart attack.

You know I think, George Ritchie could sell the shirt right off your back, without you knowing it. He said he had a ball selling the things, you wonderful people of the 34th B.G, donated to the Auction. The Auction went real well and I am sure we all had a good time. Every time I looked around, Jack Camp, was buying something. Thanks Jack, also thanks to the rest of you for making the Auction a success. Money will be used to help defray the expense of our Memorial. Amount will be disclosed in the next newsletter. George says, those who need receipts for their donation, if you will write to him or to me, we will send you a receipt. Remember all donations are tax deductible as are your membership fees.

At the intermission, to give George a rest, we had the drawing for the clock, donated and built by Gerry Pine. We had been selling tickets for it, during the Auction. To make things honest, Father Fred was asked to pull the winning number from the hat. The winner was Everett Rose. I think he was taking it back to his wife, who was unable to make the reunion this year. After the excitement died down, the meeting was adjourned by Rev Don Forseman.

Sat morning being dedication day and a long journey to Dayton ahead of us. We were all up bright (not quite) and early. I was on the first bus (by the way they were school buses), to leave as I was on the Memorial Committee for the dedication and had to be there early. The sky was overcast, as we left, just like the skys in England were, when our plane went on a mission. We were about 20 miles from Cincinnati when the weather closed in, it started to rain and get foggy, all the rest of the way. It did let up a little when we reached the museum. We were in hope it would let up during the dedication but it seemed to close in,

more and more. Ceiling zero, when the planes from the 8th AF Base at Barksdal La. roared over. They could not be seen, due to the overcast. The roar of their mighty engines brought back memories of those days in England, when we sweat you boys out coming thru the fog, returning from a mission.

The Dedication of the 8th AF memorial, got off on time but the tent which was supposed to seat 2000 people was not large enough, for a lot of our people were standing inside and out. The speaker, for the dedication, was Lt Gen Herres, Commanding General of the 8th AF (SAC).

After the dedication was over, there was a brief intermission, while the press interviewed several of the Distinguished Guest, who were present. While this was going on, pictures were being taken, of the various Memorial being dedicated.

Just as the individual dedications were to begin, the rain came down in buckets full. This did not dampen the spirits of the 34th people for they stood out in the rain for the dedication. Between the tears and the raindrops Father Fred did the dedication and blessed the Memorial. He dedicated it, not only to those who had died over there but to those who had since passed on and to those of us who were still living. This was Father Fred's second dedication that day for he had been asked to help dedicate and bless the 8th AF Memorial. Rev Don Forseman, gave the benediction for the ending of our Memorial dedication.

After lunch and a visit to the Museum, we all returned to the Hotel in Cincinnati to rest up for the 8th AF Banquet and dance that night.

For awhile we thought we would have to abort the return to the Hotel. For on our way back to Cincinnati, we broke an oil line and were almost out of gas. Fortunately we were near the garage and were able to pick up another bus for the rest of the trip. I knew how you men felt with an engine out and almost out of gas but we were fortunate enough to be able to change buses and not have to sweat out a landing.

We returned to the Hotel for the 8th AF Banquet. the speaker that nite was Lt Gen Harres, who had spoken to us at the dedication. We spent most of the time, instead of dancing, visiting with those of the B.G. whom we had not had time to talk to. I know they were a lot of you whom we were not able to visit with, this I regret, If things work out as they should, it is quite possible I will have more time to talk to you next year. One of the prizes, which was given away on sat nite was won by one of the 34th B.G. men, who was also from another B.G., Merle Wilson.

Sunday morning's breakfast was a sit down breakfast and most of the time was used to visit and say good by to friends, some we will never see again and others we will meet at the next reunion.

I do want to thank all those crews, who had a crew reunion this year. I do not have all of you down. There was one who until this year had no idea where his crew was. Randall Martin, who started in with letters to all of the old addresses and between him and some of the others were able to locate all but one. "Pete" Gray was his crew chief. Pete did Randall and his crew get the southern Bourbon, you promised?

Bob Schwartz had quite a few of his crew there and Fred Berglund, from the crew, told me a story about Henry Webber Butler. Webber was the engineer of the crew and when ever Bob Schwartz, as the pilot, would let his attention sway from the instruments, Webber would hit him on the head. Bob says, this is the reason he has lost so much hair.

There is another story about Webber Butler. He was at Pearl Harbor, when the Japanese hit. He survived the attack and came back and joined the the 34th B.G. in England. Webber is the second of the 34th B.G. men to be at Pearl Harbor when the Japs hit. George Rohrbaugh is the other. George was also at the reunion and showed me the pictures of Pearl Harbor, before and after the Japs hit. Is there any more of you, who were at Pearl during that time.

There are a few more things I would like to announce. The next reunion of the 34th and 8th AF will be in Houston Tx. OCT 13th THRU OCT 16TH. This promises to be a good one also. Come a day early tho, for there is promise of a flyover by the CAF on Oct 12th and there may be a visit to the Space Center. Plan your vacation so you will have time to spend some of it at the reunion in Houston as they tell me there is a lot to see.

Another thing, we do have some of the 34th VALOR TO VICTORY pins on sale. There are 3 kinds, the one inch one like the original, the 1/2 inch ones, made into a tie tack or lapel pin and the one for the ladies, 1/2 in. one with a stick pin on it. The cost is \$3.50. This covers mailing and shipping. Send your check to me for the pins. All proceeds go to the B.G. Memorial Fund.

In this letter you will find a slip to order a 34th B.G. Jacket. It is blue with either a B17 or a B24 on it. You must specify which. Also you can have your Sqd number put on it. either 4th, 7th, 18th, 391st. You must follow directions on the order blank, so if you want



one of these jackets, fill out the order blank and mail to Dana Schrupp, with a check or money order. Dana's address is now, 1615 So Black, Bozeman, Mt 59715. #83 PH. 406-587-4133 Dana will then send your order to the factory and your jacket will be shipped directly to you from the factory. The cost is just \$17.50 and we of the 34th do get part of that. All proceeds will go to the Memorial Fund. I have seen the jackets and they are really nice, they would make nice Christmas presents for your husband, if you were to order right away.

You will also note in this letter, there is a slip for paying your dues. Yes it is that time again. The dues are still just \$5.00 a year and we hope to keep them that way. It does take money to send out the newsletters and to find our men.

There are several of you, whom I have been carrying, in hope, you would write and send in your dues, so if you miss the March issue of our newsletter, you will know I have had to stop sending you one. The ones who haven't sent in your dues, know who you are, but if you are in doubt, send me a letter and I will tell you, or better yet, send in what you think you might owe and if it is over, I will credit it to your next years dues.

A lot of you belong to the 8th AFHS and send in your membership fee to them, but you forget, tho we are attached to the Society, we have our own Organization.

At the start of this year, we had three missions to go on. One was the Memorial at Dayton, No 2 was the reunion at Cincinnati and No3 was the restoration of the 34th B.G. Memorial at Mendlesham. I am happy to report, we have accomplished 2 of these and are now on target for the last. First mission, you men hit the target, with no abortions, second mission, we attacked the target at Cincinnati and dispersed the enemy and took first place in attendance. Now about the third, we are now almost on the target, for the Memorial at Mendlesham and I know we will hit the target by spring, with no losses to our ranks. You men and ladies are to be complemented for the spirit you have shown towards these missions, please keep up the good work, as time is running short for all of us.

Mark Oct 13th - Oct 16th 1983 on your calendar, as the date for the next rendezvous of the 34th B.G. Houston Tx is the target.

We are also thinking of a reunion of just the 34th B.G. in 1984, give this some thought, for we need your thinking on this. Would you come, if we of the 34th held our own? Write to me and let me know.

We have also been approached about a trip back to England. How many of you would be interested in going back for 7 days for a visit to Mendlesham, Ipswich and London? No prices as yet but there must be 50 or more who would like to go. More will be said about this later on. Let me hear from you about this also.

If you have any complaints about the Reunion Hotel, make them known by writing to the Dept of Tourism, Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati Ohio, 45202 and send a duplicate of your letter to Rambling Tours, c/o Murray Fein, P.O. Box 1304, Hallandale Fla. 33009.

I have been informed there is a new book about the raid over Polesti being printed. It is called "Green Flak Over Polesti by Leroy W Newby 810 N Terr Dr Webster City Iowa. 50595

John Beitling of 5215 E 24th St K.C. MO 64127, would like to hear from you men about the name of you plane, B24s. If you remember your plane no. and name, send it to John. He has sent me a list of those he has.

Missed Wally Felker's crew on the countdown, sorry about this, Hope Bates Davidson of your crew is getting better,

Roy Jones has been ailing lately, he might like to hear from you, so why not write to him. Thanks to all who signed the book to Mr Steadman.

Remember, it has often been said, the 34th B.G. was the Granddaddy of the 8th AF.

I will now leave you with this thought: "If you can't be thankful for what you receive, then be thankful for what you escape."

CHEERS

*Ray L Summa*  
Ray L. Summa  
34th Bomb Group  
Unit Contact

# List of those attending the Reunion

## Father Fred's dedication Speech

Dickman Jerome  
Anderson Kieth  
Babcock  
Baldea  
Bush  
Buss  
Butler  
Camp  
Casler  
Cassell  
Cheek  
Deatherage  
DiNenno  
Felker  
Forsman  
Fulton  
Gay  
Gray  
Habiger  
Hanson  
Hayes  
Holcomb  
Hood  
Howard  
Howarter  
Humphreys  
Jordan  
Jurgens  
Lambert  
Lux  
McAllister  
O'Grady  
Parrish  
Pine  
Pochter  
Ritchie  
Rohrbaugh  
Rutka  
Schonthaler  
Share  
Smith  
Smith  
Sothern  
Summa  
Underwood  
Webster  
Wright  
Saegar  
Saegar  
Gardner  
Ames  
Brooks  
Brown  
Corum  
Burnell  
Creer  
Desjardins  
Ferlich  
Gibbs  
Graham  
Grimes  
Hann  
Berglund  
Strona

Bud & Lucille  
Eli & Rose  
Ralph and Marge  
Paul & Mary  
Henry & Mary  
Jack  
Dudley & Nan  
Albert & Lucille  
Bill & Betty  
Grady  
Alfred & Olive  
Walter & Jane  
Don & Ruby  
Bill & Louise  
Robert & Phyllis  
Wm N. "Pete"  
Anthony & Joan  
Ambers & Jean  
Edward & Jinny  
Verb & Betty  
Jack & Hettie  
Phil & Jean  
Wayne & Laverne  
Ken & Renee  
Dexter & Buelah  
Henry & Ruth  
Henry "Hank" & Mary  
Charles & Fran  
Walter & Ruby  
Harry & Ada  
Harold & Norma  
Gerald & Wanda  
Irvin & Beverly  
George & June  
George & Cillian  
Harold & Genevieve  
Kal & Evelyn  
Jack & Marian  
Robert & Pauline  
Charles & Carrie  
Bruce & Margaret  
Hannah & Ray  
Lawrence Doug-as  
George  
Robert & Esther  
Sherman  
Earl  
Henry Tom  
Vern & Millie  
Fredrick & Mardell  
W.J "Bill"  
Malcolm & Tillie  
Bill  
Bill and Viv  
Bob & Jeannette  
William  
Claude  
John & Margaret  
Bryant & Margaret  
John & Rose  
Fred  
John

Woefel  
Hartwick  
Holmes  
Huber  
Jackson  
Jaccobbausk  
Jalving  
Gombert  
Levy  
Marks  
Martin  
Muent  
Murphy  
Odom  
Olson  
Prillman  
Rose  
Schmitt  
Schrupp  
Strawder  
Turko  
Yates  
Beckley  
Ashburn  
Blackham  
Bouth  
James  
Jellum  
Schoch  
Schwartz  
Stankaitis  
Tobiason  
Wright  
Wright  
Benedict  
Livingston  
Johnson  
Applegate  
Baer  
Bolce  
Crook  
Elsener  
Fechko  
Forister  
Isaacs  
James  
Koenig  
Konte  
Perry  
Plaut  
Pritz  
Russell  
Steiner  
Thompson  
Witham  
Wessel  
Schroeder  
Tooley  
Abrams  
Thompson  
Gibbs  
Crump  
Goetsch

Arnold E.  
Robert & Loraine  
Gerald  
S.C.  
Walter  
Mike and Margie  
Marvin & Lois  
Dirk & Dorothy  
Irving  
Joe & Mary Kay  
Randall & Shirley  
Fred & Ginny  
Ralph & Gloria  
Jack & Beatrice  
Rdgar  
H Arnold  
Everett  
George and Marilyn  
Dana  
Earl  
Walter & Mary  
Frances  
Paul R.  
Jack & Francis  
Jack & Dottie  
Ed and June  
Gene & Helen  
Walter & Donna  
Fred & Clara  
Robert & Clara  
John  
Henry & Audrey  
Tom & Louise  
James  
George & Mary  
John  
Bevo  
Ralph & Mary  
Bob & Rob  
Louis & Anita  
Lonnie & Dorabel  
Robert  
Richard & Dorothy  
Carrol & Sylvia  
Seymour & Claudia  
Emet & Betty  
Al & Marcy  
Al  
Harry & Willie  
Bernard & Eileen  
John  
Merle & Jane  
Robert  
Myron & Jane  
Harold  
J.R. & Dottie  
John  
Guy & Mary Belle  
Mort  
J.W."Soapy"  
Don  
George  
Forest & Irma

TEXT OF THE 34th BOMBARDMENT GROUP MONUMENT DEDICATION AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AFB, AIR FORCE MUSEUM:

Let us pray: Father in heaven, Almighty God, bless and hallow this memorial and living tree, that it may serve to remind others of the sacrifice made by those members of the 34th Bomb Group who died for liberty and justice among men while serving our country during World War II. Father, we ask that you, in your mercy, grant to them continual growth in thy love and service; and grant to us grace so to follow the good example of all thy saints, that we and all others of this 34th Bombardment Group, may, with them, be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Grant this our prayer, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

The short address: Ladies and Gentlemen of the 34th Bomb Group and Guests: welcome to the dedication of our memorial. It is placed here and dedicated to the memory of those who gave of themselves fully in combat and those who have gone to the joys of God's eternal kingdom since that time; and to the living who will enter that joy provided for God's faithful in eternity. We have repeated the inscription on the memorial at the site of our airbase at Mendlesham: "To the American Airmen who in valor gave their lives to the victory that made real the challenge for world peace and unity."

To paraphrase Abraham Lincoln: "The world will little note or remember that which is said here today. . . but will remember what our men did over there." This memorial is dedicated here at Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum not only to those who gave their lives over there, but to those who have gone to eternal life and to those of us who are still living. We offer our thanksgiving to God Almighty for the long and fruitful lives and joys we have been granted.

We thank all who have contributed to the effort that made this memorial possible. . . especially Ray and Hanna Summa, Malcom Corum, General Creer and Doug Underwood and all the officers of the 34th Bomb Group Association and others. . . thank you.

And now Don Forsman will close our dedication with prayer.

NOTE: Jerry Pine held the Holy Water Bucket and Gen. Creer stood by in the rain with us.

If I have left any names out, let me know and I will run them next time.



# 34th Bomb Group Roster from Aug 15-Nov 15 1982

TAPS

Atwater, Vernon  
R2 2590 So Meriden Rd  
Colorado Spgs Co 80909

Hale Robert 391  
13297 Clement Rd  
Morenci Mi 49256

Boyle, Richard J  
1037 Fairview Rd  
Clark Summit Pa 18411

McWay Robert 4  
477 Fairview Ave  
Arcadia Ca. 91006

Adringola Leonard 4  
504 Furman St  
Rockford Ill 61103

Chevalier Robert 18  
Box 113 Joaquin Tx 75954

Hunter, James Jr 4  
10926 Yorksprings  
Dallas Tx.

Kipp Sherwood R  
2519 thomas Ave  
Durango Co. 81301

Patterson, Robert 18  
30 Rockefeller Plaza,  
New York N.y 10112

Gabel, Clayton 18  
1306 12th St NW,  
Canton Ohio 44703

Salverson Leon E  
433 158th Place N.E.  
Bellevue Wa. 98008

Carter Paul  
263 Richmond Rd  
Salisbury N.C. 28144

Werth, Harold  
1424 N.W. Vista Place  
Corvallis Wa. 97330

Parenteau Earl 18  
4 Duncan Ave -11  
Worcester Mass 01604

Bullock Ronald H  
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Draper Frank Aitkins Mn. Co-Pilot  
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The Symposium as written by George Ritchie.

On Wednesday, as you know there was a Symposium on Escape and Evasion and P.O.Ws. held in the Convention Center. Hosted by: the Escape and Evasion Society of the 8th AF.

It was super, and very interesting, to say the least.

The panel consisted of both men and women who either worked in the underground or were prisoners, behind the wire. Included were fliers of the USAF who worked within the camps... planning different escape attempts of which the most famous was, "The Great Escape", from Stalag Luft III.

Briefly: All stories were so interesting and varied that I could not begin to get them all on paper. However here are a few: During the "Great Escape", it was not just one tunnel dug, it was many, built as a diversion away from the main effort. Many times the Germans would find an escape tunnel and instead of filling it in, they would monitor the progress and stop it just as it reached the wire. In that way the Germans knew the prisoners were kept busy and out of trouble. Just as our Airmen thought they had it made---bam-- the Germans would smash it.

Many details were explained as to just how supplies were obtained and used. Most of the material came from the German Guards themselves. Once they delivered only one piece of equipment the Airmen had a hold on them. It was surprising the type of equipment the Guards brought to the prisoners. Cigarettes, instant coffee from the Red Cross parcels did the tempting.

The people of the underground during the war, were represented here, by about 15 ex underground workers. They had stories to tell that would have put any Hollywood films to shame. On the stage there 5 who told of their work and about 10 or maybe more seated in the audience who stood up, when stories were told about their exploits. You must remember these people were civilians, the youngest was about 13 at the time. Our guess the ages ran from 13 thru the 20s.

One was a professional soldier, he was very slightly built man, with a thin pencil line mustache, glasses and hearing aid. You noticed him, even before the Symposium started. He had a quick step, he was 71 years old, searching eye, quiet but efficient manner, you knew he was somebody, not an American, but he was at home and seemed to belong. His stories contained both humor and deadly facts. He was on the famous Dieppe raid on the Coast of France in 1940. He was French, fighting with the British after the fall of his Homeland. Captured on that raid, he escaped, from a prison train, going back to Germany and made his way back to England. During his evasion, he learned a lot and without realizing it, actually started an escape and evasion line, underground. I-9 was the name of the British Intelligence that was responsible for spy and underground work on the Continent. They interrogated him, when he returned and they put him to work.

He jumped into France with instructions to establish a "Line", to return our Airmen. His was to be only one of many "lines", established by the Allies, more in France, also Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Norway, all of the occupied Countries on the Continent. These "lines" of escape were responsible for getting over 6000 Airmen back to England. For each Airman returned, one member of the underground lost his life. You see freedom is not cheap.

When the Frenchman landed with forged papers, he carried 3½ million in francs, during his work underground, he spent a total of 16 million francs. No receipt or records. At the end of the war, he had 1½ million left, which he returned to the Allies. The story about the money gave a touch of humor to the Symposium. "Imagine, he said, having 3½ million in cold cash in a bag, walking thru the streets of France, fake papers, a soldier in civilian clothes, you can't just go to a bank and say, 'I want to deposit 3½ million in cash, during the middle of a war and withdraw it a small amount at a time, you couldn't go up to a stranger and ask him to hold onto it, it was too big to fit in your wallet, just what would you do?' On and on went the stories.

One lady in the audience (the ones on the stage were English speaking members) had her story related, because of the work of her family, when you were in the underground, all members of the family were "in" as far as the Germans were concerned. If a member was caught, the family were either killed or sent to a camp. This happened to her. She was 14 when the war started, 1939 after her family was responsible for passing on, more than 30 Airmen, her father was killed, mother never seen again. She spent 2 years in a concentration camp in Germany and when the war was over, had to walk back to Holland.

The plight of any civilian on the Continent is a story in itself. After the war, we American Airmen, had trucks, jeeps, tanks and trains to carry us back to the Coast. I was lucky to have all of them, then a boat back to England. If you suffered capture as a civilian, you had it tough. First the fighting man were taken care of, the poor civilian were mostly on their own. There was no bitterness in any of the stories, PRIDE, PRIDE, PRIDE, you found yourself giving the typical embrace, a kiss on the cheek, a hug, a look into misty eyes, a squeeze of the hand, another kiss on the cheek, and a long hug. It just seemed the right thing to do (I can hardly

see the key board.) very emotional.

On the end of the stage sat a man, from Holland, who was responsible for screening the Air men, to make sure they were who they said they were. He told how the people on the scene were interrogated and how contact was made with the underground, the underground was also questioned same as the fliers. The question was asked, "did you find any German Agents in your questioning"? His answer was, "yes plenty". The natural question was then asked, "what did you do"? "I killed them myself and then I knew they were dead". he said. No emotions, no regret and all other members of the underground nodded agreement. No one was surprised by his answer, all had known what it was before he spoke. Almost a stir of agreement filled the room. Just the fact these beautiful people, all smiles and full of life, dressed in their best threads, sitting on stage, looking like any Board of Directors or small town USA, planning Board, members of the town board, giving matter of facts, unemotional reports of the most uncivilized period of our history. The stories of torture, punishment, deprivation, hunger, exposure, physical endurance---on and on--

One 16 year old girl rode a US Airman, from Holland to the Pyreneese Mts on her bike. The Pyreneese were the termination for the flyers. Because the Border and the ruggedness of the area, infiltration was easy and altho the Spanish were for the most part, friendly to both sides, they put our Airmen in contact with Portugal Authorities and then on sea or air transportation to England.

The American Flyers who were there, were from Stalag I and III with reps from the other camps in the audience.

One member of the underground, who said that the "line" she worked with, sent 200 Airmen home. She told how the different members invented tricks to fool the Germans, to get the Airmen thru. One complaint, their feet were too big, their bellies to fat, they were too tall, they jingled the coins in their pockets, they smoked their cigarettes wrong and many more things. One funnier than the other but a matter of life and death in the 1940s. She said, if it ever happened again, the Air Force High Command should include along with flight training, bike riding training because many a downed flyer could not ride a bicycle. Many suffered broken bones because of bike riding accidents and then it became a hospital and transportation problem, that is why the girl had to ride the Airman from Holland to the Pyreneese. Laugh now, but many lives were on the line then.

A fact that all of you should know, the members of the USEES of the 8th AF Evasion and Escape Society, use their dues and even personal funds to help support the "FREINDS" of the underground. They have not forgotten them, Many were and still are on hard times. Funds are sent over every year thru the Society to assist them. The expenses of the trip over to America and food and lodging are from the Society. If you know of any Airmen, who ever qualify for this Organization, please inform him of their work. I always thought one had to go thru the underground to be a member. But in Orlando, I was informed that anyone that escaped in any manner, from the enemy, was eligible. My escape was not thru the wire, but away from the forced marches, while the Germans moved us from camp to camp. Nothing glamorous, just sneaky. The Society can be contacted thru the 8th AFHS.

Other highlites were the transatlantic phone conversation, with the former head of I-9 in England. This English Officer was the Mastermind that built the escape routes and manned them.

Another highlite was when a former "Kreggie" (EXPOW) dresses in a German Guard uniform tried to round up all the former P.O.Ws. in the audience.

Roger Freeman, author and friend of the 8th AF was the Moderator for the Symposium.

It was a great moment for any American.

This was written by George Ritchie, who was a P.O.W., having gone down on a mission while flying with Walt McAllister's crew.





Richard & Dorothy  
Fechko



Long Underwood  
Bill Chish & Sara Schupp



Barbara Smith  
Norma Paulsen



Alvin Ferguson, Ray Lawrence  
George Underwood, Ned Anderson



Bill & Louise  
Fulton



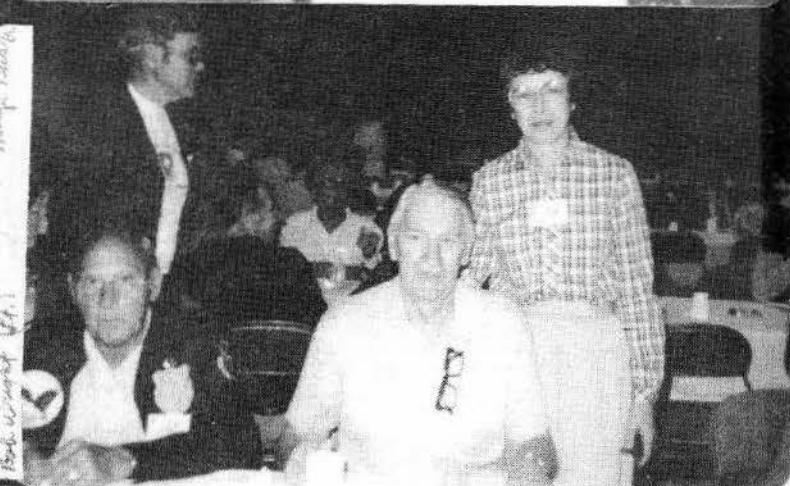
George & Irene  
Ritchie



Vern & Melba  
Ames

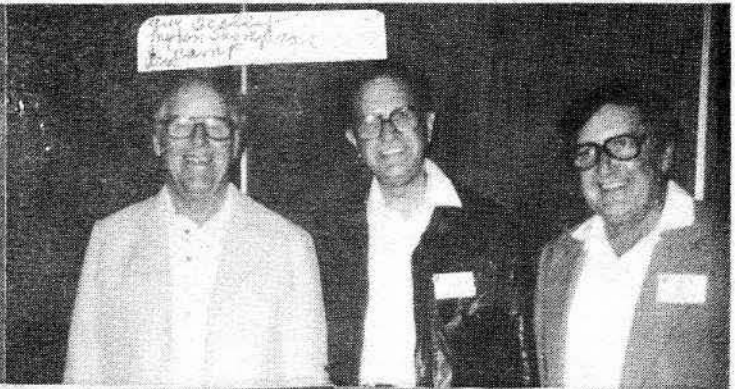


Robert & Marie  
Applegate



Ken Starnes, Ray  
Bob Underwood (left)







34th BOMB GROUP BANQUET  
SPEECH BY  
ROBERT GAY

8TH AIR FORCE REUNION

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. I FEEL IT AN HONOR TO ADDRESS YOU THIS EVENING.

AFTER LISTENING TO GENERAL BILL CREER'S INTRODUCTION, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER IF I JUST SAT DOWN. I NEVER KNEW I WAS THAT GOOD.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE LADIES, AS WELL AS YOU SUPER GROUP OF MEN, I THOUGHT WE WOULD GIVE YOU A CAPSULE OF THE BEHIND THE SCENES ACTIVITY IN A NORMAL DAY OF THE 34TH IN WAR TIME AND END WITH A TRIP BACK TO ARMY AIR FORCE STATION MENDLESHAM NEAR STOWMARKET, SUFFOLK, ENGLAND.

THE 34TH LIKE ALL HEAVY BOMB GROUPS HAD A TABLE OF ORGANIZATION SUPPLEMENTED BY SUPPORT UNITS ATTACHED TO US. STATION 156 WAS THE LOCATION OF 93 WING HEADQUARTERS, SO WE WERE THEIR HOST. THEY WERE WING COMMAND HEADQUARTERS. THIS MEANS WE DID CERTAIN MAINTENANCE AND HOUSEKEEPING JOBS FOR THEM, SUCH AS ORDERING AND DELIVERING FOOD - PICKING UP GARBAGE - REPAIRING VEHICLES, ETC.

WE ALSO HAD A SUB-DEPOT REPAIR ORGANIZATION - A SERVICE SQUADRON AND AN M.P. COMPANY, AND AN ORDNANCE COMPANY.

HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER YOUR MILITARY OCCUPANCY SPECIALTY (MOS)? HOW MANY 747'S ARE HERE TONIGHT? HOW MANY 1024'S?

THE T/O WAS DRAWN UP, I SUPPOSE, BY SOME COMMITTEE IN THE PENTAGON.

IN WAR TIME IT WASN'T ALWAYS PERFECT, SO WE DID A LOT OF JUGGLING. THUS, WE HAD OUR WEEKLY OFFICIAL REPORT AND OUR STATUS BOARD, SO WE KNEW WHAT WE REALLY HAD. NOW YOU COULD NOT LOSE PEOPLE, BECAUSE YOU HAD A DAILY MORNING REPORT.

WE JUST DIDN'T HAVE THEM ALL DOING THE JOBS THEIR MOS CALLED FOR. WE DID A LOT OF RECLASSIFICATION WORK, LET'S SAY.

NOW I WOULD LIKE A LITTLE AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION TO SEE HOW GOOD YOUR MEMORIES ARE. IN ADDITION TO THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE WE HAD THE GRAPEVINE OR G.I. LANGUAGE.

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WERE KNOWN AS:

CAPTAIN TEMPLE, M.P.S. - THE SHERIFF

CAPTAIN HOWARD, M.O. - CHOW CHIEF

COURTS AND BOARDS OFFICER - THE JUDGE

CAPTAIN FAUST, INSPECTION GENERAL - SNEAKY PETE

CAPTAIN ISSACON, FINANCE OFFICER - MONEY MAN

WE WERE, IN FACT, LIKE A LITTLE CITY, EXCEPT EVERYONE ATE IN OUR RESTAURANTS WITH NO CHOICE IN THE MENU. WE HAD OUR OWN HOSPITAL COMPLEX WITH DOCTORS AND DENTISTS - BUT NO NURSES.

A TYPICAL DAY IN THE 34TH WOULD GO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

0630 - THE MESS HALLS ARE SERVING THE 2ND MEAL OF THE DAY. WE HAD AN EARLIER ONE FOR THE CREWS WHO TOOK OFF ABOUT AN HOUR AGO. WE ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERIES OF BOMBS - GASOLINE AND FOOD - AMMUNITION AND CLOTHING -- ALL IN THE SAME DAY. IT IS SURE TO CAUSE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS. THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU HAVE 4 DIFFERENT SOURCES OF SUPPLIES - NO MAKE IT 5. I FORGOT ABOUT THE BRITISH.

WHEN I ARRIVE AT THE OFFICE THERE IS ALREADY A PILE OF PAPER ON SGT/MAJOR BREAX' DESK AND A LIST OF PEOPLE WHO WANT DECISIONS. I SORT THEM OUT IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, OR AT LEAST IN MY OPINION. WE HAVE 5 AWOL'S IN CUSTODY. MP OFFICE WANTS TO KNOW SHOULD THEY BE HELD OR RETURNED TO SQUADRONS. 46 UNABLE TO WORK ON ACCOUNT OF FLU BUG. 9 CREWS WILL BE UP FOR ROTATION WITHIN A WEEK - RESERVE CREWS MUST BE READY TO TAKE THEIR PLACE, AND WE NEED NEW CREWS TO FILL THEIR PLACE. THE PROMOTION LIST FROM SQUADRONS MUST BE OKAYED BY COLONEL CREER AND ORDERS CUT AND RETURNED TO SQUADRONS. HOT WATER BOILER IS BROKEN AND BRITISH CLERK OF THE WORKS REFUSES TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH SERVICE SQUADRON. C.O. COURTS AND BOARDS OFFICER INSISTS ON APPOINTMENT OF 2 SPECIAL COURTS FOR TRIAL AND DEFENSE COUNSEL FOR ACCUSED.

CAPTAIN HOWARD WANTS 2 COOKS RELIEVED FROM GUARD HOUSE EARLY.

A-1 DIVISION HEADQUARTERS WANTS TO KNOW WHY WE NEVER HAVE ANY TECHNICAL PEOPLE TO FILL VACANCIES IN OTHER GROUPS.

CAPTAIN ARTELL DID NOT RECEIVE NAFI SUPPLY OF LIQUOR AND BEER - WANTS TO KNOW WHY HE CAN'T BORROW FROM MAJOR MORGAN'S MEDICAL SUPPLIES FOR A FEW DAYS. MORGAN SAYS HE CAN GO TO HELL. BOTH WANT TO TALK TO ME.

BARBER SHOP ONLY HAS ONE BARBER (2 HAVE FLU). LT. COLONEL BUCKY FREEMAN WANTS TO KNOW WHY HE CAN'T GET HIS HAIR CUT IMMEDIATELY.

CAPTAIN DIRHAM NEEDS 500 BOMBS TODAY. WILL I CALL DIVISION, OR ASK COLONEL CREER TO CALL; THEY IGNORED HIM AT ORDINANCE SUPPLY.

SHIKE REPORT RECEIVED. OUR AIRCRAFT ARE HEADED HOME.

AMBULANCES AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL WILL BE ON FIELD BY 1100 HOURS INTELLIGENCE DEBRIEFING IS ALL SET UP. COLONEL CREER WANTS TO BE THERE, AND HIS CAR IS STILL IN MAINTENANCE. NO PROBLEM -- SEND JEEP; HE IS UNDERSTANDING C.O.

MISSION WENT WELL. 3 WOUNDED IN 7TH SQUADRON. 7 PLANES DAMAGED. 4TH SQUADRON LOST PLANE; BUT CREW REPORTED SAFE ON ALLIED TERRITORY.

1500 HOURS - TELETYPE INFORMS US MAXIMUM EFFORT TOMORROW AGAIN; 36 AIRCRAFT, 2 SPARES, LOAD 500 POUNDS.

DIRHAM HAS STOPPED SCREAMING. BOMBS HAVE ARRIVED. I SUSPECT HE HAD ENOUGH FOR MISSION TOMORROW ANYWAY.

1700 HOURS -- COLONEL LeBAILLY WANTED STATUS REPORT ON AIRCRAFT THEN CHARGED OFF TO LINE TO HAVE WORDS WITH CAPTAIN SCHAFER BEFORE REPORT COULD BE HANDED HIM. WARNED GUS HE WAS ON HIS WAY.

1730 HOURS -- BASE CLOSED - NO VISITORS - NO PASSES.

COLONEL TRAVASTI IS SHORT GUNNERS - WANTS ME TO TRANSFER FROM SOME OTHER SQUADRON BUT DOESN'T WANT ANY WITHOUT EXPERIENCE.



RED LAMP IS ON IN NCO AND OFFICERS' CLUB. IT SEEMS TO BE THAT MEDICAL ORDERLIES ARE SERVING MORE BOOZE WHEN MISSION RETURNS LATELY THAN THE CLUBS. MAYBE WE COULD USE BARTENDERS ON SOME OTHER DUTY.

CHAPLAIN WANTS TO KNOW WHY BASKETBALL PRACTICE MUST BE HELD IN HIS BUILDING WHICH SHOULD, IN HIS OPINION, ONLY BE USED FOR SERVICES. SUGGESTED HE GET TOGETHER WITH OTHER TWO CHAPLAINS AND SEE ME IN A COUPLE OF DAYS.

1900 HOURS -- MAINTENANCE HAS ENGINE PROBLEMS ON SEVERAL AIRCRAFT.

CREWS FOR TOMORROW NEARLY SETTLED.

WEATHER REPORT FAVORABLE FOR TOMORROW.

2000 HOURS -- TARGET INFO ALL IN. BRIEFING SCHEDULED FOR 0400 HOURS.

MESS HALL ALERTED FOR 0300.

TRUCKS SCHEDULED TO BE IN SQUADRON AREAS TO PICK UP CREWS BY 0230.

BRITISH HOME GUARD AND ANTI AIRCRAFT PEOPLE WANT CONFERENCE WITH C.O. I SUGGESTED DINNER 1ST NIGHT WE ARE STOOD DOWN.

0400 BRIEFING

0510 MISSION AWAY

0600 - MESS HALL STARTS SERVING 2ND MEAL OF THE DAY.

THE DAY I JUST DESCRIBED WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT ONE BUT RATHER TYPICAL. FOR EXAMPLE: DURING MARCH 1945 THE 34TH

HIT 24 TARGETS

PUT UP 664 AIRCRAFT -- 641 OVER THE TARGET

1.625 TONS OF BOMBS DROPPED

THAT JOB DIDN'T GET DONE BY A BUNCH OF GROUND POUNDERS SITTING IN AN ENGLISH PUB.

NOW LET'S RETURN TO MENDLESHAM AERODROME MEMORIAL DAY 1982.



7th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON - 34th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
THIRD AIR DIVISION - MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND - 1944-1945  
ROBERT H. WRIGHT, LT. COL. U.S.A.F.R.



"DANGEROUS DAMSEL"

Presidents Comments to the Membership

As your new President, I would welcome any comments from the membership to make the 34th B.G. Association a bigger and better organization. With your help we can be the best.

Everyone was pleased with the dedication of the 34th B.G. Memorial at Dayton, with the exception of the rainy weather. Ray Summa is to be commended on a super job in getting everything to fall in place at the proper time. With the same kind of cooperation the restoration of the Memorial at Mendlesham is assured. The pledges given at the Convention and also the success of the Auction has made it possible, to have the restoration of the Memorial started at Mendlesham. George and June Ritchie and their helpers are to be commended for the fine job they did at the Auction.

Anyone still wanting to make a contribution for the restoration of the Mendlesham Memorial, may do so by sending their contribution to Ray Summa. Make your checks payable to the 34th B.G. Memorial. They are tax deductible as a donation.

I have been approached about a plan for a trip to Mendlesham this summer and as more information become available, I will relay it to you

Bob Wright  
President  
34th B.G. Ass'n.

New address in Fla from Dec 1st until March 1983  
1425 US 19th South  
Bldg. 3 Unit 11  
Clearwater Fla. 33516

*Hi Joe sorry I didn't get to talk to you very much at the reunion. Maybe next year at Hoo. I have now listed the Banquet*

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

Pilot, 4th Sq., Crew No. 12, April - Aug 1944