

VOLUME VIII

NUMBER 1

MARCH, 1986

# ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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391

## OBSERVATIONS

Well folks, I'm still here trying to put together the kind of newsletter you want. I want to thank all of you who have expressed satisfaction in my efforts so far. It is gratifying to hear that you are doing a good job.

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information on our reunion next September in Colorado Springs, Co. Also included is a reservation form for the event. Let's all get our reservations in early as possible. The earlier we have some indication of attendance, the easier it is to plan the events. Come on, gang. If you've been to our other reunions, you'll know how much fun they can be. If you haven't attended before, be assured that you have a treat coming.

On the home front, Rose and I have visited with half our brood of six children in Florida over the holidays. Walt and Ruby McAllister joined us for the New Year's Eve celebration and later in the week we joined them at their home to meet with and enjoy the company of Norman & Pam Carter from England who were visiting with her sister, a neighbor of the McAllisters. We had met them at their pub in Milton Keynes, U.K. when we were there with the 34th Reunion last summer. A fine time was had by all.

Back to the newsletter, I want to ask again that the ladies give some more thought to the Rose's Corner column. Many ladies have expressed their pleasure with the idea but, to date, not too many are participating. Come on, gals. Write in any items you think might be found interesting by the other ladies. I think it would be a shame to lose the column for lack of material.

Also, recently I have had the opportunity to see the newsletters of several other units and I thought one of their ideas would be interesting to use. They printed individual's photographs from the war years and from the present; sort of like a "Before and After" series. If you think, as I do, that it would be fun to see some of the fellows as they were and as they are now, please write in and, if possible, send in the "Before and After" pictures.

As you read this spring is upon us. Soon the flowers will begin to blossom, the birds will sing, and we'll be starting to shake off our winter doldrums. We can look forward to planting our gardens, golfing, fishing, etc. Those of you in the warmer climes probably cannot appreciate the feeling, but to us northerners such thoughts are pleasant to contemplate and the greening of the grass and trees always instills a feeling of new hope as the land comes alive again. May you all have the joys and happiness that the coming seasons can bring. Rose and I wish you all the best in health and happiness.

Eli Baldea  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### GREETINGS:

Time really moves on. It is the halfway mark to our Colorado Springs reunion and plans need to be made for the trip. As you set your priorities for 1986, the 34th B.G. reunion needs to be number one on the list.

Past President Gerald Pine, who arranged the Nashville meeting is chairman of the reunion committee and has been hard at work for months. I think you will be pleased with the plans which the committee have prepared. Beginning with a golf tournament and ending with a gala Saturday night Banquet, the program provides trips to the Academy, tours and one night for free time to plan private parties and visitation.

Please send to me or Gerald Pine any suggestions that any of you may have that will make for a more pleasurable gathering. Our desire is to have the biggest and best reunion to date. Contact your old crews, friends and others to meet you in Colorado Springs in September.

Jim Martin

## REUNION - 1986

Now is the time to begin planning for your attendance at your reunion which will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado 11-14 September 1986. We need to make advance arrangements to prepare for this great time. You need to set aside these dates and plan your trip. The Clarion Hotel will be our headquarters in this setting of natural wonders. Do not be in any hurry to leave this area after the reunion is over, there are so many beautiful sights to view that it is impossible for the committee to incorporate these tours and still carry on the business of the reunion.

Please try to be checked in early on Thursday 11 Sept., the reason is we are going to start right off with a truly Western tradition, the host at the Flying 'W' Ranch has cordially agreed to get us all in a Colorado mood with a visit to his western village, a fabulous western supper wrangled up in his cook shanty, and a show. This should get everyone primed and in a proper attitude.

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Dear Friends:

First I want to thank the ones who have sent in their '86 dues.

Now is the time to start making plans for the Colorado Springs reunion in September. Gerry Pine and his associates are really working and planning towards one of the best reunions we've ever had (or can it be better than Nashville '84?)

Our membership is still growing, but we still need everyone's help in locating your old friends and buddies. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Look through your old letters and files, also your "Short Snorters" for names and addresses. Send all information to me at:

2910 Bittersweet Lane  
Anderson, IN 46011

As I will be incapacitated for awhile due to heart surgery, Hannah will help as much as possible. Just put me on "hold" for awhile and I'll see you in Colorado Springs.

Ray Summa



First airmen in 34th BG. to complete 35 missions.

L. to R.: William Harrow, Leonard Chatoian, Charles Pell, Glenn Henry.

Mendlesham Memories is published four times a year by the 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc. March, June, September and December.

Editor: Eli Baldea  
1595 Sunnyslope Drive  
Crown Point, IN 46307

Editorials and stories are welcome and should be sent to the address above with new addresses, changes, and deletions.

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Friday again is a busy day. At 0830 hours the dedication of our Plaque on memorial wall at the Academy will take place. I know it is an early hour but, it is the only time we can get arranged through the Academy to have access to this area and facilities. We will tour the grounds, have lunch at the N.C.O. Club and then continue on a tour of local scenic values. After returning to the hotel we will have a relaxing evening to visit and swap old tales.

Saturday will be a fun day. Breakfast will be followed immediately with the annual business meeting. At the sound of the final gavel we shall be off for a tailgate party and football game at Falcon Stadium. My sources of information tell me that a tailgate party in this stadium is something not to be missed. We all know that our Air Force has an outstanding football team, and a member of the Quarterback Club is bending my ear with a prediction of a certain Air Force victory. After the game we will return to our hotel and prepare for the Saturday night banquet. A fine meal is on order, our 34th Bomb Group President will have a nice program for us and there just could be a surprise or two thrown in for good measure.

For the golfers of our group: Tom C. King has made arrangements with the Gleneagle Country Club to accomodate 72 golfers, would-be golfers, or serious students of the game. He has the ground rules established and all he lacks is players. You will find an application for golf in this issue.

Colorado Springs is a very busy place, due to the tourists visiting the natural formations in the local area, and four large military installations also in the neighborhood. Other groups of people also have the idea of having reunions and got their name in the hat before we did, consequently our activities had to be rescheduled to fit the time slots available. So if you get an early breakfast call, it is just to get the day rolling.

You will find separate forms in this issue for the Hotel, Reunion Package and Golf. Please be sure to send each of them to the proper address to be sure of proper handling.

Thank you.

Your Reunion Committee  
Gerald Pine  
Chairman



Standing - L. to R.: -- Katz, Tom Buchanan, Courtney Daniels, William Jennings, -- Neif. Kneeling - L. to R.: Ted Beard, Joseph Schmidt, Elmer Gergley, William Harben, Johnny Fisher.



#### **Charles F. Metz**

I remember the mission I flew during the Manna/Chowhound operation quite well. The day we flew the mission was horrible in terms of weather. We flew very low across the North Sea, under the heavy overcast, and the ride was bumpier than the Rocky Road to Dublin. The moment of great remembrance came as we approached our drop zone in Holland at about 400 feet. Hundreds of Hollanders lined the perimeter of the field, on streets and on bridges, waving flags and scarves and handkerchiefs, and jumping up and down in unmistakable gratitude. I shall remember that scene all the days of my life.

One final note - we flew that mission under a truce arrangement with the Nazis, with the understanding that if any of our planes strayed off course, they would be fired upon with red bursting-but-blank flak. In the de-briefing, it was learned that the enemy was as good as his word except that he fired the real thing. I don't believe, however, that we suffered any casualties as a result.

#### **Frank Zukaitis**

Saw the article by Ritchie "A Remembrance." Recalled a lot of memories. I think I can help conclude one part of the story of the B-24 shoot up. The first pilot was Stan Brain. His ship was all shot up and as described, some got out. Stan Brain survived and on completion of our missions, we returned to the States together. Stan's home was Minneapolis and mine was in Superior, Wisconsin.

We both took our wives to flak-shack in Miami and spent about 10 days together. My wife returned home and I drove with Stan and his wife to Texas where he was assigned to Harlingen and I went to Midland.

Not more than a month later they flew me to Harlingen to take Stan Brain's body home. He was killed in a crash while instructing. His wife became pregnant with their first while in Miami. Stan was buried in the national cemetery at Fort Snelling.

#### **Walt Sturdivan**

I've enjoyed the Mendlesham Memories newsletter. I thought I might get to the Wichita meeting and was in that part of the country at that time, but decided to come on home. From reports the weather did turn, or continue, bad and some of the events had to be cancelled. I think next year at Colorado Springs might be much better.

#### **Sam Wolsteneroff**

I've been laid up for a while and not feeling up to par so I kept putting off a lot of things I should do. I finally had some more tests and find I have five blockages in my heart but no operation as I have to have two arteries closed before they will operate. So I put everything aside and said "The heck with it" so I'm finally shaping up again.

I hope when we have the reunion in '86, it's so I can continue my travels on to the West Coast to visit the bases I was stationed at and see the Wild, Wild West and places of interest.

(Ed. Note: Colorado Springs is on the way to the West.)

#### **Lonnie Crook**

We were kinda busy with our Airstream travels this year. Eleven weeks on our trip to Lake Placid, NY and the East coast. Another three weeks to Arkansas and Alabama plus some shorter trips. Maybe next year we can meet with the 34th again.

#### **Jim McMahon**

Sorry I had to miss the two reunions. Maybe someday there'll be one I can get to. Because of advancing age (d-n it), and a couple of other problems, I can't get around like I used to.

#### **Mom & Pop Spence**

Just a few short lines to let you know that we are still alive and thinking of you. Last September, Mom fell and broke her left hip. In June she had another heart attack, so you can see why we just cannot go very far from home.

In the middle of October, Fred & Helen LeMaster, Bob & Helen Vaughn, and Cran & Bee Sproul gave us a surprise visit for the day. Boy, did we have a visit. Mom said that the men would beat a women's tea party to shame when the four of us got together. This is the first time that the four crew members have been together in 40 years. What a gab fest.

Three weeks ago I got 2 hearing aids from the V.A. Went down to the Tampa V.A. for the P.O.W. exams and they sure put me through the wringer. Came out pretty good, tho!

#### **Rolly Whited**

Queenie was the plane flown by the crew and myself from D-Day to about the latter part of November. I flew 26 missions in the B-24 Queenie and then we switched to the B-17 Queenie and I flew 8 more. I have my old A-2 flight jacket with Queenie on the back and the 391st Squadron insignia on the left breast. I can tell you the jacket is getting a little ratty.

My thoughts were with you as you met in Wichita for the '85 Reunion. I wished I might have been there. Trust you had a great time.

#### **Fred Schoch**

Hello "Stiffstarch," this is "Extol F Fox." This my dear

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friends was our call sign and control at the runway was Capt. Ray Grinrod. After our visit to Mendlesham in June, we started looking back on these past 40 years. The countryside was at its best for our visit. This is not at all like I remembered as we came in as replacement crew in Oct. '44 and left in March '45. I would like to say our visit to the pubs and church on Sunday will be remembered for a long time. I've had a lot of "Flak" coming my way because they showed me at the Mendlesham reunion but left out my wife, Clara. So, Eli, will you please mention that she was with me.

Clara and I left you folks at Ipswich and continued on to the continent. We traveled by train through Holland and Germany to the V.W. plant at Wolfsburg where we took delivery of a new Jetta. We then drove through Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France. After leaving the car at Emden for shipment home, we had 2700 miles on it. The highlight of our travels were to Gotha, Erfurt and Eisenach in D.D.R. We had no trouble at the border and we returned to appreciate our style and comfort of living.

#### **Art Paulmann**

We were in our place in Maine with our children last summer and my son-in-law spotted the ad for the B-17 anniversary party in Seattle, so we went out on the spur of the moment. It was a great party.

We plan to go to the Colorado reunion next September. Many times in the past 40 years I've thought of the group and the guys. I really never thought I would ever hear from them. I'm retired in Florida with my wife. I'm in good health. My wife has a heart condition but she is able to keep it under control. We hope to see you all in Colorado.

#### **George Rohrbaugh**

This is a little story about our engineer, John (Pea) Green. His mother used to send him a package about every one or two weeks containing a few "goodies" for him and she also enclosed six 12 oz. cans of whiskey and one or two cartons of American cigarettes. Since he did not drink or smoke, he passed them out to the rest of the crew. At the time we were flying with Charles Alling in a B-17G. The name of the plane was "Miss Trudy" after Charles Alling's sister, Trudy. I don't remember whether or not it was painted on the nose of the plane.

#### **John Lyons**

Thanks for locating Joe Howanec in Houston, PA. I called him and we had a long phone conversation. He had just retired. retired.

#### **Al Steiner**

I really did enjoy seeing the old bunch at Nashville. In particular, it was very heartwarming being with those I virtually grew up with in the 4th. As per SOP, I had my heart bypass surgery this past August. The recovery was quick and I was back to full time in September. We'll all give George Burns a run for his money.

#### **Tom Cannock**

We enjoyed meeting you nice people at the 8th A.F. reunion and the 34th B.G. dinners. Never having attended before, we were most impressed.

I flew 1st engineer for Bill Hart on a new B-24 that was being picked up in Topeka. Bill asked me to look over the new

plane and I told him I did not think it was airworthy. Bill reported to his superiors that he would not fly the plane overseas, so he was told by the Captain that he would be court-martialed. He told the Captain that he would see him at the trial. A short time later another Captain told him that he would have a new aircraft for him. I almost forgot this, but I must have been right about plane #1 when they did the check on it. I might have been court-martialed also.

#### **Richard Turpin**

There were so-called milk-runs and some kinda tough. You prayed and then you cussed - as a hillbilly would say. One instance I had to laugh. We got a heavy hit in the mid-section of our B-17 and a hot piece of flak came up thru the floor on the left waist gunner's side and penetrated the seat of his electric heated suit and was shorting out his suit. I looked back and there was "Swede" probing around at his hind end to get the piece of flak out. I had to laugh even though we were bouncing around a bit.

#### **Peter Stampon**

We visited with my wife's brother in Seattle last summer. While we were there the Boeing Co. held a three day celebration in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the B-17 bomber. Many groups were holding their reunions in Seattle at that time. I registered as a member of the 34th B.G. This celebration was just prior to the Kansas reunion and I doubted that many 34th B.G. members were in Seattle and felt good that I could represent the group.

On Saturday evening we were entertained by the present Glenn Miller orchestra. The banquet and show were held in a big hangar. The doors behind the orchestra were open and in the background, facing the open doors, were two B-17's. This was an impressive sight for me and my wife, who had never seen a B-17. We are looking forward to attending a group reunion in the near future.

#### **Robert Deloye**

Enjoy reading the newsletters and seeing the names of people I remember and some I had forgotten. Sure enjoyed the pix of LeBailley (still looks the same) and LeMay. Have not seen them since 1944. Have seen many pix of old "Iron Ass" over the years. Saw one of Ben in Life magazine many years ago.

#### **Burton VanAsdale**

Thanks for taking the time to look me up. I have not kept in touch with anyone who was in the service. I was in the ground crew of the 34th Bomb Group, 4th Squadron. We loaded bombs on the B-24's and B-17's.

After the war I started a plumbing business of my own. After 30-some years of that, I have retired, sold the property in Shelby, and moved to Clearwater, Florida. It was good to hear from you.

#### **John P. Terry**

The Memories item from George Ritchie's diary is not in complete agreement with my memory of the "Intruder Incident." Perhaps his having been asleep led him to make assumptions without verification regarding the manner and timing of the inception of the event. I firmly recall that the intruder was buzzing around the area several minutes before the

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# NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

We have received information for those of you who may wish to purchase a new A-2 leather flying jacket (Exact replica of WWII jacket).

If interested, write to:

Colonel (Ret.) Clyde W. Bradley, Jr.  
Bradley Associates  
2019 Vaughn Lane  
Montgomery, Alabama 36106

\* \* \* \* \*

A few days ago, as this is being written in late February, Ray Summa had a dual-bypass operation. At last word he is doing as well as can be expected and, hopefully, by the time you read this, will be back at the old stand well on the way to recovery. We're all pulling for you, Ray.

\* \* \* \* \*

Robert Burgner had his second heart attack last fall. He is up and around now.

\* \* \* \* \*

Henry Jurgens underwent surgery in January of this year. He is doing well as of this writing.

\* \* \* \* \*

Genevieve Rutka had a knee operation in December and has been on crutches. Hopefully by the time you read this she will have improved enough to be using a cane.

\* \* \* \* \*

William Hershnow had a major heart attack but, at last word, is doing pretty good now.

\* \* \* \* \*

Al N. Steiner had bypass surgery but is back to work again according to our latest information.

\* \* \* \* \*

We hear from Bill Strott, Jr. that his Pop did a turnaround a few weeks ago. He is now eating very well, gaining strength, and walking with vigor for the first time in months. He enjoys having Mendlesham Memories read to him and sends his best wishes to all his friends.

\* \* \* \* \*

Latest word we have on Hank Lambert is that he continues to make good progress towards recovery. His wife, Mary, is looking for some place near home to move Hank to for recovery therapy. Hank is and has been a loyal supporter of the 34th BG Assn. If you'd like to send him a card, the address is:

Hank & Mary Lambert  
Rt. 5, Box 3135  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

I'm sure he'd enjoy hearing from you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Charles Metz tells us there will be a reunion at Monroe, LA for all former service personnel who served their country at Selman Field during WWII. Anyone interested can get more information by writing to:

Monroe-West Monroe  
Convention & Visitors Bureau  
1333 State Farm Drive  
Monroe, LA 71202

\* \* \* \* \*

Bob and Mona Korf are planning to go to England sometime in the near future to visit friends in Ipswich. They would like to know if any other 34th BG people are planning to go. It might be interesting to make a group of it. Contact them at:

Bob Korf  
3165 Newcomb Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92404

\* \* \* \* \*

We have been informed that a video cassette program is available covering all aspects of training and flying combat in the B-17 with the 8th Air Force and the official combat film of the Schweinfurt-Regensburg mission. Total length is 48 minutes. Asking price is \$39.95. If you are interested, write to:

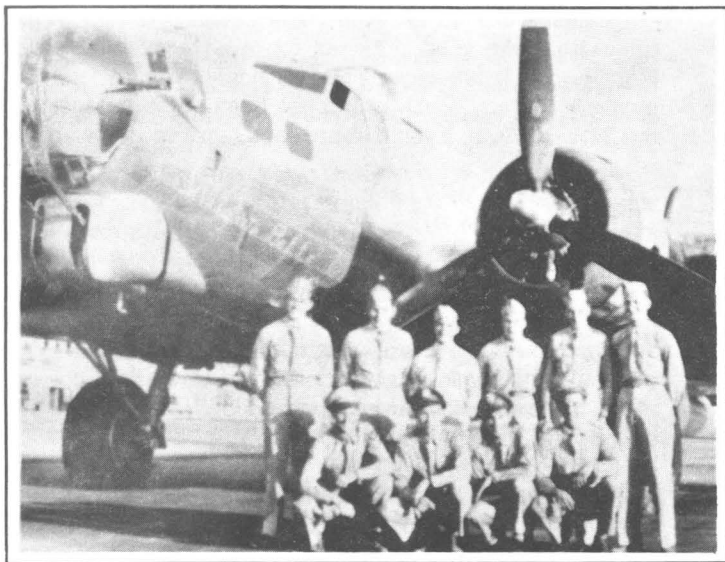
Ken Stone  
P.O. Box 4304  
Garden Grove, CA 92642

\* \* \* \* \*

Alf Connelly recently had a pleasant experience. It seems that, during the war, he had an "adopted" family, the Finbows, in Mendlesham. Olivia Cobble (nee Finbow), who made contact with Alf as a result of the 34th B.G. reunion in England last summer, was only 10 years old at that time. She never forgot Alf and visited with his family in Tennessee in August.

\* \* \* \* \*

Dana Schrupp informs us that anyone wishing to spend some time with a cadet attending the Air Force Academy must make arrangements at least 3 months in advance of the visit. He must state the cadet's name, class and squadron.



Standing - L. to R.: Alphonse Fruit, Joe Howanec, Lombard, John Melnick, Bill Stewart, Robert Jacobs. Kneeling - L. to R.: John Lyons, Talbott, Lucien Rainey, Ainsa.



Standing - L. to R.: Douglas Braham, Daniel Marks, Fred Fielder, Richard Polak. Kneeling - L. to R.: Clinton Beard, Fred Edelstein, Robert Springer, Anton Rysak.



Standing - Right to Left: William Pedigo, Leo Danielian, and Ed Geoghagen. (These are the only names we have.)



Standing - L. to R.: James Loiselle, Larry Lodermire, Paul Stoutsenberger, Charles Laulk, Jack Lowenthal, Paul Austin. Kneeling - L. to R.: Elmer Scherkenbach, Ray Pruitt, Ken Noreill.



Standing - L. to R.: Robert Schwartz, Frederick Berglund, Robert Brofft, Marvin Levithan. Kneeling - L. to R.: Bryant Grimes, Henry Butler, Michael Jacobbauski, Robert Peterson, Robert Devoe.



Front Row - L. to R.: John Schroeder, Homer Schin. to R.: J. W. Thompson, Alfred Marino, Charles Hay.



Standing - L. to R.: Douglas Braham, Daniel Marks, Fred Fielder, Richard Polak. Kneeling - L. to R.: Clinton Beard, Fred Edelstein, Robert Springer, Anton Rysak.



RECOGNIZE ANYONE?



Standing - L. to R.: James Loiselle, Larry Lodermire, Paul Stoutsenberger, Charles Laulk, Jack Lowenthal, Paul Austin. Kneeling - L. to R.: Elmer Scherkenbach, Ray Pruitt, Ken Noreill.



Standing - L. to R.: Robert McWay, Vincent Lombardo, Robert Griffis, Alf Johanson. Kneeling - L. to R.: Alvin Sadowsky, Leonard Adrignoca, Raymond Trotter, Bennie Copeland, James Hunter.



Front Row - L. to R.: John Schroeder, Homer Schindler, James Wright, Robert Lewenauer. Back Row - L. to R.: J. W. Thompson, Alfred Marino, Charles Hayes, Jerome Maroney, John Strona.





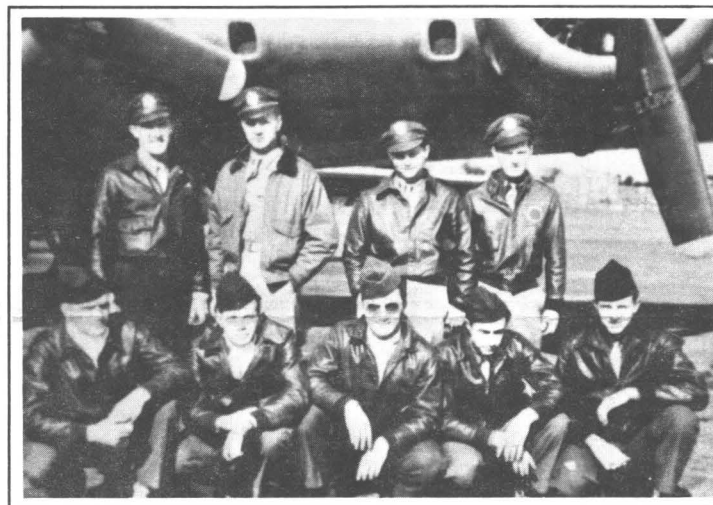
RECOGNIZE ANYONE?



Standing - L. to R.: Ward Yarabrough, Howard Edwards, James Brame, Charles Williams, George Rohrbaugh, John Green. Kneeling - L. to R.: Ray Baskin, Charles Alling, Glenn Banks, Mel Brumbaugh.



Standing - L. to R.: Robert McWay, Vincent Lombardo, Robert Griffis, Alf Johanson. Kneeling - L. to R.: Alvin Sadowsky, Leonard Adrignoca, Raymond Trotter, Bennie Copeland, James Hunter.



Standing - L. to R.: Jim Sheridan, Hank Gauger, Milt Braverman, John Pelly. Kneeling - L. to R.: Si Slovenske, -- Phillips, Bob Scheutz, -- Saunders, Keith Sandholm.



r, James Wright, Robert Lewenauer. Back Row - L. Jerome Maroney, John Strona.



Standing - L. to R.: -- Scott, -- Underwood, -- Wright, John Blair, Tony Trutanich. Kneeling (Left): Richard Turpin. (These are the only names we have.)



(Continued from Page 4)

group got back from their mission. 7th Sqdn. engineering officer Cole (I think) was out there with a carbine firing at the plane.

Perhaps a poll of memories should be taken. It could be that even my memory will need to be revised!

#### Ed Fink

The article from the diary of George Ritchie sure brought back memories. Bruce Sothern and I were talking about that night when we got together last year. We remembered what Frank Sivret and Ray Englehart brought back with them that night. It was a "Blast", but not from the air. Ask Bruce about it when next you see him.

#### Vernon Ames

After I retired I decided to try to locate our crew members. This after forty years of neglect. Over the years I have located all but three. These three; John Baron, Harry Masse and Robert Bichowsky are still lost. Neither the VA nor I can locate them. If anyone has any information about them please inform them about the 34th BG. reunions.

#### Betty (Mrs. Stanley R.) Martin

Just a quick note to tell you how much I enjoy receiving "Mendlesham Memories." My late husband would have been thrilled to receive these mailings. We did not receive them at all until after he had passed away in Dec. of 1981. He did keep in touch with some of his crew over the years. His co-pilot was Ray Swan, now of Florida.

#### Paul Buss

We enjoyed the December issue of Mendlesham Memories. Especially enjoyable is the poetic contribution of our good friend and former radio operator, Gerald Pine. You probably would have no occasion to know this, but radio operators were the most intelligent of our lot. They were a little strange, but, nonetheless, good people. They had the capacity to do dumb things. Our radio operator let out the trailing antenna in a storm as we approached Wales with a new bomber. The storm wiped out his radio as well as the pilot's and we came in on D.R. Fortunately, we had a good navigator and visibility was good.

#### George Rall

Since I am scheduled for two more surgical sessions in February, it certainly appears as though my chances of ever attending a group reunion are getting dimmer and dimmer. So, at least, I can renew my memories with the newsletter and the 34th BG History.

#### Ben Workman

Please mention in the newsletter that some of us would like to purchase some in-action pictures of the war years. If some of the fellows that worked in the laboratories kept any pictures, we wonder if they might be made available.

#### Carl Stemen

During the Holland Food Mission, my crew was one of the first three planes into Holland. Planes flown by Gen. Gebhardt, Lt. Davis and myself were the first in to see if the Germans would fire at us. The remainder of the group circled offshore. I had a 3rd Division cameraman on board. He sent me a series of pictures of the mission.

## NEW MEMBERS

#### AKERS, KENAS

R 2 N., Box 54  
Pocatello, ID. 83202

#### ALVORD, FAYNE

Box 241  
Blue Ball, PA 17056

#### BARRON, WILLIAM

1028 Juneau Ave., Apt. 603  
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

#### BRAHAM, DOUG.

2002 Hillsdale Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI. 49007

#### DANHAUER, JACK N.

1425 Everett Avenue  
Louisville, KY. 40204

#### DAVIS, ROBERT L.

6244 Kiernman Drive  
Carmichael, CA. 95608

#### DesLAURIERS, ROBERT E.

4052 Calvado Drive  
LaMesa, CA. 92041

#### FREI, DAVIS (MRS. ELLEN)

4331 Canterbury Drive  
LaMesa, CA. 92041

#### GOMBOS, WILLIAM

2835 E. Bluebell Ave.  
Brea, CA. 92621

#### GRIFFIN, HAROLD R. (DR.)

3539 Soland Way  
St. George, UT. 84770

#### HANRIHAN, JAMES R.

6261 Barbara Lane  
Auburn, CA 95603

#### HANSEN, DEAN F.

3572 Sudbury Land L.N.  
Bonita Springs, FL. 33923

#### HEMINGWAY, ROBERT D.

55 W. Center  
Alpine, UT. 84003

#### HOWANEC, JOSEPH

99 Hart Street  
Houston, PA. 15342

#### HUGHES, MIKE C.

Box 4  
Cisno, TX. 76437

#### JUDD, J.E.

8390 Delmar Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO. 63124

#### LOGAN, WILLIAM H.

4747 Halga Circle  
LaVerne, CA. 91750

#### McCLELLAN, VAL J.

1711 So. Lakeside Drive  
Lakeworth, FL. 33460

#### MILLS, WALTER

60 Nod Brook Road  
Wallingford, CT. 06492

#### MULLINS, FRANCIS J.

5 Glyndon Ace  
Cortland, NY. 13045

#### NAUMAN, CHARLES J.

6820 Wedd.  
Merriam, KS. 66203

#### PARENT, R.E.

60 Clark Avenue  
Northampton, MA. 01060

#### PIEKARSKI, CLARENCE

RR 7, Box 371  
International Falls, MN. 56649

#### POULOS, ARTHUR

80 Fernwood Road  
Lynn, MA.

#### RASPICA, JOHN

401 Spring Street  
Staunton, IL. 62088

#### SACHERMAN, LEE E.

14907 Hamlin  
Van Nuys, CA. 91411

#### SANDHOLM, KEITH

402 Garfield  
Shenandoah, IA. 51601

#### SCHELL, HAROLD N.

2101 Forest Ave.  
San Jose, CA. 95124

#### SHOAF, GERALD T.

1450 N.E. 36th St. #204  
Pompano Beach, FL. 33064

#### SNOW, WEBB C.

1608 Crestwood Road  
Mayfield Heights, OH. 44124

#### VANASDALE, BURTON L.

2126 Poinciana Terrace  
Clearwater, FL. 33520

#### VRONZ, JOHN M.

Rt. Box 131  
Liberty, MO. 64608

#### WINICK, SEYMOUR

333 Pearl Street  
New York, NY. 10038

#### YOUNG, DARWIN L.

10640 Mohawk Drive  
Boise, ID. 83709



# ROSE'S CORNER

Dear Gals of the 34th:

We're off and flying in Rose's Corner and I'm hoping that my next trip to our mailbox will be even more fulfilling. My contribution for this issue is one on food during WWII.

## Do You Remember?

Do you remember Spam, the spiced canned ham that used to be served to our "heroes" and what our mothers stood in line for at the supermarket? Well, when Eli and I were married, I served it sliced and fried. It really was a good substitute for bacon; also cutting it up into a casserole with escalloped potatoes made it a good dish! Eli put a big ban on Spam saying that he had enough of it during his time in the Air Corps, so I went along with this decision for 39 years. We were at my daughter's home last month and she served (guess what ?) Spam, sliced, plus some crackers and cheese. Knowing what we were nibbling on, I watched for some real criticism. Instead he

gobbled it up and smacked his lips! He then asked me why I don't serve this at home!! So, since dried beef also was condemned so long ago, I'm going to serve it creamed on toast and I don't care what he and the rest of you guys called it!

Come on Gals, send me some tid-bit of what happened to you and yours before, during or after WWII. Also, we're hoping that you will share some recipes that were used at your home during the food rationing time. Did you have a job which directly helped the war effort? We need some answers, please.

Sincerely,  
Rose

\* \* \* \* \*

## From: Wanda Pine

I have written to Dear Abby and she has ignored my message. Of course, Abby didn't have a corner to use, and Rose has.

Gerry has been busy putting together things for the reunion; and has the house all torn up with papers here and papers there. Just a general scattered mess to me, but it's a "don't touch" situation because he knows where everything is.

Hope everyone is planning to attend the reunion in September. Am sure a good time will be had by all.



## Name and Address Changes

(Changes underlined>

Ashley, David L., General Delivery, Hillsborough, NC. 27278  
Ashwood, Norma A., 2096 McKinley Ave., Dn., Cleveland, OH.  
44107-5453  
Austin, Paul, HCR Box 431, Merrifield, MN. 56465  
Baumgardner, Donald R., 507 Euclid, Charles Town, WV.  
25414  
Beckley, Paul R., 2313 Cabot Drive, Lexington, KY. 40505  
Bloczynski, John, 612 Cherry Avenue, Marshfield, WI. 54449  
Boreen, Lloyd W., Box 203, Winlock, WA. 98596  
Corum, Malcolm, 8159 Horizon Drive, Colorado Springs, CO.  
80918-3848  
Couse, Conway M., 3022 SE 18th Street, Coral Gables, FL.  
33904  
DeSantis, Lou, 613 Wolf Street, Syracuse, NY. 13208  
Erbach, Melvin C., 3056 Water Street #49, Stevens Point, WI.  
54481  
Forde, Frank, 495 No. Ward Avenue, Girard, OH. 44420  
Freeman, Jesse R. III, 201 Georgia Lane, Lexington, SC. 29072  
Furlo, Vince, P.O. Box 310, Carrolton, MI. 47724  
Gehle, Henry G., 6899 S. Bemis St., Littleton, CO. 80120  
Griffith, John G., 113 East Bertsch St., Lansford, PA. 18232

Hoke, Albert, Rt. 1, Box 180 A, Bedias, TX. 77831  
Holcombe, Charles B., P.O. Box 967, Smyrna, GA. 30081  
Humphrey, Clyde, Box 15, R.R. 1, Santa Fe. TN. 38482  
Janes, John, 1445 Fremaux, Slidel, LA. 70854  
Jonas, Frank, 100 Marina Dr., Needles Marina Pk., Needles,  
CA. 92363  
Kantorak, John, 1642 Woodward Avenue, Lakewood, OH.  
44170  
Machalz, Raymond, 4729 New England Ave., Harwood Heights,  
IL. 60656  
Paulmann, Arthur W., R.R. No. 3, Box 925, Silver Springs, FL.  
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Pine, Gerald, 5414 Highway 12, Lot 51, Waunakee, WI. 53597  
Rowley, Francis, 9302 Broadway Sp. 107, Mesa, AZ. 85208  
Rockwell, Williard, 617 E. 2nd Street, West Liberty, IA. 52776  
Squires, Clarence, RR 2, Box 99, Cainsville, MO. 64632  
Stankus, Adam Sr., 201 High St., #B-2, Andalusia, PA. 19020  
Stevens, William, RR 1, Box 229, A3, Sunrise Beach, MO 65079  
Stoval, Earl B., 3503 Franklin Ave., Louisville, KY. 40213  
Sutton, Charles, 107 No. Webster, Harrisburg, IL. 62946  
Swick, Gideon W., Box 127, Fort Lupton, CO. 80621



# A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE WAR



## From: Walter Sturdivan

We flew out of Blythe Field on March 30, 1944. Our first stop was Lincoln, Nebraska, for staging. It was after we were airborne from Lincoln that we were informed of our destination. We took the Southern route, joining 71 other original crews and Liberators, enroute to Mendlesham. The oldest established Bomber Group in the Army Air Corps. had been reactivated and was on its way.

Our flight was relatively uneventful as we made landings in Florida, Trinidad, and Natal, Brazil. From Natal, we crossed the Atlantic, landing at Dakar, French West Africa eleven hours later. Our next stop was Marrakech, Algeria, not far from Casablanca. It was here that we mounted our machine guns with live ammunition. We were getting near the war zone and there was danger of Nazi fighters off the coast of Spain or Portugal. We skirted wide to the west over the Atlantic and headed north for several hours. Shortly we made a 90 degree turn to the right and, in a little while, we landed at Valley, Wales.

After making our post flight reports, Harold Witham, our flight engineer, and I started to make our way toward the mess hall. On the way we met a middle-aged native of whom I asked, "Where is the latrine?". "The what?" the man replied. He had a quizzical expression on his face. "The latrine" I repeated; "You know, the toilet." After several seconds the man's face lit up with understanding. "Oh" he said, pointing to a building nearby, "You mean the lav'tree, the lav'tree!" (lavatory) "It's right over there." Witham and I had come to the realization almost immediately that our allies, although they spoke mostly English, were going to be a little difficult to communicate with.

## From: Blair Rossow

I purchased a bicycle to ride to the flight line and the hand brakes didn't work too well. You had to drag your heels to stop. One morning as I was hurrying to the line, a big truck came bearing down on me head on. On the shoulder, 3 English civilians were walking away from me 3 abreast. I couldn't dodge them all and hit one of them. He gets up brushing himself off and screaming "Damned, Blooming, Bloody Yank." I apologized and was on my way with them cursing me for as far as I could still hear.

## From: C.H. Gibbs

During the war I served as radio operator. My 23rd mission was to Brussels, Belgium and, without a doubt, the worst. The flak was much too accurate and, miraculously, wounded only the tail gunner and waist gunner. We managed to get back to England and all successfully bailed out before the plane blew up. While crew members were returning to base, parachutes were lost but, somehow, one escape pack was salvaged.

Shortly after returning to Mendlesham, the healthy crew members got a 3-day pass and dashed off to London. The

French money from the escape pack was converted to pounds sufficient to purchase one bottle of Scotch, one bottle of gin and some horrible English soda. On my way back from London, I met two army types and we opened the 2 bottles for a friendly drink, and ended up drinking far more than we needed. In Ipswich we decided to have a beer or two at a local pub and when I finally arrived on the base, I was feeling no pain. I don't remember who started a fire in a 5 gallon can in the barracks but we put it out (or thought we had) and set it outside the barracks door. A short time later, someone hollered that there was a fire outside and, sure enough, the can was flaming again. Since no water was readily available, we surrounded the can and proceeded to urinate on it, finally dousing it completely.

## From: Don Tuttle

On August 13, 1944, five of us were leading the 34th B.G. in missions completed with 34 needing only one more. We had a sleepless night sweating out that 35th one.

The next morning, on entering the briefing room, we saw that Captain Duke had already laid out the map for the mission and you could hear a rumble going throughout the room. Our hearts sank -- the red string on the map went straight to Berlin.

After allowing us to moan and groan a couple of minutes, Captain Duke pulled down the string, laughing all the while, and stated there was a last minute change. He reset the string and our last mission turned out to be a virtual milk run. The mission was a success and we couldn't wait to get back to the base where our ground crew chief, Dick Fuelling, was waiting with a couple of bottles of Scotch.

As we entered the de-briefing building, someone hollered "Here come the fire-bugs now!" It turned out that some of my crewmen had negotiated a couple of boxes of flares and on the final approach, were shooting them off like mad. They had set two small fires on a farmer's field. I was so excited at finishing our tour that I quickly told the Colonel to have the farmer send me a bill for the damages and I would gladly take care of it. I have never heard anymore about the incident.

## Correction

Sept. & Dec. issues were incorrectly stated as Vol. 8. They should have been Vol. 7.



Left to Right: Francis Gullace, Evan Rogers, Don Tuttle, Earl Strong.

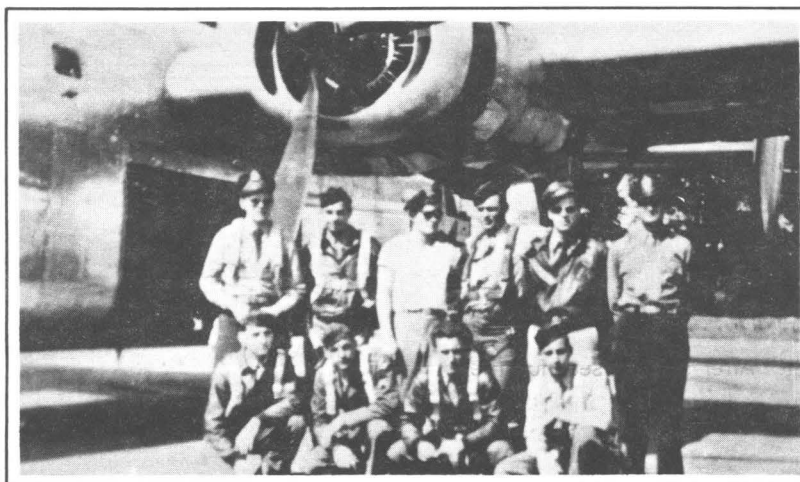




Standing - L. to R.: Jay Buxton, Bob Cole, Francis Head, Roy Ballentine, Ted Bacalis, Dave Pflumb. Kneeling - L. to R.: Dick Cutting, Elwin Autry, Jim Hanrahan.



Standing - L. to R.: Harold Pendergraff, Garland Neal, Fay Boozman, Harold Carothers, Rush Chaffee, Donald Allen. Kneeling - L. to R.: Lawton Dooley, Joseph Clark, Wyatt Jones, John Bloczynski.



Standing - L. to R.: Francis Bujalski, John Kolenda, Marvin Gardner, D. Bailey, Henry Flack, Sidney Artt. Kneeling - L. to R.: John Ford, John Palladino, Patrick Clyne, -- Johnshong.

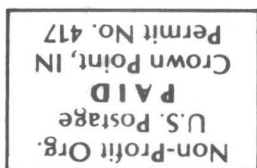


Standing - L. to R.: James Blair, Bob Pratt, Bob Morrison, Jim Lemmen, Walt Bower. Kneeling - L. to R.: Dwight Bell, Bob Ingrouille, Isueno Macranni, Ralph Hartman, Jim Barnes.



Standing - L. to R.: Francis Gullace, William Havron, Charles Pell, William Marshall, Laurence Touhill, Leonard Chatoian. Kneeling - L. to R.: Donald Tuttle, Earl Strong, Evan Rogers, Glenn Henry.

From the collection of:  
**Al Israelsen**  
**Pilot, First Crew No. 1, 4th Sq. Feb - Nov 1944**



Excerpt from V.E. Day celebration booklet

## V.E. DAY - 1945

To the men of the 34th Bomb Group, 422nd Air Service Group, 878th Chemical Co., and members of the Station Red Cross:

The congratulatory messages received at this Headquarters give me the keenest satisfaction of knowing that you were a part of the Air War in Europe, and your courage, devotion to duty, and hard work are exemplary of the teamwork that built the tradition of the Eighth Air Force and the Army Air Forces.

This booklet is published for you with the desire that each of you in this Command will remember the words of gratitude and pride by those leaders who recognized the great work that has been done. It is to their appreciation that I wish to add mine, for I have seen your individual accomplishments, your distinguished achievement in the air, and the diligent work on the ground that resulted in great effectiveness by this unit in six major air offenses since coming overseas.

It is especially gratifying for each of you - and for me - to know that our faith and determination in operating against the enemy during bitter weather conditions in the air and on the ground, through flak - and fighters - has been rewarded with the knowledge that our bombs did so much to defeat the Luftwaffe and immobilize the Nazi war machine.

I am proud to have led the 34th and it is certain that you deserve the full confidence of our leaders in carrying on with the same Valor to Victory against the last enemy of freedom - Japan.

Signed: William E. Creer  
 Colonel, Air Corps  
 Commanding

## TAPS

|   |   |
|---|---|
| COLBANK, Earl                           | LINK, Eph., Penna.                        |
| DENTY, Leslie<br>Chandler, AZ 9-29-85   | MILLS, Walter<br>Wallingford, CT. 8-25-85 |
| ETTLIBRICK, Charles<br>Springfield, IL. | RAINEY, Lucian<br>Alabama in 1982         |
| FREI, David<br>LaMesa, CA. in 1984      | ROBERTSON, William, Penna.                |
| GREEN, John R.<br>Dallas, TX.           | SMITH, A.J.<br>Lenoir City, TN. Dec. '85  |
| HENRICKS, Robert,<br>4th Sqd.<br>9-27   | WESTENBERGER, Kurt, 4th Sqd.<br>10-31     |
| HORNER, Russell<br>LaVerne, CA.         | WHITE, Roy<br>Ft. Worth, TX. 10-85        |
| JANKE, Herb<br>Litehouse, FL.           | WILSON, Richard B.<br>Des Plaines, IL.    |
| JONES, George<br>Shelby, OH.            | SCHAUS, Joseph<br>Massapequa Park, NY.    |



RECOGNIZE ANYONE?