

# ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

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### OFFICERS

President: Ed Lawlor (718)642-3863  
Vice Pres.: George Ritchie (919)393-8806  
Recording Secretary: Vernon Ames (716)696-2637  
Archivist: Doug Underwood (205)281-1498  
Past Pres.: Al DiNenno (813)731-5535  
Corresponding Secretary & Treasurer: Ray L. Summa (317)644-6027

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Randall Martin (617)749-9327  
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Eli Baldea (219)988-4607  
Kivett Ivey (919)778-2647  
Sam Baglio (717)654-0205  
Cleveland Romero (318)237-0739



## OBSERVATIONS



Well, here we are, moving into the throes of yet another winter. We, who live in the northern climes, have a lot of cold weather and snow, etc. to look forward to. I checked out the snow-thrasher the other day, just to make sure it's in good working order. Some of us, NOT ME, look forward to the whiteness that is to come; some for snowmobiling, some for skiing, some for ice skating, etc. I admire those hardy souls. Although I have lived in these climes all my life, I have never learned to appreciate northern winters. They're too much of an inconvenience!

Rose and I had a marvelous time at the reunion in King of Prussia. We met many old friends and added a lot of new people to our list. If you have not attended one of our reunions, you still have a treat in store for you. The people you meet are mostly in our age bracket, share many of the same interests we do, and look forward to many of the same interests for the future that we do. But, most of all, our close association during the war years gives us a camaraderie that few people experience.

At our board of directors meeting it was decided that, if we do not have your latest address when the newsletter is mailed and it is returned, it will not be re-mailed, even though we receive a later up-date on your address. The original mailing costs us 8.5 cents each. Undelivered items cost us 30 cents each on the return. To re-mail requires first class postage which can amount to 90 cents each. You can understand why it is economically not feasible to re-mail. It behooves each of you to keep us notified if you don't want to miss one or two issues. Keep in mind that we have two (2) mailing lists; one covering the June and September issues and the other covering the December and March issues. If your winter address differs from your summer address, let us know. We receive far too many returns marked "Temporarily Away!"

Via the grapevine we have heard that Lawton "Ed" Dooley had an automobile accident at Nashville, TN. on his way to the reunion. The car was totalled, Ed has some bruises and his wife Jo has several broken bones. We only hope that they are both

recovering well. We also hear that Joseph Drahnak has had a stroke. We have no more information as to how serious it was. All of us want to extend our wishes for a speedy recovery. From Elly Veon we hear that Keith Anderson is in the hospital for observation, etc. We can only hope that all goes well with him.

On a happier note, we also hear that Bill and Viv Creer celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November. We all want to wish them many happy returns and may they have many, many more anniversaries.

Finally, Rose and I wish to extend to all of you our best wishes for a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON and a HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

To all our friends:

Our reunion was very good and all had a grand ole time being with old friends. From my speech at the banquet I quote, "Bring in your sons and daughters as associate members of the 34th. They will make a lot of friends through us." Think about it; get them in!

I'll do my utmost to make the 34th the best. Write to me and let me know what you think can help. I promise to answer all your letters.

To all of you "GOOD HEALTH AND HAPPINESS IN THE YEAR, '88." Remember, "To err is human; to forgive is divine; but to forget it altogether is humane."

Ed Lawler  
President

## Merry Christmas





## From the Hangar of Ray L. Summa

Fellow Member of the 34th B.G. Assn.:

Hannah and I want to wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Well, the 34th B.G. reunion for '87 has come and gone and I think most of us had a real good time meeting old friends, making new friends, and sight-seeing while we were there. I hope most of you are looking forward to the reunion next year at Virginia Beach.

Hannah and I stayed over until Monday. On Sunday afternoon we bought tickets to the Ben Vereen and Tony Orlando show at the Music Fair, a theater in the round, just outside King of Prussia. Saturday evening, just before the banquet, Hannah came down to the lobby all smiles. It seems when she was going up the elevator, she sensed someone she recognized in the car with her. She turned and, lo and behold, it was Tony Orlando. She looked at him and asked, "Tony Orlando?". He replied that it was. Then she told him that we were staying over to see his show. He replied, "That will be nice." When the door opened he put his arms around her and kissed her on the cheek. This really shook her up and made her day. Needless to say, she was at the height of her glory when she told everybody that she had been kissed by Tony Orlando, but regretted not getting his autograph. She was really shook up!!

On the way to the Interstate, my navigator got lost. To quote some of the pilots, "I never saw a navigator who was not lost." We wound up in Camden, NJ. and had to pay the same toll to get back on the PA. side to get on the correct Interstate. We made it to Gettysburg that afternoon and toured the battlefield. If you've not seen Gettysburg, you've missed one of the most interesting places in American history. On Tuesday we arrived home tired but grateful that we had met a lot of our friends at the reunion.

We did have visitors a few weeks after coming home. Oral and Marjorie Walker stopped by on their way home from the reunion. We really enjoyed their visit and hope someday they will return and spend more time with us.

The other day at the Mall here in Anderson, I heard my name called out. Coming toward me were Charles and Carrie Smith, who had come to Anderson to visit with Charles' brother. It was great to see them. The reason they were not at the reunion is that Carrie had been ill. Perhaps they will make it next year.

As you know, in 1989 at Fort Worth, TX. there will be the 50th Anniversary celebration for the B-24 from May 17th to 21st, 1989. I have been asked to find out how many will be going there, so, if you are thinking about it, let me know so we can set up a Mini-Reunion for the 34th.

The Tourist Bureau of Shreveport, LA. has been in touch with Gerry Pine about the possibility of a reunion there. He was referred to 8th AF Headquarters at Barksdale AF Base who in-

quired whether the 34th was part of the 8th AF during the war. When told we had been a part of the 8th, they asked whether we would like to have a memorial at the base. A museum is being started at Barksdale and several units were asked to place a memorial there similar to the one we placed at Dayton. If you are in favor of this memorial please let me know. It can be paid for out of the memorial fund which now has over \$7,500.00 in it including interest. The memorial at Dayton cost us about \$1,500.00. We'd still have enough left over to maintain the memorial at Mendlesham for a long time.

Right now we are partially committed to help build a "Loo" for the St. Mary's Church at Mendlesham. If you don't know what a "Loo" is, it's a TOILET. The church has never had one. If you had to go, you went behind a tombstone. AUCTION USA at Virginia Beach will make a little money for the "Loo." George Ritchie, our new vice-president, will be the Auctioneer.

In this newsletter you will find a membership and dues blank form. Those of you who are not up to date are asked to use it. I want to thank all of you who have become Life Members and those who have paid their 1988 dues in advance. On the dues sheet are shown the items for the PX this year. Some are new so look them over and order yours. The two video tapes were put together by Jim Blair, a Life Member, and the son of John Blair.

I have just finished reading two books written by men of the 34th. One "SHAKE HANDS WITH A SOLDIER" by Walter Sturdivan and the other "ONE DAY INTO TWENTY THREE" by E.T. "Mo" Moriarity. Both books are paperback and I found them to be very good. You will see the information on them in the "News From Here And There" column. I know that many of you have stories like these to tell. Sit down and write them. Have them published, even though they might not be a best seller. They will help keep the name of the 34th B.G. alive and in the limelight. Remember, the 34th trained more men than any other bomb group and started over 12 other bomb groups before going over to help win the war.

We were not able to attend the 8th AF Reunion at Pittsburgh so I asked Vern Ames to take my place. He did a great job and filled me in on all the happenings there. Those attending from the 34th were Vern and Millie Ames, Dudley Casler, Jack and Marian Share, James S. Smith, Harold and Evelyn Williams and Ben and Edith Zeldes.



George Ritchie and Kivett Ivey visit Hank Lambert at his home. Hank has lost a leg, has diabetes, had a stroke from which he is recovering with the help of his wonderful wife, Mary.

# REUNION NEWS

## TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP

The reunion committee wants to thank all that attended the reunion in King of Prussia, PA. I wish to announce that those who missed the reunion also missed out on a good ration of the usual 34th fellowship. As we were checking out, and straightening out our debt with the hotel, we had everyone from the front desk - to the waiters/waitresses - to the bartenders and maids and housekeeping - to the bellmen - to the sales department, etc., all ask us to return again next year. They all claimed the 34th to be the best group they had ever worked with. This is

very good news for the reunion committee to hear. It is better news for the Group to receive. It makes us all stand rather tall to know we can have a reunion, conduct a business meeting in a business manner, have a banquet in a festive fashion, with all attending enjoying themselves in any degree that suits them, and be asked to return soon. This all proves what I've claimed all along, "There never was, nor ever will be, another group that can come up to the "standards" of the 34th Bomb Group.

Thanking all of you,  
Your Reunion Committee,  
Robert Wright, Harold Rutka, Gerald Pine

## REUNION ATTENDANCE

Donald & Laraine Allen  
Vern & Millie Ames  
Paul & Helen Anderson  
Keith Anderson & Elly Veon  
Ralph & Mary Applegate  
Jack & Frances Ashburn  
Charles & Evalyn Attridge  
Vernon & Jene Atwater  
Sam & Lee Baglio  
Eli & Rose Baldea  
Cleo & Freddie Baughman  
Donald & Vera Baumgardner  
Robert & Olive Bergold  
Charles & Isabelle Billman  
John & Margaret Boczynski  
Robert T. Blum  
Lloyd & Bobbie Boreen  
Paul & Ann Bourquin  
Wallace & Doris Brauks  
Milt & Elaine Braveman  
Edward & Sarah Breitschwerdt  
F.A. & Opal Bristow  
William & Nita Brown  
Glen & Daisy Brydge, plus 2 guests  
Ben & Mary Buckley  
William & Loretta Burnell  
Ralph & Marge Bush  
Robert O. & "Liz" Campbell  
Tom & Blanche Cannock  
Sue & John Costello (Ames guests)  
Louis & Anne De Santis  
Grady & Edith Deatherage  
Robert & Edith Dees  
Alfred & Elsie Di Nenno  
Joseph & Victoria Domino  
Vincent & Jean Doran  
John & Margie Dozier  
Joe & Verna Edwards  
John & Betty Feda  
Clayton & Norma Gabel  
Marvin Garrison  
Chester & Jacquelyn Gavryck  
Claude & Audrey Gibbs  
Albert Glenn  
Robert & Virginia Gradin  
"Pete" Gray  
Charles & Jennie Gregorski  
Willis Griffis  
Robert & Cynthia Gross

Ray & Norma Grzeskowiak  
Anthony & Elizabeth Habiger  
Milton & Kathryn Hansen  
Ambers & Jean Hanson  
Merle & Olivia Hartman  
Robert & Lorraine Hartwick  
Raymond & Margaret Hinchee  
Jack Hood & son-in-law  
Vincent & Helen Hosack  
Wayne & LaVerne Howarter  
Seymour & Claudia Isaacs  
Kivett & Lucille Ivey  
Gene & Helen James  
Eddie & Ianthia Jones  
William T. Jones  
Dexter & Beulah Jordan  
Henry & Ruth Jurgens  
Raymond & Alice Kaiser  
John & Joanne Kantorak  
Richard & Virginia Kashishian  
William & Eileen Kaufman  
Jim & Mary Kenny  
George & Margaret Kline  
Edward Lawler & Brother Frank  
Raymond & Mary Lester  
Irving & Doris Levy  
Kenneth & Martha Lewis  
William & Billie Logan  
Edward & "B" Lonergan  
Miguel & Laura Lopez  
Ralph Lundeen  
John & Lavonne Lyons  
Earl & Helen Maciel  
John G. Mangan  
Daniel & Gerry Marks  
Joe & Kay Marks  
James F. Martin  
Walter & Ruby McAllister  
Roderick & Edith McColl  
Francis & Rita McCullough  
Pat & Helen McKeon  
James & Jeanne McMahon  
Dean & Alison Mercuris  
Raymond Moats  
Charles & Dorothy Morgan  
Joseph J. & Eileen Morrell  
Frederick & Virginia Muenta  
William & Gwen Muntzer  
Carl Nichols

Jack & Beatrice Odom  
Robert & "Ginny" Pacholski  
Raymond & Bula Palmer  
Earl & Irene Parenteau  
Art & Marge Paulmann  
Ken & Kathleen Paxton  
Gerry & Wanda Pine  
Robert M. Platz  
Richard E. Polak  
Harry & Georgia Prillman  
George & June Ritchie  
Cleveland & Henrietta Romero  
Harold & Gen. Rutka  
Earl & Patricia Saeger  
Frederick J. Scherr  
Fred & Clara Schoch  
Paul & Betty Schommer  
Kal & Evelyn Schonthalier  
Dana & June Schrupp  
Loyal Severson  
Jack & Marian Share  
Paul & Pauline Shull  
Robert & Betty Simpson  
Ron & Martha Simpson  
Frank & Alda Sivret  
James & Jane Ann Smith  
John Smith  
Oren & Lois Smith  
Pauline Smith  
Bruce & Muggs Sothorn  
Alfred & Jean Steiner  
Walter & Lois Sturdivan  
Ray & Hannah Summa  
Walter & Pauline Summers  
Louis & Teresa Tamburro  
Roy & Kate Tavasti  
Roy & Valerie Thompson  
Warren & Dolores Thrun  
Sam Turnipseed  
Lawrence Underwood  
Oral & Marjorie Walker  
Karl & Judith Wallace  
Carl & Berdine Westman  
Harold & Evelyn Williams  
Samuel & Arlene Wolstencroft  
Robert & Esther Wright  
Benjamin & Edith Zeldes

# BOARD MEETING

BOARD MEETING - 34th BOMB GP. ASSN.

10 SEPT. 1987 - 10 A.M.

VALLEY FORGE HILTON HOTEL

Present: Pres. Al DiNenno, Ed Lawler, Dana Schrupp, Doug Underwood, Ray Summa, Miguel Lopez, Walter McAllister, Vern Ames, Eli Baldea, George Ritchie, Sam Baglio, Harold Rutka & Gerald Pine.

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Al DiNenno. Minutes of '86 Board and general meetings were read and approved.

TOURS: Joan O'Leary explained the tours planned for Friday and Saturday and said that tickets will be available for pickup at the registration desk.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The status of the "Book" was discussed. Mr. Thompson, the publisher's representative will be at the general meeting.

2. Harold Rutka reported on the Mendlesham Tour in May, '87. Ames moved, seconded by Ritchie, that Rutka be reimbursed for expenses of \$100.00 from the Reunion Fund. Motion passed.

3. First past president, Grady Deatheridge and first unit contact, Carposis, will be presented with aircraft models at the Banquet.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Baldea reported that he and Ray Summa are often contacted for information they are unable to provide. They should be kept up to date on activities being handled or planned by others in the organization. Ritchie moved, seconded by Baglio, that the editor of our newsletter be made an ex-officio member of the Board. Motion passed.

2. Discussion ensued regarding prices of reunions; what we get for the money, etc. Also regarding a site for 1990 reunion. A further discussion about mileage expended on behalf of the group's business. Baglio moved that we set aside \$500.00 from the treasury for claims for mileage at rate of 12 cents per mile. Died for lack of a second.

3. Ames moved that anyone who has incurred exceptional expenses will be reimbursed by voucher, either to the Reunion Fund or General Fund, depending on where the effort is expended. This was seconded and passed.

4. The Newsletter costs 8.5 cents to mail. It costs 30 cents if not deliverable because of change of address or incorrect address. To re-mail a copy requires first-class postage, in some cases as much as 90 cents. It was decided that, hereafter, the newsletter will not be re-mailed. It is every member's duty to keep us posted on the latest correct address.

5. It was mentioned that St. Mary's Church in Mendlesham does not have a "loo." It was suggested that we begin a fund to provide them with one. An auction at the next reunion was suggested as a means of raising the money. Ritchie offered his services as Auctioneer if we do. It was suggested we get more information on estimated cost of the loo. St. Mary's Church has established a Role of Honor of our departed.

6. Eli Baldea passed out cards received from the Holiday Inn at Virginia Beach for '88. Discussion followed regarding these return postcards which would show credit card numbers to anyone interested. It was thought that other arrangements must be made. Gerald Pine prompted everyone to watch the March and June issues of the newsletter for '88 reunion information.

7. Gerald Pine reported looking ahead to future reunions. In '89, we will meet in the near Southwest. In '90, we will meet in

a West Central state. In '91, a Northeast Central state. The 1988 reunion will be at the Holiday Inn at Virginia Beach, VA. Sept. 22 - 25.

8. Question came up regarding how to pay for supplies for the hospitality room. Suggestions will be tried out at present reunion.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Updated):

Ray Summa:

Bank Balance, 12/1/86	\$9,424.33
Received to 10/1/87	8,420.06
Total	17,844.39
Paid Out	7,176.03
Current Balance 10/1/87	10,668.03
Current Life Membership Fund (Incl. Int.)	6,285.78

Memorial Fund:

Current Balance	7,731.17
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'87 Expenses:

Paid out for 34th memorials in England	285.32
Flag Posts	16.73
Total '87 Expenses	302.05

Reunion Fund:

Balance August '85	6,136.09
Balance December '86	7,981.57
Balance October 1, '87	8,060.00

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Al DiNenno. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the President.

Minutes of the previous Board meeting and Annual meetings were read and approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Audit committee: (Howarter, Gross, Bush) reported "The books are in order." Moved and seconded to be accepted. Motion passed.

Reunion committee: (Gerald Pine) stated the next reunion is to be at Virginia Beach, VA. 22 - 25 Sept. '88, at the Holiday Inn. Explained registration costs, meals, lodgings, and extras. Given a big round of applause. He thanked his committee and all who worked for the reunion.

Book committee: (Walter McAllister) introduced Mark Thompson, the publisher's representative, who reported:

1. At present time we have 250 participants; would like to have 300 by October 15, 1987, our latest deadline.

2. Book should be out by April, 1988.

3. He made himself available at the registration desk for the remainder of the day for late participants.

34th Newsletter: (Eli Baldea, Editor) stated that addresses are the biggest problem, especially those who move during the year without informing us and those who have separate summer and winter addresses.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE!!!

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee (Bruce Sothern, Pete Gray, Dexter Jordan) offered the following slate of officers for the following year:

President - Ed Lawlor
Vice-President - George Ritchie
Recording Secretary - Vernon Ames
Director - Wally Brauks
Director - Kivett Ivey



Director - Cleveland Romero  
Unit Contact - Ray Summa  
(Past director Randall Martin remains on board  
to replace George Ritchie)

Motion was made and seconded to accept the nominating committee's slate. Motion was passed unanimously.

Bruce Sothorn discussed retaining ex-officio members on the board. These to include the past president, the reunion chairman, the newsletter editor, and the unit contact. The group expressed their appreciation for his work.

It was suggested from the floor that in '89 or '90 we have our reunion in Seattle. We have offers from the Boeing Co. and other area persons. No action was taken.

AUCTION USA: Next year at Virginia Beach, each member is asked to bring something either representative of their area of the country or of their personal hobby. These will be auctioned off to raise funds for any additional memorials. George Ritchie has offered his services as auctioneer.

A big thank you was expressed to Eli Baldea for publishing the Roster and Newsletter with a good round of applause. We have over 1400 names listed. It was stated that not every name on the roster is a paid-up member but we continue to carry the addresses for everyone's information.

It was noted that Miente's crew had 100% of their members present for the Reunion.

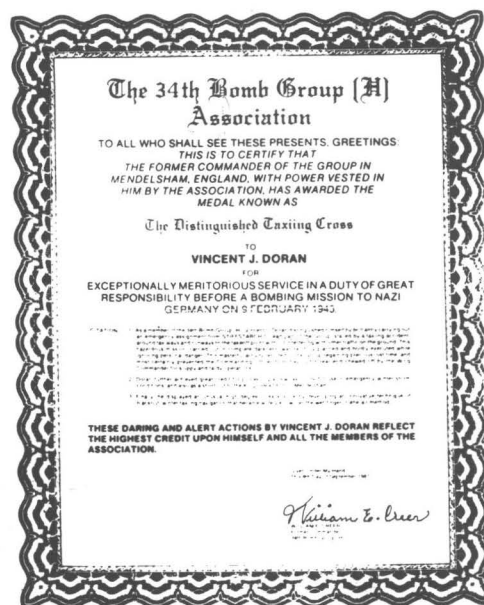
Being there was no further business to be brought up, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dana O. Schrupp, Secretary

## SPECIAL NOTICE



Pix of Medal



Pix of Commendation

At our annual banquet on Saturday, Sept. 12th, the "Distinguished Taxiing Cross" was presented to Vincent J. Doran in honor of his meritorious service on 9 February, 1945, as previously reported in this newsletter. The commendation and medal shown above were presented by Roy Tavasti in the absence of Bill Creer. The citation reads:

1. As a member of the 34th Bomb Group (H), Vincent J. Doran distinguished himself by brilliantly carrying out an emergency assignment from STIFFSTARCH to lead part of the Group, stalled by a taxiing accident, around taxiways and runways to the takeoff point without interfering with other traffic on the ground. This hazardous mission, carried out in complete darkness, was skillfully planned and boldly executed while ignoring personal danger. This masterful activity resulted in the Group regaining precious lost time, and most certainly prevented the Commanding Officer from having his rear end chewed off by the Wing Commander for sloppy and tardy operations.

2. Doran further achieved great credit for pioneering a new taxi route for use in emergency winter storm conditions, and also as a short cut to the King's Head Pub in Mendlesham.
3. Finally, he displayed an unusual high degree of excellence by developing an innovative technique of blackout, winter taxiing navigation that became widely known as the wet-finger-in-the-air method.

THESE DARING AND ALERT ACTIONS BY VINCENT J. DORAN REFLECT THE HIGHEST CREDIT UPON HIMSELF AND ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Signed:  
WILLIAM E. CREER  
Former Commander  
34th Bomb Group (H)

# GOINS' ON



Board of Directors: Standing L To R: Baldea, Pine, Lopez, Rutka, Wright, Lawler, Summa, Baglio, McAllister. Sitting L to R: Ritchie, Ames, Schrupp & DiNenno



Grady Deatherage - Past President



Group on Historic Philadelphia Tour



Roy Tavasti presenting medal to Vince Doran



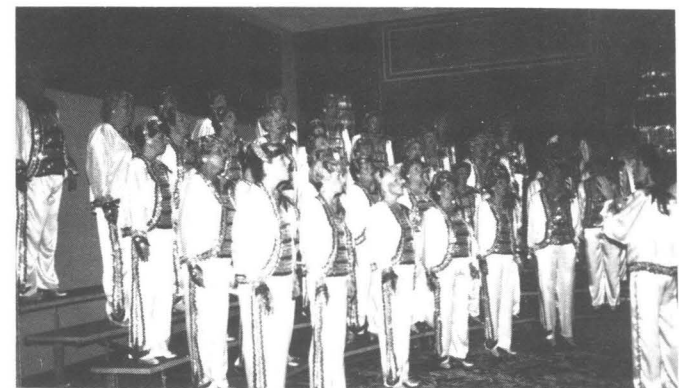
Fife & Drum Corps. group marching through Independence Square at noon



Pres. Al DiNenno passing the gavel to new President, Ed Lawler



Al & Elsie DiNenno receiving gifts



Sweet Adelines

# —•—•—•—*FESTIVITIES*—•—•—•—



Sam & Lee Baglio and Al & Agnes Israelson



First time all together in 39 years: L to R: Keith Anderson, Fred Munte, J.C. Smith, Bob Pacholski, and Dexter Jordan



Warren & Tomi Thrun and Joe & Kay Marks



June & George Ritchie and Lucille and Kivett Ivey



Bill & Eileen Kaufman, Sarah Breitschwerdt and Ellie Veon



J.C. Smith, Bob Pacholski, Jane Ann Smith, Ginny Pacholski



Laura Lopez, Keith Anderson, Miguel Lopez and Marvin Garrison



Alice & Ray Kaiser and Ginny & Fred Munte



# —•—•—•— *FESTIVITIES* —•—•—•—



Earl & Irene Parenteau and Kris & Roderick McColl



Vern & Millie Ames and Freddie & Cleo Baughman



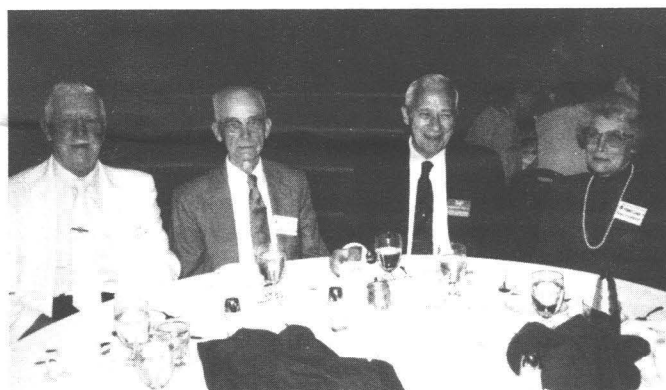
Berdine & Carl Westman and Clayton & Norma Gabel



Evalyn & Charles Attridge and Bobbie & Lloyd Boreen



Ray & Norma Grzeskowiak



John S. Smith, Sam Turnipseed and John & Marge Błoczynski



Eli Baldea, Pauline Smith, Walt & Ruby McAllister



Edith & Ben Zeldes



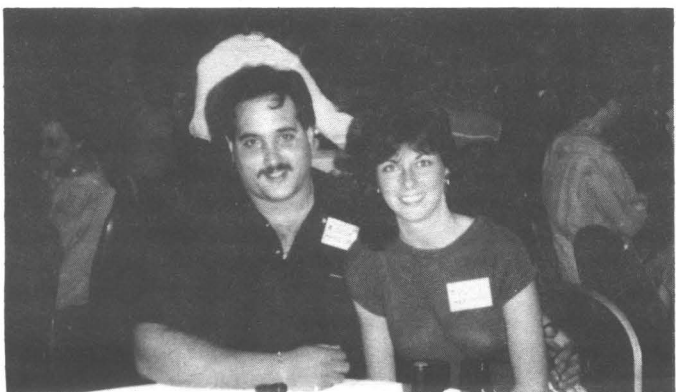
# *FESTIVITIES*



Dex & Beulah Jordan and Virginia & Richard Kashishian



Rose Baldea & Joe Domino, Vicki Domino & Eli Baldea



Dean & Alison Mercuris



Ambler & Jean Hanson and Marian & Jack Share



Elaine & Milton Braveman and Paul & Ann Bourquin



Billie & William Logan



Don and Vera Baumgardner



Bob & Ginny Gradin and Beryl & Paul Anderson

# ***FESTIVITIES***



**Bill & Nita Brown**



**Kate and Roy Tavasti, Doug Underwood**



**Scott Middleton and Jack Hood**



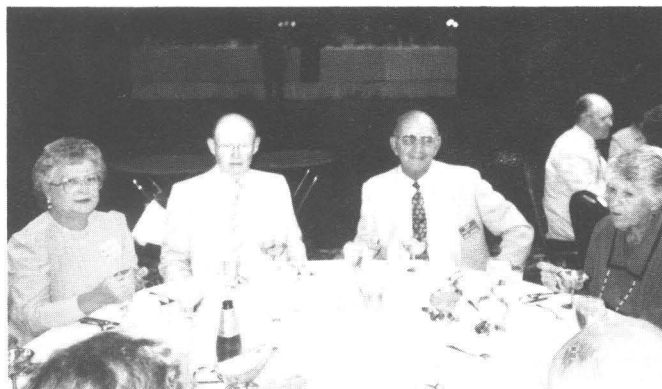
**Bula & Ray Palmer, Blanche & Tom Cannock**



**Joe & Verna Edwards, Bob & Pauline Summers, Francis McCullough**



**Willis Griffis, John & Lavonne Lyons, Donald Allen**



**Mary & Ralph Applegate, and Earl & Helen Maciel**



**Raymond & Mary Ruth Lester and Joanne & John Kantorak**

# *FESTIVITIES*



Claude & Audrey Gibbs, and Orin & Lois Smith



Henrietta Romero, Oral & Marjorie Walker



Ianathia Jones, Claudia & Seymour Isaacs, Eddie Jones



Pauline & Paul Schull, and Grady & Edith Deatherage



Mugs & Bruce Sothern, and Frank & Alda Sivret



Cynthia & Bob Gross, and Helen & Pat McKeon



Jennie & Charles Gregorski, and Cleveland & Henrietta Romero



Laverne & Wayne Howarter, and Robert Campbell (seated)



# —•—•—•— *FESTIVITIES* —•—•—•—



Doris & Wally Brauks, and Richard Polak



Milton & Kay Hanson and Evelyn & Harold Williams



Mary & Ben Buckley, Lou & Anne De Santis, Ralph & Marge Bush



Judy Wallace, Charles & Isabelle Billman



John & Olive Bergold and Louis & Teresa Tamburro



Eddie Jones, Charles & Dorothy Morgan, Claude Gibbs



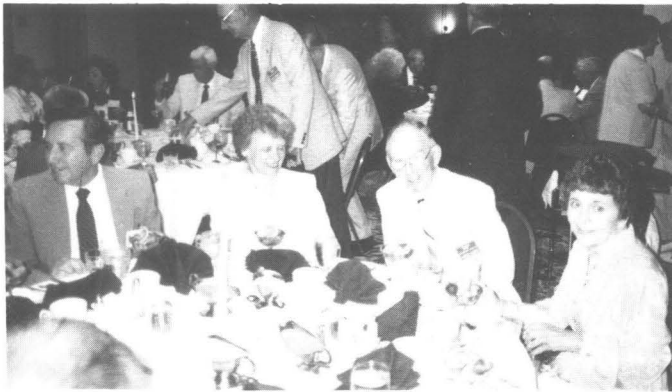
Paul & Betty Schommer



Tom Lawler, Dana & June Schrupp and "Pete" Gray



# *FESTIVITIES*



Francis & Rita McCullough, and James & Mary Kenny



Edith Dees, Margie & John Dozier, Robert Dees



George & Margaret Kline, and Peggy & Sam Wolstencroft



Doris Levy, Ruth & Henry Jurgens, Irving Levy



Robert Campbell, and Kenneth Lewis



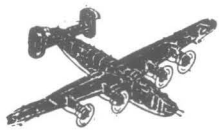
Jack & Beatrice Odom, and Opal & F.A. Bristow



Roy & Valerie Thompson and Elizabeth & Anthony Habiger



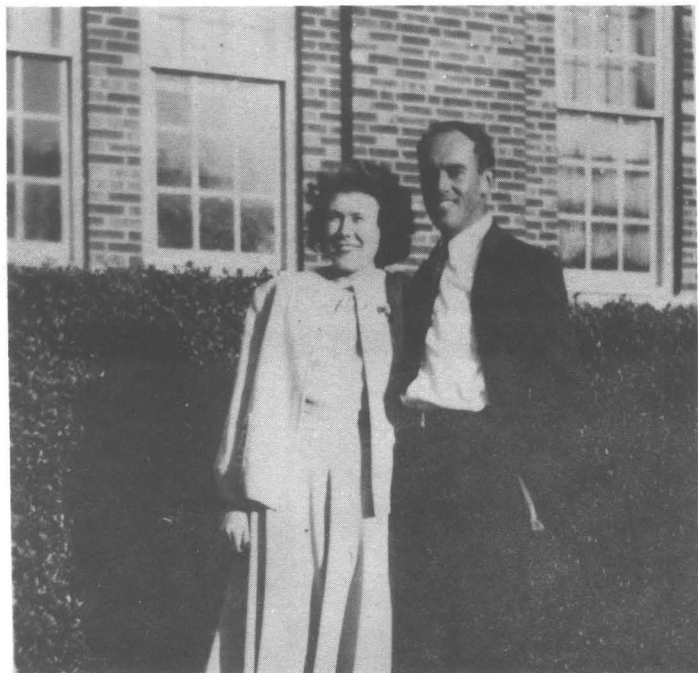
Robert & Lorraine Hartwick and Vincent & Helen Hosack



# *Then and Now*



## **Dexter & Beulah Jordan**



1948



1985

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## **Lester & Mary Etta Brookshire**



1941



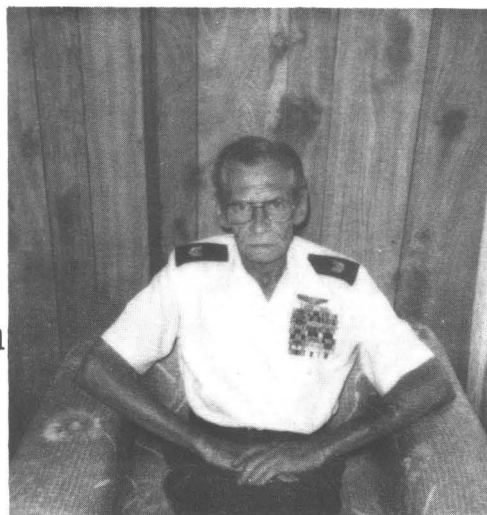
1986



# *Then and Now*

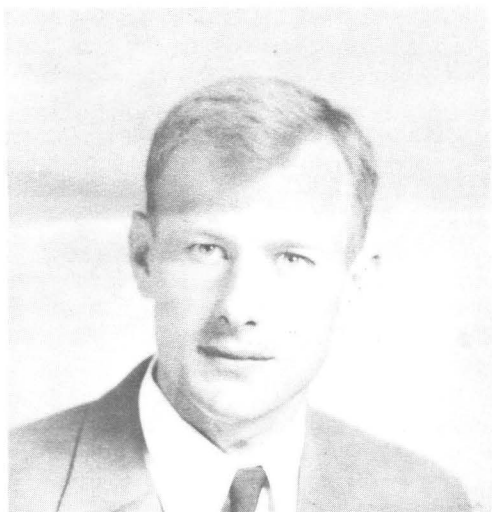


**Frankie  
L.  
Champion**



**1952**

**1987**

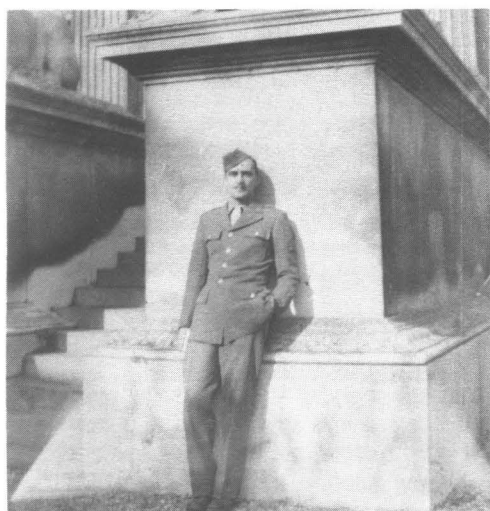


**Norris  
Smith**

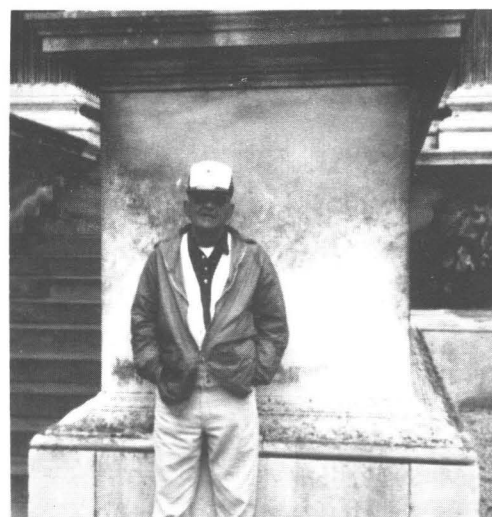


**1945**

**1987**



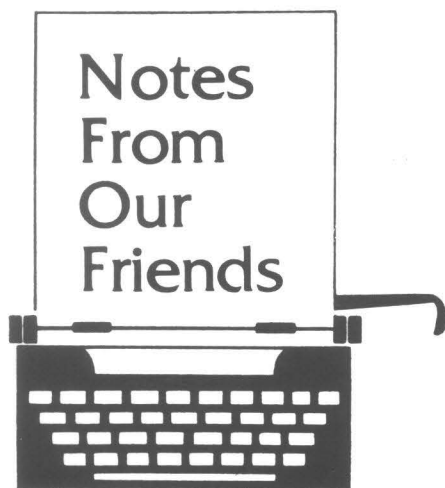
**Earl  
Maciel**



**1945**

**1985**





**WILLIAM DORRANCE** - Kailua, HI.

I was very sorry I couldn't attend the reunion but we were right in the middle of our permanent move from Ann Arbor to Hawaii. In fact, the movers came Sept. 8th and we moved on Sept. 9th. Keep up the good work!

\* \* \*

**"PETE" GRAY** - Virginia Beach, VA.

I believe it was one of the best of all the reunions we've had. The Saturday night banquet was, as usual, the highlight of the whole trip. The food was excellent, Al DiNenno did a fine job as M.C., and the entertainment was perfect - enjoyed every moment of it! Roy Tavasti's presentation of the medal was excellent and, later on, did you see him on the dance floor?! That chorus of beautiful gals - weren't they something? Whoever rounded them up deserves a pat on the back. It's been so long since I've heard singing like that, I could hardly believe what I was hearing. Their delightful voices, without any of the unnatural and noisy amplification so popular today, made for some mighty easy listening. All in all, it was a wonderful evening. Gerald Pine, Bob Wright, and Harold Rutka, along with all the others who spent so much time and effort putting it all together, deserve a vote of thanks. they did a fine job, as usual.

\* \* \*

**AVON D. SHAW** - Lubbock, TX.

I had not seen nor heard from any of the crew from the time we returned to the States in 1945 until Vern Ames contacted me through the national V.A. about 2 years ago. Since he contacted me, he not only called me, but came by the house with his wife for a short visit.

I had a heart attack in April of this year and elected to have angioplasty surgery in lieu of open-heart and seem to be doing fairly well, with daily medication. I have not been in touch with Vern Ames since, so I'm sure he (or the others) don't know about it.

\* \* \*

**RAYMOND S. BROWN** - San Antonio, TX.

Jean Bouliane and I were members of the crew of the B-24 "Shadrach." After having gone our separate ways for 42 years, we ended up in the same hospital at the same time in August. That was the Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio. Jean had a heart valve replaced and is doing fine back at home in Houston. I had an aortogram to confirm a suspected aneurism. I'll have the repair operation September 14th. If the plumbers do a good job, I'll be like new in 3 to 4 weeks and looking forward to next year's reunion.

**RICHARD E. TURPIN** - Asheville, NC.

I was reading page 12 of the last issue where "Lars" Larson said we went from Washington to Blythe. Well, we could have been split into more than one group leaving Washington, but I ended up in Caspar, Wyoming. Coldest damned place I have ever been; 30 below most of the time. An engine had to be covered with a heater under it. When it would start, all was moved to another engine. When all props were going, you had to shut down and re-fuel.

\* \* \*

**LOUIS J. TAMBURRO** - East Hartford, CT.

It sure was great to be re-united with all the guys. Terry and I had a great time, and we surely expect to be in Virginia in 1988. It seems as if everyone had so many stories to tell, all very interesting, even though some were sad; but only a few.

\* \* \*

**IAN HAWKINS** - England

Thank you for the 6 copies of the 34th B.G. newsletter which arrived safely. I've sent five to other friends of the 34th and kept one for myself for my 34th B.G. file.

With your permission, I would very much like to reproduce the excellent stories on pages 10 and 11 by James F. Martin and "Pete" Gray in the March, '88 edition of the "Framlingham Times." I thank you in anticipation.

\* \* \*

**TONY B. ARTUSO** - Cumerland, RI.

Took Paul Buss 42 years to convince me, but he did a great selling job! Truly enjoy the newsletter and look forward to the day when we get to meet with each other in person.

\* \* \*

**CLEM DeROCCO** - Huntington Beach, CA.

I distinctly remember the orders cut a Mitchell Field in late '40 or early '41 for Sqdn. assignments to the 34th and the train ride to Westover Field which seemed it was before April since there was a lot of snow on the ground.

Westover Field was still being built when we arrived. It seems as though one never knew if they were on the base or in Chicopee Falls.

We were pulling 25 hr. inspections on LB-30's (forerunner of the B-24) which were going to England. The group eventually got 5 or 7 PT-17's and these were used to get flying time for air-crew personnel.

\* \* \*

**LESTER E. BROOKSHIRE** - Calhoun, GA.

For the mission when we knocked out the German's synthetic oil facilities, deep inside Germany, we got a presidential citation. Did anyone get a letter or was it just a group citation? I have wondered about it many times.

\* \* \*

**DEXTER JORDAN** - Huntersville, NC.

Was glad to hear that you have located Charles Sakal. The only address he gave me was his sister's and I misplaced it. I am sending him a note encouraging him to come to our reunions.

\* \* \*

**HELEN NUSBAUM (Howard Marn's Sister)** - Topeka, KS.

The newsletter is most interesting and, as in the past, I see that Howard gets it and we discuss it some. Howard is as well as can be expected and still in a nursing home.

\* \* \*

**PEGGY ROSE (Everett's wife)** - Tacoma, WA.

I had cancer surgery at Madigan Army Medical and I could not have had better care anywhere. The doctors were wonderful!! Even Nancy Reagan couldn't have had better care. I'm on post-operative medication and will be for at least a year, and I will go to the tumor clinic periodically for blood tests and check-

Cont. on Page 17



# NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

## FROM WALLY BRAUKS:

Congress has authorized the issuance of a medal for all former Prisoners-of-War who were captured since World War I and who served honorably. These should be available on or about January 1, 1988. An application for the medal will be available at all U.S. Post Offices and there will be a nationwide publicity campaign explaining the criteria for the medal and instructions for applying.

Secondly, a new law has added two new disabilities to the list of conditions which may be considered service-connected for former P.O.W.'s. They are: (1) organic residuals of frostbite, and (2) post-traumatic osteoarthritis. If any ex-P.O.W. feels they may suffer from either of these conditions, contact your VA Regional Office and request VA Form 21-526.

Thirdly, the VA has for many years offered a Protocol Examination for any former P.O.W. wishing one. There are two purposes for this medical exam; to determine what health problems you are experiencing and then help set up a treatment plan if you wish; and, secondly, to help determine if you have any service-connected disabilities for which you might be compensated. If interested, call or write to the Administrative P.O.W. Coordinator at the nearest VA Medical Center furnishing your name, address, and claim number, if you have one.

For further information on VA benefits or medical treatment,

former P.O.W.s should call the nearest VA Regional Office or Medical Center. A national toll-free hotline has also been established to assist former prisoners-of-war. The number is 800-821-8139.

\* \* \*

We hear that Bob Gross, a member of the Town Council, has donated to the West Hartford, CT. Public Library, a copy of the book "Mighty Eighth War Manual" by Roger Freeman. He donated the book so that young people will have a chance to find out what the Eighth Air Force was all about.

\* \* \*

From Walter Sturdivan, we hear that he has now completed the book about his war experiences and association with the 34th Bomb Group from Blythe to Mendlesham. It is a limited edition, at present, and is available to men of the 34th if they are interested. The price is \$12.00 postpaid. If interested write to: Walter Sturdivan, 5901 No. El Dorado, Stockton, CA. 95207

\* \* \*

As mentioned in a previous issue, there will be a 50th ANNIVERSARY reunion of all B-24 Liberator units in Fort Worth, TX. May 17th to 21st, 1989. "A GATHERING OF LIBERATORS" will celebrate a "Happy Birthday" for the B-24's. Ray Summa has been asked to find out how many expect to be there from the 34th, so if you think you're going to attend, please let Ray know.

## Notes From Our Friends

Cont. from page 16

ups for at least a year, but I can handle that. So far the medication has not bothered me so that is another plus.

I want to thank the wonderful people of the 34th BG Association for the wonderful card and many good wishes I received following the operation. All those prayers and good wishes DO help. With all those good thoughts, how could I not get well! I will be forever grateful to Wanda Pine for getting the card and for seeing that so many people signed it. I show the card to everyone, and now they understand why we look forward to and enjoy the 34th reunions so much.

\* \* \*

**VINCE DORAN** - Anchorage, AK.

We had a wonderful time at the reunion reminiscing with old and new friends. The tours arranged by the Committee were worth the trip from Alaska by themselves. It was history we didn't know enough about.

The surprise humorous award that Bill Creer dreamed up was the highlight of the banquet for us. Roy Tavasti did a great job presenting it. It was an evening of good fun; I think everyone enjoyed it. I only wish Vivian and Bill could have been there.

**KEITH ANDERSON** - Ravenna, OH.

I wish to thank all of our friends of the 34th who have sent their best wishes for my continued good health. It is most heart-warming.

### Don't Forget Your Dues..

**Mail \$7.50 to: Ray Summa  
2910 Bittersweet Lane  
Anderson, IN 46011**

## You Know You're Getting Old When...

Submitted by **ARTHUR D. WILLIAMS**, Willsboro, NY.  
and **"PETE" GRAY**, Virginia Beach, VA.

Everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.  
The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.  
Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.  
Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.  
You look forward to a dull evening.  
You turn out the light for economic rather than romantic reason.  
You sit in a rocking chair but can't get it going.  
After painting the town red, you have to take a long rest before applying a second coat.  
You burn the midnight oil after 9:00 p.m.  
A fortune teller offers to read your face.  
Your mind goes out more than you do.  
Your pacemaker makes the garage door go up when you watch a pretty girl or handsome guy walk by.  
You sink your teeth into a steak--and they stay there.  
You finally reach the top of the ladder and find it leaning against the wrong wall.  
You decide to procrastinate but then never get around to it.  
Your knees buckle and your belt won't.  
You regret all those mistakes resisting temptation.  
You get winded playing chess.  
You join a health club, then don't go.  
You're still chasing women, but can't remember why.  
Dialing long distance wears you out.

# LIFE MEMBERS TO DATE (Total 63)

Vernon C. Ames  
Keith Anderson  
Samuel Baglio  
Eli Baldea  
Cleo J. Baughman  
James C. Blair  
John Blair  
Lloyd W. Boreen  
Homer Brown  
Ralph Bush  
Paul Buss  
Robert B. Deloye  
Richard Dunkel  
Joseph Edwards  
Carroll Forister  
Marvin (Lefty) Gardner  
Marvin Garrison  
Chester Gavryck  
Robert S. Gay  
George Gerlach  
Robert Gradin  
William "Pete" Gray  
Charles C. Gregorski  
Jack Hood  
Vincent Hosack  
Wayne Howarter  
Seymour W. Issacs  
Marvin W. Jalving  
Eugene James  
Dexter Jordan  
Warren J. Kiley  
Edwin L. King

Jack A. Kinney  
Emmet Klusmeyer  
Ralph Livsey  
Ken Lockwood  
James F. Martin  
Randall Martin  
Walter McAllister  
Robert A. Nendell  
Juan Perez  
Gabriel E. Pettinato  
Arthur Poulos  
Robert T. Priddy  
Harold E. Province  
Cleveland Romero  
Everett M. Rose  
John G. Rosequist  
Dana Schrupp  
Donald Shee  
Robert Steiner  
William Stevens  
John P. Strona  
Ray L. Summa  
Roy Tavasti  
Anthony Trutanich  
Samuel Turnipseed  
Ken Ulam  
Douglass L. Underwood  
Herbert Vick  
Karl Wallace  
Arthur D. Williams  
Clyde Willis



## ROSE'S CORNER



Beulah Jordan, Ruby McAllister, Lee Baglio and Elly Veon enjoying a day at the Mall.

Did you know that we are all born with the ability to create happiness? It was very evident at our reunion again. Meeting our friends, rehashing old times, making new friends, etc., happiness was everywhere.

Eli and I, plus the members of our crew, were especially glad to welcome back Joe and Vic Domino and Pauline Smith. This was a first for Joe and Vic and Pauline has missed the last three with the 34th.

I asked that the above picture be inserted with my column because shopping is one of the joys we gals find in each city during reunion weekends. We were at the huge King of Prussia Mall, and I do mean HUGE!! There's Bloomingdale's, Macy's, and even John Wanamaker's. We walked through Bloomingdale's and actually got lost trying to find the exit!

I've been asked about recipes in my corner, so here goes for a super appetizer for your Christmas parties.

### BEEF BALLS

- 1 lb. ground chuck
- ½ tsp. ground cloves
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ¼ tsp. garlic powder

### Sauce

- ½ cup catsup
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 12 oz. can of beer

Mix beef with cloves, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Form into balls the size of a walnut. Brown quickly in a little oil. Remove meat balls and drain well. Set aside. Mix together catsup, Worcestershire sauce and beer. Simmer for about 10-12 minutes. Place meatballs in sauce, cover, and simmer for 1½ hours. Serve on fancy toothpicks. Makes quite a few and very tasty.

\* \* \*

As an added thought, you can judge your age by your attitude towards a vacation - is it time to play or a time to rest?

Until the next issue, have a happy, safe and blessed Christmas celebration and our best wishes for the coming year.

Love,  
Rose



Standing L to R: Don Rankin, John Dozier, Harold Fondren, C. Wrightsman & Cliff Lattin. Kneeling L to R: Vince Hosack, Robert Dees, Robert Aldrich, & Steve Walch

# ADDRESS CHANGES

(Changes Underlined)

ALVORD, FAYNE, 139 So. Market, Shamokin, PA. 17872  
APPLEGATE, ELMER H., 1224 River Hgts. Dr., Indianapolis, IN. 46240  
BACSKAJI, JOSEPH, 114 E. Judson, Youngstown, OH. 44507  
BRESH, PAUL E., 1340 S. Brandywine Circ. Ap. 4, Fort Myers, FL. 33919  
BRYAN, STANTON K., 9816 Willow Brook Cir., Louisville, KY. 40223  
CAROTHERS, HAROLD, 5724 Sunflower Ave., Milton, FL. 32570  
DOZIER, JOHN F., 602 North Shore Dr., Boiling Spring Lakes, NC. 28461-9270  
EBY, CHARLES E. JR., 222 Chad Place, Millville, DE. 19970  
FRANGELLA, PATRICK, 2324 E. Dana Drive, Deltona, FL. 32738  
GANGER, DALE, 66765 County Rd. 31, Goshen, IN. 46526-9340  
GAY, ROBERT S., 158 Bayshore Drive, Moro Bay, CA. 93442  
GOMBOS, WILLIAM, 50 Jackson Street, Saratoga Springs, NY. 12866  
GRONOUSKI, JOHN A., 700 South First #203, Austin, TX. 78704-1655  
HANSON, AMBERS E., Rt. 5, Box 55-B, Auburn, AL. 36830  
HOWARD, PHILIP H., 10844 Harborside Drive, Largo, FL. 34643  
HUDSON, HAWLEY, P.O. Box 914, Bonita Springs, FL. 33959  
INGRAM, BILL, 2707 Woodlake Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405-8473  
ISRAELSEN, ALLEN O., 15115 Interlachen Dr. #526, Silver Spring, MD. 20906-5641  
JACKSON, WALTER G., 1030 S. 4th St. #F, Springfield, IL. 62702-3810  
JONAS, FRANK, 32800 Hwy. 20, Space 11, Fort Bragg, CA. 95437  
JORDAN, DEXTER, 11401 Asbury Chapel Rd., Huntersville, NC. 28078  
KELHART, ROBERT E., 30 No. 13th Street, Allentown, PA. 18102-4340  
LIPSCOMB, LINDSEY, 15 Woodstone, Houston, TX. 77024  
LYONS, JOHN T., 9719 Mill Creek Dr., Eden Prairie, MN. 55344  
MADION, HAROLD O., 25045 Woodbridge Triangle, Farmington, MI. 49018

McCOLL, RODRICK, 11 Natural Dr., P.O. Box 129, East Orleans, MA. 02643-0129  
McLAUGHLIN, EDWIN G., 29 Greenhurst Ln., East Hartford, CT. 06118  
METZ, CHARLES F., 7 Rodney Avenue, Islip Terrace, NY. 11752  
MORTON, ROBERT, 738 Dellena Ln., Fort Myers, FL. 33905-4024  
NELSON, HENRY B., P.O. Box 1335, Estes Park, CO. 80517  
NICHOLS, CARL, 1535 W. Wrenwood Lane, Fresno, CA. 93711  
NORTHRUP, JOHN F., 4216 Clairmont Ave., Birmingham, AL. 35222-3724  
ORAVEC, WILLIAM J., 339 Sawgrass Place, Casselbury, FL. 32707-5216  
PANCAKE, CHARLES E., 801 Spring Street, Jeffersonville, IN. 47310  
PETTINATO, DR. G.E., 267 Woodlawn Ave., Jersey City, NJ. 07305  
SCHILDMAN, WILLIAM, 1403 Hardin, So. Jacksonville, IL. 62650  
SCHINDLER, ERNESTINE (HOMER), 9002 29th Ave. Ct. S., Tacoma, Wa. 98409  
SHINN, WILMER III, Rd. 3, Box 111A, Emlenton, Pa. 16373-9649  
SMITH, DR. BIRNA, 1031 W. Lake Road, E. Lansing, MI. 48823  
SPOUL, CLARENCE C., 309 S.E. 12th Ave., Pompano Beach, FL. 33060-7424  
STOVAL, EARL B., 2642 Meridian St. N.#123, Oklahoma City, OK. 73107-1008  
SWAM. RAYMOND. 14 So. Marina Plaza, Englewood, Fl. 34223  
SWICK, GIDEON W. JR., 974 S. Denver Ave., Ft. Lupton, CO. 80621  
TRUTANICH, ANTHONY A., 48 Hidden Valley Rd., Rolling Hills Est., CA. 90274  
WHITEMAN, RICHARD E., Rd. #9, Box 877, Greensburg, PA. 15601  
WILSON, TREVETT A., 13609 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, AZ. 85351  
WOLF, JOHN, 845 Knollwood Village, Southern Pines, NC. 28387  
WOOLFORD, WILLIAM J., 16015 S.E. Oatfield Rd., Milwaukie, OR. 97267  
YOUNG, JAMES C., 1400 Walnut St., Williamsport, PA. 17701

## NEWLY FOUND

ARENS, ALVIN K., 9146 Hazelton, Redford Twp. MI. 48239  
AULD, DR. WILLIAM T., 6539 Cumberland Place, Stockton, CA. 95209  
BUGANSKI, SIGMUND, 9706 Chamberlin Rd., Twinsburg, OH. 44087  
CAROTHERS, REX W., R.T.R. Box 5431, Corning, CA. 96021  
DAVIS, KEN J., 2344 Fairmeadow, Billings, MT. 59012  
DE ROCCO, CLEM, 10042 Meredith Dr., Huntington Beach, CA. 92646  
DUNKEL, RICHARD, Rd. 5, Box 377, Sinking Springs, PA. 19608  
FIER, REUBEN, 6803 Cherokee Dr., Baltimore, MD. 21209  
JAHNKE, WESLEY, 3544 Sunset Beach Dr. NW., Olympia, WA. 98502  
JANSEN, ALFRED M. 336 So. Cedar St., Palatine, IL. 60067  
JONES, WILLIAM J., Rd. 1., Box 645, Saylorsburg, PA. 18353  
LATZ, WILLIAM F., 315-D Lakemoore NE., Atlanta, GA. 30342  
LAWLER, THOMAS, 30-47 Hobart St., Woodside, NY. 11377

MEISINHEIMER, DR. L.L., 441 So. Beverly Hills Dr., Beverly Hills, CA. 90212  
MORRELL, EILEEN, 243 Cedar Ridge Rd., W. Chester, PA. 19380  
NASH, EMIL, 1501 Reale Ave., St. Louis, MO. 63138  
PETERSON, RALPH C., 2247 Mulberry Lane Dr., N.W., Grand Rapids, MI. 49504  
PICHETTE, ALBERT W., W. 614 Dalton Ave., Spokane, WA. 99205  
SCANNEL, HAROLD J., Rd. #3, Box 500, Middletown, DE. 19709  
SHEESLEY, BRYON E., Rd. #3, Box 134, Oneonta, NY. 13820  
STEVENS, JOHN T., 1570 E. Main Street, Lancaster, OH. 43130  
WILLIAMSON, BILL B., Rt. 6, Box 321, Oklahoma City, OK. 73119  
WOOD, DR. QUENTIN L., P.O. Box 584, Rancho Sante Fe, CA. 92067  
ZESCH, EDWARD E., 122 Shire Court, San Demas, CA. 91773





## TAPS

BAKER, WILLIAM V.  
Phoenix, AZ.

BOND, THOMAS D. JR.  
Oakton, VA.

COTAR, HENRY F.  
Austin, TX.

DEFIBAUGH, WILLIS R.  
Grapevine, TX.

FESSLER, ELMER

FREEMAN, JESSE R. III  
Lexington, SC.

GLOVER, CHARLES  
Birmingham, AL.

GOTOWKA, RICHARD S.  
Dunkirk, NY.

GRAVES, JAMES G.

LONG, CHARLES W.  
St. Petersburg, FL.

MASTENBROOK, JOHN (RED)  
Painted Post, NY.

OSTROM, THOMAS J.  
Whitehall, OH.

PRICE, RAY RN  
McDonough, GA.

REILLY, CHARLES J.  
Enfield, CT.

SCHULTZ, RAYMOND  
Cincinnati, OH.

SEVICK, PHILIP  
Elizabeth, PA.

SIEGFRIED, RALPH  
West Burlington, IA.

SPRINKLE, MAURICE  
Indianapolis, IN.

TAWA, FRED  
West Roxbury, MA.

WILSON, CURTIS L.  
Kershaw, SC.

## A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE WAR



### LOU TAMBURRO - E. Hartford, CT.

My wife, Teresa (girlfriend at the time), had sent me a knitted scarf (brown) that she had made for "COLD" England. I never did get to wear it. I had put it into my locker for safe-keeping.

We flew our mission over France; got hit pretty good by the guys we were fighting (Germans); two engines were knocked out, and we came down over the Channel. We landed at an RAF base. I shot up double red flares, all I had. I mean to tell you, the runway was loaded with ambulances and fire equipment. As we taxied to a stop, the English were looking for injured. There were none. We were treated ROYALLY; the best of everything.

We were later picked up by a truck from our base. When we got back to the base, we found our barracks were ranshacked and my scarf was gone. At least no one was hurt.

\* \* \*

### VINCE DORAN - Anchorage, AK.

The two chaplains couldn't come to our briefings before bombing missions. Only flying crews and briefing officers were allowed in. They would stand out in the hall until we came out to pray us Godspeed, a sharp eye, safe landings, and things like that. Protestant Chaplain Eller and Catholic Father Scannell were kindly and sensitive men of God whom everybody loved. When we came out of the briefing room, they could instantly sense from our attitude and the amount of noise we made or did not make, whether we faced a pretty good day or a bad day. When it was going to be a bad day, I knew they felt awkward and helpless. They would pat us on the shoulder and murmur a word or two of encouragement or prayer. On the other hand, they couldn't have felt as bad as we did because we had to fly the mission. But we all appreciated their prayers and most of us added a few of our own.

I suppose the German flying units had their chaplains, too. Their aircrews would also be getting briefings, blessings, and praying for victory and safe flights. We were all praying to the same God.

When our bomber stream flew over Germany on the way to the targets with thousands of planes and thousands of tons of bombs, the Germans on the ground, military and civilian alike, must have been praying up a storm that God would have us pass them by, and bomb somebody else.

God must have had a lot of laughs listening to waves of fervent prayers wafting up to Him at the same time from all the Germans and all the Allies. How did He select whose prayers to answer that day? Eenie, Meenie, Minie, Moe?

\* \* \*



Standing L to R: Jack Raymond, Winfield Reynolds, Norris Smith, Richard Ruth. Kneeling L to R: Robert Chevalier, Fred Hampton, John Middleton, Rodney Parrott, Dexter Harris, John Young



The crew of the "Dynamite'n Dodo" (names not available)

# REUNION 1988

Our 1988 reunion will be held September 22nd to 25th, 1988 at the Holiday Inn of Virginia Beach, 39th and Atlantic, Virginia Beach, VA. Several side trips and tours are being offered during our visit there. More information will be forthcoming in our March and June issues. It's not too early to start planning to join us. You'll have a ball. Watch for forthcoming information regarding this reunion. BE THERE!!

## AUCTION U.S.A. (Slated for Virginia Beach, 1988)

At their meeting in King of Prussia, the board of directors approved the suggestion that we hold another AUCTION U.S.A. at the next reunion, possibly to help the St. Mary's parish with their loo problem. George Ritchie was assigned the project. Here is George's message:

Eli, I'd like some space in your next issue to announce that there will be an AUCTION U.S.A. and to explain to the membership just how they may cooperate. To make it successful, all members are asked to select a gift to be auctioned that night. This gift should represent the giver in some special way. It may be a craft, a collectible item, an antique or WWII Memorabilia or possibly a product grown or produced by you or your neighbors. (Example: Wine from Calif. or New York, maple syrup from New England, auto accessory from Detroit, a small tool or appliance from the industrial south, a smoked salmon from the northwest, etc.)

Those attending the reunion are asked to bring their donations and keep them in their own possession until an hour or so before the auction. If possible, there should be a 3" x 5" index card with the gift telling us something about the gift and the donor. Those not attending can mail or UPS the gifts to: George J. Ritchie, 107 Rock Creek, Country Club Point, Swansboro, NC. 28584. Remember, if you have a family member or close personal friend that could donate a prize, don't hesitate to ask them. Any donor gets a receipt if desired.

All members can rest assured that disbursement of the money raised will be governed by vote of the complete membership. The board has been approached with several projects that could use money but no definite decision will be made until our 1988 meeting. AUCTION U.S.A. will produce the funds, then we will decide a most worthy cause. Please be generous and remember to ask a friend, or 2 or 3, to donate as well. THANK YOU!!

GEORGE RITCHIE

## 34TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK (An update)

As you all know, at our reunion at Colorado Springs in 1986, it was decided that the 34th should have its own history book. A committee consisting of Walter McAllister as chairman, and Eli Baldea, Chester Gavryck, George Ritchie, Ray Summa and Doug Underwood was appointed to oversee the project.

Walt has been working very diligently with the publishers on getting this project going. Unfortunately, responses have been slow and necessitated a final plea at this year's reunion to get material in. Keep in mind that many books of this type take up to five years to complete. We have been shooting more towards 18 months.

Things are now progressing towards completion. Material is being sorted out and organized for a lay-out that the committee might review and advise further. We are now looking towards late January for a review by the committee after which, Lord willing, the publishers can set up to make the run.

However, the committee is very unhappy with the poor response in orders for the book. At latest count, 213 have ordered the standard edition and 23 the leather-bound edition. Considering that we have almost 1,400 names on our roster, it seems a small percentage have taken the time to send in their orders. We know that more of you would like a copy but have just let things slide as far as ordering. Come on, gang, let's get those orders in! From what the committee has seen so far, you will enjoy and appreciate the effort.

If you have mis-laid or lost your order blank, just write to:

TURNER PUBLISHING COMPANY

34th Bomb Group

P.O. Box 3101

Paducah, KY. 42002-3101

Enclose a note stating how many copies you wish and your check or money order in the amount of \$45.00 per standard edition or \$79.00 per leather-bound edition. Also include \$5.00 per book for postage, handling, and mailer. If you wish a name embossed on the cover, add \$5.00 per book.



From WENSEY MARSH:

As Christmas time was coming and the geese were getting fat,

I walked across the officer's mess and saluted the bars to my hat.

He seemed to sense my shirt was extra full  
To demand a tug to give the coat a closer pull.

The Mess Captain's near discovery made me want to pray,  
As if he understood, obligingly, he turned away.

I always hoped he really knew my stuffed shirt  
Contained a yardbird's prize;

One to share, stuffed pork chops and apple pies.  
P.S. I always suspicioned he really knew.



# MYSTERY SOLVED

by PATRICK FRANGELLA - Deltona, FL.

My cousin, Sgt. Arthur Stancati of the 7th Sqdn. had always been a distinct and pleasant memory in my childhood's mind. He was the soda jerk who always had a grin and an ice cream for me, etc. I can recall, too, that I was at home when the "blue" telegram came. I still remember the family faces; and I remember his remains coming back to the States in 1950; but what had actually happened on June 6, 1944 was always shrouded in some mystery. There had been a letter explaining the event to my aunt and uncle, but I had never seen it and through the intervening years, and my own tour in the Marines and Viet Nam, I have wondered.

There then followed a series of events which were seemingly unrelated. In June, 1982, I joined the Air Force Museum Foundation. In December, 1983, my mother died and, in going through her personal effects, I found a box my cousin had sent with the return address of the 34th Bomb Group. In March, 1985, while going through some old Air Force Museum newsletters, I came across Ray Summa's address and telephone number. This started an odyssey that was to end in Dorset, England, in February, 1986.

I called Ray in June, 1985 and he looked up my cousin's record with the 34th. He told us about Skip Duncan (the co-pilot's son) who had called 3 or 4 weeks earlier. I don't know the odds of two separate individuals living in Texas (my previous address) calling about members of the same crew after 41 years, but it must be small. Also, per Ray's suggestion, I called Bob Gross, the navigator. To say the least, he was surprised to get a second call about his old plane and crew. He called back several days later and we subsequently talked a number of times. I also spoke to Skip Duncan several times. We three agreed to meet in Dallas in September prior to the Wichita reunion. Bob, Skip, and myself determined, as best we could, that my cousin's B-24, the "Misery Agent," had gone down at Corfe Castle in Dorset.

In the meanwhile, I had asked friends in England to research some material on the 34th and they forwarded information from an English publication about the group at Mendlesham. Another English friend diligently researched libraries and made numerous calls on my behalf trying to get information about the crash site. We both became familiar with bits of little-known history about Bomber Command and the Eighth Air Force. She also travelled to Corfe Castle on Nov. 17th, 1985 with several friends to possibly locate someone who might remember the crash.

It turned out that Corfe Castle is directly across from Caen and was a radar site and, therefore, frequently a target of the Luftwaffe. Several older women in Corfe recalled "planes falling like rain." My friend also placed a Remembrance Cross at the local parish church, "St. Edward the Martyr," but nobody recalled the American B-24 crashing on June 6th, 1944.

The three of us with my English friends, continued to research but obtained little specific information about the "Misery Agent." I was scheduled to leave for England on January 31st, 1986, but, with the Challenger disaster, I was delayed.

And so now "the story of the day we found the crash site."

On a bitterly cold day, Monday, February 10th, 1986, I travelled from Brighton to Corfe Castle arriving at about 9:00 A.M. I felt so close to something, yet very frustrated at not having any further real information about the "Agent." We stopped at the National Trust Office, adjacent to Corfe

Castle. They had no additional information of value. Being near frozen, we asked for a coffee shop and were directed down one of the two streets in Corfe. The shop was closed. A tall elderly gentleman was walking past and he directed us to the local pub. I spent another hour trying to figure out what to do.

We decided to go back to one of the older women previously visited in November. Her husband was at home and I explained the entire story again. He was ex-British Army; a Mr. Holland of Garth Cottage Corfe Castle, and he was very kind and started making telephone calls around Corfe. After about the eighth or ninth call, he located someone who seemed to recall the crash. The voice at the other end said he would meet us in an hour in the town square. Imagine our surprise when it turned out be the gentleman who had directed us to the pub!! (He was Mr. Reg. Sbiller of 86 West Street, Corfe Castle, Dorset).

Mr. Sbiller turned out to have been a bailiff for the local Squire's estate. As such he knew of all crashes that occurred. He regaled us with a story about chasing after a Heinkel III up and down the dells in order to capture the German pilot. In any event, we were onto something. He took us to the squire's lands. The current squire stopped what he was doing and told us that an American bomber had indeed crashed in the "Olde Woode." The "Woode" dates from the Doomsday Book (1000 AD). He immediately took us there and stated that, in fact, "parts of the plane were still about." I can't exactly say what I felt at that moment. Was it really possible that it was the "Agent" after almost 42 years?

Reg pointed out the slash marks on the trees; a crater was still there, fairly large and filled with snow and frozen water. It had not been filled in, as was the case of most crash sites. We scratched through the frozen earth and started locating debris. There were gears from a pump, leather lacing, part of a parachute harness, exploded .50 calibre casings, and a piece of fuselage about 1 ft. x 3 ft. I managed to bring it all back and took photographs of the site.

Reg then took us up to the squire's brother, a Mr. Timothy Hamilton-Fletcher. I started to explain but Tim immediately said "Oh yes, the American Liberator." I had been skeptical up to that point but it seemed I had actually located the crash site of the "Agent" and recovered part of the aircraft. In fact, the farm house kitchen and a barn had served as a temporary morgue. I also got the following information concerning the "Agent."

Crash Time: 0955 GMT, 6th June, 1944; A/C No.: 128838

From an English Auxiliary Coast Guard report comes the following: "The aircraft came in low below the barrage balloons in Poole Harbour, (below 800 ft.) heading south and losing altitude." The Coast Guard thought the plane had crashed on one of the islands in the harbour. It may have been that they intended to ditch into the water as several inflated life jackets were recovered. Tim (ex-RAF) speculates that the aircraft didn't lose sufficient airspeed and ballooned into the wood on the squire's land where it crashed, exploded, and burned. There were six bodies recovered and brought to the farm house. This means that three, including my cousin, survived the crash. He died June 8, 1944. Air Force records list 10 killed, but only nine flew the mission.

So, in the course of six hours, from the time of sitting in the Corfe Castle pub til that afternoon, a lifelong quest had been fulfilled.



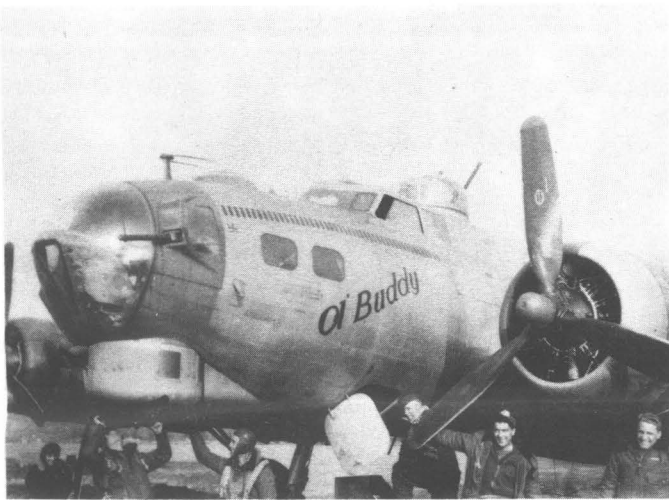
# MEMORIES

## DARK JOURNEY

by WALTER L. McALLISTER - Orlando, FL.

Who said "Getting there is half the fun???" In our case, just getting there seemed like half the war.

We left Lincoln, NE. on a nice sunny day in early April, 1944, headed for West Palm Beach, FL., where we would pick up new orders for an unknown destination. We were flying a brand-new B-24 with only 100 hours on it, and had gone to Lincoln for the first major inspection and for addition of the latest modifications that had been approved since our plane had started down the factory assembly line. Our flight from Blythe had gone smoothly, with the new plane performing perfectly, and the crew were all healthy and ready to go to war. At Lincoln we had



"Ol' Buddy" in April, 1945

### OL' BUDDY FLIES AGAIN

During the war, "Pete" Gray was crew chief for the B-17, "Ol' Buddy" flown by the crew of Randall Martin. Although the average life of a B-17 in combat over Germany was about 15 missions, "Ol' Buddy" flew 79 missions, 1200 combat hours, and no crew members hurt. It was a pretty lucky plane.

After the war, "Pete" helped care for a sickly preschooler named Tim Daniel, the son of neighbors in Virginia Beach. "In those days, he was very ill," says his mother, who now lives in Suffolk, VA. "Pete" became a devoted friend of young Tim.

In June, "Pete" visited the Daniel family in Suffolk. He and Tim, now Capt. Tim Daniel, aged 27 and assigned to the 353rd Tactical Fighter Squadron, went through "Pete's" weathered scrapbook. Tim was impressed, both with the pictures as well as "Pete's" pride. In August, he was able to do something about it.

In a letter to "Pete", he said, "The pride you displayed while showing me your WWII photos inspired me to name my jet after your bomber. I hope you feel proud that "Ol' Buddy" flies again. Indeed, "Ol' Buddy II" is an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. In his reply, "Pete" said, "You tell that crew chief of yours that he had better take good care of the second "Ol' Buddy". It's got quite a reputation to live up to."

been provided the usual yummy box-lunches and a two-and-a-half or three gallon thermos jug of hot coffee, and some of our resourceful crew had "borrowed" enough mess hall coffee mugs for everybody.

At our assigned cruising altitude of 9 or 10 thousand ft., our co-pilot, Richard L. Whited, flight engineer, Robert C. Smith, and I were quite comfortable on the flight deck with the bright sunshine flooding in through the large plexiglass canopy overhead, but the rest of the airplane got uncomfortably cold as time went by. As usual, Eli Baldea was busy navigating at his desk down in the nose, and Jack Kinney was busy sleeping, as bombardiers would want to do when there was no target in sight. One by one the remaining crew members, who had been idling the time away by reading or playing cards, moved in to join Jack in the passage-way beneath the flight deck, between the work stations in the nose section and the bomb bay. By the time nose-gunner Joseph F. Domino, tail-gunner William C. Coon, waist-gunner Otto R. Graff, radio operator/waist-gunner Reedy A. Sears and ground crew chief Raymond A. Englehart had come in, each wrapped in his fur-lined flying suit, the place was jam-packed like the proverbial can of sardines; in this case, quite fortunately.

We working types up on the flight deck decided it was time to have lunch. The coffee jug had no spigot so we had to remove the wide mouth screw top in order to pour coffee. With the plane flying on the latest gadget, the new-fangled marvelous Bendix A-5 electronic auto-pilot, we settled in comfortably; Dick and I with our safety belts open to allow for expansion room, our feet propped up on the cross bar above the rudder pedals, Bob Smith cross-legged on the floor, coffee jug between us, each of us with a sandwich in one hand and a mug of steaming hot coffee in the other - - who could ask for anything more?

We got it - in spades!!! The gyro in that magnificent new A-5 spilled, apparently sensing a voltage drop. The auto-pilot, as it was designed to do, chased the gyro. Like a great whale sounding, that B-24 tossed its tail straight up and went screaming earthward. This violent maneuver slammed the three of us tight up against the overhead canopy and the downward velocity of the plane pinned us there like helpless rag dolls. I had wondered why there were so many emergency release buttons installed for that A-5; on the control wheels, on both sides of the pedestal, on the auto-pilot unit itself, and all totally out of reach at that crucial moment! In a rainstorm of hot coffee, both Dick and I were pushing off with arms and shoulders from the canopy, trying desperately to reach one of those elusive little red buttons with a finger or toe. Bob was trying to shove me down within reach of the controls. By this time the '24 had gained so much excessive speed in the full-power dive that the elevator trim tabs, trimmed for level flight, were fighting furiously against the auto-pilot; the tabs trying to bring the nose back up to level and the auto-pilot holding the nose down. I finally got down far enough to kick the throttles back to near nothing, got a hand on the wheel, found the emergency release, and everybody and everything came crashing down as the nose started up like a fighter plane zooming up into a loop. Dick and I both knew that the wings would probably snap off from structural failure in the excessive centrifugal forces if it came up too fast. We both shoved hard to hold the wheel forward until I could get enough trim tab rolled in to help.

By now, most of our altitude was lost and it suddenly became

Cont. on Page 24

HDD

391

18

7

4



34th Bomb. Group

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c/o Eli Baldea

34th Bomb Group Assn.

From the collection of:

Al Israelsen

Pilot, First Crew No. 1, 4th Sq. Feb - Nov 1944

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## Memories

Cont. from Page 23

a matter of judgment between how fast we could "safely" allow the nose to come up and how fast we "had to" get it up to keep the pine trees from coming through the windshield! I think Eli had been strapped in and was O.K. The other guys were so tightly packed in the best place in the airplane, and so fully padded with all those heavy flying suits, that they couldn't get hurt. Everything that could get loose was by now some place else in the plane. Ray Englehart's carbine had taken a flight of its own and had a hard landing. Fully one-third of its length was outside the bottom rear hatch, which it had speared like a knife through a piece of bread. When we landed at West Palm Beach, one of the ramp service men remarked that he had seen many gun placements in war planes, but never one installed in a fixed vertical position!

After a "very" thorough inspection of the entire aircraft, a complete reloading and tie-down of all our equipment, and a night's sleep, we spent an interesting four days with stops in Trinidad, Belem and Natal, Brazil.

TO BE CONTINUED



Standing L to R: Lou Tamburro, Bill Jones, Jack Borders, Art Massey, Al Russo. Kneeling L to R: John Northrup, Louis Bowen, John Rosequist



"Psssst! Navy! I would a word with you!"

# PEACE

May the spirit of  
Christmas joy be  
yours.

