

# ENDLESHAM

# MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

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### OFFICERS

President: Walter McAllister	(407) 857-3472
1st Vice Pres.: Wally Brauks	(314) 849-3166
2nd Vice Pres.: Ray Hinchee	(703) 389-4192
Recording Sec.: Paul Anderson	(206) 337-7447
Treasurer: Harold Province	(601) 798-2059
Archivist: L. Douglas Underwood	(205) 281-1498
Past Pres.: George Ritchie	(919) 393-8806
Corresponding Sec.: Ray Summa	(317) 644-6027
Reunion Chairman: Gerald Pine	(608) 836-3939

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kivett Ivey (90)	(919) 778-2647
Ralph Bush (90)	(217) 529-1895
Cleveland Romero (90)	(318) 232-0774
Harold Rutka (91)	(218) 724-1667
Sam Wolstencroft (91)	(401) 322-7758
Claude Conklin (92)	(319) 444-2503
Clyde Willis (92)	(816) 542-3456
Bob Wright (Reun.)	(219) 232-4287
Eli Baldea (Editor)	(219) 988-4607

## OBSERVATIONS

Winter's coming - Winter's coming!! Here we are in late October and we've already had our first substantial snow fall of the season. It's just much too early for that! Rose and I don't leave for Florida until this issue is in the mail and that should be late November. We try to get out of the north before the heavy winter weather hits. Hopefully, anymore snow will hold off until we've gone.

As to the reunion, here I was telling everyone to get to Shreveport and, as luck would have it, we didn't get there ourselves. Rose didn't feel up to the trip so we had to cancel our plans. From all reports this was one of the best and we were sorely disappointed in not being able to be there. You can bet your boots that, barring unforeseen circumstances, Rose and I will be at both the England trip and our Seattle reunion.

This issue has all the coverage of the Shreveport reunion. Because of all the informative reports and photographs, it will probably be one of our largest issues. We try to show as much as we can of the activities, etc. so those who have never been can get a taste of it and, maybe, plan on being at our next one.

We've had a busy summer, what with selling our home and moving into a townhouse, which we decided to do since we spend a few months in Florida each year and leaving a house unattended for that long a period of time is much more difficult than leaving a townhouse unit. I do believe that the move helped to put Rose under the weather. Be that as it may, we are now settled in our townhouse unit at the address shown on the cover of this issue.

We plan to leave here in late November and remain in Florida until April. Our mail, we are told, will catch up with us for those months that we're away, so don't stop writing.

Our new treasurer, Hal Province, has taken a large load off of Ray and Hannah Summa and we're sure he will do a great job. Inside this issue you will find his address for sending in of dues. I have also been informed

that Life Membership dues have been reduced to \$85.00 so now is the time to think of that.

Enough for now. Rose and I want to wish you all a **HAPPY AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON.**

Eli Baldea  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First of all, let me express my appreciation to one and all who were responsible for the planning, scheduling, and management of the activities that made the Shreveport Reunion such a success. For those of you who didn't go; you missed a good one. As Eli has often said, those who have never attended one of our reunions should make it a high priority in the near future. One day, it will be too late.

And speaking of Eli, he and Rose were much missed at this one. (Very poor timing on your little medical detour, Rose.)

For those who took video pictures at the reunion, PLEASE don't forget George Ritchie's request for the inclusion of your footage in a comprehensive tape to be assembled from TV news coverage of various events, including material not seen in the TV broadcasts, and from the combined efforts of Group members with camcorders. Send your tapes (or copies) to KIVETT IVEY; Route 3, Box 452; La Grange, NC 28551. He will have all the tapes or parts thereof edited and interwoven into one GOOD documentary record of our reunion. If there are parts of your tape that you don't want included, just identify these for Kivett and he will leave these "on the cutting room floor". (Note: your tape WILL NOT be cut into little pieces in the process. Kivett does not use the old Hollywood film technique. Electronic editing.) Your tape will be returned intact and unharmed.

In early October our past Treasurer, Ray Summa and Hannah, hosted a gathering that included Hal Province,

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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 1

our new Treasurer; Bob Wright, one of our principal financial accountants for the past several years and, hopefully, for years to come; and Eli Baldea, our esteemed editor of the MM newsletter. At this meeting the general funds of the Association were transferred to Hal Province, with the funds now in CD's to follow at their maturity, so that we don't incur penalty for early withdrawal. The excess balance of the Memorial Fund and the excess of the operating level of the Reunion Fund will follow in an orderly fashion into a unified financial system that will provide us with maximum effectiveness in the management of our funds.

At this point, I would like to say that we all owe a standing ovation to Ray and Hannah Summa, who inherited, by volunteering, the additional chore of Treasurer of the Association many long years ago, when there was nobody else to take on the job. For those who are relatively late arrivals, in the early days there were very few people involved, and far fewer who were willing to take on such a large responsibility. Ray and Hannah undertook this job, on top of Ray's already taxing job of Contact Man, i.e. trying to find current addresses for names on the original rosters of the 34th B.G., names long lost even in the local postmasters' files in their WWII hometowns, and his associated job as Corresponding Secretary. Most of you probably had your first clue as to the existence of a 34th Bomb Group Association from a communication "in the dark" from Ray Summa. How many of you would have willingly taken on this monumental task of trying to locate all those guys with whom you flew day in and day out, or with whom you worked on the ground to keep those guys in the air? And, if you were doing this, how many of you would have taken on the additional generally thankless job as treasure? Not me, and probably not you. And, ON TOP OF ALL THAT, Ray compiled, edited, and published our Mendlesham Memories

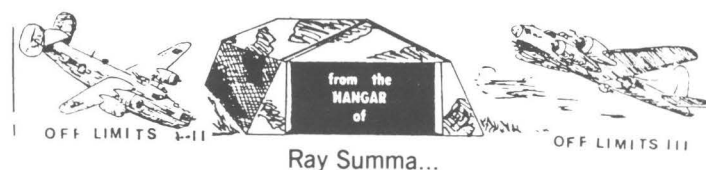
newsletter for many years. (With a little help from Hannah, of course.)

Ray Summa was not the father of this 34th B.G. Association; that distinction goes jointly to Grady Deatherage, Doug Underwood, and Bill Cheek, all of whom had previously gone to England along with Bob Wright as the sole representatives of the old 34th on an 8th Air Force Historical Society junket, but, by golly, Ray Summa is the undisputed Godfather of this organization, and may we never forget that!

Looking ahead, there is the anticipated trip to England in early summer, and it's not too soon to start thinking about Seattle next fall.

Eli says I've run out of space, so until next time —  
**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Walt McAllister (Mac)



Fellow members of the 34th B.G. Assn.;

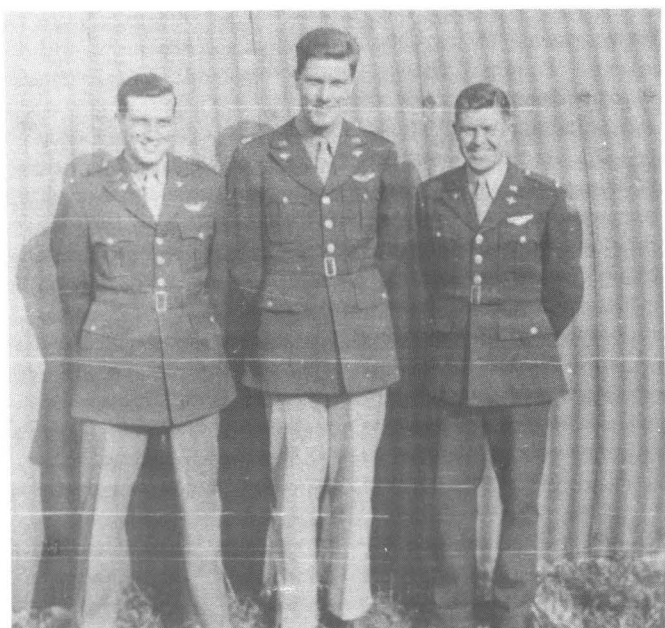
Here it is time for my column for the newsletter. Seems as if I just wrote the Sept. column. Time sure has flown this year. It's just late fall and we have a real heavy snow on the ground, about 6 inches and it's still snowing. This is a record for Indiana to have this much snow so early. Guess it's still better than for some of you in the south and those of you who live in California. We think about all of you and what some of you have been thru. Hope none of you were injured seriously.

To those who missed the reunion at Shreveport, everyone said they had a good time. It is said this one was one of the best. There were many who had never been to a reunion and we hope to have them come back again next year at Seattle. I'm sorry if I did not get to at least say hello to all of you. I did try but you saw how busy I was with the PX and other business of the group. Perhaps next year Hannah and I will have more time to visit.

As you know, by now, I will not be Treasurer for 1990. The work load, along with other things, was getting to be too much for me so I asked that a replacement be elected in my place. The choice was an excellent one. Hal Province will be taking my place as Treasurer. He has had experience in bookkeeping and I am sure he'll do a good job, as he is very dedicated to the 34th B.G. So send your dues to Hal, whose address will appear on the DUES NOTICE. On Monday, Oct. 16th, Hal Province, Bob Wright, Eli and Rose Baldea met here to discuss the turnover of the 34th B.G. funds to the new Treasurer.

Don't for a minute think I have given up. I am still the Unit Contact and Corresponding Secretary for the Assn. I'll have more time now to locate our missing men and do a little research for the group. So, keep those letters coming and I will answer each one.

Will you all do me a favor? Go thru all your old military papers and see if there are any addresses of men from the 34th. If so, send the names and addresses to me so I can try to locate them. This means all of the 34th in-



L. to R.: Juris, Ralls, & Parenteau, Mendlesham, 1944

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cluding all the support units such as the 475 S.D., the MP's, and any other units who were with the 34th, here and in England, for we also welcome those who did not go across with us.

On the way to Shreveport we met Vern and Millie Ames in Memphis. We went out to Mud Island to see the B-17 "Memphis Belle" which is permanently installed there. As you know, the "Memphis Belle" was one of the first to finish so many missions and was brought back to the States for a bond drive. After leaving Mud Island we went to the Peabody Hotel to see the Duck Walk. If you ever get to Memphis, these two things you should see.

Now that the '89 reunion is over I am hoping all of you are making plans either to go back to Mendlesham with us in May, 1990, or come to the next reunion at Seattle, WA. More about this in the newsletter. Look for the brochure about the trip back to Mendlesham in your mail.

By the time you are reading this, Hannah and I will be either on a trip to Hawaii or just coming home. Our 50th Wedding Anniversary is Dec. 30th and we are going a little early to celebrate it and avoid the holiday crowds.

By the way, how about meeting with me at the WPAF Museum in Dayton for the dedication of the B-24 Memorial. Bob Vickers said that any money left over from the B-24 Anniversary at Ft. Worth would be used for a B-24 Memorial at the AF Museum. The dedication is set for Dec. 7th at 11:00 and Hannah and I plan to be there. Perhaps we can get together for lunch or dinner then. I hope to have good representation of the 34th on that day. Let me know.

At this time Hannah and I would like to wish each of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy New Year.



Johnson, Schrade, Hanson, Provence, Simmons & Anastasia on a trip to London

# REUNION '89 ATTENDANCE

FIRST NAMES	(Total - 292)	LAST NAME	SQUADRON
BILL & JEANNE		ABRAHAM	4
HARRY & JUNE		ACKERMAN	GRP.
JAMES & KATHERINE		ALEXANDER	7
DONALD E.		ALLEN	18
VERN & MILLIE		AMES	7
PAUL & HELEN		ANDERSON	7
ALEX & BETTY		ANTANOVICH	18
DENTON & EILEEN		ARMSTRONG	4-18
JOHN & FRANCES		ASHBURN	7
CHARLES & EVALYN		ATTRIDGE	18
BUD & LUCILLE		BABCOCK	391
ROBERT M.		BAER	4-7-18
SAM & LEE		BAGLIO	4
ROY & MILDRED		BALLANTYNE	7
CHARLES & ROBERTA		BARCLAY	4
CLEO & FREDDIE		BAUGHMAN	18
THOMAS & GINNY		BEAUCHAMP	7
CHARLES & ISABELLE		BILLMAN	391
JOHN & MARGE		BLOCZYNSKI	18
LLOYD & BOBBIE		BOREEN	18
WALLACE & DORIS		BRAUKS	7
MILTON & ELAINE		BRAVEMAN	391
BILL & NITA		BROWN	7
RAYMOND & HARRIET		BROWN	7
GLENN & DAISY		BRYDGE	7
DARRELL W.		BULIS	7
WILLIAM & MARGO BRIGHT		BURNELL	7
RALPH & MARJORIE		BUSH	7
HENRY & BONNIE		BUTLER	7
JOE & HELEN		CAMP	??
ROBERT & MARY		CAMPBELL	7
HAROLD & LILY		CAROTHERS	18
GEORGE		CARROLL	7
JACK & DOROTHY		CLARKSON	391
ROBERT & GINNY		COLE	7
CLAUDE & GENNY		CONKLIN	4
ANTHONY & MARY		COUTROS	391
WILLIAM & VIVIAN		CREER	GRP.
LONNIE & DORABEL		CROOK	HDQ.
LEO		DANIELIAN	18
MARQUIS L.		DEAL	7
GRADY & JESSE		DEATHERAGE	7
ROBERT & EDITH		DEES	18
AL & ELSIE		DINENNO	391
HERBERT & EUNICE		DONAHUE	4
JOHN & BERNIE		FARLEY	18
DALE & MARGE		FINLEY	7
LEONARD & MARY		FIX	391
FRANK & JOSEPHINE		FORDE	7
CARROLL & SYLVIA		FORISTER	4
EARL		FRANK	HDQ.
CARL & IMOGENE		FREYSINGER	7
CLAUDE & AUDREY		GIBBS	7
BOB & GINNY		GRADIN	7
ROBERT		GRAY	7
WM. "PETE"		GRAY	7
WILLIS		GRIFFIS	4
BRYANT & MYRTIS		GRIMES	7
RAY & RUTH		GRINROD	18

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# REUNION '89 ATTENDANCE

Continued from page 3

HABIGER	ANTHONY & JOAN	391	RAY	FRANK & BETTY	7
HANSEN	AMBERS & JEAN	391	REED JR.	RUSSELL & MARTHA	4
HARDEE	DANIEL & ELIZABETH	391	REID	ROY & SYBIL	18
HARTMAN	FRANCIS & PEARL	GRP.	RITCHIE	GEORGE & JUNE	7
HARTWICK	ROBERT & LORRAINE	7	ROMERO	CLEVELAND & HENRIETTA	7
HEIKKILA	HAROLD & BETTY	391	RUTKA	HAROLD & GENEVIEVE	7
HINCHEE	RAYMOND & MARGARET	391	SAKAL	CHARLES & ROSE	7
HOLOCOMB	VERBAL & BETTY	391	SAXEN	ROBERT	18
HOLMES	GERALD & ALTA	7	SCHARMEN	MERRILL & AUDREY	391
HOOD	JACK	7	SCHERR	FREDERICK & LIBBIE	7
HOWARTER	WAYNE & LAVERNE	7	SCHILDMAN	WILLIAM & JEAN	7
HUMPHREYS	KENNETH & RENEE	4	SCHNEIDER	CHARLES	4
ISRAELSEN	ALLEN & AGNES	4	SCHOCH	FREDERICK & CLARA	7
IVEY	KIVETT & LUCILLE	7	SCHOMMER	PAUL & BETTY	7
JACKSON	KENNETH	7	SCHRUPP	DANA & JUNE	391
JACOBBAUS	MICHAEL & MARGARET	7	SCHWARTZ	ROBERT & LAURA	7
JAMES	EUGENE & HELEN	7	SHARE	JACK & MARIAN	18
JANSON	WENDELL & ANNIE	7	SHEESLEY	BYRON & MARY	7
JONES	ROY O.	391	SHULL	PAUL & PAULINE	391
JONES	WYATT S.	18	SIMS	PAUL & FRANCES	18
JORDAN	DEXTER & BEULAH	7	SMITH	JOHN SLOYNE	18
KAISER	RAYMOND & ALICE	7	SMITH	OREN & LOIS	391
KING	EDWIN & MARY	7	SMITH	PAULINE	7
KLUSMEYER	EMMET & LORETTA	7	SOTHERN	BRUCE & MUGGS	7
LEATH	JOHN & ETHEL	391	STEMEN	CARL & MARGARET	7
LEFKOWITZ	CHAP. DAVID & LEONA	GRP.	SUMMA	RAY & HANNAH	18
LESTER	RAYMOND & MARY	7	SWENSON	ELBERT	7
LEWIS	KENNETH & MARTHA	7	TAMBURRO	LOUIS & TERESA	391
LOGAN	HAROLD F.	7	TANKING	EUGENE	7
LONERGAN	ED & BIRGIT	7	TAVASTI	ROY & KATE	7
LOPEZ	MIGUEL & LAURA	18	THOMAS	BUSTER	7
MACIEL	EARL & HELEN	391	THOMPSON	CLIFFORD & LOUISE	391
MARTIN	JAMES & BETTY	7	TOBIASON	HENRY & AUDREY	4
McALLISTER	WALTER & RUBY	7	TOOLEY	GUY & MARY	18
McCLELLAN	VAL & MAXINE	391	TROUP	JAMES H.	7
MILLER	JAMES & LARUE	7	TURNIPSEED	SAM	HDQ.
MUENTE	FRED & GINNY	7	UNDERWOOD	DOUG	4-18-391
NEAL	GARLAND & MARCIE	18	VAN LANDINGHAM	DALE	7
NEWTON	THOMAS & MILDRED	4	VEON	ELLY & JUNE WURTZ	7
NICHOLS	CARL & KATHRYN	7	VINCENS	HILTON & VICKY	391
ODOM	JACK & BEATRICE	18	WALKER	ORAL & MARJORIE	391
PALMER	RAYMOND & BULA	391	WESSEL	JEROME & DOROTHY	4
PANCAKE	CARL & MRS.	391	WILLIS	CLYDE & LYNN	391
PAXTON	KEN & KATHLEEN	391	WOLSTENCROFT	SAM & ARLENE	7
PEREZ	JUAN & MATTIE	391	WRIGHT	BURCH & MARY	391
PERRY	HARRY & WILLIE	4	WRIGHT	ROBERT & ESTHER	7
PINE	GERALD & WANDA	7	WRIGHT	THOMAS	7
PRILLAMAN	HAROLD & GEORGIA	7	YOCKEY	CHARLES & VIRGINIA	4
PROVINCE	HAL & JAN	391	YOUNG	WOOTEN & EILEEN	391
			ZELDES	BEN & EDITH	4

## REUNION DIARY

Tuesday, Sept. 12 - Lonnie Crook, Bob Wright and George Ritchie met at Barksdale AFB Public Affairs Office to finalize base activities. Hospitality room is open and early bird registration.

Wednesday, Sept. 13 - Golfers assemble in Hospital room, then proceed to Barksdale Country Club for annual golf tournament. Hospitality room is open. Auction gifts start to arrive. For early birds, dinner on their own.



# REUNION DIARY

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Thursday, Sept. 14 - Board of Directors meeting in the Hospitality room. Golf "nuts" go out for another round. Official registration begins. Committees meet. More auction gifts received. Hospitality room and PX is open. Shopping and dinner on their own.

Friday, Sept. 15 - Breakfast in the main dining room. State of Louisiana Tourist Bureau presentation. Walt McAllister represents the 34th BG at the XPOW/MIA Luncheon held at the NCO Club on base. At 1300, busses leave for Barksdale. All members, guests and military honor guard go to the 8th AF Museum's Memorial Walkway for our memorial dedication. A fine tribute and most honorable program; prepared by Vern Ames, Hal Province, Doris and Wally Brauks and covered by two local TV stations and scores of 34th camera buffs. Then members split up into 3 alternate sections to view the base, visit static displays and inspect the museum. At 1700 hours retreat on the parade grounds. Tree-top level fly-overs by B-52 and missing man formation of A-10 attack fighters. At 1800 hours cocktails, followed by main banquet in the Officer's Club. Guest speakers were Hon. James McCrery, U.S. Congress; Colonel Michael Loughran, Vice Commander, Barksdale AFB; Hon. George Dement, Mayor of Bossier City, LA. XPOW medals were presented by Bill Creer and Wally Brauks. Men who had been awarded the Military Order of the Purple Heart were called out. Then those who had ever ditched, crash-landed, evaded through enemy territory, bailed out over England, went to Sweden, flew the most missions, or survived the fighter attack over the base were given a standing ovation. The largest crew in attendance was selected. Col. Michael Loughran accepted a framed U.S. Flag presented to the 2nd Bombardment Wing. Music was provided by the Silver Wings section of the 8th Air Force band. Afterward everyone joined in on singing the Air Force Hymn and went home happy.



Roy Tavasti in Gen. Gerhardt's "Jug" P-47D in 1944

Saturday, Sept. 16 - Breakfast from 0700 to 0845. At 0900 the general membership meeting took place in the dining room. The hospitality room was open. At 1300 busses took those interested to LA Downs for horse racing. At 1400 some folks went shopping around Shreveport. Committees met and a final viewing of the auction gifts. At 1600 the auction moved into the dining room. At 1700 there was a pre-banquet cocktail party. then, at 1800 hours, it was time for the Banquet. The invocation was by Rabbi David Lefkowitz, Jewish Chaplain, Mendlesham. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag headed by Roy Tavasti. Speakers were Ray Grinrod, Bill Creer, Ralph Bush and Wally Brauks. Songs by Hal Province and June and George Ritchie were enjoyed. The golf tournament prizes were awarded. Cleveland Romero announced the winner of our Scholarship Award. Hal Province read the "Taps List". Walt McAllister, Ray Summa, and Eli Baldea (in absentia) received framed "Capital Flown" U.S. Flag awards for service to our people. Walt McAllister accepted the gavel as our newly elected president. Auction, U.S.A. followed with fabulous financial success.

Sunday, Sept. 17 - Breakfast from 0700 to 0900. Good-byes said all around. "SEE YOU ALL IN SEATTLE.."



## LARGEST CREW IN ATTENDANCE AWARD

WINNER: BYRON SHEESLEY'S CREW including:

Byron Sheesley - Pilot  
Ed Lonergan - Co-pilot  
Glen Brydge - Navigator  
Frank Ford - Bombardier  
Darrell Bulis - Engineer  
Ed King - Waist Gunner  
Claude Conklin - Ball Turret Gunner (flew 2 missions with this crew. This pushed Sheesley over the top.

RUNNER-UP: GENE JAMES' CREW including:

Gene James - Pilot  
Fred Schoch - Co-pilot  
Tom Wright - Navigator  
Jack Ashburn - Bombardier  
Arnold "Hap" Prillaman - Waist Gunner  
Bill Burnell - Ball Turret Gunner (Note: Bill is our local contact in Seattle)

THE WINNER'S PRIZE: K.P. Duty in the hotel kitchen after the banquet!!

# 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Annual Board Meeting - September 14, 1989

Present: G. Ritchie, W. McAllister, H. Rutka, R. Summa, W. Brauks, L. Crook, K. Ivey, H. Province, D. Underwood, A. DiNenno, G. Pine, C. Romero, B. Sothern, J. Farley, V. Ames, R. Wright

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 a.m. by Pres. George Ritchie. He thanked W. McAllister for accepting the executive committee appointment as Vice Pres. He also thanked all the other members that helped him during the past year. He then appointed Sam Baglio temporary sergeant at arms to limit cross talk and limit discussion to 5 min. per subject.

The minutes of the 1988 Board meeting were read and accepted.

George Ritchie appointed W. Howarter with a committee to audit all accounts and report at the General meeting.

Harold Rutka expressed his opinion that the Vice Pres.'s replacement was illegal as handled.

Treasurer's report - R. Summa hadn't received a report on the English Memorial Fund as yet. H. Rutka and R. Summa explained our taxes and reports of taxes Ray has to file.

P.X. Report - G. Ritchie asked for volunteer to take over the running of our P.X. He will bring it up at our general meeting.

Shreveport Reunion Activities - R. Wright reported on the hotel and G. Pine elaborated. S. Baglio asked for more entertainment and a discussion followed.

Barksdale Airfield Activities - L. Crook reported on POW/MIA Day at the base. 6 buses with a guide on each and 40 people per. Dedication of the Memorial, tour of the base, then tour of the flight line. Retreat at 1630 at the parade grounds. Open bar at the Officers Club, then dinner with medal presentations program. G. Ritchie reviewed the Memorial Dedications, W. Brauks reviewed the Wreath and Flower Ceremony and the POW medal presentation.

Auction - G. Ritchie explained Silent Auction is used to save time during dinner. Money is to be used to cover the extras at the reunion. D. Schrupp is in charge.

Scholarship - C. Romero and committee reported on the '89 recipient, Laylene Drennan, then asked that we raise the amount. He made a motion that we include \$5.00 in future registration fees for the scholarship with R. Summa seconding. This was amended by W. Brauks to read \$10.00 per couple. Motion carried.

Fort Worth Reunion - R. Summa reported that we received an \$80.00 refund based on the number of our members in attendance. Any other reunion surplus will be sent to the B-24 Memorial at Dayton for the Dec. 7th, '89 program. Also reported that Pueblo, CO has donated a building for a B-24 Memorial.

G. Ritchie passed around a card for all to sign to be sent to Rose Baldea because she is too ill to attend the reunion this year.

Question was raised on how we treat the death of a member. This is another job quietly covered by R. Sum-

ma, sending out cards. S. Baglio volunteered to take over and send cards after names were published in the MM. R. Summa has a supply of cards.

Trip to England - H. Rutka reviewed several travel agents. He suggested the best offer was from Tamarac Travel - \$779.00 for 7 days with 2 days travel and land cost to include the May 20, 1990 Memorial Day Services.

Constitutional Review - J. Farley read a comprehensive report on the BY-LAWS revision. He and his committee will present a revision for vote at Seattle in 1990.

Reunions - Appointed local contact for 1990 reunion at Seattle was W. Burnell. G. Pine talked about reunion sites and his inquiry of same. General discussion: S. Baglio suggested committee consider Hub Cities when planning to reduce travel rates. He suggested the Poconos. We also should ask the general membership about joining the 8th AFHS some year. G. Pine made a motion to change the '91 Dayton site to Louisville, seconded by V. Ames and motion carried. R. Summa made a motion to change '92 Kansas City site to Las Vegas, seconded by V. Ames and carried.

Financial Statements - Motion made by C. Romero, seconded by S. Baglio, that annual financial statements be published in MM for all accounts. Motion carried.

Reunion Committee Rotation - General discussion resulted in agreeing that the Reunion Committee is doing a fine job. W. McAllister suggested we continue as is with local participation. Motion made by C. Romero, seconded by W. Brauks and carried.

Reunion Fund - G. Pine reviewed his setting up the Nashville Reunion and how the money came into being. G. Ritchie explained his ideas about the reunion fund and the feedback he's received about committee expenses. V. Ames explained his ideas about the reunion fund and committee expenses. A general discussion followed. V. Ames made a motion, seconded by K. Ivey, that a reunion fund not to exceed \$2500.00 be set up to be used for up front money in reunion planning and all other reunion fund monies to be turned over to the general fund each year after reunion bills are paid. It was agreed that if extraordinary planning expenses occurred, they be presented to the treasurer.

Auction Money - G. Ritchie proposed that any excess auction money be given to the Air Force Museum here at Barksdale. After general discussion it was agreed to send up to \$300.00 if available.

Mendlesham Memories - Total distribution was discussed, pro and con. H. Rutka made a motion that we continue sending the Reunion Issue but eliminate including the Roster. K. Ivey seconded and the motion was carried.

Chaplain - G. Ritchie reported that, after contacting four former 34th B.G. members, we still need a Chaplain. S. Baglio volunteered and is our new Chaplain.

Nomination - B. Sothern and committee presented the following slate:

President - W. McAllister  
First V. President - W. Brauks  
Second V. President - R. Hinchee  
Recording Secretary - P. Anderson  
Treasurer - H. Province  
Unit Contact/Corresponding Secretary - R. Summa  
New Board Members - C. Willis and C. Conklin

After a general discussion the board agreed to present this slate to the general membership for vote.

Life Membership - R. Wright made a motion, seconded by C. Romero, that by using the green ticket in our registration package we give 10 free Life Memberships out of the Reunion Fund. After general discussion the motion was amended to give out one (1). Motion carried.

#### TREASURERS' REPORTS:

Memorial Fund:	22 Sept. '88	\$8,119.12
	16 Sept. '89	8,650.69
General Fund:	22 Sept. '88	7,753.93
	16 Sept. '89	3,764.68
Life Membership Fund:	22 Sept. '88	11,349.20
	16 Sept. '89	14,597.85
Reunion Fund:	Oct. '88	11,260.21
	30 Sept. '89	10,734.89

A motion was made to adjourn by W. Brauks, seconded by K. Ivey.

Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by  
Vern Ames, Secretary

## General Membership Meeting Sept. 16, 1989

The meeting was called to order by Pres. G. Ritchie at 9:30 a.m.

The Tamarac Tours representative reviewed our proposed trip to Mendlesham, May 17-25, 1990. The land package offer is \$779.00 per person plus airfare. A complete application will be mailed to all at a later date.

S. Baglio, our new Chaplain led us in prayer. R. Summa led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the 1988 general meeting were read and accepted.

Treasurer's Reports - Memorial Fund - \$8650.69; General Fund - \$3,764.68; Life Membership Fund - \$14,597.85; Reunion Fund - \$10,734.89. Motion to accept

made by J. Martin, seconded by A. DiNunno. Motion carried.

W. Howarter, Audit Committee chairman, reported all accounts are in good order.

By-Laws Revision - J. Farley reported that he and his committee will have a proposal for members to vote on at Seattle in 1990.

Reunion Committee - G. Pine reviewed Shreveport schedule, then reviewed Seattle search, touching on high cost, poor terrain, transportation cost, etc. downtown. At the selected site the quoted rate will be available Sept. 9th thru Sept. 19th, 1990 for those wishing to tour the Northwest. W. Burnell then received Reunion High-Lites, i.e. Ship Canal Locks, International Market, Red Barn and other tours.

H. Province reviewed a program on how we honor our recent dead.

G. Ritchie spoke about TV Channel 4 coverage of our dedication program and retreat ceremony. Several tapes could be available. If so, K. Ivey will coordinate production of a video tape to be made available to our members at a nominal cost.

C. Romero reported that our first annual Scholarship Fund recipient was Laylene Drennan of Provo, UT, a granddaughter of V. McClellan. Then he made a motion to increase the registration fee \$5.00 per person to allow us to give a larger scholarship in future years. Seconded by H. Rutka. Motion carried by show of hands.

G. Ritchie, by what will be known as the "Ritchie Method" accepted P. Shulls' offer to be our new Chairman of the PX, relieving R. Summa.

In E. Baldea's absence R. Summa asked about that pictures and stories be sent to Mendlesham Memories for publication.

H. Rutka will coordinate all the 34th B.G. attendees at the 8th AFHS '89 Reunion.

Pres. Ritchie then had the nomination committee, headed by Bruce Sothern, read off the slate of proposed new officers and asked for nominations from the floor. A motion was made and seconded to close the nominations. Motion passed and the new officers were elected by acclamation.

Pres. Ritchie turned the meeting over to W. McAllister, our new Pres., who introduced G. Deatherage and D. Underwood as the members most influential in originating our group.

The Silent Auction will close at 2:30 p.m. Some items will be auctioned tonight.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vern Ames, Secretary

## Don't Forget To Send In Your Dues

Mail \$7.50 to: Harold Province  
Rte. 4, Box 630  
Carriere, MS 39426

# BARKSDALE POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

by Walt McAllister

Ruby and I represented the 34th at the annual POW/MIA Recognition Day at the Barksdale NCO Club on September 15th. The honored guests were former POW's and POW/MIA family members. The program was prefaced with a message from President George Bush regarding this day of observance. After presentation of colors of all the services, and introduction of honored guests including civic leaders and notables of the Shreveport/Bossier City metropolitan area, a number of military POW's of the various services (including me), there was a formal presentation of POW medals to all those scheduled at this event. (We had our own presentation of POW medals that evening at the 34th dinner at the Officers' Club.

We had a delightful lunch, with excellent service, food, company and music by the Eighth Air Force Band. Ruby and I were hosted by Captain Lahman, an outstanding example of our current crop of young Air Force officers who will provide our leadership in the future. (Shades of young Tom Ritchie!)

The speaker was Colonel Robert M. Slane, who flew with the 91st B.G. in England, spent 19 months in the German prison system, stayed in the Air Force on various assignments and eventually, became Base Commander at Barksdale, where he retired. A most interesting man. All of our own ex-POW's would certainly have enjoyed this one.



## THE GROUND CREWS

Recited by Bill Creer at the Banquet

Oh, The flyers get the glory,  
And they draw the flying pay.

They swagger all around the field,  
And have a lot to say.

But I'll tell you all a secret,  
And I'll certify it's true.

A flyer isn't worth a damn,  
Without a good ground crew.



## THE GREAT DEBATE

Dear General Membership;

There is a debate brewing within the Board of Directors that everyone should be aware of. The issue is divided. At present the majority of the board vote "NO". A "thin" minority votes "YES".

The issue, simply stated, "Should the editor send every issue of Mendlesham Memories to every known and

found former comrade, whether a paid member or not?"

The "NO's" claim:

1. Those men show no interest, whatsoever, in our development or programs.

2. They don't want to join and pay dues. They have had every opportunity to do so and haven't.

We now send everyone one copy (the reunion issue and roster) every year and that's enough.

4. The expense isn't worth it.

5. They don't want us; We don't want them.

The "YES'S" CLAIM:

1. Everyone is worth something. Money is not a problem in this organization. Cost here is minimal.

2. Our only source of growth are these members... there is no other "market" available to us, so we must "fertilize" them, or fold.

3. Every different geographical location of our reunion cities lies near many possible prospects and we should encourage them to attend.

4. If we cut them off...we cut our own throats. They are all we have left and would be more valuable as members than a large bankroll.

5. They are our brothers-in-arms and we should invite them to rejoin us.

I hope I have stated each side fairly. I feel I failed when I didn't present it at the general meeting in Shreveport. I'd appreciate your written comments to the editor. I expect to raise this issue in Seattle. As you may have guessed, I'm one of the few "YES's".

George Ritchie  
Past President



Visconti, Salov, Warren & Larson, 4th Sqdn., 1944.



# GOLF TOURNAMENT REPORT

by Co-Chairwomen June Schrupp & June Ritchie

Because of a National Volunteer Firemen's Convention our original golf plans had to be adjusted. It appeared that every volunteer fireman and their ladies throughout the country were in attendance and all were golfers. Their influx necessitated our moving our tournament to Barksdale AFB Country Club. Lonnie Crook was responsible for securing adequate tee times for our members and we actually profitted by the inconvenience. Golf pro Tom Rillie was very cooperative and the members and guests enjoyed his course and took advantage of the fair prices on his merchandise.

When the "dust" settled Ed Lonergan and June Schrupp were the Low Gross winners while Dana Schrupp and June Ritchie the Low Net. Closest to the pin contest was won by Hilton Vincens. All winners received a \$15.00 cash prize.

Please join us for play in Seattle.



Missing: June Ritchie



June Ritchie-Missing: Hilton Vincens, Ed & Bea Lonergan, Dana & June Schrupp, George Ritchie, Earl Maciel, Ray Hinchee, Jack Odom, Bob Wright, Lonnie Crook, Roy Ballantyne and Bob Cole.

## Ode to the Ground Crew

Composed and sung by  
George Ritchie, June Ritchie and Hal Province  
to the tune of Bob Hope's music.

Thanks for the mem-or-ies,  
Those worried days of yore,  
on Eng-land's for-eyn shore,  
You pumped the gas for all the brass,  
they al-ways wan-ted more,  
Yes, thank you so much.

Mendlesham as-signed you a cas-tle,  
Spare parts, oil and gas were a has-tle.  
Your crew chiefs were boss, they ha-ted a loss,  
It mat-tered to you; you loved that crew.

Thanks for the mem-or-ies,  
Of you guys on the line, wor-king all the time,  
To fix the bird, de-feat the nerd  
that lived across the Rhine.  
A good job it was!

Man-y's the time that you wai-ted,  
In snow or in rain, yet you wai-ted.  
For us to show, so you could go,  
Back to your hut, which was-n't much.

Yes, thanks for the mem-or-ies  
Of darts and tarts and chips,  
do you re-mem-ber such?  
I think of you, and I'm so glad,  
that we are still in touch!  
Yes, thank you so much!

There was the week before D-Day  
When you had your first three day pass,  
You wan-ted to go but you couldn't,  
You knew if you went, they'd have your ---!

Thanks for the mem-or-ies, when we were off to war,  
in a B twen-ty four, You flew along -  
to prove the song - You ev-ened up the score,  
Oh, thank you so much.

How many times have you pon-dered  
What happened to Mike and to Bill?  
We've not been a-ble to find them,  
I won-der if we ever will.

But we'll keep on loo-king,  
thru phone books by the score,  
Ray has from shore to shore.  
We'll look thru them, then look a-gain,  
un-til we find some more.  
We miss you so much!

So thanks for the work you've done.  
If it wasn't for you, we would-n't be through,  
We'd still be there, up in the air,  
And losing all our hair,  
We thank you so much.  
YES, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

# GEN. BILL CREER PRESENTING P.O.W. MEDALS



George Carroll



Walter McAllister



Pauline Smith (for Robert C. Smith-deceased).



George Ritchie



Wallace Brauks



Leonard Fix

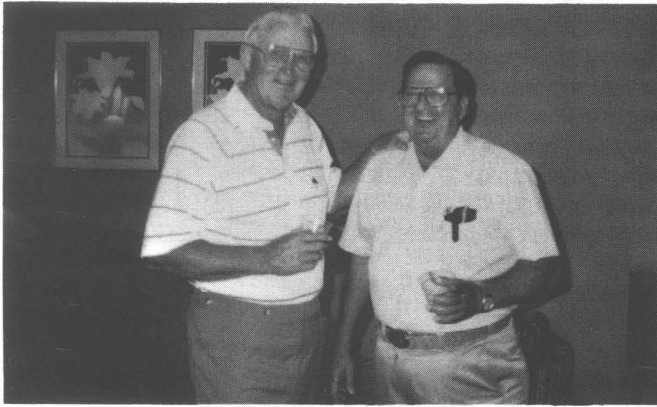


Paul Shull



Cleveland Romero

# HOSPITALITY ROOM



Ed Lonergan and Cleveland Romero



Kivett Ivey, Jim Martin, and Bruce Sothern.



Dana Schrupp and Jim Martin



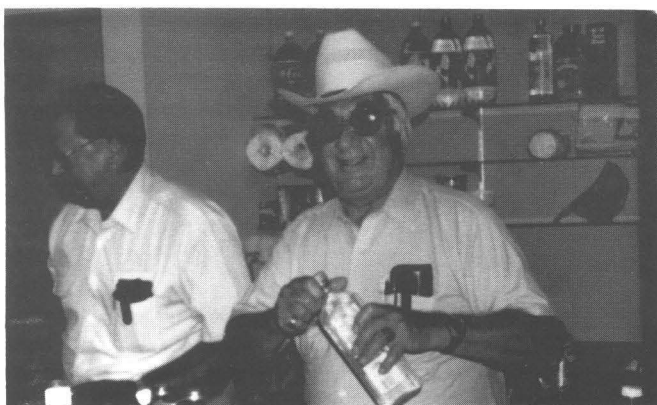
Doug Underwood, Ruby McAllister, and Dana Schrupp.



Gerry Pine and Harold Rutka, everybody's favorite barkeeps.



Enjoying the Hospitality Room.



Cleveland Romero with Sam Baglio modeling a twenty gallon head in a ten gallon hat (Sorry 'bout that, Sam).



Enjoying the Hospitality Room.



# REUNION '89 BARKSDALE AFB



Boarding buses for trip



Members arriving at Walk of Memories for dedication.



Busload heading for Barksdale AFB.



Unveiling our monument



Walk of Memories at Barksdale AFB. 34thB.G. Memorial is 1st to be dedicated.



Dedication of our monument



Color Guard at dedication of our monument



John S. Smith & Ray Summa with our monument



# REUNION '89 BARKSDALE AFB



Spectators at Retreat



Missing Man formation performed by A-10's



Spectators at Retreat



Elsie DiNenno in front of parked B-52.



Spectators at Retreat



Bill Creer and Walt McAllister at podium at Barksdale AFB banquet.



B-52 Fly-over

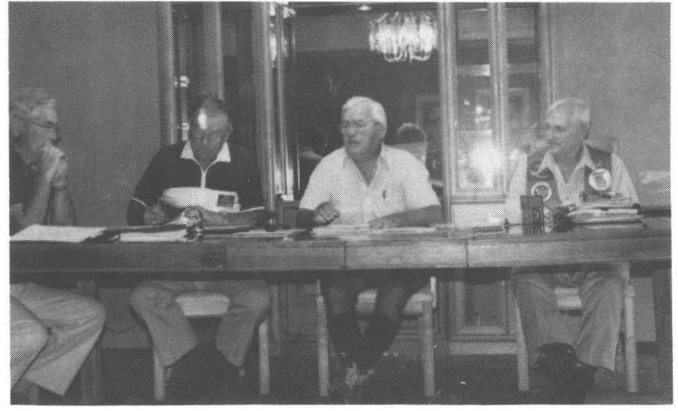


Bill Creer pinning POW medal on George Ritchie.

# REUNION '89 ACTIVITIES



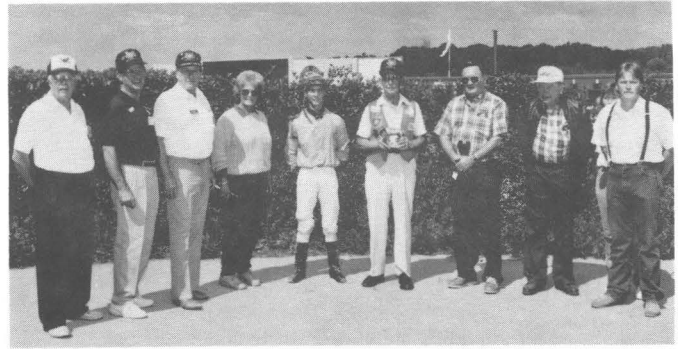
Breakfast room at the Sheraton Pierremont Hotel.



Getting down to business in the Board Meeting.



Tom & Mildred Newton in the breakfast buffet line.



Group at Louisiana Downs: Ray Lester, Jack Hood, Jim Martin, Horse Owner, Jockey, Bob Wright & Trainers.



PX and registration desk in lobby.



Kivett Ivey, Hal Province, Cleveland Romero and Doug Underwood.



Attendees at Board Meeting: front row: Lonnie Crook, Bob Wright, George Ritchie, Kivett Ivey, Sam Wolstencroft.

Back row: Bruce Sothern, Vern Ames, Wally Brauks, Jack Farley, Gerry Pine, Harold Rutka, Cleveland Romero, Doug Underwood. Not shown: Walt McAllister.



# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Bernie & John Farley, Genevieve & Harold Rutka.



Jack & Dorothy Clarkson, Denton & Eileen Armstrong



Doris and Wallace Brauks



Teresa & Louis Tamburro



Elbert Swenson, Val McClellan, Lyn & Clyde Willis



John Sloyne-Smith, Sylvia & Carroll Forister



Hal & Jan Province, Mary & Tony Coutros



Frances Sims, Betty Antanovich, Alex Antanovich, Paul Sims



# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Ray & Alice Kaiser, Martha & Ken Lewis



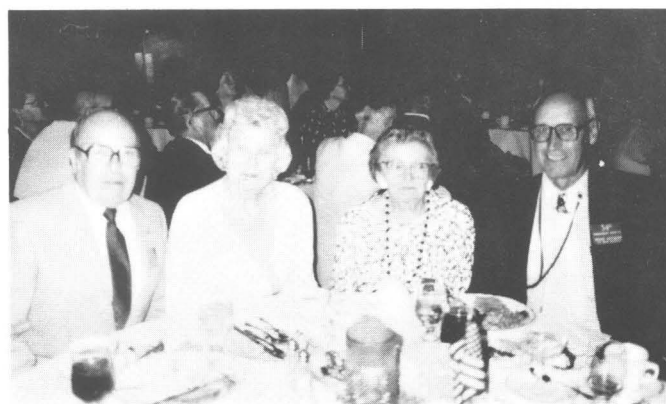
Vivian & Bill Creer, Roy & Kate Tavasti



Bob & Liz Campbell, Libbie & Fred Scherr



Marge & Ralph Bush, Pauline Smith



Bill & Nita Brown, Muggs & Bruce Sothern



Frances & Jack Ashburn, Tom Wright



Laura & Miguel Lopez, Sam & Peggy Wolstencroft



Claude & Audrey Gibbs, Marie & Gerald Holmes



# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Tony & Joan Habiger, Henrietta & Cleveland Romero



Fred & Virginia Munte, Charles & Isabelle Billman



Carl & Peg Stemen, Imogene & Carl Freysinger



Marian & Jack Share, Earl Frank, Jim Troup



Henry & Audrey Tobiasson, Chaplain David & Leona Lefkowitz



Bill & Jeanne Abraham, Russell & Martha Reed



Edith & Bob Dees, Dale & Margie Finley

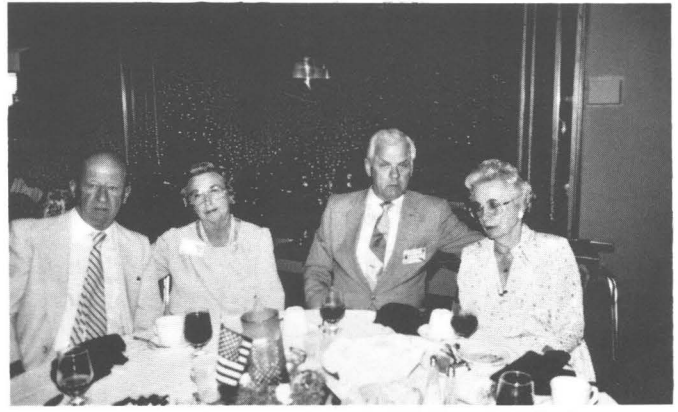


Charles & Roberta Barclay, Allen & Agnes Israelsen, Sam & Lee Baglio

# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Ray Brown, Tom & Ginny Beauchamp, Carl Nichols



Jack & Beatrice Odom with Raymond & Margaret Hinchee



Claude & Genevieve Conklin, Harriet Brown, Gene Tanking



Mildred & Tom Newton with Willie & Harry Perry



Lonnie & Dorabel Crook, Millie & Vern Ames



Charles Schneider and Robert Baer with Jerry & Dorothy Wessel

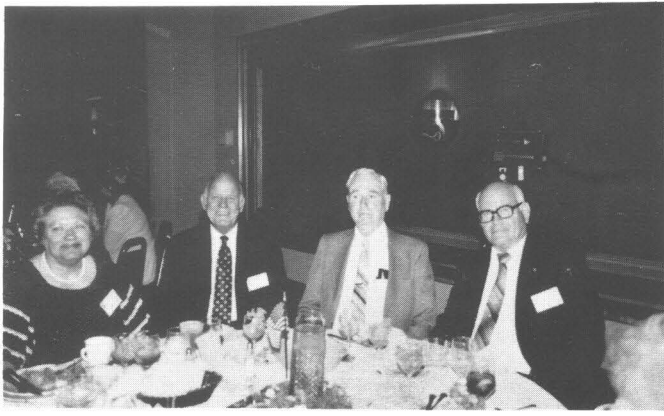


Vern Ames, Hannah & Ray Summa, George Ritchie

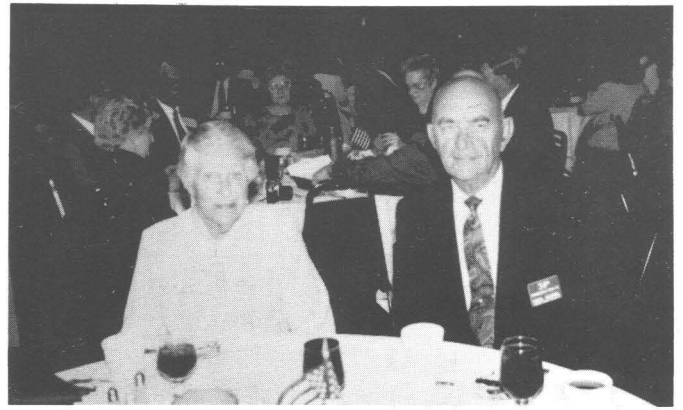


Garland & Marcie Neal with Marge & John Bloczynski

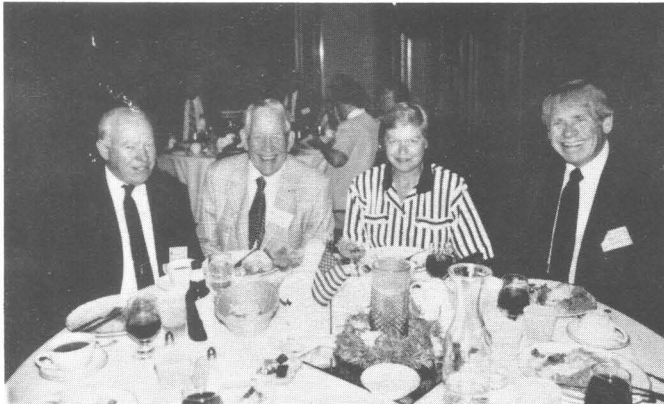
# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Eileen & Wooten Young with Cliff Thompson and Burch Wright



Helen & Earl Maciel



Willis Griffis and Don Allen with LaVonne & Wyatt Jones



Robert & Ginny Cole with Mildred & Roy Ballantyne



Verbal & Betty Holcomb with Jean & Ambers Hanson



Bernice Janssen, Dale VanLandingham & Robert Saxen



Robert & Lorraine Hartwick with Betty & Paul Schommer



Mary Wright, Louise Thompson, & Elsie DiNenno



# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Jean & William Schildman with Esther & Bob Wright



Kivett & Lucille Ivey with Paul & Pauline Shull



James & Louise Alexander with Elly Veon & June Wuertz



Laverne & Wayne Howarter with Grady Deatherage and "Pete" Gray



Herb & Eunice Donahue with Mary & Leonard Fix



Paul & Beryl Anderson with Charles & Rose Sakal



Loretta & Emmet Klusmeyer with Guy & Mary Belle Tooley



Beulah & Dexter Jordan with Ginny & Bob Gradin



# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Edwin & Mary Lou King with Frank & Jo Forde



Jack Hood, Raymond & Mary Ruth Lester with Sam Turnipseed



Byron & Mary Sheesley with Birgit & Edward Lonergan



Merrill Scharmen, Harold Heikkila, Audry Scharmen & Betty Heikkila



Ethel & John Leath with Hilton & Vicky Vincens



Evalyn & Charles Attridge with Roy & Sybil Reid



Elizabeth & Daniel Hardee with Ernie Rentz



Freddie & Cleo Baughman with Bobbie & Lloyd Boreen

# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



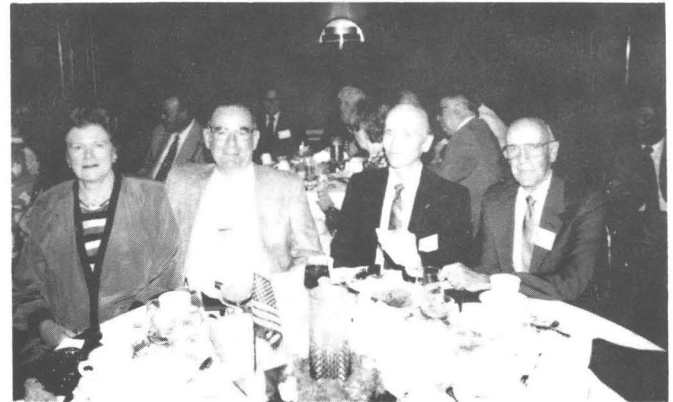
Jim & Betty Martin with Ray & Bula Palmer



Mag Bates, Ray Brydger, & Benjamin & Edith Zeldes



Ken & Kathleen Paxton with Juan & Mattie Perez



? -- ? -- Roy Jones & Frank Hartman



Joye Oliver, John Pelley & Milton & Elaine Braveman



Ray Grinrod, Ruth Catalan, with Marjorie and Oral Walker



Darrell Bulis with Glen & Daisy Brydger



Henry Butler, Mike Jacobbausk, Bryant Grimes, Robert Schwartz

# REUNION '89 FESTIVITIES



Peggy Schwartz, Bonnie Butler, Margie Jacobbausk, Myrtis Grimes



Walt McAllister, Pauline Smith, George Ritchie & George Carroll at festivities. Paul Shull in background and Roy Jones at extreme right.



Ronald & Martha Simpson, June & Dana Schrupp



Pres. George Ritchie accepting a diary of his wartime experiences from Ray Summa.



LaRue & James Miller, Frank & Bettie Ray



Passing the gavel



Ray Summa accepting U.S. Flag from President George Ritchie







**MORTON ABRAMS** - Boca Raton, FL

I enjoy Mendlesham Memories and look forward to reading it front to back. The September issue contained two surprises for me. The first, on page 3, was a photo of Mike Derenge, our crew's tail gunner. The next, on page 7, was a photo of our crew taken in Gulfport, Miss. prior to flying overseas and becoming assigned to the 18th Sqdn., 34th B.G., which took place in Sept., 1944. We were a replacement crew and we called our assigned aircraft "LUCKY 13". Our ground crew chief was Clarence Squires.

Yes, you were correct; the picture included Michael Derenge. The crew shown are: Kneeling, L. to R.: Fred Reo, Mike Derenge, Walt Zell (deceased), Jim Langdon and Ernie Brown. Standing, L. to R.: Jack Black (deceased), Jack Whittaker (deceased), Mort Abrams, Bob Steiner and Ed Croom.

The crew was released from further combat in the ETO on March 10, 1945 when we flew our 35th mission. Our squadron commander during our combat tour was Major Frank Crabtree. We all returned intact - not too much the worse for the experience.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WILLIAM FANDEL** - San Antonio, TX

You people are doing a fine job with the association which, I'm sure, is appreciated by all. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GERALD HOLMES** - Grand Prairie, TX

Had a long talk with Pete Gray at the reunion. He looked and sounded better than I've seen him in years. He was my crew chief on the "Tiger Rag" until the B-17s showed up.

I don't know how many people tell you and Rose what a magnificent job you are doing with Mendlesham Memories. I, for one, would like to express my appreciation for your excellent work and talent, and extend my thanks.

**MARGE (RALPH) BUSH** - Springfield, IL

We thought the Shreveport Reunion was one of the best. The weather was perfect, our rooms were comfortable and attractive, and the Hospitality Room opened onto the patio and pool area. The tours of Barksdale AFB and the Museum were interesting, and the POW and Memorial Ceremonies were very moving. We were sorry the B-1 bomber didn't make it, but climbing up into a B-52 was exciting enough!

George Ritchie and his helpers did a great job. I wish you could have heard his parody on "Thanks For The Memories". Do get him to put that in your newsletter. (Ed. Note: We have it and it's in this issue.)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

Was going to send some stuff to you about a month ago, but came down with a bad summer cold. It hung on and kept getting worse so I went to the medics and found a lot of congestion in my right lung. No wonder I was having a hard time breathing. They put me on medicine that really did help - can breathe a lot better. They said I was just a step away from New Monia. (Never could spell that!)

I'm doing better every day, but am keeping my fingers crossed - don't want to miss the reunion. I'll sure be there if something else doesn't happen to me in the meantime. As Art Linkletter said, "Old age ain't for sissies!". (Editor's note: "Pete" made it to the reunion according to our list of attendees.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROY TAVASTI** - Pismo Beach, CA

It was the consensus of most of the troops attending that the Shreveport reunion was one of the best. Lonnie and Dorabel Crook, as primary organizers and coordinators for this affair, did an outstanding job and certainly merit our unconstrained accolades.

After the reunion we went down to New Orleans (Nawlins) for a few days with Walt and Ruby McAllister. Kate had never been there, and I have to confess that I'd only been there one time before. That was in 1942 so things didn't appear the same except for the French Quarter. Naturally, Mac ended up being the tour guide. We ended up having a grand time with these troops and Mac constrained himself and didn't flaunt his clout as "El Presidente" of the 34th B.G. Assn.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JAMES MARTIN** - Santa Anna, TX

We all missed you and Rose at Shreveport. Hope Rose is feeling much better. I feel that we had a very good meeting there.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CLEVELAND ROMERO** - Lafayette, LA

I thought this was one of the best reunions we've had. The reunion committee did an excellent job, especially the day at Barksdale. Henrietta and I really enjoy the companionship at these reunions, which is what it is all about.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HENRY NOWINSKI** - Chicago, IL

Ray made my day with all the information; memories of the group, all the swell guys and places, Blythe and England. We can't make the reunion this year but maybe next year. As they say in Texas, "Y'all have a good time!".

Continued on page 25

# Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 24

## **BILL YOTHMENT** - Crown Point, IN

I want to comment Ray and Hannah on their efforts to organize and hold together all the ex-members of the 34th Bomb Group. And the Mendlesham Memories certainly is a product of more effort, time and thought. As busy as I am, I read every word as it brings back memories of a long time ago. I'll make a real attempt to contribute some material to it in the near future.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **HARRY ACKERMAN** - Trophy Club, TX

While reading the 8th A.F. Memorial Assn. News, I discovered that the 34th B.G. was to hold a reunion in Shreveport, LA in September. Until that point in time I had no idea that there was a 34th B.G. Assn. of any kind, although I did obtain a copy of the 34th B.G. Book on a visit to Wright-Patterson AFB in 1986.

I contacted Ray Summa, advising him that I am alive and well, despite what former buddies in the 91st BG (H) might have been told in 1946 about my demise. June and I decided to move to Texas early this year and settled in Trophy Club (after 4 years in Boise, ID) about 12 miles west of Grapevine where son Mike and family live.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MICHAEL A. RUSSO** - Scarsdale, NY

During the last few years I have had a great enjoyment reading the 34th B.G. Assn. quarterly newsletters. I have recently been promoted into several different positions and am now Vice President-Cargo Sales; TWA Worldwide. These promotions have kept me extra busy and, consequently, whenever the group has had a reunion, it has conflicted with my schedule.

I keep reading how Ray and Hannah have enjoyed experiences with new friends that they've met at the annual reunions. How I wish I could participate in at least one of these reunions.

\*\*\*\*\*



Walt Sturdivan wants to know where this B-24 with the "0" tail marking came from and what it was doing in our formation.

## **JOHN G. MANGAN** - Gloucester, MA

Wish I could say that I'd be seeing you all at Shreveport but I'm afraid I can't. I'm involved with the task of writing a book on the Battle of France and the Low Countries, Belgium and Holland, from 10 May, 1940 to 22 June, 1940. The book will cover the air operations involved in the battle. I submitted the book idea to a publisher back in July and they were very interested. The book will be breaking new ground as, to my knowledge and the publisher's knowledge, it has never been covered in previous books on the subject.

At the present time I am hard at it gathering reference material, getting the writing underway and gathering technical material on all the aircraft involved. There were about 70 types of aircraft involved and six air forces; the British RAF; the French Armee de l'Air and Aeronavale; the Belgian Ae'ronautique Belge Militaire; the Dutch Army Air Division, Luchtvaartafdeling; the Italian Regia Aeronautica; and, of course, the German Luftwaffe. I will probably need the official history for all these air forces as reference material.

The book will probably require a visit to the historical branches of these air forces in Europe. So, I think I will be busy for the next year or so.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **JOE MORRELL** - Johnson City, NY

I will not be at the reunion this year. About the first of August I was helping my daughter move and twisted myself with a load of boxes and lost my balance. I strained my stomach trying to break my fall. It sure hurt. I went to my doctor and he set up some tests for me. These took two weeks and they found a spot on my colon.

The doctor was on vacation so this held up things. Anyway, on Sept. 4th I will go to the hospital in preparation for my operation on the 5th. I'm quite sure everything will turn out all right. If nothing else happens I'll be at the next reunion. Tell the guys I was asking about them. Many of them won't remember me.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **GLENN MILLARD** - Whitewater, WI

Thanks for your letter welcoming me into the 34th B.G. Assn. And thanks to Merrill Scharmen for my first year's dues. It shows the kind of people who make up the 34th.

Sorry, I will not be able to attend this year's reunion, but hope to attend others. I had the opportunity to revisit the old air base at Mendlesham about 3 years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **MARY LOU (OTIS M.) GRYDE** - Kailua, HI

I am enclosing a copy of the obituary for Otis, a member of your group. He really enjoyed receiving the newsletters and had checked a lot of the names of people he remembered.

\*\*\*\*\*

## **WILLIAM G. SHOVE** - San Diego, CA

The B-24 50th Anniversary observation was held here in San Diego, last month. Unfortunately, I didn't attend the meetings because I couldn't afford the \$95.00 registration fee they wanted.

Continued on page 26

# Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 25

## GEORGE H. KLINE - Burnt Hills, NY

This will be the first year in several years that we shall miss the reunion. So we will not have the fellowship and good times of other years. I will miss the walkway Memorial dedication and seeing what the museum in Shreveport has to offer. However, we are looking forward to the Seattle reunion and the Mendlesham trip.

\*\*\*\*\*

## KIVETT IVEY - La Grange, NC

The Shreveport reunion was the most outstanding reunion I have attended. All who participated in the planning and "working" deserve a big "THANK YOU!".

You know George Ritchie saddled me with a "video" project and he asked all who were making videos to forward me a copy. So far I have received a copy from Al Israelsen of Silver Spring, MD. I will wait a month or so and see if I get any more - and then start on the project. Most likely it will be next year before I get finished.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANDREW FERENCE - Stafford Spring, CT

Was very distressed to read in the latest M.M. of the demise of two of my best friends from the 391st - Ray Haskiewicz and Hugh Kester. I often wondered what happened to them and now my mind has been put to rest with the knowledge that they are no longer with us.

Have booked passage to spend Christmas in England with my wife's family. Hope to see or get in touch with our friend Patrick Taylor from Ipswich.

\*\*\*\*\*

## JED BOUTY - Spalding, MI

Back from the hospital. Was in there in May, July and September. They tried twice to open an artery with no luck. This time was like putting in a new hydraulic line. Should be O.K. now.

I did want to go to Shreveport just to see Hal Province but couldn't make it. May drive down this winter to see him when we go south.

\*\*\*\*\*

## JOHN TERRY - Glendale, CA

I avoid overnight travel but am planning on Seattle. I have been pondering spending a night in Santa Maria, CA from where I could see Roy Tavasti and Jack Kinney and a cousin of mine who lives in Santa Barbara.

Some people react to widowhood as a new freedom. I had lived a life of being so spoiled that I found being widowed brought me greatly expanded responsibilities for which I am still ill-prepared. I can't even find time to seek another wife.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ROLAND BEACH - Santa Ana, CA

For the reunion at Shreveport I am mailing a new dish towel with a map of East Anglia and the WWII air bases, both RAF and USAAF. Trust that all will have a fine time together at Shreveport. It's too far away for me to travel from my doctors, but if the event were held in Anaheim, I could drag my tired old body three miles to get there.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DR. MILTON BRAVEMAN - Harrisburg, PA

At a reunion laden with highlights, two episodes stand out for me. First, a long sought and fabulous reunion with my bombardier, John Pelly. We hadn't seen each other since Dec., 1944.

The second incident was to have a profound effect on everyone at the reunion and I'd be grateful for its inclusion in MM. John Bloczynski introduced me to his tail gunner, Harold Carothers. The usual amenities were exchanged; "Where are you living now?, Have you been to previous reunions?, When did you get to Mendlesham". I don't know what question triggered a response from Harold that kept me spellbound. He outlined a fascinating service record from pre-Pearl Harbor days at Clark Field in the Phillipines, through aerial gunnery school and his 22 missions with the 92nd BG where he was the only survivor of his crew. This was followed by some 20 additional missions with the 95th and 100th Bomb Groups. With each of these groups he lost more crew members and suffered severe wounds. He was returned to the States for R & R and assigned to PR duty to boost the sale of War Bonds.

He requested and received orders back to the 8th AF where he was assigned as tail gunner with the Wyatt Jones crew of the 18th Squadron. Only with the 34th BG did he complete a full combat tour. He was at flight engineer school when, at Gen. Hap Arnold's directive, Harold was transferred to the Pacific Theater. The second of his two missions in B-29's was the last bombing of Japan. (Incidentally, he was over Berlin the first time that city was attacked by the 8th AF.)

At the group's business meeting, from the podium it was stressed that Harold's history be documented and recorded for posterity. The 34th has its share of heroes. Harold Carothers is a hero among heroes!

\*\*\*\*\*

## HENRY TOBIASON - Remer, MN

We both feel that it was a very good reunion; in fact, one of the best. The food and quarters were both excellent and the planning and organization was very good. The day at Barksdale was wonderful. The Dedication service and the Retreat will stay in our minds forever.

Continued on page 27



Jim Hollowell & Don Tuttle in London, 1944.





L. to r.: H. Arnold Prillaman, Henry Cross & Jack Ashburn in front of their quonset hut.

## Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 26

**JOHN SLOYNE-SMITH** - Tinton Falls, NJ

Shreveport was a very nice reunion. When that big bomber flew over at such a low altitude things got a little noisy. The memorial and the service were beautiful and it appears the 34th had another "First".

**WALTER STURDIVAN** - Stockton, CA

I would like to know the crew number or pilot of the crew that ditched just short of Dakar on the way from Blythe to Mendlesham. As I recall, the B-24 floated on empty gas tanks long enough for the crew to be safely rescued by motor launch out of Dakar.

I certainly enjoy the Mendlesham Memories and look forward to each issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOHN HOHNSTREITOR** - Pass Christian, MS

Since I retired in 1961 I have built three homes plus a 42 ft. sailing catamaran. The catamaran took me five years to finish; I couldn't use the glue below 55 deg. so I didn't get much done in the winter. I used it for 7 years but couldn't get my wife on a trip so I sold it to a Dutch school teacher on Aruba.

I had a slight stroke a year ago in April and have never got my balance back. I can still play a little golf and live on the fifth hole of the Pass Christian Golf Course. I live in the house where I spent Hurricanes Besty and Carmella. I have remodeled the house extensively and will probably end my days here.

\*\*\*\*\*

**PETER STAMPON** - Gray, ME

This has been a rather rough year for me. I have been in and out of the hospital several times. My most recent stay was at the Maine Medical Center in Portland. I was there from Aug. 6th to Sept. 10th. On Aug. 7th I had a heart operation which included a triple by-pass. On Sept. 6th I had a cancer removed from my colon.

I am now at home and have a two-month recuperation period to look forward to. The doctors say that, in that time, I should see a great improvement. The recuperation is slow but I am beginning to see some improvement.

My wife and I are still hoping to make next year's reunion in Seattle. We have been grounded for this year - hopefully next year will be better.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From JUNE RITCHIE we have the following excerpt from a newspaper item:

Recently a bill was passed by Congress entitling veterans to a dividend on the G.I. Insurance they carried when they were in service. This is regardless of whether or not they still carry this insurance. They will not receive this dividend unless they ask for it. The VA urges all veterans to apply regardless of whether or not they still carry this insurance. The VA will check it out for them. A sample letter follows:

Veteran's Center

P.O. Box 8079

Philadelphia, PA 19101

Dear Sirs;

In accordance with the bill recently passed by Congress, I would like to apply for an S.G.L.I. insurance dividend, based on my prior military service. The specifics of this service are as follows:

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

SGLI No. (If known) \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Service No. \_\_\_\_\_

Soc. Sec. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Date entered service \_\_\_\_\_

Discharge date \_\_\_\_\_

If you need any additional information, please contact me at the above address.

Sincerely,

(All veterans are urged to follow up on this)

Continued on page 28



Jim Gallagher, personnel clerk at 34th B.G. Hdqtrs. (Our Poet Laureate Does anyone know where he is today?).

# NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 27

From a JOSEPH E. MANOS we have:

The purpose of the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society is to encourage those of our members who were helped by resistance organizations or patriotic nationals of the countries involved to continue existing relationships, or renew relationships with those who helped them during their escape or evasion.

We try to have a meeting each year, the location of which is varied for the convenience of our membership. At each of these meetings we make every effort to have foreign helpers as our guests and do our best to entertain them.

To be eligible for membership in the AFEES, one must have been a U.S. airman, he must have been down behind enemy lines and either evaded capture, or escaped from captivity to return to Allied control. There is an initiation fee of \$20.00 which includes your first year's dues. Annual dues thereafter are \$10.00.

If you are eligible and would like to join the group, please write for a membership form to:

Heyward C. Spinks  
P.O. Box 844  
Beaufort, SC 29901

\*\*\*\*\*

**B-24 MEMORIAL DEDICATION PLANS** - On December 7, 1989, 1100 hours at the United States Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, the dedication of a memorial marker and tree will be made commemorating the 50th anniversary of the B-24 Liberator and the many who produced, supported, crewed and flew this legendary warplane during World War II. This brief formal ceremony will take place on the Memorial Park site grounds at 11:00 a.m. sharp.

All persons of any group, unit or organization ever associated with the B-24 and its history including the general public are cordially invited to attend this one-time, no-host, dedication milestone event.



34th Combat Crew Training School, 1943. Standing l. to r.: Jambor, Ray, Zick, Wilcox, Luhrsens, Richey, & Unknown. Seated: Fandel.

**THE INTERNATIONAL B-24 MEMORIAL MUSEUM** - A new, only one known of its kind, museum for the historical WWII airplane, the B-24 Liberator and all of the many that produced, supported, crewed, and flew this legendary aircraft, was dedicated on July 15th, 1989, in Pueblo, CO at its permanent "home" site and that of Pueblo's Historical Aircraft Museum at the modern Pueblo Memorial Air Terminal, the former WWII Army Air Base where many B-24 unit combat crews were trained.

The modern, permanent, building erected specially for this famous warplane's historical museum and commemorative heritage of its people has many future B-24 Liberator, exclusive "attractions" already underway. It has on current display the spectacular, one of a kind, complete WWII "Story" exhibit - the "Honor Gallery Hall of the Liberator Legends".

\*\*\*\*\*

From a Mr. ANDREW BROWN JR. we have:

Most likely the members of the 34th B.G. Assn. are aware that there is a B-17, "Sally B", flying in England. Your members can help keep this memorial flying.

They can become a member of "Sally B" Supporters Club. Annual dues for an individual are \$22.00, family \$35.00. If paid by check rather than International Money Order, add \$3.00 for bank charges.

Membership entitles you to the two issues each year of "Sally B News", an enamel membership badge, membership card, admittance to the members' enclosure at the Great Warbirds display held on summer bank holiday and, I can assure you, an extremely warm welcome at any of the thirty or so air shows in which "Sally B" participates each season. Send payment to:

B-17 Preservation Ltd.  
P.O. Box 34  
Horley, Surrey RH6 9RQ  
England

\*\*\*\*\*

From WILBUR BOROM we have the following excerpt from a newspaper story:

Geoffrey Steiner is a Vietnam vet whose dream is as simple as a seedling: to plant a tree to each of the 58,156 Americans who went to Vietnam and never came back. On a 100-acre plot in central Minnesota, Steiner, 39, struggles to bring a forest into being.

The idea came to him on Veteran's Day, 1980, when he was planting a pine tree on his property. His life has been a shambles since he came back from the war. "I was out there on my hands and knees planting this tree. I was having a few beers. I just wanted to reminisce and think about my buddies. I started crying. I looked down at that hole and got determined and said, 'I will plant a tree for every dead and missing.' I stuck that tree in the ground and I had a goal."

Since then, Steiner has planted thousands of trees, many of them by hand, using the same kind of shovel he dug foxholes with in Vietnam. Each seedling costs 65 cents. The money for the living memorial comes from donations and Steiner's monthly disability check.

If you'd like to help out, contact:

Geoffrey Steiner  
P.O. Box 86  
Cushing, MN 56443



## ROSE'S CORNER

I always knew that being a member of the 34th B.G. Assn. was very special. This was proved to me in September when I received many beautiful get-well wishes from you wonderful people. I feel very well now and we're sorry to have missed one of the best reunions so far. Thank you all for caring.

St. Mary's Church in Mendlesham sent a very informative letter telling what they are doing to prevent further deterioration of property. Because of the interest in this project I'm printing the letter in its entirety:

Dear Mr. Summa:

Mr. Eric Bauly, late Treasurer of St. Mary's, Mendlesham, has passed to me your two letters together with two cheques for \$2,000.00 and \$25.00 respectively, and, as current Treasurer, I wish to convey to you and the members of the 34th Bomb Group Association the very grateful thanks of myself and our Vicar, Rev. Philip Gray, and all members of St. Mary's Church here in Mendlesham, for the generosity of these gifts towards the cost of our Restoration work on the fabric of the church which we have been carrying out during the past eighteen months, and is still in progress.

The cost of this restoration work is expensive, as I know you can appreciate from your own experience in the United States, but with the help of members of our church and others including those of your splendid Ass'n. we have been able to get the north and south aisle roofs releaded, with new gutters and restored rainwater pipes, a new floor area laid adjoining the entrance doorway, considerable repointing of the external flintwork to the southwest face, as well as other miscellaneous works that needed attention to prevent further deterioration from damp and rainwater. Of course, there are many other items of work of varying sizes that require attention, but we shall continue to carry out these works as far as our resources allow. So you and your generous Ass'n. members can rest assured that the money you have sent us will be put to the very best use that we can make of it.

We do thank Rose Baldea because she has written in your newsletter about St. Mary's which has brought such a wonderful response, and have noted your comment about the list of men killed when in combat while stationed at Mendlesham, and will be most pleased to have a copy of that list for our records.

On behalf of our Church and Parish, thank you all for your generosity, and we shall look forward to seeing all those of your Association here in 1990.

Yours most sincerely,  
Brian Creegan,

Treasurer and Churchwarden

P.S.

Won't it be exciting to see all the improvements made when we go to England next year? It will be wonderful to point out the various places in the church which have been improved with the help of the 34th B.G. It's a good feeling.

Eli and I wish you all a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and a VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



Laylene Drennan winner of 34th Bomb Group Association Scholarship. Sponsored by grandfather, Val McClellan.

### A THANK YOU

Dear members of the 34th B.G. Assn.:

I just wanted to thank you for sending the scholarship money to me. My husband and I appreciate it very much. I plan on graduating this coming June - June, 1990. I will have two degrees - Special Education and Elementary Education. The money will be a great help in completing my education.

I am grateful for the scholarship. Thank you, once again.

Sincerely,  
Laylene Rich Drennan  
(Granddaughter of member  
Val McClellan)

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 28

A book entitled "Out Of The Trenches" is being written and will be a stirring eyewitness account of the sidebars of history recalling personal accounts of tragedy and triumph of the men who gave their all for the freedom of the United States.

If you have a story you would like to tell and wish to be a part of this humble masterpiece of history, please write for further information to:

Out of the Trenches  
c/o South Georgia Business Journal, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2036  
Thomasville, GA 31799

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Willis Griffis stopped over at the Air Force Historical Research Center at Maxwell Field, AL on his way home after the reunion. He has found a considerable amount of historical data regarding the 34th B.G. from 1940 on. If you're interested in any of this historical data, please contact Willis direct. His address is: 90 Commonwealth Ct. Apt. 2, Vernon Hills, IL 60061.



# RETURN TO MENDLESHAM

May 17-25, 1990

Tamarac Travel, Inc. has sent us a preliminary announcement of the planned 34th Bomb Group's return to Mendlesham. The land package at \$779.00 per person (add \$120.00 for singles) includes:

- 2 nights Novotel Hotel, Ipswich, May 18-19
- 2 nights University Arms Hotel, Cambridge May 20-21
- 3 nights London Tara, London, May 22-23-24 (air-conditioned)
- Visits to Duxford and Hendon Air Museums
- Full English breakfast daily
- 4 dinners, Ipswich and Cambridge
- Participation in Memorial Day services at Cambridge

All taxes, tips and Value Added Taxes (VAT) included  
Fully escorted by Tamarac Travel  
All transfers by deluxe motorcoach  
Visits to Mendlesham and local sightseeing  
Half-day sightseeing tour of London including the Churchill Cabinet War Rooms.

Please note that airfare is additional from your home city and return. Tamarac Travel will do all airline ticketing to obtain the best possible airfares and to insure coordination between arrival and departure times.

A complete application will be mailed to everyone at a later date. PASSPORTS ARE REQUIRED - no shots or visas.

## STRUGGLING TO COMMUNICATE

The story of one of our members from the Fort Collins Coloradoan

Cecil Neth can't breathe anymore. He can't eat, or smoke a cigarette, or drink a martini, or move a muscle below his neck. But he can still smile.

Today finds Cecil Neth in bed, totally paralyzed and unable to speak, connected to a maze of life support equipment. He is a victim of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease after the famous baseball player. Neth calls it Cecil's Disease.

His mind is as lively as ever. It's perhaps ironic that ALS - an untreatable, progressive disease that destroys one muscle after another - is painless. The frustration of not being able to live a normal life is pain of another sort.

By now, Neth has had to surrender almost total control of his body - all but an eyebrow. After a lifetime spent with words (He was a journalist), Neth now talks with an eyebrow switch attached to a headband. That switch is connected to a Chicago foundation's computer system that has become something of a lifeline for Neth. He characterizes his situation as "macabre".

"There is an active mind struggling to communicate from within a mute and useless body," Neth said recently, by way of a computer printout. "If we can help people cope with such a macabre situation, the effort will have been worthwhile."

Cecil is held and cared for in the womb of his family and friends. His time now is precious, especially when viewed in the cold light of statistics. The average ALS patient lives three to five years from the time of diagnosis, and he was diagnosed four years ago.

(Editor's Note: The above is an excerpt from the newspaper story which was quite lengthy. We felt our members would like to know about this and, maybe, send Cecil a card, etc.)

## REUNION VIDEO TAPES

Kivett Ivey and George Ritchie are in the process of putting together a video record of happenings at the Shreveport Reunion. All who had taken videos are asked to send them on for use in the final compilation. Along with video tapes from the TV networks, these will make a lasting remembrance of this wonderful affair.

Preliminary pricing for this project is as follows:

First copy - \$10.00, Additional copies - \$7.50 each.

Blank tapes (top quality U.S.A. made) - \$3.50 each (buy all you want.)

When the tapes are done, we will advise all through the Mendlesham Memories as to final pricing and procedure to order.



Bomb Sight & Auto-Pilot Technicians: Blevins, Pickle, McKenna, Gilroy, Little, Goldberg, Bunn, Mykatuk, Craig, Sweet, Smith, Levenick, Stein, Clark, Cohea, Sullivan, Ulrich, Braun, Dunham, Haslan, & Kline.

## CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Your newly formed Constitutional Committee, with Jack Farley as chairman, will continue their work via mail or phone throughout the year and be ready for Seattle.

Our plans are to reassess our present constitution and bring it into the 1990's. We will accept any and all of your communications and suggestions. Our first complete draft will appear in the Mendlesham Memories for your overview and, possibly, more suggestions. The final draft will be presented to the General Membership in Seattle for approval.

(Ed. Note: Chairman Jack Farley submitted a 12-page preliminary report to all in attendance at the Board of Directors meeting. Work is progressing at a rapid pace and we feel the target date in Seattle will be met. Remember, NOW is the time to have your input into your new constitution.)



Standing l. to r.: Mueller, Barta, Braun, & LaBanca. Kneeling l. to r.: Repoff, Frei, Andringa, Jonas & Zelich.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

(As of 10/31/89)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ARENS	ALVIN K.	22450 Tower Ct. Bldg. 1, 104	Novi,	MI.	48050
BASSETT	ROBERT	5512 Moor Drive	Lincoln,	NE.	68516
BOULIANE	JEAN P.	Cuadrante 15	San Miguel De Allende	MX.	MEXICO
DAVIS	ROBERT B.	98 Scenic Drive, S.E.	Huntsville,	AL.	35801
DURHAM	DON B.	2026 Cannon Hgts. Dr. 1	Chesterfield,	MO.	63017
GREEN	HOWARD L.	P.O. Box 9241	Ft. Worth,	TX.	76107
GRONOUSKI	JOHN A.	6623 County T	Egg Harbor,	WI.	54209
ISRAELSEN	ALLEN O.	3330 N. Liesure World Blvd. No. 628	Silver Spring,	MD.	20906
JAMES	EUGENE	86 Readington Rd.	White House Sta.,	NJ.	08889
JENNINGS	WILLIAM O.	4022 Densmore	Everett,	WA.	98205
JOHNSON	DR. DONALD R.	713 So. 6th Street	Champaign,	IL.	61820
JOHNSON	ROY D.	Street Name is JAYWAY			
KLINE	GEORGE	237 Blue Barns Rd.	Burnt Hills,	NY.	12027
NETH	CECIL B.	724 Cheyenne Drive	Ft. Collins,	CO.	80525
PATTERSON	(HON.) ROBERT	U.S. Courthouse, Chbr. 308, Foley Sq.	New York,	NY.	10007
POCHTER	IRWIN	639 Carriage Hill Rd.	Glenview,	IL.	60025
PROVINCE	HAROLD	Rte. 4, Box 630	Carriere,	MS.	39426
SCHUETZ	SCOTT	6133 Leesburg Pike No. 403	Falls Church,	VA.	22041
SIGOURNEY	DAVID	Zip Cope Should Be			34228
SOBRAN	JOHN	210 So. Kentucky St.	Benld,	IL.	62009
SPENCE	GUILFORD G.	39534 Bamboo Lane	Zephyrhills,	FL.	33540
TERRY	JOHN P.	404 Lincoln Avenue No. 12	Glendale,	CA.	91205
TRIPLETT	PAUL	3675 Traskwood Circ. Apt. C	Cincinnati,	OH.	45208
TURNMIRE	LEE	502 E. Evergreen Ave.	Santa Maria,	CA.	93454
WISSMAN	DON B.	5247 Vance Place	Cocoa,	FL.	32927
ZELDES	BENJAMIN	107 Lakeshore Blvd.	Stafford Sprgs.	CT.	06076

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(As of 10/31/89)

(Total Now 140)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
HILDEBRAND	THOMAS H.	4	1516 Swiftwood Dr.	Powhatan,	VA.	23139
LEE	JOSEPH W.		518 Ridgedale Avenue	Richardson,	TX.	75080
RANKIN	EARL W.	391	Box 805	Strasburg,	PA.	17579
VEON	ELLY	(A)	2891 State Road 303	Mantua,	OH.	44255



# TAPS

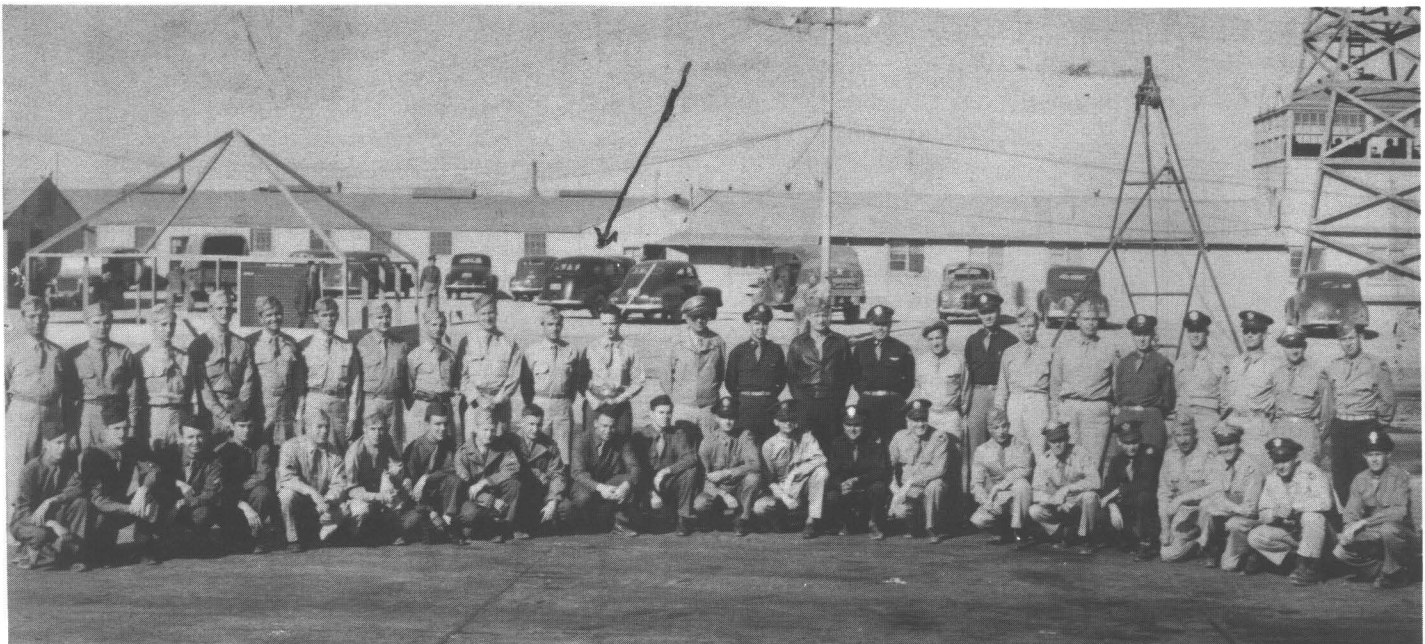
(As of 10-31-89)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ANTKOWIAK	CHESTER	7	1601 Middle Avenue	Elyria,	OH.	44035
BOEHMLER	BART L.	4	Rte. 4, Box 4	Hampton,	IA.	50441
CORKERN	JAMES			Baton Rouge,	LA.	
GRYDE	OTIS M.	391	519 Ulumalu Street	Kailua,	HI.	96734
LAWLER	EDWARD J.	4(LM)	45 Twin Pines Dr. 14C	Brooklyn,	NY.	11239
MORRISON	DON	7	P.O. Box 196	Pana,	IL.	62557
SINNOTT	LAWRENCE	18	700 Elm, No. 26	Boulder City,	NV.	89005
TRUEK	MITCHELL	4	324 Holiday Ave.	Suffield,	CT.	06078

## NEWLY FOUND

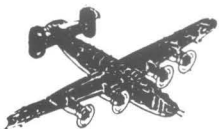
(As of 10-31-89)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CALDWELL	ROBERT D.	7	7527 - 313th Ave., NW.	Stanwood,	WA.	98292
CONNELLY	PATRICK		158-24 97th Street	Howard Beach,	NY.	11414
ESPIE	BILL		35 Briardale	Stevenage Herts, England		SG11TR
FAVA	CARL (CHARLIES)	4	1399 E. 4th Street	Brooklyn,	NY.	11230
FORBES	DOUGLAS		Box 253, RFD. 1	Kezar Falls,	ME.	04047
FOX	HOWARD R.		Jaggers Apts., A-34	Sanford,	ME.	04073
GRAVES	HARRY W. (BUD)	18	830 N. Park Ave.	Oak Harbor,	WA.	98277
HENDRICKS	ROBERT F.		250 Chaney Avenue	Cayucos,	CA.	93430
LAMPEY	ROBERT		P.O. Box 44	Aurora,	OH.	44202
MILLARD	GLENN L.	391	RR. 4, Crestwood Drive	Whitewater,	WI.	53190
MOWINSKI	HENRY J.	4	4835 Tripp Avenue	Chicago,	IL.	60632
RICE	DON		13549 Freemont Street	Yucaipia,	CA.	92339
UNDERWOOD	HARLAN		420 E. Seneca	Ithaca,	NY.	14850



At Blythe Army Air Base, March, 1944. Standing, l. to r.: Saul, Aleksonis, Alsasser, Sobresky, Coats, Boenight, Givalski, Goldman, McGrail, Townsend, Berrill, Cauffield, Wackowitz, Miles, LeBailley, Zant, Nichols, Mortenson, Schwartzlaw, Ryan, Reagan, Louis, Gott, & Blevins. Kneeling l. to r.: Simon, Donahue, Miller, O'Conner, Wiley, Hoag, Beach, Zeal, Potter, Cybela, Thompto, Henry, Turnipseed, Duke, McMann, Penfield, Miller, Nelson, Kofold, Wilde, Hobbs, & Disney.

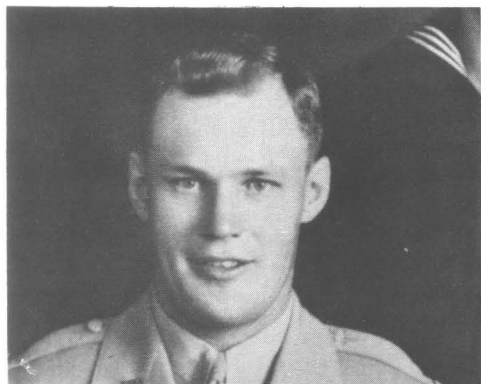




# *Then and Now*



## **Paul Mueller**



**1945**

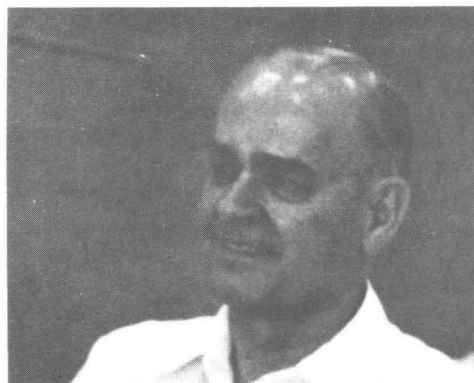


**1989**

## **John N. Young**



**1945**



**1982**

## **John G. Mangan**



**1944**



**1988**

# Memories

## THE RESURRECTION

by Darrell Bulis

Lt. Byron Sheesley was our pilot and the best pilot I ever knew in a long career as a flight engineer. He was the yardstick by which I measured all officers.

After we finished our tour of missions and returned to the States, the crew all went their separate ways and we lost touch. In 1967 I wrote to all of our crew for which I had addresses. I received some replies but no one knew what had become of Lt. Sheesley who came from Youngstown, OH. I advertised in the American Legion and VFW papers, asking about him, and received 3 letters informing me that he had become a Baptist preacher, had married his Mary, and they had gone to Puerto Rico as missionaries. They were childless and both had died in Puerto Rico.

In 1984, after retiring, I started doing a lot of work with the VFW. In a VFW magazine I read a notice concerning a reunion of the 34th B.G. I wrote to Ray Summa and joined. He gave me some addresses and there was an exchange of letters, but I still thought Byron was dead.

Late in 1987 I received a letter from Joel Sheesley (Byron's son) inviting me to attend a dinner honoring "Dr. Byron Sheesley" on the 25th of November in New York state. I told Joel I'd be there. I got in touch with some of the crew but only Ed King and Frank Forde could make it.

Ed King with Mary, Frank Forde with Josephine and I arrived at the motel on Friday, the day before the dinner, and met that evening with Joel to get acquainted and for a briefing on the dinner. I gave Joel some code words used during the war (Stiff Starch; The Giant is on The Beach; etc.) to be used by the M.C.

On Saturday evening we were smuggled in via the back door and put at a table back in the corner so Byron wouldn't see us. Toward the end of the ceremonies Joel gave us the signal and, while the M.C. had him turned toward the audience, we sneaked up behind him. The M.C. asked him to explain the code words (which he could not do) and I called out "Lt. Sheesley, Come to attention and about face!" When he turned, the three of us reported to him in a military manner. You never heard such hollering, whooping and shoulder-blade pounding. The audience applauded and we were then individually introduced.

It was the first time we had seen him in 43 years. Until the letters from Joel and Mary we all thought that he was dead.

## NIGHTMARE RELIVED

by John H. Boysun

After reading "Nightmare" by Francis Jackovich in the June issue of MM, I too remember the mission to Kiel, Germany quite well. I was the flight engineer on Capt. John Notman's crew. We flew deputy lead that day. Our squadron commander was flying command pilot with the lead crew.

When we were briefed for the mission, Intelligence told us to expect about 250 flak guns in the area. It so happened, as we found out later, the German Navy was

tied up in Kiel Harbor. When we got to the I.P. point, the 34th was leading the 3rd Divn. and the Germans hit us with 1100 to 1200 flak guns. I saw a plane take a direct hit and go down. Then the lead plane took a hit in the left wing. A four-foot hole appeared and they lost No. 2 engine. They had to abort. We then slid into the lead but it was too late to make a run for the primary target so we regrouped and hit a secondary target.

The lead crew bailed out about 35 miles off the coast of the Frisian Islands. It was too late for the air-sea rescue to go after them that day. They went out the next day, but not a trace of the crew could be found. The enlisted men of that lead crew shared a hut with us. Their personal belongings were left in our hut for about a month and we never heard whether they survived.

We lost an engine and our ground crew counted 300 flak holes in our plane. It was the largest concentration of flak we ever flew through. When the 34th B.G. history book came out I was a little disappointed that more wasn't said about that Kiel mission. I think we probably lost as many people and planes that day as the day after D-Day.

In closing, I'm sure there were other people in the 34th who will never forget that mission.

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## "INTRUDERS"

by Walter Sturdivan

The German Intruder's raid on Mendlesham Station 156 on June 7, 1944, is, perhaps, the most talked about incident that took place in the history of our combat tour in the E. T. O. It has probably been assumed that the four B-24's shot down that evening were the only ones hit by the JU-88's guns. Those of us aboard the B-24 "Baudry, B for Baker" piloted by Swede Lindstrom, of the 18th squadron, know better.

From my position as radio operator, directly behind the co-pilot, my first indication of trouble came from the sight of a dark shape moving under us from left to right with gun muzzle blasts flashing in the semi-darkness of the late evening. Suddenly, over the radio came orders from Stiffstarch (control tower) to "fly west". This, we were more than happy to do. There was a complete darkness now on the ground.

After a few minutes Swede began to call "Darky, Darky", for aid from ground radio systems set up for just such emergencies. As an air base below us suddenly lit up, we had another problem to contend with. There was another plane on our tail. It was gratifying to learn that it was just another Liberator whose pilot preferred our prop-wash to another turn around the field. We landed with the other B-24 at a dangerous interval behind us. In the process of parking our plane, the captain stuck the right wing into a building. The base was built for Mosquitos, not B-24s.

After a couple of good meals and a night's sleep, both crews from Mendlesham flew back together in the ship that landed in such haste the night before, piloted by Russell Paulnock. There were 21 of us aboard, all a day late returning from our mission.

A couple of days later, its wing having been repaired, our B-24 was flown back to Mendlesham with news that, indeed, our ball turret had been struck by 20 MM cannon fire. Since we had been prepared for landing, our gunner was not in the ball turret and escaped injury. That aircraft was later lost in combat while being flown by another crew.

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# Memories

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## THE GLORIOUS FOURTH

by W.N. "Pete" Gray

How come they always scheduled a mission for Saturdays and Sundays - especially on holidays? Maybe they figured the Germans thought we wouldn't be flying on those days and the flak might be less intense. Anyway, the 34th was scheduled for a mission on the Fourth of July, 1944.

The weather was perfect that day - clear skies with the temperature in the 70's. However, the take-off time was delayed several times, for some unknown reason. And, with nothing to do but wait, most of the flight crews as well as the ground crews sprawled out under the wings of the airplanes.

We had been there for an hour or so when Charles Grazelak, the navigator of Gerald Holmes' B-24 "Tiger Rag", got to his feet. Mumbling something about "stirring up some excitement for the Fourth" he ambled over towards the plane. Nobody paid much attention to him as he climbed up into the plane but, shortly afterwards, the quietness along the flight line was broken by a loud "Whoosh" and the whole area was suddenly bathed in a bright pinkish glow! Grazelak had shot off one of the flares!

It climbed straight up from the cockpit for about a hundred feet, then, slowly it turned and started downward, hissing all the while and sending off a brilliant shower of sparks.

At that moment I was horrified, believing it would land right on top of the plane which was fully loaded with some 9 tons of 100 octane gasoline as well as several tons of bombs. I could see the whole works going up in one tremendous explosion along with everything else in the neighborhood.

But, at the very last moment, a soft breeze pushed it gently off to one side, causing it to miss the airplane completely. It did, however, come down, still burning furiously, right on top of one of those huge haystacks the British had. (Remember them?) It came to rest too high up on the pile for anyone to reach it with a fire extinguisher, so the only thing we could do was run over to the nearby Engineering Office and call for assistance. Meanwhile, the flare was burning its way down into the haystack and sending up a large cloud of black smoke as most of the 7th Sqdn. crew members crowded around, watching.

Finally, after a long delay, we saw the fire equipment coming down the taxi strip. And what equipment it was - it looked like something right out of the Tooner-ville Trolley era. An ancient Model-T Ford truck with spindly wire wheels and carrying a small water tank and some hose. It halted close to the haystack and, with yells of encouragement from the onlookers, the fire-fighters (English civilians) unrolled a section of the hose. Then, with two of them holding the nozzle, they signalled a third member to turn on the water.

We all expected to see a strong stream of water come from the nozzle. Instead, nothing happened; absolutely nothing. Finally, after a long wait, a small amount of water, about a cupfull, squirted out from the nozzle, landing a few feet in front of it. This brought a roar of laughter from the crowd who, by now, were beginning to get into the spirit of the occasion. In fact, some of

them were literally rolling on the grass, holding their sides from laughing so much.

Several more attempts were made, all with the same results and, each time, they literally "brought down the house!". I had laughed so much my stomach was hurting!"

Finally a ladder was placed up against the haystack and, by using a small extinguisher, the fire was put out.

Just then another flare went up, this time from the Control Tower, signally that the mission had been scrubbed and all the excitement was over.

We heard later that the U.S. Army was billed for quite a large sum for the damage that had been done to the haystack.



Charles E. Smith (on right) and unknown friend viewing the large hole in the haystack left by flare.

## RECOLLECTIONS

by Roy Jones

Loud cat noises outside the hut in the middle of the night. Free-spirit bombardier, R.R. Sawtell, whips out his '45, sticks it out the window and fires at the ground, then silence. The next morning, one dead tom cat on the ground.

In the same hut, many of those not scheduled to fly the next day playing poker all night, keeping the selected fliers awake until aroused by the CQ. (I'm still looking for you, Jim Wilson!)

An un-named navigator (still with us) firing his '45 through the end of the hut over bunks of several flyboys. No harm done; none intended.

Diminutive (name forgotten) navigator going around the hut singing "O Tannenbaum, O Tannenbaum in July!

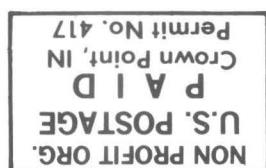
Many won't believe this one but a few will remember it as fact. A co-pilot, first name of Paul, went about the hut and the area, scissors in hand, trying to get someone (anyone) to let him cut their hair. He predicted D-Day well ahead, then began predicting certain crews wouldn't come back from their next mission. Threats didn't stop him. One such crew in our hut "fell victim". Just prior to the next mission, Paul said he had a feeling that crew wouldn't return that day. They didn't. As I recall, Paul's body was found in a wheat field adjacent to the base a few months after the Luftwaffe intruders shot down four of our planes over the base. A year later, in Miami Beach, I met a girl from Paul's home town, somewhere in the midwest, who said Paul's father and brother-in-law were killed in an auto accident the same day he was shot down. Incredible? Damn near. Rare coincidence? I hope so.

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



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## Memories

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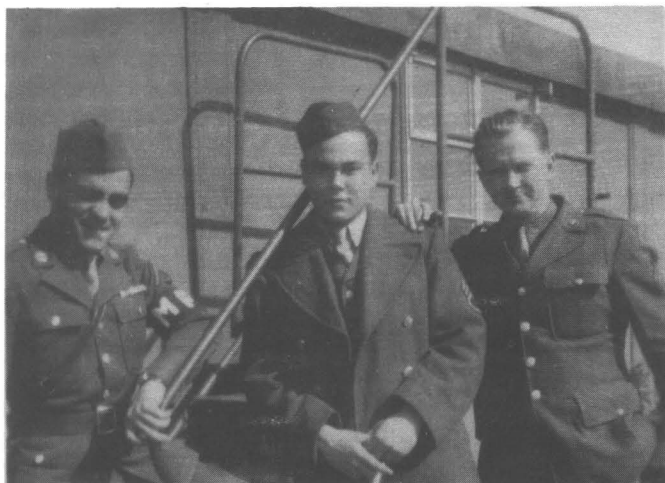
One more about an un-named navigator (he can be found somewhere around St. Louis today). He had a "thing" about relief tubes; wouldn't use them. On missions he carried his own gas can instead. Remember how cold it was at 20,000 feet? He could have been the first man circumcised in space!

### Remembering

by Ernest T. Moriarty

My memories of the 34th go from July to December of 1941. The group then moved to Pendleton, Oregon, and the commander was Major Ralph C. Koon of the 18th Sqdn. We "lunkheads" took our basic training off to the side of the "regulars". One of the names I shall never forget was Sgt. Barnes, our drill instructor. I think he had 4 or 5 hitches behind him.

I wonder how many guys in the 34th at that time re-



L. to r.: Unknown, "Bo-Bo" Nelson, Paul Rylander on a trip to Belfast.

member M/Sgt. Sage, the bombardier. Or Sage's buddy that took a couple of days on payday to do his thing. We all felt sorry for Mike Gonsolves who had a job waiting for him with Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Co. in California. He was busily marking off the days on the calendar until his discharge date. War started and poor Mike was in for the duration with only about 10 or 15 more days to go before discharge.

I had two very good friends at Westover, Martin Howard and George McLaughlin. I have not seen or heard from them since early in 1942 when I was shipped off to Perry Institute in Yakima, Washington to become an airplane engine mechanic. Paul Tardiff was also a good friend of mine at Westover.

A lot of guys at Westover were also in World War I and were career men. A flashlight, screwdriver, and a pair of pliers were the tool boxes they carried with them in their pockets. They were U.S. Army Air Corps men and were with the Air Corps when the Red Baron and Rickenbacker were going against each other in France.

At Westover, the base was being built while we were doing boot drilling. Roads, sewers, tarmacs, hangars, and hangar doors were all part of the scene being built and erected.

Our nights were spent in Springfield at the bowling alleys or the movies as well as some of the bars. I don't remember how many times one of us had a birthday when money was tight. We made \$30.00 a month, but I think we had a lot of fun. The civilians took care of our tabs.

Hopefully, this article will remind some of the guys who were with me during this period of time in the history of the 34th and they will write more of their remembrances along with photographs, if they have any.

P.S.: My book, "One Day Into Twenty-Three", about my escape from France in 1943 and my year with the 306th B.G., is still for sale at \$12.00.