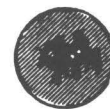


# ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

4



7

18



391

### 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) 337-4747
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) 542-3450
Bob Wright (Reun.)	(219) 232-4287
Eli Baldea (Editor)	(219) 988-4607

## OBSERVATIONS

Here it is, late July and this summer, so far, has been unusual, to say the least. So far this month we've had a week of high 90's and low 100's as well as a week with total overcast and struggling to reach the 70 degree mark. Most unusual!

I'm going to repeat myself, somewhat, in this issue. It's important for our members to know that, by the time they receive their copy, the news is already nearly two months old. This issue, for example, which will reach most of you in early September, must go to the printer by the end of July. It takes three to four weeks to set the type, run proof copies for corrections, print the roughly 1200 copies and get them sorted and into the postal system. This means they won't be in the mail until late August. With bulk mailing privileges these will be delivered to you anywhere from two weeks to five weeks later. In order for most to receive the September issue in September, I must adhere to this schedule. I would appreciate cards or letters either approving or dis-approving this system.

Rose and I are looking forward to the Seattle reunion. We missed Shreveport and, because of last minute needs, we missed England. Lord willing, there's no way we'll miss Seattle. Our airline reservations are already made and other plans are under way. We look forward to seeing you all there.

In this issue you'll also find a copy of our yearly roster. This shows the latest known addresses of all our members as of late July, 1990. It has come to my attention, quite often, that we have mistakes either in name spelling, correct address or correct zip code. Please check your own listing carefully and, if you find an error, write me to notify me. Once and for all, I'd love to have the roster right. Don't let me down on this. It's very disconcerting to receive notification that a newsletter has not been delivered because of some small error.

Not much else to report at this time. Those of you who

have not made arrangements for the Seattle reunion might want to look at the "News From Here And There" column. Rose and I received an excellent senior citizen airline rate and you might find it interesting.

Until the next issue I repeat, "We're looking forward to Seattle". Rose and I want to wish all of you the best of health and as much wealth as you can stand.

Eli Baldea  
Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reunion time is here again and I'm looking and hoping for a big turnout. It should be a good time of the year in a great part of the country. And when we're enjoying all the festivities, let us not forget about those who would truly like to be there, but can't for one reason or another. We know that there are a good number of these every year. Last time around, even our MM editor found himself among the missing.

As for things to see, the entire area offers a great variety, so come early and stay late. For aviation buffs, nothing beats the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field, with its Great Gallery and its historic Red Barn (the Boeing Airplane Company's original manufacturing plant).

A major item for consideration in the business sessions will be a complete revision of the Constitution and By-Laws to update and more clearly define them in language better suited to the Association's needs. Jack Farley and his committee have done an admirable job in preparing a final draft for presentation at Seattle. I have followed the process through the year and think the entire membership should be made aware of the extensive time and effort the committee has devoted to this very important project.

Looking forward to seeing you there,  
Walt McAllister (Mac)

# LOOK WHAT'S COMING UP...



34TH BOMB GROUP REUNION  
SEATTLE, WA.  
Sept. 13-16th, 1990

34TH BOMB GROUP REUNION  
LOUISVILLE, KY.  
Sept. 27-30th, 1991

8TH AF REUNION  
LAS VEGAS, NV.  
Sept. 30-Oct. 4th, 1990

34TH BOMB GROUP REUNION  
LAS VEGAS, NV.  
??????????, 1992

AIR FORCE RETURN TO  
EAST ANGLIA, ENGLAND  
1992

Hello, Friends and Comrades;

Wish I could talk to each of you individually but find it is impossible, so I will do the next best thing and write a little something. Yes, it is that time again to write something for the newsletter.

This has been a remarkable spring and summer. Altho we have not been travelling as much as usual, we have been gone quite a bit.

After I was able to see enough to drive, Hannah and I took a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit our grandson who is doing his Journalism Internship at the newspaper USA TODAY. I don't know where he gets his "smarts" from. Must be from his grandmother. While we were there we did take a couple of side trips to other places. One was a trip to Baltimore where we met Henry and Ruth Jurgens at Hausner's Restaurant on the east side of town. Should you ever spend some time at Baltimore, that is a good place to dine. Henry and Ruth missed the last reunion at Shreveport but, right now, they are planning to be at Seattle for our reunion this year. They're planning to drive through.

On our way back home we stopped in Richmond, VA. where we met some friends at Junius Cobb's Meadowbrook Restaurant on Walmsley Blvd. This has been a yearly stop for us each time we are thru Virginia. It may be the last one as Junius is planning on hanging up his apron the last of 1990. Junius' wife, Ginny, treated us all to dinner that evening. There were not too many who could make it on such short notice. I wasn't able to notify them too far in advance. Dan and Frances Wimer, Miles Hardy, and Junius and Virginia Cobb, along with "Pete" Gray, who drove his big "Caddie" up from Virginia Beach to be with us. That is some automobile, "Pete". Tom and Virginia Snelling called and gave their regrets for not being there. Tom has been under the weather for some time.

You know, summer is slipping by real fast and it will soon be time for the 34th B.G. Reunion at Seattle in Sept. Hannah

and I have our plane reservations for both Seattle and Las Vegas. We will arrive at Seattle on Tuesday, Sept. 11th and will be going to the 8th AF Reunion at Las Vegas on Sept. 29th. We did get a good deal on the reservations thru our travel agency. We saved quite a bit thru the Senior Travel Discount plan. Eli will explain it in this issue.

Ken Lockwood called to say he is recovering from his illness and wants to thank everyone for the many cards and letters he received while he was in the hospital. He, of course, could not read them while he was in the ICU, so his wife and daughter read them to him, but when he was able, he read them all. He enjoyed receiving and reading each card even though he did not know many of the people who sent them. This sure shows that our 34th people care. Now, if you hear of death or illness of any member, sit down and write a card or letter and, if you will, please notify Sam Baglio, our Chaplain, or me and we will see to it that the person hears from members of the Group.

We had a fantastic trip to the beaches of N.C. in June. It was just too short. On the way down we stopped at Hunterville to see Dex and Beulah Jordan and went out to dinner with them. They joined us for breakfast the next morning and saw us off on the trip to Atlantic Beach. As you know, George and June Ritchie live close to where we were staying so we spent one day visiting them. Kivett and Lucille Ivey came down to George's to be with us.

Hannah and I went deep sea fishing. It was her first, and probably her last, time. You should have seen her holding her breath when she tried to bait her hook with cut-up squid. Nuff said!

I was hoping you might get this issue before Aug. 18th for on that date, the Glenn Miller show will be back at the AF Museum at Dayton. If you miss this one there will be another one in two years. Wish you could bring your lawn chairs and coolers and join us.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL IN SEATTLE OR AT LAS VEGAS!  
RAY SUMMA



34th B.G. -Pt-17 used at Westover Field in 1941.

# 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION

A group of 56 members, spouses and friends of the 34th B.G. (H) arrived at Heathrow Airport, Friday, May 18th, tired and rather disorganized. Flights from the U.S. were delayed by fog so heavy that the birds had to walk. Flights arrived over a six hour period. The first bus loaded up and left while the second bus waited for us stragglers. We were safely esconced in the Novotel Hotel by 3:30 p.m. The late arrivals put away their luggage, had a quick nap, a refreshing shower and prepared for our first dinner together. We went over the schedule with Dick D'Amato, of the Tamarac Travel Agency, and Ron Blake, of F.O.T.E. We then took turns introducing ourselves because, for some of those present, this was their first trip to any reunion. We missed Bill and Naoma Orton who had to cancel the trip because of illness. Bill Browne, 18th Sqdn. surprised us with his arrival; said he wanted to rest up before his retirement from U.S. Air. Most of the group didn't stay up socializing too late; they wanted to have a full head of steam for Saturday.

Saturday morning, after a full English breakfast, we boarded our buses and set out for our Memorial at Mendlesham. We drove past the Memorial, saw the flags flying, and were greeted by a convoy of restored OD Army vehicles. They looked as if they had just rolled off the assembly line. The braver souls climbed aboard for a bouncing tour of the field and adjacent areas. Those that made that tour really enjoyed the experience and saw more of the area

than those that took the bus tour. We finally rounded everyone up and proceeded to the Memorial where we met many of our old friends. The ladies do a tremendous job of maintaining the Memorial. Flowers are placed there all thru the summer.

At the memorial it was surprise time for Al Anderson and Bruce Sothern. Al met Janet Finbow. As a little girl she and her brother used to pick up and deliver the laundry that her mother did for the fellows. She remembered the candy and oranges they used to get. Now she is a gray-haired grandmother - my how time does fly. Bruce was met by Robin Horrex, who rode over on his bike just as he did 47 years ago when he assisted Bruce in getting all the equipment in place after the air crews departed the aircraft. There were not too many 11 year-olds that could sit in the cockpit and feel that he was contributing to the defense of his country.

Father Philip Gray (the Vicar of St. Mary's Church in Mendlesham) conducted the Memorial Service. Vice Pres. Wally Brauks did the readings. The Honor Guard, two women and four men, was furnished by the U.S. Air Force based in England. Randy Martin, representing the officers and flying crews, and Bruce Sothern, representing the enlisted men and ground crews, presented the wreaths. Randy's jacket had a B-17 on the back and Bruce's had a B-24 on the back.

Continued on page 4

## 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION (Luncheon)



Doris & Gordon Ryan with Fred Maundrell at the luncheon.



Luncheon at Ann Herron's home in Mendlesham.



Ladies & men who sponsored luncheon at Ann Herron's home in Mendlesham.



Reception at Ann Herron's home by the ladies that care for the memorial.



# Return To England

Continued from page 3

I think we covered all bases. We spent time visiting with the people of the area, the Honor Guard, the U.S. 3rd A.F. 48th Security Police Sqdn., and the ladies who maintain the Memorial. We were presented with a booklet on the 34th B.G. (H), "Welcome Back, May 1990", edited by Barbara Pleasance and printed by Peter Gaskin, on behalf of the 390th B.G.M.A.M. We had to break off and head for our scheduled luncheon.

The Golden Fleece was our next stop and again we met with friends and acquaintances. We had a delicious buffet lunch - probably our group consumed more "suds" than normally goes over the bar in a month. The Golden Fleece is shown in the 1841 census as a beerhouse, and its interior still retains much of its original construction. Later, as we walked around town, a red-color Jaguar pulled up. The driver introduced himself to us - A.W. Braybrooke, Tudor House, Mendlesham. He had served in the RAF flying Mustangs to provide cover for B-24's and B-17's. Continuing on we took pictures of the town center and its buildings. The town buildings are on the Register and cannot be changed on the outside, but the inside is another matter, as we were to find out.

We had to get back on the bus to make it to the 390th B.G. Control Tower Memorial. They had the banner as we approached. "Welcome Back The 34th Bomb Group". The outside of the tower is being refinished. The old plaster is

being removed and, to my surprise, the building was of brick construction. The interior has had some changes since our last visit, and was most interesting to all. We bused back to the Novotel to get ready for dinner.

We had the following guests for dinner: Violet Abbott, Ron Blake, Margaret and Russell Brundish, Roger Freeman, Peter and Sylvia Gaskin, Ian and Mary Hawkins, Robin Horrex, Vera and Rosemary Peters, Len Smith, Gerald and Lorraine Stedman and Thelma Thorpe. The dinner was great and our guests were seated among the members so that we had a good mix. It was very enjoyable and by the end of the evening we had a better understanding of each other. There were no speeches except to thank the ladies and their men for their efforts at the Memorial. Roger Freeman, Author-Historian, who has written and published many books about the 8th Air Force, provided us with many humorous memories about Yanks in England. He reminded us that the British do remember and appreciate our efforts during WWII, and they were glad that we were there. We already knew of the bonds with our friends in Mendlesham. The ladies and men who take care of our Memorial are very special people. Ian Hawkins is one of our friends who also has written a very interesting book on the Munster raid, "The Way It Was". It was with deep regret that we had to break off the socializing and head for our rooms to pack and sleep fast so that we would be set to leave in the morning.

Sunday morning, after our full English breakfast, our baggage was loaded into the bus and we left for St. Mary's

Continued on page 5

## R.A.F. MUSEUM AT HENDON



Carl Freysinger back at tail gun position after 45 years.



34th Group waiting for tour bus at R.A.F. Museum.



Cleveland Romero and B-17 Tail Guns.



Audrey Gibbs with George and Margaret Kline at the R.A.F. Museum, Hendon.



# Return To England

Continued from page 4

Church in Mendlesham. Many of our members used to attend services there, and we have continued to do so on our reunions. The church dates back to 1075 AD. The beams are still holding up the roof and look like they are good for another 900 years plus. The pews are hand carved and not too comfortable to sit in. The floors and walk areas show the wear of countless worshippers who have passed this way before us. After the service we gathered outside to talk to the parishioners and Fr. Philip Gray.

We walked down the street to the home of John and Anne Herron where we were to have a luncheon buffet. This is where we found out what a difference there is behind the front door. The home and gardens are beautiful - behind what is seen from the street. The interior and appointments were well worked into the original structure. The finger buffet was not a luncheon but, actually, a full course dinner. The wines were excellent and the many desserts were out of this world. Wally Brauks proposed marriage to the preparer of the "torte". She turned him down saying he was the sixth one that morning who had proposed. We enjoyed relaxing in the garden and the company of the ladies who prepared the dinner. Here Claude Conklin met the former Molly Muggins, now Mrs. Gordon Watsham, who, as a little girl, carried the laundry for her mother. But, all good things must come to an end. We had to leave for the American Cemetery. When we departed there were not too many dry eyes on the bus.

We were to be at the Cambridge American Military Cemetery and Memorial for the 3:00 p.m. Memorial Service. With the influx of people you must arrive on schedule. We were scheduled to arrive at 2:30 p.m. Memorial Service Day was celebrated this year on May 20th. The American Memorial Day Ceremony is conducted under the auspices of the United States Embassy in London and the USAF in the United Kingdom with the cooperation of the American Overseas Memorial Day Assn., British Friends and the American Battle Monuments Commission. The Memorial area looks out over 3,811 white crosses set in a circular arc pattern on an immaculate grassy area.

The wreaths were laid at the Wall of The Missing, a stone wall on one side of the promenade leading to the Chapel engraved with 5,125 names of those, from all Armed Forces, considered dead whose bodies have never been recovered. Harold Rutka laid a wreath in Honor of the Members of the 34th B.G. The firing squad, then Taps, and the fly-over by the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing all added to the impressive sight of the white crosses.

Monday was a shopping trip in Cambridge for some of our group. The rest boarded the bus and set out for the Duxford Museum. Duxford was built during WWI and is one of the oldest RAF stations. During WWII this was the home of the USAAF 78th Fighter Group, who provided cover for us. We were met by Peter Gaskin, who was our personal guide around the Museum. He is a member of F.O.T.E. (Friends of the Eighth). The hi-light of Duxford was the B-17 our group was allowed to explore. Some found it impossible to walk through the bomb bay. It was also hard to swing up into the front of the aircraft. Several brave souls even got into the ball turret. The wives enjoyed the chance to go through the aircraft as much as the men did. They had a chance to experience the cramped quarters and the bare metal interior - not like the jet that brought them to England. Peter Gaskin was available to answer questions and

assist us around the Museum. Peter, thanks again for taking the time off from your employment to take us through Duxford and the RAF Hendon Museum. Hendon is the Bomber Command Museum and is well designed. It has many new additions since our last visit.

After lunch we loaded up and headed for London. We checked into the Gloucester Hotel. After a bit of a delay we made it to our rooms. This is the first time in four England reunions that we ever checked into a five-star hotel. It was a great way to end our reunion.

Our half-day city tour of London and the tour of Churchill's War Rooms was very interesting. Wednesday afternoon and Thursday were free to try out the Tube, shopping, visiting museums and other points of interest. Two of our "Scouts", Martin and Sothern, visited the Scout Headquarters and had a scout luncheon including beans and wieners. Harrod's Dept. Store was a short walk away from our hotel and most of the group checked it out and Genevieve bought her Burberry coat.

We had many good experiences; you have to hear some of the gals tell about their problems with European bath tubs. The Freysinger's and Kline's had their baggage delayed. Maryellen Colwell broke her arm and is now undergoing therapy on the road to recovery. Get well real soon, Maryellen. Some of the group tied the reunion with other travel. Randy and Shirley Martin went on a Rhine cruise. Wally and Doris Brauks visited the area where he was shot down and became a POW. Cleveland and Henrietta Romero traveled to the Continent. John and Bernie Farley were to visit Ireland. Claude and Genevieve Conklin to visit Ireland and Scotland. Harold and Genevieve Rutka to Yugoslavia for 15 days (Adriatic Sea). Others stayed on for more sight seeing in the London area. Paul and Hazel Mueller brought along their son, Steve, who video-taped the tour. We do hope to see the tape at one of our reunions. There are others I've missed but, somewhere in traveling, material disappeared.

We want to thank Ron Blake, Ian Hawkins, Roger Freeman, the "Ladies" and "Men" who maintain the Mendlesham Memorial, Father Philip Gray, John and Anne Herron and the "Ladies of St. Mary's Church", Peter and Sylvia Gaskin and Dick D'Amato of Tamarac who all helped to make the 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION the best we have had.

HAROLD C. RUTKA  
1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION COORDINATOR

---

## Don't Forget To Send In Your Dues

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

---

# 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION (Memorials)



Honor Guard at Mendlesham Memorial.



Memorial Service at Mendlesham Memorial.



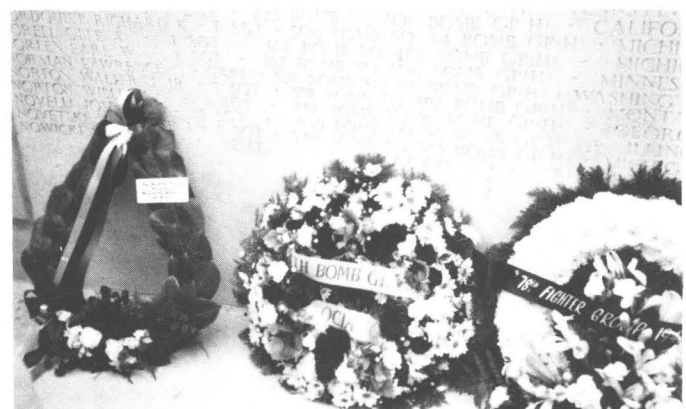
Wreaths prior to the memorial ceremony at Mendlesham.



Group of 34th'ers at Maddingly memorial service.



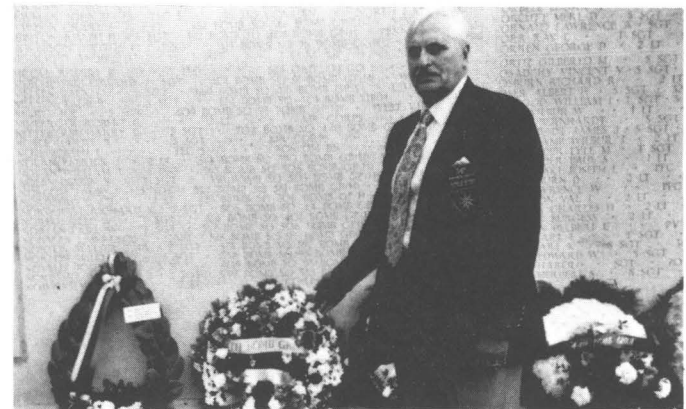
Bruce Sothern and Randy Martin after placing wreath at Mendlesham Memorial.



34th B.G. wreath at American cemetery at Maddingly.



Cleveland Romero and Wally Brauks at Mendlesham Memorial.  
Page 6



Harold Rutka laying 34th B.G. wreath at Maddingly memorial service.

# 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION (On the Bus)



Alvin & Julia Anderson.



Carol & Edward O'Brien.



Ernie & Flo Saulnier.



George & Margaret Kline.



Paul & Hazel Mueller.



Gileen & Charles Herget.



Betty & Sam Wolstencroft.



Virginia & Charles "Bob" Yockey.



# 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION (On The Bus)



Jack & Bernie Farley.



James & Eleanor Thomas (Henrietta Romero behind).



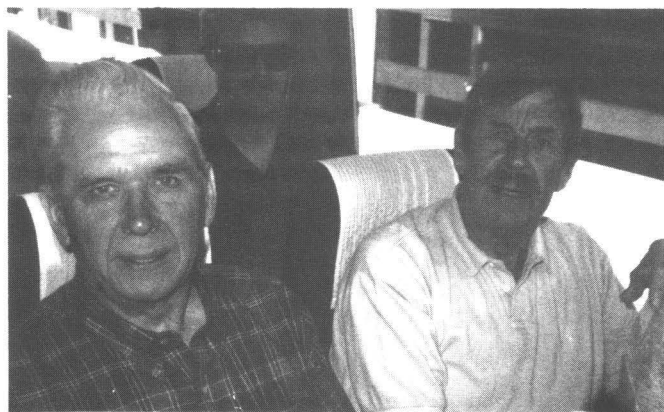
Edith & Ben Zeldes.



Dudley Casler and Mary Ellen Colwell.



Carl & Imogene Freysinger.



John Mangan and Bill Brown.



Doris & Gordon Ryar..



Betty & Bob Lampey.

# 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION (Here And There)



Genevieve and Harold Rutka waiting for room assignment.



Flo & Ernie Saulnier at breakfast-Novotel Hotel.



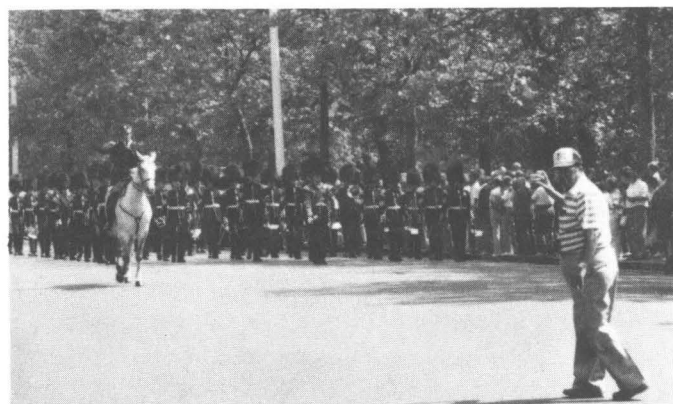
John Mangan at Fleece Pub in Mendlesham.



Waiting for room assignments in London.



Joan & Wally Poole in Novotel Lounge.



Cleveland Romero directing the Queen's Guard.



Audrey Gibbs, Harold and Genevieve Rutka and Paul & Hazel Mueller.



Carl Freysinger and Jim Spink, united again after 25 years.



# 1990 RETURN TO ENGLAND REUNION (Here and There)



Group at dinner-Stedmans are at right foreground.



Roger Freeman (Guest Speaker) with Carl Freysinger and Jim Spinks at Banquet.



Paul & Hazel Mueller with James & Eleanor Thomas.



Peter & Sylvia Gaskins of F.O.T.E.



Eleanor & James Thomas with Alex Antonovich.



Ian Hawkins & Family in Dining Room at Novotel Hotel.



Henrietta Romero, Wally & Joan Poole and Randall Martin in Novotel Lounge.  
Page 10



Charles "Bob" Yockey.





# REUNION 1990

SEATTLE, WA., SEPT. 13TH TO 16TH

To the membership of the 34th Bomb Group:

Dear Members;

We hope all of you have made plans to attend the Seattle Reunion. Bill and Margo Burnell have been working real hard to make this reunion a reunion to be remembered. Golf, tours of the local area have been planned, and Bill and Margo have promised to welcome all to "their" town. Seattle is also "THE" jumping off place for an Alaskan tour, or to Vancouver and other places that our northern neighbors have to offer.

If you drive, start early. There are many national parks and other scenic things to visit. Please do not forget that the room rates at the reunion hotel have been extended to include the dates from 8 September until 19 September. These rates will be the same as reunion rates for these dates.

If you plan on flying, contact the phone number that is on the leaflet in the last issue of Mendlesham Memories. You will receive the reduced rate.

A fine menu will be served, different from the usual, but very good. President "Mac" tells us that a fine program is planned for Banquet night.

SEE YOU AT SEATTLE!

Your Reunion Committee:

Gerald Pine

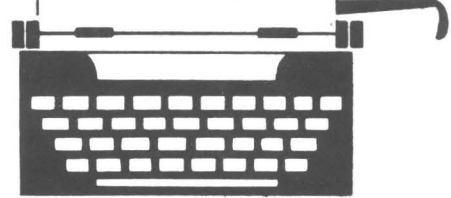
Harold Rutka

Robert Wright



"Bachelor's Baby" Crew-standing: l. to r.: ??, Whitaker, Martinelli, Lowery, Harris & Smith.  
Kneeling: l. to r.: Casey, Willoughby, Kovach, ??, Burns & Holtz.

## Notes From Our Friends



CHARLES METZ - Islip Terrace, NY.

I'm a little confused because I received a couple of back issues of Mendlesham Memories from Ray when I thought they'd be coming from Eli. (Ed. Note: After the original mailing of each issue Ray Summa gets the overrun copies to send to new members or as needed.)

With respect to the question of sending MM to those who have not paid current dues, I would suggest sending them one issue yearly - enough, hopefully, to excite their interest enough to pay up and get all four issues. I love reading MM and compliment you on producing a really quality publication. I can only imagine the time and effort that go into each issue, but I think I have a pretty good idea.

\*\*\*\*\*

FRED MAUNDRELL - Mendlesham

I was able to attend the luncheon hosted by Ann and John Herron after the Church service. These goodly friends have a large house and a large garden and, as old man weather played his part, everyone had access to house and garden. Ann and John made perfect hosts and I am sure all those with the 34th enjoyed those few moments before venturing off to Cambridge.

Several folks wanted to know the name of the large tree in the garden. It was a "Wellingtonia", a tree actually coming from America. It was planted here many years ago (120 to 130 years), generally honouring a son who had been killed in those innumerable scrapes this country had, mainly in the Waterloo (Wellington) era.

\*\*\*\*\*

HAZEL (REV. PAUL) STOUTSENBERGER - Rehoboth, DE.

Paul died on April 22, 1990. He's had along illness and we are happy he is at home with his Lord.

\*\*\*\*\*

BILL SHOVE - San Diego, CA.

I wrote to the Royal Yugoslavian Air Force former members listed in Mendlesham Memories. I received a letter from Aurel Trailor in March. He said that he was going to visit four of his children in April and, if he couldn't stop by, he'd call. He called me and it was very nice to talk with him.

We will try to make the reunion in Seattle but that will depend on the cost.

\*\*\*\*\*

A.T. CONNELLY - Oak Ridge, TN.

You folks certainly do a nice job of handling Mendlesham Memories. Thanks!

Continued on page 12

# Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 11

BETTY (TOBY) SEILER - Rochester, IN.

Toby had surgery at Manatee Hospital in Bradenton, FL. in March. He has sleep apnea and they removed his tonsils and did a throat restructuring operation. He is still recuperating and has lost a lot of weight. Food tastes completely different than before. He is doing real well considering the extent of the surgery.

\*\*\*\*\*

IMOGENE (CARL) FREYSINGER - Cable, OH.

Here we are, back from a great trip to England with a bunch of 34'ers. I would like to say "hello" to all of them and thank them for making our trip such a pleasure. It was really nice meeting them and making new friends, the Muellers, the Lampeys, the Klines, the Conklins (whose arms I twisted!), and my "good-lookin" smoking buddy with his lovely wife! I hope the lady who hurt her elbow is improving.

They all laughed and joshed with us about our luggage going to Las Vegas for three days. I've always known the 34th B.G. was the best in Europe, and they all found great gals to marry! Carl was reunited with Jim Spink, one of his crew. They hadn't seen each other for 25 years. We will see you all in Seattle.

\*\*\*\*\*

HERB KLIER - Sunnysdale, CA.

After 45 years we've located the four officers of our crew. In April we got together and had a most enjoyable time. I was the co-pilot on our crew. We were in the 4th squadron and went overseas with the original group from Blythe, CA.



Standing l. to r.: Wes Franklin, Fred Spelic, Henry Jurgens, G. Meirs.  
Kneeling: Steve Bialas.



L. to R.: Wm. Ferlich, Roy Fleming, Jack Graham and Randall Martin.

VERN AMES - Tonawanda, NY.

Just a short note to express our appreciation to Kivett Ivey on the great work he did with the "Video Project". Also to Bob Wright and Al Israelson and others for sharing their personal videos so Kivett could integrate them into a very fine video.

\*\*\*\*\*

JEFF HAWKINS - Lawrenceville, GA.

We've had a house built, jointly with our daughter's family, about 5 miles northeast of Lawrenceville where we are now living. We also have a guest suite in the basement so, anytime you all are out this way, call and come by. In all we were involved in five moves within three months (almost like being back in the Air Force at times). If there's another house in our future it won't be built in the wintertime unless it's in south Florida.

We've also had many problems. Had to make several trips back to Birmingham. A brother, aged 65, had terminal cancer of the prostate that lasted for three years. Then a sister, aged 83, with cancer of the colon that lasted four years. The last 6 to 12 months for each was the worst, with the doctor saying the end was near and we had better come back to see them before they went. There were other trials and tribulations but the foregoing is enough. Everyone has their own.

\*\*\*\*\*

EILEEN (JOSEPH) DRAHNAK - Denver, CO.

I'm sorry to say I lost my husband, Joseph, to lung cancer on April 12, 1990.

We enjoyed the reunion at Ipswich and our cruise on the Rhine. It will always be a treasured memory.

\*\*\*\*\*

DR. ALFRED J. OLSZEWSKI - Euclid, OH.

Glad to see my Blythe roommate, Sam Turnipseed, is still active and in good shape.

\*\*\*\*\*

BETTY (TOBY) SEILER - Palmetto, FL.

We had company for 3 days last week, Kathleen and Wayne Lester from Conn. We had such a good time talking over our "old times" and how many years ago those pictures were taken. At the time of those crew pictures, even though he wasn't the oldest, Toby was the only one married.

The Dr. told Toby he is doing fine but the throat operation has a long recuperating time. Otherwise he feels real good.

Continued on page 13

# Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 12

CLAUDE GIBBS - Catawissa, MO.

We just returned from the trip to England. It was a great experience. The Rutkas did a fine job in arranging the complete trip. Our visit to Ipswich and Mendlesham, in particular, was tremendous. The "Ladies of the British Legion" do a great job of caring for the Memorial at Mendlesham. The services at the Memorial were heart-warming. It is unbelievable how much those people sincerely receive the men when they return. It truly brings home the realization that U.S. efforts were and are really appreciated by those close to the old base.

We attended church services in Mendlesham, followed by a delicious luncheon at the home of Ann Herron. The weatherer was beautiful and we were able to visit and eat in her beautiful yard.

We've made our reservations for Seattle and we're going to fly this time. It's a long trip by car and I don't think I can handle it with my back problem. See you in Seattle!

\*\*\*\*\*

PAUL A. MUELLER - Rapid City, S.D.

We really enjoyed our trip to the "Mendlesham Reunion". Our youngest son, Steve, joined us to Heathrow and took lots of pictures with his Camcorder. Hope they turn out well for editing.

We will not be able to attend the Seattle reunion. We hope it will be a great success.

My crew is having a "Crew Reunion" in Denver the weekend of June 22nd. My co-pilot's wife (Orfa Barta) had a stroke so only four of us and our wives will meet.

\*\*\*\*\*

LOLA (CHARLES F.) SCOTT - Athens, TN.

Charles F. Scott passed away May 30, 1987. I am sure he would have been pleased to know that the group is still in contact. The only member we've kept in touch with is Felix Bernstein of Brooklyn, NY.

Thank you very much for making the effort to keep in touch.

\*\*\*\*\*

AL SADOWSKY - Roslyn, NY.

I was advised of your organization by my pilot, Alf Johanson, who I had not seen or spoken to since December, 1944, when we both left Mendlesham after completing our tour of 30 missions. The fondest memories of my entire life I owe to the experience of being with the 34th and the many friends I made.

Unfortunately, I cannot make the 34th reunion in Seattle, WA. as my wife and I are moving to Boca Raton, FL. very shortly. I want to assure you that, as soon as I get settled in Florida, I shall become a Life Member and, God willing, participate in the 1991 reunion at Louisville, KY.

\*\*\*\*\*

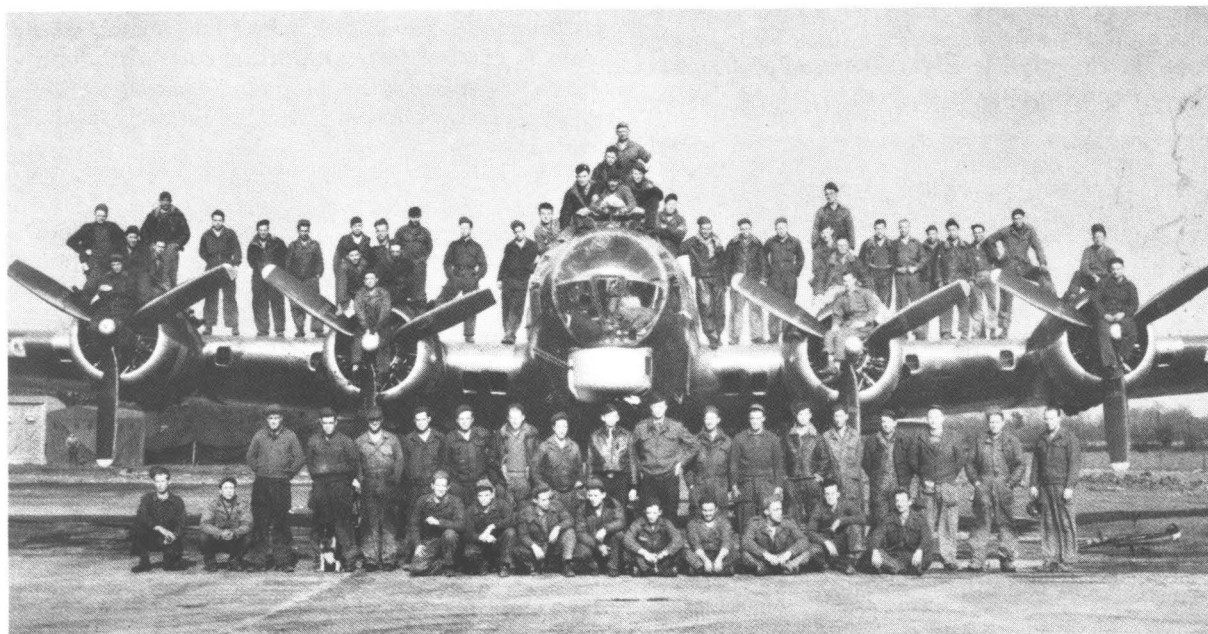
GEORGE KLINE - Burnt Hills, NY.

Things started in a bad manner on our trip to England, with us being delayed in Albany by storms and tornado warnings for 1 1/2 hours. Upon arriving at Kennedy we found our flight hadn't even been assigned a loading gate. All sorts of lame excuses and stories before we could leave 5 1/2 hours late. Did you ever eat a lousy roast beef dinner at 2:30 in the morning?

We finally arrived in London to find a suitcase missing which we didn't get back until five days later. The poor people waiting for us on the bus had a long wait. We arrived in Ipswich in time to get cleaned up for a good dinner. The warm greetings and smiling faces from everyone waiting at the Novotel finally got us in a happy frame of mind.

Our Memorial was very nice and being well kept up by the British. We sure appreciate the upkeep and the lovely memorial service. We also owe much to Ian Hawkins and his family and all the others who helped to make the reunion so great. Also, let's not forget that guy in the fire-engine red suit, Harold Rutka and lovely Gen for being our leaders.

In London, we had a good quick tour of some of the highlights. Prince Charles passed by in a taxicab a couple of minutes before the Queen passed by in her Limo. It thrilled the girls to be able to see the Queen. Of course, we took pictures.



18th Bomb Sqdn. Engineering Ground Crew-Mendlesham, 1945.



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From Bob Dees and others as well as our personal experience we'd like to pass on to all our members the possibility of flying to the reunions at pretty good air fares. Rose and I purchased a four-coupon book each for \$384.00 from Northwest Air Lines. This entitles you to four flights anywhere Northwest goes. American Airlines, Delta Airlines, and United Airlines all have similar coupon books and theirs run \$420.00. Considering the cost of individual tickets to Seattle, you're flying for about half price. However, you must make reservations for flights early because seats on each plane for these coupons are limited. Also, the four flights must be completed within one calendar year. Other airlines all have senior citizen discounts, generally 10 percent. Before you pay full price, do yourself a favor and look into this.

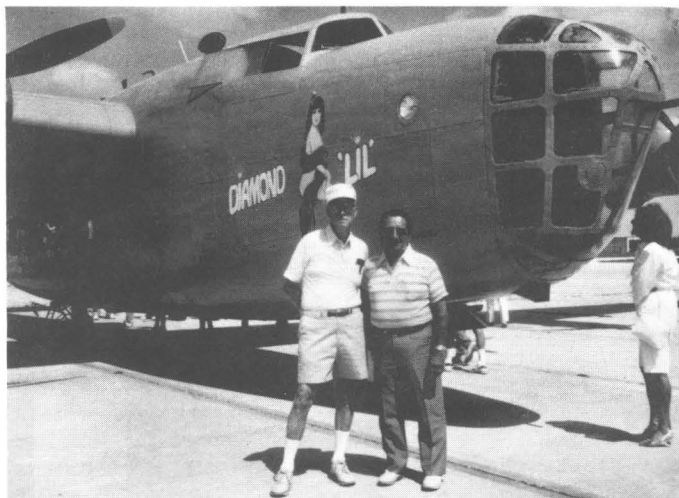
\*\*\*\*\*

From the Brownwood (TX.) Bulletin we have the following:

Darrell Bulis, a veteran of WWII, had an unexpected surprise a few weeks ago. In the mail came a package from Randolph Air Force Base with two medals he had earned while serving in Korea.

More than 40 years after the incident, Bulis received the Distinguished Flying Cross and a Bronze Star. He recalls the incident that earned him the Bronze Star. "I was flying as a flight engineer in Korea when we went to Chosin Reservoir. We had been ordered in there to evacuate the wounded. While loading wounded passengers we were attacked by Chinese. I went out with five wounded marines and fought off the attackers."

He received the Distinguished Flying Cross because on take-off from that same mission, the pilot and co-pilot were seriously wounded. "I had to take over and fly the plane from Korea back to Japan. I did have a lot of help from ground airways controllers and finally landed the plane in Japan". He added that he flew the plane back to Japan as an engineer, not as the pilot. The two wounded pilots were lying on the bunks and the pilot later died.



Charles O'Hara and Lou Tamburro with a Confederate Air Force B-24 at Clearwater Airport in 1989.

From McCook Army Air Base Historical Society we have the following:

You are invited to join us at the 4th Annual McCook Army Air Base Reunion to be held Sept. 28 and 29, 1990 in McCook, NE. This Reunion is open to all persons interested in McCook Army Air Base. Reunion headquarters will be Fireside Restaurant at the Red Horse Motel. Registration will be \$30.00 per person. This includes three meals. If interested, contact: McCook Airbase Historical Society, P.O. Box B-29, McCook, NE. 69001.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Bill Creer we have the following "Commendation" found in one of his old files. We thought you'd be interested.

22 December 1944

TO: Commanding Officer, 34th Bombardment Group (H), APO 559

It is my privilege and pleasure to officially commend you and the officers and enlisted men of the 34th B.G. (H) and all units serving with the group for noteworthy achievement in successfully completing one hundred (100) heavy bombardment missions over Germany and enemy occupied Continental Europe from 23 May 1944 to 15 December 1944.

In order to reduce the enemy's capacity to wage war, our combat crews go forth daily to deal devastating blows to vitally important enemy installations despite the determined opposition offered by a powerful foe, armed with the world's most concentrated anti-aircraft and fighter defenses. In this tremendous task, the 34th has carried out its assignments in a manner deserving of the highest praise. Narratives of the numerous significant operations in which it has participated just prior to "D-Day", the 34th Group responded wholeheartedly to the demands for more men and aircraft, and contributed materially to the support of the cross channel surface operations in June 1944. In addition, the 34th Group has added the weight of its well-placed bombs in attacks on tactical targets in Holland, 17 September 1944, Merseberg, Germany, 28 September 1944, Munster, Germany, 5 October 1944, Cologne, Germany, 15 October 1944, and Hamburg, Germany, 25 October 1944.

Your units have established this enviable record of success in combat through perfect cooperation between combat and ground personnel, painstaking care in the planning and execution of missions, and a display of indefatigable zeal and aggressiveness.

Commended alike are the officers and men now present for duty, and those whose absence is keenly regretted. To you and to those brave men are due eternal praise and gratitude for heroic accomplishment in battles well fought, which add notably to the highest and most cherished traditions of the Army Air Forces.

E.E. Partridge  
Major General, U.S.A.  
Commanding

\*\*\*\*\*

For former P.O.W.'s of Stalag Luft III:

An ex-P.O.W. at Stalag Luft III has written a book about his two year's experiences in prison camp. It has been published at Merrimore Press and is now available for those interested. The book is 6x9, hardcover, with ten pictures and a dustjacket. The price is \$19.50 including shipping and handling. If interested send \$19.50 to: Clifford Hopewell, 3540 Villaverde, Apt. 146, Dallas, TX 75234.



## ROSE'S CORNER

Hello, all of you eager 34th'ers!

Our wish for you through the rest of this year is: Enough enthusiasm to look forward! At our age, we sometimes find this statement rather ludicrous, but looking forward to once again visiting with you all at our Seattle reunion is something to get enthused about!

The following story from Audrey Gibbs is a good example of what I'd like to include in this column, so get busy, girls, and write up your experiences. We really want to hear from you! Here is her story:

I was one of those women that worked in the factory during WWII. After graduating from high school in 1940, I put my application in at the U.S. Cartridge Co. of St. Louis. It was a huge site with several buildings. I was hired as a machine operator for 50 caliber bullets. We wore badges and ugly tan coverall uniforms. There were three 8-Hr. shifts, a month of each. After a few months I acquired a skin rash. Doctors tried every kind of medicine, but to no avail. I finally quit my defense job, where I was making \$145.00 a week, for a less paying job at Union Electric Co. While at Duxsford Museum I saw how they used those bullets on the planes.

U.S.O.'s were set up and I joined one near my home. It was a small building, but several service men dropped in. There was a huge U.S.O. set up in downtown St. Louis in the main "Keil Auditorium". Thousands of service men went there.

Audrey Gibbs

P.S. Thanks, Audrey. I'm looking forward to your impressions of England.

'Til we meet again,  
Rose



"Picadilly Tilly's crew.



Top: l. to r.: T. Seiler, C. Dold, W. Dunham, R. Buchanan, T. Erickson.

Kneeling: C. Mathe, F. Higgins, M. Vitulli, W. Lester, J. Robertson.

## Scholarship 1990

The winner of the 1990 34th Bomb Group Association Scholarship is Lisa L. Schull from 120 Princeton Place, Blue Springs, Missouri. The name of her relative sponsor is Paul A. Schull, who was with the 391st Squadron. Paul is a resident of Raytown, Missouri. I am sure Paul and his wife Pauline will be happy to hear this news.

## MOVING?????

Don't jeopardize receiving your next copy of MENDLESHAM MEMORIES by NOT telling us of your NEW ADDRESS! The Postal Service WON'T forward copies of MEMORIES! We need your NEW ADDRESS! Please advise ELI BALDEA, 2576 BROOKWOOD DRIVE, CROWN POINT, IN 46307 of your NEW ADDRESS!

# ADDRESS CHANGES

(As of 7/27/90)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
AUTRY	ELWIN B.	7	2206 CHARLES AVE.	MEBANE,	NC.	27302
BAKER	JOHN	4	55 LINDBERGH PLACE	POUGHKEEPSIE,	NY.	12603
BALDWIN	GEORGE W.	4	518 E. GREER ST.	HONEA PATH,	SC.	29654
BRAUN	FREDERICK	4	P. O. BOX 79	OAKDALE,	PA.	15071
CANNON	DALE C.	7	1100 GRAND AVE. #300B	SCHOFIELD,	WI.	54476
CARNAHAM	FRED	7	RT. 1, BOX 29	RIVERTON,	KS.	66770
CASEY	PERCY E.		NO KNOWN ADDRESS			
COHEA	HOWARD	391	3131 ADAMS ST. N.E.	ALBUQUERQUE,	NM.	87110
CORUM	MALCOLM	391	4325 BURTONWOOD DRIVE	PENSACOLA,	FL.	32514
DRENNAN	WILLIAM C.		Zip Code Should Be			63401
EBERLE	CHARLES		NO KNOWN ADDRESS			
FELDMAN	MILTON S.		NO KNOWN ADDRESS			
FINK	EDWARD	7	1418 W. PERSIMMON ST.	RIALTO,	CA.	92376
FORSMAN	DR. DON L.	7	8208 E. 75TH STREET	TULSA,	OK.	74133
FREI	ELLEN		6517 CELIA VISTA DR.	SAN DIEGO,	CA.	92115
GAY	ROBERT S.	GRP.(LM)	8800 VINYARD DRIVE	PASO ROBLES,	CA.	93446
GIBBS	CLAUDE H.	7(LM)	5747 HWY. H.H.	CATAWISSA,	MO.	63015
GOLDBERG	SID		NO KNOWN ADDRESS			
GRONOUSKI	JOHN A.	7	1108 SO. MONROE AVE.	GREEN BAY,	WI.	54301
HANSEN	TIMOTHY	7 (A)	2468 S. EVANSTON ST.	AURORA,	CO.	80014
HAWKINS	JEFFERSON R.		1250 FONTAINEBLEAU CT.	LAWRENCEVILLE,	GA.	30243
HAYES	MARVIN G.		703 WEST AVE. #E7	GAINESVILLE,	GA.	30501
HEAD	THOMAS		18924 OAK DRIVE	DETROIT,	MI.	48221
HENSON	HAROLD L.		NO KNOWN ADDRESS			
HUBERT	DOUGLAS	(A)	9085 SEWARD PARK AVE.S.#104	SEATTLE,	WA.	98118
JOHNSON	DR. DONALD R.	4(LM)	3304 ROXFORD	CHAMPAIGN,	IL.	61821
JUDD	J. E.	391	4016 E. PALO BREA LN.	CAVE CREEK,	AZ.	85331
KORF	ROBERT	391	1009 PHILLIPS CT. #8	MONTROSE,	CO.	81401
KRAMSCHUSTER	EUGENE	391	472 LAKEWOOD DRIVE	MONDOVI,	WI.	54755
LUCAS	RAY E.	4	9518 TOPRIDGE DR. #48	AUSTIN,	TX.	78750
LUSCHER	RAYMOND	391	P.O. BOX 141	WAYLAND,	MI.	49348
MADDOX	WILFORD		Zip Code Should Read			63401
MARKS	JOSEPH K.	4	1006 E. 3RD STREET	SALT LAKE CITY,	UT.	84102
MOON	WALTER		Zip Code Should Be			18042
O'HARA	CHARLES	18	P. O. BOX 564	NORTH CONWAY,	NH.	03860
REID	HERALD		City Should Be	MILTON-FREEWATER,	OR.	97862
RICE	DON		P. O. BOX 284	RANCHO CUCAMONGA,	CA.	91729
RYAN	G. I.	4-18	P. O. BOX 844	SALEM,	MA.	01970
SCHIFFERER	JOHN S.	391 (LM)	Zip Code Should Read			92029
SCHMOLDT	WILLIAM R.	7 (LM)	7N557 STEVENS ROAD	ST. CHARLES,	IL.	60175
SIMON	BERNARD BEN		4800 NW. 35TH ST.APT.60B	LAUDERDALE LAKES,	FL.	33319
SPIKER	GORDON	7	1401 EL NORTE PKY. #6	SAN MARCOS,	CA.	92069
SPINK	JAMES M.		Zip Code Should Read			98026
STEINER	ALFRED N.	4	35 CHESTNUT COURT	BASKING RIDGE,	NJ.	07920
STOUT	KENNETH		NO KNOWN ADDRESS			
THOMAS	HAROLD E.	7(LM)	RT. 6, BOX 43L	AUSTIN,	TX.	78737
TRAPANI	JOSEPH		Zip Code Should Read			92127
TROUP	JAMES H.		35A SUNRISE AVENUE	SEDONA,	AZ.	86336
VAN LIERE	WILLIAM P.		1506 W. MARIAN WAY	FORT WALTON BEACH,	FL.	32548
WILBURN	ROBERT D.		220 MAMIE EISENHOWER AVE. #12	BOONE,	IA.	50036



# NEWLY FOUND

(As of 7/27/90)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
BECKER	MILFORD	391	1320 WYNONA DRIVE	ENID,	OK.	73703
ESLIN	HENRY E.	391	8510 W. MAUNA LOA LANE	PEORIA,	AZ.	85381
KLIER	HERBERT	4	1634 PEACOCK AVE.	SUNNYDALE,	CA.	94087
LA BANCE	ANTHONY		511 GRASSMERE AVE.	INTERLAKEN,	NJ.	07712
POULNOCK	RUSSELL		13151 CUMBRA VISTA	LOS ALTOS HILLS,	CA.	94022
SADOWSKY	AL	4	34 RIDGE DRIVE E.	ROSLYN,	NY.	11576
STOLTZ	JOHN		2402 SO. DAISEY AVE.	JAMISON,	PA.	18929



## TAPS

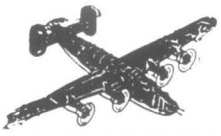
(As of 7/27/90)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
DRAHNAK	JOSEPH A.	391	3137 WEST 37TH AVE.	DENVER,	CO.	80211
DUNN	HAROLD	391	3774 - 42ND AVE. SO.	ST. PETERSBURG,	FL.	33711
HARTMAN	RALPH	391	1 HILLCREST DRIVE	BALLSTON LAKE,	NY.	12019
McGOWAN	FREDERICK D.	391(LM)	2838 SUNSET CIRCLE	SIOUX CITY,	IA.	51104
RICCARDI	MICHAEL			GARFIELD,	NJ.	
SCOTT	CHARLES F.		1204 WOODWARD PARK	ATHENS,	TN.	37303
STOUTSENBERGER	REV. PAUL	18(LM)	510 NEWCASTLE ST.	REHOBOTH,	DE.	19971

# NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(As of 7/27/90 - Total Now 173)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
GREEN	WALLACE E.	4-391	407 ALLEN HALL ROAD	BROOKLYN,	CT.	06234
PETERSON	RALPH C.	18	2477 WALDORF COURT	GRAND RAPIDS,	MI.	49504
RENTZ	ERIN M.	391	732 KIMBROUGH	SHREVEPORT,	LA.	71104
SPINK	JAMES M.	4-391	5310 144TH PLACE	EDMONDS,	WA.	98026
TANDY	LEE	7	41750 MERRIAN	AUBERRY,	CA.	93602



# *Then and Now*



## **Gerald & Marie Holmes**



**1945**



**1988**

## **Seymour W. Isaacs**

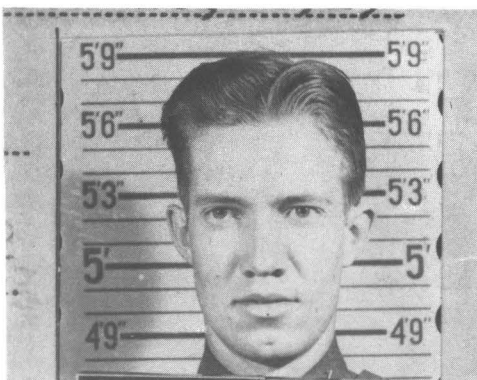


**1944**



**1984**

## **O. Allen Israelsen**



**1943**



**1988**

# Memories

## CORRECTION, PLEASE!

by Borah Lipsky

I enjoyed Roy Tavasti's story on Gerhart's Luftwaffe. I must clear up some of his thoughts.

I was picked by Capt. Cole, 7th Sqdn. Engrg. Officer, to be crew chief of Col. Gerhart's planes, working for the 93rd Wing. I was given all assistance when needed, with mechanics, and on all major repairs. We had a WWB-17, A-20, P-38, P-47 and a UC-78. I was also sent to different airbases to get first hand information on maintaining the P-38 and P-47 and inspection procedures.

My first ass-chewing was when Col. Gerhart made Gene-

ral and came to use the B-17. He found oil drippings on the tarp after I had just finished an engine change and hadn't had a chance to clean up the ramp.

I, and all the mechanics who worked on these planes, didn't consider the work we were doing one rung above K.P. We did our job to the best of our ability. We also felt we were contributing to the war effort. I think, also, that the K.P.'s in the kitchen felt, rightfully so, that they were contributing to the war effort. Not all of us were blessed with the ability to fly and earn silver wings. The mechanics who worked on my planes also worked on combat crews.

If I knew that Major Tavasti was playing games with my P-47 and using up fuel, I would have put a stop to it. It was no toy!



The UC-78



The A-20



The P-47



The WWB-17

## A FLIGHT BACK TO MEMORIES

By Edith Zeldes

(Edited to shorten)

What was once a network of runways is now filled with dark green fields of winter wheat and lighter green acres of planted barley. What was once active with the roar of engines is now a small area of broken and overgrown cement. Where once a control tower bustled with commands there are BBC and telephone antennas. Hospital quarters now house an engineering company and open fields host small private farms and several industrial firms.

These are the remains of Mendlesham airfield, one of 127 such in England during WWII from 1942 to 1945. Its ghosts may have faded and disappeared with time but, to the present day, returning servicemen of the U.S. Army Air Corps., 8th Air Force, 34th B.G. Assn. and to the people who still live nearby, it is just as alive in their memories as at the moment of takeoff.

Such as Mr. and Mrs. Herron who opened their home only a few miles away to 34th members and their wives for a luncheon served in their manicured English garden - in full blossom on a warm spring day of this nostalgic tour. Mr. Herron said, "I will never forget seeing four returning American planes being downed by German planes over my house.

Such as the memories of three members from a crew of ten of the B-17 "The Phantom"; Charles Herget, Charles Yockey and Benjamin Zeldes. Dr. Zeldes, now an optometrist, remembered his first night at the airfield when his

comrades "welcoming" actions of running a stick across the outside of the corrugated metal quonset hut barracks gave the effect of a gunfire attack. One lone rusted quonset hut stands today.

Janet Ward Finbow still lives in Mendlesham and attended the recent memorial services there. She spoke of the war years when she was about nine years old. "I was one of the children asking, 'Do you have any gum, chum?'. I used to take my basket on my bike and collect laundry from the airmen and bring it to the ladies in town to wash. I was the carrier and had the time of my life, saving chocolates which the soldiers gave me for my father. I got good tips, too, and felt I made a fortune. This memorial service brings back all those memories," she said.

Mr. Herget, now retired, remembered giving oranges (rare in England then) to children living near the base. He said, "It was delightful being with the youngsters, and seeing some of them grown now brings back the pleasant time of war memories. I also have strong feelings for the British who have taken care of our memorial so long and so faithfully. It could have gone by the wayside.

For over 40 years Margaret Brundish and Thelma Thorpe have been two of "The Nine Ladies At Mendlesham" caring for flowers and shrubs every month at the Mendlesham Memorial. She reminisced about her younger years when she and her friends used to walk near the airfield and count the planes going out and coming back.

Their dedication and devotion to the men who flew those

Continued on page 20



HDD.

163 18

**34th Bomb. Group**

C/O Eli Baldeo  
2576 Brookwood Drive  
Crown Point, Indiana 46307  
(219) 988-4607

From the collection of:

Al Israelsen

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

NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Crown Point, IN  
Permit No. 417

## Memories

Continued from page 19

aircraft is in evidence with lovingly cared for, well trimmed, greenery at the memorial site, highlighting the monument which depicts a flyer replete with leather helmet and goggles, leaning from the cockpit, holding an oxygen mask in one hand and an olive branch in the other. Below is the inscription: "To the American airmen of the 34th, who, in valor, gave their lives to the victory that made real the challenge for world peace and unity." Harold Rutka presented this group with two American flags which had been flown over the United States Capitol.

Herget, Yockey and Zeldes remembered their time at Mendlesham from April, 1944 to August, 1945 when, overall, there were 2972 personnel and 170 operations flown - the first 62 with B-24's and the rest in B-17's. Their "Phantom" flew six food missions over Holland. Dr. Zeldes spoke of "Thousands of planes filling the sky". The "Return to England" booklet reads, "Day after day from 1943-45 vast squadrons of aircraft would assemble in the East Anglia skies for the onslaught on Europe. From horizon to horizon, the sky was filled with the specks and dots of aircraft silhouettes and ears were filled with the drone of myriad airplanes.

Personal anecdotes of remembrances were, "I was in London and the wildest time I remember was when Big Ben lit up for the first time since the war and everyone went

wild!" "One worthwhile event was when we picked up French youngsters in Austria who had been working as forced labor on machinery in factories. We were going to try to unite them with their parents." "I'll never forget the expression on their faces when we crossed into France. It was as if they couldn't believe it. They lit up like a light bulb when they saw the Eiffel Tower." "I remember a plane loaded with bombs which crashed at the end of the runway." "I was forced down and was in the North Sea for three days." "I was a guest of the Luftwaffe for a year."

The 34th's route of memory also led to the 390th B.G. Memorial Air Museum at Framlingham. Housed in its original, refurbished, control tower were the Merlin III Rolls Royce engine and a Pratt & Whitney engine along with other WWII memorabilia.

The Duxford Museum in Cambridge, with its collection of historic aircraft and the British R.A.F. Museum at Hendon were particularly interesting. Following those trips the 34th visited the Cambridge American Military Cemetery and Memorial. As part of the wreath laying ceremony, Harold Rutka laid a wreath for the 34th. A service including the singing of "I'm Proud To Be An American" and "America" was interspersed with speakers adding their recollections and gratitude to all those who fought and died in WWII.

Those addressing the audience stood in front of the chapel, at one end of a long rectangular area filled with ponds of floating lilies and lily pads. At the far end of the area stood a tall flagpole holding, side by side, the British and American flags. Bordering one side of the seated audience was row upon row of grave markers, eloquent in their silence. On the other side, the stone "Wall of the Missing" with etchings of individual names of missing or dead Americans.

A flyby of four planes from the 48th Tactical Fighter Wing and the R.A.F. Lakenheath flew overhead, their sound reverberating in ears and body - a final dramatic tribute along with the playing of the British and American National Anthems.

Peter Bowman, currently living in Ipswich, summed it all up by saying, "I saw a German plane attack a Spitfire which went down in flames over my town. Thanks for coming to help us. We wouldn't be here today without you".



Bob Yockey, Ben Zeldes and Charles Herget of the B-17 "The Phantom."