



ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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Changing Of The Guard



Past President
Wally Brauks



New President
Fred Schoch

*Happy
Holidays!*

OBSERVATIONS

Hello again! We've just returned from Louisville and I must say that those of you who missed this one really missed just about the best one we've had. There were nearly 400 registered for the reunion and I heard very few complaints. The Galt House had beautiful rooms and the other accommodations were mostly superb although just a little bit pricey.

Rose and I joined the Grey Line tour of Louisville and were very impressed with the city and their attempts at renewal and cleanliness. For me the highlight of the tour was the visit to Churchill Downs. Quite impressive! While most of the group did a lot of wandering around Rose and I joined Cleveland and Henrietta Romero at an outside table and enjoyed our first mint juleps. They were g-o-o-o-d! Our tour driver, although maybe just a little slower than most, was extremely knowledgeable, so we learned a lot.

Our dinner cruise on Friday night was a lot of fun for most. Unfortunately, the weather cooled that evening and a few of our friends who opted to dine on deck were not as warm as they might have liked. However, the three hour cruise was quite interesting and we saw some fine shore scenery on both the Indiana and Kentucky sides of the river.

Saturday night's banquet was a very nice affair. The service was good and, I believe, everyone had a fine time. We watched the passing of the gavel to our new president, Fred Schoch. Ray Summa presented a gift to our outgoing president, Wally Brauks and his sister, Doris. All in all it was a very unforgettable affair.

I can only repeat that those of you who are able to but do not attend these reunions just do not know what you are missing. Start planning now for our reunion next September in Las Vegas. It should turn out to be our best yet.

With the holidays coming up Rose and I want to wish everyone the best of everything. May you all enjoy health, wealth and longevity.

Eli Baldea
Editor

MOVING?????

Don't jeopardize receiving your next copy of MEMDLESHAM 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 HAL PROVINCE, 111 PROVINCE LANE, CARRIERE, MISS. 39426 of your NEW ADDRESS!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your new president of the 34th B.G. Assn. I am very pleased that my comrades have confidence in my humble leadership. Our association has shown strong leaders over the past years. I hope I can sustain this past record. The 34th B.G. Assn. is in good hands and we all strive to make it better.

The reunion at Louisville was outstanding and, from the remarks heard, it was memorable to all that attended. The reunion committee did their homework and are to be commended. The accommodations, food and river boat cruise made it all fit together.

On Sept. 14th-17th, 1992, we will meet again in Las Vegas. This will be a good time for some of us who were at Las Vegas Army Air Field for gunnery training. We will look back over the years since we were there. The "Horned Toad" base and "Indian Springs" have become home of the Thunderbirds and Tactical Air Force training base.

Let us all now take time to remember the joy of the upcoming festive season. Clara and I send our warm greetings to all our dear friends of the 34th Bomb Group Association.

Sincerely,
Fred Schoch

MESSAGE FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Well, here we are at the end of my tenure, 1990-91. We had a good convention in Louisville. The weather was good and the hotel was comfortable and convenient. It was good to see many old friends and to make acquaintance with new ones.

Thanks to Paul Anderson and Hal Province for their professionalism and careful detail in their reports. Also to Paul and Pauline Shull for maintaining a well-stocked PX. Thanks to the reunion committee, Gerry Pine, Harold Rutka and Bob Wright, along with their spouses, for choosing an interesting convention site. Also to John Farley (Constitution and By Laws), Bruce Sothern (Nominating committee - (also my crew chief)), Eli Baldea (Mendlesham Memories), and Cleveland Romero (Scholarship). These people and many more like them are the glue of the 34th B.G. Association. Without them the 34th B.G. would be just a memory.

A special thanks to Carl O. Nichols of Fresno, CA. and artist Michael Rasmussen for donating the painting of the two B-17s in flight. The painting will be loaned to the 8th A.F. Museum located at Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. The painting brought back many memories of the days of yester-year.

A heartfelt thanks from Doris for the Mikasa bowl, and from myself for the briefcase. They will be put to good use.

Sincerely,
Wally Brauks



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

First of all, as we will not be seeing most of you until the reunion of the 34th in 1992, Hannah and I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This year has really gone by fast. It seemed as if only yesterday we were waiting on the time for the reunion and now it has come and gone. Yes, the reunion has gone by but will linger on in our minds as one of the best. (Our thanks to the Reunion Committee and those of you who attended.) We had quite a few members who had never before attended a reunion of the 34th and we want to thank you for coming. We hope you will again join us next year.

We had 398 registered for the banquet on Saturday night and I am sure each one enjoyed it very much. The Friday night boat trip was very enjoyable. We went up the river from Louisville and saw the houses along the river bank, then returned down the river after darkness had set in. The dinner on board was very nice -- a little messy but good. Hannah and I sat next to the band stand. The music was a little loud but we liked it anyway. Many of our members danced to the old music of our days.

As you know, the next reunion of the 34th will be at the Gold Coast Casino in Las Vegas, NV. Sept. 14th-17th, 1992. Save your quarters, dimes, and nickles and join us. We would like to see many of you from the western states join us for the reunion, especially all of you from California. Grab a plane, car, bus or a bicycle and come to be with us at Las Vegas for the reunion.

Hannah and I had company this summer. Dex and Beulah Jordan called and said they were on the way to Canada and would stop by one day on the way. The day they were coming we invited Bill and Catherine Cloud to dine with us. Bill and Dex were crew chiefs in the 7th Sqdn. and had not seen each other for many years. You can imagine the talking we did when the three of us were together. Dex and Beulah left the next day for Canada. Incidentally, Bill Cloud is not too well at this time. I imagine he might enjoy some get-well cards from any of you who care to send one.

For the men who completed their missions and were to receive the "LUCKY BASTARD" certificate, I have a "LUCKY BASTARD" pin or tie tac. Bill Creer designed the pin for us. It is a gold horseshoe in the center of which are the gold initials "LB" on a blue background. It has five rubies representing at least 25 missions and, also, those comrades who did not make it back. The cost of the pins are \$5.00 each. I do have a limited supply so send in your money to me and I'll send you one.

I have more to say but Eli says to cut it short as he has lots and lots of pictures for the newsletter, so I'll stop here.

Ray Summa



34th Golf outing at Louisville - L. to R.: Earl Maciel, Jack Clarkson, Ray Hinchee, Bob Wright, Paul Shull, Omer Mongean, Hilton Vincens & Roy Ballantyne. Kneeling: Bob Cole.



Pal G. Howard (1st reunion - Louisville)

REUNION 91 FROM YOUR PX

Pauline and I want to say "THANKS" to all who supported the P.X. in Louisville and made it another successful year. We enjoyed visiting with you, getting better acquainted with new friends and getting your ideas on new items for sale.

Please notice our new item listed on the P.X. sheet. You will see we now have a new supply of shirts, not only with the B-24 plane but now one with a B-17!! We'll be waiting for your orders!

Thanks, too, to Paul and Beryl Anderson and Ray and Hannah Summa for all their great help working. We really appreciated it. It was a great reunion and we look forward to next year in Las Vegas!

Paul A. Shull

LOUISVILLE REUNION ATTENDANCE

(Sept. 25-29, 1991)

Allen, Donald
Ames, Vern & Millie
Anderson, Paul & Beryl
Antanovich, Alex & Betty
Applegate, Ralph & Mary
Armstrong, Denton & Eileen
Ashburn, John
Ashley, David & Loretta
Attridge, Charles & Evalyn
Babcock, Lawrence & Lucille
Baer, Robert & Rose
Baglio, Sam & Lydia
Baldea, Eli & Rose
Ballantyne, Roy & Mildred
Barclay, Charles & Roberta
Baughman, Cleo & Freddie
Becker, Milford
Bei, Joseph & Ceil
Belleau, Thomas & Madeline
Bergold, Robert & Olive
Bess, Leonard & Helen
Bice, Robert & Zelma
Bloczynski, John & Marge
Bolce, Louis & Anita
Bolton, Mrs. Jack
Boreen, Lloyd & Bobbie
Brauks, Wally & Doris
Braveman, Milton & Elaine
Bresh, Paul & Betty
Bridge, Glenn & Daisy
(Ray Bridge &
Magdalene Bates)
Brown, Bill & Nita
Browne, William
(Donna Mason)
Bulis, Darrell
Burnell, William & Margaret
Buss, Paul & Mary
Campbell, Robert & Liz
Cannock, Tom & Blanche
Casler, Dudley & Mary Ellen
Clarkson, Jack & Dorothy
Cobb, Junius & Virginia
(Betty Graves)
Cole, Bob & Ginny
Conklin, Claude & Genny
Corrigan, Peter & Patricia
Coutros, Anthony & Mary
Dalcher, Calvin & Mary
Desjardins, Robert
Di Nenno, Alfred & Elsie
Dieterle, Marcus
Dooley, Lawton Ed
(Joan Stateham)
Doronsky, John
(Beverly Stearns)
Dulan, Charles & Stella
Dwyer, Harold & Darlene
Edwards, Joseph & Verna
Elliott, Lloyd & Carol
Farley, John & Bernie
Feda, John & Betty

Fillman, Donald & Betty
Finley, Dale & Margie
Fix, Leonard & Mary
Forde, Frank & Josephine
Forister, Carroll & Sylvia
Fournier, Louis & Marie
Frank, Earl & Mary
Freysinger, Carl & Imogene
Gardner, Jesse & Molly
Garrison, Marvin
Gaskin, Peter & Sylvia
Gibbs, Claude & Audrey
Gray, William "Pete"
Griffis, Willis
Grimes, Bryant & Myrtis
Habiger, Tony & Joan
Hale, Robert & Dora
Hall, Herbert & Anne
Hanken, Erwin
Hanrihan, James & Joy
Hansen, Milton & Kathryn
Hanson, Ambers & Jean
Hardee, Daniel & Elizabeth
Hartwick, Robert & Lorraine
Head, Francis & Barbara
Heikkila, Harold & Betty
Henry, Glenn & Kay
Herget, Charles & Eileen
Hess, Robert & Marilou
Hetherington, William & Tootie
Hiltner, Edwin & Rita
Hinchee, Raymond & Margaret
Holcomb, Verbal & Betty
Hood, Jack
(Bonnie Lasseigne,
Sean & Tammie Horrell)
Howard, Pal
Hunter, James & Virginia
Isaacs, Seymour & Claudia
Israelsen, Al & Agnes
Jacobbausk, Michael & Margie
Jalving, Marvin & Lois
James, Eugene & Helen
Janes, John & Gloria
Johnson, Beverly & Peg
Jones, Wyatt & La Vonne
Jordan, Dexter & Beulah
Jurgens, Henry & Ruth
Kaiser, Raymond & Alice
Kaufman, William & Eileen
Kincaid, Gerald & Edith
King, Edwin & Mary Lou
Kline, George & Margaret
Lampey, Robert & Betty Lou
Leath, John & Ethel
Lester, Raymond & Mary
Lewis, Kenneth & Martha
Lonergan, Edward & Birgh
Lopez, Miguel & Laura
Maciel, Earl & Helen
Martin, James & Bettie
Martin, Randall & Shirley

Mathe, Clyde & Elizabeth
Mayer, Norman & Schatzie
McAllister, Walter & Ruby
McCloskey, Reid & Marie
Mermelstein, Herbert & Miriam
Miller, George & Faye
Miller, James & LaRue
Mongeon, Omer & Mrs.
Moreno, John
Morgan, Charles & Dorothy
Morris, Cletus
Muento, Fred & Virginia
Nelson, John & Terry
Nendel, Robert & Dorothy
Newton, Thomas & Mildred
Pacholski, Bob & Ginny
Palmer, Raymond & Bula
Pancake, Charles
Parrott, Rodney & Estelle
Paxton, Ken & Kathleen
Peczkowski, Bernard & Kathryn
Perez, Juan & Mattie
Perry, Harry & Willie
Pierce, Granvel
Pine, Gerald & Wanda
Plank, Donald & Mildred
Poole, Wally & Joan
Prillaman, Arnold & Georgia
Province, Harold & Jan
(Mark Province)
Ray, Frank & Bettie
Richmond, Floyd & Miriam
(Thelma Richmond)
Romero, Cleveland & Henrietta
Rose, Everett & Peggy
Roy, Herb & Dotty
Rutka, Harold & Gen
Sakal, Charles & Rose
Saxen, Robert
(Lawrence Saxen)
Scharman, Merrill & Audrey
Schildman, William & Jean
Schmitt, George & Marilyn
Schmitt, Hallard & Dorothy
Schoch, Frederick & Clara

Schroeder, Robert & Jennie
Schwartz, Robert & Laura
Selby, Russell & Anna
Share, Jack & Marian
Shee, Donald & Bonnie
Sheesley, Byron & Mary
Shull, Paul & Pauline
Simpson, Ronald & Martha
Sims, Paul & Frances
Sivret, Frank & Alda
Slade, James & Marion
Slaughter, Herman
Smith, James C.
Smith, Oren & Lois
Sothorn, Bruce & Muggs
Stampon, Peter & Lucille
Stemen, Carl & Peg
Stufflebeam, Donald & Evelyn
Stuthers, James & Kay
Sudderth, Clyde & Betty
Summa, Ray & Hannah
Swenson, Elbert & Betty
Tamburro, Louis & Teresa
Tavasti, Roy & Kate
Thurner, Charles & Toots
Tobiason, Henry & Audrey
Trauernicht, Carl & Margaret
Troup, James & Natalie
Van Buskirk, William & Phyllis
Van Kirk, Charles & Jane
Vincens, Hilton & Vicky
Walker, Oral & Marjorie
Waltz, Fred & Rachel
Whiting, Jack & Frances
Williams, Pat & Mary Lou
Willis, Clyde
Wimer, Daniel & Frances
Wolstencroft, Sam & Peggy
Workman, Benson & Margaret
Wright, Burch & Mary Lou
Wright, Robert & Esther
Wright, Thomas
Yockey, Charles & Virginia
Young, Wooten & Eileen
Zeldes, Ben & Edith

Don't Forget To Send In Your Dues

Mail \$7.50 to:

Harold Province

111 Province Lane

Carriere, MS 39426

REUNION '91

REPORT FROM THE REUNION COMMITTEE

The reunion committee wants to thank everyone that attended the Louisville reunion. I still believe that these yearly get-togethers should be named a family reunion. It should be something like "The 34th Family Reunion" as we look much more like a family than a group of people from a bomb group.

The committee was happy to see a near record turn out. 400 were served on Saturday evening. We had to import Peter and Sylvia Gaskin from England to get the 400 number. They are honorary members of the 34th family so this eliminates any idea that they are strangers from a far-off land.

We had a little boiler room problem about the service at the Friday breakfast but, after a few adjustments, all went well. We apologize to anyone who was mistreated.

After one of these reunions are over, and we all get home and back to our easy chairs, the rough edges of the "Greetings, You friends and neighbors", message around 50 years ago seem to soften up a bit.

We want to thank you again. The best of the holidays to all. See you in Las Vegas!

Your Reunion Committee,
Gerald Pine
Harold Rutka
Robert Wright

BOARD MEETING 34TH B.G. ASSN.

26 Sept., 1991

Present: W. Brauks, F. Schoch, C. Stemen, P. Anderson, H. Province, W. McAllister, R. Summa, E. Baldea, H. Rutka, S. Wolstencroft, C. Conklin, C. Willis, E. Maciel, V. Holcomb, G. Pine, C. Romero, R. Wright, S. Baglio, B. Sothorn, J. Farley, P. Shull and J. Clarkson

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Pres. W. Brauks. S. Baglio gave the invocation.

Board and General meeting minutes of 1990 were read and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT - H. Province gave out copies of the report and proceeded to explain each item. Fund summaries are as follows:

	Sept. 13, 1990	Sept. 23, 1991
General Fund	\$14,219.69	\$13,253.87
Life Member Fund	17,520.85	19,814.35
Memorial Fund	5,983.51	5,830.86
Reunion Fund	2,570.44	2,521.36
Debt Outstanding		-1,969.75
Totals	\$40,291.49	\$39,450.69

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept report as read.

CONSTITUTION - J. Farley explained changes made after the Seattle General Meeting. He brought out that the Addendum to the Constitution is restricted to a description of the duties of the officers and can be changed

without a vote of the general membership. A discussion of the need to reregister the 34th B.G. Assn. Constitution followed. A motion was made to NOT proceed with reregistration of the document in the state of Texas. Motion was seconded and carried. An original copy of the Constitution was given to the Recording Secretary and one will be sent to the Archivist. H. Rutka brought up the advisability of keeping important documents in acid-free holders.

REUNION COMMITTEE - G. Pine told of the negotiations with the Galt House for the 1991 reunion. The 1991 reunion will be in Las Vegas, NV. at the Gold Coast Hotel, 4000 W. Flamingo St. Room rates are expected to be in the mid-\$30.00 range. The hotel would not discuss food prices until within 90 days of the reunion date. The reunion dates for 1992 will be Sept. 14 through Sept. 17. G. Pine explained that we have a tentative contract for the 1993 reunion with the Marriott Hotel in Charleston, S.C. The room rates are to be \$71.00 per night. He suggested that we consider Little Rock, AR. instead. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and carried to change the 1993 reunion to Little Rock. G. Pine distributed information folders to board members on Little Rock, AR.

8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER - J. Clarkson showed a VCR tape and slides on the proposed center. Information packets were distributed.

TRAVEL - H. Rutka told of information he had received on activities planned for the 50th Anniversary 8th Air Force return to England trips. He handed out information on a proposed Tamarac tour to England May 13, 1992 through May 22, 1992. F. Schoch told of a similar trip offered by Mutual Travel and distributed information on it. Pres. W. Brauks appointed a committee to study the various trips to England being offered and report at the General Meeting. Committee members are H. Rutka, R. Martin and F. Schoch.

Pres. W. Brauks showed a painting of two B-17's donated to the 34th B.G. Assn. by Carl Nichols for hanging in any place we feel suitable. After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed to send the painting to the 8th Air Force Museum at Barksdale A.F. Base on an indefinite loan. L. Crook of Shreveport, LA. will be contacted for assistance in presenting the painting to the Barksdale Museum.

A letter from P. Gray was read, proposing that the present brick monument at Mendlesham be replaced with a more permanent one of stone. After considerable debate it was decided not to take any action at this time. Eli Baldea stated he will try to get more detailed information on how the care for our monument is currently being handled.

H. Province proposed that the two Mendlesham Red Cross ladies, Dorothy N. Peedy of Boise, ID. and Marian T. Broadhurst of White Plains, NY, be given honorary membership. A motion to give them a Certificate of Honorary Membership was made, seconded and passed. H. Rutka suggested that Peter Gaskin of England, who has provided so much assistance to the 34th B.G. Assn. people visiting England, also be given honorary member-

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BOARD MEETING 34TH B.G. ASSN.

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ship. A motion was made, seconded and passed.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - C. Romero expressed disappointment in the small number of applications received this year. The first place \$1000.00 award went to Michael Goetz, the grandson of W. Dorrance. The \$500.00 second place award went to Kyle Davis, grandson of R. Summa. E. Baldea moved that each scholarship winner be given the 34th B.G. book so they would know something of the group presenting the awards. Motion was seconded and passed.

Pres. W. Brauks read a letter to the 34th B.G. Assn. from the Lafayette Foundation, soliciting money for a museum at the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO. After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed that we restrict our involvement to the 8th Air Force Heritage Center in Savannah, GA.

Pres. W. Brauks read a letter soliciting contributions for the Duxford Museum in England. After discussion it was moved to put an item in the Mendlesham Memories allowing for individual contributions.

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES - E. Baldea stated that Oct. 30, 1991 is the deadline for submitting items to be included in the December issue of MM. A discussion followed on the problems of getting a photographer to take pictures at our Saturday night banquets. E. Baldea stated that, if he is unable to find one, each table will be requested to take their own pictures.

P.X. - P. Shull gave the P.X. financial report as follows:

Sept. 1, 1990	Balance	\$595.33
	Sales	2,991.30
	Total	3,586.63

Expenses	To Treasurer	1,994.50
	Postage	99.13
	For Mdse.	988.14
	Total	3,031.77

Sept. 31, 1991 Balance \$554.86

P. Shull stated his granddaughter, Lisa Shull, 1990 scholarship winner, is now attending Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

H. Rutka reported on the 8th A.F. Historical Soc. reunion in New Orleans, LA. Pertinent items: the 8AFHS dues will not be increased; job descriptions are being written for paid and volunteer jobs; their reunions in the future will be scheduled in the month of October. He stated that 1500 new members joined this year. Anyone wanting the history of their experience with the 8th A.F. preserved may type it up and send it to Jim Hill, editor of the 8th A.F. News. It will be saved in the 8AFHS archives. R. Wright announced that H. Rutka is now a director of the 8AFHS.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - The committee, consisting of B. Sothern, V. Ames and J. Martin, will report at the General Meeting.

R. Summa told of the availability of the "Lucky Bastard" pin for those who had completed 25 or more missions.

A motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Pres. W. Brauks adjourned the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Paul Anderson, Secretary

REUNION '91

ANNUAL MEETING 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.

Sept. 28, 1991

Galt House Hotel, Louisville Kentucky

The annual meeting of the 34th B.G. Assn. was called to order by Pres. W. Brauks at 9:37 a.m. Chaplin S. Baglio led us in Prayer. H. Rutka led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The General Meeting minutes of 1990 were read and accepted.

TREASURER'S REPORT - H. Province gave a detailed report of each account with Sept. 23, 1991 balances as follows:

General Fund	\$13,253.87
Life Membership Fund	19,814.35
Memorial Fund	5,830.86
Reunion Fund	2,521.36
Debt Outstanding	-1,969.75
Total	\$39,450.69

C. Romero moved, seconded by S. Wolstencroft, to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES - E. Baldea emphasized that the deadline for receiving material to be included in the December issue would be October 30, 1991.

REUNION COMMITTEE - G. Pine gave the dates for the 1992 reunion as Sept. 14 through Sept. 17, 1992 at the Gold Coast Hotel, 4000 W. Flamingo, Las Vegas, NV. He explained the reason for the Monday through Thursday dates and said the room rates would be between \$30.00 and \$40.00 per night. The 1993 reunion will be in Little Rock, AR.

REUNION FUND - R. Wright reported the following balances:

Jan. 1, 1991	\$2,521.36
Sept. 27, 1991	15,246.98

The 1991 reunion expenses had not yet been taken out of the Sept. 27 balance.

TRAVEL - R. Martin spoke on tours to England to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 8th Air Force arrival there. H. Rutka gave details of a proposed tour to England offered by Tamarac Tours. F. Schoch gave details of a similar tour offered by Mutual Travel. Discussion followed on the merits of the two tours. Peter Gaskin, of England, spoke in favor of the Tamarac tour. His wife, Sylvia, was introduced and gave a short greeting. A standing vote was taken among those who were interested in going to England in 1992. The vote was in favor of Tamarac Tours, 19 to 3.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE - C. Romero expressed disappointment at the small number of applications received this year and hoped the word would get out to more prospective applicants for next year's award. The 1991 34th B.G. Scholarship First Place Award went to Michael Goetz, grandson of W. Dorrance. The Second Place Award went to Kyle Davis, grandson of R. Summa.

P.X. - Chairman P. Shull reported he has turned over to the treasurer \$1,994.50 in profits from PX sales for the period Sept. 1, 1990 through Sept. 31, 1991. Cash balance on hand is \$554.86 plus inventory. He explained how to order the permanent name tags and told of the

ANNUAL MEETING 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.

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new "T" shirts available in the PX. He reported his granddaughter, Lisa Shull, last year's 34th B.G. Scholarship winner is now attending Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

AUDIT COMMITTEE - C. Romero reported all accounts in good order. H. Rutka moved to accept the report. Motion seconded and carried.

CONSTITUTION - J. Farley reported that the task of revising the Constitution/By Laws is now complete.

Pres. W. Brauks showed a painting of two B-17's donated to the 34th B.G. by Carl Nichols. The painting will be loaned to the 8th Air Force Museum at Barksdale AFB in Louisiana. L. Crook will be asked for assistance in presenting the painting to the museum.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - B. Sothern presented the following slate of nominees:

President	F. Schoch
1st Vice Pres.	B. Sothern
2nd Vice Pres.	S. Wolstencroft
Recording Secr.	P. Anderson
Treasurer	H. Province
Unit Contact & Corresponding Secr.	R. Summa
Board of Directors	R. Wright
Board of Directors	A. Prillaman

A motion by H. Rutka, seconded by A. DiNenno, was made to close nominations and accept the entire slate on one vote. Motion carried.

HERITAGE CENTER - J. Clarkson gave a slide presentation and answered questions on the proposed 8th Air Force Heritage Center in Savannah, GA.

Pres. W. Brauks told of the "Lucky Bastard" pins available to those who completed 25 or more missions. The pins are available from R. Summa for \$5.00 each.

H. Rutka moved to adjourn, seconded by R. Wright. Motion carried.

Pres. W. Brauks adjourned the meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Paul Anderson, Secretary



Kneeling L. to R.: Kaiser & Avriett. Standing: Freidel, Lewis, Soler & Holmes. Rear: Scherr.



1992 E.T.O. REUNION

The 34th Bomb Group is returning to England on May 13, 1992. Our base of operations will be the HOLIDAY INN CAMBRIDGE, where we have 50 rooms available to us for the first five nights. We do not have a schedule available except for Sunday, May 17th. There will be services at the 900 year old St. Michael's Church in Mendlesham - visit in the area - then on to the American Cemetery at Madingly for Memorial Day Services. One evening we will host a dinner for the people who take care of the 34th Memorial - they will be bused to and from the dinner. The balance of the time will be in the Mendlesham area - the 390th Control Tower - Duxford Imperial War Museum - RAF Hendon Museum - and more. The last three nights will be spent at the Copthorn TARA in London. We will have a half-day sight-seeing tour which includes the Churchill War Rooms. There will be time for shopping in Cambridge and London. Tamarac Tours has been selected to make our arrangements, and you will probably have received a mailing from them by the time you read this. If you don't, get in touch with me at (218) 724-1667 or Tamarac Travel at 1-800-228-9690.

Harold G. Rutka
Reunion Coordinator - 1992



CLARIFICATIONS

From Steve Niatas, Hazel Stoutsberger and Hilary Lodermeier we have received clarification of the persons in front of the quonset hut of the 18th Sqdn. However, they do not all agree in which order the names should appear. Therefore, we have decided to simply say that in the photo are Lowenthal, Lalk, Lodermeier, Austin, Stoutsenberger and Loiselle.



John Fowler and ????

REUNION 91 Down To Business



Portrait of the Board members



General membership meeting



Dex & Beulah Jordan and Jim & Betty Martin registering with Wanda Pine



General membership meeting



Board Meeting



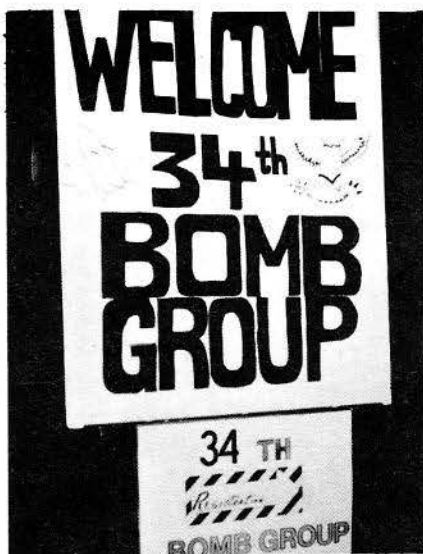
Committee meeting for the return to England reunion in 1992



Ray Summa, Esther Wright & Gen Rutka greet Sylvia & Peter Gaskin (FOTE) to our reunion.



Paul & Pauline Shull at the PX



The welcoming sign in the lobby

REUNION 91 Here And There



Rose Baldea posing with racing horse statue



Passengers boarding tree trolley to shopping area



Cleveland & Henrietta Romero enjoying mint juleps at Churchill Downs



Group on Gray Line tour bus



One Gray Line bus tour group outside Churchill Downs



Frances & Jack Whiting with Tom Wright at the rear of the tour bus



Walt & Ruby McAllister, Eli & Rose Baldea and Betty & Jim Martin at Anthony's Rest

REUNION 91 Here And There



Bob & Marilou Hess and Faye & George Miller relaxing in the lobby



Lee & Sam Baglio with Gerry Pine relaxing in the hospitality room



Comaraderie in the hospitality room



Group waiting for the Friday night cruise boat



Paul Anderson, Bob Cole & Paul Shull at hospitality room



Junius Cobb, Granvel Pierce, Ray Summa & Bob Burgner



Hannah Summa, Marge Finley and Jim & Scottie Morlock relaxing in the lobby



Peggy Rose, Alda Sivret, Beryl Anderson & Ruby McAllister in the hospitality room

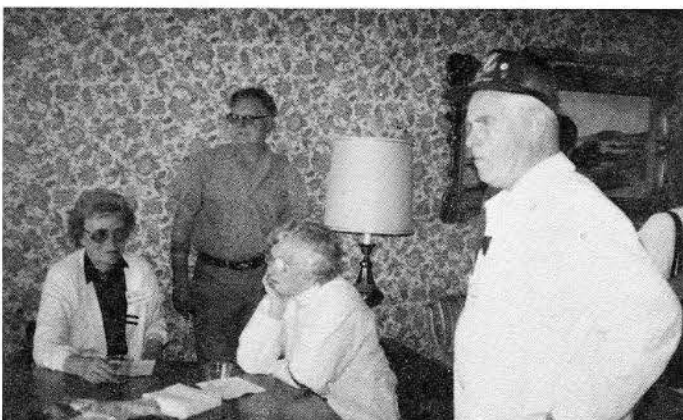
REUNION 91 Here And There



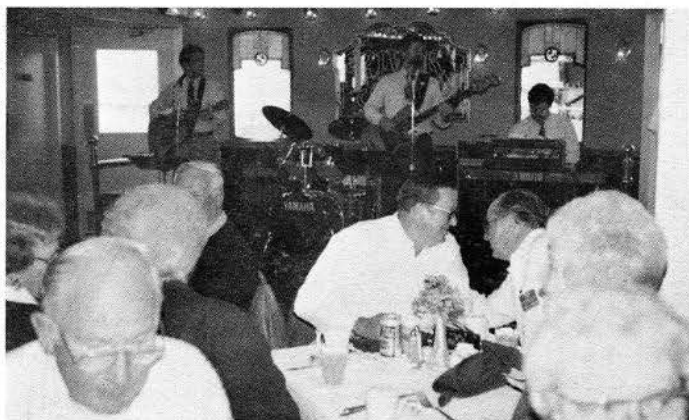
River Queen dining area



River Queen dining area



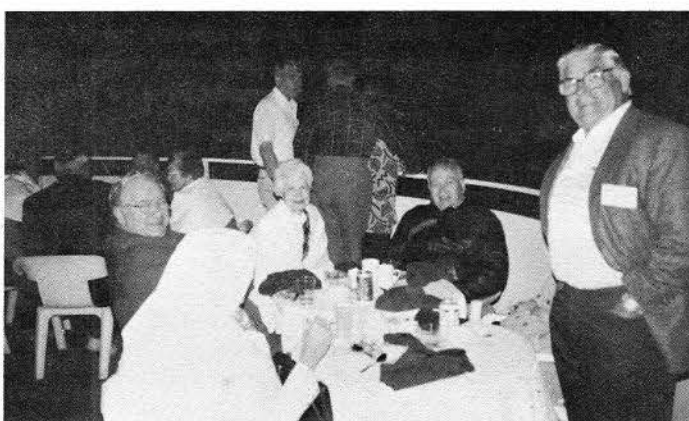
Relaxing in the hospitality room



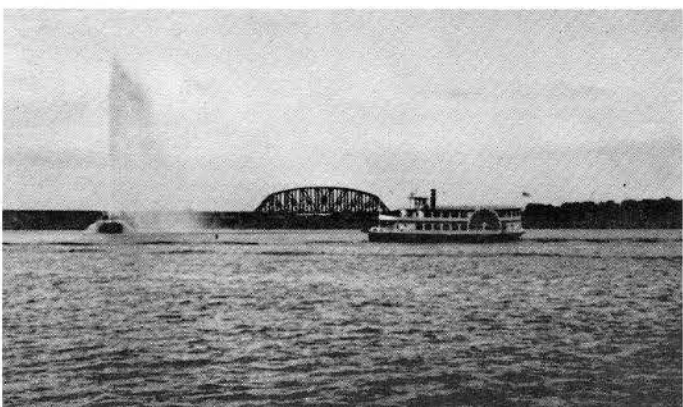
River Queen dining area with musical combo on main deck.



Cruise boat dining area



River Queen outdoor dining area



Cruise boat "River Queen" approaching with Ohio River fountain in view



River Queen outdoor dining area

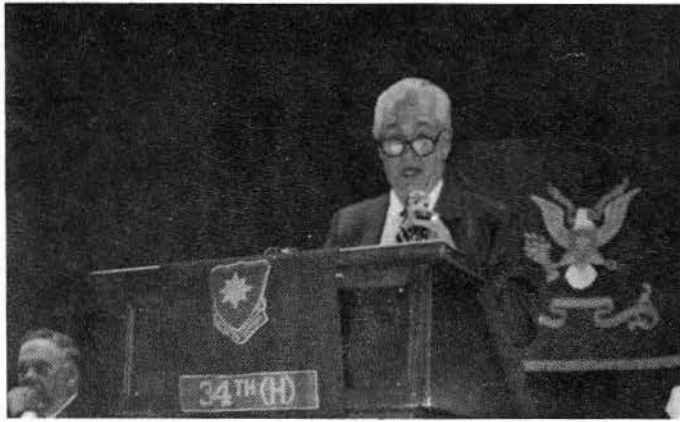
REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Pres. Wally Brauks addressing the group



Doris Brauks and Paul & Beryl Anderson



Wally Brauks addressing the group



Fred & Clara Schoch and Lydia & Sam Baglio



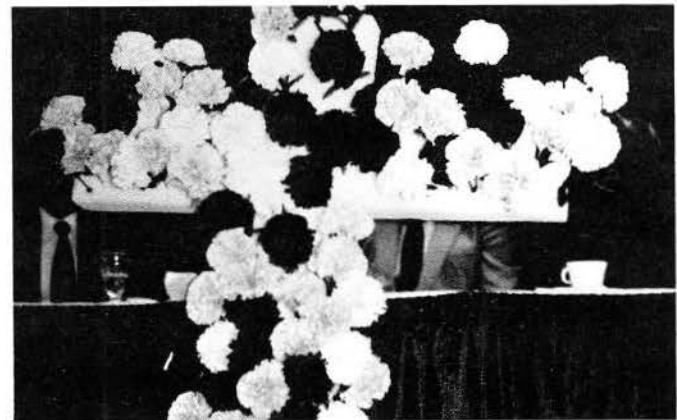
Hannah & Ray Summa and Arlene & Sam Wolstencroft



Wally Brauks handing the gavel to new president Fred Schoch



Jan & Hal Province and Wally Brauks



Memorial cross with flowers placed in memory of our lost comrades

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Claude & Audrey Gibbs with George & Margaret Kline



Pauline & Paul Shull with Jim & Margaret Hinchey



Henrietta & Cleveland Romero



Walt & Ruby McAlliste with Roy & Kate Tavasti



Al & Elsie DiNenno with Lawrence & Lucille Babcock



Eli & Rose Baldea with Jim & Betty Martin



Seated: Anthony & Mary Coutros with Mildred & Donald Plank. Standing: Mark Province with Hal & Jan Province.



Henry & Audrey Tobiason with Jane & Chuck Van Kirk.

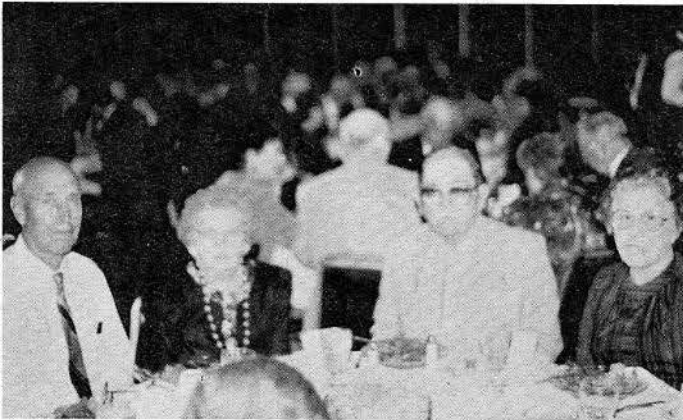
REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



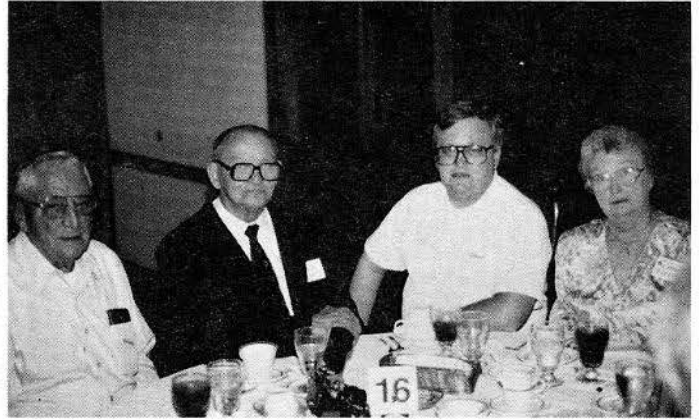
Seymore & Claudia Isaacs with Joan & Anthony Habiger.



Harold & Darlene Dwyer with Ken & Kathleen Paxton



Bruce & Muggs Sothern with Mike & Laura Lopez



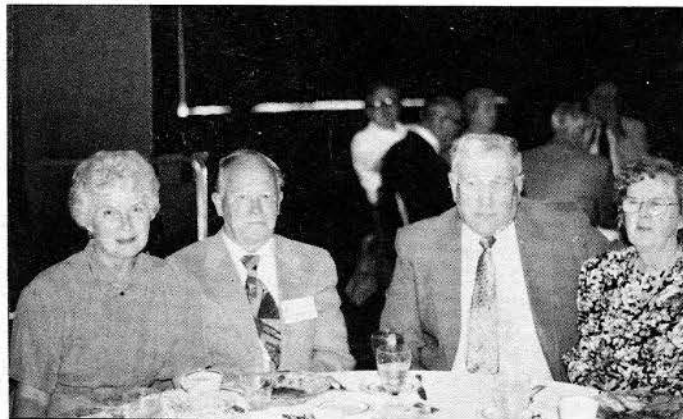
Irwin Hanken with Lloyd, Larry & Carol Elliott



Peggy & Everett Rose with Alda & Frank Sivret



George Mongeon & Doris Burdick with Reid & Marie McCloskey.



Jean & Cletus Morris with Max & Eila Jakel



Betty Mae & John Feda with Marcus Dieterle

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Gerald & Edith Kincaid with Mary & Calvin Dalcher



Paul & Mary Buss with Eileen & Bill Kaufman



Joe & Verna Edwards with Paul & Betty Bresh



Joy & Jim Hanrihan with Mildred & Roy Ballantyne



Jim & Scottie Morlock with Marilou & Bob Hess



Ginny & Bob Cole with Francis & Barbara head



Margaret Trauernicht, Kathryn & Bernard Peczkowski and Carl Trauernicht.



Wally & Joan Poole

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Robert Lampev with Jack & Marian Share



Paul & Mary Frances Sims with Betty & Alex Antanovich.



Miriam & Bennett Richmond



Stella & Chuck Dulan with Gene & Helen James



Betty Ray with LaRue Miller



Jack & Frances Whiting with Mary & Earl Frank



Robert Schwartz, Michael Jacobbauski, Bryant & Myrtis Grimes, Peggy Schwartz and Margie Jacobbauski



Seated: Peg Johnson, Dudley & Mary Ellen Casler and Miriam Mermelstein. Standing: Bev Johnson & Herb Mermelstein

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Dorothy & Charles Morgan with Donald & Evelyn Stufflebeam.



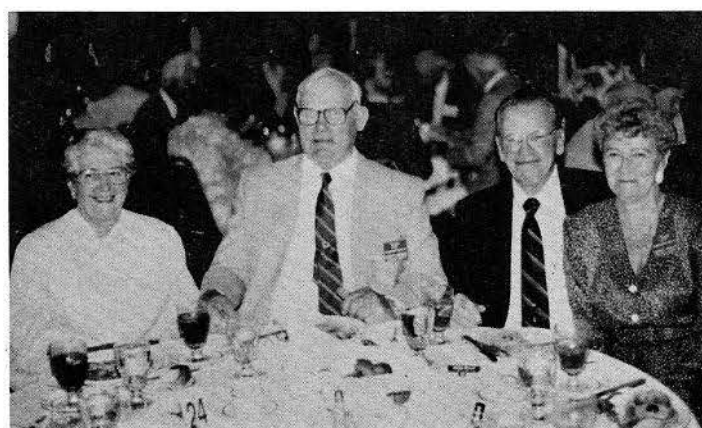
H. Arnold & Georgia Prillaman with Carl & Imogene Freysinger.



Donna Mason and Bill Browne with Ceil & Joseph Bei



Lois & Marv Jalving with Kay & Glenn Henry



Ruth & Henry Jurgens with Jack & Bernie Farley



Shirley & Randall Martin with Bob Desjardins and Lois & Marvin Jalving



Peg & Carl Stemen with Elaine & Milt Braveman



Bob & Zelma Bice with Sylvia & Carroll Forister

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Phyllis & William Van Buskirk with Agnes & Allen Israelsen.



Joyce Workman, Tennie Allen and Loreta & David Ashley.



Milton & Kay Hansen



Carol & Eldon Thompson with Carol & Ben Cooksey



Charles Barclay, John Doronsky, Beverly Stearns and Roberta Barclay



Sean & Tammie Horrell with Jack Hood and Bonnie Lasseigne



Charlie & Toots Thurner with Jennie & Bob Schroeder and Charles Pancake



Herbert & Anne Hall with Margaret & Benson Workman

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Ginny & Bob Pachowski with Rita & Ed Hiltner



Al & Betty Swenson with John Moreno



Ginny & Fred Muento with Dex & Beulah Jordan



Jack Ashburn with Willis Griffis and Norman & Schatzie Mayer



James Miller with Jim & Natalie Troup and J.C. Smith.



Tom Wright with Bill & Margo Burnell

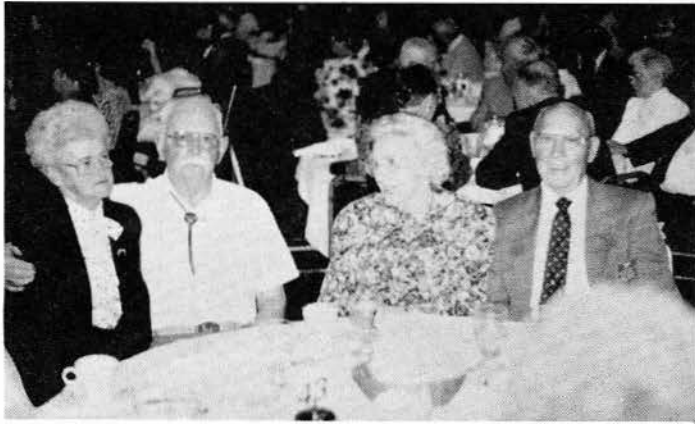


Seated: Betty Heikkila with Audrey & Merrill Scharman and Harold Heikkila with Audrey & Merrill Scharman and Harold Heikkila. Standing: Milford Becker



James & LaRue Miller

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



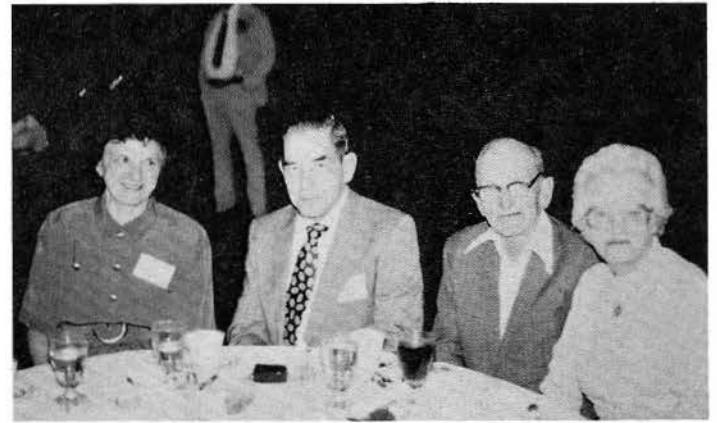
Wanda & Gerald Pine with Esther & Robert Wright



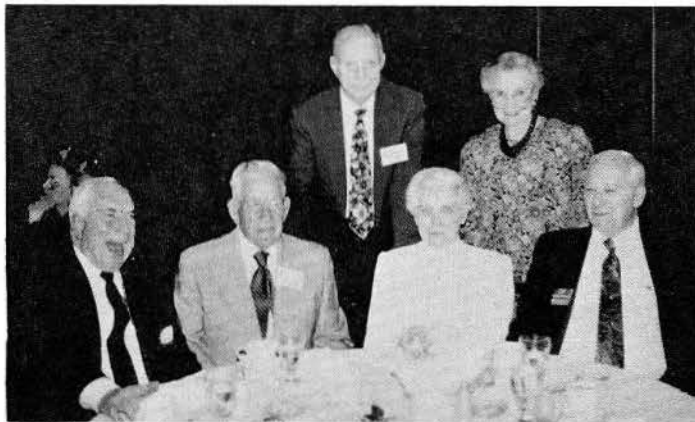
Betty Graves with Virginia & Junius Cobb and Pete Gray.



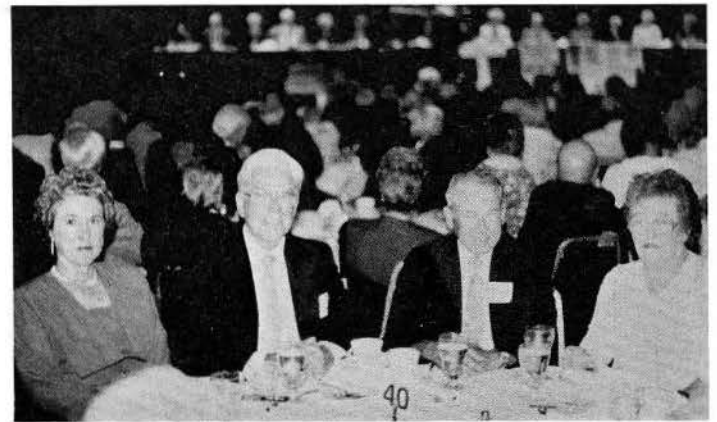
Hal S. Schmitt with Robert & Lorraine Hartwick and Dorothy Schmitt



Rose & Charles Sakal with Jesse & Molly Gardner



Seated: Jack Bolton, Don Allen, Marge & John Bloczynski. Standing: Ed Dooley & Joan Stateham



Virginia & James Hunter with Robert & Olive Bergold

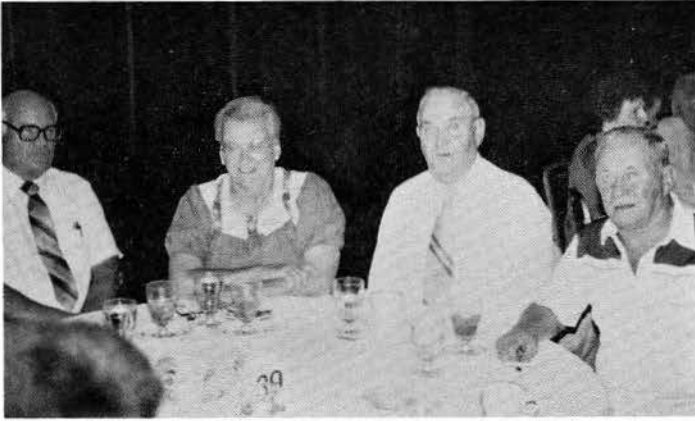


Seated: John & Lorraine Nelson with Louis & Terry Tamburro. Standing: Denton & Eileen Armstrong with Dorothy & Jack Clarkson



Peter & Sylvia Gaskin (FOTE) with Genevieve & Harold Rutka and Wanda & Gerry Pine

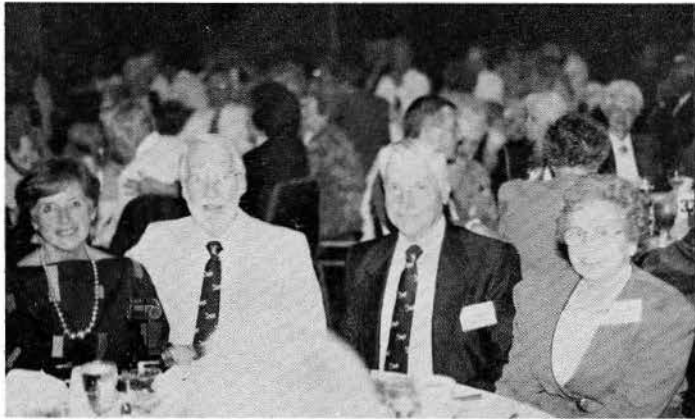
REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Burch & Mary Lou Wright with Robert & Lawrence Saxen.



Ken & Martha Lewis with Bob & Liz Campbell



Mary & Byron Sheesley with Frank & Jo Forde



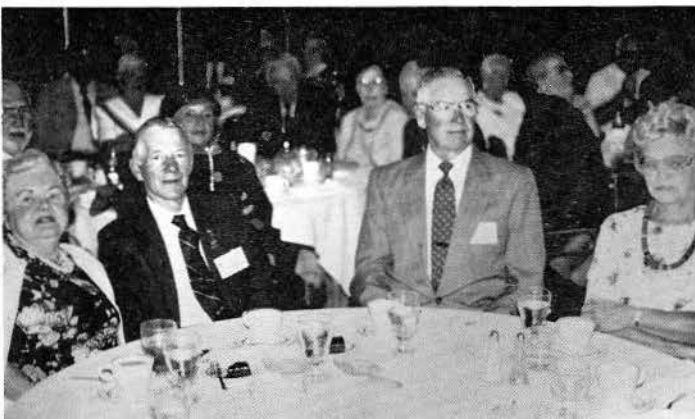
Virginia & Chuck Yockey with Edith & Ben Zeldes



Birgh & Ed Lonergan with Gen & Claude Conklin



Don & Bonnie Shee with Dotty & Herb Roy



Blanche & Tom Cannock with Ray & Alice Kaiser



Eileen & Charles Herget with Bill & Tootie Hetherington.

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



Elizabeth & Dan Hardee with John & Ethel Leath



Leonard & Mary K. Fix with Ronald & Martha Simpson



Kay & Jim Stuthers with Clyde & Elizabeth Mathe Sr.



Peter & Lucille Stampon with William & Jean Schildman.



Mildred & Tom Newton with Peter & Patricia Corrigan.



Lloyd & Bobbie Boreen with Dorothy & Bob Nendel

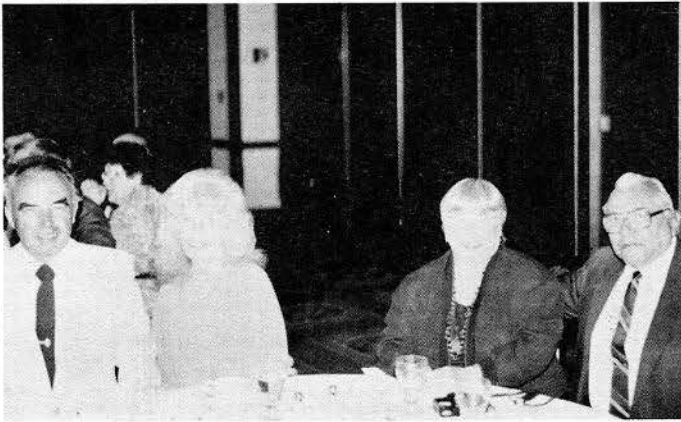


Robert & Rose Marie Baer with Harry & Willie Perry.

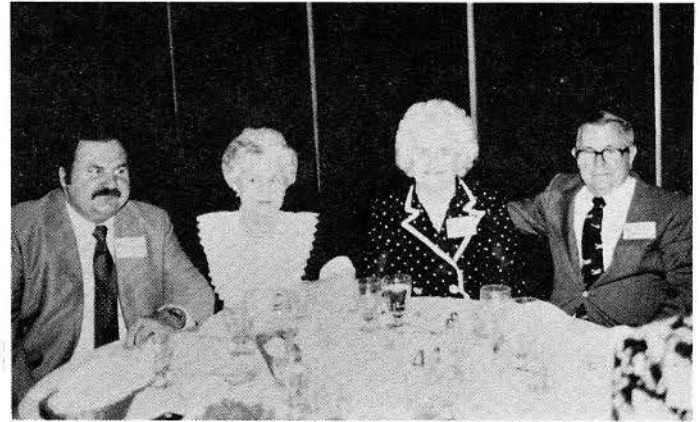


Freddie & Cleo Baughman with Vern & Millie Ames

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities



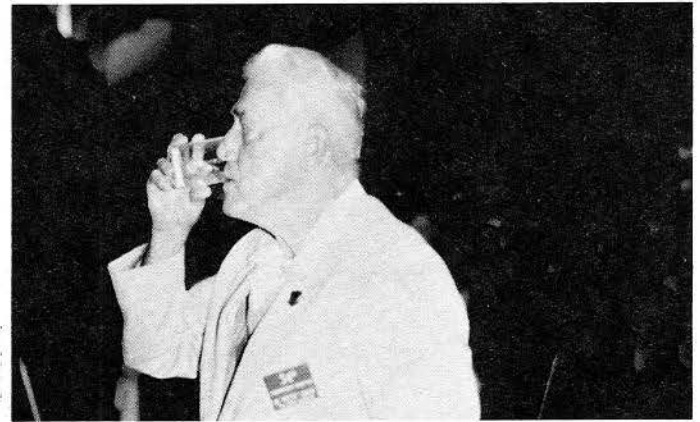
Raymond & Bula Palmer with Mattie & Juan Perez



Ray Bridge & Magdalene Bates with Daisy & Glenn Bridge.



Don & Betty Fillman with Fred & Rachel Waltz



Pete Gray enjoying a drink



Edwin & Mary Lou King with Darrell W. Bulis



Peter & Sylvia Gaskin (FOTE)



Crew of the "Near Sighted Robin": L. to R.: Herb Hall, Jim Troup, Bob Pacholski, Ed Hiltner, Ben Workman, Dex Jordan, J.C. Smith and Fred Muenta



Gerry Pine, Gen. Rutka, Wanda Pine & Harold Rutka

REUNION 91 Gala Festivities

(We apologize for the poor quality of the following photographs.)



Ambers & Jean Hanson with Betty & Verbal Holcomb



Vicky & Hilton Vincens with Mary & Ralph Applegate



Mary Ruth & Raymond Lester with Madeline & Tom Belleau



Earl & Helen Maciel with Louis & Anita Bolce



Clyde & Betty Sudderth with Dale & Margie Finley



Leonard & Helen Bess with Evalyn & Charles Attridge.



Nita & William O. Brown with Marie & Louis Fournier



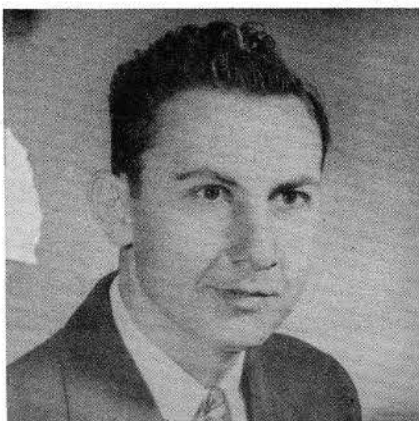
Oren & Lois Smith with Oral & Marjorie Walker



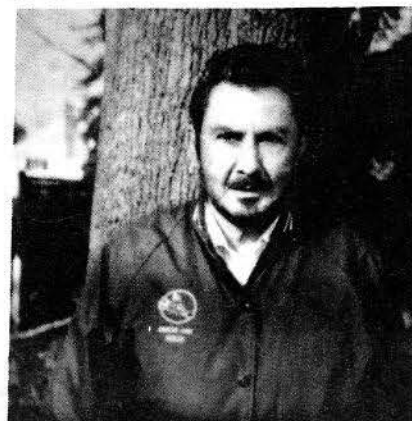
Then and Now



Norman S. Reed



1956



1987

Al Sadowsky



1944



1990

Fred J. Scherr



1943



1986



LUCILLE (AL) SNYDER - Pittsburgh, PA.

Al and his cousin, Don Isherwood, were both stationed at Mendlesham. Don drove a jeep for an officer. Many stories were told of "commandeering" it for evening use.

Al flew with Sam Laskin's crew in the "Mean Kid" until it crashed and, later, in "This Above All". They usually flew lead and on one mission an officer wanted to go along so Al and his buddy, John Wolff, flipped a coin to see who would not fly. Al was the one who stayed in England. That day his crew was shot down and held in Germany as prisoners. Al finished his missions with other crews and was sent back to the U.S.

Al never saw his friend, John, until July 23rd, 1949, when we went to Wash. D.C. on our honeymoon. He found Johnny and they had quite a reunion!!! (I could have stayed at home!)

BETSY (TOM) BIRKO - Neville Island, PA.

Tom and I did not become acquainted until after his discharge in 1945, therefore I was not knowledgeable about his wartime experiences or the 34th.

I see names on the roster of men who live within five or ten miles of me at Coraopolis, Sewickley, Bellevue and Oakdale. I do enjoy reading the Mendlesham Memories. Thank you for locating me. I feel much warmth learning of these men who were so close to Tom.

MILTON BRAVEMAN - Harrisburg, PA.

"Dad passed on today" was the 25 July message from Scott Schuetz about his father, Bob.

In 1954 Bob was told that his vision loss was due to multiple sclerosis. Over the ensuing years, though additional symptoms continued to ravage his body, his mind remained clear. Scott relates that his dad died as he lived, proudly and bravely with no fear of what lies ahead. Scott attributes his dad's courage to his combat experience with the 34th B.G.

Bob produced so much in the few productive years he had. He was so proud of his devoted Polly and his legacy, Scott and Lisa. Though his loss is surely mourned, his family can relish the memory of his accomplishments.

P.S. A contribution to your local M.S. Chapter in Bob's memory might be appropriate.

ROBERT MAHAFFEY - Toledo, OH.

I believe Clyde Sudderth's letter on page 14 of the June issue is in error. He identified (wrongly) the crew pictured on page 10 of the March issue as the Iverson crew. I was a member of Dick Iverson's crew. The photo adjoining is a picture of the Iverson crew. They are: Standing, L. to R.: Dick Iverson, Walt Schutte, John Galloway, Arnold Bryant and Me, Bob Mahaffey. Kneeling, L. to R.: Al Pruett, Bob Milford, John Hughes, M. Graham Yates, John Funk and Dale Finley.



Dick Iverson's Crew, 4th Sqdn. 34th Bomb Group, Mendlesham, England (1944).

I'm sorry I can't help with the identification of the crew on page 10 of the March issue. Probably John Polivka's identification on page 14 of the June issue is correct.

THOMAS H. SMITH - Bellwood, PA.

I wish to thank you people for the Mendlesham Memories. Some of the memories have helped me piece together events. My God! How little we knew of the total picture.

ALLEN BARTA - Wichita, KS.

Please notice that our return address is different. We are temporarily - since the tornado of April 26th - out of our home until we rebuild - soon we hope. It's been a devastating experience. One is enough in a lifetime. We lost not only our home but many of our good neighbors, all of our trees, and, now, our beautiful lake is bone dry and covered with debris. Things will look up, please God, and we can settle down there again.

GLENN MILLARD - Whitewater, WI.
(written to Wally Brauks)

I read with great interest your story in the most recent MM. I was flying as co-pilot with the 391st Sqdn. right off your left side and vividly saw the whole thing happen.

Even today I can see the tail of your B-17, with gunner still in it, sitting on top of the wing between engines 3 & 4 for what seemed to be an eternity. I saw your plane slowly go into a spin and our gunners saw only a couple of chutes open. We did not see the other plane explode.

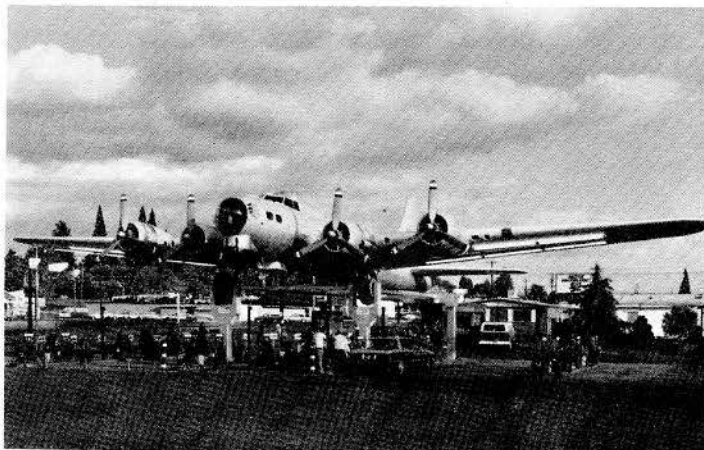
I have told many people about this weird accident, and I'm so glad you took the time to write about it so I would know the outcome of the whole story. I'm looking forward to the December issue.

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 26

WILLIAM WOOLFORD - Milwaukee, OR.

My wife and I went to lunch at the "Bomber" Restaurant recently. It's part of a complex including a gas station, motel units and restaurant. Art Lacey, the owner is an ex-Air Force intelligence man (S-2), now 78 yrs. old. He has a bad heart so his daughter runs the complex. Art has donated the ball and upper turrets of the plane to the Confederate Air Force to make their planes complete. They always stop by to see him when in this area.



The "Bomber" Complex

JUNIUS COBB - Richmond, VA.

I would like to share with you an occasion that took place in May, 1990. During lunch one day a regular customer called me over to her table and introduced me to a visiting lady. To lead into the rest of the story, many of you knew how hard I tried to go with the flying crew. I was turned down because two fingers had been amputated from my left hand. In any case, in May of 1945 I finally got to fly on a food drop mission.

Now, back to my customer. As she talked I detected an accent and asked, "What part of Germany are you from?". She replied, "I'm not from Germany. I'm from Holland". I then told her about the food drop missions. She said, "I remember this. I was working as a nurse at the time and also working with the Dutch underground". Forty-five years to the month this lady is eating in my restaurant. I called my wife to the table and said, "The last time this lady ate my food she had to cook it for herself".

MRS. CLAYTON GABEL - Canton, OH.

I am writing to let you know my husband, Clayton, who was with the 34th B.G. died Sept. 5, 1991. He had cancer of the lung, heart and brain. He had 80 liner radiation treatments to heart and lung and 40 Cobalt treatments to the brain. The cancer was found Nov. 5, 1990 when he started vomiting blood. He had treatments from Nov., '90 to May, '91. His picture appears on page 93 of the 34th B.G. H, 1941 - 1945 book.

ROBERT M. SIMPSON - El Cerrito, CA.

About a year ago I underwent emergency surgery for spinal cancer. Shortly thereafter I had to move because I could no longer do my job managing a large mobile home park.

I've recovered pretty well - walking without a cane, etc. - but am not driven by huge amounts of energy and organization. I still keep my interest in the 34th, even though most of my special friends appear (if at all) in the "Taps" column.

I was at Blyth from Feb., 1941 until we split for England. I was train commander across the U.S. and one of the compartment big brothers on the trip across the Atlantic. Left Mendlesham April, 1945 and got home on VE Day. It was a great time and an incredible group. I still think it was probably the hottest of hot-rod formation fliers to hit the U.K. Why did nobody capture THAT on movie film?

MOLLIE (JESSE) GARDNER - Bagley, IA.

My Jesse, "Gabby", of the 7th is still motating, but slowly. Thought we might try to get to Louisville this time. He is not well. I still work but we enjoy all the efforts put into the magazine and the group so much.

I am originally from the little village of Debenham, near Stowmarket. A war bride, yes!! Getting to reunions is like meeting family. I write a lot of letters to some of the guys and really enjoy that friendship.

Remember the White Horse Pub of Wetheringsett on the back road out of the camp? Perhaps the Red Lion Pub, Angel Inn, Cherry Tree Inn or the big church on top of the hill in Debenham? Several letters in the magazine mention a few well remembered spots of the old days.

Hope we can make it to Kentucky. Maybe we can have a good old chin wag. I do hope we can make it.

WILLIAM G. SHOVE - San Diego, CA.

We've received the latest M.M. and the 34th B.G. Roster. There is an error in my middle initial. It should read William G. Shove. Also, I believe we should check on the listing for Robert K. Swarthout. Fred Maundrell of Mendlesham writes that a list of burials of the 34th B.G. personnel at Cambridge American Military Cemetery lists Swarthout, Robert K., 2nd Lt., 7th Sqdn. in plot F, row 6, grave 72, on 6 June, 1944. Maybe somebody should check into this. My wife, Laura, and I enjoy reading Mendlesham Memories and look forward to receiving each issue. Laura likes to read Rose's Corner for her recipes. We regret not being able to attend any reunions yet. We are on a limited income and have to watch our finances. We are hoping to be able to attend the 8th Air Force Anniversary next year but we have our doubts on that.

MONA (BOB) KORF - Montrose, CO.

I won't be able to attend the Louisville reunion but, from the M.M. pictures and stories, it looks like you all have such a good time.

Bob and I were not married to each other during the war but what little he spoke about - mostly the friendships he made - I enjoyed hearing about. Guess that's why I enjoy reading the M.M. also. I'm doing pretty well here, though it gets lonely at times. I'll spend part of November and December with my family back in Columbus, Ohio.

Continued on page 28

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 27

OLIVER BOLDUC - Chaplin, CT.

The letter from William Sherman on Page 7 of the Sept. issue brings a sad heart to me as the pilot of the plane shot down in flames at the hangar was Hazen Eastman, a fine pilot, very serious and one of the best. I believe the records should be checked for the names of those who perished with him.

I was the crew chief of the plane and saw it shot down as well as seeing those who parachuted out to land anywhere they could. To say the least, the enemy was in control for a brief period. When I got word that it was my aircraft I cried for it was a loss to humanity for them to be taken from our midst.

Once again I'm not able to attend the reunion but do extend my very best to everyone there. Keep up the good work. It must be a tremendous undertaking. I don't know how you all do it but I enjoy M/M cover to cover.

GEORGE H. KLINE - Burnt Hills, NY.

Once again the gals and guys in charge of our reunion came through with flying colors. They gave us a hotel that was excellent. The music and the cruise was icing on the cake. It gives us memories that will stay with us for a long time. As usual, it was good getting together with the best people in the country.

Stopping outside Cincinnati for breakfast, my jacket drew attention from another lost veteran. I was able to provide him with information about the 8th AFHS and the name and address of his unit contact. In Fredonia, NY, we spotted a large B-17 model hanging from the ceiling in the Quality Inn restaurant. After inquiring we found the place was managed by another bomber veteran, Anthony Petro. The dinner was quite good.

Margaret and I really appreciate all the work that goes into these reunions. Keep it up!



Roy Tavasti receiving his D.F.C. medal.

PAULINE (WALTER) SUMMERS - Browns Mills, NJ.

I am writing on behalf of my dear husband, Walter (Bob) Summers. He was reading the latest issue of Mendlesham Memories when he came upon a letter on page 6 from a Mrs. Taynette Long from Marietta, OH. It brought him to tears because he was a crew member of "Out Of This World". He has wondered for so long what became of the other crew members. He knew Edgar Smouse had died and was so sorry to hear about Louis Long. He would so love to hear from the others. He is unable to write because of the stroke he had last year but I would be happy to write for him.

We are sorry not to be able to go to the reunion again. We did so enjoy those we were able to attend. Oh, yes! Although his name is Walter, he has always been called Bob because his second name is Robert. He was wondering if the Robert Summers in the "TAPS" section meant him.

I hope Bob hears something soon as it would cheer him up to no-end. Not being able to do much is so boring for him. It's so sad to see this happen to someone, especially a loved one. Heart attacks and strokes are so unexpected.

THOMAS C. REEVES - Boise, ID.

Thank you for making it possible for me to make contact with the 34th B.G. again. I was with the group when we transferred from Westover Field. I had been with the 20th Sqdn. of the 2nd B.G. at Langley and, when the 34th was formed, I became the supply Sgt. of the 4th Sqdn.

Ironically, Curtis E. LeMay was my first Sqdn. Supply Officer. He was a great guy to work with. Of course, I kept up on his progress through the years and am quite proud of the fact I had the honor and privilege to serve with him.



Col. Gerhart.

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 28

WALTER SCHUTTE - Huber Heights, OH.

I always enjoy the articles in the Mendlesham Memories. I don't think I'll be at the reunion. I do hope you all have a good time.

OMER G. MONGEON - Collierville, TN.

A few comments about my first reunion: First, I was very disappointed on not finding anyone for information on golf. There was no early registration on 24 Sept. as scheduled. Secondly, The reunion, overall, was really enjoyed, especially the accomodations and the boat trip. Thirdly, my thanks to Wanda Pine who went out of her way to make my guest, Doris Burdick, really welcome.

So much for that. I did not meet anyone I knew during the reunion. On the last morning, at breakfast, a couple asked if they could join us. Before breakfast was over we discussed that we shared the same hut in Mendlesham. He was the flight engineer on the other crew in our hut. They were Don & Betty Fillman.

In the Sept., '89 issue of MM, there was a picture of William Frick. The last I knew Frick was missing in action. I would appreciate the person who sent in the picture contacting me concerning Frick.

LEWIE H. MILLER - Greenville, SC.

I regret I was so long learning of the 34th BG Assn. I would have been in with it from the beginning. Having made the Air Force my career, it has been natural for me to try to learn about anything which might be an outgrowth of the WWII experience.

I loved England before I went over and I still do. I go over on an average of once every two years. After 28 years in the Air Force (20 as Chaplain) I have gone back to study for 2 summers.

Sorry to miss the reunion but will try for next year. Though I have never (one exception) met any of my crew, I have been in contact, one way or another, with various unit members.



Crew of "No Gum Chum". Rear, L. to R.: Waistman, O'Grady, Pochter, Gregorski. Front: Strawder, Foresman, Koenig & Russell.

RANDY BAILEY - Rochester, NY.

I received 3 responses to my letter which appeared in the Sept. issue. However, I didn't hear from anyone in the 391st Sqdn., which I thought was interesting. I keep hoping I may hear from someone who may have known my uncle, Robt. F. Kruse, and can relate an incident, a friendly night on the town, barracks chatter stuff, and that kind of minor contact, even despite his short time alive there.

CLAUDE GIBBS - Catawissa, MO.

Audrey and I thoroughly enjoyed the Louisville experience and must congratulate the committee for another job well done. It was a pleasure to see so many new faces and we look forward to more in Las Vegas.

This note would not be complete without expressing out personal thanks for your efforts in making the newsletter something we look forward to each quarter.

JACK CLARKSON - Savannah, GA.

The Louisville reunion was beautiful and a happy one with old friends and making new ones. There are only 6 of our crew still remaining. Three have died - Howard Tew, Benny Neal and Ted McLean. However, 2 of our crew were together at Louisville, John & Terry Nelson with Dorothy and myself. Hopefully, in Las Vegas, we can have all of us together at one time.

CARL FREYSINGER - Cable, OH.

I wanted to write and let everyone know how much we enjoyed the reumon in Louisville. It was perfect. We met all of our old friends and, also, made a lot of new friends. The Hotel Galt was beautiful and the events were perfect, too. We especially enjoyed having Sylvia and Peter Gaskin there. It's always a pleasure to see our friends from England.

Many thanks to the people who work so hard to send out the "Memories" magazine. Also to those who organize the whole reunion. It is a lot of hard work and we really appreciate it. Thank you.



Crew of "Purty Chili" (named for movie starlet Chili Williams). Rear L. to R.: Sacherman, Des Lauriers, Hansen & Wathey. Front: Young, McClellan, Green, Griffin & Shoaf.

Continued on page 30

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 29

BOB WRIGHT - South Bend, IN.

I think most people I talked with enjoyed the reunion and had a good time. I had total knee replacement on my left knee on Oct. 17th and came home from the hospital on the 23rd. It's a very painful operation and I'm going to therapy 3 times a day to get it back into shape. Hope to be ready for Florida on Dec. 29th. Keep up the good work.

MILLIE (LARRY) LONG - Norwood, PA.

On page 9 of the Sept. issue the ball turret gunner shown, we believe, is Larry. My three daughters agree that, if it isn't Larry, it must be his twin. It looks just like him when he was twenty-two.

I sure wish Larry would have known about the 34th B.G. Assn. while I still had him. I know he would have loved to be a part of it. Take care and "God Bless".

DEXTER JORDAN - Huntersville, NC.

The reunion was great but, as always, too short. Three of my original crew that I had not seen or heard from were there. The hotel and location was great and the food was good. Also being close to Bill Cloud was great so Beulah and I could visit him. Bill's crew and my crew always worked together when either plane was grounded. By doing this we got them back in the air in half the time.

Considering everything, it was a great reunion. Seeing so many friends and meeting so many new ones. Thanks again to all that worked so hard to make it possible.

Our homecoming was a sad one. Beulah lost an aunt on Sept. 28th and a cousin on Sept. 29th and I lost a cousin on Oct. 5th. We had 3 funerals in 8 days.

PETER STAMPON - Gray, ME.

Lucille and I had a super time at the reunion in Louisville. We are looking forward to next year in Las Vegas.

STEVE FELTOVICH - Willoughby Hills, OH.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those involved with the publication of Mendlesham Memories. They are doing a great job. I look forward to receiving and reading the publication. My regard to all.

BETTY (PAUL) SCHOMMER - Rush City, MN.

This is a big "Thank You" to Bob and Lorraine Hartwick and all the people who signed and sent me the get well card. I was so surprised and happy to receive it.

Paul and I were going to come to Louisville but my right knee was getting so bad I was ready to have it replaced. But no such luck. I had a chest x-ray and they found a polyp and a collapsed lung. The Dr. operated and they found no cancer or T.B. So, I can thank my lucky stars. My knee can wait 'til next year. We wish all of you a Very Happy Holiday and Bless you all.



Standing, L. to R.: Sargent, Tyson, (Co-Pilot), (Navigator). Front: Forth, Gilliland, Thompson, Merriel, Dalcher & Sater.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From Irwin "Bud" Pochter we have the following:

In a book about to be published Roger Freeman had used two stories I wrote about our crew. Not to toot my own horn, but those two stories are the only ones about the 34th Bomb Group.

In any event, the book is now out and available through: Motor Book Int., Osceola, WI., Telephone No. 1-800-826-6600. If you're interested -- it's a good read. (Editor's note: Irwin didn't give the name of the book in his letter.)

From Doug Hubert we have the following:

I came across a nice item at the Museum of Flight's gift shop here in "Boeingtown". It's a nice coffee mug with a multi-color painting of the 34th's B-17G "Bottoms Up" with Gen. LeBailly as A/C Commander. Price of the mug is \$8.95. If anyone's interested they can write me, Doug Hubert, 416 Second Ave. So., Seattle, WA. 98104.

From Ian McLaughlin of Norfolk, England we have the following:

A book to be published in November, 1991, "8TH AIR FORCE BOMBER STORIES" features, amongst others, the 34th B.G. The book is based on a remarkable collection of photographs preserved by Russ Zorn who served as a photographer for over two years. Sadly, Russ died before seeing his project come to fruition, so not only is the book a tribute to American airmen but it is now in memory of a fine friend.

(Editor's note: Ray Summa is corresponding with the publishers so I'm sure we'll know more about this in the future.)

From a Ms. Juliet Gardner we have the following:

I have been commissioned to write a book on the GIs in Britain during the second World War to be published.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 30

ed on the 50th Anniversary of the arrival of the first US troops in Britain in January 1942.

I am particularly interested in hearing from members of the 8th Air Force who were "over here". I wonder if they might be prepared to recall some of their memories of their time in East Anglia for me. I am particularly interested in any anecdotes or memories of those years - how you felt about Britain and the British, about flying, about the danger, particular missions, flak, how you spent your leisure, any superstitions you or your fellow airmen had, the loss of your comrades, and what you were doing on D-Day. Please write to: Juliet Gardner, 92 Malden Road, London, England, NW5 4DA.

From Jack Clarkson we have the information that the "MIGHTY EIGHTH" is planning a huge 50th Anniversary celebration in Savannah, GA. from Jan. 27 to Feb. 1, 1992. On Jan. 28th, 1942 the 8th Air Force was activated in Savannah, GA.

Many celebrities are expected and the activities schedule looks very interesting. Jack has all the information you will need for attendance. Unfortunately, with the already record size of this issue, we are not able to include all the information here. Those of us who are members of the 8AFHS, I'm sure, will receive information in the mail. Others who may be interested in this affair can obtain all the information they need by writing:

Jack Clarkson, 459 Mall Blvd. 25, Savannah, GA. 31406.



Standing, L. to R.: Wentz, Hohenstrieter, Ray, Dodson & Stallmach.
Front: Vinge, Jambor, Grzeskowiak & Johnson.

Memories

CRASH SITE VISIT

by Wally Brauks

(continued from Sept. issue)

On a beautiful clear day we drove to the Henkemeyer farm. I kept looking around to see if anything looked familiar, but saw nothing. Upon arrival, much to my surprise, the young boy and girl that had come to my aid 46 years ago were there. It was amazing or, as I felt, a trip of fate. Imagine, after 46 years, there were two eye witnesses to relate to me their versions of what had happened.

The boy (Ferdinand Schneitz) showed me the spot where my plane had crashed. He also told me (through an interpreter) "a big section of the "Wrangler" had fallen on his home and completely destroyed it". I asked what kind of house it was. He said, "It was very old, mud walls and straw roof." I asked if the house had been replaced. He said "Yes, it is now a much better house." I asked whether anyone had been hurt and he told me "no-one" as they were in the fields working. I remarked "Some times bad things happen for the good. You got a new house". He said, "Wally, thank you for the new house."

We celebrated with champagne, coffee, tea and the most beautiful pastries I had ever seen. Many pictures - many hugs - many kisses and embraces. We exchanged addresses and made a commitment to keep in touch.



L. to R.: Ellen Rost, Reinhard Henkemeyer, Wally Brauks, Hildegard Schmidt and Ferdi Schneitz.

Surprise of all surprises, Mr. Johannes Buschmeier, historian of Hovelriege, presented me with a photograph of my crashed plane and supplied me with numerous pages of data that he had collected - data I never expected to see. He said he would be visiting a friend in St. Louis, our home city, and that he would meet with me when he arrived. Wonder of wonders, the friend he visited lives within walking distance of my home. Mr. Buschmeier said he had been searching for information connected to the "Wrangler" but, until now, he hadn't

Continued on page 32

Memories

Continued from page 31

found any. He had even written to the 8th A.F. Hdqtrs. with no response.

I was told that the Henkemeyer family was subject to a great deal of harrassment by the S.S. troops because of their coming to my aid. The Henkemeyer's farm has been in the family for over 300 years. Mrs. Schmidt, nee Henkemeyer, said she often thought of me and wondered if I had survived. Mr. Rheinhardt Henkemeyer, son of the deceased Ferdinand Henkemeyer and current proprietor of the homestead, was fighting at the Russian front and became a prisoner of the Russians at the same time of my misadventures with the Germans.

We were told the town of Paderborn was 85 percent destroyed during WWII with 70,000 lives lost. But, the local people have done a beautiful job of rebuilding their beloved village. The population is now 150,000. Among the numerous places we visited was a cathedral built in the year 820 AD that had been completely destroyed and the renovation has just recently been completed.

Mr. Buschmeier furnished the following:

EXTRACT OF HOVELRIEGE PARISH CHRONICLE

SEPTEMBER 1944

On Tuesday, September 22 at 1500 hours an American bomber crashed out of a very strong group of the American Air Force planes and fell in front of the farm hands' house of Ferdinand Henkemeyer, the domicile of the Schnietz family.

Some members of the crew had jumped out of the plane with their parachutes. When the aircraft hit the ground it exploded with its bombs and completely destroyed the house.

In the whole area the tiles were smashed and torn from the roofs. Doors and windows were pushed out of the hinges. Also in the vicarage a lot of tiles were blown from the roof. The ceilings were cracked and all doors were pushed off their hinges. Many tiles fell off the church roof. The stone frames of the windows and the vaults were cracked. The lamp in the vestry was flung down. The roof of the Henkemeyer farmhouse had to be covered with new tiles. It is unbelievable that no citizen

of Hovelriege was killed in this accident.

Two American airmen lost their lives. One body was found in the Junkern meadow. The second, whose parachute had failed to open, lay in front of the house of Heinrich Gerkens. The dead soldiers were buried in the cemetery of Hovelriege. The mayor had been ordered by the Commander of Lippstadt airfield to bury the corpses on the spot. Many inhabitants opposed this order and the mayor asked the vicar to bury the corpses in the cemetery of the Catholic parish, but the graves should be made unrecognizable. The vicar agreed to bury them but refused to make the graves unrecognizable.

The funeral took place in the evening as there were no coffins available. The vicar and the grave digger decided to bed them on freshly-cut heather. When doing this the grave digger said, "If one of my boys should die in an enemy country, I would want him to have at least a decent grave." When the grave digger died there was inscribed on his tombstone "He buried the dead with great reverence".

To Ferdinand Henkemeyer this caused great trouble because he had given food and drink to a totally exhausted American airman who had been captured by Albert Gellerman, a guardian, who was stationed on his farm. The S.S. heard the rumor that the Henkemeyers had given aid to the American airman. They demanded that the Henkemeyer farm be confiscated and Mr. & Mrs. Henkemeyer be hanged for favoring the enemy soldier. Mr. Gellerman, when interrogated, said he was responsible to take the prisoner alive to the camp. It would not have been possible to take a completely exhausted man to the prisoner of war camp without trying to restore his strength.

The graves of dead airmen were always decorated with flowers by unknown people. When the Army of the United States marched in the carpenter, Martin Apelmeier, put a birch tree cross on the graves and put the American helmets, which had been hidden in the vicarage, on them. Later on the corpses were exhumed and returned to American soil.

I am glad I made this trip. It is something my sister Doris and I will remember for the rest of our lives. I met many fine people. Everyone was gracious to us. We have had three visitors from Germany since our visit - Ms. Barbara Wessel and Mr. & Mrs. Johannes Buschmeier.

NEWLY FOUND

(As of 10/7/30/91)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BAKER	CHRISTOPHER	A	402 LAKE PARK, SUITE 67	OAKLAND,	CA.	94610
CLEMINS	JAMES		3213 17TH STREET	RACINE,	WI.	53405
DAY	GEORGE W.		4 WORDEN LANE	SARATOGA SPRINGS,	NY.	12866
GAUMER	BASIL L.		911 NO. ELM, BOX 323	GREENVILLE,	IL.	62246
GRISHAM	GEORGE R.		205 STADLER DR., ROYAL PALMS	NEW BERN,	NC.	38560
LAUB	JOSEPH		2767 DERLIN DRIVE	CINCINNATI,	OH.	45239
MILLER	LEWIE H. JR.		118 THRIFTSIDE DRIVE	GREENVILLE,	SC.	29609
WROGA	WALTER W.		198 VIRGINIA AVE., APT. S	GLEN BURNIE,	MD.	21061

CHANGES OF ADDRESS
(As of 10/30/91)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ALLING	CHARLES B. JR.	4	Zip Code should be			10128
ANDERSON	DAVE	391A LM	4612 BLACK OAK LANE	FORT WORTH,	TX.	76114
AUSTIN	PAUL	18	HC 87 BOX 9240	MERRIFIELD,	MN.	56465
BEAVER	DUANE R	391A LM	Zip Code should be			48350
BOULDIN	JAMES E.	18 (LM)	2716 AMHERST ST. S.E.	STUART,	FL.	34997
BUSSE	ARTHUR	4	5380 E. HONEYWOOD LANE	ANAHEIM,	CA.	92807
CASLER	DUDLEY	391	652 SAGUARO WAY	MESA,	AZ.	85208
DWYER	JOHN	7	43 LA VILLA WAY	FORT PIERCE	FL.	34951
ESLIN	HENRY C.	391	P. O. BOX 1164	SUN CITY,	AZ.	85372
KINCAID	GERALD	7	10424 BLACK IRON	LOUISVILLE,	KY.	40291
LOGAN	HAROLD F.		645 FOREST LANE	CLEVELAND,	TN.	37312
MARTOF	LEONARD J.	4	11010 SHELBYVILLE RD.	LOUISVILLE,	KY.	40243
ROSS	JOHN J.	18	P. O. BOX 468	SYOSSET,	NY.	11791
SMITH	JAMES C.	7	1829 SE 41ST ST.,APT.1-I	CAPE CORAL,	FL.	33904
STRAIGHT	MRS. MARION L.	7	6 MONTICELLO CT.	LAKEWOOD,	NY.	14750
TYSON	ROBERT W.	391	508 LAWRENCE ROAD	HAVERTOWN,	PA.	19083
WINGO	TRUMAN	18	1814 NO. LA CANNON	GREEN VALLEY	AZ.	85614
ZINZOLA	PAUL L.		380 HARTFORD RD. #9-B	BUFFALO,	NY.	14226



TAPS
(As of 10/30/91)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
FRANKENSTEIN	HYMAN	HQQ.4	137-10 64TH ROAD	FLUSHING	NY.	11367
GABEL	CLAYTON	18	1306 12TH ST. N,W,	CANTON,	OH.	44703
GILL	JAMES T.	391	1634 N. JESSUP	PORTLAND,	OR.	97217
GOY	ERNEST G.	391	3814 CARY RD. N.W.	HUNTSVILLE,	AL.	35810
GRIMME	BERL	18	1004 NORTH EAST ST.	TIPTON,	IN.	46072
JAMES	MARCUS	391		NEW AUGUSTA	MS.	39462
LAYMAN	WILLARD E.	18	P. O. BOX 836	LOOP,	TX.	79342
LUCAS	PAUL		3885 MOREFIELD RD.	HERMITAGE,	PA.	16148
PEEK	JOHN P.		1441 E. VIRGINIA	DES MOINES,	IA.	50320
SCHUETZ	ROBERT C.	391	4322 RAVENSWORTH #222	ANNANDALE,	VA.	22003
SPINK	JAMES M.	4-391	5310 144TH PLACE S.W.	EDMONDS,	WA.	98026
WALTERS	DDNALD		RD. #4	ERIE,	PA.	
ZEMAN	ROBERT		1940 6TH ST. SO.	WISCONSIN RAPIDS,	WI.	54494

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(As of 10/30/91 - Total Now 208)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
DESJARDINS	JOSEPH R.	7	11200 BEECH ROAD	ANCHORAGE,	KY.	40223
HETHERINGTON	WILLIAM	7	BOX 667	SEIAD VALLEY,	CA.	96086

34TH BOMB GROUP (H) SCHOLARSHIP
1991 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

\$1,000.00 34th Bomb Group Scholarship Winner: Michael Goetz sponsored by
William Dorrance - 391st Squadron

\$500.00 34th Bomb Group Scholarship Winner: Kyle Davis sponsored by
Ray Summa - 18th Squadron

And our thanks to the following who participated in the 1991 Scholarship Program:

Stephanie L. Boysun, sponsored by John Boysun
Kyle S. Davis, sponsored by Ray Summa
Frank M. Goetz, sponsored by William H. Dorrance
Michael R. Goetz, sponsored by William H. Dorrance
Shawn A. Stephens, sponsored by Robert W. Bergold
Christopher A. Ollis, sponsored by Claude H. Gibbs
Lisa Zych, sponsored by Jim Morlock

As usual, the Committee had a tough job in selecting the winners. You may be assured that our applicants are doing an outstanding job at their studies and we can be proud of their achievements, both scholastic and extra-circular!! They should be well able to take their place in society upon graduation.

1992 Scholarship Program

1992 will be the fourth year in which the 34th Bomb Group (H) Association has offered a scholarship to relatives of our members. The Scholarship Committee has been disappointed in the number of applications to the Scholarship offering. From a membership which varies each year from 800 to 900, we feel there should be more than the 7-10 applications we have received for each of the three years previous. We urge each of you members of the 34th BG Association to make known to your children and grandchildren the availability of the scholarship awards. In 1990 the membership approved of granting two awards to winners to be chosen from those who submitted applications, the first for \$1,000.00 and the second for \$500.00. Since the notice and applications are published in the Mendlesham Memories, which are sent to our current members, it is obvious that the information is NOT being transmitted to those possible applicants who are either finishing high school or are currently in college.

The Scholarship Committee urges each of you who has a child or grandchild finishing high school or currently in college, to encourage participation in the 34th Bomb Group Scholarship program. In the past, we have published the Application of Scholarship in an issue of the Mendlesham Memories and we urge you to pass the Application on to those who might use the application. We also urge you to caution the applicant to fully follow the instructions printed on the application. The material required to properly adjudicate the applications is listed on the application and the Committee can not properly do their job if portions of that material is missing.

Cleveland R. Morris Jr.



ROSE'S CORNER

Greetings to one and all!

Louisville was our home for several days and, looking back on the reunion, it was with a touch of nostalgia, remembering so many of our 34th "family" who were there! I do believe that this year was one of the best and I know I am looking forward to next year's Las Vegas trip. We won't be cruising on water but will "cruise" to all the casinos on the strip. Keep saving your pennies!

I asked a lot of our friends, "What's news?", and here's what they said:

Ruth Jurgens - She's a cookbook collector who wants recipes for canning "dill pickles". She has been busy putting up quarts of peaches from their 11 peach trees. (She's the one to ask about canning peaches, Norm.)

Jennie Schroeder - "We didn't go shopping this year. Will try again in '92." Nice to see this pretty gal after a 2 years' absence.

Alda Sivret - Spent some of the summer in New Orleans. Fun!

Hannah Summa - She couldn't have been more involved. Waiting to hear what all of you accomplish.

Mildred Ballantyne - She's very excited. The big news is that granddaughter, Kelly, is getting married on Dec. 21 and there will be no bride prettier than this beautiful girl.

Blanche Cannock - She tells us that they will not drive home thru Amarillo, TX. On their way to Louisville they were stopped by the local constabulary because the speedometer showed them driving just a hairline over

the 65 limit. The good news is they left with simply a warning!

Genevieve Conklin - Her news was that she had been on a Caribbean cruise this summer. She also is director of the new library in Belle Plains, Iowa. (Library: one of my favorite places to relax.)

Henrietta Romero - She tells us that she has 14 grandchildren and, this past May, was blessed with a great grandchild whose name is Tyler. Congratulations and thanks for the mint juleps at Churchill Downs!

Wanda Pine - She's doing great after surgery on her finger. Keep up the good work!

Carol Elliott - She's president of a men's club in Oklahoma City. She owns and renovates old vintage cars and loves to show her treasures. I would like to spend more time with her and hubby, Lloyd, to hear more about these fascinating autos. Looking forward to seeing you again in Las Vegas next year.

Marian Share - She loves her new in-ground swimming pool and uses it every day. They have squirrels who love to drink out of it and she tells of the baffled looks she receives when the cover is put on the pool and the little critters don't know why they can't get any water.

Betty Martin - Her news is just that a lot of nice things are happening.

Kate Tavasti - She's so proud to tell us about her new granddaughter, Katy, who is 3 weeks old at this writing. Congratulations also on celebrating your 50th Anniversary. Many, many more!

Schatzie Mayer - She shudders to recall her broken neck after an auto accident. The skid marks, made by the car that hit her, measured 90 ft. It was very nice to meet the illusive Schatzie!

Thank you all for taking the time to tell the "news" and, please, write with more of the same. I will be happy to share it with the good people of the 34th.

My wish to you for the coming year is "Enough happiness to keep you sweet!"

Lovingly,
Rose



Standing, L. to R.: Covington, (Navigator), Bailey & Kiley. Front: Frick, Cultin, Mongeon, Stanton, (Crew Chief) Barry & Dyer.

HDB

391

18

7

4



34th Bomb. Group

2576 Brookwood Drive
Crown Point, Indiana 46307
(219) 988-4607
Eli Baldea

From the collection of:

Al Israelsen

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

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A FUNNY THING HAPPENED..... JUSTICE???

by Robert L. Schlindwein

My first trip to the 8th AF was on Aug. 20, 1943 when my group assignment was to the 96th B.G. just north of the 34th at Snetterton Heath. I was the ball gunner of the crew. Our original obligation was that we fly 25 missions before rotation home. When, in January of 1944, Gen. Doolittle took over, it was decided that all crews with less than 20 missions completed would be rotated after 30 missions and those who had completed more than 20 but less than 25 would be rotated on a pro-rata basis. At that time my crew had 22 missions and the new rule meant we would have to do 28 missions to be rotated.

At that time in my life (age 19) I felt this was a severe injustice to me, personally. I, therefore, took this logic one step further and, after aborting a very early mission on or about 12/31/43, I left the airbase to see my girlfriend and her family some 100 miles away. However, this happened to be the first date the 8th AF ever made two missions on the same day. Since I had left the base at about 1000 hrs. I had no way of knowing that our group returned early from that mission and made another strike to the Pas de Calais area in the afternoon.

Upon my return to the base at precisely midnight I was met by my 1st Sgt. Travis who advised me of how deep I was in hot water at that minute. My Sqdn. C.O. was so incensed that he personally showed up at my court trial. He insisted that the charges should be desertion and cowardice in the face of the enemy. The court, however, with the help of a very capable attorney assigned me, deemed it to be a case of AWOL. I lost one month's pay, was confined to the base for 30 days and lost one stripe.

As life does so often, while I was awaiting trial in the local base jail, another event took place at my crew's barracks. A transient crew landed at the 96th due to an emergency and the non-coms were bivouaced in my barracks. One of my fellow crew members found out that one of the visiting crew was from my home town and he did know me as our town had only 18,000 souls. Since my crew member and I had no real love for each other, he took this golden opportunity to really set up my reputation with my hometown through the visitor. I learned of this after my release from the "pokey". When released I found that my original crew had completed their missions and were awaiting transfers back home

I was assigned as a tail gunner for my last five missions with another crew and left the ETO for rotation home.

Sure enough, when I got home for my 30 day leave, I found that our barracks visitor had been busy spreading the story of my "cowardice in the face of the enemy" and he was still home on his leave. We did have a confrontation, physically, and much of my honor was regained as a result of that one-on-one brawl.

Now, after my 30 day leave, it was time for my re-assignment. I was asked by the major at the Miami Beach Reassignment Center what I wanted to do. I had heard about the "Rest Hospital" in St. Petersburg, FL. as being the best deal in town...a full 90 days of doing zilch. You could play golf, tennis, or fish, or whatever. While there each crew member was evaluated as to what duty was to be for the individual. When I left there I looked through my own 201 files (they were given us to hand carry to and from the Reassignment Center) and saw that I was not to fly again. I did remove that order and threw it out the train window.

It came to me that I had to do two things in life, but both required that I get back to England. The first was that I volunteer for another tour in the 8th AF to show my friends at home that I wasn't the color they had been told I was. The second was to get my hands on the throat of that Sqdn. C.O. for pressing for extreme measures to be sure I paid for the lesson he wanted me to have. His behavior was most unusual according to my attorney. At any rate, the only way I could go back to the 8th was to go through the three phases of training again. I did that.

I became a member of Lt. Lawrence Sherman's crew and I flew 20 missions with them as tail gunner with the 34th B.G. On our return from our 20th we were greeted by a jeep driven by a Lt. with a major as passenger. The major asked me if I was Sgt. Schlindwein and then proceeded to advise me that I had flown my last mission. No explanation was given when asked and none has been given to this day. It seems the Intelligence people were able to find me...but not before I flew 20 more missions. The other possibility is that when I arrived at Mendlesham I called the orderly room at the 96th and talked to 1st Sgt. Travis. When I advised him what my mission was in returning he advised, in no uncertain terms, that the same Sqdn. C.O. was still there at the 96th but that, if he ever saw me or heard of me being on the base, he would personally have me arrested. Due to the fact that I was getting a little older and, maybe, a bit wiser, I did not try to settle my differences with that man.