



ENDLESHAM EMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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**REUNION '93 - SEPT. 22-26
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.**

OBSERVATIONS

Here we are in sunny Florida, enjoying much warmer and more palatable weather than back home in Indiana. We are having some cool nights but, as yet, none approaching the freezing temperatures of up north.

With this issue I am beginning my ninth year as editor of "Mendlesham Memories". I must say that I have enjoyed most of my experiences as such. However, there are times when I print items sent in with a bit of trepidation. As editor, I feel a duty to allow our members to express their views, whether I agree with them or not. However, sometimes an article sent in by someone points a finger of criticism at a certain individual or group of people which I feel might cause hard feelings. When this happens I do contact the writer, prior to inclusion in the newsletter, to make certain that he wishes it printed as submitted. Then, and only then, I follow through and have the final form included in our next issue.

I worry, though, that some of our readers feel that I am expressing my own sentiments in so doing. This is not the case. As editor, it is my duty to print what is given me and that's as far as it goes.

Now on to other matters. As stated in the last issue, we had no official photographer for our reunion in Las Vegas. Because of that many of the attendees did not have their pictures taken. We did announce at the banquet that all pictures taken by individuals would be welcome. I, personally, took over 100 photos throughout the reunion and used what I could. Other individuals sent some in which I used as I could. However, many people were not shown on those I received.

Since the last issue I have received several photographs which are shown in this issue. I'm sorry to say that there are still many attendees who are not accounted for pictorially. I am glad to say that the same will not happen at our next reunion in Little Rock. Cleveland Romero has already found me a photographer for that reunion. Thanks, Cleveland.

Our June issue goes to press on April 23, 1993 so I must make that date the absolute deadline for any submissions. Any material received after that date will either be saved for the following issue or scrapped because it is not relevant to later issues.

Rose and I are looking forward to a wonderful winter here in Florida. We're expecting to return to Indiana either in late March or early April. We do plan to be home for the Easter holiday. 'Til then we want to wish you all the best of everything.

Eli Baldea
Editor



Mendlesham Memories

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

Editor Eli Baldea
2576 Brookwood Drive
Crown Point, IN 46307

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings!!

How are you all doing with your New Year's resolutions? Sometimes the best way not to break them is not to make them. I have one and vow not to break it. My resolution: To listen and register all suggestions, verbal or in writing, complimentary or otherwise, by members of the 34th; then present them to the proper source for action.

I finally caught up with my December issue of Mendlesham Memories (sent to our winter address in error). I always enjoy reading M.M and I am always impressed by the beautiful job our editor does. However, Eli would be hard-pressed to do the job he does without the input from you all. Also, I'm sure, Rose's Corner will welcome any and all contributions to help keep it as informative and interesting as it is now. Thank you.

By the time you read this we should be thinking about springtime and things coming again to life after what seems like a long winter, especially here in Minnesota.

I shall be heading back this way from the warm climes of the Rio Grande Valley but, first, I shall meet with the Reunion Committee in Little Rock. I'm looking forward with enthusiasm to the 1993 reunion in our new president's home state. Sounds like the facilities for great reunion are all there.

The next issue of M.M. should have all the information. In the meantime, let us pray for the end of all the terrible things that are happening all over this planet call "EARTH".

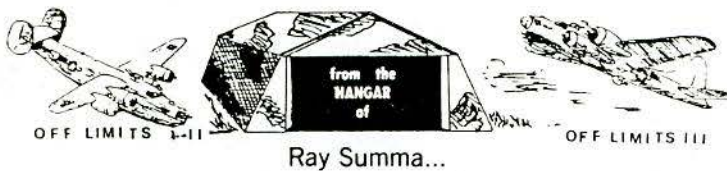
Cheers,
Bruce Sothern,
President

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Sgt. Litsey pointing to a flak hole.





Hello fellow members of the 34th B.G.

Hannah and I want to thank each of you who sent cards and letters to us at Christmas time. We do appreciate each one of them. Sorry we could not send cards to every one of you. We do hope this New Year of 1993 brings happiness and good health to you all.

We are both well. I am feeling much better at this time and hoping that 1993 will be much better than 1992 as far as my health is concerned.

Had several calls from members. Pete Gray called, wondering what became of the Carbines, Tommy Guns and the machine gun we called Grease Gun. The latter, incidently, was manufactured at the Guide Lamp Div. of General Motors here in Anderson. I seem to recall that the Tommy Guns and the so-called Grease Guns, which were 45 caliber, were collected up one day and were dropped to the Maquis Underground forces in France one night. Do any of you remember what happened to the Carbines? I don't know. If you have any information write and let me know.

Talked to George Ritchie the other day and he is getting along pretty good. He made a trip to Russia and France this summer. You all know George was using a cane to help him walk. Somehow, when he was in Paris, someone either stole his cane or he mislaid it and forgot where, so now he walks without one and says he is able to get along without it at the present time.

Guess I wasn't the only one under the weather this past year. I've received several letters from members who have had health problems too. I guess, as we are getting older, we can expect these happenings. So I say to all of you, "Take one day at a time", and, as Hannah says, "Take time to smell the roses".

Had a letter from Earl and Marjorie Walker. Marjorie had eye trouble and, while this was going on, Earl had to have open heart surgery. They were staying at their son's but are now home. This is the reason they were not at the Las Vegas reunion. They normally have been very faithful in attending all of the 34th's reunions.

Sorry I ran out of the "Lucky Bastard" pins. I only had nine left out of the 100 I ordered.

John Smith wrote me a letter asking about the location of the Radio room on a B-17. It was different than a B-24. Can any of you remember the location? I know but would like to find out how many of you remember. I have a picture of a B-17 with a machine gun sticking out of the top of the Radio room. Can any of you remember this?

Hal Province sent me 725 labels with names and addresses that he had found in his new computer phone director. I sent the letters out and in four days the telephone began to ring. Take a look at the NEWLY FOUND section and see how many we have found to date.

Ray L. Summa

Don't Forget To Send In Your Dues

Mail \$7.50 to: Harold Province
111 Province Lane
Carriere, MS 39426



Couplands Crew (Unidentified).

FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER

I trust that all of our 34th BG members had a safe a sane New Years Eve and that all enjoyed the holiday season! And I hope that all of you are considering attending the 1993 reunion in Little Rock, AK! Maybe we should invite the President to attend our reunion! I'm certain that many of you are as stunned as I am about the changes that have taken place in the past couple of years! Consider: the Berlin Wall, Panama, the USSR, the Air Force, Desert Storm, US politics, and many more items.

The CD ROM reader and Phone Disks were ordered and have been installed on my computer and we're getting some results from the names found on the disks. The BOD authorized the purchase of the reader and disks at Las Vegas (see the minutes of the BOD meeting at Las Vegas in Dec. 92' M/M). Ray Summa sent out 711 letters on Jan. 8, 1993, to people whose names were the same as those on our "LOST SHEEP LIST". On Jan. 11th Ray had received 8 LD calls from guys who had received the letters and 6 of them were from our "LOST SHEEP LIST". The other two were from men who weren't in the 34th but called anyway to tell Ray they were not the ones we were looking for. I think that was pretty nice of them to call, especially since they were not ex-34thers! And I am still awed by the fact that the Postal System had delivered at least a few letters by Monday morning, even though the letters were sent Third Class!!!! I must apologize to those who are members of the 34th BGA but still received letters about our hunt for our LOST SHEEP. The list of LOST SHEEP I used was several years old and I did not check as thoroughly as I should have. I'll keep you posted on the response we get from the mailing!

If any of you are researching your genealogical roots and have addresses missing of your "kinsmen", I'll be glad to make a pass at the Phone Disks and send you what is listed on them. Please give me as much information as you can: full name and/or initials, the last place of residence you know, the name of spouse or children who might be living at the same address. There are

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FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER

Continued from page 3

duplicate names listed for many last names on the phone disks and I presume they are children or spouses. I judge the source of information of names, phone numbers to be 1): telephone books and 2): credit bureau sources. If you know of a variation in the last name please include that too. There's not a PROVINCE listed on either Eastern or Western US phone disks, but there are more than 400 PROVANCES and PROVENCES. A point of interest: some of you may have known Ward S. Provance who was in S-2 at Mendlesham. We found him living in his home town listed in the 1947 34th BG book (the postmaster told Ray Summa that Ward wasn't in Joplin, MO. when Ray asked!) And others were found living at the address listed in the 1947 book! It turns out that WARD PROVANCE and I have Great-great grandfathers that were brothers! But somewhere along the line an A or an I were changed in the last name. So let me know if I can be of use in tracking down your kinsmen.

I hope you are not one who has a "bit of a spot of red", as the English might say, on your address label. The 34th BG Constitution mandates that those in arrears of dues be dropped from the mailing list for future issues of Mendlesham Memories! Judging from the comments that I see, MENDLESHAM MEMORIES in NOT something that we want to be without! I recently had a call from a man on the BOD of the 8th AFHS asking about an item that appeared in M/M!! So, please send your check for \$7.50 for 1993 dues if you see a "bit of red" on your mailing label. We just may be the BG with the least dues when it comes to annual dues. Or better still! Send me the LM dues of \$85.00 and quit worrying about annual dues.

Again—I hope you are considering attending the Little Rock reunion: as you no doubt realize, we're not getting any younger and there is a limit to number of reunions we might be able to attend! ATTEND ALL YOU CAN, WHILE YOU CAN!! Hope to see you in Little Rock in September!!

As of January 21st, 1993, we have FOUND 24 of our LOST SHEEP through the Phone Disks. See the list of the NEWLY FOUND to see if a buddy of yours is listed!

34th Bomb Group Reunions	PLAN TO ATTEND!!
Little Rock, Arkansas, Excelsior Hotel	Sept. 23-26, 1993
St. Paul, Minnesota, Radisson Hotel	Sept. 6-11, 1994

HAROLD E. PROVINCE,
Treasurer

REUNION CRITIQUE RESPONSE

by James Martin

(Editor's note)-In the last issue we printed a "Reunion Critique" sent in by Harold Province. We have since received the following letter in rebuttal of Harold's views. Inasmuch as we printed the original letter, we felt we must also print this one. However, please be advised that, although we usually print anything and almost everything we receive, we must state that, as most major media do, the views expressed in the letters are not necessarily the views of the editor. We print what we get and it's up to you to decide your own view. We hope our action in printing the first letter and, now, this one does not start some sort of a rift in our group. It has been so swell up until now.

The letter reads:

I would like to congratulate everyone who worked so hard to make the Las Vegas reunion a time to remember. The list is long but many of those who made this a happy time are the same people who work and help every year; the reunion committee, their wives, the president, Gen. Creer, Ray Summa, Eli, and all those who quietly help to do the small tasks which go largely unnoticed.

I am disturbed by what I consider to be a completely unjustified attack upon the reunion committee. Las Vegas is not famous for its catering to family reunions and does not even have the rooms for the sort of group visits which are a normal part of our reunions. Large numbers of members have asked to go to Las Vegas for several years and most of the members present know that there is no perfect place which has the capability to satisfy all the whims of every person. Most of the persons present enjoyed themselves and, as usual, adapted to the facilities which were available.

The reunion committee is not perfect but they have provided us with excellent facilities for several years. Trying to out-manuever hotel management and get the best possible overall deal is not as easy a task as some would believe. They are responsible for there being a reunion fund and, I believe, have done an excellent job of making our gatherings enjoyable and affordable.

If we will all dedicate ourselves to do the very best job that we can to see that we have a friendly, hardworking organization, with each of us doing the job which is entrusted to us to the best of our ability, we can adapt to the little things which bother us and each contribute to the fun of reunion time rather than selfish complaints.

Let us all make Little Rock a fun time.

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!



Crew picture of "Picadilly Tilly" (Unidentified).

REUNION '93

NOTICE!----NOTICE!

Now is the time to start your thinking machinery to attend the 34th Bomb Group reunion. This year we will meet in LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS. The dates are 23-26 September, 1993.

The Excelsior hotel has granted us space. It is a top-notch hotel with fine rooms and very, very good food. Riverfront Park is adjacent where relaxation, food and entertainment can be enjoyed.

Complimentary shuttle service from airport to hotel and hotel to airport will be provided. A map for those people who are driving will be in the next issue of Mendlesham Memories along with the reservation forms.

Bring your golf gear.

The Reunion Committee
Gerald Pine
Harold Rutka
Robert Wright

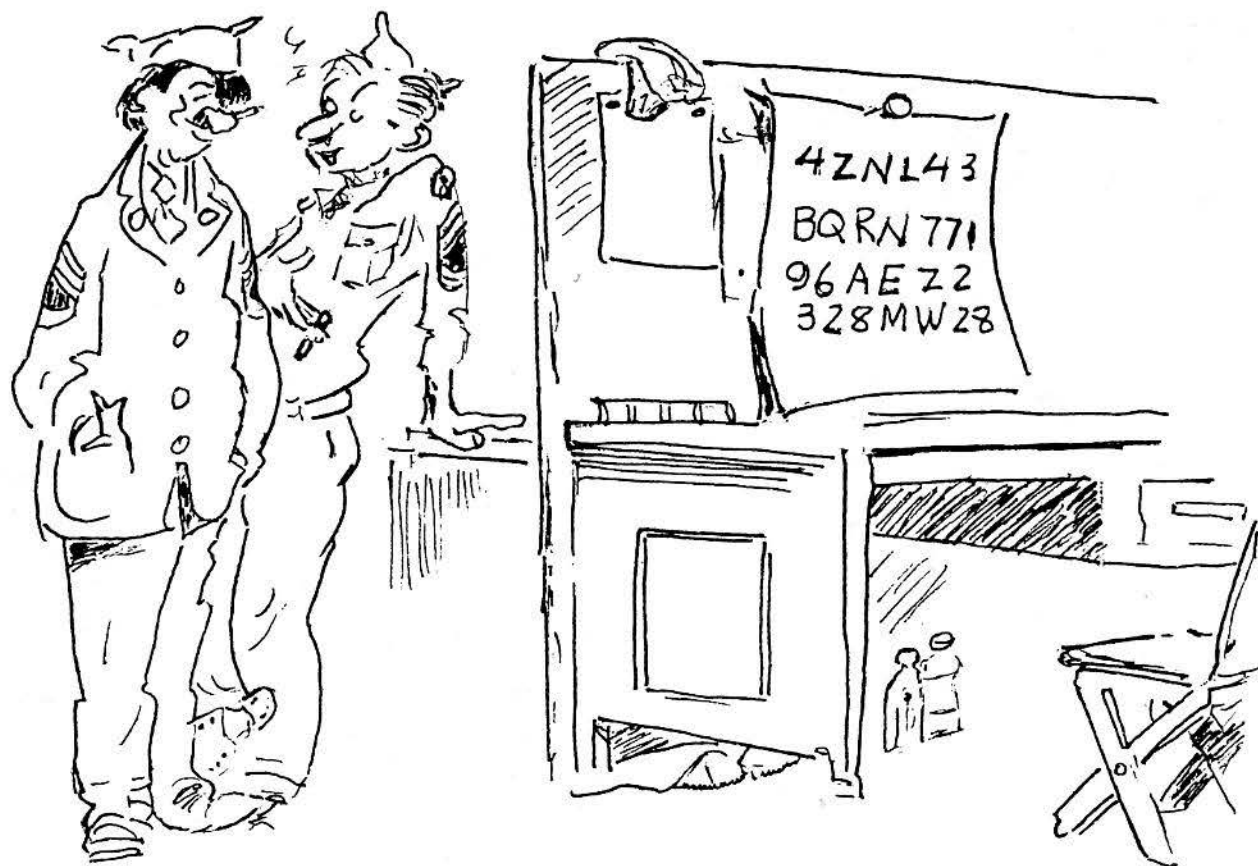
PROPOSED RETURN TO ENGLAND MAY 22, 1994

There has been no input on the PROPOSED RETURN TO ENGLAND. May 23rd, the arrival date, is the 50th anniversary of the 34th Bombardment Group's first mission. There are two trips to choose from - NO PRICES AS YET. Both tours will have FOUR NIGHTS IN CAMBRIDGE and will include Mendlesham - American Cemetery - Duxford - local sight-seeing - full buffet breakfasts - dinners. Tours will divide here and TOUR ONE will go on to STRATFORD-UPON-AVON for two nights and then on to LONDON for two nights.

TOUR TWO will leave for PORTSMOUTH for one night and visit the embarkation sites for the invasion of the continent. Two nights in CAEN, FRANCE visiting the landing beaches, etc. Three nights in PARIS and then to return home.

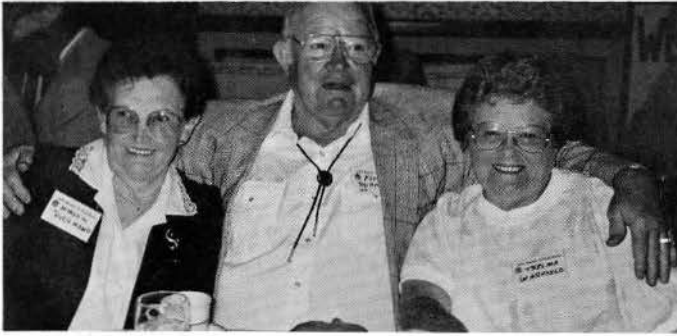
This is a preliminary plan and can be adjusted if you OFFER SOME SUGGESTIONS. We will have guaranteed prices at our Little Rock reunion.

Harold C. Rutka
Reunion Committee



IT SAYS " THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER OF
SQUADRON 7 WILL BE BACK FROM LUNCH
IN 'THIRTY MINUTES.'"

REUNION '92 - (LATE PHOTOS)



Miriam & Floyd Richmond with Thelma Warfield.



Claudia & Seymour Isaacs.



Lowell Larson, Herbert Donahue, Marvin Syverson.



L. to R.: Earl Frank, Dale Frank, Mary Frank and Esther Frank.



Art & Kathleen Busse with Marguerite & George Day.



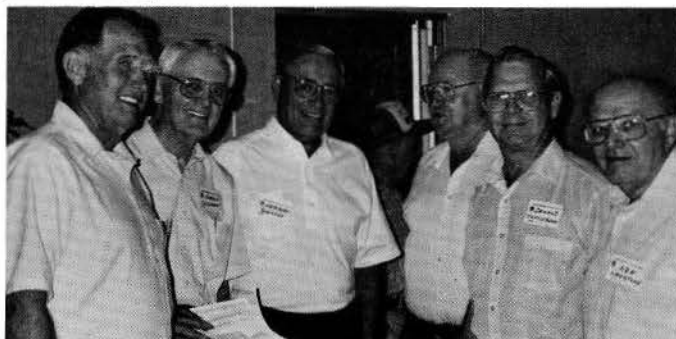
Art Busse, George Day and Joe Hanchar of the crew of "Snake Bit".



L. to R.: Wally & Joan Poole and Betty & Bob Lampey.



L. to R.: Roy & Mildred Ballantyne and Joy & Jim Hanrihan.



L. to R.: Lowell Larson, Marvin Syverson, Herb Donahue, Bennett Richmond, Don Stufflebeam, & Abe Firestone.

REUNION '92 - (LATE PHOTOS)



Bobbie & Lloyd Boreen.



Patsy & Frank Sligh.



Cliff & Louise Thompson.



Barbara & John Schifferer.



Mary Lou & Burch Wright.



Helen & Bud Bess.



L. to R.: Ginny & Bob Cole, Susan (Autry) Bryant (Daughter) and Elwin Autry.



Wayne & Laverne Howarter and Carroll & Sylvia Forister.



L. to R.: Gordon Spilker, Helen James, Eugene James, Fred Schoch, Clara Schoch, Bill Burnell, Georgia Prillaman, Margo Burnell, Jack Ashburn & Arnold Prillaman.



(Editor's note: Many of these letters were sent to Ray and Hannah Summa and were edited for insertion here.)

FLOYD B. RICHMOND - Pasca, WA.

Had a great time at Las Vegas and meeting with two other members of our crew on "The Knockout Drops", crew No. 13. I have located another member of our crew, Anthony V. Scimeca of 102 Overbrook Rd., Goldsboro, N.C. 27534. We were all in the 4th Sqdn. I didn't get his wife's name, though.

I think all of you are doing a good job - we appreciate all the work that goes into the reunions and the "Memories". Keep it up!

ROBERT COLE - South Bend, IN.

Good seeing you guys in Las Vegas. We're hoping to see you in Little Rock. We had a good (4 week) trip. I played golf with Bob Wright last week. He is doing good but has a little back trouble. We've been to 4 or 5 Purdue games recently so haven't had too much time to rest.

RAY SUMMA - Anderson, IN.

Well, here it is, Jan. 1st, 1993, and I am at the typewriter. Hannah and I are both doing fine. Had a little trouble after the hospital stay with a blood clot in the right leg. They put me on a de-coagulant pill and I have it checked every week for awhile. So far the pill is working very well.

ORAL WALKER - Battle Creek, MI.

Marge and I went to my Army Reunion in Sept., 1991 and then on to Florida to visit my sister. Marge has problems walking so I pushed her all over Busch Gardens, Sunken Gardens and Cypress Gardens in a wheel chair and had no problems. On the way back from Florida I started having small chest pains that didn't last, but her eyes started to bother her. Things went on until December 2nd when I had a heart attack. I spent 2 weeks in the hospital and had angioplasty. At the same time Marge was undergoing laser on both eyes. She had hemorrhages in both eyes. I went through 12 weeks of rehab and Marge went to Grand Rapids for surgery on her right eye, but a blood test revealed leukemia. At that time I had an ulcer kick up and I spent the month of June in the hospital. I've had 3 surgeries but am finally in good shape. Marge finally got the leukemia under control enough to have both eyes operated on but, so far, no results are apparent. She is totally blind now but is coping quite well so far. She is having lots of pain in the right eye and we put drops in it every two hours while we are awake. This has been a blinger of a year and have hopes for a better 1993.

WALTER STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

I'd like to see some time given to short stories or antidotes by the "ground pounders" as well as the air crews. It would be interesting. There were a number of "attached" men that have interesting stories, such as setting up the base at Mendlesham in advance of the air crews' arrival, the boat trips over, the bone yard for parts up the road, local fraternizing, as well as flight line incidents. I know that my crew chief lived in a half dugout on the flight line with a tent over it. How about the crew that ditched off Dakar on the way over? Red leather boots at Fortaleza, Brazil, peanut beer at Dakar, or mosquito nets at Trinidad. You should have seen the natives in London stare at Truman Wingo's cowboy boots worn with his uniform. Some of our wives and relatives have not heard this stuff.

(Editor's note: I have repeatedly requested the "ground pounders" to send in their stories. In that respect there is nothing I can do if the material is not sent to me.)

ROBERT SCHLINDWEIN - Sacramento, CA.

I feel sort of sad to have missed the Las Vegas reunion but I guess I have had my belly full of that town from other times and experiences. At any rate, I can't complain anymore about our group not having reunions on the western side of the country, huh?

Much appreciation to all of you for your continued great effort on behalf of the group.

BASIL L. GAUMER - Greenville, IL.

Mendlesham Memories is a great magazine. I was a member of the ground crew and a bomb loader in the Ordnance Section. There was a lot going on that I didn't know about.

FRANK SLIGH - Adkins, TX.

First I want you to know how much Patsy and I enjoyed our first reunion that was held in Las Vegas. We do not plan on it being our last.

If you are aware of anyone who might have a picture of the nose art of "Winnie The Pooh" I will be more than glad to pay for the cost of reproducing same.

Again, thanks for a wonderful time and the opportunity to meet so many friends.

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Lt. Curtiss' Crew.

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 8

ROBERT E. BELL - Hayward, CA.

Enjoyed the photos of the Las Vegas reunion. Saw a lot of familiar faces but, oh, how they have changed!

DON TUTTLE - San Jose, CA.

My son and I enjoyed the Las Vegas reunion very much. I thought it might be a little boring for him, but he really enjoyed listening to the many "War Stories", especially a couple by fellows who got shot down and had to work their way back.

We also spent an enjoyable day at Laughlin, which was a first time for me.

WAYNE HOWARTER - Welda, KS.

We had a good time in Las Vegas. It was different than all the other places we have been. Several regulars didn't show this year. I guess we're all getting closer to that time. We do plan to be in Little Rock next year.

JACK FARLEY - Verona, NJ.

Mendlesham Memories came yesterday and we both are devouring it, as usual. You do so much for the 34th.

BERYL (PAUL) ANDERSON -Everett, WA.

We are in Ottumwa, IA. to visit my mother who is quite ill. Had bad roads in the Blue Mountains of Oregon and in Wyoming. In fact, we lost a day at Laramie when I-80 was closed down. We still have hopes of visiting our son in Dallas for Christmas, and then on to our place in Mesa, AZ. But, it all depends on mother's condition.

ROBERT GRADIN - Superior, WI.

It was good to see you all in Las Vegas. Now, we've just returned from 3 weeks in Australia and New Zealand and, in early January, we drive to Mesa, AZ. for a stay of almost 4 months. May even get to Florida in late January or February.

PETER STAMPON - Gray, ME.

Lucille and I didn't make the reunion at Las Vegas but we are planning to join everyone in Little Rock in 1993.

In August of 1991, just before the reunion in Louisville, I had a colon cancer removed. I did manage to make that reunion. After I returned home, however, my doctor put me on chemotherapy treatments. I had a bad year because I didn't tolerate the chemotherapy treatments very well.

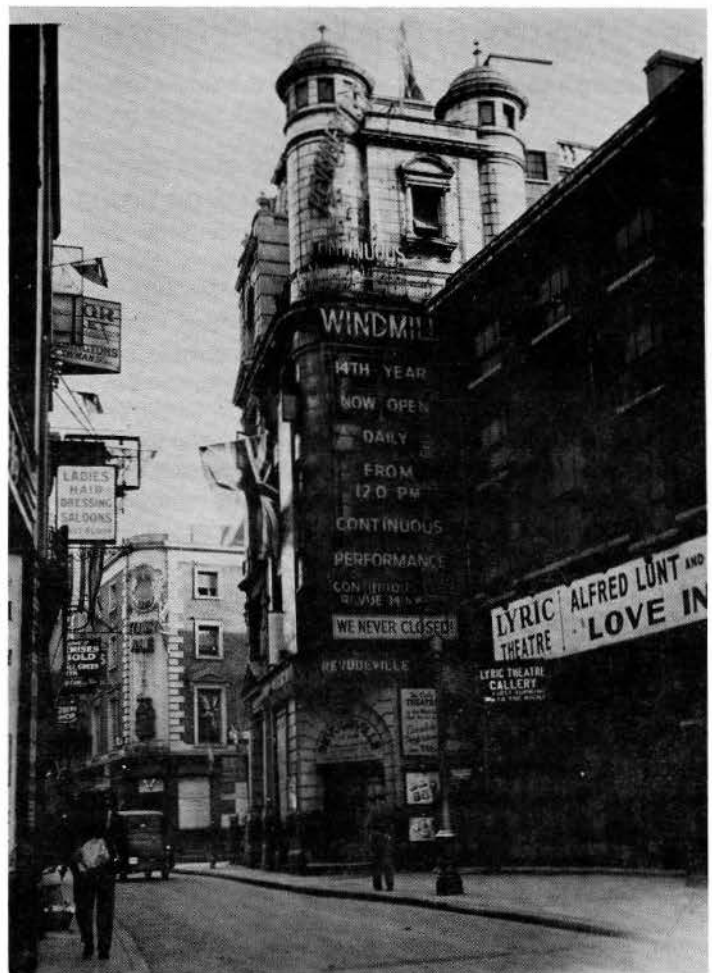
A short while ago I had a catscan and it came back clean so my doctor took me off the chemo. I am doing very well now, feel great and have gained back most of my lost weight. Lucille and I are even going to be able to spend most of the winter in Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina. We'll be there from Jan. 15th to April 1st. The trip will be good for both of us and get us away from the cold Maine winter. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Little Rock next year.

IMOGENE (CARL) FREYSINGER - Cable, OH.

We sure hated to miss the reunion this year. We were almost ready, but Carl had to have an emergency Double-By-Pass. Needless to say, he wasn't recovered enough to go to Las Vegas. We do hope to see everyone at Little Rock next year.

VINCE DORAN - Anchorage, AK.

Nice to see and talk to everyone again at the reunion, even if it was only hit and run. The December issue of Mendlesham Memories was great.



Windmill Theater in Piccadilly Square.

DALE GANGER - Goshen, IN.

I enjoy the Mendlesham Memories and have trouble laying it down until I have read it from cover to cover. You have done a fantastic job in putting it all together. Please excuse any typing errors. I have been failing in the last few years due to my M.S. I can no longer write and am having a little trouble with my typing also.

I was one of the youngest guys in the 34th, a photographer in the 4th squadron. I was just 19 when we arrived overseas. I am now retired from the R.V. business, retiring as general manager of the Carri-Lite divn. of Carriage, Inc.

GEORGE DAY - Zephyrhills, FL.

We enjoyed the Las Vegas reunion very much and want to thank all the officers and directors for a fine job. As this was our first reunion we didn't know what to expect, but we sure will make the one next year, and many more if all goes well.

WILLIAM "PETE" GRAY - Virginia Beach, VA.

Received the December issue of Mendlesham Memories a few days ago and, as usual, it was excellent. I think you must have had some journalistic experience in your earlier days-your expertise in that area shines through in each issue.

From the photos and articles concerning the Las Vegas affair I think everyone there must have had a fine time. I'm sorry I couldn't make it.

I also enjoyed that article by - whats his name? - Pete Gray? Once he learns the simple rudiments of grammar school writing and how to spell he may do O.K.

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Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 9

VERN AMES - Tonawanda, NY.

Another good reunion! 'Twas nice to see all our friends again. I'm sure next year will be even better!

HARRY McMILLION - Norfolk, VA.

Hope you are enjoying good health and never have to give up the editorship of Mendlesham Memories.

LOWELL LARSON - Oxnard, CA.

My wife and I had a great time at our first reunion at Las Vegas. It was fun to shoot the breeze with some guys I hadn't seen in over 40 years, like Frank Sivret. Also real nice to visit with our new president, Bruce Sothern. We lived at Blythe in the same little tent for quite a while. He was a very good electrician.

A.J.Z. (ABE) FIRESTONE - Hampton, VA.

Ernestine and I had a great time at the reunion. This was the first time that I had seen any of my crew since 1945. It truly was a reunion for me.

BINGO! The last of the missing crew members has now been found through the efforts of Floyd B. Richmond. He is Anthony V. Scimeca, our bombardier. I received a phone call from Tony the other day and I'll have to admit that, after 47 years of being out of touch, it was quite an experience and thrill. He lives in Goldsboro, N.C., which is just a few hours drive from here. We've been so near, but yet so far for all these years. Tony is interested in more information about our association and I'm sure someone will contact him.

We're looking forward to seeing everyone in Little Rock at the next reunion.



Paul Shull with Wilford Maddox at Blythe, 1944.

VERNA (JOE) EDWARDS - Lake Kiowa, TX.

This has been a very eventful year for us. Our son, Joe Jr., died in January. In May we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary and in June we took our first cruise.

We are both well and stay very busy both musically and socially. We look forward to possibly seeing you at the next reunion.

WALTER L. McALLISTER - Orlando, FL.

I'm sorry to report that Ruby has had a slight stroke. She is progressing well - walks a couple of miles a day, goes to an occasional movie, and bowled three games last Wednesday for a first try. She complains of a lack of energy (partly a side-effect of some required medication) and bemoans the fact that she can't drive the car and go when she wants. Apparently no hope of being allowed to drive for at least six more months.

The vision impairment is her current major worry. She can read the eye-exam charts (without glasses) across the room at 20/25 left and 20/30 right, but has a problem with near vision and loss of left-side peripheral vision. With her new glasses she can read at normal distance 20/20 but tires of it in a short time. Overall, we're very lucky that she came out without more serious losses.

BETTY (VERBAL) HOLCOMB - San Bernardino, CA.

Needless to say, we all missed Ray and Hannah very much since they are always there. Aside from seeing all the old gang, they didn't miss much at this reunion. This is in no way a reflection on the Reunion Committee who ALWAYS does a superb job but, due to the nature of the location, everyone wanted to go different ways. We didn't get to go on the Nellis tour due to the limited space but heard it was a fiasco, anyway.

After the reunion we traveled around the area with the Ambers Hansons, as we usually do at reunions. Since none of us gamble much we saw several of the shows and took the Hoover Dam tour, the best dam tour we ever saw. Jean Hanson usually plans our itinerary and, boy, does she ever keep us busy.

OLIVER BOLDUC - Chaplin, CT.

We are both fine. Didn't take any trips this summer. So many widows here who we try to keep in their own homes. It's a lot of work to maintain their homes, yards, firewood, doctor trips, etc. We do the best we can for them but it seems it's never enough. Anyway, it keeps us going, I guess.

STEVE BIALAS - Fullerton, NE.

We had a wonderful year with lots of rain. The crops were very good and hay is cheap so we bought more than we need in case we hit a dry year. We won't have to sell off the cattle.

We married our youngest son off in June so we haven't any kids left at home. Wes Franklin came down for his wedding so we had a nice visit with him and his wife.

PAUL BRESH - Fort Myers, FL.

We didn't get to the last reunion. Some of them are scheduled just too far away for these old bodies to travel.

Betty will have some eye surgery soon. They are still doing all kinds of tests on my back but, as yet, nothing seems to work.

GUY GIPSON - Shreveport, LA.

Another year and we're still among the living. Had a pretty good year. Our dog died (17 yrs. old), our car was stolen (got it back) and a tornado got part of our roof. Other than that we've had lots of enjoyable house guests and are looking forward to all our children being home for Christmas.

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 10

DON FILLMAN - Des Moines, IA.
(To Ray Summa)

We and a lot more people missed you at Las Vegas. We have some idea of what you are experiencing. I went through that prostate deal and Betty had a triple bypass.

We got to enjoy meeting a few more of the 18th, Leon Salveson and his co-pilot, Bill Browne. It was great. We also went to Santa Barbara and met with Russell Paulnock. The last time I saw him was 48 years ago in August, 1944.

GORDON BREEDING - Alpena, MI.

Nell and I are in fine health (so we think). Just have some aches and pains now and then. We put in a garden this year. Well, that went down hill. Too much rain and too cool. Boy, what a summer we had up here. Nothing grew. Even the farmers had a bad crop.

I got my deer this year back in the big swamp. Shot it at 4:15 p.m. and didn't get back with it until 8:00 o'clock. Boy, was Nell up in arms. "Leave the deer there and come home to get some help!!" Oh well, that's deer hunting, I guess.

NORMA (HAROLD) PARRISH - Carbondale, IL.

Harold has been back from the nursing home for a year and a half now. Illness is no respecter of persons, even for a spunky Air Force pilot. Parkinson's Disease destroyed his mobility and Alzheimer's robbed him of memory. A year ago I really didn't think he would ever see another Christmas, but here it is twelve months later and his condition is stable at the present time but continues to decline. He recognizes almost no one now and is out of bed only for a limited amount of time each day. He is as content and comfortable as a person in his condition can be. As for me, if I were totally honest, I would admit to getting tired of being a caregiver for "thirty-six hours a day", but God's grace is sufficient (most of the time).

PAULINE (BOB) SUMMERS - Browns Mills, NJ.

1992 was quite a year for Bob. In January he was in the hospital for his heart again. In February he was again in the hospital as he had a severe attack of diverticulitis. Then in March we went to St. Mary's hospital in Milwaukee, WI. where Bob had 5 bypasses. It was also discovered he had pericarditis, so that was taken care of also. He got on quite well. In July he was in the hospital again for a double hernia operation. He's never gotten the use of his right hand and arm and he has to use a cane. We are grateful that he's come through so much and we give our heavenly Father our thanks and praise.

HENRY TOBIASON - Remer, MN.

Audrey and I were not able to make the reunion in Las Vegas this year due to her not being able to take her vacation at that time. Audrey is still working. After all, somebody in the family has to work to keep me in money for gas and buy my minnows for fishing. Ha-Ha! We did go down to Branson, MO. for a week the last days of Sept. and first part of Oct. We love it down there.

We're already talking about the Little Rock reunion next year. We'll stop in Branson on the same trip like we did for Shreveport and Louisville. I guess we'll have to drive a big circle to make both St. Paul and Branson in 1994.

I'm now going to give you some bad news. Charles Van Kirk had a massive heart attack and passed away on Thanksgiving Day at Vista, CA. I had a short letter from his wife, Jane. She said he had not been feeling well since August.

JOHN BLOCZYNSKI - Marshfield, WI.

We did enjoy ourselves in Las Vegas. We're still thinking about all that delicious food. It was also so good to see everyone again - all looking so well, too. We are looking forward to Little Rock in September.

CLEVELAND ROMERO - Lafayette, LA.

We met with Ervin Hanken in the lobby of the hotel in Sioux Falls, SD. on December 29th. We were in Sioux Falls with 15 other members of my family to attend my grandson's wedding.

Ervin and I had last seen each other in a POW camp at Mooseberg, Germany 47 years ago. I called him when I found out he lived only about 30 miles from Sioux Falls. He came by to visit and the only way I could recognize him was the fact that he was wearing a 34th B.G. cap. Ervin and I were shot down on the same mission on Jan. 14, 1945 and ended up in the same prison camp at Nuremberg and were finally liberated at Mooseberg. He and his ball turret gunner were the only survivors from his aircraft and I was the sole survivor from ours.

It was certainly pleasant to have seen him again and we are hopeful to meet again at Little Rock this fall.



Left: Cleveland Romero. Middle: Henrietta Romero. Right: Ervin Hanken.

EDWARD H. QUINN - Levittown, NY.

We would be lost without Mendlesham Memories. Keep up the good work.

HUGH CHESI - Pueblo, CO.

I'm proud to have been a member of the Mighty Eighth Air Force as a flight engineer on the flying fortress, the B-17. I'm proud that we helped "bury" Hitler and ended the Holocaust.

RICHARD FECHKO - Gardfield Heights, OH.

I understand the Nazi Party is beginning to get active in Germany again. It looks like you and I and the 8th Air Force will have to go over to straighten them out. We did it before and we can do it again.

Continued on page 12

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 11

MERLE WILSON - Independence, KS.

I didn't get to go to the Las Vegas reunion as I'm still farming. I will go next year as it isn't too far from us. We attended the 8th AFHS reunion in Louisville. We always enjoy seeing all the fellows.

I was one of the farmers that got my soy beans and some wheat planted before all the rain set in. It's really muddy, but could be worse.

FRED SCHOCH - Spokane, WA.

We're in a "Deep Freeze" here with snow up to a "Tall Indian". The temperature has been in the single digits for a couple of weeks. The snow came just before Christmas and has accumulated to nearly 60 inches. The snowplows have finally got our city streets passable. Outlying towns have closed their schools for several weeks because of drifting and blowing snow.

Clara and I are making plans for Little Rock in September and hope to spend a few extra days in the area sightseeing.

T. M. WAARVICK - Tigard, OR.

We are into winter for the first time in a number of years with temps. in the twenties, blowing dry snow. but somedays with bright sunshine. We are not complaining. The rain and snow are very welcome all along the West Coast because of a long period of drought.



L. to R.: ?????, Chester Antkowiak & Clyde Sudderth.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From the Selman Field Historical Association we have word that they are planning a reunion from April 23rd to the 26th, 1993 at Monroe, LA. If any of our members are interested, they can contact: Swansea E. Kotz, 1606 Fairview Avenue, Monroe, LA. 71201, telephone: (318) 325-2998.

We have a request from a member of FOTE as follows:

I am a genuine collector of WWII squadron and group patches and have some 40 or 50 in my collection. Unfortunately, although I do have an original 391st Sqdn. patch, I am still seeking to obtain 4th, 7th, 18th and group patches. I am willing to pay a considerable amount for any original wartime-made squadron or group patch. If anyone is willing to part with their original patch please write me. My address is: Wayne Shearsmith, 27 Coniston Road, Kettering, Northants, NN16, 8UL, England.

We have an item of interest to Chicago, IL. area members as follows:

I am the newly volunteered founding President of the Chicago Chapter of the 8th Air Force Historical Society. I am in the process of forming this chapter, which has never existed before. I hope we can get it together in time for a reunion here in 1993.

I would like to hear from all interested people. Inasmuch as we're in our infancy, with no financing as yet, I hope to hear from as many of the Chicago area people as possible. Please write me at: LtCol Terry Carlson, 5074 W. Balmoral Avenue, Chicago, IL. 60630.

WANTED! - WANTED!

Ex-Gunners for the Air Force Gunners Association (AFGA).

The AFGA is a non-profit association composed of enlisted aerial gunners who served in the U.S. Army Air Force or the United States Air Force - who flew on any type of bomber aircraft as a gunner, including radio operators and flight engineer gunners.

The AFGA was organized in 1986 and, presently, we have approx. 1,300 members. We have biennial reunions, alternating from the East, Central and Western sections of the U.S. Our 4th reunion will be held July 15-19, 1993 at Bethesda, MD. For more information contact: Jay E. Ingle, Membership Chairman, 35469 Colossians Way, Shingletown, CA. 96088.

From Ray Summa we have the following:

How many of you have bought the book, "Bomber Stories"? It was written by Russell Zorn and Ian McLachlan. This is a good book to have. It tells of the crashes of planes from the 8th and 9th Air Forces in England. Several planes from the 34th are included. One is my plane, "Off Limits", a B-24 from the 18th Squadron.

As you know, we of the ground crews were not informed as to what happened to our planes, just that they crashed. This book gives us an insight as to what happened. There are lots of pictures of the crashes, so if you're going to buy a book, make it this one.

Russell Zorn died before the book was finished and his son helped Ian McLachlan finish it. It can be bought from: Zenith Books, P.O. Box 4 Rev, Oscella, WI. Phone No. 1-800-826-6600.

Continued on page 13

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 12

An autobiography of a B-17 crew member titled "U.S.A. THE HARD WAY" is now available from the author. It is the story of his training, flying missions with the 8th A.F. over Germany, being shot down and captured by the Germans and his stay in a German prison camp. The book is 5½"x8½", paperback and cost is \$16.00 (plus 7¼% sales tax if residing in California). Send check or money order to: Roger W. Armstrong, 9641 Skylark Blvd., Garden Grove, CA. 92641-2631. Phone: (714) 539-6506.

The United States Soldiers' & Airmen's Home in Washington, DC. currently does not have a waiting list. They urgently need new members. There are probably many veterans across the country who are not aware of (or have forgotten about) the important benefit they have with this home.

Anyone interested in more information about this benefit can write to:

Kerri J. Childress, Public Affairs Officer,
United States Soldiers' & Airmen's Home
3700 North Capitol Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20317
or phone (202) 722-3556

INFORMATION, PLEASE!

HELP! Information please on the 34th Bomb Group's mission to Krusnock, Germany, Jan. 2, 1945.

38 aircraft were scheduled on the mission - only one (1) failed to return. What happened to that one (1) aircraft? My brother, Staff Sgt. N. E. Sumpter of the 4th squadron, was a crew member on that aircraft. Did anyone witness or know what happened to his plane? Please respond to:

O.E. Sumpter
801 Surrey Road
Hot Springs, AR. 71909
Phone (501) 624-1684

In "The Retired Officer" magazine of the TROA we have found the following information request from one of our own members:

Seeking information regarding Sgt. Robert B. Mitchell who was stationed with the 18th Bomb Sqdn. of the 34th B.G. at Geiger Field, Spokane WA. in 1942. He was best man at my wedding in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho on Nov. 21, 1942. Please write to:

H.W. Graves
830 N. Park Ave.
Oak Harbor, WA. 98277

In a letter from a Patricia J. Dunston we have the following:

I am presently engaged in writing a history of the former Ephrata (Washington) Army Air Base. According to the official history of the EAAB, the 34th B.G. arrived and departed that station in December 1942.

I would like to get in touch with anyone who was stationed at the Ephrata Army Air Base and would appreciate any help you can give me. Please write to:

Patricia J. Dunston
97 Road 18.5 NE.
Soap Lake, WA. 98851



ROSE'S CORNER

The Inaugural
Valentines Day
Presidents' Day
St. Patrick's Day
Easter
January 13, 1993

To begin the New Year right I took down all of the beautiful Christmas cards sent to us by you lovely people and cut out the sparkled fronts which will be used for name tags on next year's gifts. Good recycling idea?

When you read this the inaugural of President Clinton will have been telecast all over the world. Presidents' Day, Valentines Day and St. Patrick's Day will be fond memories, most of our resolutions will have been broken and I will be looking forward to shopping with the grandchildren for Easter Clothing and our Easter bonnets.

We are hoping that you all have spent some happy times during these days which we celebrated and are looking forward to a summer full of fun.

The summer season reminds me of the very good recipe that Gerry Pine sent us and the only advice I have is to very slowly add the tabasco and cumin because the next day you'll be sorry you didn't! Keep testing as the spices are stirred in and ask your spouse to stand by. No problems later! You'll love this one.

BAR-B-QUE SAUCE

4 tablespoons butter
½ cup chopped onions
2 or 3 cloves garlic
(chopped fine)
1½ teaspoons fresh ground
black pepper
2 tablespoons sugar
4 tablespoons paprika
2 tablespoons celery salt
1 teaspoon Tabasco sauce
1 teaspoon ground Cominos
(also called cumin)
3 cups beef stock or 3
bouillon cubes in 3
cups hot water
1½ cups chili sauce
2 tablespoons Lea and Perrins
Worcestershire Sauce

Saute onions and garlic in the butter. Mix all ingredients together and simmer slowly for one hour. The ingredients can be altered to suit one's taste. (See advice above.)

Note: Because we are in Florida I don't have Audrey Gibbs' recipe which I promised. Next issue for sure, Audrey!

May God Bless you abundantly with love and good health!

Rose

ADDRESS CHANGES

(As of 1-25-93)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ARMSTRONG	DENTON	4-18	7265 KENTUCKY DR., APT. A	LAKEWOOD,	CO.	80226
BOULDIN	JAMES E.	7	5395 S. E. ORANGE ST.	STUART,	FL.	34997
BOULIANE	JEAN P.	7	1400 HERMAN DR. APT.16B	HOUSTON,	TX.	77004
COBB	JUNIOUS W.	18	ROUTE 1, BOX 131	UNION HALL,	VA.	24176
CONNELLY	DON	7	515 7TH AVE. S. #2A	CLINTON,	IA.	52732
FREDETTE	RAYMOND H.	7	8351 WAGON WHEEL ROAD	ALEXANDRIA,	VA.	22309
GOETZ	FRED W.	4-18	2959 S.BAY DR., APT.Q11	CLEVELAND,	OH.	44145
HILDEBRAND	THOMAS H.	4	P.O. BOX 9005	ORANGEBURG,	SC.	29116
IVEY	KIVETT	7	153 SUTTON ROAD	LA GRANGE,	NC.	28551
JACKSON	KENNETH G.	7	6609 CHERRY DRIVE	KNOXVILLE,	TN.	37919
MILLIKEN	JOSEPH L.	490TH BG	13252 S.W. 63RD AVE.	PORTLAND,	OR.	97219
RATHBUN	EDGAR H.	7	190 HERITAGE ROAD	WINDSOR,	CT.	06095
SADOWSKY	AL	391	17266 BOCA CLUB BLVD. 1601	BOCA RATON,	FL.	33487
STANBERRY	RALPH M. SR.	7	1490 NEEDMORE ROAD	BRYSON CITY,	NC.	28713
SWANN	ALFRED A.		2921 VILLA ROSA PARK	TAMPA,	FL.	33611
WILSON	MERLE E.	7	RT. 4, BOX 195	INDEPENDENCE,	KS.	67301
WOOTEN	JOHN R.	4	14661 ALLISON STREET	ADELANTO,	CA.	92301
YOUNG	JAMES C.	7A	133 W. LOCUST ST., APT. 214	MECHANICSBURG,	PA.	17055



TAPS

(As of 1-25-93)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>	<u>DIED</u>
BARBARAS	GEORGE		2480 W. MEDFORD AVE. LKA	MILWAUKEE,	WI.		
BOOZMAN	FAY						
BRUNK	ALLEN		712 ENFIELD	BRYAN,	TX.		5-12-83
CARLIN	GERALD		535 NORTH ALTA VISTA BLVD. LKA	HOLLYWOOD,	CA.		
DAVIDSON	RICHARD		341 STEWART AVENUE	LOMBARD,	IL.	60148	
EFFINGER	ROBERT		1307 EDMUND AVENUE LKA	ST. PAUL,	MN.		1940'S
FINK	EDWARD A.	7	1418 W. PERSIMMON ST.	RIALTO,	CA.	92376	4-18-92
GOY	ERNEST G.	391	3814 CARY ROAD N.W.	HUNTSVILLE,	AL.	35810	DEC.'89
HENDERSON	JOHN A.	7	221 TAMRACK DRIVE	BLOOMINGDALE,	IL.	60108	
McKEON	PATRICK	7	23 WINTER STREET LKA	HYANNIS,	MA.		
ORCHOLL	THOMAS S.	391	10526 LEHIGH COURT	SUN CITY,	AZ.	85351	6-02-92
REEVES	THOMAS C.	4	212 NO. ATLANTIC PLACE	BOISE,	ID.	83706	9-21-92
VAN KIRK	CHARLES	4	1506 OAK DRIVE #111	VISTA,	CA.	92803	11-26-92
WILLIAMS	JAMES						
WIRTHLIN	JAY L.(BOB)		P. O. BOX 415	DOLAN SPRINGS,	AZ.	86441	8-26-88

LOST SOULS - MOVED? - STRAYED?

(Mail returned when sent to these addresses - Ned new addresses)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
DAYE	PHILIP J.	7	6305 GAGE PL. #202A	HIALEAH,	FL.	33014
GROSS	GERALD		2416 OCEAN CREST BLVD.	FAR ROCKAWAY,	NY.	11691
HILLIS	LAYMAN M.	4	715 WOODTOP ROAD	WILMINGTON,	DE.	19804
MOLLIKA	JOHN V.	391 (LM)	4345 EDEN STREET S.W.	SALEM,	OR.	97301

NEWLY FOUND

(As of 1-25-93)

(NOTE: NAMES MARKED * FOUND THRU PHONE DISK RECENTLY PURCHASED)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
BUTLER*	JOHN ALLEN	391	59 NORTH ROAD	PEACE DALE,	RI.	02883
CAFFREY*	JAMES P.	4	4323 126TH PLACE N.E.	MARYSVILLE,	WA.	98271
CAMDEN	JACK	4	RT. 5. BOX 126	AMHURST,	VA.	24521
CHAISSON*	WILTON P.		1020 DERBIGNY STREET	GRETNA,	LA.	70053
CLARK*	BURNELL E.	391	3305 SHARER ROAD	TALLAHASSEE,	FL.	32312
CULBERTSON*	CHARLES	7-4	4004 CHESTNUT AVENUE	LONG BEACH,	CA.	90807
FERRY*	DUANE F.	18-4	2204 OAK DRIVE	NEWBERG,	OR.	97132
FOGG	FRANK		7307 S. 69TH EAST COURT	TULSA,	OK.	74133
FOX	ROBERT B.	7	4539 GAMBEL COURT	INDIANAPOLIS,	IN.	46241
GARNEAU*	EDGAR "PETE" H.	391	3978 SPYGLASS HILL	SARASOTA,	FL.	34238
GRENDZINSKI*	MITCHELL	18	3741 S.W. 27TH TERRACE	MIAMI,	FL.	33134
GUMM*	WILBERT T.	7	4239 GARDEN DRIVE	RACINE,	WI.	53403
JACKOBS	MAURICE	391	BOX 30	GARRISON,	TX.	75946
LEHMAN*	RALPH M. "MAC"	7-4	3465 ROYAL TERN CIRCLE	BOYINGTON BEACH,	FL.	33436
LOTSPIECH	WILLIAM	4	2202 WEST 11TH STREET	IRVING,	TX.	75060
MARTIN*	RAMON T.	7	171 MANHATTAN TERRACE	DUMONT,	NJ.	07628
MAYNE*	JOSEPH		7 HITCHING POST LANE	CENTERVILLE,	MA.	02632
McBRIDE*	JAMES T.	7-18	122 EASTWOOD DRIVE	FLORENCE,	MS.	39073
McLAUCHLAN	GEORGE "RED"		151 KINGSBERRY AVENUE	CORNING,	NY.	14830
MILLSTONE*	MARTIN A.	391	1434 SOUTH FARRELL DRIVE	PALM SPRINGS,	CA.	92264
MOORE	THEODORE C. "TED"	391	4510 CLIFFORD DRIVE	BRIGHTON,	MI.	48116
MORRISON*	WARREN E.	391	234 TWELFTH STREET, S.E.	WASHINGTON,	D.C.	20003
NEUBAUER*	GEORGE W.	7	811 SOUTH IOKA AVENUE	MOUNT PROSPECT,	IL.	60056
NIXON*	WENDELL B.	18 (LM)	986 WOODLAND STREET	HENET,	CA.	92545
OLSEN	CALVIN B.	18	P.O. BOX 2209	ONALASKI,	TX.	77360
PROVANCE*	WARD S. JR.	7	2317 SERGEANT	JOPLIN,	MO.	64804
RICKER*	CONRAD L.	7	508 N.W. 86TH STREET	OKLAHOMA CITY,	OK.	73132
RUSSELL	WILLIAM V.		138 CHAMBERLIN DRIVE	WEST SENECA,	NY.	14210
SCIMECA	ANTHONY	4	102 OVERBROOK ROAD	GOLDSBORO,	NC.	27534
SHERMAN*	MORRIS	7	9733 HOLCOMB STREET	LOS ANGELES,	CA.	90035
SIMPSON*	THOMAS R.		212 CASA GRANDE DRIVE	ODESSA,	TX.	79763
STOUFFER*	RICHARD R.	7	1807A GLENWOOD OAKS COURT	URBANA,	IL.	61801
VALLIANDO	ARTHUR A.	391	39 MARY LANE	RIVERSIDE,	CT.	06878
WHITE*	WALTER P. JR.		3631 CROOKED OAK LANE	WINSTON-SALEM,	NC.	27106
WILEY	ELMER A.	391	1109 BOURBON STREET	SOMERSET,	KY.	42501

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(As of 1-25-93 - Total now 240)

<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 L.	391	1320 WYNONA DRIVE	ENID,	OK.	73701
CHURCHIA	GORDON	391	231 E. WILLOW DRIVE	SOUTH BEND,	IN.	46637
GILLESPIE	GEORGE F.	4	500 LEWIS DRIVE	FAIRBORN,	OH.	45324
HENRY	GLENN E.	7	417 YOSEMITE TRAIL	MADISON,	WI.	53705
LEVY	IRVING	18	3901 MONTECITO AVENUE	PHOENIX,	AZ.	85018
NIXON	WENDELL B.	18	986 WOODLAND STREET	HENET,	CA.	92545
SLIGH	FRANK T.	391	11689 LOOP 107	ADKINS,	TX.	78101
THOMPSON	CLIFFORD E.	391	8649 SW. KLAMATH CIRCLE	WILSONVILLE,	OR.	97070



Then and Now



GEORGE C. WEDDELL



1944

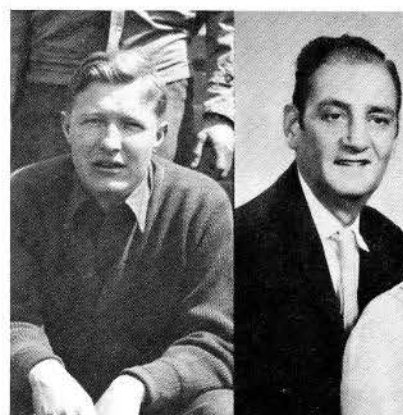


1989

FRANCIS L. WOODWARD & RALPH WALKER



1943



1985

JOHN R. & LENORA WOOTEN



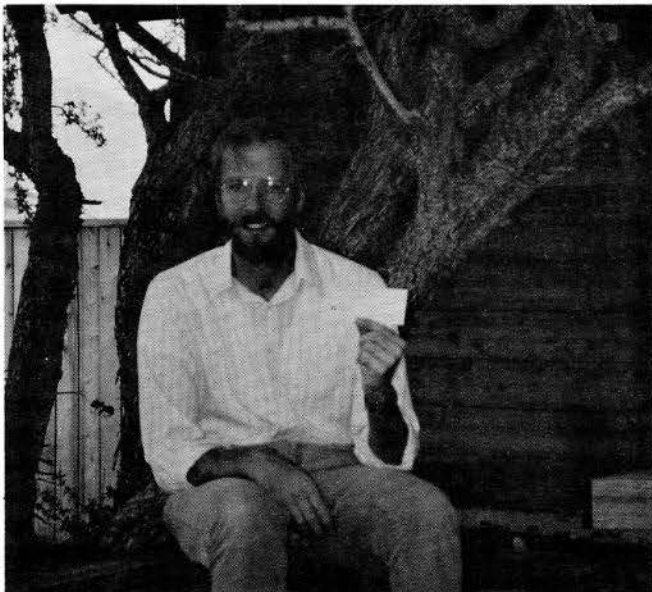
1945



1989

A SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

2ND PLACE - RICHARD BULIS



Richard Bulis with his 2nd place scholarship check.

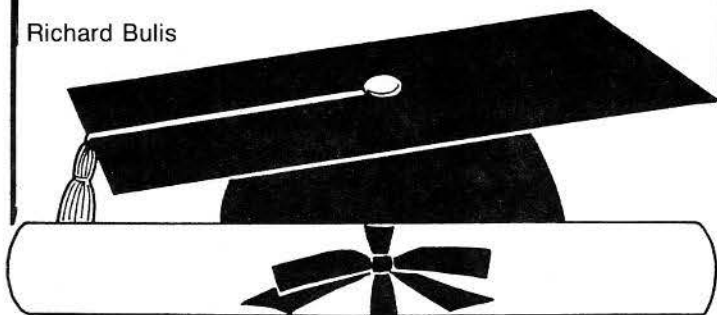
Dear 34th Bomb Group:

I've just received your package and am honored to accept the scholarship from the 34th Bombardment Group. It will be most helpful as I pursue my Masters in Land Use Policy degree at the University of Nevada, Reno.

I was surprised and pleased by the inclusion of the 34th Bomb Group book, which I did not own. I would like to thank all the members for this, and I hope some day I can meet you guys and listen to some of your stories.

Sincerely,

Richard Bulis



A newspaper article from "Stars And Stripes"
sometime in 1944

submitted by George Kline

Several officers and EMs of a bombardment group have pooled their technical abilities to build and operate radio station VTV - "Valor To Victory" - at their fortress base commanded by Lt. Col. William E. Creer, of Spanish Fork, Utah.

A main studio with double-glass window and sound-proofed walls transmits entertainment and "sugar-coated" lectures to barracks and buildings of the dispersal sites by means of a control board, 60-watt amplifiers and 200 loudspeakers.

1st Lt. Bob N. Provence, intelligence officer from Lewisburg, WV., handles daily newscasts, while S/Sgt. Howard L. Green of Abilene, TX. gives out with sports data. Program manager is 1st Lt. James S. Hollowell of Cranford, NJ., a B-17 pilot who devotes his spare time from combat missions to produce station shows and sort out discs ranging from Tatum to Toscanini.

The technical staff is headed by S/Sgt. Casimir P. Surek of Chicago, IL., who installed the control tables and amplifiers.

GHOSTS

by Jill V. Chandler

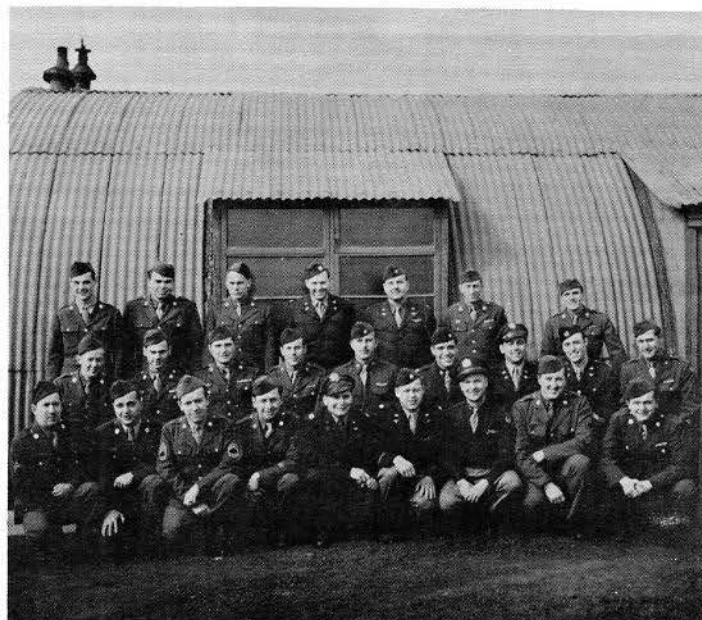
There are ghosts that haunt my mind.
Not spirits from the presents,
But those from forty-five years back in time.
They are ghosts of the men and planes
That once owned the sky.

Why they haunt me I do not know.
For some reason they will not let me go.
The fought ferocious battles over land and sea.
Even in death they have a lot to show.

In a book I saw a photo of a man
I thought I'd like to meet.
I later found out he met his death
At 25,000 feet.

He has probably been long forgotten.
My thoughts do not want to leave him behind.
He was once young like me.
Because on that man I am free.

Tho the soldiers lie sleeping in their eternal nest,
And their great planes have been cast aside,
The ghosts of the air war cannot rest.
Most have forgotten about that day,
But with me the ghosts of the air war
Will forever stay.



A group of men in front of a nissen hut, unidentified. Recognize anyone?



Lt. Dold's Crew.

by Wallace Brauks

I and others of the 34th Bomb Group were POW's in Stalag Luft IV during WWII. While going through my papers I came across an article from the WAR CRIMES OFFICE listing the nicknames that we POW's of Stalag Luft IV gave to the officers and guards. They were as follows:

LTC Bombach - Snaggletooth, Big Wheel

MAJ Gruber - Hollywood, Medals, Snake Eyes

Hauptman Pichardt - Ice Cream Man, Mad Captain, Butcher of Berlin

Oberfeldwebel Fahnert - Iron Cross

MAJ Stahle - Rigor Mortise

Feldwebel Schmidt - Big Stoop, Slap Ears, Ham Hands, Green Hornet (Wore green wehrmacht coat)

Other Guards - Crowbar Pete, Trigger Happy, Dirty Gus, Riffle Butt, Fritz, The Spider, Twenty Kilometer Joe.

We also had a Hauptman Sommers, Chief Medical Officer, who diagnosed 200 dog and bayonet wounds as "Sunstroke".

I thought others in our group would be interested in this information.

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Jefferson Barracks, MO.

November 11, 1943

Dear Dad,

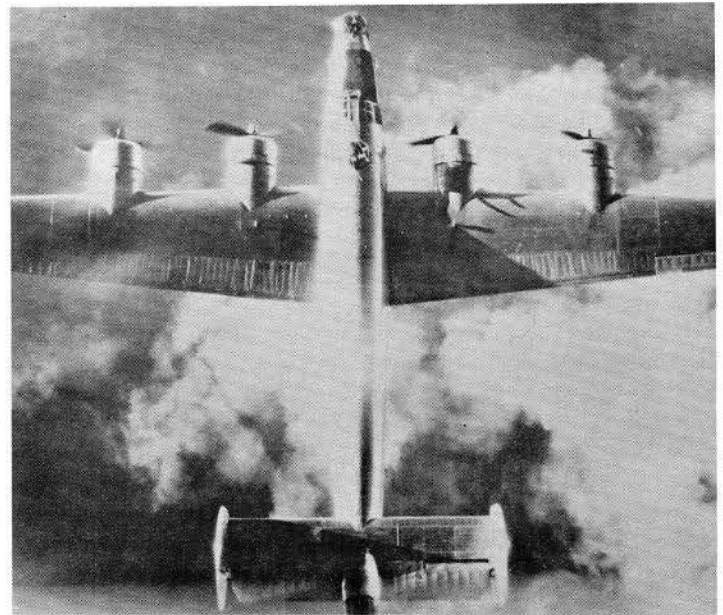
I received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. I wonder what you were doing this morning at 11:00 o'clock. I just stood at attention and did some serious thinking. I got to thinking about why I was here learning to KILL. Why must I learn this? I wondered if my children, if I ever have any, would have to go through the same sort of thing I'm going through now?

I wondered how all those mothers felt when they heard they may never see their sons again. Only, this time, their daughters were also included in the mess. I guess it used to be that only men were in wars. Next, women became nurses and now, women are taking up arms and KILLING, just as the men are doing. Will man ever stop KILLING? Can't they see that no one is better than the other? Can't they profit by other men's mistakes?

You'd think, by now, that man would know there's some one who will stand for no nonsense such as world domination! Caesar tried it, Napoleon tried, Kaiser tries and now, Hitler. Can't someone stop men like these before they even get started?

What good is it for men to invent things? Take the airplane, for instance. It could have done man a world of good. But no, he had to take it, put guns on it, and load it with bombs to go out and KILL. What good does medicine do? It saves a man on the battle field who later sends his son right back out to the same thing. I realize now why men don't talk about battles and conditions they have gone through.

But, as usual, it's the ones who start it that are miles away from the front lines. If only the ones who start it were put into a ring to fight it out, I doubt there would ever be a thing such



One of our B-24's over target.

as war. I only wish that those who make the big money, those who want war just to grab a fortune, could be put through the experiences that some of our soldiers have to go through.

I guess war is GOD'S way to punish us who have been sinful and wicked. If only the mothers could be spared the pain and torture they go through. Some of our politicians in Washington should give more time to the winning of the war instead of "POST-WAR PLANNING". We'll have to win it before such plans can work.

I hope everything is O.K. with you.

Love, your son.

Memories

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"100 OCTANE GASOLINE"

by William "Pete" Gray

All during the 34th B.G.'s stay at Mendlesham we had no running water down on the flight line. Now, this didn't create as much of a hardship as you might expect. Really, the only use we had for water, except for drinking purposes of course, was to clean the numerous plexiglas windshields on the airplanes. And, sometimes, we could accomplish this just by dipping an old T-shirt into a nearby puddle of rain water. And, this being England, there were always plenty of puddles around.

But there was another liquid which we could hardly have done without - one that was always accessible and in unlimited quantities - one that we used gallons of each day for the many various and sundry jobs around the airplane - the old standby, 100 octane gasoline. Each 4-engine bomber carried 2700 gallons of it.

I have often contemplated about what was involved in getting this necessary commodity over there to us. From the refineries in the States, then across the sub-infested Atlantic Ocean, and then over the English countryside to our base. Quite a gigantic logistic undertaking, anyway you look at it. And, when you consider that there were literally hundreds of American airbases all over Britain, it's almost inconceivable how much gasoline was necessary to keep them operating. A single mission of 1,000 bombers would require more than two million gallons! And such raids occurred almost daily by this time.

Now, on our airplanes, both B-24's and 17's, each engine had a convenient drain in their fuel systems located on the underside of the wing, easily accessible from the ground. This drain was always closed and safety-wired shut prior to each flight. But, once the aircraft was back on the ground, the wire was again cut so we could have access to the gasoline once more. We used it for everything - to clean our greasy hands as well as the engines. Also to mop up any other liquids such as paint or hydraulic fluid.

Another very important use for it was to clean the oil from off the concrete hardstands where the planes were parked. These would become quite oil-soaked in just a few months from the constant dripping of the engines. The only practical means to get rid of it was to burn it off. This was always done when the planes were off on a combat mission and the hardstands were empty. Weather permitting, of course. And a fire truck was always on standby at such times.

Usually the hardstand would be flooded with gasoline after which a lighted cigarette would be tossed onto it. The gasoline would always ignite with a tremendous roar and, in a matter of minutes, the flames would burn off the accumulated oil.

But, the most beneficial (and popular) use of this most valuable fluid, outside of using it as fuel for the bombers, of course, was to clean our clothes. And almost any garment, after being sloshed around a few times in a bucket of 100 octane gasoline, would come out looking almost new. It would dissolve almost any kind of stain. All ranks, from the lowest private to that of a captain, took advantage of this handy cleaning agent. Funny thing, though, I never saw anyone higher than a captain do this. Probably those of a higher rank would have some one else do it for them. After all, "rank has its privileges", so they say.

However, there was one thing you had to bear in mind when cleaning your clothes in this manner. The garment had to be aired out for several hours afterward to allow the exceedingly strong odor of the gasoline to dissipate. If you didn't, you might find yourself going up in a blaze of glory if you happened to light a cigarette!



Lt. McLean's crew of the "Bottom's Up".

OH WELL, YOU CAN'T WIN THEM ALL

by Vince Doran

The target that day in March, 1945, for at least 1000 heavy bombers, was Berlin. The plan was to saturate an area of the city with six-pound magnesium incendiary bombs and 250 lb. high-explosive bombs that were set to detonate at random times over the next 72 hours. I think they were 250-pounders; my memory dims. Anyway, they were large enough to discourage fire fighters, which was part of the plan. By the time it was safe enough to send in the firemen, the whole area would be gutted. Our part in the mission was to carry a load of the long delay fuse bombs (LDF).

The bombs had been loaded in our plane hours before, as was the usual practice. But this time they were not armed early because, unlike other bombs, once the LDF was armed it could not be disarmed. This was also part of the plan; the Germans could not disarm it either, which further tended to keep the firefighters away. Because of weather problems the mission was delayed and delayed; there was a possibility it would be scrubbed. We told the mechanic to put up a ladder and take a piece of engine cowling off. When the armorer came around to arm our bombs we told him we were having engine trouble and might have to change planes. Once the bombs were armed we were committed to take off and dump them on the target or in a reserved safe area nearby in the North Sea. If our bombs weren't armed, and the mission was scrubbed, we could go back to bed and not have to fly to the North Sea dump.

When he came around the second time we were still having "engine trouble". As he was leaving he said, "You bastards think you have been smart, but, the next time I come back, I am going to arm those bombs even if you have an engine fall off on the hardstand".

He did arm the bombs on his third trip - the mission was on and we dropped them on Big "B".

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HDD

163

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7

4



34th Bomb. Group

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

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Memories

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VE DAY, 9 MAY, 1945

On May 9, 1945, VE Day, a special service was held in the Chapel. All faiths participated. Chaplains Eller and Lefkowitz conducted this service. The message from the chaplains on that day was:

"This is the day which the Lord hath made. Let us rejoice and be glad therein". Truly this is a day on which we can lift our hearts aloft in joy, a day on which we can take just pride in the accomplishments that have made this hour possible. The way has been long; the tasks have been gruelling. Never before in the history of man has the blight of evil laid such a heavy hand upon men. Never before has freedom been threatened so viciously, nor the human spirit suffered so grievously from the depravity and the hate of men lusting for power. But never before in all time have evil forces been met by such righteous indignation and by such overpowering opposition. Confident in our might, sure of our cause, our forces and those who fought by our side have, through high endeavor and supreme sacrifice, brought light.

Humanity owes you a debt that can never be repaid; in a very personal way you have contributed to the victory that we celebrate. Free men everywhere will praise the deeds and bless the memories of those who died that free nations might live.

Yes, this is a day for gladness; but let us not forget "This is the day which the LORD hath made". Had not God himself answered those who sought to deny Him, then, no matter how strong our arms, this day would not have been possible. Therefore, we turn gratefully to Him and pray for new strength to complete our task. Then we will enjoy His blessing in a free and warless world we all so fervently desire.

(End of Chaplains' Message)

Also on VE Day, Col. Creer, our commanding officer, issued the following message:

On this day of Victory in Europe it is with pleasure that I extend this greeting to the men of my command.

Recent years have seen the ideals, upon which our civilization is built, subjected to the cruelest and most violent attack. They have likewise seen the Christian and the Jew unite in defense of common, ageless and eternal legacies. They have

seen this unity occasion the success which shall continued to mark our efforts until the banners of Freedom are completely restored to benighted lands. However, even though the tide of battle has given us a glimpse of the Victory that will be ours, we dare not relax our vigil until the last foe of Democracy has laid down his arms. And when hostilities finally cease, we must remain united, for "Peace hath her Victories no less renowned than war". Let us stand firm that, for the country which is ours and those we love, Peace might no longer be an illusory dream but a strong and enduring reality.

WILLIAM E. CREER
Colonel, Air Corps
Commanding



Lt. Peterson's Crew.