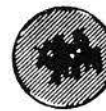


ENDLESHAM EMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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**Don't Forget
Our
Scholarships
Deadline is
July 13, 1994**

**REUNION '94 SEPT. 6-11
ST. PAUL, MN.**

OBSERVATIONS

Hallelujah!! We finally got to Florida on Dec. 29th. Grandma Rose decided we were to stay up north to celebrate Christmas with our grandchildren, who are all up north. None of our own children in the south have produced offspring. In any case, it was a most enjoyable Christmas. We had 14 for dinner and the opening of presents. It was a real old-time type of holiday.

Now that we are here we have spent some time with Walt and Ruby McAllister, going bowling, to dinner and, periodically, to an afternoon movie. We do enjoy it. However, I am being kept quite busy trying to get the March issue ready for the printer by late January.

I am getting more and more mystified by some of the mail I've been receiving, either from Ray Summa in the past or Hal Province now. Many people write that, inasmuch as they have no address to reach me, they are sending material for M.M. to them. Now, let me ask you - how much clearer can we be? On the address side of every issue is our address. Even if we are in Florida the mail will be forwarded to us. I just can't believe that people can't find my address on their copy of M.M. It's easy to find.

With this issue I begin my 10th year as editor of Mendlesham Memories. My, the years have gone by rapidly. When I volunteered to take over from Ray, back in late 1984, I had no idea I would still be doing it 10 years later. I must say that I have enjoyed it. Because of it Rose and I have made friends of far more of our members than we would have under other circumstances. But, it has not all been enjoyable. There are times when I don't print whatever someone has sent in and I am sometimes berated for it.

Please believe me. In the "Notes" section I try to include at least a part of everyone's letter. However, in the "Memories" section, I do have enough mailed-in materials for about 20 to 30 issues so I try to pick that material which I feel, as editor, is of interest to most of our members. If I'm wrong I'm sorry, but I must follow my instincts. The same applies to photographs. With what's on file and with more coming in, I have anywhere from 80 to 100 pictures on hand at any one time. I use only 12 to 15 in each issue so, you can see, I must use those which I feel are of most interest to our members. I do try to be impartial as to who sent the material in.

Now, enough of that. Rose and I expect to be here in Florida until mid-March. Our local address, as stated in the December issue is 1107 W. Riviera Blvd., Oviedo, FL. 32765. However, even if mail is sent to our Crown Point address, it will be forwarded here. The deadline on incoming materials for the June issue is to be April 22, 1994. Please try to comply.

In other matters, as promised, this issue will include a complete "TAPS" list, which we were unable to print when we sent you our last "Roster". We do try to keep our word.

Rose and I are looking forward to our next reunion at St. Paul in September. We have been there before and have found that area very interesting. We do hope many of you who have not joined us in recent years will try to come. You will enjoy it - we promise you.

Eli Baldea,
Editor

DEADLINE

Any material or items to be inserted in the June issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before April 22, 1994. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.

Eli Baldea, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has come and gone and another reunion is on the horizon. We had a great turnout in Little Rock but, hopefully, all records will be broken in St. Paul. If you haven't attended a 34th B.G. reunion, you certainly are missing an enjoyable time. The first time I attended was in Nashville in 1984 and I didn't know a soul there, but today I think I can count on a friend in almost every state. Our reception committee is outstanding so come join us. Bring your wives, girl friends, sons and daughters. Meet your old buddies and new ones from your service years.

At home, here in little old Rhode Island, the "Siberian Slammer" moved into our small state and brought us severely cold weather - 10 degrees for a couple of days and windy. Guess we are lucky after hearing about temperatures in N. Dakota, Minnesota and other states. Today it has risen to 30 degrees and, supposedly, more snow. Well, that's New England weather for you. If you're in the south or where it's warm, soak up that sunshine while you can.



To the members of the 34th B.G. who haven't attended any of our reunions and to members who will join us for the first time in St. Paul, I'd like you to meet three of the most dedicated ladies you will ever meet. They will probably be the first people you will meet at the reunion.

They travel with the reunion committee to select a hotel and to make sure nothing is forgotten. On arrival they check you in, make sure you have your name tags, your banquet tickets, breakfast and sight-seeing tickets and all other information you might need.

May I introduce you to Mrs. Esther Wright, Mrs. Genevieve Rutka and Mrs. Wanda Pine, from left to right.

Ladies, a great big thanks for all the services you perform for the 34th Bomb Group, above and beyond the call of duty.

And we hope all our 34th members have a Healthy, Happy and a prosperous New Year.

Sam Wolstencroft
President



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.



FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



It appears that the deadline for items for the March issue of M.M. is at hand and Eli is expecting something from me. There are so many items that I might write about that I don't know where to start! In view of what I've read in some of Eli's "NOTES", I feel that we need to look over our history and reiterate some items for our "NEW FOUNDS" (and perhaps some of our older members). So here we go!

DID 'JA KNOW-

- the 34th BG was originally formed from the 2nd Bomb Group which included the 4th BS, the 7th BS, and the 18th BS?

- the 391st BS was originally the 1st Reconnaissance Sqdn.?

- some call the 34th BG the Father of the 8th Air Force? There were 5 or 6 other bomb groups formed by cadres from the 34th BG.

- the 34th BG flew 133 missions over enemy territory before they were hit by fighters on March 2, 1945 over Dresden? (This doesn't include the June 7th intrusion by the Germans as the group was landing at Mendlesham).

- the 34th was one of the 10 groups picked to drop food to the starving Dutch people (CHOWHOUND MISSIONS) in early May '45?

- any 34th BG member who flew on a CHOWHOUND MISSION is a member of the MANNA/CHOWHOUND INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION? A letter to ROBERT COOPERMAN, 17 ALDEN AVENUE, SYOSSET, NY. 11791 with your name, organization and date you flew the food drop will place you on the MANNA/CHOWHOUND membership list. Prince Bernard of the Netherlands is the Sponsor of the association.

- Gene LeBailey and Hal Province represented the 34th BG at the 40th anniversary of the Food Drops in 1985?

- there are 34th BG Memorial Plaques at the Air Force Museum at Dayton, Ohio; at the 8th AF HDQTRS. in Bossier City, LA.; at the USAF Cemetery at Colorado Springs, CO.; and at Mendlesham, Suffolk, England and that the 34th BGA was responsible for all the memorials?

- the 34th BG was selected to go into transition training on B-29's following defeat of Germany in 1945 but the atom bomb made such training unnecessary?

- the Tavasti Provisional group was called "ILL-FATED" before going to England? I wonder what the story is behind that tag.

I'm sure there are other DID 'JA KNOW? items that some of you can remember.

Thanks to those of you who have sent me copies of orders awarding oak leaf clusters and such. I've been checking names against our roster and currently have almost 6,000 addresses of men to send our "Lost Sheep" letters. I've request a copy of our "not-for-profit" letter from the IRS so that I can obtain a third class mailing permit from the Postal System. The wheels of government move very slowly! Cheers to all.

Hal Province



Henry Shanley and Kenneth Burcham

CLARIFICATIONS

From Tom Beauchamp we have received some more identifications of some of the photos on pages 12 and 13 of the September, 1993 issue. They are: #1 - Raymond Westcott, #2 - Frank Balzer, #17 - ??? Martin, #25 - Robert Gose, and #29 - Earl Thonander. Thank you.

We have received from Paul Shull a copy of a letter he got from The Battery Press, Inc. as follows:

"As part of our year end activities, we have inventoried our holding of the 34th Bomb Group History which we sell at discount to your organization. Unfortunately, we are now at the point when this item must be withdrawn from discount sales. While we still have a limited number of copies, the discount no longer applies."

(Please note that the book is still on our PX list but now at a higher price.)

Roy Jones writes:

I have good reason to agree with Dirk Gombert's letter in the December issue of MM. Sometime in 1945 I received two photos of the airplane - one from Dirk and the other from Bud Babcock. Immediately on seeing the photo in the Sept. MM I dug out my prints and confirmed my belief that it was the same airplane. My identification was not based on the a/c itself, but on the smoke pattern from #3 engine. They're identical and so is the angle of descent.

Willis Griffis writes that, on page 32 of the December issue, there was an error in the names of those in the center row. The correct names are L. to R.: D. Sphar, J. Morrell and W. Soderlund. He also tells us that the dog's name was "Flak".

34TH BOMB GROUP REUNIONS	PLAN TO ATTEND!
Saint Paul, Minnesota	Radisson Hotel Sept. 6-11, 1994
Huntsville, Alabama	Marriott Hotel Sept. 14-17, 1995

INFORMATION PLEASE

From Helen Nusbaum (Howard Marn's sister) we have the following:

As Howard's sister, I am writing to you in an effort to find out certain things about his service. He is still in the nursing home where he has spent many years. He is no better and no worse but I am wondering if I have the correct information.

Howard once wrote this down for me and I wish I knew it was right. He was a turret gunner on a B-17 in the 7th Sqdn. in the 34th B.G. based in England. His crew, as he remembered it was: Gibson, Peiffer, Glenn, Shuliuski, Bailey, Kramer, Marn and Harksweat. He didn't name his plane. Most of his pictures and other memorabilia have been lost due to a divorce in 1957-8 and his many years in V.A. hospitals and nursing homes. I would appreciate hearing from anyone with knowledge of his war years. My address is: Helen Nusbaum, 235 Kendall, Topeka, KS. 66606.

From Jack Blackham we have the following:

I would like to know the name of the man who painted A-2 jackets in the 4th Bomb Sqdn. I finished my missions and shipped out on Oct. 5, 1944. The man who painted 30 bombs and a B-24 & B-17 on the back of my A-2 jacket was a corporal armorer? He lived in the 2nd hut from the orderly room. He painted with the yellow, red and white paint - all we had in England. Anyway, I want him to know I still have the jacket and the scenes he painted on it. What's his name? If you know write me at: Jack Blackham, 8809 McFall Drive, El Paso, TX. 79925.

REUNION COMMITTEE MESSAGE

To The Membership of the 34th Bomb Group:

It is 16 days into 1994 and I'm still writing 1993 on most of my correspondence. I was extra careful to date this correctly as I am writing to the Editor of the prestigious Mendlesham Memories.

Between Pro Football playoffs and basking in the glow of the Wisconsin Badgers winning the Rose Bowl, I was pretty near tardy on getting this message to the editor.

Harold Rutka and I will meet in St. Paul early this year to finalize the St. Paul reunion. We have drafted the services of past President Bruce Sothern. He is a local resident and will be a great help in organizing tours. An old bus driver like Bruce should know all the ins and outs of the bus business.

Remember ladies, the largest mall in the country is only a short trip from the hotel. For you husbands that could care less about shopping in a mall, we are making arrangements to visit a museum full of the type of airplanes that were in "Our Time". We will also arrange for the annual golf outing. This will let our golf "PRO", Ed Lonergan, breathe a tad easier.

And, President Sam, we have you in mind for some entertainment to ease the banquet evening proceedings.

Thanks to editor Eli for reminding me that time, tide and the press waits for no one.

Gerald Pine
34th Bomb Group
Reunion Chairman

Don't Forget To Send In Your Dues

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



Bill Orton mowing the lawn

34TH BOMB GROUP (H) RETURNS TO MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND JUNE 1 - JUNE 10, 1994

The 34th Bomb Group is scheduled to land in England - June 2, 1994 and ALL OF YOU should receive your brochure from TAMARAC TRAVEL AGENCY regarding the details of the trip. They are able to arrange AIRLINE TICKETING and to arrange extensions on your tour. Their TOLL FREE NUMBER is: 1-800-228-9690. Check your PASSPORTS and if you do not have one - now is the time to apply for one. The following have signed up for our trip back to England as of 14 January, 1994: JACK AND BERNIE FARLEY, DALE AND ESTHER FRANK, EDWARD AND BIRGIT LONERGAN, DWIGHT AND MARJORIE McKIN-NIE, WILLIAM AND NAOMI ORTON, AND HAROLD AND GENEVIEVE RUTKA.

There will be NO CENTRAL DEPARTURE POINT. Assembly will be in ENGLAND at HEATHROW AIRPORT - THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1994. Departure from Heathrow will be at 9:00 a.m. to the HOLIDAY INN in CAMBRIDGE (This could vary because of aircraft arrival schedules)

MEMORIAL DAY will be celebrated on FRIDAY, 3 JUNE at the AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY in MADDINGLY. We will visit our old base and memorial and the 390th Control Tower at Framlingham. Saturday evening we will host a dinner for the group that has maintained our Memorial at Mendlesham for the past 40-some years.

We will visit DUXFORD AND RAF HENDON AIR MUSEUMS, and shopping will be available in CAMBRIDGE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON AND LONDON. SIGHTSEEING TOUR IN LONDON, ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL AND THE CHURCHILL'S CABINET WAR ROOMS. Also other points of interest.

Harold C. Rutka,
Back to England Coordinator

8TH AFHS ANNUAL REUNION

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society will hold its 20th ANNUAL REUNION in San Diego - October 5 to 9, 1994. I have been asked the question "What has the 8th Air Force done?" We are all part of the answer. Remember when we returned from England and were all "VERY PROUD TO DISPLAY THE 8TH AIR FORCE PATCH" on our uniforms? Yet, there are very few of us that attend any of these reunions. We possibly wouldn't have a 34th Bomb Group Association if some of our members hadn't attended the 8th AIR FORCE REUNIONS. Since 1985 the 8th AFHS has been instrumental in forming 38 STATE CHAPTERS. These units have made it easier for us to maintain contact with fellow 8th AFers. The 8th Air Force has financed the video "THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE - START ENGINES PLUS 50 YEARS", which has been shown many times on TV. PAUL SHULL, 391st Sqdn., 34th Bomb Gp., is one of the men interviewed in that video. The 8th AFHS is arranging for another video about P.O.W.'s that should be out shortly. They also put out a quarterly newsletter that is on a par with the Mendlesham Memories. The annual reunions are always interesting, and you always meet some very nice people. I hope this will help to explain a small part of what the 8th AFHS has accomplished.

Harold C. Rutka
Secretary, 8th AFHS

SPECIAL NOTICES

We have been informed that both Randall Martin and William Dorrance have made substantial donations to the scholarship fund in honor of Ray L. Summa. We wish to give them thanks, both from Hannah Summa and the 34th Bomb Group Assn. "THANK YOU!"

We have been asked by Paul Bourquin & Henry Jurgens to ask all 18th Sqdn. ground crew members to try to attend the reunion at St. Paul, MN. next September. If you would like more information on this contact either Paul or Henry. Their addresses are in your last roster.

It has been suggested by Molly Gardner that, now that some of our boys are gone and we still have their wives with us, maybe it's time to add a "Single Again" column to the newsletter. I know she was just joshing, but the more I thought of it, the more I felt that, just maybe, there is some merit to something of that sort. If anyone has some idea of how it is to be done, and volunteers to handle that column, please contact me at the address shown on the address side of this issue. I'll be glad to listen to any reasonable thought on the idea.

As we go to press we are informed that Hannah Summa has had an accident and is suffering from some broken bones. We understand she is on the mend, but we're sure she'd like to hear from some of her friends. Her address is: 2910 Bittersweet Lane, Anderson, IN 46011.



James Mort on the right - Recognize anyone else?



ROBERT SCHROEDER - American Falls, ID.

We didn't make it to the reunion this year because of family problems. We missed seeing everyone. We both look forward to reading Mendlesham Memories. Thanks for a job well done. We know it must be a lot of work. We also hope we can make it to the reunion next year.

MAURICE ANDERSON - Plymouth, MN.

I received Ray Summa's letter, perhaps the last one he wrote before his demise. I am so pleased to have found the association in order to renew acquaintances with others who shared our experiences.

MRS. GWEN (WAYNE) HIBBS - Monroe, MI.

In regards to your letter asking about Wayne Hibbs, yes, you have found the right man. He was with the 8th A.F. stationed in Mendlesham, England. I met and married Wayne in Ipswich. But, sad to say, we will not be able to join you at the reunion. After 45 years of marriage my husband passed away last year.

Best of luck on your gettogether. Hope there are many who will attend with lots of memories.

JOE WONG - Alameda, CA.

We had a terrific time in Little Rock. Everyone was so nice and friendly. It was one big happy family reunion. We're looking forward to next year!

Also, Hannah, we hope to see you next year in St. Paul. We want to have the opportunity to meet the woman behind Ray Summa!

JOHN WITTE, Editor for 452nd B.G. newsletter

Received your Dec. newsletter and had a shock to see that Ray Summa had died. I had talked with him on the phone a couple of times and exchanged a couple of letters. I know what his wife is going through as I lost my wife Sept. 2nd of this year and it is very hard. He seemed to be a wonderful person.

NANCY MAINVILLE (GEORGE SCHMITT'S DAUGHTER) - Kaukauna, WI.

I regret to inform you that my father, George Schmitt, passed away peacefully on September 20th. He had been having problems with his legs for about 2 years and underwent an operation in Feb. to bring more circulation to the legs. Since then he has ended up in ICU three times when his lungs would fill up with fluid due to his heart's inability to deal with the problem. Even though he resented hospitals, he was always quickwitted with all the doctors, nurses and staff.

We find comfort in knowing he left this world in his own home, without pain and struggle and is now with our mom. (Editor's note: If you'd like to write to Nancy, her address is: 320 Dixon Street, Kaukauna, WI. 54130.)

Continued on page 6

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 5

FRED MAUNDREL - Mendlesham, England

The parish has asked Mr. Barrie Chester, who designed the nave, altar, tabernacle and a credence table, to design two chantry book cases with toughened glass to house our two chantry books that are regularly used at Mass. One contains the names of departed relatives, friends and parishioners that have been given to us over the past nineteen years. The other contains the very beautiful chantry book executed by Mr. Meldwyn Williams containing the anniversaries of the U.S. airmen who lost their lives in the service of their country during the 2nd World War.

Both books will be in a case surmounting a column on wheels to facilitate the removal of books, as occasion arises, to the altar where monthly Requiem is said or to the Lady Chapel for Remembrance Sunday. It is appropriate that the American dead are prayed for at our daily service on the day they died - the first time they have been commemorated here in this way for 51 years.

STEVE FELTOVICH - Willoughby Hills, OH.

I was a member of Ray Myer's crew. This is the crew that ended up in Poltava, Russia 49 years ago this coming March 18th. Our aircraft was crippled over Berlin and our pilots, Myers and Cardiff, accomplished a great, wheels up, belly landing into a pasture in Poland. We were very fortunate that no one suffered any injuries and we feel that Myers and Cardiff never received the credit due them. They deserve it.

We didn't leave Russia until the war ended.



Ray Myer's Crew - Standing L. to R.: H. Costello, T. Brown, H. Gilreath, R. Jetton, J. Lee and J. Connor
Kneeling: L. to R.: S. Feltovich, R. Myers & D. Cardiff

WILLIAM H. DORRANCE - Kailua, HI.

I heard of Ray's passing from the latest issue of Mendlesham Memories. While Ray and I never met, he had a grateful admirer in me. I am sure he was a wonderful man and he will be missed and remembered by all.

JOAN (ISVENO) MACCARNI - Bronx, NY.

My husband really enjoys reading about the old days. He often tells me stories and I just thank God he came home.

ALFRED P. BERNARDO - New Cumberland, PA.

Just a line to let you know I had a very nice experience this fall. My wife and I stopped in Charleston, WV. on our way home from Tennessee. I knocked on Jack Whiting's door. He opened it and I said "Hi, Jack". He said, "Should I know you?". I said, "You should. You flew 30 missions with me!". Then he recognized me. What a beautiful afternoon we spent together, reminiscing. It was the first time I had seen him since we left England in 1945.

PAUL W. CARTER - Salisbury, NC.

What a pleasant surprise to open the Dec. issue of MM and find the B-17 pictured on p. 24, in which I flew most of my combat missions. But you did misname the airplane: rather than "Emily", its name was the "The Big Gear". I have no picture as good as the one you have published, so I'm happy you did.

ROY JONES - Atlanta, GA.

At the Las Vegas reunion I made a "self-ful filling" prophecy - that it was my last reunion due to the progress of crippling arthritis. Nine months later I had surgery for cancer of the small intestine. While the medics were trying to find the problem I lost another 20 lbs. (I lost 45 a few years earlier.) Because of the loss of "several feet" of intestine I can no longer eat fats, so have remained at 120 lbs. - not much for my 6 foot height. It's the slow kind, and they say I may live another 10 years. But I hope not because I now have chronic diarrhea for which I take much medicine and no longer can take medication for arthritis.

MRS. MICHAEL MARKOWSKI - Enfield, CT.

I'm sorry to say that Michael passed away June 3, 1985. How I wish we could have been found earlier and enjoyed your past reunions. We have had our own reunions every year - sometimes here and in Florida. We did have one here when the four guys got together after 40 years - it was some day!!

BASIL GAUMER - Greenville, IL.

Mendlesham Memories is great. I get much pleasure out of it. I attended the reunion at Little Rock and had a great time. Although we knew nobody there, there were no strangers there, either. My wife hadn't wanted to, but now she is looking forward to St. Paul.

ROBERT HASSETT - Houma, LA.

I sure enjoy the Mendlesham Memories. I'm sorry to hear about Ray Summa's death. I talked to him a few times on the phone. My pilot, Zack Richardson, died in 1993. We were a lead crew for our last 15 missions and he was a good one. He was a West Point grad and we liked him.

Continued on page 7

—MOVING?????—

If you are moving, or have moved, get your change of address in so that you won't miss the next issue of Mendlesham Memories. Mailing labels are printed about Feb. 1, May 1, Aug., and Nov. 1 for the March, June, September and December issues. Send your change of address to: HALL PROVINCE, 111 PROVINCE LANE CARRIERE, MS. 39426 before the labels are printed to ensure the correct arrival of the MEMORIES!!

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 6

FREDDIE (CLEO) BAUGHMAN - Stockton, KS.

I loved the people but, frankly, Little Rock was even worse than Louisville for an "interesting city"! I've tried to get them to go to San Antonio - but "they" won't listen.

PAUL ANDERSON - Everett, WA.

We enjoyed the Little Rock reunion very much, and think our son had a good time also. The 8th AFHS reunion at St. Paul was the first we had attended so we are looking forward to going back in September.

EDWARD L. HARRIS - Silver Spring, MD.

I'm very happy that you found me after all these years. Please add my name to your roster. I was an original member of the 34th Bomb Group, 391st Sqdn., from Blythe, CA. to Mendlesham, England.

I would like to get re-acquainted with all my old crew members. I find three of their names on the 1993 roster, Nigg, Tallichet and Trutanich. I do enjoy reading "Mendlesham Memories" and look forward to future copies.

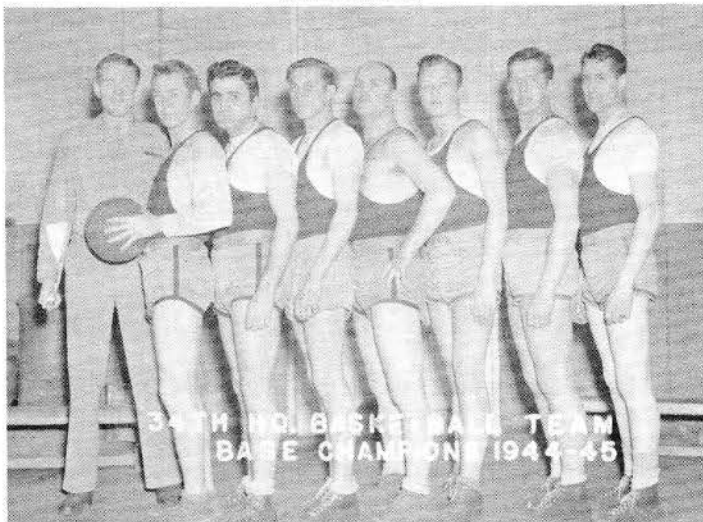
MARGE (JOHN) BLOCZYNSKI - Marshfield, WI.

It really was special to have our daughter, Linda, and her husband, Steve, with us at the Little Rock reunion. I know they enjoyed every minute of it. They said, "Mom and Dad, we knew you enjoyed those reunions so much, but we didn't realize how much until we saw you there with all your friends and how much you really care about each other". Thank you for the fine job you all do in making these reunions such a big success.

MOLLY GARDNER - Bagley, IA.

After enjoying a fantastic reunion and meeting old and new friends, I received a letter that another 34th, 7th Sqdn. member had passed away. He was George Schmitt of Kaukauna, WI., a good friend of my late husband's, Jesse. I have received a letter from George's daughter, Nancy Mainville. I'm sure she would appreciate cards from her Dad's G.I buddies.

(Nancy's letter on page 5.)



34th HQ base champion basketball team 1944-45

Coach: Maj. Robert S. Gay

Team: Burcham, Hammond, Watkins, Knudson, Scherr Janson, Sava and Sevetz. (Photos not necessarily in order listed). Manager was S/Sgt. Bartholomew



34th B.G. B-24 ON MISSION

DALE FINLEY - Crothersville, IN.

Can't say enough about the enjoyment we get in reading the MM. Thank you for all the time and energy you people put into the newsletter. We also enjoyed the Little Rock reunion very much. I got re-acquainted with John Funk, whom I hadn't seen since England, 1945. He was a crew member I trained with before going to England.

ROBERT ALVES - Olmstead Twp., OH.

Well, 1993 was a nightmare for me. Back in April I had to have repair surgery on a hernia which was done 12 years ago. Then, just 3 weeks after the hernia surgery I was back in the hospital because of considerable blood loss thru the colon. An examination revealed cancer in the very low part of the colon. Fortunately, there was enough left of the colon to splice. I am on chemotherapy and this will continue until July.

BERT NEWELL - Ft. Wayne, IN.

I'm sorry to hear about Ray Summa. I regret I didn't have the opportunity to meet him personally. At the time I received his "lost sheep" inquiry I telephoned him and we had a brief conversation. His home city of Anderson, IN. is just about 60 miles south of Ft. Wayne.

I won't be able to make the trip to England. I suppose someone will make some tapes that we will be able to purchase from the PX. Should be a best seller! I may be able to get to the next reunion at St. Paul.

I have been receiving and certainly enjoy each copy of "Mendlesham Memories". Thanks a lot for a very interesting news publication of the 34th.

EDGAR GEOGHEGAN - Naches, WA.

Just a note to say "Thanks" for the fabulous job you and your co-horts are doing keeping the 34th Bomb Gp. alive with old memories for us retirees. I had nothing but fun while being on active duty (maybe too much fun?), but it ended when the other group started firing back with live ammunition.

AL N. STEINER - Basking Ridge, NJ.

I'm sorry to have missed the past few reunions and will not be able to make the England trip. I do hope to get to one of the stateside events during the next few years.

Last year Jean and I had lunch and spent the afternoon with Allen and Agnes Israelsen and Frank Dukes in Silver Springs, MD. Tom Campbell also visited us recently and we were able to catch up over a few beers.

Continued on page 8

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 7

JOHN FOWLER - Brooklyn, NY.

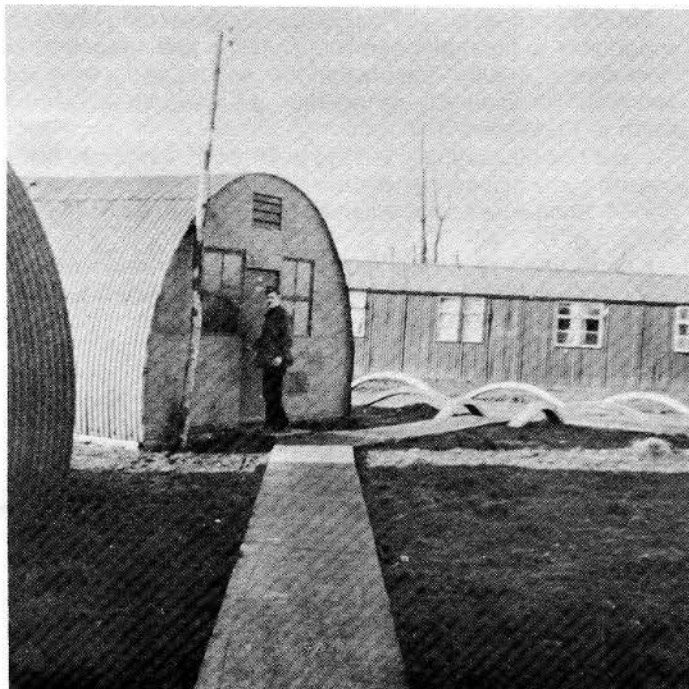
My health is so poor I'm lucky if I ever make a group reunion. Still, I have my hopes. I do wish to meet some of the crews I flew with.

I spent most of November, including Thanksgiving, in the hospital. I feel like a medical freak. As soon as that finished I had to take 25 radiation treatments on my back and shoulder. Then comes the crusher--I'm told I also have Parkinson's Disease. I'll beat them all!!!

I have a question to ask but I hope it don't sound crazy. I have a jagged piece of a German 88 shell taken from my stomach. I would like to donate it to the 34th museum...if they'll take it. Let me know and I'll send it registered mail.



Mendlesham Photo Lab



Carl Stern entering his quonset hut "home"



ROSE'S CORNER

First of all, Eli and I wish to thank all of you who sent beautiful Christmas and Holiday cards and especially the notes were truly appreciated. We're hoping that you will continue to send notes for this column and tell everyone any good news. We could all use some!

Our good news is the birth of our #7 grandchild, Kaitlin. This makes it 5 girls and 2 boys. I've told our children not to have anymore kiddos because we can't afford them! This is a continuous joke which no one takes seriously.

Bernie Farley writes that she is busy being a Docent and doing the publicity for all the affairs the Docents run. Being an animal handler at the zoo also must be a very painstaking way of working. Keep it up, Bernadette, because all of this activity keeps you young and that's wonderful!

She also sent us this recipe for a super side dish which took a lot of experimenting until she was sure it was exactly like the ones she tasted while driving through Tennessee and Virginia. Please try it - you will love it! Thank you, Bernie.

CIDER SPICED APPLES

4-6 medium cooking apples
2 cups apple juice or cider
¾ cup sugar
1 Cinnamon stick
¼ tsp. Allspice
¼ tsp. Cinnamon
1 tbsp. Cinnamon Imperials
1½ tbsp. Lemon Juice

Peel, core and quarter apples (if you have one of those handy gadgets that cuts eighths, use it!). Drop in cold water. Meanwhile boil juice or cider, ½ cup sugar and spices and the Imperials (Red Hots). Drain apples, slice (but not too thin). Add a few at a time. Cook until soft but not broken and mushy. Remove with slotted spoon to serving dish. Add the rest of the sugar and the lemon juice to the syrup. (Add cornstarch & water to thicken, if desired.) A side dish to serve 6 to 8.

In our next issue I will be sharing with you a wonderful cake recipe sent to us by Jane A. Felker. I will bake it and let you know how much you, too, will enjoy it.

Wishing you our very best throughout the year and may God bless you all.

Rose

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Henry Jurgens sends us the information that Dover Air Force Base in Delaware will host an air show the weekend of May 7 and 8, 1994. The show will feature the Thunderbirds as well as numerous airplanes and equipment from the four branches of the military.

the airshow will coincide with the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation's NASA Community Involvement Project. NASA exhibits will be on the base.

ADDRESS CHANGES

(As of 1-21-94)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ASHBURN	JOHN W.		1401 NO. HASTINGS, RM.110	HASTINGS,	NE.	68901
BRISTOW	FRANCIS A.	18	4833 STORNOWAY DRIVE	RICHMOND,	VA.	23234
GILLILAND	GLENN C.		6378 LAMBERT STREET	VICTOR,	NY.	14564
METZLER	JAMES L.	391	1940 EAST 4TH STREET	COLBY,	KS.	67701
MOLLIKA	JOHN V.	391LM	7950 W. FLAMINGO RD.APT.1082	LAS VEGAS,	NV.	89117
STUTTS	CHARLES B.	391	101 SUSANNE EXT.	CRYSTAL SPRINGS,	MS.	39059
SWEENEY	ROBERT E.	7	3439 S. 96TH STREET	MILWAUKEE,	WI.	53227
WRIGHT	WILLIAM L.		ZIP CODE CHANGE	NEW SMYRNA BEACH,	FL.	32170

NEWLY FOUND

(As of 1-21-94)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ARNOLD	HARRY C.	18	612 KINGFISH ROAD	NORTH PALM BEACH,	FL.	33408
ARTT	SIDNEY J.	18	1021 MULDER DRIVE	LINCOLN,	NE.	68510
BARRON	JACK D.	7	7929 OLD MILFORD ROAD	MILFORD,	KS.	66514
HARRIS	EDWARD L.	391	15416 WEMBROUGH STREET	SILVER SPRING,	MD.	20905
MAINVILLE	NANCY	A	320 DIXON STREET	KAUKAUNA	WI.	54130
MARKOWSKI	MICHAEL	18	17 LONGVIEW ROAD	ENFIELD,	CT.	06082
MARTINI	JOHN R.		4 TEVERE DRIVE	JOHNSTON,	RI.	02919
McKAY	ROBERT E.	391A	2518 EAST NORWAY LAKE ROAD	LAPEER,	MI.	48446
MUNGER	TAMSEN	7A	2071 WEST BULLARD	FRESNO,	CA.	93711
SMITH	JAMES H.	391	2530 STONEY BROOK LANE	MARIETTA,	GA.	30062
TIERNAN	MARK	A	6970 JACKSON COURT	MERRILLVILLE,	IN.	46410

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(276 as of 1-21-94)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ARNOLD	HARRY C.	18	612 KINGFISH ROAD	NORTH PALM BEACH,	FL.	33408
BLEEKER	BRUCE G.	7	99 PASATIEMPO DRIVE	SANTA CRUZ,	CA.	95060
BRAVEMAN	MILTON	391	1507 LINGLESTOWN ROAD	HARRISBURG,	PA.	17110
HEAD	FRANCIS T.	7	4602 TAFT ROAD	WEST LAFAYETTE,	IN.	47906
RAPISARDA	JOSEPH P.	7	8412 FREESTONE AVENUE	RICHMOND,	VA.	23229
SADOWSKY	AL	391	17266 BOCA RATON CLUB BLVD. 1601	BOCA RATON,	FL.	33487

LOST SOULS-MOVED?-STRAYED

(MAIL RETURNED WHEN SENT TO THESE ADDRESSES - NEED NEW ADDRESSES)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
LOGAN	EDWARD	7	17442 NORTH 105TH AVENUE	SUN CITY,	AZ.	85373
SCHAFANTI	DANTE		3408 DELLWOOD COURT	ALBUQUERQUE,	NM.	87110
SWIFT	JONATHAN A.	391	754 CHEROKEE STREET	MARIETTA,	GA.	30060



TAPS

(As of 1-21-94)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP	DIED
COATES	EVERETT	7					1987?
GARMON	MARION E.	4	223 EDITH LANE	LILBURN,	GA.	30247	3-27-91
GRANDELL	GUSTAVE A.		GLENDAL STREET	DULUTH,	MN.		10-21-93
HIBBS	WAYNE	18	3216 BLUEBUSH ROAD	MONROE,	MI.	48161	1992
KOTUN	GEORGE H.	18	432 RELLIM DRIVE	KENT,	OH.	44240	5-29-93
MARKOWSKI	MICHAEL	18	17 LONGVIEW ROAD	ENFIELD,	CT.	06082	6-3-85
McMAHON	JAMES	4	BOX 305	RYE BEACH,	NH.	03871	10-19-90
MICHALOWSKI	FRANK T.	391	1104 QUENTIN STREET	AURORA,	CO.	80011	5-11-93
NELSON	ROBERT C.	391	P. O. BOX 374	MINDEN,	NE.	68959	7-31-93
PULLUCK	HAROLD E.	MED.	STAR RT. 1, BOX 32	REW,	PA.	16744	10-9-93
SIEGEL	HOWARD M.	18	160 HARDSCRABBLE ROAD	BERNARDSVILLE,	NJ.	07924	JAN. '94?
STANTON	LEROY W.	18	P. O. BOX 914	CHATOM,	AL.	36518	10-24-93
VELASQUEZ	ANGEL M.	4		EL PASO,	TX.		4-21-75

UNFORTUNATE ERRORS IN THE 1993 34TH BOMB GROUP ROSTER

(Our apologies are extended)

AS SHOWN IN 1993 ROSTER

SHOULD BE

GEORGE H. MORRIS	GEORGE R. MORRIS
MILTON HANSEN OMITTED	7440 NORTH STREET, SAUK CITY, WI. 53583

Don't Forget To Send In Your Dues

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



?? Buchanan & Allen Brunk



Then and Now



RALPH BUSH

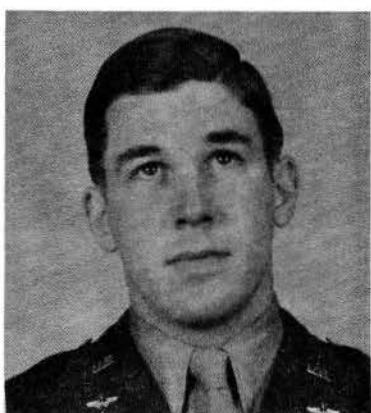


1945



1990's

HAROLD N. CRISP



1945



1993

JAMES S. HOLLOWELL



1945



1992



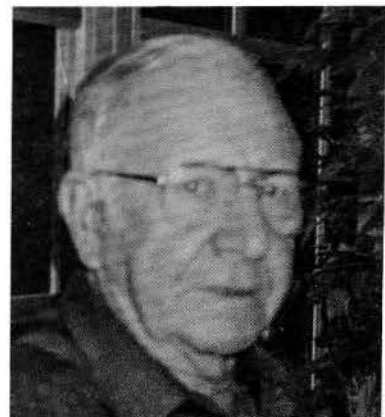
Then and Now



JOHN H. GALLOWAY



1945



1992

EDWARD GRONKOWSKI



1945

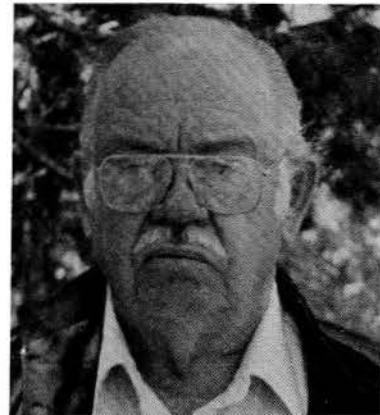


1990

JOHN A. HOPPER



1945



1993



A LIMEY'S TRIP TO THE STATES

by Peter Gaskin

We flew in to Cincinnati via Boston and Detroit, arriving at about 2200 hrs. after flying through a thunderstorm which didn't really help Sylvia's fear of flying. We were picked up by a couple I had been corresponding with for a few years and who we were to stay with for the next 8 days at their home in Yellow Springs, just outside Dayton. They showed us a good time including 2 days at Wright-Pat. U.S.A.F. Museum, but, as far as I was concerned, that still wasn't long enough as we did not get to go over to the annex on the far side of the field. Wright-Pat. has got to be just about the best aviation museum in the world and it is free. Unfortunately, there wasn't much in the way of red indian culture in the area for Sylvia to visit. She is fascinated by them - sometimes I think she is just looking for a cheap haircut.

The day before we left they took us into Dayton to a car rental agency to pick up a motor. We wanted a compact but, unfortunately, they hadn't got one so I had to have a full size, as they called it. It was a brand spanking new Chevy Lumina and, after the motor I drive at home, it was enormous.

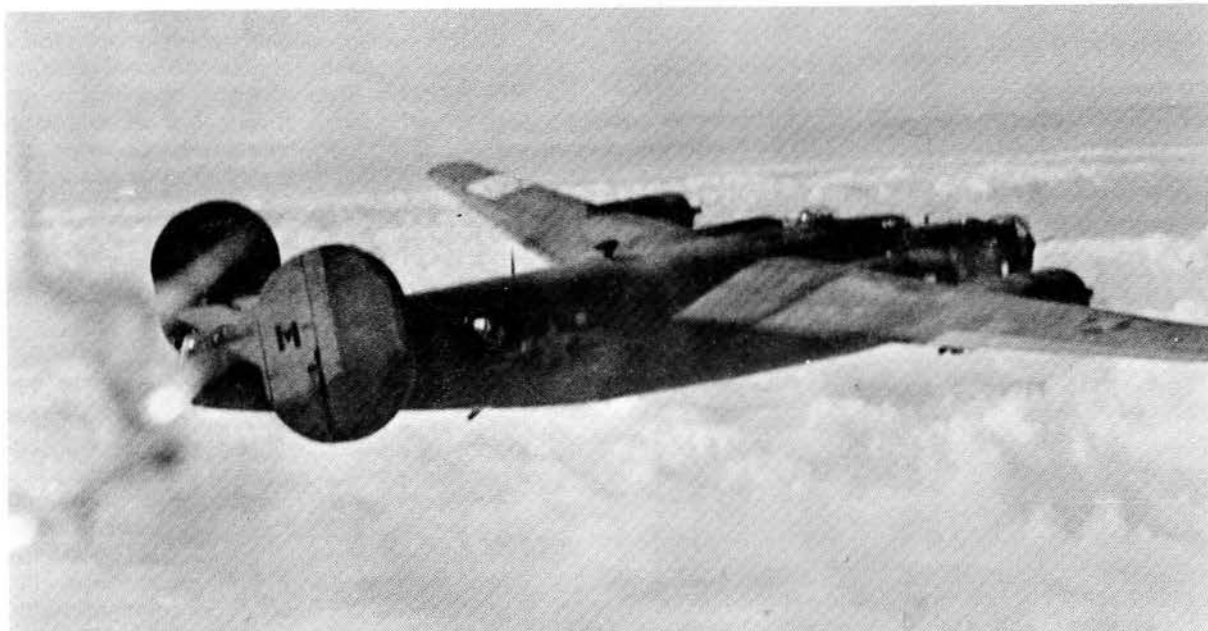
We were up early the next morning and I had the shock of my life. The car looked like a beached iceberg. It was covered in a thick coat of frost and as fast as I scraped it off it reformed. What my friends didn't tell me was that the car had a heated windscreen. Anyway, we said our good-byes and set out for Louisville via Cincinnati and, by the time we hit the Kentucky border, the temperature had climbed back up into the 70's and we are tooling down

the freeway with the window open and the air conditioning going full blast and wondering why we are sweating. Never having driven an air-conditioned car before I didn't realize you had to have the windows closed. I soon worked it out and for the rest of the journey enjoyed the benefits of the conditioning. We arrived at Gault House about mid-day to the delight of Rutka and Co. who, until we walked into the hotel, didn't know for certain that we were coming. We hadn't paid any deposit but they had kept our room for us. It was fortunate we had written to the hotel to make the booking because it became apparent that they were totally full as they had at least 3 conventions over that weekend. Anyway, after booking in and dropping off our luggage, we had to take the Lumina to the airport to drop it off at the Alamo rental agency. There wasn't much sense in keeping the car while we were at the reunion. We got the airport limo service back to the hotel, where we were made to feel really welcome, and we had a great time over the weekend.

On Sunday, with the reunion over, we shared a cab with the Rutka's to the airport to pick up another car at the Alamo Rental agency. Once again we had wanted a compact (Cavalier) but all they had was a Buick Skylark, a bit bigger than the car I drive at home. Anyway, we left the airport at about 1530 hrs. and headed out for Virginia. I had said to the Rutkas before we left them at the terminal that we would probably take a few wrong turns before we got to Baltimore. Well, we hadn't left the rental centre more than 5 minutes when we realized we were driving west instead of east on the Louisville ringroad, or beltway as you colonials call it. About 30 minutes later found our way back to the I-64 that would take us east to Virginia.

As we were in no hurry and we had been late leaving the Louisville area, we stopped overnight at a Travel Lodge motel just outside Lexington. It was here we decided to cut south at Charleston, W. Va. and head for Richmond, Va. So on Monday morning we set out, still following I-64. As I said we were in no hurry so we just poodled down the highway and reached Beckley about 1800 hrs. Sylvia was worried about me driving too many hours (because I have an implanted cardiac pacemaker, she tends to think I am an invalid) so we decided to stop overnight at a Best Western motel. I suppose she was right really because while I am behind the wheel I will just keep driving till I drop. We went for a drive around the area and Sylvia found a little gift shop where she bought a small statuette of an

Continued on page 14



MEMORIES

Continued from page 13

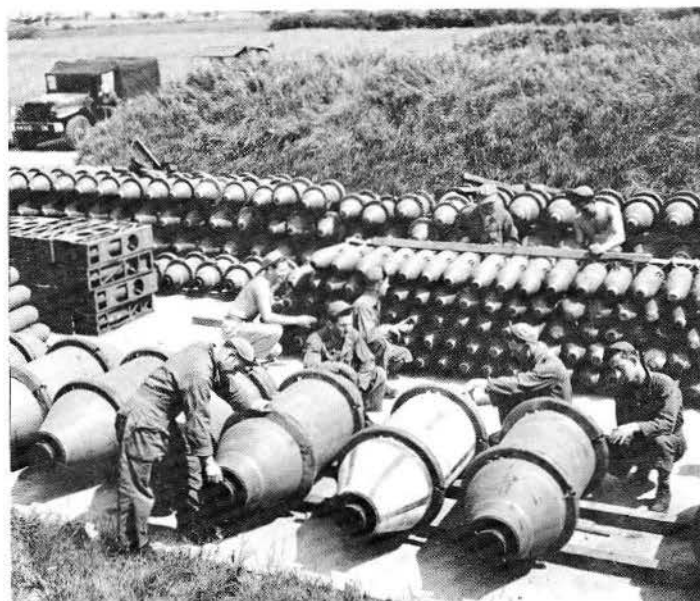
Indian squaw with a little baby. I think it was made from crushed pecan shells. I thought "Charming!, a bit more to lug home".

The next morning we set off again for Richmond but, as we got nearer to the Blue Ridge mountains, we remembered what our friends (ex-U.K., ex-Luxembourg), who now live in Danville, Va., had told us about the Skyline Drive. We decided to forget Richmond and drive up the Ridgeway to Front Royal instead. This is the benefit of not having any hard and fast plans. You are free to change plans as you go, so at Buena Vista, Va. we climbed up to the Skyline Drive. That drive is something else, and the speed limit of 30 MPH allows you to enjoy scenery that is truly magnificent.

Before we reached Front Royal we ducked off the Skyline down into the Shenandoah Valley and stopped the night at a Days Inn at a place called Newmarket. The motel is built on the site of a civil war battle where the Confederate army enlisted the aid of the young cadets from the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Ninety percent of the battle casualties occurred on the hill where the Days Inn is built. Just next door to the motel is a museum where, among many other exhibits, are Audie Murphy's and George Patton's uniforms. I never realized how small Audie Murphy was.

The next morning we went back up to the Skyline and continued on to Front Royal where we picked up the famous Route 66 to Maryland and Washington D.C. Unfortunately, after hitting the beltway intending to find a motel near Andrews A.F. Base, we managed to make our second "Boo Boo". This time we found ourselves off the beltway and heading south on I-95, heading once more for Richmond. The north-bound carriageway was one big traffic jam due to roadworks, so we carried on south to Fredericksburg and then cut east on U.S. 17 to Port Royal. We then picked up U.S. 301 heading north over the Potomac bridge and hit Washington from the south. We booked into a Travel Lodge just 5 minutes from the main gate at Andrews A.F. Base.

After booking in we called Lt. Col. Al Keeler, a 94th veteran, who for some time before he retired had been



Mendlesham Bomb Dump - May '45

a pilot with the presidential flight on 707's. Anyway, he and his wife came over and took us for dinner at the Holiday Inn. It was here that Sylvia was introduced to a "Fuzzy Navel" cocktail, a drink that remains a favorite to this day. For the next 4 or 5 days they showed us the sights of Washington including the Silverhills Paul Garber facility where, among many other things of interest, was Enola Gay on long-term restoration, so it will be some time before it is on display. We also went to the Smithsonian Air & Space, which I must say comes second to Wright-Pat. We also visited Arlington, the Ford Theatre, and the Vietnam Memorial. It is one of the most moving memorials I know of and it was my main reason for wanting to visit Washington. I am not ashamed to admit I shed a few tears. We also had a couple of trips to Andrews A.F. Base including dinner in the Officer's Club.

In between Col. Keeler driving us around, Sylvia and I went off on our own to Mount Vernon and the Civil War Battlefield at Spotsylvania Court House just outside Fredericksburg..both very interesting places. Col. Keeler also showed us the house where John Wilkes Booth hid on the night after he shot the president.

On the evening before we left Washington we finally managed to contact Harold and Evelyn Williams, who lived in Bethesda. They were most upset that we hadn't been able to get in touch. It was all down to a wrong phone number, given to me by the operator. Anyway, we made plans to visit them for breakfast as we headed out for Gettysburg, Pa. They were so glad to see us that it was about mid-day before we took our leave. Our next stop was Frederick, where we once again booked into a motel. Then we drove down to Harper's Ferry, the scene of John Brown's raid just before the Civil War started. I am afraid it has been turned into a tourist rip-off. It is a shame to see a piece of history treated this way.

The next morning we drove over the border into Pennsylvania and on to Gettysburg. We hired a battlefield guide to show us around the various sites. She must have been a brave lady sitting alongside a limey who was, in effect, driving on the wrong side of the road. She didn't try to bail out once. It cost \$20.00 but it was well worth it because she was very informative. We would have liked another day there as there is so much to see. Anyway, from there we drove back to Frederick, got changed and drove back to Bethesda to have a meal with the Williamses and to



Lt. Paul E. Roscher's Crew



Dale Ganger, Cosmo Papaleo & Don Wick

MEMORIES

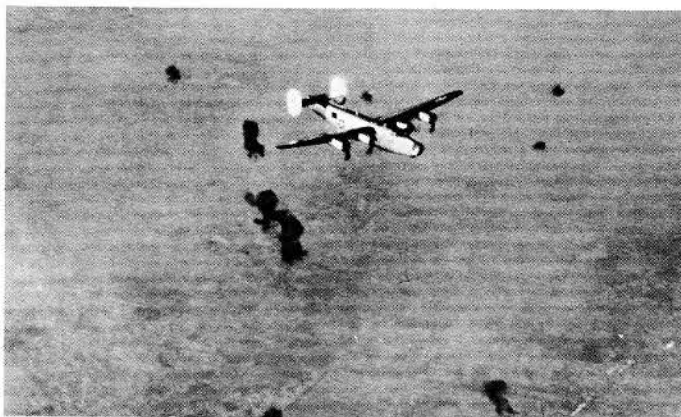
Continued from page 14

say goodbye as we were flying out in the morning.

The next day it was the short drive from Frederick to Baltimore for the flight to Boston and then on to Gatwick, but it was at Baltimore that Sylvia had the fright of her life. The aircraft for the short flight was a little commuter Fairchild Metro, a small twin turbo-prop, maximum about 12 passengers. Sylvia nearly had a fit when it pulled up to the ramp. She didn't believe it at first, but once she realized it was ours she dived into her handbag for the bottle of Valium. But she survived the trip without dissolving into a gibbering mess and we got the Northwest 747 back to the U.K. bank on time. We arrived back at Gatwick to a typical foggy English morning. The pilot came in on the I.L.S. As we came in I couldn't even see the wing trailing edge, and we were sitting just behind the wing root.

I must just say we had a great time and everybody was so pleasant to us except for one man who got the hump because we couldn't decide which donuts we wanted. It was in a Dunkin Donuts shop just outside Andrews A.F.B. and there must have been about 50 or 60 different kinds of donuts to choose from. I thought I was in heaven. I hate to think what weight I would be if we had donuts like them in England.

I have written this account at the will of Harold Rutka, who seems to think you 34th'ers would be interested in a Limey's trip to the States.



One of our B-24's under flak attack

THE AERIAL GUNNER

(Author Unknown)

They call him the aerial gunner
His hopes, they say, are dim
And his life is said
To hang by a thread
That is long, weak and slim

For he loves his home and he loves his land
He gambles his neck and limb
And wagers his life
In a cloudland strife
In the game of the Reaper grim.

His mount is a roaring dragon
That flashes across the sky
To take the dare
In the enemy's air
To shoot him down or die

He is a knight of the upper air
And death his eternal foe
He rides the rail
With an eerie wail
Wherever his steed may go.

You have to give him credit
For the job he does so well
For he brings her home
Though his steed may roam
To the very jaws of hell

He wears no bars and he wears no stars
For sergeant is his rank
But I've heard them tell
He fights like hell
And is proud of the title "Yank".

There are others there in the upper air
And we can't detract their fame
For they make a crew
And the job they do
Regardless of who is the same

But this is a song to the gunner
The hero who goes unsung
Though the enemy knows
His deadly blows
And the funeral knell he's rung.

HDO.

163

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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MEMORIES

PATRIOTISM? - BLIND FAITH? YOUTHFUL IGNORANCE?

by Al Sadowsky

At the tender age of nineteen, after being drafted, I was assigned to the Quartermaster Corps. where I could have had a cushiony position as a clerk-typist for the duration of the war.

However, after reading of the tremendous losses the 8th A.F. was sustaining, I volunteered to take training as an aerial gunner. Fifty years later, upon reflection, it was the smartest decision I made, even though, at the time, my chances for returning to civilian life were greatly reduced. This decision, I guess, I can attribute to "Patriotism and Youthful Ignorance".

Two incidents occurred during my tour as Ball Turret Gunner with Lt. Alf Johanson that I must attribute to "Blind Faith" in my pilot and crew. Time has dimmed my memory but I shall never forget the following incidents that happened.

First - Prior to D-Day our group made a late afternoon raid on occupied France which proved to be a "Milk Run". However, upon returning to our base in darkness, a German night fighter avoided our radar and we were forced to land at an RAF fighter base. Upon returning to our base the following day we were told that the night fighter had bombed the supply barracks.

The following day we were scheduled for another mission and, when we went to the supply room for parachutes, we were given 8 chutes for our crew of nine. I arranged with my tail gunner, Leonard Adrignola, that, in the event we had to bail out, I would hang on to him using the same chute. Thankfully I did not have to make that decision.

Secondly - As a crew member of a lead crew our tour of duty was completed after thirty (30) missions. I am certain that Lt. Johanson's crew flew thirty-one (31). The 31st was over Giessen, Germany. Since several crew members, due to prior illnesses, needed this mission to complete their tour, I was not going to sweat them out back on the ground.

The experiences I endured with the 34th B.G. have been forever implanted in my mind and I thank God that I was fortunate to be assigned to this wonderful outfit. At this time I also want to express my sincere gratitude to all of the staff of Mendlesham Memories for bringing back experiences that I shall never forget.



W. B. Boyd

Flyboy's Benediction

(with acknowledgment to an old Irish poem)

By William A. Lanford (S)

May the runway rise softly to meet you.
May tail winds favor your flight,
And your destination be clear and unlimited,
Bright stars to guide when it's night.
With trouble free "birds" at your beckon,
Full serviced and ready to roll,
May you savor each moment of freedom
Unbound by earth's grasp on your soul.
Now until your tour of duty is over
And you have filed your last flight plan,
May God continue to comfort,
And keep you safe in his hand.