

ENDLESHAM EMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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REUNION '94

St. Paul, MN.



See You There

Sept. 6-11, 1994

OBSERVATIONS

"Back Home Again In Indiana". Every time I think of those words the melody comes back to me. Perhaps this means nothing to anyone but us Hoosiers but the tune is captivating to us.

Yes, we're home again. In fact, we came home a few weeks earlier than usual. Our son, Aaron, decided to visit the home area the first week of March so Rose decided we should be here - and we were. It was an enjoyable visit but we did get to feel some wintery weather which we normally miss. Oh, well, that's life.

This issue is kind of special. First of all, the information and forms are included for our reunion in St. Paul, MN. Rose and I had been there before, several years ago, attending an 8AFHS reunion. We thoroughly enjoyed it because there's so much to do there. And, for you ladies, now they have the world's largest shopping mall which should be something to see. You folks who are undecided about attending, please take our word - you'll have a great time, not only seeing old friends again but enjoying the surroundings.

Also in this issue, in the "Memories" section, is a newspaper article written by Ernie Pyle back in 1944 which should bring back a lot of long-forgotten memories to many of us. Those of us who were there with the group at that time may well have been on that very mission, being watched from the ground. I thought it should be included in this issue, being the 50th Anniversary of "D-DAY". I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

Also, don't forget our college scholarship for those of us who have relatives in that age group. The deadline this year is July 1st but this should still give them enough time to get in their entries. Don't let them dawdle on this. It's well worthwhile.

This issue, also, is the one each year which is sent to all those on our roster, whether paid-up members or not. Those of you who have not paid your dues just consider this for a moment. Although we may have had some bad times during the war and, maybe, it seems we'd like to forget those years, all of us made many friends during those years. We're all getting into that "OLD AGE" bracket and I think re-living some of those good times before we pass on to our eternal reward is well worth remembering some of the bad times. Think about it.

The September issue will include a lot of photographs of those who attend the "D-DAY" 50th Reunion in England, etc. Rose and I are not going this year but we trust many of you will mail in those pictures for the newsletter. The deadline for any material to be included in the Sept. issue is July 22nd. This is a firm date and any material which cannot be saved for a future issue will be returned to the sender. So, if you want something to appear in the Sept. issue, HAVE IT HERE NO LATER THAN JULY 22ND.

Rose and I are truly looking forward to the St. Paul reunion. We do enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones. 'SEE YOU THERE!'

Eli Baldea, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

To all members and friends:

Spring is just around the corner - so the weather forecasters say. I have my doubts as we are still having snow flurries and cold weather in the East. Hope everyone had a Happy Easter, Passover, and every other holiday that takes place at this time of the year.

Folks, it's time to dust off those travelling shoes, back out the old Model-T and hurry down to the travel agency and book that flight to St. Paul for our 34th Bomb Group reunion. Time is growing short and we still hope, each year, we will be around to meet with old friends and comrades. Let's go all out this year and exceed the 400 attendees we had in Nashville. If you've never attended one I'm sure it will be a memorable and rewarding one. So, bring out that calendar and circle September 6th to the 11th for our big event.

We have a great committee working hard and planning for this occasion so let's not disappoint them, but show them our support by attending, if we are able to.

I wish everyone good health and happiness and, for all members going to England, have a great trip. Wish we were able to go with you. Hope to see you all in St. Paul.

Sam Wolstencroft
President

FROM THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S COMPUTER



There are two subjects that I'd like to present to you with this issue. This is the June issue of M/M which is mailed to most people on our roster, regardless of whether they have paid dues or not. There are some we don't send even this issue to - they didn't respond when we sent them a questionnaire which included a stamped-addressed envelope for a reply to Walt McAllister.

This is directed to those of you receiving this issue WHO ARE NOT dues-paying members of the 34th BGA! We have, in the past year, added quite a few names to our roster. I'm sure that there are some of your buddies on the list and they may be looking for their buddies of those days when we all were on the English country-side. I don't think our annual dues are excessive - we've managed to keep the dues at \$7.50 for longer than most WWII organizations! However, for whatever reason you may have, and can't afford the \$7.50 annual dues - please write me and merely state that you can't afford the dues. We'll gladly include your name among those that receive the quarterly issues of M/M. We don't want to pry into your personal affairs but we would like to include you in the fellowship that exists among those who served in the 34th B.G.! For

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Treasurer's Computer

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those who can afford the \$7.50 dues, we'd be glad to change your data file so that you will receive each quarterly issue of M/M!

And my second item is for all of you reading this issue! My wife, son and I have been busy since receiving a Third Class Mailing Permit, and have been stamping the return address and non-profit stamp on envelopes. We're stuffing the envelopes with a letter explaining our search for LOST SHEEP, and, then applying address labels to those envelopes. My last printing of letters was for 6,000 and those are GONE!! I had to reorder another 3,000 copies in order to fill the envelopes for which I have addresses. I thank those of you who have sent orders, etc. indicating the names of men who were assigned to the 34th B.G. I'm sure you'll scan the NEWFOUND LIST looking for your buddies whom we've recently found. I currently have more than 1,700 addresses to send letters to and then more orders to search for names.

This is an added item I hadn't thought about. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to consider their response to the RAY SUMMA 34th B.G. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS. They have until July 1st to submit their applications. The Scholarship Committee of Cleveland Romero, John Janes (and his wife, Gloria), and I really have to get down to very fine points in deciding who should be awarded the First and Second scholarship awards. I wish we had enough awards to give to all who enter! It's a really tough job, deciding on the winners.

Harold Province

Corresponding Sec. & Treasurer

P.S. This is added as an addenda to the above. I've been getting letters and phone calls from children of men to whom I've sent "LOST SHEEP" letters. I'm amazed at the respondents who don't know where their fathers served! It appears that we have not been telling our story to our children and they aren't sure of the service in which their fathers served. Too many times I've listened that they weren't sure just what their fathers did! I suggest that you record, in some manner, just what the job was that you did in the period of May, 1944 to June, 1945 so that your descendents know exactly WHAT you were doing in England at that time!! With the abundance of the recorders, both tape and video, I see no reason why you shouldn't record your remembrance of those days of 1944-45 so that your kin will be knowledgeable about the

job that you were doing in those days 50 years ago! Personally, I have the satisfaction of knowing that the two hours that Clyde Willis, my co-pilot, and I spent recording our experiences for the oral historian of the Confederate Air Force, Col. Don Norton, is on tape and available, not only for my sons, but for anyone who desires to study the background of members of the 34th B.G. and the 8th Air Force. I intend to pass on to my sons a copy of the tape so that they will know what their father did during those trying times. I suggest to you that you record, either on tape or video, the experiences that you met and conquered during those trying times in our history.

Harold Province

TAVASTI'S RESPONSE

I presume that I would be the one best qualified to respond to an item "From The Treasurer's Computer" in the March issue regarding the Tavasti Provisional Group being called "ILL FATED" before going to England.

First of all, I'd like to set the record straight and note that the Tavasti Provisional Group was ultimately consigned to the 5th Air Force stationed at Brisbane, Australia. If Hal's computer is correct, then I beat "Wrong Way Corrigan" to the punch.

The "ILL FATED" tag may have some merit. So, after nearly 51 years, I will attempt to describe why some would conclude that such a designation was appropriate.

The Tavasti Provisional Group was initially composed of fifty-five air crews (minus gunners) who were previously assembled and trained by the 39th CCTS (Combat Crew Training School) at Davis Monthan, Tucson, AZ. My staff was composed of an adjutant to "Bird Dog" the personnel files of the crew members, three experienced instructor pilots, an instructor navigator, and an instructor bombardier. This contingent arrived at Salinas, CA. in early July, 1943, assigned to the 34th CCTS for the final phase of training prior to deployment overseas as replacement combat crews.

Since Salinas was so frequently socked in with late afternoon fog, the airfield at Bakersfield was routinely utilized as the recovery base for those missions when Salinas was below landing minimums.

Within the first week after arriving at Salinas one of the crews managed to run into an oil storage tank on final approach to Bakersfield. Shortly thereafter another crew turned up missing while attempting to complete an over-water navigation mission. The remains of the aircraft and crew were later found on San Miguel Island (a tiny piece of rock off the Santa Barbara coast).

The 34th, along with Provisional Group, returned to Blythe, CA. in late July or August, 1943. Shortly after arriving another of my fearless crews, on a night training mission, managed to run into the low rocky hills just a few miles west of the airfield creating another fiery spectacle. Then, in late August or early September, I lost a crew on two successive nights in the Palm Springs area. Both of these accidents were attributed to structural failure of the tail assembly caused by severe turbulence in the Banning

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DEADLINE

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

Eli Baldea, Editor

TAVASTI'S RESPONSE

Pass. In the latter part of September training was completed and the surviving crews were provided with aircraft fresh from the factory assembly line.

Our next stop was Lincoln, Nebraska for overseas processing. I was with the first contingent to depart Blythe on the 22nd of September, 1943. I borrowed the B-17H from the Base Depot to transfer the personnel records to Lincoln. The rest of my staff, with the exception of the Adjutant, accompanied three of the air crews in their brand new B-24s.

As a condition for loaning me their B-17 I was requested to drop off some visitors to the Base Depot at Davis Monthan. This put me about two hours behind the B-24s. Before departing Tucson, I was briefed on thunderstorms in the Tucumcari-Amarillo area. The weather clowns were right for a change. I found a severe line squall composed of "wall-to-wall" violent thunderstorms. Needless to say, it was one "hairy" ride from Tucumcari to Lincoln, but the real shocker was the fact that none of the B-24 crews, supplemented by my instructor pilots, made it through the storm.

I delivered the remnants of the Tavasti Provisional Group to Hdqtrs. 5th Air Force, Brisbane, Australia. In retrospect, losing 5 crews in training, 3 crews and my staff, except for the Adjutant, en route to the Processing Center seems to justify the "ILL FATED" label, especially since there was not a single survivor.

To my knowledge, I was the only Company-grade officer to be appointed a "Provisional Group Commander". If interested, I could conjure up a yarn about how that came about.

Now - how about a question for anyone? Whose Provisional Group was assimilated by the 34th in 1944 before we went to England?

Roy Tavasti

CLARIFICATIONS

We have another identification of one of the photos in our September, 1993 issue on pages 12 and 13. Picture No. 11 is that of Don Tuttle.

It has been brought to our attention that our latest "TAPS" list, mailed with the March issue, was incorrectly titled on the front page. It should have read, (As of January 19, 1994). We're sorry about that. The proofreader missed it.

Carl Stemen informs us that, although he sent us the photo on page 8 of the March, '94 issue, it is not he who is depicted. He believes it is either Lt. Couse or Lt. Friedman - He's not sure. In any case, we assumed it was him since it had not been identified. Sorry about that!

C.L. Nichols informs us that, on page 12 of the Sept. '93 issue, photo No. 13 is positively that of Lafe Henderson. (Editor's note: Little by little we are learning the identity of most of those unknowns.)

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34TH B.G. (H) 1994 RETURN TO MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND

The 34th Bomb Group will be represented by members and their families and, as of April 9th, they total 34. They are:

Conklin, Claude & Genevieve; Farley, Jack & Bernie; Filip, Robert; Frank, Dale & Esther; Gavryck, Chester & Guy; Lonergan, Edward & Birgit; Love, Warren & Maxine; Marks, Joseph & Kathern; McKinnie, Dwight & Marjorie; Nelson, Russell & Norma Jean; Orton, William; Plank, Dennis; Plank, Donald & Kevin; Richmond, Floyd & Miriam; Rutka, Harold & Genevieve; Turko, Walter & Mary; Underwood, Josephine; Van Liere, William & Ruth; Williams, Harold & Evelyn

We may have Randy & Shirley Martin with us at the American Cemetery at Cambridge. Their plan is to bus to the cemetery and join us. They will arrive on the QE2 and fly back on the Concorde. And - Bill Browne is also expected to attend and spend several days with us.

We are expecting to have a great time even though our schedules may be changed. Memorial Day was to have been celebrated on June 3rd, but now will be held on June 4th because of the large number of dignitaries who are expressing an interest in attending the service at Madingly Cemetery. There is a possibility that President Clinton will attend and, if so, that means the schedule will be changed from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. He does have a tendency to be late and that could upset the schedule for the day. We won't know until our briefing in England, and it may mean we have to cut out our tour to the 390th Control Tower.

We know that everything will work out even though we may be a bit disappointed. We will give you all the details in the September issue.

You B-24 types may be interested in obtaining a U.S. Postage stamp with a B-24 (It is on the 1943 - 1993 World War II Remembered Sheet of 10 - 29 cent stamps). They are usually stocked at the Philatelic outlets, or can be obtained from Philatelic Service Center. For further details contact me.

Harold C. Rutka
1994 Return to England
Reunion Coordinator



John Funk, Sgt. Litsey & Dale Ganger

THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY 20TH ANNUAL REUNION

The 20th Annual Reunion will be held at the Town and Country Hotel, San Diego, CA. October 5th to October 9th. The hotel is located in Mission Valley on Hotel Circle, which is the intersection of Interstate 8 and 163. All registered members are invited to attend dinners and join in the options: Tia Juana, Wild Animal Park, Balboa Park and Seaport Village, Hawaiian Luau, and 8th AFMMF Symposium. All members in good standing can attend the annual meeting and vote without paying the registration fee -- just bring your Current 8th A.F. Membership card with you.

There will be a request in the next issue of 8th AF NEWS for funds to help repair ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL in London. The ASPE behind the High Altar is the AMERICAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL. This was created as a tribute to the 28,000 Americans based in Britain who lost their lives. The ROLL OF HONOUR book was presented to St. Paul's by General Eisenhower in 1951.

At the Mid-year Board Meeting we were shown a book printed in 1952 that was presented to the survivors of the 28,000 who lost their lives in WWII. There was one section that explained all about the Memorial Chapel, and was followed by a picture of a memorial at one of the bases. I didn't have to read the caption to recognize the 34th Bomb Group Memorial at Mendlesham, and, of course, had to point that out to all in attendance.

We hope to see you in San Diego, October 5th to 9th, 1994; in St. Louis in 1995, and in Orlando in 1996.

Harold C. Rutka
Secretary
8th A.F. Historical Soc.

SPECIAL NOTICES

Shortly after we went to press with the March '94 issue of Mendlesham Memories we received a letter from Joseph Wong in which he enclosed a donation to the Scholarship Fund in Ray Summa's honor. Joe says, "Ray and Hannah did an outstanding job for the association and for finding me, the Long Lost Chinese Sheep. Ray will be remembered in our prayers." We're sorry this could not have been reported sooner, but better late than never. Thanks a lot, Joe and Marilyn!

Also from Joe we have this:

Feb. 10th is the Chinese New Year - "GUNG HAY FAT CHOY", THE YEAR OF THE DOG - (1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982 & 1994). People born in the DOG year possess the best traits of human nature. They have a deep sense of loyalty, are honest, and inspire other people's confidence because they know how to keep secrets. But, DOG people are somewhat selfish, terribly stubborn and eccentric. They care little for wealth yet, somehow, always seem to have money. They can be cold emotionally and sometimes distant in social gatherings. They can find fault with many things and are noted for their sharp tongues. DOG people are always, however, cham-

pions of justice. DOG people make good leaders.

From Sid Rockmuller we have the following:

So far no one seems to know about most of the members of the "Jive Bombers". I am looking for the Sax, the Trumpet, the Drums and the Base. I have Lou DeSantis, the Clarinet, and I know the address of Doug Culver. He has not responded to two letters that I sent. I'm still trying to locate Sal Salvarese.

There is a picture of the "Jive Bombers" in our last 34th Bomb Group book on page 126. This might refresh some memories. I do need any help I can get. If anyone has any information I would appreciate them writing to me at: Sid Rockmuller, 555 Kappock Street, Riverdale, NY 10463. My phone no. is: (718) 601-6025.

We have been contacted by several of our newer members to print a photograph of Ray Summa. Some were not too familiar with him. Therefore, we decided to print one of both he and Hannah, his better half and helpmate for all these years, on their 50th wedding anniversary in December, 1989.



Ray and Hanna Summa

HERE'S A CLASSIC FROM A COPY OF WWII'S
YANK--COURTESY OF THE LIBERATOR CLUB:



REUNION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

The reunion committee has been busy getting hotels and coordinating related functions and activities. We must plan ahead in order to insure the membership respectability in housing, food, tours, golf and meeting space.

The planned future dates are:

1994 - St. Paul, Minnesota

1995 - Huntsville, Alabama

1996 - Raleigh, North Carolina

In this issue of Mendelsham Memories you will find registration forms for the Raddison Hotel in St. Paul. Send this form directly to the Raddison Hotel in order to insure your room. The registration forms for food, tours and golf are to be sent to Robert H. Wright, 411 Parkovash Avenue, South Bend, IN 46617.

Harold Rutka and I are meeting in St. Paul in mid-April to finalize the 1994 reunion. We have drafted our past-president, Bruce Sothern, to assist us. He is a resident of the Twin Cities and a retired driver for the metropolitan transit. He will be able to give us help in finding our way for tours and golf.

Registration day is Thursday, September 8th. Early birds are welcome. Also, the Board of Directors will meet at 0900 hours on Thursday, September 8th. "SEE YOU IN ST. PAUL!!"

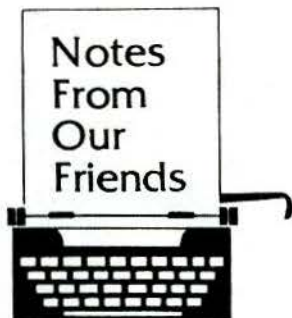
Gerald Pine, Chairman
34th B.G. Reunion Committee

34th Bomb Group Association



TO RADISSON HOTEL SAINT PAUL

- A. I-94 eastbound: Exit on Kellogg Blvd, go east 5 blocks.
- B. I-35E northbound (airport): Exit on Kellogg Blvd, go east 5 blocks.
- C. I-94 westbound: Exit on Kellogg Blvd, going west. Between Wabasha and Cedar Streets.
- D. I-35E southbound: Exit onto Wacouta. 6 blocks to Kellogg Blvd, go west 5 blocks.



H. ARNOLD PRILLAMAN - Martinsville, VA

I wonder how many of our people remember the German plane attacking the base early in 1945. He made 2 or 3 firing passes about 11:00 p.m. one night. I remember well because he broke up our friendly poker game. I have often wondered where he was based and if he made it back.

I also thought some of our people might be interested in seeing an economy model aircraft which stopped at my home on a flight from Santa Margarita, CA to Richmond, VA. He had been enroute for about 2 weeks.



Prillaman's Unexpected Company

RALPH M. ROBINSON - Knoxville, TN.

It is with deep regret I must inform you of the death of one of your members and my father-in-law, Thomas C. Williams, on Jan. 5, 1994. Tom always spoke very highly of all of his friends in the 34th.

He had been very sick for sometime. I was with him when he died. He just went to sleep and his pain and suffering has now gone. His daughter and I will really miss him.

EVAN Y. ROGERS - Tucson, AZ.

I really enjoy Mendlesham Memories and promise I will send a group of pictures of Mendlesham and of my participation in 3 wars and 3 police actions.

JOE GARRETT - Canton, GA.

I sure enjoy the Mendlesham Memories being sent this way and especially hearing about old friends and what they are doing. I'm sorry, however, to hear about Ben LeBailly. He was a good man.

CLEVELAND ROMERO - Lafayette, LA.

I want to thank all the members who sent me get-well cards and I especially appreciated the card signed by the majority of the group at the reunion. It gave me an idea of who was in attendance. I had hoped to make the reunion at Little Rock but I still had staples in my leg and the doctor warned me about trying to make the trip before removal of the staples and the stitches. I have been in the hospital again for the same leg since the surgery, but things are improving considerably now.

LAWRENCE BANFIELD - Rock Island, IL.

1994 sure got here in a hurry. It's hard to believe that when I flew our missions I was 21 and now, in April if I make it, I'll be 71. I keep busy cutting grass in the summer and shoveling snow in the winter. Got to keep active.

DON K. FILLMAN - Des Moines, IA.

I never knew the 34th B.G. Assn. existed until 1989 and I have really enjoyed the last 3 reunions. And every year I have found a pilot or someone from the 18th Sqdn. that I hadn't seen for almost 50 years.

I would like to see some time set up at reunions for individual squadron meetings. After milling around looking at name tags you can get discouraged. The lobby register is a great help in finding people.

W.N. (PETE) GRAY - Virginia Beach, VA.

I'm doing fine except for the swollen ankles which are not too bad since the weather has turned cooler. I do have a cataract developing on my right eye but it will be some time yet before it's ripe.

Got the M.M. just yesterday and, as usual, it's superb. Always fix myself a drink before sitting down to read it. I liked that story by Walter Sturdivan - that boy's good! I read his book several years ago and thoroughly enjoyed it.

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The crew of the "Old Crow", standing L. to R.: Anderson, Rowan, Roberts & Holtz. Kneeling, L. to R.: Sease, Tilton, Breckenridge, Richardson, Cooney, Spencer & Benscoter

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 7

CECIL B. ELGAR - Carol Stream, IL.

I am interested in the 34th B.G. I was an early member of the 34th, 1st Recon.Sq. (391st) from June, '41 to March, '43. I joined the cadre that came to Westover, MA. from Langley Field, VA.

BARBARA (RALPH) HARTMAN - Ballston Lake, NY.

I had a wonderful experience this past summer (sad because Ralph died before we could go to England). I took the train and taxi to Mendlesham, saw the memorial and met Joan Barker, a resident who had so much info on the 34th. She's such a wonderful, friendly person. The memorial is kept up beautifully.

Ski Windham in the Catskills still has the Ralph Hartman memorial race. They do wonders with the handicapped.

MARGARET (GEORGE) KOTUN - Kent, OH.

It sure is lonely and sad without George. He would see our friends attending WWII reunions and, had he lived, I'm sure he would have wanted us to attend the one in Minn. this coming September. He sure did love to travel and we did our share in our marriage of 49 years. (Well, it would have been 49 years had he lived just 2 more days, but I say 49 anyway.

I'm enclosing a picture of George and me taken exactly 2 months before he died that tragic, sudden death. I keep saying he died "in good health" because we were unaware a blood clot would leave his leg and hit his lung. I had spoken to him just a half hour before.



Marge & George Kotun
Myrtle Beach, SC - March 28, 1993



Front L. to R.: Henry Douglas, Tony Artuso, Earl Walter, Leslie Baker & David Payne. Rear, L. to R.: Bennett Rentz, Jack Burk, Vande Guchte, Richard Eike & William McDaniel

ARNOLD T. HOENKE - San Diego, CA.

Thank you for the newsletter. I have not been in touch with anyone from the 34th until now.

JAMES H. SMITH - Marietta, GA.

Thank you for contacting me. Obviously a lot of people have done a lot of hard work. I wish I could have been available to help out. Anything I could do to help here in Georgia, please advise.

JACK D. BARRON - Milford, KS.

So glad this "Lost Sheep" has been found. I'm sorry that I missed the previous reunions. Looking forward to seeing you all in St. Paul in September. Thanks for writing.

ROBERT L. HENSLER - South Bend, IN.

I have been trying to contact flight-crew members from the 34th BG for some time now without success. Therefore, I was delighted to receive your Mendlesham Memories and the letter. I was an aerial gunner instructor and flew enough missions in the ball, tail, nose and waist positions to earn an Air Medal with 2 clusters. The B-24 most flown in was named "Hells Belle".

ROBERT CAMPBELL - Isle of Palms, SC.

James H. Friedel, a member of Giles Avriett's crew, 7th Sqdn. died Dec. 13, 1993 from complications following gall bladder surgery in August. He was a ball turret gunner.

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Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 8

MILT BRAVEMAN - Harrisburg, PA.

Hal Province has located co-pilot Hank Gauger. We had last flown together 30 Dec. '44 and had not seen each other since. Hank went on to fly a tour in P-51's.

Not only has Hank been found but we had a great brief reunion in Malibu, CA. in January. Our wives, Alice and Elaine, and my youngest daughter, Carra, also got to meet each other. Many thanks to Hal for his detective work.



L. to R.: Hank & Alice Gauger with Carra, Elaine and Milt Braveman.

HANNAH SUMMA - Anderson, IN.

My mailbox has been overflowing since the newsletter was published. Thank you all so very much for your cards and letters.

I'm improving, slow but sure. Isn't any fun getting "old" and having weak bones. Since I can't do any travelling very far yet, I decided to have the painters in. Now I'll be one jump ahead of spring.

The newsletter was interesting, especially Peter Gaskin's story. I know how Sylvia felt in a strange country in all their travels. That's about the way we were in '85 on our stay over in England, Wales and Scotland, getting on and off those trains. The bus tours were great, though.

Bob Fox from Monticello, Ill. called after he got his newsletter. He was one of the numerous letters Ray and Hal sent out trying to find "Lost Souls of the 34th".

Bill Creer (General) keeps in touch. You guys say he was tough when you were in the service, but now he's a regular. He's my shoulder to lean on. Love you all.

GEORGE E. READY - Richmond, VA.

I am one of the "Lost Sheep". Thanks for finding me.

CONRAD RICKER - Oklahoma City, OK.

I can't believe it's 6 months since Little Rock and only 6 months to St. Paul. We're expecting to make St. Paul but are not sure whether we'll drive or fly. We do expect to have four of our crew there.

BOB BURGNER - Uniontown, OH.

Sorry I have not forwarded this information sooner. As age enters into our everyday lives you keep putting things off. Clarence Squires is in a nursing home in Bethany, MO. His family had to move him there because he is in a wheelchair, can hardly see and cannot remember, only when he gets a card or letter from the people in the 18th Sqdn.

GENE TIGGES - Ft. Wayne, IN.

My live-in companion for several years contracted lung cancer and, after surgery, it reoccurred. It's in remission now after radiation, but travel is not possible. Therefore, it's doubtful that I shall make the St. Paul Reunion.

JOE BEALL - Springfield, IL.

Reading the "Memories" has sure been enjoyable and it seems a great many individuals have spent many long hours over many years to have such an association in place after so many years.

My wife and I are going to attend the reunion in St. Paul and hope to meet a lot of you there.

BILL YOTHMENT - Crown Point, IN.

Hope this finds everyone in good spirits and good health! I'm sure going to try to get up to St. Paul this year.

JOHN R. FOSTER - Richmond, VA.

I am the John Foster described in the first paragraph of your letter. This lost sheep would like additional info about the 34th B.G. Association.

Continued on page 10



34th B.G. being activated as a combat group at Salinas AAFB. That's Ed Hammond with the American flag.

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from Page 9

FRANCIS V. JACKOVICH - Port Jervis, NY.

The photograph of the B-24 under attack on page 15 of the March issue was taken from our waist window. This was on a mission to bomb an oil refinery in Germany. Our B-24 was "Bugs Bunny" piloted by William Lewis. We had no casualties from the flak.

RICHARD R. BENSON - Shawnee, KS.

I am the man referred to in your letter. Ours was crew 79 of the 34th B.G. piloted by Phillip Mann. Our plane was named "Ole' Timer". I'm glad to hear from someone from back in that era and will appreciate any information concerning the group.

JAMES McLEOD - Pensacola, FL.

I was not aware of the existence of the 34th B.G. Assn. I am one of the "lost sheep". I flew about 25 missions as a T/Sgt. radio operator/gunner in a B-17 nicknamed "Tempest Turner" with appropriate art work. I will appreciate any info you can send.

DONNA TERRY (PAUL SHOLL'S daughter) - Takoma Park, MD.

Dad asked me to write to inform you that Mom, Eleanor, passed away on Feb. 2nd at age 65. She had been in perfect health but on Dec. 29th she noticed her handwriting was shaky. On Jan. 12th we found out she had brain cancer. By then her right side was paralyzed. She didn't want surgery. The family pulled together so



Cosmo Papaleo, Two Indians, Don Wick & John Hurley

someone was always there to help dad care for her at home. We're doing O.K. now. Our family has always been close and we're staying real close counting on each other through this rough water.

CLAUDE GIBBS - Catawissa, MO.

I recently had occasion to go through past issues of MM. Lo and behold, in the March, '92 issue on page 7 a face jumped out from the past. If the old brain hasn't gone senile, the T/Sgt in the middle of the 3 pictured would be radio operator, John Flood. He was in the 7th Sqdn. and, at one time, was detached temporarily for duty with the "Red Ball Express", supplying Gen. Patton's army with gasoline. I believe he also had to ditch in the channel, but don't recall what the mission was.

MALCOLM T. BLOMQUIST - Palos Hills, IL.

I am one of the many men you are looking for. I was assigned to the 34th in Dec., 1944, out of the Blackpool Replacement Depot. The crew checked into the base at Mendlesham on Christmas Eve just as the group was returning from a mission. We were designated as crew J-22. I would appreciate more information regarding the Association.

(The following is an example of the type of response we get from many people to whom we send "Lost Sheep" letters):

JAMES T. BURKE - St. Marys, OH.

I am not the James T. Burke belonging to your bomb group. I have checked the family records without luck. Also, I have inquired within the family about who this man might be with no luck. I am sorry this letter comes to you without information helpful in your search.

As one American too young for all the major wars to serve (Vietnam was so close - I graduated in 1975) I send my deepest appreciation to you and all who served to keep our country free. God Bless You All!!

NANCY MAINVILLE, Kaukauna, WI.

My relation to the 34th B.G. is through my father, George Schmitt. He was a very wonderful, kind man and I am very proud and grateful to have had such a man for a dad.

I was named Nancy after the plane "Fancy Nancy" that my dad had worked on in the war. My sister, Sue, was named after the "Collapsible Susie" which was so named because it was always in repair and, inevitably, never returned from a mission, so we're told. I do wonder what was the fate of "Fancy Nancy"?

Continued on page 11

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 10

PAUL ANDERSON - Mesa, AZ.

Paul and Pauline Shull, and Beryl and I, went to Scottsdale, AZ. to see about procuring shirts and jackets for the 34th B.G. P.X. This was a very large manufacturer of sport type clothing. We were impressed with the quality of their products. Our 34th B.G. emblem will be embroidered on the shirts and jackets, not just silk-screened. We hope everyone will make it to St. Paul to see these in the P.X.



Paul Anderson & Paul Shull going over the shirt & jacket catalog.

JACK TERRY - La Crescenta, CA.

The new Mrs. Terry is Nellie. When Nellie was widowed she assumed she would spend the rest of her life in the single condition and proceeded to fill her house and her schedule to the fullest. It is very hard for her to clear out enough things to make room for me to move in completely. She was quite ill at the time of the wedding, but she has recovered quite nicely, thank you.

We are expecting to get to St. Paul in Sept. We look forward to seeing many of you there.

(Editor's note: We congratulate Terry on his recent marriage. He's found someone to share the rest of his life with. Life doesn't stop because someone's mate has died. CONGRATULATIONS!!)

GEORGE R. PRENTICE - Sanger, TX.

At first, I was assigned to sheet metal, battle damage repair at Mendlesham. The last eight months, however, I was in the P.R. office writing general news releases and the occasional feature story (food drop over Holland for example).

I appreciated the outfit and have always given Lt. Edwin S. Smith credit for boosting me through the door

that led to my dreams of some day achieving success in the world of journalism. Since then I've worked in many areas of journalism, from reporter to managing editor. Also I was in radio broadcast news and special youth programs related to joint newspaper and radio operations. I guess I could say that Lt. Smith was the springboard for all that. I'm very grateful.

CARL STEMEN - Breman, OH.

I realize that most men of the 34th do not really know how much work there is in putting out a periodical. I had (before my heart attack) been in the printing business for 45 yrs. of which 20 were combined with printing a weekly newspaper. If anyone has any complaints with deadlines or editing articles they should try to do the job. Thank you for all your efforts.

C.L. NICHOLS - Waskom, TX.

We've only made a couple of the reunions because I only found out about them in 1986. We've been to Colorado Springs and Shreveport, LA. I would have been more active but we have experienced trauma of home flooding in 1986 and 1989 due to Hurricanes Bonnie and Allison. So, we have spent a lot of time in grieving and recovery. That is all past now and we hope to be seeing the brighter side of things from here on out.

We all appreciate the yeoman efforts of you and all our officers - Good Work!

CLEVELAND J. ROMERO - Lafayette, LA.

I am finally finished with the therapy I've been taking for over a month now. We are planning to be at the next reunion if our health permits.

Continued on page 12



Photographers John Hurley & Don Wick

Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 11

DARRELL BULIS - Early, TX.

Just wanted to let you know I couldn't make it to Little Rock due to my poor physical condition. On July 12th I had a triple by-pass surgery and, due to many complications, I did not recover as I should have. I still have a long way to go but I am improving. I just take it day by day and we're hoping for St. Paul.

WALTER POTAK - Hicksville, NY.

Enclosed is my check for two years of dues which would have been sent earlier except for diagnostic procedures followed by abdominal surgery and recovery from same. Doing O.K. now.

Sorry to hear about Ray Summa. We're lucky to have capable, dedicated persons to assume the responsibilities. I love reading Mendlesham Memories - interesting nostalgia - great cast of characters! Keep 'em coming.

CHARLES J. McCLURE - Clifton Park, NY.

I'm sorry to be a little late with my dues but it was pretty hard many times this winter to find the mail box! Thank goodness most of the snow around here is gone. Two hours north and there are still a couple of feet of it on the ground.

R.B. BRUNE - Plant City, FL.

The arrival of M.M. with the red circle woke me up to the fact that I'm behind in my dues. I'm enclosing a check for two years. That way I will be ahead for awhile. I don't want to miss a single issue of the Memories.

LOUIS W. BUTLER - Eskridge, KS.

I do believe you have found one of the "Lost Sheep" and I do appreciate your efforts. I am looking forward to hearing from you and to attending the reunion in St. Paul, MN. Let me have all the pertinent information for attending.

JOHN J. FEDA - Marshall, MN.

With the 34th reunion being held in St. Paul, there is a special attraction there. The B-17 "Miss Angela" is permanently housed there in the museum. It came from the 34th B.G. at Mendlesham and should be a special attraction for the attendees. This is the AIR MUSEUM at the Flying Cloud Field at Eden Prairie, Minnesota, not too far from St. Paul.

M.M. Page 12

JAMES G. BENNAS - Watertown, MA.

I believe that I am, indeed, one of your "Lost Sheep". I was with the 7th Bomb Squadron at Westover Field and on or about Jan. of 1942 we were shipped to Pendleton Field. In May I left the 7th to attend Officer's Candidate School in Miami Beach.

I was surprised to hear from you. I have looked for notices of reunions of the 34th but couldn't come across any.

WILLIAM L. LEWIS - Baxley, GA.

Your letter was passed on to me by a member of my Sunday School class who had received it but was not the man you were looking for. He knew of my service years. I did serve with the 34th B.G. in Mendlesham during the period of May, 1944 to June, 1945. I am looking forward to hearing from you. Isn't it strange how we "Lost Sheep" can be found?

JOSE BASADRE - Meutchen, NJ.

Bingo! I did serve with the 7th Sqdn. of the 34th B.G. from June, 1941 til Feb., 1942. Then transferred to 303rd B.G., then to 8th A.F. Weather Patrol in Iceland and, in Aug., 1942 to the 97th Bomb Group in England.

ROBERT W. BEAN - Rancho Cordova, CA.

I may be the man you are looking for. I was a bombardier with the 34th. Our pilot was Raymond Palmer and our navigator was Julian Millheiser. Also on our crew were Gotowka, Reibman, Wheeler and Cole. I'm not sure of the others.

HOWARD J. MARTIN - Walla Walla, WA.

I attended the reunion at Seattle and knew only members of my own crew. I think the older you get the more you lose of your marbles. At least that's the way I've rationalized it.

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. 1, and Nov. 1 for the March, June, September and December issues. Send your change of address to:

HAL PROVINCE
111 PROVINCE LANE
CARRIERE, MS. 39426

before the labels are printed to ensure the correct arrival of the MEMORIES!!

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

BRUSH VALLEY PUBLICATIONS is seeking first hand personal World War II stories for its newsletter. The editor of the newsletter is one of our own 34th B.G. members, Ernest T. "Mo" Moriarty.

He is looking for stories about the air forces, be they Army, Navy or Marine. Basic training, schooling, combat or ground forces, from all areas of fighting around the world. Also stories of POW's and the evaders and escapees. These may be handwritten or on tape, with pictures whenever possible. Pictures will be returned if requested and with return postage.

Send in your material to: Brush Valley Publications, W-105 Warwick Road, Orange, MA. 01364.

The U.S. Gov't. Printing Office has sent us flyers on several publications being released now. They are "Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction"; "Resolving Conflict...Following the Light of Personal Behavior"; "History of the United States Botanic Gardens - 1816 to 1991"; "Visual Arts in Poland"; "Building Air Bases in the Negev"; "The Future of Remote Sensing from Space...Civilian Satellite Systems and Applications"; "Cruise Books of the United States Navy in W.W. II - A Bibliography"; "The Aleutians Campaign - June 1942 to August 1943"; "Operation End Sweep - A History of Minesweeping Operations in North Vietnam"; "The Mars Observer Mission"; and "Adult Literacy and New Technologies - Tools for a Lifetime". For information on any of these publications phone Mr. Thompson at (202) 512-2413.

We have recently been informed that there is a publication called "BRIEFING" put out by the International B-24 Liberator Club which is available. For information writeto: International B-24 Liberator Club, 15817 Bernardo Center Drive, Suite 102, B1-24, San Diego, CA. 92127.

We also have this:

I am compiling exciting or unique Eighth Air Force WWII experiences for a publication collaboration tentatively entitled "CHRONICLES FROM THE MEN OF THE MIGHT EIGHTH". If you had one, or several, WWII experiences that is touching, heroic, romantic, unique or just plain incredible, please send it in. There is no restriction to the number of stories submitted. Please enclose your full name, time served in the 8th, unit, plane name, base, title of your story(s) and be sure to include all dates and locations. (Please include your phone number if I have any additional questions.) Send stories to: Rusty Briarton, 5270 Del Paz Drive, Colorado Springs, CO. 80918.

We are informed that there is a new book, "Liberator - America's Global Bomber", now available. It is a summary of the Consolidated LB-30, B-24, C-87, C-109, F-7 and PB4Y. The volume includes a background on the design, development and manufacture of the aircraft. Also, the operational use by the USAAF, USN, USMC, USCG and Allied forces. Histories of the operational units are presented by theater of operation with in-depth photo captions. It has 560 pages, over 1,100 photos, drawings, 16 pages of color. The price is \$39.95 plus \$4.00 postage and handling. If interested, contact:

Pictorial Histories Publishing Co., Inc.,
713 South Third, Missoula, Montana 59801
Phone (406) 549-8488 or FAX (406) 728-9280

Also at press time we have the following from Cleveland Romero who says, "I am writing to let you know that I'm very disappointed with the lack of scholarship applications received to date. I know that many of our members have grandchildren that would like to try for these funds but are unaware of them". (Editor's note: We are again including the scholarship applications in this issue. C'mon folks, get your grandchildren busy with them!! Remember they're due by July 1st!)

Continued on page 14



Front, L. to R.: Ward Provance, Fred Simmons & Tony Anisteano. Rear, L. to R.: Albert Johnson, Sgt. Schradd & Kermit Hanson

News From Here And There

Continued from page 13

As we go to press we are informed that our old buddy, William "Pete" Gray has been diagnosed as having inoperable colon cancer. He is being treated with chemotherapy. At this time we know nothing more. We'll be sure to follow this up in the September issue.

From Edward Zesch we have the following:

As Founding Members of the American Air Museum, to be built in Duxford, England, Dolores and I were invited to attend a reception on April 8th at the Santa Monica, CA. Museum of Flying. The reception was in honor of His Royal Highness, Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, hosted by the American Air Museum in Britain. We attended the event and enjoyed seeing in person such notables as HRH Prince Andrew, Charlton Heston (Co-chairman of the American Air Museum) and Georgia Frontiere (Owner of the Los Angeles Rams football organization). The granddaughter of General H.H. (Hap) Arnold was also present.

As part of the reception we strolled around the Museum of Flying and found the facility to be most interesting. For those that have not visited the museum, be sure it's on your list of things to see when you are in the Los Angeles area. The museum has a variety of restored vintage aircraft on display along with many other interesting aviation exhibits. The Museum of Flying is located at the Santa Monica Airport on the former site of the Douglas Aircraft Company, one of my past employers.

Don't Forget To Send Your Dues

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

Reunion '94
St. Paul, MN.
SEE YOU THERE
September 6-11, 1994



Front, L. to R.: A. L. Menefee, R. L. Ryan, H. Dwyer & H. Thorpe - Rear L. to R. : R. Bell, G. Brown, J. Noe, E. Duval & N. Gilchrist.



ROSE'S CORNER

As I promised in our last issue, I am going to share the recipe sent to me by Jane Ann Felker who used to write a recipe column for the Officer's Wives Club at several bases during Wally's years in the Air Force. Please try it even if there isn't a holiday. I made it and took it with me to our church. Now, I've been asked by many ladies for the recipe because it is an unusually tasty cake. Try it!!

OLD KENTUCKY JAM CAKE

3 eggs (beaten)	3 tbsp. cocoa
1 stick butter	1/4 tsp. salt
1 1/2 cups sugar	1/2 cup buttermilk & 1 tsp.
3 cups flour	baking soda
1 1/2 tsp. baking powder	(mixed together)
1 1/2 tsp. Allspice	1 cup raisins or chopped dates
1/2 tsp. cinnamon	(1/2 cup each if desired)
1 1/2 tsp. ground cloves	1 cup nuts (I used walnuts)
1/4 cup strong coffee	1 1/2 cups grape jam

Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add beaten eggs. Sift flour 3 times and then measure. Sift measured flour, spices, cocoa, salt and baking powder together. Dissolve baking soda in buttermilk, then add coffee to it.

Alternately, add buttermilk/coffee mixture and flour mixture to egg/butter/sugar mixture, beating after each addition. Lightly dredge fruit and nuts with extra flour and add them. Next, add jam and STIR WELL to assure good distribution.

Grease and lightly flour a large Angel-Food cake pan. Carefully pour batter into it. If you have time, bake at 225 deg. for 2 1/2 hours. If you're in a hurry, bake at 350 deg. for 1 1/2 hours. Ice with your favorite frosting.

The best frosting for this cake is one that remains soft. I use one small pkg. Philadelphia cream cheese. Let it soften and beat well with mixer. Add one box confectioner's sugar, 1/2 tsp. vanilla and tint with food coloring.

Jane suggests that if you want to freeze this cake, you don't frost it until you're ready to serve. Then thaw and ice. Her family prefers this cake with added mixed candied fruit. And Jane says, "This is my family's favorite cake and I hope it will become one of yours."

Good luck and THANK YOU VERY MUCH, JANE!!
May God bless everyone of you, abundantly!!

Love,
Rose



I'M FINE, THANK YOU

Author Unknown

Borrowed from Brush Valley Publications

There is nothing the matter with me.
I'm as healthy as I can be.
I have arthritis in both knees
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.

My pulse is weak and my blood is thin
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.
Arch supports I have for my feet
Or I wouldn't be able to be on the street.

Sleep is denied me night after night,
But every morning I find I'm alright.
My memory is failing, my head's in a spin,
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

The moral is this, as my tale I unfold..
That for you and me, who are growing old,
It's better to say "I'm Fine" with a grin,
Than to let folks know the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?
Well, my "Get Up And Go" has got up and went.
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin,
Of all the grand places my "Get Up" has been.

Old age is golden I've heard it said,
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,
With my ears in the drawer, my teeth in the cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,
"Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?"
When I was young my slippers were red.
I could kick my heels right over my head.

When I was older my slippers were blue,
But I could still dance the whole night through.
Now I'm old, and my slippers are black.
I walk to the store and puff my way back.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits
And pick up the paper and read the "Obits".
If my name is still missing I know I'm not dead
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.



ADDRESS CHANGES

(As of 4-21-94)

<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.	7	1235 N. LAIRD, UNIT 122	HASTINGS,	NE.	68901
BISHER	FRANCIS B.	4	288 NO. TANGLEWOOD DRIVE	OZARK,	MO.	65721
HENDRICKSON	LEONARD T.	A	P.O. BOX 126	VICTOR,	MN.	59875
HUNTER	JAMES A.		9191 GARLAND ROAD	DALLAS,	TX.	75218
HYMAN	NORMAN H.	18 LM	1610 N. PROSPECT AVE. #305	MILWAUKEE,	WI.	53202
LEATH	JOHN	391 LM	69-525 DILLON ROAD #1	DESERT HOT SPRINGS,	CA.	92241
LOGAN	EDWARD A.	7	20223 NO. 105TH AVENUE	PEORIA,	AZ.	85382
MCCARTHY	DONALD J.		8008 BASS LAKE ROAD #403	NEW HOPE,	MN.	55428
PSENICKA	JOSEPH N.	18 LM	4243 W. 63RD STREET, #18	CHICAGO,	IL.	60629
ROSS	JOHN J.	18	64 HABLET DRIVE	COMMACK,	NY.	11725
SCHOMMER	PAUL C.	7	52075 BELLE ISLE DRIVE	RUSH CITY,	MN.	55069
SMITH	CARRIE M.	7A	2854 YORK ROAD	ROCHESTER HILLS,	MI.	48309
TERRY	JOHN P.	7 LM	4419 LOWELL AVENUE	LA CRESCENTA,	CA.	91214
WEEKS	WAYNE	18	2692 N. IBIS COURT	SAINT JAMES CITY,	FL.	33956
WINER	DANIEL C.	18 LM	40 PONDEROSA LANE	PALMYRA,	VA.	22963

NEWLY FOUND

(As of 4-21-94)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
BAKER	MARION L.	4	2150 COLLEGE PLACE #26	GRAND JUNCTION,	CO.	81501
BALDEA	AARON	7 A	1710 SO. GILBERT RD. #1165	MESA,	AZ.	85204
BASADRE	JOSE	7	17 WILLOW ROAD	MEUTCHEN,	NJ.	08840
BEALL	JOSEPH H.	391	2314 LINDBERGH BLVD.	SPRINGFIELD,	IL.	62704
BEAN	ROBERT W.	391	10513 ITALIA WAY	RANCHO CORDOVA,	CA.	95670
BENNAS	JAMES G.	7	107 STONELEIGH ROAD	WATERTOWN,	MA.	02172
BENSON	RICHARD R.		15024 WEST 71ST TERRACE	SHAWNEE MISSION,	KS.	66216
BLOMQUIST	PAUL T.	7	3 PAAXOS DRIVE, APT. 1W	PALOS HILLS,	IL.	60465
BORONKA	KATHLEEN R.	7 A	907 W. 68TH PLACE	MERRILLVILLE,	IN.	46410
BORTZ	ARTHUR H.		49 NORTH 5TH STREET	HAMBURG,	PA.	19526
BURNS	EDWARD H.		2 BENNETT AVENUE	SAUGUS,	MA.	01906
BUTLER	LOUIS W.	18	BOX 296 303 MAPLE STREET	ESKRIDGE,	KS.	66423
ELGAR	CECIL B.	391	381 ILLINI	CAROL STREAM,	IL.	60188
FINCH	ALAN E.		720 HAVERHILL DRIVE	LEXINGTON,	KY.	40503
FOSTER	JOHN R.		12014 HEIBER COURT	RICHMOND,	VA.	23233
FOURNIER	WALTER L.		45 PINE ISLAND AVENUE	BERLIN,	NH.	03570
GAUGER	HENRY W.	391	1321 OFFSHORE	OXNARD,	CA.	93035
HANSEN	DUANE	18A	645 SKYLINE PL. #10	MADISON,	WI.	53713
HENSLER	ROBERT L.		2032 PLEASANT STREET	SOUTH BEND,	IN.	46615
HOENKE	ARNOLD T.		12164 CALLADO ROAD	SAN DIEGO,	CA.	92128
LANDERS	JOSEPH L.		116 WOLF AVENUE	MALVERNE,	NY.	11565
LEWIS	WILLIAM L.		109 PARK AVENUE	BAXLEY,	GA.	31513
MANTENFEL	ALFRED		290 HOFFMAN STREET	FRANKLIN SQUARE,	NY.	11010
MARTIN	REX H.	391	RT. 6, BOX 681	ATHENS,	TX.	75751
MASON	JULIAN A.		8207 19TH AVENUE N.W.	BRADENTON,	FL.	34209
MCLEOD	JAMES		12 COTTAGE CIRCLE	PENSACOLA,	FL.	32507
READY	GEORGE E.		3127 C STONY POINT ROAD	RICHMOND,	VA.	23235
RHODES	JOHN H.		1833 NORTH ROAD	SALEM,	VA.	24153
SEDLAK	JOHN C.	7 A	8501 PATTERSON STREET	ST. JOHN,	IN.	46373
SHEPLEY	ROBERT G.		1 PRESTON PLACE	BEVERLY FARMS,	MA.	01915
SMITH	JAMES H.	391	2530 STONEY BROOK LANE	MARIETTA,	GA.	30062
STANLEY	CARROLL W.		25613 N.E. 130TH AVENUE	BATTLE GROUND,	WA.	98604
WRIGHTSMAN	CLARENCE		119 LAUBER LANE	DERBY,	KS.	67037

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(286 as of 4-21-94)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ANDERSON	PAUL D.	7LM	11622 W. SILVER LAKE RD. SP91	EVERETT,	WA.	98208
BASS	RUBIN	391LM	58 THE HEMLOCKS	ROSLYN ESTATES,	NY.	11576
BEALL	JOSEPH B.	391LM	2314 LINDBERG BLVD.	SPRINGFIELD,	IL.	62704
FERLICH	WILLIAM F.	7LM	RT. 2, BOX 332	WASHINGTON,	PA.	15301
HEASTY	CLARENCE N.	391LM	RT. 2, BOX 72	SPARTA,	WI.	54656
HOPKINS	JAMES C.	7LM	1104 ARBOR LANE	MARBLE FALLS,	TX.	78654
LUNDEEN	RALPH J.	4LM	2630 W. RIVER PARKWAY	MINNEAPOLIS,	MN	55406
PALMER	RAYMOND V.	391LM	337 SO. BROOKSIDE	WICHITA,	KS.	67218
ROBERT	PAUL H.	18LM	9121 CAMULOS AVENUE	MONTCLAIR,	CA.	91763



TAPS

(As of 4-21-94)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>	<u>DIED</u>
BELANCSIK	DAVID M.		426 FERNWOOD AVENUE	JOHNSON CITY,	NY.	13790	1967
BROFFT	ROBERT J.	7	5915 EAST MADISON AVENUE	FRESNO,	CA.	93727	2-4-94
BURCHAM	KENNETH H.		209 DEER FOX LANE	TIMONIUM,	MD.	21093	AUG. '88
FRIEDEL	JAMES	7	7718 VALLEY FALLS ROAD	SPARTANBURG	SC.	29303	
GLOUGAU	JEROME N.	391			NJ.		1990
KUKIELSKI	LEONARD J.	18	W. 9404 RIVER ROAD	CAMP DOUGLAS,	WI.		1-17-92
LYNN	JAMES CLIFTON		2912 BROWNE DRIVE	GARLAND,	TX.		9-5-93
RATHBUN	EDGAR H.	7	19D HERITAGE ROAD	WINDSOR,	CT.	06095	1-11-94
SPELLMAN	CHARLES		2037 BATCHELDER STREET	BROOKLYN,	NY.	11229	NOV., '93
STEVENS	JOHN T.	7	1570 E. MAIN ST., LOT 48	LANCASTER,	OH.	43130	
SWICKI	EDWARD	7					
WILLIAMS	THOMAS C.	18	5628 SCENIC HILLS ROAD	KNOXVILLE,	TN.	37921	1-5-94

LOST SOULS-MOVED?-STRAYED

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

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>LAST KNOWN ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
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SCHLINDWEIN	ROBERT L.	391	2533 11TH AVENUE	SACRAMENTO,	CA.	95818
SWIFT	JOHNATHON A.	391	754 CHEROKEE STREET	MARIETTA,	GA.	30060



Then and Now



WILLIAM L. KELLY



1945



1972

(Died July 11, 1990)

WARD PROVANCE



1944



1992

WILLIAM V. SHERMAN



1945



1992



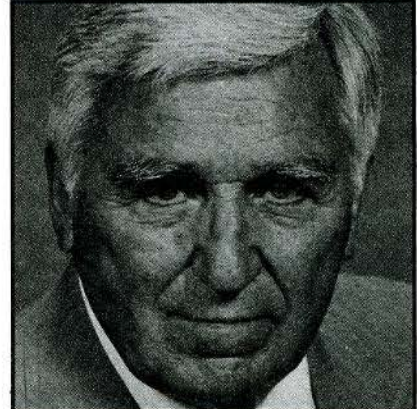
Then and Now



BERNARD J. PECZKOWSKI



1945

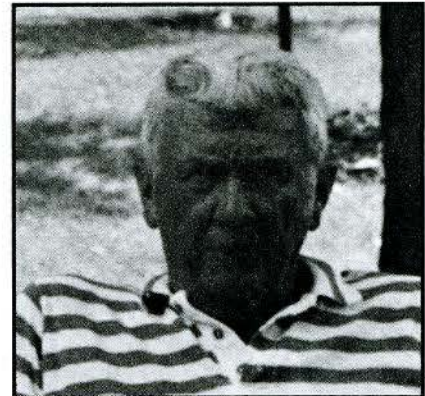


1993

CHARLES DAVIS



1945



1993

CHARLES J. "CHUCK" DULAN



1944



1993



STRAIGHT FROM THE FRONT

by Ernie Pyle

(borrowed from a newspaper article appearing on Aug. 11, 1944)

NORMANDY - Our front lines were marked by long stripes of colored cloth laid on the ground, and with colored smoke to guide our airmen during the mass bombing that proceeded our breakout from the German ring that held us to the Normandy beachhead.

The dive-bombers hit just right. We stood in the barnyard of a French farm and watched them barrel nearly straight out of the sky. They were bombing about a half a mile ahead of where we stood. They came in groups, diving from every direction perfectly timed, one right after another. Everywhere you looked separate groups of planes were on the way down or on the way back up or slanting over for fire or circling, circling, circling over our heads waiting for their turn. The air was full of sharp and distinct sounds of crackling bombs and heavy rips of the planes' machine guns and splitting screams of diving wings.

And then a new sound gradually droned into our ears. The sound was deep and all encompassing with no notes in it - just a gigantic faraway surge of doom. It was the

heavies. They came from directly behind us and first they were the merest dots in the sky. You could see clots of them against the far heavens, too tiny to count individually. They came on with terrible slowness. They came in flights of 12 - three flights to a group. And in the groups stretched out across the sky they came in "families" of about 70 planes each.

Maybe these gigantic waves were two miles apart, maybe they were ten miles. I don't know, but I do know they came in constant procession and I thought it would never end. What the Germans must have thought is beyond comprehension. Their march across the sky was slow and steady. I've never known a storm or a machine or any resolve of man that had about it the aura of such ghastly relentlessness. You have the feeling that even had God appeared beseechingly before them in the sky with palms outwards to persuade them back they would not have had within them the power to turn from their irresistible course.

I stood with a little group of men ranging from colonels to privates back of some farmhouse. Slit trenches were all around the edges of the farmyard and dugout with a tin roof was nearby, but we were so fascinated by the spectacle

Continued on page 21



Ground Crewmen - (Unidentified except seated at far right is Tex Burours & next to him is Jack Odom)



Crew of "GOTTA HAVER" Standing L. to R.: Scheinost, Long, Roescher, Revay and Fogg. Kneeling L. to R.: Binder, Lyons, Doronsky and Johnson - Crew Chief Bruce Sothern not shown

Memories

Continued from Page 15

overhead that it never occurred to us that we might need the foxholes.

The first huge flight passed directly over our farmyard and the others followed. We spread our feet and leaned far back trying to look straight up until our steelhelmets fell off. We'd cup our fingers around our eyes like field glasses for a clearer view, and then the bombs came.

They began ahead of us as a crackle of popcorn and almost instantly swelled into a monstrous fury of noise that seemed surely to destroy all the world ahead of us. From then on for an hour and a half that had in it the agonies of centuries the bombs came down. A wall of smoke and dust erected by them grew high in the sky. It filtered along the ground back through our own orchards. It sifted around us and into our noses. The bright day grew slowly dark from it.

By now everything was an indescribable cauldron of sounds. Individual noises did not exist. The thundering of motors in the sky and the roar of the bombs ahead filled all the space for noise on earth. Our own heavy artillery was crashing all around us, yet we could hardly hear it.

The Germans began to shoot heavy, high ack-ack. Great black puffs of it by the score speckled the sky until it was hard to distinguish the smoke puffs from the planes.

And then someone shouted that one of the planes was smoking. Yes, we could all see it. A long faint line of black smoke stretched straight for a mile behind one of them and, as we watched, there was a gigantic sweep of flame over the plane from nose to tail. It disappeared in flame and it slanted slowly down and banked around the sky in great wide curves, this way and that way, as rhythmically and gracefully as in a slow-motion waltz. Then suddenly it seemed to change its mind and it swept upward steeper and steeper, and ever slower until it finally seemed poised motionless on its own black pillar of smoke. And then just as slowly it turned over and dived for the earth - a folded spearhead on the straight black shaft of its own creation - and it disappeared behind the treetops. But before it was done there were more cries of "There's another one smoking, and there's a third one now!"

Chutes came out of some of the planes, out of some came no chutes at all. One, of white silk, caught on the tail of a plane. The men with binoculars could see him fighting to get loose until flames swept over him and then a tiny black dot fell through space all alone.

And all that time the great flat ceiling of the sky was roofed by all the others that didn't go down, plowing their way forward as if there were no turmoil in the world. Nothing deviated them by the slightest. They stalked on slowly and with the dreadful pall of sound as though they were seeing only something at a great distance and nothing existed in between.

(Editor's note: Bob Filip sent this article in to us and we felt that, inasmuch as the 34th was involved in the above actions 50 years ago, this was one memory many of us would like to read. We feel, also, that no one will challenge our reprinting a possibly copyrighted item of 50 years ago.)

D-DAY

by Charles Metz

From his book "Navigator To Pilot..Over"

Not long after Adolf Hitler launched his offensive westward from Germany, his troops overran France and occupied that country. You may have read about Dunkirk where the Nazis pushed the defending French and British armies back to the English Channel where they would have perished had it not been for the magnificent and heroic efforts of the British people in amassing hundreds of boats of every size and description to take the troops off the beaches and back to England. There was no question in the minds of the military planners of the day that one day, when the time was ripe, the Allies would have to invade Europe and take back the conquered territory. England was saturated with hundreds of thousands of service men and women, and tons of heavy equipment and supplies. The Nazis knew as well as we that there would have to be an invasion effort sometime, but the question was when or where. Security was tight, and it was excellent, because when it came, it was a complete surprise to all.

D-Day was June 6, 1944. The first hint to me of what was about to happen came when my crew was ordered to take off in the late evening of June 5th, ascend to an altitude of 17,000 to 20,000 feet over a point near Mendlesham and fly a race-track pattern for several hours while reporting winds aloft every 15 minutes. That part was my job. I calculated the winds, passed the information to my pilot who, in turn, relayed it back to our base.

About 5 or 6 a.m. we were recalled and made preparations to land. As we descended, we found the air filled with traffic, and we had some difficulty working our way to a landing leg. As we left our airplane and proceeded to the

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Standing L. to R.: H. Parrish, G. Wisetske, L. Salvesson & W. Browne
Kneeling L. to R. T. Young, G. Smith, W. Colley & F. Zukaitis.

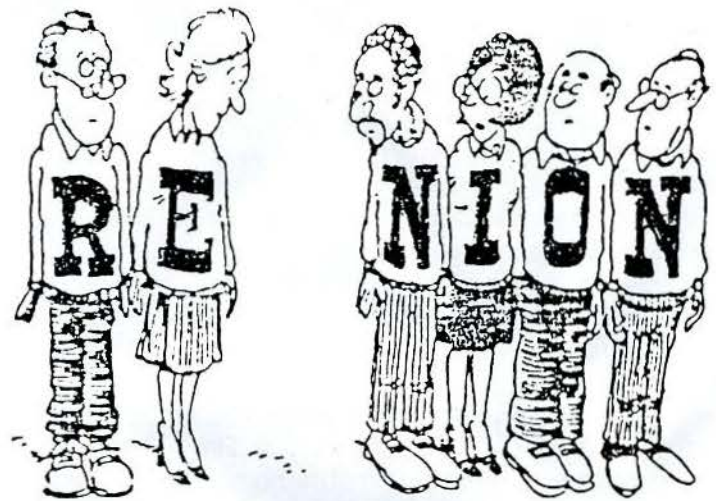
Memories

Continued from page 21

D-DAY

Mess Hall for some breakfast, we could see overhead, in the breaking dawn, an endless parade of aircraft headed toward France; and, if up to now we had only suspected this was D-Day, now we knew it for sure. Many of the planes were gliders carrying paratroopers of the 81st and 101st Airborne being towed by powered planes. It was one of the most stirring sights I have ever seen in my life.

Having been up all night, we headed for our huts to get some sleep but, under the circumstances, I doubt if we slept very well. In any event, later that day -D-Day - we were alerted to fly another mission, this one in support of the ground troops that had landed on the Normandy beaches in France. Unfortunately, the weather was stinking but, this time, we found a hole in the clouds that our Weather Officer always told us would be there, and we managed to bomb a bridge. This was one time we couldn't take any chances of not seeing our target because there was too much risk of bombing our own troops. In spite of everyone's awareness of this, there were at least two reports of this happening - bomber crews dropping bombs and killing our own troops with them.



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!



B-24 Group on Mission

Memories

Continued from page 22

PONCHO - A TRUE STORY

by Howard R. Fox

While stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Corps. Base in Tucson, AZ., "Poncho" became a member of the 18th Sqdn., 34th Bomb Group, in the spring of 1942. As a young pup he was found wandering on the streets of Nogales, Mexico. He came up to me with a wagging tail and that's all it took.

To save any confusion at the border check point we hid him in a blanket on the back floor of Sgt. Al Wanzie's car. After returning to the base all went well and he soon made P.F.C. One day he started yelping and running in circles - P.F.C. had discovered a "desert ant hill" and got stung on his tea pot.

His first troop train trip from Tucson to Geiger Field, WA. went without incident and he was promoted to Corporal. A handwritten notice was posted on the Sqdn. bulletin board indicating his promotion and it was considered "official". However, it was short lived. Poncho was caught drinking foot bath solution. Again a notice went up on the bulletin board reducing him back to P.F.C. for "actions unbecoming a corporal". He got over his illness in a couple of days and his Air Corps buddies always made sure that he had fresh water available at all times.

In October, 1942, Poncho had his first truck convoy ride from Geiger Field to Ephrata Air Base in Washington, also without incident. Because of the extreme cold and snowy weather at Ephrata it was then, and only then, that he was allowed to sleep on any bed of his choosing amongst his many army buddies. I wonder if Capt. McQuestion ever knew?

His second troop train ride in Dec., 1942, again went without incident going from Ephrata to Glasgow Air Base in Montana. He was re-assigned to the 2nd Bomb Group, 96th Bomb Sqdn. and was again promoted to corporal. Poncho became a good buddy to Corp. James Brown, who was in charge of the boiler room on the base. Poncho, like the rest of us, didn't venture out too much because of the severe cold weather in Montana. He had the warmest place on the base.

In March, 1943, he had his third troop train ride. It was a long one from Glasgow to the east coast and the Port of Embarkation at Bayonne, N.J. It was then, as we prepared for our trip overseas, that the orderly room finally had the last word. Poncho was not allowed to go with me. The decision was sad, but as it should be. After all, we had a big job to do. Poncho had been with us for over a year and the orderly room never once objected about anything.

I have often wondered why my duffle bag was the only one checked as I boarded L.S.T. 258 heading for No. Africa! Is it possible that the old sly "FOX" couldn't be trusted???

RECOLLECTIONS

by Edward E. Zesch

These are some of my recollections of my 7th Squadron off-duty activities:

a. "Washing" (very carefully) my green gabardine flight suit in 100 octane aviation gasoline.

b. Practicing my golf swing on the "inside driving range", (You would drive the ball from a wrestling mat into a deployed parachute which acted as a backstop).

c. Reading a notice on the squadron bulletin board calling for enlisted personnel volunteers to enroll in the U.S. Army Infantry Officer Candidate School. (No known takers)

d. Visiting (on our bikes) local farmers in search of fresh eggs. One farmer invited us in, built a fire in his fireplace and, then, made tea for us before providing us with a few eggs. He related how his farm had been strafed by German planes.

e. Making toast on our Quonset hut armor plate stove. The bread was laid directly on the cleaned top of the hot stove. We then spread some canned cherries on the toast that my fellow crew member's mom had sent.

f. Bringing your laundry to a local lady that lived in a thatched-roof house with her two children. On one occasion she invited us to stay for lunch which consisted of bread in warm milk (milktoast).

g. Playing ping-pong at the rec. building where the Red Cross representatives meted out replacement ping-pong balls as though they were made of gold!

h. Listening to the disc jockey, Sgt. ? (I don't recall his name) play those great '40's tunes.

i. Enjoying (???) that wonderful chow at the mess hall. Repast such as corned beef served with a nice hot portion of stewed tomatoes mixed with bread, accompanied by a mug of chicory coffee, was especially memorable.

j. Exchanging my cigarette ration coupons for candy ration coupons with those that smoked. (I didn't smoke, but loved candy bars!!)

These are my recollections of some of the things we did to pass the time on our off-duty hours.

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Crew of the "Uninvited" - Standing L. to R. Rosenzweig, Burnett, Zaback & Hicks Kneeling L. to R.: Coupland, McNeill, Wells & Robinson.

H00

391

18

7

4



34th Bomb. Group

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



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

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Memories

Continued from page 23

SPECIAL SERVICES

by Sid Rockmuller

Although most of our members were touched in some ways by our office, I will try to briefly tell what I can remember of some of our activities.

Our biggest project, and no other group had anything like it, was the VTV radio station. With the profits of the Bingo games in the Red Cross Club (another of our operations) we were able to purchase enough speakers to put at least one in each barracks and line shops on the base. We got the signal office to donate the field phone wire and Sgt. Cass Surek of Radar built us the station technical equipment.

While I'm on the subject of Cass, he built us the only movie theater in all the bomber bases to have an automatic changeover system so that we didn't have to stop to change reels. We also had movies at various hours during the day so that the various men working at odd timed hours could get to the movies seven days a week. It didn't improve the nature of the films, unfortunately!

Our athletic teams were really great. We won the Division championship in Baseball, and the 8th AF championship in Volleyball. Our hoopsters were runners-up, and our football team won at Cambridge U. in a fog so dense that whenever anyone kicked we had to wait until we heard the thump of the ball hitting the ground. Good old English weather.

My favorite, though, was the "Jive Bombers (H)", our jazz band. They were the best. We had all kinds of requests from other bases for them to play there.

Most of the credit for my promotions was due to Dave B'um, my NCOIC.IOM. I'm still trying to locate him.



Mendlesham Ordnance Shack