



VOLUME XIX

NUMBER 2

JUNE, 1995

# ENDLESHAM EMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

4



7

18



391

## OFFICERS

President: Eli Baldea .....(219) 988-4607  
1st Vice Pres.: Ambers Hanson .....(205) 821-8412  
2nd Vice Pres.: Raymond Palmer .....(316) 686-1228  
Recording Sec.: Vernon Ames .....(716) 695-2637  
Treasurer & Corresponding  
    Secr.: Harold Province .....(601) 798-2059  
Archivist: Wallace Brauks .....(314) 849-3166  
Past President: Sam Wolstencroft .....(401) 322-7758  
Editor: Eli Baldea .....(219) 988-4607

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Willis Griffis (95) .....(708) 816-7728  
Allen O. Israelsen (95) .....(301) 598-2901  
Carl Stemen (96) .....(614) 569-4214  
John Doronsky (96) .....(216) 942-4109  
Harold Rutka (97) .....(218) 724-1667  
Claude Conklin (97) .....(319) 444-2503  
Gerald Pine (Reunion Chmn.) .....(608) 836-3939  
Robert Wright (Reunion Comm.) .....(219) 232-4287  
Cleveland Romero (Scholarship) .....(318) 232-0774  
Sam Baglio (Chaplain) .....(717) 654-0205  
Paul Shull (P.X.) .....(816) 356-4630

## REUNION '95

### Huntsville, AL.



## See You There

### Sept. 14 - 17, 1995

## OBSERVATIONS

Time does fly by, doesn't it? It seems like only yesterday we were at St. Paul and I was elevated to the Presidency. I guess it's true. The older we get the more rapidly the days go by.

Here we are now, with the June issue in which are included all the necessary papers and forms for our next reunion at Huntsville, Ala. Rose and I are looking forward to it as we do with all of our 34th B.G. reunions. It is so nice to see all of our OLD friends at least once a year. It is also very nice to welcome and get to know any of our newcomers.

In this issue, also, is a notice regarding donations to the Ray L. Summa Scholarship Fund. Donald and Bonnie Shee came up with the idea that donations should be made in the memory of one of our deceased. I thought it was a good idea and have made sure it appears in this issue. As we go to press we have already received donations from Robert Filip, Roderick McColl, and, in memory of Jim Glass from Donald L. Shee, Charles R. Yockey and Charles A. Herget. Also, in memory of Roy O. Jones we have one from Dirk Gombert.

Also in this issue, in the "Memories" section, is a story of the recollections of Florence Godfree, who lived in Mendlesham during the war years. She is now 80 years old and her story was sent in to us by Freddie and Margaret Maundrell, associate members and personal friends from England. It is a story which I thought might be of interest to any of us who had spent time at Mendlesham.

This issue, as usual, is the one each year which is mailed to all names on the roster, whether they are paid-up members or not. It is always hoped that receipt of a copy of Mendlesham Memories might induce some non-members to want to receive all issues and to get re-acquainted with old friends. Let's hope so.

The next issue is the September one. The deadline for any material to be included in that issue is July 21, 1995. This is a firm date and any later materials which cannot be

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

Editor - Eli Baldea  
2576 Brookwood Drive  
Crown Point, IN 46307

Each issue of the newsletter is prepared and printed at Crown Point, IN. Editorial contributions and stories are welcomed and should be sent to the address above, along with new addresses, changes and deletions.

\*\*\*\*\*

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This corporation was formed for the purpose of bringing together veterans of World War II who were members of the USAAF, 34th Bombardment Group: to encourage social fellowship; to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to perpetuate Americanism; to preserve the spirit of comradeship among its members; to perpetuate the memory of our dead; and to assist their widows and children.

saved for a future issue will be returned to the sender. Don't forget - if you have something for the September issue - **"HAVE IT HERE NO LATER THAN JULY 21, 1995."**

As I've said many times before, we look forward to each and every reunion. We hope you do too! **"SEE YOU IN HUNTSVILLE!"**

Eli Baldea  
President & Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Being both editor and president, I wouldn't usually have this column appear in Mendlesham Memories. However, we have received information from the "MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE CENTER" which, I believe, needs to be mulled over by our members prior to my making a commitment. Therefore, I want you all to read the following and we will decide at the Huntsville reunion whether we, as a group, will participate in this action. They say:

"One of the goals of the Heritage Center is to create and maintain an electronic data base of individuals who served in the Eighth Air Force. The data base is developed to track unit members from that particular unit's mission folders. This data base can contain audio and video clips as well as still photographs. Data on each mission can be included as can strike photos."

"We are aware of the nature of this Herculean task and of the amount of data that exists and, in many cases, does not exist. We are asking for the support of each unit in bringing together as much information as possible into this data base. This is to be an ongoing, "living", record that will be accessible for research by historians, authors and family members seeking more information on Eighth personnel."

"Without asking for a commitment at this time, we would like your response to the following:

Is your unit interested in being included in this data base?

Is your unit willing to take responsibility for the data gathering, data entry and individual costs for this project?

Establish contact persons(s) within your unit responsible for the creation of the unit's data base and work as liaison to the Heritage Center.

What data does your unit have? Does it have its mission reports, official records, published unit history?

Continued on Page 3

## DEADLINE

Any material or items to be inserted in the March issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before JULY 21, 1995. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.

Eli Baldea, Editor

## President's Message

Continued from Page 2

How is the information organized (hard copy, computer disk, micro film/fiche, other)?

Is there a WWII roster as well as a current roster of unit members?"

"Again, we know this is a tremendous task. Success depends on active participation from each unit. We look forward to hearing from you soon."

As president, I am asking you all to read and mull over the above presentation. I will not respond to this request until we have discussed it at the Huntsville reunion. It's obvious there will be some cost involved and I cannot take the responsibility of spending money without majority approval. Think it over!

\*\*\*\*\*

Also, just recently my daughter, Marianne, wrote up an article for Father's Day which I thought should be read by all the Fathers out there. Here it is:

After watching a television special on Pearl Harbor I began thinking about all the people who have fought, died and lived to tell the tale of World War II. It brought to mind my father. Although he wasn't at Pearl, he was in the war. He was a navigator in the Air Force, stationed in England. He was shot down over Germany and imprisoned in a P.O.W. camp. He, along with thousands of others, has his own unique story to tell. I remember sitting around the dinner table listening to his stories. I don't remember all the stories but I do remember how I felt listening to them.

I thought they must have been so scared. I could never be brave enough to go through all the horrors of the war. How horrific to be flying over a bomb site never knowing if you would hit the target, and then, live long enough to make it back home.

Why? Why did all these young people not only go to war but volunteer to go? I mean, they signed up to fight, kill and get killed voluntarily. Why? What these men have told me and what I've perceived on my own seems to be pretty much the same. They did it to preserve their country. They fought so that the American way of life would be guaranteed for all time. They guaranteed this with their blood, sweat and tears. THEY fought for OUR freedom.

My father imparted that pride of fight for freedom on me. He showed me that America is worth fighting for, worth dying for. He taught me that if there's anything you want bad enough you can accomplish it. Just the way they did when they went to war for a cause they believed in - for a goal they wanted bad enough - for a belief so ingrained as to override any fears or trepidations they may have had.

How different all of our lives would be today if they hadn't had those beliefs - that pride and unselfish attitude - not only to go to war but to fight and win it. Every day I see the bad side of people. The news tells us how horrible life can be. We hear every day about gang wars, child abuse, murder and abductions. I sometimes wonder what was it all for. Then I see my children going to school, growing up in a free society, going to work and enjoying a beautiful spring day.

I'm fighting my own war right now with Multiple Sclerosis.



Edward Mazzarella with the headquarters sign

rosis. I get all of my strength in knowing I can choose my treatment, my doctors and enjoy my life in freedom. That freedom was given to me by all those who fought, lived and died in that war. So, when I ask myself what was it all for, I think about all the good things I have in my world today and smile. Thanks for keeping us free. Thanks Dad! "HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!"

## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



While I'm writing this I'm recalling my activities of this day, April 12th, in 1945. We were slow-timing the engines of a B-17 over England and listening to the BBC on a sunny but partly cloudy day when the BBC broke into their programming with the announcement that Pres. Roosevelt had died at Warm Springs, GA. It is one of those moments which one always remembers, like the day I said "I DO", and when my first son was born, and when the first flak burst, or the first fighters appeared. Next Month, the day will be May 8th, when we knew that the war in Europe was over!! Ian Hawkins writes that Mendlesham is holding a street fair on May 8th and, the good Lord willing, Jan and I will be attending that fair after we help the Dutch celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1945 food drops. This will all be history by the time you read this. For those of you who wrote to tell me that you had paid your '95 dues: Look at your dues notice which was included in the March issue. Note in the heading that "If the digits are circled in RED your 1995 DUES ARE DUE!" Since taking over this job from Ray Summa I have added to the label the current

Continued on page 4  
M.M. Page 3



## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER

Continued from Page 3

year for which your dues have been paid. ANYTIME YOU SEE A RED CIRCLE ON YOUR LABEL YOU CAN BE ASSURED THAT YOUR DUES ARE DUE!! I must admit that I have made some mistakes and didn't update the personal records properly. If there is a mistake on the label your membership card should help you resolve this mistake.

This issue goes to all we have on the roster, except those who don't want to hear anything about the 34th BGA! If you've never paid dues we invite you to join the 34th Bomb Group Assn. and get ALL of the issues of MENDLESHAM MEMORIES. I have yet to see another newsletter that even approaches the quality and coverage that Eli gives us in M/M! And remember, membership is one of the requirements which allows you to attend a reunion.

Graduating high school seniors, and those in college, still have about a month to submit their applications for the annual scholarship awards. Recall that we give a First and Second prize of \$1,000.00 and \$500.00 to our winners. Please encourage your children or grandchildren to avail themselves of this opportunity.

Speaking of the Ray Summa Scholarship, Don Shee suggested that we accept donations to the scholarship fund as memorials to our members who have died. Several of the men who were on Jim Glass's crew have sent in funds in memory of Jim Glass. While the details have not been fully implemented, we intend to acknowledge such donations to the family of the one being memorialized as well as a letter to the donor.

The reunion information and reservation items should be included in this June issue. A reminder to not expose your credit card number openly if you reserve the hotel room by credit card using the hotel's reservation form. And, if you're going to be flying to the reunion, don't forget to ask about the senior book of tickets which many airlines offer. Four one-way fares for about \$500.00 is better than some round trip fares!

Cheers to all and we'll be looking for you at Huntsville!!

Harold Province

## HUNTSVILLE REUNION

The 34th Bomb Group has received clearance to land our group at Huntsville, Alabama. All systems are set and ready for a grand reunion. Those flying in will find complimentary transportation from the airport to the hotel.

Prime target is the Space Center. To those of you who have never seen this project it will be an eye-opening experience. Those who have visited this facility will be surprised at the ever-changing and up-dating of the new space ideas exhibited here.

We will go by bus from the hotel to tour the training and testing areas. We will then return to the Space Center to view the many wonders of what has happened and what is happening in the world of space. A plus to all this is that our Friday evening meal will be served at the Space Center.

There is a generous amount of time allowed to reminisce about old times with old friends. There will be golf for the golfers on a very fine course. To top this all off our president, Eli Baldea, has a fine program lined up to keep us happy. This includes music of our vintage and dancing. The hospitality room will be open at announced times. Paul Shull will also have the P.X. stocked with his brand of goodies, all priced to move.

Send your reservations for rooms to the hotel on the form provided. Send your food, tour and golf reservations to Robert Wright on the form provided for this purpose.

We'll see you in Huntsville.....

Your Reunion Committee

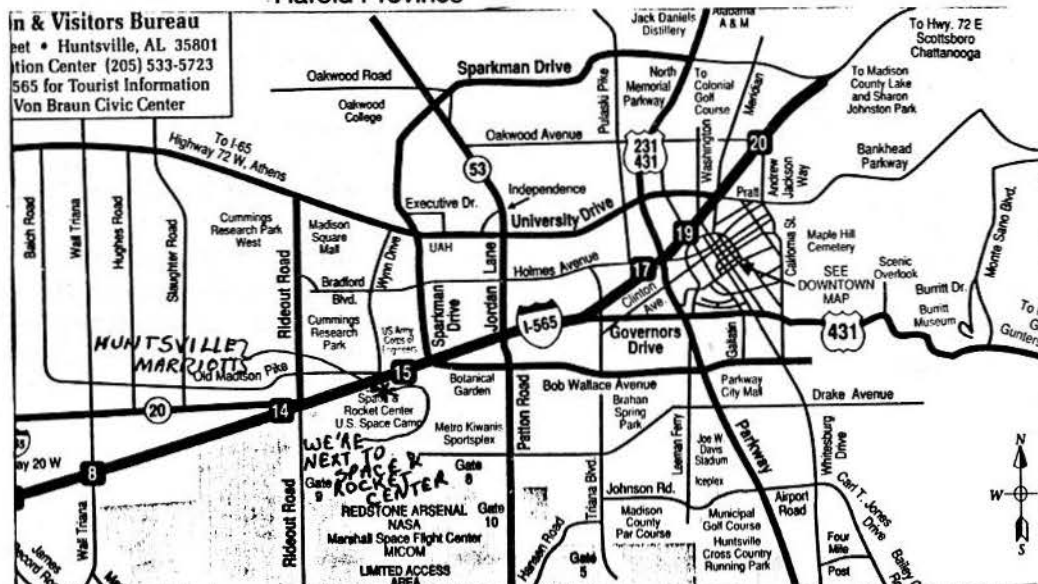
Gerald Pine

Harold Rutka

Robert Wright

Editor's Note: Please be advised that we will not have an official photographer at the reunion. Therefore, those of you in attendance, please take pictures of those at your table and send them in to me, properly identified. These are for the December issue of Mendlesham Memories. Have them in to me no later than October 20th, 1995. Thank you!

Eli Baldea, Editor





Donald Durham and Lt. Brooks

## ARCHIVIST'S MESSAGE

As I am the archivist for the 34th Bomb Group, I am asking for any records, pictures or any pertinent information regarding the activities of the 34th. Please send to Wally Brauks, 6923 Aliceton Avenue, St. Louis, MO. 63123. Please send copies only as I will not be responsible for the return of documents. Thank You!

## The 8th Air Force Historical Society News

The 8th AFHS will hold its annual reunion and celebrate the 50TH ANNIVERSARY of the V.E. DAY at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis, MO. from the 6th to the 10th of September, 1995. The business meeting will be held on Sept. 9th at 9:00 a.m. and any 8th A.F. member can attend but must have their membership card with them to be able to vote.

The optional tours which will be available during the reunion are The City Tour, Historic St. Charles, Riverboat Gambling and Dinner, Grant's Farm, Abbreviated City Tour and The Botanical Gardens. These will be elaborated upon in the next 8th Air Force News.

We attended the Control Tower Dedication at the USAF Air Museum at Wright-Paterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio on April 22nd. The Tower has been built using the original plans - a brick from each base was used in the construction. The bricks will be identified so that we can find one from Mendlesham. This is the largest of any museum display put in place by the Eighth A.F. Memorial Museum Fdtn. The 8th AFMM is looking for a photo of the control tower at Mendlesham. If you have one please get in touch with me.

Harold G. Rutka  
Vice Pres., 8th AFHS

## England Tour

There have been many inquiries regarding another trip back to England. I have referred those that wanted to go in 1995 to Dick D'Amato of Tamarac Travel, as the 34th B.G. had not decided on a return trip this year. A decision could be made at our Huntsville reunion this fall.

We could possibly have two tours - both starting in Cambridge and Mendlesham - then splitting - one on to London and the other would go on to Portsmouth and the D-Day Museum, then ferry to Cherbourg with a visit to Omaha Beach, St. Mer Eglise, Caen and ending up in Paris near the Eiffel Tower and then back home.

I will have a proposal on hand to present to the board and the membership for their decision.

Harold C. Rutka  
Back to England Coordinator

\*\*\*\*\*



BETTY (PAUL) SCHOMMER - St. Paul, MN.

Please cancel Paul Schommer from the Mendlesham news. He's not well - can't remember anybody or anything about his group. I've got my hands full so - Please Cancel.

\*\*\*\*\*

Continued on Page 6



Rear left to right: M. Blumquist, Stearman, G. Kincaid and F. Nichols - Front left to right, E. Mink, J. Thomas, W. Simpkins, E. Chapman, W. Eaton and R. Fox

## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from Page 5

**MORTON I. FIEDLER** - Lake Worth, FL.

Enclosed are my 1995 dues. Please put me back on the membership rolls. I'm sorry for my neglect. Keep up the good work. Our crew got together for a 50th reunion last September. It was great! We are planning to attend the next 34th reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHARLES D. CONWAY** - Metuchen, NJ

I believe your newly-found, Donald Morrison, who attended the St. Paul reunion, is one of my former co-workers from the radar shop. I'm still planning on being in Huntsville in Sept.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BASIL F. MAUK** - Denison, TX.

I would like, very much, to be able to get to one of these reunions. Due to my health and also my wife's, it is just impossible. But I do enjoy "MM" very much. It brings back lots of memories.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LEONARD T. HENDRICKSON** - Victor, MT.

Hope this note finds all in good health. Looks like everyone had a good time at the reunion. I hope to make another one now that I'm retired.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GRANVEL PIERCE** - Dallas, TX.

If all goes well I do plan to make the reunion in Huntsville. I had a long talk with Bob Burgner a couple of days ago and told him I wanted to meet him in Huntsville. He said he hopes to be there and that two other buddies, Junius Cobb and John Farley, will be there.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GEORGE H. KLINE** - Burnt Hills, NY.

We are setting our sights on Huntsville. Margaret and I are trying to do everything right so we can join you again.



Nose Art of "Winnie the Pooh"

We sure missed not being with everyone at St. Paul. Friends sent us photos and letters to keep us up-dated. Keep our memories flying.

\*\*\*\*\*

**EDITH (ROGER) CARR** - Milford, DE.

I'm sure Roger was the man you were looking for. He was in the 8th A.F. with the 34th Bomb Group at Mendlesham. He passed away on February 8th, 1994. He would have surely wanted to attend all reunions. Thank you for contacting us.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GEORGE E. JUST** - Norwalk, CT.

Little did I know that joining the 8th AFHS would put me in contact with those whom I served with 50 years ago. Unfortunately, for me, I do not appear to qualify as a lost sheep for the 34th. My association with the group began the day the B-24's began to arrive at Mendlesham. We of the 475th Sub Depot Sqdn. were on the ground to greet them and I was still there in 1945 when the B-17's with the bright red vertical stabilizers left to parts unknown to me. Thank you for the Mendlesham Memories and I hope we can continue to correspond even though I may not qualify as a member.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROBERT HASSETT** - Houma, LA.

I can still recall quite a few of the missions we flew. Especially Berlin, Dresden, Mersberg, Kiel and Hamburg. Not too many "Milk Runs". I'm still working in sales but it's more fun than work now.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LLOYD INMAN** - Kelso, WA.

Thank you for all your work and also the others that make this a great organization. The "Mendlesham Memories" alone is worth my dues!

\*\*\*\*\*

**LONNIE CROOK** - Shreveport, LA.

I'm enclosing the obituary item from the newspaper for Guy Gipson. I believe he was the pilot of the plane that Ray Summa crewed. Several years ago, when Ray and Hannah visited Shreveport, Guy and his wife had the Summas and the Crooks over for a nice noonday meal at their house.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MRS. CHARLES HEMLOCK** - Rochester Hills, MI.

Thank you for contacting us. Charles passed away in 1985 from a massive stroke while driving his car to the golf course. He was proud of his service with the Air Corps and greatly treasured his silver wings. He would have never missed an opportunity to attend a reunion but never received any contact regarding any previous gatherings. He would have been the first to respond.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROBERT W. DEES** - Torrance, CA.

It was good to see everyone in St. Paul and I look forward to seeing all again. Being a native of Alabama I always enjoy getting back there for a visit.

I would like to commend you and the other officers of the Association for the good job that you are all doing.

\*\*\*\*\*



## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from Page 6

**ALEXANDER KOVACH** - Pinehurst, NC.

The reason I dropped out of the Assn. is that years ago I had planned to go to the reunion at Nashville, TN. Subsequently my mother died and I called to cancel my reservation. I was told to call the representative in Minnesota, which I did. They told me everything would be taken care of.

Some time later I received a bill from the hotel in Nashville. I called them and they said nobody had cancelled my reservation but my room had been used. With action like that I felt I did not want anything to do with characters of the 34th who would say everything would be taken care of and not do anything about it.

(Ed. note: The reunion committee never cancels someone's hotel reservation. That is still the responsibility of the party cancelling. The reunion committee is sorry for the misunderstanding.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHARLES J. McCCLURE** - Clifton Park, NY.

I hope the rest of the members are not as slow as me in paying their dues. This has been a mild winter for us in upstate New York. I have had to shovel the walk only once when we had a 14 inch snowfall. The guy that has the contract to keep my driveway plowed out thinks it is a great winter!

\*\*\*\*\*

**MALCOLM "TED" BLOMQUIST** - Palos Hills, IL.

I would be remiss if I didn't write and thank you for all the pleasant memories that have been provided by the newsletter that you edit and publish. I was so glad that I was "found" by Hal Province. Keep up the good work. I'm sure the whole membership has probably echoed these sentiments many times over.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOHN H. GALLOWAY** - Burnsville, NC.

Unfortunately, because of conflicts with other commitments, I have been unable, in the past, to attend reunions and be more active in the activities of the association. This situation has changed and, assuming that I continue to enjoy reasonably good health for an old man, I plan to attend future reunions and renew acquaintances.

This past October I spent 10 days in England. My travels included a visit to the memorial at Mendlesham. The grounds in front of the memorial seem to be well kept. The local pub had numerous pictures of some of "us" and they treated me royally. I anxiously await the next reunion. I plan to be there.

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONRAD RICKER** - Oklahoma City, OK.

I'm sorry that I was unable to attend the 1994 reunion. Some medical problems, including a detached retina in my right eye, prevented many activities last year. Hopefully several members of our (Bush's) crew will make Huntsville in '95. I hope to be there.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROBERT WRIGHT** - South Bend, IN.

We had a long winter in Florida, the worst since I have



Evan Rogers receiving the DFC in 1944

been coming down since 1981. It's still better than up in northern Indiana in the winter, though.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MOLLIE GARDNER** - Bagley, IA.

Thanks so much for the fine job you are doing for the group. The English gal I was looking for saw the write-up and contacted me. Paul N. Teare, the pianist for the Jive Bombers, wrote to me for many years. The last time I heard from his daughter. He now has Alzheimer's, in pretty bad shape, and is living with her.

I am trying to find members of the crew of "Cokey Flo" of the 18th Sqdn. Robert Saxon, the top turret gunner of that crew, has improved since a stroke last October.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HELEN WACK** - Canfield, OH.

Just thought I should write and thank you for showing the photo of "Rocky". I have not heard from anyone who knew him yet but I did hear from Al Finch, who was the pilot of the plane my husband was on. It's exciting to hear from people who knew my husband many years ago. I am doing well and have five loving children and in-laws plus 12 grandchildren who are lovely people but you always miss the one who was such a part of yourself. Best wishes to all and may God bless.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DICK CAMP** - Haines, OR.

I was with the 34th in the 7th Sqdn. at Westover with B-18A's for sub patrol, also at Pendleton and at Tucson. Got my butt chewed out by Capt. Lemay for not knowing the mechanics of the bombsight. I know now! I would like to hear from any guys of the early 34th (Dec. 7, 1941) from Westover, Pendleton or Tucson.

\*\*\*\*\*

Continued on Page 8

M.M. Page 7

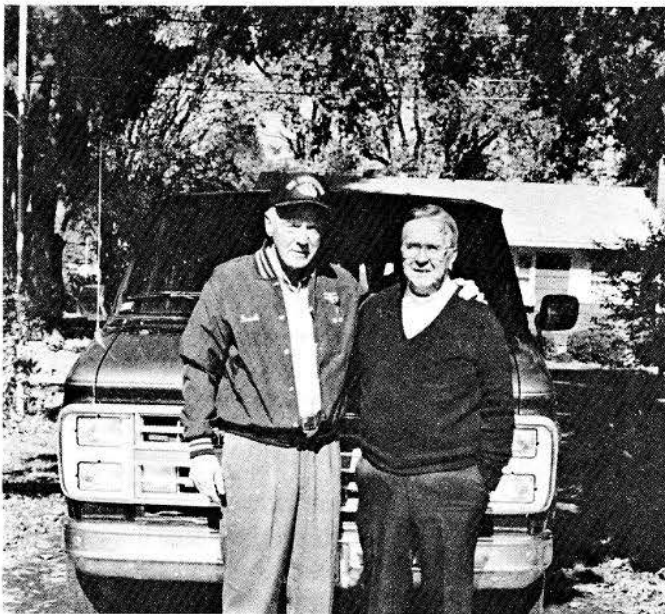
## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from Page 7

**FRANCIS B. YATES - Guilford, CT.**

Last October I received a phone call on a Sunday morning from Bill Barrett of Evansville, IN. He and his wife were on their way home from a trip to Canada. We had a real long talk over the past year's events and the old 34th B.G.

I first met Bill when he entered the group at Geiger Field in 1942. All these years since WWII we have been corresponding with each other. I am including a photo of us last October.



Frank Yates & Bill Barnett in October, 1994

**CARWIN A. BAXTER - Lakeland, FL.**

Just wanted to let you know how I enjoyed the 34th B.G. reunion in St. Paul last September. This was my first reunion but I hope to attend more in the future. It was great to reunite with four other crew members. I also met a former radio operator, Maurice Anderson from Plymouth, MN. We went to radio school, gunnery school and flight training at the same bases. He gave me a very pleasant surprise a few days ago by contacting me while visiting relatives in the Lakeland area. We had a real fun time together even if it was such a short visit.

Thanks for putting out Mendlesham Memories. I really enjoy it and often see articles and pictures of persons I had met or seen on the base.

\*\*\*\*\*

**F. BENNETT RICHMOND - Pasco, WA.**

To inform members of Jim Sain's crew #13, "Pappy" Lloyd Shilkett passed away on Feb. 25, 1995. His wife, Ruby, passed away in Aug., 1994. We plan to be in Huntsville this year and we hope to see the rest of the crew there!

\*\*\*\*\*

**EDWARD J. LONERGAN - Fort Myers, FL.**

Enclosed is the death notice of Len Arteel who passed away on March 13, 1995. He was executive officer of the 34th in England. I'm sure he was a good friend of Bill Creer, Bob Gay and Roy Tavasti as well as many others who were in the group at the beginning.

Len has had physical problems for a long time and was never healthy enough to make a reunion. His best chance was St. Paul last Sept. where he was from and where he still has some family. He talked about attending very enthusiastically all year but, when it was time to make the trip, it was just too much for him. He had tons of friends here in Ft. Myers and will be missed.

All is well in Florida. Played golf on March 3rd with Bob Wright, Bob Cole and Roy Ballantine. Cole lost all the money but it was fun. Best regards to all my friends in the 34th.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JASPER PALADINO - Bellerose, NY.**

I would love to come to a reunion of the 34th, but I can't. I was in the 34th B.G. from July, 1944 to July, 1945 in England. Then I was shipped out in a rush and did not get the home addresses of my two buddies, Earl Stovall and John Wooten. I'd like to hear from them.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ASENATH "SENA" GIPSON - Shreveport, LA.**

It is my sad duty to inform you of the death of my beloved husband, Guy. He died on Feb. 12th at Shumpert Memorial Hospital in Shreveport after a long illness - inoperative cancer. While in the hospital he suffered another stroke and pneumonia, which was probably a blessing as it shortened his suffering. He received excellent, loving care.

We had a great 47 years together, fraught with adventure, hardships and good times -- four fine sons, two grandsons and an accumulation of jumbled memories. I envy Guy his beautiful reunion with our dear daughter, Dorothy, who died in 1983.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RODERICK H. McCOLL - East Orleans, MA.**

I'm sorry to be late with my dues. You and the rest of the staff do a great job keeping the 34th in good shape. We all appreciate your dedication.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DONALD FILLMAN - Des Moines, IA.**

Russ Paulnock was our skipper on "Belle Of The Brawl" and I was the flight engineer. I'd still like to know who was our crew chief that did such a great job. I simply cannot recall his name.

\*\*\*\*\*

**RYLE GRIFFIN - Tampa, FL.**

This is my first contact with you. I was ball gunner on the crew of "The Mission Bell", whose pilot was Paul Lerch. Ann Markowski sent me a copy of your newsletter and suggested I sign up for it.

I am planning, as of now, on going to the reunion at Huntsville, if possible. I hope to get to know a lot of you in September at the reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*



## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from Page 8

JAY BUXTON - Salisbury, NC.

My wife and I were out of the United States at the time of the last reunion at St. Paul. We do hope to be able to attend at Huntsville in 1995.

\*\*\*\*\*

ANGELINE (ROBERT) MORTON - Girard, OH.

My brother, Andrew Pignanelli, flew as a tail gunner in the 34th B.G. on 32 missions. He passed away 8 years ago and I found several articles among his papers and diary which might be of interest to readers of Mendlesham Memories. My husband, Bob, also flew in the 34th on 34 missions. He and I have enjoyed the reunions we've attended, especially Seattle.

\*\*\*\*\*

OLIVER BOLDUC - Chaplin, CT.

The MM is so informing, thanks to you and those who help you. I look forward to each issue and go through it thoroughly. So very few ground personnel ever seem to write yet they, too, must have stories to tell.

\*\*\*\*\*

DIRK GOMBERT - Boise, ID.

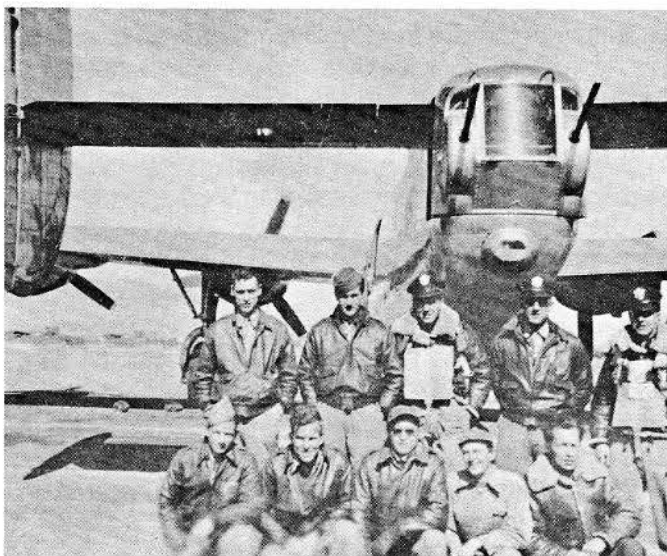
It is with great regret that I have to report the death of a good friend, Roy O. Jones. He and I joined Erwin's crew at Blythe and flew to England together. Their plane was shot down over Belgium but I was not with them that day. Today there are only two of Erwin's original crew left and they are Lawrence Babcock and myself.

I'm happy to say that both Roy and I attended the Las Vegas reunion, as did Babcock and Bill Fager, our crew chief. Bill never had one of his planes ever abort a mission.

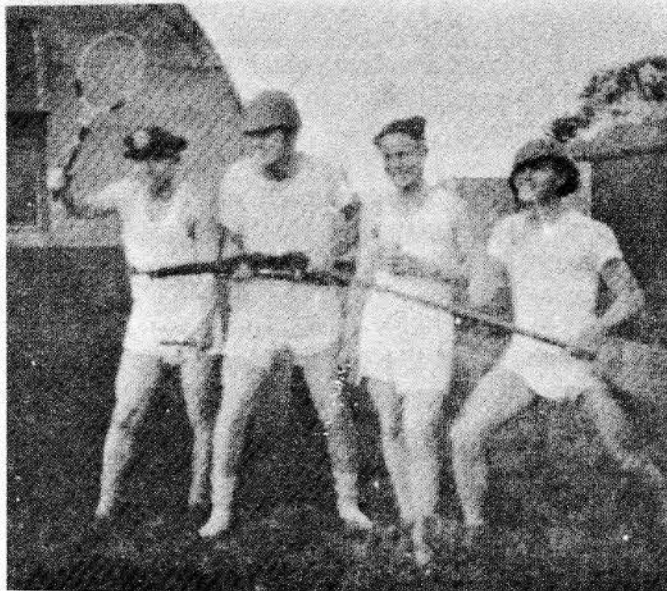
\*\*\*\*\*

DONALD J. WILBER - Northville, MI.

I don't remember which squadron but I was with the 34th for a month. It's good to be included and to read about days of the group from so long ago.



Crew of "Winnie the Pooh"  
Sal Morellino bottom center



Evan Rogers, Pat McKeon, ?? and George Ritchie on Buzz Bomb Patrol?

KATHRYN (ROBERT) BROFFT - Cincinnati, OH.

I do not wish to continue membership at this time. We were very interested in all the news from the 34th but since Bob passed away last year, and I don't know any of the other members, it just isn't the same.

I do thank you for the enjoyment you gave Bob, while he was here, from receiving Mendlesham Memories.

\*\*\*\*\*

RALPH APPEGATE - South Bend, IN.

Haven't made the last 2 or 3 reunions due to health problems. I was a medic in the 34th and none of my medical group come to the reunions, so that's another reason for my not going. I sure hope we can make the '95 reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

MRS. MARVIN RYALS - Orlando, FL.

Marvin is not doing very well. He will be 85 on May 6th, 1995 so I guess "old age" is part of the problem.

\*\*\*\*\*

BILL DONZE - Wickham-Skeith (3 miles from Mendlesham)

Myself and about eleven others were the first Americans to arrive on the base. The Chechs were flying spitfires from there. They moved off and on came the Liberators.

We used to go to dances at the Mendlesham Village Hall, which has since been demolished and houses built on that space. My wife is the girl I went to the dances with. We own our own home on a half-acre and have an Arab gelding which I ride and an Irish Setter dog to take long walks with twice a day.

\*\*\*\*\*

Continued on Page 10

## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from Page 9

**LAWRENCE BANFIELD** - Rock Island, IL.

I sure enjoyed the item written by John Doronsky about June Haver. She is from our town. The story was very interesting.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROBERT M. PLATZ** - Ottsville, PA.

To all the people maintaining the 34th B.G. Assn. - many thanks for a great job.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROBERT F. MAHAFFEY** - Toledo, OH.

Since the fall of 1944, when I was a bombardier on Capt. Iverson's crew, I've been trying to get some information about some Free-Czech (I believe) soldiers. I think they were stationed in London and they frequented our barracks every so often. They made brass souvenirs of spent 50 caliber shells, model airplanes, wings, cigarette lighters and other trinkets and sold them on the base.

I asked them to make me a model of a B-17 with about a 12 inch wingspan - and they did. They mounted it on a 9 inch laminated wood section, cut from the propeller of a British Spitfire, and did a beautiful job. I had it shipped home and have had it ever since. I'm very proud of it.

I wonder if anyone remembers them, or bought something from them. If so, and they have anything they can share with me about these enterprising soldiers, I would like to hear anything about them and give them their due credit.

\*\*\*\*\*



Rear, L. to R.: D. Ford, C. Olsen, J. Novicki, L. Fournier & E. Tremblay. Front, L. to R.: L. Pittman, R. Guinn, P. Corrigan & F. Alvord.

**HAROLD REIBMAN** - Hellertown, PA.

I was part of a very fine crew and proud of all of them. Our 2nd V.P., Raymond Palmer, was the pilot. He stayed in the service until a few years ago and retired as a Brig. General. I feel honored to have been part of his crew.

\*\*\*\*\*

**STEVE FELTOVICH** - Willoughby, OH.

Toulmin Brown underwent surgery for removal of a malignant kidney recently. I'm sure he would like to hear from his friends. Send him a card.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JAMES A. LOISELLE** - Danbury, WI.

It's true! As we get older we do get more forgetful. The St. Paul reunion was well planned and we had a great time and all the pictures turned out well. We don't know if we will be able to make the next reunion at Huntsville, AL. Thanks to everybody for a job well done!

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

A new book titled "WAR AND WOMEN" by J.T. Elias, an ex-member of the 392nd Bomb Group and the 44th Bomb Group, is now available. The story follows the adventures of three men, their training and their contacts with women along the way.

The book is 448 pages long and sells for \$24.95. To order send in your check or money order made out to FLYING EIGHTBALL PRODUCTIONS, 72 Union Street, Nanticoke, PA. There is no mailing or handling charge for veterans of the Eighth Air Force.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society is still looking for members. They have received their charter on June 6th, 1994 and are now accepting applications, dues and donations, which are tax deductible. If you are interested write for an application to:

The Distinguished Flying Cross Society  
34552 Camino Capistrano  
Capistrano Beach, CA. 92624-1232

\*\*\*\*\*

Although too late for any of our members to participate, we have word that the 8th Air Force Memorial Museum Fdn., Inc. has dedicated a fully equipped WWII, RAF style, control tower at the U.S. Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB in Ohio. Unfortunately, the news reached us too late for any of our members to participate unless they had other prior information. Sorry about that!

\*\*\*\*\*

We are also informed that the Air Force Association is planning a reunion as a Salute to the 50th Anniversary of the United States Air Force at Las Vegas, NV. on April 22nd to the 26th, 1997. We are also informed that the Air Force Sergeant's Assn. will participate in this celebration. At this time they are contactng only group contact personnel to see who's interested. We will keep you posted on their plans in future issues.

Continued on Page 11



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from Page 10

We have been reminded that the Honorable Service Lapel Pin which was issued to all who were honorably discharged between Sept., 1939 and Dec., 1946 is available to all who have lost theirs. WWII veterans who would like to replace their lost pins may receive one free of charge. To receive yours write to:

Air Force Reference Branch  
National Personnel Records Center  
St. Louis, MO. 63132

\*\*\*\*\*  
Mollie Gardner has given us the names of three books she thought some of us would enjoy reading about the "Old Days". They are: "CLASH OF WINGS" by Col. Walter J. Boyne, "SILVER WINGS" by Col. Walter J. Boyne with a foreword by James H. Doolittle, and "A WING AND A PRAYER", the bloody 100th in action, by Harry S. Crosby. These can be found at your local bookstores, sometimes on sale. Thanks Mollie!

\*\*\*\*\*

Although this issue will reach you too late to participate, we have to report that the Washington State Chapter of the 8th AFHS will have dedicated plaques at both Spokane and Ephrata, Washington in remembrance of the efforts at both Geiger Field and Ephrata AAB for training 34th B.G. personnel, as well as other groups, in the flying of B-17's. The Spokane celebration was held on May 17th and the Ephrata celebration was held on June 7th. The 34th Bomb Group Assn., knowing that nearly 50 of our members had served at either of these two stations, has donated \$200.00 toward the cost of both plaques. Inasmuch as time was of the essence, Eli Baldea and Harold Province thought it was the proper thing to do.

\*\*\*\*\*



Rear L. to R.: R. Counts, M. McKay, M. Elvert, J. Lemmon, J. Coffey and F. Fufts - Frt. L. to R.: I. Mason, R. Perrin, ????, B. Smith

We have received the following letter from England:

I am a member of the 8th AFHS over here in the U.K. We are a group of four friends who travel throughout the U.K. visiting the old 8th AF airfields and memorials.

Last weekend we visited the 34th BG memorial at Mendlesham and were very impressed by the layout and the design. I was amazed that the 34th never lost an aircraft to enemy fighters over enemy territory. You must have had the best aircrews in the 8th. On behalf of our small group may I say a big "Thank You" to the 34th for everything you did for us all those years ago. It will never be forgotten.

The reason for this letter is that, if available, I would like to have group or squadron patches of the 34th. Any information on the 34th would be gratefully received. My name and address are: Philip Levick, 202 Ironside Road, Gleadless Valley, Sheffield S14 1FJ. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

As we go to press we are informed of the "FREEDOM FLIGHT AMERICA '95 TOUR" which will take place this year. It is an 18 day cross country flight of hundreds of ex-military World War II - era aircraft commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. Dates, locations and contacts are listed below.

DATES	LOCATIONS	CONTACT	PHONE
	Freedom Flt. HQ.	Morey Darznies	800-687-4800
7/28-7/31	Long Beach, CA.	Lovetta Kramer	310-499-1696
7/31-8/1	Glendale, AZ.	Jim McCue	602-931-5555
8/1 & 8/2	El Paso, TX.	Donica Schexnaydre	915-568-4505
8/2 & 8/3	Fort Worth, TX.	Alliance Air Serv.	817-890-1000
8/3 & 8/4	Olathe, KS.	Lee Metcalf	913-782-5335
8/4-8/7	Aurora, IL.	Sue Vos	800-477-4369
8/7-8/9	Dayton, OH.	Maj. Francis	513-257-6206
8/9-8/11	Washington, DC.	Lt. Nipper	301-981-4511
8/11-8/14	Brooklyn, NY.	Mort Arkin	708-507-5220

The mission will come to an end with parade flights of these planes over the Statue of Liberty grand finale events in New York City concluding on August 14, 1995.

## CLARIFICATIONS

We have been informed that, on page 24 of the December '94 issue, the man in the photograph with Doug Culver is Sidney Rockmuller. How about that, Sid?

\*\*\*\*\*

Ray Brown has written to inform us that in the photograph on page 13 of the Turner edition of our 34th Bomb Group book, the individual's names are as follows: Front row, L. to R.: J. Mathieu, E. Moyer, J. Higgason, W. Garman and E. Tanking. Behind them, sitting are: W. Garretson and K. Revander. Standing are: R. Brown, J. Bouliane and W. Ingram.

\*\*\*\*\*





## ROSE'S CORNER

Hello, dear friends,

In March I was tickled pink to receive a note from Martha I. Simpson. She wrote to approve my collector's idea in our last issue. She collects Grandma's Tea Leaf Ironstone with Alfred Meakin trademark and hopes that one of you may also be a collector of this magic name among collectors. If you are one, or have a friend who is, please contact Martha at the following address: Mrs. Martha I. Simpson, P.O. Box 174, Williamsport, IN. 47993-0174.

I have also heard from Gerry Pine who has a lot of know-how when it comes to cooking and has a cookbook collection. He is not a collector anymore but says that he truly enjoyed collecting.

Muggs Sothern's Chicken Supreme recipe is one which I promised would be in this issue and, without further ado, here it is:

### CHICKEN SUPREME

1 cup - diced American Cheese	1/2 pkg. (10 oz.) wide noodles,
1 - small jar Pimentos	cooked
1 cup - diced celery	2 cans - Cream of Mushroom soup
1/2 cup - diced onions	1 can - Cream of Chicken soup
1/2 cup - chopped green pepper	2 cups - mayonnaise
1/2 cup - cashew nuts	1 can - asparagus
1 small can - ripe olives, sliced	Chow Mein Noodles
1 small can - mushrooms	

Mix left side ingredients first. Then layer with chicken, asparagus and noodles. Blend soups and mayonnaise real well, then pour over the mixture. Bake covered for 1-1/2 hours at 325 deg. oven temperature. Uncover the last 30 minutes and sprinkle the chow mein noodles and the cashews over the entire dish. Bon Appetit and Enjoy!!

P.S. Muggs didn't say what kind baking dish or pan to use. A 9x13 seems to be a little big so choose one somewhat smaller.

I wonder if anyone has a corner in the living or family room called "WWII Memorabilia"? We have and it's a never-ending area of interest to everyone who stops by to visit. Looks like everyone has a fascination for living history.

Come on, Collectors - let's hear from you!! We news-letter people need so little but need that little so much!

May God bless everyone of you with many more healthy years!

Love, Rose

## SPECIALS THE ENOLA GAY FIASCO

Ed. Note: We have received the following from our own Maj. Gen. Wm. E. Creer, which expresses the feelings of most veterans as to the goings on at the Smithsonian regarding the Enola Gay exhibit. Therefore we decided to print it here for you, as follows:

The Enola Gay brouhaha appears to have reached some manner of accomodation. Notwithstanding, it is difficult for me to accept that a national institution of such historical significance - THE SMITHSONIAN AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - could suggest an exhibit with the connotations that dipict the WWII Americans as racist death-mongers out to avenge Pearl Harbor.

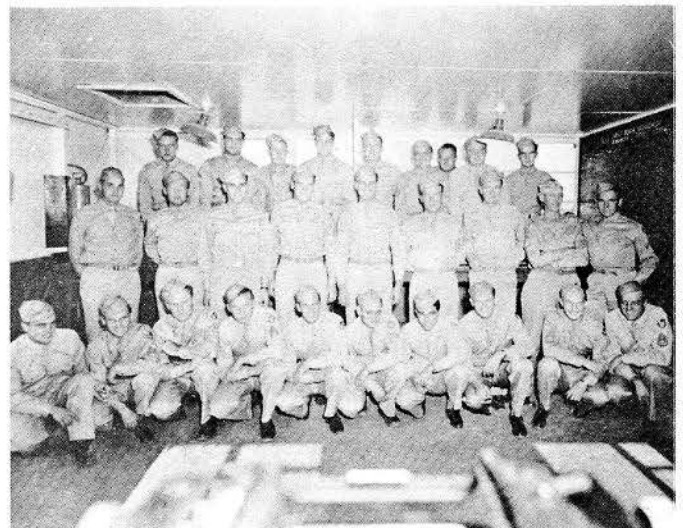
The history of WWII is still in the making. The numbers of our veterans in the US are declining at a rapid pace, so too our political clout, accordingly. As in the Enola Gay case, there appears to be a growing elite contingent, lacking combat exposure, who are anti-war, anti-nuclear revisionists bent on rewriting the facts of World War II, so as to conform to what they construe as "Politically Correct" for this time in history.

The surviving veterans of WWII are obligated to stay vigilant in their efforts to challenge any reinterpretation of the war history that would denigrate our commitment, even a willingness to give our lives, in the struggle to gain victory over our treacherous enemies of WWII.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have also received a copy of the letter Hal Province received from the Smithsonian Magazine regarding the above. Following is the gist of the letter, edited for space, of course:

The sensitivity and emotion surrounding the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings resulted in the highest level of public scrutiny of any exhibition ever proposed at the Smithsonian - and we have received many letters,



391st Armorers at Blythe

## SPECIALS

(Continued from page 12)

longtime subscribers, members and supporters.

Those most responsible for mounting this exhibition have walked a fine line. Over the past few months they have met with representatives of many groups, all of them with strong points of view. As a result, we've decided to mount a much simpler exhibition - one that permits the Enola Gay and it's crew to speak for themselves.

You can be sure that it was never our purpose, in planning this exhibition, to re-write history.

### ***The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center***

We have been informed that progress on construction of the Center is going along much as expected. Site work has basically been completed and actual construction will begin in April, 1995. The Heritage Center building should be completed by the end of October, 1995.

About 75% to 80% of the exhibit will be devoted directly to tell the story of the Mighty Eighth's operations including not only the fighting and flying story, but also the story of the ground crews, depots, headquarters and all support elements.

In addition to the museum the Heritage center will also include a gift shop, food service area, art gallery, archival area, education center space and administration office space. Additionally there will be memorial gardens and a small chapel. The schedule is for a May, 1996 Grand Opening.

Financially, the Heritage Center needs all the help they can get. Chatham County has provided the initial funding for the construction but the Center must pay \$1.5 million on the date the doors open and a total of \$3.0 million one year after opening. After this, from income received, they must pay approximately \$1.2 million per year for 20 years. To date secured pledges and cash on hand is just over \$1 million. It is apparent that help is needed now. If you would like to donate please send your checks to: THE HERITAGE CENTER, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA. 31402.

The Heritage Center would also welcome new memberships. Membership annual dues are \$20.00 for an individual and \$30.00 for a family. If interested in joining please write to the Heritage Center at the same address as above and ask for an application blank. As has been said before, "Every Little Bit Helps"!

### ***Don't Forget To Send Your Dues***

Mail \$10.00 To: Harold Province  
111 Province Lane  
Carriere, MS 39426

Also, please send self-addressed,  
stamped envelope for return mail.



34th Bomb Group "Bombs Away!"

### **IN REMEMBRANCE OF ALL GROUND PERSONNEL**

*You may have stuffed peppers,  
Repaired a wing or two,  
Rewired in the cockpit or  
Replaced a tire that blew.*

*You may have fed them early,  
Loaded bomb racks in the night,  
What was your mission on the ground?  
It was special in our sight.*

*You cheered the planes when off they went  
And prayed while they did fly.  
You cried when one did not return  
As you kept vigil on the sky.*

*But you dried your tears-  
Put away your fears,  
For there was service  
To do once more.  
Every plane was needed  
To end this nasty war.*

*"Well done, good and faithful servant"*

\*\*\*\*\*

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(As of 4-21-95)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
ANDERSON	DAVID	391A	157 SOUTH LE BARON	MESA,	AZ.	85202
COLE	SANFORD	7	P. O. BOX 150	SIMSBORO,	LA.	71275
DANIELIAN	LEO	18	5127 S.W. LANDING CREEK DR.	PALM CITY,	FL.	34990
FIX	LEONARD E.	391	319 EAST 400 SOUTH	WILLIAMSPORT,	IN.	47993
GIBSON	JAMES L.	7	C/O MARETKA, P. O. BOX 149	ST. PETERSBURG,	FL.	33731
HENDRICKSON	LEONARD T.	A	2887 RIPPLING WOODS SO.	VICTOR,	MN.	59875
LEVI	MYRON B.	18	998 NORTH F STREET	TULARE,	CA.	93274
MARTIN	REX HUGH	391 18	6121 PENINSULA POINT DRIVE	ATHENS,	TX.	75751
MILLARD	GLENN	391	W3455 CRESTWOOD DRIVE	WHITWATER,	WI.	53190
NASH	EMIL B.	391	1501 REALE AVENUE	ST. LOUIS,	MO.	63138
ORF	JOSEPH E.		3842 DUNN ROAD	HAZELWOOD,	MO.	63042
SEDLAK	JOHN C.	A	9570 KEILMAN STREET	ST. JOHN,	IN.	46373
STARR	JOHN J.	391	5655 GULF OF MEXICO DR. #D-107	LONGBOAT KEY,	FL.	34228
STUFFLEBEAM	DONALD L.	7 4	12942 N. STATE HWY. 78, RT.1	LEWISTOWN,	IL.	61542
ULAM	KENNETH	7	200 NORTH DALE AVENUE	ANAHEIM,	CA.	92801
WADE	CECIL L.	391	1108 COOPER LAKE ROAD	MORTON,	MS.	39117
WEEKS	WAYNE N.	18	11475 PORTERVILLE ROAD	EAST AURORA,	NY.	14052

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(321 As of 4-04-95)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD.</u>
ADAMS	BAILEY	391	12358 LEDGER LANE	HOUSTON,	TX.	77015
BROWN	RAYMOND S.	7	5100 J.D.RYAN BLVD. #447	SAN ANTONIO,	TX.	78245
COLE	ROBERT L.	7	4315 MEADOW LANE	SOUTH BEND,	IN.	46619
DONAHUE	HERBERT T.	4	7141 28TH AVENUE WEST	BRADENTON,	FL.	34209
GREEN	ROBERT L.	475SD	P.O. BOX 621	HIGH POINT,	NC.	27261
HABIGER	ANTHONY E.	391	3206 MICHIGAN AVENUE	TOPEKA,	KS.	66605
HORTON	KENNETH L.	18	732 ELDERWOOD AVENUE	WINSTON-SALEM	NC.	27103
ORTON	WILLIAM J.	1446ORD	13359 EAST 51ST STREET	YUMA,	AZ.	85367
REAGAN	WILLIAM N.	4	1853 SAN PABLO DRIVE	SAN MARCOS,	CA.	92069
SALVESON	LEON E.	18	P.O.BOX 1264	SUTHERLIN,	OR.	97479

## NEWLY FOUND

(L W P under ORG means Langley, Westover or Pendleton, (1940-41)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD.</u>
BYRD	JAMES E.		134 48TH STREET S.W.	ALBUQUERQUE,	NM.	87105
CARR	ROGER J.		SEE TAPS			
CORNELL	HAROLD D.	18W	4411 WEST CLARENDON AVE.	PHOENIX,	AZ.	85031
GRAY	WARREN E.	4	22430 COLLINS STREET	WOODLAND HILLS,	CA.	91367
GROVE	SEALE	34CCTS	122 PINE AVENUE	ALTOONA,	PA.	16601
HARRELSON	JOSEPH L.		SEE TAPS			
HARRELSON	THOMAS K.	WP	1506 S. PRUDENCE ROAD	TUCSON,	AZ.	85710
HARTLEY	ROBERT W.	34CCTS	475 OLEANDER VIEW WAY	RANCHO CORDOVA,	CA.	95670
HEMLOCK	CHARLES		SEE TAPS			
JUST	GEORGE E.	475 SD	6 PHEASANT LANE	NORWALK,	CT.	06854
LANDERS	JOSEPH		116 WOLF AVENUE	MALVERNE,	NY.	11565
SKAGGS	LEWIS	LWP	1718 ZUNI	PUEBLO,	CO.	81001
SOBRESKY	GEORGE D.	4 391	605 BELMONT AVENUE	LAURELDALE,	PA.	19605
WILBER	DONALD J.	493&34	19639 CLEMENT ROAD	NORTHVILLE,	MI.	48167





## TAPS

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD.</u>	<u>DIED</u>
ARTEEL	LEONARD J.	7 391	16664 WATERS EDGE COURT	FORT MYERS,	FL.	33908	3-13-95
BALDWIN	GEORGE W.	4	518 EAST GREEN STREET	HONEA PATH,	SC.	29654	9-15-94
CARR	ROGER J.		R.R.2, BOX 356	MILFORD,	DE.	19963	2-8-94
EBERT	EDWARD F.	391 4	30 NOTTINGHAM COURT	EVANSVILLE,	IN.	47715	2-13-95
GIPSON	GUY	18	549 ROBINSON PLACE	SHREVEPORT,	LA.	71104	2-12-95
HARRELSON	JOSEPH L.		202 HORSESHOE DRIVE	CHICOPEE,	MA.	01022	9-27-78
HEMLOCK	CHARLES JR.		163 SUGAR PINE	ROCHESTER HILLS,	MI.	48309	1985
JONES	ROY O.	391	6490 LONG ISLAND DR., N.W.	ATLANTA,	GA.	30328	1995
REVETTI	JOSEPH	391	6597 TIMBERRIDGE DRIVE	YOUNGSTOWN,	OH.	44515	3-10-95
SHILKETT	LLOYD D.	4	P. O. BOX 124	ADISON,	MI.	49220	2-25-95
THOMPSON	CLIFFORD E.	391 LM	8649 S.W. KLAMATH CIRCLE	WILSONVILLE,	OR.	97070	1-23-95
WOODRICH	ROBERT E.	391	7036 CULVER AVENUE	FORT WORTH,	TX.	76116	10-27-94

## LOST SOUL

(Moved and gave no forwarding address)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>LAST KNOWN ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD.</u>
CHRISTENSON	HOWARD A.	391	8625 EASTERN AVE. S.E.	BYRON CENTER,	MI.	49315

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

<u>NAMES</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>	<u>MARRIED</u>
STIVER, DAVID AND ETHEL	4191 NOTTINGHAM DRIVE	YOUNGSTOWN,	OH.	44511	MAY 1, 1945

## 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!!



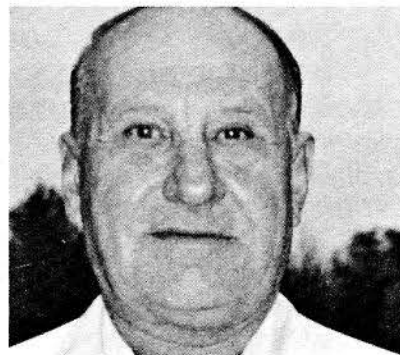
# *Then and Now*



## **GORDON BREEDING**



**1944**



**1994**

## **ROBERT YOTHMENT**



**1944**

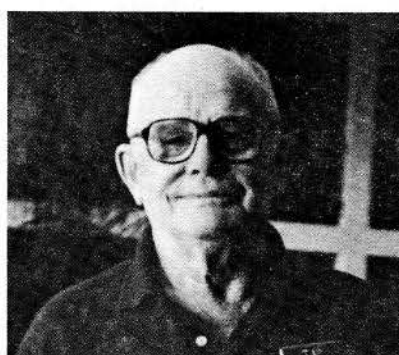


**1994**

## **ROBERT FOX**



**1944**



**1994**



# *Then and Now*

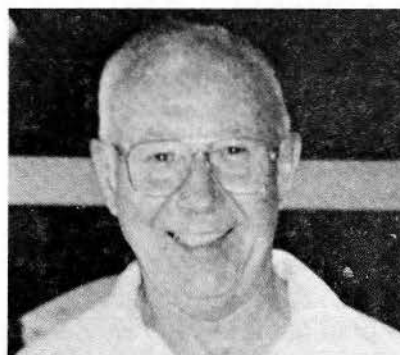
---



## **ED BOUTY**



**1944**



**1994**

## **MIKE SASS & HAL PROVINCE**



**1944**



**1994**

## **DONALD PLANK**



**1944**



**1994**



## Remembering - That Dredful Night

a follow-up by Weldon K. Burns

How well I remember that night. My best military friend, Junior Craft, and his crew were some of those who were shot down that night. Three of his crew died and a fourth had to quit flying due to the trauma of the event.

Meanwhile, our crew, "Bachelors' Baby", was on the same mission and picked up flak damage. It was a hole about the size of your thumb but it had cut the left aileron cable. This caused us to go into a spiral and lose some 7,000 ft. "Pappy" Harris finally got us leveled out and we headed home at about 12,000 ft. Just then an 8-gun flak battery picked us up and bracketed us with four in the front and four on our tail. They never hit us but it was close and we were later told that our course could be followed by the trail of flak smoke.

Next two things happened. As I recall, No. 3 super-charger ran away and we had to throttle back to about 15 in. Then No. 4 prop ran away and we pulled it down a couple of times with the feathering button, but that didn't work so we had to cut the fuel and let it windmill.

Needless to say, we started looking for the first field we could find. The first place we found was a P-47 base and we got permission to land. With all props turning and all landing gear down, our plight wasn't obvious. As flight engineer my job on landing included calling the airspeed. As we were on the downwind leg Pappy called for more power and was told "That's all there is". Then Pappy banked into the dead aileron and leveled out at about 30 degrees from parallel to the runway. We fell out of the air at 110 mph and we bounced. Some 450 feet later we landed again and skidded to a stop some 700 feet away, just a few hundred feet from a stack of 500 lb. bombs.

2nd Lt. Clayton W. "Pappy" Harris was decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross for this heroic landing. I believe he was the first person in the 34th B.G. to be so honored.

\*\*\*\*\*

## *The New Minister*

The new minister was so nervous at his first mass that he could hardly speak. Before his second appearance in the pulpit he asked his Supervisor how he could relax. His Supervisor said, "Next Sunday it may help if you put some vodka in the water pitcher and after a few sips everything should go smoothly."

The next Sunday the new minister put the suggestion into practice and was able to talk up a storm. He felt great! However, upon returning to the rectory, he found a note from his Supervisor:

### NOTE

1. Next time, sip rather than gulp.
2. There are Ten Commandments, not twelve.
3. There are twelve disciples, not ten.
4. We do not refer to the cross as "The Big Tee."
5. The recommended grace before meals is not "Rub-a-dub-dub, Thanks for the Grub; YEAGOD."
6. David slew Goliath; he didn't kick the s--- out of him.
7. Do not refer to our Saviour Jesus Christ and his apostles as "J.C. and the boys."
8. The Father, Son and Holy Ghost are NEVER referred to as "Big Daddy, Junior and the Spook."
9. It is always "The Virgin Mary." Never do we call her "Mary with the Cherry."
10. Last but not least, next Wednesday there will be a taffy-pulling contest at St. Peters, not a peter-pulling contest at St. Taffy's.

## *MEMORIAL GIFTS*

Contributions are being accepted for the Ray L. Summa Scholarship Fund in memory of deceased members of the 34th Bomb Group. Your gift will be acknowledged with an appropriate card to the family of the departed member. Family and friends, as well as wartime buddies and crew members, will know that their gift will remain a living memorial for many generations to come. Please give all needed names and addresses.

Memorial gifts may be sent to:

Harold Province, Treasurer  
111 Province Lane  
Carriere, MS. 39426



## MENDLESHAM WAR YEARS (1939-45)

by Florence "Pip" Godfree

(a resident of Mendlesham during the war years)

The war years commenced for me on Friday, Sept. 1, 1939. My husband, being a local territorial, was called from his work and, within two hours, he said cheerio and gone to join the Royal Army Service Corps. On Sunday, the 3rd of September, the dreaded announcement - "WE ARE NOW AT WAR WITH GERMANY". I little thought about the years ahead and how we would come through.

The first troops to arrive were the Royal Tank Regiment who were stationed at Wetheringset Manor, the home of Mrs. Stoke Vaughn. Every morning the tanks would come to the petrol station in Mendlesham to fill up and it made us realize the war had really started. Mrs. Stoke Vaughn ran a canteen at the manor for the troops and we made them very welcome. They would often talk about their families and, sometimes, their wives would visit them. I think I had the most embarrassing evening of my life. The troops had built us a little wooden loo a few yards from the canteen. I went to spend a penny and, as I shut the door, a hornet's nest fell on my head. I ran outside

screaming with my knickers following and was taken up to the Manor and had about sixteen stings removed from my back which was covered with blue bags. I thought my knickers had gone for good until one morning. Guess what was flying from a pole at the Petrol Station??

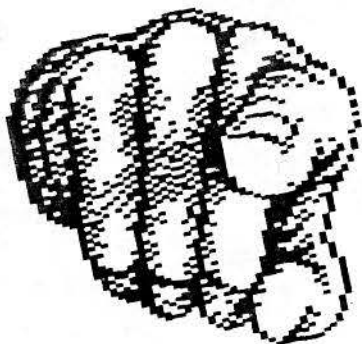
Evacuees arrived from the big cities but many did not stay long as they were homesick. We were all issued with gas masks and ration books. The Home Guard was formed and "look-outs" were built. Some are still in existence around the countryside.

In the meantime, my husband was reported missing at Dunkirk but, Thank God, a week later a telegram arrived "Safe and Well". He had two weeks leave before going off to serve under Montgomery for four years. My little son hardly knew his dad when he returned after the war was over.

The Americans arrived and moved into their huts near Town Lane. The planes took off day and night and we always hoped to hear the same number returning, but this did not always happen. One evening, after the sirens had sounded, the German planes were waiting for them to return and attacked them as they flew in. One plane was shot down and the bodies were found in a cornfield many weeks later.

The Americans made many friends. Some married Mendlesham girls. The dance hall was always packed as were the three pubs - The Fleece, King's Head and Royal Oak. Families invited them into their homes and one of

## REUNION '95 Huntsville, AL.



See You There

Sept. 14 - 17, 1995



SWEET SEVENTEEN - B-17, March 1945

Standing, left to right: Jim Ralls - Navigator, Billy Eaton - Engr. Jerry Kincaid - Bomb., Bill Simkins - Arm Gnr., Everett Chappell - Radio, Earl Stuermann - Co-pilot, Kneeling: Ted Blomquist - Pilot.

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



34th Bomb. Group  
 Eli Baldeo  
 2576 Brookwood Drive  
 Crown Point, Indiana 46307  
 (219) 988-4607



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

## Memories

Continued from page 19

them helped with the milk round I did during the war years. I worked in the canteen in the evenings and in the fields in the afternoons. It was a very busy life and we had no time to brood, although we couldn't help worrying about our own boys far away. The children missed the chocolate, for sweets were rationed for some time after the war.

Prisoners of War worked on the farms without any bother and some married Mendlesham girls. I think they were housed in a railway carriage.

As the Mendlesham Standard Bearer for the British Legion for many years, I felt very proud when two Americans paraded with us on Armistice Day as we visited the American Memorial on the Norwich Road which is cared for by the ladies of the village and Mr. Stedman of Stoneham.

There were so many happy memories, so many sad ones. But we did our best and we will remember them.

\*\*\*\*\*

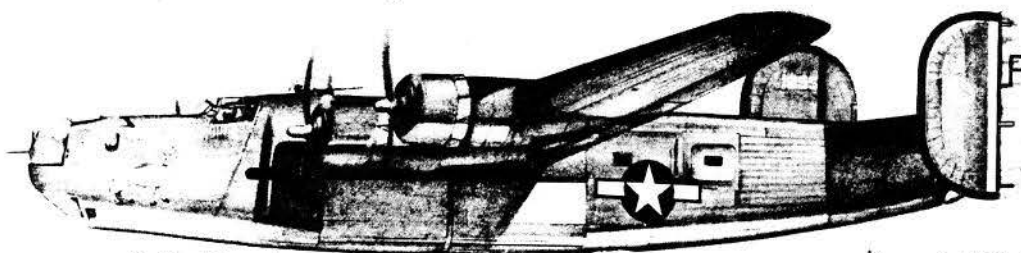


The 34th Bomb Group Radar Crew. Can you identify any of these people?





7th BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON - 34th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA - 1943 - MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND - 1944



"Belchin' Bessie"

4 JULY 1994

### 1994 REUNION IN ENGLAND

Members of the 34TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H), their families, and friends rendezvoused at TERMINAL 3 HEATHROW AIRPORT on THURSDAY, 2 JUNE. This 1994 Reunion in England was the SIXTH REUNION for the group. It was surprising that we could assemble with all of the D DAY celebrants pouring into the Country. Those present were: CLAUDE & GENEVIEVE CONKLIN, JACK & BERNIE FARLEY, DWIGHT & MARJORIE MC KINNIE, CHESTER GAVRYCK & SON GUY, DALE & ESTHER FRANK, EDWARD & BIRGIT LONERGAN, WILLIAM ORTON, WALTER & MARY TURKO, HAROLD & GENEVIEVE RUTKA, WILLIAM & RUTH VAN LIERE, RUSSELL & NORMA JEAN NELSON, ROBERT FILIP, JOSEPH & KATHERN MARKS, DONALD PLANK & SONS DENNIS & KEVIN, WARREN & MAXINE LOVE, FLOYD & MIRIAM RICHMOND, JOSEPHINE UNDERWOOD, HAROLD & EVELYN WILLIAMS, and JACK RUDE, a member of the 493RD BOMB GROUP. We boarded the bus for CAMBRIDGE and the HOLIDAY INN. The first afternoon was "Recovery Time", then dinner, briefing and introductions. PETER & SYLVIA GASKIN, F.O.T.E., were on hand to greet us.

FRIDAY, 3 JUNE, was a day on our own - the only items scheduled were breakfast and dinner. We checked out CAMBRIDGE and the area. Found the PUB, The Eagle, behind the hotel, that has the Ceiling "Marked with the flames from the ZIPPO LIGHTERS."

SATURDAY, 4 JUNE, we headed for Memorial Services at MADINGLEY CEMETERY, officially known as the: CAMBRIDGE AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL. We were checked with "DETECTORS - CAMERA BAGS AND HAND BAGS/PURSES WERE OPENED before we could enter the seating area. PRESIDENT WILLIAM AND HILLARY CLINTON and PRIME MINISTER JOHN MAJOR arrived late - and that allowed us to "absorb moisture and become very damp. The 34th Bomb Group was one of the eighty organizations that presented WREATHS during the service. Music was provided by the U. S. AIR FORCES in EUROPE BAND, and the GRAMPIAN ASSOCIATION PIPER BAND. The service was impressive and ended with the "MISSING MAN FORMATION" by the 48TH FIGHTER WING, RAF LAKENHEATH. The final piece de resistance was the flyover of the B-17, P-47 and P-51. The service was covered by all news and TV organizations. We "scrambled" for a place in line at the "portable latrines"; we didn't have to worry about missing the bus as it was parked five miles away. Our next stop was DUXFORD - part of the Imperial War Museum. TAMARAC TRAVEL had made arrangements for the 34th Bomb Group Members to go thru the B-17 - MARY ALICE. CLAUDE CONKLIN can still get into the Ball Turret - I didn't even think about trying. The damp weather didn't allow us to sit outside and watch the Old Flying Machine Company put on a Mini Airshow with a P-47 and Spitfire, but we were able to watch from the bus. We had to head back to prepare to meet our guests for the evening; the Social Hour was to begin at 06:00 P.M.

Not all the invited guests were able to attend. Those that could were: RON & JEAN BLAKE, RUSSELL & MARGARET BRUNDISH, GLADYS CAPRON, IAN, MARY & ALICE HAWKINS, SID & AUDREY PROCTOR, ANITA SCRUBY, DOREEN & MICHAEL SCRUBY. WE MANAGED TO HAVE A "GOOD MIX AT THE TABLES" and we made "NEW FRIENDS". One table that did not go along consisted of members without spouses; DICK D'AMOTO was thought to be the "Ringleader". GIFTS OF 1994 SILVER EAGLES were presented along with pins and pens that were given from the City of Duluth. Envelopes containing the above were presented either at Church or at the luncheon. We found that it was difficult to eat TWO POUNDS OF

SHELLED PISTOCHIO NUTS THAT A FRIEND HAD GIVEN US TO TAKE ALONG FOR THE SOCIAL HOUR.

SUNDAY, 5 JUNE - we left the HOLIDAY INN a bit late due to late arrival of our bus. On the way to CAMBRIDGE one member had said that "we traveled thousands of miles to go to a HOLIDAY INN"- on leaving, her husband said - "They would have been happy to spend the entire tour there." Church services were delayed a bit so that not too much was missed. ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH dates back to 1075. FR. PHILIP T. GRAY conducted services and remembered our departed members. Some had the opportunity to visit the ARMOURY that was established in 1593. Fr. Gray gave us permission to visit the Armoury over the North Porch. The Armoury was to store armour for the defense of the church against the attacks of Philip II of Spain, and is the most complete of any church in England. The "BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE" was opened to 6 JUNE 1944 and listed the names of those that made the supreme sacrifice. We had to hurry to get back to the bus, but fortunately JOHN AND ANN HERRON opened their home for a quick "Powder Room" stop before we headed out to the base. RALPH LAMBERT was on hand at the gates to gain entrance for us as the Transportation Center is closed on Sunday. He took us on a tour around "THE OLD BASE" and pointed out areas that he knew. He gave me two copies of the print of the base - we had a drawing for one which was won by FLOYD RICHMOND. STEVE PICKUP was going to be our guide in case that RALPH LAMBERT was not available to take us on the OLD BASE. He had other prints with ID Numbers for each area. Copies can be obtained from me for \$1.80 plus postage. I will have them mounted for viewing at our reunion in St. Paul.

We then returned to MENDLESHAM for a BUFFET LUNCHEON arranged by the people at the COMMUNITY CENTRE. RON BLAKE WAS THE M.C. We had a chance to meet old friends and to make new ones. GERALD and LORRAINE STEDMAN met with us at the luncheon and at the Memorial; however, they couldn't make the dinner. The story "MEETING OF FRIENDS" by FLOYD and MIRIAM RICHMOND is a separate story in this issue. We had to leave and go to our MEMORIAL for services conducted by FATHER PHILIP T. GRAY. The men were divided into two groups and each group presented a MEMORIAL WREATH. We had a flyover of two WWII aircraft. Fr. Gray read scriptures and lead us in prayer for our deceased and living members. We visited with our friends from the area, and boarded the bus to leave for STRATFORD-ON-AVON

MONDAY, 6 JUNE - Monday was a free day and we traveled all over the town, saw sights, checked out the shops, rode the sight-seeing bus to Shakespeare's birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, and other historical sites.

TUESDAY, 7 JUNE - Tuesday we loaded up and stopped at the RAF HENDON BOMBER COMMAND. PETER GASKIN joined us here and was available as a guide. We met with: JOHN RUSSELL, DOUGLAS RADCLIFFE and others from the BOMBER COMMAND ASSOCIATION - had a brew and walked thru the Museum with them. When we left Hendon we had a brief tour of London while we traveled to the COPTHORNE TARA HOTEL. The hotel is located a block away from Kensington Station and London is covered by the transit system.

WEDNESDAY, 8 JUNE - A.M. we had a half-day tour and visited CHURCHILL'S CABINET WAR ROOMS, on the way back some left the tour to travel on their own. We visited HARRODS, SPENCER & MARKS, other shops, museums, castles, and the Theatre. Eight of us took an evening off and visited the THEATRE ROYAL to see "MISS SAIGON" - others visited other theatres. Our last evening in LONDON, we "Held Court in The Lobby" of the COPTHORNE TARA HOTEL and had a chance to see PRINCE CHARLES visit crippled children from the Commonwealth. We have heard about the "Ugly American", but we can't come close to the Japanese. When Prince Charles came into the hotel, they went nuts -

they climbed on tables and chairs - jumped over railings, "shrieked", and tried to take pictures by "elbowing" others out of the way. We managed to get Prince Charles pictures.

BILL BROWNE was not on our original list but he was there to greet all of us on our arrival. Bill has been to many of our reunions and will give a helping hand when needed.

JACK AND BERNIE FARLEY brought along JOSEPHINE UNDERWOOD, a friend of theirs, to help find some information about her brother, who flew with the EAGLE SQUADRON. His name was located on the "WALL OF THE MISSING". PETER GASKIN came to the rescue on our last evening and brought two books that had a reference to him. Peter and Sylvia came to London to visit with our group on our last evening in England - they will attend the ST. PAUL REUNION in SEPTEMBER. Goodbyes were fast and furious as packing had to be done - some left on tours, some stayed extra days and the rest of us headed home.

RANDALL AND SHIRLEY MARTIN had planned on meeting with us, but was unable to do so as he spent some time in a South Hampton Hospital and missed out on the ceremonies. He has recovered and is back working and traveling.

Our SPECIAL THANKS to all who helped make our reunion enjoyable and successful - TAMARAC TRAVEL - RON BLAKE - IAN HAWKINS - PETER & SYLVIA - THE PEOPLE of MENDLESHAM - FR. PHILIP T. GRAY - OUR FRIENDS WHO TAKE CARE OF OUR MEMORIAL - THE MEMBERS OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP THAT ATTENDED, THE SONS OF MEMBERS WHO ADDED YOUTH TO OUR REUNION - and especially ESTHER FRANK who volunteered to be our OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER.

*Harold C. Rutka*  
HAROLD C. RUTKA  
1994 ENGLAND REUNION CHAIRMAN