

ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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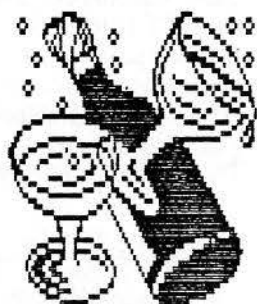
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REUNION '95

Huntsville, AL.



See You There??

OBSERVATIONS

As your outgoing president it is my duty to bring to the notice of the Board of Directors at Huntsville several items which have reached me and must be discussed at the meeting. Although I had no knowledge of these items previously, they were presented to me and, as my duty, must be brought before the Board.

I will bring up the request from "The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center" which I had mentioned in the June issue. It is obvious that our participation in their actions will take a lot of someone's time and, probably, some financial cost. This must be decided by the group, not just by me.

As is usual with the September issue, you will find our 1995 Roster enclosed. We have also decided that, in order to keep down the costs, we would not have a "TAPS" section included because, during the year in each of the four issues, we have shown all names of our dear departed listed and felt they need not be listed again.

Insofar as this issue is concerned, I want to urge any and all of you to attend our reunions. If this gets to you in time, and you have not yet decided, do it now. You won't regret it. It is an experience you won't forget.

This will be my last communication to you as both President of the 34th Bomb Group (H) Assn. and editor of Mendlesham Memories. After our reunion at Huntsville, AL. I will become an ex-president but, with your approval, I will remain your editor as long as I'm able or until you find someone who would prefer to take over the job. My last 10 plus years have been most interesting and satisfying. I have, generally, received good reactions to the newsletter and hope I can continue to do so.

Our next issue is planned to be in the mail by late November. This requires that our final copy goes to the printers no later than October 20th. Anyone having material for the December issue must have it to me no later than that date.

That's all for this issue. Your new president, Ambers Hanson, will be communicating with you in our December issue. Please give him all the support you can. Believe me, with a group such as ours there are usually many decisions which must be made and knowing you have some support means a lot.

Rose and I are looking forward to the reunion and meeting with old friends and, hopefully, many new friends. "SEE YOU THERE - WE HOPE!!"

Eli Baldea
President & Editor

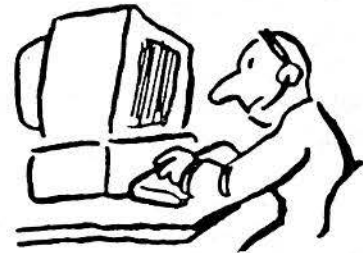


LeRoy Keeping, Ex 34th B.G. Member at Framlingham



Mr. & Mrs. Ian Hawkins at Parnam, May 7, 1995

FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



Once again I find myself thinking about events of 50 years ago. I'm writing this on the 51st anniversary of D-Day and I'm wondering if it will even be mentioned in the media. Jan and I are still coming down from a very emotional trip back to Holland and England and it's hard to realize that, even after 50 years, there are memories of events that bring tears to my eyes. This wasn't true 50 years ago for we were brash young men who had met and defeated the enemy and were only concerned with returning home and getting our lives back on the road we saw as to what we wanted to do.

In 1985, with Gene LeBailley, I represented the 34th BG at the 40 YEARS OF FOOD AND FREEDOM Celebrations in Holland. I learned that the food drops we made in May of 1945 saved the lives of many western Netherlanders from starvation after the HUNGER WINTER of '44-'45 when the Germans withheld both food and fuel to the occupied nation. As a nation which has never been occupied by an aggressor, we have NO concept of the problems involved in merely staying alive under such a situation! John and Mary Kenny and Edward and Thomasine Gronkowski were also 34th B.G. members on the

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 October 20, 1995. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.

Eli Baldea, Editor

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Continued from page 2

trip back to Holland.

Little is known in the US about the food drops, OPERATION MANNA and CHOWHOUND of the RAF and the USA 8th AF Third Bomb Divn. The excitement of anticipated surrender of Germany and the return to the USA may have been utmost in our minds. This is NOT SO in the NETHERLANDS! The FOOD DROPS are included in the History Books and each child is taught of the drops in which many of you participated during May 1-7, 1945! I find it very difficult to express my feelings when I saw thousands lining the streets of Vlaaringden, Rotterdam, Gouda, Valkenburg, and Rijswijk, all waving with happy smiles, many giving the thumbs-up and Churchill's "V" for victory signs. Then, in a one-on-one situation, many times with tears rolling down their cheeks, hearing them tell of their problems in merely staying alive, you begin to get the idea that, in spite of the destruction, ruin, loss of life, misery of war, there was something good that happened and you were able to play a very small part in that happening.

It was humbling to be asked for an autograph as a food-dropper and, even more so, to be told by a young man on the street in Rotterdam: "My grandpa said if you fellows hadn't come when you did I wouldn't be here today!" Another young lady told me her grandpa's name was next on the list to be executed if the disturbances concerning food continued and she was grateful that we had come. I attempted to shake hands with as many along the parade routes as I could. Usually their comment was, "Thanks for coming when you did!", to which I could only reply, "Thank you. I'm glad we came!"

Following the Food Drop Celebration we returned to England via a trip on a North Sea Ferry and were able to visit the 390th Parham Open House on May 7th. One of the first men I saw there was wearing an Eisenhower jacket with the 34th BG insignia on the lapels. He was one of the extra gunners who was transferred to the 390th on our switch to B-17's. His name is Leroy O. Keeping and he stayed in England. We also saw Ian Hawkins and his wife. On May 8th we attended the street fair at Mendlesham and again saw Ian. I expected to see Bill Donze but he apparently didn't attend the street fair. We also met the then-youth, Roy Colchester, who copied nose art and any other items which appeared on our aircraft. Many of you may have copies of his yellow tablet on which he copied the items. Roy is a member of a group which is preserving as many items as they can get relating to England's past wars. We need to send him a copy of the old 34th book and also group and squadron patches for his display. We visited the church and chatted with Father Gray who showed us the Memorial Rock of the 34th BG Dead. May is the only month which has no names listed for the 34th arrived in May of 1944 but lost no men in that month. Then, in May of 1945, the war was over and no one was lost. For the other months each man is remembered in the prayers of the day on the day he was lost. The Memorial along the highway is in very good shape and well maintained. I was very proud of it.

Following VE-DAY celebrations we went to see Stone Henge and then a driving tour of Wales, returning to Ipswich on May 11th. We went to Stowmarket to mail a letter and were walking on the street when someone tapped me on the shoulder. I turned and a chap asked me if I was one of the Mendlesham lads (I was wearing my 34th BG jacket at the time.) It was Bill Donze and his wife and they had been trying to get in touch with me all week. I had written him that we would be at the Best Western Inn in Ipswich. I didn't know that Best Western had only recently bought out an inn at Ipswich and even the cab drivers were not aware that there was a Best Western Inn in Ipswich. We visited the Donze's over lunch and

then had to return to Ipswich and catch the boat train for the trip back to Holland.

Back in Holland we managed to get to Wolfheze where we met Cor Janse and his wife. Cor is finishing up the history of the small village. The book has grown into two volumes and is to be published in October if Cor can finish it by then. Cor is using one of the pictures from our old 34th book for the cover. We walked around the village and Cor explained how it was when the 7th and 391st dropped the bombs on the village in prelude of the airborne landing which was to capture the bridges around Arnheim. This was the first mission after the transfer to B-17's and many of you have been corresponding with Cor regarding that mission. Walking in the cemetery Cor's wife, Britte, turned over a piece of rusted iron or steel and Cor said it was probably a fragment of one of our bombs! Many of the beech trees still carry the scars from being hit by bomb fragments.

I understand that Tony and Mary Coutros with John and Jean Ross were invited to Washington by the Netherlands Government to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of the end of the occupation. The 34th Bomb Group has been well remembered for the part we played those many years ago!

I'll have some pictures from the Holland trip at Huntsville to show to anyone who is interested in looking at them. Sure hope to see many of you at Huntsville!!



Cor & Britte Janse with Jan Province at Wolfheze.



Jan Province with Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Donze at Stowmarket.



Partial crew of "Mission Bell" - Rear L. to R.: Moller, Lerch & Vallier - Frt. L. to R.: Markowski, Griffin, Thornburg, Peters & Curry

REUNION NEWS

It's getting close to our Huntsville reunion - a good time is planned for all. We will tour the Space Center, both inside and outside facilities. Along with this we will have our Friday evening meal at the Space Center.

President Baldea has an evening of good times ready for us along with music and dancing - a different approach to the memorial moment. We're certain that you will meet old buddies and hash-over the days at Mendlesham.

1996 will find us in Raleigh, North Carolina and in 1997 you will locate the 34th Bomb Group in Omaha, Nebraska. For you first-timers - you're never a stranger at a 34th Bomb Group reunion.

Your Reunion Committee
Gerald Pine
Harold Rutka
Robert Wright

THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Don't forget, we'll be having our 8th AFHS reunion at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis, MO. from the 6th to the 10th of



Rear l. to r.: J. Hood, J. Smit, G. Neubauer, C. Anderson, S. Cole. Frt. l. to r.: C. Baxter, J. Chapman, J. Peek and H. Vick.

September, 1995. Those of you driving can stop there before going on to Huntsville for the 34th B.G. reunion on the 14th.

The Eighth A.F. Memorial Museum Foundation is looking for a photo of the control tower at Mendlesham. I mentioned this in the last issue of MM but have had no response. Please, if you have or know of a picture of the control tower at Mendlesham, let us know. We will very much appreciate it.



HOWARD R. FOX - Sanford, ME.

I never did go to England. In the fall of 1942 a cadre was sent out from the 18th Sqdn. to reactivate the 2nd Bomb Group, 96th Sqdn. My duties as a five-striper was to build up a sqdn. mess hall. We were sent to Ephrata, WA. and I had about 20 recruits assigned to me with only 3 out of cooks and bakers school - we made it.

In April of 1943 the squadron was North Africa bound - the rest is history.

HANNAH SUMMA - Anderson, IN.

Huntsville sounds nice. We were there a few years ago when Ray was doing some research. I'm sorry not being able to go this year. I don't think I'm up to it.

MADONNA (ROBERT) GRIMES - Crawfordsville, IN.

I'm sending this note to tell you that Robert M. Grimes passed away on March 5, 1995. He had suffered a severe heart disease since 1982. He became very ill on April 7, 1994 and was confined to bed and a wheelchair for several months. He really enjoyed receiving the Mendlesham Memories and read it from cover to cover.

ANTHONY L. FURLONG - Perkasi, PA.

I thought I'd mention our trip last summer to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson A.F.B., which is a great place to visit. If you had ever been there you know what I mean. I have been interested in World War II Air Force history since I was about 7 years old. I'm glad you let me join the group as an associate member. Thanks.

VELDA (HAROLD) VAN DYKE - St. Louis, MO.

I'm sure Harold is one of your "Lost Sheep". I lost him from cancer at the age of 58, eighteen years ago. I sure still miss him. But one has to go on. He was with the 34th B.G. at Westover in the 18th B.S. I've kept the home fires burning.

DALE GANGER - Goshen, IN.

I apologize for not being in touch more often. I just had colon surgery and had some problems with it. Over the last four years I have had numerous surgeries plus a heart attack. I feel I am now on the road to recovery.

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 4

ROBERT COLE - South Bend, IN.

Ginny and I spent three months in Bradenton, FL. and also spent some time with Mildred and Roy Ballantyne. We also had a mini reunion with Ed Lonergan, Bob Wright, Roy Ballantyne and myself for a round of golf and lunch.



Ed Lonergan, Bob Wright, Bob Cole and Roy Ballantyne at their mini reunion.

MALCOLM "TED" BLOMQUIST - Palos Hills, IL.

I do enjoy getting my copy of "Memories" and read it from cover to cover. Perhaps that is the reason I keep going through my own memory album trying to find pictures that would be of interest to the group. I hope you can use the two I am enclosing. I must give credit where it is due. The pictures were all taken by Jerry Kincaid, our bombardier. He had a 35 mm camera and was forever taking pics on the ground, in the air, wherever.

Keep up the terrific job.

WALTER W. STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

Received the June issue of MM. Another great issue. Especially enjoyed the picture of the Buzz Bomb Patrol. Had we known of our protectors at that time I'm sure we would have felt more secure.

That picture of the B-24 with the Square "O" marking on page 13 was bombing with the 34th for some reason but had the markings of the 486th group at Sudsbury. The 34th was first marked with a square "S", then we had the front half of the stabilizer painted red. This was carried over to the B-17s with the front half of the vertical stabilizer and the dorsal fin painted red. We were called by some of the enemy "The Red Tailed Devils". The 486th, like the 34th, changed over from B-24s to B-17s and also changed their tail markings from an "O" to a square "W".

We're looking forward to Huntsville, if possible.

MRS. MARY LOUISE (ERNEST) BLAKE - Lumberton, NC.

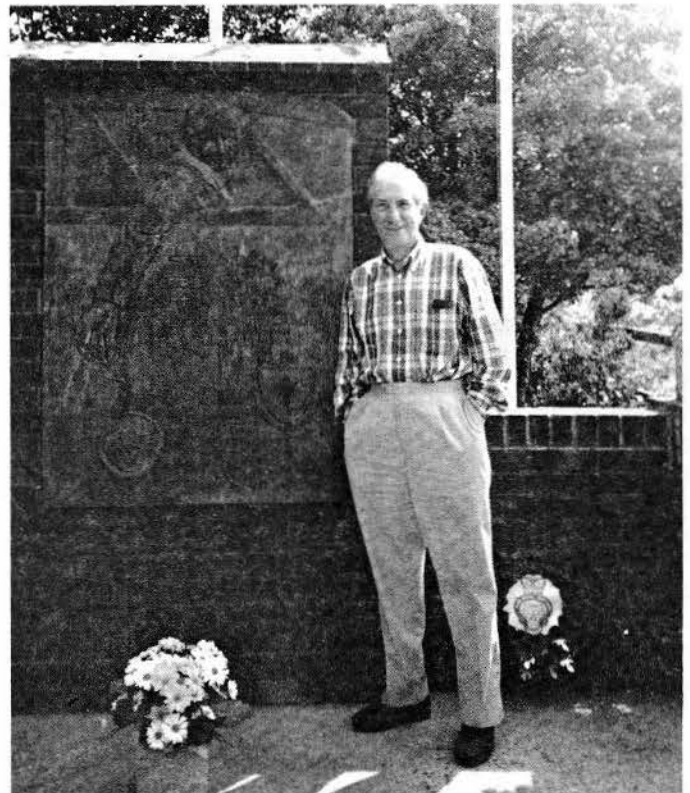
I'm writing to inform you that my husband, Ernest, died Nov. 22, 1994 and was buried on Thanksgiving Day. He was a ball turret gunner on "Duke The Spook". He always enjoyed reading MM.

AL SADOWSKY - Boca Raton, FL.

On Jan. 1, 1945 I left for the States after completing 31 missions with Alf Johansen's crew in the 391st Sqdn. On many of these missions we were the lead crew.

On May 3, 1995, I returned to England and, needless to say, visited Ipswich and Mendlesham on Sunday, May 7th. It is most difficult to describe the emotions going through me when I came upon the Memorial erected to the 34th. In front of the plaque were three small vases of freshly cut flowers that had to be placed either that day or the previous one. The entire group should be eternally grateful to those individuals who maintain this small but elegant memorial and placed these flowers. I suggest their names and phone numbers be published in our publication so that members visiting England can thank these wonderful people in person with our undying gratitude.

I am enclosing a photo taken at the memorial which I hope will rekindle that wonderful time we lived through fifty years ago.



Al Sadowsky

CARL NICHOLS - Fresno, CA.

All is going O.K. here in California. Do hope to see you all in September. The best to everyone!

MRS. BETTY (WELLER) FRANKLIN - Ft. Worth, TX.

Can someone tell me if that is Weller in the center second row of the picture on page 20 of the June issue showing the 34th B.G. Radar Crew?

I lost Weller last year after fifty-one years together and a valiant fight with cancer. He was a great guy! One of our highlights of our trip to England was visiting the Mendlesham Memorial where Weller was stationed.

MRS. MARY FRANCES (MARCUS R.) SMART - Stephens, AR.

Just a note to let you know of the death of Marcus R. Smart on April 22, 1995. He had been on a dialysis machine for 7 years.

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M.M. Page 5

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 5

DIRK GOMBERT - Boise, ID.

Please accept my donation for the Ray L. Summa Scholarship Fund in honor of Anthony Grabowski. Tony was shot down and killed the night our planes were shot down over the field. He was the only one of his crew that did not get out of the plane in time. Maybe this memo will get the surviving members of his crew to chip in to the fund.

FRANK T. SLIGH - Adkins, TX.

I just received my June copy of MM and thoroughly enjoyed reading it from cover to cover as I always do. I know there is no other newsletter that is more thoroughly read than yours.

IAN L. HAWKINS - Bacton Stowmarket, England

On Monday, May 8th a friend and I went to Mendlesham. On the way over we stopped the car to stare up at a Lancaster, a Spitfire, A Hurricane, a B-17 Fortress, a B-25 Mitchell, a P-38 Lightning and a P-51 Mustang, all forming up to fly over London for the V-E Day fly-past. It was a tremendous sight.

At Mendlesham there was a street fair with many varied attractions, stalls, etc. and a WWII exhibition in the Community Centre. We met Hal Province there with his wife who were visiting his old base.

PAUL D. ANDERSON - Everett, WA.

On June 7th Beryl and I journeyed to Ephrata, WA. to attend a plaque presentation ceremony honoring that city's efforts in providing the facilities and resources allowing seven bomb groups to train there for combat in Europe. All seven groups had representatives in attendance. Fred and Clara Schoch were also in attendance for the 34th B.G. After a nice dinner we went to the city hall where the presentation took place at a regular city council meeting. We were very pleased to see a large poster on the wall made by the Ephrata seventh and eighth grade students. The poster showed the tail designations of the seven bomb groups and was signed by all the students. Their teacher was at the meeting and seemed to be doing an excellent job of teaching the kids the real story of WWII. After the plaque presentation many of us adjourned to the American Legion Hall for further hangar flying. It was a very enjoyable evening. We're looking forward to Huntsville.



L. To R.: FRT: ?, L. Adringola, A. Sadowsky, B. Copeland, R. Trotter.
CTR: J. Hunter - REAR: A. Johanson, V. Lombardo & R. McKay

DOROTHY (BERNARD B.) MONAHAN - Baldwin, NY.

I received in the mail today the June issue of Mendlesham Memories. I noted that "Dues are due" for Bernard B. Monahan. Please be advised that my husband, Bernard, passed away on May 4, 1995, of colon cancer at the age of 78. I did not want you to think that he was not paying his dues.

ROBERT J. FILIP - LaGrange Park, IL.

Your daughter's article was a timely addition with her insight and strength in coping with MS. My one niece, who was born in December, 1944, while I was stationed in Mendlesham, is also coping with MS so I can relate to your daughter's situation.

MRS. MARJORIE SCHERKENBACH - Palm Harbor, FL.

The "New Minister" article did not add to the dignity of the Mendlesham Memories, but rather degraded it and all those whom it represents.

JOHN D. CLEMENS - Cottonwood, AZ.

I have a request to make of you concerning one item in the June issue. Like most of us, I suppose, I found myself doing some heavy-duty praying during the course of each mission. I remember with regret how poorly I kept most of those promises to my Heavenly Father if He would spare my life and those of my crewmates. Since those perilous times I have tried, with fluctuating success, to follow the example of our Lord.

The article entitled "The New Minister" is, to me, offensive and inappropriate for thought, conversation or publication. My request is that you not sully what is otherwise a welcome arrival at our home with pollutants such as the above. I ask you not to write me off as the only reader to react this way - I suspect (and hope) there are a lot of us who do.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I'm sorry if the item offended anybody. It was received from one of our members who thought, as did I, that it was humorous and might get a laugh or two from our members. If its inclusion offended you - PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGIES!

RAYMOND D. HINCHEE - Salem, VA.

Margaret and I had planned to make the reunion in September but we found out in January that she had a malignant tumor under her tongue. We went to Seattle, WA. for neutron treatment. They have an excellent facility there and say there is a very good chance for recovery. We have to return there on Sept. 19th for a 6 month check-up. This means we will not make the reunion this year. We hope to make the next one and hope everyone has a great time. Keep up the good work.

GEORGE E. READY - Richmond, VA.

On page 20 of the June issue is a picture of the Radar Crew questioning the identification. I think I can be of some help. The officer on the right with his hands behind him is Marvin Amundson. The non-com standing to his right is Willard Holmes. The fifth person standing to Willard's right is Chester Drzweski (spelling) and next to his right is George E. Ready. In the front row, kneeling second from the left is Nick?????. Also kneeling in the front row, 4th from the right is Donald Morrison.

PAUL R. YOUNGHOLM - Jefferson, NH.

Will not be at the reunion in Huntsville. Perhaps next year, if God wills it. Please pass on a special greeting to Hal Province. Also a word for Chaplain Sam Baglio to pass on - "Feed Your Faith and Your Doubts and Fears Will Starve To Death".

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 6

FREDERICH SCHOCH - Spokane, WA.

We attended the plaque presentations at both Geiger and Ephrata. At Ephrata we were greeted by Paul and Beryl Anderson who were good company for Clara and me.

We are making plans for Huntsville in September. I have a little gift I would like to bring to the reunion. It would be a gift to some lucky attendee. This would entail raffle tickets sold at the PX, which Paul said would not be an insurmountable problem. The monies would go to the "Ray Summa Scholarship Fund".

OTTO A. FRISCHMUTH - San Antonio, TX.

While visiting our son in Cincinnati last year we decided to go to the Wright-Patterson Air Museum. After seeing all the exhibits we ended up in the gift shop where our son found, in a book, a picture of the "Big Dealer" nose art which I had painted on our new B-24.

Our son bought the book, unbeknownst to me, titled "The History of Aircraft Nose Art, WWI to Today" by Jeffery L. Ethell and Clarence Simonsen. Upon our return to Cincinnati he gave it to me as a treasured gift.

BARBARA HARTMAN - Ballston Lake, NY.

I would hate to miss a copy of MM. I do enjoy it. I have again heard from Joan Barker of Mendlesham who I met in '93. She is the one who has so much information from WWII and invited us to her home, "Merry Thought".

RICHARD SCULLY - Sarasota, FL.

The work that all of the officers of the 34th B.G. Assoc. in behalf of the association is OUTSTANDING!

KIVETT IVEY - LaGrange, NC.

My daughter at Bossier City, LA. arranged for me to get a cataract operation at the Barksdale hospital. I had one eye done last week and I'll have the other one done soon. Then, after about 10 days, we'll go back to North Carolina. Otherwise both Lucille and I are doing O.K. for 75 year olds.

BERNARD GARFINKEL - Las Cruces, NM.

Hope you all have a good time at Huntsville. Keep up the good work. I enjoy the Memories very much and will remain a constant reader.

JAMES M. RALLS, JR. - Houston, TX.

I find we cannot make the September reunion this year. My wife had made other plans for those dates. I'm still hoping Ted Blomquist, Jerry Kincaid and I (and perhaps a few others) can get together informally this year on another date.

HUGH CHESI - Pueblo, CA.

I enjoy reading Mendlesham Memories. I did want to let you know that I'm not dead yet. I am 100% and permanently disabled but my military hospital records have been lost or destroyed along the way. So I have only Social Security to help me struggle to make a living on the XX planet. I have no money or assets to carry on with - only life preserving techniques available. I am over the gov't guidelines (\$819.00 per month) so I cannot get any military disability income. Also a "hair" too high on SS income to qualify for any kind of benefits.

HAROLD AZZOPARDI - Salinas, CA.

I was part of the Tavasti Prov. Gp. on crew #39-6-28 stationed at Davis Monthan, Salinas and Blythe. In Oct., 1943 we went to Lincoln, NE. by train. There we were given a B-24 and flew it to Townsville, Aus. We made eight stops on the way.

Now Roy said all went to the 5th A.F. Not so - some of this group went to England by way of South America and after my tour was over, I was sent to B-29's and some others of the England crews flew their tours and were in B-29's with me in Denver.

I never saw Roy Tavasti and didn't know I was in his group until after the war when I was given all my records.

WILLIAM N. "PETE" GRAY - Virginia Beach, VA.

My medical report is not too bad for someone running hard on 80, but I won't be making the Huntsville reunion. If I'm still around in 1996 I hope to be at the Raleigh, NC. reunion.

VIRGINIA L. (EARL) HERTZINGER - Anderson, IN.

I regret to inform you that Earl Hertzinger passed away Dec. 2, 1994 at the age of 73. We had nearly 50 years of marriage. He was a member of the 391st Sqdn. Please remove his name from the past-due list.

IMOGENE (CARL) FREYSINGER - Cable, OH.

Carl and I have just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. We are looking forward to the Huntsville reunion and seeing all the wonderful people we have met through the years and meeting new ones. We are sad because of the ones we have lost.

CARROLL FORISTER - Kirkwood, MO.

Our nephew and his family visited us from England in May and his wife volunteered to model my leather A2 jacket for me. "Piccadilly Tilly!" It never looked that good on me!



Carrol Forister's niece, Sue Bailey from Chandler's Ford, England

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From Kenneth P. Werrell, Professor of History at Radford University we have the following:

I am beginning an update of my 1981 Eighth Air Force Bibliography for the 8th AF Memorial Museum Foundation. This is a request to seek your help in finding items that should be included. In brief, I would like titles of books and articles about the 34th BG. Of particular interest are privately printed memoirs and journals.

Anyone who would like to contribute information write to: Kenneth P. Werrell, Professor of History, Radford University, Radford, VA. 24142.

The 381st B.G. has issued a history of their group entitled "TRIUMPHANT WE FLY". The price is \$49.95 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling charge. Anyone interested can write to: Florice Stone, P.O. Box 2935, Garden Grove, CA. 92642.

Beginning April 1, 1995 The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Center will be known as "THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM". Most people know instantly what a museum is but many people have told us they don't exactly know what is a heritage center.

The name change will not affect the plans for the facility. It will still include a library of 8th A.F. and related books, films and tapes; 8th A.F. personal and unit archives; an artifacts and memorabilia museum; meeting facilities; gift shop; book store; and snack bar.

Work crews have completed hauling more than 500 truckloads of landfill dirt and compacting the foundation base for the 85,000 sq. ft. museum building. Target date for the grand opening of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is May of 1996.

The Pan Pacific Press has issued a new book called "Serenade to the Blue Lady: the story of Bert Stiles", authored by Robert Floyd Cooper, who was a co-pilot in the 385th B.G. stationed near Ipswich, England.

Bert Stiles was in the 91st B.G. as a co-pilot and, later, became a pilot of a P-51 with the 339th Fighter Group. He died in a crash over Germany in 1944. He was a writer and his book "Serenade to the Big Bird" was published posthumously. If interested write to: Pan Pacific Press, P.O. Box 72090, Davis, CA. 95617. (Ed. Note: I have read this book and it does bring back many poignant memories to old 8th Air Force personnel who served in England.)



391st Armorers at Mendlesham.

From Jeff Speilberg, P.O. Box 5178, Santa Monica, CA. we have the following:

I am enthusiastically trying to buy and collect Army Air Forces items associated with the 34th B.G. stationed at Mendlesham, England during the Second War. I am hoping to collect them before these pieces of history all disappear into garage sales or to the Salvation Army.

I am looking for jackets, silver wings, watches, headgear, clothing of all kinds, squadron and group patches, medals, award citations, POW items, B-24 or B-17 pilot manuals, joysticks and plane parts, documents, photos, parachutes, gloves, scarfs, Nazi souvenirs, RAF items, etc.

I have a toll-free number (1-800-666-9553). If I'm not at home when you call please leave a message. I'll call back directly and tell you the value of your item over the phone. I will pay for all items in advance.

Mr. Al J. Brown of Kent, England sends the following:

I was speaking with Ian Hawkins the other night about a 34th B.G. B-24 that came down near here on July 27, 1944. It was piloted by 1st Lt. Gerald Holmes. He and his crew all bailed out. I have a B-3 flying jacket found in the wreck. Oddly it has taken 51 years to come to light. It is in bad condition but, considering what it went through, I suppose it's not too bad. Any news about the pilot and crew would be most welcome.

I have colleagues in the Normandy area of France. They also welcome any information on any aircraft lost in their area. I also have contacts in most parts of the UK and Germany. If anyone in the U.S. wishes any information on aircraft lost during WWII and can give us the location we will do our best to find out all we can. We are all doing research as a hobby. To contact me write to: Mr. A.J. Brown, 10 Laurel Avenue, Gravesend, Kent, England, DA12 5QP.

From Frederick Schoch we are informed that on May 17, 1995 a plaque was presented to Geiger Field at Spokane, WA. in behalf of the Eighth Air Force groups which trained there during WWII. Also, on June 7, 1995, a plaque was presented to Ephrata AAB at Ephrata, WA. in behalf of the Eighth Air Force groups which had trained there. These plaques were in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of WWII and thanked both communities for their assistance in providing the facilities and personnel that enabled the bomb groups to train and fly the aircraft in preparation for combat in Europe.

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.**



ROSE'S CORNER

AN UNUSUAL RECIPE!

I didn't have potatoes so I decided to use rice.
I didn't have paprika so I substituted another spice.
I didn't have tomato sauce so I used some tomato paste.
A whole can, not half because I don't believe in waste.
A friend gave me the recipe and said you couldn't beat it!
There must be something wrong with her because I couldn't even eat it!!

Believe me, that last sentence in my little poem does not refer to any recipes sent in to me so far! Honest!

In today's column I wish to share a real yummy recipe from my friend, Doris Brauks, and another from Jane Ann Felker which was kitchen-tested by Sharon Gholdston for the Orlando Sentinel. These Mystery Cookie Bars will cost only \$2.83 for two (2) dozen bars. Can't beat that!

PECAN CRUNCH COOKIES

from Doris Brauks

1 cup margarine	1/2 cup chopped pecans
1/2 cup sugar	1/2 cup crushed potato chips
1 tsp. vanilla	2 cups all-purpose flour (sifted)

Cream together margarine, sugar and vanilla. Add pecans and potato chips and mix thoroughly. Add flour, mix thoroughly and shape into 1 inch balls. If desired put 1/2 of a pecan on top of each cookie. Flatten balls with the bottom of a glass dipped in sugar. Bake in a 350 deg. F oven for 13 minutes or until brown.

MYSTERY COOKIE BARS

from Jane Ann Felker

1-1 lb. box of light brown sugar	1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups flour	2 eggs
2 sticks margarine or butter	1 cup nuts (optional)

Confectioner's sugar to coat the bars

Melt margarine or butter, add sugar, flour and eggs. Mix well. Add vanilla and nuts if desired. Mix again.

Bake in greased 10 x 13 inch pan at 325 deg. F for 30 minutes or until it falls in the center. Cool completely. Cut into bars and coat with powdered sugar. Makes about 2 dozen bars.

Jane Ann writes that she had many requests for these and hopes that you will all try them. I certainly will. With all of the good ingredients for these bars I would say that the end result will be terrific and all of your friends will want a copy of this recipe. Thanks a lot, Doris and Jane Ann!!

When we meet in Huntsville I'm looking forward to all of you bringing along your one favorite recipe. Let me know what you baked or cooked during those war years. We could come up with a collection which will be appreciated by all, including your grandchildren and families.

May God bless you all and please keep smiling - it's a magnetic thing to do!!

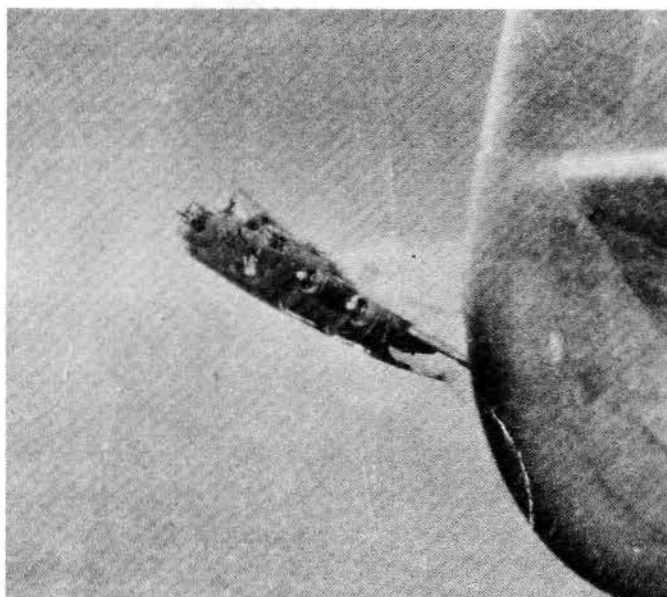


Unidentified Crew - Do you know who they are?

A TOAST TO THE GREASE MONKEY!

A toast to the grease monkeys of the AAF....those skilled technicians who were carefully taught always to use the right tool and the proper part. But the war never seemed to wait for those luxuries to catch up. "Scrounging" parts was so common place that before the carcass of any aircraft cooled after a crash landing it was stripped to the bare bones by enterprising crew chiefs. Trying to describe an airborne "clank" or "bonk" to a jaundiced crew chief was nigh on to impossible - they were a straightforward lot that must of all come from Missouri. And nothing, but nothing, could make a crew chief madder than bringing home his airplane shot full of holes. Excuses - even through a perforated lip fell on deaf ears. They were a tough lot, hard as nails, but they cried when an aircraft and its crew were lost, and we could not have put the boot to Schickelgruber without them!

borrowed from NEW JERSEY NEWS



34th B-24 in trouble.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(As of 7-21-95)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
BAUGHMAN	CLEO J.	18	NO. 4 HILLCREST DRIVE	STOCKTON,	KS.	67669
BEARD	CLINTON L.	18	P.O. BOX 640215	BEVERLY HILLS,	FL.	34464
BEAVER	DUANE R.	18	7181 CASS CITY ROAD	CASS CITY,	MI.	48726
BERG	DARREL J.		P. O. BOX 12802	NEW BRIGHTON,	MN.	55112
BOULIANE	JEAN P.	7	1400 HERMAN DRIVE 48	HOUSTON,	TX.	77044
CANNON	DALE C.	7	1010 GRAND AVE. APT. 206	WAUSAU,	WI.	54403
CARLSON	EDWARD R.	7	8071 WINERY COURT	SAN JOSE,	CA.	95135
DAY	GEORGE W.	4	1010 BELMONT CIRCLE	TAVARES,	FL.	32778
GOMBOS	WILLIAM	7	145 WEEKS BLVD.(911 CHANGE)	CAPE CARTERET,	NC.	28584
GREENE	PAUL C.	4	6207 N.C. HWY. #23	CARTHAGE,	NC.	28327
HURLMAN	VINCENT G.	18	2928 REDFIELD DRIVE	CHARLOTTE,	NC.	28270
HUTCHISON	ROBERT T.	7	4744 WOODHAVEN DRIVE	GALENA,	OH.	43021
JONES	WYATT S.	18	6034 OLD TOWN PLACE	NORCROSS,	GA.	30093
LEHMAN	ACY R.	18	3020 BRIDGEWAY #218	SAUSALITO,	CA.	94965
LEVI	MYRON		998 NORTH E. STREET	TULARE,	CA.	93274
LUPEI	VICTOR T.	7	3101 HARBORSIDE DRIVE	LAS VEGAS,	NV.	89117
MILLS	JAMES O.	7	711 E. FEDERAL #12	SHAWNEE,	OK.	74801
MINGL	MICHAEL	18	332 C. STREET, APT. #42	CHULA VISTA,	CA.	91910
PAGOZALSKI	L. J.		763 OAK RIDGE DRIVE	INDIALANTIC,	FL.	32903
POLAK	RICHARD E.	18	1209 21ST AVENUE APT.A-118	ROCK ISLAND,	IL.	61201
SWANSON	SAMUEL C.	7	P. O. BOX 1949	ROGUE RIVER,	OR.	97537
ULAM	KENNETH	7LM	200 NORTH DALE AVE., APT. #201	ANAHEIM,	CA.	92801
UNDERWOOD	HARLAN R.	391	P. O. BOX 366	ITHACA,	NY.	14851
VAN BUSKIRK	WILLIAM F.	4	441 CASCADE ROAD	LITCHFIELD PARK,	AZ.	85340

NEWLY FOUND

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
ARMSTRONG	HOWARD L.		BOX 500	ASHFORD,	WV.	25009
KEEPING	LEROY		5,THE KNOLL,FRAMLINGHAM	SUFFOLK,	ENG.	IP139DH
LEWIS	FRANK F.	391	590 SAN FERNANDO DRIVE	SMYRNA,	GA.	30080
VAN DYKE	HAROLD	18	SEE TAPS			

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(326 as of 7-05-95)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
HILL	JAMES H. SR.	4-7	523 LINDBERGH WAY	LEWISTOWN,	PA.	17044
JACOBBAUSKI	MICHAEL	7	7056 KATHERINE AVENUE	VAN NUYS,	CA.	91405
SUTTON	CHARLES	4	107 NORTH WEBSTER STREET	HARRISBURG,	IL.	62946
TURKO	WALTER	4	3047 WALLACE CIRCLE	HUNTINGTON,	WV.	25705

LOST SOUL

(Mail to these addresses returned - Need new addresses)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>LAST KNOWN ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
INGRAM	WILLIAM G.	7	1053 DUTTON AVENUE	SANTA ROSA,	CA.	95407
SHOVE	LAURA	7 GRP	4906 LA CUENTA DR. A116	SAN DIEGO,	CA.	92124
THOMPSON	GERALD	18	2771 S. CAMINO	GREEN VALLEY,	AZ.	85614
THOMPSON	LOUISE	391LM	8649 SW KLAMATH CIRCLE	WILSONVILLE,	OR.	97070

TAPS

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>	<u>DIED</u>
BLAKE	ERNEST T.	391	308 W. 31ST STREET	LUMBERTON,	NC.	28358	11-22-94
FRANKLIN	WELLER W.	4	108A NORTH BAILEY	FT. WORTH,	TX.	76107	1994
GRIMES	ROBERT M.	4	1002 NORTH DRIVE	CRAWFORDSVILLE,	IN.	47933	3-5-95
HAMILTON	CHARLES A.	4	(ADDRESS UNKNOWN)				?
HERTZINGER	EARL	391	6906 HENDRICKS STREET	ANDERSON,	IN.	46013	12-02-94
MONAHAN	BERNARD B.	4	559 GRIMM PLACE	BALDWIN,	NY.	11510	5-4-95
REPOFF	FREDERICK A.	4	298 SCRANTON STREET	AURORA,	CO.	80011	5-15-95
SCHADLE	WARREN C.	391	5764 GREENVILLAGE ROAD	CHAMBERSBURG,	PA.	17201	??
SMART	MARCUS R.	7LM	P. O. BOX 505	STEPHENS,	AR.	71764	4-22-95
VAN DYKE	HAROLD	18	1014 HORNSBY	ST. LOUIS,	MO.	63147	1977

★★★★★★★★★ 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY ★★★★★★★★★★

(Congratulations to 1945 brides and grooms)

<u>DATE MARRIED</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAMES</u>
06-30-45	LIPSKY	BORAH & RUTH
06-30-45	UNWIN	JOHN & JEAN
07-07-45	DIETERLE	MR. & MRS. MARCUS
07-07-45	SEATON	NORRIS & EUNICE
07-09-45	FREYSINGER	CARL & IMOGENE
08-08-45	SCIMECA	ANTHONY & MARY
08-22-45	CASEY	RALPH & DOT
09-01-45	CAMP	RICHARD & SHIRLEY
10-06-45	SHELTON	ROBERT & CONNIE
10-07-45	JANSON	WENDELL & ANNIE
10-07-45	ROSSOW	BLAIR & DORIS
10-08-45	WOOTEN	JOHN & LENORE
10-22-45	FILIP	ROBERT & MARIE
11-22-45	MERKLE	FLOYD & MADGE
12-01-45	COUPE	WALTER & ALENE
12-24-45	CONNELLY	A.T. & LUMA

★★★★★★★★★ RAY SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND ★★★★★★★★★★

DONATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>
FANDEL	WILLIAM H.	
FILIP	ROBERT	
GOMBERT	DIRK	ANTHONY GRABOWSKI
GOMBERT	DIRK	ROY O. JONES
GREEN	WALLACE E.	
HERGET	CHARLES A. JR.	JIM GLASS
McCOLL	RODERICK	
NASS	MELVIN H.	
SHEE	DONALD L.	JIM GLASS
YOCKEY	CHARLES R.	JIM GLASS



Then and Now



JACK KINNEY



1944



1994

ROBERT COLE



1944



1994

FRANCIS V. JACKOVICH



1944



1994



Then and Now



WALTER L. McALLISTER



1944



1994

DONALD BENSCOTER



1944



1994

LOUIS L. COHEN



1944



1994

MEMORIES

A D-DAY SOLILQUIY

Presented by Peter Maxwell aboard
"Fair Princess" June 6, 1994
Submitted by John & Ethel Leath

I see behind the eyes into the soul, for therein lies the truth.
I see behind the skin into the skeleton, for therein lies the bone.
I see behind the veins into the blood, for therein lies the corpuscles, red and white. I see behind the cells into the infinity of one, for therein lies the beginning. And, if you see the beginning and understand, then therein lies the truth.

It is 5:00 A.M. on June 6th, 1994, the 50th anniversary of D-Day, I wrote this near Juneau, Alaska.

I remember 50 years ago I was a lad of 16 living in Eastleigh, near Southampton, in the county of Hampshire. For months the slow build-up of transport heavy tanks, transporters, strange steel monsters whose purpose defied destruction. Strange men with strange accents, chewing - always chewing - and, as we kids learned, it was chewing gum - Wrigley's of course.

They seemed old then - to youngster's eyes. Uniformed, different colored badges on their shoulder tabs, pistols and gaiters. They looked old and strong and invincible, yet they were quiet somehow, withdrawn. There was a kind of expectant hush about them. Reticent, huddled against the incessant rain, wearing waterproof capes, smoking, writing letters and always chewing.

I remember that there was little laughter, if any. Their eyes were somewhere else. I realize now, these many years later, that they were thinking - remembering "home". Somewhere across the seas they were with loved ones, mum, dad, wife, son and daughter. They were reading old frayed letters and those more recently arrived - news from home, so long and far away.

I did not know what lay before them. Neither did they, but they were aware that something momentous was about to

happen for them and to them. They thought only of home and friends and the closest buddy, who hopefully would be there later in the day to care, to share, to fire at the enemy, to offer a smoke, to have a chew with them - but not one of them thought of death or separation.

So, with these strangers parked for miles around our countryside, we visited with them, saw into their tanks, got gum from them, and autographs. They, in turn, smiled sadly, sometimes touched our heads and kindly stroked our hair, looked into our eyes. Little did we know that they were looking back home and wondering, hoping, praying that their little kid was safe at home with mum.

And little did we know that we were, to them, very much a part of what they were. We thought about these strangers - these different kind of people with strange accents and, for us kids, old faces. Little did we realize that they were young faces, waiting, remembering, thinking and praying that whenever "IT" happened, they would be there at the end of it.

Suddenly they were gone. The streets, lanes, highways and byways were empty. They were gone to wherever destiny led them. They were not brave, nor heroic, nor courageous, nor daring, nor dauntless. They were not intrepid, valiant or valorous. "THEY WERE BOYS".

MY GET UP AND GO HAS WENT!

borrowed from the 8th AF HS (Georgia Chapter)

How do I know by youth is all spent?

Well, my get up and go has got up and went.
But in spite of it all I'm able to grin
When I think of where my get up has been.

Old age is golden so I've heard said,
But sometimes I wonder when I get into bed,
With my ear in a drawer and my teeth in a cup,
My eyes on the table until I wake up.

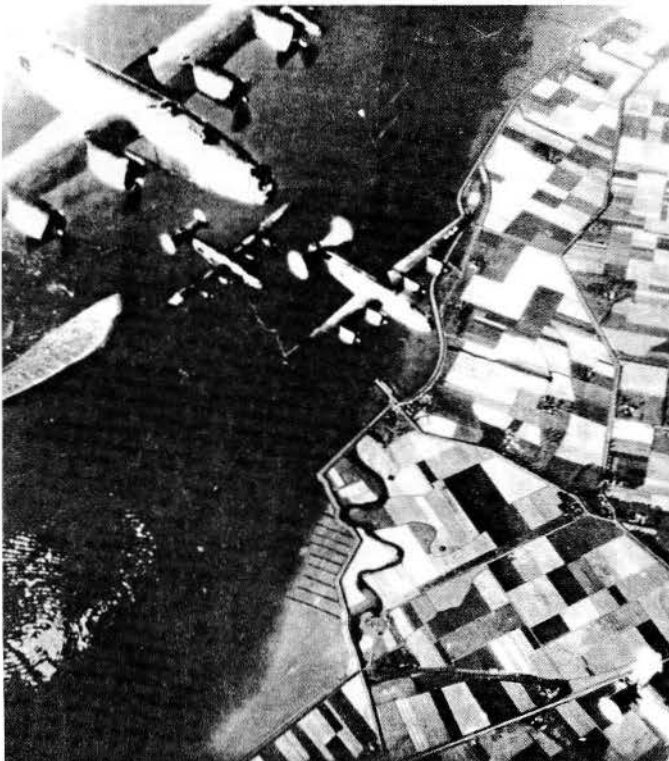
As sleep dims my eyes I say to myself
Is there anything else I should lay on the shelf?
But I'm happy to say as I close the door,
My friends are the same, perhaps even more.

When I was young my slippers were red,
I could kick my heels over my head.
When I grew older my slippers were blue
But I could still dance the whole night through.

Now I am old, my slippers are black
I walk to the store and puff my way back.
The reason I know my youth is all spent,
Is my get up and go has got up and went.

But I don't mind when I think with a grin
Of all the grand places my get up has been,
And since I've retired from life's competition
My schedules all scheduled (with complete repetition).

I get up each morning and dust off my wits,
Pick up the paper and read the "obits".
If I see my name missing I know I'm not dead,
So I eat a good breakfast and go back to bed.



34th Bomb Group over the coast of France.

MEMORIES

MEMORIES, MEMORIES - AFTER 50 YEARS

by Russell S. Paulnock

My, how the memories came flooding back when I met Jim Bartels and his wife, Jane, for dinner in 1984 on a trip to Boston while I was still working, and then again in 1992, when Don Fillman and his wife, Betty, visited us in Santa Barbara, shortly after we had moved from the San Francisco Bay area. We told so many reminiscences that Vera said I should try to write them down. This is my attempt to do so.

The memories begin at Blythe in 1944. Blythe was the only Air Force base that flew every day in 1943 and every day in 1944, right up until they closed it after we left in the first few days of April. On one occasion we were making a close-in approach to the landing runway to get in before a huge dust storm hit the field. Unfortunately we didn't make it although we were only a few feet off the ground and we wound up in Tucson after breaking out of it at 32,000 feet.

We left Blythe around midnight on April 2nd for staging at Lincoln, Nebraska. The flight surgeon walked into the room where 8 officers are standing around naked for our final physical before leaving for overseas. He takes one look at our deep suntans (snow is 4" deep outside) and said, "Where in the blazes did you guys come from?" We answered, "Oh, we're the desert rats from Blythe." About five days later we took off for West Palm Beach, Florida. About halfway to Memphis we ran into the grand-daddy of all storms and began to ice-up so badly we couldn't maintain altitude so we did a 180 and went back to Lincoln. That night we, and hundreds of other guys, went to the Cornhusker's Ball at the University of Nebraska.

Upon arrival at West Palm Beach the clerk on the desk assigning us to quarters says, "Hey, we have another fellow here with the same last name, Paulnock. Maybe you know him. His first name is Eugene. Do you know him?" "He's my brother! Where is he?" Minutes later I'm bounding up the stairs. Gene hears me coming and says to his fellow crew members, "That's my brother, Russ" even before he saw me. They said, "How did you know that?", to which Gene replied, "That's the way he bounds up the stairs."

We hadn't seen each other in 15 months when I was home on leave between Preflight and Primary because the primary school I was to go to had got behind due to a month of bad weather. Gene was still a 17 year old civilian at that time. I was gung-ho on the aviation cadet program and convinced him to get into the program. He was the youngest cadet to go through



Crew of "Butler Bums" - l. to r.: Front: R. Reynolds, R. Skully, R. Butler. Middle: J. Stuthers, C. Kallinen, J. Remy. Rear: E. Renowden, W. Swords, D. Schafan.

bombardier training.

We were barely off the ground out of West Palm Beach when we broke open our secret envelope that informed us we were on our way to the Eighth Air Force in England. A war whoop went up throughout the plane. We were headed for the big time. The name we had chosen for our B-24 was very appropriate, "The Belle Of The Brawl!!"

As we neared Belem we heard the tower say, "B-24 approaching Belem - If you are going to land you had better hurry. We have a huge thunderstorm about to hit the field. You are cleared for a direct approach landing on Runway 09." Just about then we spotted the field and replied, "Roger, we understand your instructions for a straight-in approach to 09." We landed and had gone only 500 feet when it hit. You couldn't see beyond the windshield. We just sat on the runway until it stopped pouring. After Belem came Natal, Brazil and Dakar, French West Africa and Marrakech, French North Africa. After leaving Marrakech I remember the lights of Lisbon as we flew through the night toward Burtonwood, England.

Our first day at Mendlesham we were awakened at a very early hour by the throbbing roar of hundreds of U.S. Air Force planes overhead assembling prior to heading for the continent. We were impressed. We knew we had hit the big time!

Here are a few odds and ends I remember:

The farmer stopping us on our way back to the quonset hut and saying in a very heavy English accent, "There is no road there fer ye", meaning he didn't want us to cut across his field.

The sign on the bar at the Officer's Club before a mission, "There's A Giant On The Beach".

The time someone tossed a lighted match into the ditch along-side our quonset hut where we had been pouring the high octane fuel after we had used it to clean our uniforms. It went "WHOOSH!!"

The time we "liberated" a bucket of coal for our stove in the quonset in order to get warm in the middle of the English

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!!

Continued on page 16

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

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

MEMORIES

Continued from page 15

summer of 1944.

The fact that the food, when we first got to England, was so poor in the Officer's Mess that we went back to the quonset and ate the K-rations they gave us in the U.S. to use if we got down somewhere on the way over.

One last thing. When Don Fillman visited me in 1992 he told me the crew used to discuss how cool I was and that, if I wasn't going to worry, they weren't going to either. Looking back on it

in 1992, I don't know that I was all that cool. I, like all the other guys on the crew of the "Belle Of The Brawl", and all the other crews in the 34th, had been trained to do a job and we were doing it. As I said, the 34th was a damned good, NO GREAT!, outfit. THANKS FOR LETTING ME BE A PART OF IT!!

(Ed. Note: This has been shortened from the original which was quite lengthy. We think we have captured the "Meat" of the original.)

CARTER'S CREW

as submitted by Dorothy (Leslie) Carter and edited by
 Cleveland Romero and your editor

Fifty years ago, on January 14, 1945, Carter's crew was on a bombing mission from Southwold, England to Brandenburg, Germany. The crew consisted of Leslie C. Carter, Robert A Koch, John J. Russell, Robert C. Beth, Joseph E. Rozell, Moe (NMI) Hut, Leonard W. Guse, Fernando A. Barreda and Cleveland J. Romero. They were not in their own plane, "Ol Buddy", as it was in the hangar for an engine change.

They were flying left wing off the squadron lead aircraft. While enroute to the target their plane was hit by enemy anti-aircraft "flak" shortly after crossing the west coast of Germany about ten miles north of the Elbe River. The aircraft was hit by a second burst in the right wing. The explosion of the shell tore the outer panel of the wing at a point next to the outboard engine nacelle, leaving approximately a foot and a half of the aileron on the plane. The aircraft rose slightly following the hit and then veered to the right in an almost vertical bank. It then went into a spiral which later developed into a steep and very fast tight spin.

The aircraft was last seen to crash three kilometers east of Suderhastedt and immediately exploded. The only crew member to parachute out and survive to return to the States was Cleveland Romero, now living in Lafayette, LA. He is on the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group (H) Assn.



Crew of the "War Eagle" Front row: ? ?, J. Bland. 2nd row: B. Crews, ? ?, H. Taylor. 3rd row: unknown.