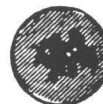


ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

34TH BOMB GROUP H

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REUNION '96 SEPT. 19-22
RALEIGH, N.C.

OBSERVATIONS

Believe it or not, the holidays are over and Rose and I are still in Northwest Indiana. And, "BRR", it's cold. We're not used to this because for many years we have spent the winter in Florida. This year, though, Rose decided that we would spend the holidays here with our grandchildren instead of in Florida with our two children but no grandchildren. After all, we had been told that our area had exceptionally good weather for quite a few of the last ten years. However, we had a snow storm in late November and early December and the temperatures have averaged 8 to 10 degrees below normal. I've told our local friends that they can blame Rose for the bad turn in the weather. But, alas, I have to live with it too!! Oh, well, that's life.

We do plan to spend a couple of weeks in Florida after this issue goes to press with our son, Michael and spend some time with daughter, Lauren. Then we'll probably spend a couple of weeks with our son, Aaron, in Mesa, Arizona. Both places should help us defrost from our frigid condition until then.

I must say, though, that we thoroughly enjoyed spending the holidays with our local family members including our son David, our daughters, Marianne and Kathy, and our grandchildren, Paul, John, Katie, Chrissie, Jessica, Alison and Kaitlin. They are the joy of our elder years and we do look forward to spending time with them.

Now back to 34th B.G. interest. Those of you who did not meet with our group at Huntsville don't really know what you missed. It was one of our best and Rose and I are avidly looking forward to next September at Raleigh, North Carolina. That's one area of the country we had not previously visited so we are very excited about seeing old friends and making new ones there.

Again, let me repeat an item I mentioned in the December issue. After several years of hiring a professional photographer to take pictures at our reunions we found that the results were not worth the cost. Therefore, we ask that our attendees bring their own cameras and take pictures of their table and those of neighboring tables who have no camera. This way, hopefully, we'll be able to show most, if not all, of those who were there. I'll write more about this in the June issue.

At this time Rose and I want to thank all of you that sent us Christmas cards. Please understand that there is no way, other than through the newsletter, for us to wish you all our best wishes for the holiday season, especially to those of you who sent us your best wishes. Thanks a lot!

Please remember that our June issue goes to press on April 19th and any material for that issue should reach me no later than that date. Don't forget, also, that issue goes to all 34th people on the roster, whether they're paid members or not.

Our June issue, also, will have all of the information needed and all of the forms for our reunion at Raleigh in September. We look forward to seeing many of you

there.

I think I've said enough for this issue and will close with "Best of Health and Fortune" to all of you and we look forward to our next meeting.

Eli Baldea
Editor and Past President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year and reflect on the previous one, Jean and I have many fond memories of the reunions with the 34th Bomb Group. We are already looking forward to September when we can once again meet with all of our friends and make some new ones at our reunion in Raleigh, NC. Let me encourage all of you to mark the dates of September 19-22 on your calendar and make plans to attend the reunion. You'll be glad you did!

During Thanksgiving week I had colon surgery (non-malignant) that kept me home bound for about 4 weeks. You really begin to feel your age when you have to turn the keys to your truck over to your granddaughter and be chauffeured everywhere you go. Except for the weight loss my recovery is coming along nicely and we had a nice Christmas with our family. We were also able to travel to Kansas City, KS. to visit with long-time friends. I'm sure in a couple of months I'll be able to be on the golf course again.

May the year 1996 bring you and yours "MUCH HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH!"

Ambers Hanson

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

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

Editor Eli Baldea
2576 Brookwood Drive
Crown Point, IN 46307

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

FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



It seems strange to be writing an item for the March M/M but Eli wants it soon so he and Rose can escape to Florida. Can't say as I blame them for wanting to get away from the cold weather you people in the northern States are having this winter. Cheer up! SPRING can't be far away! I noticed that Wal-mart has their seed packets in the aisles already.

The applications for the 1996 SCHOLARSHIP should be included with this issue of M/M. Please make sure your grand-children (and children) know about the Scholarship Awards. Please make certain that those entering send ALL of the requested items. And please note that John Janes is now the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, replacing Cleveland Romero. Cleveland really enjoyed overseeing the Scholarship Selections but had to retire because of health problems. Bob Vaughn of Picayune has graciously agreed to serve as the third member of the Scholarship Committee.

You read in the December M/M about the 34th's donation of \$5,000 to the 8th AFHS Heritage Museum which is being built near Savannah. Work is progressing well and they are planning a GALA OPENING May 13, 1996 for 8th MUSEUM members and a public opening the next day. This sounds like a good chance to have a MINI-REUNION at Savannah. If you're free to travel in early May, you may want to attend the GRAND OPENING! Jan and I are planning on being at midtown HOLIDAY INN on May 12 and 13. Give us a call if you're in town those days!

While I'm on the subject of the MUSEUM, 34th member John Clarkson of Savannah is looking for 34th B.G. memorabilia. I am gathering some data on the 34th and hope to have it ready before they open. It's a good opportunity to let the public and others know about the 34th B.G.! By the time you read this I hope to have sent the material to John. The library for researchers at the Museum is looking for stories, photos, books, diaries, relics, etc. that pertain to 8th AF Experience. If you have written of your experiences but can't afford to print a book, here is a good chance to preserve your efforts for all researchers. Recent copies of Mendlesham Memories have been sent to the Editor of the 8th AF NEWS for inclusion in the library.

And last, but certainly not least, the Heritage Museum is seeking funds in order to complete the building of the museum. Several classes of membership in the museum are available which will allow you to participate in the activities at the museum. I believe the Museum is



Walt Bower & Bob Pratt

something of which all ex-8th AF'ers will be justly proud. I encourage you to participate financially in the construction and maintenance of this museum!

HAROLD "HAL" PROVINCE

RETURN TO ENGLAND TOUR - 1996

THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H) TO
MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND, JUNE 12-26, 1996

The following addition should be made to TOUR #2 (London to Paris Package).

The brochure from TAMARAC TRAVEL, INC. should have added "ALL BREAKFASTS AND TWO DINNER MEALS". Those making the trip will receive a corrected schedule from Tamarac showing the above.

The response to the Return To England Tour, 1996 has been favorable.

HAROLD C. RUTKA

Back To England Coordinator

DEADLINE

Any material or items to be inserted in the June issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before April 19, 1996. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.

Eli Baldea, Editor



ROSE'S CORNER

My Lt. Colonel has been after me to write my column for several weeks and it's been an up-hill climb. We celebrated Christmas in Indiana and, because we did, I was twice as busy as when in Florida. Our 7 grandchildren are all in our local area which means a lot more work during the holidays. We had to prepare for the adults plus the children so my excuse is "I'm still recuperating from the holidays!". This won't hold water very long, I'm sure! So here goes. Not lenthly but sufficient.

Now that the holidays are history it's time to think about those veterans who spent months and years in the V.A. hospitals and weren't home for Christmas. Put them on your holiday list for THIS year and feel very good about doing something very soul-satisfying. If there's a V.A. hospital nearby, delivering them by hand would be wonderful. Let our veterans know that they are appreciated and not forgotten! Call this toll-free number (1-800-827-1000) to find the V.A. hospital nearest you.

Now for the recipe corner. I'm sharing a time-honored recipe from Bucharest, Romania which is sought after at cookouts and picnics and everyone within "smelling distance" will come knocking at the back door to find out what's cooking that smells so good. So, here it is and please try it this summer on your outdoor grill. You should make plenty and be ready with small size buns, dill pickles, chopped onions and mustard, if desired. These may be broiled indoors also.

ROMANIAN BEEF ROLLS

1 1/2 lb. ground chuck	1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/2 lb. ground pork shoulder	1 tsp. crushed summer
1 1 tsp. salt	savory (a must)
1/2 tsp. black pepper	1/2 cup hot chicken
1/2 tsp. Accent (Optional)	bouillion
2 or 3 cloves of garlic (in a cup	
crush garlic with 1/2 tsp. salt on the bottom)	

Place meat in a large bowl. Add all seasonings, summer savory and chicken bouillion to the garlic. Use a sieve and strain mixture over meat. Mix all together until well blended. Meat should be nice and moist. If needed add a little water, but not too much. It will be just right if it holds together when rolled into a roll. Cover the bowl and let stand in the refrigerator overnight if possible. If not, keep in fridge for at least 3 hours. Make rolls approximately 3 to 4 inches long by one inch round. Then place on a hot grill. Be sure that the meats are cooked thru. Turn to grill on all sides.

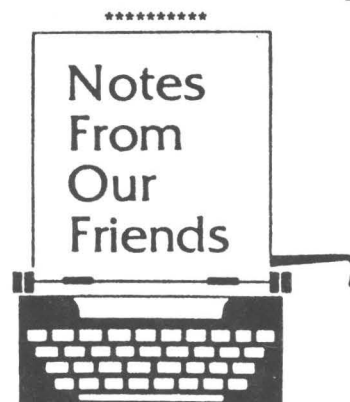
Serve as a meat dish, appetizer or as a small sandwich on a bun. Note: Meats may be varied. Some like to use ground beef, veal or lamb. Also, you may use more garlic that stated. Serves about 6 as appetizer.

BON APPETIT!

POFTA BUNA!

ENJOY!

May God Bless!
Love, Rose



MRS. LUCILLE (DONALD) DURHAM-Chesterfield, MO.

I just wanted to let you know that Don Durham Sr. passed away on September 19. He has been ill since the end of February.

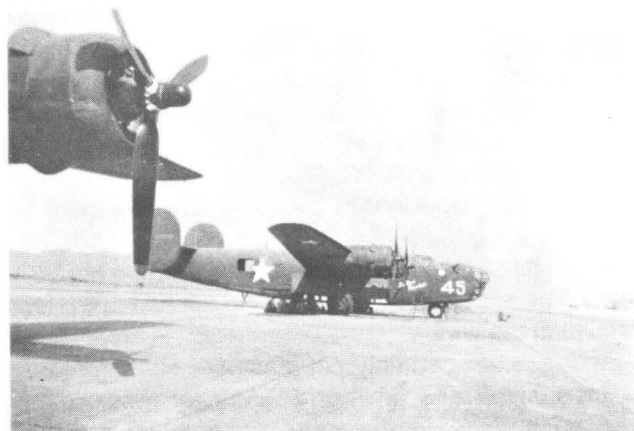
MARGO (BILL) BURNELL - Kirkland, WA.

It is with great sadness I report the death of one of Bill's crewmates, John "Jack" Ashburn in Hastings, Nebraska. He had celebrated his 79th birthday this past week. Although he was very weak we were able to have a brief chat with him. His newly married daughter from New York had spent the last three weeks with him and he died at home.

This is a tough one for the crew. They had been so close, especially since the 34th started having the annual reunions. Most had called Jack last Sunday for his birthday.

Bill is so thankful for the week he spent with Jack when they visited Tom Wright - a time he will always treasure.

Continued on page 5



The Good Ship "The Red Russian"

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 4

LESTER E. THOMPSON - Granite City, IL.

I regret to inform you that Clarence Squires passed away on July 28, 1995 in Bethany, MO. after a long illness. He was the crew chief on our airplane "Tempest Turner". He was an excellent mechanic - we had the greatest confidence in him.

CHARLES CVITKOVICH - Garfield Heights, OH.

Here is some information on one of our missing 34th Bomb Group members. Anthony Brlacich passed away in Napa, California on June 19th at the age of 78. He is survived by his wife, Pearl, also in Napa. I found this information in the newspaper of the Croatia Fraternal Union in Mt. View, CA.

DALE L. FRANK - Winterset, IA.

We attended Mollie Gardner's funeral last Thursday. She was such an out-going little lady and we wanted to share some items with you. We were shocked to learn that she had been in the Iowa City University Hospital since Sept. 20th (the Wednesday following our reunion). She went home for Thanksgiving but immediately back to the hospital. She died on November 26th of pneumonia.

JAMES STIVENDER - Gadsden, AL.

My wife, Stella, and I really enjoyed the recent reunion in Huntsville, and commend you and Rose for all the time and effort you have given for these many years on behalf of the 34th B.G. activities. We were honored having the 34th visit our state of Alabama and trust that all in attendance had as much fun and enjoyment as did our crew and their companions.

As you might recall, we had six of our crew members present together with their wives and, in addition, Edyth Small, the widow of our ball turret gunner Jim Small, was present. Sam and Lee Baglio had made reservations but had to cancel due to Sam's hospitalization.

WILLIAM E. CREER - Las Vegas, NV.

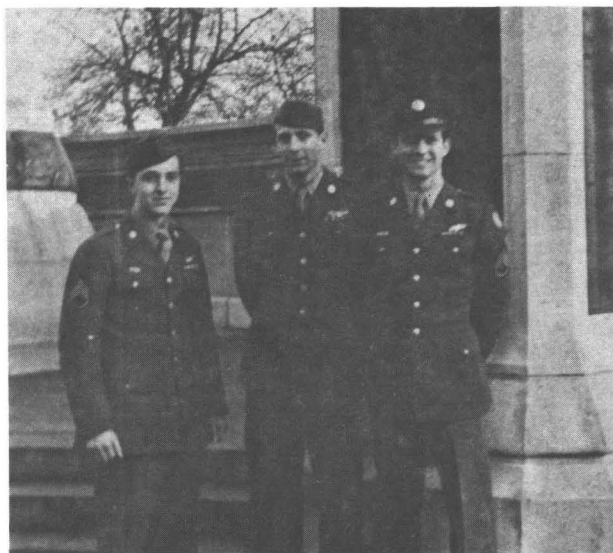
Received the December issue of M/M and found it very interesting. The reunion attendance was excellent. I'm sorry we were not able to attend. Our class of 1936 reunion was a portrait of life - in a sense. Only 14 could make it, all in their eighties. I was out of place - the only one not wearing a hearing aid.

VERNON AMES - Tonawanda, NY.

Sure missed attending the reunion and seeing everyone! Thanks again for all you both do the 34th and M/M.

MRS. HANNAH SUMMA - Anderson, IN.

Enjoyed the M/M newsletter this month, especially the pictures. So many new faces. Thanks to all of you for the many holiday greetings. I still miss all you wonderful people!



John Doronsky (L) & two friends in London in 1944.

ROBERT PROVENCE - Charlotte, NC.

You guys finally found me two years ago and I've not been able to attend any reunions, but hope to be in Raleigh next year. Hal Province and I are related through great-great-great grandfathers, even though the name is spelled differently.

Re the picture on page 22 of the December issue, I don't know who sent in the photo but the identifications are incorrect. They should be from left to right: Robert Provence, Carl Nichols and John Nelson. Thanks again.

CHARLES BARCLAY - Clinton, KY.

I would like to say thanks to you and Rose for all the hard work to make the Mendlesham Memories such a good newsletter. Also to all who work to make the reunions so enjoyable.

BOBBIE (LLOYD) BOREEN - Winlock, WA.

We hope to see everyone in No. Carolina next year. You all have a good year until then. Lloyd is doing good so far.

J.C. HOPKINS - Marble Falls, TX.

I just wanted to let you know of the death of Cptn. Sylvanus W. Curtiss. He was called to be with the Lord on August 21st. He died from a heart attack at his home in Tawas City, MI. He was my pilot, a good friend and a fine man. He will be missed.

EDYTH K. (JAMES) SMALL - Hot Springs, AR.

I am Edyth K. Small, the widow of James C. Small who was one of the crew of "Butch". At the reunion you took a picture of me with the crew and printed it on page 14 of the December issue. No one can know what that means to me. It was the most precious time that will live in my heart for the rest of my days. If the crew comes to Raleigh next year and I am alive I will be there!

Continued on page 6

M.M. Page 5

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 5

DEXTER B. JORDAN - Huntersville, NC.

Beulah and I had a great time at Huntsville. We have attended most of the 34th's reunions and they are getting better all the time. Thanks to all who work so hard.

Now a note to all who ask about Paul N. Teare. He passed away on Oct. 29, 1995. He had Alzheimer's and cancer of the colon which had spread to his liver but he died of dehydration. He refused to eat or drink anything. Just tired of fighting. He was a wonderful guy and a good friend. Memorials can be made to: Reformation Lutheran Church, 613 Lakeview Avenue, Milford, DE. 19963.

WALTER W. STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

In reference to the personnel trailer pictured on page 24 of the December issue, I will remember it. Anyone who was at Blythe during the winter of 1943-44 should remember it well.

That trailer was towed around the perimeter track by a truck and was usually loaded with airmen. We couldn't have done without it. It was, of course, open-air and breezy at times but it sure beat walking. On one occasion Gordon Breeding and I invited our wives to ride that trailer around the perimeter track to see our brand new airplane, B-24 #42-94757. Of course we were detected by the Military Police and the ladies had to leave at once.

We couldn't make the 34th reunion but want to make it to Raleigh in 1996. Had a good visit with George R. Morris and Paul H. Robert last week. Both live in southern California. George just spent 6 months in the hospital and rehab. He's gaining strength. Gordon Breeding and Harold Witham got together in Michigan for a visit. So we're still getting around.

JOHN DORONSKY - Willoughby, OH.

I have had a painful holiday season. Last January I had prostate surgery done and I have to return this January to have a kidney stone removed. I hope to see you all in Raleigh next year (Lord willing).

WALTER McALLISTER - Orlando, FL.

In the early morning hours of Aug. 2nd Hurricane ERIN passed by Orlando with the eye about 40 miles south and we should have escaped with no problems as winds had died down to about 50 MPH. At 4 AM a neighbor's huge oak tree broke off about 15 feet above the ground, came our way in the wind and totally demolished our pool enclosure as well as our fence and a part of the house. The pool also had suffered severe gouges from jagged edges of screen enclosure beams and tree limbs.

The tree was removed about 3 days later and work was begun to make repairs. Total repairs were not completed until December and this left me with about a month's worth of follow-up odd jobs created by all this.

Other than these minor inconveniences it has been

a rather dull year, since all our travel plans were cancelled and nearly half the year was consumed with the recovery process.

CHARLES W. KOHR - Franklin, OH.

Re the photo of the "Hit and Run" on page 2 of the December issue I at first thought it was the Lafe Henderson crew but, after a closer look found it to be Harmon's crew. The Henderson crew also flew this plane. In the 1945 34th History Book, Lafe Henderson is pictured kneeling on the wing tip of "Hit and Run" showing a hole made by a flak shell that did not explode.

I find it difficult to attend a reunion but live only 25 miles from the Air Force Museum and this allows me a place to reminisce. I haven't visited the control tower yet but will when the weather improves.

WALTER C. SCHUTTE - Huber Heights, OH.

I always enjoy reading the Mendlesham Memories. I haven't made any of the reunions yet but hope to one of these years. I wanted to tell you that Dorcas and I have celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on May 20th of 1995.

GEORGE H. KLINE - Burnt Hills, NY.

Another year gone by and another reunion missed. We sure missed everyone and the guys picked another good place for the get-together.

Did you hear of Mollie Gardner's death? Her daughter wrote us saying Mollie died Nov. 26th. She evidently became seriously ill shortly after attending the reunion. She looked very good in picture #19 on page 17 of the Dec. issue. Mollie's bubbly personality will be missed by Margaret and I and others such as Mollie and Jesse's good friend, Pete Gray. I'm sure Mollie will join Jesse up where old warriors go.

Continued on page 7



Ex-Crew Members meeting at a 34th reunion...l. to r.: Marge Bush, Evan Rogers, Ralph Bush, Margo Rogers & Kenneth Jackson.

NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 6

WALLACE E. GREEN - Brooklyn, CT.

You people have done and are doing a great job for the Group. I was proud of our group 50 years ago and I am so thrilled that you and all other officers are keeping up the 34th B.G. activities. You are all to be blessed.

JOSEPHINE (JACK) BLAND - Pasadena, TX.

Just a note to let you know that Jack has just found out he has cancer of the left lung. He is being treated with radiation and chemo and it has made him very sick. His white blood cells were so low I had to put him in the hospital for 10 days. Sure hope he makes it. He has lost so much weight from 169 down to 137 lbs. We hope to come to the next reunion if we can make it.

PAUL BRESH - Ft. Myers, FL.

We were very sorry when John Mollica passed away. We kept in close touch visiting with each other whenever possible. We want to thank everyone concerned for all the good work they do.

HAROLD "HAL" PROVINCE - Carriere, MS.

This week (first of January) has been hectic. Jan goes under the knife on Tuesday, Jan. 9th for a hip replacement and we've been to Slidell three days running.

(Editor's note: By the time you read this I'm sure we'll have heard about Jan's successful recovery from her surgery.)

BILLIE DALE EZELL - Siloam Springs, AR.

I am sorry we could not attend the reunion at Huntsville. It looks like all of you had a great time.

My wife, Theda, and I had an early 50th Anniversary surprise at Christmas. Our family and friends presented us with a three week trip to Europe. Our sons, Richard and Michael, and Michael's wife, Holly, had been working on this surprise for almost a year and, miraculously, no one let the secret out. Even though our anniversary is not until June they presented it at Christmas so that our sons and grandchildren could all see our surprise. Richard and a friend will be going with us. Our itinerary includes Mendlesham, Normandy and other points of interest in England, France, Germany and Switzerland.

NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From John "Jack" Clarkson we have the following:

I am looking for some memorabilia on the 34th B.G. activities for our exhibit case in the Museum. As of now I have absolutely nothing. I am looking for the following:

The 34th emblem flag--model B-17 airplanes with 34th insignias-photos and/or paintings of action aircraft (sizes should be at least 11"x16" or larger). Anything you guys out there can think of - please get it to me ASAP. Dedication day is May 13, 1996. We are on schedule.

Please ship items to either Jack Clarkson, 459 Mall Blvd. #25, Savannah, GA. 31406 or to Gary Miller, C/O 8th A.F. Heritage Museum, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA. 31402.

Don't forget, 1996 is Olympics time in Savannah - the yachting races are to be held here in July, 1996. Everybody comes for the Museum dedication and stays over for the Olympics.

From Wally Brauks we have learned that a Mr. Randy Bailey of Affton, MO. had inquired about information regarding his uncle, Robert Kruse, who was killed when the "Jerries" hit our airbase at Mendlesham on June 7, 1944. Looking through old issues of Mendlesham Memories, Wally was able to send Mr. Bailey some information for which he received a wonderful letter of thanks. It seems that old issues of our newsletter do have some value in a look-back at events and personnel of that era.

We have just received word that Glenn E. Henry recently got married. We offer our congratulations to Glenn and Vera on their marriage on November 25, 1995.

Your editor has recently been informed that there are some of you who have celebrated your 50th wedding anniversaries before we started listing them. Inasmuch as we are now showing 50th anniversaries, it's only right that we show those who have already celebrated theirs. Bernard and Louise Dubofsky inform us that they celebrated their 50th on December 24, 1992. If any other of you would like to be listed please inform me of the dates and I will show them in future issues.



Rear, L. to R.: V. Holcomb, R. Penna, W. Downey & J. Hibbett. Frt. L. to R.: W. Huber & A. Hanson.

SPECIAL NOTICES

SPECIAL NOTICE FROM YOUR EDITOR

In my ten year as your editor this has not happened to me before. I have always prided myself in keeping good records and not messing up on picture donors.

However, on page 25 in the December issue of Mendlesham Memories I had shown the photograph of the Blythe Baseball team in 1943 which I thought many of you would like to see. Contrary to my normal procedure, I did not identify the owner of the photograph, either for my own information or yours.

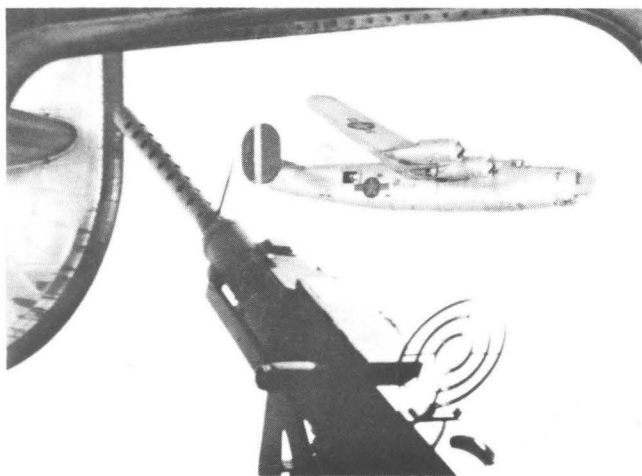
Now that we have shown the photograph I would like to return it to its owner, but I don't know who that is. If you are the donor of the picture please contact me and I will be glad to return it to you and I'm sorry for my mistake.

From IAN L. HAWKINS of England we have the following:

Ron Blake, who has been assisting me during visits to Mendlesham by the 34th Bomb Group veterans and distributing copies of "Mendlesham Memories", recently called me to say that he has finally succeeded in selling his bungalow in Mendlesham. He and his wife, Jean, have now moved to Somerset in southeast England, to be nearer to their son and daughter. We wish to thank Ron and Jean for their outstanding help, endeavours and cooperation in ensuring the 34th B.G. veterans and their families have had enjoyable and memorable visits to their former airfield at Mendlesham during the past 15 to 20 years.

Ron also advised me that Mrs. Margaret Brundish (Address: 44 Horsefair Close, Mendlesham, Suffolk - Telephone: 01449-766260) will continue to organize the roster of ladies at Mendlesham who place fresh flowers at the 34th B.G.'s War Memorial at Mendlesham Airfield at regular intervals.

Ron also advised me that his replacement is Mr. Leslie Lummis (The Firs, Old Station Road, Mendlesham, Suffolk - Telephone: 01449-766292), with whom I look forward to cooperating and receiving further details and definite dates for the proposed 34th B.G. veterans visit to Mendlesham next June with their families.



View of B-24 in formation.



Crew of the "Slic Chic", Rear, L. to R.: P. Gero, T. Ostrom, S. Tambor, R. Burgess, F. McCullough, R. Racholz. Front, L. to R.: M. Feldman, J. Daley, F. Grant, R. Wallace.

From Lt. Gen. E.G. "Buck" Shuler, Chairman & CEO of The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum we have the following request:

Over the past few months several individuals and units have asked how they might get more specifically involved or contribute to the Museum effort. There are many specific items that are worthy of individual or unit sponsorship. Each contribution will be appropriately and gratefully acknowledged in a public manner. Should the individual, unit or organization be interested in sponsoring one or more items please contact me. I can be reached by phone at 1-800-421-9428 or a letter stating your desires and intentions can be sent to me at P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA. 31402-1992. Remember, your generosity will contribute significantly towards The Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum becoming a "World Class" museum that will serve to preserve, protect and present your heritage to all future generations.

From William J. Mahon we have the following:

Most people are not aware of the fact that the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library have established a unique method of memorializing military personnel, veterans, friends and relatives.

For a tax deductible donation of \$50.00 or more, a memorialization in the form of a permanent certificate will be placed in the Friends' Honor Book. The certificate can honor an individual or a group (a bomber crew or a fighter group for example). The book is an attractive, leather-bound volume which is displayed in a prominent location in the Special Collections Branch of the Library. The funds received are given by the Friends to the Library to broaden its scope, meet essential needs and expand its activities beyond those made possible with funds allocated by the Air Force.

It occurred to me that members of the 34th might also want to memorialize someone. If so, all they have to do is submit their contribution of \$50.00 or more to the Friends of the Air Force Academy Library, P.O. Box 188, USAF Academy, CO. 80840-0188. Submissions should include the honoree's name, a biographical summary or

SPECIAL NOTICES

Continued from page 8

specified event if appropriate and the name or names of the donor(s).

I don't believe our members know that the organizational structure of the Air Force Academy was changed about a year ago to the normal "wing, group, and squadron: arrangement that existed in the rest of the Air Force. General "Tony" McPeak, Air Force Chief of Staff at the time charged the Heraldry division at Maxwell Air Force Base with finding a deactivated WWII combat group which had served with particular distinction. Their choice, approved by Gen. McPeak, was the 34th Bombardment Group.

The Commandant of Cadets at the Academy, Brig. Gen. John D. Hopper Jr., became the first commander of the 34th Training Wing. He has stated a willingness to cooperate with us if we desire to have a reunion in Colorado Springs.

As we go to press we are informed that one of our members, Willard S. Atkin, is in intensive care at a hospital for a heart transplant. I'm sure he and his wife Jean would like to get some encouraging words from all his friends out there. Their home address is P.O. Box 184, Frazier Park, CA. 93225. It would be nice for them to know that they have others who are concerned and want to wish them the best.

SOME SADIST DESIGNED A THROAT MIKE THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO FREE YOUR HANDS (BUT TO KEEP FROM CHOKING, YOU HAD TO LEAVE IT LOOSE & HOLD IT TO TALK ANYWAY).



(PS SWEAT "SHORTED 'EM OUT" and LEFT BURN MARKS ON YOUR NECK)



Rear L. to R.: Finch, Murray, Herman & Zumpano. Front L. to R.: Stroupe, Francis, Hurst, Hoke, Wack & Coughlin.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(As of 1-22-96)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
ASHBURN	JOHN W.	7	5110 JADE COURT	LINCOLN,	NE.	68516
BARCLAY	CHARLES	4	2398 STATE ROUTE 58E	CLINTON,	KY.	42031
BAUCUS	MRS. JEAN	7ALM	1307 SANDPIPER STREET	PALM DESERT,	CA.	92260
BUSS	PAUL E. SR.	391LM	4442 N. HOLLY ROAD	OLNEY,	IL.	62450
COOK	PATRICK B.	7LM	1 OAK PARK COURT	IOWA CITY,	IA.	52246
FIGEL	HENRY B.	7	175 PARK AVENUE	FREEPORT,	NY.	11520
FILLMAN	DONALD K.	18	2625 VINE STREET	DES MOINES,	IA.	50265
GREEN	ROBERT L.	475SD	306 MENDENHALL ROAD	JAMESTOWN,	NC.	27282
GRONOUSKI	JOHN A.	18	1021 JACKSON STREET	GREEN BAY,	WI.	54301
HENRY	GLENN E.	7	9 VILLAGE HOMES DRIVE	WAUNAKEE,	WI.	53597
MINGL	MICHAEL	18	2356 SERVANDO AVE. APT. 88	SAN DIEGO,	CA.	92154
SCHONTHALER	KALMAN	7	2025 FOXWOOD DRIVE	ERIE,	PA.	16510

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

(326 As of 12-29-95)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD</u>
CRAWFORD	HARRY J.	4LM	6414 WILANDER STREET	LEESBURG,	FL.	34748
FIRESTONE	A.J.Z.	7-4LM	5 TEMPLEWOOD DRIVE	HAMPTON,	VA.	23666

NEWLY FOUND

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCD.</u>
BRLACICH	ANTHONY		SEE TAPS			



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>
ASHBURN	JOHN W.	7	5110 JADE COURT	LINCOLN,	NE.	68516	11-30-95
BRLACICH	ANTHONY			NAPA,	CA.		6-19-95
CURTISS	SYLVANUS W.	7	1959 DOUGLASS DRIVE	TAWAS CITY,	MI.	48763	8-21-95
DERENGE	MICHAEL	18	182249 STEELE AVENUE	PORT CHARLOTTE,	FL.	33948	9-05-95
DURHAM	DONALD D.	HDQ.	2026 CANNON HEIGHTS DR. #1	CHESTERFIELD,	MO.	63017	9-19-95
GARDNER	MOLLIE (JESSE)	7A	P. O. BOX 214	BAGLEY,	IA.	50026	11-26-95
GOBEL	CLAYTON		1306 12TH STREET N.W.	CANTON,	OH.	44703	9-05-91
SQUIRES	CLARENCE W.	18	CRESTVIEW HOME, BOX 430	BETHANY,	MO.	64424	7-28-95
TEARE	PAUL N.	7	R.R.1, BOX 105-S	GREENWOOD,	DE.	19950	10-29-95

LOST SOULS

(Moved and left no forwarding address)

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

ADDITIONAL DONATIONS TO RAY L. SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

LAST NAME FIRST NAME IN HONOR OF

GREEN WALLACE E. WILLIAM CHEEK, WALTER JELLUM, JAMES H. SMITH
SLADE JAMES
VAUGHN ROBERT

50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

(CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE LUCKY PEOPLE!)

MARRIED	LAST NAME	FIRST NAMES	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCD.
01-06-46	HOPKINS	JAMES C. & PATTYE	1104 ARBOR LANE	MARBLE FALLS,	TX.	78654
01-12-46	FREDETTE	RAYMOND H. & PAMELA	8351 WAGON WHEEL ROAD	ALEXANDRIA,	VA.	22309
01-12-46	MORTON	ROBERT & ANGELINE	418 E. PROSPECT STREET	GIRARD,	OH.	44420
01-20-46	SHULL	PAUL A. & PAULINE	8901 E. 52ND ST. TERRACE	RAYTOWN,	MO.	64133
01-24-46	SLADE	JAMES E. & MARION	811 WEST McDONALD STREET	SEYMOUR,	IN.	47274
02-08-46	BLAINE	B. PAUL & EILEEN	8306 VERONA DRIVE	NEW CARROLLTON,	MD.	20784
03-03-46	READY	GEORGE E. & LOUISE	3127C STONY POINT ROAD	RICHMOND,	VA.	23235
03-11-46	HUDSON	HAWLEY T. & JULIA	P. O. BOX 914	BONITA SPRINGS,	FL.	33959
04-21-46	KLINE	GEORGE H. & MARGARET	237 BLUE BARNS ROAD	BURNT HILLS,	NY.	12027
04-30-46	KLUSMEYER	EMET & LORETTA	1415 NO. 4TH STREET	MANITOWOC,	WI.	54220
05-18-46	GUSTAFSON	PAUL M. & MARY JANE	1044 QUINBY	WOOSTER,	OH.	44691
06-08-46	HURLMAN	VINCENT G. & AGNES	2928 REDFIELD DRIVE	CHARLOTTE,	NC.	28270
06-14-46	KINCAID	GERALD F. & EDITH	10424 BLACK IRON ROAD	LOUISVILLE,	KY.	40291
06-15-46	DALCHER	CALVIN D. & MARY JANE	7 STARCEVICH CT., P.O.BOX 753	PEKIN,	IL.	61554
06-22-46	JANSKY	ROBERT J. & JOSEPHINE	221 WEST ROYAL LANE	BLOOMINGDALE,	IL.	60108
06-23-46	GARDNER	HENRY T. & NANCY ANN	BOX 362	MENA,	AR.	71953
06-29-46	NESBITT	HARRIS C. & EDITH	703 SO. ELM	PRINEVILLE,	OR.	97754
06-30-46	KOHR	CHARLES W. & CECILE	5851 JAQUI LANE	FRANKLIN,	OH.	45005
07-07-46	GRIFFIN	RYLE T. & JUANITA	4338 DUNBARTON AVE., #16	TAMPA,	FL.	33611
07-31-46	COOK	GEORGE M. & DORIS	719 NO. HYACINTH	WEST COVINA,	CA.	91791
08-06-46	McCUE	JOHN C. & MARY	211 GRAND BLVD.	MOBILE,	AL.	36607
08-10-46	BICHOWSKY	ROBERT & MARJORIE	4431 CARLIN PLACE	LA MESA,	CA.	91941
09-??-46	AMES	VERNON & MILLIE	70 GREENFIELD DRIVE	TONAWANDA,	NY.	14150
09-01-46	BROWN	RAYMOND S. & HARRIETT	5100 JOHN RYNA BLVD. 447	SAN ANTONIO,	TX.	78245
09-14-46	DUKES	E. FRANKLIN & MARIE-ANN	11 KANAWHA COURT	PALMYRA,	VA.	22963
09-15-46	FRANK	DALE L. & ESTHER	702 WEST COURT	WINTERSET,	IA.	50273
10-02-46	CRAWFORD	HARRY J. & MARIE	41295 TODD LANE	NOVI,	MI.	48375
10-13-46	CROSBY	WINFRED L. & HELEN	RT. 1, BOX 625	LEE,	ME.	04455
10-14-46	COLLINS	DONALD E. & DARLENE	6110 POPPLETON AVENUE	OMAHA,	NE.	68106
11-23-46	ATKIN	WILLARD S. & JEAN	P. O. BOX 184	FRAZIER PARK	CA.	93225
12-??-46	CHAUSOW	HYMEN M. & RUTH	2836 ARLINGTON	HIGHLAND PARK,	IL.	60035
12-21-46	REILLY	JOHN E. & GLENNIS	13307 PEACH TREE ROAD	OCEAN CITY,	MD.	21842

(If your names should have been included in this list and are not
please notify us and they shall be listed in the next issue.)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Then and Now



J.W. BLAND



1944

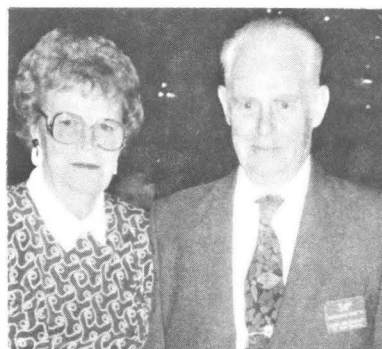


1994

SAM & ARLENE WOLSTENCROFT



1945



1994

WILLIS GRIFFIS



1944



1994



IN THE LAND OF HOPE AND GLORY 50 YEARS AGO

by Jim Wright

Fifty years ago the dipping of the Rising Sun in Tokyo Bay brought to America the cool dawn that all of us had been yearning for throughout the flaming years since Pearl Harbor. In September of 1945 the Americans were at last entering that long-awaited postwar World. The horrors were over, we said, and let the good times begin!

The bells of celebration were still ringing but the trumpets of war were silent at last. No longer forced to answer the stinging calls of bugles sounding reveille or general quarters, Americans could now swing to happier sounds, the Big Band sound, the trumpet of Harry James, the trombone of Tommy Dorsey. It was an exhilarating time when all things seemed possible.

Johnny was at last to come marching home again. And the hurrahs were real, as America welcomed back its sons, fathers, brothers, uncles and daughters who had gone into uniform and off to war. Kilroy, the universal favorite of servicemen, was still here, there and everywhere overseas but he, and those who drew his portrait, would soon return to us. The millions of American families split and scattered by the demand of a world-wide war were beginning to reunite. Our whole nation confidently believed that were were now entering that wonderful phrase and phase that later became the title of a classic motion picture - "The Best Years Of Our Lives".

Scarcity, rationing, going without, donating everything from scrap iron and kitchen fat to blood for the war effort - all that was now a thing of the past. Many American businesses had spent the war running advertisements admitting that this, that or the other product could no longer be made for the home front but urging people to "make do", to look forward to the day - "When The Lights Come On Again, All Over The World". Now the day had come.

New cars were not rolling off the production lines yet for the auto companies' plants were still set up to make tanks and planes. But the dealers had some cream-puff used cars, so they said. A 1941 Packard could be had for \$2,798.00, while a Cadillac with "full torpedo-type body" was on offer for \$1,980.00. For those not in that luxury class there were "Popular Cars at OPA Ceiling or Less" - cars with names like Hudson, De Soto and a 1936 Terraplane. "Excellent condition, good rubber" was quite a selling point because no tires had been available for M.M. Page 14

nearly four years.

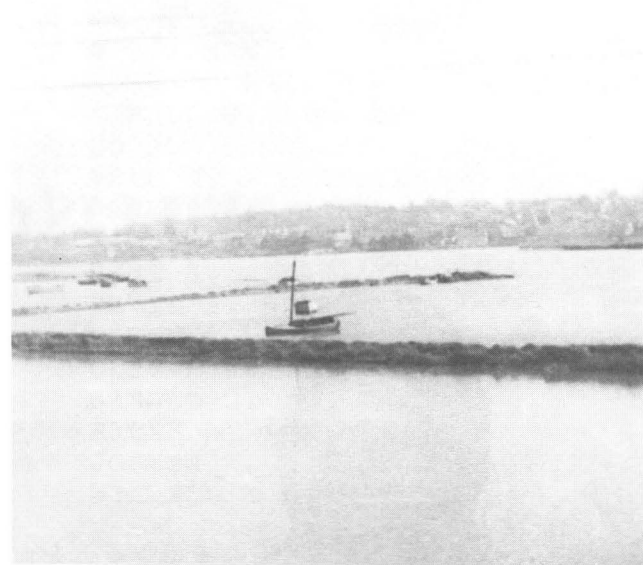
On Labor Day weekend in 1945 Americans were reading the front page stories about the signing of the surrender ceremony aboard the USS Missouri. The headline on one city daily said, "Japs Sign Surrender in Solemn Ceremony", and the subhead noted, "MacArthur Accepts Briskly on Behalf of the United Nations". The brand new United Nations enjoyed at war's end a big part of the high hopes for peace springing up all over the globe. Americans were especially determined not to let this international body suffer the fate of the League of Nations.

But not everything in sight 50 years ago was serious or earthshaking. Sunday for Americans in those days usually began with a session with the Sunday funnies. In this milestone weekend, as in others, Americans turned to Lii Abner, Abbie and Slats, Joe Palooka, Ella Cinders, Dick Tracy, Little Orphan Annie and all the rest of the gang.

As the great world turned so did the small, family-sized, down-home world. It was back to school time and stores were selling for the new school year. Sears Roebuck had little girls' winter coats for \$10.95 and an up-scale fashion-conscious establishment offered ladies' winter coats, the brand new 1945 editions, for \$34.95.

A big Ford Agency in Dallas ran a big ad, announcing the "Ed Maher Declaration of Policy-Service Men and War Workers - Your JOB is Here!" All over the country its businessmen were determined that, this time, returning soldiers, sailors and marines were not going to come home only to go into the unemployment line. And an even larger "Welcome Home, GI" declaration had been made, nationwide, by a grateful America. At the urging of the American Legion, Congress had passed the GI

Continued on page 15



Holland dikes - taken during a low level food drop run in 1945, I believe it was on a Sunday morning. The drop was made on a field outside of Amsterdam, marked with large white "X" made of sheets. The people riding their bikes along the dikes were all waving to us as we flew over.

MEMORIES

Continued from page 14

Bill, without a doubt the biggest and most successful investment in the self-improvement of the American population ever made. Ernie Pyle was one of the 400,000 Americans who would not be coming home. In reporting his last battle the beloved combat correspondent told Americans how the GI Bill had captured the imagination of soldiers and marines going into the beachheads on Okinawa. Even facing the risk of imminent death, the young men had been talking excitedly about going to college after the war on the new GI Bill. Now middle class and working class youngsters were going to get access to higher education and specialized training that had once been affordable only to the wealthy.

Now, in this first post-war semester these serious young men began to flood American colleges and training schools. They were so mature, ambitious and focused that old professors, to this day, still recall their post-war time in school as the peak of American education. And what an investment it proved to be! Thanks to the GI Bill and the unparalleled character, intelligence and ambition of the GI Bill students, America entered the 1950's with the best trained, most highly-educated workforce in history. The billions spent on schooling that generation would return trillions in increased productivity and efficiency throughout the American economy for decades.

In that wonderful September so long ago we Americans were not only immensely proud of our country, triumphant over tyranny, but we were proud of ourselves and each other. This was a time when patriotism was as natural as breathing and Americans knew that they had been, in the wartime phrase, "All in it together". And together we were victors. Most of all, we were all, young or old, bursting with pride in that magnificent generation that had actually fought and won the war. Tempered in the hard times of the great depression, these young people had gone up against the best that the dictatorships had thrown against them and they had prevailed everywhere. Winning a great wartime victory with their teamwork they would go on to make their country the leading peacetime economic power.

Those of us who were children on the home front a half-century ago are still proud of them, The World War II generation, then the young heroes, now our nation's elders. In 1995, at age 61, I have lived with every generation born in this century. To my mind, the great generation who came of age at the most critical time in our history is the finest of all.

Now, in 1995, that World War II generation is rich in years, in honors and in memories. Looking back over the decades since, its members and all the rest of us who were alive and American in that joyous post-war September still get a glow remembering that golden autumn. In that bright season we all knew that our United States Of America was, in fact and indeed, the land of hope and glory.



7th Bomb Squadron Barracks Area. Jan. 1945.

NO, THEY DON'T SAY THE PLEDGE ANYMORE!

by George Reamy, a Texas high school teacher
borrowed from the Dallas Morning News

"Do they still say the pledge, George? That question haunted me like the ghost of a fallen comrade as I drove home on a quiet Sunday morning last month. Having gone to San Antonio to visit an old Navy buddy escorting his father-in-law to a convention of Second World War airmen, I ran into the unexpected. What I thought I would find was a bunch of cane-wielding old men swapping memories. What I found were the dignified warriors of the 95th Bomb. Group. With every word they spoke traces of their bravery flashed across their eyes.

One of those incredible men I'd had the privilege to meet was nicknamed "Oc". Hardly more than a kid from Wisconsin at the outbreak of the war, he was a navigator on a powerful B-17 Flying Fortress. One day "Oc" found himself cradling a 19 year-old who was crying for his mother as he bled to death from a leg mangled by flak. "Oc" tried to stop the bleeding and couldn't. Instead he simply held the boy in his arms while the young

Continued on page 16

MOVING ??????

If you are moving, or have moved, get your change of address in so that you won't miss the next issue of **Mandiesham 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:

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

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



34th Bomb. Group

Eli Baldea
 2576 Brookwood Drive
 Crown Point, Indiana 46307
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MEMORIES

Continued from page 15

man's lifeblood drained from him like fluid from a shot-up hydraulic line. "Oc" didn't like to get too close to people over there.

I also spoke with Dick, who had been a tail gunner. On one mission the tail gunner's plexiglass was blown away by shrapnel. When someone called back and asked "Hey, Dick! Are you all right back there?" he replied, "I don't know - someone had better come back and check. My head hurts". A fellow crew member came back, then laughed with relief. Dick was OK but his flak helmet looked like a Messerschmitt had slammed into it. He brought the ragged shrapnel home as a souvenir.

After telling his story Dick politely asked me what I did and I told him I was a high school teacher. That was when Dick fired the question that seemed to come from nowhere, like a fighter diving out of the sun. "Do they still say the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag in school, George?" The faded blue eyes that once swept the skies, hunting for the enemy, were searching mine. It seemed to me that the old warrior was sweeping the expanse of my soul still looking for a threat to his beloved country. "Do they still say the pledge, George?" he repeated. I squirmed. The answer was "No". I didn't tell Dick that, though. I couldn't.

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.

No, I didn't tell Dick about the vast numbers of school children who don't appreciate the hard-won freedom for which he and "Oc" fought so bravely. I didn't tell Dick about the ones who don't stand or stop talking when the band plays the national anthem at football games. They are the same kids who expect grades and everything else to be handed to them, like the teenager bragging to her friends about how much money she would get from the government after her next baby is born.

Maybe it is time I gave Dick a straight answer. "No, Dick, they don't say the pledge very often anymore. Your airman's instincts led you to search in the right place for a threat to the nation you defended so well. The enemy is within us, Dick. It feeds on our greed, our selfishness and, most of all, our complacency. What is even worse, we can't send heroes like you to defeat this one. God help us all!!!"



Group of 34th personnel ready to board their B-17G for return to the United States in June, 1945. (Not all identifications known).