

# ENDLESHAM EMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H



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REUNION '96  
 Raleigh, NC.  
 Sept. 19 - 22



## SEE YOU THERE!

## OBSERVATIONS

Here we are again, with the September issue. After each issue we contemplate on what we must impart in the next issue. This does take some time and, usually, some item comes to your mind to mention next time.

However, with this issue, I must tell you that I made an error with the June issue. That is the issue in which we put forth all the information and forms for the September reunion. This time, though, I really goofed! Somewhere in my files Gerry Pine had furnished me with a map showing the location of the Marriott Hotel at Raleigh, N.C. Somehow I had misplaced this and, consequently, it was not included with the June issue as it should have been but it will be included with this issue.

Because of this problem I had to move up the "deadline" date from July 19th to July 12th and notified those I knew might have material for the September issue of that fact. This will assure that most, if not all, of our members will, hopefully, receive this map before they have to leave home to attend the reunion. Again I must tell you how sorry I am for this error and can only blame it on the fact that my old age is beginning to show, both in looks and mental capabilities. Sorry!!

Now back to the business at hand. I want to remind all reunion attendees to bring along their cameras and take pictures of themselves and their friends. These, then, are to be sent in to me for the December issue. Make sure, though, that all pictured are identified because, although I know many of you, I do not know everybody. I do identify the donor immediately and guarantee the return of all photographs after use. I do not guarantee that all photos will be used but I will use those I believe will be of interest to most, if not all, of our members.

In order to get our December issue out at the proper time I must set a "deadline" date for incoming material. To be certain that most of our members get their copy in December the original copy must get to our printers by October 18th. Therefore that is our "DEADLINE" date. Get any items you want shown in the December issue to me no later than "OCTOBER 18, 1996".

Shortly before I got this issue ready to go to press I had been informed of the death of Samuel Baglio, our 34th B.G. Chaplain, on June 30th of this year. I was very sad to hear the news inasmuch as Rose and I had known Sam and his wife, Lee, since our first year as members of the association. We both wish to pass on our greatest condolences to Lee for her loss.

I think I've rattled on enough for this issue. Again I want to repeat, "Rose and I are looking forward to seeing you all at Raleigh in September". "BE THERE!!"

Eli Baldea,  
Editor and Past President

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What an exciting time to be present at the opening of the 8th Air Force Museum on May 13, 1996! Jean and I, along with Hal and Jan Province, Dale and Margie Finley, Jack and Dorothy Clarkson and John and Marge Bloczynski of the 34th Bomb Group were among the thousands who came to see a museum built to preserve and honor the veterans of the Mighty 8th. It was truly an emotional day. As quoted in the Savannah Morning News, "Thousands of veterans traveled to Pooler on Monday to see the center built just for them - the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum. A few limped, some were in wheelchairs and some were on walkers and crutches. But they came to see a monument built for them and for their buddies who didn't make it back from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. They stood outside, tears in their eyes, cameras and video recorders in their hands". The museum is still requesting artifacts and memorabilia from World War II and other eras of the 8th Air Force. Perhaps we will have our reunion in Savannah in the near future so that members of the 34th can see this 90,000 square foot museum.

Time is passing quickly and I hope all of you are making plans to attend our next reunion in Raleigh, No. Carolina, September 19-22, 1996. I encourage you to send in your registration and make your hotel reservations at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley. Contact your buddies and encourage them to attend. Thanks to Hal's efforts with his mail-outs, another member of my crew has been located. I spoke with Americo Penna (our navigator) for the first time in over 50 years recently and

Continued on page 3



T/Sgt. Litsey

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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he is planning to attend our reunion for the first time.

The Reunion Committee has planned good menus, a golfing outing and a tour of the Raleigh-Durham area. There are several other events being held in and around Raleigh during our stay that some of you might be interested in as follows:

9/17-21 N.C. State Championship Charity Horse Show at the Horse Complex, State Fairground - (919) 787-8000

9/19-22 Southern Ideal Home Show - State Fairgrounds (919) 851-2911

9/20 Sweet Potato and Apple Pie Contest - Farmer's Market (919) 733-7417

9/20-23 Cabaret in the Park. Theatre in the Park Musical Revue (919) 831-6058

9/21-22 Durham Center Fest - Downtown - State Arts Festival - (919) 560-2722

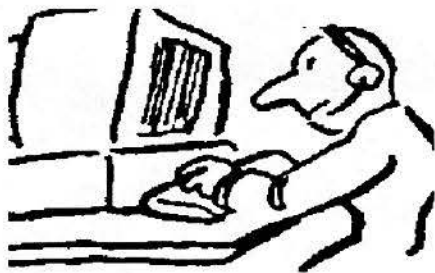
Along with the shopping mall across from our hotel, these should be enough to keep the most energetic people busy.

We look forward to seeing all of the "Old-Timers" and hope to see many new faces in Raleigh. Remember to make our "First-Timers" feel welcome.

Your President,  
Ambers Hanson

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## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



(provi@Brutus.Datastar.Net)

Yes, for those of you who know what Internet is, I now have an E-Mail Address. There are others in the 34th BGA who also have E-Mail addresses and I'm asking that they let me know of their address. At this writing George Franco and I are working on a Homepage to EXTOL the virtues of the 34th BGA and are trying to reach some more of our lost sheep via the INTERNET! George suggested that there may be others like him who Cruise The Web or Surf The Net or something like that and there may also be children or grandchildren who would tell their Dad or Grand-dad about a listing on the NET about the 34th BGA! Great idea, huh? I'm just sorry that I didn't have the foresight to see what this could mean to the 34th BGA! So send me your E-Mail addresses and perhaps we can talk Eli into publishing them in another issue of MM.

We sure are a moving bunch! Look at the CHANGE OF ADDRESSES we've had since the last issue of MM. And, please, also note the NEW FOUNDS who were in the Original 34th BG which moved from Langley to Westover to Pendleton! Quite a few were in the 7th BS and have some stories to tell about Curtis LeMay when he was CO of the 7th BS! He flew one of the A/C when the 34th BG was sent to Pendleton in 1942. What a HERITAGE the 34th BG has! If one of our NEWFOUNDs live anywhere near you please give them a call and welcome them to the 34th BGA!

It's hard to believe that the reunion at Raleigh is less than 10 weeks away at this writing and, by the time you get this to read, it may be only days away, depending on how the USPS handles our mailing! The March and June issues have brought numerous calls about the NONDELIVERY of MM. Let's hope that you get the September issue before it's time to leave for Raleigh!

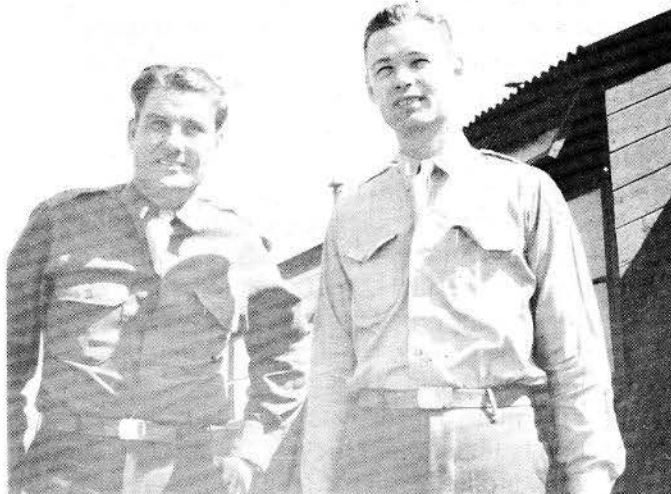
I asked in the last issue who was the longest married couple in the 34th BGA. It is Harry and Carrie McMillion who were married on July 1, 1932!!! WOW!!, 64 years of married life together! They are a NATIONAL TREASURE in these days when 1 of 2 marriages end in divorce. Keep it going, you two! We're proud you are a part of the 34th BGA!

It's time to call a halt since I know Eli needs room for other issues. But first a word to you WISE WIVES! Make sure your husband has had, or will get, a PSA test. It's as important to him as a PAP test or a Mamma-gram is to you. And it's covered under Medicare. Don't let him put it off until "LATER"!

The Good Lord willing, we'll be looking for you in Raleigh!

Harold Province  
Treasurer

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????? & Carl Nichols.



## REUNION NEWS

Letter from Ian Hawkins:

Things went very well-the weather was perfect and the 34th, 303rd and 493rd Bomb Group veterans made many friends with their visit. I have enclosed an article from the "Framlingham Times" newsletter as follows:

On 15 June, 1996 BBC Radio/Suffolk broadcaster Maureen Garrett interviewed several 34th B.G. veterans during their return to their former airfield, accompanied by their wives, prior to a memorial service dedicated to the many young men who failed to return from their last mission. The party, which included 303rd B.G. and 493rd B.G. veterans, toured the war-time base, once the home of B-24 Liberator and B-17 Flying Fortress four-engined bombers, and is now the home to a large Road Transport Depot, the busy headquarters of a heavy haulage company, Taylor Barnard.

The memorial service, conducted by the Reverend John Pugh of Stowmarket, included a flypast of a wartime USAAF basic training aircraft, a T-6 Harvard, flown by our old friend Eddie Edwards. The distant drone of an approaching low-flying Harvard, then the sudden roar of its engine as it swept over the memorial in tribute provided a sombre and moving reminder of the immeasurable cost of a dearly-bought freedom, so often taken for granted.

After the service the veterans enjoyed a pub lunch in a local hostelry, "The Trowel & Hammer" at Cotton, a nearby village. The weather couldn't have been better - a warm and sunny June day - a cloudless sky with the beautiful Suffolk countryside looking its most enchanting.

The elderly veterans, the youngest being 70 years old, then traveled over to the 390th B.G. Memorial Air Museum at Parham Airfield, which includes numerous exhibits from the wartime First, Second and Third Air Divisions of the Eighth USAAF, and both Bomber and Fighter Commands of the Royal Air Force. In addition, James Mutton and John Lovell, of the East Anglican Military Vehicle Society had, together with other members of the Society, kindly arranged for several superbly restored and maintained Second World War USAAF and British Army vehicles to escort the veteran's coach.

The following morning the veterans returned to Mendlesham from their Cambridge hotel for the morning service conducted by the Rev. Philip Grey, rector of St. Mary's, the magnificent 11th century church. After a commemorative photograph, arranged by Father Grey, was taken of the American guests and the congregation, which included Michael Lord, Central Suffolk's Member of Parliament, they proceeded to the Community Centre for a buffet lunch and to renew wartime friendships with local people.

Among their guests who attended the veteran's Cambridge hotel for the "Farewell Dinner" that evening were Mrs. Margaret Brundish and the ladies who regularly place fresh flowers beside the 34th's War Memorial

at the former airfield, Gerald Steadman, whose family had kindly donated the area of land on which the memorial stands, and Leslie Lummis who assisted in organizing the veteran's return to Mendlesham.



Mrs. Maureen Garret & Rev. John Pugh during the 34th B.G. Memorial Service.



34th B.G. Veterans after laying wreaths of remembrance at the Memorial, 15 June, 1996.

## 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!!

## ENGLAND AND FRANCE TOUR, 1996

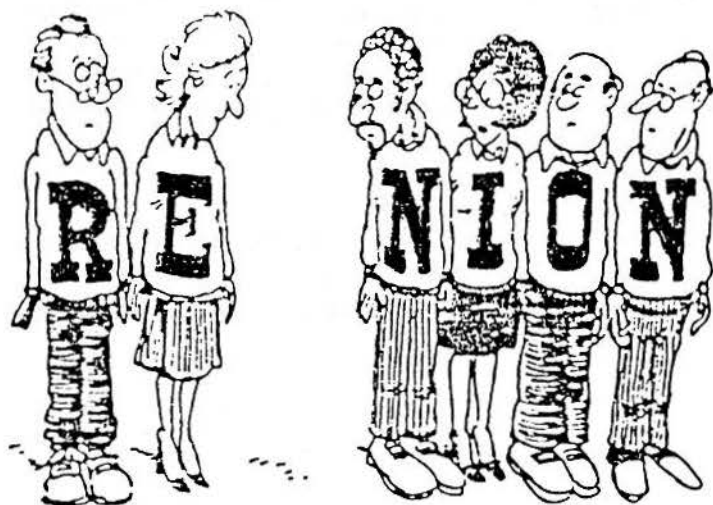
by Harold C. Rutka

Members of the 34th, 303rd and 493rd Bomb Groups assembled at Heathrow Terminal on 13 June, 1996. As in our wartime, assembly did not go as planned. Weather on the east coast of the U.S. caused late arrivals. Dick D'Amato and his assistants sweated us out and started rearranging schedules. Lee and Helen Hackelroad arrived late in the day by way of Brussels, Spain and Newark. They were united several days later. Ron Blake called us at the hotel to welcome us back to England as he would not be on hand to personally welcome us.

We were supposed to have Friday, the 14th, to visit Cambridge but we were invited by Col. Marcum, Brian McGuire to join Bill McLeod of the 303rd at RAF, Molesworth. The celebration was for the 221st birthday of the U.S. Army. The bagpiper was USAF 1st Lt. Thomas Barnett. After the parade we toured the base. We were invited into the Joint Analysis Group complex and the Might In Fight Building. We visited the General Lew Lyle Conference room. The walls had many 303rd paintings. Each veteran was presented with a bronze medallion from the U.S. Headquarters, European Command.

Saturday was our memorial service at Mendlesham and was well attended by our English friends. We had a Mini-Reunion while waiting for the flyover - we were treated to four low-level passes. Rev. John A. Pugh conducted a moving memorial service - he remembered all members of the 34th Bomb Group, both living and deceased. All members marched to the Memorial, placed two wreaths, saluted and returned to visit with our guests. We toured the area but had to bypass the "Fleece" as it was undergoing a management change. "Bob" Leslie Lummis, who is Ron Blake's replacement, found a luncheon spot at the "Trowel And Hammer". We visited the 390th control tower and Museum and were escorted out to the main road by restored WWII Army vehicles. The vehicles looked as if they had just rolled off the production line.

Sunday morning we attended services at St. Mary



IT WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT U!

the Virgin Church. The Rev. Philip Grey welcomed the 34th and remembered all in his prayers. He opened the Tower Armory and personally conducted the tour explaining the use of items displayed. We went to the Community Center to meet with friends and partake of a superb meal prepared by the ladies of Mendlesham. The 34th was presented a plaque by Mike Shave, the Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council which was accepted by Harold Rutka. We left for Madingley Cemetery where we were greeted by Supt. James Schoenecker and the graves of the 34th members were decorated with flags. We then placed a wreath in memory of the 8th Air Force members.

Sunday was our farewell dinner with the ladies and their guests. We had a short social and then a wonderful dinner. Then we presented a 1996 Silver Eagle to all those that assist in the maintenance of our Memorial. After our fond farewells, we packed our bags and prepared to move on.

Monday we departed for London via the Duxford Imperial War Museum where Linda Mason took us on a brief tour of the new American Air Museum that is under construction. The Grand Reunion will possibly be in July, 1997. We toured the museums and the B-17 was opened for our group's inspection. Then we covered the balance of the displays. We visited the Bomber Command Museum and finally left for London with a mini tour on the way to the hotel. Our half-day tour of London and the Churchill War Rooms showed enough of London so that everyone could do their own thing. Wednesday Peter and Sylvia Gaskin joined us for a farewell in the pub at the hotel.

Thursday was our day to say farewell to those returning home and to welcome those that joined us for the tour of France. We visited Portsmouth, the D-Day Museum and the Historic ships - HMS Victory Flagship (vice Admiral Lord Nelson). We will all remember the "Fire Alarm" that awoke us (around 11:30 p.m.). We had a roll call and waited for the firemen to check out the building. They found a defective electrical switch in the kitchen which set off the alarm. Free drinks were available at the hotel bar but we all needed sleep for a very early departure.

Departure to Cherbourg was changed to Le Havre due to a farmer's blockage of the port. Tamarac Travel rearranged the schedule so that Saturday was an extra long day. We covered the Sainte-Mere-Eglise, Airborne Museum, the Memorial For Peace, the General Eisenhower statue, and Pointe Du Hoc. The Point is where 225 Rangers attempted to scale the cliffs and only 95 survived. We were welcomed at the American Cemetery at Omaha Beach by Superintendent Lee Atkinson. We had a brief memorial service. The Clarion played "America", taps were sounded and, visiting the cemetery, were astounded by the number of burials that were known only as "Known Only To God". The airmen, soldiers and sailors paid a huge price for the little piece of "America". We returned to Caen by way of more of the

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## ENGLAND AND FRANCE TOUR, 1996

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"Beaches".

We departed on Sunday for Paris and, after a mini tour of the city, we checked into the Paris Hilton. Some of us were fortunate enough to be able to view the Eiffel Tower from our balcony only 1 1/2 blocks away. We visited the city, enjoyed the French pastry and breads, tried out the subways and had a very good time sight-seeing. Some attended the Moulin Rouge Cabaret show.

Wednesday was another morning of more farewells. We enjoyed a ride to the airport in a Mercedes taxicab, Burt worried all the way to De Gaulle Airport about our luggage that was held in by a bungee cord. We finally managed to get through security. After checking our luggage we went through security again and finally were able to leave Paris, The City Of Lights, and return home after 21 hours of travel.

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34th, 303rd and 493rd Bomb Group reunion attendees at Mendlesham with Mid-Suffolk Council Chairman, Mike Shave (Lower Left).

### ***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**

I'm not going to say anything about the weather other than we are having the beautiful kind that none can find fault with. The outdoor grille is getting a lot of good usage and, since Eli is doing the grilling, I'm finding it a lot easier to just prepare the side dishes and dessert. This is such a great time for outdoor cooking that I've decided to share the following even though it's a bit late. Many of us have another 2 or 3 months of using the outdoor grille and, if possible, please try this method of grilling rib-eye steaks. Using fresh lime juice may sound weird but, believe me, it really gives a good fresh taste and seems to tenderize the meat. Be ready to get instant gratification when taking the first bite.

The following is for four (4) servings. If grilling more than four increase the ingredients accordingly.

### **FIESTA BEEF STEAKS (4 SERVINGS)**

Four (4) Beef rib-eye steaks, cut 1" thick  
Two (2) tbsp. fresh lime juice (please don't use the kind which comes in a plastic look-alike of a real lime)  
Eight (8) small flour tortillas  
One (1) cup prepared (store-bought or fresh) chunky salsa

1. Sprinkle both sides of the steaks with lime juice. Place on a dish and set aside for 30 minutes.
2. Wrap stacked tortillas securely in heavy-duty foil.
3. Place steaks on the grill over medium ash-covered coals (if using a charcoal grill) Grill approximately 12 minutes for medium-rare to 14 minutes for medium done, turning occasionally.
4. Place tortilla package on outer edge of grill and heat for five minutes, turning once.
5. When steaks are done to suit each taste, trim fat and season with salt and pepper if desired; serve with salsa and tortillas.

Very Satisfying!! Enjoy!!

We are looking forward to our Raleigh reunion and wondering what's been going on since we last met. Hoping all is well! May God bless you all with continuing good health.

Love,  
Rose

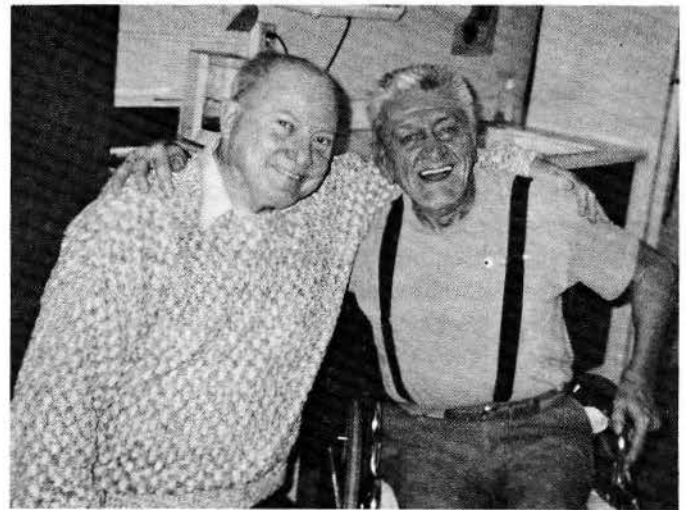
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JOHN T. LYONS - New Port Richey, FL.

I recently had a reunion with Al Fruit who was the ball turret gunner on Rainey's crew. I was the navigator. I've enclosed a picture showing our 50 year reunion.

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John T. Lyons & Alfonse Fruit at a recent reunion.

DEXTER JORDAN - Huntersville, NC.

We have had an unusual and cold winter for North Carolina. Ice and snow breaking trees and power lines. Power off in some places a week or more. Beulah and I were lucky our power was off only a few hours. The holidays are long gone but they were happy days and we have enjoyed good health. We're now looking forward to Raleigh in September.

It is my sad duty to report the loss of another 34th comrade - Hugh B. ("HB" as he was known) Farrington. He was a toggaller in the 18th Sqdn. but, for some reason, they flew one mission in our plane in the 7th Sqdn. I had known him in our teen years. H.B. never recovered from his experiences in the service. He withdrew from friends and went into seclusion. When he passed away there were no known relatives.

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CHARLES W. KOHR - Franklin, OH.

I hope I have made contact with the right source to help me obtain the March, '96 issue of Mendlesham Memories. After all these years this is the first time I have failed to receive my copy. I didn't realize I would miss it so much. I am unable to attend the reunions so this is my way of keeping in touch with my old friends.

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Sgt. Sassman & Don Wick in London, 1945.

WILLIAM D. McDANNOLD, SR. - Cameron, MO.

The enclosed obituary for Henry Nelson is why I'm writing. I received it after I had been to Huntsville last fall. I was quite saddened by the news and had no reason to believe there was anything of the sort about to happen.

At this point we don't know if we will attempt taking the trip to Raleigh this fall. I did a solo to Huntsville because my wife was not up to traveling. We are looking forward to the '97 reunion. It is only a little less than two hours from my driveway to Omaha. I'm hoping we hold up between now and then and get to see all of you guys again.

I used to say "Time is creeping up on us all". Now I know "Time is coming at us in leaps and bounds" because we're on the short end of the stick these days. I want all of you who have served and are now serving as officers and workers of the association to know that I appreciate all the work and effort that goes into what you do and the service you render. Amen!! It sounds like I'm preaching, doesn't it?

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MORTON ABRAMS - Boca Raton, FL.

This is to inform you that James C. Langdon, Jr. died on May 24, 1996. Jim was the ball turret gunner on "Lucky 13" in the 18th Sqdn. As the pilot of our crew I kept in touch with as many of my crew as possible. Jim resided less than 1/2 hour from me and we frequently got together. He will be missed.

I enjoy reading my MM and look forward to receiving it. Keep up the good work.

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## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

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ROBERT J. CLARK - Nevada, IA.

Thank you kindly for adding my name to the "New Finds" list. I believe you will hear from Bill Klasen, our old co-pilot, without delay so you will have not only his address and phone number but, also, those of C.K. Salm, our old bombardier. I'm sure, too, that Bill will provide complete names, addresses and serial numbers of the missing crew members.

I did learn from the St. Louis Records Center that John Havener, our former pilot, had passed away in 1973. Richard Rezanka, our former tail gunner, died in 1992. I kept in touch with him over the years and last visited him at his home in Minnesota in 1991, a few months before he died. We also learned that our former bombardier, Virgil Rathborn, died, but we're not sure how we obtained that information.

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CONNOR K. SALM, JR. - Monroeville, PA.

You recently had an exchange of letters and information with Robert J. Clark and he has given me some of that information. Bob was the radio operator on our crew, for which I was the bombardier. We were assigned to the 7th Squadron during the war, but were transferred to the 493rd Bomb Group on May 17, 1945 and flew back to the States with them. Because of this transfer I guess we became separated from all records of the 34th.

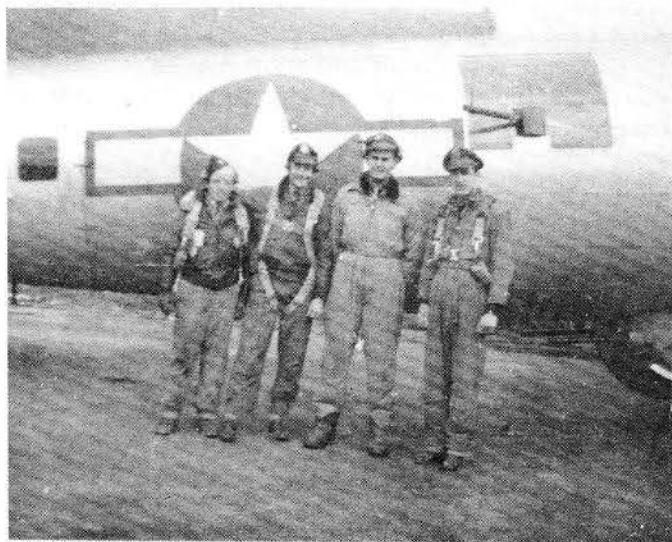
I am writing to inquire if the 34th ever published a book and, if so, if any copies might still be available at this late date. If you know of any books on the 34th that might still be available please let me know and I will be glad to forward whatever the price may be to secure the book, including shipping. Thanks!

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RAYMOND J. MACHALZ - Harwood Heights, IL.

In the last Mendlesham Memories our ship "The Slick Chick" was in it. But my name was spelled wrong. It is Machalz, not Racholz. Thank you.

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Part of Rainey's 18th Sqdn. crew, L. to R.: R. Wilson, J. Lyons, Maj. F. Crabtree & L. Rainey.



Three girls who work at the Red Lion in London.

CHARLES BRUG - Cincinnati, OH.

I really enjoy reading Mendlesham Memories. This June 8th my wife, Betty, and I will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. Keep up the good work.

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BURCH WRIGHT - Brownsville, TX.

Received the June issue of MM today. Both my wife and I do enjoy this publication very much.

Mary Lou and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 25th, 1993. I know this is a little late for that information but our names should be included in the list - a very special list.

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RAYMOND D. HINCHEE - Salem, VA.

Received the MM yesterday and, as usual, it was a pleasure to read. Thanks for the usual great job. Margaret and I are planning to make the reunion this year. Our 50th anniversary is Sept. 7th, so this will be two celebrations in one.

We have had a time the past eighteen months. We went to Seattle, WA. for nuclear radiation on a tumor in Margaret's throat. Sept. '95 we returned for a six month checkup and received a good report. April '96 we returned for the annual checkup and received an excellent report. The next day we decided to do a little sight-seeing and she developed a severe pain in her right side. This turned out to be a gall bladder attack and she had emergency surgery. Finally, after two and one-half weeks, we got back to VA. We are going to stay home until the time to go to Raleigh. We are looking forward to seeing the gang again.

Again we appreciate the time and effort you and Rose spend on the newsletter. A great joy!

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## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 8

MARY E. BASSETT - Lincoln, NE.

Robert W. Bassett died on May 5, 1995. He loved his country and served it with courage.

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JAMES L. SPENCER - Carsonville, MI.

Glad to be Life Members. We also were married 50 years on December 4th. We are in quite good health. Since we were married at ages 18 and 21 we consider ourselves young oldtimers.

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CARL B. STEMEN - Bremen, OH.

Just a line to let you know that Peg and I were married on Feb. 4, 1943. I thought I had previously sent this on to you but must not have.

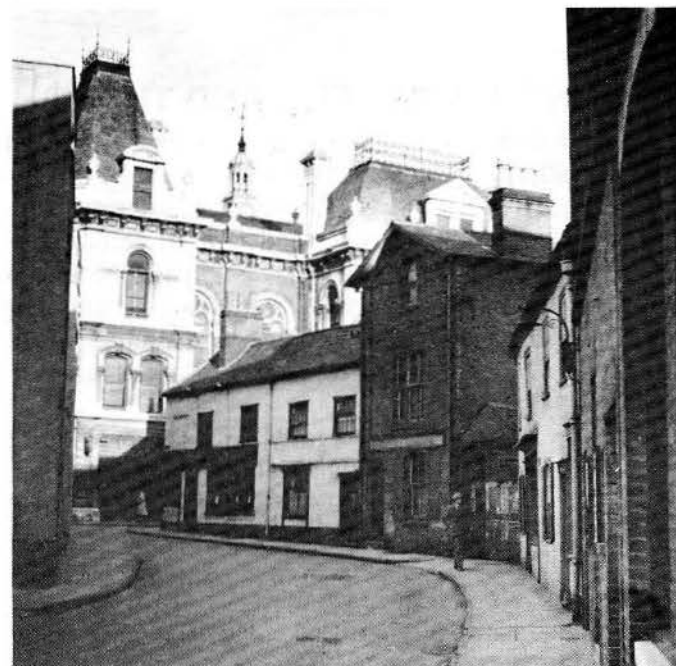
We had a rough winter. Also Peg was ill most of the time, being in the hospital three times and in Intensive Care all three times. She had congestive heart failure and pneumonia for starters. She's much better now. If the good Lord is willing we will see you in Raleigh in Sept.

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WALTER W. STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

I received the June issue of MM yesterday and have already read it from front to back. I want to express my appreciation and emotional thanks to William F. Cheek for the great "Memories" article. My first letter from Ray Summa as contact man for the 34th was dated Dec. 23, 1979. What a surprise to see a letter from the 34th. I ripped it open and the rest is history. We are just as great as an association as we were as an activated bomb group - great leaders and great "wing men". Lois and I are planning to set our travel compass on 90 degrees and take the Interstate east in September. Thanks for mentioning my project to list all our aircraft and crew losses in the ETO. Thanks, also, to Hal Province for his help in this regard.

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Street scene in Ipswich.

LAMAR T. LOWER - Union City, MI.

We have been enjoying Mendlesham Memories. I wish to let you know that my wife, Pauline, and I celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary this year on June 8th. Since we both have medical problems which keep us from traveling we won't be at the reunion, but wish everyone a "Great Time!"

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MARGO (BILL) BURNELL - Kirkland, WA.

We feel it is time for another donation in memory of our beloved John "Jack" Ashburn. At the time of his death the crew sent a special bouquet to the funeral mass. As we feel the Scholarship Fund is so important we wanted to add some in Jack's name. Jack was the bombardier on the Gene James crew and probably the one Bill and I had the most contact with over the years. We miss him dearly. Jack passed away on Nov. 30, 1995, just 4 days after his 79th birthday.

Today we made the decision to attend the reunion in Raleigh in September. Hope to see everyone there. We will then go on to Nags Head for 4 days with some of the crew.

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JIM BRUEN - Lynn, MA.

I am enclosing two pictures of me and my bride, the first of which was taken in a Boston night club in February, 1945 after I had completed my 33rd mission and was on leave. The other picture is as we look today. We were married on August 21, 1948. We have seven children and twenty-four grandchildren as of today. We plan to attend our first reunion in Raleigh.

\*\*\*\*\*

MARY (BRONISLOW) KONOPICKI - Hampton, VA.

I received your "Search" letter several days ago. I'm sure my husband served with the 34th Bomb Group during WWII. I'm sorry to say that he died on Nov. 18, 1995 and is buried in Arlington. Please add his name to your "TAPS" roster. Good Luck on your search and your reunions.

\*\*\*\*\*

MRS. JOHN V. VICKERS - Jacksonville, FL.

I received your letter trying to locate the John V. Vickers that was a member of the 34th Bomb Group in England from 1944 to 1945. After looking through my husband's scrapbook of the war I am almost certain he is the same man you are looking for. Unfortunately I must relate that he is now deceased since April of 1989.

\*\*\*\*\*

Continued on page 10

## DEADLINE

Any material or items to be inserted in the December issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before October 18, 1996. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.

Eli Baldea, Editor

## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 9

**NICHOLAS HALZACK - Stratford, CT.**

Your search for another member is over. The letter that you sent was delivered to my son in Central Valley, NY. He phoned me about it and then transferred it to me. It's amazing, after all these years, that this is taking place. I didn't realize that our bomb group was that important. Please do send me the information you have regarding the association. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

**DONALT G. NAVARRE - Toledo, OH.**

Please be advised that I have received your letter regarding the search for 34th B.G. men. I am happy to report that I am one of the "Old Goats" that served with this group. I was the radio-operator-gunner on the John A. Ferard crew. I am pleased to know that there is a 34th Bomb Group Association.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNETTE P. (CLYDE B.) HUMPHREY - Santa Fe, TN.**

I would like for everyone to know that we really enjoyed the Huntsville reunion. Clyde always enjoyed visiting with his comrades. This is also to inform you that my dear husband, Clyde B. Humphrey, passed away on Mar. 21, 1996. He found out soon after we returned home from Huntsville that he had developed lung cancer. We had been together 54 years.

\*\*\*\*\*



Doyle Taylor



Sgt. John Hurley

**JEAN (AMBERS) HANSON - Auburn, AL.**

Thanks to Hal Province's efforts with the mail-outs another member of Amber's crew has been located. Ambers talked with Rick Penna, the navigator of his crew and received a nice letter a few days later stating, "It was the highlight of his life to hear from an old crew member." Three days later he mailed us a poem which he wrote and you may use it in MM if you so desire. We're looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

\*\*\*\*\*

**JACK SHARE - The Woodlands, TX.**

We've been in the process of moving for the past three months, a month of which was spent in an apartment until our house was built. Of course, due to the change of address I failed to receive the June issue of Mendlesham Memories and the info on the reunion. I called Bob Wright and he will send me the reunion package. I just wanted to let you in on the change of address. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at Raleigh in September.

\*\*\*\*\*

## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

In the December '95 issue we had information from Frank McCullough regarding the issuance of DFC medals to those who had not received them. We have recently received a communication from Gen. Creer regarding this matter. Frank McCullough and those who wrote to him did not receive the medal due to complications. It seems that there is a complete recommendation package which must be completed to entitle an individual for the medal.

If you still feel you are entitled, please write to: Department of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, for the recommendation package to be sent to you. I believe it also should be sent through Gen. Creer because it needs a cover letter giving justification for the delayed recommendation. You can also call (210) 652-5880 for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 10

We have recently been informed that Guilford Spence, the top turret gunner on Cranston Sproule's B-17 of the 391st Sqdn., has finally received his Silver Star citation, even though he didn't live long enough to see it.

The mission involved was on Dec. 31, 1944 to Hanover, Germany. The plane was shot down and, even though severely injured in his foot, Guilford tried to go about doing his duty and dragged himself to the cockpit where he started cutting burning wires and repairing leaking oxygen lines. Then, when the bail out order was given, he crawled through the hatchway to inform the navigator and bombardier to bail out, thus saving their lives. He finally was helped to bail out himself and was taken prisoner by the Germans and spent five months in several German prison camps. Three of the crew died but the rest were taken prisoner.

Guilford was aware that the citation was coming but died at the age of 77 on April 16, 1990 of heart failure. Sproule had written the original recommendation and informed Guilford that the citation was coming.

Bernice Spence, his widow, is now living in a nursing home in Zephyrhills, FL. and says she is pleased that at least he knew it was coming.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have been informed that the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum was opened, as promised, in early May and is now open to the general public. It will be open seven days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be a small admission charge.

The museum is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 80 and I-95 in the town of Pooler. From I-95 take exit 18 and go east about one eighth of a mile on

U.S. 80 to Bourne Avenue. Turn left on Bourne and the museum will be visible straight ahead.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have also been informed that a bronze 1/6th scale B-17 is being created for placement on the Honor Court at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado. But, we are told, in order to do this participation is needed by those who lived in that past era or who want to preserve the importance of that time. Anyone interested in helping out can get more information by calling 1-800-305-1738. This information was sent to us by Mr. Norm Avery, Project Public Relations.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Beverly Hills Air Force we have the following:

Would you like to have the flight instruments from a B-52 bomber in your den? Perhaps you'd like to display a B-52 ejection seat in your office. Now you can purchase a variety of authentic and historic B-52 memorabilia through Beverly Hills Air Force, a group of California investors who purchased these and other items from 60 bombers that were recently decommissioned by the U.S. Military. Anyone interest can call 1-213-650-0001 or write to 8306 Wilshire boulevard, Hangar 2659, Beverly Hills, CA. 90211.

\*\*\*\*\*

We have recently been informed that Turner Publishing Co. have published a book entitled "STALAG LUFT IV, 1944-1945 - 50th Anniversary". The price is \$52.50 plus \$5.00 for shipping and handling. If you are interested you can phone 1-800-788-3350 or (502) 443-0121. Those of you who spent some time at Stalag Luft IV might find stories of interest in this book. Keep in mind that Turner Publishing also did our 34th Bomb Group book several years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*



Crew of "Foolish Sal"-Rear, L. to R.: V. Brave, F. Zukaitis, W. Colley, L. Salvesson, W. Browne & N. DuBuque.  
Frt. L. to R.: J. Reilly, P. Quinter, J. Demko, A. Lehman & R. Sering.



## SPECIAL NOTICES

From Grady Deatherage we have the following letter:  
Dear members of my most favorite Bomb Group in the Mighty Eighth:

First I would like to express my gratitude for the nice plaque, courtesy of Bob Wright's talent, regarding the honor that you fellows bestowed upon me in allowing me to serve as president. It will serve to remind those that are most dear to each of us where we have been after we are gone.

When I served as president I wanted, and tried to do, everything right, but there was one thing that I should have done that I would like each of you to allow me the privilege of doing now. At the first 8th A.F. reunion in England in 1976 the 34th was proudly represented by Doug Underwood, Bob Wright, Bill Cheek and myself. Words cannot describe the feelings that the four of us had there together, in seeing what was left from what we shared so many years before.

Later, at another reunion in Washington, D.C., after conducting a mini-reunion in my room, with only a handful of us there, Doug Underwood, Bill Cheek and myself sat down at a small cafe, having a beer together before we left. Our topic of discussion was that we needed to make plans to organize like some of the other bomb groups if we were to promote the membership of the 34th. Ray Summa came along and the rest is history, thanks to Ray and Hannah.

Bill Cheek made many contributions in serving as 1st secretary and chairman of the By-Laws committee and he served in capable fashion. By all rights he should have been given the opportunity of serving as one of the earlier presidents. Over the years I have blamed myself in not asking Bill to serve as the 1st vice president or taking action to make this happen long before now. But we all make mistakes and learn to do better once we realize it.

I don't know how things are going to work out but I would like to impose on the generosity of our nominating committee and all of you great guys in allowing me to nominate Bill Cheek to serve as a future president.

In closing I would like to say that, even though I have never before asked you for anything, you have given me everything for which I am humbly grateful.

Respectfully Yours,  
Grady C. Deatherage, Jr.

\*\*\*\*\*

From the Robert Henderson Studios at Canon City, CO. we have received the following:

Colorado Springs, CO. - Funds are being solicited to allow men and women throughout the world to honor the B-17 Flying Fortress. A monumental bronze replica of the famous aircraft will join four other Warbirds already in place in the distinguished "Study Hall" Sculpture

Garden at the USAF Academy. Those planes already in place include the P-34, P-40, P-47 and P-51. Project manager and administrator of the B-17 Memorial Fund, Maurice Thomas, who was also a B-17 pilot and past president of the 305th B.G. (H) Memorial Association, announced that the plane will be unveiled in the spring of 1997. It is his desire to eventually have all of the main WWII aircraft represented in the "Garden", which lies within the USAF Academy Cadet Honor Court. Other projects on the drawing board include monumental replicas of the B-24, B-25, B-26 and F4U corsair. These other planned projects will materialize once the proper bomber group, fighter group, or other interested association commitments and support have been secured. Past projects have been completed for groups like the P-38 National Association, who just unveiled their second monumental bronze of the infamous P-38 Lightning at the March Air Field Museum in Riverside, California. Jack Mullan, President Elect of the P-38 group has already started a push for a third monumental bronze P-38 which will be placed at Wright/Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

(Editor's note: I will bring this item up at the board meeting in Raleigh and allow them to decide whether this project should be brought up at general meeting for voting on whether we should send in some financial support for this project. If you are present there you will have a chance to vote this issue.)

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Continued on page 13



Lt. Zimmerman

## SPECIAL NOTICES

Continued from page 12

From Daniel P. Carroll we have the following:

I have decided to publish an almanac of WWII B-17 & B-24 combat and ground crews from the 8th and 15th Air Forces. This almanac will contain personal profiles about the experiences of these crews from all those individuals who care to participate in this project. There will be no charge to participate. I am not doing this for profit - I enjoy doing this type of activity and it will keep me occupied.

You can fax your request but you must call first in order for me to turn on the machine. Please include a SASE and you will receive detailed instructions on the format to be used and how the photos are to be processed. I will be soliciting participants through the bomb group newsletters for six months to a year. My ultimate goal is to get at least one personal profile from every B-17 and B-24 bomb group. Then I hope to put it all together and have it ready for the publisher in about the same time frame. This project should be completed within two years. All those interested write to: Daniel P. Carroll, 210 Pineapple Street, Satellite Beach, FL 32937. The phone number is (407) 773-8327.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Bill Espie in England we have the following:

Many thanks for continuing to send us the Mendlesham Memories. We always look forward to receiving them and thoroughly enjoy the articles in them. The 18th BS Insignia wall art of the Red Indian is still safe at the "Red Feather" club at Horham, but we still like to think that one day it could be transported back to the U.S.A. to a museum of the 34th B.G.'s choice. "Hello, anyone with their own cargo aeroplane out there?"

We were wondering if it would be possible to make an appeal through your newsletter for any copies of photographs of the 34th B.G.'s wall art that was at Mendlesham during the war, the names of the artists and stories behind these pictures. They do not have to be photographs concentrated on the artwork only. Photographs with wall art in the background would be very welcome.

We are in the process of collecting enough material in the hope of producing a book on the subject of WWII wall art and we do want to have the 34th B.G. represented inasmuch as the 34th has given us support in the past. We, as a group, feel you should be well represented. Our group is called "Eighth Wall Art Conservation Society (or E.W.A.C.S. for short) which is a voluntary and nonprofit making group.

Anyone wishing to respond to this request please write to:

E.W.A.C.S.  
35 Briardale, Stevenage,  
Herts, SG1 1TR,  
England.

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## SCHOLARSHIP

(Editor's note: This letter should have appeared in the June edition of MM. I'm sorry that it was mislaid and not there.)

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I am writing to thank you for your generous scholarship. I would like to update you on my grades. First of all, college has been fun and hard work at the same time. For example, some of the fun things I have done is attend football games, basketball games and music concerts. In addition, I have been volunteering once a week at Shands Hospital Orthopedic Clinic. It has been a great experience and it has also helped me to better understand how a hospital functions.

The classes I took the first semester are Chemistry, Introduction to Music, Statistics and English II. I received an "A" in each class. As a result I have been accepted into the Honors Program. The classes I will be taking the second semester are Chemistry, Introduction to Physics, Sociology, Basketball and Microeconomics. Thanks again!

Sincerely,  
Jeremy Grimes

\*\*\*\*\*



The 100th Mission party at Christmas in 1944.

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(As of 7-11-96)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZPCD
ARMSTRONG	HOWARD L.		P. O. BOX 6	MILTON,	WV.	25541
BALDEA	AARON	7A	7735 E. DOWNING STREET	MESA,	AZ.	85207
BRIDGE	GLENN M.	7	P. O. BOX 7705	ROANOKE,	VA.	24019
CHAMBERS	WILLIAM H.	4 18	150 DEERFIELD LANE	AURORA,	OH.	44202
CONSTANCE	JOHN	18-HDQ.	4224 MAYBERRY STREET	OMAHA,	NE.	68105
DANIELSON	ROBERT M.	7W	428 G. STREET	RIO LINDA,	CA.	95673
GERLACH	GEORGE A.		5541 LaPUERTA DEL SOL BLVD. S.#112	ST. PETERSBURG,	FL.	33715
GRISHAM	GEORGE R. SR.	391	2016 PURITAN	ANNAPOLIS,	MD.	21401
HAMMOND	EDWIN J.	HDQ.	406 COVINGTON PLACE	BREWSTER,	NY.	10509
HILDEBRAND	THOMAS H.	4LM	13 HAWTHORNE TRAIL	ORANGEBURG,	SC.	29115
JUNE	RAYMOND J.		2624 KENSINGTON ROAD	LAWRENCE,	KS.	66046
LOGAN	HAROLD F.	7	4375 MABRY LANE	ROSWELL,	GA.	30075
LOGAN	WILLIAM H.	18	332 SUTHERLAND PLACE	MANITOU SPRINGS,	CO.	80829
LOISELLE	JAMES A.	18	300 N. COMMERCIAL AVE., APT.107	SANDSTONE,	MN.	55072
MATTHEWS	CLYDE C.	391	RR 1, BOX 175-A	WELEETKA,	OK.	74880
McBLAINE	ROBERT J.	4	P. O. BOX 5817	ALOHA,	OR.	97006
MEREDITH	HAROLD L.	4LM	421 PENGUIN DRIVE	SATELLITE BEACH,	FL.	32937
MILLER	ALBERT K.	A	225 MT. HERMAN RD. #84	SCOTTS VALLEY,	CA.	95066
MILLER	EDWARD		2880 GULF SHORE BLVD.N. APT.509	NAPLES,	FL.	33940
PANCAKE	CHARLES E.	391 4	94 LOCHWOOD COURT	NEW ALBANY,	IN.	47150
PATERSON	WILLIAM L.	391	3802 JAMES ST. RD. UNIT 62	BELLINGHAM,	WA.	98226
POULOS	ARTHUR	391LM	948 JAMESTOWN ROAD	CONWAY,	SC.	29526
ROSE	EVERETT M.	7LM	P. O. BOX 472	OCEAN PARK,	WA.	98640
SHARE	JACK K.	18LM	22 SO. AVONLEA CIRCLE	THE WOODLANDS,	TX.	77382
STARR	JOHN J.	391	444 BURROUGHS DRIVE	AMHERST.	NY.	14226
UNDERWOOD	HARLAN R.	391	P. O. BOX 21	JACKSONVILLE,	NY.	14854
WADE	CECIL L.	391	209 WALDROP ROAD	FLORA,	MS.	39071
WALTZ	FRED F.	4LM	541 HAMMOCK COURT	MARCO ISLAND,	FL.	34145
WILBURN	ROBERT D.	7	1301 SUMMIT STREET #307	MARSHALLTOWN,	IA.	50158
WILEY	ELMER A.	391	1045 WEST BOURBON ROAD	SOMERSET,	KY.	42501
WRIGHT	WILLIAM L.	7	41 LAKE FAIRGREEN CIRCLE	NEW SHYRNA BEACH,	FL.	32168
YARBROUGH	WARD A. SR.	4	2904 SIERRA N.E.	ALBUQUERQUE,	NM.	87110

## NEWLY FOUND

(L W P under ORG. means Langley and/or Westover and/or Pendleton)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZPCD.
AKINS	KEITH	LW	209 SO. LOVELL AVENUE	CHATTANOOGA,	TN.	37411
CLARK	ROBERT J.	7	1234 K AVENUE	NEVADA,	IA.	50201
CRONIG	CARLYLE	7W	P. O. BOX 627	VINEYARD HAVEN,	MA.	02568
FAY	RICHARD C.	391	502 FLAT ROCK ROAD	LOUISVILLE,	KY.	40245
FLINT	ALAN	HHWP	BOX 130	NEWPORT	VT.	05855
GALT	GEORGE T.	7WP	480 SHERWOOD AVENUE	SATELLITE BEACH,	FL.	32937
HALZACK	NICHOLAS		766 HUNTINGTON ROAD	STRATFORD,	CT.	06497
HAMEL	EDGAR O.	H&HWP	120 NEWTON ROAD UNIT 40	PLAISTOW,	NH.	03865
JENNESS	KENNETH L.	H&HWP	P. O. BOX 18	MORGAN,	NH.	08583
KIRSCHNER	HAROLD	417ASG	7 BALINT DRIVE, APT. 518	YONKERS,	NY.	10710
KLASEN	WILLIAM	7	8332 WEST DREYER PLACE	WEST ALIS,	WI.	53219
LANE	SAMUEL M.	7	9314 LAWNDALE ROAD	RICHMOND,	VA.	23229
McNEILL	HOBART	18	16 FOUNTAIN GROVE CIRCLE	NAPA,	CA.	94558
NAVARRE	DONALD G.	7	2953 SHORELAND DRIVE	TOLEDO,	OH.	43611
NEWTON	LEO F.		20 B & B ACRES ROAD	WEAVERVILLE,	NC.	28787
PENNA	AMERICO	391	2 CHERRYWOOD CIRCLE	BRICK,	NJ.	08724
SALM	CONNOR K. JR.	7	1219 HARVEST DRIVE	MONROEVILLE,	PA.	15146
SCHERWERTS	DANIEL	LWP	100 PEARL STREET	MONROEVILLE,	PA.	15146
SHEAR	STEPHEN		941 INVERNESS AVENUE	MELBOURNE,	FL.	32940
SMITH	GEORGE A.	391	7018 GENOA DRIVE	CHATTANOOGA,	TN.	37421
SQUIRES	DONALD	WP	95 MAPLE STREET	MALDEN,	MA.	02148
WERTHAMER	ERWIN	LW	42 CENTRAL STREET	AGAWAM,	MA.	01001
WESTBROOK	FRANK P.	WP	455 HARWOOD AVENUE	SATELLITE BEACH,	FL.	32937



# NEW LIFE MEMBERS (340 As of 7-01-96)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZPCD.
HAVRON	WILLIAM R.	7LM	3987 PARWAY DRIVE	ZELLWOOD,	FL.	32798
KOVAC	ARTHUR J.	7LM	21530 HILLIARD ROAD	ROCKY RIVER,	OH.	44116
MARKS	JOSEPH K.	4LM	4630 S. STOCKBRIDGE LANE	SALT LAKE CITY,	UT.	84117

## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZPCD.	DIED
BAGLIO	SAMUEL	4LM	100 STEVENS LANE	EXETER,	PA.	18643	06-30-96
BASSETT	ROBERT W.	4	5512 MOOR DRIVE	LINCOLN,	NE.	68516	05-05-95
CROSS	HENRY J.		810 S. ELIZABETH STREET	KOKOMO,	IN.	46901	10-??-92
EMERY	EVERETT W.	7W	6 ROSE AVENUE	KOKOMO,	IN.	46901	??-??-80
FARRINGTON	HUGH B. ("HB")	18	2137 BAY STREET	CHARLOTTE,	NC.	28205	04-18-96
GREEN	WILLIE F.	7 4LM	4620 ROYALVIEW ROAD	KNOXVILLE,	TN.	37921	05-09-96
HAVENER	JOHN	7					??-??-73
HUMPHREY	CLYDE B.	391LM	2728 FLY ROAD	SANTA FE,	TN.	38482	03-21-96
KONOPNICKI	BRONISLAW		244 DOCKSIDE DRIVE B.	HAMPTON,	VA.	23669	11-18-95
LANGDON	JAMES C.	18LM	689 N.E. 6TH COURT #402	BOYNTON BEACH,	FL.	33435	05-24-96
LESTER	JULIUS W.	7	23 FAR HORIZONS DRIVE	MONROE,	CT.	06468	10-15-95
NELSON	HENRY B.	7	1455 MATHEW CIRCLE	ESTES PARK,	CO.	80517	08-07-95
PEIFER	PAUL P.		P. O. BOX 212	NEWMANSTOWN,	PA.	17073	02-??-88
PIPES	CHARLES E.	391	1716 EAST COLUMBUS STREET	LENOIR,	NC.	28645	04-28-96
RATHBORN	VIRGIL	7					??-??-??
REZANKA	RICHARD B.	7					??-??-92
THOMAS	HAROLD E.	7LM	RT. 6, BOX 43L	AUSTIN,	TX.	78737	??-??-??
TRAPANI	JOSEPH V.	7	17421 MATINAL DRIVE	SAN DIEGO,	CA.	92127	05-05-96
VICKERS	JOHN V.		6022 WATEREDGE DRIVE S.	JACKSONVILLE,	FL.	32211	04-??-89
WHITT	RICHARD B.		8780 58TH LANE	PINELLAS PARK,	FL.	34782	08-12-75
ZIEMBA	STANISLAW	4	301 PROVIDENCE ROAD	SOUTH GRAFTON,	MA.	01560	??-??-??

## LOST SOULS

Moved and gave no forwarding address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZPCD.
INGRAM	WILLIAM G.	7	1053 DUTTON AVENUE	SANTA ROSA,	CA.	95407
LUPEI	VICTOR T.	7	3101 HARBORSIDE DRIVE	LAS VEGAS,	NV.	89117
SEILER	TOBY JR.		8600 U.S.41 N., BOX 299	PALMETTO,	FL.	34221
SHILKETT	LLOYD D.	4	P. O. BOX 124	ADISON,	MI.	49220
THOMPSON	LOUISE	391LM	8649 SW KLAMATH CIRCLE	WILSONVILLE,	OR.	97070
TOOLEY	GUY T.	18	BOX 356	CHESAPEAKE,	OH.	45619
VANNATER	EARL	7	2045 NORTH BRABANT	BURT,	MI.	48417

## DONATIONS TO RAY L. SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	IN MEMORY OF
BURNELL	BILL & MARGO	HENRY J. CROSS OF THE ASPODEL CREW
BURNELL	BILL & MARGO	JOHN W. ASHBURN OF THE ASPODEL CREW
GREEN	ROBERT L.	IN HONOR OF HANNAH SUMMA AND IN MEMORY OF RAY
SHEE	BONNIE & DON	GINNY YOCKEY, WIFE OF CHARLES YOCKEY
WONG	JOE & MARILYN	IN MEMORY OF RAY SUMMA

## 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

50 OR MORE YEARS CONGRATULATIONS!!!

MARRIED	LAST NAME	FIRST NAMES	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZPCD.
1941-06-08	LOWER	LAMAR T. & PAULINE	439 DIVISION STREET	UNION CITY,	MI.	49094
1942-01-24	SYVERSON	MARVIN & AVIS	P. O. BOX 98	WANAMINGO,	MN.	55983
1943-02-04	STEMEN	CARL & MARGARET	317 HIGHLAND BLVD.	BREMEN,	OH.	43107
1943-11-25	WRIGHT	BURCH & MARY LOU	P. O. BOX 44209	CINCINNATI,	OH.	45244
1944-01-15	WEINER	SIDNEY & BEATRICE	5609 EDMERE DRIVE	TORRANCE,	CA.	90503
1944-02-12	WALTZ	FRES & RACHEL	541 HAMMOCK COURT	MARCO ISLAND,	FL.	34145
1944-11-26	HAGGINS	ELMER C. & GLORIA	17911 BLUEGATE LANE	HUNTINGTON BEACH,	CA.	92647
1946-06-08	BRUG	CHARLES & BETTY	6734 SOUTHKNOX DRIVE	CINCINNATI,	OH.	45238
1946-09-01	NORTHROP	JOHN F. & MARGARET	4216 CLAIRMONT AVENUE	BIRMINGHAM,	AL.	35222
1946-09-07	HINCHEE	RAYMOND (JIM) & MARGARET	202 TAYLOR AVENUE	SALEM,	VA.	24153
1946-12-04	SPENCER	JAMES L. & VIRGILINE	3577 HYDE ROAD	CARSONVILLE,	MI.	48419



# *Then and Now*



## **ALF JOHANSON**



**1944**



**1994**

## **MARVIN JALVING**



**1944**



**1994**

## **KIVETT IVEY**



**1944**



**1995**



# *Then and Now*



## **PAUL SHULL**



**1944**



**1995**

## **JOSEPH DOMINO**



**1943**



**1994**

## **LONNIE CROOK**



**1944**



**1988**





## A SECRET MISSION

by Walt Bower

One mission (an A.C. responsibility) that was unknown to most everyone at Mendlesham was a mission that I flew at the request of General Gerhart. It was in his stripped down B-17F, which I flew for him on official occasions to London or Division Headquarters from time to time.

Gen. Gerhart, myself as pilot and a ground crew explosive expert were the only people on board. The three of us took off early on Dec. 27, 1944 for the area near Saarbrücken, Germany on a low altitude flight (200 to 300 ft. over the French terrain) to an area near the "Bulge" where a U.S. plane had crashed and which had "Secret Equipment" on board that had to be recovered before the German army pushed through our lines. We arrived at the designated landing area at dark dawn. This turned out to be a plowed corn field with our army holding lanterns to outline the landing area.

We made a successful short-field landing. The explosives expert jumped out, got the "secret box", destroyed the plane and we made a fast 180 and took off. We took the corn field fence with us for a short distance. After five hours and 45 minutes of low level flying we arrived back at Mendlesham and I don't think anyone knew where we went to that day except Wing personnel at Gen. Gerhart's headquarters. It was a great experience!

\*\*\*\*\*

## ONE MORE TIME?

by Robert Morton

This story begins in a hut at Mendlesham where lived Art Davy and Floyd Browne, a couple of radio operator gunners. They belonged to the 34th B.G., a relatively new outfit in the European Theater of Operations. Browne was on the verge of his first encounter with the Germans and Davy for his fourth. Excitement ran riot in the barracks because the ordnance personnel had been "alerted", a tip-off that the big bombers were to be winging toward the continent at an early hour the next day. Nobody could sleep. This collection of comparative rookies were not yet mentally ready to take an approaching mission as just another day's work. The raid had been planned in the war room of the 3rd Air Division and, about midnight, true to expectations, a young man came into the hut, snapped on the lights and said, "Harmon's

and Winsor's crews are flying. You may eat at the mess hall. Briefing for the gunners will be at 1:30." Floyd still didn't know the score, so to speak, but veteran Art knew this probably meant a 5:30 a.m. takeoff and a long ride over Hitler's Fortress Europe.

At 1:45 the briefing began. An intelligence officer revealed the route to be followed and revealed the target for the first time. "Another milk run" quipped the always eager Carson Riley, the loquacious sandy-haired Virginian who was Harmon's ball turret gunner. "Oh, yeow!", interrupted the more conservative and serious minded Davy. "There is no such animal. Every mission is tough!"

Looking straight ahead and withholding comment, the men gave every indication they were ready. Each took pride in the fact that he was an American airman, with a part, small as it may be, in the biggest military campaign of all ages. Too, every mission completed meant another big step on the road home - the ultimate goal of every American in uniform.

The intelligence officer carefully explained the route to be followed as Andy Pignatelli, a little Italian from the outskirts of Youngstown, Ohio, stirred uneasily. Then the target was displayed. As Riley, now acting the part of a caged lion on the verge of release, grew more impatient by the minute, the gentleman from S-2 stressed the importance of the impending activity. The men were also informed of the locale in which would be the heaviest fighter opposition most likely and the number of fighters and type.

With the exception of the radio operators, everybody was dismissed from the briefing room. They were given a special briefing by the group communications officer who gave out the call signs, the locales in which to throw out the chaff, the operator to monitor the chosen channels and a sender of strike reports. Full of inside dope, Art and Floyd left the briefing room along with the rest. Their next job was to install their guns and check equipment prior to takeoff. Two hours ahead of time they were ready. In the interlude they either "sacked-out" in the waist or stood by as the engines were run up and

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Cosmo Papalio & Dale Ganger

# MEMORIES

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additional gasoline, every possible drop, was pumped into the tanks. This was to be a deep penetration and no chances are taken on running short, conditions being close to normal.

At 5:45 the lead plane was roaring down the runway to be followed by the remainder at 30 second intervals. For two hours these mighty birds of destruction, loaded with high explosives and incendiaries, gained altitude and made rendezvous points with the rest of the wing. Then across the Channel they flew toward the heart of industrial Germany.

Primary purpose of the radio operator is to monitor certain wave lengths, stay alert for planes in distress, and call for friendly fighters, if and when needed. The lead operators send back strike reports. During the mission the radioman stands in readiness to get "fixes" and accord any possible aid to the navigator, who can find use for aid from any and all crew members. Moreover, the radio operator holds himself in readiness to man a waist gun in the event of an attack by Jerry.

Art and Floyd were glad to head home once the initial point, the "m-p-i" and the rally point were passed. The tension lifted as they neared their home base in England. This meant the finish of another mission - another big step had been taken on the road which leads to home.

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## NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY!

by William N. (Pete) Gray

Back in the early fall of 1995 there appeared a short item in the local newspaper stating that the celebrated Confederate Air Force was sending one of its squadrons of World War II airplanes to this area of Virginia. Among the aircraft to be put on display would be a classic Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. Now, it had been many years since I had seen one of these so I immediately made plans to drive by and see the exhibit.

So, on the designated day, I drove down the Interstate and turned into the entrance of a small, private airport near Suffolk, VA. As I made the turn something caught my eye - something that was very familiar although I had not seen one in almost half a century! It was the unique and distinctive tail assembly of the B-17! There was no mistaking it - this tall, stately object towered over the smaller aircraft surrounding it, much as a mother hen does over her flock of chicks.

After parking my car I approached the airplane and found it had been placed behind a low fence and an attendant informed me that it was going to cost me five big bucks to enter the gate and get near it. Five Bucks?! I felt as if I was being robbed!

Now, since most of my military service during WWII was centered around a B-17 aircraft, I resented having to pay just to see one of them again. Somehow or other I thought that aircraft belonged to me! Yet I realized this was a private airplane now so I reluctantly handed over



Ray Palmer's crew - Rear, L. to R.: F. Wright, W. Patterson, J. Millheiser, R. Palmer, R. Bean, & R. Gotowka. Frt. L. to R.: J. Martin, W. Cole, W. Wheeler & H. Reibman.

the \$5.00. I knew it took a lot of money to fly and maintain it.

Then, as I slowly walked around it, the memories came flooding back and I could almost picture myself climbing up on the wing! I could even see myself removing some of the cowling from around the engines, as I had done so many times during the war years. I even found myself looking for some signs of wear and tear and, unconsciously, even for some indication of battle damage.

But there was one thing that really caught my attention - so much so that I actually cringed when I observed it up close. The leading edge of the wing - all 103 feet of it - was pitted with hundreds of LARGE dents over its entire length! Hundreds and hundreds of dents!

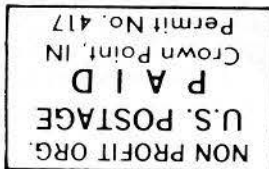
Now it became quite evident that these unsightly marks were made when a ladder was propped up against a wing by some careless maintenance personnel. They used the ladder to get up on the wing in order to refuel the plane or to do any necessary repair work on the engines. Now, to me, that was a very slipshod method of doing this and it would never have been tolerated during the war years. Back then we had a "movable stand" that enabled us to climb up on the wing without doing any damage to the aircraft itself. Also, these dents would interfere with the smooth flow of air across the wing surface. This, in turn, would have affected the speed of the aircraft as well as its lifting capacity - two very necessary components in wartime.

One thing is for certain - the maintenance personnel today show little or no respect for this "Grand Old Lady". During the war years she was known far and wide as the "QUEEN OF THE SKIES", and she should be so honored and venerated today.

Shame on them for being so callous and so insensitive!!

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



## MEMORIES

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### OUR CREW - "BATTLIN' BUTCH"

by Americo (Rick) Penna

It was at Pueblo, Colorado when I first met my crew.  
 So nervous and skeptical, team up with someone new.  
 And when I arrived at base they were nowhere to be found.  
 They were still airborne, and unable to touch the ground.

I was told by operations that their plane was derailed,  
 And could not come down because the landing gear failed.  
 Lieutenant Arand, the pilot, had everything well in hand.  
 He decided to go for it and commenced to land.

Sparks flew everywhere when the plane touched ground.  
 The landing was successful with the crew safe and sound.  
 I knew right then and there, for us to survive this war  
 We needed Lieutenant Arand to pilot our B-24.

When the crew was presented to me the count was nine.  
 We shook hands and gave greetings and everything was  
 fine.  
 Pilots were Arand and Luscher and McGowan was bom-  
 bardier.  
 Radio man was Hanson and Downey the engineer.

Four gunners were introduced but I only remember three.  
 Hibbett, Holcomb and Huber are recalled to me.  
 We trained for a while, then were shipped out to war,  
 Being proud to be crew members of a B-24.

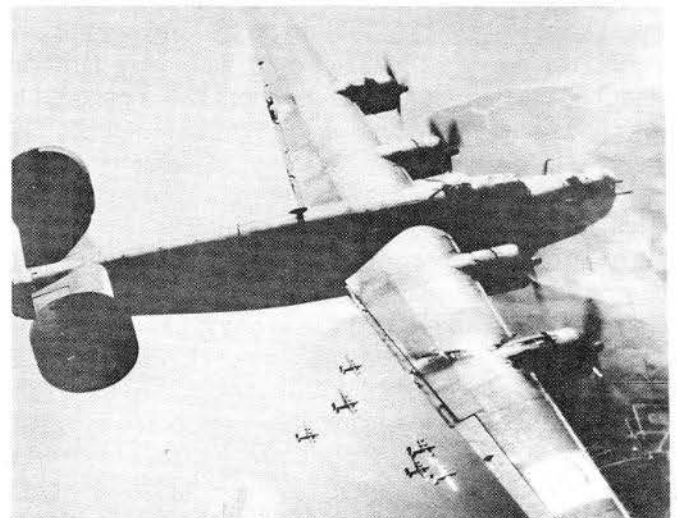
Ours was the 34th Bomb Group, Squadron the 391st.  
 At the time we did not know if it was the best or the worst.

It was called Mendlesham Air Base, as others bombers  
 were seen,  
 Without any warning we were ordered to fly a B-17.

We trained for a while, then gave our plane a name.  
 Calling it "Battlin' Butch", a dragon spouting flame.  
 We began flying our missions with confidence and fear,  
 Dropping our bombs where directed for less than a year.

God was there all the way whenever we flew,  
 So we could help end the war and start anew.  
 Our crew was like family as each did their part.  
 We all helped each other to be the best from the start.

Without any casualties we received citations galore.  
 It was our teamwork and caring that made us score.  
 As the navigator of this crew there is something I must add,  
 Though we gained a lifelong friendship, war is still very  
 "BAD".



View of bombers on a mission.