

# ENDLESHAM EMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

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**REUNION '97 SEPT. 26 - 29  
OMAHA, NE**

## OBSERVATIONS

I am writing this column while enjoying the beautiful weather here in Florida where we are visiting with our son, Michael, and our daughter, Lauren. Before we left Indiana we had a rash of very cold weather hit us (in the near-zero range) so you can understand our appreciation of this Florida weather and temperatures. This issue of M.M. will be mostly put together while we are here but we will be home in late January to get it to our printers.

Enough of that for now. Back to items of interest for the 34th B.G. As I mentioned in the December issue, I have been having some trouble with memories of events or people I should never forget. In the last year I have had some problems with remembering the names of long-time friends as well as recent incidents and motion pictures which we have seen. And, as time goes on, it seems to be getting worse. Therefore, I am asking anyone who feels they can take over for me as editor of Mendlesham Memories to please volunteer and I will send them any and all the information I can to get them started. If I don't get any response before our board meeting in September, I will have to bring it to their attention and see what they have to say about it. Hopefully my condition won't get worse and, maybe, I can continue to publish the newsletter. I'm sorry about this but there is nothing I can do to change these conditions. Hopefully, my twelve years of doing the job has satisfied you and, hopefully, anyone taking over will be able to do the same. Now on to other matters.

Those of you who did not attend the reunion at Raleigh last September missed a good one. The tour was not great but we really can't blame our reunion committee for the inept handling of the tour by the tour company. Otherwise the reunion was great, meeting old friends and making new ones.

Speaking of new friends, let me say that we would like to hear from some of you regarding your impressions of your first visit with old-time friends and new ones. It's always good to hear someone's opinion of our efforts, good or bad. We're waiting!

Rose and I want to thank all of you who sent us beautiful holiday greeting cards. I'm sorry, but there's no way, other than through the newsletter, for us to send you all our best wishes for the holiday season, especially those of you who sent us cards. Thanks a lot!

Please remember that our June issue goes to press on April 18th and any material for that issue must reach me no later than that date. Remember, also, that the June issue goes to all on the roster, whether their dues are up to date or not. That issue, by the way, will include all the information and forms needed for our reunion in Omaha next September. We look forward to seeing you all there.

I think I've said enough for this issue. Let me close by wishing you all "The Best of Health and Good Fortune!" We are looking forward to our next meeting in Omaha.

Eli Baldea, Editor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As you read this, 1996 will be history and we look forward to 1997 with hopes for health and happiness for all our members. I hope each of you will make a New Year's Resolution to attend the reunion in Omaha, Nebraska on 26-29 September. I would especially urge any members who have never attended a reunion to make plans to be there. We are all getting older and more aches and pains which will mean many will not be physically able to attend down the road. You will find that this is the friendliest group around and we will do everything possible to make you feel at home.

Bula and I had a great Christmas and hope you did too. We had 28 members of our family together for the Christmas meal. Had Grandchildren home from Florida, Oregon and Missouri, along with five Great-Grandchildren. Of course we spoiled them thoroughly and then sent them home with their parents! They sure make us aware that we are not ready to go win any more wars.

SEE ALL OF YOU IN OMAHA!!

Ray Palmer,  
President

### 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.



S/Sgt Shorter from the hospital.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



Thanks to all for the prayers, thoughts, cards and calls to us during the past few months. They mean more to us than you can ever know and we are honored and proud to be associated with such a loving family!

I was looking over some items on INTERNET and found a speech by Gen. Roland R. Fogelman, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, which he delivered to the 8th AFHS at St. Louis last year (50 years after we left Mendlesham). I thought you might like to know how the present Air Force views your actions during WWII.

Gen. Fogelman: "I feel a special kinship with the airmen who took part in the very fierce air war over Europe during WWII, with all those who helped establish the great reputation of the "Mighty Eighth", the air crews, ground crews, signals specialists, firefighters, ordnance troops, weather forecasters, quartermasters, military police, munitions specialists - officers and enlisted men alike - and their families, with the families they left behind, with those who stayed here and made America into the arsenal of democracy and kept the home fires burning. These are the people who made up "The Mighty Eighth".

"Eighth Air Force was our premier fighting outfit. It took the war directly to Nazi Germany - to Germany's heartland - from bases across East Anglia. As the USAF Chief of Staff I value the rich heritage you have given to the Air Force. I admire your tremendous acts of courage and self sacrifice because they remain examples for our airmen today. I am particularly honored to speak to you on this, the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. It's really not just a celebration of the end of the war, it's a celebration of the Allied victory in that war-awar in which you played such a prominent part".

"I have taken part in many ceremonies this year honoring this particular anniversary - but none were more significant than being here with you this evening. So, with your concurrence, I would like to address some of your accomplishments in WWII. At least I would like to tell you what it is that we are teaching our young airmen about you. We may not have the same clarity or insight that your war stories have - stories that wives have listened to at more than 21 reunions - but we are going to capture for our people the essence of what it is that you have done".

"You stepped forward from all walks of American life at a time when this country needed you. You came forward to defend America against the forces of tyranny and evil. So few people today recognize the depth of the

threat to our American way of life. But you came forward, secure in the knowledge and the understanding that some things are worth fighting for and dying for".

"When I consider your patriotism I'm reminded of a passage from the Bible - Isaiah - as I remember. It goes something like this: "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send? who will go for us?' Then, said I, 'Here I am Lord - send me'. America called you. You came forward and you were posted to England in large numbers to prosecute the combined bomber offensive against Nazi Germany. You gave a tremendous accounting of yourselves". There are five pages of Gen. Fogelman's address and I'll be glad to send copies to anyone requesting copies. For those of you who have access to INTERNET, you may call it up at:

[http://www.dtic.mil/airforcelink/pa/speech/current/The\\_Mighty\\_8t.html](http://www.dtic.mil/airforcelink/pa/speech/current/The_Mighty_8t.html).

And, while we're on that subject, anyone with INTERNET capabilities please send me your E-Mail address for my files.

Also, for those of your with graduating seniors, we are including the APPLICATION for the 1997 Awards in this issue. Please let your applicants know that the directions are to be followed TO THE LETTER! OMIS-SION OF ANY OF THE REQUESTED ITEMS WILL DISQUALIFY THE APPLICANT!

May God Abundantly Bless!  
Harold Province, Treasurer



Cosmo Papalio & Dale Ganger.



## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

We understand that all was well in Raleigh except the so-called TOUR. The committee is sorry about this "SNAFU". We engage these vendors in good faith, we cannot perform their duty or carry out their responsibilities.

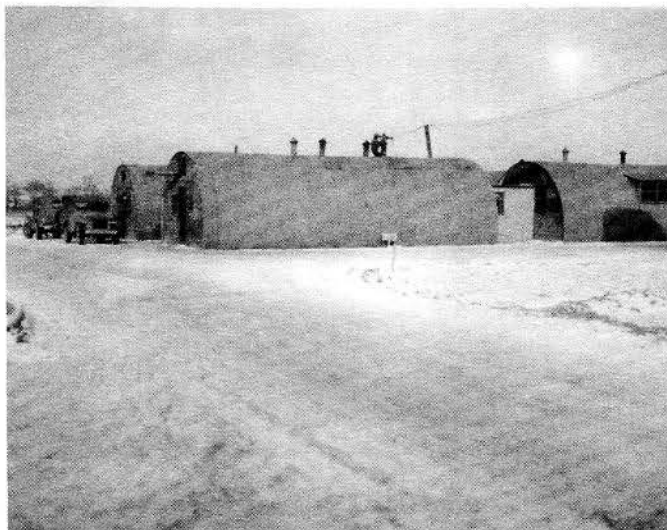
Since the Raleigh reunion Harold & Gen Rutka and Wanda and I journeyed to Boise, Idaho for an on-site inspection of the facilities offered for a reunion site. Everything the two ladies from Boise Convention & Visitors Bureau told and showed us about Boise at the Raleigh business meeting proved to be accurate and true. We signed a well-discussed contract with the Red Lion Riverside Hotel. This will be the site for the 34th Bomb Group reunion in 1998.

Also, since our Raleigh reunion, Bob Wright had a valve in his heart repaired/replaced. He said that there was some flak but the mission was successful. Harold and Gen took a jaunt to Hawaii to celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary. Gerald and Wanda remained on the home front and cheered for the Green Bay Packers.

In March of 1997 the Omaha reunion will be finalized. The registration forms will be in the June issue of Mendlesham Memories. Omaha is a great city to host our reunion. All sorts of places to visit and things to see, from S.A.C. to a rain forest - from a world-renowned zoo to the famous Boys Town. Our hotel is located downtown with access to shops, parks and theaters. The geographic location should be of a benefit to all. The committee is certain that Omaha will be one of the better locations that the 34th Bomb Group could hold a reunion.

See You In Omaha!  
Your Reunion Committee

Gerald Pine  
Harold Rutka  
Robert Wright



Mendlesham ordnance office.

## EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

The annual reunion meeting of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society will be held on the 10th to the 14th of September, 1997 at the RADISSON SOUTH HOTEL in BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA. Members living within driving distance will have the opportunity to attend a reunion close to home base. This opportunity will possibly not be soon available to us as the last reunion in this area was held in St. Paul, MN. in 1981 and at Des Moines, IA in 1988.

Those who will be unable to attend the 34th Bomb Group reunion at the Red Lion Inn in Omaha from the 26th to the 29th of September, 1997 because of a time conflict will be welcomed at the 8th AFHS reunion in Bloomington, MN.

Harold Rutka  
Reunion Committee

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## 34TH BOMB GROUP TOUR TO ENGLAND

There will be a tour to England leaving on July 30th and returning on August 7th, 1997. This will be for the dedication of the American Museum at Duxford, England. The Queen will do the dedicating and will be escorted by the Duke of Edinburgh. There will be a "40's" Hangar Dance, memorial ceremony at the American Cemetery, tour of bases, tour of London and then the return home.

There will be additional tours for those that want to tour the invasion beaches and Paris. The other tour will be to fly home and cruise the Mediterranean aboard the Costa Romantica.

Information on the tours can be obtained from Tamarac Travel at 1-800-228-9690. they will send you a brochure.

Harold Rutka  
Reunion Committee

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## *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

Having survived one of the most bitter, coldest winters and the feeling of no inspiration to write, finally the sun is becoming very cooperative and chances are that I will complete this column.

As I promised, the recipes for Black Bean Salsa, Tomato Pie and Bread Pudding follow.

Henrietta Romero sent in this salsa one with a note saying that this is a fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants recipe so delete what you don't like and add more of what you do like.

### Black Bean Salsa

2 cans whole kernel corn, drained  
2 cans black beans, rinsed and drained  
1 purple onion (or Vidalia, if available)  
Chopped Cilantro to taste, chopped fine (or parsley)

Mix the corn, beans and onion together, then add the Cilantro. I start with about 2 Tbsp. Cilantro, ground Cumin to taste (I use about 1 Tbsp.) Salt and Tabasco to liven it all up (I add a tweak of chile powder, too). Mix it all together, then add a marinade of equal parts of lime juice and olive oil (I use 1/2 cup of each for a full recipe). Allow it to marinate over night or several hours in the refrigerator.

Just before serving add finely chopped tomatoes. Serve with corn chips or any way you like! (Note: Adding tomatoes just before serving is important because otherwise this salsa will have too much liquid!).

Betty Hinchee sends us a dish called Tomato Pie and, since it's not summer yet, I haven't tried it and will put it aside until the wonderful homegrown tomatoes are available from our plants. Eli does have a green thumb. She also writes that this "pie" isn't the kind that makes perfect slices because of the tomatoes. The juices run when cut but everyone will ask for seconds. I do hope you will bake this pie because it looks really good! Also, do use fresh basil, if at all possible. Here it is:

### TOMATO PIE

1 9 inch pie shell, baked  
5 or 6 large tomatoes, peeled and sliced thick  
3/4 tsp. dried basil or 4 tsp. chopped (if fresh)  
4 green onions, chopped, including most of the tops  
Salt and Pepper to taste  
3/4 cup mayonnaise  
1 1/4 cup of grated sharp cheddar cheese

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Fill the baked shell with tomatoes, layered with basil, green onions, salt and

pepper. Combine the mayonnaise and cheese. Spread on top of the tomato mixture. Bake for 35 minutes or until light brown. Then let it settle for 5 to 10 minutes before cutting.

### BREAD PUDDING

This Bread Pudding is a dessert more than 100 years old and will be a fine inexpensive addition to any celebration. Here it is:

2 cups of bread or rolls, torn into pieces  
1 13 oz. can of evaporated milk  
1 can of water  
4 eggs  
1/2 cup sugar  
1 Tbsp. vanilla  
4 Tbsp. butter, slightly softened  
Cinnamon

Combine the bread, milk and water, and set aside.

Beat the eggs and add to the bread mixture with sugar and vanilla. Mix 1/2 of the butter into the pudding. Mix well. Pour into a 1 1/2 quart casserole which is lightly greased. Top with the other half of the butter. Then sprinkle generously with cinnamon.

Place the casserole in a pan of boiling water which should reach half-way up the dish. Bake 350 degrees for one hour or until set.

This will serve eight.

Both Eli and I are looking forward to Omaha --- God Bless!!



18th Sqdn. Photographer Bernard Stanton.





HANNAH SUMMA - Anderson, IN

Dear Friends;

Wouldn't you know I had oodles of things to do, but the mail came and the M.M. stared right at me. So, as you know, the rest of the afternoon was between the pages of M.M. The reunion pictures were enjoyable. They brought back many good memories. I miss you all. Thank you for all your holiday greetings and may you have a happy and healthy year.

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CARL FREYSINGER - Cable, OH

We can't thank you enough for the work you do for the 34th people. We're looking forward to Omaha in September.

I would also like to say a few words about a special group of men! When you ask them what they did in the war they say, "We were just ground crew". Well, let me tell you, guys, you are some kind of heroes. You kept the boys flying and won the war on the ground. You saved many a young man's life so he could come home, mine included. We know the long hours you worked day & night! You all had your own special skills and I know you must have died a little inside when one of the planes you worked on did not return. So, we salute all of you.

A special thanks to a dear person named Joe in California, and a great guy, (I wouldn't dare call him that to his face), who is always willing to lend me some clothes when my luggage is lost. So the next time someone asks you what you did in the war, stand up and say, "I was ground crew" proudly. What would we have done without you?

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MELVON R. McSPADDEN - Anacortes, WA.

I was part of the 34th Bomb Group, Eighth Air Force and was stationed overseas near Ipswich, England. The pilot of our group was Jim Bolden and the co-pilot was Charles Saunders. But, most of all, I hope to locate my friend, Harold R. Hensen. I am also curious if there are any reunions - when and where.

(Note: Hal Province has sent him Hensen's address and phone number)

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BARBARA R. (JAMES) SPINK - Edmonds, WA.

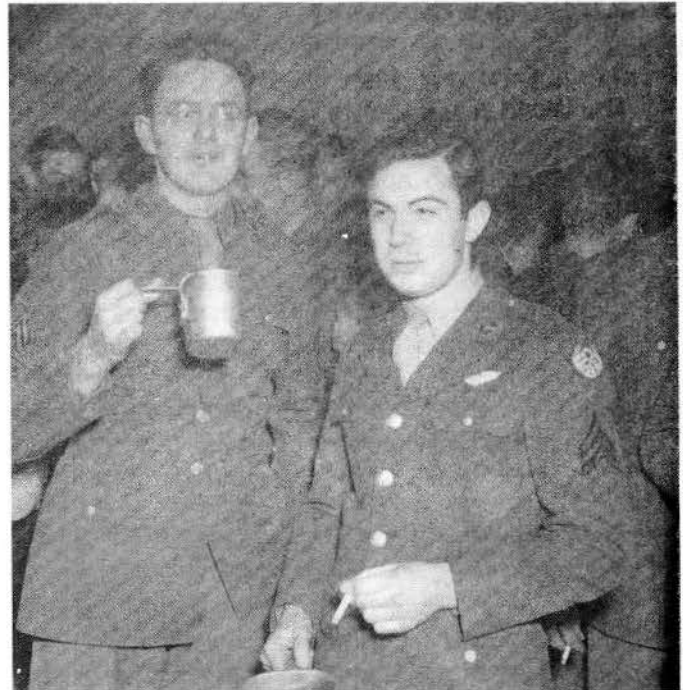
I am enclosing a page of news of a B-17 that isn't in the British Museum. James F. Spink, had he lived, would have had a wonderful time helping with the restoration. He was one of the founders of "The Museum Of Flight", here at the Boeing Co., Seattle.

I watched a large group of B-17's leave Tampa, FL., then worried about them over there. Jim worked 37 years for the Boeing Co. He took me to see Mendlesham, where he was stationed. We visited most of the places where the remains of the aircraft were, and the remains of the landing fields.

We also went to a couple of the reunions. When "The Museum Of Flight" got this B-17 I thought, "How pleased Jim would have been". Some of the others may be also. Oh yes, I'm like the rest of the troops. I enjoy reading "Mendlesham Memories". There are still people I met mentioned in the paper. (Editor's note: See "News From Here & There" section for more on the B-17

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Don Wick & Dale Ganger at the 18th Sqdn. party.

## DEADLINE

**Any material or items to be inserted in the June issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before April 18, 1997. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.**

**Eli Baldea, Editor**

## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 6

**ALLEN ISRAELSON** - Minneapolis, MN

Have a good holiday, be it in Indiana or Florida. And, again, congratulations on your good work in getting all those photos in the Dec. issue of MM. The printing of the photos gets better all the time. The last issue is outstanding.

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**BETTY (PAUL) BRESH**

Blessings and holiday greetings! Paul is still up but - oh - such pain - back - heart stable.

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**DR. HORST DILHELM** - Germany

I would like to thank you and Mr. Province very much for helping me in research about the events of July 19, 1944 (the collision of two B-24 airplanes). I have got some answers and one very important contact to a relative of the co-pilot, Ray. I will inform you after finishing my report. Happy holidays to you and your families.

\*\*\*\*\*

**GEORGE RITCHIE** - Swansboro, NC

We are fine. A bit older but just returned from a pilgrimage in Mexico. Then we have an Our Lady of Guadalupe Visitation thru No. Carolina (June and I are guardians) followed by a weekend retreat for Youth 2000 thru a trip (10 days) to the Holy Land and, in early fall, around the world again. Most likely we'll miss Omaha. It's too early to plan. God bless you all.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARGE (JOHN) BLOCZYNSKI** - Marshfield, WI

Here comes some news that will shock you. A week after we got back from the 34th Bomb Group reunion John landed in the hospital for four days with Congestive Heart Failure. With new medication and losing 12 pounds in fluids, he did quite well. Then on Nov. 12th he gave me a real scare. I had to call 911. He was in Ventricular Tachycardia, had pulse over 200. Lucky for us we have such an efficient EMT crew on the ambulance. On Nov. 14th they put in a Pacemaker & Defibrillator. He's doing well again now. Goes in on Wednesday for a read-out on the Pacemaker and a check-up. I'm hoping all will be good. It's remarkable what prayers and science can do these days. We certainly have much to be thankful for this Christmas. All the children will be home over the holiday season and we are looking forward to that. I didn't have them come home while John was in the hospital because I knew they were all planning to be here at Christmas. We are looking forward to a good 1997 and, of course, our big anniversary party on Aug. 2, 1997. God bless you all.

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**VERNON C. AMES** - Tonawanda, NY

May all your holidays be filled with everything good! Thanks for a great job as editor.

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**VERNE SANTAS JR.** - North Myrtle Beach, SC

My wife and I really enjoyed the reunion in Raleigh in September and being so warmly received as "First Timers". We wish you all the best for the new year!

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

I really enjoy the MM. I look forward to reading it. I also regret to say that my wife and wonderful friend of 49 years, Ellora Mae, passed away on 8-29-95. I should have notified you earlier but I just couldn't. They were a wonderful 49 years we had together.

Please keep up the good work. The staff of MM is doing a wonderful job.

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**LOWELL LARSON** - Oxnard, CA

Happy New Year to you and yours. Thanks for the fine job you are doing with the 34th.

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**FRED & CLARA SCHOCH** - Spokane, WA

We are still in the deep freeze. These past months have been the worst winter in my 50 years in the northwest. It started in mid-November with an ice storm. There were power outages for nearly 230,000. We were fortunate with only three days and nights of candles and cold meals. The snow has kept us busy with the snow-blower.

Our holidays were spent at home and our daughters' families were over on the coast at Seattle & Olympia. The cross-state highways were all closed due to snow, ice and avalanches.

This coming July 6th Clara and I will celebrate our 50th anniversary. We were married in the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Livingston, Montana. The church was filmed in the movie "A River Runs Through It". We haven't made any firm plans for the celebration as yet. Time will tell.

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**MARGARET (RAYMOND) HINCHEE** - Salem, VA

We enjoyed the reunion very much. Ray really looks forward to the yearly get-together. I have felt so sorry he has had to miss the last two because of me. I tried to get him to go but, without me, no. He is a real treasure. I don't know if I would had made it as well without him. We look forward to seeing everyone in Omaha next year. Stay well and have a good winter.

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**HAROLD & GEN. RUTKA** - Duluth, MN

Nothing exciting here except that the sun is out bright and the snow is melting. But things will be back to normal soon. You have probably heard that Bill Creer is recovering at home from heart surgery.

Not too much going on this year - the 34th reunion and the 8th in September. To Las Vegas in April for the AFA (Air Force Fifty). Then mid-year of the 8th in March at Bloomington and possibly England in July. Good health to everyone.

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## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 7

EDWARD E. ZESCH - Banning, CA

There were some typos in the December, 1996 issue of MM. On page 25, Delores should be Dolores and on page 30, 46-06-19 should be 46-07-19. Dolores and I enjoy MM very much and hope to resume our attendance at some of the future reunions.

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## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Hal Province writes that a business opportunity came to him from a guy at church. It's from a company known as DESTINY TELECOMM-INTERNATIONAL, INC. of Oakland, CA. His sponsor (the guy from church) has been with the outfit for less than six months and he's already getting checks of \$1,700.00 or more every so often. It has to do with PREPAID PHONE CARDS. These are handy - just find a touch-tone and dial the 800 number, your card ID and then the number you want to call. No coins are needed, no third party billing to your home phone and no surcharges on calling cards like A.T. & T. charges. You can buy the 60 minute card for \$14.00 and sell it for \$20.00. His sponsor's name is Paul Safely and his phone number is 1-800-982-6236 if you want more information. Just mention that you heard it from Hal Province.

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

A B-17 Bronze Memorial sculpture will be dedicated at the USAF Academy, Colorado Springs, CO. at 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 22, 1997. It will join four (4) other warbirds already in place, including the P-38, P-40, P-47 and P-51. Anyone interested can contact the studios for information by calling 1-800-305-1738.

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From a Leonard Zerlin of Thousand Oaks, CA. we have the following:

I have recently published a book called "World War II...Memories", which is a nostalgic trip to the past and an heirloom for the families to treasure long after we old fogies are gone. It will paint a picture of the life we lived and the world we shared. There are no heroes or feats of daring. It was written for the millions of us that participated in that conflict and wish to remember or share with our loved ones some of the memories. It is 8 1/2"x11" and 150 pages long, filled with photos, cartoons, song covers, excerpts from "Yank", medals, letters from veterans, statistics and much, much more. The cost is \$21.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling. For more information phone (805) 492-2272.

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We have recently also received information of another book called "OVER HERE - The Americans in Norfolk during World War II" offered by Images of Britain, 5761 East La Palma Avenue, Suite 142, Anaheim, CA. 92807. The book is 192 pages in length and

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Signpost in Mendlesham area.

contains over 250 photographs. The cost is \$31.95 plus \$6.95 shipping and handling. For more information phone (714) 282-0383.

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From Barbara Spink of Edmonds, WA. we have the following from "The Museum Of Flight":

"The Museum Of Flight's" 1997 annual fund drive is dedicated to an historical aircraft of unparalleled importance, our own B-17 "Flying Fortress". During World War II the B-17 spelled success, not only for Boeing and Seattle, but for America and its allies around the globe. More than 12,000 of these bombers rolled off the production lines in the '40's. At one time in 1944, sixteen of these planes a day were being manufactured.

The museum is most fortunate in possessing the last flyable B-17F, a rare artifact that also represents the finest restoration work anywhere. Over the past five years our airplane has been lovingly, and meticulously, restored to its original wartime configuration. She's now ready to fly home and assume her place of honor at "The Museum Of Flight". But she needs your help.

In the next three months our goal is to raise \$125,000 through fund donations to bring the B-17 home for good. This will cover costs of exhibiting the plane in a special building and insuring proper care and maintenance. This is an opportunity to not only showcase this rare example of technical achievement but to honor the memories of those who built her and flew her.

Anyone interesting in making a donation can send it to: "The Museum Of Flight", 9404 East Marginal Way S, Seattle, WA. 98108.

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## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from page 8

From Reid McClosky we have the following:

The Carlsbad Army Air Field memorial exhibit was dedicated on December 7, 1996 at the Carlsbad Air Terminal. From July 13, 1942 through September 30, 1945, the CAAF trained more than 4,000 men to be bombardiers and dead-reckoning navigators. Major Gen'l. George B. Harrison, USAF, Commander, Air Force Operational Test and Evaluation Center, Kirkland AFB, Albq. NM. was the guest speaker.

Located in the Cavern City Air Terminal, Carlsbad, NM., "Carlsbad At War - the C.A.A.F., 1942-45" is a permanent exhibit of the Carlsbad Museum and Art Center. The exhibit depicts a WWII bombardier crouched over the then secret Norden Bombsight. The exhibit features a Norden bombsight and stabilizer, a cadet uniform and bombardier flight suit, a model AT-11 "Kansan" replica 36" wingspan, handmade by William Burgin, volunteer and model builder at the Pima Air and Space Museum, Tucson, AZ. Other items include photographs of CAAF, practice bombs and other memorabilia.

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From Fred Schoch we have the following:

The World War II Victory Medal & Ribbon that was

awarded late in '45 and '46 should have been issued at time of discharge or separation. There is a Record Center in St. Louis, MO. that could give instructions for the award if our members make the fact known. The phone number for this office is 1-800-318-5298 for anyone that's interested. I hope I haven't started something but I thought this might be of interest for our membership.

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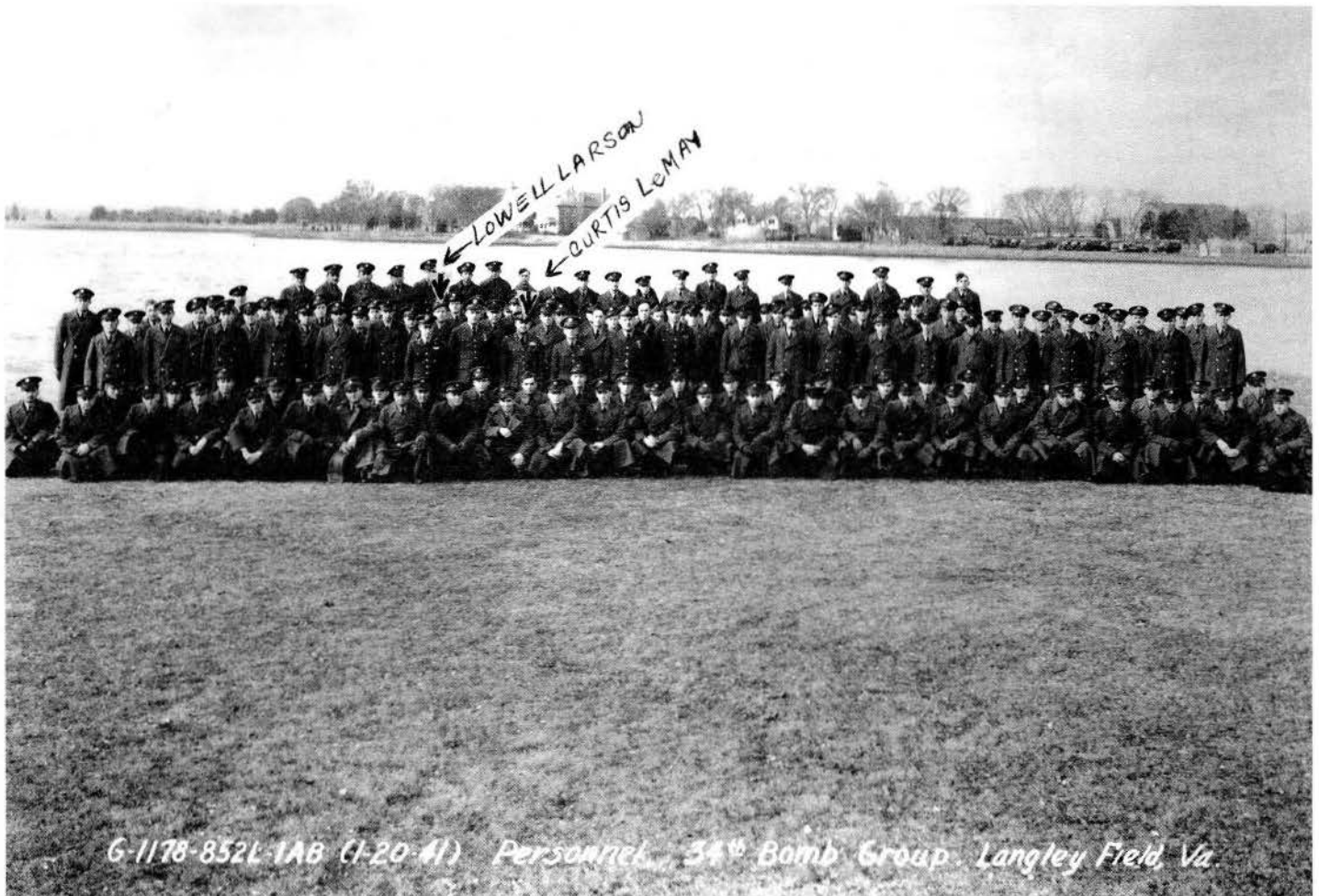
From Gordon McCoy of Linden, CA. we have the following:

DO YOU WANT TO THANK THE UNDERGROUND? Join the 36th Fighter Group members in restoring stained glass windows blown from a French church during a 1944 strafing near REMY. A pilot died. Villagers buried him, keeping flowers on his grave, despite reprisal threats until liberation by the Allies six weeks later. For more information or to send a tax deductible contribution, write to: Windows For Remy, Box 644, Linden, CA. 95236. Thank You!

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As we go to press I have been informed that Gen. Bill Creer has had heart-bypass surgery and is now home recuperating. I know I speak for everyone when I wish him the best for a quick recovery and we do look forward to seeing him at the reunion in September. Get Well!!!

\*\*\*\*\*



The original 34th Bomb GP. at Langley Field, VA. Please note location of Curtis LeMay & Lowell Larson.  
(Note also - photo came from Larson)

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

As of 1-24-97)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
DEATHERAGE	GRADY C.	7	455 MURPHY ROAD	COLLINSVILLE,	VA.	24078
DUKES	E. FRANKLIN JR.	18	2645 CORALBERRY PLACE	CHARLOTTEVILLE,	VA.	22911
GRIMM	C. UOELL	MM	7705 WATERMAN	WATERMAN,	IL.	60556
LEWIS	KENNETH	7	1065 SANDSTONE PASS	FLINT,	MI.	48532
MADDEN	JOHN L.	4	414 LLOYD AVENUE	SAN LEANDRO,	CA.	94578
SCHLINDWEIN	ROBERT L.	391	C/O STAAB, 2259 ROYALE RD., APT. 2	SACRAMENTO,	CA.	95815-4018
WILLIS	LYNN	391LM	1932 WENGERT AVENUE	LAS VEGAS,	NV.	89104

## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE	DIED
MAUK	ELLORA MAE (BASIL)	4	716 W. HERON STREET	DENISON,	TX.	75020	08-29-95



## I WAS THERE!

I was there at the dawn's early light.  
I was there at the twilight's last gleaming.  
I was there with the bombs bursting in air,  
torn and tattered, what so proudly you hailed.

I was there, in Germany, France, Italy, Pearl Harbor, Korea,  
Vietnam and countless other places. I flew proud and honored.  
What have I done that I'm allowed to  
be burned, trampled and treated with disrespect?

Why are so few allowed to desecrate what so many died to protect?  
For over two centuries I've flown to represent this country and its people.  
Who will be there for me when the next call to arms is made?  
Will I burn on foreign soil as I do on my own?  
Who will be there for all of us?

It's time to let the government know we will not stand for the burning  
or desecration of the symbol which stands for this country and its people.

Anyone who feels he has that right should visit Arlington Cemetery,  
Pearl Harbor, or any one of the cemeteries where our war dead lie  
in honored respect.

There are enough of them.

Tell them about the right to burn their flag. If they say it's OK,  
do what your conscience tells you to.  
But not in front of me because I was there...WERE YOU?

Submitted by Brother Carroll E. Curtis, 32, K.C.C.H.

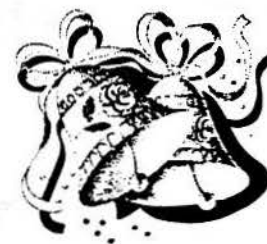
# 1997 FIFTY YEAR ANNIVERSARIES CONGRATULATIONS!!

MARRIED	LAST NAME	FIRST NAMES
02-02-47	BASKIN	RAYMOND C. & DONNA
02-02-47	BENSCOTER	DONALD & BARBARA
02-02-47	DEES	ROBERT W. & EDITH
02-02-47	FORISTER	CARROLL E. & SYLVIA
02-02-47	SIMPKINS	WILLIAM T. & EVA
01-19-47	SUTTON	CHARLES T. & LENORA
02-01-47	REDDING	JOHN L. & MARILYN
02-08-47	BLAINE	B. PAUL & EILEEN E.
02-15-47	BENSON	RICHARD R. & VIRGINIA
03-02-47	FIRESTONE	A.J.Z. & ERNESTINE
03-02-47	FIRSTONE	A.J.Z. & ERNESTINE
03-07-47	FINLEY	DALE & MARGE
03-28-47	HORTON	KENNETH L. & MERLE
04-04-47	EDWARDS	RICHARD H. & LOIS
04-27-47	GAY	ROBERT & JAN
05-10-47	FAGER	WILLARD & ROXIE
05-17-47	ANDERSON	MAURICE N. & LOIS
05-17-47	KOVAC	ARTHUR J. & JOSEPHINE
05-27-47	BIALAS	STEVE & EMILY
05-31-47	ARAND	CLARENCE W. & RITA
06-07-47	BLOCHYSKI	JOHN & MARGE
06-08-47	ABRAMS	MORTON & RITA
06-14-47	FAY	RICHARD C. & KITT?
06-21-47	FINCH	ALAN E. & DOROTHY
06-21-47	HANSFIEDL	JAMES J. & ??
07-06-47	HESS	ROBERT S. & MARILOU
07-06-47	SCHOCH	FRED & CLARA
07-16-47	HOWARD	PHILIP R. & GEORGINA
08-14-47	SMITH	NORRIS W. & KATHERINE
08-23-47	GREEN	ROBERT L. & EVELYN
08-23-47	SOBRAN	JOHN & GLADYS
09-09-47	GILREATH	J. HARRY & EMILY
09-13-47	KLING	JOHN G. & DOLORES
09-14-47	BELL	DWIGHT L. & BETTY JANE
09-21-47	PAULNOCK	RUSSELL S. & VERA
10-04-47	KENNY	JAMES T. & MARY
10-14-47	KAISER	RAYMOND J. & ALICE
10-23-47	PLATZ	ROBERT M. & JOY G.
11-01-47	MUENTE	FREDERICK R. & VIRGINIA
11-02-47	BALDEA	ELI & ROSE
12-27-47	YOUNGHOLM	PAUL R. & DORIS

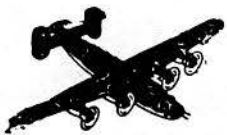
# ANNIVERSARIES OF MORE THAN 50 YEARS

(We don't think these have been previously published)

MARRIED	LAST NAME	FIRST NAMES
1939-06-17	DAVIS	ROBERT B. & ZOE
1940-12-14	CASELL	ALBERT J. & LUCILLE
1941-07-05	WEESE	RUSSELL W. & RHEA
1941-12-13	ICE	WILLIAM B. & EILEEN
1942-05-29	CROOK	LONNIE H. & DORABEL
1942-11-21	GRAVES	HARRY W. & DELLA
1943-03-19	MYERS	RAYMOND D. & THERESA
1943-07-14	GROSS	ROBERT H. & CYNTHIA
1943-12-09	SACHERMAN	LEE E. & MARRY ANN
1944-02-08	ANDERSON	KENNETH & EILEEN
1944-02-12	DANIELS	COURTNEY R. & MARION
1944-02-23	PEDIGO	WILLIAM E. & JACQUE
1944-02-28	ALSTON	WILLIAM C. & ALBERTINE
1945-02-10	NORTON	JOHN & SHIRLEY
1945-07-03	BERGLUND	FREDERICK V. & HAZEL
1945-07-05	WRIGHT	JOE WARREN & JEAN
1945-07-25	NOULLET	WILLIAM C. & DOREEN D.
1945-08-22	FOSTER	JOHN R. & ELIZABETH
1945-09-19	MATHE	CLYDE J. & ELIZABETH
1945-09-20	LOTSPEICH	WILLIAM L. & MIRIAM
1945-10-20	MINK	CLAYTON & HELEN
1945-12-02	PIERCE	GRANVEL L. & NOLA VAN
1946-01-26	O'HARA	CHARLES B. & ELVIRA
1946-05-03	BAKER	NATHAN C. & EDYTHE
1946-06-09	FILLMAN	DONALD K. & BETTY
1946-07-18	DONLON	WILLIAM J. & JO
1946-07-19	ZESCH	EDWARD EARL & DOLORES PAT







# *Then and Now*



## **MILTON BRAVEMAN**



**1944**



**1994**

## **CLEVELAND ROMERO**



**1943**



**1995**

## **PAUL E. BRESH**



**1944**



**1995**



## *Then and Now*



### **BILLIE DALE & THEDA EZELL**



**1946**

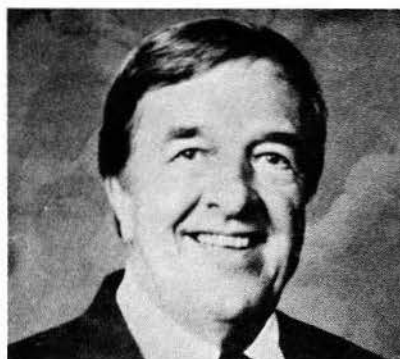


**1996**

### **JOHN DORONSKY**



**1944**



**1995**

### **JOHN E. REILLY**



**1944**



**1995**



## BULLET PROOF GLASS

By Warren Kiley

When we first arrived in England we were sent to a big Air Depot in western England. I recall its name as Burtonwood. It was a tremendous place with many hangers and a great amount of activity. It made our airfield at Mendlesham look like a small side show. We were there for several days while our B-24 was getting modified. The modifications consisted of (A) Cutting down the broadcast range of our Radio Command Set from 25 miles to 5 miles, (B) Installing armor plate and bullet proof glass on the flight deck and (C) Installing the Identification Transponder.

I am not entirely sure about the Transponder installation but the other items I am sure of. Anyway, at the time all the items were part of the general excitement of letting us know that we had become part of the Big Show. But it was much later that I really appreciated and grew to love one of the modifications - it was the bullet proof glass.

The armor plate and bullet proof glass did not give much assurance when the flak was bursting all around. After all we had several big volatile gas tanks in the wings, four vulnerable engines and plenty of other entry points for the shrapnel to reach us if we didn't blow up in the first place. But each man has his private fears and I really used to sweat when the brass shell casings came whizzing by. This happened when the gunners in the ships ahead fired their guns. Those casings would seem to hang in the air like so much golden glitter and then streak by like golden bullets. With bullet proof glass I didn't worry a bit. In fact, I secretly enjoyed the sight. However, on the occasions where we were assigned a ship with only a plastic windshield, it was spooky time again. For all I know the ships slip stream might have made it impossible to ever hit the windshield but, whenever those casings were glittering in the air, I was certain that they were coming right for the windshield.

Now a fear like that didn't make any logical sense because shrapnel was much more lethal and even more plentiful. But, in my case, it was the things that I could see that bothered me, and shrapnel wasn't visible.

Well, so much for the virtues of bullet proof glass. Due to its mass the darn stuff frosted up on descent and we had to keep scraping the frost off to see where we were going. However, given the choice again, I would probably trade my parachute for bullet proof glass. And M.M. Page 14



Mini 34th Golf Reunion at Arcadia, FL. L. to R.: Bob Wright, Ed Lonegran, Roy Balantyne & Bob Cole.

that is dumb because bullet proof glass never had to stop anything, not even an insect, but my parachute saved my life on one fateful October day.

\*\*\*\*\*

## REMEMBRANCES IT HAD TO BE DONE

By John T. Lyons

We were assigned to the 18th Squadron of the 34th B.G. during the period of transition from B-24's to B-17's as part of the newly created 93rd Combat Wing of the 8th Air Force's Third Division. This necessitated a stand-down from missions and about a month's indoctrination in the new aircraft for the B-24 crews. The integration apparently went well. We had the best air and ground crews possible, with particular credit to our pilots, whose tight formation makes this reminiscing possible.

On Saturday, September 16, we were briefed for our first mission and the Group's first B-17 mission. This mission was cancelled. It was flown the next day as support for an airborne invasion of Holland. It was rumored that we would be home for Christmas.

Continued on page 15

## 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:

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before the labels are printed to ensure the correct arrival



## MEMORIES

Continued from page 14

Sunday was a fine day for flying. Most of our subsequent missions were pre-dawn takeoffs in bad weather. Our flight across the North Sea was uneventful. Crossing the Dutch coast about midday we met our first flak. Proceeding to our assigned drop zone areas, at an altitude low enough to attract ground fire, we did not have to wait long for their reaction. When we located the anti-aircraft gun sites we circled back with bomb bay doors open and bombs dropping. It must have come as a considerable shock to the anti-aircraft gunners that they were the subject of our attention.

Exiting the landing zone area we had a spectacular view of the incoming airborne invasion force. There were streams of C-47 troop carriers towing gliders as far as we could see. We hoped that, due to our efforts, there would be fewer anti-aircraft guns firing at those defenseless low-flying aircraft. Their guns had to be eliminated as much as possible.

Heading back off the Dutch coast our aircraft suddenly shot upward like it had taken a flak hit. Ball turret gunner, Al Fruit, reported that the left bomb bay bombs had dropped through the left bomb bay door. The bombs impacted harmlessly on offshore mudflats.

The question now facing us was whether or not we had sufficient ground clearance to land with this damaged door projecting downward. Our calls to Stiffstarch Tower assured us that this was no problem. This evaluation was confirmed after our safe landing and a review of the damaged bomb bay door. Possible or not, we got a new bomb bay door.

\*\*\*\*\*



Sgt. Sassman & Don Wick with two girls in London.

## GUYS THE 34TH HEADQUARTERS FORGOT

by Dester Jordan

The 34th set some records in the States and in Europe for which I am very proud. When I compare what other groups did for the ground crew it is clear that, in general, we were not a very big "spoke" in the wheel of the 34th.

I'm referring to the 8th AF News. In one issue there was an article about a Crew Chief with five mechanics who was awarded a medal for 20 missions without an abortion. Another article appeared in the Nov., 1996 issue entitled "Bronze Star For Joe". Joe was in the 526th Sqdn. of the 379th B.G. The awards start here at 27 missions without abortion. Joe was awarded a Bronze Star for 61 missions and later credited with 107. One comparison we need to make is the number of ground crew. Joe had 9, counting himself. The 34th had 3 including the Chief.

You might ask, "How did we keep them flying with so few guys?" It all started in the States. At Blythe, when it was so hot the guys were falling out like flies, we changed to night work. With no cooling systems in the barracks it was impossible to sleep. I remember one guy sitting on a Crew Chief stand five or six feet off the ground sound asleep with a part in his hand. Humidifiers improved the conditions a little in the barracks. When we worked days we left our tools in the shade of the wing. However, they were still too hot to hold so we would drop them in gas to cool them off enough to use them. Hardship was no stranger to most of the ground crew.

When we arrived in England the first plane to land on the field was a B-17 belly landing. Introduction as to what to expect at best! When all our planes arrived and operations started the missions were long and the ground crew had time to rest. But, when we approached D-Day, short 4 to 4-1/2 hours missions and as many as three a day made it plenty rough on us. The best sleep I remember was in a turret cover waiting out a 4-1/2 hours mission. We had been going day and night for about three days. When my plane took off the sun was bright and the cold wind was blowing. I was cold, tired and sleepy. I looked at the sun, looked at my bicycle and the turret cover, then lay down, pulled it over me and the next thing I knew the planes were landing. I'm sure I wasn't the only guy in the group to sleep in turret covers and haystacks because they were too tired and sleepy to go to the barracks.

If you were on the flight line around midnight or after and saw someone riding a bike up and down the line, he was not riding for exercise. Most likely it was a crew chief hunting a plane that was grounded to borrow a part that was not in stock. This way the group had one more plane ready the next day. No, we did not call it stealing, but if we could find it in another squadron, it was harder to trace. Then there were the long cold nights with the sleet

Continued on page 16

M.M. Page 15

From the collection of:

Al Israelsen

Pilot, First Crew No. 1, 4th Sq. Feb - Nov 1944



34th Bomb. Group

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2576 Brookwood Drive  
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## MEMORIES

Continued from page 15

and freezing rain and the cold water running down your back and in your shoes while servicing and repairing the damage from the last mission. Sometimes we got back to the barracks around 11 or 12 o'clock to be called out by 2 in the morning to go back out and preflight, then wait for takeoff.

I'm writing this because I believe the 34th had many guys with just as good a record as Joe and did it with a crew of 3 while Joe had 9. I stopped counting Combat Missions after 100 because HQ had stopped recognizing the fact that we were working day and night to be sure the Flight Crews had the best possible chance of coming

back safe. The idea was to do our best and get the war over so we could all go home. I am sure most of the guys felt the same way.

My reason for writing this is that I believe many of the 34th Ground Crew members earned medals and, if they were not awarded, they should have been. A second reason for writing this is for recognition of these Ground Crew members at our reunions. To my knowledge no one has ever asked at a banquet if any of the ground crew received medals and how many missions without an abortion or what kind of medals were received. The only medals I know about are the Bronze Star awarded for excellent work and the Soldier's Medal which is awarded for risking your life to save others, and this must be beyond your line of duty.

\*\*\*\*\*



Cranford Sproul's crew - L. to R.: Krystof, Vaughn, Siemsen, LeMaster, Sproul, Fryer, Cole & Spence.