

# ENDLESHAM MEMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H

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# REUNION '97

## Omaha, NE.

# Sept. 26 - 29



# SEE YOU THERE!!

## OBSERVATIONS

Since our last issue I have been in touch with about thirty publishers regarding the book I have previously mentioned. Only one, Turner Publishing Co., who printed our 34th Bomb Group book back in 1988, expressed any interest. Before sending the manuscript I had to apply for a copyright, which I did. However, as of early March I had not received confirmation. I did have a receipt confirmation sent back to me by the postal service so I just marked the manuscript with "Copyright Applied For" notice and mailed it to Turner on March 10th. As of this writing, in late March, I have heard from Turner that they might publish the book. They asked questions regarding the approvals of the authors for use of their stories, the approximate number of 34th B.G. Assn. members, possible photographs for use of their stories and other items. It is not yet definite, but their caller said they will send to me their legal form in about a week. That's where it stands for now. If and when I hear more I will keep you informed.

Now on to other matters. Insofar as my memory lapse problems are concerned, I have not noticed it getting any better or worse. If it doesn't go downhill I guess I can continue as your editor for a while. Should it take a turn for the worst I will notify those in charge that I will need a replacement and we'll go on from there.

This issue, as usual, contains the reservation forms for our September reunion in Omaha. Our reunion committee tells us that there are a lot of places to see and much availability of things to do. Hopefully we'll see a record attendance at this one. We hope, especially, to see many first-timers there. We do look forward to welcoming new people into our group of regular old-timers. We do always have an enjoyable time at these reunions. Those of you who have not yet attended one of our reunions should try it. I know you'll not be sorry.

Please remember that our September issue goes to press on July 18th and any material for that issue should reach me no later than that date. **REMEMBER - JULY 18, 1997 IS THE FINAL DATE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE ITEMS!!**

That's enough for this issue. Rose and I want to wish you and yours "GOOD HEALTH AND GOOD FORTUNE!" And we're looking forward to seeing you all at Omaha.

Eli Baldea, Editor

### ***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.**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am sitting here looking out the window, in early April, and watching it snow! That should not happen this late in Kansas. All of our fruit trees and early flowers are in bloom and this won't help. But, on the bright side, we could be getting the deep snow and flooding that many of you are enduring.

By the time you receive this June issue of Mendlesham Memories I hope you are firming up your plans to attend the reunion in Omaha, Nebraska 26-29 September, 1997. This is a great location for a reunion and I know the Reunion Committee has a great program planned for us. The best part is meeting our old friends and crew members, and reliving the War years. Of course, our memories of those events may be slightly more exciting than the real facts but who is going to challenge us? I'll believe your stories if you'll believe mine!

It is my sad duty to report to my fellow crew members and other friends of my Radio Operator, John A. Martin, that he died on June 1st of 1976. I knew that he had remained on active duty after WWII and I finally located his old service number. This was enough for the Personnel Office at Randolph AFB in Texas to locate his current status. He was a good crew member and a friend who will be sorely missed.

**PLAN TO BE WITH US IN OMAHA AND GET  
YOUR PAPERWORK IN EARLY TO HELP THE COM-  
MITTEES FINALIZE THEIR PLANS.**

Ray Palmer,  
President

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Signpost in Mendlesham Area.

## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



Spring starts tomorrow and there are many of you who are ready for a little relief from the weather you've had these past few months. Seems like the weather is letting us know that we really can't do much about it, except accept it, and make the best of what we are given. I hope that you haven't suffered too much from what was given to your area of the country.

This issue goes to almost all of the living men who once served in the 34th B.G., either in the U.S. or in England. Many of you have paid dues at one time and then quit, while others didn't even respond to a letter which included an addressed, stamped envelope. The 34th B.G. Association is for you and your enjoyment and the reunions are a means to get together to recall troubles we all went through back in the '40's. An organization is what you make of it! Those who are members and enjoy reading Mendlesham Memories and attending reunions obviously believe it is worthwhile to be a member, meeting others who shared the times with you. New friends quickly become old friends and a sense of family is enjoyed at the reunions. We'd like ALL to be members of the 34th BGA but realize that some guys don't even want to think about those days gone by. Let me remind you that time is swiftly passing and before long there won't be any reunions.

Thanks to George Franco I finally signed up on the INTERNET when a local Internet server provided local phone service. I've been reading the GUEST BOOK messages on many of the web-sites which have to do with WWII and the Air Force. You'll be happy to know that there are many 2nd and 3rd generations who have THANKED YOU for the service you rendered for your country in WWII. And so many are avid in getting information about what their Dad or Grandad did during the war "but dad or grandad never talked much about the war. He died a while ago and I miss him so much. I wish he had told me about what he did". PLEASE - GET YOUR STORY DOWN ON TAPE so this won't be said about you. It doesn't have to be fancy. And your descendants will know what you did!

Those of you who are on the INTERNET please send me a note so I can get your e-mail address. My e-mail address is "PROVIH@DATASTAR.NET" Jim Martin is working hard at building a Home Page for the 34th

B.G. He has put out the word that the home page is online at [www.excel-tech.com/34th/](http://www.excel-tech.com/34th/), so you who are using Internet can check it out. There are still a few changes to be made. Send your comments to Jim at his e-mail address at the bottom of the home page. I know he's looking for a GOOD graphic of a B-24 to add to the page.

A note to all: The Editor of MM is responsible for the newsletter and the Treasurer is responsible for all financial matters. Checks for dues should be made payable to Hal Province and articles for MM should go to Eli Baldea. Checks should not be made out to MENDLESHAM MEMORIES and dues should not be sent to Eli Baldea, nor articles for MM sent to Hal Province. Jack Clarkson is working hard at getting a 34th BG display case ready at the Heritage Museum. I've been there, enjoyed it, and all the AF web sites rave about it. Visit it if you're in the vicinity.

Don't forget to remind your graduating seniors that the deadline for the scholarships entrants is July 10, 1997. Applications were in the March issue of MM.

That's it for now. May GOD ABUNDANTLY BLESS!!

Harold Province,  
Treasurer

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## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT OMAHA-HERE COMES THE 34TH BOMB GROUP!

The plans and programs are pretty well set in place for our 1997 34th Bomb Group reunion. The committee has been struggling with the food people at the hotel and have reached the quoted prices on your registration forms. Nothing seems to reduce in price so we do the best we can.

The tour will include Boys Town, a must if you're in the Omaha area. We will stop at a food court for lunch and then on to the rain forest and the Aquarium. This is all part of the famous Omaha Zoo system. Lunch at the food court is on your own. Admission to Boys Town is on a donation basis. Please help out this worthy institution.

The S.A.C. Museum is under construction and moving so it has been eliminated from this tour. Golf will be played at the Fox Run Course just a short distance from the hotel.

For you that are driving we have provided in this issue a map with directions from all sides of the compass to get you to our headquarters hotel. The fly-in members will have complimentary transportation from the airport to the hotel and from the hotel to the airport.

Your Reunion Committee,

Harold Rutka  
Robert Wright

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## ROSE'S CORNER

"Let's get your column written because it will go to the printer's in a week!", sez Eli. But how can I concentrate when my favorite Chicago Cubs are out there, fighting diligently to retain their 0-13 last place position in the National Baseball League! I've been an ardent fan since I was a very young sports-minded girl. Playing baseball was one of my favorite games but tennis, my real love, kept me busy during every summer vacation until WWII broke out. I went to work at U.S. Steel's Gary, IN. Works and worked many hours overtime, scheduling the steel orders for building ships, armor of all kinds and transportation paraphernalia which kept everything moving. Working was my number one priority so my thoughts of being a tennis champ went out of the window. I was satisfied just listening to baseball games on our radio and playing tennis on a weekend once in a while.

I have many more things to tell you but I will stop here and share with you a real tasty and very simple to prepare dish sent in to me by John and Ethel Leath of Hot Springs, Calif. You will really enjoy this Chicken Casserole because with little effort it tastes like you have gone through a lot of work to create it. Serve with a cucumber & onion salad. Top it off with a light dessert such as sherbet or even Jello. Bon Appetit!!

### CHICKEN CASSEROLE

You'll need: four (4) to six (6) cooked chicken breasts.

Remove the skin and pick off the meat from the bones. Arrange the meat in a 9"x13" pan. In a small bowl mix together:

- 1 can of Cream of Chicken Soup
- 1 can of Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 cup of Sour Cream

Spread this mixture into the pan over the chicken. Do not add water to this mixture.

Prepare one (1) large (twin pack) of Stove Top Stuffing Mix for Chicken according to directions on the box (Use 2 cans of chicken broth instead of water). Spread this on top of chicken mixture. Bake at 350 deg. F. for 30 minutes. Then ENJOY!!

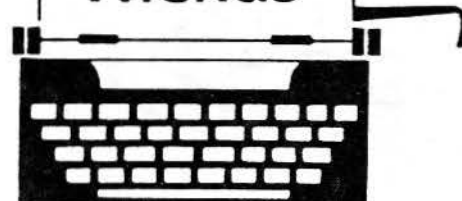
I close with these ideas on how to handle stress:

1. Fill out your tax forms in Roman Numerals.
2. Bill your doctor for time spent in his/her waiting room.
3. Stare at people through prongs of a fork and pretend they are in jail.
4. The best one yet: When someone says "Have a nice day" you tell them you have other plans!

Have a great summer and may God reward you richly for the good you do everyday!

Love,  
Rose

## Notes From Our Friends



ED GEOHAGEN - Yelm, WA.

I met one of our Intelligence officers at a P.O.W. camp in Nuremberg in Feb., 1944. He was a survivor of an air to air collision over Stuttgart. He had gone for a joy ride and ended up as a guest of the Reich. I wonder what his name is??...

\*\*\*\*\*

WALTER STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

I always look forward to the next issue of Mendlesham Memories with great anticipation. It's a great publication.

I want to thank all the people who have sent me information about lost planes and airmen of the 34th Bomb Group. I still have some blank spaces that need to be filled. I need dates, pilot's names, plane name and number (if possible), and crew number (if possible). Then a little about what you saw or experienced. If any V.I.P.'s were on board mention that. It's looking pretty good. I just need a few more. I know there is more information out there. We want to make sure it gets into the Heritage Museum near Atlanta, GA. also.

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CHARLES McCLURE - Ckifton Park, NY.

We had an easy winter - not too much snow and warmer than usual. The ice is gone out of the river and it will soon be time to think about fishing.

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### 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.

## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 4

**SID SUGARMAN - Delray Beach, FL.**

I was the personal equipment officer for the 7th Squadron and worked together with the other P.E.O.'s as a unit. I can't remember their names and would like to hear from any of them that are still around.

I vividly remember D-Day with all of the planes going on many missions, coming back to reload their bombs and go out again. All the men in our office, officers and enlisted men alike, worked day and night for 3 days making sure that the crews had their equipment in working order. We caught a nap whenever we could. But no one went to their barracks for those 3 days or nights. We did not expect any accolades for this as we felt we were just doing our jobs keeping the air crews in the air. P.S.: I came back to the States on the Queen Elizabeth, arriving at my home on V.J. Day!!

\*\*\*\*\*

**DEXTER JORDAN - Huntersville, NC.**

I want to say thanks for the great job you have been doing as editor of M.M. Sorry to hear that you feel the need to be replaced. I know twelve years is a long time to have that responsibility but, when you are on the receiving end as all of us have been, it seems so short. I do hope someone will step in and relieve you because I know it is not an easy position to fill.

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**ALFRED N. STEINER - Basking Ridge, NJ.**

I had dinner with Sid Rockmuller and our ladies at the 94th Bomb Group Restaurant in Fairfield, NJ. It's housed in an excellent replica of the headquarters hut and features memorabilia and photos. Allen Israelson says there are a few of them around the states.

My wife chided me about not listing our wedding date with you so here it is. We were married on June 20, 1945. I hope I have it right or I'm in trouble.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WILLIAM J. ORTON - Yuma, AZ.**

I am sending you a name to add to your "TAPS" list. Mrs. Catherine Stocki wrote to let me know that her husband, Benjamin Stocki, passed away on Dec. 30, 1996. "Ben" served with the 1446th Ord. S. & M. Co. with the 34th B.G. at Mendlesham. He and I also lived in the same barracks for 17 months.

I am hoping to make it to Omaha this September and, of course, I will be in Boise. The following year is "God Willing!".

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**JAMES F. MARTIN - Santa Anna, TX.**

You mentioned your problems with memory, etc. in the last issue of the "Memories". Don't worry about it. If any of us happened to notice it we would forget it in minutes. The problem is becoming universal. Probably something to do with the weather when we were in England or some such thing. You are doing a great job.

I would like to add my "Amen" to Dexter Jordan's article about the crew chiefs. When the 34th was moving around in the states before going to England, someone

managed to pick up the top crew chiefs on each base until the 34th had the "Cream of the Crop". Dexter was our crew chief and I know that he worked day and night to make sure that our plane was right. When Dexter said that the engines would run, they ran. The other crew chiefs were the same. My thanks to them all.

I have been working on a home page for the 34th to put on the internet. I have coordinated with Hal Province on it and have a first draft on a temporary address until I am satisfied before putting it out to the search engines. I do not know whether or not you are on the internet but, if not, perhaps you know someone who is and can take a look at it. I would like some opinions before I advance. I had software on my computer and a son who could get us on line free so I started on it. The current address is: <http://www.excel-com/34th>. There are several changes that I plan to make as soon as I get some things scanned into my computer. I will likely remove the list of former commanders and replace it with more information on the current organization.

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**MARGO (BILL) BURNELL - Kirkland, WA.**

We hope all are doing well and, like us, ready for some sunshine. However, that means YARD work ahead. We will send the scholarship application on to our granddaughter this week. Then we'll cross our fingers. I can't believe what it costs for college these days. It is unreal.

Take care and we'll look forward to seeing you all in Omaha. The way time flies by September will be here soon.

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**EDWARD EVANS - Scarsdale, NY.**

We sure enjoyed the Raleigh reunion - the first time my crew got together in 51 years. Thanks to Bill Cheek we had a great write-up in the Raleigh Daily News.

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Cosmo Papalio, Dale Ganger & Don Wick - V.E. Day.



## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 5

**ROBERT DEES - Torrance, CA.**

I want to thank you and all the others who make this association what it is. I don't know of any group that has one that comes close to the 34th B.G. Assoc. We missed last year's reunion but hope to make one again soon - maybe Boise.

Thirty years ago I retired from the Air Force. I just can't realize it's been that long, nor can I comprehend that it's been 53 years since I was part of the 34th B.G.

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**GLEN D. BARR - Newcastle, WY.**

Harriett Souder sent me the obituary concerning Walter's death so I decided I would send a copy on to you. He was a member of our crew, Lt. Armstrong's, in the 4th Squadron.

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**HAROLD C. RUTKA - Duluth, MN.**

Grady C. Deatherage died Thursday, March 7, 1997, in the hospital. The family visited with him on that evening and were preparing to bring him home the next day. They received a call to come to the hospital on Friday morning and, by the time they arrived, he had passed away. He had been in the hospital on August 4th for Cardiac Arrest - September he was hospitalized when he stopped breathing. The family had known for some time that he was having too many health problems but they were still shocked at the time of his passing.

Edith said that Harry Prillaman attended the funeral. He had called Wayne Howarter and told him about Grady's passing. Wayne informed me. Edith had spent years taking care of Grady and, according to what Grady had said, she was the reason he had lived as long as he did.

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**DONALD E. TUTTLE - San Jose, CA.**

Leonard Chatoian, the radio operator on our plane, "The Paper Doll", passed away on July 7, 1995. He is still shown on the active list. Leonard retired from the Sheriff's Dept. in Sacramento.

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**KATHERN (JOSEPH K.) MARKS - Salt Lake City, UT.**

Joe has been in a rehab center in Las Vegas since Feb. 15th when he suffered a stroke while vacationing there. I don't have any idea how long he will be incapacitated but we will be going back to Salt Lake and a facility there on the 4th of April. He is partially paralyzed on his right side but is making slow progress. We have always enjoyed the reunions so much and will miss being there this year. Thank you so much for your wonderful work. (This note was sent to Hal Province, our treasurer.)

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**ROSE (JOSEPH J.) HARRISON - Pittsfield, MA.**

On October 15th, 1996, Joe was in a very bad auto accident and sustained very serious injuries. He almost didn't make it! He was confined to the hospital from day one of the accident until Feb. 11th of this year. Upon his M.M. Page 6

release from the hospital he was admitted to a nursing home nearby where we live. I just couldn't give him the care he still requires, which is extensive. He had very good care while in the hospital and has come a long way in recovery, but he has to have rehab to gain his strength back. Rehab requires at least four hours per day, mornings and afternoons. I believe it's more stringent than when he was in the service fifty or more odd years ago.

Thank God for the prayers and all of his faithful friends who visit him often. Believe me, the friends are numerous. We always look forward to receiving and reading the Mendlesham Memories. Pray for him, please, and Thank You.

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**JEANNE S. COCHRAN (TERRY STANFORD SHELL) - Hickory, NC.**

I am writing in behalf of my father, Terry Shell. He did serve in WWII and was in the 34th Bomb Group. He is now 83 years old. He and my mom are still living in their home although they are not in the best of health. He would like to receive more information and be put on your list for the 34th B.G. Assn. He hopes to attend the reunion in September and I will probably attend with him. Thanks so much for the correspondence.

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34th Plaque at the Memorial Garden Museum in Dayton, OH.

## DEADLINE

Any material or items to be inserted in the Sept. issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before July 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

IRENE T. (JOHN J.) PELSZYNSKI - Clearwater, FL.

How happy my husband would have been to have known that there was a 34th Bomb Group Assn. He had been a proud member of the 34th from Aug., 1944 to May, 1945. He went back into active service for the Berlin Airlift. Our daughter and I joined him in Bremen, Germany when he flew out of Celle (Brid. Zone). Later we went to Wiesbaden and, while on our tour in Germany, we went to England (1950) and visited the old quonset hut where the missions were all marked on the walls - a very touching reunion. A British housekeeping unit was in charge at the abandoned field.

After 34 years in the Air Force John retired as a colonel in Oct. '76 at the Pentagon as Chief of SAF/OIS. We retired to Florida where he died of cancer on April 23, 1981 and is interred in Arlington Cemetery in Virginia. I am now active in the Society of Military Widows. Thank you for the letter and the information.

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WINFIELD K. REYNOLDS - Pinehurst, NC.

Your letter was very welcome. A "Sheep" has been found. I served with the 34th as a navigator and was attached to the 18th Bomb Squadron. The period was the latter part of 1944 and early 1945, arriving just prior to a change-over of aircraft from the B-24 to the B-17.

I can only recall the names of two of the crew - the bombardier, Richard Ruth, from Iowa, and the co-pilot, last name of Smith. I would certainly be interested in some of the condensed history of the group and the present-day activity of the association. I would not be able to attend this year's reunion as I will be in Europe in September.

I have visited the air base at Mendlesham some years back. The RAF was using the base as a storage depot. I lived in the U.K. for some 25 years and know the Norfolk and Suffolk areas very well indeed. I will await further information and do commend you in your efforts to locate us.

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WANDA (GERALD) PINE - Waunakee, WI

Just a note to send the notice we put into the paper. I will be sending all of Gerry's paperwork he has for the future reunions to Harold Rutka. That is what he said to do. I think he knew he was in bad trouble when he went into the hospital.

I hope everyone will enjoy the reunion in Omaha. We were sure planning big on this one as he was going to give it up after the Boise one. Or, at least, that is what he said. Love to everyone and don't forget me.

\*\*\*\*\*

WALTER STURDIVAN - Stockton, CA.

I want to thank all the members who sent me information for my new book "THE RED-TAILED DEVILS FROM MENDLESHAM". The book is now finished and I hope to have some at the reunion in Omaha. If anyone would like to order one they can write to me and send me \$10.00, postage free. The 85 page, 8 1/2 x 11

book covers many of the losses of crews and aircraft from the beginning of our tour until the end. Some of the information has never been in print before. My other book, "SHAKE HANDS WITH A SOLDIER" (my experience and time with the 34th Bomb Group) is still available for \$15.00, postage free.

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WILLIAM BUCHAN - Utica, MI.

I'm sorry to report the passing of my dear Mira. We met in Montgomery, AL. while I was in cadet school. She was a most wonderful wife and mother. We were together almost 54 years and I am left with a great void in my life.

Thank you and all the others that do such a fine job for the 34th.

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JOHN COLLINS - Lake Havasu City, AZ.

I'm very lax in writing this letter of "Thanks". I received your letter of March 6th informing me that I was accepted as an "Associate Member" of the 34th B.G. Assn. Bill Sherman was my sponsor. Bill is a member of your association and I belong to the 5th Regimental Combat Team Assn. He served in Europe and I served in the Far East in Korea and Hawaii. Without my knowledge Bill enrolled me in the 34th. I also had the paperwork in for Bill to be enrolled in the 5th RCT Assn. In any case, today we are both members of very proud outfits.

Again, thank you for accepting me into your "Great Outfit". I'm very proud to be a part of your 34th Bomb Group Assn.

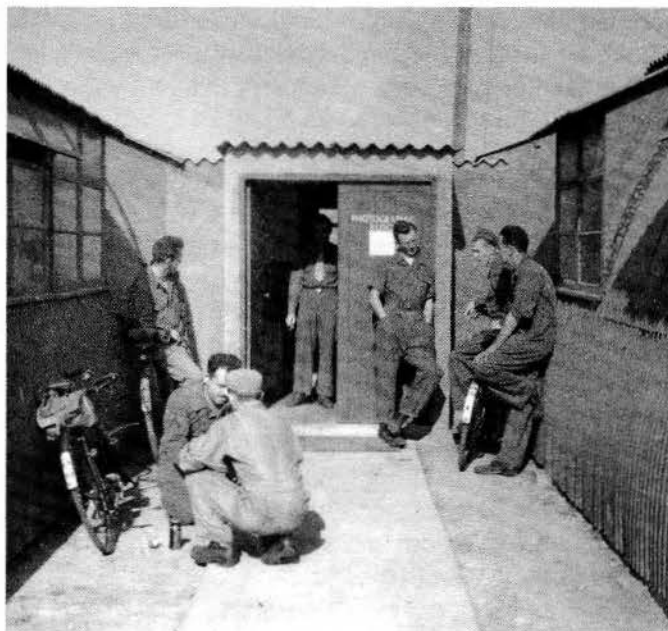
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WINFIELD K. REYNOLDS - Pinehurst, NC.

Many thanks for your letter of March 27th along with the enclosures. With regret I will not be able to attend a September '97 reunion. But in the future - hopefully yes.

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(Please note: The last three letters were sent to Hal Province, our treasurer)



Group outside photo lab.



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

We have recently been informed that last June our own Robert Saxen finally had the Distinguished Flying Cross presented to him for his efforts in World War II. After the 34th reunion in 1993 his pilot, William Pedigo, followed up and confirmed his eligibility for the award, which was later received and presented to him at the Holstein, IA. Legion meeting, fifty years after the achievements were met. Congratulations, Robert!

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We have recently been informed about three books, written by a Mr. Armand Blau, regarding Americans killed on the European continent during World War II. The titles are "Tears" @ \$55.00, "In The Shadow Of The Forests" @ \$89.00 and "Heroes" @ \$25.00. We are informed by H. Province that we have only one man listed as being buried in HENRI-CHAPELLE Cemetery. Unless ordering 7 or more books the postal charges will be added to the above amounts. If interested, write to:

Armand Blau  
Prins Clausstraat 3  
8862 MA Harlingen  
THE NETHERLANDS  
Tel: 011 31 517-417079  
Fax: 011 31 517-419537

The books are rather expensive. Obviously a great deal of research went into the writing of them.

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From Mr. Benjamin Smith Jr. of Waycross, GA. we have the following:

I want to thank you for the past support your newsletter has given the Wall of Valor Program at the 8th Air Force Heritage Center Museum in Savannah, GA.

I wanted to update you on the progress of the "Wall". To date three panels of the wall are up and we are proofing the 4th panel. We are over 3/4 full for the 5th panel. We have almost 1,100 orders processed as of this morning (March 3, 1997). I would like to run, if possible, our order form in the June edition of your newsletter. Thank you for your consideration of this request. (The order form is included as an insert in this edition.)

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From the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum we have the following:

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum will hold its first anniversary celebration at the museum on May 15-18, 1997.

"We have had a very gratifying and encouraging first year at the Heritage Museum," said Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., Museum Chairman and CEO, "and we want to show our appreciation to all the Eighth Air Force veterans and others who have so strongly supported the museum. We also want to use the celebration as an occasion to introduce the museum to all those people who have not visited or heard about the Heritage Museum."

The anniversary celebration will begin on Thursday evening, May 15, and conclude with a memorial service



Mission of Jan. 14, 1945 to Derben, Germany.

on Sunday morning, May 18. Friday's events will be geared toward visiting school children in the morning and toward Eighth Air Force veterans and families in the afternoon and evening. Saturday's events will be geared toward the general public.

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## SPECIAL NOTICES

### DUES IN ARREARS!!

On occasion I get a note included with a check for dues on which the writer writes - "Let me know if I owe any back dues. I've forgotten when I paid last." Or I might get a check which includes \$10.00 for last year's dues. Since I was elected Treasurer I have never accepted any money for BACK DUES. If I were to accept BACK DUES I feel I would be obligated to send you the issues that you missed during the year that dues weren't up-to-date. We don't order that many extra copies of MM and, therefore, I wouldn't be able to send the back issues. Normally we print an extra 25 or 30 copies and these are sent to our NEW FOUNDS and to members who DON'T tell us they've moved but expect a replacement copy anyway! Many of you are receiving the June issue which goes out to almost ALL living 34th men on our roster. The June issue may be the only way you have of knowing what is going on in the 34th B.G. Assn. If you paid dues previously but haven't paid in recent years - please don't think that we'll hold you responsible for the BACK DUES! We'll be glad to have you rejoin the 34th B.G.A. and we'll mark you paid whenever you sent in the \$10.00 for the current year (which starts in January, by the way.) And your dues should be up to date if you plan on attending the reunion.

Harold Province,  
Treasurer

\*\*\*\*\*



## SPECIAL NOTICES

Continued from page 8

### "WALL OF VALOR"

From the "Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA. we have the following:

Join the company of valiant 8th AF'ers whose names are inscribed on the "Wall Of Valor" in the Memorial Gardens of the museum. Your memorial will be 4"x12" on handsome, indestructible granite. Send full name, rank, squadron and bomb group (or other unit) of 8th A.F. Cost is \$100.00 for 24 letters. Add \$1.00 for each extra letter. The quickest way is with Mastercard or Visa. Call 1-800-544-8878 between 0800 and 1700 (Eastern time) for information. Your tax-deductible donation will help create the beautiful Memorial Garden and preserve it forever. Join in this great undertaking. It is OUR Memorial!!

\*\*\*\*\*

### OBITUARY

Inasmuch as he has served the 34th Bomb Group Assn. for so many years as the head of the Reunion Committee, your editor felt that more needed to be said about Gerald Pine's passing than a notice in the TAPS list. The following has been taken from the local newspaper in his area:

Gerald Pine, age 73, died in a Madison Hospital April 15, 1997. He was born in Arena, Wisc., the son of Erb and Mary Pine. On June 28, 1947 he married Wanda Mickleson and they lived in the Black Earth-Waunakee area all his life. He served in the U.S. Air Corps during World War II in the 34th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force and flew 33 missions over Germany.

He is survived by his wife, Wanda, three children, Brenda Barsness of Black Earth, Wisc. Quilla Pine of Waunakee and Dennis Pine of Mazomanie; six grandchildren, and two sisters.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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

## NEW MEMBER'S THOUGHTS

I see you at the meeting, but you never say hello.  
You're busy all the time with men you already know.  
I sit among the fellows, still I am a lonely guy;  
The new ones sit there with me while you quickly pass me by.

But, gosh, you guys have asked us in  
And you talk of fellowship;  
You could just step across the room  
But you've never made the trip.

Why can't you nod and say hello,  
Or stop and shake my hand,  
Then go and join your other friends,  
Now, that I'd understand.

I'll be at your next meeting too  
On that you can depend.  
So, won't you introduce yourself?  
I want to be a friend.

\*\*\*\*\*

## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT!

Greeting cards are sent from the President to people celebrating 80 and older birthdays or 50th wedding anniversaries.

To arrange for a card write to:

GREETINGS OFFICE  
WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

Specify occasion, date, names and address (Allow at least four weeks lead time)

\*\*\*\*\*



Bernard Stanton, Don Wick, Dale Ganger & John Hurley.

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG.	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
*****						
ALDRIDGE	FREDERICK P.		4906 BRITENWATER CT. #202	MYRTLE BEACH,	SA.	29577
BIKSEY	JOHN	4 MM	2200 GLASS ROAD	VICKSBURG,	MS.	39180-7324
DUNLAY	WILLIAM J.	18	16810 SAN JOSE STREET	GRANADA HILLS,	CA.	91344
GRIMM	CLARENCE U.		7705 WATERMAN	WATERMAN,	IL.	60556
HANRIHAN	JOY	7A	245 WINDING CANYON LANE	FOLSOM,	CA.	95630-5016
HOOD	JACK	7LM	RT. 12, BOX 457	LAKE CITY,	FL.	32025-8828
HOWARD	PHILIP R.		CHANGE OF ZIP CODE	LARGO,	FL.	33773
MACCARNI	ISVENO		234 CULLODEN ROAD	STAMFORD,	CT.	06906
MADDEN	HAZEL		2415 OUTRIGGER DRIVE	SAN LEANDRO,	CA.	94577
MANSFIELD	JAMES J.	7	CORRECTION OF ZIP CODE	GROSSE POINT WDS.	MI.	48236
MARKS	DANIEL J.	18	4 BEATTIE COURT	LITTLE FALLS,	NJ.	07424-3514
OTT	CARLYLE G.	4-391	12293 ANTIGUA COURT	MARION,	IL.	62959
PACHOLSKI	ROBERT M.	7	2902 SHORELAND AVENUE	TOLEDO,	OH.	43611
PRENTICE	GEORGE R.		P. O. BOX 804	LINN,	MO.	65051-0804
SCHLINDWEIN	ROBERT L.	391	2259 ROYALE ROAD, APT.2	SACRAMENTO,	CA.	95815
SIMPSON	ROBERT M.	7-18	40 HAMMOND DRIVE	MONTECITO,	CA.	93108-2868
TIGGES	EUGENE L.	18	226 WEST FLEMING STREET	FORT WAYNE,	IN.	46807
TROUP	JAMES H.	7	2800 KELLER DRIVE, APT. 300	TUSTIN,	CA.	92782
WILLIS	LINDA L.	391A	1932 WENGERT AVENUE	LAS VEGAS,	NV.	89104-1935

## NEWLY FOUND

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE
BALLARD	CALVIN H.	391	1633 SOUTH 720 WEST	WOODS CROSS,	UT.	84087
EDELSTEIN	FRED	18	SEE TAPS LIST			
GRINALDO	ANGELO J.		47 WILLOW LANE	WYNANTSKILL,	NY.	12198
HAMILL	MILTON	W	5416 LEDGESTONE DRIVE	FORT WORTH,	TX.	76132
JACKSON	ROY P.		1844 BUSH AVENUE	ST. PAUL,	MN.	55119
JENNESS	KENNETH L.	WP	P. O. BOX 18	MORGAN,	VT.	05853
MAKENS	?		829 NORTH 59TH STREET	MILWAUKEE,	WI.	53213
PELSZYNSKI	JOHN J.		SEE TAPS LIST			
REYNOLDS	WINFIELD K.	18	240 DONALD ROSS DRIVE	PINEHURST,	NC.	28374
SHELL	TERRY		527 6TH AVENUE SW.	HICKORY,	NC.	28062
STOCKI	BENJAMIN		SEE TAPS LIST			
SULLIVAN	DENNIS	18	1717 AVIATION AVENUE	EVANSVILLE,	IN.	47711
TOPOR	ALBERT C.		2422 PLEASANT RIDGE	HOWELL,	MI.	48843



## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRSTNAME	ORGN.	STREET ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCODE	DIED
BAUGHMAN	CLEO J.	7LM	4 HILLCREST DRIVE	STOCKTON,	KS.	67669	02-02-97
CHATOIAN	LEONARD		8078 DORIAN WAY	FAIR OAKS,	CA.	9562	07-07-95
DEATHERAGE	GRADY	7	455 MURPHY ROAD	COLLINSVILLE,	VA.	24078-2109	03-07-97
EDELSTEIN	FRED	18	393 EUCLID AVENUE	OAKLAND,	CA.	94610	12-24-76
HANCHAR	JOSEPH F.	4	2211 CALIFORNIA AVENUE	FT. WAYNE,	IN.	46805	03-11-97
JANES	JOHN R.	7	1445 FREMAUX AVENUE	SLIDELL,	LA.	70458	11-15-96
KEEVAN	THOMAS	W	NOTIFIED BY NEPHEW	NO OTHER DATA AVAIL.			
LAMPEY	ROBERT	18	P. O. BOX 44	AURORA,	OH.	44202	04-03-97
LODERMEIER	HILARY P. "LARRY"	18	3323 ELKHORN BLVD.	NO. HIGHLANDS,	CA.	95660	01-30-97
NASS	MELVIN H.	18LM	1248 PAULITA DRIVE	MEDFORD,	OR.	97504	02-07-97
PELSZYNSKI	JOHN J.		736 ISLAND WAY #605	CLEARWATER,	FL.	34630	04-23-81
PINE	GERALD	7	5414 HIGHWAY 12, LOT 51	WAUNAKEE,	WI.	53597	04-15-97
SMITH	GEORGE A.	391					02-17-97
SOUDER	WALTER P.		RT. 2, BOX 195	FAIRFIELD BAY,	AR.	72088-9523	01-25-97
STOCKI	BENJAMIN	1446TH ORD.	11037 17 MILE ROAD	STERLING HEIGHTS,	MI.	48313	12-30-96

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCODE</u>
BLAND	JOSEPHINE	4	1409 BERNARD STREET	PASADENA,	TX.	77506
CASEY	RALPH D.	391	513 WISTERIA WAY	SAN RAPHAEL,	CA.	94903
EDELSTEIN	JOAN		393 EUCLID AVENUE	OAKLAND,	CA.	94610
REYNOLDS	WINFIELD K.	18	240 DONALD ROSS DRIVE	PINEHURST,	NC.	28374
TAYLOR	JAY S.	391	827 WARE BLVD.	SAN ANTONIO,	TX.	78214

## 1997 FIFTY YEAR ANNIVERSARIES - CONGRATULATIONS!!

<u>MARRIED</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAMES</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCODE</u>
04-10-47	TROUP	JAMES H. & NATALIE	340 ORCHARD LANE #2	SEDONA,	AZ.	86336
05-03-47	GOMBOS	WILLIAM & MARGE	50 JACKSON STREET	SARATOGA SPRINGS,	NY.	12866
08-15-47	MORRIS	CLETUS & JEAN	P. O. BOX 96	PINCH,	WV.	25156
11-02-47	BALDEA	ELI & ROSE	2576 BROOKWOOD DRIVE	CROWN POINT,	IN.	46307
12-27-47	DEES	ROBERT & EDITH	3393 SO. OAKWOOD STREET	SALT LAKE CITY,	UT.	84109



## ANNIVERSARIES OF MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS!!



<u>MARRIED</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAMES</u>	<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCODE</u>
1941-09-04	FULTON	WILLIAM & LOUISE	144 HIGH STREET	CHELMSFORD,	MA.	01824
1942-08-16	HACKNEY	CLARENCE & DARIA	185 MIDDLE ROAD	PORTSMOUTH,	NH.	03801
1943-12-25	WATKINS	IRVIN & MARIE LOUISE	7430 ASHBURN STREET	HOUSTON,	TX.	77061
1944-02-01	ROGERS	EVAN & MARGO	821 VIA LINTERNA	TUCSON,	AZ.	85718
1944-02-12	DANIELS	COURTNEY & MARION	3393 SO. OAKWOOD STREET	SALT LAKE CITY,	UT.	84109
1944-02-20	TUTTLE	DONALD & MARIANNE	1152 CURTNER AVENUE	SAN JOSE,	CA.	95125
1944-06-03	SULLIVAN	DENNIS & ?	1717 AVIATION AVENUE	EVANSVILLE,	IN.	47711
1945-06-20	STEINER	ALFRED N. & JEAN	35 CHESTNUT COURT	BASKING RIDGE,	NJ.	07920-3110
1945-09-04	MARKS	JOSEPH & KAY	2205 BRIARVILLE AVE.	ANAHEIM,	CA.	92806
1946-08-23	PROVANCE	WARD & RUTH	2317 SO. SERGEANT STREET	JOPLIN,	MO.	64804

## DONATIONS TO THE RAY SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>IN HONOR/MEMORY OF</u>
BACHOUROS	MR. & MRS. PETER F.	ROBERT LAMPEY
BIRKO	ELIZABETH (BETSY)	GRADY DEATHERAGE
CAILLOT	MR. & MRS. J.	ROBERT LAMPEY
CALHOUN	MR. MRS. CHARLES JR.	ROBERT LAMPEY
CONKLIN	GENNY & CLAUDE	ROBERT LAMPEY
DAUGHERTY	SHIRLEY M.	ROBERT LAMPEY
EDELSTEIN	JOAN	FRED EDELSTEIN
FAIRCHILD	CINDY & ROBERT	ROBERT LAMPEY
HANES	MR. & MRS. LOWELL	ROBERT LAMPEY
MILLER	MARILYN & FAMILY	ROBERT LAMPEY
NATIK	STEVEN & JEANNETTE	ROBERT LAMPEY
PENNOCK	MARY	ROBERT LAMPEY
REED	MR. & MRS. R.	ROBERT LAMPEY
SUTHERLAND	PATRICIA & RICHARD	ROBERT LAMPEY
WELLES	SANDRA	ROBERT LAMPEY
ZMOZYNSKI	THOMAS & JANA	ROBERT LAMPEY





## *Then and Now*



### **MALCOLM "TED" BLOMQUIST**



**1945**



**1969**

### **LEONARD & GENE GOLDEN**



**1946**



**1996**

### **MORTON ABRAMS**



**1944**



**1996**



# *Then and Now*



## **JAMES & HELEN BRUEN**



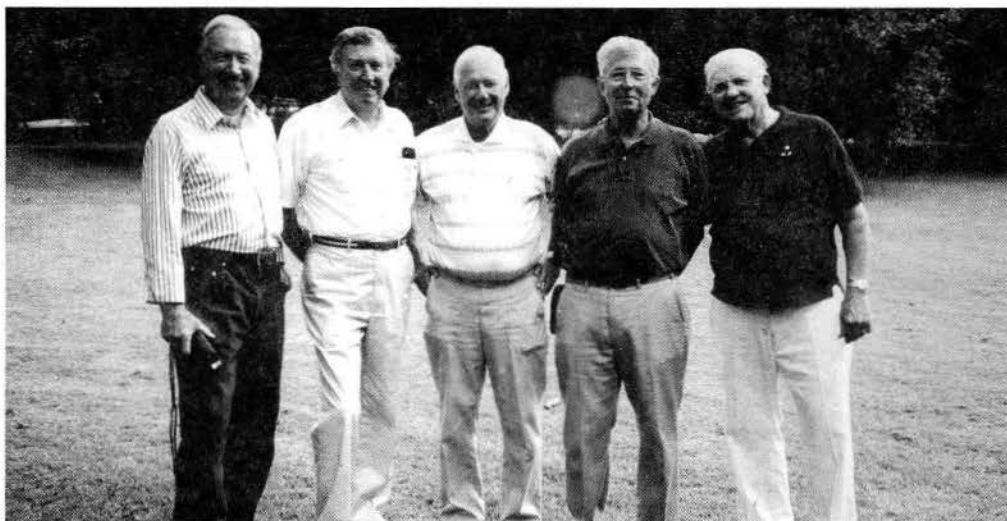
**1945**



**1996**



Mort Fiedler's crew in 1944. Front L. to R.: Levitte, Fielder, & Griffin. Rear L. to R.: Peterson, Donaldson, Horton, Eiswert Bower & Smith.



Crew reunion in 1994 - L. to R.: Peterson, Donaldson, Fielder, Horton & Eiswert.



## I DO REMEMBER!

By Pal G. Howard

I read in one of the MM's that someone would like to hear from some of the ground-pounders. I was certainly one of those!

After 20 months of working in basic training centers in the States I was eagerly looking forward to my assignment as Executive Officer of the 18th Squadron of the 34th Bomb Group at Mendlesham, England. I arrived at our base in the early spring of 1944, but I never had a chance to carry out my assigned job.

Instead, I was greeted upon my arrival by Base Adjutant, Bob Gay, who tactfully informed me that I was to become Base Mess Officer. It seemed that things weren't going too well at the mess halls. What an assignment for one who had majored in Accounting in college. To make a long story short I did, indeed, take on the job and had some measure of success, although we had to work with antiquated equipment.

Some of my memories at Mendlesham include:

Sharing Christmas dinner with 45 Canadian crews in December of 1944. They had to land at our base as theirs was closed due to weather. This was when the Battle Of The Bulge was going on and our planes were grounded also.

Our 100th Mission party. I had the pleasure of spending an hour with Broderick Crawford, the M.S. of the affair.

The constant fight over fresh eggs. Fresh eggs were only issued for the flight crews, but a lot of ground-pounders sneaked in when they could.

A moonshine still found in the shower building above the boiler room, located conveniently close to the mess halls which, I'm sure, provided the essentials for distilling. Being from the mountains of Kentucky, I had no trouble identifying the still complete with copper worm.

I do remember a lot more of my 17 months with the 34th but, for the sake of getting too boring, will stop here.

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## AH, MEMORIES!

By Herb Mermelstein

A couple of years ago I wrote a story about the communications section of the 391st Sqdn. and also about the Crysell family, who were very friendly with our



John Funk, Don Wick, John Hurley, Dale Ganger & Cosmo Papalio in London.

section. It so happens that I received a letter from Doreen Scruby from Mendlesham who informed me that she was the Crysell daughter that I wrote about. We have exchanged several letters. Did you know that she is one of the ladies that take care of our Memorial on the site of the base?

An interesting story: About a year ago I was at my men's club meeting and one of our members was with the 37th Infantry and he was bragging about their association and reunions and so forth, so I started telling him about ours. Another member heard me mention 8th Air Force and he asked me what bomb group I was in and where in England. He almost fell off of his seat when I told him the 34th and, for a night out, we would go to Ipswich. He was with the 353rd Fighter Group stationed in Raydon. He believes his group gave our group escort. Do you remember the tea house in the middle of town? They also served fish and chips. In fact, our trucks that took us to town would stop there and leave us off. Well, he married a girl who worked in the tea room and brought her home with him. A long story, but, I thought, what a coincidence!

In the June, 1996 issue the article concerning the early history of the 34th Bomb Group Assn., written by William Cheek, was very enlightening. Let's go back to the St. Louis reunion. I happened to be visiting my daughter in St. Louis and, in the local paper, the notice of the reunion was mentioned. My wife and I registered for the banquet and sat with members of the 34th. It was there that I mentioned about the "Flying Pinocchio" and my ride to Holland to drop off food and that is where I met Bill Cheek. I sent photos of the flight crew and the B-17 to him. The following year in Washington D.C. I happened to be there for a meeting of my veteran's group, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., and I noticed in the local paper about the reunion of the 8th A.F. After my meeting I went to the hotel and met some of the fellows



# MEMORIES

Continued from page 14

of the 34th. Incidentally, I was the teletype operator, not the squadron clerk, and, when I didn't have to be on duty, the 6 p.m. to Midnight shift, I, along with Tiny, Medical Section of the 391st Sqdn., ran the 391st Pub, located in the day room.

I have since received a letter from Bill Cheek with a blown-up picture of his bomber just before take-off to Holland, with the crew in front of the bomber.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MY HERO!!

By Bob Simpson

Col. (Jumping Joe) Eaton was my favorite upper-brass, a West-Pointer without the career ego. He was a dedicated human being, devoted to "his" boys and organization. I worked (temporary duty) at the Group Operations on two or three occasions. He sent me out, for instance, to report on my observations of a couple of B-24 crashes. At one point he had a request from a Group about to go overseas to help find a Group Operations Officer and asked if I'd be interested. He knew I was/am no career character and wholeheartedly approved of my decision to stay where I was rather than go out with a group of which I knew nothing. Better to stick with the devil you know.

I believe he was instrumental in having the 34th go operational by direct intercession with Hap Arnold. He was proud as hell of "his" gang, particularly after we were going operational and really applied our training skills and experience to turning out a real star group.

One picture I have vividly whenever I think of him. When some particularly annoying order came down



John Hurley with two of the Red Lion's waitresses near London's Picadilly Circus.

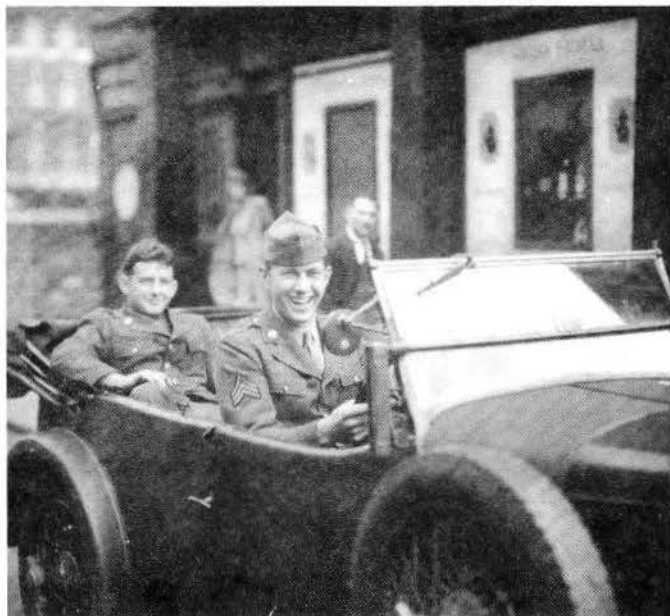
from El Paso (Hdq. II AAF) and was announced over the squawk boxes in Squadron Operations, he might signal for silence, turn on and listen in (understandingly and sympathetically) to the "Oh-My-God" comments. It was never to try sandbagging an insubordinate-sounding victim. It was just a "Right-On" nod and a smile.

My real personal memory: First, I had no use for the fruit-salad ribbons on my blouse. When Carl Nichols said he was putting me in for an Air Medal for 5 milk runs, I told him to forget it. When he showed me the actual orders, already cut, the die was cast. I pulled a 1942 order out of my foot locker, awarding an Air Medal from the South Pacific in September, 1942. "O.K. wise guy. Get me this and an oak-leaf cluster if you gotta do your duty". I never put ribbons or combat (or even good-behavior) strips on my blouse.

One evening, entering the Club, I met Eaton coming out. We exchanged salutes. He looked down at my blouse--only pilot wings. He said, "Where are your ribbons, Simpson?" "I'm wearing everything I think I've earned, sir" I replied. "Don't you know that ribbons are part of your uniform?" "Yessir", I replied. "Next time I see you I want to see those ribbons on your blouse" "Yessir".

A few evenings later the scene was reprised. I met Eaton at the Club door and saluted. He returned the Salute, pointedly looked down at my blouse, ribbonless, smiled wryly and went his way without comment. A few days later he was dead.

I put ribbons on for my parents to see when I went home and had an Eisenhower-type jacket made. I think fondly of Joe Eaton every time I see a picture from that brief homecoming. There is a monument in my heart for my personal hero: Col. Joe Eaton!

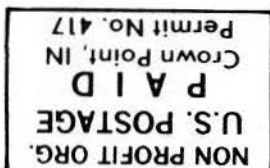


John Hurley & Sassman in London.

Continued on page 16

M.M. Page 15

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



Address Correction Requested



Eli Baldea  
2576 Brookwood Drive  
Crown Point, Indiana 46307  
(219) 988-4607



## THE UNSUNG "MECHS"

By Lee Fleming Reese  
borrowed from 8AFHS Georgia Chapter newsletter

There are garlands for flyers in Europe,  
For aces and victors in war,  
And for Lindbergh, who flew the Atlantic,  
Touched down onto France's west shore;  
For Byrd who flew over the North Pole,  
For Corrigan's strange "wrong way" trek,  
But where are the towering markers  
To the faithful and capable mechs?  
For a plane is as good as its weak spot.  
Each Pilot is risking his neck  
If the plane isn't properly cared for  
By the faithful and capable mechs.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HOW TO KNOW YOU'RE GROWING OLDER

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.  
The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.  
You feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere.  
Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.  
You get winded playing chess.  
Your children begin to look middle-aged.  
You join a health club and don't go.  
You begin to outlive enthusiasm.  
You decide to procrastinate but then never get around to it.  
Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.  
A dripping faucet causes an uncontrollable bladder urge.

## Here's a puzzler for you!

What part of a woman's anatomy is called her "YET"? There was a story in the paper the other day about a woman being accidentally shot in a hold-up. The doctor treating her said, "The bullet is in her yet."

Remember the old song, "I wonder who's kissing her now?" (Is it possible that her now is located near her yet?)

\*\*\*\*\*



Our B-24's crossing the coastline.