



# ENDLESHAM EMORIES

## 34TH BOMB GROUP H



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# ***REUNION***

See You In  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA  
September 26th - 29th

## OBSERVATIONS

For some reason the mail for this issue has been very sparse. Thankfully I have a file of "Memories" stories which I can use to fill the issue. After almost 13 years as editor, this is the first time I've had this problem. Oh well, I guess everybody has a first time for many experiences.

Here we are preparing our September issue of MM while we are thinking about our reunion at Omaha. Hopefully, Rose and I will be there. There have been problems with my health and I hope nothing will come up to make us cancel our trip. I have been losing weight without trying. In two months I have gone from 160 lbs. to 140 lbs. at the last weigh-in. I have no appetite, am never hungry, and I eat only because it's mealtime and that's not a lot. So far the doctors have not been able to explain it. I hope that when they do it will not interfere with our trip.

Please remember that our December issue goes to press on Oct. 24th and all material for that issue must reach me no later than that date. REMEMBER - OCTOBER 24TH, 1997 IS THE FINAL DATE FOR DECEMBER ISSUE ITEMS.

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

Eli Baldea, Editor

### THE BRIDGE BUILDER

An old man, traveling a lone highway,  
Came at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
For the sullen stream held no fears for him,  
But he turned when he reached the other side  
And builded an bridge to span the tide.

"Old man!" cried a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here,  
Your journey will end with the ending day  
And you never again will pass this way.  
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,  
Why build you a bridge at eventide?"

And the builder raised his old gray head,  
"Good friend, on the path I have come," he said,  
"There followeth after me today  
A youth whose feet will pass this way.  
This stream which has been as naught to me,  
To that fair-haired boy may a pitfall be;  
He too, must cross in the twilight dim,  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

REUNION TIME IS HERE! We are looking forward to a large turnout for Omaha, Nebraska. It is a good central location and was headquarters for Strategic Air Command until it was eliminated as a separate command and the mission incorporated into other commands. I had the pleasure of touring their underground Command Post back in the 1970's. It was amazing the number of monitor screens they were using to follow events around the world. It is unfortunate that their museum is under construction and moving during the time of our conference. It would have been interesting for all, but the Reunion Committee has outlined a good program for us as is shown in the June issue of Mendlesham Memories. We were much saddened by the sudden death of Gerald Pine, Reunion Committee chairman on Apr. 15, 1997. He worked very hard to smooth out the many problems that arise during the conferences. I wrote to his wife, Wanda, expressing our sorrow at his death. We hope she will attend future conferences with us. I know we will all miss her excellent personality and happy smile at the Registration Desk.

By the time you read this Bula and I will have celebrated our 55th Wedding Anniversary on Aug. 16, 1997. I don't know how she has put up with me for that many years, but I am thankful. We have eight grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, with more on the way. It sure makes me feel my age.

We hope to see all of you in Omaha, Nebraska on the 26th to the 29th of September, 1997.

Ray Palmer, President

## Senior Citizens Are the biggest Carriers of Aids!

hearing aids  
seeing aids  
chewing aids  
band aids  
Roloids  
walking aids  
medicaids  
gov't. aids

## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER



I just counted 75 days until we gather for a reunion, but it will only be 15 or 20 by the time you read this! I hope YOU ALL have your reservations in and are anxious to again meet with the old gang.

These past few months have been exciting to me as your Unit Contact, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Not that the normal correspondence isn't exciting but there have been contacts from outside the 34th BGA that are interesting. I had a letter from a Polish aviation writer, Michael Mucha, inquiring about the two 34th aircraft that were landed in Poland. I contacted almost all the living crew members who landed in Poland, plus the daughter of one, and set up correspondence between the aviation writer and our crew members. The daughter, Dr. Joan Edelstein, is tentatively planning on meeting Mr. Mucha when she travels abroad this year. And, just this week, I've been corresponding with a Kevin Welch of England, who wanted to know more about the one aircraft we lost on June 6, 1944 when it crashed near Corfe Castle after running out of gas. Right now, June 12th, we are still trying to figure out if Tommy Thumper, Tommy Thumper II, and Misery Agent were the same aircraft. Several years ago Kevin was given the task of investigating the crash sites in England and he is still working on the data that was reported at the time of the crashes. A recent publication, "HEAVY BOMBERS OF THE MIGHTY EIGHTH," provides the correlation of aircraft names and serial numbers, not only for the 34th B.G. but other B.G.'s in the 8th Air Force.

And, this week, I received a copy of Walt Sturdivan's new book, "THE RED-TAILED DEVILS FROM MENDLESHAM." Walt has gathered some first-hand (eye-witness) accounts that hadn't been published and it is well worth the modest cost to read of the events involving the loss of our aircraft. Walt has promised to have some copies available at the reunion for those who want a copy.

Most of the inquiries about the 34th B.G. come through regular mail and I answer in the same manner. My letterhead now includes my e-mail address and often I receive an immediate answer by e-mail. For those of you who are not involved with computers and the Internet -- E-mail is in reference to ELECTRONIC MAIL, which is sent electronically through computer hook-ups. In three or four days I have had correspondence with Kevin Welch (in England) which, under normal air mail circumstances, would have taken at least three or four weeks

to accomplish.

The same thing works in the U.S. as well. I now have 16 E-Mail addresses of 34th B.G. members and can get a message out to them PRONTO! I've been allowed to eaves-drop on E-Mail between O.A. Israelson and Walter Bowers and I have learned a lot. O.A. and Walter were both involved in the military prior to Pearl Harbor and both were in the 34th B.G. at the onset of the 34th B.G.! I'm sure there are also others who were in at the start but I had no way of knowing such until I started eaves-dropping! For those who haven't sent me an E-Mail address I ask that you do so soon. And I'm asking Eli to include E-Mail addresses (for those I now have) in a special listing on our UP-DATE pages with the change of addresses, new founds, etc.

That's about IT for now. Sure hope to see you all in Omaha soon!

Harold Province, Treasurer

I also have received some E-Mail addresses which I want to pass on to you as follows: If you want the street addresses you will get them with the new roster which is included in this issue.

Paul & Beryl Anderson, Everett WA,

71001.1763@CompuServe.com

Lance Anderson, Grand Prairie TX,

dotcom@mail.airmail.net

Paul Bourquin, Pleasantville NY, pabbo@computer.net

Walter R. Bower, Melbourne FL, wbower@midcoast.com

Bill & Margo Burnell, Kirkland WA, wburnell@sprynet.com

Leo Danielian, Palm City FL, D0430@aol.com

Ambers & Jean Hanson, Auburn AL,

Jhanson837@aol.com

Jim Hinchee, Salem VA, Taylor202@aol.com

A O Israelsen, Minneapolis MN, ALISRA@aol.com

Jim Martin, Santa Ana TX, jfmartin@web-access.net

Hal Province, Carriere MS, provih@datastar.net

Don Shee, Downers Grove IL, gunrb17@juno.com

James C. Smith, Cape Coral FL, Chippy@water.net

Horst Wilhelm, Germany, Dr.Horst.Wilhelm@-online.de

### **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

"There are five more days before we go to press and the only column I don't have is Rose's" Eli said, glancing sideways at me as I got into the car. "Well I've been thinking about it and that must count for something" I replied. He said "No!"

Well, I'm in the process of doing just that. Still thinking! Since I have to be pushed a little, I got to wondering as to what holiday is coming up. The main one arrives in December, the same as your next Mendlesham Memories. Wonderful! Christmas has always been my favorite and I'll never forget the joy of Christmas morning when we were young. Our tree was never brought home and decorated before my sister and I were asleep. Toys were removed from their packaging and set around the tree. I wish that I had a few of the dolls which Santa had brought for us! They could have been sold for a pretty penny today, especially the Shirley Temple dolls which I adored.

Even though we were girls my dad set up a train to chug its way around the tree. I still have two of the cars. I wonder if any of the beautiful glass ornaments are still being used as part of decorating the tree. The last one I owned was shattered on a Christmas morning by our son, Michael. He took a bite out of this shiney, yummy looking, red bulb and scared the whole family. I managed to wash out of his mouth all of the bits of glass and, thank God, he was all right after that Christmas morning.

We want to wish you all the best when it comes to your health and ability to spend the holidays together with your families! This is so very precious as time flies by too fast!

To finish my column I want to share two of my recipes which can be used for Thanksgiving or Christmas. The first, Taffy Apple, one is very good. Just don't forget to buy sticks to insert into each apple. Allow a couple of grandchildren to help. Have fun!

### TAFFY APPLES

- 1 - 14 oz. can Eagle brand sweetened milk
- 2 cups brown sugar
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 3/4 cup white corn syrup
- pinch of salt
- 25 small apples or about 12 big ones

Bring first five ingredients to boil. Cook 5 to 8 minutes, stirring constantly. Dip apples on a stick into mixture. Roll in nuts, if desired. Let cool on waxed paper.

## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

### 34TH BOMB GROUP REUNION NEWS

Our 1997 reunion in Omaha is rapidly approaching, and the hotel cut-off date for registration is August 29, 1997. The hotel has had a name change and is now known as the "Double Tree". Rates will remain as shown on the registration forms.

Tours to Boystown and the Omaha Zoo System which includes the Rain Forest and the Aquarium will be very enjoyable. There will be no box lunches on this tour as we will stop at a food court. Lunch will be on your own.

We will provide the opportunity for you to meet old friends and to make new friends. We will be looking for you at the "DOUBLE TREE" in Omaha. John Doronsky has been warming up his accordion and will be in good form in the "Hospitality Room." Everyone will have a great time!

Harold Rutka & Robert H. Wright

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## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

### The 23rd Annual Reunion - Eighth Air Force

Members of the 34th Bomb Group who will be in the Minneapolis-Bloomington, Minnesota area during the period of September 9th to September 14th are invited to come to the Eighth Air Force reunion at the Radisson Hotel South.

If you haven't attended an 8th AF reunion, there will not be another one in this area for the next 15 to 20 years, and by that time not too many of us will be attending reunions.

I will be looking forward to visiting with all of you at one or both of the reunions.

Harold C. Rutka

Eighth Air Force Historical Society  
Reunion Chairman

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The Fanny May Fudge is very special. It uses three different kinds of chocolate and turns out very good. Marshmallow keeps the candy nice and moist. When you cut this fudge into squares, place each into a candy-size paper cup and keep them in an air-tight cookie tin. YUMMY!

### FANNY MAY FUDGE

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 4 cups sugar                             | 13 oz. chocolate chips      |
| 1 cup milk                               | 2 oz. unsweetened chocolate |
| 25 large marshmallows                    | 1 cup nuts                  |
| 1 cup butter                             | 1 teaspoon vanilla          |
| 13 oz. milk chocolate candy bar (broken) |                             |

Mix sugar, milk, butter and vanilla. Bring to full boil for 2 minutes. Turn off heat. Add marshmallows. Stir until melted. Add chocolate, one kind at a time. Stir until melted. Nuts may be added at this time. Pour into a well-greased pan. Let cool before cutting.

May God bless you and grant you many happy holidays!!

Love, Rose



RAYMOND S. BROWN - San Antonio, TX

I am sad to report the death of my friend and former comrade-in-arms. Jean Paul Bouliane. He was our navigator on the crew of "Shadrack", of which I was the pilot. We have maintained contact for a number of years and met several times.

Jean was a special person in the Air Force, in private life, the business world and in his church. After WWII he remained in the Reserves. He pursued a most successful career in accounting and real estate, with a break for service during the Korean War. He retired from the Reserves with the rank of Lt. Col.

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OLIVER BOLDUC - Chaplin, CT.

I give you and the staff an awful lot of credit. My wife and I read MM and go thru the stack every so often. I believe I have all of them from the inception of MM. I've allowed others to read thru them and, hopefully, they have returned them all to me. They really are a pride and joy to me, as well as others that have never even been in the service. They hold volumes of history, believe me.

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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.

L.T. HENDRICKSON - Victor, Montana

I really enjoy being an associate member and receiving the great periodical. It has been a super source for research on my World War II project. All of you keep up the good work.

I hope to make another one of the reunions and possibly a trip to England with the group. I am especially interested in the prospect of the meeting being in Boise, Idaho.

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BILL BOARMAN - Greensboro, N.C.

I believe you guys are doing a commendable job and I, for one, am extremely grateful to all of you that put the quarterly publication together.

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MRS. MARY HAGNER - Williamsville, N.Y.

Thanks for having me as an associate member. My son, who is 12 years old, enjoys wearing his late grandfather's, my father, Edmund J. Tymizyszyn, 34th Bomb Group jacket a lot. I try to let all my children know of the sacrifices their grandfathers and all of you soldiers made to help keep this country free for them. I think it's important they realize how lucky they are because of what you all did in World War II.

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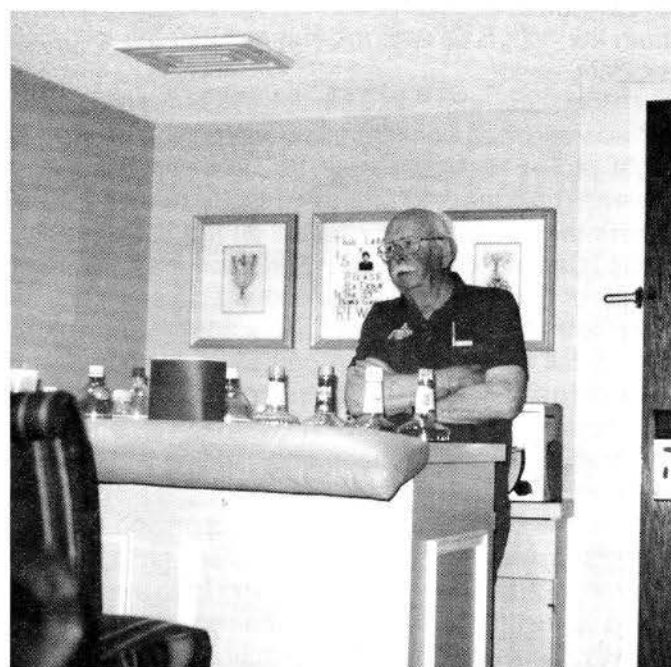
SHIRLEY FRIEDMAN - Del Ray Beach, FL.

It is my sad duty to inform you that my husband, Andrew Friedman passed away on Dec. 19, 1996. I would have notified you sooner but I didn't have a copy of "Mendlesham Memories" and I did not have an address.

Andrew told his family many stories about his war years. I thank God he survived and lived a beautiful life for 72 1/2 years.

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Continued on page 6



Our Official Bartender We'll Surely Miss Him.



## NOTES FROM OUR FRIENDS

Continued from page 5

**ROBIN RICHENSHAUSER - Montecito, CA**

I'm sad to report that my father, Bob Simpson passed away on January 11, earlier this year. He died of bone cancer that had come from his prostate cancer. Fortunately, his final illness wasn't too prolonged.

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**E.FRANKLIN DUKES JR. - Charlottesville, VA.**

I very much enjoy Mendlesham Memories. It is a well done and interesting publication. We all owe you more than we can express for the many, many hours that you spend to make it so. I would like to make a suggestion, though. Since not all of us have been receiving it since it started, I think it might be worthwhile to go back to the early issues and reprint one item in each new issue.

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**DEXTER JORDAN - Huntersville, NC.**

Winter and Spring have come and gone. Both were unpredictable in the Carolinas. Now Beulah and I are looking forward to Omaha and seeing everyone. Again we want to say thanks to all who work so hard in planning our reunions.

Now it is my sad duty to report the death of another 34th member, William O. Hatley, on June 18th. I talked to Ina (Mrs. Hatley) earlier today and she said his eyesight was bad so that he could not see to read or watch TV. He also had a real bad back plus other problems.

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**SCOTT RICHARDSON - Norman, OK.**

Hello! I'm sending you greetings from the Sooner State. I am writing you to ask for help in locating anyone from the 34th B.G. who might remember the following incident.

Sometime from Feb. 20 to July 7, 1944, a crippled B-17 was escorted from Germany to England by a small flight of P-51B Mustangs. The flight remained at a distance from the B-17 until they reached the North Sea, where they closed up formation on the damaged fortress. Captain Clarence E. Anderson was the flight leader of these 357th Fighter Group Mustangs, and he tells me that the fortress was badly shot up from the nose to the tail with one of the propellers feathered and severed damage to the tail gunner's position. The pilot of the bomber nursed the B-17 to England where he proceeded to make an emergency landing at the first air base in sight.

As the B-17 lined up for final approach Captain Anderson realized the crippled bomber's radio must be out for he could see B-17s returning from the mission lining up for final approach from the opposite end of the runway. Realizing those on the ground had not spotted the crippled B-17, Captain Anderson raced out in front of

it and buzzed the length of the air field just above the runway. He then pulled up on a collision course of the lead B-17 and buzzed it as close as possible to get the pilot's attention. Anderson then made a quick 180 degree turn, raced out in front of the B-17 he had just buzzed and flew back toward the crippled bomber with his wings wagging. This action caught the attention of the ground personnel who waved off the B-17s approaching from the opposite direction, allowing the crippled B-17 to belly land.

It is my hope that someone from your organization remembers this event. I would like to know the identity of this B-17 crew and if any of its members are still alive today. Captain Anderson, now a retired Air Force Colonel, is a friend of mine and would also like to know how the crew fared that day. If anybody has any information on this B-17's crew, what bomb group it flew with, etc. we would love to hear from them. Those interested in helping can either write me at 4113 W. Main, Apt. E, Norman, OK. 73072 or call me at (405) 360-6518.

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**DIRK GOMBERT - Boise, Id.**

In your recent letter you suggested I might send in before and after pictures of myself for publication in the MM. I look forward to each issue of pics of the others and feel real good about your request.

Incidentally, Dorothy and I were married on March 1, 1946, which it is easy to tell is 51 years ago.

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**DOROTHY (JOSEPH) LINDIA - Hernando, FL.**

I know I should have written sooner but it still brings tears to my eyes when I have to let people know that my beloved husband, Joe Lindia, passed away on September 22, 1995.

We were married for 50 years.

Joe flew with the 7th Sqdn. and was bombardier on the crew of the "Hit and Run" in 1944 for 33 missions. We attended a few of the reunions and he enjoyed reminiscing with some of the men who attended. He also enjoyed keeping up with the news in Mendlesham Memories. So, with great sadness I ask that you add his name to your TAPS list and wish to send all the best wishes in the world to you and the rest of the 34th's members. May God bless you all for many years to come.

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Continued on page 7

## DEADLINE

Any material or items to be inserted in the December issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before October 24, 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

**GEORGE RITCHIE** - Swansboro, NC.

Son Tom is second in command at Mt. Home AFB in Idaho of the B1B Squadron which carries the number "34th Bomb Sqdn. of the 8th Air Force." He has mentioned that if and when our reunion committee plans to visit the base he could rollout the "Red Carpet" for us. He told me to inform the committee to ask for him when they go there to set plans or have the girls of the Boise Chamber look him up. He will make himself available to them. He pins on Lt. Col. in either July or August.

I do think we could profit by using Tom to get us a "super gala time" on base. I know he'd pull out all the stops. Sort of the original 34th meets the present 34th.

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**AUDREY MEADOWCROFT** - Dorset, England

I have just heard from Hal Province that, at the request of my very good friend, Jack Share, and with the agreement of your committee, I have been made an Associate Member of the 34th Bomb Group Association. It is a totally unexpected honor and one for which I wish to hastily place on record my grateful thanks.

How come I am considered for this? Well, from 1940 until 1946 I was a member of the Web Foot Brigade of the Royal Air Force. Who were the Webfoots? It is said that half of the RAF didn't know and the other half weren't interested, but in fact, they were the Sailors in the RAF, officially known as the Marine Craft Section, who from 1918 to 1986, when it was disbanded, manned the boats of all sizes that serviced the Float Planes and Flying Boats before and during WWII.

Additionally, from the 1930's they crewed the High Speed Launches which were brought into service to form the Air-Sea Rescue Service in which I was privileged to serve as a First Coxswain, in 32/33 Mobile Air Sea Rescue units which were set up as mobile units especially to cover the D-Day landings and in which I took place on that day. As events moved on we, as a mobile unit, moved up the coast until we found a permanent home in the German E-Boat pens in Ostend on a particularly nasty, weatherwise, day, to patrol off the entrance to the Scheldt to cover (RAF speak!) the Yanks who were having another party over Germany!

It was rather late that day that I came into contact with the 34th Bomb Group whose B-17, Dinah Mite, had decided to put down in the sea about a mile off Dunkirk, which was still in German hands. We introduced ourselves to the crew, who were in a couple of rubber dinghys, and offered them a lift back to Ostend which they accepted. This is how I became associated with the 34th. As a result of a letter I wrote to Jack Share's mother to tell her he was alive and well, Jack started to look for me and, 50 years later, he found me. It is a wonderful and very true story of an RAF crew reunited with their American friends after a very successful RAF mission. I have been physically reunited with Jack Share and

George Mehling, the pilot, and it was a wonderful and very emotional experience, and I am sure that you will understand me when I say in all sincerity that I accept this honor in behalf of all members of the crew of RAF High Speed Rescue Launch 2579, on that day. God bless you all.

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**RAYMOND D. (JIM) HINCHEE** - Salem, VA.

As usual the MM was a pleasure to read. We will not be at the reunion this time. Margaret is having some problems again. She gets one thing fixed and another gets her. '95 Cancer of the throat, fixed, '96 gall bladder attack, fixed, '97 hip replacement, fixed. Now we find out on July 3rd that she has acute leukemia. Keep us in your prayers and, if the Good Lord is willing, we will try our best to at the next reunion. Thanks again for the excellent MM. Sure hope your problems are a lot better.

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**ROBERT H. WRIGHT** - South Bend, IN.

Registrations for the reunion are coming in very slowly thus far. We have 40 so far (men & wives). I suppose all hell will break loose next month.

Just a note to tell you that our 50th wedding anniversary will be coming up on Oct. 11, 1997. We were married on Oct. 11, 1947 in South Bend.

We hope everybody will take care and we're looking forward to seeing you all in Omaha.



Oliver Bolduc's Crew in WWII Not All Have Ben Identified.  
Lt. Blum was Co-Pilot.



## NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

From a Mr. Fryar Calhoun of Berkely, CA we have the following:

Because your readers are interested in Eight Air Force history, I'd like to call your attention to a new air memoir that has just been released: **THE COLD BLUE SKY: A B-17 Gunner in World War II**. The author, Jack Novey, was with the 96th Bomb Group in 1943. The book makes very good reading and I think your newsletter readers would be interested in it. It has to do with an young American volunteer and his nine crewmates who fight for their lives in the deadly air war against German.

The book is a 6"x9" hardback (clothbound) with dust jacket. To order write to: Howell Press, 1147 River Road, Suite 2, Charlottesville, VA. 22901 or phone toll-free at (800) 868-4512. The price is \$24.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling.

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From Jack Clarkson we have the following:

Here at the 8th Museum I took advantage of the Ga. blue granite stone - a 24"x24" size. This stone of our crew is now placed on the memorial garden's wall, the only 34th plaque installed as yet but we want some more so let's tell our boys about it.

I can bring you up to speed on the museum. From opening day, 5-13-96, until 11-1-96 we have had 40,000 visitors. On Feb. 9, 1997 the city of Savannah had open house for all museums. There are approximately 50 varying size museums located here. Savannah is a very historic city dating back to 1731.

On Museum Sunday the 8th Museum had 5,639 counted visitors plus what was not counted - we figure over 6,000 visitors (not all local, either). We were overwhelmed!! We had over \$500 in donations in baskets placed strategically around the museum.

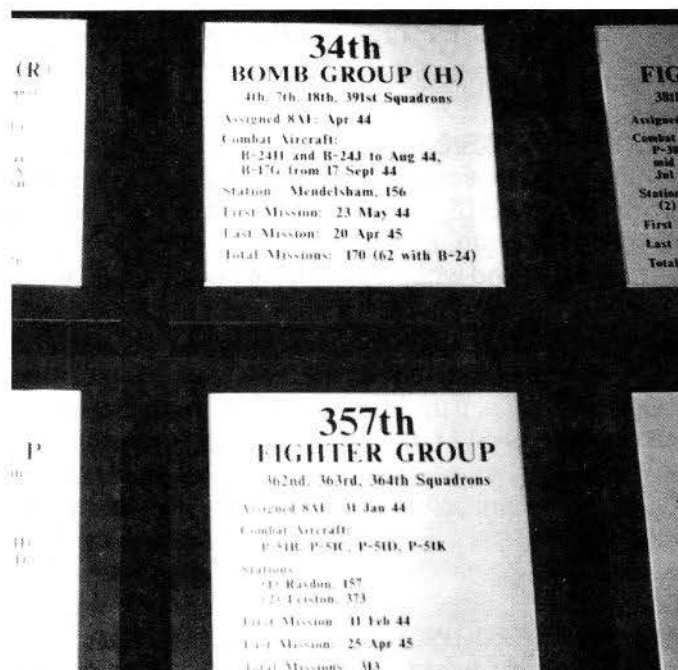
Dorothy and I are looking forward to Omaha in September.

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From John & Ethel Leath of Desert Hot Springs, CA. we have the following:

The Palm Springs Air Museum is now a reality and they are looking for new members to the Palm Springs Air Force. They have special events such as fly-overs and aviation celebrities on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, VE Day, VJ Day, and more.

Anyone interested can write to: Palm Springs Air Museum, 754 North Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA. 92262-9777.



34th B.G. Plaque at Museum.



Memorial Wall at 8th A.F. Heritage Museum.

From CAVU Publishers we have the following:

We have published a new History book "Eyes Of The Eighth", which is the story of the 7th Photo Reconnaissance Group that flew out of Mount Farm Air Base near Oxford, England. It has a "Foreword" by Roger A. Freeman and should be of interest to any ex-8th Air Force people. The price is \$49 plus \$5 shipping & handling (total \$54). If interested, write to: CAVU Publishers L.L.C., 16810 Boswell Blvd., Sun City, AZ. 85351. Or you may phone: (602) 972-3991.

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## 1997 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

The number of Applications for Scholarships is down a little this year from numbers we have received in the past. It is ONLY the NUMBER that is down for a quick look at the grades and activities of the applicants reveals that they are just as high in past years. And there are several applicants who even mention that they have aspirations of a Master's Degree and some for a PHD degree. WOW! We certainly have some far-sighted students in the 34th BG family! (I seem to recall that I was almost ready to graduate before I even thought about going to grad school - Hal)

We're sorry that the scholarship committee won't be able to announce the winners in the Sept. issue of MM. The closing date for the scholarship and Eli's deadline for articles for the Sept. issue just doesn't give us sufficient time to do our job. The following are students from whom applications have been received as of July 10, 1997, the due date.

Julie E. Beckett, Arlington, TX., sponsor Raymond Lucas, Austin, TX.

Jenny E. Capps, Casper, WY., sponsor Glen D. Barr, Newcastle, NY.

Megan Cassell, Mt. Olive, NC., sponsor Geo. Jorgenson, Putnam Stat, NY.

Jason Crawford, Lansing, MI., sponsor Harry Crawford, Leesburg, FL.

Carl S. Dyson, Great Mills, MD., sponsor Lloyd E. Wilson, Leonardtown, MD.

Shelagh R. Flack, S.W. Harbor, ME., sponsor James P. Bruen, Lynn, MA.

Kara Gancarz, Broadalbin, NY., sponsor Richard Peters, Johnstown, NY.

Kimberly E. Hoag, Greenville, MS., sponsor David C. Hoag, Spokane, WA.

Patrick J. Hoban, Louisville, KY., sponsor Robert G. Hoban, Chanassen, MI.

Rebecca R. Hope, Trabuco Cayn, CA., sponsor Joseph Marks, Salt Lake City, UT.

David T. Hunter, N. Syracuse, NY., Thomas G. Hunter, N. Syracuse, NY.

Raymond P. Janes, Slidell, LA., sponsor John R. Janes, Slidell, LA.

Tanzy Mae Love, Hayward, CA., sponsor Jefferson R. Hawkins, Lawrenceville, GA.

Michelle E. Prouty, Gig Harbor, WA., sponsor William T. Burrell, Kirkland, WA.

Katherine E. Reid, Boyce, VA., sponsor Barton L. Boehmler, Hampton, IA.

Lona L. Sanders, Auburn, AL., sponsor Ambers Hanson, Auburn, AL.

Brenda Share, Spring, TX., sponsor Jack Share, The Woodlands, TX.

Jane Slade-Dashiell, Anna Maria, FL., sponsor James Slade, Seymour, IN.

Kimberly S. Stiver, Struthers, OH., sponsor David S. Stiver, Austintown, OH.

WHAT A LIST OF GREAT STUDENTS!! You Grandfathers, etc. should be real proud!! GOOD LUCK TO ALL!!

Our new scholarship winners for this year are:

**First Place - \$1,000.00**

Raymond B. Janes of Slidell, LA

**Second Place - \$500.00**

Jenny E. Capps of Casper, WY

We hope to have their photographs for the December issue of Mendlesham Memories.

## SPECIAL

We have recently been informed that a friend of ours in England has just passed away. Maldwyn Williams of Mendlesham who, with several others, created the Memorial Book for the 34th Bomb Group which is in the Church at Mendlesham. He was a good friend and we want to express our sincerest condolences to all of his friends and relatives in England.

## 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

# CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(As of July 12, 1997)

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	ST.	ZIPCD
ALLEGRA	ALFRED	391	645 Barberry St. #64	Santa Maria,	CA.	93454
ALVES	ROBERT	FRP.	5267 SApencer ROAD	CLEVELAND,	OH.	44124
AMES	VERNON C.	7	50 Raintree Island, Apt. #9	Tonawanda,	NY.	14150
BAUCUS	JEAN	7	528 Power Street	Helena,	MT.	59601
BERGLUND	FRED. V.	7	40052 Tomahawk Dr.	Wahkon,	MN.	56386
BUXTON	JAY A.	7	728 Klumac Rd., Apt. 135-c	Salisbury,	NC.	28114
DAY	GEORGE W.	4	4 Worden Lane	Saratoga Springs,	NY.	12886
HOFF	HENRY G.	391	21972 453rd Avenue	Arlington,	SD.	57212
HUDELSON	MAXINE		1006 North Haines Ave.	Rapid City,	SD.	57701
KELLY	JOHN M.	18	12703 115th St., Ct. SE.	Payallup,	WA.	98374
LEWIS	KENNETH		1065 Sandstone Pass	Flint,	MI.	48532
LOGAN	EDWARD A.	7	2206 W. CACTUS WREN DRIVE	PHOENIX,	AZ.	85021
LOISELLE	JAMES A.	18	131 Monroe St., Apt.321	Anoka,	MN.	55303
PEEDE	FLOYD A. JR.	18	441 Red Sail Way	Satellite Beach,	FL.	32937
SALEK	LaVERN	4	114 Park Avenue	Muscatine,	IA.	52761
SCHINDLER	ERNESTINE	7	1926 East Forest Lane	Colbert,,	WA.	99005
SLUTZKER	LOUIS	391	98 Pennsylvania Ave.	Binghamton,	NY.	13901
STARR	JOHN A.	391	444 Burroughs Drive	Amherst,	NY.	14226
STURROCK	JAMES D.	391	P.O.Box 1300	Tryson,	NC.	28782
TOMPKINS	FRANK M.	4	645 Beersheba Road	Columbus,	MS.	39702
YATES	GRAEM	4	10142 Glenmore Avenue	Bradenton,	FL.	34202

## NEWLY FOUND

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCD.
BROWN	HARRY J.		1214 Dickens Avenue	Williamstown,	sc.	29697
FRICK	JOHN	18A	100 Riverbend Drive	West Columbia,	SC.	29169
HORGENSEN	GEORGE H.	18	RR#1, Box 53A	Putnam Station,	NY.	12861
KRANTZ	LARRY T.	18	7814 Eldridge Drive	Houston,	TX.	77041
MEADOWCROFT, AUBREY		RAF	35 Howe Ln (Erclei)	Verwood,Dorset	Eng.	BH31 6JE

NOTE:

Please Note:

John Frick is the nephew of William Frick of Kiley's crew, KIA on Oct. 10, 1944

Aubrey Meadowcroft was on the RAF Air-Sea Rescue boat which picked up the  
Dynamite crew after ditching.



## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORGN.	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIPCD.	DIED
BOULIANE	JEAN PAUL	7		San Miguel De Allende	Mex.	45920	
CHEZEM	KENNETH A.	18					
COLLINS	DONALD E.	391	6110 Poppleton Ave.	Omaha,	NE.	68106	1996-09-11
FRIEDMAN	ANDREW						1996-12-19
HATLEY	WILLIAM O.	18	3109 COMMONWEALTH AVE.	CHARLOTTE,	NC.	28205	1997-06-18
LINDIA	JOSEPH F.	7	101 W. BRITAIN STREET	HERNANDO,	FL.	34442	1995-09-22
NERRIE	JAMES T.	18					
SIMPSON	ROBERT M.	7-18	40 Hammond Drive	Montecito,	CA.	93108	1997-01-11
SYVERSON	MARVIN A.	4	P. O. BOX 98	WANAMINGO,	MN.	55983	07-18-97

## NEW LIFE MEMBERS

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORGN.</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZPCD.</u>
CRABTREE	FRANK	18	Box 1259	Ada,	OK.	74821
RAMIREZ	JULIAN M.	391	510 PAYSON ATREET	SAN DIMAS,	CA.	91773
RESCHKE	WILLIAM	18	302 Highland Avenue	East Syracuse,	NY.	13057
THOMPSON	J. W. "SOAPY"	7	7249 Hiway 139	Paragould,	AR.	72450

## 1997 FIFTY YEAR ANNIVERSARIES - CONGRATULATIONS!!

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAMES</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZPCD.</u>	<u>MARRIED</u>
BABCOCK	L.W."BUD" & LUCILLE	7718 Washington St.	Kansas City,	MO.	64114	1947-01-11
BRAVEMAN	MILTON & ELAINE	1507 Linglestown Rd.	Harrisburg,	PA.	17110	1947-01-07
DEES	ROBERT & EDITH	5014 Vua El Sereno	Torrence,	CA.	90505	1947-12-27
JUNE	RAYMOND & VIVIAN	2624 Kensington Rd.	Lawrence,	KS.	66046	1947-10-10
LEE	WALLACE & WILMA	23724 7TH PL. WEST	BOTHELL,	WA.	98021	1947-09-24
WRIGHT	ROBERT & ESTHER	411 PARKOVASH AVENUE	SOUTH BEND,	IN.	46617	1947-10-11



## ANNIVERSARIES OF MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS!!



<u>MARRIED</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAMES</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>ZIPCODE</u>
1942-08-16	PALMER	RAY & BULA	337 SO. BROOKSIDE	WICHITA,	KS.	67218
1943-07-10	HOBAN	ROBERT & DONNA	7293 Pontiac Circle	Chanhasen,	MN.	55317
1944-10-14	ARANGO	GASTON & ANN ELLEN				
1946-03-01	GOMBERT	DIRK & DOROTHY	278 E. FAIRBROOK DR.	BOISE,	ID.	83706

## DONATIONS TO THE RAY SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>IN MEMORY OF</u>
BURNELL	BILL & MARGO	Gerald Pine
BYER	JANET S.	Robert Lampey
CAMPBELL	JENNIE C.	Robert Lampey
CHEEK	WILLIAM	Gerald Pine
CHEEK	WILLIAM	Grady Deatheridge
FURON	CORPORATION	Robert Lampey
KUELPMAN	DAVE	Robert Lampey
LAMPEY	BETTY LOU	Cleo & Freddie Baughman
OBUNANICH	MICHAEL & BETSY	Robert Lampey
RUTKA	HAROLD & GEN.	Robert Lampey





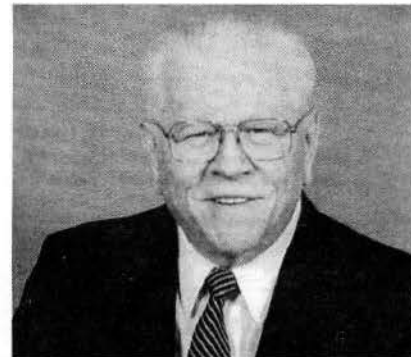
# *Then and Now*



## **DON FILLMAN**



**1944**

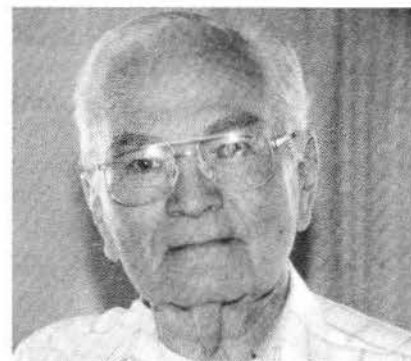


**1997**

## **WALTER STURDIVAN**



**1945**

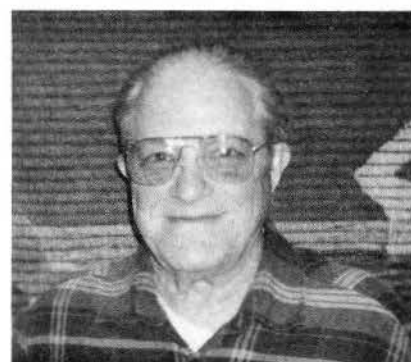


**1997**

## **OLIVER BOLDUC**



**1942**



**1997**



# *Then and Now*



## **FRANCES BUJALSKI**



**1944**

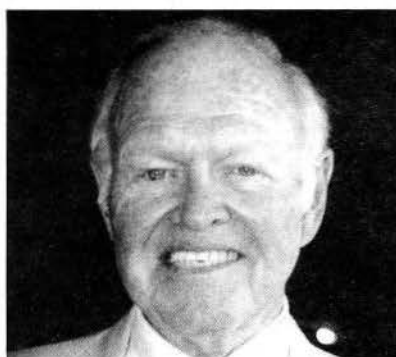


**1996**

## **WALTER FELKER**



**1944**



**1997**

## **GEORGE RICHIE**



**1943**



**1997**

This story was told to me almost 40 years ago by a gentleman I used to work with. He was from the small town of Appomattox and said the story had been passed down to him by his family, who had lived and farmed there for generations.

It's supposed to have really happened but as far as I can figure - it has never been written down before.

Appomattox, Virginia is just a small farming community located in about the center of the state - some 18 miles east of Lynchburg.

Near here in the summer of 1865 - shortly after the end of the Civil War - a group of former slaves had built a church on land given them by their previous owner.

And, strangely enough, when it was completed the first service to be held in it was a funeral.

The deceased was a well known member of the county's large Negro population known to everyone as Big John.

Big John was aptly named as he was a giant of a man, standing some 6 feet 9 inches in height and weighing nearly 300 pounds.

However, when a casket was constructed for him, they underestimated his size and built it several inches too short. They had to literally stuff his body into it and closing the lid was quite a job.

When the funeral service was held it took five men to place the coffin on two saw-horses in front of the pulpit. A large crowd was on hand and the preacher gave a long discourse on the virtues of the departed.

It was a fiery and emotional sermon, punctuated throughout with numerous resounding "Amen's," and "Hallelujahs!"

As its conclusion, the preacher - his arms raised toward the heavens - called out, in a loud, ringing voice, "Oh Lord," he demanded, "Come down 'mongst us!" "Come down 'mongst us," he repeated, "Come right t'rew de roof, I'll pay fer de shingles!"

"Don't send yo son Jesus," he pleaded, "We ain't got no time fer chilluns!"

Then after a short pause to catch his breath, he asked that the casket be opened so the congregation could get one last look at the remains. And, when the lid was removed, the body of Big John, suddenly released from its cramped position within the coffin - slowly rose to a sitting position!

An unexpected hush fell over the gathering, and, for what seemed an eternity, all was quiet - not a sound could be heard!

All eyes were on the figure in the casket, sitting stiffly in an upright position!

Then - as if on a signal - the entire congregation let out a roar and turned and bolted for the single door at the rear of the church.

The doorway, however, was much too small to accommodate such an abrupt surge of bodies and was instantly blocked.

Meanwhile, the preacher, who suddenly found him-

self at the rear of the crowd, was frantically trying to climb over the backs of some of his flock in an effort to escape from the church.

You could hear his voice over all the others as he roared out in disgust -

"Damn, a church with only one door!"

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## THE MILITARY SPOUSE

When the Good Lord was creating the military spouse, He was into his sixth day of overtime. An angel appeared and said, "You're having a lot of trouble with this one? What's wrong with the standard model? The Lord replied, "Have you seen the regulations? It has to be completely independent, but be sponsored to get on base, have the qualities of both mother and father during deployments, be a perfect hostess to 4 or 40, handle emergencies without military orders, cope with the flu and moves around the world: have a kiss that cures anything from a child's torn valentine to a spouse's weary day; have the patience of a saint when waiting for the unit to return stateside; and have six pairs of hands." The Lord replied, "Don't worry, we'll make other military spouses to help. Besides, it's not the hands that are causing the problems, it's the heart. It must swell with pride, sustain the ache of separations, beat on soundly when it is too tired to do so, and be large enough to say, "I love you, regardless." "Lord," said the angel gently, "go to bed. You can finish that tomorrow." "I can't" said the Lord, "I'm close to creating something unique. Already, I have one who can heal itself when sick, feed unexpected guests who are stuck in the area due to bad weather, and wave good-bye to its spouse from the pier or runway and understands it's important to the country that the spouse must leave." The angel circled the model of the military spouse very slowly. "It's too soft," she sighed. "But tough," cried the Lord excitedly. "You cannot imagine what this being can do or endure." "Can it think?" asked the angel. "Can it think!" exclaimed the Lord. "Why it can convert 1400 hours to 2:00 p.m." Finally the angel bent over and ran her finger across the cheek. "There's a leak," she pronounced. "I told you, you were trying to put too much into this model." "It's not a leak," said the Lord. It's a tear." "What's it for?" asked the angel. "It's for joy, Sadness, pain, loneliness, and pride." replies the Lord. "You're a genius," complimented the angel. The Lord looked somber, and finally replied, "I didn't put it there."





## THE TEN BLIP CRISIS

by Charles D. Conway

Usually I write only when I have to, but I would like to share what I think is an important example of the G.I. ingenuity that took place back in 1945 at the 34th Bomb Group base in Mendlesham.

From October, 1944 until the airlift home in June, 1945 (my first time in the air) I served as a radar mechanic on the radar bomb sight called "Mickey". The bombardiers who operated these sets may remember a small cathode tube about two inches in diameter that displayed ten (10) vertical blips. The circuit that controlled these blips was extremely temperamental and it

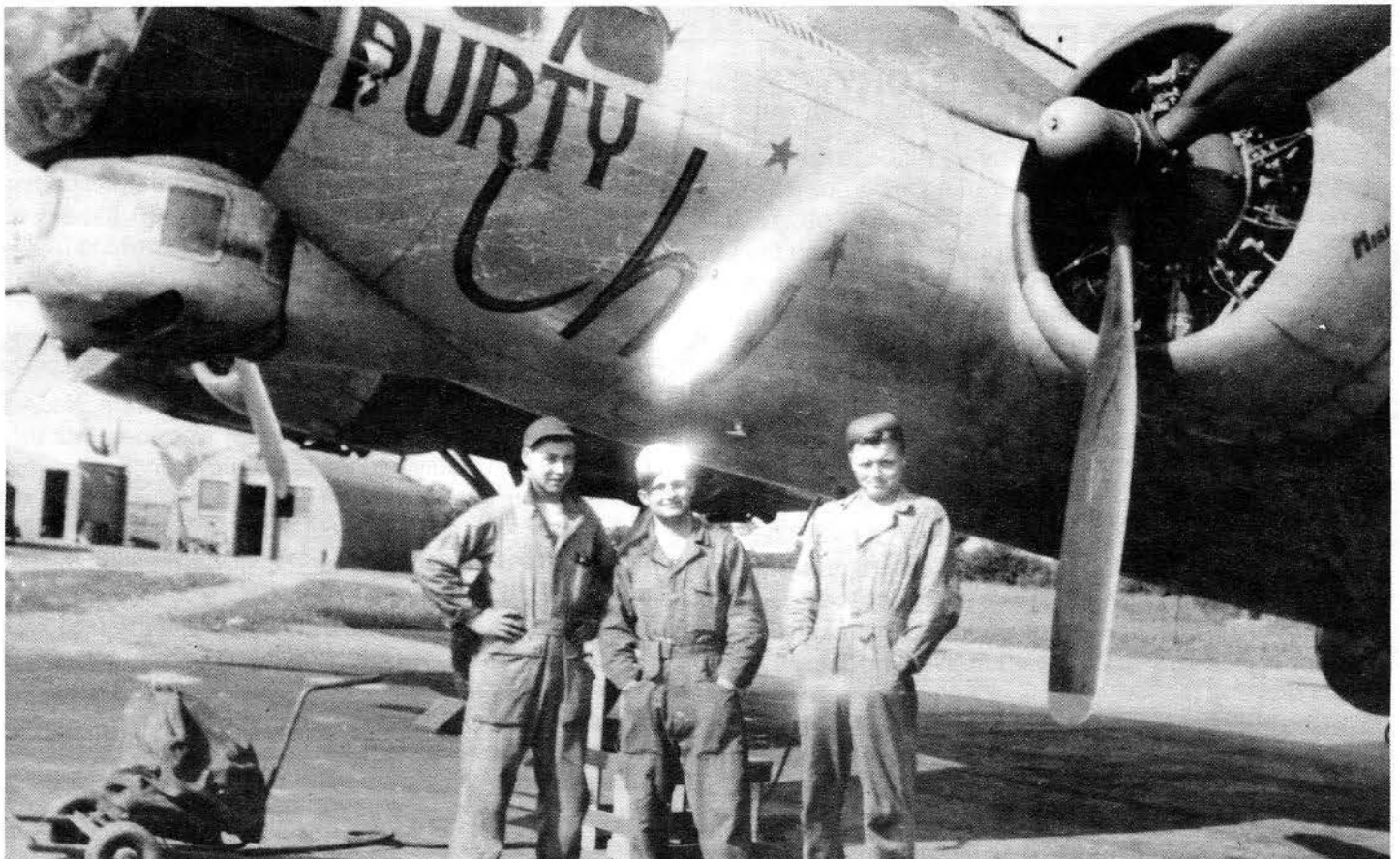
was difficult to get the ten blips to display properly. We spent a lot of time changing vacuum tubes in this circuit and realigning the blips during our nightly pre-flight tests. However, there was never any guarantee that the circuit would not fail during a mission and it frequently did. When this circuit failed the entire system was considered not functioning properly and could not be used for the bomb runs.

Due to the many times that this circuit malfunctioned in flight, our shop chief, Tech. Sgt. Willard Holm, decided to search for a solution to the ten blip crisis, and he found one. Willard's home at that time was Ho-Ho-Kus New Jersey, and in civilian life he had been an electrician. The solution turned out to be simple. By changing one component in the circuit he reduced the ten blips to five (5) blips and, as a result, the circuit was easier to tune and was significantly more stable.

After this change was tested and approved we modified all the 34th Bomb Group sets to the five blip mode. I believe that 8th Air Force Headquarters was notified of this modification and that it may have been passed on to other groups in the 8th.

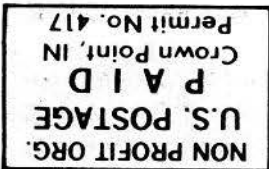
I do not know if Willard is still with us, but he served as a shining example to at least one young man. Thank you, Willard.

Continued on page 16



Ed Bouty, Mike Sass, ??

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



## MEMORIES

Continued from page 15

### A TIME TO REMEMBER PONCHO - A TRUE STORY

by Howard R. Fox

While stationed at Davis-Monthan Air Corp Base in Tucson, AZ. "Poncho" became a member of the 18th Bomb Squadron in the 34th Bomb Group in the spring of 1942. As a young pup he was found wandering on the streets of Nogales, Mexico. He came up to me with a wagging tail and that's all it took. To save any confusion at the border check point we hid him in a blanket on the back floor of Sgt. Al Wanzie's car.

After returning to the base all went well and he soon made PFC. One day he started yelping and running in circles. P.F.C. Poncho had discovered a "desert ant hill" and got stung on his "tea pot."

His first troop train ride from Tucson to Geiger Field, WA. went without incident and he was promoted to Corporal. A hand-written notice was posted on the Sqdn. bulletin board indicating his promotion and it was considered "official." However, it was short-lived. Poncho was caught drinking foot bath solution. Again a notice went up on the bulletin board reducing him back to P.F.C. for "actions unbecoming a Corporal". He got over his illness in a couple of days and his Air Corp buddies always made sure that he had fresh water available at all times.

In October of 1942 Poncho had his first truck convoy ride from Geiger Field to Ephrata Air Base in Washington, also without incident. Because of the extreme cold and snowy weather at Ephrata it was then, and only then,

that he was allowed to sleep on any bed of his choosing amongst his many army buddies. I wonder if Capt. McQuestion knew!

His second troop train ride in December of 1942 again went without incident going from Ephrata to Glasgow Air Base in Montana. He was re-assigned to the 96th Bomb Sqdn., 2nd Air Group and was again promoted to Corporal.

Poncho became a good buddy to Cpl. James Brown who was in charge of the boiler room on the base. Poncho, like the rest of us, didn't venture out too much because of the severe cold Montana weather. He had the warmest place on the base.

In March of 1943 he had his third troop train ride. It was a long one from Glasgow, Montana to the East Coast and the Port of Embarkation at Bayonne, NJ. As we prepared for our trip overseas it was then that the Orderly Room finally had the last word. Poncho was not to be allowed to go with me. The decision was sad but as it should be. After all, we had a big job to do. Poncho had been with us for over a year and the Orderly Room never once objected about anything.

A special thanks to 1st Sgt. Conway of the 18th and 1st Sgt. Reidy of the 96th who helped make this story possible and for allowing Poncho to become a member of the Army Air Corps. As I write this story it is hard for me to recall or even visualize how he survived his many ordeals such as his necessary "mother nature" calls or even leaving a dog's well known trade mark on a tree. There is no question in my mind that his many army buddies deserve all the credit. I have often wondered why my duffel bag was the only one checked as I boarded L.S.T. 258 heading for North Africa!! Is it possible that the old sly Fox couldn't be trusted???

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