



# MENDLESHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)

## EDITOR EMERITUS



4TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

*In appreciation for his many years of dedicated and devoted service as editor of Mendlesham Memories, the membership of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, at its annual membership meeting in Boise, Idaho on September 17<sup>th</sup> 1998 bestowed upon Eli Baldea the title of Editor Emeritus. An honor earned and richly deserved.*

*Congratulations Eli and thanks!*

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## THE GAVEL IS PASSED



*Allen Israelson passes gavel to new president John Doronsky*

Another successful year of the 34th Bomb Group Association came to an end on Saturday evening, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1998 at the annual banquet when Past President Allen O. Israelson relinquished the reigns of office to newly elected president John Doronsky. Al's tenure as president was not without incidents, but under his strong leadership all problems were resolved expeditiously and his term ended on a high note.

Our newly elected president for 1998-1999, John Doronsky, appears to be something more than the accomplished musician we all know so well. From all indications and judging from his dynamic acceptance speech the 34th. Bomb Group Association seems destined for another great year.

Thanks Al, for a job well done and congratulations to John who is to lead us through the year to come.

## VIEWPOINT:

This December issue will be the first newsletter in many years not edited by Eli Baldea. As you who were at the Boise reunion know Eli has decided to give it up and for what reason I'll never know, I was chosen to be the new editor of Mendlesham Memories. Hopefully, the transition can be made without too much change in format. However, all this is new to me and you will have to bear with me for awhile until I can learn the ins and outs of the publishing business. Following Eli is no easy task and it is certain to be a challenge for me to measure up to his excellence, if ever. I will do my best and with your help, cooperation and understanding we will have a 34th BGA newsletter which is vitally needed for keeping the organization alive and well. I expect that by the time this is published in December I'll know a lot more about the printing business than I do now.

As you noticed, the front page of this issue is dedicated to Eli for his many years of service. The title of Editor Emeritus, which was bestowed on him at the general membership meeting in Boise, is certainly well deserved. We will miss your newsletter Eli, but please don't stop coming to the reunions. We need your support and expertise in other ways. The good news is we are not losing the whole package since "Rose's Corner" will still be an important part of the newsletter. Thanks Rose.

We appreciate all the pictures and comments we received on the reunion -- apparently everyone had a good time. The reunion committee should be commended for their selection site, appropriate tours and accommodations. The hotel did an excellent job - good room, good food and good service. Although some problems in getting to Boise were encountered due to plane connections and the Northwest Airlines strike, some 217 members, wives and guests did not appear to be disappointed. For a number of reasons all of us may not make every reunion so it is always nice to renew old acquaintances. Among those we were glad to see again were Lonnie and Dorabel Crook, Dana and June Schrupp (we went to England in 1977 with the 8th AFHS together on what I believe was the first group tour). Also George and June Ritchie who were such a large part of the program. It's always nice to see Wanda Pine who has put in so much time and effort at the reunions through the years and welcome to all the first timers.

Marian and I started our drive to Boise on the 5th of September with Peter and Sylvia Gaskin who flew from London to Houston on the 3rd. We followed old RT.66 (now I-40), stopping at the Grand Canyon

then to Las Vegas and on to Boise via Salt Lake City, viewing some awesome country along the way. On the return trip to Texas we visited Yellowstone, Custer Battlefield and Mt. Rushmore, returning home to The Woodlands on Friday the 18th after traveling some 5400 miles. It was an enjoyable two weeks topped by the reunion in Boise.

From all reports, everyone who wanted the city tour got to go. Although the original tour was booked early, through the persistence of Claude Conklin, a second tour was arranged and that group got to see the city on a trolley with padded seats (the guide told us we were lucky as the original tour trolley had hard benches - made us feel good anyway).

The tour of the Mountain Home air base was the highlight of the program. Aircraft has come a long way since WWII, even the fighters are bigger than the B-17 and the weaponry they carry is awesome. How about that good looking B1B pilot - no combat pilots like that in our war. Those young, vibrant airmen sure make one feel pretty old. After a welcome by base personnel, a briefing and layout of the modern air force, while eating a delicious lunch, we went to the base chapel for a very solemn and enjoyable memorial service. The modern airman knows what the 8th. Air Force did in WWII and they are proud of their heritage.

The George and Tom Ritchie presentation at the Saturday banquet was an outstanding portrayal of the differences between a B-17 mission in WWII and a B1B mission if carried out today. Personnel doesn't change much but technology advances are staggering.

As is customary, this issue of MM along with pictures and reunion news also contains the minutes of the board of directors meeting and the general meeting to keep the total membership updated on the activities within the 34th BGA. We are planning on publishing a newsletter in March and June (if I get through this one). Copy for the March issue should be in my hands no later than Jan. 20th. I don't have a backlog of information to use so my only source of input will have to come from the members. There must be some stories left out there.

Our condolences to the families of those members who made their final flight on angels' wings this past year. Also get well wishes to all those who are ill and couldn't make it to Boise. Among those that memory recalls are General Creer and Vern Ames. We're hoping to see you all next year in Des Moines.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous, healthy and happy New Year to all.

Jack Share, Editor





## PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Why Boise? This question was asked again and again as we worked toward this year's reunion. It was clearly answered September 10 through 12. The weather was perfect. Attendance was 209, comparing very favorably with the 220 of the year before at Omaha. And to repeat Bruce Sothern's humor from his time on the cemetery board, the reunion committee's plans and preparations paid off as "everything fell into place." Again the experience of this reunion committee, Hal & Jan Rutka, Bob & Esther Wright, Bruce & Muggs Sothern showed in the results. You really do good work over the entire year in the plans and preparations and we thank you.

The visit to Mt. Home Air Force Base included static displays of the B-1B bomber, the KC-135 tanker, and F-15 & F-16 fighter aircraft. Col. Sloan briefed us at lunch on the impressive Air Expeditionary Force based there at Mt. Home and ready for deployment worldwide. Following lunch we attended a memorial service at the Liberty Chapel honoring the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group's killed-in-action and missing-in-action as well as those members who have died since the war.

At the General Membership Meeting two major changes in our 34<sup>th</sup> operations were announced. Kenneth Paxton agreed to operate the PX. He and Kathleen took over the inventory from Paul and Pauline Shull agreeing to run the PX for the next year on current inventory and make recommendation to the Board next year on future operation or discontinuance of the PX. Jack Share agreed to succeed Eli Baldea as Editor of Mendlesham Memories. He will edit the December issue and possibly a reduced Mendlesham Memories in the future. Gen. Creer (recovering from a recent operation) and Vivienne could not attend the reunion this year but he asked Bob Gay to bring a message to the group including his "Go Forward Smartly."

Many of us took the Trolley tours of Boise seeing both the downtown and historic residential areas. It is truly a beautiful city.

The Ritchie Family provided the program at the Gala Banquet. George Ritchie was the bombardier on Walt McAllister's lead crew until 17 October 1944—a POW, and escapee after that. George described how our B-24/B-17 operations were conducted during World War II. Lt. Col. Tom Ritchie, one of George and June's family of four sons and one daughter, described the B-1B and how it operates in concert with tankers and fighters as a truly impressive force. What a contrast to our 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force operations in Europe!

The Doubletree Riverside Hotel (though hard

to find for many of us) took good care of us too. The salmon entrée (for some 200 people!) at the gala banquet was memorable. It was a good reunion. Hope many of you that could not attend this one will be able to come to Des Moines next year or to a reunion somewhere in the Northeast US the following year.

It has been a pleasure for me to work with the officers and committees this year. Hal Province, Eli Baldea, Jim Martin, Paul Shull, and their wives and the Reunion Committee and their wives have been serving the 34<sup>th</sup> for many, many years and I salute all of you for your work well done. To John Doronsky, you have a good team. Success to you this coming year.

Al Israelsen



**Crew of the "Near-Sighted Robin"**

Front L-R: Herbert Hall, Ed Hiltner, Ben Workman, Vic Lupi  
Back L-R: Charles Smith, Jim Troup, Robert Pachowski, Clayton Mink, Don Morrison

### ***DON'T FORGET TO SEND YOUR DUES***

**Mail \$10.00 TO: Harold Province  
153 North Hill Dr.  
Carriere, MS 39426**

*Also, please send self-addressed, stamped  
envelope for return mail.*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A big "high five" congratulations to our Reunion Committee for putting together the Boise, Idaho 1998 reunion. I have attended many veterans' reunions in the past but this one exceeded the others, by far. Our smiling, welcoming - sign in committee, Gen. Rutka and Esther Wright plus the three hard working men that make these reunions possible, Harold Rutka, Bob Wright and Bruce Southern should be commended. The program they put together, the Friday night dinner, the two hour city tour, the Mountain Home Air Base tour and topping it off the Gala Banquet featuring guest speakers George Ritchie and son Lt. Col. Tom Ritchie, who is stationed at the air base, was outstanding.

I realize that it becomes more difficult, as we age, to function as we did when we were younger but please, don't use this as an excuse not to attend our reunions.

Now that I am president for the coming year, I am asking members for their personal suggestions or complaints. Remember, we are all one big family with no visible rank or clicks apparent.

Eli Baldea is no longer able to continue as our Mendlesham Memories editor due to poor health. He will be missed. Jack Share has volunteered to be our new editor, and needs everyone's support. Kenneth Paxton is our new P.X. manager replacing Paul and Pauline Shull who did a great job in the past. I also want to thank Al Israelsen for doing a super job as president in the past year.

You comrades who have never attended one of our reunions plan on joining us in 1999. Believe me you will feel younger and proud that you are a part of the 34th. Bomb Group Association. You will be pleasantly surprised. I noticed quite a few of the family (sons and daughters) of our members attended as well this year.

So make your plans now to attend the next reunion in Des Moines, Iowa. The dates are September 15th through the 19th in 1999.

John Doronsky

### MOVING?????

If you are moving, or have moved, send your new address to:

**HAL PROVINCE  
153 NORTH HILL DR.  
CARRIERE, MS 39426**

Mailing labels are printed on Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, and Nov 1 for the March, June, September and December issues.



## FROM THE TREASURER'S COMPUTER

### 1999 DUES ARE DUE

(if you pay annually)

Please send them to my NEW ADDRESS  
(since last March)

**HAL PROVINCE  
153 NORTH HILL DRIVE  
CARRIERE, MS 39426-8129**

The appreciation of the entire 34th.BGA to Eli and Rose Baldea for the work they have done for the past 14 years as editor(s) of the Mendlesham Memories. I'm going to miss all of the phone calls bugging me for address labels, my column and the conversations with Rose while waiting for Eli to pick up the phone. Also much appreciation to Jack and Marian for the job they have undertaken. You have some mighty big boots to fill Jack, but I know you will rise to the challenge and continue the excellent work of our previous editors.

## REUNION NOTES

Wasn't it great? One of our best?? Boise sure is a long way from South Mississippi!! The trip to Mountain Home Air Force Base was fantastic!! They treated us like royalty and the chapel service was heartwarming and very moving. I will not soon forget that.

How'd you guys like to have briefings like they do it now in the USAF? - no maps, no check points to copy or time hacks - just a floppy disc to load into the computer!!

Look for a letter about future Scholarship plans. Sure hope we can increase the number of scholarships we award.

Welcome aboard new officers and Board of Directors. I know you'll all do a topnotch job. And to Ken Paxton - hope you can sort out all of the PX inventory that Paul and Pauline passed on to you. Thanks loads to P&P and P&Beryl for all you've done with the PX.

A big WELCOME to the first-timers who were at Boise - hope to see you at Des Moines next September. And a big THANKS to the honorary members who were present - Dorothy Peavy Nowell, Marion Broadhurst and Peter Gaskin. We're glad you could attend. And the usual plaudits to the Reunion Committee for their hard work and diligence in providing us with another good reunion.

Harold Province, Treasurer,  
34th Bomb Group Association

## MESSAGE FROM THE P.X.

*(from our former P.X. manager)*

Pauline and I have handled the P.X. for 9 years and now we feel it is time to pass it on. We are now spending 5 to 6 months a year in Arizona. The P.X. has been a rewarding experience. Our goal was to find merchandise that was of interest to our members, and try to raise money for the 34th Bomb Group's treasury.

Over the years, we've met and visited with so many wonderful people. We've appreciated your support to our efforts, along with the reunion committee who always saw to it that we had a good sales room. We appreciate and give thanks to our helpers in the P.X. over the years; especially Beryl and Paul Anderson who put in many hours working side by side with us almost every year. Also, to Bud and Lucille Babcock who helped us transport merchandise to the reunions.

We've heard so many good comments on the 34th logo on the different items and the response that it has drawn from people. Many members have purchased books and memorabilia to pass on to their grandchildren to promote the history of the 34th Bomb Group and the 8th. Air Force.

It's been great - and we extend our best wishes to Ken and Kathleen Paxton for continued success of the 34th BGA P.X. Again, thanks to all of you for your support and special friendships.

Paul Shull

(Ed: Thanks Paul and Pauline for a job well done).

## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

BOISE, IDAHO REUNION  
9 - 13 SEPTEMBER, 1998

Our special thanks to all who attended our Boise Reunion. This was the 14th reunion for the 34th.BGA. Our reunions have been successful because our members look forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones.

Boise was selected as our 1998 reunion site at our 1996 reunion in Raleigh, North Carolina. The Doubletree Hotel is located on the bank of the Boise River; the grounds provide relaxation in a flower covered gazebo, an outdoor pool and an attached exercise room. The weather was perfect during our stay.

The hotel personnel were cooperative and helped make our reunion enjoyable.

Friday - Sept. 11, 1998

The comfortable tour coaches departed the hotel, on schedule, at 0900 hours for an enjoyable one hour ride to the Mountain Home Air Force Base. Base security escorted us onto the base and, after a brief rest stop; we proceeded to the flight line. One of each type of aircraft assigned to the 366th Wing Command was on display along with the crews to answer all of our many questions. After a group picture, we departed the flight line and were bused to the dining hall for lunch. During lunch we were briefed by Colonel David Sloan, on the assignment of the 366th. Wing Command after which we boarded the buses for a short ride to Liberty Chapel for a memorial service. At the chapel we were greeted by Air Force chaplain Steven Grau, who presided over the service which included a musical prelude, welcome, opening prayer, reason for gathering, moment of silence to our departed comrades, commemorative prayer, scripture reading by group chaplain Jim Martin, meditation, hymn "Lord, Guard and Guide", taps and benediction. After the inspiring service we were bade goodbye by Chaplain Grau and boarded the buses for the ride back to the hotel. A day to be remembered and, after relaxing a bit and freshening up, it ended with a western buffet dinner in the hotel dining room.

Saturday - Sept. 12, 1998

Following the annual business meeting and election of officers, a two hour city tour was offered and to our surprise, all 80 seats were sold out early. A second one hour tour for 25 passengers was arranged and that also was sold out quickly.

The program for the Saturday gala banquet was arranged and conducted by father and son, George and Lt. Col. Tom Ritchie who is assigned to the Mt. Home Air Force base. The presentation compared a 1944 bombing mission (father George) and a simulated present day B1B mission (son Tom). An excellent presentation enjoyed by all.

Our thanks go out to Wing Commander, Major General Randall M. Schmidt, Colonel David Sloan, Lt. Colonel Tom Ritchie, Chaplain Major Steven Grau and all other members of the 366th Wing Command for making our reunion a success.

The reunion committee:  
Harold Rutka  
Bruce Sothern  
Robert Wright



## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING HELD SEPT. 10, 1998

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association was called to order by President Allen Israelsen at 3:00 p.m. on Sept. 10, 1998, in the Doubletree Hotel in Boise, Idaho. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Israelsen. Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

Pres. Israelsen asked for a roll call. Those present were Pres. Allen Israelsen, 1<sup>st</sup> VP John Doronsky, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Norman Mayer, Rec. Sect. John Feda, Treas. Harold Province, PX Mgr. Paul Shull, Directors Dale Finley, Edward Lonergan, Carl Freysinger, Jack Farley, Kenneth Paxton, James Stuthers, Chaplain James Martin, Reunion Committee Members Robert Wright, Harold Rutka, and Bruce Sothern. Members absent were Archivist Wallace Brauks, Editor Eli Baldea and Past Pres. Raymond Palmer.

Pres. Israelsen called for the MINUTES of the 1997 reunion in Omaha. Motion by Rutka, second by Sothern to accept the minutes as printed in the Mendlesham Memories of December 1997. Motion carried.

Pres. Israelsen called for the PX FINANCIAL REPORT. The report of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association PX as of August 31, 1998, was given by Shull, the PX Manager.

Beginning Checkbook balance on September 1, 1997	\$ 123.21
Beginning Cash balance on September 1, 1997	68.17
Income:	
Merchandise sold at Omaha	\$2600.45
PX sales by mail	1098.30
Total Sales for the year	3698.75
Expenses:	
Paid to Treasurer Hal Province	2000.00
PX merchandise purchased	948.63
Postage, supplies and telephone	122.42
Total paid out for the year	3071.05
August 31, 1998 Checkbook balance	626.79
August 31, 1998 Cash balance	191.08
Total PX balance	<u>\$ 819.38</u>

Current PX inventory (at cost) is \$5946.01

A detailed report has been submitted to the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association. Submitted by Paul A. Shull, PX Manager

Paul Shull asked to be relieved of the PX Manager's responsibility. A lengthy discussion followed on the inventory, the profits, the cost of ordering specialized merchandise, the necessary markup, the hours involved in mail order procedures, the discontinuance of the PX at reunions, etc.

Motion by Mayer, second by Doronsky to accept the PX report and to thank Paul Shull (and his wife Pauline) for the dedicated service in the past years. Motion carried.

Treasurer Province was asked about the PX profit. He reported it was about \$2500 annually but it has been decreasing because our membership and reunion attendance are decreasing. At Omaha in 1997 there were 225 registered and this year there are 202 registered. Kenneth Paxton volunteered to be the PX Manager for this next year with the possibility of closing it then or changing the scope of operations. Motion by Farley, second by Lonergan to appoint Kenneth Paxton as PX Manager for a year and then have him give the Board a recommendation on continuance or change in PX operation and not to purchase any additional inventory during this next year. Motion carried.

Pres. Israelsen called for the TREASURER'S REPORT from Harold Province.

### 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Treasurer's Report as of August 25, 1998

The 1997 and 1998 Finances of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and its various funds are represented in the following tables:

Continued on page 9



# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING HELD SEPT. 10, 1998

Continued from page 8

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	
GENERAL FUND			
In England	\$ 380.29	\$ 380.29	@ Lloyds Bank
Checking account	497.56	1099.75	@ Hancock Bank
Money Mkt. accounts	1087.01	1405.00	@ Hancock Bank
CD's	2733.05	3031.51	@ Ed Jones
LM Savings	1116.36	0.00(closed)	
Sub total	<u>\$ 5814.27</u>	<u>\$ 5916.55</u>	
LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND	\$24,619.66	\$25,504.66	@ Ed Jones
SCHOLARSHIP FUND	6,978.98	7,267.70	@ Ed Jones
MEMORIAL FUND	1,055.89	1,055.89	@ Ed Jones
GRAND TOTAL	<u>\$38,468.80</u>	<u>\$39,744.80</u>	

The recap of the various funds and where the monies are deposited are represented in the following table

General Fund in England	\$ 380.29	Lloyds Bank
Operating checking	1,099.75	Hancock Bank
Gen Fund MMKT	1,405.00	Hancock Bank
Sub total of liquid funds	<u>\$ 2,885.04</u>	
Gen Fund MMKT	\$ 3,301.51	Edward Jones
Memorial Fund	1,055.89	Edward Jones
Scholarship Fund	7,267.70	Edward Jones
Life Members' Fund	25,504.66	Edward Jones
Sub total of investments	<u>\$36,859.76*</u>	
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS	<u>\$39,744.80</u>	

\*On July 31, 1998, the \$30,000.00 CD had an unrealized gain of \$409.03. Our two accounts at Edward Jones are CD \$30,000.00 and Passport Money Market of \$6,859.76 for a total of \$36,859.76.

As of Sept. 1, 1998, the outstanding liabilities are: Star Printing – approximately \$3000 for the Sept. Mendlesham Memories

Respectfully submitted by Hal Province, Treasurer Dated: August 25, 1998

Motion by Martin, second by Stuthers to accept the Treasurer's Report as given. Motion carried.

Pres. Israelsen announced that an audit committee would review the PX report, the Treasurer's report and the Reunion Committee report. The committee will make its report to the general membership at the meeting to be held Sep. 12, 1998.

Pres. Israelsen called for the report of the REUNION COMMITTEE. Harold Rutka explained the events planned for this reunion and the logistics of the tour to Mountain Home Air Base. The tour will include a visit to the flight line, a luncheon, a briefing, and a Memorial service in the base chapel. He expressed appreciation for the help received from Lt. Co. Tom Ritchie, who is stationed at the base. Both Tom and his father, George Ritchie, are scheduled as speakers at the banquet. The committee reported 225 registrants at Omaha in 1997. After all bills were paid they remitted the surplus of \$947.61 to Treasurer Hal Province. The \$2500 working fund for the 1998 reunion is now \$16917.51. When all bills are paid for this any surplus will again be sent to the treasurer.

## MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING HELD SEPT. 10, 1998

Continued from page 9

Motion by Farley, second by Stuthers to accept the report of the reunion committee. Motion carried.

The 1999 reunion is scheduled for Des Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 15-19. The hotel will be the Hotel Savery, a completely refinished facility in downtown Des Moines. It is connected to the downtown stores by skyways. Shuttle transportation to the airport will be available. There will be a \$4.50 daily charge for parking. The committee is exploring Northeast US for the reunion in 2000 and the Southeast US for the 2001 reunion. They request direction from the Board. Sam Wolstencroft reported a new casino in Connecticut and extolled the fall climate as a plus in his state.

Motion by Farley, second by Paxton to direct the reunion committee to explore the Northeast US for the 2000 reunion and to explore the Southeast US for the reunion site in 2001. Motion carried.

Pres. Israelsen called on Harold Province for the SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT.

### 1998 Ray L. Summa 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Scholarship Awards

The awards for 1998 went to the following people:

1<sup>st</sup> award of \$1000 went to Ms Rachel Ezell, of Siloam Spring, AR, Granddaughter of Billie Dale Ezell, 4<sup>th</sup> BS, also of Siloam Spring, AR. She will be attending Washington University in St. Louis.

2<sup>nd</sup> award of \$500 went to Ms Michele Burke, of Avon Lake, OH, Granddaughter of Frank Forde, 7<sup>th</sup> BS, of Girard, OH. She will be attending Purdue University in Lafayette.

A total of 20 entries were received for the 1998 awards and, as in the past, the entries confirmed that there are some exceptional students graduating and also attending college of their choice. The 34<sup>th</sup> BG Association has ample reasons to be proud of their children and grandchildren who have finished school this year.

As in the past, there was very little to differentiate with regard to scholastic grades. While the Scholarship Committee would like to be able to award all who entered that is not possible and we chose the two whom we judged to be the best.

Pictures of Rachel and Michele have been requested and will be published in the December 1998 issue of Mendlesham Memories.

Respectfully submitted, the committee of Harold Province, Jack Farley, Ambers Hanson, and Robert Vaughn.

The grandfathers of the winners were notified and they in turn notified the successful recipients. The application from each student included a 500-word essay on, "Why I want to go to College". The financial support for scholarships comes from \$5 of each registration at our annual reunions and from memorials. A lengthy discussion followed on the value of the scholarship program, the balance on hand, other efforts to secure more funds, the possibility on increasing the number, the GI Bill, etc. During the discussion three members offered to donate \$500 each to the scholarship fund.

Motion by Martin, second by Lonergan to increase the scholarships for 1999 to \$1000, \$750, and \$500, and to authorize the committee to explore future increases in dollars and number of scholarships. Also to direct the committee to draft a letter to be sent to non-attendees at reunions for support and also to send a letter of thanks to Norman Mayer, Everett and Peggy Rose and Ambers Hanson for their \$500 contributions to the scholarship fund. Motion carried.

MENDELSHAM MEMORIES REPORT. Eli Baldea could not be present. Bruce Sothern read a letter of August 31 from Eli's daughter, Mary Ann. In it Eli requested relief from the editor position after the September issue. The editor is appointed and not really the responsibility of the nominating committee. Efforts to secure an editor by Saturday's membership meeting will be made by all. Also we should consider two issues a year for the next year.

Continued On Page 11

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING HELD SEPT. 10, 1998

Continued from page 10

Pres. Israelsen appointed an audit committee of Norman Mayer, Robert Bice and Willis Griffith.

**NEW BUSINESS** A resolution was presented by member Cranford Sproul by which the 34<sup>th</sup> BG Association would "Protest the use of women in Military Combat units of the United States Armed Forces." Considerable discussion followed concerning the organization's liability of discrimination in the event we took this "political" position and for which our constitution doesn't provide. The consensus was to forward the proposed resolution, as individuals, to our congressmen. The opportunity would also be given to Cranford Sproul to present and explain his proposed resolution at the general membership meeting.

The Turner Publishing Co. has informed three different individuals the newest history of the 34<sup>th</sup> will be out by the end of October.

Pres. Israelsen recognized Harold Province for his efforts in handling correspondences and promoting good public relation for our association.

Motion by Province, second by Mayer to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Reported by Recording Secretary John J. Feda

## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPT. 12, 1998

The annual meeting of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association was called to order by President Allen Israelsen at 9:00 a.m. on September 12, 1998, at the Doubletree Hotel in Boise, Idaho. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Israelsen. Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

Pres. Israelsen called for the minutes of the 1997 meeting. Motion by Gross, second by Albert to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept the 1997 minutes as printed in the December, 1997, issue of Mendlesham Memories. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT** by Harold Province.

### 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Treasurer's Report as of August 25, 1998

The 1997 and 1998 Finances of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and its various funds are represented in the following tables:

	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>			
In England	\$ 380.29	\$ 380.29	@ Lloyds Bank
Checking account	497.56	1099.75	@ Hancock Bank
Money Mkt. accounts	1087.01	1405.00	@ Hancock Bank
CD's	2733.05	3031.51	@ Ed Jones
LM Savings	1116.36	0.00(closed)	
Sub total	<u>\$ 5814.27</u>	<u>\$ 5916.55</u>	
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP FUND</b>			
	\$24,619.66	\$25,504.66	@ Ed Jones
<b>SCHOLARSHIP FUND</b>			
	6,978.98	7,267.70	@ Ed Jones
<b>MEMORIAL FUND</b>			
	1,055.89	1,055.89	@ Ed Jones
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			
	<u>\$38,468.80</u>	<u>\$39,744.80</u>	

(Refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 10 for the complete report.)

Motion by Rutka, second by Sothern to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Continued on page 12

# MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPT. 12, 1998

Continued from page 11

## SCHOLARSHIP REPORT BY HAROLD PROVINCE

### 1998 Ray L. Summa 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Scholarship Report

The awards for 1998 went to the following people:

1<sup>st</sup> award of \$1000 went to Ms Rachel Ezell, of Siloam Spring, AR, Granddaughter of Billie Dale Ezell, 4<sup>th</sup> BS, also of Siloam Spring, AR. She will be attending Washington University in St. Louis.

2<sup>nd</sup> award of \$500 went to Ms Michele Burke, of Avon Lake, OH, Granddaughter of Frank Forde, 7<sup>th</sup> BS, of Girard, OH. She will be attending Purdue University in Lafayette.

A total of 20 entries were received for the 1998 awards. Pictures of Rachel and Michele have been requested and will be published in the December 1998 issue of Mendlesham Memories.

Respectfully submitted by the committee of Harold Province, Jack Farley, Ambers Hanson and Robert Vaughn.

Reunion attendees each pay \$5 from their registration to the Scholarship fund. The balance is currently \$7200. A letter will be sent to all members not attending the reunion to solicit a contribution to this fund. Three members have promised to make \$500 contributions to the fund for next year. John Feda will be added to the Scholarship Committee for 1999.

Motion by Rutka, second by Doronsky to accept the Scholarship Report. Motion carried.

It was announced that the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group has a web page on the internet. The address is [www.excel-tech.com/34<sup>th</sup>/](http://www.excel-tech.com/34th/).

## PX REPORT BY PAUL SHULL

Beginning Checkbook balance on September 1, 1997	\$ 123.21
Beginning Cash balance on September 1, 1997	68.17
Income:	
Merchandise sold at Omaha	\$2600.45
PX sales by mail	1098.30
Total Sales for the year	3698.75
Expenses:	
Paid to Treasurer Hal Province	2000.00
PX merchandise purchased	948.63
Postage, supplies and telephone	122.42
Total paid out for the year	3071.05
August 31, 1998 Checkbook balance	626.79
August 31, 1998 Cash balance	191.38
Total PX balance	<u>\$ 819.38</u>
Current PX inventory (at cost) is	<u>\$5946.01</u>

Kenneth Paxton has been appointed as the PX Manager for next year. Pres. Israelsen commended Paul Shull and his wife Pauline for their excellent management of the PX for these many years.

Motion by Palmer, second by Clemens to accept the report. Motion carried.

## REUNION REPORT BY BOB WRIGHT

Last year after all bills were paid for the 1997 reunion \$947.81 was sent to the Association's Treasurer.



## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPT. 12, 1998

Continued from page 12

The balance in the reunion account as of August 1998, was \$16917.51. As of now 208 are registered for this 1998 reunion. Harold Rutka reported on the future reunion sites. The 1999 reunion will be in Des Moines, Iowa. The 2000 reunion will be somewhere in the Northeast US and the 2001 reunion will be somewhere in the Southeast US. The 1999 reunion will be at the Savary Hotel in downtown Des Moines. Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided. Parking, however, will be \$4.50 per day.

Motion by Farley, second by Palmer to accept the report. Motion carried.

### AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT BY NORMAN MAYER

The audit committee of Norman Mayer and Willis Griffith reviewed the 1998 Treasurer's report, the PX report, and the Reunion Committee report and found them all in order.

Motion by Sothern, second by Marks to approve the audit committee report. Motion carried.

### MENDLESHAM MEMORIES REPORT

Eli Baldea has resigned as editor after fourteen years. Pres. Israelsen has appointed Jack Share as the new editor. Editor Share requests that all photographs of the banquet be sent to him with the proper identification by October 20, 1998, to be included in the December issue of the Memories. His address is Jack Share, 22 S. Avonlea Circle, The Woodlands, TX 77382. His telephone is 409-273-3561. His e-mail address is jkshare@lcc.net. Pres. Israelsen commended Eli and Rose Baldea for the many years of service to publish the Mendlesham Memories.

### NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT BY BRUCE SOTHERN FOR 1999

President:	John Doronsky	Rec. Sect.:	John Feda
1 <sup>st</sup> VP:	Norman Mayer	Archivist:	Wallace Brauks
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP:	Edward Lonergan	Past Pres.:	Allen Israelsen
Board:	Carl Freysinger (99)	Editor:	Jack Share
Board:	Jack Farley (99)	PX Manager:	Kenneth Paxton
Board:	James Stuthers (00)	Chaplain:	James Martin
Board:	Paul Shull (00)	Reunion Com:	Robert Wright
Board:	Claude Conklin (01)	Reunion Com:	Harold Rutka
Board:	Claude Gibbs (01)	Reunion Com:	Bruce Sothern

Bruce Sothern commended Dale Finley and Ed Lonergan for their three years of service on the Board.

Pres. Israelsen called for nominations from the floor. None were offered.

Motion by Gross, second by Farley to close the nominations and instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the proposed slate. Motion carried.

Denton Armstrong reported on the efforts of Jack Clarkson on behalf of the 34<sup>th</sup> BG at the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum prior to his death on March 17, 1998. His wife Dorothy still works at the Museum. Chaplain Martin reported that he sends a sympathy card to the spouses of all members who pass away. He needs to hear from members when death occurs so he can respond on behalf of the 34<sup>th</sup> BG.

Motion by Province, second by Gibbs to honor Eli Baldea as "Editor Emeritus" of the Mendlesham Memories for one year. Motion carried.

Bob Gay reported on the health of General Creer. In a recent conversation Bob reported that General Creer said, "The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group command was the most memorable command I ever had" and then asked us to "Go Forward Smartly".

Robert Bice reported that the history book #2 of the 34<sup>th</sup> BG would be out in October.

Motion by Clemens, second by Farley to adjourn at 10:15. Motion carried

By the Recording Secretary John J. Feda

## REUNION ATTENDEES

Bailey & Ruth Adam  
Eugene Albert  
Milton Anderson  
Paul & Beryl Anderson  
Maury & Lois Anderson  
Denton & Eileen Armstrong  
Charles Attridge  
Bud & Lucille Babcock  
Charles & Roberta Barclay  
Robert & Barbara Bell  
Thomas & Madeline Belleau  
Donald & Barbara Benscoter  
Leonard & Helen Bess  
Robert Bice  
Bob & Margie Bichowsky  
John, Marge, Judy Boczynski  
Lloyd & Bobbie Boreen  
Paul Bourquin  
Marion Travis Broadhurst  
Wallace & Doris Brauks  
Bill Browne & Bette Rickbeil  
Tom Cannuck  
Ralph Casey  
James Clemens  
Claude & Genevieve Conklin  
Antonny & Mary Coutros  
Harry Crawford  
Lonnie & Dorabel Crook  
Kenneth & Shirley Davis  
Lawton & Joan Dooley  
Vincent Doran  
John Doronsky & Beverly Stearns  
Harold & Darlene Dwyer  
Willard & Roxie Fager  
John & Beanie Farley  
Dick Fay, Kitt Fay, Rich Fay  
John & Betty Mae Feda  
Herman & Nancy Fieber Jr.  
Robert J. Filip  
Dale & Margie Finley  
A.J. & Ernestine Firestone  
Dale & Esther Frank  
Robert & Jean Fox  
Earl & Mary Frank  
Carl & Imogene Freysinger  
Robert & Phyllis Gay  
Peter & Sylvia Gaskin  
Basil & Lorene Gaumer  
Claude & Audrey Gibbs  
Willis Griffis  
Robert & Cynthia Gross  
Anthony & Joan Habiger  
Herbert & Doris Hall  
Ambers & Jean Hanson  
Milton Hanson  
Glenn & Vera Henry  
Pap & Tootie Hetherington

Raymond Hinchee  
Lloyd & Marla Inman  
Al & Agnes Israelsen  
Max & Eila Jakel, Nancy & Ed Bombich  
Dexter & Beulah Jordan  
George & Margaret Kline  
Ed & B. Lonergan  
August & Doris Luhrsen  
Melvon & Betty McSpadden  
Mr. & Mrs Joseph Marks  
James F. Martin  
Norman Mayer & Marci Campbell  
Richard J. Merrell  
Cletus & Jean Morris  
John & Liz Noe  
William & Naoma Orton  
Raymond & Bula Palmer  
Russell & Vera Paulnock  
Ken & Kathleen Paxton  
Dorothy Norvell Peavey  
Juan & Mattie Perez  
Wanda, Dennis & Joan Pine  
Hal & Jan Province  
Russel & Martha Reed  
Floyd & Miriam Richman & Thelma Warfield  
George & June Ritchie  
Leroy & Doris Robinson  
Cleveland & Henrietta Romero  
Everett & Margo Rose  
Harold & Genevieve Rutka  
L.E. & Jeanne Salvesson  
Robert & Jennie Schroeder  
& guest Ronda Ranstrom  
Dana & June Schrupp  
Jack & Marian Share  
Paul & Pauline Shull  
Ronald & Martha Simpson  
Bruce Sothern  
Cranford & Beatrice Sproul  
Carl & Peg Stemen  
David & Ethel Stiver  
Donald & Evelyn Stufflebeam  
Jim & Kay Stuthers  
Walter & Lois Sturdivan  
Roy & Kate Tavasti  
John & Nellie Terry  
Hal & Ruby Thorpe  
Henry & Audrey Tobiason  
James & Natalie Troup  
Lim & Patricia Waarvick  
Oral & Jim Walker  
Fred & Rachel Waltz  
Sam & Peggy Wolstencroft  
Frederick & Blanche Voss  
Joseph & Marilyn Wong  
Robert & Esther Wright  
Bill Zellers

## REFLECTIONS OF A VETERAN

Presented at Boise at the Friday dinner

As I stood there in Mendlesham, England in 1996, gazing at fields overgrown, obscuring the runways where B-17's and B24's once trod, but failing to obliterate memories—

Gone are the bombs, only remnants of their once awesome power lie buried in German dumps — more conspicuous are the crosses still standing in German cemeteries.

Lingering yet are the vivid reflections of the 88 MM flak bursts — like flying into a black concrete wall — yet attacking you in every direction — of the 2000 plane raid on Berlin and the 57 bombers whose luck had run out — parachutes and plane parts — all foreign elements in the blue skies — descending like a flock of swallows darting for mosquitoes — gravity precluding any upward soaring, except perhaps for the crewmen's souls — hopefully heaven bound. What chance had they who failed to return — giving their most

precious of possessions for their country — their lives. Why? — I knew why — to prevent world tyranny.



I thanked God that the pieces of flak that severed my bombardier's seat — nearly terminating my lineage — discriminated.

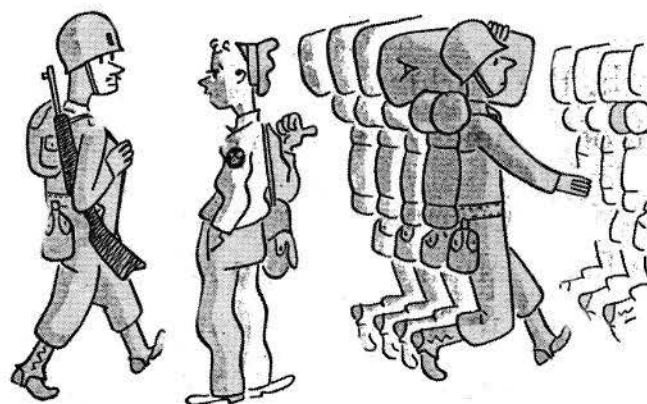
A seasoned combat veteran at 19, psychologically changed forever — I groped for answers to understand my emotions — calm and cool under fire, but nervous when speaking publicly.

Never expressed adequately, but always there was our admiration for our pilot and co-pilot who miraculously? — no brilliantly? yes brought us back — and to those P-51 pilots who warded off the Focke-Wulfs and in particular to those four P-51's who guided our seriously wounded Fortress as it limped back from Munich — like a guard dog walking with a small child — momentarily circumventing a German pilot from putting another mark on the nose of his Messerschmidt.

As a youth I went to church on Sundays and took communion before each mission — but like Thomas centuries before me, I had to be shown before true faith engulfed me.

In 1949 I returned to Nuremberg and Berlin, both cities which I helped destroy — only to rebuild and defend this time — the country of my ancestors — an obvious paradox in foreign policy. Our national interest decisions juggled again between the heart and the brain.

Why, Lord? — You gave the answer 2000 years ago — “as we forgive those who trespass against us.”



### Said the Air Force to the Infantry A Post War Anecdote

Infantry replacements, taught from the start that troops on the move always keep dressed right and covered down, get so after a while that they automatically march as if they're on parade. As the platoon that I was to take overseas covered that last mile to the troop transport, they kept perfect step. In full battle dress—as the newspapers say—and with their packs all rolled just alike and neatly slung, they looked good. The only thing missing was their rifles, which already were stowed in the hold of the ship. We officers, though, were carrying our carbines.

As we hup-hopped out on the dock, we had an interested audience of Air Force replacements who were shipping out too. Their appearance, in keeping with Air Force tradition, was contrastingly informal—varying combination of uniform, musette bags slung every which way, ranks uneven.

As my weaponless platoon marched smartly by, one of the fly boys showed special interest when he saw me coming along carrying a carbine. When I drew even with him, he stepped toward me.

“What's the matter, lieutenant,” he inquired confidentially, “afraid they'll get away?”

--Charles A. Bier.



## “Hanging Out”



John Doronsky Entertaining



Gen Conklin, Mary Frank, Marian Share, Carl Stemen, and Earl Frank



Harold Rutka and Dale Frank



Jack Farley, Hal Province, Wally Brauks, Willis Griffis



Front: Joe Marks  
Back: Sylvia Gaskin, Kay Marks, Peter Gaskin



Joe Marks, Robert Bice, Al & Agnes Israelsen

## “Hospitality Room”



The bartenders



The Hospitality Room



# “Friday Night Dinner”



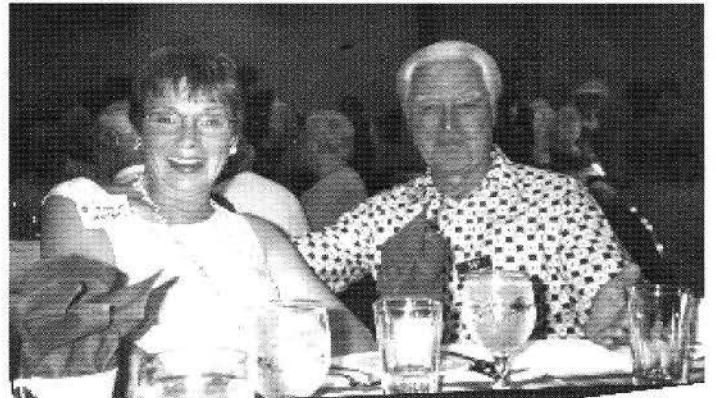
John Doronsky, Cleveland & Henrietta Romero



Henry & Audrey Tobiason



J.D. and Peggy Barclay



Marci Campbell and Norm Mayer



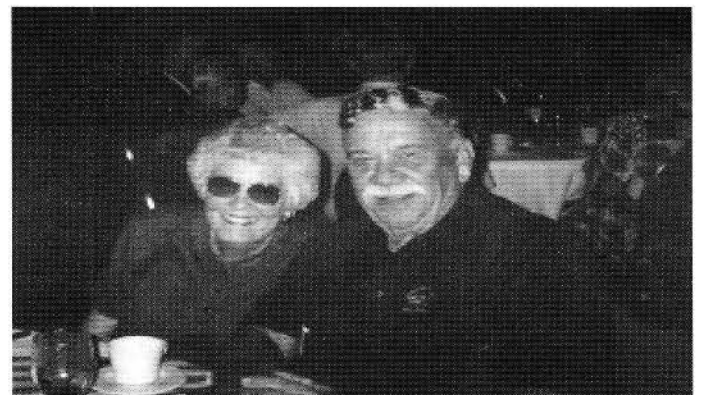
Back: Tony & Mary Coutros, Peter & Sylvia Gaskin, Imogene Freysinger Front: Joe & Marilyn Wong, Jack Farley



George & June Ritchie



Mary & Tony Coutros



Jan & Hal Province

# "Air Base Tour"



Touring Mountain Home AFB



Lunch at the base



Capt. Lance Kent - Hup, two, three, four!



Bob Wright and Claude Conklin



Ambers Hanson, Jean Hanson, Hal Province, Jan Province



Maury & Lois Anderson and Barbara & Donald Benscoter



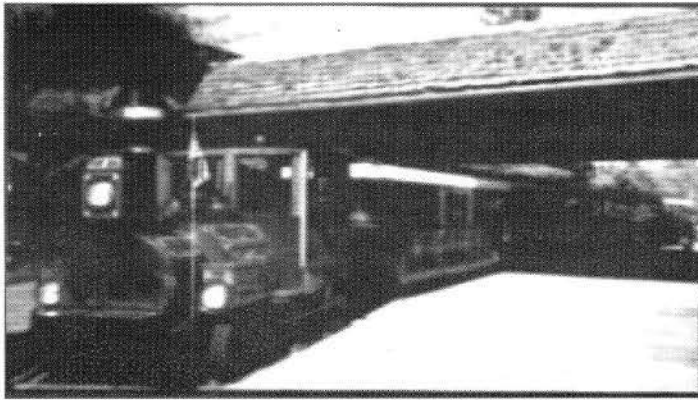
Nice Group



Lonnie Crook



## “City Tour”



All Aboard



Waiting for the trolley for the city tour



All Aboard!

## “The Workers”



Pauline Shull, Beryl Anderson, Paul Shull, Paul Anderson



Pauline Shull, Beryl Anderson



Esther Wright, Robert Wright, Bruce Sothern



Harold & Genevieve Rutka

## “Head Table”



Jim Martin, June & George Ritchie, Jennifer & Lt Col Tom Ritchie



Allen & Agnes Israelsen, John Doronsky, Bev Sterns, and Norman Mayer



George Ritchie, Lt Col Tom Ritchie, Pres Al Israelsen, Agnes Israelsen, Pres Elect John Doronsky



Speakers George Ritchie and Lt Col Tom Ritchie

## “Gala Banquet”



Lucille & Bud Babcock



Vera & Glenn Henry



Bill (Willard) & Roxie Fager



Sam & Peggy Wolstencroft



# "Gala Banquet"



Margie & Lawrence Finley



Miriam & Floyd Richmond



Claude & Audrey Gibbs



Martha & Russell Reed



Margo & Everett Rose



Evelyn & Donald Stufflebeam



Bea & Cransford Sproul, and Harry Crawford



Doris & Leroy Robinson

# "Gala Banquet"



Tony & Joann Habiger



Margie & Bob Bichowsky



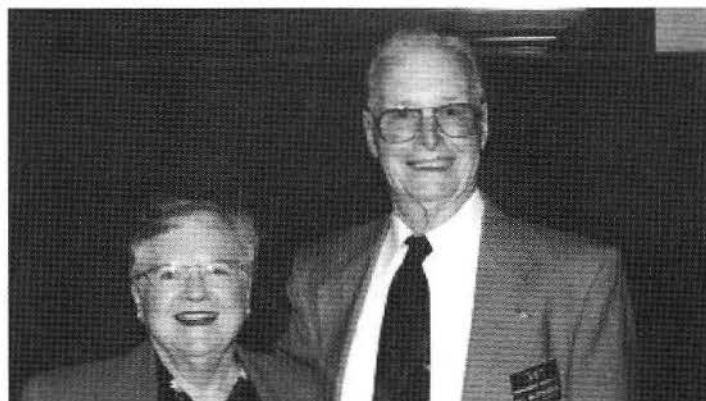
Bobbie & Lloyd Boreen



Herman & Nancy Fieber



Imogene & Carl Freysinger



Betty & Melvon McSpadden



Marion Broadhurst and Dorothy Newell Peavey, honorary members with Al Israelsen (Red Cross ladies at Mendlesham)



Back: Esther Frank, Dot & Walter Grimes, Jean Hanson, Ambers Hanson, Henry Tobiason  
Front: Dale Frank, Betty Mae & John Feda, Audry Tobiason



# “Gala Banquet”



T.M. & Patti Waarvick



Mattie & John Perez



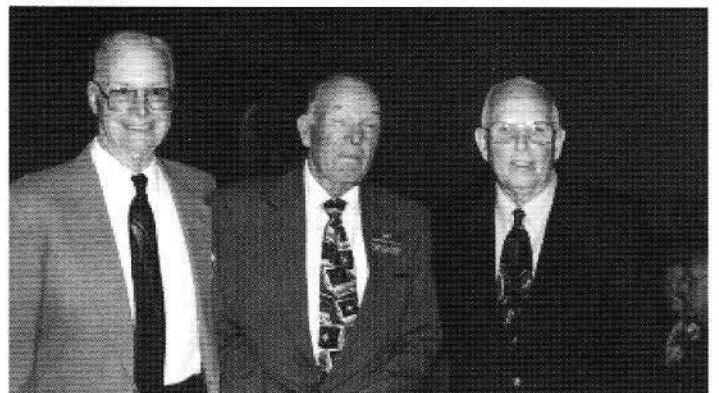
Clete Morris & Max Jakel



Doris (sister) & Wallace Brauks, Ray & Bula Palmer



Dale Frank, Rachel & Fred Waltz



Melvon McSpadden, Chuck Attridge, Lloyd Boreen



Back: Jim Troup, Herb Hall, Dextor Jordan  
Front: Natalie Troup, Doris Hall, Buelah Jordan



Maury Anderson, Donald Benscoter, Lois Anderson, Barbara Benscoter



## THE BOISE REUNION

Boise, a city surrounded by mountains  
On a high mountain desert, rose gardens and fountains

Boise offered much to see  
Among them a hotel named Doubletree  
Hospitality,  
And a beautiful lady named Judy Lee  
And beautiful describes all of the ladies present  
Who put up with thee and me  
And our relation of history

Reflecting a little and for poetry thirst  
Ogden Nash would have written, had I not said it first  
Boise is not noisy

Erma Bombeck however, did about Boise write  
"When I get old, I'm going to wear purple and move to Boise"  
(but not tonight)

The war relived, Mountain Home and the B-ones  
The memories, serious; the atmosphere fun

Some guy read a poem about that war and German flak  
And a couple heads nodded that it was like that

Then there was the banquet; 'twas the Ritchies night  
So comforting to know all that high tech is on our side and ready  
To fight

The dinner was delicious, feast without famine  
No one complained when they brought out that salmon

Many old friendships renewed; some new made  
Until the final farewells were bade

"'Twas a great job by Allen; the latest 34<sup>th</sup> chapter he wrote  
handing the gavel over to also multi-talented John.....  
the reunion ended on that high note

And so dear Boise, a weekend of smiles and tears to remember  
As we all look forward to Des Moines next September.

By Gene Albert, 391<sup>st</sup> Sqd

## DEADLINE

**Any material or items to be inserted in the March issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before Jan. 16, 1999. That is the date our final copy will be presented to the printers.**

Jack Share, Editor

## CONGRATULATIONS

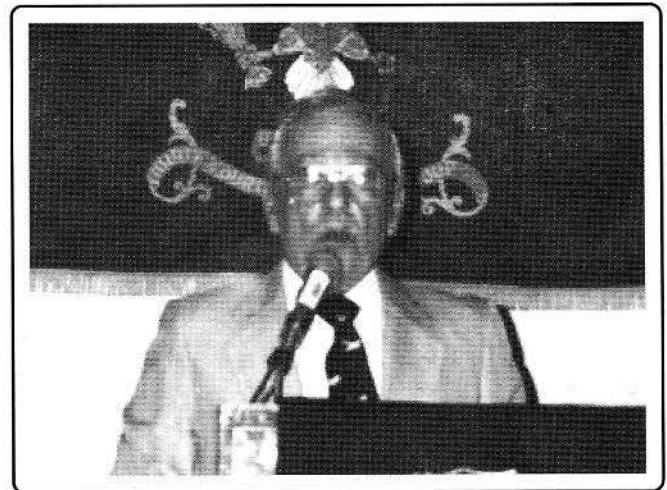
TO OUR OWN

### HAROLD RUTKA

Who was elected **PRESIDENT** of the 8th. Air Force Historical Society for the year 1998-1999 at their annual reunion at Cherry Hill, NJ in September.

Harold has earned this honor having been active in both the 34th.BGA and the 8th. AFHS for many years. Serving on both boards and currently on the reunion committees of both organizations.

We extend our congratulations to Harold and Gen and best wishes for a successful year as president of the 8th. Air Force Historical Society.



Eli Baldea

## ODE TO AN EDITOR

An Editor knocked at the Pearly Gate,  
His face was scarred and cold;  
He stood before the man of fate  
For admission to the fold.

"What have you done," St. Peter asked,  
"to gain admission here?"  
"I've been an Editor, Sir," he said,  
"for many and many a year."

The Pearly Gates swung open wide,  
St. Peter touched the bell.  
"Come in," he said, "and get your harp;  
you've had your share of Hell."

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Reprinted from the 486th.BG Newsletter

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## Rose's corner

Greetings everyone!

Yes, I'm still with you even though Eli had to put aside his work, which he always enjoyed doing. Now that Mendlesham Memories will no longer be his charge, I'm beginning to wonder what he can do to keep himself busy. He had a hobby of wood carving so perhaps he may trade his computer for a good knife sharpener.

Jack Share has asked if I would continue with this column and I willingly agreed. If you read this, please send me your birth date which will be shown in this column and you may be surprised at the number of well wishes you will receive. You have many friends in the 34th. and this will show how much we all care for each other.

Christmas is just around the corner and I will share the recipe which will make a wonderful gift and candy at home for guests and your grandchildren. Yummy!!

### CASHEW CRICKLE

2 - cups salted cashews, toasted	3 - tablespoons butter
2 - cups sugar	1 - teaspoon vanilla
1/3 - cup light corn syrup	1/2 - teaspoon soda
1/2 cup water	

Butter 15 x 10 inch jelly-pan. In large heavy saucepan, heat sugar, corn syrup and water to boiling. Stir constantly until sugar is dissolved. Cook, without stirring, on medium heat until candy thermometer registers 300 deg. F. or hard crack. Remove from heat, stir in butter, vanilla and soda. Add Cashews. Pour mixture into the prepared pan. When cool break into pieces. Makes 1-3/4 lb.

Tip: To toast cashews, place on jelly roll pan; bake in 350 deg. oven for 8 to 10 minutes until golden brown. Cashew Crickle can be made several weeks in advance, store in airtight container in cool, dry place.

At this point, I want to say how much I missed you all. The only reunion we had previously missed was the one near New Orleans. We hope you all had a wonderful time.

I leave you with this advice:

When driving your car, drive on streets which are not busy, drive only during the daytime and concentrate only on your driving. Singing along with your radio is O.K. - I know I certainly do.

Love,  
Rose and Eli



ROBERT E. BICHOWSKY - La Mesa , CA

I was one of those missing but found 3 years ago when my wife and I became "1st timers" at Huntsville, Alabama. Next we attended Raleigh, NC. We missed Omaha but enjoyed our reunion in Boise in September 1998.

I am one of the few who is still working full-time as a Consulting Arborist and Horticultural Agronomist in San Diego County. My work involves tree and other consultations and I appear as an expert witness in many court cases.

My wife, Margie, keeps very busy with her volunteer work at Grossmont Hospital, La Mesa Beautiful and in a local Republican club.

Our health stays good and we are enjoying life and our two daughters and grand kids are all in San Diego County, so we have many good times together.

The Mt. Home Air Force Base tour was memorable and it made the Boise reunion extra special.

I'm enclosing before and after pictures - the first one was taken before I went overseas and the others are current. We both enjoy "Mendlesham Memories" and wish you good luck in your new endeavor.

\*\*\*\*\*

DAVID S. STIVER - Youngstown, OH

The reunion in Boise was really enjoyable, especially the trip to Mountain Home Air Force Base. Hope to see you next year in Des Moines.

\*\*\*\*\*

DALE E. FRANK - Winterset, IA

The Boise reunion was great!! and we sure appreciate the officers and reunion committee for making the plans, thank you!! Hope to see you all in Iowa next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN FEDA - Marshall, MN

It was great to see you at the Boise reunion. We have made 5 of them and this was one of the best.

Thanks for accepting the editorship of "Mendlesham Memories". I know you will do a good job.

I will work on the minutes and I assure you will have them by Oct. 20th.

\*\*\*\*\*

PAUL A. SHULL - Raytown, MO

Best of luck with your new undertaking - know you will do well. It was a great reunion in Boise.

\*\*\*\*\*

JOHN FARLEY - Verona, NJ

Enclosing some photos from the dinner - not the banquet (note checkered tablecloth). I think Tony Coutros will be sending you some of our table grouping from the banquet. Will be checking with him today.

Hope you had a safe trip back, and looking forward to next years meeting, God willing.

\*\*\*\*\*

A J FIRESTONE - Hampton, VA

Here are a few pictures that you might want to include in "Mendlesham Memories". It was a great reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

ROBERT H. WRIGHT - South Bend, IN

Jack, congratulations on the new job as editor for the 34th.BG. I'm sure you will do a bang up job. Enclosed is a list of the attendees that were registered.

Hope you had a nice trip with Peter & Sylvia and saw a lot of the country.

\*\*\*\*\*

MAURICE N. ANDERSON - Plymouth, MN

Thanks for taking over the editorship of "Mendlesham Memories". You'll do a good job. Enclosed are some pictures taken at the 1998 reunion in Boise. You may include any of interest to you.

\*\*\*\*\*

GEORGE J. RITCHIE - Swansboro, NC

Here are some pictures taken in Boise. It is OK to send them on to the "principals", once you have finished with them.

June and I want everyone in the Group to know how much we appreciated the attention given to our family during the Boise reunion.

The committee did a fantastic job and Al presented the program in first class shape. When he called and told me that Tom and I were the program, I just about fainted. With out Tom it would have been a "dud" and I was so thankful that he conducted himself so professionally.

Continued on page 27



## Notes From Our Friends

Continued from page 26

You know how a parent is; they never realize that their kids keep growing and growing as the parents become dimmer and dimmer. I want to thank all the men and their wives for the neat comments they made about us. If and when Tom gets assigned to the B2 we can do it again.

Actually, he told me last night on the phone that at 1330 hours today (Monday) he is briefing LT. Gen. Schmidt on the results and suggestions concerning the deployment he took his squadron to Florida to on the morning after the banquet. He assembled his people at 0430 Sunday and took off at 0700. Spent a week deployed, working missions with assorted aircraft. When I asked him how his squadron made out, he responded with one word, "outstanding". He said if this review with the Wing Commander goes well, it may be recommended that he go on to brief the Air Force Command (whatever that is).

As I get details of the new "Strike Force" I'll pass them on. I am sure everyone in the Group is thrilled to learn about these changing procedures of air combat.

Again, on behalf of Tom, Jennifer, June and myself, thank you for your attention and flattering remarks in Boise.

Jack, keep the pictures that are of interest to you, I don't need them back. You've taken on a big, important job, Thanks.

\*\*\*\*\*

JAMES A. STUTHERS - Nokomis, FL

Kay and I just arrived home from Boise on the 29th of Sept. having spent 29 days enroute to and from the reunion, visiting children and grand-children in Illinois, Denver, CO and Pensacola, FL. Needless to say, we had a great 7000 mile plus trip. We visited Mt. Rushmore, Yellowstone, the Badlands and Wall Drugs along the way and had a very satisfying trip. Naturally, the "high" point of all was our association with the 34th BG people. The program and visit to Mountain Home AF. base was "outstanding" and the father and son presentation by the Ritchie family was "tops". I don't know how near President John Doronsky will be able to top that presentation next year at Des Moines, but after the great talk he gave us upon being given his gavel for 1998-1999 as president of the 34th BGA - I know we can expect some exciting event to end our next banquet dinner in 1999. Again, I'd like to congratulate our 1998 President Allen Israelson for a very interesting program to end the Boise celebration. It was a truly nice event and I'm sure those who were in attendance will remember this reunion for a long time. I'm so glad to have some very good camcorder tapes to hold this trip in my mind and memories for a long, long time. As you know, I have been taping our activities for the past several years. I treasure some great film I've collected of some of our members in the association and in the hospitality rooms over these years, I roll the VCR often.

Again, congratulations to you, Jack, Eli left "big shoes" but I'm sure all your 34th BG friends and associates know you can and will do a great job as editor in the years ahead. Do hope you can get out an MM quarterly as this media is so important to the good health in holding our association together.

\*\*\*\*\*

HERBERT B. HALL - Scottville, MI

Enclosed is a photo of the J.C. Smith crew of the 7th. sqd. who were at the reunion in Boise. Also I am sending a photo of the crew taken in England by our plane "The Near Sighted Robin". (Photo on Page 5)

It was a great reunion this year and I am sorry that more of our crew was not there, there are eight of us still living.

\*\*\*\*\*

Baker One Seven

You hear folks talk of graceful yachts  
that sail the seven seas,  
And some will talk of streamline trains  
that cross the states with ease,  
Some like bikes and scooters, some like a limousine,  
But give me the Queen of the Airways,  
a throbbing B-17.  
She looks passive at rest in the bunkers,  
not seeming to worry or care,  
But as each engine roars into action,  
she is eager to take to the air,  
She strains at the end of the runway,  
impatient to soar into flight,  
Once airborne, she's graceful and stately,  
and ready to show off her might.  
She's a nasty devil in combat,  
with guns spewing lead from each side.  
And though bullets and shrapnel may pierce her,  
no Jap will injure her pride.  
No matter how much she is wounded,  
no matter the odds she must face,  
She knows it's her dying duty  
to return us safe to our base.  
Soon, when this war is over,  
and the earth been rid of the scum,  
You'll be able to look at the records,  
and see what the Fortress has done.  
Then when my last flight is scheduled,  
and I leave this earthly scene,  
Please let me fly up to heaven—in my own B-17.

*Written by Bob Halliday*

Bob Halliday's poem "Baker One Seven" was composed on a search mission out of Oahu, after the Pearl Harbor attack.

# CHANGE OF ADDRESS

(AS OF 10-21-98)

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
ALLEGA	ALFRED	391	ZIP CODE CHANGE		CA	93444
AUTRY	ELWIN B	7	8 WHITE OAK ST	ELON COLLEGE	NC	27244
GIBBS	CLAUDE H	7	PO BOX 245	CATAWISSA	MO	63015
HERMAN	VICTOR T	7	2023 PROMONTORY PT LN	GOLD RIVER	CA	95670
JONES	SEAMONS J	4	10045 W ROYAL OAK RD	SUN CITY	AZ	85351
MORRELL	EILEEN	A	900 N RURAL RD #1068	CHANDLER	AZ	85226
NASH	EMIL B	391	NEED CURRENT ADDRESS			
ORTON	WILLIAM J	1446ORDLM	13359 E 51ST ST	YUMA	AZ	85367
RICHARDS	HOWARD C	18	14750 HARDING DR	HOMESTEAD	FL	33033
SMITH	FRANK SUMMER	7	PO BOX 61047	COLUMBIA	SC	29260
SMITH	J.C.	7	4917 RAVENSWOOD DR #1787	SAN ANTONIO	TX	78227
STUTHERS	JAMES A	18	1225 OAK TREE LN	NOKOMIS	FL	34275
STUTTS	CHARLES B	391	4917 RAVENSWOOD DR #413	SAN ANTONIO	TX	78227
TOBIASON	HENRY T	4	409 DALE DR SE	REMER	MN	56672
VROOMAN	BURTON E	4	NEED CURRENT ADDRESS			
WILKIE	EVERETT C	34CCT	HC 001 BOX 17	ROCKPORT	TX	78382
WRIGHT	BURCH	391	8270 MONTGOMERY OAK	SAN ANTONIO	TX	78239



## TAPS

<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>ORG</u>	<u>DOD</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
Applegate	Ralph M	MED		4432 York Rd	South Bend	IN	46614
Churchia	Gordon	391		17980 Amberwood Ln	South Bend	IN	46635

\*Correction: It was erroneously reported in the September issue of MM that William Van Buskirk had passed away. In fact Bill lost his loving wife Phyllis. Our apologies to Bill and his family, our sympathies go out to them.

## DONATIONS TO THE RAY SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### DONORS

### IN MEMORIUM

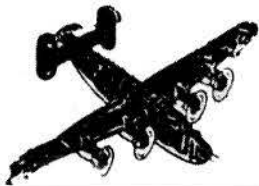
Mr & Mrs Ambers Hanson

Norman Mayer

Mr & Mrs Everett Rose

## 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IN 1999 (or greater not previously reported)

<u>ANNIVERSARY DATE</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAMES</u>
January 28, 1949	McBride	James & Barbara
March 10, 1949	Williams	Harold & Evelyn
March 11, 1949	Jordan	Dexter & Buelah
June 11, 1949	Konte	Alfred &
June 25, 1949	Marble	Donald & Mary
September 3, 1949	Habiger	Anthony & Elizabeth
September 8, 1949	Freeman	Edmund & Gil
October 20, 1949	Danielian	Leo & Melene
October 30, 1949	Visconti	Louis & Hedwig
November 19, 1949	Forsman	Don & Ruby
December 17, 1949	Province	Hal & Jan



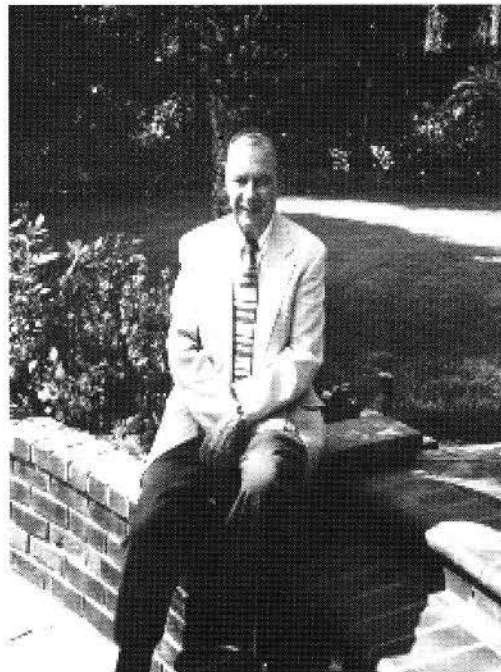
## *Then and Now*



### **ROBERT E. BICHOWSKY**



Prior to leaving with the 34th  
for England



**1998**

### **TOO BUSY...**

(Courtesy 361st Fighter Group Association newsletter, February 1997 issue)

*My body may age but my mind will stay young  
I've much left to do, many songs to be sung.  
Many roads to be travelled, much love to express,  
Many souls that need aid, who are now in distress.  
I will do what I can to help brighten your day,  
And will spread cheer and love as I pass your way.  
The world is my oyster to have and to hold;  
I am really too busy to ever grow old.*

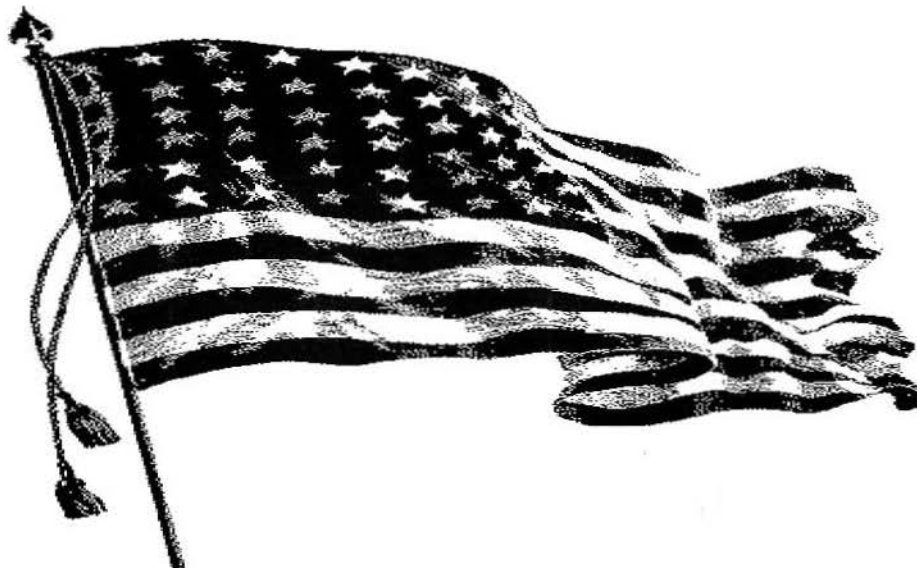


## PAST REUNIONS

At the reunion in Boise, there was some interest shown concerning past reunions of the 34th BGA. Harold Rutka has provided the following list of both the 8th AFHS as well as the 34th.BGA

<u>Year</u>	<u>8th AFHS</u>	<u>34th BGA</u>
1975	Miami Beach, FL	
1976	Dayton, OH	
1977	St. Louis, MO	
1978	Washington, DC	
1979	Phoenix, AZ	
1980	Orlando, FL	
1981	St. Paul, MN	
1982	Cincinnati, OH	
1983	Houston, TX	
1984	Los Angeles, CA	Nashville, TN
1985	Wichita, KS	Wichita, KS
1986	Hollywood, FL	Colorado Springs, CO
1987	Pittsburgh, PA	King of Prussia, PA
1988	Des Moines, IA	Virginia Beach, VA
1989	Denver, CO	Shreveport, LA
1990	Las Vegas, NV	Seattle, WA
1991	New Orleans, LA	Louisville, KY
1992	Louisville, KY	Las Vegas, NV
1993	Chicago, IL	Little Rock, AR
1994	San Diego, CA	St. Paul, MN
1995	St. Louis, MO	Huntsville, AL
1996	Orlando, FL	Raleigh, NC
1997	Bloomington, MN	Omaha, NE
1998	Cherry Hill, NJ	Boise, ID
1999	Savannah, GA	De Moines, IA
2000	Salt Lake City, UT	?

Harold has also provided us with past history of the reunions. At the 8th.AFHS reunion in Houston, TX in 1983 the 34th decided to have their own reunion every other year, but at Wichita, KA in 1985 it was decided to go on our own for as long as we could, which we've been doing since. The reunion dates for DesMoines, IA in 1999 are September 15th to the 19th. Mark your calendars. Final decision on the location for the 34th reunion in year 2000 had not been made at press time.

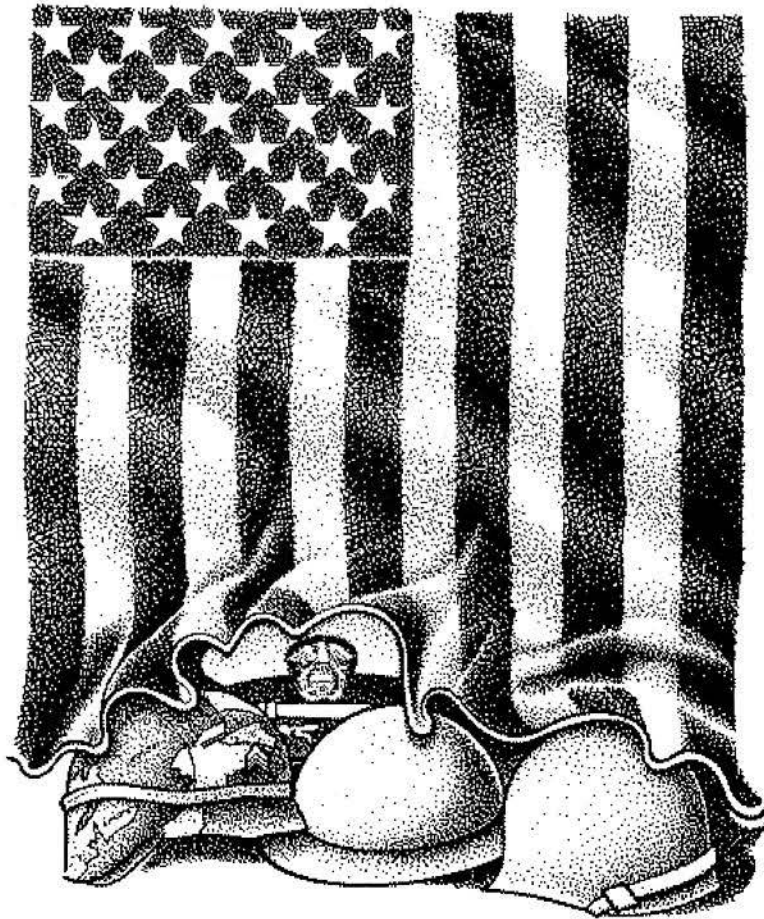


## THE WORLD'S LARGEST AIRFIELD IS BUSY FERRY BASE FROM U.S. TO BRITAIN

From "THE STARS AND STRIPES," 21 MAY, 1943

The largest airfield in the world, built on a vast sandy plateau in Labrador, is being used by the U.S. Air Transport Command and the Royal Air Force Transport Command for delivery of military aircraft and materials to Britain, it was revealed yesterday.

Built at a cost of about \$12,000,000 to date, the airfield is one of the busiest airstations in North America. In one twenty-four hour period, it serviced more than one hundred airplanes, fed the crews, and dispatched them to Britain. In a year of operation, it has overhauled and refueled more airplanes than go through any other ferry base on the North Atlantic seaboard.



The U.S. Air Transport Command alone has arranged to accomodate this year twice the number of airplanes which went through in 1942, it is officially stated. The present runways of the airfield, on a plateau towering 70 feet above a wilderness of swamp, muskeg and spruce forest, are more than a mile long for fully loaded bombers like Liberators and Fortresses. Besides being on the Great Circle Air-route to Europe, the airfield is in an area which has good weather practically year round.

The only women on the station are a few nurses and 14 local girls in the laundry.

Financing of the enterprise is assessed under an international agreement which will remain secret for the war period. It is handled by the Canadian Department of Transportation (DOT), which apportions it among the Canadian Army garrisoning the outpost, the USAAF, the RCAF and the RAF Transport Command.

The isolation of the station and the long sub-Artic nights have not chilled the spirit of the men, many of whom are from semi-tropical American States. "We have as good morale here as at any place in the world," says the commanding officer.

Many difficulties were encountered in building the huge airport, which is not yet complete. Construction costs in Labrador are said to be twice what they would be outside. All materials must be hauled by water or flown in. Labor costs in Labrador rank with the highest in the world.

Since Labradorians have never before worked under a boss and resent anything that sounds like an order, foremen have to be extremely tactful. The Labradorians have proved to be good workers.

# A WISH TO YOU FOR THE NEW YEAR!!



In the coming year.....  
May you have.....



Enough happiness to keep you sweet;  
Enough trials to keep you strong;  
Enough sorrow to keep you human;  
Enough hope to keep you happy;  
Enough failure to keep you humble;  
Enough success to keep you eager;  
Enough friends to give you comfort;  
Enough wealth to meet your needs;  
Enough enthusiasm to look forward;

Faith to banish depression;  
Determination to make each day a better day.

Jack Share  
22 So. Avonlea Cir.,  
The Woodlands, TX 77382  
(409) 273-3561

*34th Bomb. Group*



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