



ENDLESHAM EMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



4TH SQUADRON

"Enduring
Freedom"

***"We shall not fear,
We shall not falter,
We shall not fail."***

President George W. Bush



MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of

The 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc.

www.excel-tech.com/34th/

This newsletter is published four times a Year (March, June, September, December). All material for publication is welcome and should be sent to:

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Deadline

All material and items for the March 2002 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before January 15th 2002. That is the date our final copy will go to the publisher.

Jack Share, Editor

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Other web sites of interest:

<http://members.tripod.com/VALORtoVICTORY>

www.mighty8thmuseum.com

www.air-museum.org/b17.htm

[http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th Bomb](http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb)

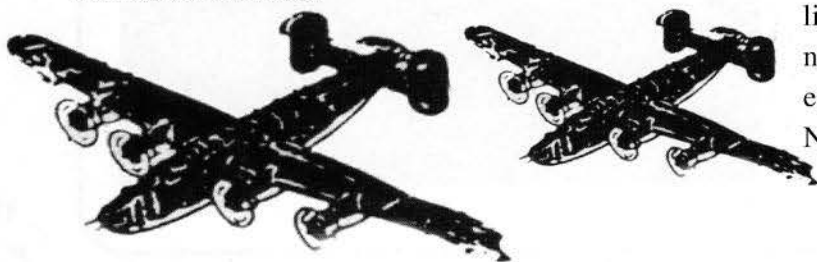
Passing the Gavel



Outgoing president Claude Gibbs presents gavel to newly elected president Wayne Howarter

The reigns of office of president of the 34th Bomb Group Association was relinquished at the 34th Bomb Group Association reunion in Savannah, Georgia, recently when outgoing president Claude Gibbs presented the gavel to the new incoming president Wayne Howarter from Welda, Kansas. Wayne is a dedicated member of the organization having served for many years on the board of directors and as an elected officer. He is well qualified to lead us through the coming year and we wish him well.

Claude's tenure as president was highlighted by one of the largest gathering of members, associate members, offspring and guests for a reunion in many years at Savannah. A most notable achievement during his tenure was the passing of the resolution to allow associated members to become regular members after two years. Thanks, Claude for a job well done and God speed.



**share—
a thought.**

**WE MOURN,
WE PRAY,
WE NEVER FORGET.**

The joyous and friendly atmosphere that was prevalent at our reunion in Savannah was abruptly dampened, even before many of us returned home, by the dastardly and cowardly attack on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, DC. and the plane crash in Pennsylvania. The worst affront to our freedom since Pearl Harbor has again brought this country together in a display of unity and loyalty. Being Americans, we will survive this catastrophe and seek justice to deter future attacks on innocent people throughout the world. It is for this reason I chose to show our colors on the front cover in support of our nations great undertaking to stamp out this evil.

In spite of this tragedy, we can't let this publication go to press without commenting on our recent reunion in Savannah, Georgia. I know it is becoming somewhat of a cliché, but it seems like each one brings something more special and the camaraderie continues to impress. This years gathering was even more enhanced by the large turnout of 1st timers, associate members and offspring, children and grandchildren of our members.

The memberships unanimous decision to admit associate members as part of the regular membership, after two years, was a momentous decision. Welcome aboard, we enjoy, and need, your company immensely. This is an open invitation to all those interested in the 8th Air Force to join us - we would certainly enjoy having you.

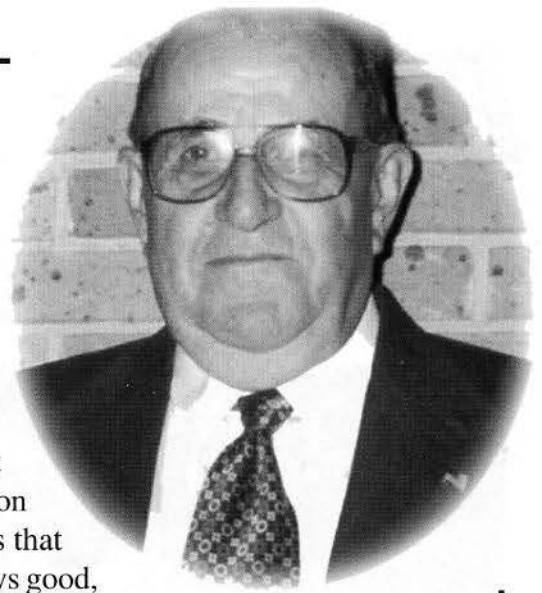
I want to thank all of you who sent in photos and comments for this edition of Mendlesham Memories. There were some beautiful pictures of some beautiful people. Without your cooperation this reunion edition would not be the same.

As the holidays and year's end approach, I would like to thank all of you for your contributions to the newsletters throughout the year and to wish each and everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

God bless you and God bless America

Jack Share, editor

Presidents Message



Greetings to all of the 34th and friends. Our group seems to be getting smaller. We have missed some of the reunions in recent years. All that we attended were great. We can owe that to our reunion committee. Glad to see the attendance holding up so well. Seems that too many birthdays may be slowing us up. Our intentions are always good, but just can't make them all for some reason or other.



Those terrorists attacks in New York, D.C. and Pennsylvania don't encourage much travel. We dodge all of those things, like storms, terrorists, etc. that we can. We're not looking for trouble any more. Just wish some would quit causing it and keep America safe.

This was our 19th reunion, including the 8th Air Force group. The first being in St. Louis, MO in 1977. We have visited several of my crew. Some are gone, of course, as well as members from other crews. I see several 34th group members at reunions that came in after we had left the group in England.

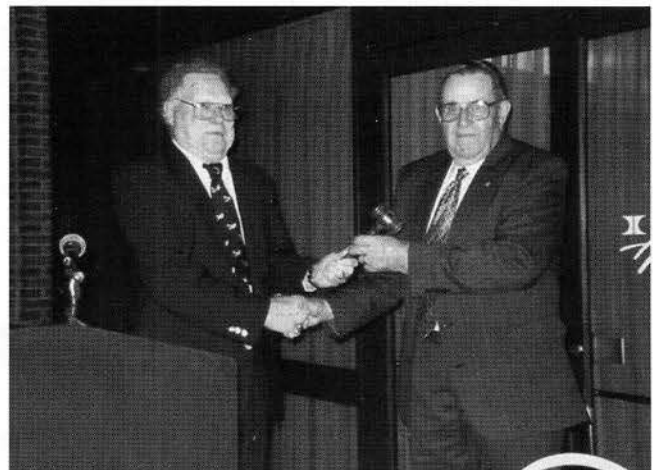
Our crew pilot, S.T. Alexander is still around. We saw him in Houston a few years ago. We have seen Harold Rutka and Bob Gross and have kept in touch with them. I've lost track of Pete Lucyk, Seifert, Owens and Carlson. Pat McKeon, bombardier, Grady Deatherage, tail gunner and Romeo Terron, crew chief, are all gone.

I look through my memory books every once in awhile. It brings back lots of memories, some good, some not so good.

We hope everyone stays well and hope to see you all in Salt Lake City in 2002.

LaVerne and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe New Year.

Wayne E. Howarter, President





TREASURER'S REPORT

The good feeling generated from attending the 2001 reunion at Savannah was quickly lost on Tuesday morning as we watched, with disbelief, the events taking place in New York and Washington and heard about the plane crashing near Pittsburgh. Modern electronics allowed us to see it on our TV screens as the unbelievable occurred and our lives and the World were changed on that BLACK TUESDAY.

The sympathy of the World goes out to those who lost loved ones in this terrible plan of the terrorists. If you lost someone close to you in the attack, we offer our deepest sympathy and condolences.

The disaster caused a change of plans to some 34th members in their return home from the reunion. Bill and Margo Burnell and son were scheduled to fly back to

Washington State but had to rent a car in order to get home. It took them most of the week for the drive. The son of Ed Aikey, who lives in Texas, had to drive to Ohio to attend his fathers funeral and I'm sure there are others who have similar stories to tell of their experience on that fateful day.

I thought the reunion went very well. It was a nice hotel, the weather was good, plenty to see in that beautiful city and the trip to the Heritage Museum was enjoyed by all. We had 276 in attendance with many of those

of the second generation. It was very pleasing to see sons and daughters attending with their parents. And there were several widows who we were glad to see and welcome. I hope we'll have as many, or more, next year at Salt Lake City!

For those who pay dues annually --
2002 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!

I know Jack will need several pages for the reunion photos so I'll stop my ramblin' so he can have the space.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS ONE AND ALL.

Hal



PAST PRESIDENT

Well, another reunion has come and gone.

It was truly a pleasure to see the great turnout at Savannah this year. I was very impressed with the service, courtesy and helpfulness through out our stay.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum speaks for itself. I'm sure everyone shared the same overall impression.

I wish to give my sincere appreciation to the officers and committee members who, year after year, give of their time and energy to keep the 34th Bomb Group Association a great organization. They deserve our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

Thank you all for giving me the privilege of serving as president. Let us give our new president a big welcome and wish him well in 2002.

Please join us in Salt Lake City, Utah next year. Hopefully, we'll have a large turnout there.

Claude Gibbs

CAN YOU COPE ?

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,
If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
If you can resist complaining and boring people
with your troubles,

If you can eat the same food everyday and be
grateful for it,

If you can understand when loved ones are too busy
to give you time,

If you can overlook when people take things out on
you when, through no fault of yours,
something goes wrong,

If you can take criticism and blame without
resentment,

If you can face the world without lies and deceit,

If you can conquer tension without medical help,

If you can relax without liquor,

If you can sleep without the aid of drugs.

THEN YOU ARE PROBABLY THE FAMILY DOG.

Reunion Committee

The reunion committee thanks the 276 members, their families and their friends for attending our 34th BGA reunion at Savannah and making it a huge success. Some had to stay at nearby hotels, as the Hilton Savannah DeSoto could not handle the unexpected turnout. We were able to get together at the Museum, for meals, the hospitality room and the PX room. The shuttle to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum worked out well, and when it was time for the last bus, we were all tired out and it felt good to sit down for the ride back to the hotel.

The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum personnel were taping our members experiences – our group was the first to have this done. Our display is still there; a bit smaller as the displays have been downsized to make room for other material. The “Last Man’s” wine bottle is still intact. I presented two 8” x 10” framed photographs of our Mendlesham memorial. The British ladies and friends had presented them to the 34th bomb group. These were the first that the museum had received from any of the organizations.

LOST AND FOUND: A package was left on one of the buses. The bus company delivered it to me at the hotel Monday morning. There was no identification, only that it was purchased at the museum. There was one metal container plus other items – all you have to do is identify the other items and Gen Rutka will wrap them up and send the package to you. Our address is: Harold Rutka, 11 East Artavia St., Duluth, MN 55811-2330. Our phone number is 218-724-1667.

We had a group of people making a videotape of the 34th bomb group members that had been on the “Munster Raid”. Bob Wright was a pilot on the mission and he wasn’t sure he would take off the make-up that was applied on him as it make him look “50 years younger”.

We will be looking forward to seeing all of you in Salt Lake City, Utah in September 2002. Salt Lake City was the starting point for many of us that received our assignments to the 34th bomb group while at Blythe, California. We will not duplicate the troop train ride on that Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

There is a “Return to England” tour tentatively set for the month of June 2002. If interested, please contact:

TAMARAC TRAVEL, Dick D’Amato
Phone – 1-800-486-0022
Fax – 321-235
e-mail – rdamato@cfl.rr.com

We are survivors of an attack on our country and we are in the same situation again. We had people praying for us then and now it is our turn to offer prayers for our country and our military personnel. The problem now is that we don’t always know who the enemy is. We did it before and we can do it again – GOD BLESS AMERICA.

We wish you and yours peace, good health and happiness in the coming year.

The reunion committee,

Harold Rutka

Robert Wright

Bruce Sothern



INTERNET NEWS

From Hal Province

Have you on-line members of the 34th Bomb Group checked out Gary Ferrell’s site recently? <http://members.tripod.com/VALORtoVICTORY/index.html>. Gary e-mailed me recently that he has added a great deal to the site. I’m sure the additions will be of interest to most of the air crews. Now you can see the list of the missions a crew flew or the missions on which a favorite a/c flew along with other lists. The entire list of B-17 and B-24 missions are listed along with the a/c that went on those missions. Gary has done a yeoman’s job at getting all of this data on the net.

In spite of the work it took I’m sure it will save him some time in the end. Now he won’t have to make individual retrievals to find out which missions a certain crew flew and which planes they were on.

Other web sites of interest to the members are:

The official 34th BG page:

www.excel-tech.com/34th/

“Flying Dutchman” crew - http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb/Feider page:

<http://34thbombgroup.homestead.com/>

Pop and Planes

<http://www.eiswert.com>

34th page under 8thAF :

www.HeavyBombers.com

COMMENTS ABOUT THE CREW

By Robert S. Gay

This is picture of Major Eaton's Special crew when it landed in England.

M/Sgt. Meredith was a talented man who could fix anything (except a rocker arm) that caused us to make a forced landing in Puerto Rico.

Harry Ackerman was as good a navigator as ever wore shoes. He had served a tour in the Pacific before joining us at Blythe to sharpen up our navigators. He did not have to serve another tour but somehow volunteered to do so. A little encouragement from Jack Eaton helped.

Rose I don't remember too much about.

Ryan was something else. Wherever we stopped he recruited the native labor. He would give them a cigarette or candy bar and from then on he had a personal servant.

In Belem we had quite a layover because we were losing aircraft on the way to Dakar. We were selected to fly dead reckoning and have Steiner monitor the radio out of Dakar. Al Steiner was a genius on communications and got Guy Lombardo from the Waldorf Astoria in the middle of the South Atlantic.

DID YOU KNOW.....?

Unlike many of the warring nations, the United States emerged from World War II essentially unscathed, primarily due to the vast stretches of ocean that lay between it and its enemies.

However, Axis planners were always looking for ways to attack the Arsenal of Democracy, even if only for propaganda value. Japan was especially motivated to strike after suffering the minor, but humiliating Doolittle raid in April 1942.

One scheme it developed to strike the American mainland involved a force of its huge, four-engined H8K

On the evening we were to depart, I entered the aircraft from the rear and found hidden among the gear, Charley Boy, a native Ryan was taking along as his personal servant. Ryan said he wanted to go with us and couldn't we sign him up. "I don't think so, I replied, "and besides your rank (S/Sgt.) doesn't entitle you to a personal servant. Charley Boy, out!



Jack Eaton was a good officer who dreamed of becoming a General. He was a good executive and fun to be around. Had he lived he would have made a good General. A good pilot he was not and that is why he had Howard Burton in right seat. Captains were not flown as co-pilots but Eaton never flew without Burton who was a good pilot.

Donald Durham was a ballet dancer before he went into the Air Force and Armament school. He was very good at his job and he could adapt without being told what to do.

The 34th never left the ground without a full load of gas even if we were a bomb or two light on the Division Mission order. The reason for the 34th's success was due to the great talent of our men and officers. I take pride in that I had a lot to do in selecting them.

In Belem we all bought "boots". I am the only one bold enough to show them off on duty.

float planes. The plan called for 30 H8K's, freshly refueled by submarines at a rendezvous point off Baja California, to fly halfway across the U.S. to bomb the Texas oilfields.

After the attack, the seaplanes would meet up with a group of German tanker U-boats in the Atlantic that would support them as they flew up and down the East Coast launching terror raids on major cities.

Although the Germans were supportive of this plan and prepared the necessary U-boats, the Japanese ultimately called off the operation because of their deteriorating situation in the Pacific.

Source: *Dirty Little Secrets of World War II*

by James Dunnigan and Albert Nofi

My View Of The Flood

Many of our newly acquired and younger associate members of the 34th BGA have interesting and varied occupations. One of those is Fawn Leeson, niece of Clair Zarfoss, pilot of the first crew to fly the B-17 "Flying Dutchmen" in combat. Fawn is a deputy sheriff in Harris County, Texas.

Most have heard of the devastating flood that hit Houston, Texas and surrounding areas in June as a result of the tropical depression called Allison. Fawn and her fellow law enforcement officers were deeply involved in problems that were occurring in the county jail as the floodwaters rose to the point where it became necessary to evacuate the prisoners. Her story follows:

1301 Franklin St. was under water, basement, tunnel, no lights, etc. We had over 2000 male and female inmates to be transported into our other two jails. The only way to get them out was by going up and down several flights of stairs. We started at the top, the 12th floor, and worked our way down. I would estimate that I went up and down the stairs 64 times, others even more.

We used flashlights and candles to light our way. Each tank (cell) was emptied. Each inmate was cuffed and leg ironed to prevent any from trying to escape, or getting hurt. Most were jokingly enjoying the move – but not us.

With no lights and extreme heat it was physically and mentally draining on all the deputies involved. Most deputies that were off couldn't get in because they too were flooded like the rest of Houston. Their phone lines were down and so were certain cell phone companies.

It was a slow process to do this massive move and I'm sure there were some who felt it went too slow, but they didn't take into account that some of these inmates were pretty bad people, people who no one would want walking the streets. Planning the undertaking was essential, for not only our safety but also the inmates and the cities.

I managed to get into work at 7PM, after several futile attempts, and remained until 6:00 the next morning. Many deputies were there much longer helping get these people out. I am happy to say no one was hurt during the ordeal and am thankful for the dedication and support all the deputies provided during this emergency. And most thankful for all the smiles we exchanged as we passed on the way up and down the stairs. My legs will need much time to get back to normal.

Also, I want to thank all the brass Lt's, Sgt's and Capt's that were right by our side assisting and giving smiles of encouragement. I would hope we never have to go through that again, but if we do, I know we will handle it with pride, strength and love for each other, just the way we did it this time

Better Late Than Never?

Sgt. Guilford Spence was a flight engineer/top turret gunner on Lt. Cranston Sproul's B-17 bomber crew assigned to the 391st squadron, 34th Bombardment group(H), Mendlesham Airbase, Suffolk County, England during World War II.

On December 31st 1944, while the crew was attacking Hanover, Germany, their plane was blasted by anti-aircraft artillery and set on fire. Shrapnel almost severed Sgt. Spence's foot and he was bleeding profusely. Despite his wounds, Spence slid down from his turret, got his toolbox and dragged himself to the cockpit where he started to cut burning wires and repair leaking oxygen lines.

Communication within the aircraft was hampered as the flak had destroyed the radio and intercom equipment. One wing was on fire and the bomber headed down. But Spence remained in the cockpit attempting to repair some damage.

When Lt. Sproul gave the order to bail out, not all of the crew heard him because of the damage. So Sgt. Spence left his post and, ignoring his serious injuries, unselfishly crawled through the hatchway to inform the navigator and bombardier to bail out, thus saving their lives.

The crippled bomber, by that time, was spinning wildly as it spiraled downward. The crew spilled out one by one through the bomb bay. But Sgt. Spence was pinned by G-forces until another crewman pushed him from the burning plane. Three crew members died and the rest taken prisoners of war.

Cranston Sproul, pilot of the ill-fated B-17 Flying Fortress, wrote the original recommendation for a citation for Spence, after returning to the U.S., and notified him a year before his death that the citation had been approved and he would be receiving the Silver Star.

Although Guilford knew the award was coming, it was not received until Feb. 1991 when his widow, Bernice Spence, was presented with the medal – 10 months after he had died of heart failure in Zephyrhills, FL. "If only he could have lived a few months longer," said Benice Spence who is now living in a nursing home in Zephyrhills. "But I was pleased to know that he knew it was coming."

The USAF couldn't explain why Spence received the award so late. "In this particular case, it fell out of the system somehow and was lost," said Col. Egede-Nissen, commander of the 56th Combat Support Group at McDill AFB, Tampa, FL., after he had presented the Silver Star to Mrs. Spence.

Spence's brother, Marshall, said he thinks that some action taken by the crew at a 34th Bomb Group Association reunion might have provided the nudge the Air Force needed to jog it's memory. "Probably some of his former officers resubmitted his name for the award," Marshall said. "Better late than never."

PX UPDATE

Two new books have been added to the PX list.

"The Munster Raid, Before and After" was written by English author Ian Hawkins who spent 20 years researching this mission. It sells for \$32.00.

A fiction novel in paper back "Bail Out Over Munster" was written by the 34th bomb group's own Walter Sturdivan is priced at \$5.00. Both of these books are in stock and available.

Two other books written by Walter are available and can be purchased direct from Walter at his home address: Walter Sturdivan

5901 N. El Dorado St.
Stockton CA 95207
Tel: 209 477 3811

"The Red Tailed Devils from Mendlesham" tells of the 34th bomb groups action and losses in combat and sells for \$15.00

"Shake Hands With the Devil" is a true story about an airman in combat and is also priced at \$15.00.

Another book written by another member of the 34th bomb group, Robert Vaughn is titled "Fames Favored Few" can be ordered direct from his home.

Robert Vaughn
106 Country Home
Picayune, MS 39466

Ken Paxton, PX manager

Inquiry from Mendlesham

By way of Hal Province's trusty computer network, this letter from Mendlesham, Suffolk, England :

Please excuse the intrusion but I am wondering if you may be able to help me?

My wife and I recently purchased a property in Mendlesham which used to be known as the Royal Oak Inn, opposite the church. It is no longer an Inn and we are trying to establish its history through to c1510 when it was believed to have been built on an existing market site dating back to the 1200's

The war years are just some of the many gaps that we have in it's life and it is possible that some of you members may have knowledge or even visited the Inn whilst stationed at Mendlesham airfield. If you or your members should have any information or pictures of the Inn I would be most interested in adding the details to my records.

Hal's reply stated that he had no knowledge of the Inn but we could ask our membership. The return e-mail from England follows:

I do appreciate that this is a shot in the dark but it would be great to add our American friends touch to the history. Apart from, at best photos or other documents, it would be nice to hear the personal experiences and memories of

those who may have visited, giving us an insight to life, layout and atmosphere of the Inn during those times.

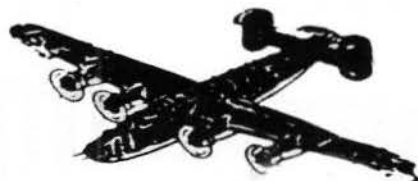
Some may have visited by vehicle, others may have used the footpath across the fields to the base. Who knows what tales and deeds may transpire from this. Probably some joy and some might say joyful embarrassment.

From this end, our thoughts go out to those of you there who thought perhaps they had seen the last of terror until the tragic events of September 11.

Once again many thanks for your interest and cooperation.

Regards,

Stuart Larkin
Oak House
Chapel Rd
Mendlesham, Stowmarket
IP14 SQ
ENGLAND



PX ORDER FORM

NEW: AUTO WINDOW STICKER – 2"X4 1/4" BLACK AND SILVER

VET: WWII U.S AIR FORCE OR VET: WWII US ARMY AIR CORPS.....\$4.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$10.00
(NO SHIPPING CHARGES ON THIS ITEM)

REPRINT OF 34 TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK, 1947 edition, EDWIN S. SMITH.....	\$37.50ea.
LATEST 34 TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK, 1999 edition.....	\$49.95ea.
"THE MUNSTER RAID, BEFORE AND AFTER" by IAN HAWKINS.....	\$32.00ea
"BAIL OUT OVER MUNSTER" by WALTER STURDIVAN.....	\$ 5.00ea
PERMANENT NAME TAGS (First and last names & Sqdn. No).....	\$ 7.00ea.
LICENSE PLATE (34 th Bomb Group).....	\$ 4.00ea.
LICENSE PLATE HOLDER (2 for \$5.00).....	\$ 3.00ea.
PATCHES – 8 TH AIR FORCE OR 34 TH BOMB GROUP.....	\$ 5.00ea.
PATCHES – 8 TH AIR FORCE (Gold & Silver Bullion Thread).....	\$ 9.95ea.
PATCHES – SQUADRON – 4 th – 7 th – 18 th –	\$ 5.00ea.
DECAL – VALOR TO VICTORY – 5" X 5".....	\$ 1.50ea.
BUMPER STICKER – 34 TH B.G. – 3" X 12".....	\$ 1.50ea.
BOLO TIES – 8 TH AIR FORCE – 34 TH B. G. – B-17 – B-24.....	\$ 6.00ea.
KEY RINGS – 8 TH AIR FORCE – B-17 – B-24.....	\$ 4.00ea
HAT PINS (FOR DECOR) B-24 – B-17 or POW	\$ 3.50ea.
VALOR TO VICTORY (LADY'S STICK PIN).....	\$ 3.50ea.
WINGS – 2 3/4" – PILOT – BOMBARDIER – NAVIGATOR – GUNNER.....	\$ 4.00ea.
WINGS – 2" CREW.....	\$ 4.00ea.
WINGS – 1" – PILOT – BOMBARDIER – NAVIGATOR – ENG – GUNNER.....	\$ 3.50ea.
TIE TACK – 8 TH A.F. – 4 TH – 7 TH – 18 TH – 391 ST SQDNS.....	\$ 4.00ea.
BALL PEN (retractable) W/REPLACEABLE CARTRIDGE	
DK. BLUE W/GOLD LETTERS (34 TH BOMB GROUP, 8 TH AIR FORCE) AND GOLD TRIM.....	\$ 1.49ea.
CAPS – SOLID ROYAL BLUE (New 34 th B.G. Design).....	\$ 7.00ea.
V.C.R. TAPE 58 mins. (" Start Your Engines + 50 Years").....	\$27.95ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT W/ POCKET AND 34 TH B.G. EMBLEM (Hunter Green – beautiful)	
	MED. LRG. XLRG. XXLRG...\$24.50ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT (Cobblestone beige) W/34 TH B.G. EMBLEM and LOGO – (no pocket).	
	MED. LRG. XLRG. XXLRG...\$24.50ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT (White W/ Emblem – no pocket) Large or X Large.....	\$27.00ea

PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS DESIRED

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Please add \$.35 postage for orders under \$20.00 and \$.45 postage for orders \$20.00 and over

Send check or money order to: 34th B.G. PX
Ken Paxton
6402 E. 11th St.
Wichita, KS 67206
Tel: (316) 685 4376
e-mail kenpax1@aol.com

Thanks for your support of the 34th BGA. We wish all of you good health and much happiness!



Minutes

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Pres. Claude Gibbs at 1500 on Sept. 6, 2001, in the Hilton Savannah DeSoto Hotel in Savannah, Ga. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Gibbs. Chaplain James Martin gave the invocation.

Pres. Gibbs called for a roll call. Present were: Pres. Claude Gibbs, 1st VP Wayne Howarter, 2nd VP Carl Stemen, Rec. Sect. John Feda, Treasurer and Corresponding Sect. Harold Province, Past Pres. Norman Mayer, Chaplain James Martin, PX Mgr. Ken Paxton, MM Editor Jack Share, Bd Members Claude Conklin, Everett Rose, Carroll Forister, Franklin Sivret, James Clemens and Anthony Coutros. Reunion Committee members Harold Rutka, Bob Wright and Bruce Sothern. Absent: Archivist Wallace Brauks.

Motion by Sothern, second by Clemens to accept the minutes of the 2000 meeting as printed in the Mendlesham Memories of December, 2000. Motion carried.

PX report was given by Ken Paxton.

Balance on September 5, 2000	\$885.36
Deposits from merchandise sold	1,285.03
Interest on checking account	4.82
	<u>\$2,172.28</u>
Checks issued for merchandise, refunds and supplies	1,700.90
Balance on Sept. 6, 2001	\$ 474.38

Outstanding bills: Expenses to Ken Paxton for supplies and postage of \$112.81

A number of books on consignment
Bomb Group shirts on order.

Motion by Province, second by Clemens to accept the PX report. Motion carried.

Motion by Clemens, second by Sivret to authorize PX Mgr Ken Paxton to purchase the remaining thirty 34th Bomb Group history books from the publisher at a 10% discount. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Harold Province with all figures as of August 27, 2001.

Working accounts	2000	2001
General fund in England (est)	\$ 380.00	380.00
Checking account Hancock Bank	431.92	686.17
Money Mkt Hancock Bank	1,517.51	1,446.89
Money Mkt Edw Jones	2,887.70	4,081.42
Sub-total	\$ 5,271.70	6,594.48
34th Bomb Group Funds:		
Life Membership Fund	\$ 22,063.44	14,375.08
Scholarship Fund	13,135.57	13,559.57
Memorial Fund	1,055.89	1,055.89
General Fund	2,329.42	6,594.48
Pete Grey Fund	0.00	1,010.00
Grand-total	\$ 38,584.32	36,595.02

Location of Funds:		
Money Mkt funds at Edw Jones	\$ 2,254.90	4,081.42 draws interest
CD at Edw Jones	30,000.00	30,000.00 draws interest
Money Mkt funds at Hancock	1,517.51	1,446.89 draws interest
Genl fund Hancock and England	2,329.42	1,066.17 no interest
CD at 6.4% was due in October of 2000	5,000.00	0.00
Grand-Total	\$ 39,584.62	\$ 36,595.02

As of September 3, 2001, the bill for the September MM has not been paid. It will probably be between \$1,800 and \$2,000.

Respectfully submitted by Harold Province

Treasurer Province stated that about 300 members are paying annual dues. We have 360 life members who have paidup dues. We also have about 65 associate members who pay yearly dues. Motion by Rutka, second by Coutros to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Reunion committee report by Harold Rutka. We got a \$233 rebate from the Buffalo reunion. Currently we have \$20,000 in the bank for this reunion. Ninety rooms were reserved at the Hilton. Five were added after the deadline so some late registrants are housed at other hotels. Ninety-six have signed up for the tours to the 8th AF Museum on Friday. Next year's reunion is planned for Salt Lake City for the comparable weekend in September of 2002. Seymour Isaacs, a member who lives in Salt Lake City, is assisting the committee. Motion by Conklin, second by Province to approve the reunion committee report. Motion carried.

The Scholarship Committee report was given by Harold Province. Fourteen applications were received. The committee recommends the top three as: First for \$1000 is Amy Crawford of Ticonderoga, NY 2nd for \$750 is Sean Hoban of Louisville, KY, and Third for \$500 is Theresa Russo of Hartsdale, NY. Motion by Sivret, second by Rutka to approve the report. Motion carried.

The proposed addendum to our Constitution for Article 2 relating to associate members was thoroughly discussed. The addendum to Article 2 defining membership in the Association shall read as follows: AND TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FOR TWO OR MORE YEARS. (This addendum will give associate members the right to vote and to hold office after two years as associate members.) Motion by Sothern, second by Stemen to submit this addendum to the General membership for approval on September 8, 2001. Motion carried.

The Memorial of \$1000 in memory of Pete Grey was discussed. A survey was made of the widows of deceased members. The majority expressed a desire to continue receiving the Mendlesham Memories. Motion by Province, second by Coutros to use the money in the fund to send the MM to the widows of deceased members. Motion carried.

The Mendlesham Memories report was given by Editor Jack Share. He reported no significant problems at this time. He did request that individual members continue to send him their individual stories to use in future editions. He also requested that all pictures from this reunion reach him by October 15. Motion by Rose, second by Sivret to approve the report and commend Editor Jack Share for the great job he is doing. Motion carried.

Pres. Gibbs appointed an audit committee of Carl Stemen, Everett Rose and Anthony Coutros to audit the PX account, the treasurer's accounts and the reunion committee funds and report to the General Membership on Sept. 8, 2001.

Old business - none.

New business. Pres. Gibbs reported on a request from the 8th AF Museum Foundation for a contribution from the 34th BG. Motion by Stemen, second by Clemens to decline the request and encourage individuals to make contributions as they may desire. Motion carried.

Bruce Sothern made a request on behalf of the nominating committee for suggestions and or volunteers for officers of the Association. This year's election will be for a second vice-president and for two board members.

Everett Rose expressed appreciation for the reunion committee for their work.

Motion by Rutka, second by Martin to adjourn at 1620. Respectfully submitted by John J. Feda

John J. Feda

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 8, 2001

The annual meeting of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Pres. Claude Gibbs at 0900 on September 8, 2001, at the Hilton Savannah DeSoto Hotel in Savannah, Georgia. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Gibbs. The invocation was given by Chaplain James Martin.

Motion by Province, second by Rose to accept the minutes of the Sept. 9, 2000, annual meeting held in Buffalo, NY, as printed in the Mendlesham Memories of December, 2000. Motion carried.

Treasurer Harold Province gave the treasurer's report. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 6, 2001, for the detailed report.) Motion by Clemens, second by Coutros to approve the report. Motion carried.

The Scholarship Committee (Hanson, Vaughan, Feda) report was given by Ambers Hanson. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 6, 2001 for the detailed report.) Motion by Province, second by Stemen to approve the report. Motion carried.

The Reunion Committee (Rutka, Wright, Sothern) report was given by Harold Rutka. There are 276 registered at this year's reunion. The committee has \$21,000 to pay for this year's reunion. Next year's reunion is planned for Salt Lake City on this comparable weekend in September. Seymour Isaacs, a member living in Salt Lake City, is assisting the committee. The hotel has not been selected as of this date. Motion by Rose, second by Howarter to approve the report. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee (Sothern, Wright, Martin) report was given by Bruce Sothern. For 2nd VP the nomination is for Fred Waltz. For directors the nominees are John Denko and Vernon Ames. Pres. Gibbs called for nominations from the floor. None were given.

Motion by Conklin, second by Rose to close the nominations and instruct the secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees as presented. Motion carried.

Bruce Sothern reported that Wallace Brauks does not feel he can serve any longer as the Archivist. This is an appointed position. Pres. Gibbs appointed Gary Ferrell to be the Association's Archivist (Historian). All other appointees, namely Jack Share, Ken Paxton, Harold Province, James Martin and John Feda will continue in their respective positions.

The Audit Committee (Stemen, Rose, Coutros) report was given by Carl Stemen. They reported that the PX accounts, the treasurer's accounts and the reunion accounts were all reviewed and found to be in order. Motion by Rose, second by Sivret to approve the audit report. Motion carried.

The PX report was given by Ken Paxton. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 6, 2001, for the detailed report.) Ken reported that 30 mail orders were filled this year. The inventory on shirts is low but they are on order. If you order now they will be shipped to you at no charge for postage. Please put your telephone number on any future orders so the order can be expedited more efficiently. There are seven books on sale in the PX. Most of these are on consignment. Motion by Province, second by Coutros to approve the report. Motion carried.

Under old business the addendum to our constitution concerning associate members was discussed. The Board recommended an addendum which reads- AND TO ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATE MEMBERS FOR TWO OR MORE YEARS. (This addendum will give them the right to vote and the right to hold office in the Association after two years as associate members.) Motion by Rutka, second by Sothern to approve this addendum to our constitution. Motion carried.

Bob Gross reported on two young men in England (Kevin and Sean Welsh) who are doing a history on the 34th Bomb Group. They were appointed by Pres. Gibbs as associate historians for the 34th. Al Israelsen has also corresponded with these two men.

Gary Ferrell reported on the detailed data bases he has created for the 34th BG. These are available on the 34th BG web site. The complete address of the web site can be found in any issue of the MM.

Tamarac Travel is planning a "Return to Mendlesham" for the 34th Bomb Group. It will take place from June 5, 2002, to June 13, 2002. They have arranged similar tours for over 11,000 veterans.

Editor Jack Share reported on the Mendlesham Memories. He stated that the "Friends Write" is a popular section of the publication. He encourages us to send in our comments. He feels our publisher is very cooperative. He also credited Eli Baldea for our existing format. Please send him the reunion pictures by October 15 for the reunion issue. He made a special plea for ADDRESS CHANGES because the Post Office charges him \$1.80 for each MM returned to him because the original address is incorrect.

John Veres, who is coordinating the interviews for the Meresburg Documentary, assured us that this was not a profit making venture. The interviews will be edited and placed in the 8th Air Force Museum. The 34th sustained significant losses on those raids.

There being no further business, Pres. Gibbs adjourned the meeting at 1025.

Respectfully submitted by John J. Feda

John J. Feda



[illegible]

Ken and Kathleen Paxton
Harry and Willie Perry
Philip and Frances Podulka
Arnold and Harry Prillaman
Robert and Virginia Pacholski
Ralph and Bernice Peterson
Bonnie Powers and Ray Zylstra
Robert and Rachel Provence
Hal and Jan Province
Julian and Eleanor Ramirez
Floyd and Miriam Richmon
and Thelma Warfield
George and June Ritchie
Everett and Margo Rose
Herbert and Joyce Roy
Harold and Genevieve Rutka
Gordon and Doris Ryan
Verne and Juanita Santa
Robert and Jean Schroeder
Jack and Marian Shore
Paul and Pauline
William and Julia Smith
James C. Smith
Bruce Sotnick
Alfred Steiner
Jack and Linda Stieffen
Paul and Peg Stetson
David and Ruth Stever
John and Elizabeth Stenger
Earl Stowder
John and Evelyn Stunk
Jim and Kay Stuthers,
Jim and Juliana Stuthers
Stewart Stuthers
Charles and Lenora Sutton
Hal and Ruby Thorpe
Eugene Tigges and Laura Smith
James Troup
John Veres and Michael, John and
Joseph Veres
Frederick and Blanche Voss
Karl and Judy Wallace
Fred and Rachel Waltz
Joseph and Marilyn Wong
John and John, Jr. Wooten
Robert and Esther Wright
Wayne Wright and Gene Forrest
Benjamin and Edith Zeldes



Old Savannah



container ship heading up the river



Savannah riverfront



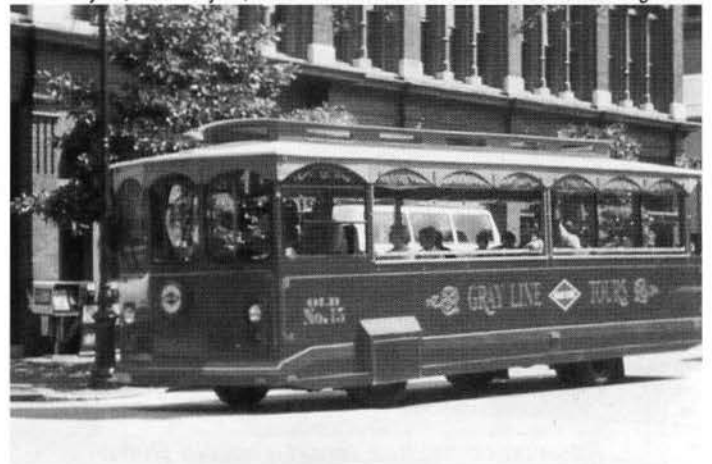
Savannah - stairs leading to the Riverfront



Tom Payne, Val Payne, Donna Crawford at Mrs. Wilkes Dining Rm.



The historical Mercer Home



The Trolley



View of Savannah



Waiving to the sailors



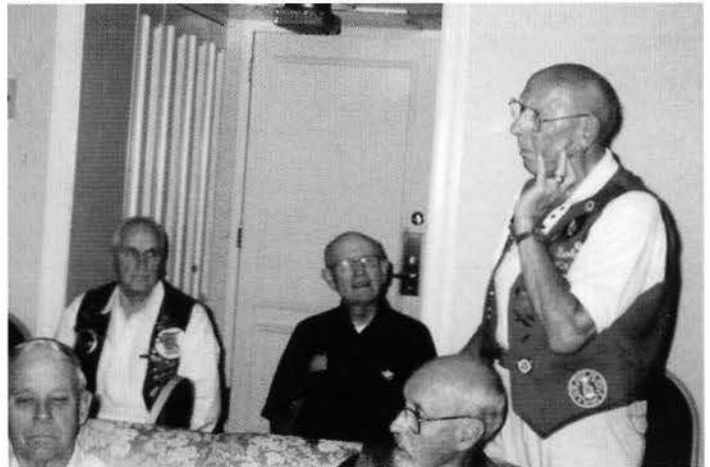
The Hilton DeSoto



Board of Directors



Reunion committee report - Harold Rutka



Reunion finances Bob Wright



M.M. Page 14 *RX Report - Ken Paxton*



Board of Directors



Reunion Committee



Harold & Gen Rutka
Esther & Bob Wright - Bruce Sothern



Registration Esther Wright Gen Rutka - Bob Wright

Friday Night Dinnner



Fran Podulka, Carwin Marlene Baxter



Margie Finley Dickie Hincee Jim Hincee Dale Finley



Verne & Juanita Santos



Banquet Table



Friday Night Continued...



Tom & Mildred Newton, Ruth & Ray Kubly



Frank & Alda Sivret, Margo & Everett Rose



Vern Ames, Jack & Marian Share, Kay Stuthers



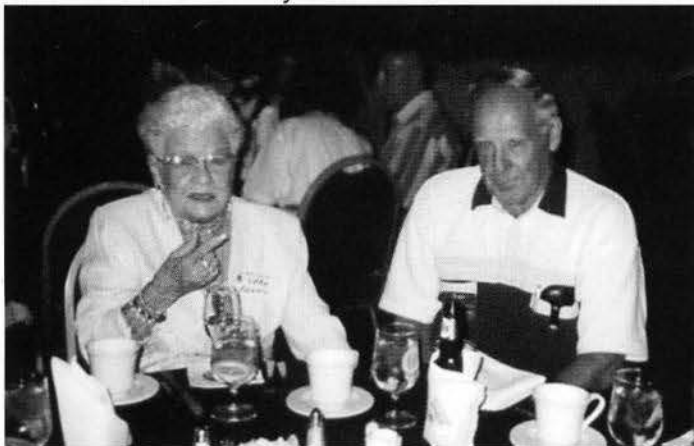
Harry & Donna Crawford Willis Griffis



Mary & Earl Frank



Jim Clemins & Gary Ferrell



Glenn & Vera Henry



Paul & Pauline Shull



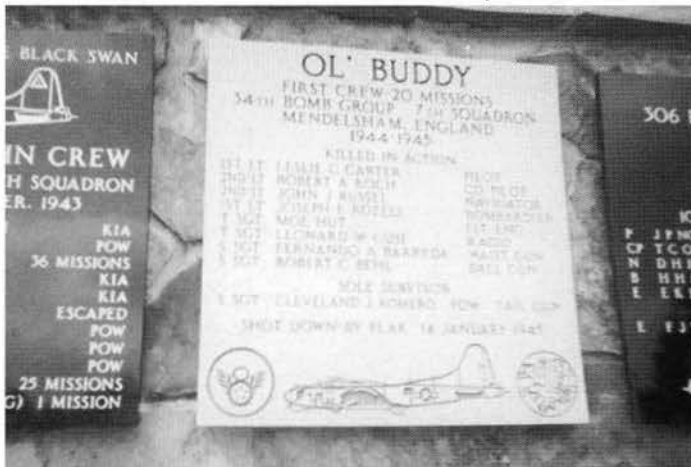
Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum



Kramschuster Crew Plaque



Mehling Crew Plaque



Carter Crew Plaque



Tootie Hetherington and Judy Roy



Bill Burnell & Harry Prillaman Taping War Experiences



34th Bomb Group Display



Briefing



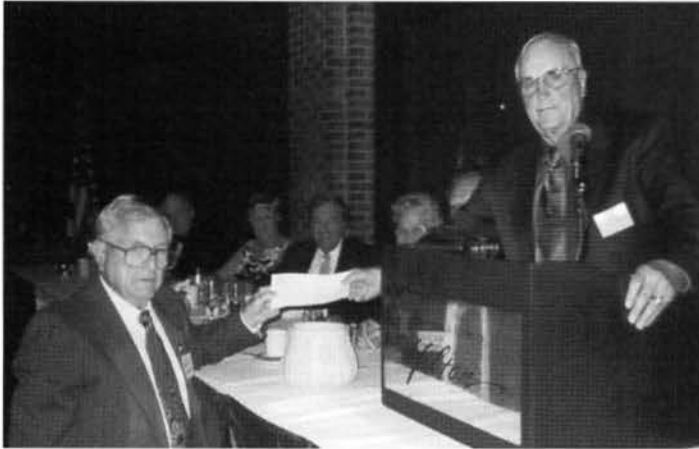
Velma Jackson & Marge Bush M.M. Page 17



General Meeting



Head Table



Grand Prize Winner - Glen Bridge, Harold Rutka



Claude Gibbs - Gift for a job well done.



Ray Kubly - POW Escapee



Robert Provence - Support for POW escapees



M.M. Page 18 John Doronsky - Main Speaker



Bev. Stearns, John Doronsky



Wayne & Lavern Howarter



Audrey & Claude Gibbs



Head Table



2001 Gala Banquet



Children of Members: L to R Marilee Nord John Farley
Lynn Hanson, Pamela Schmitt



Bill & Betty Cheek



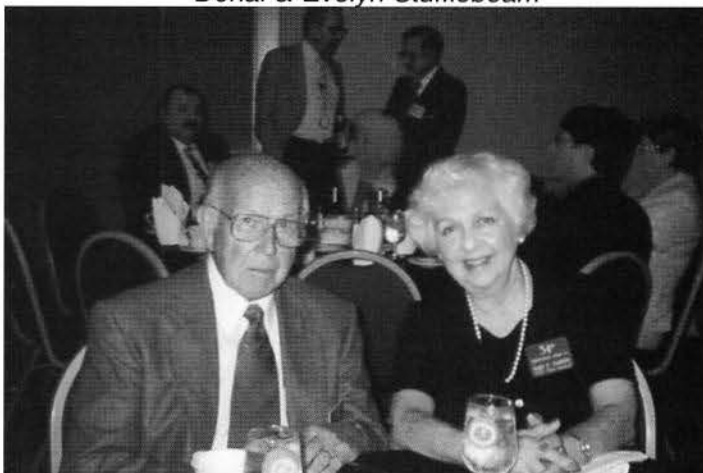
Tom & Mildred Newton



Donal & Evelyn Stufflebeam



Herb & Lorraine Donahue



Hal & Ruby Thorpe



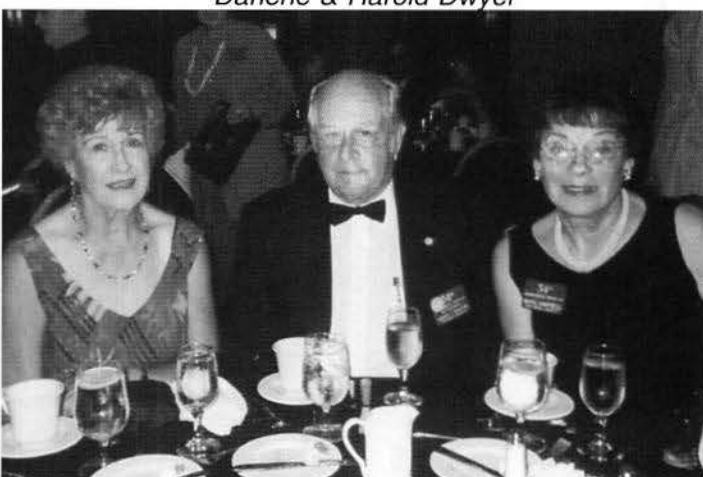
Liz & Jack Noe



Darlene & Harold Dwyer



Barb & Bob Bell



Lois Johnson, James Martin & Marci Campbell



Thelma Warfield, Earl Frank



Blanche & Fredrick Voss



Bob Gross, June & George Ritchie



Harry, Andrew & Hap Prillaman, Helen & Gene James, Bill, Bob & Margo Burnell



A.J.Z (Abe) & Ernestine Firestone



Thelma Warfield, Floyd & Miriam Richmond



Esther Wright, Pegi Johns, John Demko M.M. 21



*Charles & Roberta Barclay, Al & Agnes Isrealson
& Al Steirer*



*Back Row: Philip Podulka, John Feda
Front: Frances Podulka, Carwin & Marlene BAXter, Betty Mae Feda*



Amber Hanson, Jan & Hal Province



Paul & Beryl Anderson



John & Esther Demko



Martha & Alex Antanovich



*(Back) Stuart & Jim Stuthers Jr. Jim Stuthers Sr.
M.M. Page 22 (Front) Juliana & Kay Stuthers*



Carroll & Sylvia Forister



Betty & Jack Donaldson, Merle Horton



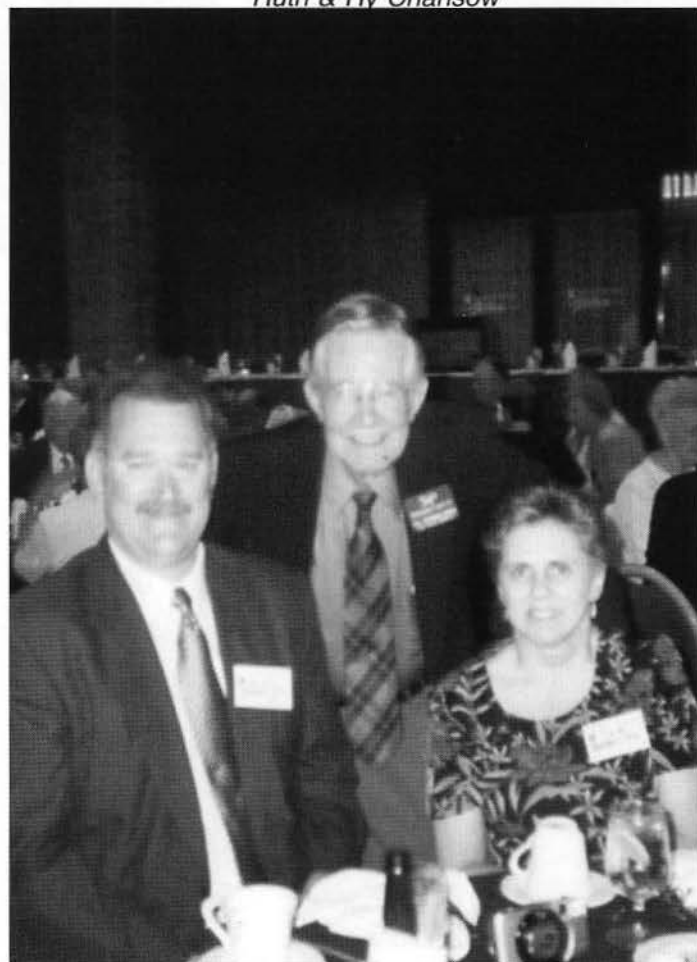
Ruth & Hy Chansow



Ralph & Marge Bush, Velma & Kenneth Jackson



Sheri & Mort Fiedler



Allen Barclay, Allen Isrealson, Sue Barclay



Claude & Gen Conklin



Near Sighted Robin Crew



Gala Banquet cont...



Jim Troup



J. C. Smith



*John & Craig Coutros,
Sons of Mary & Tony Coutros (front)*



Dexter & Beulah Jordan



Fred Miente & Bobb Pacholski



*Dez & Lorraine Conway celebrating
their 50th wedding anniversary*



Jan & Hal Province



Bernie Farley & Son John



Gala Banquet cont...

Phil & Fran Padulka



Joe Marks, Al Isrealson, Kay Marks, Forest Goetsch



Bonnie Powers & Ray Zylstra.



Marilyn Wong, Joseph Wong



Valerie & Tom Payne



*(Front) John & Marge Bloczynski, Ed & Joan Douley
(back) Mary Bloczynski, Lavonne & Wyatt Jones*



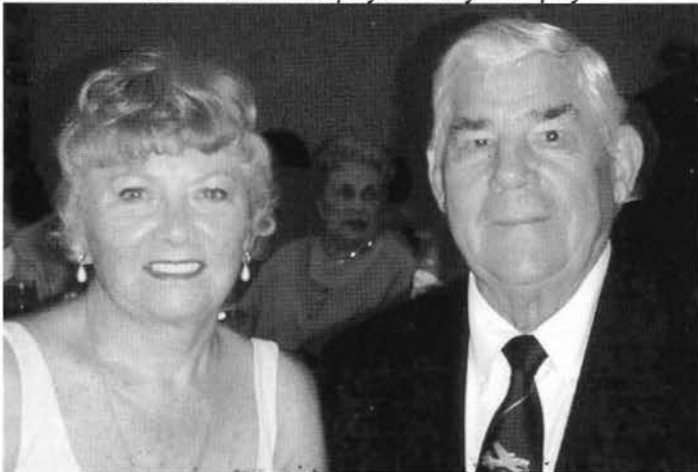
Dale & Margie Finley



Son - Todd Lampey & Betty Lampey



Ambers & Jean Ambers, Verbal & Betty Holcomb



Joyce Zenda, Herb Roy



David & Ethel Stiver



Bill & Tootie Hetherington



L to R Dennis & Carol Bartelt Walter & Donna Jellum



*Betty Mae & John Feda,
Jack Oyster*



Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Connolly



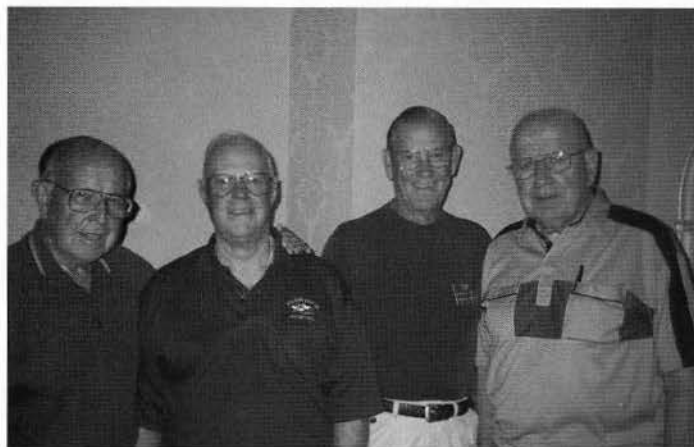
There and About



L to R Joe & Marilyn Wong, Dez & Lorraine Conway



L to R Dez & Lorraine Conway, Joe & Marilyn Wong, Tony & Mary Coutros

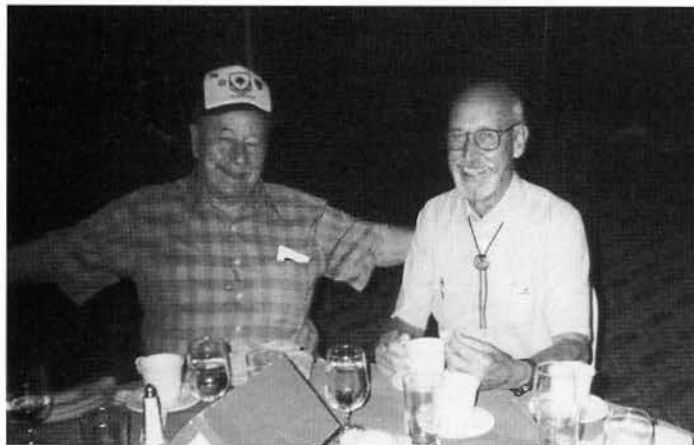


Dwyer Crew

L to R Hal Thorpe, Bob Bell, Harold Dwyer & Jack Noe



Dwyer Crew & Wives



Frank Sivret & Bruce Sothern



Lois Johnson, Norm Mayer, Marci Cambell



Son - Greg, Kay & Henry Arnold



Peg & Carl Stemen, Betty Lampey, Gen & Claude Conklin



John Wooten - 1stTimer



Gen Conklin, Peg Stemen, Claude Conklin, Carl Stemen



Vern Ames, Pauline Shull, Beryl Anderson, Paul Shull, James Clemens, John Feda



Marge & Ralph Bush, Velma Jackson



Bruce Southern, Jim Martin, Paul Shull, Ken Paxton



Music Lovers



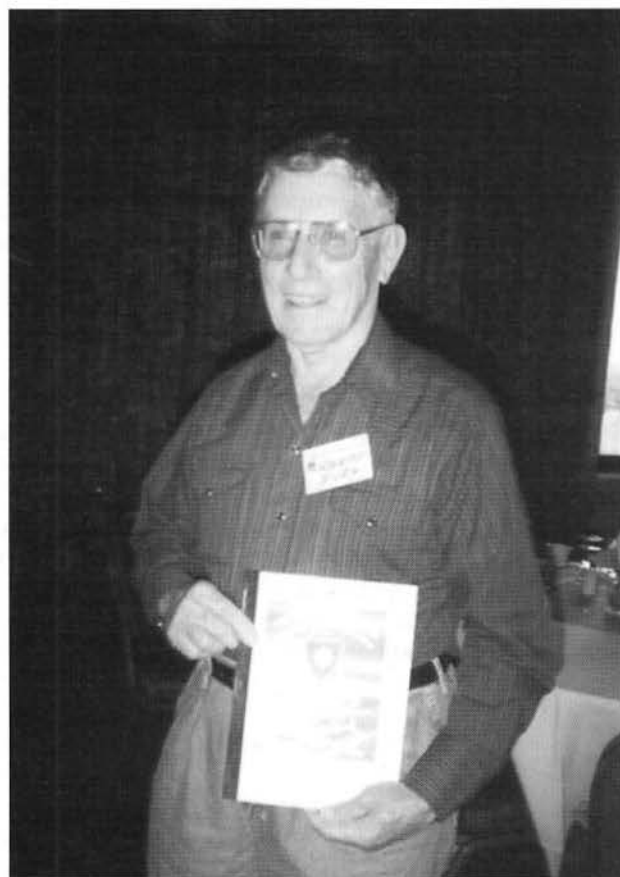
Bill Neal, Joe Marks



Son Daniel & Omer Mongeon



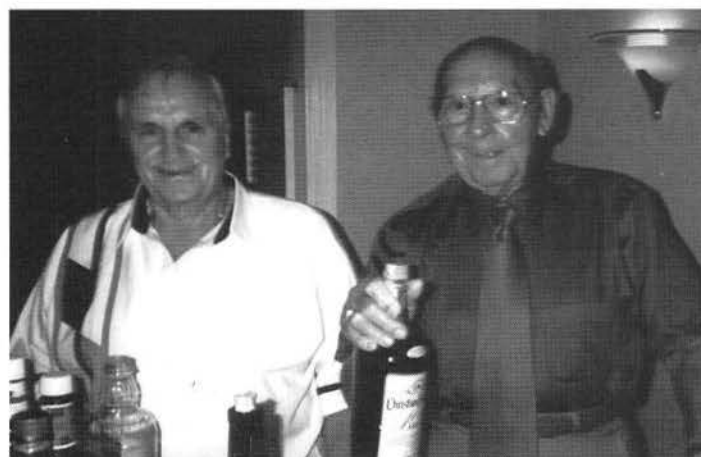
Everett Rose & Bob Wright



Kivet Ivey



Artist in our Midst



Bartenders Harold Rutka, Bob Wright

LINDA TURNER – YALE, OK

My mother, Peggy Sisney, wanted me to notify you of the death of my father, E.E. Sisney. He went to be with the lord on May 8th of this year. He had been in failing health after undergoing a quadruple **b y p a s s** and suffering a stroke approximately 4 years ago. He suffered a very bad stroke on May 4th and was for the most part unconscious for the remaining 4 days he was with us. He was never in any pain for which we are very grateful and died peacefully.

My dad served with the 34th Bomb Group and flew 5 missions. We are extremely proud of him and his record. He is hugely missed by all who loved him. Would you please mention him in your "Mendlesham Memories"

WALLACE GREEN – BROOKLYN, CT

Re: Summa Scholarship Fund

Enclosed is a check for a donation to the scholarship fund in memory of James H. Smith and Bernard M. Schwarz, both crewmen of the Edward Evans crew of the 391st squadron.

JACK OYSTER – NICEVILLE, FL

My record keeping stinks! I'll blame it on age. I can't find that I paid my 2001 dues – if your records show that I did just apply the enclosed to the scholarship fund.

I'm looking forward to the September reunion. Check for registration, breakfasts, dinners, etc. Sent to Robert Wright and reservation request mailed to the Hilton.

We'll arrive on the 7th. Looking forward to meeting all you guys that work so hard to keep the 34th alive. Thanks for all your efforts.

HERMAN FIEBER – BAKERSFIELD, CA

We updated the web site with the tail section of the B-17 on display at the museum in Palm Springs which is painted in the colors of the 34th. Couldn't get the whole plane in the picture because it was in a hanger and we could not get back far enough. We also have included our new e-mail address:

Hermannancy4@cs.com

Several weeks ago my family bought me a ride in a B-17 for my birthday. What a thrill to ride in a B-17 after 56 years – the landing was better than the last time. Hope to see all at the reunion.

ARDYCE PETERMAN – AIKEN, SC

Due to ill health please discontinue sending me "Mendlesham Memories". I thank you for sending it to me since Clarence (Pete) Peterman's death in 1985. He was a radio operator on the B-24 "Bambi" and had 33 missions.

Friends Write

Best wishes to all the remaining
8th Air Force 34th Bomb Group
personnel!

**WINFRED CROSBY –
MALABAR, FL**

Please send my MM to the above address. We sold our Maine home. We have a trailer in a small park. Please send me a dues statement so I can send it to who ever I owe it to. I have missed quite a few MM's as they do not forward them
Thank you and hope you are having a good summer.

BILL YOTHMENT – CROWN POINT, IN

I am writing this to inform you of the passing away of my brother, Bob Yothment of Tucson, AZ. last month. He was with the 391st as a radio gunner. He had been ill with a bronchial problem for almost a year.

Please pass this on to whoever makes out the names in "TAPS". Thank you very much.

LEE E. HARKLEROAD III – BRISTOL, TN

My dad passed away on August 6, 2001. He dearly loved his B-17 friends and treasured all communications he received. Dad got a full military funeral and would have been pleased – flag, Scottish bag pipes playing Amazing Grace and a 21 gun salute at graveside. Thanks for all you have done to make Dad's last years some of his best in terms of reliving the past.

JIM HINCHEE – SALEM, VA

Sure enjoyed the reunion and, as always, it was good to see old friends and make new ones. There is a lot of work and planning that goes into this to make it a success. Many thanks to all of them.

DR HORST WILHELM – SCHIFFWEILER, GR

Allow us to express our deepest indignation about the horrible criminal act of Sept. 11th. In NYC against the people of the USA. Please take our condolences over the dead of so many innocent citizens.

We are all shocked by the suicide-criminality against the American Nation and against the free World. I agree together with all my friends with the meaning of the German chancellor to be all together hit by this criminal act and that we are Americans in this situation and that we will show solidarity and help. First of all, we pray for all dead and wounded people and light candles in our parish church.

HERB ROY – NAPLES, FL

To those crews who didn't make the reunion, you were sorely missed. We had a grand time renewing our friendships and seeing Savannah, again. This time we took the boat ride on the river as well as going to the museum.

I have carefully avoided saying anything about the tragedy's as I didn't want to set this paper on fire before you got it. I'm sure we are all thinking alike on this one and trust the young people will rise up to the occasion and handle it well. May God keep all of us before we meet again.

INGEMAR MELVIN – TRELLEBORG, SWEDEN

Everyone is talking about the terrible things that happened in the USA. In my town most of the flags were on half mast, both Swedish and American. We had three minutes of silence today all over Sweden. 70 firefighters from Sweden, specialized trained for rescue work in earthquake areas, have been on standby for the last 24 hours waiting to be called by the NYC authorities to leave. Some scenes I will never forget.

BOB GROSS – WEST HARTFORD, CT

When sitting in the lobby of the Desoto Hilton at our reunion, I began a conversation with someone from the 7th who knew my radio operator, Alvin Rainey and I failed to get his name. He along with all of my crew on "Misery Agent" crashed on D-day June 6, 1933. As I would like to send this additional name on the Rainey's daughter, as a possible further contact, I wonder if in the next issue of MM you could request anyone who bunked and or who knew Rainey to contact me either by e-mail or any other means. Many thanks, it was great seeing so many others at the reunion.

ED : Bob's e-mail address – RHGross17@aol.com

BOBB PACHOLSKI – TOLDEDO, OH

The crew of "The Nearsighted Robin" had 6 of the original crew members at the reunion in Savannah this year, the fourth straight year that the "Robin" crew has led in attendance. Two of our members are deceased and two were unable to attend. At the 8th Air Force Museum on Friday we were video taped for over an hour by Professor of History from a local university to provide the generations to follow and actual account from the men who were there and took part.

The "Robin" crew is looking forward to Salt Lake City next year and hope to have another record setting attendance.

MARGO BURNELL – KIRKLAND, WA

Hope your return home went well. Not sure when you left or how you were traveling. We were at the Savannah airport leaving to fly to Washington, Dulles as the first plane hit N.Y. So happy our son was with us as we were able to rent a car, the last full size one Alamo had. Then we were on our way for a 3000+ drive to Kirkland, WA. Oh my, what a week that was. All we wanted to do was get home and hug our family and friends. Keep up the good work. We do enjoy MM so much.

DOROTHY WESSEL – LaCRESCENTA, CA

I'm writing to inform you that my husband, Jerome R. Wessel, passed away Feb. 5, 2001. With a sad heart, I'll add that Aug 2, 2001 we would have been married 60 years.

Jerry always enjoyed reading Mendlesham Memories and we enjoyed the 34th bomb group reunions.

REV. GARY FERRELL – ALBERMARLE, NC A 34th BGA WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday, October 7, 2001 in Stony Point, NC, Susan Walker and I were joined together in Holy Matrimony. We will be residing at 28401 Valley Dr. Albermarle, NC 28001, where I currently serve as pastor of Stony Hill United Methodist Church.

And, oh yes, this is the same Susan whose pictures I shared with anyone and everyone who would look at them at the recent reunion in Savannah.

Ed: Congratulations and the very best to Gary and his new bride from all the members of the 34th BGA.

VERNAMES – TONAWANDA, NY

Another great reunion, the largest in a long time – good banquet, interesting speaker, one of our own. Thanks again for everything.

VERNE SANTAS – DUNEDIN, FL

Enjoyed the Savannah reunion and the Eighth Air Force Museum. Being with those we have met at past reunions and meeting new friends is a pleasure we look forward to each year. This was our fourth reunion since being "found" by Hal Province.

The tribute to the RAF Air Sea Rescue Service in the Sept. Newsletter is very interesting attesting to the skill and bravery of the British rescue personnel with their High Speed Launches.

JOHN DORONSKY – WILLOUGHBY, OH

I wrote a letter to June Haver (actress) in Hollywood asking if she remembers sending her picture to be put on our plane the "GOTTA HAVER".

Below is her letter in reply to my inquiry.

August 20, 01

June Haver

Dear John,

Of course I remember sending you my photo graph which you had with you on your B-17 bomber. Sorry to hear of Paul Kessler's death. What a handsome group of men you were. If I was supposed to have "flown" with you in spirit. I've had a wonderful life - a great husband, actor Paul Kessler for 37 years. 4 children, 7 grand children and 2 great grand children. I've come to realize that 4 things are important in life -

1. Faith.
2. Family
3. Friends
4. Good health.

Of course our memories of those faraway days of the war keep us young at heart. God bless you always. June

JOHN & MARGE BLOCZYNSKI – MARSHFIELD, WI

Enclosed are pictures from the Savannah reunion. We had a wonderful time and were so thoughtful we were home safe and sound before the terrible attack on the twin towers in NY, the Pentagon in D.C. and the crash in Penn. Who would have ever believed something like that could happen to us? We pray every day for the victims, their families and that God will take care of the rest of us.

There aren't any words to describe the "Mighty Eighth Air Force Memorial". Our daughter, Mary attended the reunion with us and was very impressed with it all.

PAUL ANDERSON – EVERETT, WA

Beryl and I enjoyed the reunion very much. Savannah is a picturesque little city. We had a great view from our room. And, of course, we were glad to get to see the 8th Air Force Museum. After the reunion we flew up to see our daughter in Springfield, Va. She had to work the day of the attacks and could see the Pentagon burning from her office window in the Agricultural building.

In spite of the turmoil, we had a good visit and got to see some of the sights in the surrounding area outside of Washington, D.C. Our flight home was rather tiring, 17 hours from Baltimore to Seattle due to the long lines for check in and security at the air port, plus a delay because of a leaky valve in the fuel system of the plane.

Last Saturday we did some hiking at about the 5000 foot level on Mt. Baker. It was a little early for fall colors, but we did see some.

I am enclosing some pictures from the reunion for the December issue of MM, hope you can use them.

ROBERT SCHROEDER – AMERICAN FALLS, ID

The picture below is of the McGovern crew of the 391st squadron of the 34th bomb group. They left the States from Savannah, GA with a new B-17. When they got to England the plane was given to someone else and they were given "Butch", which they had all the way.

There were four of the crew at Savannah. We enjoyed being with them at the reunion and other members of the 34th that we have gotten to know over the years.

VERN AMES – TONAWANDA, NY

I think that I flew this plane on 11 – Aug – 44 with the 4th Sqdn, however I don't know anyone in the picture and don't remember how I got it. Perhaps some one would own up to being crew chief and or know someone in the picture.



Moving???

If you are moving,
send your new address to:

Hal Province
153 North Hill Dr.
Carriere, MS 39426

Mailing lists are given to printer on the first day of February, May, August and November for the March, June, September and December issues.



Top – Schroeder, (unknown), Inman, Adams,
Hammersly, Pilot, McGovern.
Front – Stivender, Funk, Small, Thurner

KENNETH HORTON – WINSTON-SALEM, NC

We enjoyed the reunion of the 34th bomb group. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, seeing old crew members in Savannah where I met my wife in my stop there in November 1944. We have been married 54 years.

JIM STUTHERS – NOKOMIS, FL

I want to express my sincere thanks to all the very thoughtful members who went out of their way to make my sons, Jim Jr. and Stewart and Jim's wife, Juliana welcome and so glad and happy to share this year's banquet dinner with the 34th bomb group.

I, and as I learned later, other members were rather disappointed that our kin and kin-folks were not recognized, either individually or as a group, by the head table for being there with their relatives. I know this was not intentional as president, Claude Gibbs, had a lot on his mind that night. As many folks said, "If we want to enlist new associate members we must go out of our way to make them feel wanted and appreciated."

I'm enrolling both my sons as associate members. Getting our children and their families involved will go a long way in assuring that the 34th BGA will not "die-off" in future years.

Again, many plaudits to the reunion committee for making the recent reunion in Savannah another great one to remember.

BERNIE FARLEY – VERONA, NJ

I wanted to thank the reunion committee for planning another great reunion. The trip to the Mighty Eighth Museum was a wonderful experience. Our son, John, said

it filled in a lot of missing links of his Dad's war time life. Coming to the 34th Bomb Group exhibit, we were both thrilled to see Jack's caps in the display case. (Jack and I had packed up a box of uniforms and memorabilia and sent it when the museum was just under construction). Never in a million years did I ever dream anything would be displayed at the particular time our John and I would visit. We were compelled to see just everything – then missed the group bus and had to take a cab back to the hotel.

JACK KLING – NOVI, MI

Thank you for the "Mendlesham Memories" I enjoy the articles, especially the "Thelma Jane". I couldn't remember the substitute co-pilot for that mission until William Cheek read the article and requested more details to that trip. He mentioned that Bernard M. Schwartz, now deceased, was the co-pilot.

Am enclosing, per your instructions, dues for 2001 and 2002. I will not be delinquent again.

JACK OYSTER – NICEVILLE, FL

It was a good reunion but the tragedy of September 11th has changed the world again. We, like thousands of our generation are concerned for our children and grandchildren. I for one am very happy that we have Bush and his advisors leading our country in this time of need.

Again, thanks for all your great work to keep us informed of what's going on with the group. May the Lord take care of you and your loved ones.

CARL & IMOGENE FREYSINGER – CABLE, OH

You don't know how much we missed not making the reunion!! We started out Tues. Sept. 4th, got as far as Virginia, 300 miles from home, when the car stopped. We were towed into a little town called Bland to a NAPA garage. The radiator had slipped back into the fan. They had to send to N. Carolina for a radiator. We didn't get away until Friday morning and by then we were in no mood for a reunion, and we weren't sure enough of the car to drive the rest of the 450 miles to Savannah, so we just headed back home.

I called from our motel in Virginia and left a message but I guess it was garbled.

We want to thank all of our friends who called after they got home. We love all of you folks. You are so like our family and it has enriched our lives by knowing all of you and it has made our later years so full and happy.

Ed – Sorry about your hard luck on the road. We missed you too.

2MIW TWINS

In The Eighth Air Force

By: Judge Benjamin Smith

The Barrineau twins, Thomas and Murdock left their home in Naples, Florida when World War II came along to join the Army Air Corps. Both wound up in the Eighth Air Force, flying missions against Germany in B-17 "Flying Fortresses."

Tech Sergeant Thomas Barrineau flew his missions with the 490th Bomb Group and completed his combat tour.

Tech Sergeant Murdock Barrineau, flying with the 34th Bomb Group out of Mendlesham, England, was shot down near Cologne, in Southern Germany. All of the crew was able to parachute out of the crippled plane, but only Murdock Barrineau survived. As he descended, he drifted away from the

others and as he looked down he saw a group of men coming down a dirt road with pitchforks in hand. When the airmen landed the angry German civilians pitchforked them all to death.

When Murdock landed he quickly got out of his parachute and hid in a haystack. He had a Colt .45 automatic with him, which he took out, prepared to sell his life dearly and determined to get as many of them as he could. They never came for him, however, and must have missed him.

That night Murdock heard someone

calling: "Amerikaner, Amerikaner! Resistance, resistance, we want to help you." The voice was in English so Murdock decided to take a chance. He was half-starved.

He came out of the haystack to meet his deliverers and was taken to a house and fed. They gave him civilian clothes and a deaf and dumb card. He was instructed to follow the road to town,

giving the name. At the end of the first day he stopped on a bridge outside of town where a man, who spoke English, approached him. "A good day!" the man said and that would be his contact.

As they headed for the man's house, they passed German

troops, tanks, and trucks with out incident. When they arrived at the house Sergeant Barrineau was fed and given instructions for the next day. He eventually made it to territory held by the Americans and was sent back to England.

You would think that with such a hair-raising experience Sergeant Barrineau would have had enough. Not so! He got on a new crew and finished his combat tour of operations, flying 36 missions with the 34th Bomb Group.



Just A Common Soldier

He was getting old and paunchy, and his hair was falling fast,

And he sat around the Legion telling stories of his past.

Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,

In his exploits with his buddies – they were heroes, every one.

And though sometimes to his neighbors, his tales became a joke,

All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew where of he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He was just a common soldier, and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.

For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that others often start.

If we cannot give him honor, while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least, let's give him homage, at the ending of his days.

Perhaps a simple notice in a paper that would say.

"Our Country is in mourning 'cause a Soldier passed away."

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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CROSBY	WINFRED, L	4/391	1608 MOON BEAM DR	MALABAR	FL	32950
DORAN	VINCENT, J	391LM	923 W 11TH	ANCHORAGE	AK	99501
GAVYRCK	CHESTER, D	18LM	2 MIDDLEFORT RD	MIDDLEBURGH	NY	12122
GRONKOWSKI	EDWARD, J	391	1530 SO STATE ST	CHICAGO	L	60605
KING	MARY	7LM	11246 FALLBROOK DR RM35B	HOUSTON	TX	77065
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WILLIAMS	HAROLD, W	7	4901 ROXSBUURY CT	BOYNTON BEACH	FL	33436

TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
AIKEY	EDWARD	391	09-10-01	RT 2 BANTON RIDGE RD	WINTERVILLE	OH	43052
CHEVALIER	ROBERT, A	18	09-08-01	2884 FM 139	JOAQUIN	TX	75954
DeSANTIS	LOU	391	07-11-01	266 BRIGGS ST	SYRACUSE	NY	13208
GRAY	RICHARD, L	LMA	10-01-02	101 FACULTY DR. 3D	RAYMOND	MS	39154
HARKLEROAD	LEE, E	7	08-06-01	605 REDSTONE DR N BROOK A4	BRISTOL	TN	37620
MAZZARELLA	EDWARD, F	18	?	30 CORNELIUS AVE	WATERBURY	CT	06706
MOATS	RAYMOND, H	7LM	10-09-01	38 OAK BLVD	LANSDALE	PA	19446
SCHOCH,	FRED	7LM	10-15-01	2333 N. CRESTLINE ST	SPOKANE	WA	99207
SIMPSON	RONALD, E	391	09-18-01	P.O. BOX 174	WILLIAMSPORT	IN	47993
SISNEY	ERNIE, E	391	08-08-01	808 GREEN ACRES DR	YALE	OK	74085
YOTHMENT	ROBERT, S	391LM	?	2100 N BONANZA	TUCSON	AZ	85749
WHITAKER	FREDERICK, S	18LM	05-20-01	813 SE WHIPPORWILL CT	BARTLESVILLE	OK	74006

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
COUTROS	CRAIG	LM 350 BRICKYARD RD	FREEHOLD	NJ	07728
COUTROS	JOHN	LM BOX31 (81 CREEK RD)	CHALFORT	PA	18914
CRAWFORD	DONNA	1788 BROOKSHIRE CT	WILLIAMSTON	M	48895
MONGEON	DAN	1777 HARDEE AVE SW	FORT LIVINGSTON	GA	30330
MONGEON	JEREMY	IMPRESSION DR	LAKE IN THE HILLS	IL	60156
MONGEON	KEN	7612 SO KHE-SANKH	TUCSON	AZ	85735
MONGEON	TERRY	440 HIGHLAND	ALGONQUIN	IL	60102
PROVINCE	KEVIN, W	20 TERRACE LN	COVINGTON	LA	70433
PROVINVE	KIETH, A	30193 NINA DR	LACOMBE	LA	70445
STUTHERS CMC	JAMES, A	1210 OAK TREE LN	NOKOMIS	FL	34275
STUTHERS	STUART, A	183 APPIAN ST	PORT CHARLOTTE	FL	33954
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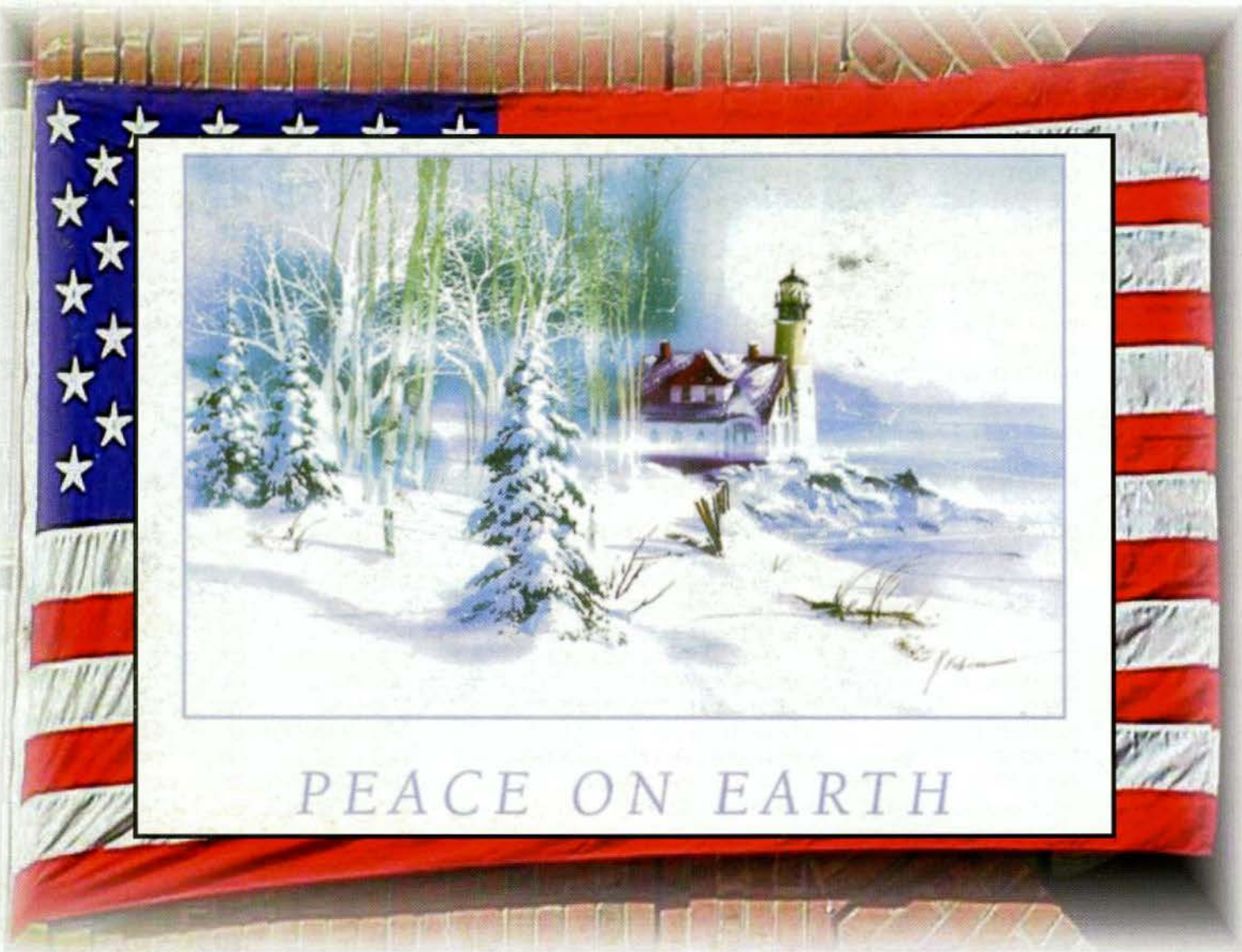
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