



MENDLESHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



7TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



4TH SQUADRON



Who is THE MAN INSIDE
New THE FLIGHT JACKET?

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of

The 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc.

www.excel-tech.com/34th/

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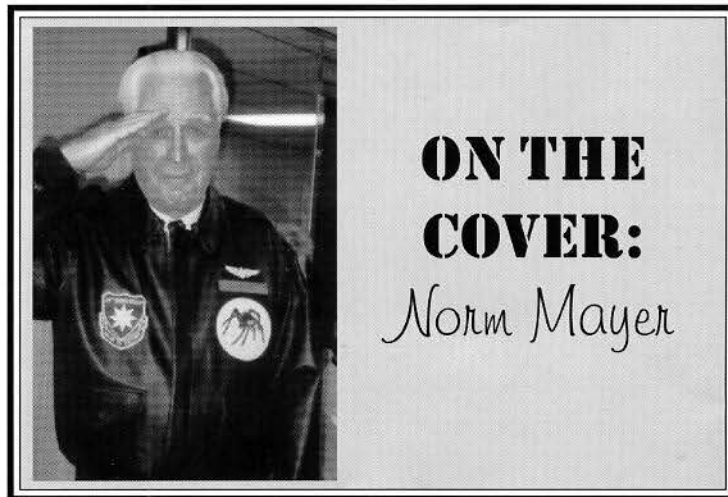
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Other web sites of interest:

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

www.mighty8thmuseum.com

www.air-museum.org/b17.htm

http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb

The Gavel Is Passed



At the 18th annual reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association in Salt Lake City, Utah on Saturday, September 28th the reigning president, Wayne Howarter from Welda, Kansas relinquished his title to the newly elected president for 2002 – 2003, Fred Waltz of Marco Island, Florida. In his acceptance speech Fred said that this was one of the most honored moments of his life and regretted his wife Rachel, who was ill, could not be there to share in this special occasion.

Fred is a long time, life member of the 34th Bomb Group Association having attended most all past reunions. As a former businessman owning his own business, he is indeed well qualified to lead the organization for the coming year.

We welcome Fred to this important position and look forward to another great year.

Wayne's tenure as president of the 34th Bomb Group Association will be remembered as the one who promoted and instigated the family theme into the organization. The membership was honored to have many family members, lead by Wayne's with 11, present at the recent reunion in Salt Lake City. We would hope that this is a continuing trend as it brought new life and exuberance to our gatherings.

Thank you Wayne, and Laverne, for a great year. God speed and we look forward to seeing you and your family at future reunions.

Deadline

All material and items for the March, 2003 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before January 15th, 2003. That is the date our final copy will go to the publisher.

Jack Share, Editor

share - a thought



"The Party's Over", as the song goes, but what a party it was. Sure, the numbers were down, but that didn't seem to diminish the spirits of those who attended the 18th annual reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association (H) in Salt Lake City. In fact, the attendance at the Saturday evening gala banquet was enhanced by the addition of some very special guests – our families and friends. And they were not disappointed. The banquet hall was packed to the rafters by people enjoying the evening's presentations by the outgoing president and his wife, Wayne and Laverne Howarter and their dynamic family. The evening was climaxed with an inspirational and emotional talk by their grandson, Dr. Mark Howarter, DC. The families in attendance epitomized what the real America is all about. Thank you all for attending. Hopefully, we will see many more of you at our future reunions.

Several "first timers" were in attendance as were many new associate members. Jack Steffen, after two years as an associate, now is a regular member and this year became the first associate member to be elected to the board of directors. Jack, and his wife, Linda have been attending the reunions for a couple of years, as have several associates. We are fortunate to have the new members getting involved, as they are the people destined to become the future of the organization, if we are to survive.

There has been some misunderstanding about who is eligible to attend our various reunion meetings. None of the meetings are restricted, including the board of director's meeting and we welcome everyone to sit in on all of them. This is an open organization. There are no secrets, no cliques, no back room politicking. Were all in this together. Your participation in all matters is welcomed and encouraged. Our only goal is to keep the 34th Bomb Group Association active in whatever way possible. Please help us keep the tradition of the group alive and well by getting involved. We'll help – as long as we can.

Thank you, one and all, for your help in getting your photos of the reunion back to me before press time. We have some great photographers in the organization as evidenced by the pictures in this issue. Your cooperation was appreciated. I would also like to thank the membership and family members who have submitted the stories, information and letters to keep the Mendlesham Memories interesting and in print for another year. Without your input it would not be possible.

Marian and I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a most joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous 2003.

Jack Share, editor

Letter from Carl Stemen:

As you know, Carl was slated to be the next president of the 34th Bomb Group Association but just before he was to start for Salt Lake City he was put in the hospital for a recurring illness. He wrote a letter of regret including some of his acceptance speech, which should be shared with the membership:

Maybe I wasn't meant to be president of the 34th Bomb Group. Both times I have been in the hospital. Peg and I were looking forward to seeing our friends and visiting Salt Lake City. I didn't get to wish Pauline Shull "happy birthday" – which we share. I turned "80" she is still "29".

My acceptance speech was ready, including a story about Jim Martin:

When he was a little boy his family lived close to a wooded area. Every day Jim would go into the woods and get lost. He would yell for his mother to come and find him. One day she said, "Jim, this is the last time I'm coming after you. If you get lost again, just ask the Lord to show you the way out". The next day Jim got lost so he thought he would try praying. He got down on his knees and put his hands in front of him. Just then a pigeon flew over his hands. Jim said, "Please, Lord, don't hand me that (stuff). I am really lost!" Jim has reformed and is now the Chaplain of the 34th Bomb Group.

I hope the reunion went well. I'm sorry if I fouled things up. The best of everything during the coming year.

PS: Thanks to all who called inquiring about my health. Peg and I will celebrate our "60th" wedding anniversary on February 4th, 2003.

Sincerely,

Carl B. Stemen

Thought for today:

***"There are no
warlike peoples
- just warlike leaders."***

- Ralph J. Bunche, American diplomat



Past President's Message

Greetings to all 34th'ers, families and friends. I hope everyone made it home without any problems. We got along better coming home than going out. Instead of nine hours, we made it in two hours. Quite a difference. It sure didn't seem like a year had gone by since we were all in Savannah. I think time just flies by. We had a great time and it was good to see many familiar faces and also some new ones. It was also great to have most of our family there, one grandson, Matt, was missing. Our son Jerry and wife Pam and their sons Jamie and Dr. Mark. Our son Terry and his wife Susan and their children David, Katey and Carolyn. We were so pleased that Dr. Mark agreed to be our guest speaker. We think he did himself proud. Naturally, we are a little prejudiced.

It was an honor for me to serve the group as president, being the third president from the crew of our plane "Belchin Bessie", following Grady Deatherage and Harold Rutka. I could have done much better a few years ago. Things are more difficult for me now. I'm thankful for the privilege.

This will be my final letter, unless something special or exciting happens in Kansas. I want to thank the reunion committee for a job well done. The PX is in good hands. If anyone else was involved in all the goings on, I thank you also.

Our 34th unit is in good hands with our new president, Fred Waltz. I wish him the best for whatever he endeavors.

Since this will come out after ol' man winter sets in and the holidays approaching, LaVerne and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Take care and we'll see you all next year.

Wayne E. Howarter, president 2002

DUES

(for those who pay annually)
are due on January 1st. each year.
Please remit your \$10.00 to:

HAROLD PROVINCE
153 NORTH HILL DR.
CARRIERE, MS 39426

If a membership card is desired, please send a self addressed stamped envelope with your remittance.

From the Treasurer's Computer

Strange to be writing a column for the December MM, but Jack is rather strict in his editing and I don't want to have to be reminded that I haven't sent it to him on time. Here it is, LABOR DAY 2002, and I hope you are all enjoying the day doing that which is pleasing to you! In a few days we will recall, and be reminded, of the tragedy that occurred last September 11th! I hope you didn't forget those families who lost loved ones in that act of terrorism and said a prayer for them and the others who were involved.

The 2002 reunion in Salt Lake City is less than a month away and I hope that many of you will have experienced the joy of seeing old friends once again. So many have said, "*I enjoyed my first reunion, I wish I had started years ago!*" It is very hard to realize that it was over 57 years ago that we left Mendlesham and that we are survivors! And it is very gratifying to see so many of the 34th BG still meeting in reunion and even more gratifying to see, and meet, the second and even third generation who are showing so much interest in what we did back in '41-'45. There are some bomb group associations that no longer meet in reunion.

Many have remarked that you once could look at your address label and see if you owe dues. We have re-established with our new publisher and once again your dues status is on the mailing label. Those of you who have **A2** (code for 2002) following your name need to send \$10 for your 2003 dues, or if you wish, you might send in two years dues (\$20.00), I'll accept that!

If you have anything to update on your record, I would appreciate the change(s) also when you send in your dues. I do get changes of address, sometimes very belatedly, but seldom get a change of telephone number. If you've added a PC to your library and have an Internet (e-mail) address I'd like that also. It is really nice to be able to communicate via e-mail. I am able to quickly take action to disseminate information, such as I did for General Creer's 90th birthday. A simple post card will do the job.

Jan and I extend to each and every one of you our best wishes for a **Very Happy Holiday Season** and a **Most Prosperous New Year!**

Hal



Reunion Committee Report

Reunion 2003
San Antonio, Texas

The 18th annual reunion of the 34th Bomb Group (H) Association is now part of our history. The attendance of 177, down from the 278 at Savannah last September. The hotel manager, Roger Workman, greeted us and Diane Castro, Director of Sales took care of our requests. They were, by far, the best that we have had to work with in the 17 year history of our reunions. The hospitality room was open during the day and evening with donuts and coffee furnished – compliments of the hotel.

26 September – Thursday Evening:

By special invitation, our group walked across the street from the hotel to attend the rehearsal of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. We were welcomed and asked to rise to be acknowledged by the thunderous applause of the large audience. Many members spent time at the Mormon Genealogical Library, the world's largest, which was next to the hotel and just across the street from Temple Square.

We also had a visit from Pam Todd, who is doing research on Camp Kerns, Utah which some crews passed through on their way to overseas' assignments. In December, 1943, our crews from Blythe Air Force Base were in Salt Lake City, being greeted by a windy and cold Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The "Belchin' Bessie" crew continued our training here, prior to overseas' deployment. If anyone would wish to help Pam with her research or desires further information, contact her at The Kerns Historical Society, 59009 South Salem Avenue, Kerns, Utah 84118.

27 September - Friday

TOUR DAY – It began with the loading of three big busses for the guided tour of Salt Lake City. Following lunch, we visited The Great Salt Lake and then to the Kennecott Copper Mine. After a full day of sightseeing we returned to our hotel to rest and prepare for the excellent evening buffet. The large hospitality room provided the attendees plenty of room to renew old acquaintances and meet new ones.

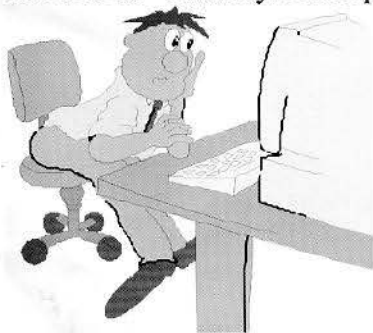
28 September – Saturday

The general membership meeting was well attended, after which we enjoyed some free time, riding the light rail, walking the downtown area, and lunch. The evening, of course, - the Gala Banquet. To no one's dissatisfaction, two dining rooms were required. For the after dinner speakers, the tables were moved out and we were all in one room. Our guest speaker, Mark Howarter, grandson of President, Wayne gave an inspiring presentation regarding the "Greatest Generation" and the 9/11 tragedy. It was most gratifying to have one of the younger generation speak on our generation.

29 September – Sunday

A day of farewells until September, 2003 with our best wishes for a safe trip home and that we will all be able to meet in Texas for our 19th annual reunion.

The Reunion Committee,
Harold Rutka
Robert Wright
Bruce Sothern
Page 5





Old Santa's a Veteran

Old Santa's a veteran, or didn't you know?
Why he was at Pearl Harbor with his helpers in tow.
He fought in North Africa and at Guadalcanal
He flew over Europe when Germany fell.
"Good Morning Vietnam". That was Santa's voice!
A chopper over Asia was his transport of choice
At Saigon and Hue, the offensive at Tet
Old Santa missed none and he carries on yet.

Granada and Haiti, Operation "Just Cause"
Noriga's captor was our Santa Claus!
Surely you saw him at the Persian Gulf War
Just you hold on, Saddam, you're gonna get more!

You'll find Santa's not always a jolly old guy
Make war on America and his temper will fly
And now Christmas is coming and we're under attack
Old Santa has new gifts in his goodie sack.

No sticks for the bad boys or lumps of coal in their stocking
Old Santa has goodies that will set them a-rocking
There will be smiles on the faces of good girls and boys
When Old Santa delivers his arsenal of toys.

Just for Bin Laden, the original Grinch
A few Daisy Cutters to make Uncle Bin flinch
Special goodies too, for the bad Taliban
The A-10s he's sending to take out each man.

Old bombers and missile and big bunker busters!
Old Santa's sending things to take out evil clusters.
The Taliban's running but they cannot hide
They may be in their caves, but Old Santa's outside.

And then when it's over and peace comes at last
We'll congratulate one another that it happened so fast
Old Santa will head north, satisfied with the fight
Merry Christmas, you all, and to all a goodnight!

*Judith Knight, 2001
(From The Purple Heart Magazine)*

APPLICANTS FOR THE 2002 RAY SUMMA 34TH BOMB GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS

STUDENT

NEAL JORDAN BAKER
KEVIN A. BRENNER
ERIN EATOUGH
MILANIE FAGER
JOANNA HOLT
BRADLEY JAMES HOPE
JASON DANIEL HOPE
RACHEL LYNN HOPE
JHETT R. NELSON
JAMESON M. STARK
MICHAEL TORRE
ZACHARY WEILAND

SPONSOR

ALEX ANTANOVICH
DANIEL P. CARROLL
GLENN E. HENRY
WILLIAM M. FAGER
HARRY A PRILLAMAN
JOSEPH MARKS
JOSEPH MARKS
JOSEPH MARKS
JAMES F. MARTIN
BENJAMIN BUCKLEY
MICHAEL A. TORRE
BENJAMIN BUCKELY

UNIT

18TH BS
772NDBS
7TH BS
391ST BS
7TH BS
4TH BS
4TH BS
4TH BS
7TH BS
7TH BS
7TH BS
7TH BS



Applications have been sent to the judges for their adjudication. Their decisions
will be announced at the Salt Lake City reunion

After long and considered deliberation by the judges, the following Scholarship applicants were judged the winners of the 2002 Ray Summa Scholarship awards.

First Award - \$1000.00

NEAL J. BAKER of Bentleyville, PA
Sponsored by - Alex Antanovich - 18TH Bomb Sqd.



Second Award - \$750.00

ERIN EATOUGH of Waunakee, WI
Sponsored by - Glenn E. Henry - 7th Bomb Sqd.



Third Award - \$500.00

MICHAEL TORRE of New York, NY
Sponsored by Michael Torre - 7th Bomb Sqd.

Each sponsor was contacted and requested to notify the respective applicant of the award. As usual, the sponsors were happy to hear the news and happy to pass along the news to the winner. A letter of congratulations, with the check, was sent with a request to provide the Editor of our newsletter a photograph of the winner, and sponsor (if possible), for publication in Mendlesham Memories.

The membership of the 34th BGA is also to be congratulated for their sponsorship of the important Scholarship Awards program.

John Feda, Ambers Hanson, and Robert Vaughn once again served as judges and deserve the thanks of the 34th Bomb Group Association for their diligent work of judging the 2002 Ray Summa - 34th Bomb Group Scholarship Awards Program.

Respectfully submitted,
The Scholarship Committee:
John Feda, Ambers Hanson, Robert Vaughn, Hal Province

Reliving the Past

Many lifelong friendships came out of World War II, in all branches of the service, but few were as strong and sustaining as were those of members of bomber crews. Whether it was because of their closeness during their training period and combat time, one could only speculate. But, what was evident, was that they were dependent on one another for their very existence when flying their perilous combat missions. Many of these friendships have survived for nearly 60 years and when these men get together, the events of those early years are bound to resurface.

Such was the case last July when Paul and Pauline Shull of Mesa, AZ visited Lindsey and Dee Lipscomb in Houston, TX. Paul and Lindsey were crewmembers on the Oscar Hanson crew in the 391st squadron of the 34th Bomb Group stationed in Mendlesham, England.

This B-24 crew certainly had their share of anxious moments during their 24 missions, the memories of which will remain with them forever. To mention a few, on their second mission to Tours, France on June 7th, 1944, in support of the D-day invasion forces, they were followed to their base around 11:00 P.M. by German night fighters who attacked and shot down three B-24's one of which was the Hanson crew. With #3 engine feathered, no hydraulic or electrical systems, and the right main landing gear shot half in two by a 20 MM shell they were in deep trouble.

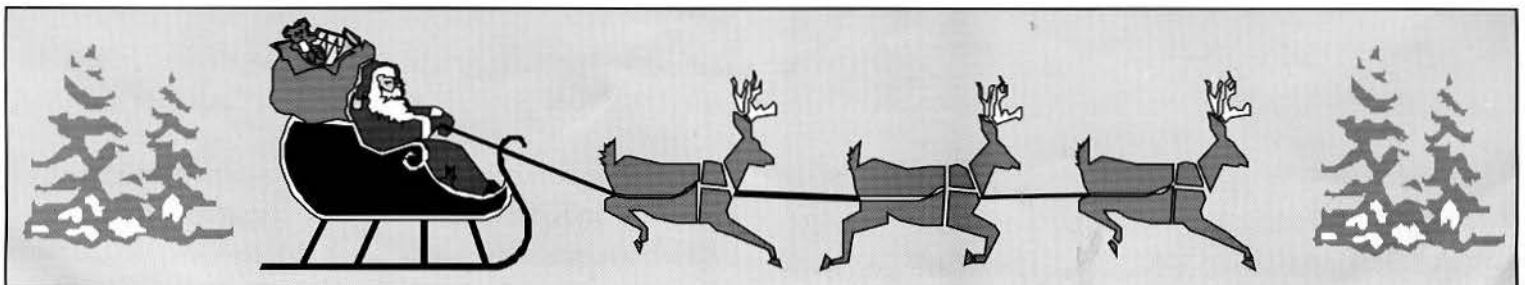
With the rest of the crew having bailed out, Capt. Hanson and Paul Shull, the flight engineer, decided to bring her in. As Paul says, "Capt. Hanson did a beautiful job landing the plane. We both walked away - - shakily." The rest of the crew was strung out over the area and it took most of the night to find them. Lipscomb landed on the base and, it being blacked out, said every one was clicking their rifles at him until he hollered out; "Don't click those guns at me boys, I'm from Texas!" Two of the crew were injured and did not fly with them again.

On another mission, their plane was shot up again, forcing them to land in Brussels, Belgium, just on the Allied side of the enemy line. As the sound of the guns roared on the front line, their evening was spent in a Brussels hotel drinking cold, cold beer and yes - ice cream too!

Their remaining missions went smoothly - until the very last one when they were shot down over Mersburg, Germany on November 30th 1944. They caught an 88MM shell right through the wing, just behind the firewall of #2 engine. The wing burned off in minutes but not until all had bailed out into the hands of the enemy. Civilians immediately killed the pilot, co-pilot, radio operator and ball turret gunner. The remainder of the crew was captured by the German Wehrmach and became Prisoners of War. After interrogation, they were loaded on boxcars, standing room only, for a long ride to different compounds, Stalag Luft 1 and 3 on the Baltic Sea where they were to spend a cold, cold winter. They all survived.



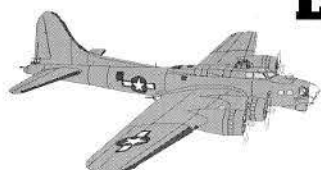
Paul Shull and Lindsey Lipscomb



A Mighty Fortress -

Lead Bomber Over Europe

By: Chuck Alling



Is a new book authored by Chuck Alling a Captain and lead pilot with the 4th squadron, 34th Bomb Group during World War II. A factual first hand account of the trials and tribulations faced by a lead crew in carrying out its bombing missions over Nazi Germany. It is an extraordinary tale of heroism and bravery on the part of the entire crew of just one B-17, amongst hundreds, but the one that meant the most to them.

General Creer and former president George H.W. Bush have previewed the book and acclaim it as recommended reading for former bomber crew members and others interested in the United States Air Force's exciting and dangerous activities in World War II.

Doubleday Military Book Club has selected this book as their main selection for this fall.

The book is available in all major book stores and on the Internet's Amazon.com for \$29.95. Chuck is a life member of the 34th Bomb Group Association. For more information on the book he can be reached at:

41 Parsons Beach RD.
Kennebunk, ME 04043
Tel: 207-985-2822

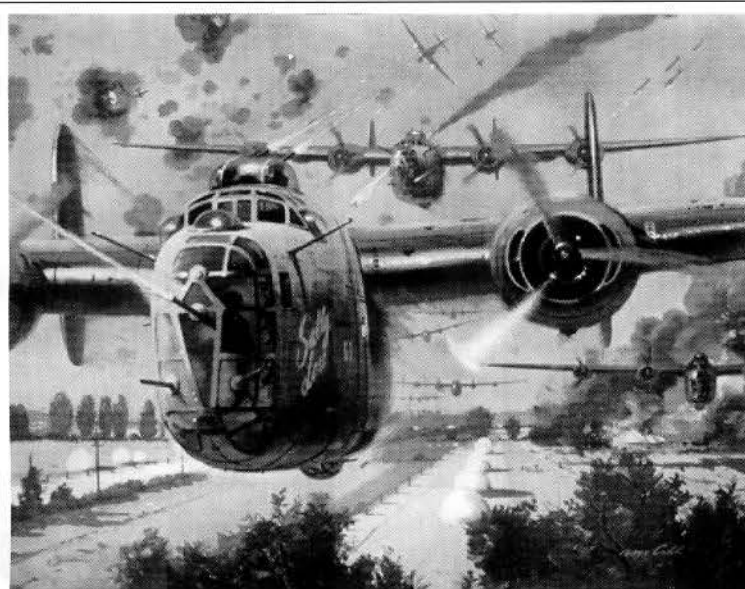
Eli Balea 1924 - 2002

Eli Baldea, past president of the 34th Bomb Group Association and past editor of it's newsletter, Mendlesham Memories, passed away on Tuesday August 20, 2002 after an extended illness.

Eli's army career began in 1942 when he joined the Army Air Corps in response to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He was a navigator with the 34th Bomb Group on B-24's and later B-17's stationed at Mendlesham airbase, Mendlesham, England. His plane was shot down on his 24th mission over Germany in October 1944. After bailing out of the crippled plane he was taken prisoner of war spending eight months in a German prison camp from which he was liberated in April, 1945 by General Patton's 14th Armored Division. He stayed active in the Air Force reserves for 19 years as a member of 9626th Reserve Squadron.

As a member of the 34th Bomb Group Association, he took over as editor of the Mendlesham Memories in 1984, retiring in 1998 due to his illness. For his untiring efforts and contributions to the organization, he was given the title of Editor Emeritus by a grateful membership.

He is survived by his wife, Rose, six children, eight grandchildren and one great grand child. Eli will be remembered as a leader with true pioneering spirit and the courage to make his dreams come true. He had a strong sense of commitment and duty to his family, community and his country. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. All the members of the 34th Bomb Group Association extend their deepest sympathy to his wife, Rose and members of the family.



Maynard H. Smith, a B-17 Ball-turret Gunner from Caro, Mich. Went on his first mission on May 1, 1943. His plane was hit over France, setting the interior on fire. Smith struggled to get into the body of the blazing plane. He found the second waist gunner trapped by his parachute harness. He released him and helped him jump. Then he put out the fires. Fighters sprang on the lone plane struggling to get back to England. Smith beat them off with the two waist guns, then went into the cockpit to find both the pilot and co-pilot wounded. He treated them, took the pilot's place at the controls and, with the co-pilot's coaching, landed at an RAF base. For his action he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

FIRST MISSION – A DOOZY

Not many, if any, heavy bomber crews, who flew combat in World War II, can say they never experienced an unusual, uneventful or stressful situation. The crews were trained to react to most any emergency situation and would react instinctively to prevent a catastrophe. Most out of the ordinary experiences were thought to be a part of the dangerous job of flying combat and often considered to be uneventful.

One such experience surfaced recently, when the son of a WWII 34th Bomb Group navigator thought his father's unusual experience, on his first mission, should be shared with our members. The son, Bob Buchanan, lost his father, also Bob, recently and, although always interested in his father's wartime experiences, says that his dad never talked much about the war. (Where have we heard that before?) He did mention that he had ditched once but that was about it, few details. After his death, his son looked deeper into the records and found that other members of the crew were still alive. After contacting them, they sent their stories to him as to what actually happened on that fateful flight.

Lieutenant Chuck Dold and his crew arrived in Mendlesham, fresh from the States, in late December 1944. The crew completed their combat readiness training and

was deemed ready to begin their tour in early January 1945. The first mission on January 6, 1945 was more or less clothed in what seemed like secrecy to the crew from the beginning, although being their first mission they were not overly concerned. First, it seemed a little odd that their pilot would be flying as co-pilot. The plane, said to be a brand new fortress, on its first mission was worth \$1,000,000, twice the cost of a regular B-17. It was said to have been equipped with new experimental equipment and would act as a radio relay plane for this mission. (also note tail marking on tail of ditched aircraft, definitely not from the 34th bomb group. The Square B might have been from the 95th bomb group).

Lieutenant James A. Dunn, an experienced pilot, was to fly as pilot for this mission. They were instructed to take off prior to the remainder of the planes. The weather over England was extremely bad as they headed for their destination over Ghent, Belgium.

As if an omen of things to come, trouble started as they cleared the overcast and ascended to their assigned 27,000 feet altitude. About this time, Sergeant Clyde Mathe, waist gunner, unhooked his oxygen tube, for what he thought to be only a minute, to assist Sergeant Jules



B-17 CREW WITH THEIR RESCUERS

After breakfast, they were taken to an airfield and caught a ride in a C-47 to another air base where they spent the night. The next day they caught another plane for their return to Mendlesham arriving at 1230 hours. After a short debriefing by the CO, they were returned to duty – all newly christened members of the prestigious Gold Fish Club limited only to those airmen who ditched.

THE CREW

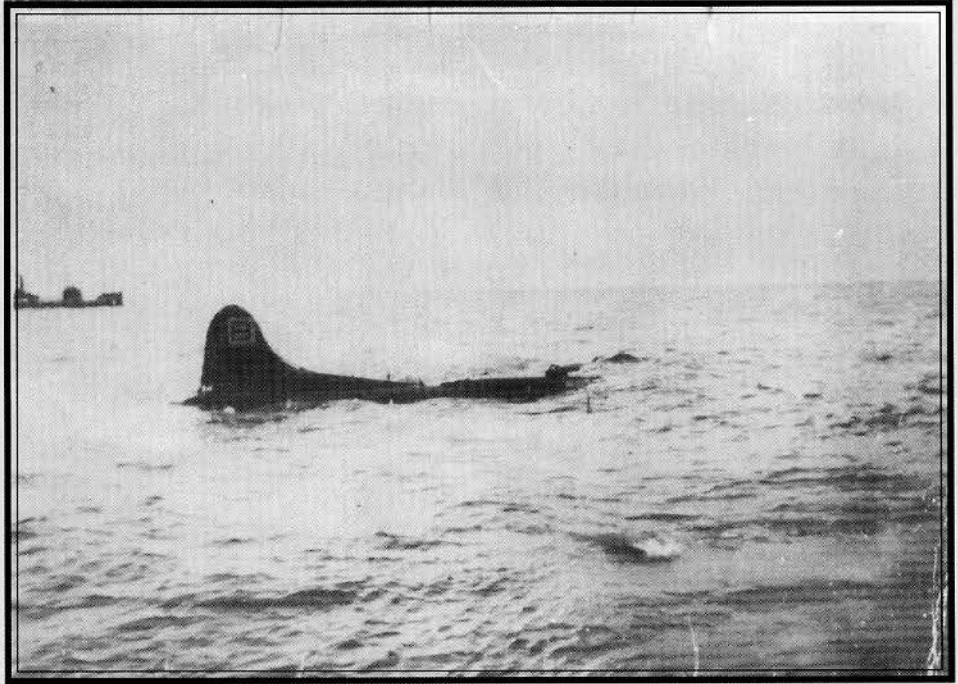
Chuck Dold - Pilot
Eric Erickson - Co-pilot
Bob Buchanan - Navigator

Fred Higgins - Toggaler
Toby Seile- Flight Engineer
Mark Vitulli - Radio Operator

Clyde Mathe - Waist Gunner
Wayne Lester - Ball Turret
Jerry Robertson- Tail Gunner

THE SINKING B-17 AS SEEN FROM THE GWEAL

After all were aboard, the Gweal left the convoy and headed to England. The ship pharmacist performed first aid on the injured Sergeant Higgins and all were given dry cloths, fed and settled down for the trip back to the UK, spending the night in the officer's mess room. After a breakfast of fresh eggs, toast and stewed tomatoes, they arrived at the port of Plymouth at approximately 1015 hours. An ambulance and group of citizens were awaiting their arrival, having been previously alerted they were coming. After taking a few pictures, with the ship's crew, they were taken to a Navy hospital as a precautionary measure. Except for Fred's hand, the crew was in surprisingly good shape.



Lester got into his lower ball turret. As he was returning to his waist gun he lost consciousness and the next thing he knew was being given oxygen by the radio operator. He remembered having thoughts of home and of being very cold. After being revived he appeared to be fine and resumed his duties. The weather worsened and word came over the radio that the mission had been scrubbed and they were to return to base. The other planes never took off.

At 1350 hours, they headed for home when suddenly, and without warning, all their navigational aids stopped functioning. Gee box, compass, radio, all communication devices gone. They were hopelessly lost. With no way of knowing exactly where they were, they headed west, by the sun, dropping down until they sighted land at 500 feet. They started following the coastline and soon spotted what they thought were some Channel Islands (probably Dunkirk that was still in German hands). As they circled, looking for a place to land, they encountered a heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire that promptly knocked out their #2 engine. They feathered the engine and left the hostile area.

After flying for two hours, they jettisoned everything, not tied down, in an attempt to preserve their diminishing fuel supply. They sighted a C-47 and followed it for a awhile, hoping to find land, but soon gave up thinking they might be headed out into the North Sea where they had been told of a crew ditching and freezing to death in 30 minutes. They considered going back to the *island* and try to land knowing that they would become prisoners of war. Although desperate, no one thought this to be a good idea.

Darkness was closing in fast and with only about an hour and a half of gas supply left they spotted a convoy of ships in the Channel. They now had two options, they could ditch near one of the ships in the convoy, hoping to survive the ditching and be picked up by one of the ships or they could continue flying hoping to spot a place to land before their fast dwindling gas supply ran out. The crew unanimously agreed to ditch. They signaled the convoy that they were coming in but could not make out the returned reply. The crew assumed their ditching positions as Lt. Dold smoothly set the fortress down in the channel at 1709 hours. Water came gushing into the radio room as the crew successfully exited the ditched plane only to find that both dinghies were stuck in their compartments and would not eject automatically. After manually pulling them free, they inflated and the crew climbed in, successfully, and began paddling a safe distance from the plane toward one of the ships in the convoy. They cleared the plane in about 40 seconds and it sank at 1725 hours. A lifeboat was sent out from one of the ships to pick them up. At this point, the crew did not know if the ship crews were British or German as they all wore black turtleneck sweaters. With their 45's at the ready their fears were soon alleviated upon learning rescuers were British. As they were being pulled aboard the troller Gweal, a pool of blood was noticed in one of the dinghies and upon further investigation it was found that the toggaller, Sgt. Higgins, was bleeding profusely from a nasty cut on his hand, the only casualty from the long ordeal.

The Airman

The grey haired old man walks slowly by, gazing
over the fields of green,
Fields silent now, nothing remains, no trace of what
there had been.

He remembers the time so long ago, when bombers
filled the sky,
Bombers flown by young boys, all praying not to
die.

All were young boys, all were young then, all
serving their country, all proud young Airmen.
He remembers that time, way back then, and the boys
young forever, never living to be men.

He remembers them well, all the ones that were lost.
He remembers them all, and the terrible cost.
He remembers lost friends, as tears well in his eyes,
and the battles they'd fought up there in the
skies.

His aged body stands at attention once more,
as he salutes fallen comrades who died in the
war.

He walks quietly away, away from that place,
and tears wiped away, pride on his face.

Sixty years have passed now since that promise that he
made,

He'd promised to return one day no matter what it took.
To return to his old airfield, God willing,
to return for one final look.

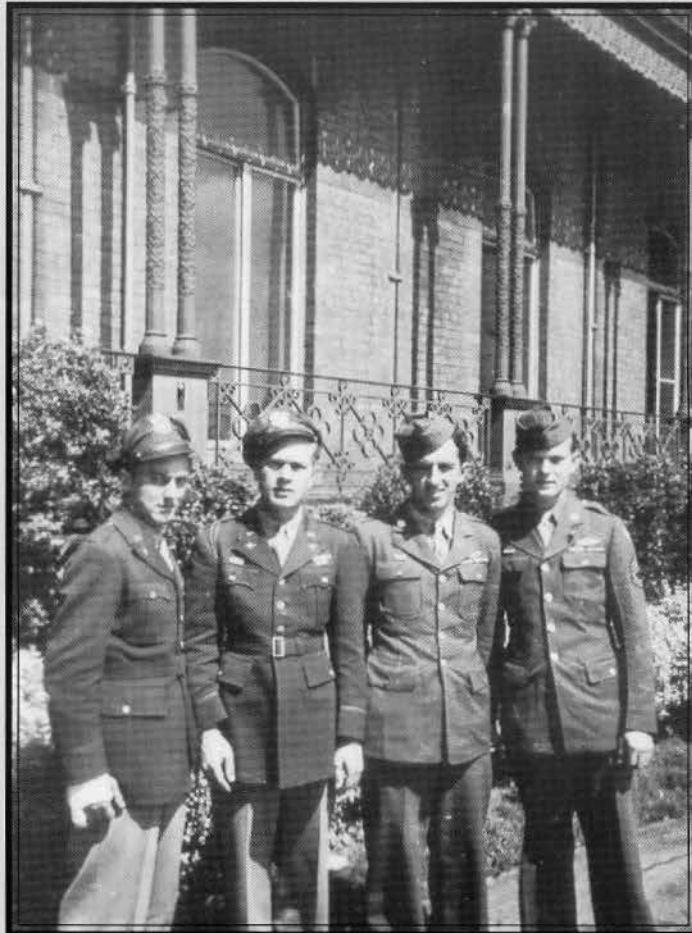
Ted Galbraith
17th July, 2002

*Ed: Ted wrote this poem to mark the 60th anniversary of
the USAAF 8th Air Force in England.*



The Runyon Crew - R & R at Blackpool

~ June, 1944 ~



L to R: St. Seraphin Schwartz, Co-Pilot
Lt. Arthur Runyon, Pilot
T/Sgt. Raymond Lucas, Radio Operator
T/Sgt. Francis Mullen, Flight Engineer



Page 13

PX Report

We received our new design ball cap just before the reunion and it was very popular as we sold over two-thirds of our original shipment. It has a U.S. flag design on both sides of the bill and the remainder of the cap is navy blue with our 34th bomb group logo on the front. The public likes it as it receives lots of comments.

I am hoping to add a royal blue polo shirt, similar to the one we had a few years back, if I can find one with a pocket. We have had several calls for it and some requests for T-shirts, and sweat shirts with bomb group logo and B-17 or B-24 on them.

Our permanent reunion badges have gone up to \$9.50, as we have had trouble keeping up with the price advances.

We appreciate all the loyal support from everyone and hope you will keep the orders coming.

Ken Paxton,
PX manager



Reflection on the Salt Lake City Reunion

As I sat in the airport waiting for my flight back to St. Louis, I couldn't help but reflect back on the fabulous weekend I shared with the wonderful heroes from the 34th Bomb group. Ever since meeting that prestigious group in Des Moines, Iowa at their 1999 reunion, I have had a special place in my heart for the men and women of this group.

I have nothing but great things to say about this year's reunion in Salt Lake City, Utah. The city itself was most impressive in every aspect, the tour incredibly interesting. The planning committee did a fabulous job and are to be commended on the entire package. Even the crowded banquet facility seemed like not such a big deal. Everyone just scrunched in and made the small rooms work. But, of course, that is what this group of people is so famous for doing: taking a situation that might not be ideal and dealing with it. Just ask most people and they'll tell you that this segment of our population is the "greatest generation".

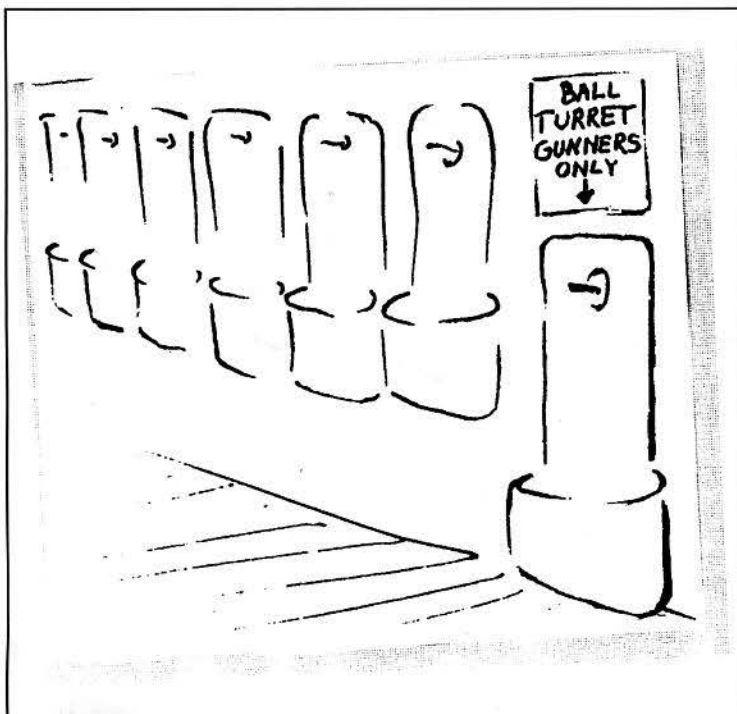
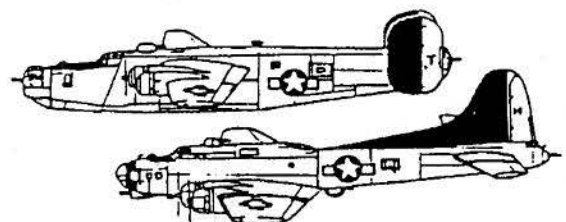
Listening to the speakers at the banquet made it so clear why we were there and how much all younger generations owe to these incredible people. How men and women alike put the world's needs above their own. Oh, how my generation and my children's could learn from that lesson.

There was an awful lot of pride pulsing through the banquet room as veterans and spouses stood and almost reluctantly received the recognition and applause they so justly deserve. They are a proud group to be sure.

It was exciting to see so many children present at the reunion. I, for one, waited way too long to properly show my dad how proud I am of his courage and conviction that surely made the free world what it is today. To be surrounded by so many heroes was indeed a humbling, incredible experience, and a privilege.

Thank you all for what you have done and for making me feel so very welcome.

Most Sincerely,
Vivienne (Forister) Kueneke



The annual meeting of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Pres. Wayne Howarter at 0900 on September 28, 2002, at the Best Western Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Howarter and the invocation was given by Bob Wright.

Motion by Province, second by Sothorn to approve the minutes of the 2001 General Membership meeting as published in the December, 2001, *Mendlesham Memories*. Motion carried.

Communications: Carl Stemen sent his resignation from the position of 1st Vice-President because of his health.

The treasurer's report was given by Harold Province. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of September 26, 2002, for the detailed report.) Motion by Kubly, second by Rutka to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The reunion report committee was given by Harold Rutka. This is the 18th year in which Rutka, Wright, Sothorn and Pine have served on this committee. The local contact this year was Seymour Isaacs. There are 177 registered for this year's reunion. The place for the 2003 reunion should be in the South Central USA. The dates in September have to consider the 8th AF reunion date and the Jewish holidays that fall in September. The committee considered Missouri and Texas. As per the Board minutes you can see the committee was directed to plan for Texas. Plans will be finalized for San Antonio for September of 2003. The dates and hotels will be published in the March *Mendlesham Memories*. Motion by Kubly, second by Crawford to approve the reunion committee report. Motion carried.

The PX report was given by Kenneth Paxton. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of September 26, 2002, for the detailed report.) Specialized merchandise to be purchased included: permanent name tags at \$7.00 (currently), a new edition of the 34th Bomb Group History, and two possible designs for jackets to be placed as special orders. Motion by Gibbs, second by Wright to approve the PX Report. Motion carried.

The Scholarship Committee report was given by Harold Province. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of September 26, 2002, for the detailed report.) Motion by Rutka, second by Coutros to approve the Scholarship report. Motion carried.

The Audit Committee report was given by Frank Sivret. The committee reviewed the Treasurer's records, the Scholarship Fund records and the PX records. All records were found to be complete and in order. Motion by Demko, second by Sothorn to approve the audit report. Motion carried.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Bruce Sothorn. The slate of nominees for 2002-2003 was as follows: Pres.-Fred Waltz, 1st Vice Pres.-James Clemens, 2nd Vice Pres.-Bennett Richmond, for Directors- Verbal Holcomb (05), Jack Steffan (05), Everett Rose (04), and Ray Kubly (03), Jack Share - MM editor, Harold Province - Treas. and Corresponding Sect., Rev. Gary Ferrell- Archivist, Wayne Howarter- Past Pres., James Martin - Chaplain, Kenneth Paxton - PX Manager, and John J. Feda - Recording Secretary.

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

Motion by Rutka, second by Harry Crawford to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate as presented. Motion carried.

Jack Share asked that all pictures of the reunion attendees be sent to him before the end of October.

This is necessary if they are to be included in the December issue of *Mendlesham Memories*.

Old business- None New business- None

Motion to adjourn at 1015 by Rutka, second by Sothorn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by John J. Feda, Recording Secretary

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Pres. Wayne Howarter at 1500 on Sept. 26, 2002, in the Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Pres. Howarter. The invocation was given by Bob Wright.

Pres. Howarter asked for a roll call. Present were: Pres. Wayne Howarter Rec. Sect. John J. Feda, Treas. and Corresponding Sect. Harold Province, Past Pres. Claude Gibbs, PX Mgr. Kenneth Paxton, MM Editor Jack Share, Board Members: Carroll Forister, Franklin Sivret, James Clemens, Anthony Coutros, and John Demko. Reunion Committee members Harold Rutka, Bob Wright and Bruce Sothorn. Absent were: 1st VP Carl Stemen, 2nd VP Fred Waltz, Archivist Rev. Gary Ferrell, Chaplain James Martin, and Director Vernon Ames (deceased).

Motion by Rutka, second by Province to accept the minutes of the Sept. 6, 2001, Board meeting as printed in the *Mendlesham Memories* of December, 2001. Motion carried.

PX report was given by Kenneth Paxton.

Receipts:

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Bank balance on hand August 31, 2001 | \$ 474.38 |
| 2. Sales at Savannah reunion | 2083.08 |
| 3. Sales from orders filled the past year | 1850.00 |
| 4. Interest earned | 4.13 |
| Total: | \$4411.59 |

Expenses:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Paid to the treasury of 34th Bomb Group | \$ 900.00 |
| 2. Books sold on consignment | 215.00 |
| 3. Hoover Manufacturing (patches for 391 sqdn) | 118.08 |
| 4. Postage and supplies | 112.81 |
| 5. Merchandise purchased | 2573.43 |
| Total: | \$3920.23 |

Cash on hand \$ 52.95

Bank balance on Sept. 30, 2002 491.31

Total: \$ 544.31

Net to the 34th Bomb Group Association;

Increased bank balance- \$16.98 Cash on hand- \$52.95 Payment to treasury- \$900.00 Total- \$969.93

A discussion followed on the purchase of full-sized license plates for the inventory. Most states require two full-sized plates for each vehicle. Motion by Clemens, second by Sothorn NOT to buy these plates for the PX inventory. Motion carried.

Motion by Gibbs, second by Demko to approve the PX report. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Harold Province.

The 2001 and 2002 finances of the 34th Bomb Group (H) Association and its various funds are represented in the following tables. The totals reflect through September 21, 2002.

| WORKING ACCOUNTS | 2001 | 2002 |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Checking account with Hancock Bank | \$ 686.17 | \$ 0.00 (C) |
| Money Market Hancock Bank | 1446.89 | 1300.83 |
| Money Market Edward Jones | 4081.42 | 1249.21 |
| Sub-total: | \$6594.48 | \$2550.04 |
| 34th Bomb Group Funds: | | |
| Life Membership Fund | \$14,375.08 | \$12,863.24 |
| Scholarship Fund | 13,559.57 | 15,190.87 |
| Memorial Fund | 1,055.89 | 1,055.89 |

Pres. Howarter appointed the following audit committee: Franklin Sivret, John Demko and Claude Gibbs.

Old business: none.

New business: Discussion was held on why some groups contribute to the 8th AAF Museum and we don't.

The length of time groups have been active and the number of their active members seem to be the reasons.

The Nominating Committee report was given by Bruce Sothorn. Positions to be filled are: President, 1st VP, 2nd VP, and four director positions. Share, Province, Paxton, Ferrell, Martin and Feda will be nominated to continue in their respective positions. Bruce solicited help in recruiting "volunteers" for the positions that need to be filled for next year.

Motion by Province, second by Demko to adjourn at 1640. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by John J. Feda, Recording Secretary

General Membership Meeting

Minutes

September 28, 2002

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| General Fund | 6,594.48 | 2,550.04 |
| Pete Gray Fund | 1,010.00 | 890.00 (B) |
| Grand-Total | \$36,595.02 | \$32,550.04 |
| Location of Funds: | | |
| Money Market Edward Jones | \$ 4,081.42 | \$ 1,249.21 |
| CD Edward Jones | 30,000.00 | Matured 5/2002(C) |
| Money Market Hancock Bank | 1,446.89 | 1,300.83 |
| General Fund Hancock | 1,066.17 | account closed (A) |
| CD Edward Jones City bank | 4.90% | 5/15/07 25,000.00 (D) |
| CD Edward Jones Far East Ntl Bank | 2.70% | 5/15/03 5,000.00 (D) |
| Grand-Total | \$36,595.02 | \$32,550.04 |

There are NO outstanding bills.

A. Closed because of monthly charges- no checks being written on this account.

B. Sending MM to 12 widows- \$120.00

C. Matured May 2002

D. Purchased May 15, 2002

Respectfully submitted by Harold Province, Treasurer.

The bill for the printing of the Sept. *Mendlesham Memories* has been paid. A year ago that bill was outstanding.

A discussion followed on the maturity date of 2007 for the \$25,000 CD. It was expressed that associate members will be around long after 2007. Also, if needed before that date the CD can be cashed with the loss of a few months of interest.

Motion by Sothorn, second by Clemens to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

The Reunion Committee report was given by Harold Rutka. Our registration for this year is 177. Last year it was 276 at Savannah and the year before it was 210 at Buffalo. Next year's reunion is planned for the South Central states in September. Two parameters that determine the date are the Jewish holidays that fall in that month and the date of the 8th AF reunion. The consensus was to continue plans for Texas in September of 2003.

Motion by Demko, second by Province to approve the Reunion Committee report. Motion carried.

The Scholarship Committee report was given by Harold Province. Eleven excellent applications were received by the committee for the Ray Summa 34th Bomb Group Scholarships. The first place award of \$1000 was given to Neal J. Baker of Bentleyville, PA, and sponsored by Alex Antanovich. The second award of \$750 was given to Erin Eatough of Waunakee, WI, sponsored by Glen E. Henry. The third award of \$500 was given to Michael Torre of New York, NY, sponsored by Michael Torre, Sr. Each of the sponsors was notified and they in turn notified the respective recipients. Publicity will follow in a future issue of *Mendlesham Memories*.

Discussion followed on the income for the scholarship fund and the possibility of increasing the number and/or the amounts of the scholarships. Both have been done since the first award was given. The income for the fund comes from two sources. The first is a \$5 surcharge on each reunion registration and this past year that was \$1365. The second is from memorials and contributions from members. This past year that amounted to \$2536 from 23 different members. It was suggested that the committee bring a recommendation to the 2003 membership meeting for changes in size and amounts.

Motion by Coutros, second by Forister to approve the Scholarship report. Motion carried.

The *Mendlesham Memories* report was given by Editor Jack Share.

He thanked the members for sending in material. He has had to change printers but the individual who formats the publication is still working with him. The deadline for 2002 reunion pictures to be included in the December issue was ASAP, but no later than the last of October. He requests change of addresses because the Post Office charges him for each MM returned to him. The cost of printing each issue is about \$2400. Pres. Howarter commended Editor Share for an excellent job. "The MM gets read from cover to cover when members receive it."

Reunion

Registration

at

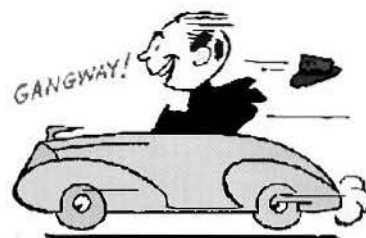
Salt Lake City, Utah

Donald F. Allen
 Paul & Beryl Anderson
 Eileen Armstrong and guests:
 Tess Harp-Armstrong
 Doug Armstron
 Charles R. Attridge
 Marion L. Baker and guest:
 Fern Muths
 Calvin H. & Jean Ballard
 Charles and Roberta Barclay
 Thomas & Madeline Belleau
 Leonard & Helen Bess and guests:
 Ashley & Marcie White
 Russell, Janice and Roland Boutiette
 W.J. Browne and guest:
 Pegi Johns
 Carmen S. Cesare
 John & Constance Clemens and
 guests:
 Mark Clemens
 Joshua Clemens
 Sandi Clemens
 Eric Clemens
 James A. Clemens
 Claude & Genevive Conklin
 Anthony, Mary and Craig Coutros
 Harry & Donna Crawford
 Harry & Artemis Curusis
 Courtney & Marion Daniels
 John & Esther Demko
 Alfred DiNenno
 John & Bernadette Farley
 Herman & Nancy Fieber and guests:
 David & Sonia Fieber
 Abe & Ernestine Firestone
 John & Betty Feda
 Carroll & Sylvia Forister and guest:
 Vivienne Kueneker

Dale & Esther Frank
 Claude & Audrey Gibbs and
 guests:
 Beverly Pusser
 Betty Miller
 Willis Griffis and guest:
 Ed Morrison
 Carolyn Guertin and guest:
 Florence Blank
 Tony & Joan Habinger
 Herbert & Doris Hall
 Bob and Ula Hemingway
 Glen & Vera Henry
 Raymond & Dickie Hinchey
 Verbal & Betty Holcomb
 Wayne & LaVerne Howarter and
 guests:
 Son, daughter in law and
 grandchildren
 Lloyd & Marla Inman
 Al & Agnes Israelsen
 Seymour & Claudia Isaacs
 Kevitt Ivey and guests:
 Butch Ivey
 Billie Hoyle
 Michael & Margie Jacobbausk
 Lois Johnson
 Dexter & Beulah Jordan
 Dwight L. Kellog
 Ray & Ruth Kubly and guests:
 Daughter and son in law
 Betty Lampey
 Raymond & Rachel Lucas
 Joe & Kay Marks
 Norman Mayer and guest:
 Sister
 Bruning Merlin
 Clayton A. Mink and guest:
 Daughter Pam Schmitt
 Fred & Ginny Muent
 Thomas & Mildred Newton
 William J. Orton
 Ken & Kathleen Paxton
 Harry & Willie Perry
 Bonnie J. Powers and Ray Zulstra
 Hal & Jan Province
 Roger Revay

Floyd & Miriam Richmond and
 guest:
 Thelma Warfield
 Evan & Margaret Rogers and
 guest:
 Helen Mell
 Everett & Margo Rose
 Gordon & Doris Ryan
 Harold & Gen Rutka
 Leon & Jeanne Salvesson
 Jack & Alene Schade
 Jack & Marian Share
 Don & Bonnie Shee
 Paul & Pauline Shull
 Frank & Alda Sivret and guest:
 Nora Rose
 James P. Smith
 Jack & Linda Steffen
 Jim & Stella Stivender
 Donald & Evelyn Stufflebeam
 Walter & Lois Sturdivan
 Robert & Jennie Schroeder and
 guest:
 Henry & Dorothy Sorensen and
 guest:
 Steve Ranstrom
 John & Marie Terry
 Charles & Judith Thurner
 Frederick & Blanch Voss
 Oral Walker & Thera Good
 Fred Waltz
 Joseph & Marilyn Wong
 Robert & Esther Wright

September
25 - 29,
2002



Welcome to Salt Lake City!



Diane Castro
Director of Sales



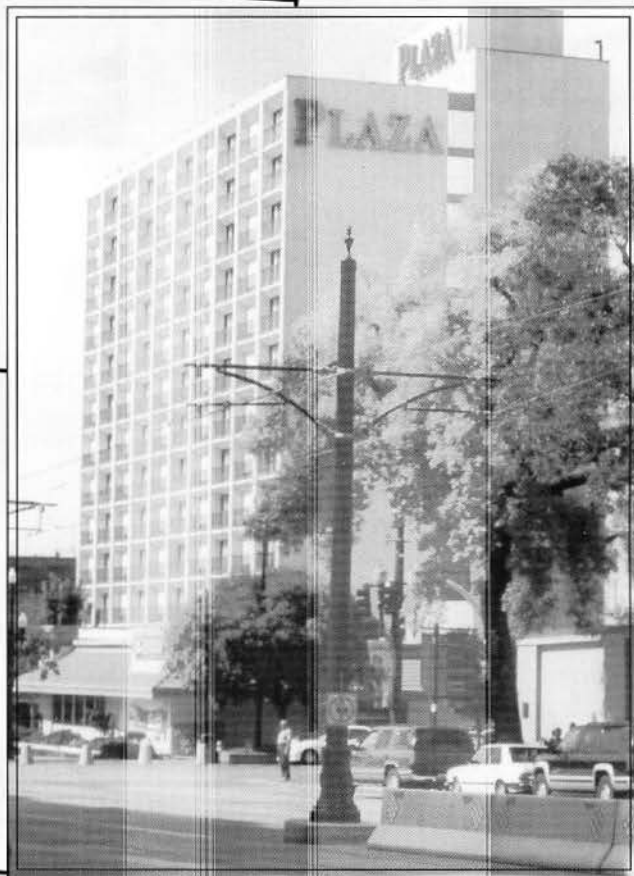
Salt Lake City Rail System



UTAH



Al & Agnes Israelsen & Dale Frank on the Road to Salt Lake City



Headquarters Hotel



Registration



Hotel Check-in

Reunion Committee



Kathleen Paxton
PX



PX Managers
Kathleen & Ken Paxton



Reunion Committee
Gen Rutka, Esther Wright, Buce Sothern,
Harold Rutka, Bob Wright

Meetings

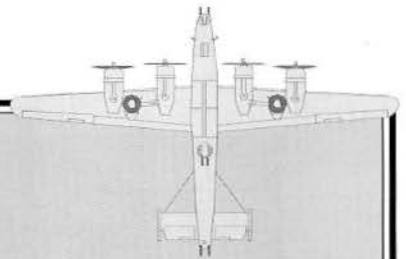


Board of Directors Meeting



General Meeting

SQUADRON PERSONNEL



4th Squadron



18th Squadron



7th Squadron

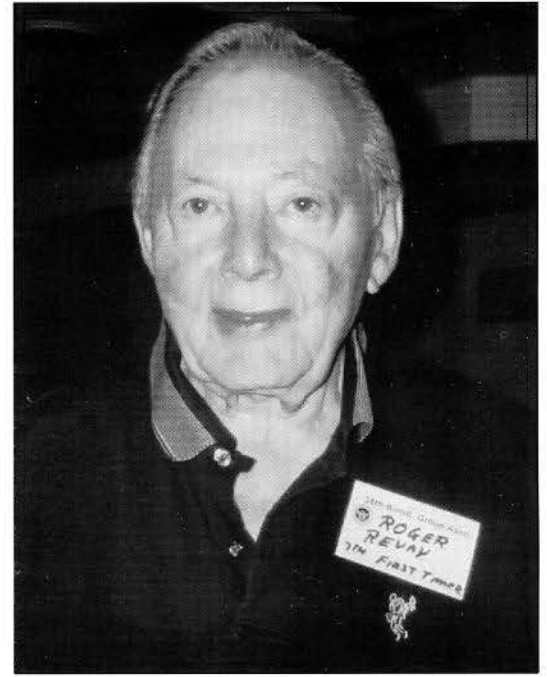


391st Squadron

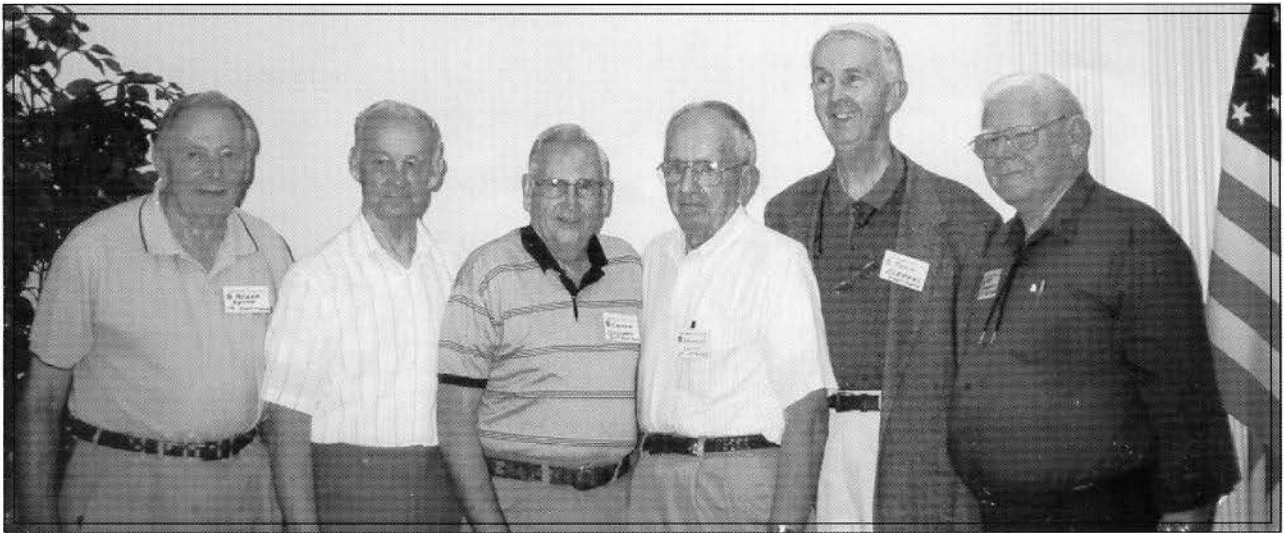
1ST TIMERS



Robert & Ula Hemingway



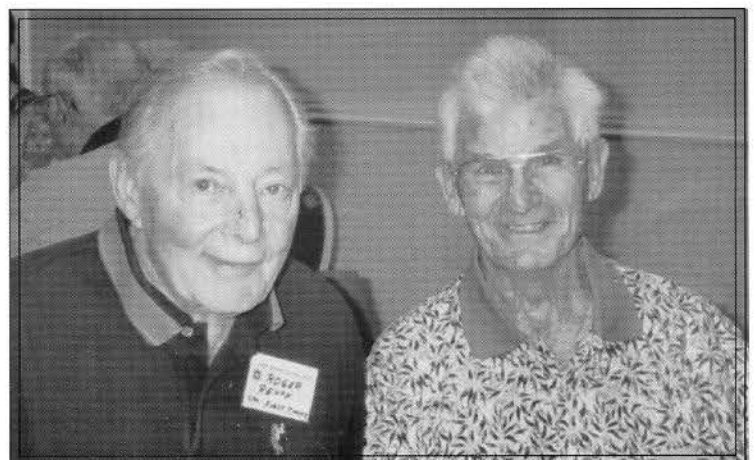
Roger Revay



Roger Revay, Marion Baker, Calvin Ballard, Ray Lucas,
John Clemins, Bob Hemingway



Marion & Courtney Daniels



Roger Revay & Carmen Cesare

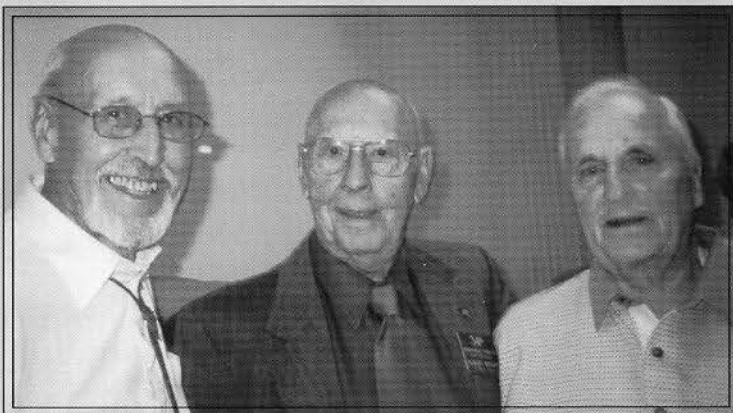
Friday Night



Beulah & Dexter Jordan
in his WWII Suntans



David & Sonia Feiber
Nancy & Herman Feiber



Bruce Sothern, Robb Wright, Harold Rutka



Mark, Sandi, Joshua Clemens
Constance & John Clemens



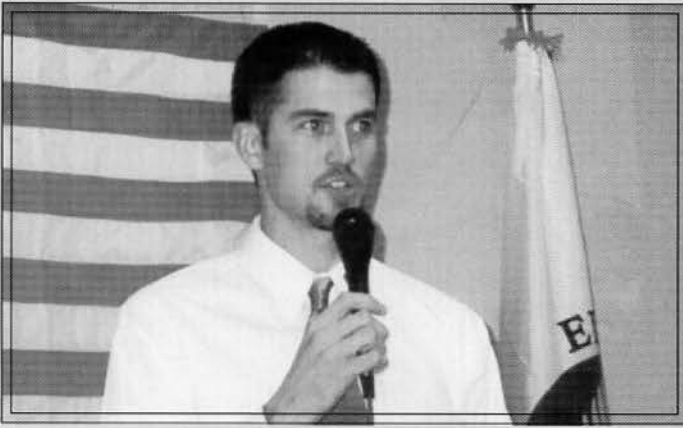
Ray & Ruth Kubly



Bernie Farley & son John Farley



Kiett Ivey, Daughter Billie Hoyle, Son Butch Ivey



*Dr. Mark Howarter
Feature Speaker*

Dr. Mark Howarter, DC was the featured speaker at the reunion's gala banquet. The excellent presentation, accompanied by an inspiring video of the September 11th disaster, was very emotional and from the heart. Mark is the grandson of our outgoing president, Wayne Howarter.

He closed his talk with an inspirational poem that is being printed here for the benefit of all those who were not there to appreciate it and for those who wanted to see it printed out.

This Moment

I may never see tomorrow; there's no
written guarantee.

And things that happened yesterday
belong to history.

I cannot predict the future,

I cannot change the past.

I have just the present moment,

I must treat it as my last.

I must use this moment wisely,

for it soon will pass away,

and be lost forever as a part of yesterday.

I must exercise compassion,

help the fallen to their feet.

Be a friend unto the friendless,

make an empty life complete.

The unkind things I do today,

may never be undone.

and friendships that I fail to win,

may never more be won.

I may not have another chance

on bended knee to pray.

and thank God with a humble heart,

for giving me this day.

Author unknown.

Gala Banquet

Saturday Evening



The Howarter Family



Jack & Linda Steffan



Kira Ryan, David Ryan, Doris Ryan & Gordan Ryan

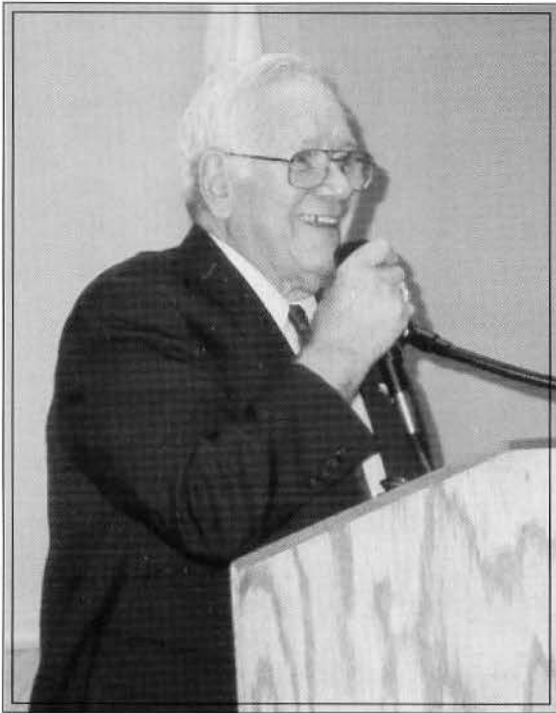
Gala Banquet - Head Table



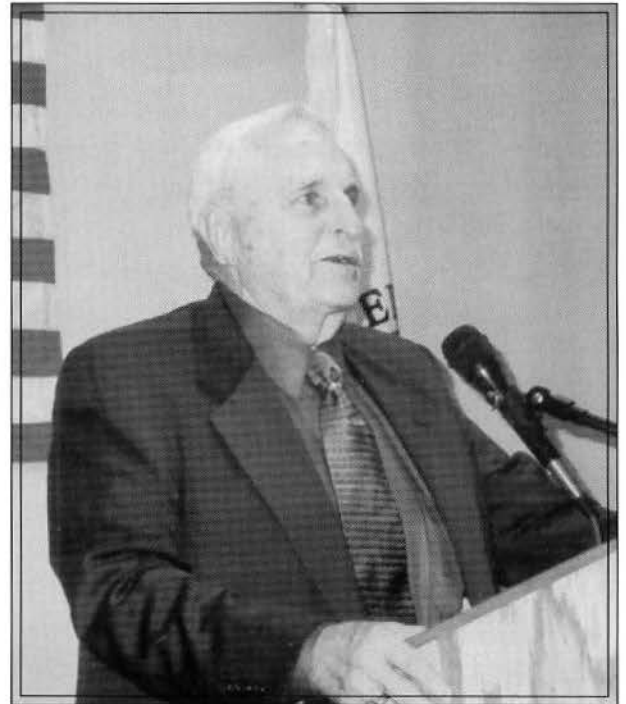
Laverne & Wayne Howarter
A Great Team



Wayne Howarter Accepting Past President's Plaque
from Bob Wright



Fred Waitz accepting Presidency
at Saturday evening banquet



Harold Rutka, M.C.



Head Table



Gifts for the Howarters

Gala Banquet



Jack Terry & Marie Jones



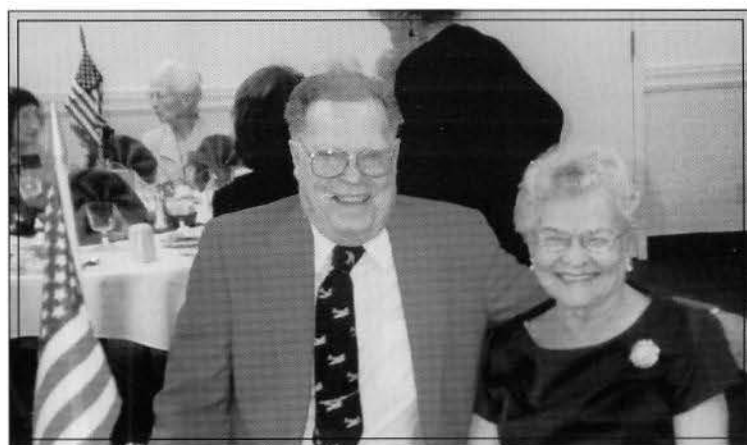
The Foresters
Sylvia, Carroll, Vivienne Kueneke



Raymond & Rachel Lucas



The Jordans, Clayton Mink, The Muentes,
The Halls, J.C. Smith



Claude & Audrey Gibbs



Seated (R to L): Fred Muento, Clayton Mink,
Pam Schmidt (C. Mink's Daughter)
Standing (R to L): Ginny Muento, J.C. Smith



Brad, Carol (Kubly) Scott
Ray & Ruth Kubly



Tony & Mary Coutros, Marilyn & Joe Wong, Bernie & Son John Farley, Hal & Jan Province



Sylvia Forister, Carolyn Guertin, Vivienne Kueneker, Florence Blank, Carroll Forister

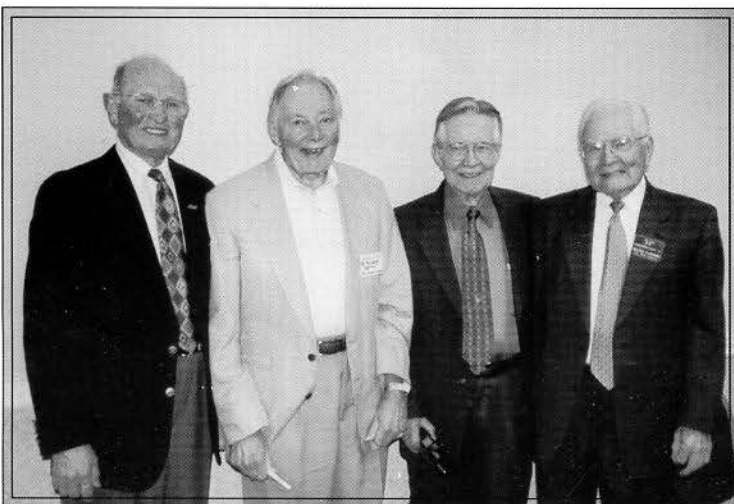


Don & Bonnie Snee

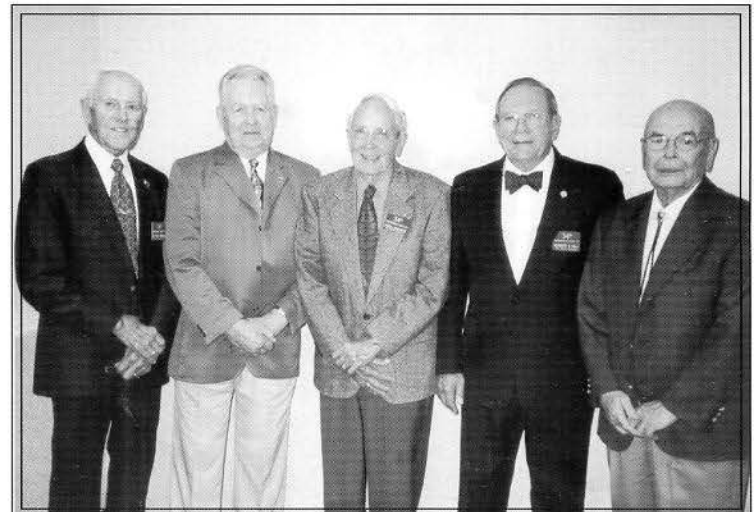


Carroll & Sylvia Forister, Ginny & Fred Muentel, Marian & Jack Share

Gala Banquet



Carroll Forister, Roger Revay, Al Israelsen, Walter Sturdivan



L to R: D. Jordan, C. Mink, F. Muentel, H. Hall, J.C. Smith
4th consecutive year, most members in attendance.

Gala Banquet



Evelyn & Donald Stufflebeam



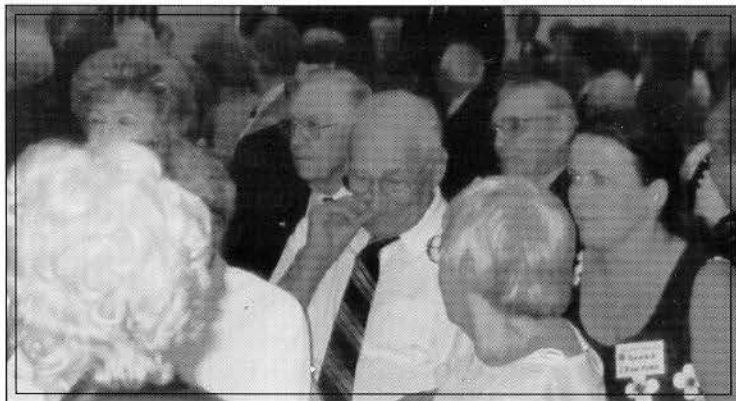
Fred & Ginny Muent
Marian & Jack Share



John Feda, Betty Mae Feda, Susan Feda, Tom Feda



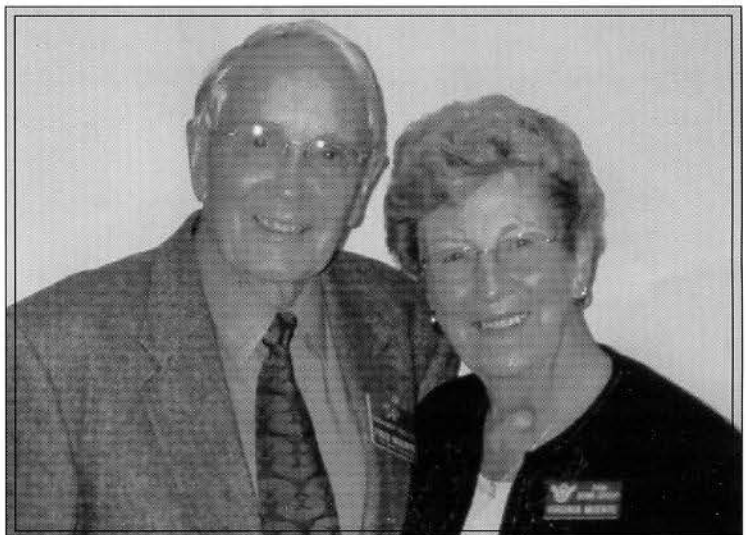
Fred & Blanche Voss



The Banquet Hour



Thelma Warfield, F. Bennet & Miriam Richmond



Fred & Ginny Muent

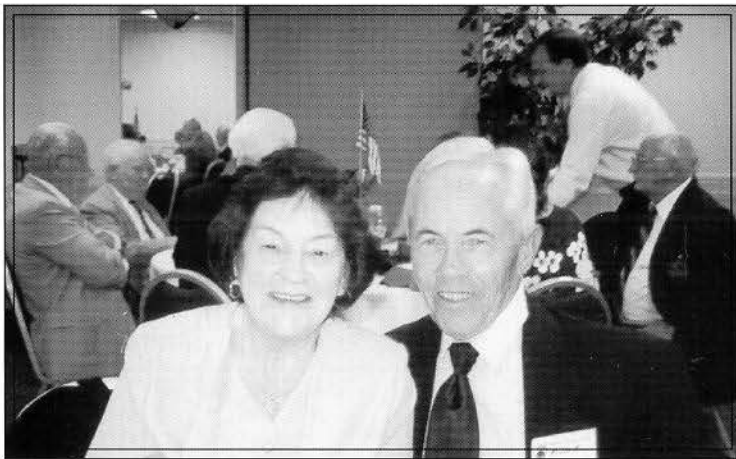


Esther Frank, Kay Marks, Dale Frank, Joe Marks



Ernestine & Abe Firestone

Gala Banquet



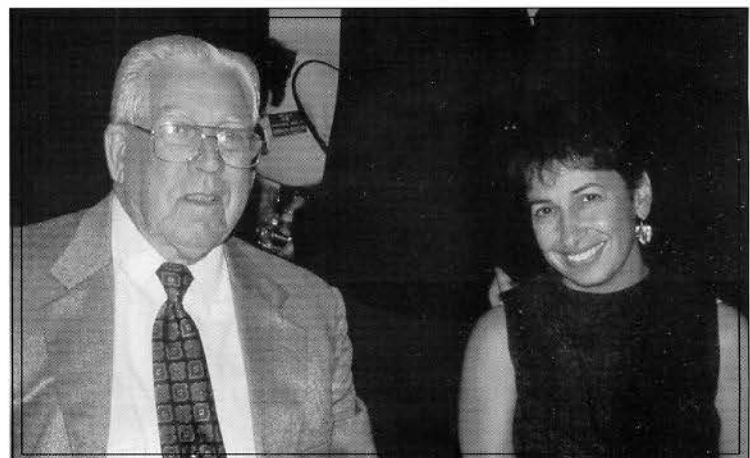
Margie & Mike Jacobbauski



Joe Marks & Family



Eileen Armstrong, Doug Armstrong,
Tess Armstrong Harp



Everett Rose & Nora Rose



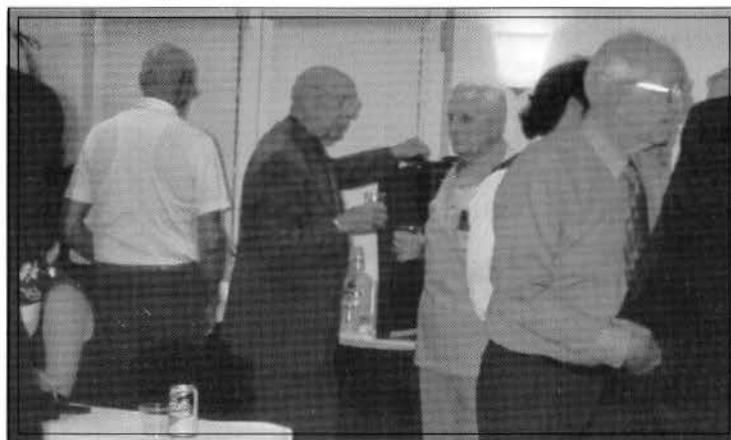
Claude Gibbs, Marian & Jack Share



Joe Wong, Bonnie Shee, Harry Curusis, Tony & Mary Coutros, Marilyn Wong



Pauline Shull, Eileen Armstrong, Tess Harp



The Hospitable Hospitality Room



Hospitality Room

The Tour

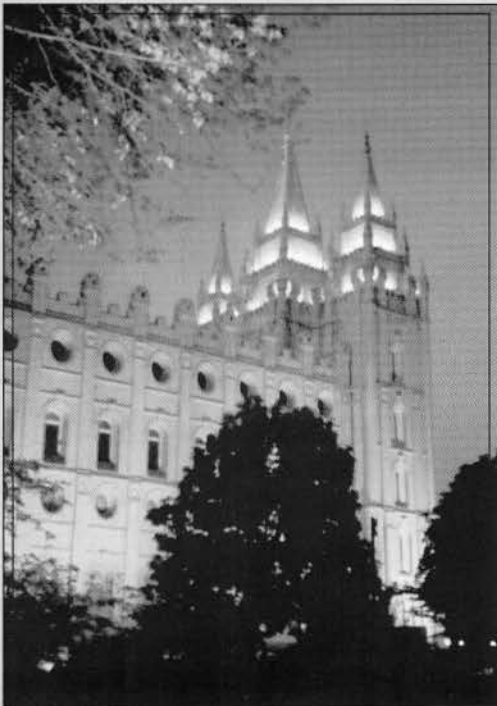


Hal Province, Joe & Marilyn Wong, Artimis Curusis, Jan Province, Tony & Mary Coutros



Standing in front of the Mormon Tabernacle Organ Choir Section. L to R: Thera Good, Oral Walker, Bonnie Shee & Kathleen Paxton

The Tour



Mormon Temple



Mormon Guide at Tabernacle



Inside the Capital



The Guide Tells All



Our Tour Bus



Tabernacle Choir Practice



Utah State Capital

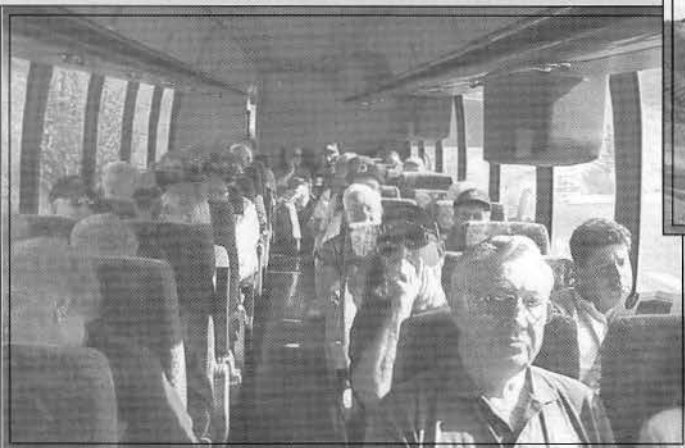


Vivienne Kueneke with Father Carroll Forister

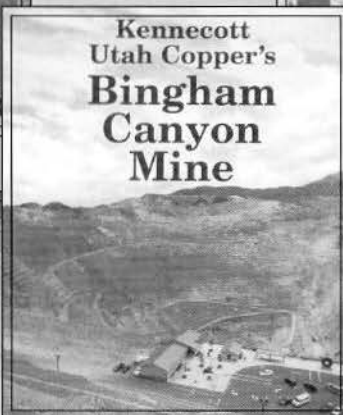
The Tour



A Gathering at the Great Salt Lake



Bus Ride

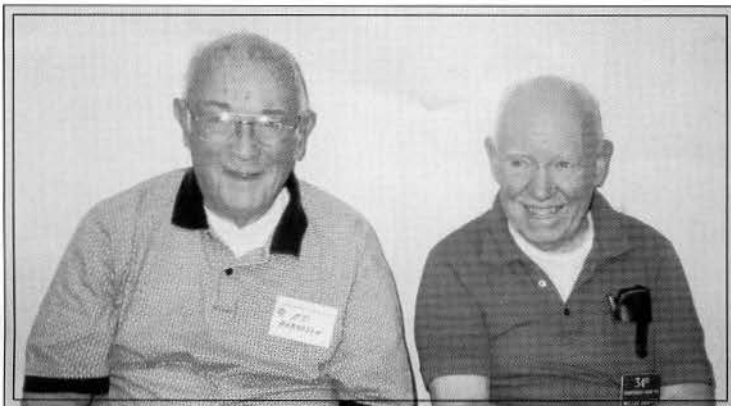


Kennecott
Utah Copper's
Bingham
Canyon
Mine



Don Shee, waiting for trolley.
Mormon temple in background.

Take Ten ☺ Take Ten ☺ Take Ten ☺ Take Ten ☺ Take Ten



Ed Morrison & Willis Griffis

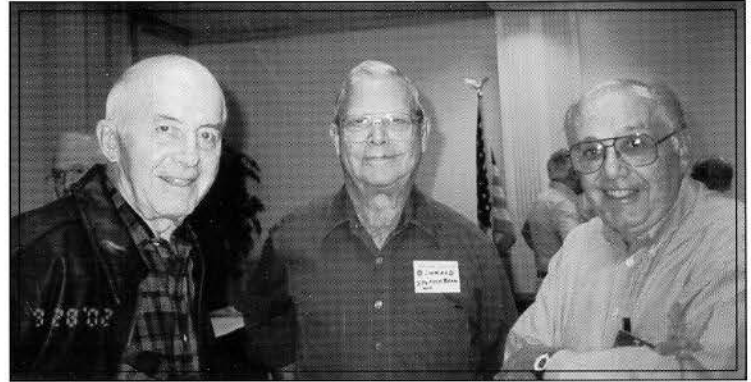


Abe & Ernestine Firestone



Betty Lampey, Claude & Gen Conklin,
Marian Share, Jack Share

Take Ten ☺ Take Ten ☺ Take Ten



?, Don Stufflebeam & Abe Firestone



Bruce Sothern & Walter Sturdivan



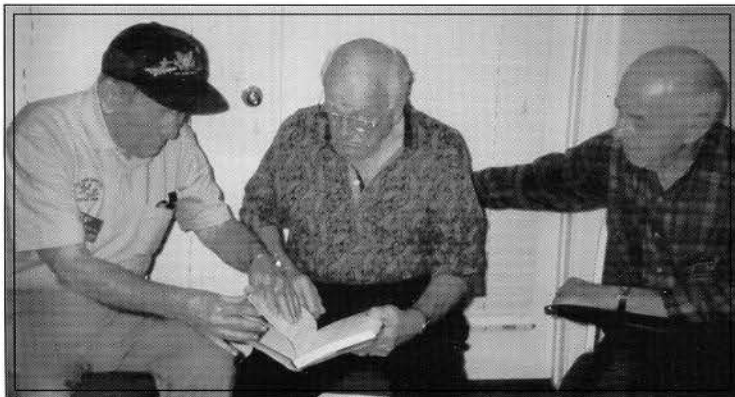
Dale Frank & Bill Orton



Tony & Joan Habiger



Joe & Kay Marks, James Clemins



Remember this Mission?



Vivienne Kueneke, Carol & Sylvia Forister,
Harold Rutka, Dale Frank



BASIL GAUMER – GREENVILLE, IL

I look forward to receiving my Mendlesham Memories. I can't put it down until I have finished the last page.

I was an Ordnance man, bomb loader, in the 18th Sqd. or as we called it, the Red Sqd. I have read a couple of stories about the night on Christmas Eve when that other bomb group had to land at our base because their base was weathered in. Their planes were landing at the same time as ours, it was getting dark and the planes were flying with their lights on so they wouldn't run into each other. They looked like a giant Christmas tree in the sky.

I remember one other night that I had that feeling. It was late on the night of June 5th and into the early hours of June 6th. 1944. We were loading bombs when for some reason I crawled out of the bomb bay, probably to see a man about a dog, and as I looked up into the sky, all I could see was colored lights of the planes. I never saw so many lights in my life. It looked like a giant Christmas tree in the sky in June. I was just wondering if all the other men that saw that sight had the same thoughts as I.

SCOTT MACKEY – COLUMBUS, OH

A little over a year ago, I decided to find out everything I could about my uncle, Lt. William K. Mackey, reported missing in action on August 24th, 1944, after a raid on Kiel. Bill Mackey was the pilot of crew #8 in the 4th bomb squadron of the 34th Bomb Group. I've had more success in this effort than I ever dreamed possible, thanks to the 34th Bomb Group Association, particularly Al Israelsen for all the material sent me. And also, to Herb Klier for the bombing records he sent. I want to acknowledge all this help it is sincerely appreciated. Again thanks to all.

MICHAEL TORRE – JAMAICA, NY

Thanks to your wonderful organization for awarding my son, Michael A. Torre, the 2002 Scholarship Award totaling \$500.00.

My father was a bombardier in the 7th squadron stationed in Mendlesham as part of the 34th bomb group.

His stories and recollections of those days truly inspired my son to forge a career in aviation and to become a pilot. He was awarded his Private Pilot's Certificate in June 2001. Also, he joined my brother Greg and my dad at the reunion in Buffalo a few years back. They still talk about that adventure to this day.

My dad has often expressed his feelings of personal pride and honor when he talks about his USAF service. I am also thankful for the sacrifices of those brave airmen and women who rose to unprecedented heights of patriotism and valor.

Thanks again for the 34th Bomb Group Association's commitment to educating the generations to come! Enjoy the upcoming reunion in Salt Lake City and express to all your members our sincere gratitude and best wishes.

JACK OYSTER – NICEVILLE, FL

First, let me thank you for all your time and effort in publishing MM for all our enjoyment. The articles sent in and then published by you bring back many memories of so many good men.

I hope this finds you and your in good health.

ABE FIRESTONE – HAMPTON, VA

The reunion, as usual, turned out great, though it was sad to see the decrease in attendance. Time seems to be taking its toll on our members, but as long as we can manage, we'll be there.

MARY HAGNER – WILLIAMSVILLE, NY

Here are my dues for 2002-2003. I am an associate member as my father, Edmond J. Tymozyszyn, was in the 34th bomb group. I hope this note finds you well and happy. I enjoy being able to be a part of the 34th Bomb Group Association and to read and learn about all the wonderful men who fought in World War II and gave up so much.

MOVING!!!

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



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VIVIENNE (FORISTER) KUENEKE – KIRKWOOD, MO

Hope you had a pleasant journey home. It was probably bittersweet, putting the reunion behind you. I think you all did a marvelous job putting it together. Now you can, hopefully, sit back and relax a little, heh? Yea right!

I have some pictures to send you. Some turned out well and I'll pop them in the post this week. Use the ones you want to use.

CARROLL FORISTER – KIRKWOOD, MO

What a fine reunion. It's always great to be with old friends and familiar faces and this year was no different. Only sad to find 100 fewer than last year – we missed them and hope they'll be well in time for Texas in 2003. Salt Lake is a beautiful city, so very clean, prices reasonable and all the service people were friendly and accommodating. Sure makes you want to come back. Mormon Tabernacle Choir was a special treat (we saw them twice) as was the inspirational and patriotic address by the son of our retiring president, Wayne Howarter. Thoroughly enjoyed the city tour, particularly the breathtaking view of Kennecott Copper Mine.

Thanks again to all the 34th organizers. As usual, they did a wonderful job and our hats off to them. Even the weather was made to order.

As you can tell, we had a bang up time, as did our daughter, Vivienne. Looking forward to next year.

Mendlesham Memories is a great magazine. We read every word and always look forward to the next issue.

CONNIE ROMERO DOMINQUE – LAFAYETTE, LA

In November 2001, during the Thanksgiving holidays, the family of Cleveland Romero, Jr. Traveled to Savannah, Georgia to visit the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum. Some drove from Louisiana and some from Florida, to spend a few days together and see the Ol' Buddy plaque in the Memorial Garden at the center.

As the sole survivor of the Ol' Buddy crew, Cleveland wanted to dedicate a plaque on the Walls of Valor in memory of his crew members that died when their plane was shot down over Germany on January 15, 1945. This wish became a reality when he received the funds for the plaque as a Father's Day gift from his wife, Henrietta and their six children. Unfortunately, our father passed away in January 2000, before seeing the completed plaque hanging in the Memorial Garden, as he and his family had planned to do. So, last fall, in his memory, his wife, Henrietta, along with children and grandchildren, made the trip to Savannah. They spent an entire day seeing the

exhibits, enjoyed lunch in the museum cafe and walked outside in the Garden and captured many memories on film to share with family back home.

At the end of the day, they visited the gift shop and enjoyed picking out lots of "Mighty Eighth" souvenirs to take home. As a special keepsake for all of dad's children and grandchildren - 22 in all), duplicates of his dog tags were made for each to have.

Everyone really enjoyed the trip together and the visit to the Mighty Eighth Museum and the Memorial Gardens will always be a special memory to the Cleveland Romero family.



Robert Romero, Macklyn Romero LaFleur, Henrietta Romero

Connie Romero Dominique, Glen Romero, Guy Romero

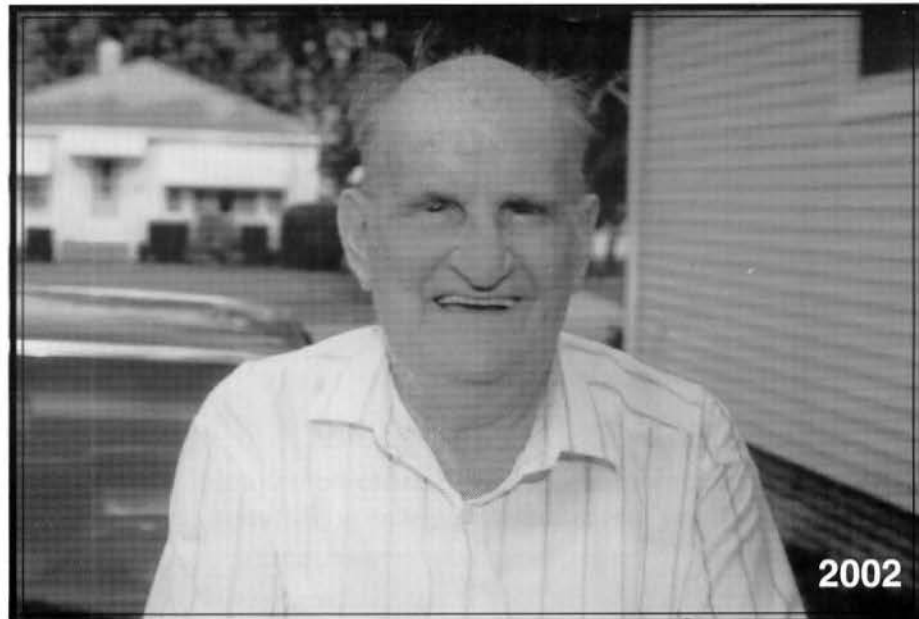
CLAUDE GIBBS – CATAWISSA, MO

I must comment on the excellent job done by the reunion committee this year. The service and food, along with the hotel staff's efforts to make our stay a pleasant one makes this reunion one of the more memorable ones. Thanks to all for a job well done.

We always look forward to receiving the Mendlesham Memories every quarter and looking forward to next year's reunion.

JIM HINCHEE – SALEM, VA

Sure did enjoy the reunion. It is always good to see old friends and make new ones. We left Salt Lake City and went down to the canyon. The view was beautiful. Stopped in Las Vegas and lost about \$5.00, figured we won. From there to Santa Maria, CA and then to San Francisco. Got home Oct. 6th. Always nice to go but nicer to get back home. Looking forward to the next reunion.



**AL
KONTE**

**THEN
&
NOW**



**RACHEL
AND
RAYMOND
LUCAS**



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| BETTIE MARTIN (JIM'S WIFE) | | | 10-23-02 | 13448 FM 1176 | SANTA ANNA | TX | 76878 |
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*Wishing All
a Very Merry Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year!*



Jack Share

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Pilot, 4th Squadron, Crew #12, April - Aug 1944