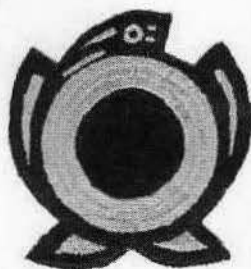




ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



391ST SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON

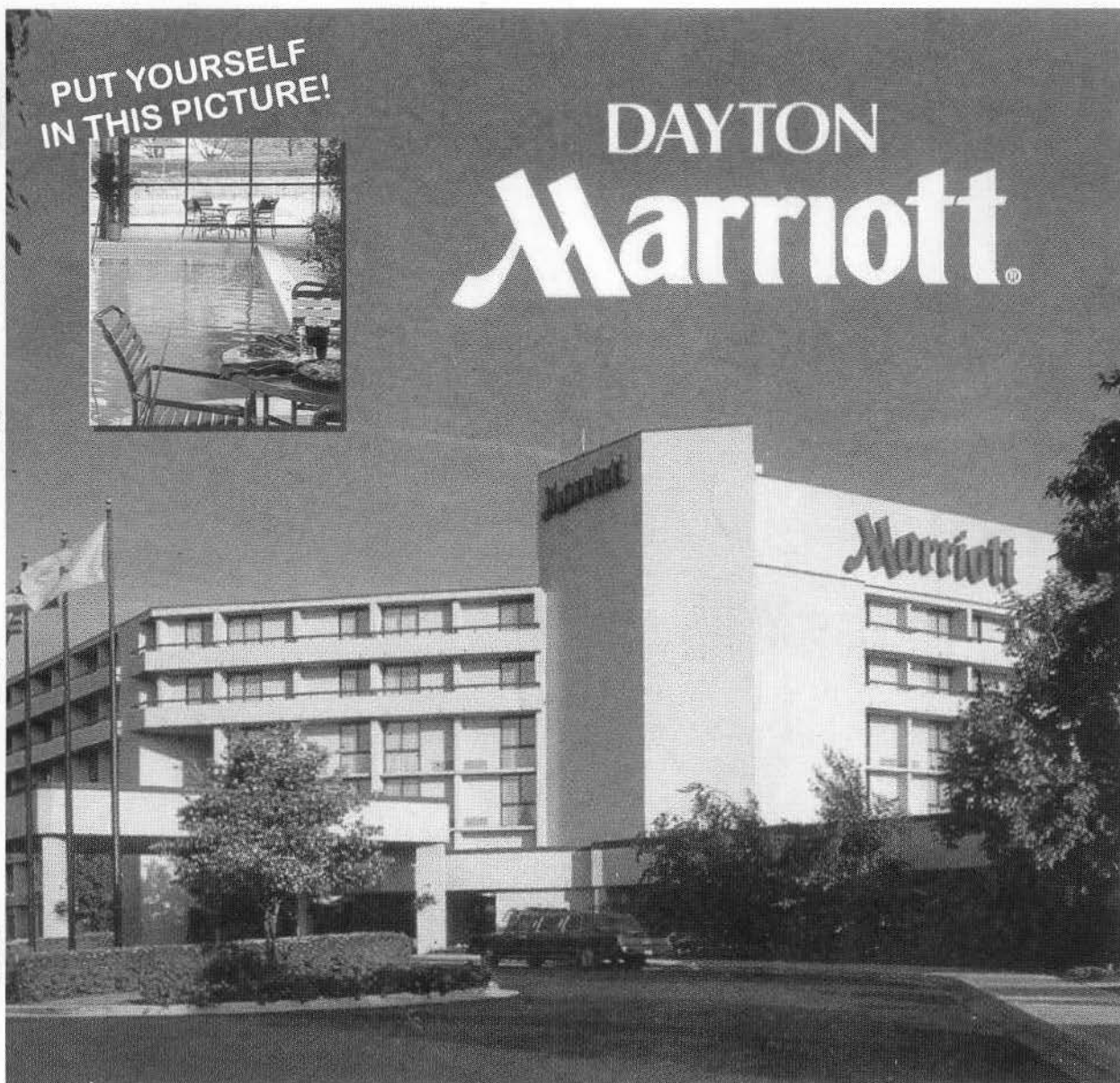


4TH SQUADRON

PUT YOURSELF
IN THIS PICTURE!



DAYTON
Marriott



DAYTON, OHIO

34th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION
SEPTEMBER 8 - 12, 2004

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 September 2004 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before July 15, 2004. All copy will be going to the publisher on that date.

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://old.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb/

Share - a thought...

I have notified most of those in my e-mail address file, but for others who might have occasion to get in touch with me, via the Internet, I have recently changed servers and my new e-mail address is: jshare@houston.rr.com.



The September issue of Mendlesham Memories will contain a new organizational roster, long over due. Since the last roster was put out in 2001, we have had numerous changes in addresses, new members, and most regrettable, deceased members. We will consider putting out a new roster on a yearly basis in the future due to the many changes taking place.

If all goes well, Marian and I will be going to Washington, DC over Memorial Day for the dedication of the World War II Memorial. We are going on a tour out of San Antonio that is being organized by a group of veterans in that area. We'll have more to say on that subject in the September edition of the newsletter.

This being the reunion information issue, now is the time we should all be thinking about and making plans to attend the annual get together in Dayton, Ohio. All the information you will need can be found on the following pages of this newsletter. The hotel reservation form, the reunion registration form and the reunion agenda are all included. Since it is virtually impossible for the reunion committee to know what the attendance will be, they can only estimate the number of rooms we will need from historical data. Therefore, it is imperative to register with the hotel, as soon as possible, to guarantee your stay in the headquarters hotel. Not that the back-up hotels are that bad, but it is more convenient to be where the action is. Wherever you will be staying, your time at the reunion will be enjoyable and we'll be looking forward to seeing old friends and hopefully, making new ones.

As I write this column on April 5th, it brings to mind an incident that took place 59th years ago when our B-17 was shot down and ultimately ditched in the North Sea. My pilot, George Mehling, and I correspond regularly with the cox'n of the British high-speed air-sea rescue craft that picked us out of the drink. His name is Aubrey Meadowcroft and he lives in Dorset near the south coast of England. We have both visited him and his wife in England. He is a member of the 34th BGA and he has made me an associate member of the British Air-Sea Rescue Association. What a great guy, we'll always be indebted to him.

September is just around the corner. Hope to see you all at the Dayton reunion.

Jack



From Hal's PC

I sure hope many of you are planning on attending the 2004 Reunion in Dayton. There is much to see around Dayton but the most interesting is the AIR FORCE MUSEUM at the Wright-Patterson Airfield! If you have never been to that museum let me

tell you, there is NO AIR MUSEUM like it anywhere in the world! The 8th AFHS had a reunion in Cincinnati around 1982 and the Museum was visited at that time from Cincy. At that time there were two buildings, which housed the museum, and there were many aircraft parked on the runways of Wright-Pat. A third building, about the size of the original two, was built and most of the aircraft are now protected from the Ohio weather. Additions since 1982 include the third building, an IMAX theatre, a control tower as well as an orderly room. Run AIRFORCE MUSEUM on DOGPILE or any search engine to find the Website for the museum.

And there is a portion of the grounds reserved for memorials of which the 34th was one of the first Bomb Groups to use. We placed a memorial there along with an OAK TREE in this memorial section and you can find it to the west of the large buildings. Whatever time the reunion committee allots for visiting, it will NOT BE ENOUGH to see the many exhibits!

There will be several important items to consider at the business meeting. With the advanced age of our members it behooves us to consider letting some of our second generation to have a hand in the management of 34th Bomb Group (H) Inc. This has already taken place in other groups and we need to consider how such action would affect the 34th BG. There is also the possibility of adding another Scholarship award to those we already sponsor. And there may be other items, which will be brought to the attention of the membership.

Jack has proposed issuing a 2004 ROSTER to go along with the September issue. If you, or anyone you know, has moved recently please let me know so that the correct address may be placed in the roster. Please send me a current telephone number if your AREA CODE has changed! With the price of LD calls now prevalent, it is cheaper for me to call you rather than send a letter!

And with that I'll stop for this issue. I surely hope to see many of you at Dayton in September!

Hal

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the year 2004 begins, the state of the 34th Bomb Group Association seems to be in pretty good shape. Because of the influx of associate members we have been fortunate to obtain, in recent years, the membership is actually growing. Something no one anticipated a few years ago. Because of this, our dues situation has improved keeping our financial situation relatively stable. All this in spite of the fact that the returns on our investments have declined considerably in recent months due to the low interest rates.

Also, because of our new members, the attendance at the annual reunions has stabilized at slightly under 200. However, facing reality, since our regular members are all in the 80 plus age it is anyone's guess how much longer we can keep going. This has been a question for the last few years and here we are still enjoying our annual get togethers. It is my feeling and hope that we are still good for a few more years.

Marian and I are looking forward to another great reunion at Dayton. We have made these reunions our annual vacation for years and time seems to stand still between Septembers and then bang here it is again. Due to Dayton being centrally located, it should be a well-attended gathering. We were at the Wright Patterson Museum several years ago and it was so interesting that we are looking forward to seeing it again with all the many changes that have taken place (and finding that memorial oak tree the 34th planted back in 1982). We are also looking forward to seeing all of you there, old friends, those that have never attended before and those that have missed a few of the more recent ones. Please start making your plans to attend. Your presence will be appreciated.

Jack Share,
President

Look on the Bright Side

A foursome of senior golfers hit the course with waning enthusiasm for the sport. "These hills are getting steeper as the years go by," one complained.

"These fairways seem to be getting longer too," wheezed a second.

"And somehow, the sand traps seem to be bigger than I remember 'em too," said the third.

Hearing just about enough from his buddies, the oldest, and the wisest of the foursome at 87 years, piped up and

said, "Oh my friends, just be thankful we're still on the right side of the grass!"



REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

We welcome everyone of you to the 20th Gala Reunion of the 34th Bomb Group (H) Association which will be held from 8 to 12 September 2004 at the Dayton Marriott Hotel, 1414 S. Paterson Blvd. Dayton, Ohio 45409. Dayton is the birthplace of powered flight. It was 101 years ago that Orville and Wilbur Wright, in their bicycle shop, made plans for their historical 12 second flight that helped change the World. We are fortunate to have the experience of growing up during these fast-changing times.

This issue of our newsletter, Mendlesham Memories, has the registration form for the hotel, museum tour and dinners. The hotel registration form is similar to our other reunions.

There will be a luggage pick up and shuttle service from the airport. NOTE: If you are traveling alone, you can ask others in the group to join you for a more reasonable fee to the hotel.

The United States Air Force Museum is the World's largest and oldest military aviation museum. The average tour takes about four hours - at your speed. There are some wheelchairs available, on a limited basis, for use inside the building. The displays consist of 300 aircraft and missiles. The museum has an Imax theater with a six-story screen and stereo sound system. Shows start on the hour. A gift shop, bookstore, model shop and poster shop are on the premises. A cafeteria is located on the second floor of the museum.

NOTE - The buses will leave the hotel at 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM. The return times will be announced on Friday, 10 September 2004.

In 1982 we were in Ohio with the 8th Air Force Historical Society and our group planted a memorial oak tree. We hope that all of us can be at the reunion to find "our tree". The control tower there was built by the 8th Air Force Historical Society and contains a block from every group's control tower that the 8th Air Force had in England during WWII. The museum opens at 9:00 AM and closes at 5:00 PM.

Remember - 17 August 2004 is the cut off date for registering at the Dayton Marriott Hotel. Our rooms are guaranteed until that date, after which you will have to contact the hotel. Their telephone number is 937-223-1000. Their fax number is 937-223-7853.

- ✈ Early registration: Wednesday, 8 September 2004, 1300 - 1600 hours.
- ✈ Registration on Thursday, 9 September 2004, 1000 - 1600 hours The registration table will be on the first floor.
- ✈ The Board of Directors' meeting will be Thursday, 9 September 2004 - 1400 to 1600 hours.
- ✈ Friday, 10 September 2004 will be "Tour Day" for our visit to the United States Air Force Museum
- ✈ The post exchange and hospitality suite to be open at hours yet to be determined.

We hope to see all of you at our 20th gala reunion in Dayton, Ohio.

If you are a member of the museum, bring you membership card with you for a discount on your purchases.

The reunion committee,

Harold Rutka
Robert Wright
Bruce Sothern

PASSING THE TORCH

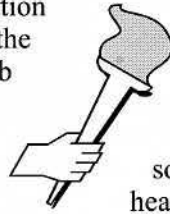
*Submitted by David Fieber
Second Generation Member 34th BGA*

The 2003 reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association in San Antonio was another absolute success. All of the members involved have again done a wonderful job organizing and planning the events and we should all be thankful for their hard work.

One of the optimistic things that I noticed at this year's reunion was that there seemed to be a greater number of second and third generation children in attendance than in past years. I bet the members of the 34th Bomb Group Association really appreciate it when their kids show an interest in the reunions. I know that my father is proud that Sonia and I have become involved with the 34th. Regrettably, I've only been to the last three reunions and I deeply lament that I didn't get involved earlier, at the time that my parents began participating. The first reunion I attended was in Savannah and it was only then did I begin to fully realize the value and importance of these gatherings.....And not only the importance to my father and all of the other veterans, but the historical importance to the past and future generations of citizens of the United States. I think that now the reunions are becoming as important to me as they are to my father. Faced with this awareness, I've been assessing all the reasons why my involvement with the 34th Bomb Group Association has become so meaningful in my life.

On the surface, the reunions are an opportunity for old friends and comrades to get together, visit and catch up on both old times and recent events. The reunions are fun, social events, something all members look forward to all year long. You will never meet a friendlier group of people. We have made lots of new friends in the past three years. I was touched to receive so many Christmas cards this holiday season from so many members of the 34th. So much has been made of this being the "greatest generation," but sometimes I fear that people will think this designation has been given by default, because compared to subsequent generations it does not seem to be much of a comparison at all. All one has to do is flip on the TV, go to a movie, or listen to today's music and it becomes apparent that a lot of what made our society great is no longer as evident. I'm sure a lot of you long for the days of decency and morals.

Today's world seems to be running wild, spinning out of control in a downward direction. I don't mean to say everything today is bad. Certainly, we live in a technologically superior time and in a country where we are free, enabling us to live our lives to the fullest, but as advanced as our lives have become, we seem to be losing the simplicity, the ability to take pleasure in the small joys that make our lives so meaningful. I think maybe that is the reason I enjoy the reunions so much, it's like being in a time warp, being transported to another place and time, to a simpler place and time. The first time I went to a reunion I told everyone that I'd never been around so many decent people at one time and that is so true. But underneath the obvious surface there are several other levels of value that the reunions embody. Maybe the most relevant today is that the reunions are a celebration of heroism and sacrifice, something that is on the minds of all citizens because of the recent actions in Iraq. The events of war seem to be at the forefront of our thoughts these



days, but even then I think most of us feel disconnected, far from harms way. Having never been subjected to the horrors of war, the stories and experiences of the many fine soldiers from the 34th Bomb Group has really opened my eyes to exactly what it is that the present day soldiers are experiencing. Talking to 34th members, hearing their trials and tribulations, really gives a deeper appreciation into the plight of the modern day soldier.

On another level, arguably the most important, the reunions are a remembrance of history. The events of World War II shaped the face of this planet. There weren't any of the gray areas associated with present day conflicts, it was black and white, the evil of the Nazis was unquestionable and without the involvement of America it is more than likely Hitler's Germany would've controlled Europe and dominated the world. The American and allied soldiers who lived and died, fought for a cause, fought for the preservation of freedom and human rights, and none of the sacrifices made on the battlefield, out at sea, or in the air were for nothing.

Unfortunately, I doubt that the events of the Second World War are even covered in most classrooms these days. Kids today probably think the V1 is a cable music channel. Besides, history is too often about other people in other places, events that, though they may affect us, don't appear to have anything to do with us, therefore not able to spark much interest. But that's precisely the advantage and value of the reunions; they give this generation access to the people who were actually there. There is no better or more interesting way to learn about history than from someone who has actually lived it. Thankfully, war is something that the majority of us will never have to experience. The closest we get to it is through movies or books, but viewed through these mediums, war is glamorized and sanitized, fed to a mass audience that is not intellectually equipped or interested in the reality of horror that makes up a full-scale conflict. But listening to a veteran relive the anguish of losing a friend, or losing a limb, or crashing in a plane, the horror of war, the reality of war, is clarified and everything else is put into perspective.

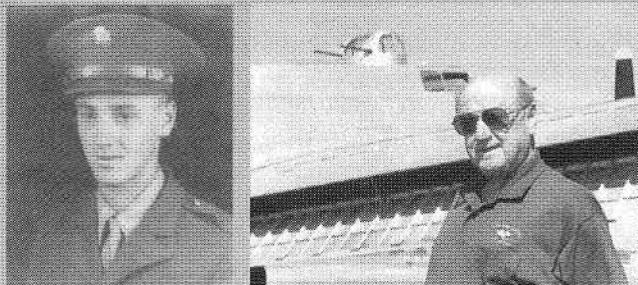
Another valuable aspect of the reunions, maybe just as important as the others, is the effect that the reunions have on our parents. In today's world we take too much for granted. But my general belief is that everything we have we owe to our parents. It is important that each of us take an interest in the plight that our fathers went through, to learn about the hard work and sacrifice that they endured in Europe. It would be nice to be immortal, but unfortunately no one lives forever and eventually it will be up to us to carry on the proud tradition of the 34th Bomb Group and to make sure that future generations are aware of what has gone on before them, what has gone on to make it possible that we have safe and secure lives. I think that too often we get caught up in our own lives and hectic schedules and we sometimes lose touch with our parents and all that they've done for us. Showing interest in the reunions and 34th is a way to acknowledge our parents and to say thanks for everything that they have given us. It may be difficult to individually determine what is the single most important

cont. on next page

sacrifice each of our parents has done for us, but as a nation there is no question that the biggest sacrifice was their involvement in World War II. As the years pass by, it becomes the responsibility of the second, third, and all future generations to carry on the proud tradition of the 34th Bomb Group. The best way to make sure we become involved is to become involved now, when we can still attend with our parents, so that we can see their faces and instantly know how important all of this is to them. I think that we owe it to our parents to keep the spirit and tradition of the 34th alive and ensure that future generations are aware of the honor and sacrifice that was exhibited during the Second World War. The reunions are a celebration for a generation that deserves each accolade that we can heap upon them. I hope that the traits of the "greatest generation" can be carried forward to future generations, just as the stories of heroism and sacrifice are carried forward from father to son, son to daughter, etc. I think it is up to all of the second and third generation children to honor our parents and make sure that what is special about each of them is given a prolonged existence through our actions and values.

My hope is that the members of the 34th Bomb Group appreciate this article. But my biggest aspiration is that children or grandchildren come across this article in their parent's Mendlesham Memories and they read it and begin to realize the level of importance that the 34th is to their parents. And that maybe they can find the time to attend the next reunion and experience for themselves just how special these reunions are. It will only be through future generational involvement that the proud legacy of the 34th Bomb Group will carry on.

IN MEMORIAM



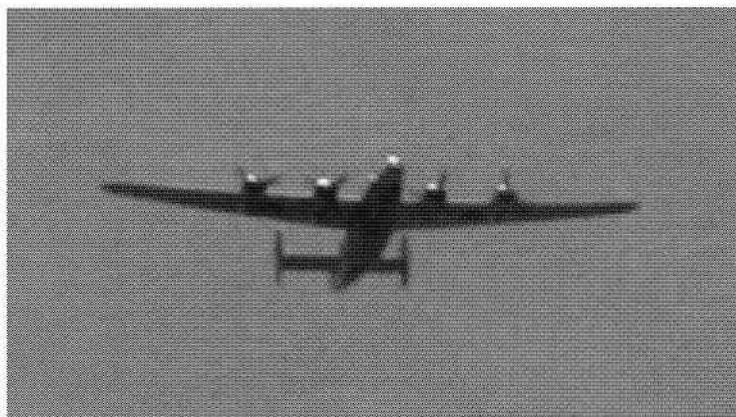
HERMAN G. FIEBER, JR.
1925-2004

On Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004 the 34th Bomb Group Association lost a loyal and active member. Herman Fieber and his wife Nancy attended many of our past reunions and more recently his son, David has become very active as an associate member and now a full member.

Herman was a tail gunner on a B-17 with the 34th Bomb Group and on January 17, 1945, while engaged in night landing operations at the Mendlesham airfield, his B-17 was involved in a horrible crash. Although badly burned, he survived the crash by being ejected from the plane. The rest of the crew perished. The next nine months were spent in an Army hospital recovering from his injuries.

Herman will be greatly missed by his family and friends and his many associates and comrades in the 34th Bomb Group Association.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his wife Nancy and their family.



MENDLESHAM HISTORY

Submitted by Walter Sturdivan - 18th Sqd

Some of our members have wondered who occupied Station 156 of the United States Army Air Forces at Mendlesham before the 34th arrived. A short excerpt from the history of the 1239th Quartermaster Company, which was assigned to the station, sheds some light on the matter.

On January 20, 1944, one officer and six enlisted men were assigned to the 83rd Station Squadron from various neighboring bases to form a Quartermaster Company. Captain Bertram S. Herman was put in charge.

At the same time these men arrived on the station, the RAF (Royal Air Force) was operating the base. There were two service groups of the 9th Air Force and a RAF/Czechoslovakian Spitfire Squadron in operation at the base.

On March 5, 1944, 2nd Lt. Grant F. Thuemmel joined Captain Herman for duty. Six other enlisted men joined them from Station 155.

It was the duty of these offices and men to see that the American personnel of the base were supplied with Quartermaster equipment and supplies. Two buildings in the Tech area were used at first.

On February 29, 1944, the 1239th Quartermaster Company was activated at Army Air Force Station 137 without personnel. On March 21, 1944, the company was transferred, on paper, to Station 156 and the officers and men who had been performing Quartermaster functions on the base were assigned to the company.

The sub-depot was being set up at this time so the Quartermaster Company relinquished its two warehouses to them and moved to the NAFFI building to the communal site for a short time.

Thirty-two men from the United States joined the Quartermaster Company on March 26th. The company now consisted of three officers and 49 enlisted men serving under Captain Herman.

The RAF/Czechoslovakian Spitfire Squadron and the 9th Air Force Service Groups had since moved off and the base was being used to house casual troops awaiting assignment to various stations.

On April 15, 1944, the RAF turned over the station to the United States Army Air Forces. By this time, the men of the 34th Bombardment Group had begun to arrive.

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VET: WWII US ARMY AIR CORPS\$4.00 EACH - OR - 3 FOR \$10.00

(NO SHIPPING CHARGES ON THIS ITEM)

REPRINT OF 34TH B.G. HISTORY BOOK, 1947 edition, EDWIN S. SMITH\$37.50ea.

PERMANENT NAME TAGS (First and last names & Sqdn. No)\$10.00ea.

LICENSE PLATE HOLDER (2 for \$5.00)\$ 3.00ea.

PATCHES - 34TH BOMB GROUP "VALOR TO VICTORY"\$5.00ea.

PATCHES - SQUADRON - 4th - 7th - 18th - 391st and Eighth Air Force.\$ 5.00ea.

DECAL - VALOR TO VICTORY - 5" X 5".\$ 1.50ea.

BUMPER STICKER - 34TH B.G. - 3" X 12"\$ 1.50ea.

HAT PINS (FOR DECOR) B-24 - B-17 or POW\$3.50ea.

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MEN'S POLO SHIRT W/POCKET AND 34TH B.G. Logo (Hunter Green & Cobblestone Biege)

M. LR. XLR. XXL\$25.95ea.

MEN'S POLO SHIRT (White W/ Logo - no pocket) X Large only\$25.95ea.

CAP - ROYAL BLUE or NAVY w Patriotic flag on bill\$8.50ea.

NEW ITEM (First shown @ San Antonio Reunion:

WHITE T-SHIRT W/POCKET & LOGO OF BOTH B-17 & B-24 ON FRONT & BACK - Picture on back shows

Our bright red rudder. Nice for warm weather & very colorfulALL SIZES - \$12.00 EACH OR 2 FOR \$22.00ea.

KEYRING - B-17, B-24 or 8th Air Force\$4.00ea.

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BELT BUCKLE "America's Heritage - The Right to Bear Arms"\$11.50ea.

- PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS DESIRED -

AND INCLUDE YOU TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH EACH ORDER (sometimes needed for clarification)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER

Please add \$3.50 postage for orders under \$20.00 and \$4.50 postage for orders \$20.00 and over

Send check or money order to: 34th B.G. PX

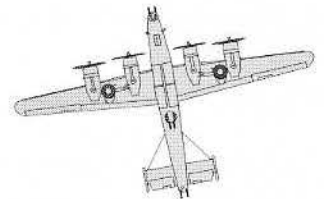
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6402 E. 11th St.

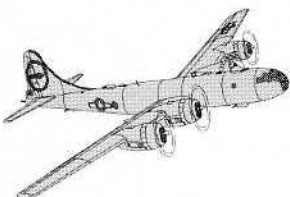
Wichita, KS 67206

Tel: (316) 683-2900

e-mail: kenpaxton@sbcglobal.net



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



Marriott. HOTELS & RESORTS

34th Bomb Group 20th Reunion



Dayton Marriott Hotel
1414 S. Patterson Blvd.
Dayton, OH 45409
Phone: (937) 223-1000
Fax: (937) 223-7853



Transportation to Hotel:

CHARTER VANS INC.
Airport Limousine & Other Transportation Services
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Airport Shuttle Transportation
Rates For Downtown Dayton Area
1 Person: \$30.00 one-way, \$57.00 round trip
2 or more people: \$15.00 per person one-way

For passengers arriving into Dayton Airport, our dispatch office is located in the baggage claim area by luggage carousel #1. We accept all major credit cards.

The Dayton Marriott Hotel, Dayton, Ohio, is pleased to host the 34th Bomb Group Association's reunion September 7-(12), 2004.

To ensure accurate reservations, please complete the reservation request and return it before August 7, 2004.

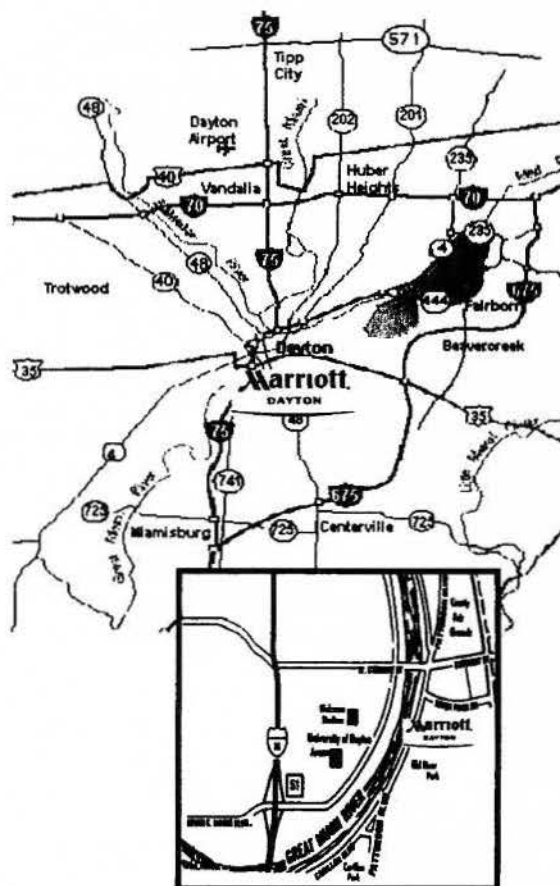
Reservation requests must be accompanied by a deposit equal to one night's room rate plus 13.5% occupancy tax or credit card number to guarantee a room. This deposit will be applied to the last night of the reservation.

All rooms: \$79.00 plus 13.5% tax = \$89.67

Room type preference: Single _____ Double _____ Triple _____ Quad _____

of Rooms: _____ # of People: _____

Please list any special requirements _____



Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Telephone: _____

Arrival Date: _____
Departure Date: _____
Additional Guests: _____

_____ I have enclosed a check in the amount of one night's room charge plus tax _____

_____ Please charge one night's room charge plus tax to the following credit card:

_____ Master Card _____ American Express _____ Visa _____ Diners Club _____ Discover

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

I understand that I will forfeit my deposit in the event that I do not arrive or cancel less than 72 hours prior to arrival.

Name of Credit Card Holder: _____

Signature of Credit Card Holder: _____

Check-in time after 3 PM; Check-out time is 12 NOON.

All hotel accounts are subject to credit arrangements at time of registration and payable on departure.



REUNION 2004

The 34th Bomb Group will hold it's Annual Reunion **from 8 - 12 September 2004** at the Dayton Marriott Hotel, 1414 S. Patterson Blvd., Dayton, Ohio 45409, Phone (937) 223-1000, Fax (937) 223-7853, www.marriott.com

Hotel Reservation Forms are included in this issue. Send your check or credit card number directly to the Hotel for lodging. Specify you are attending the 34th Bomb Group Reunion, along with your arrival and departure dates.

Complete the registration form below and return it with your remittance to:

Robert H. Wright
411 Parkovash Ave.
South Bend, IN 46617-1029
TX 574-232-4287

Make checks payable to **34th Bomb Group Association.**

34th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION-FOOD-TOUR REGISTRATION FORM

REGISTRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FEE \$15.00 EACH PERSON X_____ = _____
NOTE: Both Member and Spouse or Guest must pay.

9/10 Friday Air Force Museum Tour X_____ = _____
\$20.00 per person (lunch on your own)

9/10 Friday Dinner \$25.00 per person X_____ = _____

9/11 Saturday Gala Banquet \$25.00 per person X_____ = _____

TOTAL _____

Name _____ Spouse/Guest _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

NOTE: All prices include tax and gratuity.

Squadron _____ First Timer check here _____

Need name tags _____ Yes _____ No

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 17 AUGUST 2004

Full refund (less \$5.00 for Scholarship Fund) if notice of cancellation received by 1 September 2004.



WWII Bomber Crew Members Sought for History Project

Dr. Vernon Williams, professor of history at Abilene Christian University, has announced plans for a new oral history project focusing on B-17 and B-24 bomber crews who flew from bases in England in World War II. He would ask anyone who served on a bomber base including crewmen, ground personnel and medical staff to contact him. He plans to spend the next several years interviewing these men, their British hosts and the sense of community that held them together from 1942 to 1945 and examining their World War II experiences.

"The sudden appearance of the Eighth Air Force in rural England, the rapid growth of the number of bases over a short time frame, and the daily struggle for life and death over the skies of Europe made for a unique sense of community in these British villages and towns."

"This will be a monumental project but one that must be done now," Williams said. "We are losing over a thousand World War II veterans per day now, and there is a sense of urgency about this work to save the history of these men and women of World War II."

Veterans interested in participating in this project should contact Williams:

By phone: 915-674-2150
e-mail: vwilliams@acu.edu
or write to: Dr. Vernon L. Williams
ACU Box 28130
Abilene Christian University
Abilene, TX 79699

HUMANITARIANISM

Paul Shull, a member of the 34th Bomb Group Association flew his missions with the Oscar Hanson lead crew, 391st squadron. With one mission to go, they were shot down over Mersburg, Germany on November 30, 1944. German civilians killed four of the crew with the remaining five spending the duration of the war in Prisoner of War camps. Lindsey Lipscomb, bombardier, and Paul are the only members of the crew still living.

Paul is the Vice Commander of the East Valley Prisoner of War Chapter of Mesa, Arizona. At a recent meeting of their support group for ex POWs and their wives at the Williams Airport medical facility in east Mesa they bestowed an honorary membership on a very deserving young man named Charley Gentry.

Charley, a remarkable young man of 15 years, is the grandson of Preston E. Stone, a prisoner of the Japanese for 31 1/2 years during World War II, and his widow Margaret Stone, a member of the support group. It was through Margaret that the group met Charley who, for reasons doctors cannot explain, was born without arms and legs. He came to a few meetings and the group fell in love with him.

June Harris, a VA social worker who counsels veterans, said that Charley is a perfect fit for the group. With him in their midst, it makes the members open up, releasing pent up feelings about their war time experiences that have been haunting them for years. Charley, with his own personal problems, has brought everyone closer together with his positive attitude inspiring the whole group who in turn hope that their caring will help Charley.

When medical conditions permit, Charley attends public school and gets home schooling with a view toward a career in public speaking. He has already addressed several school functions. Last year, at a conference sponsored by a company that builds equipment for people with disabilities, he gave a very motivational speech to 900 people. A spinal injury last year left him paralyzed from the waist down limiting his activities.

As he was being presented with a hat, vest and other POW regalia, many of the vets and their wives cried. Charley smiled and said, "This is a real honor and privilege for me."



Paul Shull, Charley Gentry & James Nichols



**PROPOSED AGENDA
34th BOMB GROUP REUNION**

**DAYTON MARRIOTT HOTEL
DAYTON, OHIO**

CHECK THE HOTEL BULLETIN BOARD FOR ROOM LOCATIONS

WEDNESDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2004

1300 - 1600 hours EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (lobby area)

THURSDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2004

1000 - 1600 hours REGISTRATION (lobby area)
1400 - 1600 hours Board of Directors Meeting

FRIDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2004

0900 hours or Tour group departs for Air Force Museum.
1000 hours Lunch will be on your own, available at the
 museum. Tour lasts until 1600 hours.

1800 hours Cash Bar
1900 hours Dinner

SATURDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2004

0900 hours General Membership Meeting
 Lunch on your own/free time

1800 - 1900 hours Cash Bar
1900 hours Gala Banquet

SUNDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2004 Farewells until 2005

Post Exchange (Room 170) and Hospitality Suite (Dunbar Suite) to be open at hours yet to be determined.

Holland Food Drop Stories

Bob Ham - Ramseur, NC

Our B-17 crew, John Ferard, Pilot, arrived in England in January 1945 and flew 23 missions with the 34th Bomb Group. Soon after our combat missions ended in April 1945, our crew was assigned to fly Mann/Chowhound food missions to Holland. We flew the food drops from only 400 feet or less and in some cases we were only a couple hundred feet over the city - low enough to see the people waving their arms, clotheslines or anything to show their gratitude. Those few moments have given me cause to be proud to have been so lucky to be there for all the years since.

The rest of the story - 55 years later.

April 2000:

The day of celebration of 55 years since the Manna/Chowhound food drops took place in Holland. Our crew's navigator, John Feda, the present 34th Bomb Group Association's recording secretary, was one of the lucky dignitaries at the celebration.

My grandson, Major Scott Leonard was stationed in Germany as a C130 pilot at this time and was assigned to fly to Holland with several other C130's as part of the celebration. All planes carried souvenir packages of bread to be dropped, at low level, at different locations across Holland for the general public to gather.

At the time, Scott had never heard of my story of the World War II food drops but was very impressed with the events of the day and the Dutch people's expression of thanks. When he returned to his base, the TV carried coverage of the 1945 and 2000 events, which he taped. He phoned the folks back home in the States telling them of the days events. My daughter, Karen (his mother) told him she thought his granddad was involved in the 1945 food drops. Scott and I later got together and had fun talking about it.

The food drops were certainly an important event in my life, and turns out to be a shared event with my grandson.

Charles Metz - New Port Richey, FL

After finishing my missions, I had been acting Group Navigator after the regular Group Navigator, Major Harry Ackerman had been shot down, fate unknown. As a result, I was destined to stay at Mendlesham for a while longer and was soon appointed as Group Navigator.

In the spring of 1945, the Dutch people were starving. Even the German troops occupying the country were on short rations. Queen Wilhelmina of Holland made an urgent appeal to King George VI, President Roosevelt and Winston Churchill for some kind of emergency help to avoid a catastrophe.

The Allied military forces proceeded to work out a truce with the Nazis' whereby our bombers would drop food to the Dutch without fear of being attacked by fighters or anti-aircraft. As these negotiations were taking place, the operations people were experimenting with dummy packages of food to drop on airfields in England in order to determine the most effective way of dropping with minimum damage.

Since I had completed my thirty missions, I wasn't exactly tickled to death about flying another, even if it was a "mercy

mission", as it was called at the time. But, when I was approached about joining a Group Operations crew of Group Deputy Commanding Officer as pilot, Group Bombardier, Group Navigator, Group Radio Officer, etc. I wanted to be a part of it.

It was an experience I shall never forget, even though the high point lasted less than two minutes. As we passed over the drop zone, I looked down to see hundreds of people waving scarves and handkerchiefs, jumping up and down and clapping hands. One could not help but feel exhilarated at participating in such an act of humanity, and that it was worth every ounce of effort put into it.

The 34th Bomb Group put up a total 240 bombers between May 1 and May 7 which dropped a total of 442.4 tons of food into Holland. I remember hearing the story of one crew who, after making their food drop, looked down to see painted on a roof top the words, "Tobacco Please" and from another roof top that said, "Thanks Yanks."

The Dutch people have never forgotten this massive act of humanitarianism and are eternally grateful. We are only one generation away from those who suffered starvation and there are many in Holland today who had mothers and fathers and grandparents who survived only because of the food drops.

To quote from the January 1991 Newsletter of the International Mann/Chowhound Brotherhood (of which I am a member), "To this day each generation is taught the history of this dramatic time in the lives of the Dutch...."

FROM BLYTHE TO MENDLESHAM

From Walter Sturdevan, 18th Sqd

Radio Operator on Capt. Russell (Swede) Lindstrom's crew

As most of us remember, we left Blythe, California with 72 brand new B-24D Liberators the last of March or first of April, 1944. We flew out at a rate of 10 per day taking the southern route through Brazil, Africa, up to Valley Wales and on to Mendlesham. We were all very proud of our new aircraft.

Our crew flew our Liberator DUGAN WAGON on many practice missions as well as combat missions until July 24, 1944. On this memorable day, we loaned our plane to the 2nd Lt. Eugene N. Harre crew - it didn't return. The following is the official record of what happened:

18th Squadron 34th Bomb Group July 24, 1944

A/C 42-94757 of this group suffered a direct hit on number four engine with the engine being completely shot off. Number three engine caught fire and then A/C was seen to go into a flat spin which tightened as the plane went down. A/C exploded on impact. One crew member reports seeing one chute, however, this is not substantiated by other crews. This was West of St. Lo. They were not attacked by fighters.

Signed by: Samuel T. Turnspeer, Jr.

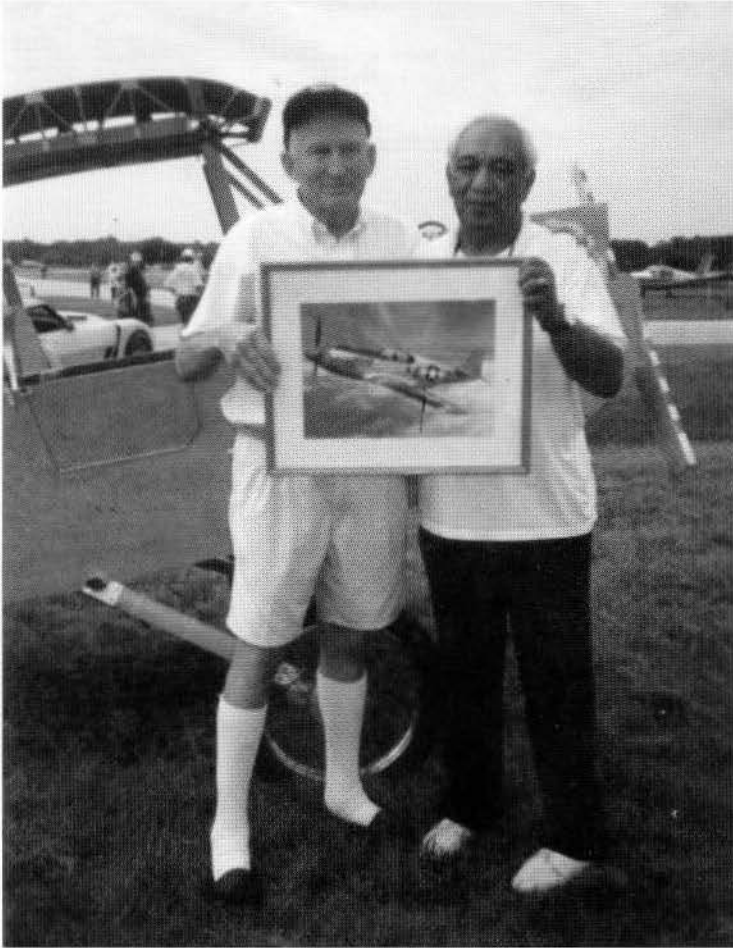


FRIENDS WRITE

FRED BERGLUND - TITUSVILLE, FL

As the guest of Judge Robert Decatur, a black Tuskegee airman and a P-51 pilot in WWII, I attended the dedication of a new \$35 million building at McDill Air Force Base on February 10, 2004. The building was dedicated in the name of four star general, Benjamin O. Davis, a black aviation pioneer who graduated from West Point in 1936.

Judge Decatur flew 39 missions protecting bombers from Italy to Germany in WWII. Records show that not one B-17 was shot down when the Tuskegee Airmen were flying cover.



Fred Berglund with Judge Robert Decatur
at the Florida dedication

ROBERT HOBAN - CHANHASSEN, MN

Just to bring you up to date on the John Beyer crew of the 391st squadron. The bad news is coming too frequently of late. There are only three of our crew who survive:

Lawrence Banfield - Waist gunner
Williard Stelling - Ball turret gunner
and myself - Bob Hoban - navigator.

Enjoy the Mendlesham Memories and am grateful for all the fine work you and the staff do to keep us up to date.

Enjoy Each Day!

GORDON BREEDING - ALPENA, MI

I was going through some pictures in my files and came across these souvenir photos. One taken in January 31st, 1944 at the Florentine Gardens in Hollywood. The other was taken in the night club in the World Famous, Kitty Davis Airliner in Miami Beach, Florida.



Gordon And Nellie Breeding At The
Florentine Gardens - Hollywood



At The Kitty Davis Airliner - Miami Beach
2nd Couple From Left - Gordon And Nellie Breeding

GREG TORREY - BROOKLYN, NY

Last week I had occasion to be in London on business. I took an extra day, rented a car and drove out to Mendlesham. The town, of course, is right out of central casting, "Get me a typical English village".

A guy who ran a fish and chips place in town directed me to the memorial, I had passed it coming into town.

I found it and parked my car on the road next to the memorial. I paid my respects. It was still winter and the rose bushes were barely green, but I'm sure they will look terrific when Spring comes. Things look in order. There are some artificial flowers and a small typewritten message from a local family thanking you all for your efforts in ridding the world of the Nazi horrors.

cont. on next page
Page 13

From the main road you can make out some of the original airfield buildings, they are now part of a fenced-off industrial area.

Lunch time was near so I went to the nearest pub, The Magpie, for what else - fish and chips. While there I drank a toast to my Dad, and a toast to the rest of you folks, those still with us and those who have gone west.

WALTER STURDIVAN - STOCKTON, CA

Lt. Paul Robert is shown with newly presented Purple Heart Medal on his pocket.



Paul was a lead crew navigator, on Russell (Swede) Lindstrom's crew, in the 18th squadron, 34th Bomb Group. He received the medal for a hand wound received on the Politz, Germany mission on May 29th, 1944. After completing the mission over Germany, the group was led between two flak batteries near the city of Antwerp, Belgium. This was where the German gunner got lucky. On the way into Mendlesham Air Base the crew was given priority for landing. There was no lingering effect from the wound and Paul continued on finishing his tour on December 15, 1944 when he returned to the United States. No other member of the crew was injured during out tour. I was the radio operator.

WILLIS GRIFFIS - VERNON HILLS, IL

Thought I'd pass on some information on the Wright-Pat Museum at Dayton, OH. I spent a day and a half there and still didn't see everything I wanted to. My suggestion for those coming to the reunion is to come a day early or stay over a day and really see this fabulous place.

As for picture taking, a flash will help a little. Better to use 400 or 800 speed film.

BOB WRIGHT - SOUTH BEND, IN

Took in an air show at Punta Gorda and met Col. Morgan who was the pilot of the Memphis Belle. He isn't very talkative but had a nice visit.



Colonel Morgan, pilot of Memphis Belle and Bob Wright

AL ISRAELSEN - BALTIMORE, MD

Again, your March issue of Mendlesham Memories has many items of interest to this long time reader. Your cover brings back the chills of those cold winter months in England - and I was there for just a couple of them.

Your page on the care of the Mendlesham Memorial and the letter from Sylvia and Leslie Lummis are particularly interesting. I am pleased to see that the Church of St. Mary had the roll of honor read and candles lit for our 190 comrades who did not come home with us.

I am impressed by the continued care of the Memorial over all these years by those folks in Mendlesham. I was fortunate to be able to visit the memorial once, in 1963.

And I am happy with the decision of the Reunion Committee to hold the reunion this year in Dayton. There is a 34th Bomb Group Memorial there too. As I recall, our group has memorials at Barksdale AFB and at the AF Academy. Do any of these other memorials get some attention like the Mendlesham Memorial does? Another attraction at Wright-Patterson AFB is that outstanding museum. It surely must be the premier military air museum in the world at this point. Hope to get to the reunion with some hours to spend at that museum again.

KAY HUGHES

Here's my check to renew "Mendlesham Memories". I have been an associate member for one year and look forward to reading each issue.

cont. on next page

Friends Write, continued

BOB STONEHAM - TIFFIN, OH

Sorry for the tardiness in paying the dues, but with family in and out of hospital it just slipped my mind.

Latest contact with my engineer's wife found that Wooten Young lost a leg and had to be put into a nursing home. I am sure he would enjoy hearing from any old buddies.

BETTY PATRICK - TERRE HAUTE, IN

Going out on a limb by sending you dues for 2005.

Tom has been revived and by passed from his heels to his collar bone. Plus a pace maker and surgery for prostate cancer and 38 radiation treatments. here I am paying his bills and he is out running around at 80; I am 81.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
FANGUY	FLOYD, J	4	112 MAGNOLIA COURTYARD,	HOUMA	LA	70364
FARBO	JOHN, L	391LM	41 HEATH VLG	HACKETTSTOWN	NJ	07840
KRAMSCHUSTER	EUGENE	391LM	4423 E. HAMILTON AVE	EAU CLAIRE	WI	54701
LEATH	JOHN, W	391LM	70200 DILLON RD SPCE	DESERT, HOT SPRINGS,	CA	92241
MANKIN	CLEON, J	4	1508 MONTEREY LN SW	ROCHESTER	MN	55902
WEAVER	CHARLEY	7LM	8910 E MAIN ST	REYNOLDSBURG	OH	43068
UNDERWOOD (Larry),	CAROLYN, W	4LM	PO BOX 352	FRANKLIN SPRINGS,	GA	30639

TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BEYER	JOHN, J	391	01-?-04	PO BOX 272	PRAIRIE LEA, TX		78661
DIETZ	EDWIN, C	391LM	06-05-03	905 MOCKINGBIRD LN	LUFKIN	TX	75904
FIEBER	HERMAN, G	18	04-11-04	3905 NOEL PL.	BAKERSFIELD, CA		93306
GIVEN	RICHARD, J	391	11-06-03	PO BOX 716	SILVER STAR, MT		59751
MEDART	ERVIN, B	391	01-?-03	14883 MEDART RD	WEST FORK, AR		72734
STOUFFER	RICHARD, R	7	?	1807A GLENWOOD OAKS	URBANNA, IL		61801
THOMAS	JAMES, A	18LM	03-24-03	1539 E. OAKLAND AVE	TULARE	CA	93274

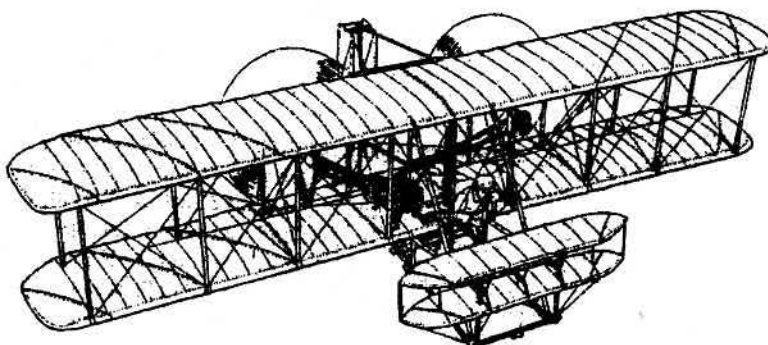
NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
GIVEN	RICK	391A	18879 UPPER PLEASANT RIDGE RD	CALDWELL,	ID	83605

DONATIONS TO THE RAY L. SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory Of
JAMES A. THOMAS

Donor
HIS WIFE, ELEANOR



Wright Brothers' Flyer (1902). The first sustained, controlled, human-carrying flight by a powered heavier-than-air craft was made on December 17, 1903 at Kill Devil Hill, near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. Both the engine and the airplane were designed by the American brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright (1867-1912; 1871-1948). The original *Flyer*, first flown by Orville, had a wingspan of 40 feet 4 inches and was 21 feet long. The four-cylinder internal-combustion engine was rated at 8-12 hp.

From the Central New York Chapter
8th Air Force Historical Society

I'M PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

I am proud to be an American
And I am thankful that I am free.
They were justified, those brave men who died,
To guaranteed our liberty.
Here, we still possess our four great freedoms,
Denied to many in the World,
And my eyes are filled and my heart is thrilled,
When the Stars and Stripes are unfurled.

I am proud to be an American,
Paul Revere did not ride in vain;
Historic Bunker Hill is shining still
Baptized with glory and with pain!
The tired Minutemen will not march again
And their long muskets mold and rust
But they gave you and me a legacy,
And we dare not betray their trust.

I am proud to be an American
And to watch a parade passing by,
To eat hot dog buns and watch big home runs,
Then come home to fresh apple pie,
Not any land like this in all the World....

God bless our great Democracy!
The Bill of Rights and Oklahoma nights
Have made a patriot of me!

I am proud to be an American,
A citizen beneath her sky:
The right to congregate and celebrate
Great days like the Fourth of July!
Although our flag has been torn and tattered,
By the rough hands of malcontents,
They cannot destroy not dilute the joy
Of our forefathers, testaments.

On a summer's night
The Constitution makes me proud;
I feel like a son of George Washington
Singing Freedom's song, clear and loud!
Let's all go to a bucking rodeo
Or to a giant fireworks' display.
And when flares burst bright
I am glad to be an American.

Let's thank God for the U.S.A.!

Author Unknown



Jack Share
22 South Avonlea Circle
The Woodlands, TX 77382
(936)273-3561

34th Bomb Group



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From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

Pilot, 4th Sq., Crew No. 12, April - Aug 1944