



ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



4TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON



JOHN FEDA - President 2005

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of
The 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc.
www.excel-tech.com/34th/

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

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DEADLINE



All material and items for the March, 2005 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before January 15, 2005. All copy will be going to the publisher on that date.

Jack Share, editor

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Other web sites of interest:

www.mighty8thmuseum.com
www.air-museum.org/b17.htm

Passing the Gavel



At the Annual Reunion in Dayton, Ohio on September 11th, 2004, John Feda became the 21st president of the 34th Bomb Group Association.

John has been very active in the organization for many years and for the past seven has more than adequately filled the position of recording secretary.

John and his wife, Betty Mae live in Marshall, Minnesota where they raised their six children who have blessed them with eight grandchildren.

After his World War II service as a B-17 navigator on the Ferard crew, he returned to Marshall and attended college under the GI Bill. Upon graduation, he began his career in public education as a teacher, principal, superintendent of schools and Minnesota Commissioner of Education, retiring after 33 years of service.

The 34th Bomb Group Association is in good hands for the coming year and we wish John well in his term as our president.

Past President's Report

The 34th Bomb Group Association was organized back in 1983 for the purpose of preserving the incidents and memories of our time spent in Mendlesham and to share some quality time with those with whom we served. Through the years, many friendships have been renewed, many new ones made. But now that we are coming to the end of our active lives, we are turning to our offspring, 2nd generation members, to carry on the legacy. One of my goals, in my year as president, was to go out of office with more 2nd generation members involved in the operation of the organization than when I came in.

With already two of our younger generation members in crucial positions, Gary Ferrell, Archivist and Jack Steffen, board member, this year we have added two more to the board of directors, David Fieber and Scott Mackey and Bonnie Zyslsta as Treasurer to replace the retiring Hal Province.

It appears that the transition is rapidly taking place and the future of our association seems secure. If I had one small part in making this happen, I feel my term in office was a success. Whether or not I had anything to do with it is immaterial. What is important is that it is happening and that makes us feel good.

Jack Share

SPECIAL \$20 DUES \$20 NOTICE

At the general membership meeting of the 34th BGA reunion, held recently in Dayton, OH, the membership voted to raise the dues from \$10.00 to \$20.00

Our dues have been \$10 since the 34th Bomb Group Association was organized twenty years ago. Due to the numerous life memberships that were purchased in the past, and with membership dues and interest on investments, we have always had ample funds to pay for the publication of Mendlesham Memories. In recent years, because no one is signing up for life memberships anymore and the low interest rates, it has become necessary to pay for the cost of the newsletter with our savings. If this continues, without taking some measures, we will be broke within a few short years or the newsletter will become a thing of the past.

The increase in associate members will help our situation, but not enough. It is for this reason that we feel obligated to increase the annual dues to \$20, which is what most other organizations such as ours have been charging for many years. We have put it off for as long as we feel we can.

You might check the financial report we received from the treasurer at the recent Dayton, OH reunion for a look at our present financial situation. You will find that in the Board of Directors minutes in this issue.

Since most of our Life Members have been so for many years, along with raising the dues, the members also voted to request an additional \$10 assessment from ALL present Life Members to help alleviate our precarious financial situation.

All of this information can be found in the Minutes of the General Membership Meeting published in this issue.

Thanks you for your cooperation in guaranteeing that our organization will endure for at least a few more years to come.

Your Board of Directors

Send your 2005 dues to:

**HAROLD PROVINCE
31 SHORE CREST CIRCLE
CARRIERE, MS 39426**

Thank you Hal, for your many years of selfless service to the 34th Bomb Group Association.

We all wish you well for the future. And thanks for helping us with the transfer of responsibilities.

Share - a thought...

The recent 34th Bomb Group Association reunion in Dayton, Ohio saw some significant changes in the organization. We were all extremely disappointed when our Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary announced that, due to personal reasons, it wouldn't be possible for him to continue with those responsibilities.



Jack Share

Hal Province has certainly been one of the main reasons for our success, having served in those positions since 1987. His timely investments have provided additional funds through the years to enhance our treasury that helped to keep our annual dues at the continuous \$10 level for all these years.

His contacts with 34th families have contributed to their finally knowing what happened to their loved ones and the crew. He has been instrumental in providing important information for Mendlesham Memories and for all that, we are deeply indebted.

Replacing Hal will be a 2nd generation associate member of the 34th who is one of those dedicated to keeping the organization alive. Her name is Bonnie Zylstra and she is the niece of Norm Mayer, long time member and past president of the 34th BGA. The information as to where to send your annual dues will be found on the following pages of this newsletter

Also at the reunion, due to the seriously deflated funds in the treasury, the membership voted to increase the annual dues from \$10.00 per year to \$20.00. Also, since most of our life members have been so for a long time, we are asking for an additional assessment of \$10.00. These measures are absolutely necessary in order to continue with the quarterly publication of this Mendlesham Memories newsletter.

Another of our problems is once again with the United States Postal Service. Those that have received their September issue should consider themselves fortunate. Many, many - and that includes me - never received them and our chances at this late date are not bright. That's all I can tell you since the post office turns a deaf hear and silent tongue when questioned. Perhaps we will receive them at a future date - but don't hold your breath.

Jack



John J. Feda

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Annual Reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association was held in Dayton, Ohio, with 197 registered attendees. The Reunion Committee did a great job making all the arrangements. The self-guided tour of the Dayton Air Force Museum rekindled our memories of the WWII era. All the types of planes we flew

were on display with descriptions of the role each played in that war period. Memorable displays included: POW camps, WASPS (Women Army Service Pilots), Tuskegee Airmen, the Home Front, Manna-Chowhound missions, a Holocaust exhibit, the history of flight, etc. The Memorial Garden included the 34th Bomb Group Plaque and the oak tree we planted years ago.

President Share followed this historical theme with a thorough resume of the formation and growth of our Association during his banquet speech.

During the Board of Directors' meeting and during the General Membership meeting a considerable amount of time was devoted to the FUTURE of the Association and of the MENDLESHAM MEMORIES. The consensus was that MM is our lifeline and all efforts should be made to continue with the quality publication we have enjoyed in the past. To make this possible and to adjust to our declining membership numbers, the general membership did adopt a \$10 increase in dues for this next year and also a \$10 assessment for all Life Members. The 2004 roster shows that 18% of our members are Life Members who do not pay yearly dues.


A few years ago we changed our by-laws to open the door for Associate Members to play a more active role in the Association. From the roster of 2001 to the roster of 2004, our Associate Membership has grown from 90 members to 194 members.

As we all grow older, the nominating committee has been challenged to get candidates who will accept offices in the Association. The Committee has turned to the next generation, our Associate Members. For 2004 - 2005, we have five Associate Members as officers in our Association. One is our Archivist, one is our Treasurer/Corresponding Secretary and three are Board members.

I consider being selected as your president for next year as a distinct honor. I will promise to attempt, in every possible way, to continue the exemplary leadership that has been given to our association in the past.

This edition will be coming to you in December, so I will wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



John J. Feda

Reunion Committee Report

The 20th Annual 34th Bombardment Group (H) Reunion is now history. The Dayton Marriott Hotel did all they could to help make our reunion a wonderful opportunity to meet old friends and to make some more new ones. We had 197 people in attendance and we would have had more people if our Florida and surrounding area friends were able to attend, but the hurricanes prevented them from attending. They were in our thoughts and prayers.

Our visit to the Air Force Museum was well attended and we were impressed by how it has grown since our trips there with the 8th Air Force Historical Society in 1976. We did locate the 34th Bomb Group tree and the memorial marker. The memorial marker is loose which will have to be corrected. The United States Air Force Museum is the largest and oldest military aviation museum in the world. The displays ranged from the days of the Wright Brothers to the space gallery and the presidential aircraft. I was disappointed that the B-24 did not have a ball turret, but it was a replica of the Ploesti raids that were conducted at 500 feet. Those that have not visited the museum should put it in their future plans.

The Registration Committee was busy, as usual, and the registration location facilities were the best that they had had in

20 years. The Annual Meeting was well attended. Harold Province, gave his Treasurer and Scholarship reports. Harold Rutka, chairman, reported for the Reunion Committee. Jack Share, president and editor, spoke on the cost of Mendlesham Memories. We discussed the cost, but felt that without the newsletter there would be no 34th Bomb Group Association. Ken Paxton gave his PX report.

Many thanks, to all, for making Dayton another successful reunion. Our 21st annual 34th Bomb Group reunion will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, September, 2005. The schedule will be in our next issue of Mendlesham Memories. We hope that we will show another increase of family members and guests in Albuquerque in '05.

We wish everyone good health, peace and much happiness in the coming year. Have a great holiday and a wonderful New Year.

The Reunion committee:
Harold Rutka, chairman
Robert Wright
Bruce Sothern

Registered Attendees At The 2004 Reunion Of The 34th Bomb Group Assoc.

Clarence & Rita Arand
Paul & Beryl Anderson
Lawrence & Lucille Babcock
Charles & Roberta Barclay
Thomas & Madeline Belleau
Alfred & Doris Benardo
Paul Bourquin
Hollis B. Carlile
Claude & Genevieve Conklin
Charles & Lorraine Conway
Anthony & Mary Coutros & sons
Harry & Donna Crawford &
four guests
John Denko &
Andy Lauf & Mark Lauf
Robert L. Duacts
Harold & Darlene Dwyer
Bernadette Farley
John & Betty Mae Feda
Nancy Fieber
David & Sonia Fieber
Dale & Margie Finley
Abe & Ernestine Firestone
Carroll & Sylvia Forister,
daughter Vivienne & Stuart
Kueneker & son Emmett
Robert, Martha, Rick & Sherill Fox
Dale & Esther Frank
George F. Gillespie
Willis Griffis & Ed Morrison
Walter & Dorothy Grimes
Carolyn Guertin & Florence
Anthony & Joan Habiger
Herbert & Doris Hall

Ambers & Jean Hanson
Glenn Henry
Pap & Lula Mae Hetherington
Jim & Dickie Hinchee
Verbal & Betty Holcomb
Norman H. Hyman
Lloyd & Marla Inman
Al & Agnes Israelsen
Kivett Ivey & daughter
Mike & Margie Jacobbausk
William M. Jaqua
Lois Johnson
Dexter & Beulah Jordan
Ray & Ruth Kubly
Betty Lampey & son Scott
Eric & Alice Mackey
Scott Mackey
James F. Martin
Gerald, Betty, Gary May
& Carol Groves
& Marlene & Joe Maher
Norman Mayer & Louise Crew
Paul & Hazel Mueller &
six guests
Fred & Ginny Muentz &
daughter, Marilee Nord
Paul & Twyla Meeder
Clayton Mink & daughter Pamela
John & Liz Noe
Bobb & Ginny Pacholski
Valerie L. Payne
Ken & Kathleen Paxton, sons,
Keith & Richard & Boyd
Niederlander

Philip & Frances Podulka & Dick Strang
Harry & Mary Prillaman
Hal & Jan Province, son Kieth & Phyl
Gamble
Floyd & Miriam Richmond & Thelma
Warfield
Herb & Joyce Roy
Harold & Genevieve Rutka
Robert & Jennie Schoeder
& George & Debra Garbiso
Jack & Marian Share,
daughter Diane Marlette &
grandson, Scott Carruthers
Donald L. Shee
Paul & Pauline Shull
Charles & Henrietta Siragusa
Frank & Alda Sivret
J.C. Smith
Oren & Lois Smith
Bruce Sothern & son Gregg
James & Virgiline Spenser
Jack & Linda Steffen
Carl & Peg Stemen
Donald & Evelyn Stufflebeam
Walter Sturdivan
W. Hal & Ruby Thorpe
Charles Thurner & his five children
Henry & Audrey Tobiason
Vito & Christensen Violante
Frederick & Blanche Voss
Oral Walker & two guests
Benson & Margaret Workman
Robert H. & Esther Wright
Benjamin and Edith Zeldes

RAY SUMMA -34th BOMB GROUP SCHOLARSHIPS 2004 WINNERS

After considerable deliberation by the judges, the following Scholarship Applicants were judged the winners of the 2004 Ray Summa Scholarship awards:

First Award \$1,000.00

Jonathan Bonnet of Springboro, Ohio, sponsored by Clarence Arand 391st BS.

Second Award \$750.00

Megan Lauf of Wake Forest, NC, sponsored by John Demko 18th BS.

Third Award \$500.00

Victoria Garcia of Snohomish, WA, sponsored by Wallace B. Lee of the 18th BS.

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 Mendlesham Memories a photograph of the winner and sponsor (if possible) for publication in March 2005 Mendlesham Memories.

All of the 2004 Applicants and their sponsors, and the membership of the 34th BG are to be congratulated for their participation in the important Ray Summa 34th Bomb Group 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 the diligent work of judging the 2004 Ray Summa-34th Bomb Group Scholarship Awards Program.

Respectfully submitted,

The Scholarship Committee

John Feda, Ambers Hanson, Robert Vaughn, Hal Province

REUNION IN CALIFORNIA

Joe Rapisarda and I, Bruce G. Bleeker trained together at several bases in the USA and then joined the 34th Bomb Group in Blythe, CA. We shipped overseas with the group after D Day on Capt. William L. Kelley's plane called Shakey or perhaps at that time Asphodel. Among others on that flight were F/O Edward J. Gronkowski, the navigator, and Cas Surek and Carl A. Benson as passengers. Details of that flight are chronicled in a previous Mendlesham Memories.

Joe recently visited me for a mini-reunion. We had only seen each other once in the past 60 years. As fuzzy recollections quickly sharpened, it seemed as if we were recalling events that had happened only last Tuesday.

One of the many events remembered was the chow missions over Holland. We had both flown on those missions and were deeply impressed. My son's father in law was then a boy in Holland who stood watching the food fall from the planes and he says without that food they may have starved to death.

My tennis partner also relates the same experience - one they'll never forget and to this day are very grateful.

The pictures show Joe, on the left, and me, on the right. One was taken in 1944 outside the Radar shop and the other 60 years later outside my home in Santa Cruz, CA.

We would be happy to hear from our old buddies.

Bruce G. Bleeker

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831-426-7464

Email: blbleeck@aol.com

Joseph P. Rapisarda

5924 Park Creste, Dr
Glen Allen, Va 23059
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RapJos@aol.com

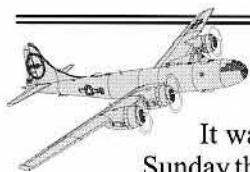


PX Order Form

AUTO WINDOW STICKER - 2"X4 BLACK AND SILVER	
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.
WINGS - (about 2") - PILOT - BOMBARDIER - NAVIGATOR - GUNNER OR FLIGHT ENGR	\$4.00ea.
WINGS (about 1")	\$3.00ea.
TIE TACK - 4TH - 7TH - 18TH - 391ST Sqdns and 8th Air Force	\$ 4.00ea.
BALL POINT PEN (retractable) DK. BLUE W/GOLD LETTERS (34TH BG, 8TH AF)	\$ 2.00ea.
VIDEO TAPE 58 mins. (" Start Your Engines + 50Years")	\$19.95ea.
MEN'S POLO SHIRT W/POCKET AND 34TH B.G. Logo (Hunter Green & Cobblestone Biege)	
M. LR. XLR. XXL R	\$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 colorful	\$14.00ea.
KEYRING - B-17, B-24 or 8th Air Force	\$4.00ea.
KEYRING with leather back	\$6.00ea.
BOLO TIE - B-17 OR B-24 or 8th Air Force	\$6.00ea.
BOLO TIE with Mother of Pearl background	\$10.00ea.
BELT BUCKLE "America's Heritage - The Right to Bear Arms"	\$11.50ea.
MEN'S ROYAL BLUE POLO SHIRT	\$22.00
HAT PIN - "Valor to Victory"	\$5.00

- 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, Ken Paxton, 6402 E. 11th St., Wichita, KS 67206, Tel: (316) 683-2900, e-mail: kenpaxton@sbcglobal.net



PX Report

It was thrill to look at all of the Air Force planes and everything at Wright Patterson, Dayton. We returned on Sunday the 12th. It was a wonderful reunion.

We are looking forward to our 34th Bomb Group license plate being back in stock right away. It is the same beautiful design and colors as our previous plates, however, it will be on plastic, or composite and will hold up extremely well. It will sell for \$10.00 and will be arriving in a quantity we can handle without going into the next century. Thanks to Bob Wright for locating this supplier.

Next new item arriving is a new royal blue polo shirt, with the pocket, and our same logo on it. It is a mostly cotton shirt and will sell for \$5.00 less than our other polo shirts; which, incidentally, are still in stock.

Our new belt buckles that we had our Dayton reunion are good looking and popular. Chose of B-24, B-17 or "Right to Bear Arms".

One new video is in stock, "Behind the Wire" is the story of our men in prisoner of war compounds during WWII and their attempt to escape. Our other video, "Start Engines Plus 50 Year" had Paul Shull in it and has been in stock but can buy either now for \$19.95.

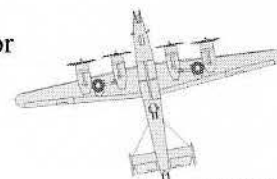
Kivet Ivey has brought his book up to date including WWII, Korea and includes some battles in Viet Nam. It is beautifully done in full color. He prints these on his home computer for individual orders but you may have trouble keeping up with large orders. You can order this by sending \$25.00 to our PX and he will mail it to you postage paid. You saw this at the Dayton reunion.

We have another book available written by another 34th crew member, Walter Sturdivan. "Red Tailed Devils from Mendlesham" tells of many of the 34th Bomb Group missions including some tragic stories. It is very informative on our history, personnel and operations. To order this book, please send \$20.00 to Walter Sturdivan at 5901 N El Dorado St., Stockton, CA 95207 and he will mail it to you postage paid. His inventory of this book is limited.

Remember, many of these items can be treasured for the future and make wonderful gifts for Christmas or anytime.

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Ken Paxton, PX Manager



Minutes Of BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Sept. 9, 2004

PAGE 1

The annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by President Jack Share on September 9, 2004, at 1400 in the Dayton Marriott Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chaplain James Martin.

Pres. Share asked for a roll call. Present were: Pres. Jack Share, 1st VP Bennett Richmond, 2nd VP Kivett Ivey, Rec. Sect. John Feda, Treas. and Cor. Sect. Harold Province, Chaplain James Martin, PX Manager Ken Paxton, Board members Claude Conklin, John Demko, Jack Steffen, Raymond Hinchee and Verbal Holcomb, Reunion Committee members Harold Rutka, Bob Wright, and Bruce Sothern. Absent were: Archivist Gary Ferrell, Past-Pres. Fred Waltz, and board member Robert Pacholski.

Motion by Rutka, second by Sothern to approve the minutes of the Sept. 11, 2003, meeting as printed in the December 2003 issue of the MENDLESHAM MEMORIES. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was given by Harold Province.

The 2003-2004 finances of the 34th Bomb Group (H) Association and its various funds are represented in the following tables. The totals reflect all accounts through September 5, 2004.

Working accounts	2003	2004
Money Market Hancock Bank	\$ 1,446.89	\$540.00
Edward Jones	4,081.42	73.22
Sub total	\$ 6,594.48	\$ 613.22
34th Bomb Group Funds:		
Life membership fund	\$ 13,118.24	\$ 12,181.35
Scholarship fund	14,995.87	12,811.87
General fund	2,550.04	0.00
Pete Grey fund	770.00	620.00 (A)
Grand total	\$ 32,550.04	\$ 25,613.22
Location of Funds:		
Money Market Edward Jones	\$ 3,937.77	\$ 73.22
CD Edward Jones	25,000.00	25,000.00
CD Edward Jones City Bank	(4.90% 05/15/07 25,000)	
Money Market Hancock Bank	1,383.77	540.00
GRAND TOTAL:	\$ 32,550.04	\$ 25,613.22

A: Sending MM to 15 widows - \$150

There is an outstanding bill at this time: TrueTex (MM Sept) \$5,492.70. I shall have to convert the Edw. Jones CD to \$20,000 to cover this expense.

Respectfully submitted.

Harold Province, Treasurer

PAGE 2

Motion by Sothern, second by Richmond to approve the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pres. Share appointed an audit committee of K. Ivey and J. Steffen to prepare a report for the General Meeting to be held September 11.

The PX report was given by Ken Paxton.

8/31/2003	Beginning balance	\$1,045.87
8/31/2003	Outstanding check for \$121.81	924.06
Oct - Aug.	total receipts of \$3,183.73	4,107.79
Oct - Aug.	total expenses of \$2,068.88	2,038.91
2/12/2004	paid to general fund \$1500.00	538.91
8/04/2004	Ending balance	538.91

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Paxton, PX Manager

Motion by Rutka, second by Ivey to approve the PX Report. Motion carried.

Report of the reunion committee by Harold Rutka.

The committee paid \$825 to the general fund after the 2003 bills were paid. 200 are registered for this year. A few had to cancel out because of the Florida weather. To economize the menu will include chicken and turkey rather than beef. Next year we will look at the West or South for a location. Several places are being explored with New Mexico as a good possibility.

Motion by Conklin, second by Hinchee to approve the report. Motion carried.

Scholarship committee report given by Harold Province. From twelve well qualified candidates the committee recommended the following for the 2004 Ray Summa Memorial scholarships:

First place of \$1000 to Jonathan Bonnet of Springboro, Ohio, sponsored by Clarence Arand of the 391st Squadron.

Second place of \$750 to Megan Lauf of Wake Forest, North Carolina, sponsored by John Demko of the 18th Squadron.

Third place of \$500 to Victoria Garcia of Snohomish, Washington, sponsored by Wallace B. Lee of the 18th Squadron.

Respectfully submitted by the scholarship committee of Ambers Hanson, Robert Vaughan, John Feda and Harold Province.

Discussion followed on the balance of the scholarship fund and the utilization of the funds as the organization phases out.

Motion by Sothern, second by Martin to approve the report.

An amendment was offered by Feda and seconded by Hinchee to authorize the payment of \$100 to all the other worthy candidates in future years. Vote on the amendment passed. Motion on the approval as amended then passed.

PAGE 3

The MENDLESHAM MEMORIES report was given by Editor Jack Share. This being the Association's largest expense a discussion took place on how it might be reduced. Two factors inflated the cost this past year that should not repeat again. One was the number of pictures in the reunion issue and the inclusion of an updated roster. The consensus was that both were very worthwhile and justified the cost. It was also the consensus that the publication is the lifeblood of the organization and must continue. Jack was complimented on the quality of the past issues. Additional support to keep it funded will be discussed at the General Meeting on Saturday.

Nominating committee report was given by Bruce Sothern. Openings include the 2nd VP, Treasurer and corresponding secretary, and two board member positions. Discussion followed on seeking volunteers and second generation associate members to get involved in the leadership of our organization. Sothern and Martin will accept any suggestions for the slate to be presented at the General Meeting.

Motion by Conklin, second by Steffen to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pres. Share called for any old or new business. None was offered.

Motion by Sothern, second by Hinchee to adjourn at 1530. Motion carried.

John J. Feda

Tamarac Travel Information

Information from Tamarac Travel regarding a reunion back to England to celebrate the 60th Anniversary commemorating the end of World War II states that the departure date is 25 May, 2005, returning 2 June, 2005. If interested, contact Richard G. D'Amato 1-888-486-9922. This will include attending Memorial Day services at the American Cemetery on Monday, May 30, 2005.

Some of our members have inquired about a return and this will probably be the last chance for many of our members.

Minutes Of The GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING OF Sept. 11, 2004

The Annual Meeting of the 34th Bomb Group Association was called to order by President Jack Share at 0900 on September 11, 2004, at the Dayton Marriott Hotel in Dayton, Ohio. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Share. The invocation was given by Chaplain James Martin.

This day being the anniversary of the 9/11 disaster, President Share asked all to stand and observe a minute of silence for those who lost their lives on that day.

Motion by Province, second by Sothern to approve the minutes of the 2003 General membership meeting as published in the December, 2003 issue of the MENDLESHAM MEMORIES. Motion carried.

The Treasure's report was given by Hal Province. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 9, 2004 for the detailed report.) Considerable discussion followed on the declining balance in the General Fund. Cutting expenses, raising dues and assessing life members were all suggested. Motion by Feda, second by Martin to raise the dues for next year by \$10 and to assess all life members \$10 for this next year and direct the Board to bring a recommendation to next year's meeting for financing the future years of the Association. Motion carried. Motion by Conklin, second by Hanson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

The Audit Committee Report was given by K. Ivey. All finances of the Association were reviewed and found to be in order. Motion by Sothern, second by Richmond to approve the report. Motion carried.

The Scholarship Report was given by Harold Province. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 9, 2004, for the detailed report.) Motion by Martin, second by Sothern to approve the report. Motion carried.

PX Report was given by Ken Paxton, the PX Manager. (Please refer to the Board meeting minutes of Sept. 9, 2004, for the detailed report.) During the past year, the PX transferred \$1500 to the General Fund. Ken described the books, the videos, the shirts and other things he has added to the inventory. motion by Ivey, second by Conklin to approve the report. motion carried.

The REUNION Committee report was given by Harold Rutka. There were 197 registered for this reunion. The committee turned \$825 to the General Fund from the 2003 reunion. The committee does not bill the Association for all the telephone calls they make when making Reunion arrangements. Next

year's location will be in the Southwest. The committee is exploring seven different possibilities for early September. New Mexico is a strong possibility as of this date. We will know by December. Motion by Conklin, second by Stemen to approve the report. Motion carried.

Archivist Gary Ferrell updated us on the new data he has put into the web site for the 345h Bomb Group. The data on the 177 missions is covered in 584 pages. The data is for each plane and the missions it flew as well as for each pilot's crew and the missions they flew. He requested any ground crew equipment he could photo and put on the web site. He has been paying the monthly web site charge himself. A volunteer offered to pay for the next twelve months and any help beyond that would be appreciated. The web site is listed in each issue of MM. The group commended Gary for his efforts to preserve the history of the 34th and making it available to each of us on the internet. Motion by Ivey, second by Conklin to express our gratitude to Gary for his excellent work. Motion carried.

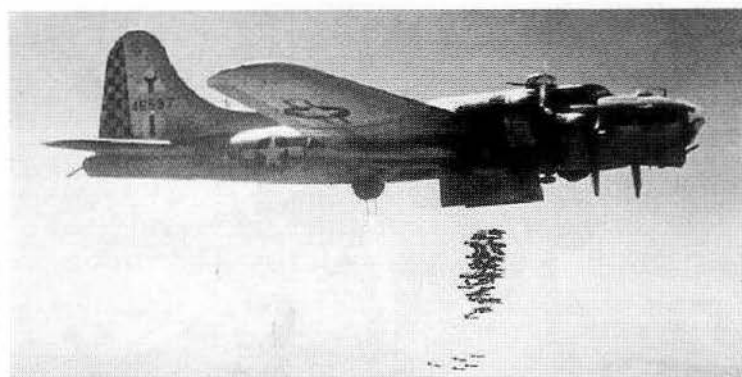
Nominating Committee Report was given by Bruce Sothern. Replacement officers for 2004- 2005 being placed in nomination were: President Bennett Richmond, 1st VP John Feda, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary Bonnie Zylstra, Board members Scott Macky (07) and David Fieber (07). Bennett Richmond declined the nomination for President. He agreed to remain as 1st VP. John Feda was then nominated for President. President. Share called for nomination from the floor. none was offered. Motion by Demko, second by Rutka that nominations be closed and the secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the slate that was presented. Motion carried.

President Share thanked the retiring officers for their years of service to the organization and also thanked the non-elected officers who are continuing in their positions for another year.

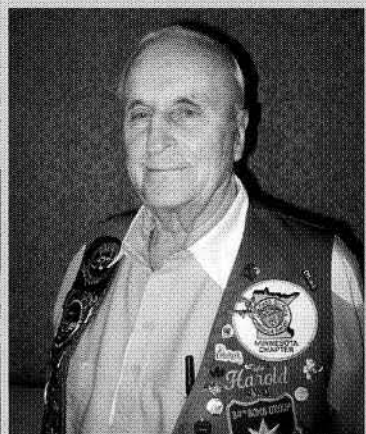
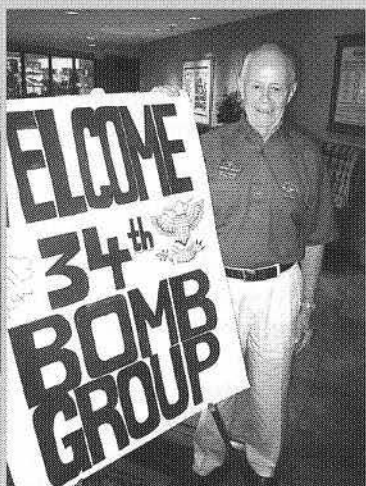
President Share gave a brief report on the MENDLESHAM MEMORIES. He thanked all for the articles submitted and for the photos of the Reunion. He will continue to work with the same publisher. He requested that all photos be sent to him by October 15 for the December issue of MM.

President Share asked for any old or new business. None was offered. Motion by Mayer, second by Hanson to adjourn at 10:30. Motion carried.

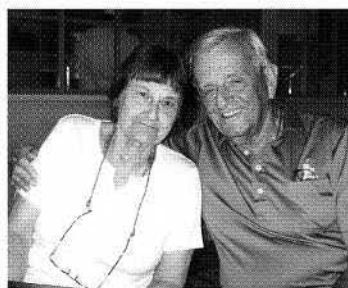
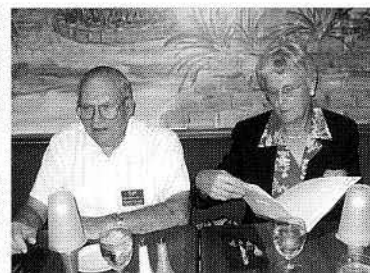
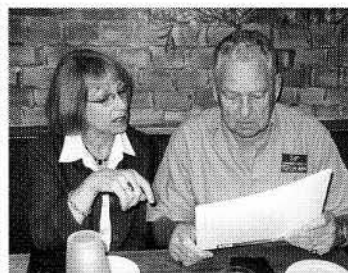
Respectfully submitted,
John J. Feda, Recording Secretary



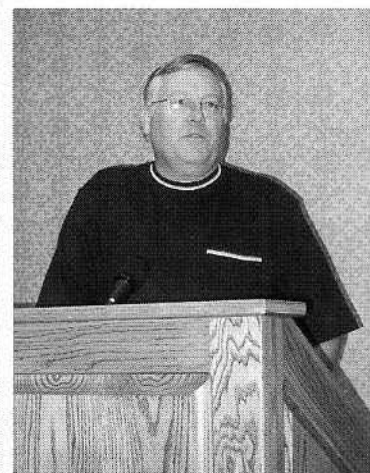
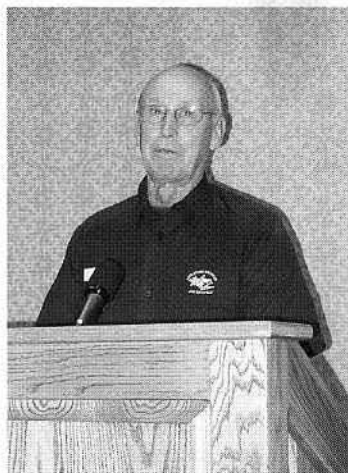
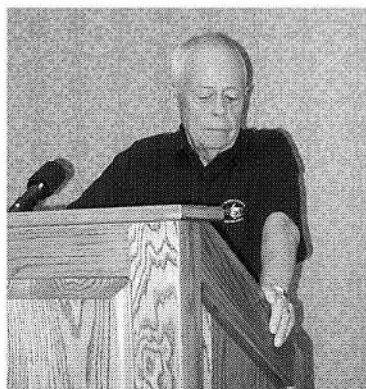
WELCOME



FRIDAY NIGHT



GENERAL MEETING



TOUR

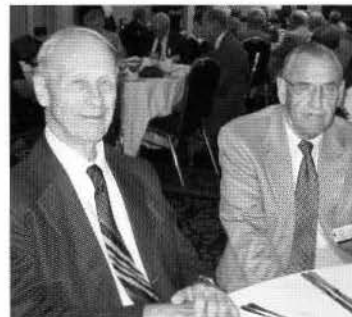
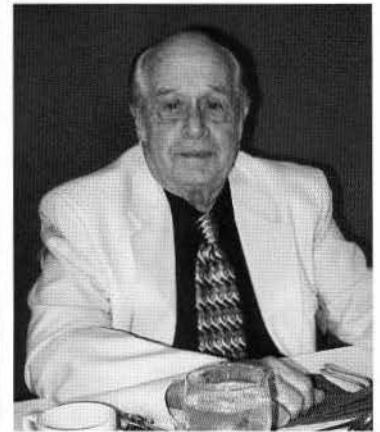
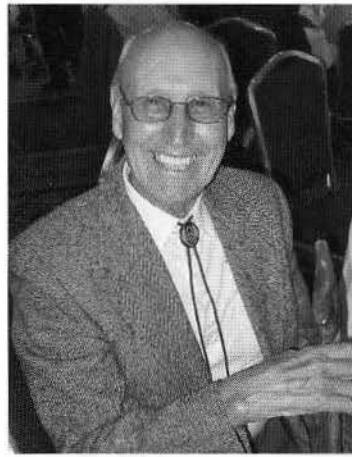


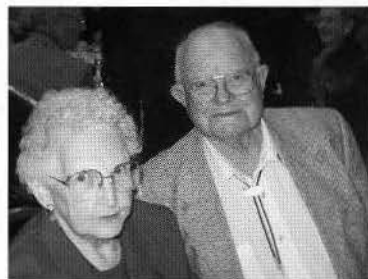
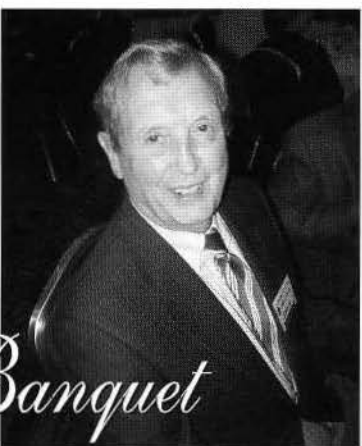
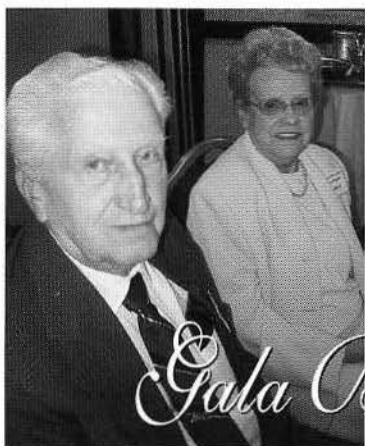
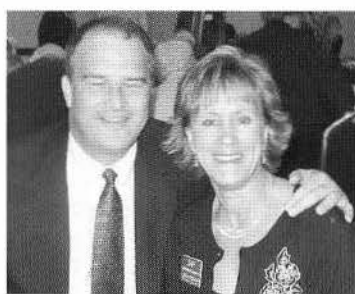
ON YOUR OWN



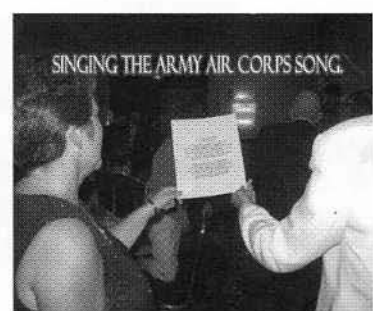
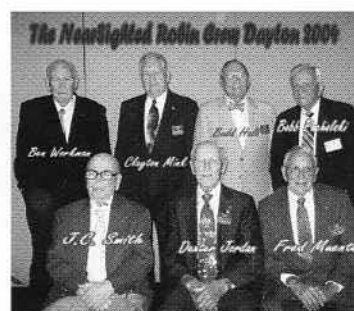
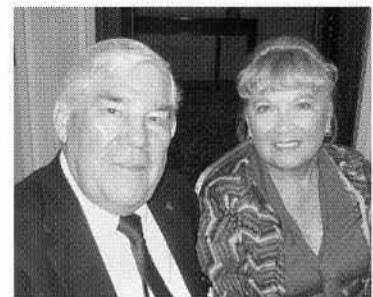
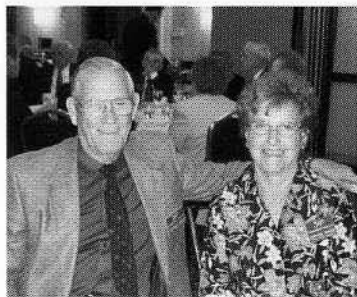
Gala Banquet

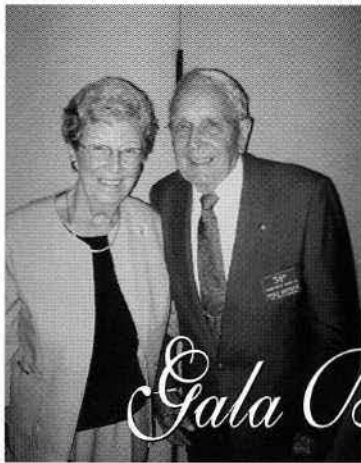






Gala Banquet

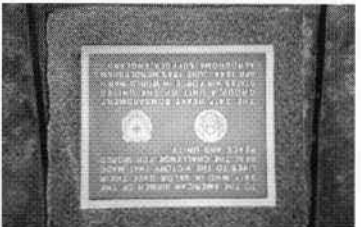




Gala Banquet



*Annual Reunion
of the 34th Bomb Group
Dayton, Ohio
September 11, 2004*



Thanks for attending!



FRIENDS WRITE

KAY AND JOE MARKS - SALT LAKE CITY, UT

It is with sadness that Joe and I will be unable to attend the reunion this year. We are both doing well, but I am currently caring for a sister who is terminally ill. We have been to most of the reunions and have thoroughly enjoyed seeing old friends and all the planned activities. Our hat is off to the committee for all the work they do so others can enjoy. Thanks to all of you!

Thanks again too for Mendlesham Memories. It is a great voice for the group and we look forward to receiving it. Have a great reunion - we miss you all!

DARLENE DWYER - HASTINGS, NE

I am sending a picture of our group taken on Friday night at Dayton. Jack and Liz Noe couldn't stay for the Saturday Gala dinner as they had to return on Saturday morning because of death in the family so this is probably the only picture of them at the reunion.

We all had a good time and you folks do a good job working on the reunion. You did a lot of research on the history of the reunions and I would like a copy of the history that you read on Saturday night. It was very interesting and how they got started. Thanks and thanks again for all your work.



Jack and Liz Noe

Darlene & Harold Dwyer

Ruby & Hal Thorpe

C. PATRICK CANNON - ROCKLAND, MA

My older brother, Dale Cannon was in the 34th Bomb Group, 7th Sqd. My wife and I went to Mendlesham where he was stationed. When we were there we met this wonderful woman, Beryl Donze who married William (Bill) and they lived there together since 1946.

He died 2 years ago and is buried in the St. Mary's church yard. They had one son, Wesley. She asked us to please let people of the 34th Bomb Group Association know we were there.

Toni and Pat Cannon
99 Payson Ave
Rockland, MA 02370
e-mail: tonipatcan@aol.com

VIVIENNE SCHWAB - FENTON, MO

I'm sorry for the delay in getting this letter off to you as a follow up to the 34th Bomb Group reunion at Dayton, Ohio. I almost didn't get to go so I find myself very lucky that everything worked out and I was able to attend. To my greatest delight my little brother, Emmett plus my younger son, Stuart joined me and we three drove together. It was a first for both of them. They finally got to see first hand what I've been bragging about for years, you could scour the world over and not find a finer group of people! It was also fun seeing and visiting with spouses and other family members. They are always so selfless in allowing the guys to have the limelight. Needless to say, Dad (Carroll Forister) was tickled pink to have two of his kids and one of his grandsons attend the reunion. Emmett and Stu were as impressed as I was on my first reunion to Des Moines a few years back. Nothing takes my breath away as much as learning about the skill and guts the 34th Bomb Group had when getting into those planes and going on their missions. I can't even fathom what that must have been like. In fact, I have a dirty little secret, don't like to fly. You will always be my favorite heroes. Just listening to some of the men again share their World War II experiences reminded me how lucky we all are that these fine men fought for the greater cause there by making this world a safer and saner place to live in. If only the enemies our troops are up against today were as defined as Germany and Japan were back then!

Thanks again for the terrific job the reunion committee did in organizing the event. The tour on Friday was incredibly interesting and educational. It is almost mind boggling to see what mankind has accomplished in less than one hundred years to mimic birds and take to the skies. Now even the sky is not the limit! We seem to have created no boundaries where flight takes people or equipment now a days. Who'd have thunk!!! Can you imagine what Wilber and Orville, or even Charles Lindberg would think now?

I'll do my best to be at next year's reunion. So until then, I wish for you a year of good health and happiness.

SUSAN BARNEY - ROCHESTER, NH

Some time ago I forwarded a picture of my dad with four other men who served in Mendlesham in a direction finding station. Hal Province identified everyone in the photo for me and kindly asked if my dad's name could appear in the TAPS section of Mendlesham Memories. To date, I have not seen his name in this section. Also, I have received an inquiry from one of the gentlemen in the photo if I knew when, and if, that would appear in the publication. Although I cannot provide any stories to go along with the picture, three of the gentlemen in the photo are able to do so. I have their phone numbers if anyone would care to contact any one of them.

I truly enjoy and look forward to Mendlesham Memories. It has been very rewarding to learn about that time in history. The stories that are in MM are not found in the history books.

CARROLL FORISTER - SAINT LOUIS, MO

What beautiful weather for a reunion. We really enjoyed our days spent in Dayton and the Air Force Museum. Hotel accommodations - excellent. Great to see old friends and meet new ones. How wonderful seeing so many second and even third generation in attendance. In our family, besides Sylvia and myself, our daughter Vivienne came for her third reunion, her son Stuart (first time) and our youngest son Emmett (first time). All three of our kids thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Both Vivienne and Emmett expressed the desire to join as Associates.

Although the museum was a special treat, our children were even more thrilled meeting and conversing with my 34th Bomb Group friends and listening to their stories. Sylvia and I were especially pleased to introduce at least part of our family to my comrades of 60 years ago.

Praying all got home safely and enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

Special thanks to our very dedicated "Lead Crew" whose constant hard work provided us with yet another outstanding reunion.



The Forister Family

PAUL ANDERSON - EVERETT, WA

Beryl and I enjoyed the reunion very much. It is always good to see old friends again. And of course, having done volunteer work for the Seattle Museum of Flight for twenty years, I was really happy to have a chance to see the Air Force Museum. It is as large as advertised. If we walked every week as much as we did the week of the reunion we would be in better shape. Our museum in Seattle is quite nice also. If you are ever out this way, you should schedule some time for a visit. I hope my pictures are not too late for the next Mendlesham Memories.

EDWARD EVANS - NORTHBROOK, IL

My wife Charlotte is listed in the latest roster as having been deceased. She and I want everyone to know that that was an error. She is very much alive and well.

Ed: We are indeed sorry for that unexplainable error and we sincerely hope you will forgive us.

We are very happy that it is not the truth and wish you both well.

MARGARET BLOCZYNSKI - MARSHFIELD, WI

Just received the Mendlesham Memories in the mail, today. It was a reminder that I should inform you that my husband, John Bloczynski, died on June 24, 2004. He was in the home hospice program with our local hospital for six months. His health had been failing for the last two years. He was always the brave soldier through it all.

He loved belonging to the 34th Bomb Group Association and enjoyed all the reunions we attended so much. We missed the last two. His health just wouldn't permit our being there. Our memories of all the wonderful people we met will remain with me, always.

I was sorry to see Major General William Creer's picture on the front cover - my sympathies to his wife and daughters, and the 34th Bomb Group. I am sure that John and General Creer are enjoying their Eternal Reward. Gold bless you all. A B-17's navigator's wife.

LOIS JOHNSON - HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA

Here are a few pictures from the reunion that you might wish to use in the newsletter. Had a wonderful time at the reunion.

EARL ZESCH - CORONA, CA

Along with one of our daughters and her two children, my wife, Dolores, and I recently visited the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. We found the memorial to be a stately and dignified tribute to all of those Americans who served in uniform and to the civilians who supported them on the home front during World War II. Seeing the memorial was inspiring and a reminder of the dedication and sacrifice to our country during that difficult time in our history.

On the lighter side, as we walked around the memorial, one of our grandchildren remarked, "There are so many people here that look like Grandpa!"

DALE CANNON - WAUSAU, WI

Thank you for your service. I have a story that may be of interest to the members.

Last week, my younger brother and wife, Toni, made a trip to England for the purpose of looking up our old base at Mendlesham. Upon arriving in Mendlesham, they asked the first person they saw about looking over the old base. They were directed to a lady of 82 years., Beryl Donze, who gave them the "BIG" tour. They saw everything including the only two remaining pubs. Her husband, Bill, and American was a bomb loader for the 34th. He has since passed away.

They even sent me a sprig of grass from the air field along with a brochure about the cathedral and memorial and some candies from the bakery.

continued on next page

GARLAND CAITO - WET LOAKE, OH

Today I received a copy of Mendlesham Memories. I am not sure to whom, I owe a thank you. I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. I do recall a phone call from a gentleman who had been a gunner on my husband's crew.

Lt. Anthony M. Caito and I were married on a post chapel at Gulfport, Mississippi. My husband was a quiet man who seldom spoke of his service days, but I know he was extremely proud of having served his country as a pilot. We enjoyed nearly 58 years of a happy marriage and were blessed with two fine sons.

Sadly, God called him home on November 11, 2002 after suffering for three years with Alzheimer's disease. He had a military funeral with an honor guard from Dayton Air Force Base. At one point late in his illness, his son took him to an air show and aboard a B-17. He pointed out every instrument. In my son's words "Dad could have flown that plane that day!"

I would truly enjoy hearing from anyone who remembers my husband. Thank you again for Mendlesham Memories.

DAVID FIEBER - BAKERSFIELD, CA

Just wanted to let you know Mom, Sonia and I had a wonderful time at the Dayton reunion. The accommodations and events were just superb and it was so much fun visiting with all our friends. The museum at Wright Patterson was very impressive and one of the best tours I've been to. I wish Dad had been around because he would've had such a great time.

I want to thank you and let you know how much everyone appreciates all of your hard work and effort that you put in to MM. I Also, I want to thank you for asking me to speak at the reunion. That was on of the highlights of my life and I will never forget it. I am excited to be a Board Member and it is a great honor for me to be associated with such a great organization and so many special people. Please don't hesitate to ask if there's anything I can do for the 34th BG or MM.

CHARLOTTE SANDSTROM - SHENANDOAH, IA

It is with great sadness that I wish to inform you of the death of my husband, Keith. He passed away September 29, 2004. He always looked forward to receiving Mendlesham Memories and read it from cover to cover.

TONY & JOAN HABIGER - TOPKA, KA

Some pics we took at the Dayton Reunion.

My two sisters were both ill and one passed away. So we have been very busy.

We had a very nice time in Dayton. Hope to see you next year.

MOVING?

IF YOU ARE MOVING SOON, BEFORE THE NEXT MENDLESHAM MEMORIES IS DUE, OR IF THERE IS SOME MISTAKE IN YOUR NAME OR ADDRESS, PLEASE ENTER THE CORRECT INFORMATION BELOW, CUT THIS OUT AND SEND TO: JACK SHARE, 22 S. AVONLEA CIRCLE, THE WOODLANDS, TEXAS 77382.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BASS	RUBIN	391LM	7755 JERICHO TPKE	WOODBURY	NY	11797
ISRAELSON	ALLEN, O.	4LM	11405 EAGLE ROCK AVE. NE,	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87122
LURSEN	AUGUST, H	GRPLM	375 HWY 67 DUPLEX E	DOUSEMAN	WI	53118
MORTON	ROBERT, J	391	4015 BELVEDERE BLVD	YOUNGSTOWN	OH	44505
PROVINCE	HAROLD, E	392LM	31 SHORE CREST CIR.	CARRIERE	MS	39426
REED	J. RUSSELL	4LM	201 E. FOOTHILL BLVD. APT. 118,	MONROVIA	CA	91016
RIEDEL	WILLIAM		588 STRATFORD RD%REICHLE,	UNION	NJ	07083
SOUDER	HARRIET, MRS		3016 MIDDLE RD.	KEOKUK	IA	52632
TAUZIN	NORMA	7A	PO BOX 253	SONORA	TX	76950

TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BERGERON	FABIEN	7	FRANKLIN ST	ROCHESTER	NH	03867
BLOCZYNSKI	JOHN	18LM	612 S. CHERRY AVE.	MARSFIELD	WI	54449
CAITO	ANTHONY	18	25605 WEST HEDGEWOOD DR,	WET LAKE	OH	44145
SANDHOLM	KIETH, E	391	402 GARFIELD ST.	SHENANDOAH	IA	51601
SLIGH	FRANK, T	391LM	11689 LOOP 107	ADKINS	TX	78101



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

34th Bomb Group



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