



# ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



4TH SQUADRON



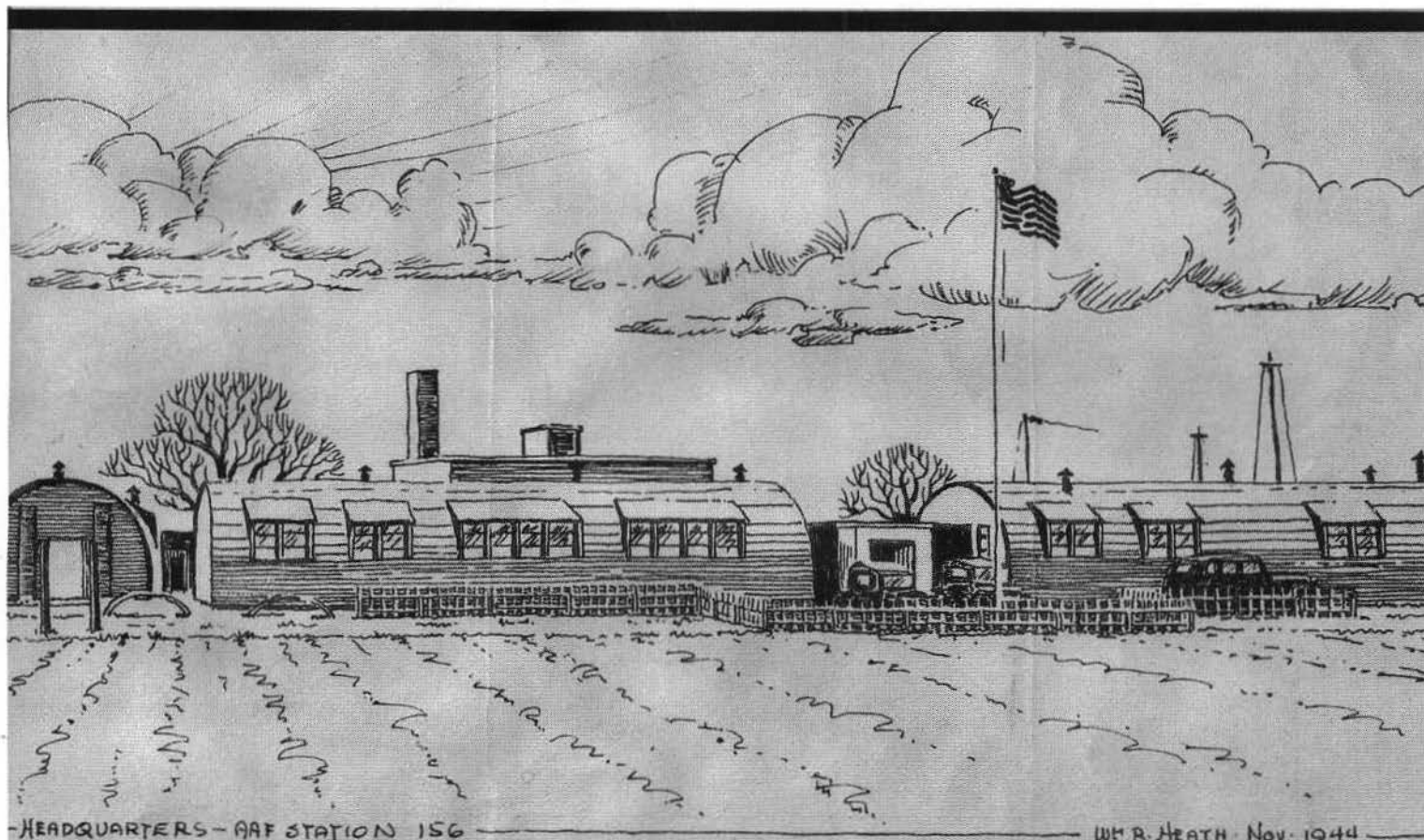
7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON



HEADQUARTERS - AAF STATION 156

WM R. HEATH - NOV. 1944



**Scholarship Application**  
**In This Issue**



## MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of

### The 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc.

[www.excel-tech.com/34th/](http://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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### OTHER WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

[www.mighty8thmuseum.com](http://www.mighty8thmuseum.com)

[www.air-museum.org/b17.htm](http://www.air-museum.org/b17.htm)

<http://members.tripod.com/valortovictory/index.html>

## DEADLINE

All material and items for the June, 2006 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before April 15, 2006. All copy will be going to the publisher on that date.



Jack Share, editor

## DUES REMINDER



**Annual Dues Have Been  
Increased to \$20.00**



At the recent reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the membership voted to increase the annual dues to \$20.00.

Your dues are payable on January 1st of each year. Please submit your payment to our new treasurer:

**Jack Steffen  
6670 Powner Farm Dr.  
Cincinnati, OH 45248  
(513) 574-1171**

Thank you for your help in guaranteeing the continuance of the Association and this publication, Mendlesham Memories.

# Share - a thought...

Jack Share



The decision to terminate the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association, in two more years, has upset most of our members, and understandably so. Being without a quarterly newsletter, without news of former members and friends, after all these years, is incomprehensible. No one wants it to end this way but, facing reality, we, quite simply, are not going to be able to function in the same capacity that we have in the past. Although the associate members are very interested in the organization, and have most graciously, taken over some responsibilities, they do not seem interested in continuing without fathers, relatives and other original members being active and would probably not be to enthusiastic in keeping the organization alive.

All WWII bomb groups are facing the same problems and are being gradually disbanded. Many are still maintaining their integrity by joining the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Society and having mini group reunions at their annual reunions. The 8<sup>th</sup> AFHS has fine annual reunions and by joining them we could still retain our identity. Many of us who are already members know that their reunions are first class and their quarterly newsletter carries many interesting stories of WWII 8<sup>th</sup> Air Corps personnel.

This might be a good time for us to consider this route so that in the next two years we can discuss our participation with other 8<sup>th</sup> Air Corps groups.

For your consideration, we are publishing a membership application form in this issue. Incidentally, they also accept associate members.

Yours for the good of the organization.

Jack

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2005 has blown out and 2006 has eased in, at my house anyway, maybe the other way around at yours!

The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association is fast approaching its 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion at Rapid City, South Dakota. Rapid it will be too and will be here before you know it. I don't know about the rest of you, but I am looking forward to another good meeting.

You know the reunion committee is like good wine, they get better with age! I can't thank them enough.

By the time you read this we will be getting ready to leave for Rapid City, some of us will need some assistance, so bring along your sons, daughters or grandchildren to help you out. They will get a "kick" out of it. After all, they don't think we can "cut the mustard" any more.

See you there.

President,  
Kivett Ivey



## THANKS, HONEY

The Sunday School teacher asks, "Now, Johnny, tell me frankly do you say prayers before eating?"



"No sir," little Johnny replies. "I don't have to. My mom is a good cook."



- Form may be reproduced -

### JOIN THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Name

FIRST

MIDDLE INITIAL

LAST

Address

CITY

STATE

ZIP

Telephone

Email

8th AF Unit

Not in 8th

Include me as a full Associate Member

In service

Branch

Dates

to

Were you a former member?

Member # if available

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: LIFE MEMBER ☐ ANNUAL DUES \$25 ☐

PAYMENT: CHECK ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA ☐ CARD #

SIGNATURE:

SEND APPLICATION AND PAYMENT TO 8TH AFHS P.O. BOX 1787, SAVANNAH, GA 31402 TEL: 912-748-8884

\$25 MEMBERS DUES NOTICES ARE MAILED ANNUALLY

Website: [www.8thafhs.org](http://www.8thafhs.org)



# REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

The 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (H) has been scheduled for 29 August through 3 September, 2006 at the Best Western Romkota Hotel and Conference Center, 2111 N. LaCrosse Street, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701. Hotel telephone number is 605-343-8550. The hotel rate has been confirmed at \$60.00 and the room tax is at 8%. These rates are offered three days prior and following your scheduled dates.

Additional points to consider are: The hotel will provide "Free Shuttle Service" anywhere within the city. Award winning "Minerva's Restaurant and Bar" is the on site restaurant and lounge - Rapid City's #1 restaurant for service and food. Large indoor swimming pool with a whirlpool and a wading pool. Free local calls, well lit parking, bellman on staff. Within one block of hotel is an Outback Steakhouse. Perkins, Burger King, Boston's, Denny's and TGI Fridays restaurants. Within four blocks of the hotel there is the following: Applebees, Olive Garden, Golden Coral and Red Lobster.

There is a complimentary Round Trip Shuttle Service from the Rapid City Regional Airport -only 12 miles from hotel. The Rushmore Mall is across the street from the hotel with 110 stores anchored by JC Penny's, Sears, Herberger's and Target. The hotel has three large operational kitchens guaranteeing quality food. Comfortable sleeping room accommodations, gift shop and fitness center. It is the largest hotel/convention center in the area.

Some travel information has been received from "Black Hills Central Reservations". The telephone number is: Toll free- 1 800 529 0105 to help you make travel planning more affordable and easier. They will provide you with needed information on airfare, car rental, etc.

The Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center has a total of 267 rooms including 30 two room executive suites and 3 Jacuzzi suites.

Rapid City is within a stone's throw of everything and many of the most intriguing and beautiful attractions in America are located in the Black Hills, the inspirational Mount Rushmore National Memorial. The visionary Crazy Horse Memorial and the tranquil Black Hills National Forest with its abundant wildlife. According to the census report, Rapid City's population is 59,607, the second largest city in South Dakota at an altitude of 3,200 feet above sea level. The city covers nearly 35 square miles.

Mount Rushmore National Memorial - Is 25 miles southwest of Rapid City on highway 16A. It stands as a powerful symbol of America's heritage, carved from a mountainside of solid granite, with gigantic busts of four American presidents, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln. Facilities at the memorial include the Avenue of Flags. Presidential Walking Trail, Gift Shop, Viewing terraces and Visitor's center. A large restaurant and an audio-visual presentation are available.

*continued*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks to those of you who have flooded my mailbox with your 2006 dues payments. Having some ready cash on hand to pay the bills without having to dig into our reserves helps us to keep our organization in sound financial shape. For those of you who have not yet sent in your dues payment for 2006, please do so as soon as it is convenient for you. As a reminder, annual dues for 2006 are \$20, the same as for 2005. The \$10 special assessment paid by life members for 2005 has not been continued for 2006.

Elsewhere in this issue is the address for sending your annual dues payment to me. Please make your check payable to the "34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association". Also, please indicate in the memo section on your check the year that your payment applies to.

Many of the dues payments I have received have included notes wishing me well in the Treasurer's job. Thank you for your support and good wishes. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the wonderful members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association.

Jack Steffen,  
Treasurer, 34<sup>th</sup> BGA



## REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT *continued*

The Black Hills Gold - Many jewelry manufacturing shops and outlets throughout Rapid City.

Detailed tour information will be provided in the June issue of Mendlesham Memories.

Transportation - Rapid City Regional Airport is the commercial airline hub for the Black Hills. Served by Allegiant Air, Northwest Airlines, Skywest-Delta Connection and United Express.

Interstate 90, US highways 14 and 16 and state highway 79 provide surface road accessibility.

Weather - Monthly high temperature for month of September is 74 degrees.

We would like to thank everyone for attending our 2005 reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico which was a great success.

Good health, peace and much happiness in our New Year.

The Reunion Committee  
Harold Rutka, Chairman  
Bob Wright  
Bruce Sothern

## RAY SUMMA 34<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP 2005 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS.

After careful and considerable deliberation, the judges have selected the following applicants as recipients of the 2005 Ray Summa Scholarship awards.



Each sponsor was contacted and requested to notify the respective applicant of the award. A letter of congratulations, with the check, was sent to each recipient with a request to provide Mendlesham Memories with a photograph, with sponsor, if possible for publication in the March issue.

Each of the applicants, and their sponsors, are to be congratulated for their participation in this program

Also, the judges, John Feda, Ambers Hanson and Robert Vaughn for their diligent work in judging the applicants.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Congratulations to the 2005 winners of the 34th Bomb Group Association's Ray L. Summa Scholarship awards.**

### **Letter from Craig Sweeney:**

Dear members of the 34<sup>th</sup>.

I, first of all, regret not making it to your meeting to receive this award in person. I am afraid I shall be Busy putting it to use at Marquette University during your meeting; and New Mexico is far from my home. I thank you from my heart for selecting my essay out of all the wonderful essays I am sure your group received. I assure you all the money will go to good use in furthering my education.

I wrote about making a difference in this world, about being the best person I could be, seeking to help others in all my endeavors. In this vein, I plan to earn a degree in psychology, so I can help people to solve their problems. I also am considering a stint in the Peace Corps, after school, to gain real-world experience and see other countries. Your \$500 is a solid contribution to that set of goals, and I appreciate it.

I am humbled to receive this award and I will be back next year! Thanks again.

Craig Sweeney

*(Editor - Pictures and/or letters, from other recipients, were not received).*

### **NEWS FROM PAST RECIPIENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:**

From Bob Gross -7<sup>th</sup> Squadron:

**Alex Wissner Gross** who received his 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group scholarship some years ago graduated from MIT, magna cum laude, in three majors. He received a Hertz Fellowship (a full four year) that enabled him to continue his education at any college. He had been awarded a Churchill Fellowship by the English Government, which required his attending for four years a University in England, which he declined, and chose to attend Harvard. He has completed his Master's program in his first year. He continues his PhD program in his major on Nanotechnology. His goal is to obtain this degree in four and a half years. He currently has several patents to his name.

**Zachary Gross** who also received a 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group scholarship is now in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year also at MIT. This past year he was one of 100 students in America to be awarded a Homeland Security Fellowship. This past summer he took the boards for Medical School and scored in the highest numbers that, if he chooses, most likely would be accepted at any Medical School. This scholarship underwrites the full charges of his last two years in college. This past summer he worked at Mass. General Hospital and will be working this year at a selected Government Facility in California on a project (too complicated for me to describe).

Both of these grandsons are indebted to the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group for helping them at the beginning of their college careers.

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Ray L. Summa, 34th Bomb Group Association Scholarship Fund to be awarded annually to the relative of a member of the 34th Bomb Group Association. The amount to be awarded shall be \$1000.00 for the first place winner, \$750.00 for the second place winner and \$500.00 for the third place winner.

## CRITERIA TO QUALIFY FOR THE 34TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP AWARD IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Applicant must be the relative of a paid-up member of the 34th Bomb Group Association.
2. Applicant must have maintained a 3.0 grade point average on a 4-point scale during his/her senior high school year.
3. Applicant must attend a 2 or 4 year accredited college as a full-time student and maintain a 2.5 grade point average on a 4-point scale.
4. Applicant may also be a college student continuing education and have a 2.5 grade point average on a 4-point scale.

## 2006 Application for the 34th Bomb Group Ray Summa Scholarship Awards

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Sponsor (paid-up 2006): \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Best SAT/ACT Score: \_\_\_\_\_ GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Will pursue Academic Major: \_\_\_\_\_

Colleges and Universities of interest to you: \_\_\_\_\_

Summary of academic achievements (e.g. scholarships, awards, honor society): \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Community activities you have participated in: \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies and Special Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

List any non-government funded jobs which you have held: (Full or part time, with dates): \_\_\_\_\_

(Use additional sheets as needed.)

**Applications must include and are not complete until the following additional materials have been included and attached:**

- 1: All available & most recent high school or college transcript (including current grades).
- 2: Copy of your ACT/SAT test scores.
- 3: An essay on "Why I wish to pursue a College Degree" in 500 words or less.
- 4: Standing in your graduating class (your positioning the number of students in class).

**Applications must be postmarked no later than July 10, 2006.**

**(Please include a self addressed post card if you wish acknowledgment of receipt of application).**

Winners are expected to be announced at the 2006 34th Bomb Group Reunion in August.

Mail completed application to:

Scholarship Committee,  
c/o Ambers Hanson  
1505 Chadwick Ln.  
Auburn, AL 36832



# Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum Needs YOU!

**MIGHTY  
EIGHTH**

**AIR FORCE MUSEUM**



This year has been a difficult one for the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum because of high gas prices, hurricanes and other global events. Museum attendance has suffered, as has its cash flow, and the Museum has felt the effects of funds diverted to other causes. The tragedies of the year cannot be trivialized, but long after the memories of these events fade, funding from loyal supporters of the Museum has to continue so the mission - educating the public, and commemorating and honoring the veterans of our nation - can be maintained and expanded.

In contrast to the worldwide natural disasters, great things continue at the Museum. Dr. Walter Brown has assumed the leadership role as interim President and CEO. The Roger Freeman collection will arrive soon and be made available for researchers, authors, veterans, and visitors. The distinctive 303rd Bomb Group historical collection, assembled by Trustee Harry Gobrecht, now resides in the archives. Of major significance, Timothy Bottoms and Vivan Rogers-Prices, heads of the Collections and Archives departments are ready to receive artifacts from all Eighth Air Force groups, including Bomb and Fighter Groups. Collections will be housed in the newly dedicated Roger A. Freeman Eighth Air Force Research Center where they will continue to grow into the most impressive assembly of Eighth Air Force works in the world.

From a financial perspective, the Museum has not been forced to dip into its modest cash reserves to continue operations, but the time is drawing closer when that might be necessary. This is a time of substantial need. If you have not sent a check for the Annual Campaign, please do so now. Please give generously to the Museum. Future generations are depending on it. Gifts can be sent to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, PO Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402.



## 34<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP'S PAST REUNIONS



<u>YEAR</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>ATTENDEES</u>
1981	ST PAUL, MN	GRADY DETHERIDGE	
1982	CINCINNATI, OH	MALCOLM CORUM	
1983	HOUSTON, TX	BOB WRIGHT	
1984	NASHVILLE, TN	GERRY PINE	
1985	WICHITA, KS	HAROLD RUTKA	
1986	COLORADO SPRGS, CO	AL DiNENNO	306
1987	KING OF PRUSSIA, PA	ED LAWLER	276
1988	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	GEORGE RITCHIE	318
1989	SHREVEPORT, LA	WALT McALLISTER	292
1990	SEATTLE, WA	WALLY BRAUKS	249
1991	LOUISVILLE, KY	FRED SCHOCH	398
1992	LAS VEGA, NV	BRUCE SOTHERN	376
1993	LITTLE ROCK, AR	SAM WOLSTENCROFT	351
1994	ST PAUL, MN	ELI BALDEA	308
1995	HUNTSVILLE, AL	AMBERS HANSON	350
1996	RALEIGH, NC	RAY PALMER	325
1997	OMAHA, NE	ALLEN ISRAELSEN	224
1998	BOISE, ID	JOHN DORONSKY	209
1999	DES MOINES, IA	NORM MAYER	188
2000	BUFFALO, NY	CLAUDE GIBBS	202
2001	SAVANNAH, GA	WAYNE HOWARTER	276
2002	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	FRED WALTZ	177
2003	SAN ANTONIO, TX	JACK SHARE	182
2004	DAYTON, OH	JOHN FEDA	197
2005	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	KIVETT IVEY	167
2006	RAPID CITY, SD		

## THE AIRFIELD

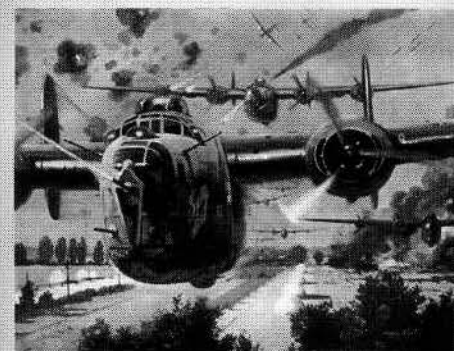
*By Shiela Hudson-Suffolk, England*

The fields are windswept, empty now,  
Returned to crops, furrows and the plough.  
Buildings stand still, of bomb-proof brick,  
Windows broken in walls still thick.  
Nissen huts in gaunt disrepair,  
Some used still, some broken and bare.  
Black-out curtains in tattered shreds,  
Still hang like memories threads.  
To evoke ghosts of days gone past,  
Tangible evidence that will last.

Broken wood and rusted nail,  
Sheds that housed the airmen's mail,  
For letters home to sweethearts, wives,  
Telling of the young men's lives  
As they lived, day to day  
Snatching time to write, and pray.  
Mess and cinema halls,  
a room for debriefing,  
Orderly room and huts for sleeping,  
Perimeter track and runways wide,  
With control tower to one side.

Vigorous young men  
thronged the area there,  
And each day lived  
on a wing and a prayer.  
In combat high, to fight a foe,  
A great Armada to Hell would go.  
Crusade of Angels in the sky,  
In airplanes five miles high.  
Sometimes consumed by hostile flames,  
Broken bodies, broken planes.  
The weary survivors returning home,  
Back to the distant aerodrome.  
Until called once more on high,  
Manning those missions in the sky.  
The ground crews in all weathers trying,  
To keep the gallant aircraft flying.

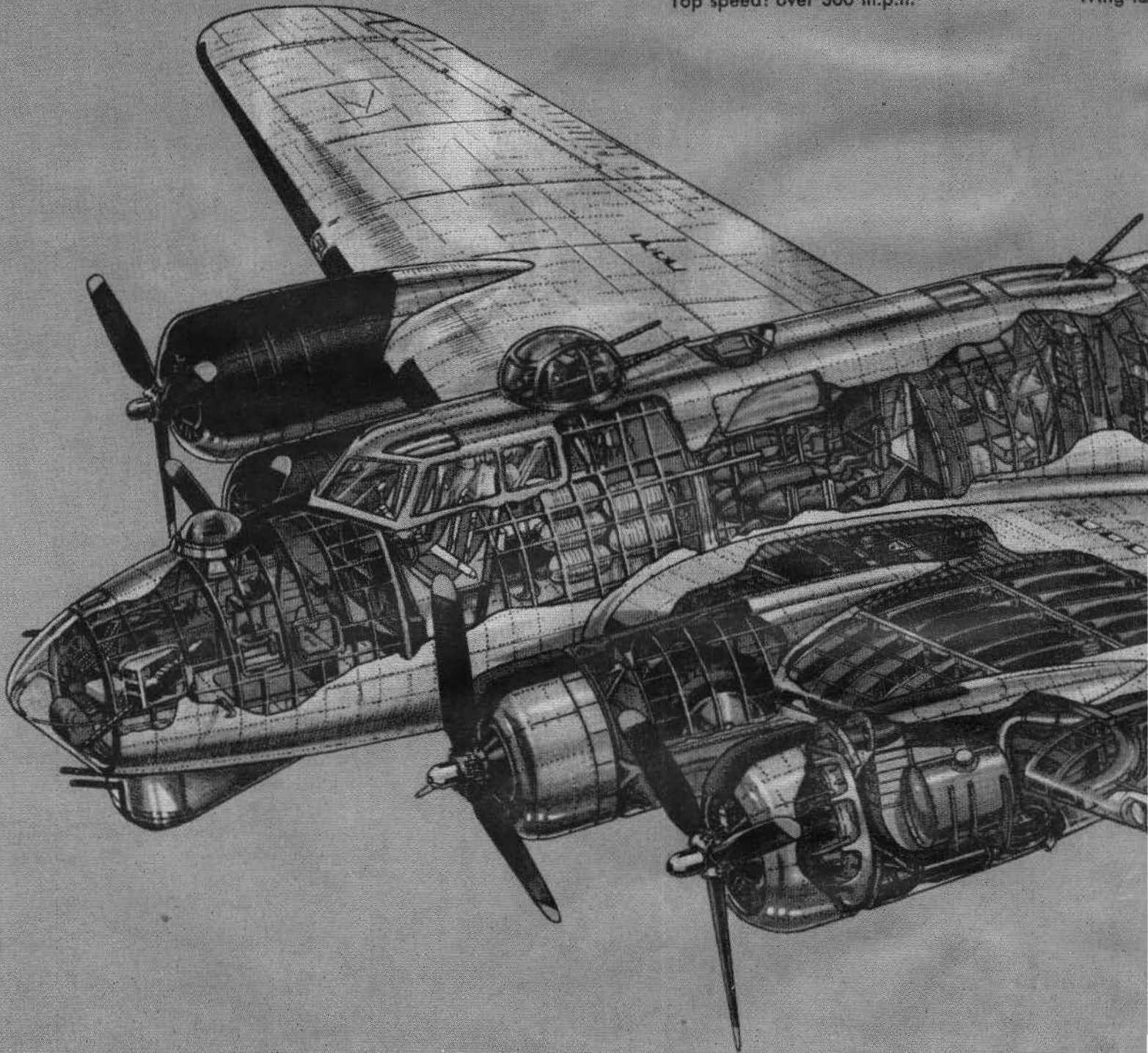
( Courtesy B-17 Flying Fortress  
newsletter- "Splendor in the Skies").



# BOEING FLYING (B-17G)

Engines: Four 1,200 h.p. Wright Cyclones  
Wing span: 103 ft. 9 in.  
Length: 74 ft. 9 in.  
Height: 19 ft. 1 in.  
Top speed: over 300 m.p.h.

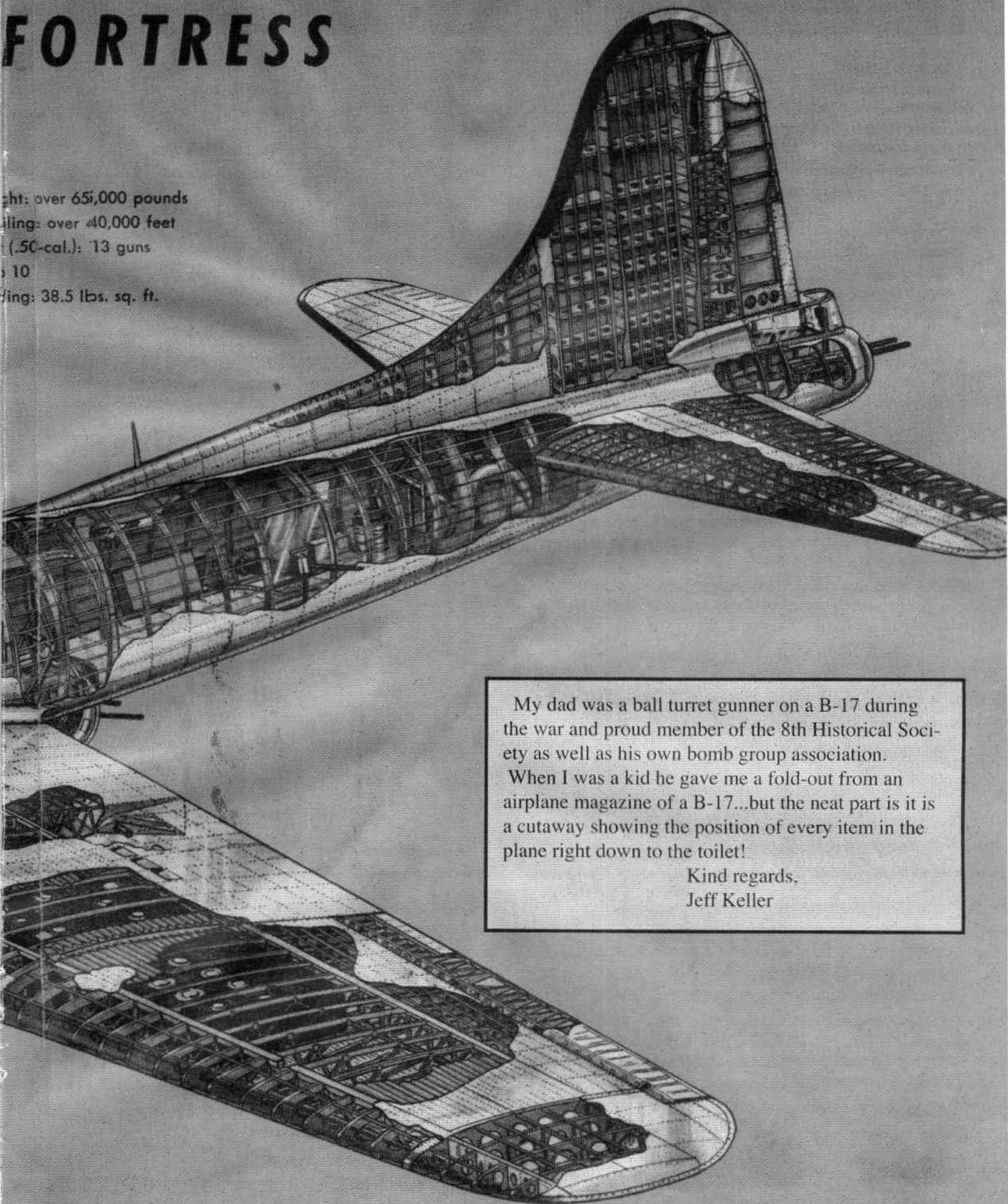
Gross w  
Service  
Armame  
Crew: 6  
Wing lo





# FORTRESS

Weight: over 65,000 pounds  
Climbing: over 40,000 feet  
(.50-cal.): 13 guns  
Engines: 10  
Wing: 38.5 lbs. sq. ft.



My dad was a ball turret gunner on a B-17 during the war and proud member of the 8th Historical Society as well as his own bomb group association.

When I was a kid he gave me a fold-out from an airplane magazine of a B-17...but the neat part is it is a cutaway showing the position of every item in the plane right down to the toilet!

Kind regards,  
Jeff Keller

## LOOKING FOR INFORMATION:

**Robert D. Sease** - I am looking for information on my dad Captain Robert D. Sease a pilot who flew 32 missions with the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 18<sup>th</sup> squadron during WWII.

My dad passed away on January 30, 2005. I think I remember him telling us that his plane was called "The Old Crow". If you need more information let me know what would be helpful and I'll do my best. I have all of his Air Force papers in a note book

My name is: **Becky Livermore**  
**269-367-4536**  
**E-mail - [tbliv@allvantage.com](mailto:tbliv@allvantage.com) .**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Hubert "Mac" Massey** - My name is Adam Massey and I am the proud grandson of Sgt. Hubert "Mac" Massey who was a member of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 4<sup>th</sup> squadron stationed at Mendlesham Airbase during WWII.

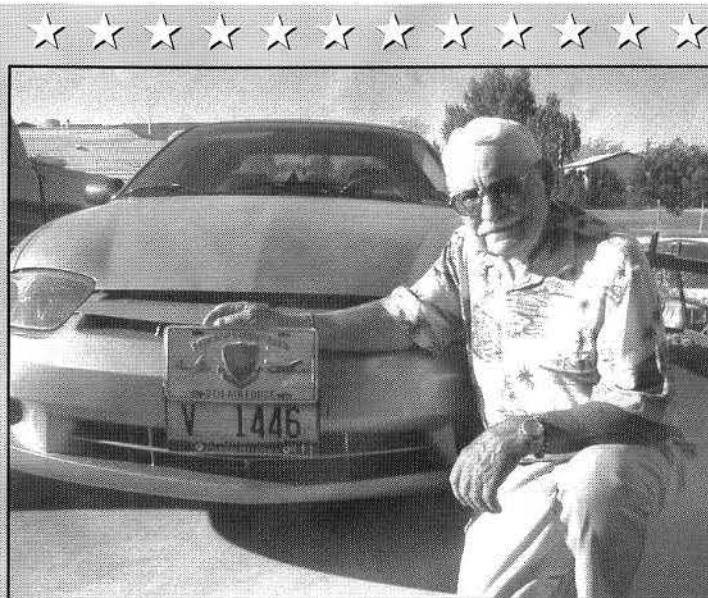
Growing up I knew he had been in the war but it was something that he never wanted to speak about and I was advised not to ask about. I had written off hope of ever understanding the full scope of his service to his country so that I could live free. When he passed away last year we found, in a corner of the house, probably untouched for 50 years or more a suitcase full of pictures and artifacts. Through those treasurers of my family history I have been able to piece together a general background of his service to his country. I have been doing research off and on for about a year now and finally stumbled across your web site. It is my hope that some of you might be able to shed some light on the research I have done and fill holes in my understanding of my hero.

**e-mail - [Adammassey@bellsouth.net](mailto:Adammassey@bellsouth.net)**

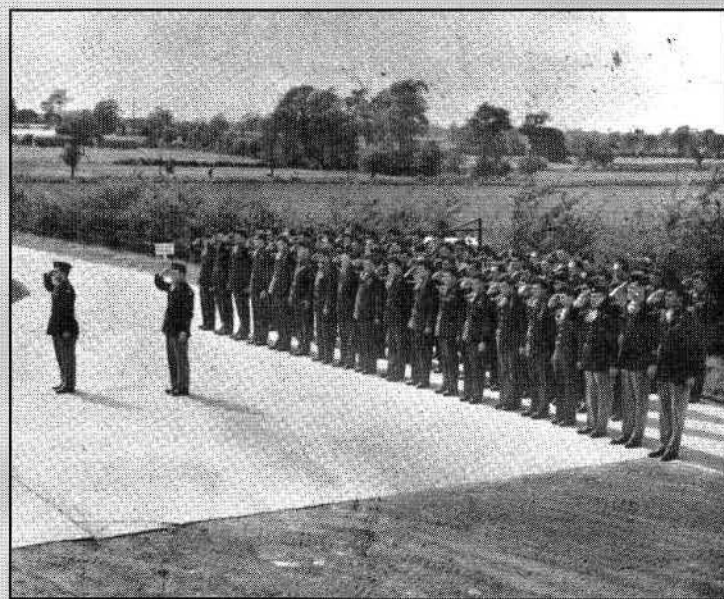
\*\*\*\*\*

**Lester D. Smith** - Any information your membership might provide on my father, Lester D. Smith a pilot who served in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group during WWII would be greatly appreciated. He flew a B-17 named "Shady Lady".

My Name is: **Greg Smith**  
**Acworth, GA 30102**  
**607 230 7659**  
**E-mail - [glsmith1@comcast.net](mailto:glsmith1@comcast.net)**



▲ Bill Orton with his 1446 license plate. .  
 Bill served with the 1446th Ord. Supply and Maint. Company attached to the 34th Bomb Group at Mendlesham.



▲ 1446 Ord. Supply & Maint. Company formation.

## OLD GEEZERS

- ★ "Geezers" (slang for an old man) are easy to spot at sporting events, during the playing of the *Star Spangle Banner*. Old Geezers remove their caps and stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe them.
- ★ Old Geezers remember the Great Depression, World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, Vietnam, the jet age and the Moon landing.
- ★ If you bump into an Old Geezer on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass on Old Geezer on the street he will nod and tip his cap to a lady. Old Geezers trust strangers and are courtly to women. Old Geezers hold the door for the next person and always, when walking make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.
- ★ Old Geezers get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like filth on TV or in movies.
- ★ Old Geezers have moral courage. They seldom brag unless it's about their grandchildren.
- ★ It's the Old Geezers who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.
- ★ This country needs Old Geezers with their decent values. We need them now more than ever.
- ★ Thank God for Old Geezers!





## ***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.

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

LICENSE PLATE - White with blue logo. Print same as several years ago.....\$10.00ea.

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 Sqnds 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. XXLR .....\$25.95ea.

MEN'S POLO SHIRT ( White W/ Logo - no pocket) X Large only .....\$22.00ea.

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 .....All Sizes \$12 each or 2 for \$22.00.

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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" .....\$8.50ea.

SWEATSHIRT (good quality) colorful logo on front "PROUD TO BE A VETERAL" S, L, XL, OR XXL .....\$20.00ea.

- PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS DESIRED -

AND INCLUDE YOUR 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**

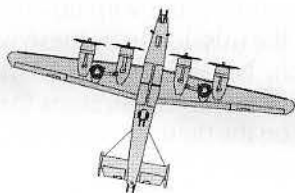
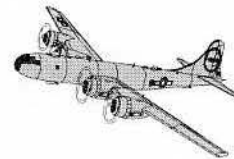
**Ken Paxton**

**6402 E. 11th St.**

**Wichita, KS 67206**

**Tel: (316) 683-2900**

**e-mail: kenpaxton@sbcglobal.net**



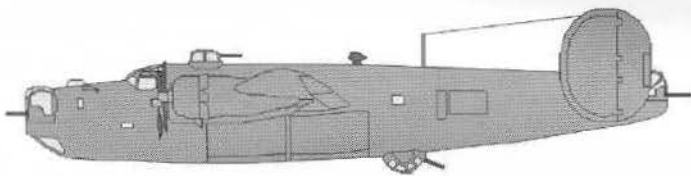
Thanks for your support of the 34th BGA. We wish all of you good health and much happiness!

# Ploesti Oil Field Raid

The General who planned the first bombing mission to destroy much of the Ploesti oil fields was General Jacob E. Smart. A large force of B24 Liberator 4-engine bombers was dispatched on a low-level mission that went down in history, partly for its sheer high-level of difficulty and partly for the heavy losses suffered by the bomber crews. Due to the fact that German radar discovered the raiding force long before it reached its target they caused heavy losses.

That same General later became the Commanding Officer of the famous 97<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group on April 7, 1944 but his lead plane was shot down on the very first mission he flew with the group. Most 97<sup>th</sup> men believed the General was killed until he walked into their reunion at Dayton years later. What most people don't know about Gen. Smart was that because so many B-17's had trouble flying to England the Air Force selected him to build the 1<sup>st</sup> radar station on the Greenland ice cap. It was so vital to the ferrying of bombers and fighters to the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force that he was picked to complete the almost superhuman task in freezing temperatures.

Compliments of the B17 Flying Fortress Assoc. newsletter.



North Texas Chapter members manning the veteran's table at the *Cowtown Warbird Round-up* in Fort Worth last June. As a Chapter function, members talk to visitors, hand out autographed trading cards to children and give tours of the Vintage Flying Museum's B-17. Pictured (L-R) are **Harry Ackerman**, 91st/34th BG; **Bob Bily**, 351st BG; and **Hank Plume**, 390 BG. The event usually results in a few new members signing up each year as well.

Lance Anderson, Life/Associate Member

# FRIENDS WRITE

## JOSEPH CLARK (AGE 13) - TURQUOISE MUSEUM

Dear 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group,

Thank you for sharing your stories. I thought they were interesting. I appreciate the shirt and enjoy wearing it.

Thank you for serving.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BASIL GAUMER - GREENVILLE, IL

I am so sorry that they are planning on closing the 34<sup>th</sup> BGA in three years. I have enjoyed the bomb group over the years. But when you think that the youngest members are 80 years old, I guess it is about time to start thinking about throwing in the towel. But we still have memories.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BERNADETTE FARLEY - VERONA, NJ

Please accept this donation for the Ray Summa Memorial Fund in memory of Hal Province. He will be missed not only by his family but his many friends in the 34<sup>th</sup>. He did so much good for so many.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANDREW DOPPELT - NORTHBROOK, IL

I contacted your fine newsletter a year ago to inform your group about the sudden passing of my father, Sidney Doppelt in Milwaukee, WI. He was a Lt. and a navigator in the 391<sup>st</sup> sqd., crew #95. I learned which squadron and crew he belonged to by looking through your excellent web sites, which, together with your newsletter, are truly fascinating. I discovered the web sites for the first time tonight after reading the Sept. newsletter, which inspired me to learn more about where my father served in the war. Fortunately, I remembered the name of his pilot, Murphy, which allowed me to find my father's name (although misspelled as "Dopfelt" in the mission lists). My father kept a diary of his days in the service which I did not know even existed until after his death. My wife and I are trying to transcribe it - a lengthy process made difficult by his poor handwriting. It is so interesting now being able to match the dates of his missions, thanks to the web site, with the thoughts he wrote on those days.

I have missed receiving a prior newsletter or two and am wondering if my message to you was ever published in an earlier edition. If so, could I please have a copy? I basically said then that my father was fiercely proud of his military service which was a major turning point in his life and on that he cherished and recalled often.

I wonder if it would be possible to correspond with others who flew with my father. According to the mission lists, these were: Murphy, Christofferson, Woodrich, Nelson, Harris, Markley, Combs, Bruen and Knightlinger. If you have addresses for any of them or could pass this message on to them or their families I would be most appreciative.

Keep up the good work you and your organization do, not just for the men who served at Mendlesham but also for us family members who are left to tell their stories and can learn so much about bravery, honor, duty and love of one's country that these remarkable people to this day still personify.

\*\*\*\*\*



## ***Friends Write, Continued***

### **HAROLD DWYER - HASTINGS, NE**

As a life member, I have not paid any one the special assessment. Believe it to be \$10.00 per year. Enclosed is \$30.00 for the years 2004-2006. This should bring me up to date.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **KAY HUGHES - GENEVA, NE**

I am the daughter of Harold Dwyer, 391<sup>st</sup> sqd of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and an associate member of the Association.

I am enclosing dues for 2006 and hope this brings me up to date.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VIVIENNE FORISTER SCHWAB - FENTON, MO**

34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association friends. Oh how I missed attending the Albuquerque reunion last year! After Mom's (Sylvia Forester) death last spring, I told Dad (Carroll Forister) I'd accompany him since this would be the first without Mom. However, responsibilities and commitments at school this year happened to fall on the Thursday and Friday of the reunion weekend. My youngest son, Stuart, wanted to attend again this year since he'd enjoyed himself so much the prior year in Dayton. So I had a grand idea that dad should take all the young men in his life, and that he did. So that is how dad ended up with both my brothers, Dave and Emmett, plus their two sons, Zach and Jake, plus my two sons, Greg and Stuart. I am so pleased that the guys got to spend that kind of quality time with dad plus got to rub elbows with the rest of the outstanding 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group members. I know dad was proud to have all of them at his side. I believe Stuart and Emmett got the most out of the experience. Stuart amazed me and even attended the business meeting. He made me and grandpa proud. A special thanks to everyone who passed on their condolences to dad on mom's passing. Your kind words and gentle hugs really touch his heart. Mom loved attending the reunions, and visiting with all you special people, as much as dad.

I was very saddened to read of Rev Gary Ferrell's death. What a tragic loss for, not only his own family, all you WWII veterans as well. He was so loyal and dedicated to you guys. Such a large hole will be left.

To all my buddies, I am so sorry not to have been able to attend. All of your "hello" messages were brought back with dad and made my heart feel warm. A special hello to my friend, Roger. We seem to be hitting and missing these past two years, haven't we? Ginny and Fred, you were always so special in mom's heart and your kindness to dad did not go unnoticed. Thanks for your message back to me through dad. I missed you guys too.

I promised dad that no school responsibilities again will override my dedication to him or the reunion. This year my job had extenuating circumstances and it won't happen again! Next year I'll be there. So, until then all you fine men and delightful wives, take care of yourselves, have a healthy year and I'll see you in South Dakota.

A note of interest: Our entire school had a Veterans' Day assembly outside underneath the flag pole. There were guest veterans that led a short ceremony. Our entire school also says the pledge every morning. Just thought you'd be interested in knowing that patriotism is alive in our school.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BUB & SYLVIA LOOMIS - MENDLESHAM, ENG.**

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy New Year. We seem to have had a very busy year. I think it must be a world record in that we have had four weddings. Two were our lovely grandchildren, one was Sylvia's godchild and the other a very dear close friend and we seem to have had a really gay time all year.

We also went to a very important event when the children of Stoke Ash School did a wonderful show about the Americans who were stationed at Mendlesham during WWII. They did a little sketches, poems and songs from that era sixty years ago. They even attempted an American accent - not bad for school children.

We also were honored to have five American service men from Mildenhall attend the service. All in all, it was a good recollection of days gone by. I expect you know a little about this as Mr Leathers, the head teacher, attended your reunion and some of veterans kindly signed Bub's book. The Padre from Mildenhall took part in the service at Stoke Ash church and it was quite moving to listen to him. Afterwards we all went to the Fleece pub at Mendlesham for tea and cakes and to the start of the museum which seems to improve each month.

Our very best wish to all of you. Perhaps we shall see some of you in 2006.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **VITO VIOLANTE - PALMDALE, CA**

Is the \$10 for life members a yearly thing? OK by me.

Enclosed is a check for \$110 to go where most needed.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **JIM STUTHERS - VENICE, FL**

A waist gunner on Lt. Tigges, crew, Bill Oravec passed away on Feb. 22, 2005. That crew shared our barracks in Mendlesham and I have been in contact with him through the years.

I always admired and respected Bill after learning he stayed in the reserves and followed his dream of becoming a pilot with service in Korea.

He said that even though his experiences flying his own plane was a real accomplishment, he never forgot his memories as a waist gunner on the Tigges's crew in WWII. If any of our members know of anyone who served on that crew I would like very much to hear from them.

My address: James Stuthers  
430 Palmetto Dr,  
Venice, FL 34293

\*\*\*\*\*



## ***Friends Write, Continued***

### **FRANK SIVRETT - SHREWSBURY, MA**

I am enclosing \$40.00 for '05 and '06 dues.

Sorry we couldn't make the reunion this year but sure hope we will be there next year.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RITA HILTNER - FREEPORT, MN**

Sorry to hear about Hal's passing. He did a really good job. I'm sending my dues for 2006. I really enjoy reading Mendlesham Memories. Keep up the good work.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **MARGARET KLINE - BURNT HILLS, NY**

Enclosed \$20 for my associate membership. I still enjoy reading them, as did my husband, George. We attended many reunions starting in Nashville. They were all just great.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **DALE FRANK - WINTERSET, IA**

It was a great reunion and we sure thank the committee for all their planning. Looking forward to seeing everyone next September.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **KARL WALLACE - SARASOTA, FL**

I haven't been able to make the last reunions of the 34<sup>th</sup> since Savannah but appreciate getting the Memories to keep up with the doings of the group. Sadly, we are all getting older and I understand the idea of disbanding after three more years. The heavy load of carrying out the reunions has fallen on the shoulders of a few and for this I am deeply grateful. I wish I could have seen all the gang this time but don't travel well at 81 although I still do the chores at home. My deepest regards to all of my old friends in the 34<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **BUD PAYMENT - COHASSET, MN**

First of all, I want you all to know how bad we feel about Hal Province. I never met the man but called him several times by phone and computer.

I am sending you a check for \$100 - \$40 for my dues for the next two years and \$40 for my son's dues. The balance to be used wherever needed.

I just had my 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and my health isn't in very good shape.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **WARREN MORRISON - WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Dues for 2006-2008 enclosed. If Mendlesham Memories, hopefully, goes beyond that, I'm sure we'll be informed. I've enjoyed the "Voice of the 34<sup>th</sup>" over the years.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **REID McCLOSKEY - CARLSBAD, NM**

Enclosed is check for '06 dues. Thank you for taking over the treasurer's job. My contact with the 34<sup>th</sup> was primarily through Hal Province, a truly dedicated man.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **ROBERT SWEENEY - MILWAUKEE, WI**

Enclosed check for \$30 is for general purposes.

MM has supplied great reading over the years and the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association has been of valuable service to me and my family.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **JOE AND KATY LOWRY - THE TURQUOISE MUSEUM, ALBUQUERQUE, NM**

We enjoyed all of you that came to our Turquoise Museum in Albuquerque during your recent reunion. You know, the word Appreciate means to give great value to, and our family does appreciate all of the "Greatest Generation".

We enjoyed visiting with you and hearing some of your stories and experiences.

Our grandsons, Joseph and Jacob, say "thank you" for the shirts that you so generously gave them. I'm sorry I didn't write down the name of those who brought them by.

We are enjoying the newsletters and look forward to more. Again, you are appreciated.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **RICHARD (BUD) PAYMENT - COHASSET, NM**

This is a letter I have been wanting to write in the last few years and never got to do it.

My name is Richard (Bud) Payment and I just had my 81<sup>st</sup> birthday and have bad health. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Margie, for 62 years. We have 7 children, 12 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandkids - not bad, heh!

I was with the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 4<sup>th</sup> squadron from March 1943 to March 1944. I was in the refueling units and with a great bunch of guys.

I wish I could have gone to some of your reunions but my health wouldn't allow it

I am enclosing some pictures of my family.

You have sure done a wonderful job with the Mendlesham News - I enjoy reading it immensely. Keep up the good work.



◀ Margie & Bud Payment  
- Christmas, 1943

▲ Bud And Margie With The Crew  
(family) Mark, Rick, Bub, cheri, Lori & Cory

\*\*\*\*\*

### **CARWIN BAXTER - LAKE LAND, FL**

I would like to thank you for the wonderful work you do on the Mendlesham Memories. I look forward to receiving it. I have just received word that one of our crew members, Sanford Cole passed away in November. You might want to add it to the next TAPS list.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **HENRY TOBIASON - REMER, MN**

'06 dues enclosed. Audrey and I would not want to miss an issue. The reunion this past fall was very good. I think the one at Rapid City will have some great places to see. We have spent time at Mt. Rushmore, Deadwood and the Chief Crazy Horse Memorial. Hope to see you there.

\*\*\*\*\*



## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BARRON	WILLIAM, M	7	25 EDMONT WAY	DURANGO	CO	81301
EDWARDS	VERNA	391LM	1818 WESTMINSTER DR	GRAND PRAIRIE	TX	75050
JENNINGS	WILLIAM, O	4LM	2002 SUNNYSIDE DR.	PHOENIX	AZ	85029
METZ	CHARLES, F	7	104A LaBONNIE VIE DR	PATCHOGUE	NY	11772
RUSSO	MICHAEL	18ALM	34 HATHAWAY ROAD	BRONXVILLE	NY	10708
SANDHOLM	KEITH, E	391	2401 N 8 <sup>TH</sup> ST	RED OAK	IA	51566
SAUERMILCH	FRED	7	1255 W. GRANGERVILLE BLVD - SPACE #26, HANFORD, CA			93230
WILLIS	LYNN,	391LM	306 DUFFIELD ST	BLOOMFIELD	IA	52537
WOODWARD	FRANCIS, L	391	ELSIE ST	ROME	NY	13440
			c/o BETSY ROSS NURSING HOME			
ZESCH	EDWARD, E	7	P.O. BOX 770	BLUE JAY	CA	92317

## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
COLE	SANFORD, C	7	11-02-05	1017 COUNCIL DR #B	ALEXANDRIA	VA	71303
ORAVEC	WILLIAM, J	18	02-22-05	339 SAWGRASS PL	CASSELBURY	FL	32707
ROBERT	PAUL, H	18LM	05-21-05	9121 CAMULOS	MONCLAIR	CA	91763

***Roger Freeman, the great friend and historian of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force passed away on October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005. We greatly mourn his loss.***

### In Flanders' Fields

*In Flanders' fields the poppies blow,  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky,  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
In Flanders' fields.*

*Scarce heard amid the guns below,  
We are the Dead. Short days ago,  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe,  
To you from failing hands we throw,  
The torch; be yours to hold it high!  
If ye break faith with us who die,  
In Flanders' fields.*

## NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
DOPPELT	ANDREW	391A	2631 MULBERRY LANE	NORTHBROOK	IL	60062
MASSEY	ADAM	A	755 SUNSET RIDGE LN	LAWRENCEVILLE	GA	30045
PAYMENT	GLEN, R	4A	26069 CLARA AVE	COHASSET	MN	55721
STEMEN	KIM, S.	7A	215 GILIAD ST	CARDINGTON	OH	43315

## DONATIONS TO THE RAY L. SUMMA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

IN MEMORY OF  
HAL PROVINCE  
ROBER E. NOEHREN  
HAL PROVINCE

DONOR  
BERNADETTE FARLEY  
RALPH AND ELLEN CASEY  
BOB GROSS

# 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, 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.

# AMERICA, HOW BLESSED YOU ARE

Loretta Diane Walker

O Beautiful the song we sing and it's all because of you.  
Your unselfish love and devotion to this country, America.

America, America how blessed you are to have such valiant men  
and women, too. They gave their lives for you.

O beautiful the veterans feet that walked to freedom's beat,  
with determination in their hearts to keep this country free.

America, America how blessed you are to have such valiant men  
and women, too. They gave their lives for you.

O beautiful the vetrans dream to uphold all our rights  
with families left far behind they marched on to fight.

America, America how blessed you are to have such valiant men  
and women, too. They gave their lives for you.

O beautiful are those now resting in their graves  
for justice and liberty their precious lives they gave.

America, America how blessed you are to have such valiant men  
and women, too. They gave their lives for you.



**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**