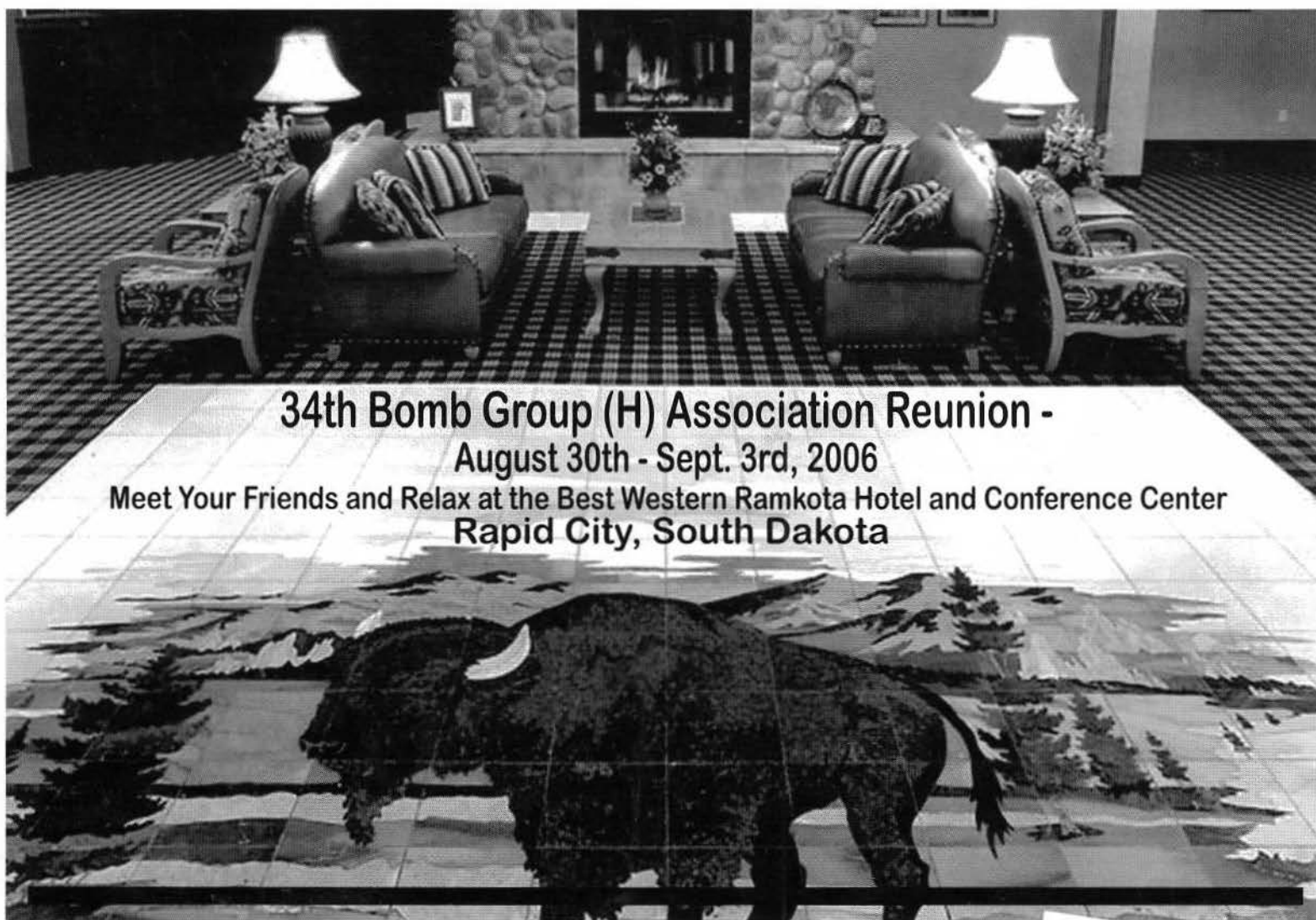




# ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



4TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

## 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)

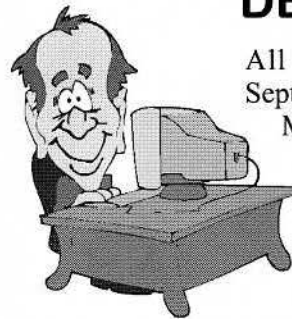
[www.air-museum.org/b17.htm](http://www.air-museum.org/b17.htm)

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

## DEADLINE

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

Jack Share, editor  
Page 11



## 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...

With the associations disbandment in two more years, there has been much concern over what will happen to the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb group web site - Valor to Victory. This web site has been especially valuable not only to our original members but even more so, I believe, to the next generation and will be a valuable tool for many generations to come. Needless to say, it should, if at all possible, be continued when the association is disbanded.

Most active members of the organization are well aware that there is some concern regarding the existence of the site as it has been discussed in the last two general meetings at the reunions. President, Kivett Ivey, has involved himself in securing its future.

A brief history might be in order for those who are not familiar with the Valor to Victory web site and how it came to be.

Our previous, and late, archivist, the Reverend Gary Ferrell, created the site as a tribute to his uncle, Dexter Jordan. Dexter was a crew chief in the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group and was with the original group before they were deployed until the end of the war. Inspired by his uncle's meritorious service, Gary began to research the group's past history and began to develop his web site. Through the years he has added much valuable information. Many members of the 34<sup>th</sup> have received past history on their missions, crewmembers, aircraft, casualties, etc. More recently it has become a tool for following generations to find facts concerning relatives and friends who served with the 34<sup>th</sup> during World War II. It must be continued for future generations.

Susan Ferrell, Gary's widow, owns the web site and has indicated she would like to keep it active. We are encouraged by her decision but have yet to work out how it will be financed and expanded should more data become available. We would hope for some solutions and/or suggestions prior to, and during, our next reunion in Rapid City.

Perhaps our next elected Archivist will have some ideas on how this important tool on preserving the memories and incidents of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group can be retained.



Jack Share

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Where has the time gone? All of a sudden it's time for the June issue and Jack is reminding me that he needs it last week! Too soon it will be reunion time again and that means we are on the count down for our last three reunions! The "Good Lord" willing I plan to attend all of them.

Lucille and I have been married 65+ years and, as some of you know, she has Alzheimers's and is slowly losing her memory. Some of you have experienced the same problem with your loved ones. My goal is to take it one day at a time and remember all the good times we have had.

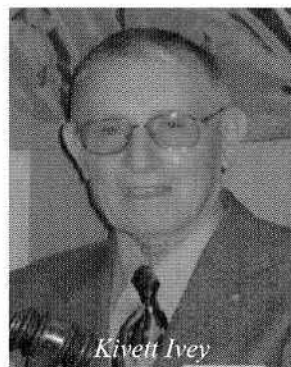
A few weeks ago my youngest daughter, an Air Force major stationed in Japan, visited us for a few short days. My other three were here also - we had a nice reunion. The Lord blessed us by allowing us to be together once more.

I am making my plans now for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion to be held at Rapid City, South Dakota from 30 August to 3 September, 2006. You all do the same! We need to get the most we can out of these last three reunions. Aren't we called "The Greatest Generation", or something like that?

My e-mail address has changed to [kevettivey@touchnc.net](mailto:kevettivey@touchnc.net). I would like to hear from you.

See you at the reunion.

Kivett Ivey,  
President



Kivett Ivey

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you for the 2006 dues payments that so many of you have sent me. Also, thanks to those of you who include personal notes with your dues payments. I forward these notes to Jack Share, who publishes many of them in Mendlesham Memories. It is a great way to let others know what is new with you.

Thanks to the steady flow of dues payments, our group is in good financial condition. We continue to pay our bills without using our long-term cash reserves.

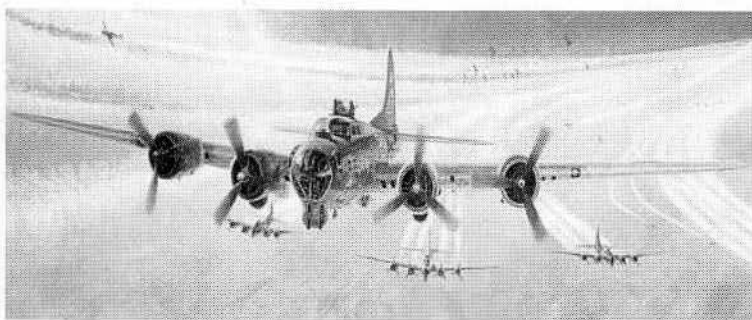
As a reminder, the annual dues amount for 2006 is \$20, the same as for 2005. The \$10 special assessment paid by life members in 2005 has not been continued for 2006. Elsewhere in this issue is the address for sending your annual dues payment to me. Please make your check payable to the "34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association." Also, please indicate in the memo section on your check the year that your payment applies to.

I really enjoy serving as Treasurer of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association. I hope everyone has a safe and healthy summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion in Rapid City.



Jack Steffen

JACK





# REUNION COMMITTEE REPORT

Welcome to the members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (H) Association. We will be having our 23<sup>rd</sup> gala reunion this year from 30 August to 3 September 2006 at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, 2111 N. LaCrosse St, Rapid City, South Dakota 57701. Telephone, 605-343-8550. The hotel rate has been confirmed at \$60.00 per night plus \$6.80 tax for a total of \$66.80. These rates are offered for three days prior and following the scheduled reunion dates. This being our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion, it was decided last year at Albuquerque that we would have two more after this one giving us a grand total of twenty five continuous reunions.

The hotel reservation form, the reunion registration form and the reunion agenda appears in this issue of the newsletter.

Our Friday, 1 September 2006, tour has been arranged through American Tours West. The coach tour will start with a 9:00 A.M. pick up at the Ramkota Hotel. Following a visit to Historic Mount Rushmore, we will lunch, non-hosted, at the site. After lunch we will depart for Bear Country, USA and Rapid City, returning to the hotel by 3:45 P.M.

**Please Remember:** To ensure accurate reservations, complete the hotel reservation form in this issue and return it before the cut off date of August 20, 2006. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel direct at 605-343-8550.

**Transportation:** Complimentary shuttle service from Rapid City Regional Airport to the hotel, 12 miles distant. The airport is the commercial hub for the Black Hills served by Allegiant, Northwest, SkyWest-Delta connection and United Express.

Interstate 90, U.S. highways 14 and 16 and State highway 79 provide surface road accessibility.

**South Dakota Weather :** Monthly high temperature for the month of September is 74 degrees.

Rushmore Mall with its 110 stores, anchored by JC Penny's, Sears, Herberger's, and Target, is across the street from our hotel.

Rapid City is close to many of the most intriguing and beautiful attractions in America including the inspirational Mount Rushmore National Memorial and the Black Hills National Forest with its abundant wildlife and Black Hills Gold featured in the many jewelry shops and outlets through out the city.

**Please Note:** Reservations can be made through Abby Travel Agency, Inc, Tracy Teller and K.C. Lochner. Telephone number - 1-800-807-2963. Office hours - 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. (Central Time) Monday thru Friday.

Make your reservations now until 30 days prior to departure and save ten percent - within 30 days save 5 percent. Savings on Northwest, United and Delta Airlines. All major credit cards accepted. Please mention the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. Car rental discounts available as well.

We hope to see all of our 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group people at our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota at the Best Western Ramkota hotel and Conference Center. See you then.

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

## A CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED

by Ann Moore  
of Steeple Bumpstead, England

Writing of the arrival of members of the 381st Bomb Group during the reunion in England in 1992...

"Elderly men stepped down from the coaches, but we saw young men for we looked at you with the eyes of the heart, and to us, you are forever young.

"We grew used to the sound of your B-17 engines warming up. We counted you out, and we counted you home. We grieved with you and for you, when all too often your friends failed to return. We children remembered the kindness you showed us, the candy, chocolate, and gum you gave us. And Oh! those Christmas parties you gave us. Arriving at the 'drome we entered a magic world of lights and warmth. We had never seen so much food in our lives: sandwiches and cake, and best of all... the ice cream, real ice cream. We quickly demolished the food (I hope you did not think us greedy>), and turned to gaze, in wonder, at the Christmas tree, tall and shimmering; it seemed to us a thousand lights lit its branches. Father Christmas handed our presents to every child.

"We appreciated the sacrifices you made to give us those wonderful Christmas parties; now older, we appreciate, even more, the enormous efforts you made on our behalf. Daily you flew into the blazing hell across the Channel. Some of you were undoubtedly grieving over a lost buddy, but no trace showed on your faces as you welcomed and fussed over us. The word 'Thanks' cannot convey what we felt then and still feel today.

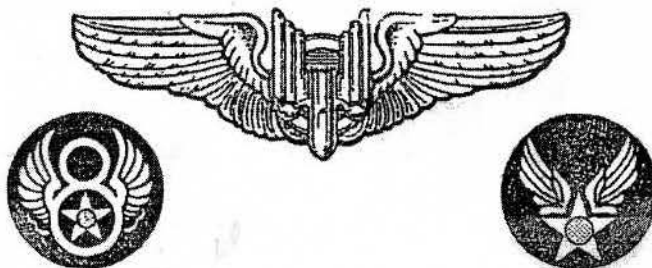
"Today, the aerodrome is a peaceful place; skylarks sing and white-winged gliders soar. Somehow a fitting memorial to those young men who bought its peace and beauty so dearly."

## GUNNERS ARE HEROES

Compliments: *B-17 Flying Fortress Newsletter*

According to records, Aerial Gunners were the real aces in the aerial war. Bomber crews shot down 6,254 enemy fighters, while fighter planes shot down 5,222 enemy fighters.

**NICE GOING GUYS!!!**



# A Grateful Grandson

To all the original members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association:

Michael A. Torre served as a Bombardier with the 7<sup>th</sup> Squadron of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in World War II. He was my greatest hero and the greatest grandfather any young boy could ask for. Unfortunately, he passed away several years ago, but his memory is, and forever will be, fresh in my mind. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think of him, or use his advice, or feel pride in that he was my grandfather.

I can still remember the excitement and eagerness with which I pestered him to tell me stories of his flying adventures in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. As always, he would accommodate me and I knew I wanted to be just like him. Together with my father and uncles we attended numerous air shows and watched countless shows on aviation. He spoke at my Aviation History class in college, was present when I got a ride in a B-17, went flying with me after I earned my pilot's license, was there when I won the 2003 Ray L. Summa Scholarship award and watched me swear into the Air Force. Regrettably, he never lived to see me pin on my wings as a HC-130 Combat Search and Rescue Flight Engineer. The last portion of my training took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, only three hours from Deming, New Mexico where he attended Bombardier school. Two days after my check ride I drove to that now desolate airport and walked among the deserted hangers with the same tears in my eyes that always accompany the thoughts of my grandfather. For a few brief moments I felt, in some way, that I was finally, in some respects, just like him.

Sixty years after my grandfather's service in World War II, I found myself deployed to the Horn of Africa in support of the Global War on Terrorism. I flew three combat sorties and seventeen combat support sorties and transferred thousands of pounds of fuel in-flight to helicopters. On the rotator home I realized it wasn't just me or my crew or my squadron that flew those days. It was also my grandfather, his generation, and the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. I was there because I wanted to be like him. I was there because he taught me there are things worth fighting for because our country and our values are worth the risks.

Although the members of the original 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association may no longer fit into their uniforms or their wings



**The HC-130 Crew**

**SrA Michael Torre, Flight Engineer, 1<sup>st</sup> row, 1<sup>st</sup> from right.**

hang tarnished in a closet or like my grandfather are no longer with us today, through their spirit and inspiration they all are still a vital component in the defense of our nation. I know this to be true because the story of my grandfather is the story of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group which is the story of a generation of individuals who, although their names never appear in a history book, are unquestionably the foundation on which the United States stands today. The generation of your grandchildren are still fighting your fight, with the tools you gave us, defending what you taught us was truly important.

I can assure you this; my children will know their great grandfather's name and what he and the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group did and what he taught me. He will not become a nameless face in a photo album locked away in an attic. And, as long as generations are inspired to wear a uniform, he and the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group will be eternally alive.

If my grandfather was here today I would thank him for giving me a hero and role model. So, instead, I will thank the members of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. Your service will never be forgotten.

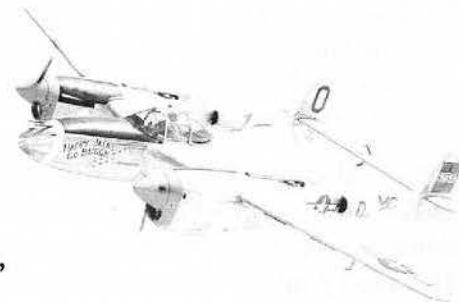
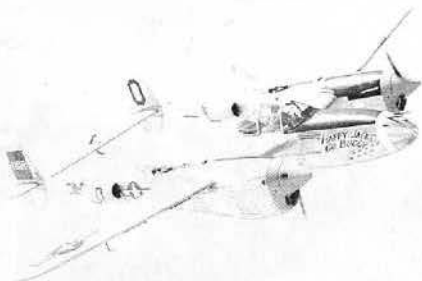
Michael Torre

## It's A Beautiful Thing

Submitted by Tom Davis

O, Hedy Lamar is a beautiful gal,  
And Madeleine Carroll too;  
But you'll find if you query,  
A much different theory  
Amongst any bomber crew.

The prettiest thing of which one can sing  
This side of the Heavenly gates,  
Is no blonde or brunette of the Hollywood set,  
But an escort of P-38s!





# 2115 Engineering Aviation Firefighter Platoon AAF Station 155

On September 26<sup>th</sup> 1944 the almost eerie silence that engulfed the Mendlesham Airdrome, AAF Station 156 was shattered at 9:30 A.M. by the sound of 50 caliber machine gun fire followed by a horrific explosion.

Crew Chief, Dexter Jordan was servicing B-17 "Sweet Seventeen" when a burst from a 50 caliber machine gun was accidentally discharged from the nose of the aircraft. The two rounds barely missed Dexter (who ultimately received the Bronze Star for his outstanding service) and struck a nearby gasoline truck squarely in the rear of the tank that instantly exploded into a roaring blaze.

S/Sgt. Saunders, a member of the Mendlesham Air Base 2115 Engineering Aviation Firefighter Platoon, was at the fire station when he heard the sound of a small explosion and saw smoke rising in the air. He immediately informed the station crew on duty to stand by and prepare their equipment for action. Jumping in a jeep, Sgt. Saunders drove to the west of the hanger #1 and seeing the fire, motioned the waiting crew at the fire station to move out. With both a 135 crash truck and a Crossley crash tender they arrived at the scene of the now blazing gasoline truck. Immediately laying out all lines, they began spraying foam in an attempt to extinguish the fire, which by now had consumed the entire back of the trailer.

With the fire being fed by gasoline, spewing from the two bullet holes, it soon became apparent that the foam had no effect on the blaze and the fire marshall ordered his men to withdraw at a safe distance and let it burn out.

Quick thinking by the gasoline truck driver, Kieth Anderson, saved nearby aircraft by driving the flaming vehicle a safe distance away. For that act of bravery, Anderson was awarded the Soldier's Medal by the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.

The citation read:

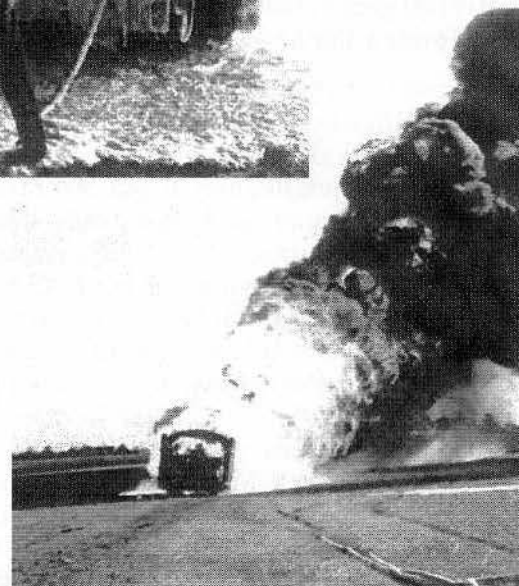
*KIETH M. ANDERSON, 35173495, Sergeant, Army Air Forces, United States Army, for heroism, not in action against the enemy, displayed at a bomber base in England, 26 September 1944. While Sergeant Anderson was filling the gasoline tanks of a bomb laden B-17, one of the guns on the plane accidentally discharged. The gasoline trailer was hit and set on fire.*

*With complete disregard for his personal safety, Sergeant Anderson disconnected the hose from the fuel tanks and drove the burning vehicle away from the area. Sergeant Anderson's quick, courageous actions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.*

Fighting  
The Fire



Burning  
Trailer



2115 Platoon Personnel



2115 Platoon With Equipment

# 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group 2006 Trip to England - Canceled

Unfortunately, the plans for the June 2006 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group trip to England are progressing slower than we had hoped. Due to time constraints and other unforeseen factors, we have come to the decision that the best thing to do is postpone the trip until the summer of 2007. Although our itinerary has come together nicely, securing a chartered bus and hotel accommodations has not gone as smoothly as planned. In addition, there is a concern that not everyone received the December issue of Mendlesham Memories and some may not even be aware of plans for the trip. We want to ensure that every member knows about it and has a chance to attend.

The decision to postpone the trip was not an easy one. We understand that some members may have already set aside time and incurred expenses and may not be pleased with our decision. Of course, if anyone is still interested in going to England this year, Gordon Leathers has expressed a desire to help out with contacts regarding arrangements for activities in the Mendlesham area.

Postponing the trip will give us the time and opportunity to maximize participation and to organize the trip into something special. We have a good lead on a travel agent and are going to work with them closely in order to establish costs and deadlines so that the information can be presented at the reunion this August in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Information regarding the trip may be obtained from

**David T. Fieber, Tour Organizer**

**2612 Alder St.**

**Bakersfield, CA 93304**

**E-mail - [teemmicah@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teemmicah@sbcglobal.net)**

## **BLYTHE AIRBASE RESEARCH**

I have been researching the World War II Blythe Army Air Force Base and find the history of that time very interesting. Where once a hub of busy activity, it is slowly being absorbed by the desert again, save for one runway maintained by the city. The aircraft ramps, other runways and building foundations are cracked and overgrown. Walking around the base, it is easy to drift back 60 years and imagine the men performing their duties while B-24's warm up their engines, preparing for another training mission.

I have visited about six 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group crash sites in the vicinity of Blythe. Very little is left of these sites, but there are still scattered steel and aluminum parts that mark the spot. It saddens me in a way that there is nothing to honor these nearly 80 young men who gave their life in training accidents. I have thought about placing a memorial at the airfield in their honor someday. In the meantime, I have placed some of the sites on my website, which is [www.fadedcontrails.com](http://www.fadedcontrails.com).

I would cherish the opportunity to write an article for your publication. I could cover a number of accidents and hopefully meet men who may have known these men. I am writing a book on southwestern WWII airfields and would like to make contacts with any men who might have stories or photographs or anything else to contribute regarding Blythe.

Here is a link to a 34<sup>th</sup> BG crash I found and documented.  
[http://www.fadedcontrails.com/new\\_page\\_3.htm](http://www.fadedcontrails.com/new_page_3.htm)

Trey Brandt  
4340 N 23<sup>rd</sup> Place  
Phoenix, AZ 85016  
e-mail - [ariztrey@cox.net](mailto:ariztrey@cox.net)

### **.50 CALIBER M3 MACHINE GUN PRINCIPAL SPECIFICATIONS**

*Compliments of the B-17 Flying Fortress Newsletter*

The weapon is an automatic recoil-operated, link-belt fed, air-cooled machine gun. The metallic link belt which feeds ammunition into the gun is the disintegrating type. The links are forced out of the gun through chutes upon separation from the ammunition. The ammunition may be fed into either the right or left side of the gun, depending on the positioning of certain parts.

#### **Leading Particulars**

Ammunition feed - link belt

Gun, caliber - .50

Gun, overall length - 57 1/2 inches

#### **Barrel**

Length - 36 inches

Number of lands - 8

Twist - right hand direction; one turn in 15 inches

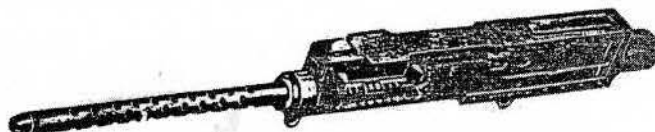
#### **Performance**

Rate of fire - 1150 to 1250 rounds per minute

Service life of gun - 115,000 rounds

Muzzle velocity - 2730 to 3450 fps

Weight, basic weapon - approximately 69 lbs.







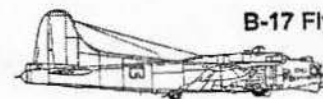
**Best Western  
Ramkota Hotel**

**Rapid City**

2111 N. LaCrosse Street  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
(605) 343-8550  
Fax (605) 343-9107  
www.ramkota.com



B-24 Liberator

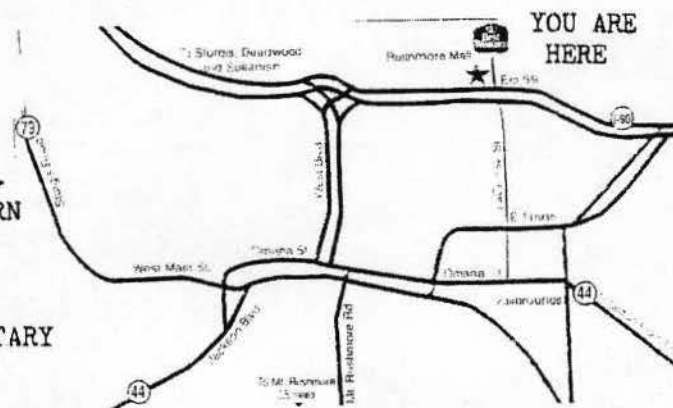


B-17 Flying Fortress

# 34TH Bomb Group's 23rd Annual Reunion

(TO ENSURE ACCURATE  
RESERVATIONS, PLEASE  
COMPLETE THE RESERVA-  
TIONS REQUEST & RETURN  
IT BEFORE AUGUST 20,  
2006.)

(ENJOY OUR COMPLIMENTARY  
SHUTTLE SERVICE.)



ROOM TYPE PREFERENCE: SINGLE \_\_\_\_ DOUBLE \_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ROOMS \_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PEOPLE \_\_\_\_

PLEASE LIST ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL GUESTS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

I HAVE ENCLOSED A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE NIGHT'S ROOM CHARGE PLUS TAX: \$66.80  
(ROOMS ARE \$60.00 PER NIGHT PLUS \$6.80 TAX).

PLEASE CHARGE ONE NIGHT'S ROOM CHARGE PLUS TAX TO THE FOLLOWING CREDIT CARD:  
\_\_\_\_ MASTER CARD \_\_\_\_ AMERICAN EXPRESS \_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_ DINERS CLUB \_\_\_\_ DISCOVER \_\_\_\_  
CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

I UNDERSTAND THAT I WILL FORFEIT MY DEPOSIT IN THE EVENT THAT I DO NOT ARRIVE OR CANCEL, LESS THAN 72 HOURS PRIOR TO ARRIVAL.

NAME OF CREDIT CARD HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_ SIGNATURE OF CREDIT CARD HOLDER \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK-IN TIME AFTER 3 PM. CHECK-OUT TIME IS 12 NOON.  
ALL HOTEL ACCOUNTS ARE SUBJECT TO CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS AT TIME OF REGISTRATION AND PAYABLE ON DEPARTURE.





**PROPOSED AGENDA  
34<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP REUNION**

**REUNION 2006**

The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group will hold it's Annual Reunion from **30 August - 3 September, 2006** at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel, 2111 N. LaCrosse, Rapid City, SD 57701. Phone: (605) 343-8550, [www.ramkota.com/rapidcity](http://www.ramkota.com/rapidcity).

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

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

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

Make checks payable to 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association.

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

REGISTRATION AND SCHOLARSHIP FEE \$15.00 EACH PERSON

X\_ \_ = \_

**NOTE: Both Member and Spouse or Guest must pay.**

**9/1 Friday**

Mount Rushmore/Bear Country Tour  
\$27.00 per person (lunch on your own)

X\_ \_ = \_

**9/1 Friday**

Dinner \$25.00 per person

X\_ \_ = \_

**9/2 Saturday**

Gala Banquet \$25.00 per person

X\_ \_ = \_

**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse/Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: All prices include tax and gratuity.**

Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

First Timer check here \_\_\_\_\_

Need name tags \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS 8 AUGUST 2006**

Full refund (less \$5.00 for Scholarship Fund) if notice of cancellation received by 20 August 2006.

## 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.  
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.  
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" .....\$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 -

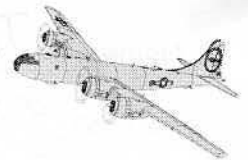
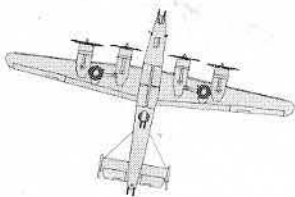
AND INCLUDE YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER WITH EACH ORDER  
(sometimes needed for clarification)

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!





**PROPOSED AGENDA  
34<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP REUNION  
BEST WESTERN RAMKOTA HOTEL  
RAPID CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA**

CHECK THE HOTEL BULLETIN BOARD FOR ROOM LOCATIONS

**WEDNESDAY 30 AUGUST 2006**

1300 - 1600 hours	EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION (lobby area)
-------------------	--------------------------------------

**THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2006**

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

**FRIDAY 1 SEPTEMBER 2006**

0900 hours	Tour group departs for Mount Rushmore. Lunch will be on your own, at Mount Rushmore. Tour lasts until 1600 hours.
1800 hours	Cash Bar
1900 hours	Dinner

**SATURDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2006**

0900 hours	General Membership Meeting Free time/lunch on your own free time
1800 - 1900 hours	Cash Bar
1900 hours	Gala Banquet

**SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 2006**    Farewells until 2007

*Post Exchange and Hospitality Suite to be open at hours yet to be determined.*

## The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Flies to a British Lancaster Base

Vincent J. Doran, 391<sup>st</sup> Sqd.

On our 25<sup>th</sup> bombing mission, 4 March 1945, we did not get to the assigned target. About the time we entered German airspace, the condensation trails became so thick we could barely see the plane next to us, 50 feet away. Contrails don't always dissipate immediately; sometimes they persist for several minutes, even expand. And after 500 planes fly through this kind of air, you can imagine how dense it can get. We turned around and headed back to Mendlesham, keeping our bombs. But we couldn't land there because fog was right down to the deck. We were sent to British Lancaster base down near Land's End, 300 miles away in the southwest corner of England.

When we arrived there, we made our normal 36 plane landing without radio communication. We knew what to do. Six planes from the low squadron came in line-a-breast 1000 feet high. The guy peeled off, made a steep 360 degree descending turn to the left and landed. Then the next one, and the next and so on until all were down. After the first six landed, the next six were in position and so on. After touching down, you opened the throttles some, and taxied to the end of the runway fast, and exited fast because there was another guy right behind you. We got everyone down in a few minutes. We had to park ourselves; we had to, as planes were everywhere on the ground. The British watched in disbelief. Since they flew at night with each plane operated alone, they had no experience in group flying, or flying without radio.

It being lunch time, we descended on their mess halls like a swarm of locusts, eating everything in sight. The Brits stood around watching us with mouths agape - like a person going to the zoo for the first time to see the animals.

Our flying clothing was somewhat more colorful than the British. They flew in coveralls over their dress uniforms and would appear at mess after their missions, a little wrinkled perhaps, but looking military. We also flew in coveralls but underneath there might be a mismatched parts of uniform - we could wear anything. Some wore knitted sweaters and scarves, presents from home. I dressed for prison camp on each mission in a mixture of work and dress uniform. Our fearless leader, LeBailly, got out of bed so late that morning that he only had time to put on his coveralls over his pajamas, which clearly showed. He wasn't the only one in sleeping attire.

The Group stayed at Land's End overnight returning to Mendlesham the next morning - all but us. One engine didn't test out 100% so we had to wait a couple of days for an American mechanic who was familiar with a B-17.

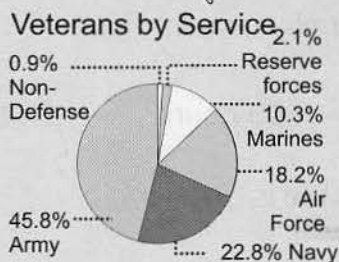
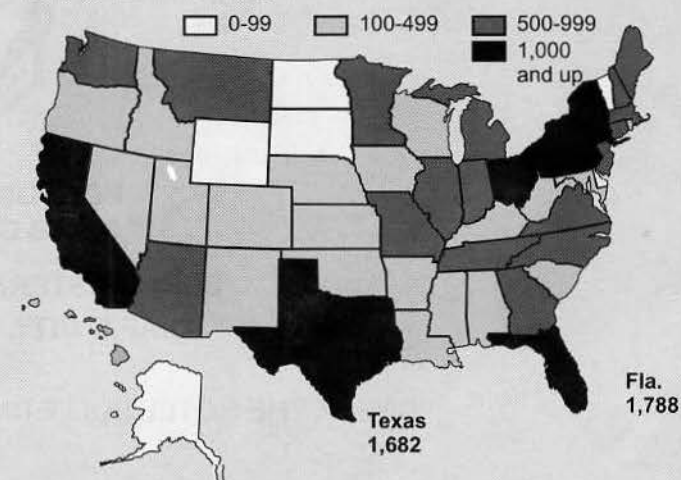
The British, being hospitable, invited us to a dance the coming evening but when they realized we didn't have proper uniform they uninvited us. They were apologetic, but firm - no uniform, no dance.

The last night there, the Base commander graciously spent some time with us. We generously, and frequently, toasted the King and Queen, President Roosevelt, each other, the Allies and victory. He also informed us that our Group had eaten their three months quota of sausage, eggs and dairy products.

## Few WWI Veterans Still Alive

Only 3.5 million of the 16 million Americans who served during World War II are still alive. About 1,000 die each day. Less than 50 veterans of World War I are still living.

### Number of veterans, in thousands



NOTE: Veterans by War number is for combat veterans only as of Sept. 20, 2005; percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding; all figures are estimates

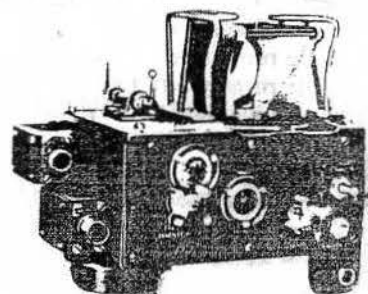


SOURCES: Census Bureau; Department of Veterans Affairs

## COMPUTING SIGHTS

Compliments: B-17 Flying Fortress Newsletter

Computing sights were also known as rate-of-time sights. First used in mechanized turrets, they computed the total lead required against a maneuvering target and were completely different from ring sights. The gunner could forget all about position firing and range estimation. A computing unit, connected with optic head, calculated deflections. The sights were of the "disturbed reticle" variety in which, as the gunner moved his turret (and sight), the lead required was indicated by a deviation of the sight reticle from its normal position. The reticle was an adjustable measuring scale or mark shown in the reflector glass of the sight.







## “TEDDY” (Roosevelt, That Is) Had it Right!!

A speech, made in 1907 by Theodore Roosevelt,  
26<sup>TH</sup> President of the United States, on  
“Being an American”.

“In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes an American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any such man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming, in every facet, an American and nothing but an American...There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag...We have room for but one language here, and that is the English language...and we have room for but one sole - loyalty. And that is a loyalty to the American people.”

# FRIENDS' WRITE

**GREG HACKNEY - NASHUA, NH**

It is with great sadness that I must report the death of my father, Clarence D. Hackney a.k.a “Hack” on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006. Dad was a member of the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 391<sup>st</sup> Squadron where he served as a crew chief for the “Thelma Jane”

While growing up I heard many stories about life at the base and was so glad that dad could keep in touch with some of the men he proudly served with.

I know it must be difficult to receive word of the passing of old comrades and that the list of survivors is unfortunately getting shorter each year. You and those that served with you have a proud heritage.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JAN PROVINCE - COVINGTON, LA**

Thank you so much for the nice tribute to Harold in the Mendlesham Memories. There is one correction I would appreciate you making in the next publication, Harold died August 9<sup>th</sup> - not September. ♥

I am positive Jack Steffen will be a great treasurer. Keep up the good work and please continue sending me the Mendlesham Memories.

\*\*\*\*\*

**HOLLIS CARLILE - BAKERSFIELD, CA**

Sorry to hear that the Association will close down in three more years. With the aging process, time was taking the Association in another direction. I wish that I had known about the group earlier. However, I was unaware of it until a member died in Bakersfield and I contacted the family and found out it existed.

My wife and I are taking a cruise to Western Europe in May and will be spending some time in London. May try to get to Mendlesham while there. I have some pictures of Mendlesham taken a few years ago by my co-pilot, Robert Hanaway who lives in Atwater California.

If health permits, I hope to be with the Association until it disbands.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Continued on Page 14*

## 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.

**LLOYD INMAN - KELSO, WA**

Enclosed is my check for the 34<sup>th</sup> BGA dues. Hope all is well with you. Thanks for your work for the 34<sup>th</sup> BGA.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MARIANNE McCOMBS (BALDEA) -CROWN POINT INDIANA**

I wanted to let all know that, after battling Alzheimer's for several years now, mom (Rose Baldea) succumbed to the disease on February 14, 2006 at 3:45am. I guess it is fitting that a woman named Rose should pass on to the Kingdom of God on Valentine's Day.

\*\*\*\*\*

**KEVIN PROVINCE - COVINGTON, LA**

My mother, Jan, has not returned to her home in Mississippi since it was damaged by the hurricane. The latest estimate is that it will be another 5 or 6 months until the repairs are completed. For now, she is living with me at 20 Terrace Lane, Covington, LA, 70433.

\*\*\*\*\*

**JOSEPH MORRELL - JOHNSON CITY, NY**

Sorry to hear Hal Province died.

February 20<sup>th</sup> will be my 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. I have had a bout of colon cancer but have it under control. I see good out of both eyes and I still drive my car, but who knows for how much longer. '06 dues are included. So long for now.

\*\*\*\*\*

**KEVIN PROVINCE - COVINGTON, LA**

Hal Province died on August 8, 2005 at home. We thank him deeply for his teachings and inspirations and for sharing the experiences he witnessed while being a part of the Mighty Eighth. I was one of the fortunate ones to hear these stories at the San Antonio reunion and experienced the bond he had with all of his crew members and other loyalists of the Mighty Eighth. My heart was saddened by his ever decreasing health as his old body fought the cancer. We were looking forward to the Albuquerque reunion but were unable to attend due to his death. I shall cherish the moments I shared with him and hold them deep in my heart as he held the memories and ideals of the Mighty Eighth. I will do everything I can to share his stories with my children and grand children.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BOB & NANCY HAM - RAMSEUR, NC**

Thanks to all who had a part in planning and arranging the Albuquerque reunion.

Attached is my '06 dues. Thanks to you Jack Steffen for your work as our treasurer.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BETTY LOU LAMPEY - AURORA, OH**

Enclosed is our check for 2006 membership dues in the group. My children Scott and Todd Lampey and Lynn Bachouros all enjoy receiving the MM and attending the reunions

Looking forward to Rapid City.

\*\*\*\*\*

**LONNIE HOLCOMB - PASADENA, CA**

I just wanted to let you know that my father, Verbal L. Holcomb is in ill health but I surely hope we'll be able to attend the next reunion at Rapid City. We sure enjoyed the reunion at Albuquerque last year.

\*\*\*\*\*

**KATE TAVASTI - PISMO BEACH, CA**

This is to advise you that my husband, Col. Roy Tavasti passed away February 25, 2006 after a long illness. He really enjoyed his membership in the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group organization.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ROBERT & JENNIE SCHROEDER - AMERICAN FALLS, ID**

We enjoyed the reunion last year in New Mexico. We hope to attend the reunion this year in Rapid City, South Dakota. We have 3 of our children as associate members. We appreciate all the Board and Reunion Committee do for the 34<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to give a big thanks for all the years Genevieve Rutka and Esther Wright have put in on behalf of the membership.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WILLIS GRIFFIS - VERNON HILLS, IL**

I have an extra copy of the three microfilms containing 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group orders and records from the 1943-1945 World War II period. If anyone in the group would like to borrow them, let me know.

These films are from the HQ Air Force Historical Research Center, Maxwell Field, Alabama.

My address is 90 Commonwealth CT, Vernon Hills, IL

First come, first served.

\*\*\*\*\*

**ART BUSSE - ANAHEIM, CA**

Enclosed is my \$20 check to cover my 2006 dues in the 34<sup>th</sup> BGA.

I enjoy reading the Mendlesham Memories. My wife, Kathy, died December 1<sup>st</sup>. She was the joy of my life so it's good to have something like the newsletter to keep your mind off of things.

Keep up the good work.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Frances Langford





Frances Langford, recording artist who toured with Bob Hope's USO troupe died at her home in Florida. Her song, "I'm In the Mood for Love" captivated 8th airmen on her tour of airbases in East Anglia.

The 5-foot-1 singer was a glamorous vision of home and became known as the "Sweetheart of the Fighting Fronts."





## Change of Address - JUNE '06

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BAKER	NATHAN	18	13039 PORT CT	HUDSON	FL	34667
CAMPBELL	MARY	4LM	4101 HEATHERWOOD	YARMOUTH PORT	MA	02675
CARTER	DOROTHY	7ALM	1226 E. KIRWIN AVE APT D1	SALINA	KA	67401
CHAUSOW	HYMEN M	391/4	830 AUDUBONWAY #HG506	LINCOLNSHIRE	IL	60069
GANGER	NORMA, L	4A	1300 GREENCROFT DR APT 67	GOSHEN	IN	46526
CHAUSOW	HYMEN, M	391/4	830 AUDUBON WAY#HG506	LINCOLNSHIRE	IL	60069
HENRICH	NANCY, J	A	4007 O'NEAL AVE APT 5	PUEBLO	CO	81005
LAUF	ANDREW	18A	3819 MERESTONE DR	WILMINGTON	NC	28412
NELSON	JOHN W JR	391	80 E NORTHAMPTON ST APT 425,	WILKES BARRE	PA	18701
ROMERO	GUY	7A	205 EAST BLUEBIRD DR	LAFAYETTE	LA	70508
ROMERO	GLENN	7A	401 SANDHURST DR	LAFAYETTE	LA	70508
STAR	JOHN J	391	245 BASSETT RD #50	BUFFALO	NY	14221
UNDERWOOD	LAWRENCE D	4LM	255 ASA DORSEY RD	CLEVELAND	OH	30528
WALKER	ORAL	391LM	3241 W SHORE DR	BATTLE CREEK	MI	49017
WHITAKER	ALTA JR	18LM	3800 W 71ST ST #M209	TULSA	OK	74132

## TAPS

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
BALLANTYNE	ROY, I	7LM	01-26-05	P.O. BOX 91	WAUCHULA	FL	33873
ELLIS	CHARLES, W	7	11-06-05	2100 CIRCLE DR APT 233	SCOTTSBLUFF	NE	69361
FURLO	VINCE	7/4	03-15-06	1523 GRATIOT AVE	SAGINAW	MI	48602
HACKNEY	CLARENCE, D	391	01-20-06	85 WALDEN POND DR	NASHUA	NH	03064
HUTCHISON	WILLIAM, M	4	11- 08-05	P.O.BOX 318	BARTLESVILLE	OK	74005
MEEHAN	JAMES, B	7	11-27-05	1225 AVENIDA DEL CIRCO	VENICE	FL	34285
PIERCE	GRANVILLE	18	01-11-06	6062 E UNIVERSITY BLVD#C106,	DALLAS	TX	75206
ROBERT	PAUL, H	18LM	05-21-05	9121 CAMULOS	MONTCLAIR	CA	91763
SNELLINGS	THOMAS, P	GRPLM	11-22-04	109 PINEHURST RD	RICHMOND	VA	23221
TAVASTI	ROY, E	7LM	02-25 -06	354 SEAVIEW AVE	PISMO BEACH	CA	93449
THOMPSON	ROY, M	391	09-28-05	158 BIRCH MOUNTAIN RD	BOLTON	CT	06043
TOBIASON	HENRY T	4	05-02-06	409 DALE DR. SE	REMER	MN	56672
VAUGHN	ROBERT, E	391/4	04-05-06	106 COUNTRY CLUB BLVD	PICAYUNE	MS	39426
WINGO	TRUMAN	18	unknown	1814 NORTH LA CANOA	GREEN VALLEY	AZ	85614

***ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD, AND LET YOUR LIGHT ALWAYS SHINE ON THEM.***

## New Associate Members

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
RUNYAN	GERALDINE	18A	1400 H.G. MOSELEY PKW APT 205	LONGVIEW	TX	75604

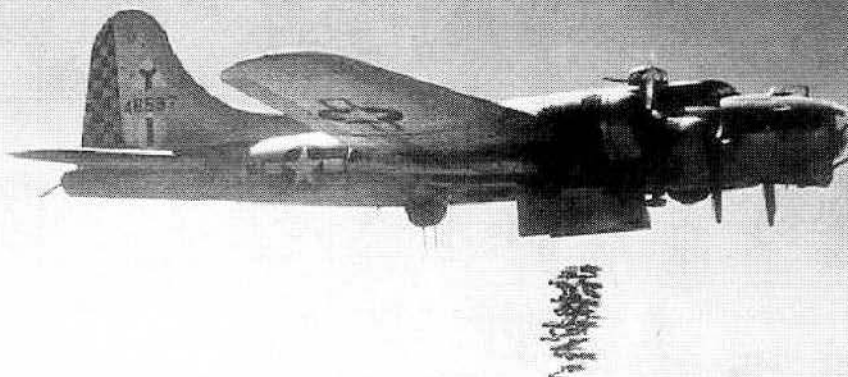
## Donations to the Ray L. Summa Scholarship Fund

### In Memory Of

HAROLD PROVINCE  
391<sup>ST</sup> ARMORERS  
WILLIAM M. HUTCHISON

### Donor

BILL AND MARGO BURNELL  
JOHN W. HAJLO  
CORRINE HUTCHISON (WIFE)



# HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

MAY 20  
Armed Forces Day

JUNE 14  
Flag Day

NOVEMBER 11  
Veterans Day

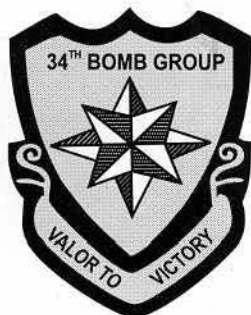
MAY 30  
Memorial Day

JULY 4  
Independence Day

DECEMBER 7  
Pearl Harbor Day

SEPTEMBER 20  
POW/MIA Recognition Day

The 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (H) Association salutes all active duty personnel around the world.  
On behalf of all our members, thank you for your service and sacrifice.



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

34th Bomb Group



Address Service Requested

NON PR  
ORC  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
G3 Direct

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

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