



ENDLESSHAM EMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



4TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

AIR FORCE MEMORIAL
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Change of Address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ANDERSON	PAUL, D	7LM	3811 E. UNIVERSITY DR LOT156	MESA	AZ	85205
FARLE	BERNADETTE, MRS.	18LMA	459 PASSAIC AVE APT 186W	WEST CALDWELL	NJ	07006
FUELLING	ISABELLA, MRS	7LM	480 S 300W	MONROE	IN	46772
ISRAELSEN	ALLEN, O	4LM	4440 MORRIS ST APT 411	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87111
ROMERO	GUY	7A	205 EAST BLUEBIRD DRIVE	LAFAYETTE	LA	70508
MASSEY	ADAM D	A	203 HAYLANDS TRAIL	TAYLORS	SC	29687

Taps

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
COLLEY	WALTER, M	18	12-23-07	801 E NORMAN AVE	ARCADIA	CA	91006
COUTROS	ANTHONY, W	391LM	12-20-07	11 CARRIAGE PL	EDISON	NJ	08820
GOENER	HUGH, H	4/7	04-07-07	6 LINKS COURT	AUSTIN	TX	78738
HOWARTER	WAYNE	7LM	01-17-08	16702 S HWY 59	WELDA	KS	66091
PODRAZA	HENRY, F	391LM	12-30-07	4495 33RD AVE N	ST PETERSBURG	FL	33713
WIMER	DANIEL, C	18LM	12-08-07	40 PONDEROSA LN	PAMYRA	VA	22963

Donations to the Ray L Summa Scholarship Fund

In Memory Of

BILL BURNELL
 JUNIUS COBB & ANTHONY COUTROS
 ANTHONY COUTROS
 ANTHONY COUTROS
 ANTHONY COUTROS
 ANTHONY COUTROS
 ANTHONY COUTROS

Donor

HARRY A PRILLAMAN
 JOE & MARILYN WONG
 MARY COUTROS (WIFE)
 JOHN COUTROS (SON)
 NANETTE F JACK
 MARY ANN RIEDEL
 LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS OF HOLY TRINITY

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

60 YEARS

November 1, 2007
 Fred and Ginny Muentel
 Wauwatosa, WI

61 YEARS

March 2, 2008
 AJZ (Abe) and Ernestine Firestone
 Hampton, VA

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.

Share - a thought...

Thank you, one and all, for the many Christmas and New Years greetings Marian and I received from the membership. We extend our heartfelt hopes and prayers that 2008 will be kind and generous to all.



Jack Share

One of the most perplexing problems encountered by the reunion committee is dealing with the hotel. Some of their demands are nearly impossible to meet and may require a considerable amount of negotiating. Perhaps the one demand that is the most impossible to provide is "How many rooms will be needed?" Since none of us are mind readers, the only way this question can be answered is by guess and by gosh and hope you are somewhere in the ballpark. Past reunions historical information, as to the number of attendees, is a measuring tool but even that can not be considered accurate because attendance changes due to such things as attrition, health problems and location. If the number of attendees are under the estimate the organization may be charged for the additional rooms asked for. If over the estimate, the extra rooms might not be available and late comers will be sheltered in another hotel in the vicinity.

This is not a new frustration. Harold Rutka and his committee dealt with it for everyone of their 42 years in planning reunions.

This issue contains the hotel reservation form for our final reunion in Washington, DC. As soon as you know for sure that you are going to the reunion, please fill the form out and send it in. Early reservations would be appreciated.

This issue also contains some details on the reunion that can be used for planning; such as location and dates. The June issue will contain the reunion registration form, the agenda and planned activities. Please fill the forms out and return them as soon as possible. Your reunion committee will be most appreciative for all the early assistance you can provide.

Also in this issue is the 2008 **Scholarship Application**. Your scholarship committee is looking forward to evaluating the qualifications of what certainly will be a most competitive year.

Jack



<http://valortovictory.tripod.com/photo24/41-28880ph.htm>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



David Fieber

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. Before Christmas we traveled to Illinois for the wedding of my oldest nephew. It was great having our entire family together so close to the holidays. We were even lucky enough to experience a snowstorm, which is quite a thrill for us Californians.

As I write this column, 2008 is only a few days old and it is hard to believe that the 34th Bomb Group Association has begun it's final year. The Reunion Committee is hard at work and we are trying our best to make the last reunion something special that everyone will enjoy. Even though we are relatively early in the process, I'm getting an inkling of how much work it entails in organizing a reunion and now I am even more appreciative of the effort all these past years of Harold and Genevieve Rutka, Bob and Esther Wright and Bruce Sothern. We can't thank them enough for all that they have done for our group.

Even though 2008 is to be the last year for the 34th Bomb Group Association, the legacy of our veterans is by no means coming to an end. We've seen tremendous interest and participation from 2nd and 3rd generation members and there isn't any reason to believe that those who desire to can't merge back into the 8th Air Force Historical Society and carry on the proud tradition of the 34th. We will make sure that information regarding membership in the 8th Air Force Historical Society will be included in a future issue of Mendlesham Memories.

David Fieber

Ed: Information on the 8th AF Historical Society can be found on page 4 of this issue of Mendlesham Memories.

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Jack Steffen

The annual dues amount for 2008 is \$20.00, the same as for 2007. There is no dues amount for life members for 2008. To those who have already sent your 2008 dues payment, thank you very much. For those who have not, elsewhere in this issue is the address for sending your annual dues payment to me. Please make your check payable to the "34TH Bomb Group Association".



Jack Steffen

At the meeting in Grand Rapids, I provided the board with detailed projections of our estimated revenues and expenses through calendar year 2008, when the 34th Bomb Group Association currently plans to cease operations. With the 2008 annual dues payments and our other sources of revenue, we project that we will have enough cash to conduct our business through 2008.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jack Steffen, Treasurer

NEXT GENERATION - SUPPORTING THE LEGACY

My name is Beverly Baynes Tomb and I am one of many adult children of an 8th Air Force veteran of WWII. My father, Dick Baynes, served with the 787th BS as part of the 466th BG, stationed in Attlebridge.

With leadership from Earl Wassom, a group of motivated children and other descendants of 8th AF vets are attempting to keep the memory of The Mighty Eighth alive by supporting a Next Generation Initiative. The goals of this group are to:

- 1) increase membership of the 8th AF Historical Society (8th AFHS) through children and grandchildren of 8th AF vets, and to encourage them to attend the annual 8th AFHS Reunions;
- 2) stimulate interest in maintaining the legacy of The Mighty Eighth through younger generations of Americans;
- 3) enhance the status of, and encourage support and continued development of the 8th AF Museum in Savannah, Georgia.

To begin this venture, we need your help. After you have read your Mendelsham Memories newsletter, we ask that you give it to your children, grandchildren, or others you know who may be interested, asking that they consider registering for the NexGen Initiative, and joining the 8th AFHS.

Some of our NexGen members have lost both of their parents, or grandparents, and are trying to learn of their loved one's experiences through meeting other vets, books, flight logs, etc. We of the Next Generation Initiative believe that by learning of

your experiences first hand, rather than from research, your children or grandchildren will enjoy this venture as much as we have.

I have enclosed a Registry/Data Form which includes contact information, name, address, etc. If your family member or friend wishes to join us, please have them complete this form and mail it to any of the persons listed on the form. The form can also be completed on-line by going to this web site; <http://www.8thafhs.org> and for a form to join the 8th AFHS, go to <http://www.8thafhs.org/joinus.htm>, or call the membership office at (912) 748-8884.

We sincerely thank you for your service to our country all those years ago. Without you, the fate of our country and the world would have been drastically different!

We also thank you for approaching your family members and encouraging them to register for the NexGen Initiative and to join the 8th AFHS. We believe that, in order to keep the legacy of The Mighty Eighth alive, it is imperative that we begin to build our membership now with the next generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Beverly Tomb
2122 Grayson Place
Falls Church, VA 22043
703-241-4151

8th AIRFORCE REGISTRY FORM NEXT GENERATION INITIATIVE

NAME _____ DATE _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____ Email _____

Complete the following:

WWII Veteran: _____ Descendent: _____ Other: _____ Affiliated WWII Group _____

I have an interest in the following area in which I will assist the NEXT GENERATION INITIATIVE.

Membership and data management _____; Reunions _____; Communications _____;

Museum and Memorials _____; Recruitment _____; Education / Scholarships _____;

Publishing and Research _____; Other _____.

Contact:

Norma Chesser
13047 Bassford Drive
Houston, TX 77099-2207
Email: npchesser@yahoo.com
Phone: (281) 498-6134

Joseph P. Keeley
1335 Belmont Ave.
North Haledon, NJ 07508
Email: fxe84@openline.net
Phone: (983) 423-4854

Interesting Facts from the World War II Encyclopedia of Facts and Figures

German Aircraft Losses:

41,452 day fighters - 10,221 night fighters - 6,733 recon
planes - 22,0667 bombers - 6,141 transport planes

8th Air Force Losses:

5,235 (Approximately)
420 aircraft in April 1944

The Germans at Vienna had large productions of oil which we bombed often. To keep shipments going out to their armed forces they put hundreds of barrels of oil in large nets and with cranes sunk them to the bottom of large lagoons of the Danube River.

After their refineries were bombed they'd lift them out and load them on rail cars, and ship them, thus keeping production and shipments of it going to their armed forces.

Yugoslavs destroyed some of the vast German supplies being shipped to Africa for Rommel's forces. It was clever sabotage of the rail shipments by the underground so train engines would explode many miles down the line. They put explosives in chunks of coal they'd hollowed out and glued back together, then placed in train engine's coal cars. The Germans had executed civilians of villages where sabotage occurred, so this prevented Kraut reprisals against any villagers.

Recently learned: The Germans built flooded large fields, poured oil on the flooded areas, and then lit them afire so when the first bombs were dropped they hoped every following group would see the fire and drop their bombs on the open burning fields instead.

Old Flyers

I hope there's a place way up in the sky, where old fliers can go on the day that they die.

A place where a guy can buy a cold beer, for a friend and comrade whose memory is dear.

A place where no doctor or lawyer can tread, nor an FAA type would 'ere be caught dead. Just a quaint little place, kind of dark, full of smoke, where they like to sing loud, and love a good joke.

The kind of place where a lady could go, and feel safe and protected by the men she would know.

There must be a place where old flyers go, when their flying is finished, and their airspeed gets low.

Where the whiskey is old and the women are young, and songs about flying and dying are sung.

Where you'd see all the fellows who'd flown west before, and they'd call out your name as you came through the door.

Who would buy you a drink, if your thirst should be bad, and relate to others, "He was quite a god lad."

And then through the mist, you'd spot an old guy, you had not seen in years, though he taught you to fly. He'd nod his old head, and grin ear to ear, and say, "Welcome, my son, I'm pleased that you're here."

For this is the place where true flyers come, when their journey is over, and their war has been won.

They've come here at last to be safe and alone, from the government clerk, and the management clone. Politicians and lawyers, the Feds and the noise, where all hours are happy, and they're all good ol' boys.

You can relax with a cold one, maybe deal from a deck, this is Heaven son... You've passed your last check!"



Norman L. Mayer

1942



Then

&

Now

2007



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.

2008 Application for the 34th Bomb Group Ray Summa Scholarship Awards

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Name of Sponsor (paid-up 2008): _____ 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, 2008.

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

Winners are expected to be announced at the 2008 34th Bomb Group Reunion in September.

Mail completed application to:

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

FATAL AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS AT BLYTHE AND SALINAS.

34th Bomb Group Association Membership:

Thought you might be interested in this list of fatal aircraft accidents (below) for the 34th Bomb Group at Blythe and Salinas. There is one Salinas accident missing since the official record states there were seven crashes there in the Summer of 1943 killing 43 airmen.

Art Wilson
590 Seville Lane
Blythe, CA 92225

34th Bomb Group Fatal Incidents Out of Blythe Army Base

Date		Acft	Location	Fat als	Inj	Non- Inj	Nature of Incident
03-05-43	34 th	B-17F	Flagstaff	5			Crash into mountain in snow storm, lost
03-17-43	34 th	B-17F	5 mi So	7			Mid-air engine fire, crash landing
04-26-43	34 th	B-17F	20 mi SE	4	4		Fail to recover from stall, pilot error
07-24-43	34 th	B-24	½ mi So	5	6		1 engine out, crash land, pilot error
08-12-43	34 th	B-24E	7 N Indio	10			Tail structures lost in flight, spun in
08-16-43	34 th	B-24D	Palm Spgs	9			Tail structures lost in flight, spun in
09-22-43	34 th	B-24D	Waldo KS	11			Collide w/hillside, pilot error
10-03-43	34 th	B-24E	BAAB	1		9	Navigator walked into prop
10-04-43	34 th	B-24D	BAAB	10			Crash landed w/engine out, pilot error
10-14-43	34 th	B-24D	N'ghbours	10			Emerg landing w/gear up
10-15-43	34 th	B-24E	8 mis NW	10			Attempt emerg land, hit McCoy Mtns
01-21-44	34 th	B-24J	3 mis NW	7	2		Hit McCoy Mtns, cause undetermined
01-24-44	34 th	B-24D	Chinle	1		10	Lost, out of fuel, all parachuted
01-25-44	34 th	B-24E	4 N Qrtste	8			Mid-air explosion, cause unknown
02-13-44	34 th	B-24E	March Fld	5	5		Hit prkd acft while landing w/eng out
03-03-44	34 th	B-24E	SB Mtns	4			Hit mountain, cause unknown
03-06-44	34 th	B-24E	Quartzsite	1	1	7	Crewmen hit by air-to-ground gunnery
				108	18	26	

34th Bomb Group Fatal Crashes At Salinas

06-10-43	34 th	B-24E	Weed, CA	6		4	Engine failure and crash
06-12-43	34 th	B-24E	2W of Soledad	5		3	Emergency landing, hit power lines
06-21-43	34 th	B-24E	Parker Peak, CA	7			Hit mountain, cause unknown
07-04-43	34 th	B-24E	Santa Bar- bara, CA	2		8	Out of fuel, 2 drowned after bailing out
07-05-43	34 th	B-24E	Bakers- Field, CA	7		2	Engine failure, crashed attempting to land
07-05-43	34 th	B-24E	San Mig- uel Island	12			Hit mountain (search for 7/4/43 bailouts)
				39		17	

(Should be one additional Salinas fatal crash killing four.)

2008 Reunion Committee Report

The final reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association will be held **Thursday, September 4, through Monday, September 8, 2008**, at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C. For prior reunions, our group has used a Wednesday through Sunday schedule, with a Saturday night banquet. **Note that for 2008, we are using a Thursday through Monday schedule, with a Sunday night banquet.**

We are continuing to develop the agenda for the meeting. Additional information, including meeting registration information, will be included in the next issue of Mendlesham Memories; however, hotel reservation and room pricing information are included in this issue, on the facing page. One of the biggest challenges we have faced so far in putting together the final reunion is estimating the number that will attend. Attendance at our reunions has declined the last few years, and there is a risk that that trend will continue. However, we have heard of other veterans groups that have had large increases in attendance at their final reunions. Hotels require commitments for numbers of guest rooms in order to hold both guest rooms and meeting space for us. If you are seriously thinking of attending this final reunion, please make your hotel reservation as soon as possible. If your plans change later, you can cancel your reservation up until 4:00 p.m. on the date you are scheduled to arrive. From a planning perspective, it will be very helpful if we can get rooms booked ASAP, so that we can continue to try to accommodate all who wish to attend this final reunion.

For those planning to travel to the reunion by air and want to begin the booking process, the hotel is close to Ronald Reagan National Airport, and the Doubletree offers free shuttle service between the hotel and the airport.

Washington, D.C. offers a large variety of political, historical and military sites. In particular, there are sites that specifically

celebrate the efforts of our veterans, including the World War II Memorial and the Air Force Memorial. We are attempting to include visits to some of these sites in our final itinerary. As stated above, we are still developing the agenda. However, so that you can begin planning your visit, we plan to offer scheduled group activities on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. **Importantly, for making hotel or flight arrangements, as noted above, our final banquet will be held on the evening of Sunday, September 7.** We were able to secure better pricing by holding the banquet on Sunday.

Some of you may want to spend a few additional days in Washington before or after the reunion. Washington D.C is a popular travel destination, and rooms are at a premium. A limited number of rooms are available at the Doubletree at the group rate before the reunion, starting on Sunday, August 31. A limited number of rooms are available **after** the reunion at a higher discounted rate of \$149 per night. So, if you are planning to spend a few extra days in Washington, you may want to consider doing so **before** the reunion.

For those of you who would like to view the hotel's location, the Doubletree's web site is www.doubletreecrystalcity.com.

Please watch the next issue of Mendlesham Memories for further developments. Our goal continues to be to provide our veterans, and all of our group members, with a memorable final reunion. We hope to see many of you in Washington, D.C.

Our phone numbers and email addresses are listed inside the cover of Mendlesham Memories. Please contact any of us with any questions.

Your Reunion Committee,

David Fieber, Scott Mackey, Jack Steffen and Bonnie Zylstra

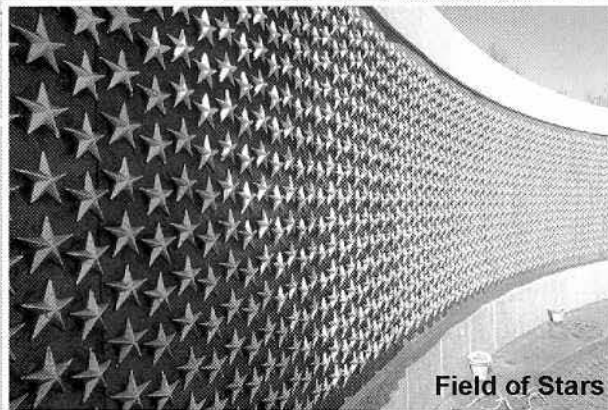
WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



to by Richard Latoff)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Air_Force_Memorial_Engraving.jpg

wwiimemorial.com



Field of Stars

DOUBLETREE HOTEL – CRYSTAL CITY, ARLINGTON, VA
(703) 416-4100

The Doubletree Hotel Crystal City National Airport is located at 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA 22202. The hotel is ideally situated in the Crystal City corridor just minutes from the nation's capital. Hotel vans will shuttle you to the nearby Pentagon City Fashion Mall at the Pentagon City Metro stop. The Metro provides transportation into the city to visit any of Washington's many world-famous museums and monuments. If you are driving, please feel free to contact the hotel directly for directions. Each guest room features cable TV with Pay Per View and games. The hotel has a fully equipped health club or treat yourself to a swim in the enclosed rooftop pool. The hotel's gift shop is located in the lobby. Best of all, Doubletree's famous homemade chocolate chip cookies will be waiting for you the night you arrive! The hotel offers handicapped accessible and non-smoking rooms, which are based on availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservation.

Self-parking is available in the hotel's garage for 34th Bombardment Group Association at a discounted rate of \$8 per day (this does not include valet parking). Check-in time is 3:00pm, and check-out is 12:00 noon. **The Café**, serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner and has a charming atmosphere. **Window's Over Washington Restaurant**, serves dinner only on Friday and Saturday. Offering Continental and New American cuisine plus a spectacular view, **The Skydome**, a revolving rooftop lounge, is well known as one of the city's most popular nightspots. **The Lobby Bar** serves drinks and hors d'oeuvres. Room service is available.

The Doubletree Hotel provides free shuttle service to and from Ronald Reagan National Airport from 6:15am until 10pm. It departs the hotel every 15 minutes and proceeds to the airport to drop off and pick up passengers. It then returns to the hotel. From 10pm to midnight, it runs every 30 minutes. Please follow the signs for ground transportation to catch the shuttle.

The hotel has limited RV parking, located behind the hotel; parking for RVs will be at the discounted group parking rate of \$25 per day. Please inform the hotel when making reservations if you will be parking a RV. For electrical hookup service, the Pohick Bay Park on the Potomac River is the closest park to the hotel, which is approximately twenty miles away, located at 6501 Pohick Bay Drive in Lorton, VA. Call (703) 339-6104 for information, reservations, and directions. Their web address is www.nvrpa.org.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheel chairs by the day and week. Please call their toll free number at (888) 441-7575 for details.

Vendors and schedules are subject to change.

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO THE HOTEL

34th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION – HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2008

NAME _____ SHARING ROOM W/ _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

TEL. NUMBER (____) _____ ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEP. DATE _____

OF ROOMS _____ # OF PEOPLE IN RM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS _____ SMOKING _____

NONSMOKING _____ KING BED _____ 2 BEDS _____

If room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$99 + tax (currently 12.25%) for standard rooms with 1-2 people (\$10 additional each for 3rd and 4th person).

Executive Suites are available for \$119 + tax for up to 2 people (\$10 additional each for 3rd and 4th person).

CUT-OFF DATE: 08/01/08. Reservations received after this date will be processed on space and rate availability.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is canceled by 4pm (EST) on your arrival day.

Adjustments to departure date after check-in, resulting in a shortened length of stay, may result in a fee.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

Mail to: Doubletree Hotel *ATTN: Reservations * 300 Army Navy Drive* Arlington, VA 22202
www.doubletreecrystalcity.com or Fax to (703) 416-4147. You may also call 703-416-4100 to make your reservation.

Archives of Military Records

From Ambers Hanson - 391st. Squadron

This information might be helpful to some of our membership in acquiring copies of military records from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. The instructions are as follows:

The National Personnel Center in St. Louis has opened the military records of more than 6 million service members who were discharged or who retired or died before 1946.

To view original records, visit the center in person, call ahead to check whether records are intact. For an appointment, call 314-801-0850.

To obtain copies of records, write to the center at:

National Personnel Center
9700 Page Ave.
St Louis, MO 63132.

Or fax a request to 314-801-9195. Request may also be submitted online at www.veterans.archives.gov. There may be a charge for copies.

You would also need to submit the name, rank, serial number and dates of service.

This information was printed in USA TODAY on Wednesday, November 7, 2007, page 13A.



Basil L. Gaumer -My Hero - My Dad

by John R Gaumer, Veteran,
U.S. Air Force (1966-1970)

I am very fortunate and extremely blessed in being who I amthe son of a World War II veteran. Not only a veteran, but also a proud member of the 18th squadron, 34th Bomb Group Association, 8th Air Force.

It's hard for most of us second generation offspring to comprehend the senses of actually being there, the feel of it, the smell of it, the helpless, unforgiving pain and emptiness of being away from family and home. Living just one day at a time that stretched beyond hope and end to the daily repetition of human sacrifice. The awe of war is so unforgiving.

It is impossible for me to imagine what he lived through, even though I cling to every word that flows from his memory with vivid detail, as though it was only yesterday.

I try really hard to capture the moment, as he recalls his experiences from that dramatic era. All I can do is just imagine, which is as close as I am going to get just short of actually living his life myself.

There will always be that difference between dad and me.

He experienced it, I imagined it. And every time I look into his eyes I see a man, a man that I will never be able to walk in his shoes, but only in his shadow.

Thank God and the Mighty 8th for watching over him and bringing him home.

Basil L Gaumer

He was one of millions that proudly served and is one in a million to me. He is my hero. He's my dad.

Go Fish

A couple go to a fishing resort on the Grand Mesa on one holiday. The husband likes to fish at the crack of dawn. The wife likes to read.

One morning the husband returns after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lakes, the wife decides to take the boat out. She motors out a short distance, anchors, and continues to read her book.

Along comes a fishing inspector in his boat. He pulls up along side the woman and says, "Good morning ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book," she replies (thinking, "isn't that obvious?").

"your in a restricted fishing area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry officer, but I'm not fishing, I'm reading."

"Yes, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start fishing at any moment. I'll have to take you in and make a report."

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault," says the woman.

"But, I haven't even touched you," says the man.

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment."

"Have a nice day ma'am," and he left....

Moral: Never argue with a woman who reads, it's likely she can also think.

PX Order Form

AUTO WINDOW STICKER – 2"X4 BLACK AND SILVER	\$4.00 EACH OR 3 FOR \$10.00
VET: WWII US ARMY AIR CORPS	(NO SHIPPING CHARGES ON THIS ITEM)
LICENSE PLATE HOLDER (2 for \$5.00)	\$3.00 ea.
LICENSE PLATE- White with blue logo. Print same as several years ago	\$10.00 ea.
PATCHES – 34 TH BOMB GROUP "VALOR TO VICTORY"	\$5.00 ea.
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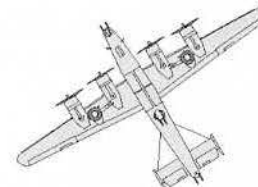
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Wichita, KS 67206

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!



<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/95thBG/>

PHOTO:

One Incredible Photo.
Do you know anything about
this creative corkscrew
contrails capture?
Share it with us...

FRIENDS' WRITE

WALTER STURDIVAN - STOCKTON, CA

It's with much sorrow that I let you know that my wife, Lois, passed away on Oct. 26th, 2007, one day short of her 85th birthday. Cause of death was a massive stroke. We were married for 64 years. She attended many of the 34th Bomb Group reunions and was a joyful companion.



Lois and Walter Sturdivan - March 1944
Blythe, CA

HARRY PRILLAMAN - MARTINSVILLE, VA

It takes a brave, tough man to fly 33 long bombing missions over Germany, cramped up in a ball turret in the brutal cold winter of 1944-1945.

Bill Burnell was endowed with these fine traits plus he was a very intelligent, well organized individual. Bill passed away Oct 9th in Seattle, Washington, leaving a sad void in a lot of lives - including mine. I flew in the waist, few feet from the ball turret so it was my duty to keep an eye on all connections going to the turret and give Bill assistance if needed. We used to joke that Bill was the real protector of the aircraft and I was his attendant. We formed a bond that has endured over the years. It is long distance from Virginia to Seattle, but after we retired I visited Bill and his family twice and he did likewise to my home in Virginia. He will be greatly missed.

ED CROWLEY - PEORIA, AZ

I don't remember if I have paid the dues so here is \$20.00 to make sure. Sorry to hear that the coming year might be the last one.

While I haven't attended a reunion, I have enjoyed the magazine. Three cheers to all the folks responsible for keeping the organization going.

PHIL PAYNE - MIAMI LAKES, FL

I hope you and your family had a Happy Holiday Season.

SYLVIA AND LESLIE LUMMIS - MENDLESHAM, ENGLAND

Bub and I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and bright and healthy New Year. Reading the Mendlesham Memories, it seems its been another busy year and we enjoyed the visits from our American friends. We wish it could have been for longer.

Once again we had the service of Remembrance on November 11th in which a candle was lit for all from the village who lost their lives in two World Wars, Korea and this year in Afghanistan and also for all those men of the 34th bomb group who did not return to the Airfield at Mendlesham - such a lot of lives to mourn. The ceremony was very moving.

We had a request from Mr Jennings Braun searching for information about Mendlesham Airfield. At 92 years of age his memory seemed pretty good and we were happy to help.

Our very best wishes to all the members of the 34th Bomb Group Association.

VIRGINIA GOERNER - THE HILLS, TX

My husband, Hugh, who passed away on April 7, 2007 was lead navigator on the "Knockout Dropper" with Jim Sain, pilot, Don Stufflebeam, co-pilot, Tony Scimeca, Bombardier, Abe Firestone and Floyd Bennett Richmon, "Rich" to the crew.

These are the crew members I have met at the reunions we attended and enjoyed.



<http://valortovictory.tripod.com/photo17/44-8731ph.htm>

JUNE WIMER - PALMYRA, VA

I am informing you of the death of Daniel C. Wimer on Dec.8th, 2007.

He flew 25 missions as a radioman/gunner proudly serving his country. His devotion to the Mighty Eighth was very real. I enjoyed hearing of his adventures.

WILLARD STELLING - OTTAWA, IL

Enclosed is my dues for 2008. Always enjoy reading Mendlesham Memories, although it is still being delivered to my old address. My new address has appeared several times in Memories.

FRIENDS WRITE - Continued

TREY BRANDT - PHOENIX, AZ

Furthering my research on the 34th Bomb Group while at Blythe, CA, I am trying to track down a few members I can not seem to locate. Two pilots, John Abrell and Eugene R. Johnston, we stationed in Blythe in April of 1943. Also, two other crew members I am interested in tracking down are Olaf Sagaas and Carl Sisco. I spoke with Olaf about 8 years ago but cannot locate him now. Hopefully, he has not passed away.

Trey Brandt
4340 N. 23rd Pl
Phoenix, AZ 85016
(602) 952-2646
e-mail - treyB@cox.net

CLAYTON MINK - HUDSON, NY

Sorry for being late with my 2008 dues. Mendlesham Memories came to the rescue.

Happy New Year to all. Hope all is well.

FRED BERGLUND - TITUSVILLE, FL

Enclosed find my dues for another year in the 34th Bomb Group Association. It was interesting to hear about a fellow pilot in the 34th BG written by Sharol Rasberry of Wichita, Kansas when she wrote about her father Allen J. Barta of the 4th squadron. I was also in the 4th. He wrote me about my experience when I "s--- my pants" on a mission.

Hope to make the next (and last) reunion in Washington, DC.
(Just another co-pilot)

ED HAYES - SALISBURY, MD

Enclosed is my check for 2008 dues.

The last report I read there are only 158,000 WWII veterans still living and those left are going fast.

I enjoy reading MM magazine. Keep up the good work.

Thank you and God Bless.

DWIGHT KELLEY - BURDEN, KS

Another year about gone. Here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year ahead.

Here's my dues for 2008. Hope the Next Generation group can keep the Group together for years to come.

BOB HAMM - RAMSEUR, NC

Thanks to all who have helped to hold the Group together for all these years.

Nancy and I plan to attend the 2008 reunion, if possible.

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2008.

BASIL GAUMER - GREENVILLE, IL

I am enclosing a check for \$20.00 for my 2008 dues to the Mendlesham Memories. I sure hope it isn't the last. I hope the younger generation can take over.

Well, Jack, it's too late to wish you a Merry Christmas but I do wish you and your family a Happy New Year.

WILLIS GRIFFIS - VERNON HILLS, IL

I thought I'd let you know about the Stallion 51 air show in Columbus, Ohio at the end of September. It was a three day show and called the "Gathering of Mustangs and Legends, The final Round Up", and will probably be that. Two each of B-17's, B-25's, P-38's, (including Glacier Girl), P-47's, and a P-40 plus a big Lancaster down from Canada. And to top it all off, since the Stallion 51 is a P-51 organization, they had 76 Mustangs there. What a sight to see that many p-51's parked wing tip to wing tip.

And what a show they put on each day. Fly by's by a F-15 with a pair of P-51's as escort. The same with a F-16 and also the F-22 Raptour. After the fly by's, each jet put on it's own performance. Also, each day a performance by the Air Force Thunderbirds. On Saturday was a fly-by by the B-2 bomber. That flying wing is a weird sight.

All three days I wore my A2 jacket. I expected some comments but was surprised by all I got. All three days I received "thank you's" from many people. Parents wanted pictures of me (really my jacket) with their sons and probably half dozen wanted pictures of the front and back of the jacket.

The most satisfactory event of the three days was when I met a WWII 8th Air Force P-51 pilot and had a chance to thank him for their escorting us bomber boys. As I told him, "If it wasn't for you guys, I might not be alive today". He smiled and said "thank you".



ALICE PAWLOSKI - DUNKIRK, NY

Enclosed is my check of \$20.00 towards my payment of Mendlesham Memories. I look forward to receiving my copy of the magazine. The past officers did a great job with the magazine. Good luck to the second generation in the final years.

BILL BARRON - CHICAGO, ILL

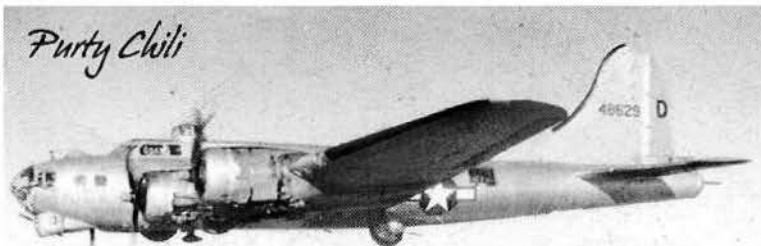
Your good work is, and has been greatly appreciated!

FRIENDS WRITE - Continued

CRAIG COUTROS - EDISON, NJ

I regret to inform you that my father, Anthony Coutros, died December 20, 2007. We were all sorry to have missed the last reunion. My father was just not able to make the trip. My parents began attending the reunions in 1985 and I began joining them in 2001. Over the years I got to know the fine people of the 34th such as the Wongs, the Farleys and Harold Province, who flew with my dad.

My dad was the flight engineer on the B-17 "Purty Chili" and operated the top turret. During this time he completed 19 combat missions and two food drops over Holland. He was credited with shooting down two German fighters, receiving the Air Medal and two Oak Leaf clusters. In 1995 he and his wife, Mary, attended the celebration for veterans given by the Dutch government for those who participated in the Holland food drops.



<http://valortovictory.tripod.com/photo17/44-8629ph.htm>

JOE WONG - ALAMEDA, CA

As always, Marilyn and I had a really great time at the reunion in Grand Rapids. Thanks to all who made his reunion so enjoyable.

We are so sorry to hear of Junius Cobb and Anthony Coutros passing. We will miss them as we had spent many happy times together.

God willing, will see you all at the next reunion.

JOE MORRELL - JOHNSON CITY, NY

This check is for my 2008 dues. I hope I live to pay many more dues. I'll be 95 Feb. 25th. Right now I feel very good. No aches or pains but who knows.

The best of luck to all.

MARLENE COLLEY - ARCADIA, CA

This is to inform you of the death of Walter M. Colley. He died on 12/23/07. He was very proud of his 30 missions in B-17's and B-24's and glad he made it home alive!!

Another of the Mighty 8th Air Force gone.

MARGARET KLINE - BURNT HILLS, NY

Enclosed are my dues for '08. George and I did enjoy the many reunions we attended. I still enjoy reading the MM. Much luck and happiness to all.

PHILIP LEVICK - SHEFFIELD, ENGLAND

Please find enclosed \$20 for my 2008 dues. This year will be a sad one if (as planned) the 34th BGA winds down.

No matter what happens, the 34th Bomb Group and the 8th Air Force will never be forgotten over here in the UK. The sacrifice made by so many young men and women will be forever remembered.

All the best to everyone.

MARY COUTROS - EDISON, NJ

Sorry we could not attend the last reunion. Talked to 2 members who attended. They enjoyed seeing everyone again. Tony was not up to it and sadly passed away on December 20, 2007.

I am enclosing checks in his memory given by two friends and my family.

Hopefully, I may be able to get to D.C. in September if my children are able to come. Maybe I'll be lucky enough to the grandchildren along too.

Facts & Figures from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

World War II
(1941-45)

Total service members

16,112,566

Battle deaths

291,557

Other deaths in service
(non-theater)

113,842

Non-mortal woundings

671,846

Living veterans, Sept. 2006

3,242,000

Estimated number of living U.S. veterans of World War II

9/30/06.....	3,242,000
9/30/07.....	2,889,000
9/30/08.....	2,551,000
9/30/09.....	2,230,000
9/30/10.....	1,929,000
9/30/11.....	1,849,000
9/30/12.....	1,393,000
9/30/13.....	1,161,000
9/30/14.....	954,000
9/30/15.....	773,000
9/30/16.....	616,000
9/30/17.....	484,000
9/30/18.....	373,000
9/20/19.....	283,000
9/30/20.....	210,000
9/30/21.....	158,000

Change of Address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ANDERSON	PAUL, D	7LM	3811 E. UNIVERSITY DR LOT156	MESA	AZ	85205
FARLE	BERNADETTE, MRS.	18LMA	459 PASSAIC AVE APT 186W	WEST CALDWELL	NJ	07006
FUELLING	ISABELLA, MRS	7LM	480 S 300W	MONROE	IN	46772
ISRAELSEN	ALLEN, O	4LM	4440 MORRIS ST APT 411	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87111
ROMERO	GUY	7A	205 EAST BLUEBIRD DRIVE	LAFAYETTE	LA	70508
MASSEY	ADAM D	A	203 HAYLANDS TRAIL	TAYLORS	SC	29687

Taps

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
COLLEY	WALTER, M	18	12-23-07	801 E NORMAN AVE	ARCADIA	CA	91006
COUTROS	ANTHONY, W	391LM	12-20-07	11 CARRIAGE PL	EDISON	NJ	08820
GOENER	HUGH, H	4/7	04-07-07	6 LINKS COURT	AUSTIN	TX	78738
HOWARTER	WAYNE	7LM	01-17-08	16702 S HWY 59	WELDA	KS	66091
PODRAZA	HENRY, F	391LM	12-30-07	4495 33RD AVE N	ST PETERSBURG	FL	33713
WIMER	DANIEL, C	18LM	12-08-07	40 PONDEROSA LN	PAMYRA	VA	22963

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JOE & MARILYN WONG
MARY COUTROS (WIFE)
JOHN COUTROS (SON)
NANETTE F JACK
MARY ANN RIEDEL
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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

60 YEARS

November 1, 2007
Fred and Ginny Muenta
Wauwatosa, WI

61 YEARS

March 2, 2008
AJZ (Abe) and Ernestine Firestone
Hampton, VA

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Winter at Mendlesham 1943 - 44

http://staff.jccc.net/bgustaf/34th_Bomb/



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34th Bomb Group



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