



# ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)

## 34th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION REUNION ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

September 4th - 8th  
DOUBLE TREE HOTEL, CRYSTAL CITY, VIRGINIA  
Registration Information In This Issue



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:

<http://members.tripod.com/ValortoVictory>

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

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

[www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th\\_Bomb](http://www.jccc.net/~bgustaf/34th_Bomb)

### DEADLINE

All material and items for the September, 2008 issue of Mendlesham Memories should reach me on or before July 15, 2008. All copy will be going to the publisher on that date.

Jack Share, editor



## DUES are DUE



2008 Dues,  
for those who pay annually,  
are due as of **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008**



**DUES ARE \$20.00 PAYABLE TO: 34TH BGA**

### Send Dues To:

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

Your cooperation in getting your dues paid now will guarantee your continued membership in the 34th Bomb Group Association and the delivery of your Mendlesham Memories. Thank you.

# Share - a thought...

The June issue of Mendlelsham Memories is the most important one of all because it carries all the pertinent information regarding the upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association's September annual reunion in Washington, DC.



Jack Share

First, the hotel reservation form which appears for the second time, in case you missed the one in the March issue. By now you should be pretty sure of whether or not you will be attending. If so, clip or copy, the form, fill it out and send it in to the hotel whose address is noted on the form. Also, as noted on the bottom of the form, you can also make your reservation via the internet or by fax. Either way it is important to get your request in early to guarantee your accommodation. In the event your plans change, prior to the reunion, your reservation can always be cancelled per the instructions as stated.

The other important form that should be attended to soon is the reunion activity and registration form. This form should be mailed to the Armed Services Reunions, Inc along with your check for the activities you are interested in. As noted, this registration can also be made via the internet.

Now that you have that taken care of and have determined your mode of travel you can sit back and wait anxiously for September and your last chance to meet, as a group, with all your 34<sup>th</sup> friends.

Your new reunion committee has been working very hard for the past year in organizing this final reunion and have come up with a schedule that should have something of interest for everyone. Since this will be the last reunion it is generating a lot of interest and a record turnout is to be expected. Therefore, it is imperative that you get your plans formulated soon and make your reservations early.

Jack

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ever since I was a small child, I can remember my father talking about flying in a B-17 during the war. His best friend lived an hour north of Bakersfield, and whenever we drove up Highway 99 the highlight of the trip was when we passed the small airport in Tulare, CA, because parked at the entrance of the airport was a vintage B-17. Although not in flying condition, we frequently stopped and marveled at the magnificent airplane. For as long as I can remember, I've always wished I could take a flight in a B-17. In 2001 my family purchased a flight for my father and I've always regretted that I didn't accompany him on his return on the Flying Fortress.

In March of this year I finally fulfilled my wish and took a flight on a B-17. The Liberty Belle is the latest B-17 to take to the skies. Having flown sixty-four combat missions for the 390th Bomb Group, the Liberty Belle has undergone fifteen years of restoration and is currently touring the country offering flights. This summer she will be flying to England to participate in the 63rd anniversary of the end of the war.

There were several WWII veterans at the Bakersfield airport and many of them were there to take a flight. While I was waiting for my flight, I even ran into Hollis Carlyle, a member of the 34th BG. Of course the highlight of the day was when I finally boarded the airplane and took to the air. As we flew around the skies of Bakersfield, I could only imagine what it must have felt like to be experiencing a real mission during the war. The flight lasted about twenty-five minutes, and it was worth every penny. Flying in the Liberty Belle was a memorable experience and something I will never forget.

David Fieber, President



David Fieber

## 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. I have been receiving a steady stream of 2008 dues payments. To those who have sent dues payments - thank you, very much. For those who have not, elsewhere in this issue of Mendlelsham Memories is the address for sending your 2008 dues payments to me. Please make your check payable to the "34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association".

I have received many dues checks that are accompanied by personal notes. I forward these notes to Jack Share for possible publication in Mendlelsham Memories. There are only a few more issues of the newsletter to be published, so if you have something that you would like to see published in the newsletter, please send it to Jack Share or me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Jack Steffen, Treasurer



Jack Steffen



# 34<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP REUNION AGENDA

**SEPTEMBER 4 – 8, 2008 • DOUBLETREE • CRYSTAL CITY (Washington, DC Area)**

## **Thursday, September 4**

1:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open  
2:00pm - 4:00pm Board Meeting  
Hospitality Room and PX Open (exact hours tbd)

## **Friday, September 5**

8:30am - 9:00am Reunion Registration Open  
9:30am - 2:30pm UDVAR-HAZY CENTER (description follows)  
3:00pm - 5:00pm Reunion Registration Open

## **Saturday, September 6**

9:00am - 4:00pm CITY TOUR / ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY (description follows)

## **Sunday, September 7**

1:30pm - 3:30pm General Meeting  
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar and Social Hour  
7:00pm - 10:00pm Banquet begins, followed by program

## **Monday, September 8**

Farewells and Departures

### **STEVEN F. UDVAR-HAZY CENTER**

Friday, September 5

This museum, part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, is dedicated to the preservation and display of its collection of historic aviation and space artifacts. Located at Washington International Dulles Airport, the facility has large aviation and space exhibit hangars. The museum currently has over eighty aircraft and dozens of space artifacts on display including the Space Shuttle "Enterprise," an SR-71 Blackbird, the Dash 80 prototype of the Boeing 707, and the B-29 Superfortress "Enola Gay." Lunch options include a food-court style McDonald's and coffee place. You may tour the exhibits at your own pace, but there is a lot of walking, so please wear comfortable shoes.

**9:30am board bus, 2:30pm back at the hotel - \$32/Person includes bus and escort. Lunch on your own.**

### **CITY TOUR**

Saturday, September 6

See the sites of our nation's capital during a driving tour of Washington, D.C. We'll begin with a stop at the new Air Force Memorial. Once downtown, we'll ride by the Lincoln Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, WWII Memorial, the Mall, Capitol Building, Washington Monument, White House, and other notable monuments and federal buildings. Free time will be allowed at the National World War II Memorial, the first national memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II. Afterward, stop at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, which is the largest building (3.1 million square feet) in Washington, DC and is the first and only federal building dedicated to both government and private use. While there, enjoy lunch on your own at the Reagan Building food court - named one of the "best family food courts" in DC. The tour of the Cemetery will be aboard Park Service Trams. Ride by Arlington House, home of General and Mrs. Robert E. Lee. The 1,000 acres of the cemetery were once part of the Lee Estate. Visit the Tomb of the Unknowns where you will see the changing of the guard, and then visit the gravesites of President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy and his brother Robert, lit by the eternal flame.

**9:00am board bus, 4:00pm back at the hotel - \$51/Person includes bus, guide, and tram. Lunch on your own.**

### **CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.**

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the non-refundable AFR registration fee. **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities. Each must be cancelled separately.

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices.

Please plan to be at bus boarding area at least five minutes prior to departure.

All trips require a minimum of thirty people, unless otherwise noted.

# 2008 Reunion Committee Report

The final reunion of the 34<sup>th</sup> 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.**

The meeting agenda, tour descriptions, hotel registration information and meeting registration information are all included in this issue of Mendlesham Memories. For those planning to travel to the reunion by air, the hotel is close to Ronald Reagan National Airport, and the Doubletree offers free shuttle service between the hotel and the airport.

Some of you may want to spend a few additional days in Washington, D.C. before or after the reunion. Washington, D.C. is a popular travel destination, and rooms are at a premium. We have secured rooms at a group rate of \$99 per night for the reunion. A limited number of rooms are available at the Doubletree at this same 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 more information about the hotel and its location, the Doubletree's web site is [www.doubletreecrystalcity.com](http://www.doubletreecrystalcity.com).

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



# 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 34<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 -----

## 34<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> person).

Executive Suites are available for \$119 + tax for up to 2 people (\$10 additional each for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.doubletreecrystalcity.com) or Fax to (703) 416-4147. You may also call 703-416-4100 to make your reservation.



# 34<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at [www.armedforcesreunions.com/34bg](http://www.armedforcesreunions.com/34bg). All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before August 1, 2008. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. All new registrations accepted at the reunion will be charged a \$10 onsite processing fee. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

**Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.**  
**PO Box 11327**  
**Norfolk, VA 23517**  
**ATTN: 34<sup>th</sup> BOMB GROUP**

## OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Received \_\_\_\_\_  
Inputted \_\_\_\_\_ Nametag Completed \_\_\_\_\_

**CUT-OFF DATE IS 8/1/08**

	Price Per	# of People	Total
<b>TOURS</b>			
FRIDAY: UDVAR -HAZY CENTER	\$32		\$
SATURDAY: CITY TOUR / ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY	\$51		\$
<b>MEALS</b>			
SUNDAY: BANQUET (Chicken Piccata)	\$36		\$
<b>MANDATORY PER PERSON REGISTRATION FEE</b>			
Includes reunion and administrative expenses.	\$15		\$
Total Amount Payable to <b>Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.</b>			\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME AS YOU WANT IT TO APPEAR ON YOUR NAMETAG

FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ LAST \_\_\_\_\_ SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST NAMES \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS \_\_\_\_\_

*(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)*

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PH. NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE \_\_\_\_\_ DEPARTURE DATE \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES ☐ NO ☐ ARE YOU FLYING? ☐ DRIVING? ☐ RV? ☐

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY -FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 or email [cancel@afri.com](mailto:cancel@afri.com) to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

**Register Online at [www.armedforcesreunions.com/34bg](http://www.armedforcesreunions.com/34bg)**

# 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)**

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

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

**PATCHES – 34<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP “VALOR TO VICTORY”.....\$5.00 ea.**

**PATCHES – 8<sup>TH</sup> AIR FORCE.....\$3.50 ea.**

**PATCHES – SQUADRON – 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – 391<sup>st</sup> .....\$ 5.00 ea.**

**DECAL – VALOR TO VICTORY – 5” X 5”.....2 for \$1.50 ea.**

**BUMPER STICKER – 34<sup>TH</sup> B.G. – 3” X 12” ..... 2 for \$1.50 ea.**

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

**WINGS – (about 2”) – PILOT – BOMBARDIER – NAVIGATOR – GUNNER OR FLIGHT ENGR.....\$4.00 ea.**

**WINGS (about 1”).....\$3.00 ea.**

**TIE TACK – 4<sup>TH</sup> – 7<sup>TH</sup> – 18<sup>TH</sup> – 391<sup>ST</sup> Sqnds and 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.....\$1.75 ea.**

**MEN’S POLO SHIRT W/ POCKET AND 34<sup>TH</sup> B.G. Logo  
( Hunter Green & Cobble ) XL,XXL.....\$25.95 ea.**

**MEN’S POLO SHIRT, cotton W/POCKET AND 34<sup>TH</sup> Logo  
(Royal blue,M,LR, XLR,XXL.....\$22.00 ea.**

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

**BOLO TIE - B-24 or 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force.....\$6.00 ea.**

**BOLO TIE with Mother of Pearl background behind B-24.....\$6.00 ea.**

**BELT BUCKLE “America’s Heritage – The Right to Bear Arms”.....\$6.00 ea.**

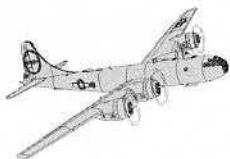
**PIN – VALOR TO VICTORY.....\$5.00 ea.**

**BOOKLET – MENDLESHAM REVISITED, by our English school students and teacher,  
Gordon Leathers.....\$20.00ea**

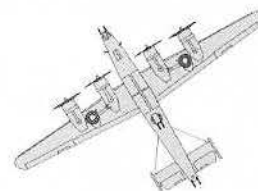
**- PLEASE CIRCLE ITEMS DESIRED -**

**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!



# FRIENDS' WRITE

## BOB DES LAURIERS - LAMESA, CA

Dues included here in. I'm looking forward to the reunion in Washington, D.C. in September. I just celebrated my (91<sup>st</sup>) birthday February 29<sup>th</sup>. 2008, remembering I was 21 years old when flying with the 391<sup>st</sup> squadron in England. My wife, Shirley, and I will celebrate our 63<sup>rd</sup>. Wedding anniversary on V-J Day, August 15<sup>th</sup>. This year. We also visited a B-17 on tour here in our city over the weekend - lots of memories.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DENNIS PLANK - HUDSON, OH

My mother wanted to be sure the 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Association was aware of the recent death of my father, Donald W. Plank, on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

During his service time he was 26 years old and was called the "old man" by his younger crew mates. Ironically, it has turned out that he was the last remaining member at the time of his death.

My brother and I had accompanied our father on a 1994 tour (organized by Harold Rutka) to the commemorative service at Madingly Cemetery in Cambridge and at Mendlesham. Dad had been based at Mendlesham during his service, as a waist gunner on a B-17 with the 391<sup>st</sup> squadron in late 1944 through May, 1945. That visit, his first and only trip back to England since the war, moved him to join your organization. Likewise, my brother and I, having the chance to travel with dad to relive some aspects of his service and to meet members of your organization has provided us with many fond memories.

In recent times, illness had prevented travel and his direct participation in your events had been compromised. Regardless, he was proud of his service and very appreciative of your organization's efforts to preserve the history of the 34<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ELVIRA O'HARA - TARPON SPRINGS, FL

Dues for 2008 from Charles B O'Hara. I regret to inform you that my husband died January 19, 2008. We just celebrated our 62 years of marriage. He enjoyed hearing from you folks.

\*\*\*\*\*

## ANDY FERENC - STAFFORD SPRINGS, CT

I just sent in my dues for 2008. I spent Nov. and Dec. in England. Visited Mendlesham and had lunch in the American Room of the Fleece pub. The pub was pretty quiet. Seems like it keeps changing hands. Was pleased to see flowers on the memorial. Probably my last trip.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LOIS MC CLELLAN - NEW BERN, NC

Enclosed find check for a small amount (I wish it could be much greater) to be applied toward the scholarship fund.

Our granddaughter, Laylene Rich was the recipient of the first one awarded. I can't remember the year. She is now a kindergarten teacher in Morgan, Utah.

Before his death, my husband, Val J. looked forward to the Mendlesham Memories. Now it is I who enjoy them. Thanks to the organization for forwarding these at no cost.

Sad to know it's near the end of an era. We were able to attend some reunions. The one in Wichita, Kansas stands out in my memory. Val and his brother Reed and wife Dorothy were in attendance. Both McClellands retired Air Force.

I look forward to September 2008 and hope I can attend what will *not* be the last reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

## RACHEL LUCAS - AUSTIN, TX

I am writing to report that my husband, CM Sgt. Raymond E. Lucas, (ret). passed away on January 26, 2008. He looked forward to the Mendlesham Memories and we were able to attend one of the reunions in Salt Lake City several years ago, which he enjoyed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## JIM MCCABE - GLEN ALLEN, VA

I have been in contact several times the past 2 weeks with an 87 year old B-17 pilot, Shelton Clarke, 34<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, 7<sup>th</sup> squadron. His wife, Helen, is very ill in a local hospital and I know it would mean a lot to him if I could facilitate his receiving the newsletter and any available info about his missions. He has spoken quite a bit about losing 5 of his air crew and the loss of his only child who was with the 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Div. in Vietnam. He stated his son was killed during the Tet Offensive.

Any help would be greatly appreciated. If I understand correctly, Mr. Clarke may have been active with the 34<sup>th</sup> Association some time ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LEONARD ALOI - SEMINOLE, FL

I enjoy reading the Mendlesham Memories. I was assigned to the 475<sup>th</sup> sub depot with Dale Frank. Have a wonderful year.

\*\*\*\*\*

## DEENA RISCH - CHERRY VALLEY, CA

Please accept the enclosed check in memory of my husband, Charles R. Risch, Jr who passed away on August 20, 2007. He always looked forward to Mendlesham Memories and often spoke of living in the Quanset Huts and the cold as in the photo in the lastest issue. I am sure he would have enjoyed it very much. Thank you again.

\*\*\*\*\*

cont. on page 10

## FRIENDS WRITE - *Continued*

**DONALD STUFFLEBEAM - LEWISTOWN, IL**

Enclosed you will find my 2008 dues.

There are still four of us left from the Sain lead crew. Sixty three years ago we were really flying a lot of missions, practicing and checking equipment.

Hope to make the D.C. reunion.

\*\*\*\*\*

**BETTY LAMPEY - AURORA, OH**

Please keep the Mendlesham Memories coming. My family enjoys all the news - old and new.

Enclosed are dues for Scott and Todd Lampey and Lynn Bachouras, children of Bob Lampey, a ball turret gunner on George Mehling's crew in the 18<sup>th</sup> squadron.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Strange and Fascinating Facts...

from a book entitled: World War II 4,139 Strange and Fascinating Facts

By Don McCombs and Fred L. Worth

- Window - Name given to an Allied radar-jamming technique of using small strips of aluminum foil dropped from aircraft to generate false returns on enemy radar and block reception. It was first used by the British over Hamburg on July 24, 1943, with such effectiveness that the British only lost twelve aircraft out of a force of 800. Window was also used at D-Day to make the Germans think a large fleet was off the Pas de Calais. Throughout World War II the U.S. Eighth Army Air Force dropped over ten millions pounds over Germany. To the Americans, Window was know as *chaff* and Germans called it *duppel*.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaff>



An Avro Lancaster dropping Window (the crescent-shaped white cloud on the left of the picture) from within the accompanying bomber stream.

## Put the Memorial Back into Memorial Day

Memorial Day commentary by CLB Chairman Jerry Patterson

*"Let no neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten as a people the cost of a free and undivided republic."*

*-Major General John Logan, Grand Army of the Republic 1868*

On Memorial Day 2008, our nation remains at war and American men and women continue to serve, and give their lives, in the line of duty. Yet, here at home we will be bombarded with the usual Memorial Day sales, specials, auto races and picnics that, for many, eclipse the true meaning of the day.

To a casual observer, America looks not like a nation at war ...but a nation at the mall.

But for the families of almost 4,000 American servicemen and women lost in the War on Terror, the meaning of the day will not have been forgotten. These loved ones will spend Memorial Day not at the mall, but at a cemetery or a church or a ceremony honoring the memory of their loved one who paid the ultimate sacrifice. To them, Memorial Day is what it was intended to be - a day of remembrance for fallen heroes.

Originally begun as a tribute to Union dead after the War Between the States, Decoration Day as it was known then, was organized in the spring so fresh flowers could be placed on the graves of the recently deceased warriors. By the turn of the century, the day was fixed to May 30th and adopted by states throughout the nation. After the War to End All Wars, World War I, the day was declared not only a memorial to those who died in the Civil War, but all American wars. Memorial Day was officially declared a national holiday in 1971.

Here in Texas, the Texas Veterans Land Board helps honor these heroes at two State Veterans Cemeteries in Killeen and Mission. A third cemetery is under way in Abilene. More are planned. These dignified places of rest fulfill our duty to honor the Texas men and women who served their state and nation in the Armed Forces. At these quiet places, the true meaning of Memorial Day endures.

Wherever you may be on Memorial Day, please pause and remember not only those who sacrificed their lives in defense of our freedom, but the friends and family they leave behind. And politely remind those around you that in honoring the dead on Memorial Day we honor the foundations of our nation and the liberty that they so valiantly defended to the last.

As long as Americans are willing to defend freedom with their lives, our nation will remain a beacon of hope for people around the world.

Please help put the "memorial" back in Memorial.

*Jerry Patterson is Texas Land Commissioner and Chairman of the Veterans Land Board. He is a retired Marine and Vietnam Veteran. To learn more about veterans benefits in Texas, please visit [www.texasveterans.com](http://www.texasveterans.com).*

## Change of Address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
HAVRON	WILLIAM, R	7LM	487 LK FOREST DR	BLUE RIDGE	GA	30513
HILTNER	RITA	7A	109-3 <sup>RD</sup> AVE. N.E. APT204	FREEPORT	MN	56331
ISRAELSEN	ALLEN	4LM	4440 MORRIS ST, APT 411	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87111
KASHISHIAN	RICHARD	18	373 SPRINGHOUSE RD	KING OF PRUSSIA	PA	19406
MAUK	BASIL	4	227 MAUK CIRCLE	DENISON	TX	75020

## Taps

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PLANK	DONALD W	391	01-25-08	8126 WATERMARK CT	WEST CHESTER	OH	45069
KLING	JOHN	391	01-11-08	31020 TANGLEWOOD DR	NOVI	MI	48377
LUCAS	RAYMOND E	4	01-26-08	6501 BRUSH CO RD APT135	AUSTIN	TX	78749
O'HARA	CHARLES B	18	01-19-08	1333 C SHADY PINE WAY	TARPON SPRINGS	FL	34689
RISCH	CHARLES R	391	08-20-07	41124 ROUNDHILL CT	CHERRY VALLEY	CA	92223

Our apology: In the TAPS section of the December issue of MM the address of Bill Burnell (deceased 10/09/07) was inadvertently omitted. The address of Margaret Burnell, the surviving widow is: 11646 238<sup>th</sup> PL. N.E. REDMOND, WA 98053-5609.

## New Associate Members

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
PRILLAMAN	HARRY A, JR	110 AARONWOOD CT	ALPHARETTA	GA	30004

## Reinstated Members

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
CLARKE	SHELTON	7	13 WESTHAM PARKWAY	RICHMOND	VA	23229

## Donations to the Ray L. Summa Scholarship Fund

**IN MEMORY OF**  
ANTHONY COUTROS  
CHARLES R. RISCH, JR  
VAL McCLELLAN

**DONOR**  
DELORES BLONDEX  
DEENA RISCH  
LOIS McCLELLAN

## Wedding Anniversaries

BOB AND SHIRLEY DES LAURIERS - LA MESA, CA  
63<sup>rd</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

BURCH AND MARY LOU WRIGHT - SAN ANTONIO, TX  
64<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - NOVEMBER 25, 2007

HAROLD AND DARLENE DWYER - HASTINGS, NE  
60<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

FRANK AND RITA MC CULLOUGH - ALLENTOWN, PA  
50<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY - MAY 10<sup>TH</sup>, 2008

## 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.



## WHAT IS A VETERAN?

A "Veteran" whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve, is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to, and including his life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that fact.

The second flag raising as seen in the the most reproduced photograph in the history of photography.

[www.iwojima.com/raising/raisingb.htm](http://www.iwojima.com/raising/raisingb.htm)



**Jack Share**

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

**34th Bomb Group**



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