



ENDLESSHAM MEMORIES



VOICE OF THE 34TH BOMB GROUP (H)



Final Flight



4TH SQUADRON



7TH SQUADRON



18TH SQUADRON



391ST SQUADRON

MENDLESHAM MEMORIES

Newsletter of

The 34th Bomb Group Association, Inc.

www.excel-tech.com/34th/

This is the last edition of this newsletter. Comments and thanks should be sent to:

Jack Share, editor
Mendlesham Memories
22 So. Avonlea Cir.
The Woodlands, TX 77382-106
Tel: (936) 273-3561
Email: jshare@comcast.net

Thank you, Jack!

REUNION DVD

I have put together a DVD of the 25th Reunion in Washington D.C. It includes photos, historical information, and the entire speech given by **GENERAL NORTON A. SCHWARTZ** at the banquet. Total length is 48 minutes. If you would like to order a copy, please send \$7 for shipping and handling to:

David Fieber
2612 Alder Street
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Home - (661) 325-1604
Cell - (661) 205-6051
Teemumicah@sbcglobal.net

BACK ISSUES OF MM

Our treasurer, Jack Steffen, has suggested putting all the back copies of our newsletter, Mendlesham Memories in the archives at the Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah. I suspect there are quite a few of our original members who have retained each copy. If someone would be willing to part with their copies please let me, or Jack, know and arrangements will be made to have them delivered to the museum.

I believe the first edition was published by Ely Baldea when the 34th decided to break away from the 8th for their reunions in 1983 and we have been publishing quarterly each since.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Let's KEEP IN TOUCH:

<http://www.8thafhs.org/>. For your convenience, we have included a form that can be used to join the 8th AFHS. (pg 9)

35th Annual Reunion of the 8th AFHS

35th annual reunion of the 8th AFHS will be held August 18 - 23, 2009, in Cincinnati, Ohio. Details and registration information will be published in a future issue of the 8th AF News and on the 8th AFHS web site.

<http://groups.google.com/group/34th-bgLegalplan@gmail.com> with the subject "Mendlesham Memories" and let him know that you want to join. He will then add you to the users list, and you will receive a subscription notification. To access the message site go to <http://groups.google.com/group/34th-bg> and enter your email address and your own password.

Once you have joined and are a member of the Google Group, you can expect to receive an email notification with the posted message anytime someone in our group posts a message. You can submit a new post to the group either by posting directly on the Google Group web site, or by sending a message via email.

- visit the 34th Bomb Group's homepage (<http://groups.google.com/group/34th-bg>) and click the button in the colored Discussions bar on the right side of the page. (Alternatively, you can click the link on the right side of the page and then click the button at the bottom of the page. This button only appears for the first post to the group.) To reply to an existing topic, click near the bottom of the posting.

- send an email to the 34th Bomb Group's email address (34th-bg@googlegroups.com). The subject line of the email will be the title of the post on the web site, and the body of the email will be the content of the post.

I realize that the Google Group may sound a bit confusing to those who have never tried it, but it is very easy to use, and an easy way for members to communicate. If you have any questions, feel free to email me at

ScottM1917@aol.com or call me at 614-761-7973.

Harry Prillaman can also be reached at Legalplan@gmail.com.

Mendlesham Memories and our annual reunions have been wonderful places for our members to communicate. In this article, I have offered two suggestions for how we can keep in touch in the future. I hope that we are able to maintain the relationships that have been established over the years.

Share - a thought...

This being my final report to the membership, I want to take the opportunity to give thanks to the support and confidence you have given me through out the years in publishing the newsletter. Your input of valuable information, your interest in the organization and most of all, your kind words of encouragement have provided me with the incentive to keep going. And, as you all know, the one who has kept me on track and who puts it all together in its final form is our publisher, Michele Smith, without whom my work with Mendlesham Memories would not have been possible.

With the disbanding of the 34th Bomb Group Association, as we know it, I think we have pretty well covered the history of the group and your many experiences in World War II have certainly made for interesting reading and provided much needed historical information to preservation facilities around the world.

We would hope that the friendships you have made as a result of your involvement with the organization would be continued and that you may never forget the sacrifices that were made, not only in the 34th Bomb Group and veterans of World War II but for all the troops in all our wars. They are the ones who have kept our country strong and free and hopefully that dedication to a free America will prevail for years and years to come.

Finally, I would like to close by saying I have thoroughly enjoy my contacts with the members and interested persons around the world and my association with the members and friends of the 34th Bomb Group has been the highlight of my life. I will certainly miss that involvement. I am not going to fade away into the sunset and if I can ever be helpful to our members or if you just want to talk, feel free to call on me.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthful New Year to all. God bless, you one and all. And thanks again for providing me with the opportunity to serve you.

Jack

Jack Share



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with a tinge of sadness that I write my last column for the final and farewell issue of "Mendlesham Memories".

My time with the 34th Bomb Group Association has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life and I will never forget the friends and bonds that have been forged these past years.

One thing I have been reminded of is that an organization like this does not function without dedication and hard work from its members. I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to "Mendlesham Memories" editor, Jack Share for all of his commitment and enthusiasm in making our quarterly newsletter the best that it could be, as well as thanks to our past editors, Ray Summa and Eli Baldea. It has always been first class and a wonderful way for our members to stay in touch. Thanks to Ken and Kathleen Paxton as well as Paul and Pauline Shull for their many years of service in the PX, Thanks to Ambers Hanson, John Feda, and Jim Hinchee for their work on the Scholarship committee. Thanks to Jack Steffen, Scott Mackey and Bonnie Zystra for their work in putting together the 2008 reunion. Special thanks to retired reunion committee members Harold and Genevieve Rutka, Bob and Esther Wright and Bruce Sothern for all their great work in past years. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to all of the members that have served as officers, board members, and on committees over the past twenty five years.

Although the era of the 34th Bomb Group Association comes to a close, many of us will keep in touch and meet next year at the Eighth Air Force Historical Society Reunion in Cincinnati, Ohio, for our relationship is a bond forged through admiration and love, driven to celebrate and honor a special band of brothers for their efforts during the Second World War. The men and women of the "Greatest Generation" have earned a special place in history and an even greater place in our hearts.



David Fieber

Everyone concentrates on the problems we're having in this country lately; illegal immigration, hurricane recovery, wild animals attacking humans in Florida . Not me. I concentrate on solutions to problems. The result is a win-win-win situation:

*Dig a moat the length of the Mexican border - Use the dirt to raise the levies in New Orleans -
Put the Florida alligators in the moat.*

Any other problems you would like for me to solve today?

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Jack Steffen, Treasurer

This is the 34th Bomb Group Association's final Treasurer's Report. I am happy to report that we have completed our tenure in good financial condition. For that achievement, we thank the officers, board members and committee members who have diligently served over the many years of the group's existence, making wise financial decisions. Credit for our solid finances also goes to our loyal members, who have regularly paid their dues, sent in donations, attended our reunions, and made purchases from the P/X.

At the reunion in Washington, D.C., the members voted on the plan for the disposition of the group's remaining cash. The plan is to distribute our remaining funds as follows:

- Scholarships were awarded to 7 additional 2008 applicants in the amount of \$250 each, for a total of \$1750.
- A donation for the support of the 34th Bomb Group Memorial in Mendlesham will be made in the amount of \$1000.
- A donation will be made in the amount of \$750 to St. Mary's Church in Mendlesham in consideration of their ongoing recognition of the 34th Bomb Group via their "Book of Remembrance."

- The residual amount, after the above donations and all final bills are paid, will be donated to the Eighth Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia. The exact amount of this donation will not be known until we have settled our remaining bills, including the bill for this issue of Mendlesham Memories. However, I currently estimate that it will be over \$2000.



At the reunion in Washington, the Treasurer's books were audited through July 31, 2008. Since there are no more annual meetings where audits can be performed, I have committed to providing a final accounting to the members of the Board of Directors so that there is appropriate oversight as I liquidate our assets.

I have enjoyed serving as your Treasurer these last few years. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the 34th Bomb Group Association. I have always been impressed by the humility of our veterans, and the welcoming nature of everyone in the group. I wish everyone the best for continued good health and happiness!



GUNNERS ARE HEROES

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!



Ray L. Summa 2008 Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee for the 34th Bomb Group (H) Association has selected the following as the recipients of the 2008 scholarships as follows:

\$1000 - Mr. Brian Arand sponsored by Clarence Arand

\$750 - Mr Skyler Drennan sponsored by Maxine McCellan

\$500 - Ms. Brenna Real sponsored by Paul Shull

\$250 - Ms. Amelia Parsons - sponsored by Harrison M. Parsons

\$250 - Ms. Glenys Packer - sponsored by Robert Sweeney

\$250 - Ms. Michelle N. Bonnet - sponsored by Clarence Arand

\$250 - Mr. Derick Babcock - sponsored by Lawrence Babcock

\$250 - Ms. Mary McNinch - sponsored by Oral Walker

\$250 - Mr. Alane Workman - sponsored by Benson Workman

\$250 - Mr. Stuart Kueneke - sponsored by Carroll Forrester

\$250 - Ms. Lindsey M. Mackey - sponsored by Scott Mackey

\$250 - Mr. Dana Workman - sponsored by Benson Workman

\$250 - Mr. Kyle Fieber - sponsored by David Fieber

Respectively submitted: Ambers E. Hanson, Scholarship committee chairman

John Feda

Raymond Hinchee

Letters from Scholarship Recipients

AMELIA PARSONS:

Dear Ambers Hanson:

Thank you for considering me for this scholarship opportunity. Unfortunately, I will not be able to attend the reunion for I will be attending the University of Tennessee. That you again for the scholarship it will help with my student fees.

SKYLER DRENNAN:

Dear 34th Bomb Group,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. It will make a world of difference. My mom also received a scholarship from you almost twenty years ago. Thank you so much.

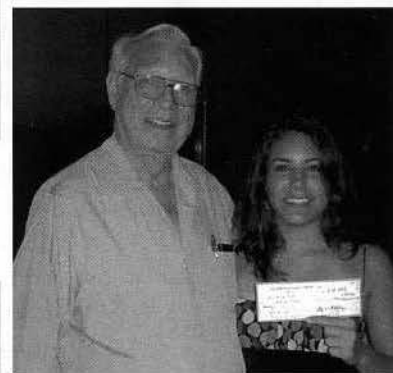
BREANA REAL:

Dear 34th Bomb Group,

Thank you for the \$500 scholarship. It is an honor. Thank you to all the members.

PAUL SHULL - MESA, AZ (Brenna Real's sponsor)

Brenna is well deserving and Pauline and, as well as her parents, are very proud of her. We are sure she will do very well in college.



Brenna Real & Granfather Paul Shull

MICHELLE BONNET:

Dear members of the 34th Bomb Group,

Thank you so much for selecting me as a winner of your scholarship. The money will certainly be useful as I begin my college career. I will be attending the University of Cincinnati and majoring in psychology along with taking pre-med courses. After graduation I hope to attend medical school and become a physician. Receiving this scholarship is a wonderful honor but it is second to the privilege recognized by true American heroes. I am very grateful for the scholarship and I also want to thank you for everything you have done for our country.



Michelle Bonnet

GLENYS PACKER:

To the 34th Bomb Group,

I would like to thank you for awarding me with the scholarship. A large obstacle in going to college for me was paying for it, so thank you again for your help in aiding me to achieve my goal.

KYLE FIEBER:

Thanks so much for choosing me to receive the scholarship. I had a wonderful time at the reunion. It was monumental meeting the greatest generation with all of their war stories and colorful personalities. I had a blast walking through our capital city and seeing all the sites. My favorite was the plane museum. Thanks so much, again.

Blythe Army Air Base Revisited

A Historical Review of the 34th Bomb Group

The history of the 34th Bomb Group, from activation to deactivation, spanned a period of 4 1/2 years. Since nearly 1 1/2 years were spent at Blythe Army Air Base in California, Blythe is a large part of the 34th's story.

Associate member, Art Wilson has just self-published a book of the history of the Blythe base during World War II entitled "**RUNWAYS IN THE SAND**". Much of the book chronicles the activity of the 34th in its combat crew training role. The 128 page, 8 1/2 X 11 hardcover contains 109 photos, maps and charts and is available for \$21.95 plus \$4.00 shipping from Art Wilson, 590 Seville Lane, Blythe, CA 92225.

(ED: A must read for all those crews who trained at Blythe).

My Memories of the 34th Bomb Group's Final Months at Blythe, California

Al Israelsen, Pilot, first Crew No. 1, 4th Squadron

The Air Corps proved in summer seasons 1942 and 1943 that the Southern California desert and B-24 training operations were seriously incompatible. An attempt was made to avoid the 100-degree operations at Blythe for the summer of 1943 by moving the 34th Group to Salinas, California. The four Squadrons were moved to the Salinas Airport the first week of June 1943. At Salinas the Group immediately encountered an unanticipated problem—evening fog that completely closed the home base almost every evening. Soon Bakersfield Airport was established as a routine alternate base for crews returning from long daytime missions. This was almost a solution but not enough. Crews that needed to begin a mission at Salinas were waiting for B-24s that were at Bakersfield, and vice versa. Maintenance and support people were valiantly trying to "keep em flying" at both fields. The Group moved back to Blythe, to the blistering heat, on July 18! We did get a large formation of B-24s together for that return to Blythe, the largest formation of B-24s that I had seen in my B-24 instructor training experience at Tucson, Salinas, and Blythe to that date—36 airplanes!

Back to Blythe was just back to the same problems the 34th had experienced in the heat the summer before. The Base Theatre was the only air conditioned building available. It was reserved for aircraft maintenance crews for daytime sleeping. Maintenance could only be done at night. The assigned B-24Ds were old and worn—waiting for parts was an everyday problem. The 34th lost ten B-24 crews and their planes in two months—a loss rate that was not equaled by losses in the corresponding summer months the next year (1944) in combat. A special accident investigation team was dispatched from Washington, DC. The results of the team's investigation were not shared with the troops.

Training operations improved somewhat in the cooler months of September to December of 1943. During the

Christmas Holidays (1943) General Hap Arnold, Air Force Chief of Staff was flying a B-25 from Washington to Los Angeles and was forced to land at Blythe by an engine failure. Two of the 34th operations officers, Joe Eaton and Howard Burton, then flew Gen. Arnold on to Los Angeles so that he could meet his speaking commitments there. On this flight they suggested to Gen. Arnold that the 34th Group be reconstituted from a B-24 Combat Crew training group to a Combat Group and that it be sent to a theatre of war operations.

Gen. Arnold acted promptly. By mid-January 1944, reorganization was underway to man the Group Headquarters and form four combat squadrons (4th, 7th, 18th, and 391st.) with 18 B-24 crews in each. Those personnel in the Group who had already completed combat tours, or who had other reasons for not going to combat, were assigned to the Combat Crew Training Group that was being relocated to Walla Walla, Washington Army Air Base.

Combat Crews were organized and soon were flying practice combat missions over typical wartime industrial type targets in Arizona and Central California. Group Commander, Colonel Wachowitz, led a 36 B-24 POM (Prior to Overseas Movement inspection) on a simulated bombing mission of the Goodyear Plant at Litchfield, Arizona. The 34th passed the inspection. In early April crews were off from Blythe in their new B-24s for combat somewhere, Europe, Asia, Pacific? It was not until the morning after takeoff from Florida that it was revealed to us that we were off to fly with the 8th Air Force in England. With the adventurous ten-day flight to England via South America and Africa recent memories of Blythe, California were soon buried deep only to be recalled by us fortunate survivors years and years later.



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 14, 2008

I send greetings to those gathered for the 2008 reunion of the 34th Bomb Group.

Our men and women in uniform have triumphed over brutal enemies, liberated continents, and answered the prayers of millions around the globe. They have shown us that freedom is the most powerful force on Earth and set a standard of courage and excellence that is unmatched. With selfless devotion to duty, courage in the face of danger, and unwavering valor and decency, the veterans of our Armed Forces have helped to advance freedom and make our Nation more secure. All of us who live in liberty live in their debt, and we will never forget their service and sacrifice.

This event is an opportunity to renew the strong bonds of friendships forged in adversity and celebrate the proud history and achievements of the 34th Bomb Group. Your continued commitment to each other and our country is an inspiration.

Laura and I send our best wishes on this special occasion. May God bless you, may God bless our troops and veterans, and may God bless America.

Reunion Committee Report

By Jack Steffen

The final reunion of the 34th Bomb Group Association was 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. Washington, D.C. provided an excellent setting for our reunion, with its many historical and military sites. But, as always, the opportunity for camaraderie among friends was the primary attraction.

On Friday, there was a tour of the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, which is located near Dulles International Airport. The Udvar-Hazy Center is a companion facility to the Smithsonian Air & Space museum located on the National Mall. Many complete aircraft, including the Enola Gãy, are on display there. One of the 34th Bomb Group's veterans, Russell Paulnock, has his flight jacket on prominent display.

On Saturday, tropical storm Hanna delivered rain and strong winds to the Washington, D.C. area. Unfortunately, our Saturday tour included several outdoor stops, including the World War II Memorial and the Air Force Memorial.

The Air Force Memorial is a national place of pride, reverence and remembrance dedicated to the Men and Women of the United States Air Force and its Heritage Organizations. The Memorial was dedicated on October 14, 2006. We were scheduled to have a wreath laying ceremony at the Air Force Memorial, with a color guard, a chaplain and a bugler. The color guard was not permitted to perform in the rain, but Chaplain Reedy stood in the driving rain as if nothing was happening and paid a moving and appropriate tribute to our deceased veterans. Following Chaplain Reedy's comments, the bugler played taps. The rain was a nuisance, but in some way it added to the somber nature of the wreath laying ceremony.

The National World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people. The Second World War is the only 20th Century event commemorated on the National Mall's central axis.

Given the inclement weather, some folks got off the bus at the Air Force Memorial and the National World War II Memorial, and others opted to view these memorials from the vantage point of the busses. Our scheduled tram tour through Arlington Cemetery was cancelled by cemetery

officials due to high winds, so we substituted a tour of embassy row, followed by a trip to the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum located on the National Mall.

We had 230 at our final banquet on Sunday evening. President Bush sent a personal note to the group, which was read at the banquet. President Bush's note is printed elsewhere in this issue of Mendlesham Memories (pg. 7). General Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff, United States Air Force, was our keynote speaker. He was in attendance on behalf of President Bush. As the highest ranking uniformed officer in the Air Force, responsible for over 700,000 personnel, General Schwartz was a very appropriate individual to address the veterans of the 34th Bomb Group. He provided a brief overview of the 34th Bomb Group's achievements during World War II. He reminded us that the military aviators of World War II built the foundation for the modern Air Force in which he serves. General Schwartz honored the veterans of the 34th Bomb Group, and he thanked the veterans for their service. The overall sentiment of General Schwartz's remarks was succinctly captured when he told the veterans of the 34th Bomb Group "...you are our heroes, you are our foundation, and you are our inspiration." His comments were very appropriate, and very moving. He took time to mingle with the crowd both before and after the banquet program, and many in attendance were able to have their picture taken with him. The time that General Schwartz spent with the 34th Bomb Group was special, and I think that everyone who was there will remember meeting him and hearing his well chosen words for the rest of their lives.

It is sad to think that this was our last reunion, but rest assured that those in attendance were focused on the spirit of camaraderie that has always made this group so special. Thanks to all of you who attended. Also, congratulations to long time reunion committee member Bruce Sothern, who was recognized at the banquet as the only 34th Bomb Group member who attended every reunion of the 34th Bomb Group.

Finally, let me express my sincere thanks to those who assisted me on the Reunion Committee, David Fieber, Scott Mackey and Bonnie Zylstra. They provided invaluable help in planning and executing the reunion. Many of you expressed your thanks to us. Of course, it means a lot to us that folks enjoyed themselves. But we want you to know that the work that we did for this reunion was a labor of love, and that we enjoyed being a part of this special event.

34th Bomb Group Association Reunions

YEAR	CITY	PRESIDENT-ELECT	ATTENDEES
1978	WASHINGTON, DC		
1979	PHOENIX, AZ	JAMES CARPOULIS	
1980	ORLANDO, FL	GRADY DETHERIDGE	
1981	ST PAUL, MN	MALCOLM CORUM	
1982	CINCINNATI, OH	ROBERT WRIGHT	
1983	HOUSTON, TX	GERRY PINE	
1984	NASHVILLE, TN	HAROLD RUTKA	
1985	WICHITA, KS	JAMES MARTIN	
*1986	COLORADO SPRGS, CO	-AL DiNENNO	306
1987	KING OF PRUSSIA, PA	ED LAWLER	276
1988	VIRGINIA BEACH, VA	GEORGE RITCHIE	318
1989	SHREVEPORT, LA	WALT McALLISTER	292
1990	SEATTLE, WA	WALLY BRAUKS	249
1991	LOUISVILLE, KY	FRED SCHOCH	398
1992	LAS VEGA, NV	BRUCE SOTHERN	376
1993	LITTLE ROCK, AR	SAM WOLSTENCROFT	351
1994	ST PAUL, MN	ELI BALDEA	308
1995	HUNTSVILLE, AL	AMBERS HANSON	350
1996	RALEIGH, NC	RAY PALMER	325
1997	OMAHA, NE	ALLEN ISRAELSEN	224
1998	BOISE, ID	JOHN DORONSKY	209
1999	DES MOINES, IA	NORM MAYER	188
2000	BUFFALO, NY	CLAUDE GIBBS	202
2001	SAVANNAH, GA	WAYNE HOWARTER	276
2002	SALT LAKE CITY, UT	FRED WALTZ	177
2003	SAN ANTONIO, TX	JACK SHARE	182
2004	DAYTON, OH	JOHN FEDA	197
2005	ALBUQUERQUE, NM	KIVETT IVEY	167
2006	RAPID CITY, SD	RAYMOND HINCHEE	130
2007	GRAND RAPIDS, MI	DAVID FIEBER**	134
2008	ALEXANDRIA, VA	(Disbanded)	

* Prior to 1986 the 34th had mini-reunion with the 8th Air Force Historical Society. At the 1985 reunion in Wichita, Kansas it was decided that we should go on our own.

** First next generation member to be elected president.

JOIN THE 8TH!



This application could be your only chance of ever again having contact with your fellow 34th Bomb Group members and the many acquaintances you have acquired by attending past reunions of the 34th Bomb Group Association.

The Eighth Air Force Historical Society has been in existence since 1975 and it was from this organization that our 34th Bomb Group Association was originally formed. Many of us have been life members for many years, in fact our own Harold Rutka was president a few years ago. It has been a terrific organ of the Eighth Air Force, keeping it's history and superlative record alive for generations to come. Their quarterly, Eighth Air Force News, is a multi-paged publication containing wartime articles and photos of all groups in full color. It has a professionally produced publication worthy of the entire 8th Air Force.

With the declining membership of our group, due to attrition, it has now become necessary to disband our organization. However, all is not lost. By joining the Eighth Air Force Historical Society we can still keep in touch with all our friends. They have a reunion once a year through out the country, much the same as ours, but on a larger and grandiose scale. Individual bomb groups have their own mini-reunions at the same time.

Don't put it off! Clip or copy the application below and send it in to keep the camaraderie of the 34th Bomb Group alive. You'll never regret it. The Eighth Air Force News alone is well worth the application fee. Come on guys and gals, get registered with the Eighth and let's all get together in Cincinnati, the reunion city for 2009.

Jack Share Editor



JOIN THE 8TH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

First Name _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email _____

8th AF Unit _____ Not in 8th _____ Include me as a full Associate Member _____

In Service _____ Branch _____ Dates _____ to _____

Were you a former member? _____ Member # if available _____

ALL RENEWALS & NEW MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL DUES \$30.00

PAYMENT: ☐ CHECK ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ VISA CARD# _____

SIGNATURE _____

SEND APPLICATION & PAYMENT TO 8TH AFHS P.O. BOX 956, POOLER, GA 31322 TEL: 912-748-8884

\$30 MEMBERS DUES - NOTICES ARE MAILED ANNUALLY

Website: www.8thafhs.org

2008 Reunion Attendees

Adams, Bailey,	Houston	TX	391st	Forister, Emmett	Pleasant Hill	MO	4th	Orton, William	Cascade, ID	"1446 Ord, S. & M.Co"
Adams, Ruth Ann	Houston	TX	391st	Forister, Terri	Pleasant Hill	MO	4th	Orton, Maria	Cascade, ID	"1446 Ord, S. & M.Co"
Adams, Stan	Houston	TX	391st	Forister, Jake	Pleasant Hill	MO	4th	Paxton, Kathleen	Wichita	KS 391st
Brazaitis, Marcy	Houston	TX	391st	Hanson, Nancy	Winterset	IA	475th	Paxton, Richard	Wichita	KS 391st
Ferling, Martha	Scenery Hill	PA	18th	Frank, Tom	Winterset	IA	475th	Paxton, Keith	Wichita	KS 391st
Ames, Joyce	Scenery Hill	PA	18th	Frank, Dale	Winterset	IA	475th	Paxton, Ken	Wichita	KS 391st
Antanovich, Alex	Scenery Hill	PA	18th	Frank, Esther	Winterset	IA	475th	Payne, Valerie	Riverside	CA
Anderson, Paul	Mesa	AZ	7th	Garbiso, Debra	Las Vegas	NV	391st	Payne, Thomas	Riverside	CA
Anderson, Beryl	Mesa	AZ	7th	Garbiso, George	Las Vegas	NV	391st	Peterson, Ralph	Grand Rapids	MI 18th
Arand, Rita	Cincinnati	OH	391st	Puffer, Beverly	Catawissa	MO	7th	Peterson, Bernice	Grand Rapids	MI 18th
Arand, Clarence	Cincinnati	OH	391st	Gibbs, Audrey	Catawissa	MO	7th	Prillaman, Harry	Alpharetta	GA 7th
Bernardo, Alfred	New Cumberland, PA	18th		Gibbs, Claude	Catawissa	MO	7th	Prillaman, Arnold	Martinsville	VA 7th
Bernardo, Doris	New Cumberland, PA	18th		Miller, Betty	Catawissa	MO	7th	Prillaman, Mary	Martinsville	VA 7th
Bloczynski, Margaret	Marshfield	WI	18th	Griffis, Willis	Vernon Hills	IL	4th	Byrant, Jan	Martinsville	VA 7th
Bloczynski, Mary	Marshfield	WI	18th	Grinaldo, Angelo	Wynansstee	NY	7th	Prillaman, Lee	Martinsville	VA 7th
Bourquin, Paul	Pleasantville	NY	18th	Strack, Patrick	Wynansstee	NY	7th	Holt, Joseph	Franklin	TN 7th
Brookshire, Wanda	Rome	GA	391st	Strack, Ann Marie	Wynansstee	NY	7th	Prillaman, Gayle	Franklin	TN 7th
Brookshire, Lester	Rome	GA	391st	White, Rosemarie	Wynansstee	NY	7th	Richmond, Miriam	Pasco	WA 4th
Cheek, Bill	Lakeland	FL	391st	Gross, Bob	W. Hartford	CT	7th	Richmond, Bennett	Pasco	WA 4th
Connolly, Jan	Lincoln	NE	34th	Gross, Cynthia	W. Hartford	CT	7th	Romero, Guy	Lafayette	LA 7th
Connolly, Ed	Lincoln	NE	34th	Guertin, Carolyn	Richmond	VA	18th	Romero, Mary	Lafayette	LA 7th
Coutros, Mary	Edison	NJ	391st	Hall, Herbert	Scottville	MI	7th	Romero, Alex	Lafayette	LA 7th
Coutros, Craig	Edison	NJ	391st	Hall, DorisScottville	MI	7th		Romero, Glen	Lafayette	LA 7th
Blondek, Elaine	Edison	NJ	391st	Ham, Bob Ramseur	NC	7th		Romero, Henrietta	Lafayette	LA 7th
Hans, Casey	Lessburg	FL	4th	Ham, Nancy	Ramseur	NC	7th	Sadowsky, Al	Boca Raton	FL 391st
Crawford, Romy	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hampton, Fred E.	ZIONSVILLE, IN	18th		Sadowsky, Roslyn	Boca Raton	FL 391st
Crawford, Jim	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hampton, Mary Lou	ZIONSVILLE, IN	18th		Sarco, Stephie	Handford	CA 7th
Crawford, Harry	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hanson, Ambers	Auburn	AL	391st	Sauermilch, Fred	Handford	CA 7th
Howard, Michaeline	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hanson, Jean	Auburn	AL	391st	Sarco, Kathy	Handford	CA 7th
Crawford, Tom	Lessburg	FL	4th	Henry, Glenn	Waunakee	WI	7th	Sarco, Carlos	Handford	CA 7th
Crawford, Donna	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hinchee, Dickie	Salem	VA	391st	Schroeder, Robert	American Falls, ID	391st
Crawford, Amy	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hinchee, Jim	Salem	VA	391st	Schroeder, Jennie	American Falls, ID	391st
Crawford, Daniel	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hughes, Kay	Geneva	NE	34BG-391SQ	Schroeder, Nick	American Falls, ID	391st
Crawford, Michael	Lessburg	FL	4th	Hughes, Rick	Geneva	NE	34BG-391SQ	Shull, Paul	Mesa	AZ 391st
Crawford, Paul	Lessburg	FL	4th	Ivey, Dennis	La Grange	NC	7th	Shull, Pauline	Mesa	AZ 391st
Crawford, Susan	Lessburg	FL	4th	Ivey, Peggy	La Grange	NC	7th	Loebbaka, Paul	Mesa	AZ 391st
DesLauriers, Robert	La Mesa	CA	391	Ivey, Butch	La Grange	NC	7th	Loebbaka, Brad	Mesa	AZ 391st
DesLauriers, Shirley	La Mesa	CA	391	Young, Tony	La Grange	NC	7th	Smith, Howard	San Antonio	TX 7th
Prytula, Russ	La Mesa	CA	391	Smith, Susan I.	La Grange	NC	7th	Smith, J.C.	San Antonio	TX 7th
Prytula, Michelle	La Mesa	CA	391	Ivey, Kivett	La Grange	NC	7th	Sothern, Bruce	Minneapolis	MN 7th
Dieterle, Karen	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Johnson, Lois	Huntington Beach, CA	4th		Sothern, Greg	Minneapolis	MN 7th
Dieterle, Marcus	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Cobe, John	Huntington Beach, CA	4th		Spencer, Chip	Carsonville	MI 391st
Dieterle, Curt	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Jordan, Dexter	Huntersville	NC	7th	Spencer, Virgiline	Carsonville	MI 391st
Dieterle, Marcia	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Jordan, Beulah	Huntersville	NC	7th	Steffen, Linda	Cincinnati	OH 18th
Koppenhaver, David	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Thompson, Victor	Huntersville	NC	7th	Steffen, Jack	Cincinnati	OH 18th
Dieterle, John	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Thompson, Mary	Huntersville	NC	7th	Steiner, Bob	Washington	DC 18th
Palmore, Sherry	Forest Hill	MD	7th	Thompson, Elizabeth	Anne - Huntersville, NC	7th		Steiner, Christine	Washington	DC 18th
DiNenno, Alfred	King of Prusia, PA	391st		Thompson, Tucker	Huntersville	NC	7th	Stiebel, Claudia	Winchester	VA 4th
Jonson, Dave	King of Prusia, PA	391st		Kueneke, Stuart	Pleasant Hill	MO	4th	Stiebel, Bill	Winchester	VA 4th
Dinkel, Brad	Genola	UT	34th BG	LaFleur, Macklyn Romero - Lafayette, LA	LA	7th		Stiebel, Sally	Winchester	VA 4th
Dinkel, Valarie	Genola	UT	34th BG	LaFleur, Greg	Lafayette	LA	7th	Stivender, Jim	Gadsden	AL 391st
McClellan, Maxene	Genola	UT	34th BG	LaFleur, Stephanie	Lafayette	LA	7th	Stivender, Stella	Gadsden	AL 391st
Dwyer, Darlene	Hastings	NE	391st	LaFleur, Mark	Lafayette	LA	7th	Tauzin, Mike	Sonora	TX 7th
Saalfeld, Sue	Hastings	NE	391st	Brunt, Trey	Lafayette	LA	7th	Tauzin, Norma Romero - Sonora	Sonora	TX 7th
Dwyer, Harold	Hastings	NE	391st	Lee, Judy	Kenosh	WI	18th	Tobiason, Audrey	onsite	VA
Loontjer, Lori	Hastings	NE	391st	Loneran, Birgit	Fort Myers	FL	7th	Trauernicht, Kathy	onsite	VA
Elliott, Lloyd	Oklahoma City, OK	7th		Mackey, Scott	Columbus	OH	4th	Walker, Oral	Battle Creek	MI 391st
Elliott, Carol	Oklahoma City, OK	7th		Mackey, Eric	Ft. Myers	FL	4th	Good, Thera	Battle Creek	MI 391st
Elliott, Larry	Oklahoma City, OK	7th		Mau, Linda	Houston	TX	18th	Weaver, Marty	Manassas	VA 7th
Farley, Bernadette	W. Caldwell	NJ	18th	Scott, Tony	Houston	TX	18th	Weaver, Tim	Manassas	VA 7th
Farley, John	W. Caldwell	NJ	18th	Wroblewski, Jane	Houston	TX	18th	Winick, Seymour	New York	NY 391st
Farley, Dennis	W. Caldwell	NJ	18th	Stuhr, Pat	Houston	TX	18th	Wong, Joseph	Alameda	CA 18th
Feda, Betty Mae	Marshall	MN	7th	Mayer, Norman	Huntington Beach, CA	4th		Wong, Marilyn	Alameda	CA 18th
Feda, John	Marshall	MN	7th	Crew, Louise	Huntington Beach, CA	4th		Workman, Pam	Zanesville	OH 7th
Fieber, David	Bakersfield	CA	18th	Mink, Clayton	Hudson	NY	7th	Workman, Benson	Zanesville	OH 7th
Fieber, Sonia	Bakersfield	CA	18th	Smith, Sharon	Hudson	NY	7th	Workman, Paul	Zanesville	OH 7th
Fieber, Nancy	Bakersfield	CA	18th	Smith, Alicia	Hudson	NY	7th	Zeldes, Benjamin	Stafford Springs, CT	4th
Fieber, Brian	Bakersfield	CA	18th	Ryan, Cara	Hudson	NY	7th	Zeldes, Edith	Stafford Springs, CT	4th
Fieber, Debby	Wofford Hts	CA	18th	Schmitt, Pamela	Hudson	NY	7th	Zeldes, Ross	Stafford Springs, CT	4th
Fieber, Kyle	Wofford Hts	CA	18th	Morrison, Warren	Washington	DC	391st	Zeldes, Patricia	Stafford Springs, CT	4th
Fischel, Jared	Hampton	VA	4th	Morrison, Hellen	Washington	DC	391st	Zylstra, Ray	Riverside	CA 4th
Fischel, Matthew	Hampton	VA	4th	Morrison, Roger	Washington	DC	391st	Zylstra, Bonnie	Riverside	CA 4th
Firestone, Ernestine M.,	Hampton	VA	4th	Muente, Fred	Wauwatosa	WI	7th			
Firestone, Abe	Hampton	VA	4th	Nord, Marilee	Wauwatosa	WI	7th			
				Muente, Ginny	Wauwatosa	WI	7th			

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

34th Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc.
Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting
Washington, D.C.
September 4, 2008

The meeting was called to order September 4, 2008, at 1900 hours at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, by President David Fieber. President Fieber led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. John Feda, filling in for Chaplain James Martin, gave the invocation.

President Fieber asked for a roll call. Present were: President David Fieber, 2nd Vice President Scott Mackey, Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary Jack Steffen, Past President Raymond "Jim" Hinchee, PX Manager Ken Paxton, Board Members Clayton Mink, Craig Coutrous, Kay Hughes, and Harry Prillaman. Absent were 1st Vice President Charles Siragusa, Chaplain James Martin, Mendlesham Memories Editor Jack Share, Board Members Bonnie Zylstra, and Emmett Forrester.

Jim Hinchee made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2007, Board of Directors meeting held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The motion was seconded by Clayton Mink, and passed unanimously.

Jack Steffen presented the Treasurer's Report. The fiscal report, as of July 31, 2008, shows the cash on hand one year ago as \$17,118.36. It is currently \$14,210.88. The General Fund began the year with \$8,986.49 and as of July 31, 2008, the balance was \$3,848.48. The Scholarship Fund began the year at \$8,131.87 and as of July 31, 2008, the balance was \$6,081.87. The balance does not include costs for the 2008 scholarships. The Reunion Fund balance as of July 31, 2008, was \$4,280.53. Jack mentioned that after all costs have been factored in we would have a rough estimate of \$3,700, plus the balance from the PX, remaining in funds and that later in the meeting we would discuss the disposition of those funds. A motion to approve the report was made by Bruce Sothorn and seconded by Jim Hinchee. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Paxton presented the PX report. The financial report shows that the beginning bank balance as of 9/1/07 was \$1,227.58. The bank balance as of 8/31/08 is \$995.11. Ken reported that prices for remaining inventory have been reduced drastically and that he is hopeful that all inventory will be sold prior to the end of the reunion. Jack Steffen made a motion to accept the PX report and it was seconded by Ambers Hanson, and passed unanimously. Bruce Sothorn thanked Ken and Kathleen Paxton for all of their hard work with the PX.

President Fieber announced that the Audit Committee would be made of Chairman Scott Mackey, Kay Hughes, and Sonia Fieber. Jack Steffen mentioned that he would dispose of financial statements prior to the last year.

Jack Steffen presented the Reunion Report. We have approximately 160 people signed up for the Saturday city tour. He informed the group that the first stop of the upcoming city tour would be a wreath laying at the Air Force Memorial. Jack mentioned that the people at the Air Force Memorial have been very helpful and he would be making a motion for the group to donate \$250 to the memorial. For Friday's tour we have two busses booked. For the banquet program we have a speaker lined up, General Norton Schwartz, from the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on behalf of President George Bush. Jack mentioned that the General might arrive early to visit with the group. Jack told the Board that the hospitality suite in the hotel is available twenty-four hours a day, but the open bar would be open Friday thru Saturday from 8:00pm to 11:00pm. Jack also told the group about Armed Forces Reunion, Inc., specifically Ted Dey, for all of their help in organizing the reunion. Jack made a motion to donate \$250 to the Air Force Memorial and it was seconded by Ken Paxton, and passed unanimously. President Fieber thanked Jack Steffen for all of his hard work. President Fieber thanked Bruce Sothorn for all of his hard work on the past year's Reunion Committee, as well as for his work on the Nominating Committee.

Ambers Hanson presented the Scholarship Report, first thanking fellow Scholarship Committee members John Feda and Jim Hinchee. Ambers informed the members that several months prior he had talked to the Scholarship Committee, as well as to Jack Steffen and David Fieber, about awarding three additional scholarships of \$250 each, due to the large number of applications, thirteen, that were received. President Fieber presented the issue to the Board of Directors and the vote was unanimous to increase the number of scholarships to a total of six. The following scholarships were issued: \$1,000 to Brian Arand, sponsored by Clarence Arand; \$750 to Skyler Drennan, sponsored by Val and Maxine McClellan; \$500 to Breanna Real, sponsored by Paul Shull; \$250 to Amelia Parsons, sponsored by Harrison Parsons; \$250 to Michelle Bonnett, sponsored by Clarence Arand, and \$250 to Glenys Packer, sponsored by Robert Sweeney. Ambers requested that we discuss awarding additional scholarships to the remaining applicants and it was agreed that it would be discussed during the "New Business" section of the meeting. John Feda and Jim Hinchee commented on the high quality of applications that had been received. President Fieber thanked the Scholarship Committee for all of their hard work. Jack Steffen made a motion to accept the Scholarship Report and it was seconded by Ken Paxton and passed unanimously.

President Fieber read the Mendlesham Memories Report that had been prepared by Jack Share. David asked that the members send Jack plenty of pictures of the reunion, as well as "Thank You" notes to Jack for all of his great work with the Mendlesham Memories.

Jack Steffen addressed what to do with the 34th Bomb Group's website. He spoke with Susan Ferrell and she expressed interest in finding a home for the website. Jack spoke with the head of the 8th Air Force Museum and he indicated that the museum was starting a project to handle websites. Susan said that would be favorable to her. Unfortunately, the museum's project is just in its infancy and it may take a few years before they are ready to take our website. Jack made a motion to fund the website with Susan Ferrell for two additional years at \$120 per year. The motion was seconded by John Feda and passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. Future reunions were discussed. Scott Mackey talked about 8th Air Force Reunions and indicated that seemed to be a favorable option. Jack Steffen mentioned that AFRI (Armed Forces Reunion, Inc) is the group that organizes reunions for the 8th Air Force and that Ted Dey had mentioned that groups with at least 40 members would be given one night to separately get together during the reunion. Ambers Hanson suggested that information be given to the association so that members can keep in touch in regards to attending future reunions. Harry Prillaman and Scott Mackey talked about setting up some sort of internet site or forum to keep in touch. It was decided that information would be included in the December issue of Mendlesham Memories.

Disposition of PX inventory was the next item discussed. There were several suggestions on what to do with remaining items, including a raffle, putting items on each dinner table, or giving the items out at the general meeting. It was finally decided that President Fieber and Ken Paxton would get together prior to the general meeting and decide what to do with the remaining items.

Jack Steffen informed the group that at the banquet we would be raffling 8 gift certificates that would each be good for one free room night.

The next item discussed was the disposition of Association funds. Jack Steffen indicated that all bills would not be paid until approximately January 1, 2009, but that there would be approximately \$4,700 left. After much discussion, it was decided that \$1,750 would be set aside for seven additional scholarships of \$250 each, \$500 would be sent to St. Mary's Church in Mendlesham, \$1,000 be sent for care of the 34th Bomb Group Memorial at the Mendlesham Airfield, and the remaining funds be sent to the 8th Air Force Museum. Jack made a motion to disburse the remaining funds as discussed, and it was seconded by Scott Mackey. It passed unanimously.

The Board also decided that the flags of the 34th Bomb Group, the president's plaque and gavel, as well as minutes from all previous meetings would be sent to the 8th Air Force Museum.

Jack Steffen said that he would find out who to contact regarding "unincorporating" the association, as well discontinuing our Tax ID number. Once all transactions and business have been completed Jack will send out a notice to all members of the Board.

John Feda presented a resolution drafted to the National Park Service in regards to the editing of "So help us God" from the Day of Infamy speech at the World War II Memorial. It was decided that the resolution would be voted on at the General Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2100 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonia Fieber
Recording Secretary

Minutes of the General Membership Meeting

34th Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc.
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
Washington, D.C.
September 7, 2008

The meeting was called to order September 7, 2008, at 1330 hours at the Doubletree Hotel in Crystal City, Virginia, by President David Fieber. President Fieber led the group in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. John Feda, filling in for Chaplain James Martin, gave the invocation.

Paul Bourquin made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2007, meeting held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The motion was seconded by Ambers Hanson, and passed unanimously.

Jack Steffen presented the Treasurer's Report. The fiscal report, as of July 31, 2008, shows the cash on hand one year ago as \$17,118.36. It is currently \$14,210.88. The General Fund began the year with \$8,986.49 and as of July 31, 2008, the balance was \$3,848.48. The Scholarship Fund began the year at \$8,131.87 and as of July 31, 2008, the balance was \$6,081.87. The Reunion Fund balance as of July 31, 2008, was \$4,280.53. Jack mentioned that later in the meeting we would discuss the disposition of the remaining funds. A motion to approve the report was made by John Feda and seconded by Jim Hinchee. The motion passed unanimously. President Fieber thanked Jack Steffen for all of his work with the Treasurer's position.

Ambers Hanson presented the Scholarship Report, first introducing fellow Scholarship Committee members John Feda and Jim Hinchee. Ambers informed the members that several months prior he had talked to the Scholarship Committee, as well as to Jack Steffen and David Fieber, about awarding three additional scholarships of \$250 each, due to the large number of applications, thirteen, that were received. President Fieber presented the issue to the Board of Directors and the vote was unanimous to increase the number of scholarships to a total of six. The following scholarships were issued: \$1,000 to Brian Arand, sponsored by Clarence Arand; \$750 to Skyler Drennan, sponsored by Val and Maxine McClellan; \$500 to Breanna Real, sponsored by Paul Shull; \$250 to Amelia Parsons, sponsored by Harrison Parsons; \$250 to Michelle Bonnett, sponsored by Clarence Arand, and \$250 to Glenys Packer, sponsored by Robert Sweeney. John Feda mentioned that selecting the scholarships was a tough job because of the high quality of all the applications. Ambers read a note from Skyler Drennan that said how much he appreciated the scholarship and that approximately twenty years earlier his mother had received a scholarship from the 34th Bomb Group Association. Ambers requested that when we talk about the disposition of money that we discuss awarding additional scholarships to the remaining applicants. President Fieber thanked the Scholarship Committee for all of their hard work. Jack Steffen made a motion to accept the Scholarship Report and it was seconded by Ken Paxton and passed unanimously.

Ken Paxton presented the PX report. The financial report shows that the beginning bank balance as of 9/1/07 was \$1,227.58. The bank balance as of 8/31/08 was \$995.11. Ken reported that prices for remaining inventory have been reduced drastically and that he is hopeful that all inventory will be sold prior to the end of the reunion. Ken also mentioned and thanked Paul and Pauline Schull for all of their hard work in the PX prior to the year 2000. Jack Steffen made a motion to accept the PX report and it was seconded by Ambers Hanson and passed unanimously.

Audit Committee Chairman Scott Mackey presented the Audit Report. Everything is in order with the Treasurer's Report and the PX Report. Abe Firestone made a motion to accept the report and it was seconded by Paul Bourquin and passed unanimously.

Jack Steffen presented the Reunion Committee Report. He thanked the group for all of their help with the difficult time we had in the rain during the city tour. He also mentioned that each person that signed up for the tour would receive a \$7 refund due to the fact that the Arlington portion of the tour had to be cancelled due to the weather. Jack also thanked AFRI (Armed Forces Reunion, Inc) for all of their help with the reunion. Jack informed the members that General Norton Schwartz would be the keynote speaker at the banquet. He also talked about the wreath laying ceremony at the Air Force Memorial and made a motion to send \$250 to the Air Force Memorial. The motion was seconded by Bruce Sothorn and passed unanimously. President Fieber, on behalf of the entire reunion committee, thanked Jack Steffen for all of his hard work on the reunion.

President Fieber read the Mendlesham Memories Report that had been prepared by Jack Share. David Fieber and Jack Steffen asked that the members send Jack plenty of pictures of the reunion, as well as "Thank You" notes to Jack for all of his great work with the Mendlesham Memories.

Jack Steffen addressed what to do with the 34th Bomb Group's website. He spoke with Susan Ferrell and she expressed interest in finding a home for the website. Jack spoke with the head of the 8th Air Force Museum and he indicated that the museum was starting a project to handle websites. Susan said that would be favorable to her. Unfortunately, the museum's project is just in its infancy and it may take a few years before they are ready to take our website. Jack made a motion to fund the website with Susan Ferrell for two additional years at \$120 per year. The motion was seconded by Scott Mackey and passed unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was New Business. Future reunions were discussed with the most logical and viable option being that we merge back into the 8th Air Force Reunions. David announced that a sign-up sheet would be available at the banquet and that anyone interested could give their name and e-mail address and the list would be typed up and sent to each interested member.

Disposition of PX inventory was the next item discussed. President Fieber announced that all remaining inventory would be given away at the banquet. John Feda made a motion to accept that recommendation, and it was seconded by Jack Steffen and passed unanimously. Ken Paxton suggested that we could ask for donations from anyone interested in any of the items being given away.

The next item discussed was the disposition of Association funds. Jack Steffen indicated that all bills would not be paid until approximately January 1, 2009, but that there would be approximately \$4,700 left. After a lot of input from the members and discussion, it was decided that \$1,750 would be set aside for seven additional scholarships of \$250 each; \$750 would be sent to St. Mary's Church in Mendlesham; \$1,000 be sent for care of the 34th Bomb Group Memorial at the Mendlesham Airfield; and the remaining funds be sent to the 8th Air Force Museum. Jack made a motion to disburse the remaining funds as discussed, and it was seconded by Ambers Hanson. It passed unanimously.

John Feda presented a resolution drafted to the National Park Service in regards to the editing of "So help us God" from the Day of Infamy speech at the World War II Memorial. John made a motion to send the resolution, and it was seconded by Bruce Sothorn and passed unanimously.

President Fieber announced that the Board had recommended that the flags of the 34th Bomb Group, the president's plaque and gavel, as well as minutes from all previous meetings would be sent to the 8th Air Force Museum. Ken Paxton made a motion to accept the recommendation and it was seconded by Scott Mackey, and passed unanimously.

Jack Steffen said that he would find out who to contact regarding "unincorporating" the association, as well discontinuing our Tax ID number. Once all transactions and business have been completed Jack will send out a notice to all members of the Board.

Jack Steffen talked about the prizes being raffled at the banquet.

Ambers Hanson read the list of the additional scholarship winners of \$250 each: Derick Babcock, sponsored by Lawrence Babcock; Mary McNinch, sponsored by Oral Walker; Alane Workman, sponsored by Benson Workman; Stuart Kuenke, sponsored by Carroll Forister; Lindsay Mackey, sponsored by Scott Mackey; Dana Workman, sponsored by Benson Workman; and Kyle Fieber, sponsored by David Fieber.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1530 hours.

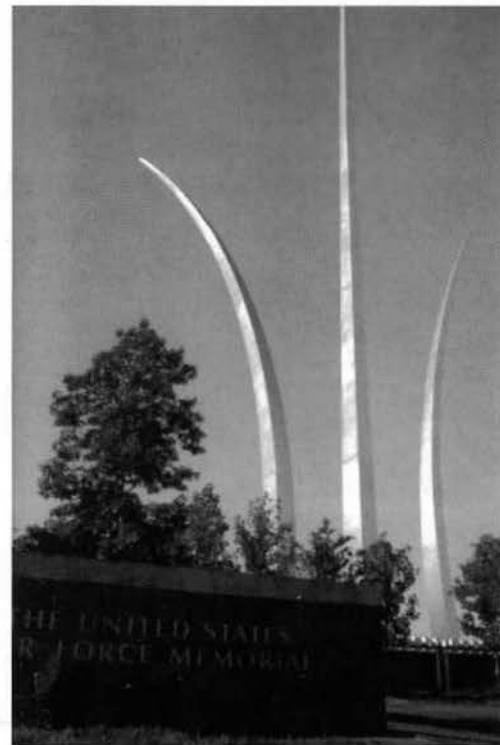
Respectfully submitted,

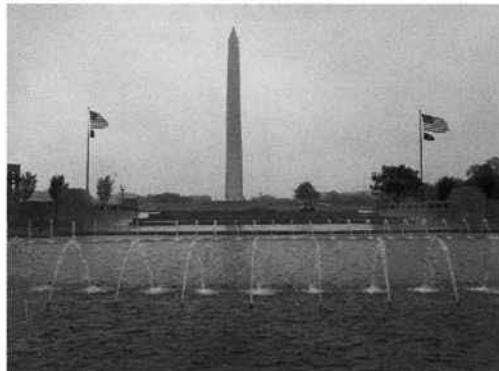
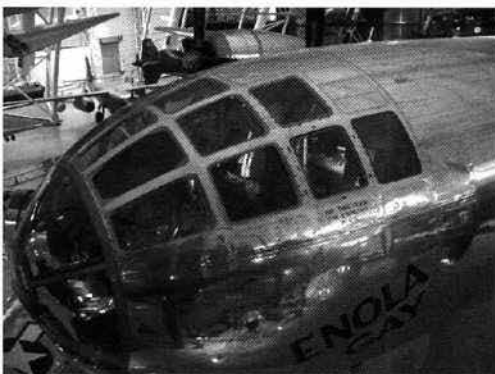
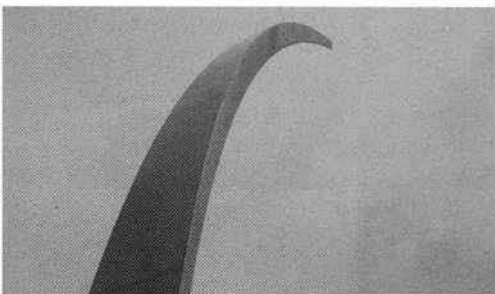
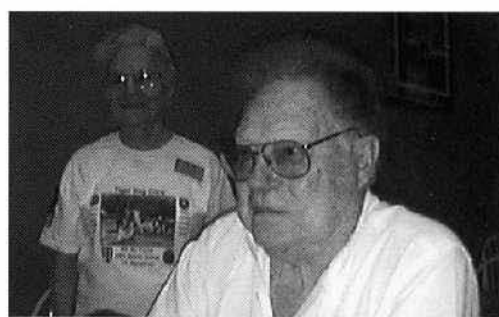
Sonia Fieber
Recording Secretary

34th Bomb Group Reunion Photos

Washington D.C.
20 *JD* 08



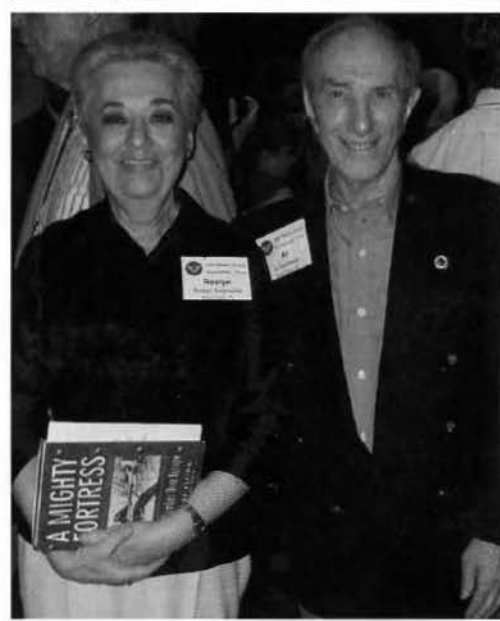




34th Bomb Group Reunion Photos

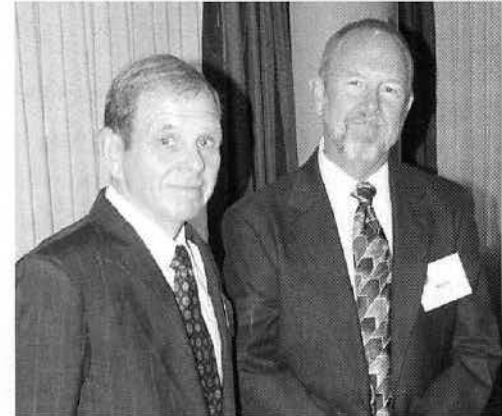








34th Bomb Group Reunion 2009



FRIENDS' WRITE

JOHN FEDA - MARSHALL, MN

We missed you and Marian at our reunion in D.C. It was a good turnout. The speaker, Gen. Schwartz did a great job.

Enclosed is a resolution we adopted at our general business meeting. It was also approved that we join the 8th Air Force Historical Society for the reunion in Cincinnati, OH next year.

BIRGIT LONERGAN - FT. MYERS, FL

I'm sure you have already heard that a great time was had by all. It was unfortunate that you, along with such hard workers as the Rutkas and Wrights couldn't be there for the final send-off. You were sorely missed. Thanks so much for the tremendous job you have done over the years. I will certainly miss the reunions and the many friends I have made over the years. God bless.

JIM HINCHEE - SALEM, VA

Reunion in D.C. was great. We missed you along with the Rutkas and Wrights.

This was my eighth reunion - they have all been great. We are always excited when we get the Mendlesham Memories.

BOB WRIGHT - SOUTH BEND, IN

Hope the storm didn't bother you. We have had 11 inches of rain in the past few days. Some people are flooded. We are lucky, so far.



LISA F. WHITE - BOUNTIFUL, UT

My dad (Hal Thorpe) sure enjoys reading the Mendlesham Memories. Thanks for sending it.

HARRY PARSONS - SHELBY, NC

Due to a change in my state of health, my wife and I were unable to attend the D.C. reunion as planned but we hope all of you had a good time.

My wife, Mary, and I have been married 64 years,

Thanks to all of you who have kept the MM together all this time and I wish each of you the very best of health and other good wishes.

If there is ever a promptu get together please let me know and if I am able I surely hope to attend.

JAMES SPENCER - CARSONVILLE, MI

We looked forward to seeing you in D.C. Also we counted on seeing Bob Filip and Sy Tull from our crew. Hope the 34th can still meet with the 8th Air Force so we can all meet again.

We will be married 64 years on December 4th.



JAMES AND VIRGILINE SPENCER

AL SADOWSKY - BOCA RATON, FL

The D.C. reunion was an occasion that will never be forgotten. Jack Steffen, Scott Mackey and David Fieber are to be commended for their super human effort in making the occasion most memorable. I am terribly saddened that this is our last reunion and regret not having attended prior ones.

I sincerely hope that efforts can be made to continue publishing our wonderful newsletter either quarterly or semi-annually.

I shall always walk with pride at being a member of this great organization. God bless you all.

WILLIAM ORTON - TEHACHAPI, CA

The D.C. reunion was a good one and everyone had a good time. Washington has really changed since I worked at the Pentagon in 1972.

Sorry to hear that the December issue of Mendlesham Memories will be the last.

Friends Write continued on next page

FRIENDS WRITE - *Continued*

CHARLES SIRAGUSA - SPRING, TX

I joined your organization in 2002 becoming interested after reading a copy of your newsletter, Mendlesham Memories. My wife, Henrietta, and I have attended every reunion since. Plans and reservations had long been made to attend the 2008 D.C. reunion, but hurricane Gustav came along and, with regrets, I canceled.

I might point out, that in 2004 hurricane Ivan caused me some problems in returning home from Dayton, OH. In 2005, while in Albuquerque, NM hurricane Rita hit the Gulf Coast and we returned home to no power and a freezer and refrigerator full of spoiled food.

At one time, in jest, I suggested changing the dates of our reunions to escape the hurricane season.

Never the less, I would like to thank you all for your friendship. Some we got to know quite well and we were looking forward to seeing you again.

To the members You have my respect and I salute you for your service to our country.

With regards and God's blessing to you all.

WALTER STURDIVAN - STOCKTON, CA

On May 29, 2008 I experienced a flight in a B-24 for the first time since 1944. The Collings Foundation bombers flew into Stockton with their magnificent display of aircraft, compliments of the Taigh Ramey Aircraft Museum here and the War Birds, a group of former airmen. They flew the B-24 on a simulated bombing mission. Fortunately, I was chosen as a former gunner to fly and fire the .50 cal. Machine guns from the waist. In combat I flew in the front of the ship and never realized how noisy and breezy it was in the waist. On the one hour mission we dropped about a dozen cement bombs on a bombing range. Taigh said he had parked his pickup truck in the center of the target - he knew that would be the safest place for it.



WALT AND HIS B-24

WILLIAM JAQUA - OKOBOJI, FL

Since I will be in Florida in Dec. Please send my Dec. MM issue to my new address. Enclosed is a donation check to be used anyway that is best.

ED BOUTY - SPALDING, MI

I didn't remember if I paid or not. One issue is worth \$20.00.

EMIL ARMSTRONG - WATKINS, CO

We are a little late getting our dues paid but we enjoy the Mendlesham Memories so much. Sorry it is going to stop.

Our hats off to you for a wonderful job you have all done.

We are getting older as you know but we hang in there every day. God bless you all.

MARGARET BURNELL - REDMOND, WA

Although I knew the reunion was to be the last of the 34th's, it was sad to see it in print. I look forward to seeing the last edition with the reunion pictures in it. We always looked forward to each edition.

We have only 2 members of the Gene James crew left, Gordon "Red" Spiker and Hap Prillaman, who was at the reunion with his son Harry. I was truly blessed to be able to be apart of the 34th wives since 1989. I still keep in touch with them.

REID McCLOSKEY - CARLSBAD, NM

The CAAF reunion, cited in the previous MM was a success highlighted by the raising of the flag on the former parade grounds by the Steel Talons Honor guard from Holloman AFB near Alamogordo, NM. The preservation group is working on a number of projects to educate the public on the history of the base in an effort to honor those who served there that they never be forgotten.

H.R. (MAC) McNEIL - NAPA, CA

I was a member of the crew "The Uninvited". We flew 26 missions in a B-24, finishing up the reminin 6 missions on Oct 7, 1944 in a B-17. We lost our radio man, Carl Hicks, to flack but the rest of us got through O.K.

I am in touch with co-pilot, Leroy Robinson and Ed Georghegan who flew with another crew. The three of us exchange Christmas cards.

I am enclosing a check for "thanks for the Memories" and hope that some way, some how some form of communication will emerge and continue.

Friends Write continued on next page

FRIENDS WRITE - *Continued*

BARBARA MAYOR - EDINA, MN

With sadness I am writing to tell you my husband, John D. Mayor died December 6, 2007. We had celebrated our 65th anniversary in September and his 90th birthday in November. Then in December he was gone due to an infection.

He was in the 34th BG and after five years of active duty and 20 as a reserve he ended up a Lt. Col., Ret. We were in Blythe, CA for almost a year, including the short times in Salinas and Bakersfield. We too lived in Modern Motor Haven, a misnomer if I ever heard one. It included a snake, crickets, mice, cockroaches, spiders and another couple we had to share with. But we were newly married and happy to be together.

BRIAN FIEBER - BAKERSFIELD, CA

Going to Washington DC was very exciting. It was amazing to see the nation's capital, the White House, and all the national monuments. Watching the soldiers guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was a spectacular show of discipline and devotion. Seeing how big the Washington Monument is was breathtaking!

Though all these things were amazing, the highlight of my trip was talking to the veterans. Hearing their stories was truly the most amazing part about my trip. I wish my poppa, Herman Fieber was still around to tell his stories.

I want to thank my uncle and aunt, David and Sonia Fieber and my grandmother, Nancy Fieber, for paying for my trip. I wish the 34th Bombardment Group was having another reunion. I want to thank all the veterans who served in WWII for their sacrifices to our country.

EMET H. TAYLOR - TAYLOR MI

On May 30, 2005 George L. Benedict passed away. He was a captain and lead pilot in the 18th and 4th squadrons. He was somewhat unique in that he was 29, married and a father. He received his commission from the field artillery before transferring to the Air Corps. As a result he was a very disciplined officer, very mature and caring individual. It was routine for him to lead the crew in prayer prior to boarding for a mission - and he didn't allow swearing on the intercom. I will always be grateful and privileged to have served as flight engineer on Captain Benedict's crew.

PAUL ANDERSON - MESA, AZ

Berl and I are so glad we were able to attend the final reunion of the 34th Bomb Group. We enjoyed it very much. Of the 25 reunions, we were able to make 16, plus three mini reunions when the 34th met with the 8th Air Force. All

of them were great but one of the high points was the trip to England. We will greatly miss not receiving the Mendlesham Memories, our thanks to everyone that made our association work so well through the years.

JOE WONG - ALAMEDA, CA

In spite of the stormy weather on the day of the D.C. city tour, we still had a great time seeing what we could. Gen. Morton Schwartz, USAF, representing President Bush, was at our gala banquet to thank the 34th Bomb Group for their service during WW II. This was the icing on the cake. David Fieber, Jack Steffen and others did an outstanding job arranging all our activities and hotel. Thank you all.

Here's hoping we will meet again in Cincinnati, Ohio next year. God willing. Happy holiday and healthy New Year to all

MICHELE SMITH - THE WOODLANDS, TX (Mendlesham Memories Publisher since 2001)

As I wrap up the layout of this final issue of Mendlesham Memories - it is hitting me that this is the last time I will be working with Jack (Share) on this publication. What an honor it has been to play a small roll in preserving the history and stories of the greatest generation ever.

This publication has changed my life and how I look at the world. Thank you so very much for letting me publish this newsletter for the last 7 years. I feel like I know everyone - from all of the stories and photos in each issue. When a photo has not been provided with a story - the internet has been a great source for finding photos of planes, people and events.

Thank you all for influencing my sons. They read each issue as it comes together, and have the greatest respect for this generation. A reminder of the true spirit of the term "gentlemen".

Jack, it has been so wonderful working with you. I always look forward to meeting with you and Marian over lunch and talking about life, politics or whatever topic is hot that day. We were teary-eyed when you handed the folder for this final issue to me a few weeks ago. I have no doubt that it will be tough handing you this last issue hot off the press. I hope our friendship continues for many years.

Thank you again, 34th Bomb Group Members - it has been the greatest privilege of my career to publish this newsletter.

Michele Smith - MM Publisher



Change of Address

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
ISRAELSEN	ALLEN	4 LM	9500 OSUNA ROAD	ALBUQUERQUE	NM	87111
JAQUA	WILLIAM M	LM	16809 OKOBOJI LN	ODESSA	FL	33556
NOE	JOHN	391	1700 CEDARWOOD DR APT 122	FLUSHING	MI	48433
ORTON	WILLIAM J.	1446LM	21276 WHITE PINE DR SPC#87	TEHACHAPI	CA	93561
THORPE	WILLIAM (Hal)	391	1150 S. MAIN ST #426	BOUNTIFUL	UT	84010

Taps

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ORG	DOD	ADDRESS	CITY	STATE	ZIP
MAYOR	JOHN D	4	12-06-07	3330 EDINBOROUGH WAY	EDINA	MN	55435
WOLSTENCROFT, SAM		OPLM	09-13-08	918 POST RD	WESTERLY	RI	02891

Freedom Is Not Free

Kelly Strong

*I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
and then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
He'd stand out in any crowd.
I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free*

*I heard the sound of TAPS one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That TAPS had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.*



Congratulations to

JAMES AND VIRGILINE SPENCER

Married 64 years on December 4th.

HAROLD AND GENEVIEVE RUTKA

Married 64 years on November 14th

CHARLES AND PHILOMENA METZ

Married 65 years on February 26th



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

34th Bomb Group



Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
G3 Direct

From the collection of:

Joseph K Marks

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