



THE 99th Bomb Group Historical Society



THE 99th BOMBARDMENT GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 4, JULY 1, 1983

SOCIETY OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Bernice Barr

SECRETARY: Joe Kenney

VICE PRESIDENT: L.T. (Lew) Boatwright

TREASURER: George Coen

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER-----

Just as I was beginning to relax and enjoy life in the sunshine of New Mexico, George Coen calls and reminds me that it is now time to get out another newsletter. Well, I just received the last one in the mail a few days ago, but if this will keep our founding father happy we will do another one NOW!

I just received a note from Al Schroeder, the last Deputy Commander of the 99th when it was inactivated in 1946. Before I includes his remarks here I will apologize to him for not giving him recognition at our May meeting-- sorry, Al.

Dear Bernie,

I'm finally getting to the long overdue note Evelyn and I promised ourselves we would get off to you at once! We just got back home to the accumulated bills and mail after a month on the road, snow storms in Colorado, friends and relatives in Oklahoma and Texas and the wheels are starting to spin down.

We can't thank you enough for the efforts you and your lovely wife and all the others put into the reunion. It was nothing but great from beginning to end and I hope you have a chance to let everyone who participated know how much we appreciated their work as well as the hospitality. Hope to see you in Houston next year. And best wishes.

Al and Evelyn Schroeder

I have also received a note from Wilbur and Francis Dixon with their thanks and some great suggestions for our meeting next year in Houston. I'll pass these on to Jim Flex for consideration. Wilbur, you may be in position to help Jim next Spring. I note that Wilbur flew his 51 missions as a gunner and after that danger, is it not great to be alive? That goes for the rest of us also-- ground and air.

To let each of you know that the financial actions, income and expenditures are correct, Tom Hunt conducted an audit of the financial books on the 17th May and stated that in his opinion, the records properly reflected income and expenditures for the period covered. Tom, we do appreciate your generous support and review of the books. Your recommendations will certainly be adopted and included in future records.

Joe Kenney has done a great job as secretary and the official report of the minutes taken at the May general meeting and at the Board of Directors meeting will be included in this newsletter. Thanks, Joe!

If you are not a member of The Air Force Association, these two letters to the AIRMAIL section may be of interest- they were to me.

Two Great Books

Just recently I wrote to Lt. Gen. J. B. McPherson, USAF (Ret.), President of the Air Force Historical Foundation, to thank him for their involvement in a couple of books, and I wanted to share my comments with you and the members of the Air Force Association.

To quote my comments to General McPherson: "Those two books, *A Few Great Captains* and *Forged in Fire*, are the greatest books I've read on the story of the Air Force and air-power. They should become textbooks. They should be read by everyone, young and old, who has any interest at all in the subject of air-power.

"Thank God they've been published and thank you for all you're doing to help."

We desperately need to spread the word so that all Americans realize what the Air Force is all about and how it all began. The two books I've cited can do a lot to aid that educational process.

Sen. Barry Goldwater
Washington, D. C.

Fifteenth Air Force

I am looking for veterans of the Fifteenth Air Force who were in Italy during 1943-45. I would like to hear from anyone interested in relating their experiences for a book I am writing about the Fifteenth.

If Fifteenth veterans will send me their names and addresses and bomb groups and squadrons, I will send them a questionnaire or contact them in person.

Please contact the address below.
Carol Rizzo
3305 Kenilworth
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49001
Phone: (616) 381-1323

George mentioned in our last newsletter that upon dissolution of our organization (may it be many many years from now), that all of our materials, records, etc., will be sent to the ALBERT F. SIMPSON HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER. In the May issue of the Air Force magazine was an article on that organization and I'll include it in this letter.

As in most organizations you don't complete one thing before making plans for the next. That's where we stand now. Jim Flex is working on our 1984 reunion in Houston, and that is in good hands. 1985? Yes, 1985! You must know that that is the Fiftieth anniversary of the B-17 Flying Fortress. What could we do? What should we do? I think it appropriate that we do some advanced planning. So I phoned Joe Chance, one of our Directors, at his summer home in Northern Michigan and discussed the subject with him. He kindly agreed to head a committee to discuss with officials of Boeing Aircraft Company and others to work out details for a possible reunion in Seattle, Washington at a convenient time in the spring of 1985. Joe, I do thank you for accepting this task and wish you success- I think it would be a shot in the arm if we revisited the site of the company that built the airplane that we flew and respected so much. Good Luck and keep us informed.

Friends, it has been nice visiting with you again and keep in touch. We like to hear from you so we can keep others informed of your activities. Please write.

Your Friend,

Bernie

99th BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 5/14/83 9:00 A.M. WINROCK INN

Those present: Barr, Greathouse, Chance, Coen, Parks, Yarina, Gamm, Bradfute and Kenney.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Pres. Bernie Barr.

Minutes of last Board of Directors Meeting read and approved as read.

Opening comments by Pres. Barr regarding our position as Directors in the 99th.

Pres. Barr called Jim Flex for some type of report regarding next Reunion. Jim Flex returned Bernie's call showing solid interest in reunion at Houston. Bernie will call on Jim Flex for comments in the general meeting.

Pres. Barr brought out the problems connected with holding two meetings per year. Feels the just one meeting per year would serve our purposes better. Board is in apparent agreement.

Suggested by Joe Chance that the Board recommend to the membership that just one meeting be held each year. Board agrees.

Mike Yarina reports - two items.

1. Presents complete roster of the 348th Bomb Squadron.
2. Asks for resolution supporting a Commemorative stamp for the 40th Anniversary of the 15th Air Force and membership to write Senators and Congressmen asking their support.

George Coen comments: Of \$200.00 approved, \$30.00 has been spent for microfilm. Asks \$500.00 to produce 300th Mission News Paper and mail this to membership when it has been reproduced.

Pres. Barr asks for action now on this proposal by George Coen. Proposal: George Coen to have 300th Newspaper reproduced at standard size for the membership. \$500.00 cost estimated by Data Company. This proposal approved. 99th Bomb Group Historical Society will underwrite the necessary cost of reproduction and distribution of this 300th mission newspaper.

George Coen continues: The dues income and in-bank amounts are in excellent shape. The membership is rising steadily. After much research it is George Coen's opinion that life memberships are not recommended.

Pres. Barr suggests that the cost of reproduction and distribution of that newspaper be reported to the membership.

Joe Chance asked for clarification of the I.R.S. This was explained by Pres. Barr and further explained by Rex Greathouse. Information from Greathouse to be forwarded to the secretary for reproduction and distribution to the Board members.

Richard Bradfute wishes to resign from the Board because other commitments prevent him from being as effective as he would like to be.

Mike Yarina wishes to resign as Vice President but remain on the Board of directors.

Tom Gamm resigns from the Board of Directors.

Board agrees with requests.

President Barr desires the sort of relationship a Board of Directors needs to make it work properly. Needs good information and proposals and serious thought and answers when questions or proposals are presented.

Pres. Barr on Policy: Needs and asks for more current information from the Board and membership. Suggests that George Coen hire a part time secretary to type the newsletter in place of the photocopies of articles presently being used. The Board of Directors concurs with our President.

Also asks that a Company be hired to keep our membership records up to date on new membership and those to be dropped for one reason or another.

Board agrees.

Item: Need for funds to be allocated to Tom Gamm's Reunion Fund from General funds to cover meeting rooms, etc. Presently needs \$100.00. Board concurs.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 A.M. for General meeting with membership at 10:30 A.M..

Respectfully Submitted;
Joe C. Kenney, Sec'y.

3rd ANNUAL MEETING 99th BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY: May 14, 1983 at the Winrock Motel, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Meeting called to order by President Bernie Barr at 10 :30 A.M..

Opening remarks by Pres. Bernie Barr after which Pres. Barr read a letter from General Upthegrove, (Greetings by the General).

Comments were made by the last 99th Bomb Group Commander after the Chair recognized him. Ray Schwanbeck brought us up to the date of disbanding from January 1, 1945.

Minutes of last Annual meeting read and approved as read.

Reports from Officers:

George Coen gave the Treasurer's report with the final figure as of the 30th of April, 1983 being \$2,727.49.

Mr. Coen gave special thanks to members who had made special donations.

Joe Chance asked for clarification of our status as 99th Board Members with the I.R.S. Clarification was made by Pres. Bernie Barr.

President Bernie Barr recognizes Earl Silvis for his fine production of the Muskegon Michigan meeting with the able aid of Earl's wife, Jean,

There were no committee reports.

Next year's 1984 meeting:

Pres. Bernie Barr calls on Jim Flex, Chairman of the 1984 Annual Meeting.

Jim Flex reports: Proposal for the meeting at Nasa Bay Motor Inn at Houston, Texas. This complex has Shopping Center across street - Lake for fishing a mile down the road. Complete Health Spa and all other facilities. Prices indicated at \$36.00 for rooms. Left copies of menus, etc. Transportation reported as no problem. States that it will be well for those flying to have their travel arrangements to include the Limo Service from whichever airport we might arrive. Jim states that a tour of the NASA Space Center can be arranged with special treatment for 99er's. Jim states that baseball and many other attractions are available. Mr. Flex extends a cordial invitation to the 99th Bomb Group for meeting at Houston.

Jim Peterson gave presentation for Phoenix as a possible site for a future Annual Reunion. Mentions the Arizona Wing of the Confederate Air Force and their B-17, Sentimental Journey. No firm proposal was made.

Eldon Dahl gave presentation of Bozeman, Montana as a possible site at some future date for an Annual Meeting of the 99th Bomb Group.

Motion made by Eldon Dahl that the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society meet in Houston, Texas the last week end in April or either of the first two week ends in May, 1984, whichever might work the best for Jim Flex. Second by Rex Greathouse. Motion passed.

Pres. Barr asked for discussion regarding the attempt at holding two meetings per year. After some discussion George Coen makes proposal: Suggests we have just one meeting per year. Moved by Rex Carnes, Second by Bradfute that the 99th Bomb Group meet just once per year with that meeting place to be decided from year to year. Motion passed.

President Barr notes that the 15th Air Force meeting at March Air Force Base commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the 15th Air Force will be held 10, 11, 12 and 13th of November, 1983. Pres. Barr suggests support for this meeting. Frank English elaborates.

Pres. Barr covers problem of necessary information for newsletter asking for comments of current value from our membership. Notes also the Frank English had resigned as editor of our newsletter.

Directors Bradfute and Gamm resigned from the board. President Barr places before the membership for replacements of Bradfute and Gamm. (Nomination from the floor later in the meeting).

Administrative details regarding transportation for Atomic Museum, etc.

President Barr gives detailed instructions for route to Kirtland Air Force Base Officers Club for our Banquet.

AWARDS:

1. Most Crew members present. (Coen, Imrie, Bradfute and Bulkeley) one bottle champagne per crew member.

2. Individual who came from furthest place: Russ Manchester from Bangor, Maine gets this award. Received one bottle of Champagne.

3. Most from State: California with 10 members present.

President Barr mentioned those from all states. Also that there are 120 people scheduled for the Banquet. A nose count revealed that there were 78 men attending the meeting.

Pres. Bernie Barr expresses a heartfelt thanks for the splendid attendance.

Pres. Barr read a telegram from Ernest Wrentmore where he expressed his regrets for his inability to attend this meeting because of illness - asks that we should have a great time.

A book written by Newby entitled "Green Flak Over Ploesti" or "Target Over Ploesti" will be published this summer and is supposed to be a good one.

The Chair is ready for nominations for Board of Directors. Jim Flex is nominated by Jacobs, Second by Art Knipp. Lew Boatwright nominated by Rex Carnes, Second by Knipp. Motion all nominations cease and unanimous ballot be cast for the two nominees. Motion passed.

Motion by Boatwright to adjourn. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted;
Joe. C. Kenney, Sec'y.

2nd BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING 5/14/83

Meeting called to order by Pres. Barr at 11:47 A.M..

Moved by Jim Flex that all Officers be re-elected as is with Lew Boatwright nominated as Vice President. Second by Rex Greathouse. Motion passed.

Secretary directed to write a letter to Winrock Inn to commend them for their splendid help and co-operation.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Respectfully Submitted;
Joe C. Kenney. Sec'y.

The above minutes are a good example of the way your Society functions. The membership nominates and elects Directors to the Board, after which the newly-elected Directors join the rest of the Board in the appointment of Officers for the next year. Our by-laws, which were taken from those of the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, provide for a very good mix of efficiency with control by the members, all in a non-profit form satisfactory to the IRS,

George F. Coen, Treasurer.

99th BG CAPS---

Jack Field (346th), is offering us a second chance to obtain 99BG caps. These caps will be identical to the first run except that scrambled eg gs will be added to the visor. See page _____

To: Jack Field, 1126 Washington, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

Dear Jack,

Please send me _____ 99th BG Caps.

I enclose \$8.00 for the first cap and \$7.00 for each remaining cap, to be sent postpaid to the address below. Total, \$ _____

I would also be interested in ordering a flight jacket with the 99th BG insignia if there is enough interest to warrant a run at an approximate price of \$24.

Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center

THE Albert F. Simpson Historical Research Center is the repository for Air Force historical documents. The Center's collection, begun in Washington during World War II, moved in 1949 to Maxwell AFB, Ala. It consists today of 45,000,000 pages devoted to the history of the service, and represents the largest and most valuable collection of documents on US military aviation in the world.

Named in 1972 for Dr. Albert F. Simpson, the Air Force Historian from 1946 to 1969, the Center was established on July 1, 1979, as a direct reporting unit. It is collocated with the Air University and provides research facilities for professional military education students, the faculty, and visiting scholars. More than eighty-five percent of the Center's pre-1955 holdings are declassified. The entire collection is recorded on 16-mm microfilm, with microfilm copies deposited

at the National Archives and Record Service, Washington, D. C., and at the Office of Air Force History, Bolling AFB, D. C.

Center holdings consist largely of periodic unit histories prepared by the major commands, numbered air forces, and other service organizations. These histories provide comprehensive coverage of Air Force activities beginning in 1942, when the President authorized the program. Extensive primary source material is attached to the histories, greatly enhancing their value.

Special collections complement the unit histories. Among them are historical monographs; end-of-tour reports; joint and combined command documents; aircraft record cards; and materials from the US Army, British Air Ministry, and the German Air Force. The Center also houses the personal papers of key re-

tired Air Force leaders and transcripts of their oral history interviews. About 6,000 documents of all types are accessioned annually.

In 1980 the Center adopted automatic data processing as a finding aid and began to enter abstracts of the documents into a computer. The Inferential Retrieval Index System, or IRIS, will become operational in 1983. The collection will eventually become accessible on computer terminals throughout the Air Force.

Materials at the Center are used for professional military education, research by civilian scholars, and the development of Air Force plans, programs, analyses, legal cases, and investigations. Information obtained from Center records appears in orientation programs, public information releases, unit reunions, Air Force responses to inquiries from Congress and other government agencies, research papers, books, television and movie scripts, and many other products.

The Center is organized into four divisions:

- **Reference.** Maintains documents and microfilm, answers inquiries about holdings, produces bibliographies, and provides other services to users.
- **Research.** Writes books and papers, traces lineage of Air Force units, prepares listing of active Air Force organizations, determines aerial victory and combat credits, and performs other research and teaching services.
- **Oral History.** Conducts oral history interviews, monitors the USAF end-of-tour report program, and collects personal papers.
- **Technical Services.** Accessions, catalogs, and indexes documents, develops automatic data processing and microfilming for the Center, and coordinates system applications for the Air Force history program.



All of the historical documents at the Simpson Historical Research Center have been microfilmed, with duplicate films deposited at the National Archives and the Office of Air Force History. Here, a technician reviews film for flaws.

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 1983 Membership, \$10 _____

1981-1982 Newsletters, \$5 per year. Extra Newsletter subscriptions, \$5.

NAME _____ Squadron _____ New _____

ADDRESS _____ Renewal _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Name	Roster of 99th Bomb Group Planes		Informants			
Achtung Axis Ass-Ache	229490		Blackman W. H. Holt, N. R. Kaufman, W. S. Haddock, T. G. Gault, Wilburn, Dahl, Malinski, Laroche, Bowen	Patches, 2 nd Persuader	229489	Bruno, Boyle
B. T. O. (Big Time Operator)	229502	416	W. W. Henderson, R. G. Imrie, Geo. F. Coen, P. G. Bulkeley, R. W. Bradfute, Oswald Shelnut, Theron Buxton, Robert Swanson, Edward Litwalk	Rabid Rabbit Ragged But Right Rambling Raider	229606	Heller Norris, Dahl, Miciak,
Bad Penny	91 missions	416	Scheu	Rangy Lil Robert E. Lee	23389 229482	Wm. Clark, Jim Bruno Bob Goad and a new crew
Balsanal Battlin Bobby Bugs Bugs Buddy Bumb's Rush Cotton-eyed Joe	229526 230474		Sopp Blum Jesse Hobbs, Kramer, Lee, Alderson, Menschl, Catver, Dickerson, Willie Jones, Ritter, Cunningham, Farley Sopp Jesse Hobbs	Roger the Lodger Shady Lady Shanker Ali Sortie Line Strait to Hell	picture of burning plane in file	Sopp Sopp Thistlewood, Mazu H. Pujol, McCorley, A. Reeves, T. O'Reilly, Waldrop, Lowell Caraway, John McKiernan, J. P. Ware, Charlie Nedeff, B. T. Madgashian Windrum
Ding A Ling Dirty Gertie Earthquake McGoon El Alamo El Diablo	picture from English		Upthegrove	Sweater Girl Tout Suite Turnip Termite W	picture	R. E. Drain
Fearless Fosdick Flak Dodger Flak Happy	232023		Mike Yarina Scheu, Heller		picture. sent to Steve Birdsall	
Glittering Gal Goin My Way Gravy Train	2106984	348	Gardner, Gentit Sopp Scheu	Vicious Vixen Vicki Vic War Eagle Weary Willie		Sopp Hunter Sopp Tom O'Reilly, Sopp
Heaven Can Wait Holey Joe Hubba Hubba Hunter's Answer Jig-Jig Lady Luck Leapin Lena Lethal Lady I, II, & III Lucky Lady Mighty Mike Miss Fury Never Satisfied Nobody's Baby Our Gal Sal	B-17G 229527 229393 229507 229388		Sopp Sopp Sopp W. C. Davis Horowitz Sopp Was, Boggio Samuelson, Horowitz Sopp	Whizzer	picture	

NOTES FROM 99er's

Hans-Heiri Stapfer
Bergstrasse
CH-8810 Horgen/ZH
Switzerland

Horgen, 1st June 1983

Dear Sir:

I found your address in SORTIE No. II, a very interesting magazine which I always enjoy since I am a member of 15th Air Force Association.

For many years I am very interested in getting pictures and information about the landed or crashed American planes here in Switzerland during the last world war.

The following 99th Bomb Group planes came down here in Switzerland and I would be most grateful to obtain any information, especially nicknames and addresses of crew members as well as pictures of the planes before they came down here in Switzerland.

B-17 F-85-BO

Serial Number: 42-3126
Bomb Squadron: 416th
Nickname: "Sugar Food"
Landing: Crash at Bad Ragaz, Switzerland
Date: 1st October 1943
Crew: Pilot B.C. English, Co-Pilot Donald M. Prentice, Navigator L.S. Finseth, Bombardier I.B. Pattern, Gunner Peter M. Malchioni, Radio Operator Joseph Raymond Carroll, Gunner Marion Dale Pratt, Radio Op. Assist. Charles R. Burgett, Gunner E.D. Whoedon, Gunner Norris Willard King.

The plane was shot down by Swiss anti-aircraft guns and German Fighters over Switzerland.

B-17 F-30-VE

Serial Number: 42-5856
Bomb Squadron: 347th
Nickname: unknown
Landing: Crashed at Alvaneu, Switzerland
Date: 1st October 1943
Crew: Pilot William James Cantwell, Co-Pilot Marvin Boydston, Navigator W.H. Breslin, Bombardier Norton L. Marks, Engineer Bruce R. Rowne, Saturnino Chavez, Marray R. Phillips, Gordon T. Schnekelberger, Jesse G. Maddox, K.A. Higinbotham, Herbert McArdell.

Both airplanes attacked Munich on that day, also A/C 42-5856 was attacked by Swiss anti-aircraft guns.

B-17 G-55-VE

Serial Number: 44-8187
Bomb Squadron: 346th
Nickname: unknown
Landing: 27th Feb 1945 at Dubendorf Airfields, Switzerland
Crew: unknown

Perhaps you can publish my letter in your 99th BG magazine. By the way I would be interested to become the membership in your association, if it possible.

If you feel that I can do anything for you or the association, I would be ready and willing to help you.

Sincerely,

Heiri

Dear Herr Stapfer,

Thank you for writing to the 99th. Your letter had a very strong impact on me, as the first plane which you mentioned was flown by the crew in the tent next to mine; English, Prentice, Finseth, and Patton. We heard that they were buried in Switzerland, but we had no further details at the time, and of course we have been busy raising families for 35 years or so. The crew was on their 50th mission and would have been sent back to the United States upon their return to Mohamedia, Tunisia.

I had hoped for 40 years that the rumor of their deaths might be in error and that perhaps one of them might appear at a 99th reunion to show off pictures of his grand-children, but of course we knew that this was very, very unlikely.

A copy of our 99th BG Newsletter is being sent to you with this letter. We appreciate your help and will expect to send you details of the planes and crews involved.

I had flown 50 missions as a navigator by 18 Sep. 1943 and so was not on the Weiner-Neustadt mission, but I was still at the airbase at Mohamedia. In fact, I was photographed on Sep. 29th with the four officers mentioned above, and of course 2 days later the four were gone. Most of us had such experiences during the war.

Again, please accept my thanks on behalf of the entire 99th.

Sincerely,

Ing. George F. Coen

Kieth Windrum, District Judge, North Platte, Nebraska, 69101
5- 20- 81

Dear George,

Glad to get the newsletter. Enjoyed the reproductions of the many letters. Will certainly write to the Colonel (He'll always be Colonel to me).

Duly note the reunion dates at Rapid City; will try to make part of it.

Notice some addresses are missing that I thought I had furnished.

Enclosed, a new list.

Almost eight years ago I attended a month-long training session at Reno. We ate lunch every noon outdoors. Much to my surprise, Willie, On the Pipe Line by God Texas, Henderson tapped me on the shoulder. He was attending and had seen my name on a roster. Needless to say we had a good time.

I quote from a diary a fellow judge made while in Africa. Since my fellow Judge here told him that I was in the 99th in Africa, this was sent not to me but to my associate here:

"We laid around for a couple of days after the raid on Cagliari, and then on the 31st we were briefed for Cagliari again. Four groups went out. Incidentally, this was the 99th's first raid, and the raid was the largest I have ever seen, as more than 100 B-17's participated. Everywhere I looked I could see airplanes. and the 99th was easily spotted, as they flew by far the best formation of the four."

It seems the 99th was like that in all departments.

Norm West said he was coming out this summer. Going to see if he can come for the reunion.

Thanks for all your efforts.

Sincerely,
Kieth (Windy) Windrum

1983 DUES

Our thanks to the individuals who have already sent in their dues for 1983. Receipt will be acknowledged by our writing the number 1983 in the upper right hand corner of the address label, and no new membership cards will be sent.

Dues for 1983 are still \$10.00. Back issues of the Newsletter are \$5.00 per year.

We are reviewing all old addresses in a renewed attempt to locate stragglers. Our methods, learned during the past year, may turn up a few more Old Boys such as Don Hemmingsen whom we could not locate in earlier attempts. For those few individuals who do not respond, well, we are forced to turn the picture of their plane to the wall.

TRANSLATOR SOUGHT

We would like for some 99er to translate the log of the Italian Flying Boat which plied between Brazil and Africa. The pilot's longhand entries have baffled us so far, but I can at least see that the plane was undergoing a major overhaul in November, 1941 at Recife when the Allies must have borrowed it, and one of my friends borrowed the log. Fovinci, Manassero, Boggio, where are you?

In a belated answer to my own question, Bob Imrie has located Reynolds Boggio, who insists that his death has been greatly exaggerated. We had hoped to see Boge at the Reunion. Well, maybe next time. Remember when two of us Anglo types had to "side" Boggio in the Italian P.O.W. camps in order to get him out without incident?
George

NEWS

There are a lot of escapees and evadees out there that are not in touch with our organization. We would appreciate it very much if unit newspapers would advise their members of the existence of our organization.

HEYWARD C. SPINKS-357FG
AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 844
BEAUFORT, SC 29902

REUNIONS

461 BG, 484 BG	Williamsburg, VA	June 3-5, 1983
97BG	St. Louis, MO Clarence Hammes, 15 Avilla Heights, S.Alexandria, AR 72002 Don Hayes, 1640 Cambridge Dr., Walla Walla, Wash., 99362	Sept. 16-17, 1983
463 Swoose Group	Amarillo, TX John Boyett, 3500 E. 15th, Amarillo, Tx., 79104	Oct. 6,7,8, 1983
98BG	Las Vegas, Nev. Cory O. Orne, JR, P.O. Box 553, Lake Pleasant, NY, 12108	Oct. 10-13. 1983
8AFHS	Houston, TX	Oct. 12-16, 1983
449BG	Tucson, AR J.Kruckmeyer, 600 E. Naranja Dr., Tucson, Ar., 85704	Nov. 4-6, 1983
99BG	Houston, TX Jim Flex, P.O. Box 1185, Dickinson, Tx 77539	Spring 1984

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

We have received Squadron Microfilm records from the museum at Maxwell Air Force Base but have not had time to take them to the library for viewing. We are now investigating the possibility of printing the 99th BG 300 Mission Newspaper for free distribution to members. We are also planning to index all personal accounts of missions under the appropriate part of the Missions Roster for the future use of historians.

BOOK REVIEW

Schweinfurt: Disaster In The Skies; John Sweetman

This is Book Number 17 of Ballentine's Illustrated History of the Violent Century. It contains an excellent review of the strategic bombing policy of the United States. It is also well illustrated. Page 114 has two good pictures of Cotton Eyed Joe after a belly landing in the mud in Africa. The plane is of course, attributed to the Mighty Eighth. The Society will welcome comments from the fellows in the picture. gfc

ANCIENT HISTORY by gfc

For me, the highlight of the Muskegon Reunion occurred in the lobby of the Holiday Inn on the first morning, when Mike Yarina entered and genially

introduced himself and Lettie to four newcomers. Last of all was John Roquemore who rose, extended his right hand, and gave his name just as Mike repeated his own. A second later each did a double-take, roared the others name, and abandoned hand-shaking for a big abrazo. Sure wish I'd had a camera at the ready-- for that's what these reunions are all about. Yes, you guessed it, John and Mike were on the same crew.

PROGRESS REPORT

Membership	Finances	
406 Members	Balance 10Feb '83	\$2490.50
148 Prospects	Office Expenses	93.37
	March Newsletter	486.64
	Dues and Donations	817.00
	Balance 30APR '83	\$2727.49

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Rex A. Carnes	2249 Squires St.	Longmont	CO	80501
Edward E. Geoffroy	Rt. 5, Box 503	Newport	NC	28570
Shelton D. Kem	10700 Ridge Court	Kelseyville	CA	95451
L.T. Boatwright	Star Rt. 1443	Corrales	NM	87048
Ernest K. Gentit	Rt. 2, Box 398	Bryan	OH	43506
Richard E. Drain	5360 Waddell Ave.	Colorado Springs	CO	80915
Warren P. Hoover	300 S. Pinnell Dr.	Lee's Summit	MO	64063
Henry L. Parks	P.O. Box 71	Reydon	OK	73660

LOST

John B. Pochet	Natrona Heights	PA	1945
Jack Reiter	Centralia	WA	1945
Robert L. Rennels	Redmond	OR	1945
Curtis Rodgers	Crandon	WI	1945
Jake Smith	Winterville	NC	1945
Robert N. Smith	Lilburn	GA	1945
David L. Williams	Hillsboro	TX	1945
Charles Cohen	New York	NY	1945
Blair E. Kough	Monument	KS	1945
Vittanis J. Milavskas	New Kensington	PA	1945

FOUND

399 Walter C. Schneider	4855 Echo Valley NW	North Canton	OH	44720	347
400 Ernest Ball	105 Decatur Rd.	Oak Ridge	TN	37830	347
401 Don Wamser	8318 Belding Rd.	Rockford	MI	49341	
402 Jack E. Cook	7301 E. 4th St. #22	Scottsdale	AZ	85251	
403 Paul M. Elizondo	1702 N. Raynor	El Paso	TX	79940	346
404 Tom E. Dinkins	3726 S. University Dr.	Ft. Worth	TX	76109	416
405 Rev. John D. St. John	Boston College High School				
	150 Morrissey Blvd.	Dorchester	MA	02125	HQ
406 Ray K. Hornung	122 Lou Ann Dr.	DePew	NY	14043	416

Bomber veterans recall 'nasty' part of their lives

Time to tug the war stories out of moth-balls. Time to dust the cobwebs off old friendships.

One hundred twenty survivors of a World War II bomber outfit recently stocked a hospitality suite at the Winrock Inn with a three-day supply of beer, scotch and food.

The wives served crackers and dip. Then the ladies retreated into a quiet corner, standing by while their men, of the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society, shook hands, patted backs and reminisced. Some shed tears as they got reacquainted and as tired memories were refreshed.

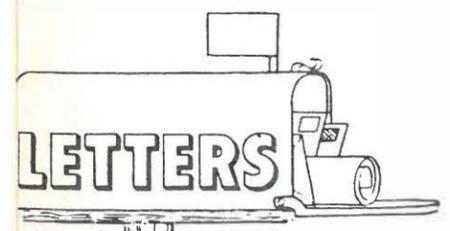
Understandable. They had come from all over America to Albuquerque to revive an experience others cannot understand fully, unless they have lived through similar events. The men talked about being shot down behind enemy lines, about lost comrades, about ditching their wounded craft.

"It was a nasty business, but we did it," said Albuquerque's George F. Coen. An organizer of the event, Coen wore his old brown flight jacket. On the leather, above his heart, was stitched the 99th's emblem, an angry skeleton shooting bombs from a bow.

"It conveyed the message," Coen said.

The "nasty business" the 99th did so well was demolishing enemy targets. That they accomplished from above, dropping their lethal calling cards from Boeing B-17 bombers, which carried nicknames such as "Achtung," "Axis Ass Ache" and "Heaven Can Wait."

Well, Thanks, Dave!
 * * * * *
 from
 Rex Greathouse' files



Farmland News welcomes letters from its readers. Lengthy letters will be subject to careful condensation. Submit them to the Editor, Farmland News, P. O. Box 7305, Kansas City, Mo. 64116.

Rex Greathouse suggests, via the above clipping, that we express our wish for a postage stamp depicting the Boeing B-17.



dave nordstrand



Harold O. Luther



George F. Coen

The group flew out of North Africa, striking targets in Italy mostly. It also sank ships ferrying fuel to Field Marshal Erwin ("Desert Fox") Rommel's thirsty Afrika Korps tanks.

Harold O. Luther, a retired mailman from Muskego, Wis., brought along his original flight log. In it, he had recorded in blue ink planes shot down.

"Mission 28, June 18, 1943," Luther, a second lieutenant and navigator had written. "Our target was the marshaling yards and

RR ferry facilities at Messina, Sicily . . .

"The flak was intense, heavy and damned accurate. There were quite a few fighters. We were attacked several times. Jean Chendonait (our crew) was hit in the leg . . . The bullet just missed the femur artery and stopped right at the hip joint."

The 99th lived in tents just 50 miles north of the Sahara, to which Luther and his crew flew one day just for an outing. Camp recreation consisted of digging foxholes deeper and deeper, he said.

Many of the pilots were trained at Roswell.

Keeping Posted

Some four years ago I suggested to the U.S. Postal Service that a series of commemorative stamps be issued to honor achievements of the great men who have advanced our basic industry.

Also, along with copies of the letter, I wrote to a hundred or more individuals who, I thought, might support the proposal.

The result to date has been zero. Meanwhile, stamps or postal cards have been issued honoring athletes, jazz musicians, actors, an Indian chief, birds and flowers, a synagogue, a philosopher, Ponce de Leon, St. Francis, Dr. Mary Walker and various others including hot air balloons.

Decisions as to what appears on stamps are made by a Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee named by the Postmaster General. Their recommendations, after the PMG's approval, go into effect. The Committee receives thousands of suggestions — among them recently are for stamps in honor of Mae West and Marilyn

Another attraction at the 99th reunion was a plastic model of the Boeing B-17, on display in the hospitality suite. The plane carried a crew of nine and was protected by .50-caliber machine guns aimed up, down, left, right, forward and aft. Three tons of bombs or two 2,000-pounders ("enough to sink a battleship," Coen said) were aboard.

"Boy, it was a good plane," he said. That was the consensus at the reunion.

It was a tough bird to knock out of the sky, too. But it happened. On May 3, Luther has eight men and six planes written in in blue ink.

Mission 40, July 22, 1943. Over Foggia, Italy:

"Bombs hit targets and big fires were started. We were hit by about 25 fighters. Seven were shot down. Frank Hunter, Dickel and crew of the 346th went down in flames."

The 99th Bomb Group Historical Society exists, in part, to make sure records of its action are as accurate and complete as possible.

"Another reason is that we just like to see each other," Coen said.

* * * * *

Monroe. Copies of the original letter have been sent to all members of the Advisory Committee, with no acknowledgement from any. Postal employees who work with the Committee have been courteous and helpful.

Evidence of interest can influence the Committee. If Farmland News readers agree that some of agriculture's great men should be celebrated on stamps, whether those I have named or others equally worthy, a letter from you will help.

Address Miss Ann Mills, in care of the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee, Stamps Division, U.S. Postal Service, Washington, D.C., 20260. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on May 6.

Wheeler McMillen, Lovettsville, Va.

Dear George,

I recently received a back issue of the newsletter dated Nov. 1, 1982, in which the history of the 99th Bomb Group/Wing was included. The very first line caught my attention:

"103 Obs. Sq., 1927 Federalized 1941..."

In Jan. 1940 I enlisted in the 103 Obs. Sq., PA National Guard and was federalized in Feb. of 1941. My question is.. Is this the same outfit? It was based at the Philadelphia Airport and I believe it was part of the 28th Division, PA National Guard. Can you research this for me and let me know your findings? If all of the above is true, then I was a member of the 99th and never knew it. It would be most interesting to find out. Our aircraft at the time were Douglas O-38's, a two wing open cockpit and fabric covered, some O-46's and O-47's and a T-6.

Hoping to see you in Albuquerque this May.

Sincerely,

John F. Trapuzzano

Any comments fellows? Also, somebody during the last year told me the story of shooting down a B-17 by careful pre-arrangement. I do not remember who told the story, and this deserves a place in our history. Sure would like to hear the story again.

Bernie---

Thought you should have a record of the presiding Judge, and remembrance of Albuquerque in '83.

Russell (Russ) T. Jacobs

Russ--- Thanks for the photo - I do appreciate it very much. See you in Houston in '84. Bernie

Thanks from me too, Russ. george

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