



THE 99th Bomb Group Historical Society Newsletter

Vol. 8 No.1

Jan .1, 1988

	SOCIETY OFFICERS 1987 - 1988
PRESIDENT - JOE KENNEY	VICE-PRESIDENT - AL SCHROEDER
TREASURER - WALTER BUTLER	HISTORIAN - GEORGE F. COEN
CHAPLAIN - HARVEY JENNINGS	SECRETARY - DICK DEMPSEY
	EDITOR - GEORGE F. COEN

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

After a most successful meeting in conjunction with the 15th Air Force Association, where our 99th Bomb Group was very much in evidence, we'll now turn to our own Reunion for next June in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Those dates are June 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1988.

Our Reunion at Ft. Lauderdale is well on the way to great success under the steady hand of Julius Horowitz. In a letter just received from Julie, he relates that the Pier 66 Hotel and Marina is prepared to handle our Group with the "best yet" services and facilities which include a great Hospitality Room, a Fantastic Pool Area, a splendid Lobby with all of the trimmings and with rooms that are extra large and comfortable.

The last News Letter contained an article written by Russ Traunstein regarding a real significant effort on the part of some of our men in Communications who worked diligently to provide a Christmas for a group of youngsters in an Orphanage in Foggia which I felt was most worthy. We'd all like to see many more of these from our Ground Crews and this article proves beyond any doubt the value of articles written by our crews.

The Dedication Ceremony at the Air Force Academy went well with the 22nd Bomb Group, the 99th and the 460th Bomb Groups making dedications. The Plaques which have previously been dedicated along with ours should give our young people going through the Academy some real pause for deep thought because of what those Plaques represent. Our Plaque represents us very well with a very fine balance. Of this we can all be proud.

Al Schroeder, our Vice President, has agreed to be our Nominations Chairman for this next year. He is looking for truly dedicated men who will serve the 99th well. With his knowlege of the 99th both from serving as Squadron Commander of two of our Squadrons and likewise his time in Head Quarters will serve him well. We thank Al for his support.

Again, HAPPY NEW YEAR!

JUNE 2nd = JUNE 5th, 1988

99TH BGHS - REGISTRATION FORM:

Member's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

Name of Spouse or Guest _____

Member Registration Fee \$20.00

Spouse or Guest Registration Fee \$10.00

If payment is received by May 1st, 1988 deduct
10% from the following:

	After May 1	Before May 1	
Friday June 3- Luncheon (optional)			
Members & Guests (each)	\$15.00	\$13.50	\$ _____
Friday June 3- Jungle Queen (optional)			
Members & Guests (each)	\$20.00	\$18.00	\$ _____
Saturday June 4- Banquet (optional)			
Members & Guests (each)	\$25.00	\$22.50	\$ _____

Meal prices include gratuities. TOTAL \$ _____

Please indicate whether you will have an
automobile during your stay. YES NO
--- ---

Make checks payable to 99th Bomb Group Historical
Society. Please send registration and appropriate fees to:

Jules Horowitz
3507 Oaks Way, Apt 911
Pompano Beach, Fl. 33069
Tel # (305) 973-1677

99 BOMB GROUP
SUN & FUN IN FT. LAUDERDALE
THURSDAY JUNE 2 = SUNDAY JUNE 5, 1988

RESERVATIONS: Airlines/Hotel SPECIAL AIRFARES
EASTERN AIRLINES call 1-800-468-7022 ask for file
EZ6P56 99BG Valid dates May 31-June 10.
CONTINENTAL AIRLINES call 1-800-468-7022 ask for file
EZ6P56 99BG Valid dates May 31 June 10.
AMERICAN AIRLINES call 1-800-433-1790 ask for Star
file 82305 99BG Valid dates May 31 June 12.

PIER 66 HOTEL & MARINA

Room Reservation Form

(Please complete and mail with your deposit)

Name(s) _____ SON# _____

Arrival Date _____ Departure Date _____

Address _____ # In Party _____

Phone _____ Credit Card # _____

Type of room desired: Lanai _____ Tower _____

Room Rate: \$60.00 per room

Plus applicable taxes

Check-in 3:00pm Check-out 11:00am

For arrival after 6:00pm, a deposit or guarantee is required.

Call toll-free: 1-800-327-3796 (U.S.) 1-800-432-1956 (Florida)

Local: (305) 525-6666

Reservations must be made by May 1, 1988. All reservations
after this date will be on a space available basis.

MAIL RESERVATIONS TO: Pier 66 Hotel & Marina
2301 S.E. 17th Street
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida 33316

WRITE FOR FT. LAUDERDALE VISITOR INFORMATION TO ENHANCE
YOUR REUNION VISIT!!

Our budget simply does not permit us to reproduce and
mail to you a lot of interesting information about
Ft. Lauderdale that will add to the fun you can have while
attending the 99th BGHS Reunion. Keep in mind that
Ft. Lauderdale is an all year resort area. To resolve this,
when you complete and mail your Registration Form, either
write or call: Greater Ft. Lauderdale Convention & Visitors
Bureau, 210 S.E. 8th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33301 Tel.
(305)765-5508 and ask for a package of welcoming information.
If you have specific interests, tell them and I am sure they
will fulfill your need for information.

If you are interested in any of the following
activities: golf, fishing (party boat or charter), please call
PAT (concierge) at PIER 66 HOTEL 1-800-327-3796 or 1-800-432-
1956 (Fla). She will try to make the necessary arrangements.

ARRIVING BY AUTO? I-95 South to Davie Blvd, East to Federal
Highway, South to S.E. 17th St. East to Pier 66 Hotel.

FLYING IN? You are 10 minutes from the Ft. Lauderdale Airport
and 30 minutes from Miami Airport.

LIMO SERVICE- FTL- Yellow Limo \$6.00pp. Tel 527-8690.

MIAMI- Red Top Limo \$11.50pp. Tel 764-2211.

SELECTED COMMENTS ABOUT PLAQUE DEDICATION AT AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Dear Bernie-----Many thanks for a great experience at the reunion. We were able to get six of our crew for a wonderful few days. Stay well and will look forward to seeing you again in Ft. Lauderdale in 1988. All the best, Frank(Dr. Frank Pearce) Frank included a nice photograph.

Dear Bernie, Just a few lines to let you know that my wife and I enjoyed the tour and lunch at the Academy very much. It was also a pleasure being with you and other members at the hospitality room. You did an excellent job of both. I did get some nice shots with my video camera, Should we attend the Florida reunion I'll bring them along. Yours, s/ Norb Blankenheim

Bernie, A long overdue thank you for a Job Well Done in Colorado Springs.....Thanks again for a neat time. s/Marjorie & Jim Smith

Dear Bernie: Please excuse this short note, but when I returned from the reunion I had a ton of mail to answer-may never catch up! Thanks for your support and assistance at the reunion. Many from the 99th have joined us as a result of your efforts-thanks from all of us. Hope to see you in Fort Worth in '89. Best regards to you and the 99th. s/C. E. Ben Franklin-Executive Director 15th Air Force Association (If you are not a member of the 15th AFA-Ben would welcome you)

HARVEY JENNINGS, our 99th Chaplain gave this prayer for the 99th Bomb Group Plaque Dedication on 16 Oct at the Air Force Academy.

LET'S BOW OUR HEADS AS WE PRAY OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN: WE HAVE COME HERE TODAY TO DEDICATE THIS PLAQUE IN HONOR OF ALL THOSE MEN WHO SERVED IN THE 99th BOMB GROUP. AND WE PRAY FOR THOSE MEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES DURING THOSE DEEPLY TROUBLING TIMES. WE PRAY ALSO FOR THOSE COMRADES WHO ARE UNABLE TO BE WITH US DURING THE DEDICATION CEREMONY, THAT YOUR BLESSINGS WILL BE ON ALL OF US AS WE REMEMBER THOSE DAYS WHEN IT BECAME OUR DUTY TO DEFEND THE CAUSES OF RIGHT AGAINST MIGHT, AND WE PRAY THESE THINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD, AMEN..

To The Membership:

Good News! Colored cloisonne pins depicting the early or late 99th Bomb Group insignia and individual squadron pins showing the squadron insignia in color have become available and can be obtained through the undersigned at \$3.50 each. Any one or a combination are available and let me assure you they are beautiful. The pins are retained with two clasps each.

You may select from the original design of the 346th B.S. that shows the rattlesnake around the bomb with striped gold and blue fin or the new design of the same squadron with the fin on the bomb being blue, gold and white. The 347th B.S. is one design, the flying jackass with a bomb in his teeth, the background on clouds. The 348th B.S. is one design, with the devil himself with a bomb and the 416th B.S. has a red skeleton with a red bow and arrow or a white skeleton with a red bow and a white arrow.

The Group pin is white shield with a blue diamond in the center with a "Y" in the center of that with a rocker on the bottom that says "Diamondbacks"

The other Group insignia which you sometimes find on your Newsletter is in the form of a shield with lightning striking out of a cloud from the upper right to lower left and an eye in the upper left and in the lower right a golden globe representing earth circled by two white circles. At the bottom of the shield is a ribbon rocker which says "Sight with might".

I took the pins to Colorado Springs and 25 lucky fellows ordered 62 pins and I am waiting to receive them from Hawaii to reship to the customers. Send your order, together with a money order for the pins desired, at \$3.50 each, to Charles E. Miller along with your name and address and I will include your order with the next one I make.

Please allow lots of time for your order since it has to be made to an outfit in Hawaii who put them together after receiving the order, then ship them to me and I have to separate them for mailing to you.

Let's all be proud of our group and squadrons!

Charles E. Miller

Charles E. Miller

11 Cass Avenue
Atlantic, Iowa 50022
(712)243-1097
(Member of the Board)

Thank you, Charlie, for a job well done.

geo



Mr. George F. Coen, Historian
99th Bomb Group/346th Bomber Squadron
2908 Aliso Drive NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

PH. AREA CODE (505) 982-4659
P.O. BOX 1906 SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87504
1505 LLANO STREET 87501

November 23, 1987

Dear Mr. Coen:

A year ago I discovered two unopened letters addressed to my oldest brother at the 346th Bomb Squadron, 99th Bomb Group and to the 535 Bomb Squadron and the 381st Bomb Group and stamped MISSING IN ACTION.

I was 12 years old when my mother received notice that my brother, S/Sgt. Eddie Delgado, Jr. 39266163 had been reported killed in action. He was a radio operator on B 17G Serial 42-31878 Z which was shot down on Mission 116 on a bomb raid of the Finow Headquarters Airbase at Gratz near Eberswalde just north of Berlin. The pilot of the craft was 2nd Lieutenant Walter K. Higgins. There was only one survivor: 2nd Lieutenant Robert W. Hughes, Bombadier who was reported as a prisoner of war, later returned to his home in Lenox, Massachusetts and is now deceased.

Sheet No. 52 of the 346th War Diary in Tortorella Air Field Foggia, Italy reported on February 11, 1944 that "a new crew,-the fifth this week has arrived: 2nd Lt. Walter K. Higgins, Herbert W. Burns, Jr., Orlan D. Carmichael and James A. Beck., S/Sgt Eddie Delgado, Sgts. Franklin Collister, Robert H. Thomson Jr., Robert R. Blair and Joyce W Worley."

The 346th War Diary of April 24, 1944 indicated that,"another crew has left for England: 2nd Lt. Walter K. Higgins, 2nd Lt. Herbert W. Burns, Jr., Orlan D. Carmichael, 2nd Lt. James A. Beck, T/Sgt. John S. Baird, T/Sgt. Eddie Delgado, Jr., S/Sgt. Robert R. Blair, S/Sgt. Franklin R. Collister, Sgt. Robert H. Thomson, Jr., and Sgt. Joyce N. Worley."

The following did not appear on Lt. Higgins' crew which went down as part of the 381st BG/535 BS Craft No. 42-31878 Z on May 24, 1944: 2nd Lt. Orlan D Carmichael 0-683114; S/Sgt. Robert R. Blair, 15338283; Sgt. Robert H. Thomson, Jr. 13042031; Sgt. Joyce N. Worley, 39555522.

Apparently the 355th, 358th, 354th, 357th Fighter Squadron arrived moments after 60-70 Jerries had attacked the B 17s turning for home. The 355th stuck to the primary job of protecting the bombers and the rest of the fighters suffered heavy losses to the Jagdgeschwader Gruppen 1 and 3 when they pursued the decoys to the deck and left the bombers open to attack. Six craft of the 39 the 381st dispatched (including Lt. Higgins') were lost.

I will appreciate any information from any member of the 346th who might have any knowledge about Lt. Higgins' crew when assigned to the 346th.

The nick name of Lt. Higgins' craft while assigned to 346th. Any photos of the crew and or craft.

I look forward toward applying for associate membership in the 99th BG and the 346th BS.

Sincerely,



Edmundo R. Delgado
325 E. Berger Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

(505) 982-4659 Office
(505) 983-3840 Home

We have found in the Squadron War Diary only two notes, one pertaining to the arrival of the Higgins crew, and one noting their departure for the U.K. Surely there must be more. geo

Dear George:

The incomplete mission report 17 Feb 1944, Ref: Newsletter dated 1 Nov 84, 1 Nov 85, and 1 Jan 86, could have been intentional. There were two aircraft involved.

The aircraft in the water was our wing man, on our 30th mission. Ref: copy of 2-page photo from a subsequent Starts & Stripes.

The two chutes were from our smoke-filled aircraft, that plunged out of control, from 17 to 7 thousand feet. (Co-pilot & top turret operator.) The fourth of these men is unknown to me.

The story would make good reading, but because there had been no bailout order, it would not be in good taste, unless the full mission report is found.

If you do not agree, please advise.

Best Wishes
J.N.H

Dear Jesse:

Since when is an Editor expected to have good taste? geo.

RIDDLED FORT BAGS 7 FIGHTERS
IN DOUBLE AMBUSH OFF SICILY

Boston, Vermont men Among Crew Safe After Tunisia "Belly Landing"
By JOSEPH MORTON

A FLYING FORTRESS BASE IN NORTH AFRICA, June 27 (AP) - The American crew of a crippled Flying Fortress which fought through two groups of enemy fighters in last Friday's raid on Messina, Sicily, and made a forced landing was back at its own base today, substantiating claims of shooting down seven enemy aircraft - a record for the North African theater.

The four-engined B-17 was left at a coastal airport in Tunisia, damaged both by the shells of at least 10 attacking planes and the landing.

"I never expected to get back," Lt. Frank Hunter of Salt Lake City, the pilot told his mates. "What a time!"

After fighting their way to and from the target, the planes of the formation started battling all over again, 50 miles north of Sicily, off Trapani. In the two battles, all the gunners in Hunter's plane except one shot down enemy aircraft.

The navigator, replacing the co-pilot, did a turn at the controls. All the men stayed with the guns until they had fired nearly 5000 rounds of ammunition.

Nursing the plane over the water back to Africa with all the motors giving him trouble, the pilot "greased in" with a belly landing which his mates found "smoother than riding a jeep."

Besides Hunter, the crew included Lt. John E. Andrews of Philadelphia, the navigator; Lt. Elmer L. Kirdencall of Steubenville, O., bombardier; Staff Sgt Kenneth Edward Titus of Huntington Park, Calif.; Staff Sgt Clarely Isham of 44 Chariotte Street, Burlington, Vt.; Staff Sgt. John J. Tennis of Waterbury, Ct.; Sgt Eugene L. Chantley of Dry Creek, W. Va.; Staff Sgt Lewis Walker of 221 Amory Street, Jamaica Plain, Mass.; and Tech Sgt. James E. O'Brien of South Minneapolis, Minn.

Standing at a big table with the commanding officer and intelligence officers, Hunter unfolded the group's story, interspersed with additions by his comrades.

"Nothing much happened on the way to Messina," he said. "It was just routine. But about 10 minutes from the target quite a gang of fighters jumped our formation - 50 maybe - and we had our hands full right away.

"First a 20-millimeter shell hit the nose - right between Andrews and Kirkendall -and went out the other side of the ship."

Kirdencall interrupted:

"Yes, I'll say. It took the seat out of my pants."

"Then another shell hit the No. 3 engine and I feathered it," Hunter continued. "When we went in for the bomb run all guns were going. They continued coming at us while we were dropping our bombs and just as we were closing the doors flak caught the bomb bay and pierced the wings. I'm telling you it was hot."

Sgt Titus explained how he got the first of two planes during the bomb run.

"It was a Messerschmitt-109 and I caught him square," he said. "The pilot bailed out. When we were right over the target - just a second or two later - our ball turret gunner got another. I saw him hit the water."

Hunter took up the story again:

"I got back in formation with one engine still shut off and flew along pretty well on the deck. The fighters dropped off behind and we pushed up the coast until we were off Trapani about 50 miles.

"Then about 10 or 15 Focke-Wulf-190s and Messerschmitt-109s came swinging down, throwing aerial bombs at the planes ahead and letting us have it with cannon and machine guns. They put four explosive shells into the cockpit - one hit under my seat."

Kirkendall got in a word here.

"The co-pilot kept shouting to the gunners to stay with the guns," he said. "He even went to work passing ammunition up to the top turret - a pretty tough job under the conditions."

Navigator Andrews took over as co-pilot and the plane's position continually became more precarious.

"A cannon shell landed on the top turret," Hunter said, "and pieces of it buzzed around inside like bees. The No. 1 engine was hit. At least six shots struck the wings. Two hit the rudder, wrecking the controls. All the radios went out when a burst hit the radio room I lost all the instruments and saw one shell pierce the gas tank. The oxygen caught fire, too, but the radio operator smothered it with his hands."

BOTTOM PART MISSING

JEFFERSON GUNNER BAGS 2 PLANES

Sergeant Garvis Awarded Medals for Exploits in Fortress

By NEIL MILLER

"We rode a bumpy floor of flak over Cantinia and Foggia. Enemy fighters were coming in at us from every angle and I doubted that our Flying Fortress would get through to its base in North Africa. But we completed those missions and 48 others almost as bad and every member of the crew returned to this country unharmed."

Staff Sergeant Leroy Garvis, 29-year-old resident of Jefferson, S.D., was the radio operator and one of the machinegunners on the Flying Fortress, which battled its way through a succession of raids over Tunisia, Sicily, Sardinia, and Italy.

Sergeant Garvis was born in Vermillion, S.D., but has lived in Jefferson since 1930. He enlisted here in 1942 and attended an air force radio training school in Ohio. Later, he was assigned to the Sioux City army air base and completed most of his training here.

Served Under Doolittle

February 3, 1943, his squadron left this country and flew to Africa by way of South America and a long hop across the Atlantic Ocean. There he served under the command of the famed Gen. James Doolittle. The squadron helped blast axis forces out of Africa and followed the retreat across the Mediterranean and into Italy.

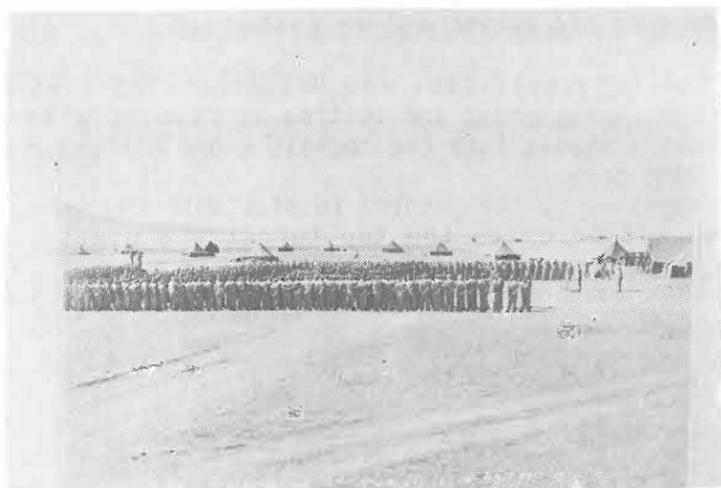
"When the going gets hot, the radio operator leaves his instruments and grabs a machinegun to blast every enemy ship that crosses his sights," Sergeant Garvis says. "I was lucky enough to get official credit for two, which I shot down, and there were plenty of others."

"When enemy fighters attack a formation of bombers, they draw the fire of a lot of gunners, so it's hard to say who gets in the burst that does the business," he explains. "Anyhow, we're too busy at the time to keep score."

Wins Medal Nine Times

Officially, Sergeant Garvis has won the air medal nine times, and the distinguished flying cross once. He wears eight oak leaf clusters on his air medal ribbon and has five staves, denoting participation in five major engagements.

Sergeant Garvis returned to this country last November and was assigned to the west coast until recently. At the end of his furlough, he will return to the west coast and possibly another assignment in the combat area.



HEADQUARTERS
NINETY NINTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
APO 520

C E R T I F I C A T E

I hereby certify that the following is a true list of combat claims for this Group covering the raid on Gerbini, Italy on 5 July 1943:

NAME	RANK	DAMAGE
Jose A. Berrellez	S/Sgt	1 FW 190 Destroyed
Vincent A. Schauler	T/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Herbert W. Taylor	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Russell T. Turkington	T/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Peter P. Pocius	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Donald F. Carpenter	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Tom J. Kawczynski	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
James A. Burkhardt	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Robert W. Carlton	T/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Irvin L. Herrmann	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 prob Destroyed
Dean Coleman	2nd Lt	1 FW 190 Destroyed
Herman A. Sadler	2nd Lt	1 MA 202 Destroyed
John F. Burkhardt	S/Sgt	1 MA 202 Destroyed
Warren B. Brust	Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Harold H. Klug	S/Sgt	1 MA 202 Destroyed
Thomas C. Hawke	2nd Lt	1 MA 202 Destroyed
Gino J. Pizza	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Jack B. Guerrard	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Quinton D. Brinker	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Mason L. Rhoads	S/Sgt	1 MA 212 Destroyed
Harry Samuel Brown	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Leon Edward Piatek	Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Thomas F. Casey	2nd Lt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Paul Valentine Bernat	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Edward Francis Martignetti	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Steve Malaga	S/Sgt	1 MA 202 Destroyed
William Wayne Kidwiler	2nd Lt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Carl Michael Miciak	T/Sgt	1 ME 109 prob Destroyed
Jack L. Williams	T/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Gerald Ernest Meier	S/Sgt	1 FW 190 Destroyed
Norman R. West	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Stanley Joseph Karkut	Pfc	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Joseph C. Freeland	T/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Herman William Shimp	M/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Falvey Gordon Haynes	S/Sgt	2 MEW 109s Destroyed
Robert harvey Creo	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Destroyed
Robert Harvey Creo	S/Sgt	1 ME 109 Prob Destroyed
Benjamin F. Warmer	S/Sgt	2 S/E ? Destroyed
Benjamin F. Warmer	S/Sgt	3 ME 109s Destroyed
Benjamin F. Warmer	S/Sgt	1 ME 110 Destroyed
Benjamin F. Warmer	S/Sgt	1 FW 190 Destroyed
Edward J. Jackson	T/Sgt	1 FW 190 Destroyed
Edwin J. Cadger	2nd Lt	1 ME 110 Destroyed
Emmett R. Worthey	S/Sgt	2 ME 109s Destroyed
Emmett R. Worthey	S/Sgt	1 FW 190 Destroyed

JOHN A. SAROSY,
Captain, Air Corps,
Adjutant

23 April 1944

MISSION NO. 180
A/C FACT. WEINER NEUSTADT, AUSTRIA

FLASH PHOTO INTERPRETATION:A. Damage to target:

1. Every primary and secondary target building in the whole area was heavily covered with an excellent concentration of hits except one small building at the extreme SE cover of the North A/D.
2. Twenty-eight A/C on the North A/D and among the buildings adjacent to it were probably destroyed.
3. The railroad tracks adjacent to the target on the South were cut in several places.
4. The railroad tracks just West of the target were cut by direct hits.
5. Three buildings on the A/D West of the target were probably destroyed by direct hits.
6. A six-engine airplane on the West A/D was destroyed by a direct hit or very near miss.
7. Several small buildings just West of the target were hit.
8. A few bombs dropped in the center of the North A/D.

COMMENDATION

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE
Office of the Commanding General
A.P.O. 520

16 May 1944

SUBJECT: Commendation
TO: Commanding Officer, 99th Bombardment Group

On April 23 the 99th Bombardment Group of the Fifteenth Air Force in its attack on Works No. 1 of the Wiener-Neustadt ME-109 Complex carried out a most highly successful bombing operation resulting in great destruction to this, the number one priority target.

For the high order of leadership exhibited by the Group Commander, Colonel Ford Lauer, and for the excellence of the bombing and formation flying, as evidenced by the accurate and concentrated bombing pattern in the target, the 99th Bombardment Group is highly commended on this outstanding performance.



/a/ N.F. TWINING
/t/ N.F. TWINING
Major General, USA
Commanding

MEDICAL HISTORY 99TH BOMB GP. (H), 1 OCTOBER 1944 TO 31 DECEMBER 1944

Administratively, the medical enlisted personnel assigned to the group were reassigned to conform to the new I/O and E. This moved 18 enlisted men from the squadrons into group headquarters to operate the Group infirmary. From an administrative viewpoint, the reduction of squadron personnel to 1 officer and 3 enlisted men, will in combat organizations where dispensaries of unit squadrons was instituted over 1 year ago, and where group consolidations now would be very impracticable, will prove inadequate.

Although the duties and functions now required to be done by the group medical set-up has removed some of those functions previously carried out by the squadrons, it can in no manner relieve them of a proportionate amount of duties to compensate for the loss of over 80 percent of their personnel. It does appear that the minimum of 4 enlisted men should be assigned each squadron medical dispensary. Ideally, 5 men would ensure the squadrons, now with 600 assigned personnel, the best medical services.

The number of men assigned to operate the Group Air Base Station seems, at this time, to be just adequate. The assignment of duties will require all men to operate on 10 to 12 hour days, with 1 day liberty each week. In this organization, the following duty assignments have been made:

1. The section leader as Sergeant Major and medical administrative duties and typing.
2. An enlisted man to operate the supply room, handle the laundry, pick up the supply issues for the squadrons as well as the infirmary, to make regular and frequent inventory checks.
3. A laboratory technician.
4. One man, an 861, as surgery technician, to assist in all treatment and surgical room procedures.
5. One man trained in x-ray work, to operate this equipment and to be an assistant in the surgery.
6. A wardmaster.
7. Three ward men, one of whom is on night duty.
8. One man in charge of servicing, maintaining and dispatching all transportation.
9. Two each drivers and aid men working in teams to maintain medical service on the line.
10. One driver operating the consolidated hospital ambulance.
11. One utility aid man who works as relief in each of the aid man positions on their days off.
12. One man who aids in sanitary inspections, who checks and maintains all first aid equipment in the aircraft, who aids the surgeon and personal equipment officer in indoctrinating combat crews in the proper use and care of special equipment and who is designated as NCO in charge of malaria control.
13. One dental assistant.
14. Three other men assigned to Group Headquarters have been placed on special duty with various squadrons to assist in the shortage there.

One acute need is a typist. At present, the eighteen men now working in the group infirmary would be adequate for all duties but those in the office. Enough detail work exists to warrant the nineteenth man being one with typist qualifications.

Transportation within Bombardment Group medical sections remains acute. At present, the I/E allows for one ambulance per squadron, a weapon carrier and two ambulances per headquarters. This transportation does not fully cover the needs for many reasons. Of [ten] squadrons are widely dispersed and accessible only over extremely bad roads, vehicles soon break down, and, as all our vehicles are over 2 year old, maintenance becomes an acute problem. The necessity of maintaining 1 ambulance on the line every day, 1 making the hospital run, and all the others (4) going to the line area for combat mission take-off, returning to the line for the mission return some hours later, while in the interim, must be used to transport patients to a central point for the hospital ambulance pickup, twice daily; for the squadron surgeons to make trips to the group infirmary after sick call, and, if needs be, to the hospital, has severely taxed the continued serviceability of these six vehicles.

The weapons carrier must be used for hauling medical supplies, hospital rations, laundry and other such tasks. These trips vary from 5 miles to as much as 40 miles (in case of 1 round trip to the quartermaster laundry) over very treacherous roads.

With this in mind, and in an attempt to maintain maximum serviceability from these vehicles, one qualified mechanic has been detailed as transportation sergeant, whose primary duty is to service and maintain these vehicles.

As ambulances are a critical item in this theater, and since most all groups have been dispersed as we have, it is felt that each squadron and the group medical section, should be authorized an additional vehicle. This would enable the surgeons to more efficiently execute their duties without the necessity of using the only means of transportation available to them -- the critical ambulance.

With the addition of 2nd Lt Leonard Oberman, O-2045456, MOS 2120, on 15 December 1944, the medical section was brought to full strength of assigned personnel. No losses were had during the period. The roster of assigned officers and enlisted personnel as of 31 December 1944 are:

FREDERICK D. KOEHNE	Major	O-420946	Group Flight Surgeon
EDGAR O. HUGHES	Captain	O-426335	Squadron Flight Surgeon
JOSEPH F. MATTENBACE	Captain	O-494096	Squadron Flight Surgeon
IRVING G. NEWMAN	Captain	O-487116	Squadron Flight Surgeon
JONES W. LAMB	Captain	O-496328	Squadron Flight Surgeon
WAYNE W. WARREN	Captain	O-492334	Group Dentist
LEONARD (NMI) OBERMAN	2nd Lt	O-2048436	Med Adm Officer
ELMER C. FREEMAN	T/Sgt	32225356	673 Hq Det
MORRIS M. GROSSMAN	S/Sgt	35284926	673 Hq Det
FLOYD B. WISEMAN	Sgt	39836096	861 Hq Det
EDWARD G. HAYES	Sgt	34161614	Dental Hq Det
GEORGE N. ALLEY	Sgt	39082048	657 Hq Det
GUY W. MASON	Sgt	35746513	409 Hq Det
HERBERT J. CURRIE	Sgt	32135481	196 Hq Det
LESTER P. BROMLEY	Sgt	37144968	861 Hq Det
HUBERT D. MERWORTH	Cpl	38228816	409 Hq Det
WEST B. McCracken	Cpl	34249279	409 Hq Det
POSEY B. KENNEDY	Cpl	34334801	657 Hq Det
SAM CAPITANO	Cpl	34249244	409 Hq Det
FERNANDO GONZALES	Cpl	34249178	409 Hq Det
GEORGE A. GROLLING	Cpl	32142147	264 Hq Det
ERICH KNEK	Cpl	36505568	409 Hq Det
WILLIAM H. COLEMAN	Pfc	37114714	409 Hq Det
JOSEPH G. TREU	Pfc	32242643	869 Hq Det
EVERETT S. SHARP	Pfc	16016427	657 Hq Det
GROVER T. WATSON	Pfc	38203747	657 Hq Det
JOSEPH M. ALAMILLO	Pfc	34249303	657 Hq Det
ORLANDO A. CLARK	Pvt	34249194	409 Hq Det
CLAUDE J. COWART	S/Sgt	14028330	675 346 Bomb Sq
CREIGHTON M. ASHTON	Sgt	34249132	409 346 Bomb Sq
ELDON S. GORDON	Pfc	37459604	657 346 Bomb Sq
LEMUEL E. EDWARDS	S/Sgt	35354392	673 347 Bomb Sq
CASEY B. BELGER	Sgt	34249001	673 347 Bomb Sq
JAMES B. JOHNSON	Pfc	34249311	657 347 Bomb Sq
BRAXTON R. TUCKER	S/Sgt	14038420	673 348 Bomb Sq
HARRY MASSEY	Sgt	35586979	673 348 Bomb Sq
HUGHIE M. BRITT	Pfc	34194405	657 348 Bomb Sq
JAMES A. KISH	S/Sgt	35014701	673 416 Bomb Sq
JULIUS E. WATKINS	Sgt	19178575	673 416 Bomb Sq
ARCHIE D. BAXLEY	Pfc	38278181	657 416 Bomb Sq

Activities and problems of environmental importance changed from those of malarial and intestinal diseases to those of respiratory with the change of climatic conditions. In the latter part of October 1944, the mean temperature had dropped below the minimum required for malarial and mosquito breeding. With the dropping temperature, and the advent of the rains, personnel were compelled to spend more time indoors, either their own tents or in the clubs. The areas universally became quagmires of mud. New personnel were arriving from the States and were for the first time being exposed to the rigors of living in crowded tents, wading in mud and battling other environmental conditions foreign to their previous experiences. All these factors pointed toward an increasing respiratory disease rate. With this in mind, the unit surgeons conducted informal discussions on upper respiratory disease, and means of prevention. They also insisted that all personnel were properly equipped with essential items of clothing for winter. Many of these people probably developed minor colds that were treated on duty status, but the incidence of more serious upper respiratory infections has been extremely low.

In the three month period, this group flew 24 combat sorties. This represents 510 aircraft and 5100 men over the target. In this same period, a total of 153 casualties were reported. Of these, 137 were due to enemy action and the remaining 16 were results of operational accidents, on, and following, take-off.

A breakdown of these casualty rates for the period show the casualty rate to be 3%. A further breakdown of this:

88 Missing in Action	or	1.73%
32 Wounded in Action	or	.88%
5 Killed in Action	or	.10%
12 Returned (Not included in MIA)	or	.24%
137 Total Battle Casualty	or	2.69%
12 Operational Accident Casualties	or	.24%
4 Frostbite	or	.07%
165 Total Casualties	or	3.00%

The anatomical location of the wounds received in order of frequency are:

1. Legs - 7	or	20.0%
2. Head - 6	or	17.0%
3. Face - 6	or	17.0%
4. Arms - 4	or	11.0%
5. Hands and Fingers	0 4	or 11.0%
6. Neck - 3	or	9.0%
7. Back - 2	or	6.0%
8. Eyes - 1	or	2.0%
9. Shoulder - 1	or	2.0%
10. Feet - 1	or	2.0%

Of the two other reported fatalities, one was due to anoxia and the other failure of the parachute. (Failed to open following a bail out.)

Four cases of frostbite were reported during the period. Anatomically, these men had more than one area involved. The cause of the large majority was equipment failure. In order of frequency, the following sites were affected:

Toes and Feet - 3
Fingers and Hands - 2
Face - 1
Ears - 1

Eleven combat personnel were ordered before the Medical Disposition Board. Of these, three were for physical defects requiring further prolonged hospitalization before resuming combat flying and eight were for neuropsychiatric reasons. Four of the eight men were returned to this unit with instructions to fly. Two of these men, both enlisted, developed frank anxiety states and have been removed from combat and assigned ground duties. The other two, officers, are still flying, but the period is yet too short and operational days too infrequent to give any evaluation. It is anticipated that these officers will develop a frank neuropsychosis. The remaining were removed from flying and reassigned to ground duties.

Statistically, the accompanying disease and admission rates for three month period shows the various disease trends.

From 2 December through 9 December 1944, an aerotitis screening program was instituted on this base. This program was conducted on all combat personnel who had flown 12 combat sorties or less. The purpose of the project was to examine and evaluate the amount of adenoid tissue in the nasal pharynx and to treat those cases who had a significant amount to be a potential cause for aerotitis, with radium. 665 combat personnel were examined. Of these, 330 were found to have significant tissue and treated. This represents about 50% of all examined, for the remaining 335 were not treated.

Again, beginning 28 December 1944, these 330 men were examined and, where indicated, treated. Of 330 who had received treatment previously, 330 were present for the second examination. Fifty of these required no further therapy.

As the program is less than 50% complete, no final conclusions can be made. Thus far, the lack of reaction from these treatments and the flying status of the individual is not altered during treatment.

These men return at 25-day intervals for three to four treatments.

In summary of the more important activities of the medical section during the past 12 months, the following factors stand out:

a. The very low rate of intestinal disease within the command. This could be secured only through the ceaseless efforts of the medical officers in advising the commanding officers wisely on matters pertaining to sanitation and the cooperation each unit commander has given to carry out or continue these recommendations.

b. The low incidence of malaria in such a highly endemic malaria area, speaks well for the efficiency and spirit of the program instituted at the beginning of the season. It also speaks well for the part each individual soldier contributed in doing his share.

c. The one phase of activity upon which most effort was expended, yet so little actually accomplished, was in *entire paragraph illegible. Sorry!*

d. The authorization and establishment of the Air Base Group Aid Station has accounted for a boost in the morale of not only the medical officers, but also in all personnel in the group, for now their own surgeon can handle their minor illnesses more efficiently.

FREDERICK D. KOEHNE
Major, Medical Corps
Group Flight Surgeon

A tip of the 50-mission cap and a salute to Dr. Koehne of Fredonia,

Kansas.



"HERE 'TIS"

17 Dec 44

Published Weekly by the Special Service Section, Hq. 99th Bomb Group (H). Vol. 1, -6

MOVIE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, 18 December:

"ALWAYS A BRIDESMAID", Andrews Sisters: 1800 - 346th, 348th, Ord. Sect.; 2000 -347th, 416th, & hq.

WEDNESDAY, 20 December:

"LOST IN A HAREM", Abbot and Costello: 1800 - 347th, 416th, & Hq.; 2000 - 346th, 348th & Ord. Sect.

THURSDAY, 21 December:

"G.I. MOVIES NO. 51"

Movietone News

Russian Army Drives Ahead

U.S. Marines Get medal of Honor

Sportscope (Billiards)

Pete Smith Specialty (Jitterbugs)

A&M SMAG (Sulfa)

A Carrier Comes Home

"G.I. MOVIES NO. 64"

Universal Newsreel

Aachen Falls

Allied Planes Hammer Reich

De Gaulle Tours Free France

Sea Forts Guardians of Britain

Ohio State 26 - Great lakes 6

Fight Pictures

Life Line (Connection between war workers and Fighting Men)

Sing With the Stars - Ethel Merman

SATURDAY, 25 December:

"STAGECOACH", Clair Trevor, John Wayne: 1800 - 346th, 348th & Ord. Sect.; 2000 -347th, 416th & Hq.

COMING: Return engagement of "THE KISSMET", Friday, 29 December.

A MESSAGE FROM SGT LIBUTTI

"At St. Michael's Church in the Auditorium in Foggia on Dec 23, 1944, at 2:30 p.m. there will be a Christmas Party given for the children. This party was made possible only through the generosity and greatness of heart of you, GIs, officers, and men, of the 99th Bomb Group. the only 'thanks' I know that could be at all compensating in even a small measure would be to invite you, one and all, to visit our party and hope you will accept the invitation. To each of you, on behalf of the children, I extend my own personal thanks and best wishes on the Holiday Season."

S/Sgt Louis Libutti

UMBRIAGO?

"How's your head this morning?" was a popular greeting around the Group on Sunday morning after the Saturday night celebrations in honor of the Group's 300 missions.

Parties, dances, shows, including refreshments and freely flowing liquids, topped off the program of celebration which climaxed much hard work and earnest effort in achieving the goal attained by few heavy bombardment groups to date.

It has been a long trail to the 300 mission point and we are already well on the way to another century figure as Saturday's mission was number 316 - and it shouldn't be many months before 400 is reached. We all hope of course that we shall be in on the invasion of the good ole USA long before the fabulous figure of 500 is attained.



LOGGING THE "LOG"

Story behind the 300 Mission Paper
by Sgt John R. Wiggin

Each man in the Group should have received by this time a copy of the "Ninety Ninth Bomb Group Three Hundred Mission Log," a newspaper recently published ;by the Public Relations Office of the Group. But - how many know just what the printing of such a publication entails?

Long before the mission was flown to bring the total to the 300 mark, contacts were made with other units who had published papers of one type or another, to get advanced information of difficulties known to exist in the mechanical end of the job. Printers, engravers, and newsmen were being questioned as the material to be printed was gathered up in the office itself. The cooperation of men in many departments was solicited and received in compiling statistics and information of general and specific interest to men of the Group. Histories, citations, news stories, records of all sorts were _____ for copy for the "Log." Photographs were gathered up from the Photo Section, _____
Illegible

Finally, when all _____ ready to go and arrangements were made to have the printing done in Rome, the editorial staff took off for the big city.

Arriving there with more material than was necessary to make up the sheet, photos were chosen, stories selected from those at hand, and the former were scaled to fit the desired space. Linotype men, engravers, and makeup men cooperated and the forms began to fill up with type and cuts. In the process of making up the paper it was necessary to cut much of the material originally intended for publication. It was a difficult job to do - cutting here, rewriting there, wherever improvement could be made...captions were written for the pix, and heads made for the stories of chosen type sizes. Proofs were run off and subsequently read and corrected. Errors rectified and new proofs were run off and reread by the proofreaders.

The editorial staff consisted of 1st Lt Harold J. Blum, of the 416th, and Sgt. John R. Wiggin, of the Group Public Relations Office. Both were assisted in making up the paper by Major John Hutton of the 416th Squadron. Too, credit should go to the many other people who submitted copy or made other individual contributions to the paper.

348TH NEWS: Sgt MacIntyre *300 - Log reprinted for Nov. '83 99BGHS Newsletter.*

Mark Wednesday the 20th on your calendar - if you're a basketball fan. At 1800 that night the Diamondbacks meet the Quanta Costas (324th Service Group) in a battle for the leadership in the Special Service League. The two teams are tied for the No. 1 spot right now with 14 wins and 4 losses apiece. The Diamondbacks, with crack players from the 348th and 416th on their roster, are coached and managed by Sgt Hinton Smith of the 348th. Last week they defeated the 2nd Bomb Group, 42-27. The night of the 20th, in fact, will be a bargain night, for at 2100 the Diamondbacks will play their second game of the evening - against the 463 Bomb Group team. So hop the bus and head for the Foggia Sports Palace if you want to see some really good ball!

Evidently there are some combat men who really like Italy. S/Sgt Arthur Shorten, who flew 50 missions with the 348th just about a year ago, showed up in the mess hall one evening last week. He's doing his second tour in this Theater with the 2nd Bomb Group.

The Operations Officer boasts the first and, so far, the only Christmas tree in the Squadron. It came from Newfoundland, and Captain Lane and his crew have done a really sell job of decorating. the last time we saw a Christmas tree was back in good old Sioux City, two (or was it two hundred) years ago. We hear there will be more trees around before the 25th arrives, which is "multo buono." It doesn't really seem like Christmas unless you have a tree.

416TH NEWS: T/Sgt Warner

Sgt "GEORGIE" HERMAN is walking around these days grinning like a Cheshire cat. Who wouldn't with a nice new set of store teeth to exhibit to the cash customers

Last week, there was a deluge of self-teaching courses that descended down upon the Squadron. It is gratifying to see that the boys are filling in their idle time, by taking advantage of the educational benefits furnished through the courtesy of the Government. Under the new set-up, an ambitious G.I. can take as many courses as his little heart desires all for the nominal sum of two bucks. *Orchids* to Captain "PROF" MARSTEN for his generous offer in donating his services to the Squadron to assist in teaching some of the more difficult texts.

Well, Ping-Pong got off to a rather auspicious start with the 416th trouncing the 348th Bomb Sq (via the forfeit route). However, by the time this rag is dry, the results of the game played with the 347th should be known and our capable "Athletes" will have met the acid test. Cpl CRANFORD, coach and star combined, claims to have been an outstanding performer with Baylor University back in the good old Texas Country, and this game may bring to light his latent talents.

Does Cpl SAMMY "The Nose" MERLINO know that it is contrary to Army Regulations to be seen sporting the Good Conduct Ribbon without having first been placed on appropriate orders confirming the award?..... "APPLE CHEEKED" BOBBY PIERCE the little boy who never grew up, has really developed executive talents. He is handling the affairs of the EM Club like a seasoned and polished politician. Won't those rebels back home be proud of their Little Bobby when they hear.

The members of this squadron join with me in mourning the loss of one of our members who met an untimely death yesterday, 13 december 1944. Corp BENJAMIN W. MOORE has passed on but his fine outstanding character, his warm personality will live in the memory of those who had the pleasure of knowing him, working with him, and living with him.

Usual Midnight Mass for Catholics on Christmas Eve.

See Bulletin Boards for details.

Protestant Services:

Christmas Eve on the base, and Christmas Day, 1000 at the Little Theater in Foggia.



Membership directory has been removed for privacy.

TOURNAMENT STANDINGS: PING PONG

The 99th Ping Pong Tournament has finished its second week of exciting play. Now that the contestants have the kinks out of their arms and their eyes on the ball, there promises to be some top notch matches in store for us. The crowds jamming the clubs Friday evenings have helped make the tournament a success by their cheers for home teams and applause for outstanding players. Any day now we expect to see an organized rooting section blossom out with brass bands, aerobatic cheer leaders and short-skirted baton twirlers. The 346th's rah-rah section seems to have done a good job - for their team is now in first place. The standings of the teams at present are as follows:

TEAM	W	L	PERC.
346th	2	0	1000
Hq	1	0	1000
Ord	1	0	1000
347th	1	1	500
416th	1	1	500
348th	0	2	000
368th	0	2	000

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

This Christmas will be different from others of the past. How lonely we will feel as we think of Christmas Eve at home among our loved ones. No telephone will bridge the gap between us and them this year. And we may develop a case of self-pity. But there is a way to feel them very near this holy season. A private in New Guinea wrote his wife last year these words which give us the hint:

"It will be a different Christmas this year. The altar will be a fallen tree in the jungle. All around will be the stink of sweat, of unwashed clothes, and death. But as I kneel to pray I know that you will be alongside me praying, too, and that will make it a happy Christmas, Darling."

If, when we remember Christ's birth and the joys of past Christmases, we will say a prayer, we will find peace and joy and hope filling our hearts again.

Love came into a world of hate
Where Roman Legions kept the gate
Zion as a conquered state,
Yet love was born.

Love came into a world gone wrong,
Where men were ruled by the hard and strong,
But shepherds heard a glory song
At Bethlehem,

Love shall live in the world alway
As long as families kneel and pray
To the Holy child who came to stay,
On Christmas Eve.

(C.H. Voss)

NEW YEAR'S EVE INVITATION

Lt Frank Leono, Group Headquarters, received the following special New Year's Eve invitation from his brother in France:

"Wine and Dine on the Siegfried
Line. Visit the Club Cologne on the
Beautiful Rhine. Big '88'-piece band
and that famous singer, "Screaming Mimi."
Come one, come all - the mortar merrier."

SWEDES BEWILDERED BY JITTERBUG JOES

Stockholm (CNS) - U.S. aviators interned in Sweden have introduced jitterbugging to Swedish girls.

"I assume," remarked a bystander after watching the gyrations, "that they are married afterwards."

THE SIXTH WAR LOAN DRIVE IS STILL ON; DON'T FORGET TO PURCHASE AT LEAST ONE BOND THIS MONTH.

THE PLAY 366th By JOE CONCORAN

When the War Department published the news that the WACs will now receive rations designed to help them keep their girlish figures, Arky Vaughn has been hounding Major K. for a transfer to the Female Commandos....Chesley Kristul is having the time of his life this week reading "Beside Esquire"....Oh, Fudge Department. "Wild Bill" Johnson, who is noted for his ability to outdraw and outtalk anyone in the Fifteenth Air Force, and Abe Lyman, who is also a man of a few million words, were seen playing dominos the other nite. Abe was doing alright until Johnson laid down a smoke screen with his inevitable cigar....Ray Bregan, Chicago's pride and Tortorella's monaco, amazed everyone this week by shaving....Joe O'Kullen, that well-known Irishman from Mansfield, Ohio, wants everyone to know that we will NOT be home by Xmas....Why don't Freddy Eirich and Joe Ascopardi settle their feud once and for all? They are always chop-chopping about their respective Sizes....Is there any truth in the report that Frank O'Donnell is going to get a haircut, and, if there is, what about those aurricular organs?....That well-known man-about-town, Pappy Rockstraw is seriously considering wearing only one cap this winter, which happens Charley Beaver no end....The biggest piece of news this week is that Julian Parlman is going to take piano lessons in the near future. It is not generally known but, as a child, Julian was a child prodigy. For a while, it seemed that young Julian would become one of the all-time masters of the keyboards. But, sad to relate, as our young hero grew older his girth grew and grew and grew, until he was unable to reach the keys. Now, young Julian

is positively svelte, hence his decision to resume his studies of the piano....That does it for this week, Mates; be sure to follow the misadventures of the adventurous Three Forty Sixers in next week's "HERE 'TIS".

The Rattlers Go Down to Defeat

In one of the most thrilling games of the season, our Rattlers went down to defeat at the hands of the Boing Inn Boys, 35 to 33 last Monday night.

It was a heartbreaker to lose in more ways than one. First, our boys were fighting for first place. Secondly, it was only their second defeat in eight starts and, worst of all, they were leading at the half, only to see their lead whittled, until, at the last second, the opposing center threw a desperation shot from mid-court to break the tie and supply the margin of victory.

Curt Grodzicki, the Rattlers' manager, brain-trusted the gang from the sidelines and lost ten pounds and a bucket of tears. Zicky is still going around in a daze, shaking his head, proclaiming he can't see how his beloved Rattlers ever lost.

Newaczyk and Welborn played their usual steady game, but it was not quite enough to turn the tide in our favor. Ed Spear, the team's hi-scorer, was unlucky enough to be put out early in the game on personals. Later in the game, Tidmarsh met the same fate.

In spite of the loss, the Rattlers lost no ground in the tight National League race. They are still tied for first by virtue of the co-holder's defeat on the following nite. Monday, 18 December our quintet goes against the Monarchs. A win might put them in sole possession of first place. Get downtown Monday nite and see your capable team make their bid for the top slot.....

* * * * *

San Francisco (CNS) - Forty-four pigs were loose in downtown San Francisco when a farm truck overturned on Van Ness Avenue. Residents chased the squealers through the streets for hours, finally caught them all, returned all but 13. Many dined well here that night.

Cleveland (CNS) - Small Fry Freddie Farrell, 10, dug a discarded comic book from an ash can. It contained \$1150 in war bonds.

Oklahoma City (CNS) - Summoned from church to answer a 2-alarm fire, Fire Chief George McAlpine dashed around the block to the firehouse. Then he dashed back again to the church - to extinguish a blaze in the Sunday School.

NARRATIVE

Another year in Italy has begun and the New Year was ushered in by a snowstorm and another super-duper holiday dinner of turkey and all the fixings.

The snow and usually poor weather was responsible for a bad month operationally for the 99th as only seven missions were completed in direct contrast to the record-making January of 1944, when the 99th made 24 flights. However, on the operational side of the ledger, the 99th sent 215 aircraft on the seven missions flown and these dropped 508.7 tons of bombs for an average of 72.7 tons per mission. Each mission averaged six hours and 50 minutes and the total time flown was 47 hours and 50 minutes. Each plane on the average of 30.71 sorties per mission, dropped 2.366 per sortie.

Many changes in the personnel of the Group took place during January as at Headquarters the Commanding Officer, Colonel Ford J. Lauer, went to the USA after a tour of duty and Lieutenant Colonel Raymond V. Schwanbeck, of the 463rd came to assume command of the 99th. Our Deputy Commanding Officer, Colonel Pelham D. Glassford received a transfer to another Group and Major Allan W. Schroeder, former Commander of the 347th Squadron, came to Headquarters in the Deputy CO capacity. He is staying overseas for a second tour of duty.

In the Operations Office, there were also some major changes in personnel as Lieutenant Colonel Bernice S. Barr, S-3 Officer, completed his second tour of duty and departed for the States, and Captain Paul Franklin, his Assistant S-3 Officer assumed charge of the office. His assistant is now Lieutenant William J. Brake, formerly of the 416th. Captain Henry R. Howell, Jr., replaced Captain Albert L. Beals who is homeward bound. Lt Harry B. Johnson became Group Mickey Navigator vice Captain James Snyder, who is also a member of the 50 Club. Both of the latter men to assume office were members of the 416th Squadron.

In the Squadrons, there also were many changes in personnel as the 349th command was taken over by Major Raymond J. Kane, Jr., who replaced Lt Col Thomas L. Wiper, completed. Major Kane formerly was 348th Operations Officer. First Lieutenant Carlyle Strebel, 1st Lt James O'Donnelly, and 1st Lt George Welborn assumed the 346th Squadron offices of Operations Officer, Navigator, and Bombardier, respectively. The 347th Command was assumed by Major John Hutton, formerly 416th Operations Officer, who replace Major Schroeder. Captain John A. Plummer took charge of the Operations Office succeeding Major Charles B. Katsenmeyer of the same Squadron. The vacancy in the 348th Operations Office caused when Major Kane went to the 346th was filled by his assistant, Captain James S. Hemphill, who elected to begin another tour of duty in that capacity and thus become the first man in the Squadron's history to so elect. Captain Burton McKnight became the 416th Squadron Operations Officer vice Major Hutton.

The Enlisted Men's Club of the 346th Squadron underwent a process of redecoration and the 347th enlisted men decided to form a club of their own and elected I/Sgt David W. Gree as President. The 347th club is nearing completion.

First Lieutenant Howard E. Ramsy of the 348th toured England with his crew during the month and gave lectures on the night missions of the 15th Air Force before units of the 9th Air Force.

First Lieutenant Donald M. Bell, Staff Sergeant Daniel M. Babin, and Staff Sergeant John M. Negra, former members of the 346th Squadron, stopped in at the unit en route to the USA from a 63-day sojourn in Yugoslavia where they bailed out on November 7th.

Weekly news briefings were held in the various squadrons so that the men could keep posted on world affairs.

An increasing number of men are enrolling for University Correspondence Courses and in the educational facilities of the Armed Forces Institute.

One member of the 346th Squadron, Staff Sergeant Zalman S. Altschuler of Brooklyn, NY, submitted a prize-winning essay in the MTOUSA contest on "What Shall We Do With Japan?". He was the only man in the Fifth Wing with a prize winner. His prize was a \$25 War Bond.

The Headquarters EM took over the Officer's Club for an evening and guests for the evening were several Red Cross girls. The 99th's own Bea Ridsdale made the arrangements and dancing was the highlight of the night.

"HERE 'TIS"

24 Dec 44

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G.I. SANTA'S BIG DAY

Orchids go to S/Sgt Louis Libutti and his gang of G.I. and Officer helpers who planned the Christmas party for the children of Foggia that took place Saturday afternoon at the auditorium of St. Michael's Church.

It was a gala affair, and it would be difficult to estimate the number of scrubbed-up faces of "bambinos and bambinas" present. At least 600 or 700 little ones were jammed into the little auditorium to witness the play given in Italian by Italians in honor of the spirit of "Natale."

Order was something that wasn't there, and the hullabaloo and din that arose from the youngsters was something to hear. Many of the G.I.'s and officers from the Group were there to witness the festivities.

The highlight of the afternoon came when the Santa Claus caused curtains on the stage to part showing the large, well decorated Christmas tree, sides banked with presents - packages of candy, cakes, and oranges. As each kiddie passed in a disorderly manner up onto the stage, Chaplain Whitlock gave each one his candy and sent him along the line to receive the oranges and cakes from his assistants.

There were several Italian "one-eyed" Commellya though who crashed the gates and some of those who had sweated out the crowd and afternoon went without because of them. Still, all in all, it was a pleasant afternoon for the kids, and "Luigi" can feel the pride of the just for himself and his helpers for a fine gesture well carried out.

"G.I. OSCAR" MOVIE POLL

What in your opinion was the best motion picture shown this year?

What stars gave the best performance this year?

You will have an opportunity to back up your opinion with votes. Overseas Motion Picture Service is conducting a worldwide armed forces poll to pick the best picture of the year and to name the stars who gave the best performances.

Service men in this area are being asked to determine their choices and vote for them. Here is your chance to tell Hollywood what pictures you like and what stars you prefer. The results of the poll in this area will be consolidated with the results from other parts of the world and awards will be made to the winners in Hollywood with appropriate ceremonies.

There are plenty of top pictures from which to make the selection for the best film of the year. As for your choice of stars, you may vote for the best performance by a male star, by a female star, by a comedian (male or female) and for the star who gave the most glamorous performance.

Get 99th ballot forms in your mess or Orderly Rooms. Be sure to complete the form and return it to the Special Services Office, via the Message Center, before 26 December 1944.

HEADQUARTERS
NINETY-NINTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
Office of the Intelligence Officer

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 4 January 1945 - Verona - PORTO NUOVO M/Y, ITALY

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: No enemy fighters were seen today.B. Flak: over the target at a mean altitude of 27,600 feet, flak was reported as slight, inaccurate and heavy, of barrage type.Slight, inaccurate, heavy flak was also encountered at Ce sareca, Pordonons. S. Pietro (45/20N, 12/20E) and from a number of points along the breakwater extending from Venice southward to Chioggia.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

A. Flak positions: 45/57N, 12/40E, S-A-H
45/22N, 12/20E, S-Inac-H (3 batteries)
45/75N, 12/51E, Casaran, S-Inac-H
45/27N, 12/24E, Venice, S-I-H
45/13N, 12/16E, M-I-H
45/30N, 13/00E, S-I-HB. Land: 1000 - 26,000', 45/48N, 12/53E, landing strip - no a/c observed. 1135 -26,000', Venice (45/26N, 12/2-E) white smoke screen covered almost all of city.
1228 - 28,000', M/Y at 45/20N, 11/45E, black smoke rising to 15,000 feet.
1232 - 26,000', 45/20N, 12/10E, large explosion on ground, fire started.C. Water: 1225 - 18,0-00', Ravigno Harbor, 10 ships, estimate 10,000 tons, 7 ships estimate 8000 tons.

1235 - 24,000', 45/22N, 12/20E, 3 M/Vs in Venice harbor.

1245 - 25,000', large M/V anchored at 45/25N, 12/12E.

D. Air: None.

III. CONCLUSION

A. Total Losses: NoneB. Damage: 2 a/c received minor flak damageC. Victories: NoneD. Corrections on Telephone Mission Report: 1 a/c 45/45N, 13/13E, 2 1/2 tons, 1146, 25,000', illegible 13/13E as previously reported.

PHILIP M. PHILIPS
Major, Air Corps
S-2, 99th Bomb Gp (H)

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT:

MISSION: 8 January 1945 - LINZ MAIN STATION, AUSTRIA

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE;

A. Fighters: No enemy fighters were observed.B. Flak: Three squadrons reported slight-inaccurate-heavy flak of both barrage and tracking type, at the target, at a mean altitude of 26,700 feet. The fourth squadron encountered moderate to intense, very accurate, heavy flak at the same altitude over same target, resulting in major damage to four (4) A/C and minor damage to two (2) A.C.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS:

A. Flak Locations: Graz - 47/05, 15/25 and 47/13, 13/50B. Air: 1210 hours, 26,700 feet, 48/05, 12/43, one P-38 went down winging over, pilot believed to have bailed out.

III. CONCLUSIONS:

A. Total Losses: NoneB. Damaged: 4 A/C received major flak damages
3 A/C received minor flak damages
5 men wounded, extent unknownC. VICTORIES: NoneD. Corrections to Telephone Mission Report: None.

PHILIP M. PHILIPS
Major, Air Corps
S-2, 99th Bomb Gp (H)

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 15 January 1945 - VIENNA NE M/Y, AUSTRIA

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: No enemy fighters were observed.B. Flak: Flak over target at a mean altitude of 25,000 feet was reported as moderate, inaccurate and heavy, principally barrage type. There was slight, inaccurate, heavy flak at the Rally points - Hollarbrunn, 42/34, 16/05. It was observed at target that more bursts than usual were coming at approximately same time, indicating more guns to a battery.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

A. Land: 1242 - 26,000', A/D, 48/30N, 15/43E, 2 a/c and 4 t/e a/c on ground.B. Air: 1244 - 20,000', 45/29N, 1642E, escort called, saying one man bailed out -nothing further.C. Flak Locations: 1121 - 23,400', 46/00N, 17/46E, S-I-H

III. CONCLUSION

A. Total Losses: NoneB. Damage: NoneC. Victories: NoneD. Corrections on Telephone Mission Report: None

PHILIP M. PHILIPS
Major, Air Corps
S-2, 99th Bomb Gp (H)

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT:

MISSION: 19 January 1945 - BROD NORTH M/Y, YUGOSLAVIA

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE

A. Fighters: No enemy fighters were seen today.B. Flak: This group encountered moderate to intense, accurate, heavy flak of both barrage and tracking type, at an altitude of 24,200 feet. No flak was encountered en route.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

A. Land: 1336 - 22,000', bivouac area at 43/52N, 18/25E, approximately 100 barracks.
1350 - 20,000', 44/31N, 18/34E, large area of what appeared to be barracks buildings.B. Air: 1335 - 21,000', pilot heard B-24 call-sign "Slantwise 32" (23 miles north of "Lucky" airfield - going to crash land or ditch).
1230 - 23,000', 43/25N, 16/45E, a 4-engine a/c headed back towards Vis, altitude 1000 feet.C. Flak Positions: 43/33N, 16/25E, Sarajevo, S-A-N, fired at another group one mile away.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Total Losses: None
 B. Damage: 4 a/c received flak damage
 2 - minor
 2 - major
 C. Victories: None
 D. Corrections on Telephone Mission Report: No

PHILIP M. PHILIPS
 Major, Air Corps
 S-2, 99th Bomb Gp (H)

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 20 January 1945 - REGENSBURG, OIL STORAGE, GERMANY

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: No enemy fighters were observed on today's mission.
 B. Flak: Over the target at a mean altitude of 24,900 feet, flak was reported as moderate, accurate and heavy of both barrage and tracking type. No other flak was reported along the _____.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

A. Land: 24,000' - 1116 hours, 45/48N, 12/42E, L/Strip - no a/c visible. 1120 -24,600', 45/55N, 12/36E, L/Strip - 7 hangars, work in progress clearing runways of snow. 1111 - 24,000', M/Y, 48/16N, 12/19E, 350 RR cars.

B. Air: 1125 - 24,500', Udine area, a/c #268 fell out of formation and not seen again by his squadron. Coming off target someone heard to call "A/C #268 get into formation."

C. Water: 1214 - 24,500', 48/52N, 13/07E, 20 barges on Danube.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Total Losses: one a/c missing
 B. Damage: 9 a/c received minor flak damage
 C. Victories: None
 D. Corrections on Telephone Mission Report: Line No. 4 should read 43 1/5 tons instead of 43 1/3 as previously reported.

PHILIP M. PHILIPS
 Major, Air Corps
 S-2, 99th Bomb Gp (H)

SPECIAL NARRATIVE REPORT

MISSION: 21 January 1945 - VIENNA SCHECHAT O/R, AUSTRIA

I. ENEMY RESISTANCE

- A. Fighters: No enemy fighters were reported on today's mission.
 B. Flak: Moderate to intense, accurate, heavy flak of both barrage and tracking type was encountered.

II. SIGNIFICANT OBSERVATIONS

- A. Flak Positions: 45/40N, 15/45E, S-A-H
 46/06N, 16/03E, M/I-A-H
 Trieste - H-A-H
 46/30N, 16/30E, - S-I-H
 Fiume - S-I-H
 46/30N, 15/30E, 23,000', 6 miles N of Maribor, M-A-H
 Meiner-Naustadt - M-I-H

B. Air: 1240 - 19,000', vicinity of Cherso Bay, -4/56N, 14/20E, heading 185 degrees, A/C #712 called Big Fence on "A" channel for heading. Big Fence gave #712 heading of 292 degrees which would take him to Udine area. When call repeated few minutes later, same heading _____ degrees was given again.

1245 - 26,000', 47/00N, 16/30E, B-17 going down in deep dive thru clouds - no chutes seen.
 1347 - 18,000', 43/32N, 16/32E, 1 B-24 crash-landed in open field - no apparent serious damage - no activity in vicinity.

1315 - 24,000', 1 B-17 followed formation to 46/36N, 16/13E, then turned and headed north - did not come close enough to observe markings.

C. Land: None.

III. CONCLUSION

- A. Total Losses: None
 B. Damage: 12 a/c received flak damage (3 major, 10 minor)
 C. Victories: None
 D. Corrections on Telephone Mission Report: None

PHILIP M. PHILIPS
 Major, Air Corps
 S-2, 99th Bomb Gp (H)

The month of February, 1945, was an eventful month for the 99th Bombardment Group (H) both in operations and in ground activity.

USO Unit #432, in their "Times Square" show, presented a novel entertainment treat on February 2 in the Headquarters theater, introducing several novelty acts not generally found in units of this type. The clay modeling act with Duke and Junior Art was the favorite with the audience.

The first group of ground personnel to be eligible for IDY in the US left on the 16th for that longed-for country. Among the members of this first group was Master Sergeant Lawrence Friewald, Group Sergeant Major, whose place in HQ is being temporarily filled by Technical Sergeant Robert Smith.

The group hospital and dispensary received some excellent new equipment including a radio for the patients' enjoyment. Major Frederick Keehne, Group Flight Surgeon, was on temporary duty with the 26th General Hospital for a two-week period. Captain Gregory Strebel was assigned to the 99th to assist the Group Dental Surgeon, Captain Wayne Warren.

The 347th Squadron held a party for the officers of the organization at the Sky Room of the Foggia EM Club on the 17th of the month.

On the 19th of February, eight members of the ground personnel of the 348th Squadron were transferred to the Infantry, marking the first time in the history of the organization that any one had been transferred from the Air Corps to another branch of the service.

Generals Spasts, Doolittle, Twining, Born, and Lawrence visited the Group while touring the airfields in the vicinity.

Major N.M. Scarborough, Group Adjutant, was transferred to the USA for a new assignment, and Captain Marvin Lueck assumed the duties of that office.

Outdoor activity began in earnest during the latter part of the month with volleyball, badminton, horseshoes, basketball, and evidence of early baseball practice taking place. The 346th Squadron basketball team "The Rattlers," won the area championship in the National League, but were defeated by the American League's "Quanta Costa Quintet" in the playoff game.

Also in the entertainment line, the 99th presented a skit, "BIO Jackson," on the 5th Wing radio program, Fortress Funtime, on the Foggia AEF station.

The cast of Panama Hattie, USO musical revue, dined at the Officer's Mess at the 346th Squadron on the 20th, and on the 22nd, the all-Squadron show of the same unit was presented. A Squadron orchestra provided the music for this show, "Fortress Follies of 1945," directed by Lt Galvin. During the month, the same Squadron's enlisted men were hosts to the feminine members of D'Artega's All Girl Orchestra at a tea dance.

Captain Daniel M. McCormick, Jr., was assigned to the 99th as Public Relations Officer with the additional duty of Group Historical Officer.

Public Relations submitted over 150 stories and 60 photographs exclusive of the E-20 aerial shots which were submitted on each operational day.

On the 21st of February, aircraft #413 of the 348th, on a mission to Vienna, Austria, received a direct flak burst in the bomb bay when the doors were open and only a few seconds before "bombs away" time. The explosion wounded two crew members and caused six 500 pounders to jam in the bomb bay of the aircraft. For an hour and a half, Cpl L.R. Swithers, waist gunner, and Cpl S.C. Nallardi, radio operator, who was one of the wounded, worked with the barrel of one of the waist guns until the bombs were finally dislodged. The flak burst tore up the insides of the aircraft so badly that it had to be salvaged upon its arrival at its home base. Other members of the crew were 2nd Lt R.J. Hartnett, pilot; 1st Lt E.D. Goodmin, co-pilot; 2nd Lt R.R. Stengel, bombardier; 2nd Lt C.V. Walker, navigator; Cpl H.V. Miles, engineer; Cpl C.H. Heath, ball turret gunner; Cpl F.R. Seaverns, tail gunner; and S/Sgt J.B. Burns, waist gunner.

On return from a mission, one of the 347th gunners got the urge to fulfill an old desire, and thinking he was over his home field, bailed out, landing at a neighboring field. He is in the hospital with a fractured ankle.

The officers of the 347th's original flying echelon, Lts Walter Breslin and Morton Marks, returned for a short visit to the Squadron after a 16-month internment in Switzerland. They left immediately for the United States.

Major A.V. Satterwhite was assigned to Group S-4. His department was largely responsible for the successful remodeling and redecoration of the EM Club at Headquarters which was officially reopened on Feb 27 with a party and dance attended by several Red Cross girls. Sergeant Charles Karchnyak and several EM of the detachment contributed much time and personal effort to make the club "the best in the West" according to members and visitors.

Captain Stusser, Adjutant of the 347th, sponsored a War Bond Drive that met with great success as that Squadron alone sold over \$7,500.00 worth on the first day of the drive.

The Lenten season began with the church services well attended by group members.

The photo department made 6832 prints from the 942 negatives used, on Radar photos, E-20 Obliques, PRO shots, historical records, engineering aircraft accident photos, fifty mission PR prints, route maps, copies and enlargements, identification, promotion and miscellaneous photography.

In the month of February, 627 aircraft started on the 20 operational missions with only 28 early returns. Thus, 586 of the aircraft bombed targets in Austria, Italy, and Germany with 1616 tons of bombs. Although 83 enemy aircraft were seen, only six of them engaged our planes. Part of the total of 1118 rounds of ammunition that was fired during February was expended on these aircraft. The 99th lost four aircraft during the month, although 120 were damaged with varying degrees of seriousness. One man was killed, 17 wounded, and 42 men are listed as MIA. On the 20 missions, the "Diamondbacks" flew 9149 miles to the targets and accumulated 138 hours and 30 minutes of combat time.

Thus ended the activities of the 99th for the shortest month of the year.

ANOTHER QUOTE

But the Nazis created an aura of dislike and bitterness wherever they went. That tense, uncompromising and almost fanatical look on their faces seemed to isolate them from other people. They invited hatred, even when they were prisoners, and hatred made a wall around them. The young ones I spoke to coming freshly from battle did not appear to be like ordinary young people any more. Something human and kindly had gone out of them. None of those I saw were blue-eyed, fair haired Aryan giants, but just ordinary little mechanics from the Rhine and clerks from Berlin, many of them thinnish, with rather a pinched look on their faces and under normal height.

from "The March To Tunis", by Allan Moorehead.

Dear George:

JOHN F. O'CONNELL
321 LINDSEY DRIVE
BERWYN, PA. 19312

This letter is pursuant to our conversation in Dayton, and is sent to you in the hope that you will publish it in the Newsletter and that some of our members may be able to provide some help to my search.

I am interested in the location and accessibility of the records of the 99th Bomb Group and its squadrons pertaining to such matters as daily duty rosters, the make-up of the different crews on each mission, the name and location of the targets, who was on the sick and hospitalized list and when, and who was at rest camp and when. It seems to me the Group had to maintain such records and that they must now be stored in some facility somewhere.

By examining such records I should be able to determine the make-up of the crews on each mission I flew, what my position in the squadron and Group was on each mission, when I was in the hospital in Foggia, and when I was at rest camp on Capri. In other words, I am looking for a detailed record of my service with the 99th and the 347th Squadron.

Do any of our members know where these records are kept, and whether they are available for inspection? If so, I would appreciate hearing from them.

Sincerely

Thanks for your help.

Dear John;

It may be that such records exist, but the cards are stacked against you. First, many of the records seem to have been burned up in the field, which is certainly understandable, given their sheer mass.

Second, the fires at Jefferson Barracks and at Maxwell further reduced the available material.

Third, such records as exist have suffered the ravages of time. The microfilms from which we work were made when the typed sheets from which they were photographed were already thirty years old, and the ink had seeped into paper so as to make the sheets very difficult to read. But we wish you luck and will be glad to cooperate. Alas, your editor has been a cynic in regard to the inflammability of military records ever since reading THE TANGLED WEB.

george

17 August 1987

Dear George,

Today while digging around in a cupboard I ran into an old issue of the 99th Bomb Group Newsletter, dated Sept 1986. Of course I had to browse through the thing and to my surprise I found Juraj Rajnec's letter to you, dated 29 July 1986, regarding my last mission. He has some of the things a little in error, ie, on page 16 - not page 17, Mission: 13 October 1944 - Blechhammer South Oil Refinery. In the Conclusion, Item c. Missing: 1 A/c last seen at 1113 - 49/12S, believed heading for emergency field.

As the "Statement Surrounding Disappearance of MIA Personnel" reads, "PROBABLE CAUSE": Approximately one half hour before target area was reached ship number 32033 reported one feather engine. Shortly after "Bombs Away" had been given this ship reported to lead ship again that a second engine was knocked out by flak and that he was having trouble maintaining the speed of the formation. The speed of the formation was cut to a minimum but the crippled ship still was unable to hold its position and for this reason was left behind. "PROBABLE FATE": Lt Shafer piloting ship number 32033 last reported near Puchiov, Czechoslovakia giving his altitude as 10,000 feet and losing altitude. His expectation when last reported was to reach the island of Vis for a forced landing. No word has been received by this organization since then. Fate Unknown.

So the reports say - As Juarj notes we did bail out, all safely, and all but the navigator were collected by the underground, aided by the OSS, but unfortunately later captured by an SS Patrol, routed to Vienna and the Gestapo for interrogation. Later released to the Luftwaffe and transported to Stalag Luft 1. The Russians overran the camp and our Senior Officer refused to put us on the march, so the Germans left us and departed. We were flown out by B-17's to France and Camp Lucky Strike. After processing I came home on a Navy Troop Ship.

I continued on active duty, obtained a regular commission in 1947, received several overseas assignments ending with Vietnam in 1972, I came home and retired 1 May 1973 - 33 years plus.

There is much more to the tale, but for now I will let it rest saying, I had a wonderful crew that performed in a truly professional manner, and as a result we all came home.

Best Regards

Jonathan K. Shafer
Jonathan K. Shafer
Col USAF Ret
7505 76th Ave. S. W.
Tacoma, Wa 98498



308 N. Red Hill Rd.
Martinsburg, WV 25401-2016
September 15, 1987

Dear George,

I just read Ed Moore's 26 May 1986 letter, page 34 in Sept. 1987' Newsletter. Ed described the events as clearly as I saw them from my position as R/O gunner.

We in the 99th, flying B-17F's, were following the 97th which was flying B-17G's. Our squadron, the 416th., was leading our group. The decision to turn back was made too late for the 99th. According to Ed each pilot made his own decision.

Our pilot, Bob Braungart, took Sweater Girl up through thick clouds. We came through them at 17,000 feet. The sun was extremely bright and the sea of clouds was beautiful. After a time our oxygen supply was running low but we were still too close to enemy territory to chance going below the clouds where we might encounter fighters.

The radio waves were filled with SOS's. Later our communications officer, McIntire, said a total of 70 of them were received by the ground station.

Near Bari the clouds were broken and we were able to go below them. At 500 feet we flew from Bari to Foggia. The tower at Tortorella gave us immediate permission to land. We were told we were the only B-17F to get back; several others had landed at Bari.

At Dayton last year I was talking to our navigator, Claire (Nick) Nicholson about this mission. He told me the reason we made it back to our home field was Bob Braungart knew how to lean out those engines.

On page 33 of the same Sept 1, 1987 Newsletter re the letter from Mo Mott: I remember when we inherited the new B-17G's from the 483rd. The day "Ole Mose was 'daid'" was the date the 416th lost two planes over Steyr, a memorable mission. If one of those was Ole Mose then some of the men did survive. Charles (Pete) Boggs who was then our first pilot, having succeeded Bob Braungart who had returned to the States, recently contacted at least one man on ea of the downed crews. Dale Haddock, our bombardier on our early B-17 missions, had survived. It is not known if he is still living. If he is Pete will find him.

Best wishes

Wally Bush

Dear Wally;

Don't forget that we have a thriving postcard search system in which we use the APL telephone directories to mail to those with the same last name as our strag gler. Just furnish us the names and addresses of record, even if the address is of 1943 vintage. We do find 'em. geo.



NEWS, DUES & VIEWS

We have never been able to get any reply from the Embassy of the USSR when we write them on historical matters. Guess they are not yet geared to the tourist trade. We bird-watchers are always classed as suspicious characters, so I shall not be going to the USSR. I can get into enough embarrassing situations bird-watching in Mexico. geo.

Bernie and Walter brought me a new SD265 Smith-Corona Typewriter just one week before my ancient portable collapsed. This model has a built-in dictionary and the machine beeps at misspellings. My first act when The Rush Is Over will be to put the word FLAK in the dictionary so as to stop that constant beeping as I work on the War Diary. geo.

The 99th BGHS has as its officially designated heir the Air Force Museum at Maxwell Field, Alabama. We are greatly indebted to the people at this Museum for help during our formative period, and right on up to the present. We also feel a great obligation to our own 15th Air Force Museum at March Field, California. Those folks also have extended help and hospitality far beyond ordinary bounds.

Fortunately, there is no real conflict between the two. The Maxwell Field Museum seeks flat materials, in other words, paper. The March Field Museum seeks such items as selected uniforms, throat mikes, and similar operational items. One would be wise to check with the Museum before sending any items to them, but you get the idea. They deserve first chance at your 50-mission cap when the Board Of Health requests that it be disposed of. george

We cannot predict exactly how long it will take to complete the printing of the 99th Group Diaries, but we are preparing to follow up with the printing of the four Squadron War Diaries, one by one.

Since these have a total of 750 pages, we will probably take about three years to print the whole set. geo.

We have sent a batch of the 99BGHS pictures which you all have entrusted to us to the folks at Squadron/Signal in Texas. These are the people who published Steve Birdsall's FIGHTING COLORS, and such a fine job should not go unrewarded. The pictures are being sent in small batches and will be returned to us after they have been photographed for use in future publications. Our friend Nick at S/S is interested in bombing pictures, so we are sending such pictures along with pictures of planes with emphasis on pictures showing artwork. We do have some lovely pictures here in the archives. Thanks, fellows. george

We have not been able to get any further information from Galaxy Tours about the trip to Poltava. We had suggested to their representative that he furnish us a few facts for printing in the newsletter, but all we got was a telephone number. Further, at the Colorado Springs bash we were informed that the company is equally forgetful and cavalier about promises as to pictures and other incidentals.

This office has a great respect for the Soviet fighting man, but we are also mindful of the fact that some portion of the fees for any trip to the USSR will be used to purchase gyros and chips for missiles for the Red Army. We are reluctant to subsidize Soviet adventures, so we will not be going to Kursk. Do svidanya.

We will say no more on the subject.

Our slightly used Russian-English dictionary is now for sale. geo.

QUOTES

DUEL OF EAGLES

On "The ethics of shooting at aircraft crews who have bailed out", it was his (Dowding's) opinion that Germans descending over England were prospective prisoners and should be immune, while British pilots descending over England were potential combatants. German pilots were perfectly entitled to fire on our descending airmen. p. 297

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE STORY

Kenn C. Rust dec84

In attacks on oil targets, from the start of the oil campaign to the end of November (1944), Fifteenth heavies had dropped 27,000 tons of bombs. Over the same period the much larger Eighth Air Force had dropped only 18,000 more tons on oil targets. p. 40

LEST WE FORGET

The postmaster (at Thibar, Tunisia) and his wife became friends of mine from the day I went to the post office to send a mandat for four thousand francs to a Russian family I knew in Phillippeville.

"What do you want to send the money for?" demanded the postmaster suspiciously.

I explained. The family had been cut off from their bank in New York and needed the money as a loan.

"Send them two thousand." said the postmaster. "Four thousand is too much."

We argued briskly for five minutes. Finally he called his wife and explained the whole business.

"But this is absurd." she cried indignantly. "Send them five hundred francs. That will be more than sufficient. Make out the forms, Henri."

I felt I was losing ground rapidly. "Please," I said "This is my money and I want to send it and the people need it."

The postmaster's wife eyed me with sudden coyness. "There is a girl in this somewhere." she said firmly. "Some little thing you met on the way from Algiers, No?"

"No," I said wearily, "but if it will help to get the money off then yes, there is a girl in it."

"Aha," she cried and the postmaster beamed. "You must have a glass of wine, monsieur."

The whole family gathered round in the kitchen while we toasted one another. "Vive l'amour," cried the postmaster with enormous lechery. He took the money at last. All this was before breakfast. Feeling a little dazed I went back to my span and eggs at the hotel. from The March To Tunis, by Alan Moorehead

"Very early in the war, before we were prepared for anything at all, a report came that a Japanese invasion fleet was sailing toward the California coast. Things were a bit confused, but at last it was determined that our aerial forces would fly out to meet this attack. Our air forces were alerted, briefed, and ready to go.

"There were, I believe, two of us. I don't mean two of us in my airplane, I mean two airplanes, total, available to defend the California coast. Then there were the unarmed training planes. We sweated it out for four hours. The report was a mistake. Hollywood lives. from "Ullimate and the Affairs of Men", by Winkless and Browning, Fraser Publ.

This is a real good book about the basic causes of conflict.

AUSCHWITZ AND THE ALLIES by Martin Gilbert

According to the Hungarian Prime Minister, there was another detail in the three telegrams which had upset the Hungarian Government: the proposal that the Allies should not only bomb the railway lines to Auschwitz, but that they should begin 'target bombing of all collaborating Hungarian and German agencies' in Budapest itself. According to Sztojaj, this request for an Allied air attack on Budapest had actually included 'exact and correct street and house numbers in Budapest' of Hungarian and German institutions involved in the deportations, together with the names of seventy Hungarian and German individuals who were stated to be most directly involved in sending Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz.

. . . The Hungarian Government felt isolated and vulnerable. No German effort could protect Budapest from Allied air attack, or lessen the threat of guilt implied by the list of names. Clearly the Allies might be in a position quite soon to exact the retribution which would be demanded, a fact which had been underlined by an unusually heavy American bomber attack on the marshalling yards of Budapest on July 2.

Despite the world-wide protests, on July 6 a total of 1,180 Jews were deported from the southern Hungarian city of Pecs to Auschwitz. But that same day less than twenty-four hours after Sztojaj's talk with Veessenmayer, the German Minister was summoned again to the Hungarian Prime Minister, and told that Horthy himself had ordered the deportations to be stopped. p. 266

For the Jews themselves, trapped as slave laborers at Monowitz, the impact of the raid (of Sep. 13, 1944) had been considerable. . . As the American bombers appeared in the sky, he (Shalom Lindenbaum, an inmate) later wrote:

"We ceased to work, and the German soldiers and civilians ran to the shelters. Most of us didn't. So probably we expressed our superiority feeling and a kind of revenge. We had nothing to lose, only expected to enjoy the destruction of the big factory which we were building for the I.G. Farben Industrie. It was naturally so.

This happy feeling didn't change also after the Americans indeed, began to bomb, and obviously we had casualties too - wounded and dead. How beautiful was it to see squadron after squadron burst from the sky, drop bombs, destroy the buildings, and kill also members of the Herrenvolk. p. 315

RE UNIONS

May, 1988. Galaxy Tours visit to Poltava, USSR
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In PA 215/254-6600

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We do not stop the subscriptions of deceased members; in fact Walter extends the subscription for an extra year. But we do need any Changes of Address.

TAPS

MCCAIN, ROBERT

This is to notify you of my husband's death last February 14, 1987. My husband enjoyed belonging to your 99 Bomb Group Historical Society. In fact I was just reading a diary he kept during the war during his fifty missions.

He enjoyed reading your newsletter very much, also enjoyed the reunion in Dayton, Ohio; so happy we had his picture taken there... God bless you all and lots of luck and success to the 99th Bomb Group Society

very sincerely
Mrs. R.L. McClain

17045 Wood St., Hazel Crest, IL 60429

CREE, DAVID W.

I am writing to you to report the sad news that David W. Cree passed away Sep. 17, 1987. David was a member of the 347th Squadron and an inspector of airplanes. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and daughter Barbara. His home was North Salem, New York. Leon Bohls

EDWARD NOWACZYK. Edward died on Oct. 14, 1987 of cancer.
Mrs. Edward M. Nowaczyk, 8427 Gallant Fox Trail, Flushing,
MI 48433

WALTER A. SATTERWHITE. Our mail has been returned marked "deceased"
We have no further details.

AUGUST MIRANDA. August passed away Oct. 15, 1987, following a massive heart attack.

PIXLER, W.E. . . . found a name in my records, W.F. Pixler from Defiance Ohio. Got on the phone in contact with his nephew who advised that he died in 1964. Norm Kaufman
Please see Margaret Billingsley's letter in this issue.

BILLINGSLEY, SHERMAN

AUSCHWITZ AND THE ALLIES by Martin Gilbert

According to the Hungarian Prime Minister, there was another detail in the three telegrams which had upset the Hungarian Government: the proposal that the Allies should not only bomb the railway lines to Auschwitz, but that they should begin 'target bombing of all collaborating Hungarian and German agencies' in Budapest itself. According to Sztojaj, this request for an Allied air attack on Budapest had actually included 'exact and correct street and house numbers in Budapest' of Hungarian and German institutions involved in the deportations, together with the names of seventy Hungarian and German individuals who were stated to be most directly involved in sending Jews from Hungary to Auschwitz.

. . . The Hungarian Government felt isolated and vulnerable. No German effort could protect Budapest from Allied air attack, or lessen the threat of guilt implied by the list of names. Clearly the Allies might be in a position quite soon to exact the retribution which would be demanded, a fact which had been underlined by an unusually heavy American bomber attack on the marshalling yards of Budapest on July 2.

Despite the world-wide protests, on July 6 a total of 1,180 Jews were deported from the southern Hungarian city of Pecs to Auschwitz. But that same day less than twenty-four hours after Sztojaj's talk with Veessenmayer, the German Minister was summoned again to the Hungarian Prime Minister, and told that Horthy himself had ordered the deportations to be stopped. p. 266

For the Jews themselves, trapped as slave laborers at Monowitz, the impact of the raid (of Sep. 13, 1944) had been considerable. . . As the American bombers appeared in the sky, he (Shalom Lindenbaum, an inmate) later wrote:

"We ceased to work, and the German soldiers and civilians ran to the shelters. Most of us didn't. So probably we expressed our superiority feeling and a kind of revenge. We had nothing to lose, only expected to enjoy the destruction of the big factory which we were building for the I.G. Farben Industrie. It was naturally so.

This happy feeling didn't change also after the Americans indeed, began to bomb, and obviously we had casualties too - wounded and dead. How beautiful was it to see squadron after squadron burst from the sky, drop bombs, destroy the buildings, and kill also members of the Herrenvolk. p. 315

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We do not stop the subscriptions of deceased members; in fact Walter extends the subscription for an extra year. But we do need any Changes of Address.

TAPS

MCCAIN, ROBERT

This is to notify you of my husband's death last February 14, 1987. My husband enjoyed belonging to your 99 Bomb Group Historical Society. In fact I was just reading a diary he kept during the war during his fifty missions.

He enjoyed reading your newsletter very much, also enjoyed the reunion in Dayton, Ohio; so happy we had his picture taken there... God bless you all and lots of luck and success to the 99th Bomb Group Society

very sincerely
Mrs. R.L. McClain

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BILLINGSLEY, SHERMAN

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