



THE

99th Bomb Group Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 9 No 3

May. 1 1989

SOCIETY OFFICERS, 1989-1990

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am honored to be writing as your new president, and am well aware of the fine traditions established by my predecessors. We now have in place a group of officers and directors who will work to continue these traditions. A strong word of thanks is extended by all of us to Joe Kenney

I am honored to be writing as your new president, and am well aware of the fine traditions established by my predecessors. We now have in place a group of officers and directors who will work to continue these traditions. A strong word of thanks is extended by all of us to Joe Kenney for his leadership over the past two years. Also retiring directors Rex Greathouse, Mike Yarina, and Joe Kenney have our thanks.

The reunion in McAllen, Texas in February was highlighted by the visit to the Confederate Air Force Show at Harlingen. Although thousands were in attendance, members of the 99th had the special opportunity to make a personal inspection of a B-17 parked inside a hangar. Mounting a stepladder fixed to the nose hatch Ninety Niners, some with their wives, worked their way through the fuselage, to the accompaniment of occasional grunts and wheezes, of this plane that, for many, had once served as a home away from home.

Jeff Waguespack is to be commended for doing a fine job in hosting this reunion, and for the smooth way in which activities moved along. As usual Harvey Jennings and his crew kept the hospitality suite in full swing. Was that Harvey on the dance floor performing a tango during the musical portion of the banquet?

According to Jeff's preliminary report the attendance at the banquet dinner totaled 262 persons, while 220 attended the Air Show at Harlingen.

IN March, when Nancy and I paid a visit to our son and grandson in Denver, we motored down to the Air Force Academy. In visiting the library there I was shown a collection of memorabilia from Stalag Luft III, a German prison camp in World War II. It is quite comprehensive and should be of particular interest to anyone in our Group who spent time in Sagan, Poland or Moosberg, Germany.

] There is plenty of time between now and the reunion in April, 1990 in Huntsville, Alabama. As you know Chris Christiansen is hosting this affair and also is serving this year as the Board's Secretary. To those of you who live within a reasonable distance of Huntsville I'm sure Chris would welcome your assistance in the reunion undertaking.

Sincerely
Bill Smallwood



And from Past-President Joe Kenney:

GREETINGS!

Another fine Reunion has been completed and this one at McAllen, Texas. Jeff and Lois Waguespack undertook a massive project and accomplished this by themselves since we have no 99'ers in the McAllen area. We all know what this entails as did Jim Flex and his family at Houston. Their tremendous and successful efforts with the Sheraton, (the only hotel complex willing to work with Jeff) went very well right on down through that fantastic Mariachi Band closing the Banquet at our Friday night Banquet. Jeff and Lois, we thank you both for a job well done!

And just what is it that makes a 99th Bomb Group Reunion such a great success? I think it's each member in his own right. The way I perceive it is; Always present, always congenial, easy going, George Coen. He's the one who started this whole thing nine years ago and is tremendously effective as our Historian and Editor of the 99th Bomb Group Bulletin. Underneath that easy going surface is one heck of a man.

It's arriving a day early only to be greeted by Harvey and Pauline Jennings who had been on deck since Thursday, four days earlier than ours of Sunday afternoon.

It's Rex and Edith Greathouse and Mike and Lettie Yarina, dear friends to us, and Jennie Read greeting us again after these several years since her husband, Tom, died in a tragic farming accident.

It's Bernie Barr and Doris with their gracious considerations. It's Bernie with his deep and always present interest in the Group and always the well thought out suggestions made to the very real benefit of the organization.

It's Jim and Margaret Smith as they just arrived speaking first with one 99'er couple and then us and saying, "This is great! I've seen two of you guys and already I'm feeling better!"

It's Roy and June Baker, fine friends. Roy and I share an incredible "encounter" over Villaorba, Italy on that fateful March 18th, 1944 day.

It's Walter and Christine Butler, Walter in his quiet and efficient manner and this is what makes him the splendid Treasurer and the one who lends his valuable assistance to the publishing of the 99th Bulletin. Christine with her dry and subtle humor is priceless. And it's Julius and Anita Horowitz, such great friends to us.

It's seeing three of our members viewing a photo album, all three so deeply absorbed in that album that they were completely oblivious to anything else including the flash from Chris Christiansens' camera as he caught that touching moment.

It's Chris Christiansen with his great interest in this Group. He's not only a great photographer but he is our next host at Hunstville, Alabama. Chris and I have shared a number of missions together.

It's observing the well run hospitality room with Harvey Jennings always at hand to manage that part along with the very able help of Bob Bacher.

It's having Fred Matvias step up and tell me that he and Mary came all the way from Bradford, PA just to see me. This was a great experience! Fred and I were good friends forty-five years ago and after this fine reunion between two old friends, that friendship again will flourish.

I could go on and on about these personal experiences but let's look at the dedication of Jim Sopp with his articulate and well presented slide presentation at our luncheon meeting. The tremendous amount of work and obvious thought was put into this program and we are all indebted to our own Jim Sopp for that program. A copy of his verbal presentation and a resume' of the order in which the presentation was made is attached.

No one can think of this group without remembering the contributions of its' past Presidents and their contributions. George Coen with his two terms, Bernie Barr with his two terms, Joe Chance, Lew Boatwright with their terms, all making unusual and dedicated contributions of time and effort, and the giving of themselves for the betterment of the organization and of their continuing help and suggestions to the Board of Directors in their capacity as Ex-officio, non voting, members of the Board.

One of the significant things during this fine Reunion was our visit to the Confederate Air Force. It was unfortunate that it was cold and blustery but we did see an air show but, best of all, was the tour of that beautiful old B-17. I had not remembered the interior of that plane being as small as it is. The nose compartment for Navigator and Bombardier is not all that big and the cockpit seems somewhat narrower than I had remembered. The cat-walk and center section in the bomb bay is a lot narrower than I had remembered. I found it necessary to squeeze through sideways and rubbed both front and back as I went through. The most distressing thing about this is that I recall going through that bomb bay with no trouble whatsoever with my parachute on. It was good to seat myself at the radio desk and reflect on my tour holding that position. I had not remembered the cramped walk-around of the ball turret. The waist looked the same but I did not attempt to venture into the tail gun position. Sixty additional pounds definitely has its' disadvantages.

To cap this off I think our General Upthegrove said it best when he said of these Reunions, "We go in for some deep and significant reminiscing." I believe this pretty much says it all as far as I am concerned. I look forward to Huntsville, Alabama!

Sincerely;

Joe C. Kenney



FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 6325

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 92518

13 March 1989

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Mr. George F. Coen
2908 Aliso Drive N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear George:

Greetings from all of us at the 15th Association. Hope that all is well with you in Albuquerque. Please give my personal regards to Bernie and Joe.

I received my copy of your newsletter this week and noted the letter from Charles Boggs which was evidently written in late October 1987 after the Colorado Springs Reunion and which was critical of the 15AFA and the reunion. I received a similar letter after I returned from the reunion from someone (possibly Charles - my filing system can't locate it). I would appreciate equal time in your next publication to share my reply to that letter and in the process to Charles and your readers.

The Fifteenth Air Force Association is not "arranged for Colonels and Generals". If that was or is Charles's perception - or anyone else's - I personally and publicly apologize for the appearance since I am essentially responsible for the day-to-day affairs of the Association. When we founded the Association, our ONLY goal was to serve the interest of all the men and women who served and are serving in the Fifteenth Air Force, to preserve their heritage, and to share that heritage with the young men and women who are following in their footsteps - and that remains our only goal today.

Military historians are increasingly recognizing the major role played by Fifteenth Air Force in winning the war against the Nazis and preserving world peace in the decades that followed. Every commander from Doolittle and Twinning to our current commander would quickly acknowledge and recognize that the 15th is a team and it takes all players to win - officer and enlisted, flight crew and ground crew, cooks and clerks, privates and generals. I have seen too many veteran groups splintered by those who still harbor resentments from slights (real or imagined) due to their military status - most commonly these divisions break down into officer vs enlisted or flyers vs ground crew or bombers vs fighters or B-24 vs B-17 or 8th vs 15th or etc. etc. etc. I have been acutely aware of the dangers and the potential destruction of our goals and values by these divisions and have worked with some urgency to prevent them in

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George Coen

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the 15th. I hope Charles's letter doesn't mean that I have failed in the area that counts the most, for without harmony, none of our other goals are possible. We have obviously made mistakes, but always from ignorance or inattention and never purposely with the intent of favoring any group or rank.

Our Board of Directors has nine members - four are officers and five are enlisted (one from the 99th). Our Association membership is 72% enlisted, 26% officer, and 2% civilian (widows). The most active and supportive of our formally organized groups - the ones who send encouragement when we fail and appreciation when we succeed - is the 31st Depot Repair Squadron which is almost all enlisted. We even attempt to balance our "War Stories" in the Sortie - air battles, aircraft maintenance stories, and "R&R" escapades.

Last month we presented a trophy to recognize outstanding leadership for last year in the Fifteenth Air Force active force and it was presented to a sergeant.

Regarding our Colorado Springs Reunion: the letter writer stated that he felt pushed aside by someone he "believed was a Colonel". I explained that our Association is made up of all types of people - most exhibit a heart-warming spirit of camaraderie regardless of rank - a few (officers and enlisted) are pains-in-the-ass!

Other criticisms of the reunion were valid and for that reason, we have selected a reunion site for '89 which will solve most of the problems. As we stated in the Sortie, we have become a victim of our own growth. Our last two local reunion chairmen literally devoted a year of their lives to planning, arranging, coordinating, and conducting their reunion. Both were willing and able and well connected in their city, yet they worked with great personal sacrifice for a year. We are concerned that we have grown so large that it is not realistic to expect to find local members who would be willing - and more importantly - able to plan and conduct a reunion of our size. It also reduces the value of "learning from past mistakes" and we find local chairmen "re-inventing the wheel" at each reunion. Smaller groups are able to find local people who can handle arrangements - larger national type organizations have the resources and staff who can plan for any site. Our solution for the 1989 reunion in Las Vegas is to plan, arrange, coordinate, and conduct the reunion with our directors and volunteer staff here at March AFB. That was the primary reason we selected a site within a day's drive from March.

— GUARDING A HERITAGE — DEFENDING TOMORROW —



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George Coen
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Our 1989 Las Vegas Reunion is planned for 13-17 August and we have approached solving some of our Colorado Springs problems as follows:

(1) "Not enough time to visit" - "two many planned activities" "need more time to visit over a drink" etc. The Las Vegas Reunion will have more optional time than previous reunions. Two of the four nights are free nights and we have arranged to have the complete Riviera Convention Center space with controlled access for our attendees where they can gather to escape, reminisce, share hospitality, or swap war stories - we plan museum displays, a combat theater, memorabilia room, PX, etc in this area to encourage visiting.

(2) "Banquet seating was confused, not controlled, etc." The Riviera facilities are the best we have ever had. Seating and security will be handled by the experts. While the banquet program will have "pomp and ceremony", flags and bands, we will also have professional entertainment with stages, band stands, etc. located to provide good views from all parts of the room.

(3) "That general talked too long." Except for words of welcome, introductions, and recognitions, there will be NO speeches or speakers at the banquet and no head table which should discourage extemporaneous discourses. It now appears that we will have all past commanders except General Doolittle in attendance (and he is still a possibility). The past commanders will be seated at individual Group tables scattered in all parts of the room.

(4) "I stayed across town and had trouble getting the word." For the first time we will all stay in the same hotel which should enhance communication and eliminate bus rides across town.

(5) "The Association didn't buy me any booze!" There will be an hour and half free cocktail reception hosted by the Association on the evening of the 13th. All the hors d'oeuvres and liquor you can drink - free.

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George, I am "up to my ears in alligators" as we plan this reunion, write the Sortie, answer mail, etc. so I didn't mean to write this much, but just wanted to be sure that our friends in the 99th know that we appreciate them, have enjoyed personal relationships over the years, and want to do all we can to keep our fraternal bond strong.

All of us are getting older and the opportunities to find old friends and meet and reminisce are fleeting much too fast. It would be a great tragedy if we let the imperfections of men rob us of these precious last days when we can enjoy the friendships and camaraderie that was forged when we won the "big one".

We are making arrangements with the hotel staff to keep friends from the same Bomb Group on the same floors. All that will be necessary is return the reservation form (next Sortie) to indicate friends that they want to be near and the hotel will make necessary arrangements. Pre-registration forms and detailed reservation and schedule information will be provided in the next Sortie (end of April). George, we hope that you, Joe, Bernie, and many of our other friends in the 99th will join us this year in Las Vegas - we like you!!.

In comradeship,


C.E. Ben Franklin
Executive Director

CEBF/cg

— GUARDING A HERITAGE — DEFENDING TOMORROW —

LETTERS

Walter;

Some of my friends at McAllen knew I had two heart attacks on Friday the 17th. I was in the hospital on the 22nd on medication, then on Friday the 24th a heart catheterization was completed at 2 pm. and at 3 pm. I was in surgery. 3 blocked arteries. Before they opened me up the heart MD said he wanted to try angio-plastic balloons. After 3½ hours and 13 balloon tries, I was pronounced a success. Three days later on Monday I was home. The miracle of medicine and faith in God. I am doing well. Can you have George put this in the next bulletin so those folks can see I am OK. God bless & keep well. Glad to have seen you at McAllen as well as the other old-timers.

take care

Jim Flex

On Saturday, April 8th Jim Flex reported:

Thank you, I passed the Stress Test on March 5, and I am quite well. The family says Hello. Jim

Our best wishes to you, Jim, and to the family, from all of your comrades. geo



**ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PRISONERS
OF WAR IN ROMANIA
1077-B Blackshear Drive
Decatur, Georgia 30033**

13 February 1989

Dear George:

I have just finished reading your January newsletter and I thoroughly enjoyed it. You really put out a great newsletter.

I noticed you listed Rev. Barry D. Henderson deceased from my roster. That is in error. Barry is still alive and kicking here in Atlanta. Just thought that I had better mentioned it to you so your readers will know better.

Take care now and keep up the good work. So long for now.

Best wishes,

Roy B. Meyer
Major, USAF, Ret.
Sec/Treas.

PETE BEZEK,

March 12, 1989

Dear Bernie.-

First, [one of] our Historical Society and . . . of the original 99ers to go to Africa with General Upthegrove has left us. I talked with Pete and Lois twice before Laurel and I left for Texas and he was very ill. He had the same lung problems that I have . . . He entered Wright-Pat on the morning we left for Texas.

Pete was a real joy to have on our Dayton Reunion committee. He really represented the enlisted man's point of view. We became good friends as a result of the committee and I will miss his refreshing different point of view of the Air Force.

Many, many thanks for the picture of the three of us at the podium in the Sheraton. Of all the speeches I've made in over 40 years of a business life I'll never forget my last one. I suppose it's an accumulation of age, too many pills, the emotion of the event and Tom Gamm's recent death. All contributed to stopping me dead in the water. Both you and Laurel reacted in a wonderful spontaneous manner which allowed me to regain my composure. To say the least the three of us created a theatrical finish to the business luncheon.

I don't know who took the picture of us but please thank him for me and tell him I'll treasure it the rest of my life. Hope to see you in Alabama. Give our best to Doris.

best regards

Jim Sopp



11/10/88

Dear Walter,

Enclosed is my check for 1989 dues. I also want to take this opportunity to say what a wonderful job all you men are doing. Sorry I could not attend any reunions as i had 3 heart attacks in the past several years, and finally wound up having triple by-pass surgery. Now I am beginning to feel much better.

Best of luck and a happy and healthy coming New Year to all.

Sincerely,

Harry Koskoff



Walt, I wonder if you can help me with information as to how I can obtain a film of a mission I flew in 1944. This was the invasion of Southern France, August 15th, beach head 261. I flew as co-pilot to Major Christensen in the lead plane. We had a group photographer that took action movies in the air and as we landed. There were generals and other high-ranking officers to greet us. This would be great on VCR.

Thanks

Ted Sheltz
118 Longvue Dr.
Wethersfield CT 06109



HOT OFF THE PRESS! RAY SCHWANBECK AND JO BEVERLY WERE MARRIED ON SATURDAY, THE EIGHTH OF APRIL 1989 IN DALLAS TEXAS AND WILL MAKE THEIR HOME IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

49 Warwick Drive
Shalimar, FL. 32579
26 March, 1989

Mr. George F. Coen
2908 Aliso Dr. N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear Trigger,

Ruby and I were sorry to miss the McAllen reunion but we had a conflict. We won't miss many -- Bill Holt might zap me.

My reason for writing is two fold.

First. With regard to Dick Valleaus' letter on page 11 of the March 1, 1989 newsletter, his report on that mission is quite accurate with one exception. Major Orance had assigned me to that crew to fly their first thirteen and my last thirteen missions. After we were hit over Messina, Joe Trentadue and I decided that we had best get on the ground. Comiso, Sicily appeared to be our best bet. We weren't really sure who owned the airfield and we were really uncertain about land mines but we were out of options! Mitch and his crew followed us in and returned us to our base. It isn't often a person is glad to see a "Bad Penny". How hairy even after all these years.

Second. With regard to the elusive Andy Collins and his letter on page 8 of the same issue. I would be very interested in his recollection of that ill-fated mission. I will never forget that experience. Gear down landing at night in the Sahara -- how hairy! We didn't realize how lucky we were until the next morning when we found our aircraft to be too close to the gigantic grain storage pits built by the Bedouins. We returned to base that morning without any further incidents except for a few glances at the fuel gauges!

Best regards and see you in Huntsville.

As ever,

Terry B

Terry Barton

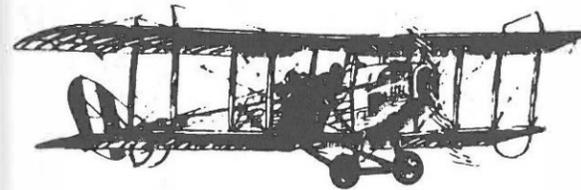
Dear Terry;

Fredric Arnold, the author of DOORKNOB FIVE TWO gives a graphic description of a landing at Biskra. He has furnished the 99th a copy of his log which confirms my suspicion that the landing was indeed on May

3rd. Arnold gave the P-38 to the arabs in exchange for a feed of probable dogmeat.

geo

THE MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION



MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 92518

(714) 655-2138

Mr. George Coen
99th Bomb Group Historical Society
2908 Aliso Drive NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear Mr. Coen:

28 March 1989

Reference the article on the March Field Museum and Museum Foundation published in March 1989 issue of your organization's publication.

While we appreciate your support and the exposure of the Museum to your general membership, we also think that the information provided to your membership should be as accurate as possible. Several changes have been made in our membership fees (to include a graduated scale for Life Memberships). I have enclosed a copy of the current form for inclusion in your next publication.

Regarding the article that was re-printed from the November 1983 Air Force Magazine, several items need to be clarified. First, the current director of the Museum is SMSgt Stephen P. Condos, USAF. Secondly, because of problems encountered with artifacts "loaned" to the Museum, the Air Force will not accept artifacts "on loan." Should anyone desire further information on donating memorabilia, they should contact the Museum directly. Lastly, artifacts accepted by the Museum become property of the US Government. Neither the Museum (as an Air Force function) nor the Foundation (a non-profit, private corporation) can assess a dollar-value to memorabilia for tax-deductible purposes. It is the responsibility of the donor to obtain valuation estimates for tax purposes.

We hope that you will be able to publish the current, "ungarbled word" in your next publication so that your membership has the true picture.

Again, thanks for your interest and support of the March Field Museum and the Museum Foundation.

John F. Flood

John F. Flood, Lt. Col., USAF, Retired
Executive Director
March Field Museum Foundation

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SID WOODS

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HONORARY MEMBER-BOARD OF MANAGERS
EVELYN P. BRIER

A FUTURE FOR THE PAST





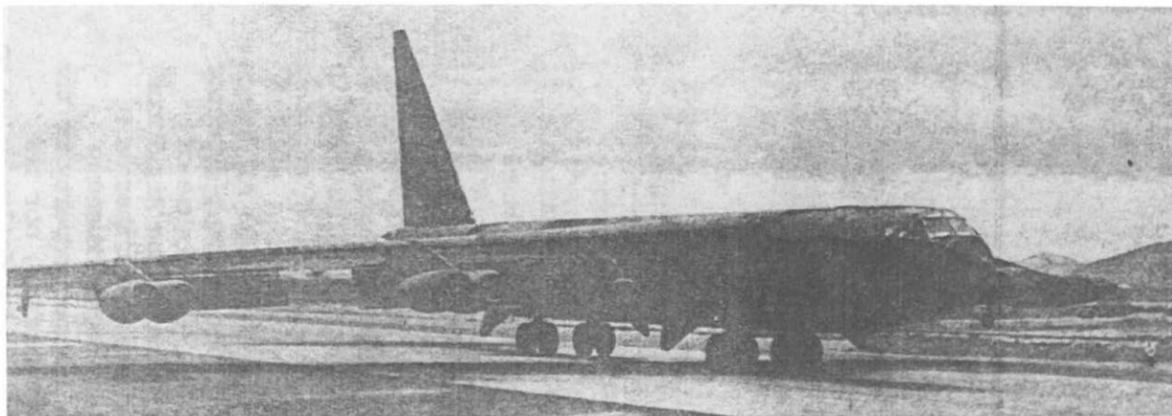
THE MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION

The March Field Museum needs your help to preserve and protect the heritage of March Field. You can help us by either a tax deductible contribution to the Foundation, becoming a member of the Foundation, or volunteer to assist us in restoring, acquiring, and maintaining our aircraft and artifacts. The Museum is located in the old commissary at March AFB, hours, 10-4 weekdays, 12-4 Saturday & Sundays.

Application Form

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
 Regular Member \$15.00 Life Member
 Volunteer: Skills _____
 Life Memorial Member \$1000.00
 Day Available _____ Telephone _____
 Please make checks payable to March Field Museum Foundation (a non-profit organization)
 Volunteers are urged to Call (714) 655-3725

March Field Museum Foundation, March AFB, CA 92518



A/C IN MUSEUM

- Boeing PT-13, WW II Trainer
- Stinson L-5, WW II Liaison
- Vultee BT-13, WW II Trainer
- Bell P-59, First U. S. Jet
- Bell P-39, WW II Fighter
- BD-5, Sport Plane

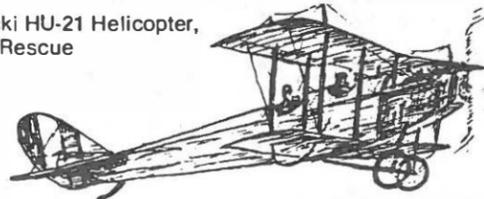


A/C ADJACENT MUSEUM

- North American F-86, Korean War Fighter
- McDonnell F-101 Air Defense Fighter,
- Bell UH-1F Helicopter
- North American AT-6, WW II Trainer
- Martin Titan Missile

A/C ON FLIGHT LINE

- Access by USAF bus only.
 Bus tour: 1 PM Weekdays
 2 PM, Saturday & Sunday
- Boeing KC-97, Air Refueling Tanker
 - Fairchild C-123, Light Tactical Transport
 - Republic F-84C, Korean War Fighter
 - Northrop F-89, Air Defense Fighter, Post Korean War
 - Republic F-105, Fighter — Bomber, Viet Nam War
 - Grumman SA-16, General Purpose Amphibian, 1950's
 - McDonnell-Douglas F-4 Fighter, Viet Nam
 - Republic F-84F Post Korean War Fighter
 - North American F-100, First Supersonic Fighter
 - Piasecki HU-21 Helicopter, Arctic Rescue
 - Boeing B-47, Stratojet First SAC all Jet Bomber
 - Boeing B-52, Stratofortress
 - Martin EB-57
 - Beechcraft C-45 Light Transport, WW II
 - Lockheed, C-60, Light Transport, WW II
 - McDonnell-Douglas A1-E, Viet Nam Attack Bomber
 - Northrop A-9, Attack A/C Only 2 built
 - Douglas B-26, Light Bomber WW II, Korea, and Viet Nam
 - Boeing B-17, Famed Flying Fortress, WW II
 - North American B-25 Mitchell—Toyo Raiders
 - Boeing B-29, Superfortress WW II and Korea



MARCH FIELD MUSEUM

The March Field Museum was dedicated by Lt. General James P. Mullins on December 19, 1979. This began the formal effort to capture the contributions which the people and units of March Air Force Base made to the evolution of airpower.

The Museum building was constructed in October 1931 as a quarter master warehouse. In May of 1940 the building became the base commissary as the build-up began for World War II.

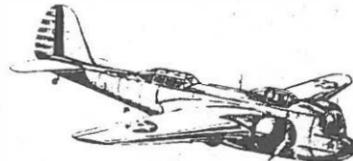
The Museum and its aircraft serve as the center of emphasis for a historical program much wider in scope. It is hoped that a larger, more permanent facility can be constructed in the near future. It would be more visible and accessible to the public. Such a museum would serve as the Air Force Museum of the West and feature all Air Force history.

Today our goal is to portray the March AFB past, showing the technologies and skills used. We do this so that present and future generations will be inspired to continue the values and traditions which have become hallmarks of the United States Air Force.

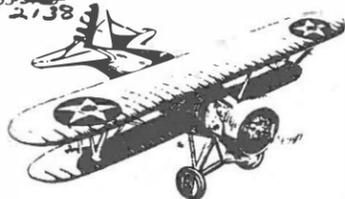
The Museum displays over 30 aircraft and missiles, both inside and outside. The inside display area is largest in Fifteenth Air Force. Tour groups are welcome. With prior notice a movie titled, "The March Field Story" can be presented. Our telephone number is, (714) 655-3725.



MARCH FIELD MUSEUM



THE MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION
 MARCH AIR FORCE BASE
 CALIFORNIA 92518
 714/655-3725

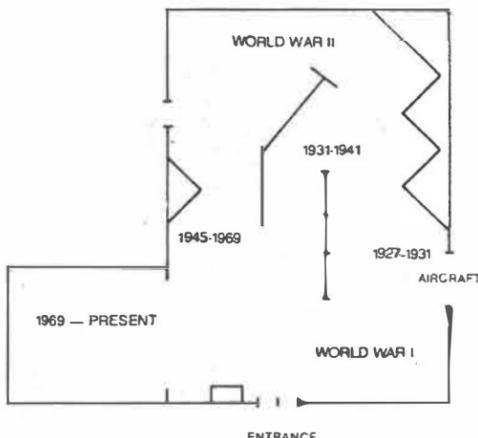


The March Field Museum Foundation seeks to further the purposes of the Air Force Museum. This group of military and civilian supporters serves as a philanthropic corporation in the development and expansion of the museum facilities.

The Foundation, a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation, receives, holds, and administers gifts from individuals, organizations, corporations, foundations, and philanthropies.

The Foundation's immediate goal is to build an expanded, notable facility with donated funds. Only by the construction of a larger, permanent home, freely available to the public, will it be possible to preserve and present priceless aviation artifacts for the American public in the west.

To help present in a worthy manner for future generations the story of the military and civilian aviation history of the United States, the Foundation seeks monetary donations which are tax-deductible.



A FUTURE FOR THE PAST

MARCH AFB, CA 92518

CITY OF JACKSON, TENNESSEE

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE - P. O. BOX 2587

38302



E. B. ALDERSON
Chief of Police

02-23-89

George F. Coen
2908 Aliso Dr. NE
Albuquerque, N. M. 87110

Dear Mr. Coen,

I had heard my Father and Mother talk at great length about the 99th reunions. When I found out that it was going to be in McAllen, Tx. and a trip to the Confederate Air Force, I had to make the trip and see and meet all the fine people they had spoke of. Am I glad I did.

It was a great pleasure to meet these fine people at last. Everyone associated with the Group treated me as if I had been part of the Group.

It was fascinating to set and listen to the "War Stories" told by these men.

I'm looking foward to seeing enveryone in Huntsville, Al. in April 1990. Until then thanks for a real pleasurable time.

Respectfully,

Joe H. Cepparulo

Cpl. Joe H. Cepparulo
Jackson Police Department
Jackson, Tn. 38301



P.S.

If any of the Group happens to be passing through Jackson, stop and give me a call.

Work: 901-425-8432
Home: 901-422-6032

Would you see that Walter Butler gets my dues to be an associate member. Thanks again.

Dear Joe;

Welcome to the Group.

Your letters brings back memories of a stay in the Jackson City Jail. It was about 1936 one cold December night when you all allowed a cold teen-ager to roost there one night, and I do thank you for it.

With best wishes

george



2700 Ridgeway Drive
Reedsport OR 97467

Dear Walter;

Thank you for sending me the newsletters and application to join the 99th BGHS. I only found out that the society existed when attending the 50th anniversary of the B-17 at Seattle. Another member (Bob Mack) gave me an address in Albuquerque NM to write about joining (probably yours) but my application and check were evidently lost by USPS and my checkbook has been out of balance by \$15.00 for a long time. (Sept. 1986).

I was in the 348th Squadron as Operations Officer from Feb 1944 to August 1944 completing my 50 missions.

I previously served a tour in the South Pacific with the 19th Bomb Group in 1942. I returned to the States from my first tour as passenger on a "Bernie Barr". Is he the same B.S. Barr on your roster living in Albuquerque?

I married my wife of 48 years in Albuquerque when the 19th BG was stationed there before WWII.

sincerely

Bill Lorence

Dear Bill;

Yes, you have come to the right place. We look forward to printing your story too.

Welcome to the Group.

george

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE 99 BGHS, 1989-1990

McAllen Texas

All terms four years

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end

DEAR OLD BUDDY, GEORGE F COEN: FEB 1989

I AM SADDENED BY THE BELIEF THAT YOU ARE RIGHT AND I AM WRONG ABOUT THE IMPORTANT QUESTION OF HOW LONG IT TAKES A FLAK SHELL TO REACH FROM THE GROUND TO US. THEY NEVER HIT US, ANYWAY, OR DID THEY? YOU SAID ABOUT 28 SECONDS TO GET TO US AT 27 THOUSAND FEET. I SAID 40 SECONDS TO GET TO US AT 25 THOUSAND FEET.

I WAS EXACTLY RIGHT--USING NEWTON'S SECOND LAW----EXCEPT FOR THREE THINGS: I NEGLECTED AIR DRAG (SINCE I DON'T KNOW HOW TO HANDLE IT), AND I ASSUMED THAT THE MAXIMUM HEIGHT OF THESE LOVELY LITTLE FLAK FRIENDS OF OURS WOULD BE OUR ALTITUDE--THEY MAY HAVE FLOWN FASTER AND JUST IGNITED AT THE ALTITUDE THAT THEY THOUGHT WE WOULD BE. AND I ASSUMED THAT OUR GOOD GERMAN FRIENDS WERE FIRING FROM SEA LEVEL.

EITHER OF THESE THREE ERRORS THAT I MADE WOULD HAVE MADE THE TIME LONGER. I EXPECT THAT YOU WIN. BUT EVEN IF IT TAKES A FEW MINUTES--I WOULD LIKE TO TURN AWAY. YOU STAY ON COURSE????

LEAVE OFF THIS STORY. UNLESS YOU THINK THAT THE 99 BG LETTER IS A LITTLE HEAVY ON BOMBER STORIES AND A LITTLE SHORT OF YOUNG FRISKY FIGHTER PILOT STORIES: (I AM THE HERO).

ONE NICE SUNNY DAY OVER GERMANY, I NOTICED TWO FW 190S DIVING FROM ABOUT 25 OR 30 THOUSAND FEET. TOWARD THE DECK. OVER GERMANY. AFTER SOME QUARRELS. THEY AND ME.

I PURSUED THEM, TO THE DECK. WHAT WERE THE ODDS? THEY WERE TWO. I WAS ONE, BAD. THEY WERE OVER GERMANY. TEN MILES TO AN AIRPORT. I HAVE TO GET TO ENGLAND--ABOUT 300 MILES AWAY. I HAD LOST MY FLIGHT MEMBERS. WITH THESE BAD ODDS, WHY WOULD I DO A SILLY THING LIKE THIS? I THOUGHT THAT I SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE AN ADVANTAGE, OR ELSE DON'T PLAY. I DID HAVE AN ADVANTAGE. I WAS ON THEIR TAILS.

AND LOTS OF LOW CLOUDS. A PLACE TO HIDE. I NEEDED IT. I WOULD NEVER HAVE GONE TO THE DECK WITHOUT IT. I DID SHOOT DOWN ONE OF THEM. THEN I FLEW UP INTO THE CLOUDS. WITH A LITTLE MORE GUTS, I MIGHT HAVE CLOBBERED THE OTHER 190--DIDN'T HAVE THEM.

BUT ON A LATER MISSION, FLAK DID ME IN. AND I WAS SUCH A NICE GUY.

BUDDY

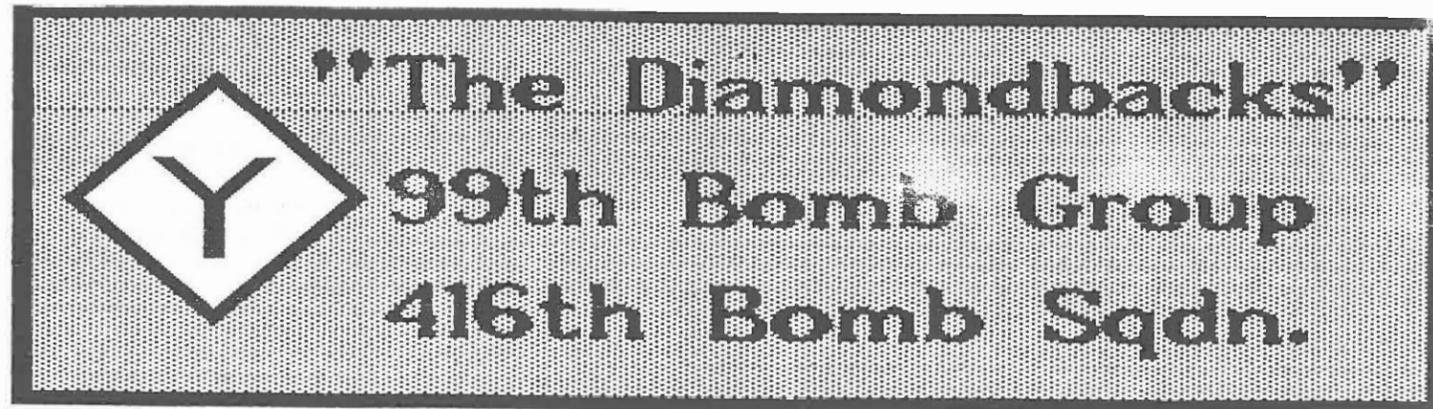
WALTER *Walt*

BECKHAM.

Dear Walter;

I am not sure that we bomber boys should listen to you Little Friends. Our mommas don't let us play with roughnecks - we were committed to Peace, for which the B-17 was well designed. We dropped leaflets which stated "WE ARE YOUR FRIENDS". Since the leaflets also showed which cities were no longer safe for habitation, and since I assume that the Axis evacuated them all, we were able to destroy all of the military targets with no loss of life at all to the enemy. Logic is Logic, that's all I say.

george



30 March 1989

Dear George --

It was nice seeing you again at McAllen. Had a fine time and was able to see a few I hadn't seen since 1944. I am sending an updated plane list. It probably has about 100 or so more changes than the last one I sent. I picked up quite a bit of info from the fellows at McAllen. Also O'Connor sent me quite a bit of data. The only thing about this list that I haven't solved yet are which a/c sans Tokyos were received from the 97th when they took all our Tokyo equipped a/c on 14 Nov 43. Will do some research on that. Believe I have sorted out most of the planes that were xferred to the 97th and the early model Gs that were sent to the 2nd BG on 28 Mar 44. There are over 300 planes on this list. Still to come are those B-17Gs that were assigned later in 1944 and in 1945. I saw in the NL there was a #651 listed that was MIA at Brasov on 4-7-44. That should have been 851 and the ser. nr. is 2102851 which was assigned to the 346. One of the other problems which may be difficult to solve is the assignment of the planes to the right Sqdn. This was caused by many planes "filling in" to fly with other Sqdns. But give me time and I will probably figure that out.

Will be attending the Dayton Hamvention the last week of April in Dayton. After that I am off to the Archives in Washington to do a bit more research.

keep in touch,

Dick

Dear Dick;

We appreciate your work on the Plane Roster. We have not had time to check the plane list, nor do we expect to have much time in the near future, but we will let you know when we can publish the revised roster so that members may submit further items.

Thanks again best george

3 January 1989

Dear George ---

Please hold the press! I have been looking at the plane list which I have been diligently working on for the past few weeks and have decided that is not the way to go. I agree with some of the early comments we have received that it is rather confusing. I hope you will not print any of the previous lists I have sent. I am keeping the previous list current only for reference purposes.

I am enclosing two new lists which I have reworked. The one with known serial numbers is more readable, factual, and as historically correct as I can make it. The original aim was to include names of sources so that members could write to them for info, pix, etc. It has just become too unwieldy and confusing. So the new list will include only Ser. nrs., names if known, Squadron, short history of the aircraft, and the name of the pilot on the crew who was known to have flown the plane. Of course, many pilots flew many different planes but I have listed only those whose names have appeared in the War Diaries or from the few loading lists that I have acquired. In the case of the plane being MIA, crash landed, or crashed, I have attempted to list the entire crew. And as briefly as possible, I have tried to list what happened to the members, i.e. POW, KIA, evaded, etc. Normally, the entire crew will not, for various reasons, be listed.

I think what I have done will result in a far more professional product and be more amenable to the membership. The second list will have the names of those planes for which the serial numbers are not known. In looking at them, there are several clues but no hard evidence to tie them to a serial nr. Example: I suspect that Hunter's Answer may be one of the planes that Frank Hunter flew. Also Earthquake McGoon is the name of one of the planes we acquired from the 483rd BG. I found that only one Sqdn of the 483rd named their planes after characters from Al Capp. I am keeping NL, WD, and sources in this list for reference purposes. When a nr. is found, it will be added to main list.

I found the name "Princess No No" and it goes to 2107000 which was MIA at Ploesti on 15 May 44. It now appears that the 483rd BG brought about 65 or so new a/c to Italy and we got 45 (at last count) of them. Carl Mitchell had only identified 25 planes being transferred from the 483rd. Also found out from a couple of load lists I have that Glittering Gal flew a few combat missions before going to the 5th Wing as VIP a/c Gen. Lawrence. I have a list of some 90 planes that were in the 99th in Sept 45 but I won't include any of them in the list until I see how many flew combat. None of them are on the present list I have compiled.

I know there are errors still in the list but hope to eventually get them taken care of. I will keep working on this and by summer I should have a more comprehensive list available.

see you in McAllen,

Dick (Drain)

February 2, 1988
Atlantic, Iowa 50022

Dear George:

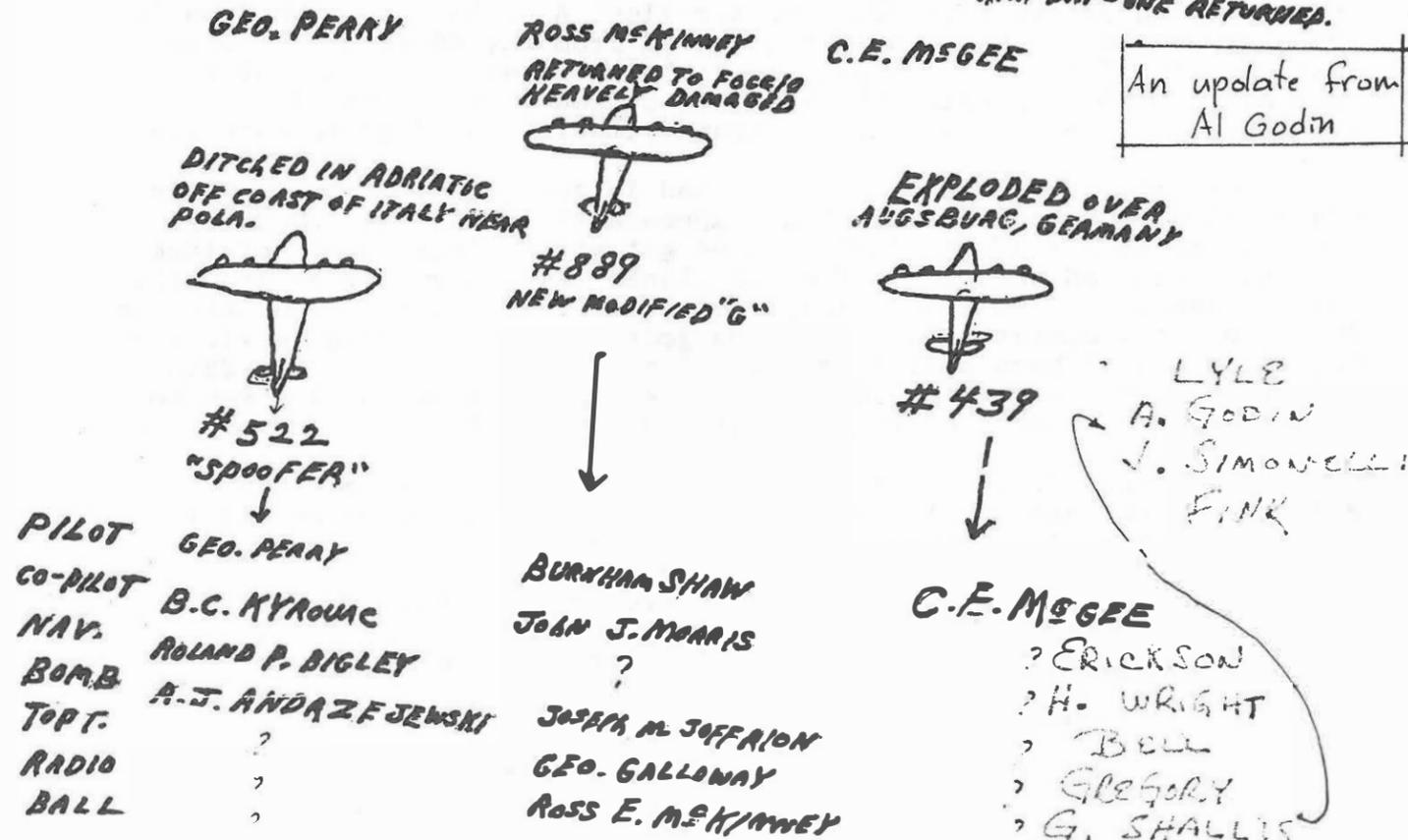
Have a pin on me. I think you are indeed entitled to it. Please get the notice to members in the up-coming Newsletter. I have a whole batch of pins to mail but feel that there could be errors due to my stupidity. What can you expect from a wornout lawyer? I will ship as many as I can upon receipt of confirmations and order the balance.

You will notice I finally had to resort to buying bubble-packs. The packages I tried to build were too heavy. I have a little ticket to put in each pack to cover the cost of the bubble pack and postage.

Thanks for the letter and contents. Looks very good to me. Only one question, what caused the drop from 1100 to 900, is this because of natural attrition of our members? I certainly hope not. Or is it due to nonpayment of dues by some?

Sincerely yours,
Charles E. Miller
Charles E. Miller

REGENSBURG, GERMANY FEB. 22, 1944 "THE BIG WEEK"
ONLY THREE PLANES FROM 416 TA MADE IT TO THE TARGET THAT DAY - ONE RETURNED.



WE BEGIN THE SQUADRON DIARIES. We have all four Squadron Diaries in our files. geo **RECORD**

Sheet No, 1, War Diary, Three Hundred Forty Eighth Bombardment Squadron.

Months of Sept 1942 to Sept 1943. Prepared by GEORGE E. HUTCHISON, Captain, Air Corps

DAY	EVENTS	War Diary
1942		
Sept 26	Three Hundred Forty Eight Bombardment Squadron Activated.	
30	Squadron formed at Walla Walla, Washington. Combat Crews at Boise, Idaho for first phase training.	
Nov 15	Squadron leaves Walla Walla, Wash upon completion of second phase of training.	
17	Arrive at Sioux City, Iowa for third phase of training.	
26	Squadron enjoys Thanksgiving Day Dinner. Talk by Major Whitmore, Commanding Officer, highlights program	
Dec 3	Inspector General inspects Squadron.	
25	Squadron holds Christmas party and dinner in mess hall.	
1943		
Jan 2	Air Echelon leaves for Salina, Kansas.	
2	Ground Echelon leaves Sioux City and arrives at Mitchell, South Dakota with temperature at 20 below zero.	
7	Squadron takes five-mile hike in 10 below zero weather.	
Feb 5	Squadron undergoes gas mask inspection	
14	Squadron officers hold Valentine Day party at Gun Club.	
20	Squadron moves to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.	
March 19	Leave Oklahoma City, Oklahoma for Staging Area.	
21	Arrive at Camp Kilmer, N.J.	
24	Squadron goes to Ft Dix for rifle and pistol record fire.	
29	Squadron takes hike and bivouacs in open field on rainy night.	
April 23	Leave Camp Kilmer, N.J. and board ship at Brooklyn for overseas.	
29	At sea.	
May 2	Two submarine scares.	
3	Another alert.	
5	Transport loses convoy during night due to rudder trouble.	
8	One of two engines blows up at 3:07 AM.	
11	Africa sighted.	
12	Arrive at Oran.	
23	Leave Oran.	
25	Arrive at Navarin and rejoin combat crews.	
June 14	Lord Tincher, British Air Commander and General Jimmey Doolittle address group.	
July 5	Thirty-one men in squadron shot down during raid over Gerbinni, Sicily. Only two ultimately returned and five known captured by enemy.	

Sept
 2 Entire crew of Lt John Saraberis, pilot, missing after raid on Bologna, Italy.
 7 Major Whitmore and entire crew, on their 50th mission and 50th mission of their Flying Fortress bail out near home field when plane became so seriously damaged during raid over Foggia, it became unmanageable.
 17 Lt Col Whitmore leaves squadron. Capt Robert Elliott becomes new Commanding Officer.



HERE 'TIS

VOL II, No. 12

1 April 45

Published Weekly by the I and E and Special Service Section, Hq, 99th Bomb Group (H)

THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Twas the night before Christmas
 And all through the Group
 The Wheels and the Big Wigs
 Were grinding out Poop.
 The bombers were parked on their hardstands with care,
 Waiting for Armament
 Soon to be there.
 The flyers were nestled
 All snug in their beds;
 While visions of milk runs
 Danced in their heads.
 When out of the darkness
 There came quite a knock;
 We cursed the O.D.
 And looked at the clock.
 "Briefing will be in two hours," he said.
 Time marches on and the minutes fly by;
 So it's out of the sack and make with
 the flying.
 We rush to the mess hall
 Quick as a flash
 We eat cold powdered eggs
 And hideous hash.
 Then the long bumpy ride
 To the Group Briefing Room,
 Where the Big Wigs preside

And dish out our doom.
 The target is told,
 The first six rows faint -
 For Lo and Behold!
 VIENNA it AIN'T!!
 The brain has slipped up,
 My poor achin' back!
 We're bombing a place
 That throws up no flak!
 So it's back in the truck
 And off to the line;
 The road is now smooth,
 And the weather is fine.
 The crew is at Station,
 The check list is run;
 The engines run smoothly,
 As we give 'em the gun.
 Then suddenly the pilot
 Calls in despair;
 "Look at the tower!
 They just shot a flare!"
 We dashed to the window
 With a heart full of dread;
 The pilot was right,
 The darn thing is RED!
 So it's back to the sack
 And we sweat out our fate,
 For there's a practice formation
 At a quarter past eight.

Any man wanting to umpire softball and baseball games in the evening, contact Cpl Gunstella, Orange 9. Will be paid.

"CORNZAPOPPIN"
TO PLAY HERE TUESDAY

The USOs latest variety show, "Cornzapoppin," will toast the 99th's Theater-goers Tuesday with a sparkling cast of entertainers from stage, screen, and radio. The emcee spot is handled by Billy Berry. Billy hails from the west coast, where he was featured in some of the leading night clubs, hotels, and theaters in a novelty song and dance comedy routine. Pat Moran, Hollywood's outstanding "knock-down-and-drag-out" double and former circus clown, exhibits the best in comedy acrobatics. For glamour, the show presents Sigrid Lasman, singing songs in the sentimental manner which wowed her Stork Club and Rainbow Room audiences in NYC. Others in the cast are as equally outstanding. check the movie schedule for curtain times.

G.I. TRAINING, EXPERIENCE
NOW WORTH SCHOOL CREDIT

Men who plan to return to school can earn academic credit while still in service, not only for satisfactorily completing courses offered through the facilities of the United States Armed Forces Institute, but also for a wide variety of military training and experience.

Even your basic training has an educational value, in the opinion of leading American educators. So have the various courses offered by Army and Navy schools, Army and Navy specialized training, and actual experience handling a Service job.

USAFI officials and leading American educators have devised certain guides and procedures designed to assure every serviceman a fair evaluation by U.S. schools and colleges of his military training and experience and of off-duty educational studies.

Servicemen are urged to make application while still in service, because the action of schools and colleges on their applications will provide a guide to the courses or studies they should pursue through USAFI or in off-duty classes in order that they may resume their education after their return to civilian life at the most advanced level possible.

See Capt Trent, Gp. I&E Officer for further details.

FRAGS

346

The 99th participated in a bombing raid of Berlin, so what? Do you know that the "Rocket" not only got to Rome, but also got BACK? At the helm on this history-making trip was Capt John "Orville Wright" Keschmeir. Said the Capt on his return, "It was nuttin.". . . The most tragic thing that ever happened to this Sq. took place the other night. Our wee-known [sic] mixologist, Vernon D. (VD) Adams had just returned from Barlotta with a new shipment of likkor [sic]; he, with a Eytie helping, lifted a huge demijohn of gin out of the jeep. And my dear friends, what the hell do you think happened? Right. \$200 worth of gin went spilling into the ground! There is absolutely no truth in the report that some of the more convivial members of the squadron got down on their knees and licked up the potent gin. It so happened that none of them were around. . . .It's getting so that the volleyball games down on the line are winding up in near riots. Every time Mo Goldman plays, the game, gets a bit wilder, rougher, noisier. Good old Mo, what would we do without him? (Don't answer that question). . . .

347

Multa guys are happy, multa guys not so happy as a result of this IDY deal. Forty-five days at home is definitely not to be sneezed at. Congratulations and lots of luck to you fellows due to go on that first list. I sure wish I was on it, or on the second, or on the third, etc. I wonder what steps you have to go through to get citizenship papers for Foggia. . . .Welcome back to Sgt Marco, our first IDY returnee. Our vanity is hurt--he didn't miss us while he was home. . . .Welcome back to Cpl Ralph Imperata on his return from his honeymoon. He looks peaked but satisfied. He recommends married life heartily--especially the first week. . . .Our softball business is booming with the diamond being occupied just about every available moment. As a matter of fact, Sgt Grassl was dragging the infield, or at least he was trying to and not being very successful. He started one morning and was chased by a game starting and it's been that way since.

348

That big smile with the man behind it these days is just Hinton Smith, better known as No. 1. Yes sir, the great Engineering Lottery was finally held, and Hinton is all set for 45 days back in Ole Miss. Right on his heels are Ralph Ocheltree and Artie Shaw. . . .Is sit true that Lucky Chuck Nunnley is looking for men to keep him company in the Army of Occupation? We hear S/Sgt Tucker was the first to volunteer. . . .Pat Patterson drew for Steffensmeir as Steff was in Rome. Pat pulled No. 7 for himself and 71 for Steff. Wotta Pal! required reading for all medics is Harry Massy's new book, "The Ace in the Hole, or Show Me the Way to Go Home.". . . .Just when we were ready to join Lt French in the States, he turned up here. We're glad to see him back, but he sure spoiled a lot of good rumors. . . .If you haven't seen the redecorated EM Club, you've really missed something. Incidentally, those gals on the walls of the bar and the murals in the card room are the work of S/Sgt Lyn Fox, and are damn good too.

This week we welcome back Capt William Brake, who is to be our new Operations Officer. . . The much discussed Thomas O'Shea is soon to be crowned Tent Chief at a formal ceremony. All who attend must wear Class A uniform, battle jacket, all decorations, awards, stripes, service ribbons, insignia and gravy spots. . . Spring is here and with its coming, all the sack artists are forsaking their "Homes" to cavort on the Sqd. baseball diamond. Now that I think of it, that's the only time of the year one sees Nic Smiechowski. As yet, Al Slatnick is still bed-ridden, but where life is hope. . . Thank you Headquarters lads for starting the ball rolling in the drive to collect a few bucks to buy Sgt McCarley a toupee for his hairless, egg-shaped noggin. . . THE PAYOFF OF THE WEEK--Sgt Joe Martorano is turning down IDY because he is afraid of losing his citizenship. . . Woe is me!

Hq.

Game night last Tuesday proved to be rather successful for a first time. Be there this Tuesday at 1900 and try your luck at one of the ten-odd games. Frank Freer succeeded in copping the \$25 War Bond Bingo prize this week, even though Febesh, Gebbart, and Spry fought tooth and nail. Congratulations to PAP EMERICH! For _____ hours "5 by 5" sweated it out, _____ but [Coffee?] finally came through and made him the proud papa of six beautiful tiny pups. _____ "Five's"

CHAPEL CHIMES

"TAKE YOUR CHOICE"

Karl Marx said that man was an animal--an eating animal. To understand his behaviour you must understand economics. To make him happy you must give him a full dinner pail. To attain world peace you must assure him that he may continue to eat. If he cannot eat, he will be troublesome; if he eats, he will be content.

Charles Darwin said that man was an animal--a struggling animal. Survival and dominion are his chief objectives. Let man get power and he will be happy. He will not be content just to eat; he must also dominate. His lust for power is more primeval than his appetite for food. Let him be boss, let him feast on the plaudits of men around him, and he will be content.

Sigmund Freud said that man was an animal--a breeding animal. His sex hungers are prior to any other lust. Give man full and uncurbed expression in sex and he will be happy. Deflect or sublimate that passion and man becomes unmanageable. Give his biology free rein and his problems are solved.

Aristotle said that man was an animal--a reasoning animal. Give him knowledge and he will behave. Educate all men in the good life and they will live the good life. A man misbehaves because he does not know better. Develop his mind and his life will be controlled and content.

But Jesus said man was a son of God--made in the likeness of God himself, with infinite capacities for development from a creature "a little lower than the angels" to the heights of fellowship with the Father.

TAKE YOUR CHOICE!!

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Catholic: Sunday Mass
0900, 1030, 1230
Wed. & Friday: 1830

Protestant: Sunday
0800-347th; 0845-Ord.;
0930-348th; 1015-416

INQUIRING REPORTER

"DO YOU EXPECT TO OWN A JEEP AFTER THE WAR?"

PFC RUSS TRAMSTEIN?: Nope. I just can't see myself necking in the back seat of a jeep.

SGT WILLIAM McCARLEY: I should be seen riding in a jeep? It's a Packard for me, complete with chauffeur.

T/SGT JOHN MOORE: Whuzzat? And be the laughing stock of Roslindale?

PFC RODECKER: Cripes no! You can't plow with a jeep.

PFC DAVE RITTENHOUSE: I want nothing that will remind me of the army.

CPL JOHN KOBI: Yeah, I want a jeep. You giving 'em away?

MOVIE SCHEDULE

MONDAY 2 APRIL

"GIRL RUSH" with
FRANCIS LANGFORD & VERA VAGUE
1800-346, 348th, & Ord.
1930-347th, 416th, & Hq.

TUESDAY 3 APRIL

"CORNZAPOPPIN" USO SHOW
1800-347th, 416th, & Hq.
2000-346th, 348th, & Ord.

WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL

"MASON GOES TO RENO" with
ANNE SOUTHERN & JOHN HODIAK
1800-346th, 348th, & Ord.
1930-347th, 416th, & Hq.

THURSDAY 5 APRIL

"G.I. MOVIES"
1800-One showing only.

SATURDAY 7 APRIL

"CAROLINA BLUES" with
KAY KYSER & ANNE MILLER
1800-347th, 416th, & Hq.
1930-346th, 348th, & Ord.

Sports for Sports

Softball: Hq. took over Ord. 10 to 7 the other day to prove the first defeat was no mistake. However, Ord. is still skeptical and is coming back for more Tuesday. The 347th and the 348th teams are also going to try their hand at beating Hq. this week. Good practice for the tournament which starts the 10th.

Over at the 348th, the backstop is up, the diamond graded and plans are being made for an intra-squadron league of six teams--four combat and two ground personnel. The cream of the crop will be used to form the two squadron varsity teams.

Basketball: In the 346th C-Ration league, Joe Cantly's "Short-Bursts" continue to whip everything in sight. They took over Goldman's B-Batteries" in a rough and tumble game--Basketball a la 346th. Ryan's "Long Delays" took Kavanaugh's "Gin 'n Juices" in a game featuring the grunting, groaning and cracking-at-the-seams of John "Red-Nose" Kavanaugh. When John started to perspire, damned if it wasn't cognac that came pouring out instead of sweat.

Sidelights: Seems to us that the 346th has something over the other Sqds. They're the only ones with a basketball league of their own. Good idea for the other Sqds. to follow up. Incidentally, they're open to all challengers--anyone want to take a crack at them? Speaking of challenges--no one has come forth to take up the 348th's volleyball team. What's the matter--scared? Hq. wasn't, but after two drubbings they'll stick to ping pong. Perhaps the 348th will take up the 346th in basketball if they consent to a volleyball game too. What say Corky? . . . The Group baseball team got in their first licks last week and are shaping up well. There are about three good men for every position so Lt Mullis should have no trouble in turning out a championship team. . . This spring weather has everyone in an athletic frame of mind--even Sgt Jake Axelrod. He's looking for some wrestling competition--someone young, full of life, about 5 ft. 6 in., weighing about 125 lbs. and not too expensive.

NEWS FROM HOME

TACOMA, WASH: Mayor Harry Cain bet his pants that Tacoma would out-collect 4 neighboring cities in a recent paper drive. Tacoma came in 4th and the other mayors came around to collect. But Mayor Cain fixed them--he joined the army. (As smart as a fox eh? Ha!)--Ed.

AKRON, OHIO: While fighting a fire at a rubber plant here, Fireman Art Fink decided to cleanse his false teeth by holding them in front of the hose nozzle. Alas, his clippers were whisked away into a scrap of burning rubber nearby. Fellow firemen retrieved them, sooty and battered, but smiling bitterly. (Shades of Joyce Dale)

SAN FRANCISCO: Two lady street car conductors were arrested here recently on similar charges. One had blasphemously bawled out a passenger. Another had slugged a passenger in the nose when asked to stop the car. (What if he really asked her for something?)

INDIANAPOLIS: "Well, here I come," said a burglar as he climbed out of a coal chute after ransacking a department store. He thought he was talking to his partner. But when he got outside he found a cop was holding the chute door open. (Bet he held the cell door open too)

HERE 'TIS

Vol. II, No. 13

9 April 45

Published Weekly by the I and E and Special Service Section, Hq, 99th Bomb Group (H)

FORT RETURNS ON ONE-AND-A-HALF

On the 6th of April, Lt Jewell N. Graft, 416th pilot, brought back his Fort on "little more than 1 1/2 engines." Here's his own true variation of the "Wing and a Prayer" theme: "We were about 15 minutes away from the target when troubles really began. An oil leak developed in #3 and blew a valve so I had to feather it. We had to drop back from the lane box to number four box position; then #2 cut out on us and it had to be feathered, so we headed for the Adriatic. On top of this trouble, the bomb-bay doors wouldn't close. The turbo _____ cut out next and the engine began to smoke plenty. Had to drop the bombs in the Adriatic and head for home. It was impossible to feather #1 because of the wind over the home field, so I landed with an intact #4 and a poorly functioning #1 engine."

BOMBER LOSSES LIGHT

London (CNS)--An average of less than 2 of every 100 bombers dispatched on combat mission by the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in the European and Mediterranean Theaters during 1944 were lost to enemy action, the War Department has announced.

MISCELLANIA

It's full Colonel Raymond V. Sechwanbeck now when one refers to our Commanding Officer--Congrats, Col.!

Copies of "The Night Before Christmas" parody are available in the Hq. Special Service Office and will be furnished on request.

It's possible! Capt Milton Gross, 347th S-2 Officer, had his application approved for a DISCHARGE and is on his way to the USA for final action on same.

It's true what they say about the _____! New projector, new screen. One can actually see and hear the show now.

"SOLDIER'S CIVIL RIGHTS" TO BE EXPLAINED

Guest Speaker to Discuss Marital Problems

Tuesday evening, 10 April 1945, at 1930 hours, in the 346th EM Mess, Mr. Garfield R. Drennan, ARC, will talk on "Soldier's Civil Rights." Mr. Drennan, for sixteen years a lawyer in Kentucky and Tennessee, will discuss suits that might be brought by and against men in the service--with special emphasis on marital problems. If you're having legal difficulties or anticipate any, it would be wise to hear what "The Judge" has to say. All squadrons invited.

Batter Up

On Tuesday, 10 April, Col Schwanbeck will toss in the first ball to open officially the softball tournament. An officers and EM team from each squadron, playing twice a week, will compete for the championship of the 99th. If those individuals who have borrowed gloves, bats, and balls will return them to the Special Service Officer in each squadron, the players may have enough equipment to carry on successfully.

FRAGS

346

Add one more ribbon to the already be-medaled, manly, hairy chest of Art Porter. Every time Art wins another award, the startling news appears in the Bangor Times. Art's home is in Maine not India). _____ awarding of the Good Conduct Medals t'other day, Brogan not only showed up, but he shaved for the event. So to Brogan goes the award of the week--a five dollar bar book for daquecento lire. . . .The medals were distributed by Brig. Gen. John "Baby Jack" Beaver, who made a very impressive sight in his Civil War fatigues. The awarding of the eagerly-sought medal was preceded by a parade led by Col Mathew Duko and Lt Col M. Goldman, ably assisted by _____ j.g. Howie Brown. In the reviewing stand were Angelo Esposito, Pasquale Gri__, Enrico Russo and Pasta Fazzula. Goldman and his platoon put on a most unusual demonstration. The good Col gave his snappy platoon four consecutive "flank" movements and 23 of his men wound up in the chow line. Col Duko's platoon was not to be outdone however, The Col had his men in a beautiful formation, heads erect, chests out and they were all in step. At this juncture, the Col momentarily turned his head and, sad to relate, before the flustered Col could give the order "to the rear", 18 of his men fell into the Off xer's latrine. Officer's latrine or not, it still stank!!

347

The war must be nearly over for both our favorite privates, Isaac Havens and Harris (Buzz) Folstein, have been promoted to Private First Class. . . .American whiskey went on sale in our bar for the first time with each man being entitled to _____ ounces of the real stuff, and most of the men consuming the entire ration the first two nights, with Larry Hastings using beer as a chaser. Chuck _____ and his boys were at the club to make hop with the jive on Tues. night. . . .Capt Monroe Gross, S-2 Officer, left for the US on Friday and we hear that he may soon be a civilian again. George, What are those things?

348

Sixteen lucky officers and E.M took chances for two bucks and won War Bonds in the great master raffle. The enlisted men's pot furnished enough cash to buy eight \$100 Bonds while the officer's kitty netted two \$100 Bonds, six \$10 Bonds and a \$4 cash prize. Capt Kem cleaned up in the officer's raffle to the tune of \$14. He took the changes, including No. 134, and won two prizes. The raffle was part of the Easter Bond Drive and helps us to almost double our \$6,000 quota. . . .Payday was Grand Opening Day for the new Officer's Club. A lot of work has been put into the new building by Lt Hamer, Lt O'Neill, Lt Dowyngaert, Lt Neary and several others, and they can be really proud of it. The _____ bar is equal to anything back in the States, and the squadron and AAF insignia done in stone are real works of art. The club still isn't completed, for plans call for an addition which will double its size. . . .A swell cartoonist has turned up among the combat men. Cpl Milo Muirhead is responsible for the cartoons on the walls of the EM club's recreation room. Watch out, Bill Mauldin!!

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! CHALLENGE TO ALL SQUADRONS!!! Our number one rumor monger, whose initials are Thomas O'Shea (#\$%|), has the exact day we uns is going to depart for homeland--and he dares any other Squadron Latrine Orderly to equal his feat! . . . We hear tell that our Flying Fool Murtaugh is considering setting up his cot at the bar--too much trouble walking back and forth. . . . If you guys want to see some fast stepping jitterbugs, come up to Operations some night and catch "Solid" Yates and his dancing partner "Zootie" Willis cut the corners! . . . What made Cookie of the Armament Section cut all that fuzz off his chin? . . . Ark our Shorman Billingsley (Al Bragiol to youse) for his terrific concoction that he calls "Carl Hubbell"--one jigger gin--double rum--plus some Vino Rosa--shake well--then "Pitch" it out the window!

Hq.

Berman, Dent, and Saarp were the lucky men this month taking the three \$100 War Bonds offered on the pay day raffle. What irony--Berman and Dent the two guys who make a thousand a month (or thereabouts) at crap and poker. Capt Sweeny and Mathae (spelled with an "e3") won \$30 Bonds while Crater and Allev took care of the \$25 ones. . . . There's a sweet story to tell about the Bingo game last week. Frenchy of the Motor Pool got P.O.'d at his card and swapped with Pappy Vigen. Was his face red when Pap proceeded to win three straight games on that very same card! However, French won the \$25 War Bond prize and didn't yell too much. . . . Game night this Tuesday--prize for the winners in poker, bridge, casino, pinocle, etc. 7 p.m.

CHAPEL CHIMES

PLANT A SEED

_____, a French writer, has told how _____, who conquered Morocco was [walking] through the forests of the country when he came to a place where many of the giant cedars had been destroyed by a terrible storm. The _____ turned to his assistant and said, "You will have to place new cedars here."

The man laughed and said that it took two thousand years to grow cedar. _____ those that had been uprooted. "Two thousand years" said the Marshal, "Then we must begin at once."

The storm that is sweeping over the world today has _____ destruction in its wake. A civilization which has been thousands of years in the making has been well-nigh destroyed, and the task of reconstruction will not be easy. If a new world order is ever to be erected above the ruins, then we must begin at once. The place to take hold is where you are with the people at hand. The time to start is now!

If the world looks dark now--it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. you are a builder of tomorrow. Find something that you can do to make it a better day than today.

CHURCH SCHEDULE

Catholic: Sunday Mass
0900, 1030, 1630
Wed. & Friday 1830

Protestant: Sunday
0800-347; 0845-Ord;
0930-348; 1015-416
1100-346; 1830-Hq.

MOVIE SCHEDULE

MONDAY 9 APRIL

"DEVOTION" with
IDA LUPINO & OLIVIA DE HAVILAND
1800-346th, 348th, & Ord.
1930-347th, 416th, & Hq.

WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL

"NOTHING BUT TROUBLE" with
LAUREL AND HARDY
1800-347th, 416th, & Hq.
1930-346th, 348th, & Ord.

SATURDAY 14 APRIL

"THE PRINCESS AND THE PIRATE" with
BOB HOPE and VIRGINIA MAYO

THURSDAY 12 APRIL

"G.I. MOVIES"
1800-One showing only

INQUIRING REPORTER

"WHAT'S THE STRANGEST MEAL YOU EVER ATE?"

LT DANIEL NERO: One of my buddies loved to eat ice cream with catsup. Guess he was nuts. Mustard's the thing to go with ice cream as any fool can plainly see.

CAP KERMIT J. MACK: One morning in _____, I was served a combination of potatoes, tomatoes, and oil for breakfast.

CPL JOYCE DALE In Africa, I had "goosh-goosh" made from--ugh--how did I ever eat it?

SGT HAROLD FRUTCHY: Meat and vegetable hash is the strangest dish I ever had. I've never been able to figure what the stuff is made of, and I'm afraid to guess.

CPL WALLY YOUNGREN: The meal we had on the Edmond B. Alexander. Remember, stew and hard boiled eggs?

CAPT GEORGE TRENT: A delicious Coon _____, Kentucky meal. Hot chitluns, preserved turnips, blood pudding, pig fries, skonk cabbage fried in possum grease, creamed dog _____ collards, biled 'taters and lucious po'k chops, natchly.

ONCE IN A LIFETIME

NAPLES (CNS)--With 16 years service indicated by the gold braid on his sleeve, CPO Charles W. Tuttle, USCG, of Salem, Mass, looked like a pretty important person to attendants of the San Carlo Opera House here. They escorted him to the Royal Box, where he sat in lone splendor while the crowd speculated about his identity. Before the night was over, the spotlight was on him and the Chief obliged by standing up and bowing while the audience of 3000 applauded him.

Sports for Sports

Softball: The big tournament starts this Tuesday and many of the teams got in a few pre-season practice games. Hq. took over the 348th Officer's team 5 to 4 in a well-played game and next day blasted Ordnance 16 to 10 to show that their two previous victories over Ord. were not mistakes. Somehow or other, the 347th E.M. team got their signals crossed and forgot that Hq. was supposed to have THE team. They walloped the Hq team 9 to 4 the day after they had done the same thing to Ord. Last Thursday night, the 348th EM beat their officers 10 to 9. Lefty Guido and _____ hurled for the EM while Lt Scott was on the mound for the officers. And so ends our practice games--from now on it's for blood!

Basketball: The most spectacular event of the week was the astounding fact that the 346th Eng finally won a basketball game in the C-Ration League. Yes, Beaver's "Spark Plugs" whipped O'Toole's "Pencilpushers" but this victory by no means took them out of last place--they're still there--_____ Ryan's "Long Delays" took over an officer's team in a very well-played game. The experience and age of Ryan's men were too much for Capt Welborn's boys, but perhaps they'll do better the next time.

News from Home

WESTBROOK, ME: Harold Brinkerhoff walked into the Westbrook police station to get warm which was OK with the cops. But then he made the mistake of standing directly under a poster which offered an award for his arrest on a burglary charge. P.S., he's still in the pokey.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL: Californians drank 16 million gallons of liquor during 1944 statistics disclose. Roughly, that's 296 highballs for every man, woman, and child in the state.

ST. LOUIS: Ordered to "share-a-ride" with neighbors in his car, a local resident won repeal of the order from his ration board when he explained that his car was a--garbage truck.

SAG HARBOR, L.I.: Mrs Adaline Judd celebrated her 100th birthday with this observation: "Don't you worry about the bobby sox kids. This talk of juvenile delinquency caused by the war is poppy-cock. The children were worse in my time than they are today.

~~KANSAS CITY:~~ While Ernie Mehl was attending a movie, someone broke into his auto and stole nothing but a dog bone.

~~NEW YORK:~~ Police were baffled when they captured a suspected jewel thief here. They knew he had \$400 in stolen "ice" on his person, but they couldn't find it. Finally, one enterprising detective poked under the man's toupee and there, nestled against his egg-bald dome, discovered the missing "rocks."

~~BROOKLYN, U.S.A.~~ Murry Martin has once of the healthiest appetites in this famous borough. Because of it, he is facing a jail sentence on a charge of eating \$16.60 worth of steak, turkey, salami, and chopped chicken liver in a local cafeteria, then welching on the check.

~~BROOKLYN, NORTH AMERICA:~~ William Moore tossed a little party for 72 friends in his 2-room Brooklyn apartment. The soiree broke up at 2 a.m. on the complaints of the neighbors when police arrested all the guests on charges of disturbing the peace and held Host Moore in \$500 on a charge of violating the alcoholic beverage control law. "All I did," he complained with righteous indignation, "was charge my guests \$.25 admission and \$.25 for a bottle of my home-made blackberry wine."

HERE 'TIS

Vol. II, No. 15

Published Weekly by the Special Services and I and E Section, Hq, 99th Bomb Group (H) 22 Apr 45

SAN FRANCISCO PARLEY TO BE "TIPPED-OFF" AT 99TH

In order to pave the way for a more intelligent interpretation of what happens at the coming San Francisco Conference, a man who has made a special study of plans for a World Security Organization will discuss that subject on the eve of the Conference. It's Sgt Charles Markey, 463rd Bomb Group, whose talk will be given in the Briefing Room at 1930 Tuesday, 24 April.

We should all take an active interest in the happenings at this momentous Conference. There's no finer way to get a background for following its discussion and decisions than by attending this Tuesday nite session.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Would the Officers, 1st & 2nd Lts. who traded 1 pistol at the 1680th Ord S&M the afternoon of 18 Apr 1945 get in touch with Capt Weidner, Group Ordnance officer, no later than 24 April 1945.

PSYCHOLOGY CLASS TO START

A course in General Psychology, normally used in the fourth year of high school or the first year of college, will be offered soon. Meetings will be held once a week for ten weeks on Friday nights in the Chapel Tent near the Outdoor Theater.

Pvt Raymond Hough, 347th Squadron, will be the instructor. In order to register for this class, you must contact Capt Trent, Group I&E Officer, Notary 13.

The textbook is "Psychology and Life." It is a survey of basic concepts and theories of psychology; covers subjects such as: Factors in Development, Motivations, Emotions, Learning, thinking, Personality and Individual Differences, Intelligence, Vocational and Employment Psychology, Psychology and Social Problems, The Form and Functioning of the Nervous System.

Put at least 10% of your pay in War Bond allotments; you can't go wrong on that!

"WEARY WILLIE" COMPLETES HUNDREDTH

When old "855" settled onto the runway at Tortorella recently, it had just returned from its one hundredth trip over enemy targets. "Weary Willie" is the oldest combat ship now in operation for the 346th Squadron. His record of 960 combat hours has been an enviable one, and on today's mission, this B-17G made a good run in spite of an inoperative turbo-super-charger on one of the engines.

Capt Sumner W. Peterson, who piloted the "Weary" one past its century mark, said, "Old Willie is a smooth handling plane and performed well today in spite of his combat age; however, his weariness is apparent because one of the engines cut out just before the landing peal-off and when the co-pilot, Lt Joe Roller, attempted to feather the prop, the feathering button fell off in his fingers."

On the ground after the landing, 855's crew chief, I/Sgt A.I. Narciso, apologized for the engine failure, and remarked that the engine was a crash-rebuilt job and that its failure should be no reflection against "Willie" himself.

Engineering Officer, Capt Joe Chance, stated, "It has not as yet been officially determined when 855 will be retired. It has been a good ship and has returned 'battered but not beaten' from many rough targets."

Lt Col A.W. Schroeder, deputy group commander, flew this veteran plane on its maiden voyage back in May 1944, and also chose to lead the box in which it was flying its hundredth mission.

Members of other squadrons may remember "Weary Willie" by the inscribed name and the pictures of Willie's old hound dog and of Willie himself hurrying off to the weeds with his pants at half-mast.

NEW LOCATIONS

Special Service and I&E Office--First Floor, Podere No. 8, Hq.
Gp Engineering--Hq Sub Office
Air Inspector--Former Spec Serv office
B.J., the Natch Repair Man--Gp Ord Off
Group Motor Pool--At last out of its mud hole or dust bowl, depending on the season, and into a beautiful new setup in the Hq area.

FRAGS

346

On Thursday night, the Group band played for the boys in the EM club and a very enjoyable evening it was. The club was jammed with the many fans of Bob "Hepcat" Schnieder, and many of them were seen cutting a mean rug before the night was over. Liquor played a minor part in the affair--well, except for Ryan and Cavanaugh, and did you see Linklater--whew. . . .Friday was a wild day here in the area, almost every man in the outfit found that he needed a haircut in order to look sweet for Saturday's formation and inspection. The line in front of Hansen's barber shop was as long as any line that Louie ever got. Wally Youngren dropped his Acme Potato Peelers long enough to trim a few noggins too. . . .Ain't Capt Matters the one? The Gremlin played "San Antonio Rose" especially for him on the radio the other night. . . .Joe Corcoran is looking forward eagerly to the 29th of this month. He wants to celebrate--the rookie! . . .The squadron broke into the win column in the group softball league on Friday night when Bob Billmaeir of Toledo pitched a shutout while his team mates backed him up with 13 (count them) runs against the 416th EM. Our officers defeated the 348th officers 3 to 0 that same night. Wow, what rank in the 346th infield!

347

Thanks a lot to "Artie" Kunz and Mike Passinisi for the swell job they're doing repainting the day room. Nice work fellas. . . Arrividerci to Bill Hampton. He finished his missions this past week and will be heading home soon. One of the original ground men, he decided to fly the big ones and now he's done. Give our best to dear old Bahston. . . Seems there's a minor scandal about some simon-pure (?) character, one of the last Rome bunch, and some signorina who insisted on throwing her arms about him and calling him "Ahrry." The best part of the whole thing was that this signorina was one of those characters that use a broom at night for transportation; a lovely little girl. Ich, Ich "Ahrry." . . The softball season has begun already and the 347th Officers are right up with the league leaders and the 347 EMs are breathing hot and heavy on their necks. Keep it up fellas and maybe we'll have an all 347th play-off _____ season. . . Some character up at Hq. wanted to know what I meant by saying in last week's column, "Some signorina mistook S/Sgt Hastings for a cow." Look feller, ain't you ever been around?--Wasn't bad having those dames--I mean the USO girls out here the other night. What comes as a reward for being such a good little Sqd.

348

You weren't dreaming when you heard "hut-two-three" at six o'clock in the morning last week. It was just a few of the more ambitious combat boys who specialize in early rising (purely voluntary, of course). For further details, see Operations. . . Luckiest man in camp was Dave Rittenhouse who started with four bucks one evening and ended up by cleaning house in two games. But he's not much good for a touch--he's already sent most of the profits home. . . A new attraction was added to the EM club's Saturday night parties--GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS! (Yes, there were actually three of them). Even the great Wheel Creel was lured by their charms and tore himself away from the Officers bat to investigate. Walt Kottman did all right by himself too. . . In case any of you chow hounds don't know it, both clubs now serve sandwiches in the evening--free! And the mess hall has running ice water--we never had it so good! Sort of wish our softball teams could do as well though. We've had some pretty tough luck, losing games in extra inning play by one or two runs. But the tournament isn't over by any means and we still aim to be on top when it's over. Turning in some of the equipment would help the team--they're playing with old gloves.

Headquarters

The lucky boy at Bingo this week was good old (when he brings mail, @#\$%\$% when he doesn't) Frank Swinden. The \$25 War Bond prize added to the few hundred he's picked up at the crap table, will help complete the house he's furnishing. . . Welcome home to Capt Sentous--back from civilization, Pfc. Freeman who finally got tired of having nurses pampering him all the time, and to our new Chaplain who I'm sure will find the 99th a group to his liking. . . Guess most of you know by now that Special Service has a new home---almost completed. What they're still missing is some of the equipment that had been borrowed in their other office--baseball gloves and sneakers. Certainly will help the ball teams along if they had better gloves to play with. Not that they're doing badly mind you. Considering that we have so few men to pick from we've done a bit of all right and it won't surprise anyone to see the EM team take first place in this tournament. . . The EM Club Committee has nominated some men for the next officers of the club and ballots will be coming out this week. Give the matter some thought for the committee is damn important. And while we're at it, let's give the old [ones?] a vote of thanks for the great job they've done.

Chapel Chimes

HOW ARE YOU LIVING?

When Robert Louis Stevenson was dying of tuberculosis on Samoa in the Pacific ocean, one of the minor irritations of his life was a sour-visaged missionary who hovered over him like the avenging angel. One day, he sent him the cheerful note: "Mr. Stevenson," he wrote, "you have not got long to live. I would like to come and talk to you as to one in danger of dying." Stevenson wrote that in that case, he didn't want to see him, but that he would be glad to welcome him if he would talk to him "as to one who is in danger of living."

That puts a new twist on things doesn't it? In danger of living. Arent we all? There are real and great dangers of living; the danger of becoming a stuffed shirt; the danger of becoming mostly a stomach or a desire or an appetite. The danger of becoming a sort of funnel in which the chief end of man is to keep the liquor running downward.

Then there are the chief dangers of living such as: the danger of missing the biggest prize of life, that of coming into relationship with God, in sonship and obedience; the danger of destroying your own character and happiness; the danger of merely existing rather than living life.

Mark Twain's little daughter once said to him, when he was having a triumphal tour of Europe, "You'll soon know everybody except God, won't you, Papa?" She had something there! There is also the danger of living and having no real part in the struggle to make a better, finer world. That is too big a show to miss.

"How are you living?"

99TH MOVIE SCHEDULE

MONDAY 23 APRIL

"FLAME OF THE BARBARY COAST" with
JOHN WAYNE.

1830-346th, 416th, & Ord.
2000-347th, 348th, & Hq.

WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL

"NIGHT OF ADVENTURE" with
TOM CONWAY

1830-347th, 348th, & Hq.
2000-346th, 416th, & Ord.

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

"STEP LIVELY" with

GEORGE MURPHY & (hold your breath girls) FRANK SINATRA

1830-346th, 416th, & Ord.
2000-347th, 348th, & Hq.

THURSDAY 26 APRIL

"G.I. MOVIES"

1830-One showing only

FLAGELLA MOVIE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY & MONDAY 22, 23 APRIL--1400 & 1900

"Going My Way" with Bing Crosby

THURSDAY & FRIDAY 26, 27 APRIL--1400 & 1900

"Experiment Perilous" - Hedy Lamarr

TUESDAY & WED. 24, 25 APRIL--1400 & 1000

"To Have and Have Not" - Humphrey Bogart

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 28, 29 APRIL--1400 & 1900

"Eve Knew Her Apples" with Anne Netles

WEDNESDAY 25th--1900-Boxing Bouts - no picture

SATURDAY 28 APRIL--1400--Western Variety with Ken Card
Picture at 1500

Sports for Sports

Softball: Baseball, and more softball--that's the setup at the 99th these days. The Group softball team got off to a fine start by trouncing the 734th M.P. Company 15 to 2, which is a nice way to treat M.P.s. A large crowd came out to see our boys play the 301st Bomb Group and were treated to one of the best games ever played in these parts. Coming from behind, the Diamondbacks tied up the game in the sixth inning and held their own until the 8th when the game was called off on account of darkness. Some outstanding batting and fielding were contributed by Hunsburger and Curry, who certainly rate around these parts for their brilliant play. Our boys go against the 463rd tonight, and we're looking forward to a bang up game.

The Group softball league is going on in fine style with some mighty close games taking place. The 346th E.M. went on the rampage (wonder if last week's column had anything to do with it) and slaughtered the 416th E.M., 13 to 0 in the most decisive defeat of the tournament. Bader surprized everyone (but themselves) by tripping the 347th Officers 7 to 2 after they had nosed out the 348th Officers 3 to 2 in a nine inning game two days before. Ordnance won the sweetest victory of all by boating the Hq. team 9 to 1.

Sidelights: We do have to take off our hats to Ordnance (in fact get down on our knees and grovel) for winning four straight games to become sole holder of first place. Ord. was the team that everyone used to kick around in practice games. They played 8 practice games and lost all of them but the experience proved valuable for when the tournament started and the money was on the line, they came through with some sweet ball playing. The team that really is red in the face is Hq., who beat Ord. three times in practice games and then lost 8 to 1 in the tournament. SHAME!

STUFF 'N THINGS: One of Broadway's show girls met Leo Durocher and admitted the handsome diamond he wore, a present for winning the pennant for Brooklyn. The gal's boy friend turned to her, indicated her own big diamond ring, and said, "Now, Honey, show Mr. Durocher what YOU get for playing ball."

	W	L		W	L
Ord.	4	0	416 EM	2	2
Hq EM	3	1	Radar	2	2
347 Of.	3	1	416 Of.	1	3
346 EM	2	2	Hq. Of	1	3
346 Of.	2	2	348 Of.	0	4

Baseball: The Group baseball team, after two weeks of practice, came out from under the wraps and played their first practice game. If the 6 to 3 boating they handed the Foggia Eagles is any indication, it looks like we are going to have quite a team. Sunday will see the first game being played against the 734 MPs down at the 416th--SEE YOU THERE.

News From Home

KNOXVILLE, TENN: State Highway patrolmen stopped a small coupe on a local highway. Inside was a man and a woman--and 432 pints of bootleg gin. (Things are tough back there--can't even get in an evening of light drinking without somebody bothering you. Ed.)

NEW YORK: Bill Ontville, a pale lad of 16, established a world's record last year. He saw 705 movies. "Most of them," says Bill, "were lousy." (A prospect for the 99th)

SAN FRANCISCO: "Hello, short and smooth, let's rip a hip," a teen-aged bobby-soxer said to Cpl Bill Peterson shortly after his return from the Pacific. Bill looked at the girl blankly, then replied: "JToxang yassase soocic shigets!" The bobby-soxer retired in confusion. "All I said," laughed Bill, "was lots of ___ and no work--in Japanese."

SAN FRANCISCO: Sam Hallford was arraigned in a local court on a charge of beating his wife. "You can't jail me," he told the judge. "I'm going to be drafted on Tuesday." "O.K." the judge replied. "But if you're rejected, I want you to come back here so I can give you 6 months in jail. (What would you take?)

MASS: BASil Traskor is 47, jobless, divorced, and the father of 3 children. He advertised in the local newspaper for a wife, explaining that he was so busy minding his babies that he had no time to go a-wooing. Fifty women answered the ad, including grandmothers, school teachers, career girls, school girls, and one Black Bay divorcee, who said she had 2 cars and 2 country estates. Traskor has not made up his mind yet. (Are they kidding?)

During the month of May, 1945, which saw the end of the war in Europe, the Ninety-Ninth Bombardment Group did not participate in any operational flights. Flying was held to training flights and the like. Although no operational flights were made, the Group flew eight daily missions carrying supplies to Allied forces in the Udine area of northern Italy.

During the month, the Group initiated an aerial tour of targets the Group bombed in southern Europe for the ground personnel. The 1400-mile, eight-hour flight was over such targets as Bologna, Milan, Munich, Linz, and Venice.

The Group's athletic program was put into full swing during the month. Two softball leagues were organized and other activities carried on.

During the month, the following changes were made in the staff personnel of Group Headquarters: Lt Col Allen W. Schroeder, Deputy Group Commander, was replaced by Lt Col Dale L. Anderson, who was C.O. of the 416th Sqdn; Maj. Philip M. Philips, Intelligence Officer, was replaced by Capt Gregory F. Steobel; Capt Harold I. Whitlock, Chaplin, was replaced by Capt James B. Sadler; and Capt Paul H. Franklin, Jr., Operations Officer, was replaced by Capt George F. Brodie, Jr.

Presentations were held and Col W.E. Whitson presented Bronze Star Medals to the following men: Capt Kenneth V. Weidner, Maj. John A. Sarosy, Maj. Philip M. Philips, M/Sgt Roy C. Parris, Cpl Joyce L. Dale, M/Sgt George T. Love, T/Sgt Frank C. Freer, and S/Sgt Troy Ingram.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 346TH SQDN HISTORY

May 12, Maj Walter Hamberg, Jr., succeeded Maj Raymond J. Kane, Jr., as Squadron Commander. May 13, Capt Sumner W. Peterson assumed duties of Squadron Operations Officer, and on May 22, 1st Lt Louis L. Dual was assigned as Squadron Bombardier. Three Bronze Star Medals and twenty Distinguished Flying Crosses were awarded during the month.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 347TH SQDN HISTORY

Maj Paul O. Buckholtz replaced Maj Hutton as Squadron Commander on May 3, and Lt James Seacord replaced Capt Larry Stusser as Adjutant. Fourteen D.F.C.s were awarded during the month, and five Bronze Star Medals. The officers' softball team won a group tournament and the EMs were second. The War Department, through the NATOUSA, I & E Section, made a survey in the Squadron to get a cross-section of the men's opinion on various questions and conditions. Many changes were made in the enlisted personnel. The recreation program was expanded.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 348TH SQDN HISTORY

Capt S.D. Ken was made Squadron Executive Officer in addition to his duties of Squadron Adjutant, replacing Maj R.L. McMillan on May 22. Capt W.E. Scott, Operations Officer was promoted to Major on May 16. Twenty-seven D.F.C.s, two Soldier's Medals, and twelve Bronze Star Medals were awarded during the month. The Officers' and EMs' clubs observed VE day with free drinks and sandwiches. Approximately fifty enlisted men of the ground personnel returned to the States.

HIGHLIGHTS IN 416TH SQDN HISTORY

Capt William J. Brake was named Squadron Commander on May 29, replacing Lt Col Dale L. Anderson, who was designated Deputy Group Commander. Capt Merrill M. Moore was named Squadron Operations Officer; 1st Lt Frank P. Leone as Adjutant to replace Capt Rufus Sizemore, who was made Squadron Executive Officer. The physical training and I&E programs were introduced. Eight D.F.C.s and four Bronze Star Medals were awarded in the month.

II

OPERATIONS SECTION

During May, flying operations were held to training flights, including local transition; practice bombing missions; practice wing, squadron, and group formation flying; gunnery flights; and pathfinder training. Ground instructions included G-training, navigation, and bombing lectures; engineering school and C-1 instructions.

A series of aerial tours were started the later part of the month, six ships flying ground personnel over targets of the Group in northern Italy, Munich, Linz, and the Brenner Pass area.

Routine flights were made carrying personnel to rest camps in or near Naples, Rome, and Pisa. Ferrying flights were made to Gioia, as were flights carrying re-deployed personnel to replacement depots.

JUNE '45

June saw many changes in the personnel of the 99th Bombardment Group in both officers and enlisted men as the re-deployment program of high point men continued. Despite the reshuffling of the personnel, activities of the Group continued. Aerial sight-seeing tours were scheduled, rest camp quotas were filled, the school program opened and inter-squadron sports were on as usual with softball taking the spotlight in the latter.

Flying operations in June were held to routine training flights and the usual flights to rest camps and other transportation duties.

More than 400 of the personnel took part in the rubber-neck aerial tour of northern Italy, southern Germany and western Austria. It enabled men of both the air and ground echelon who contributed directly or indirectly to the missions against the enemy to see at first hand the results of these strategic bombings.

The opening guns of the school campaign were fired by the I&E Section during the month. Facts and figures of the program were presented, and a survey made of the courses of study most desired by the personnel. A unit school is to be set up on the base on the results of the survey. Applications also were received for the Army Education Study Center at Florence. Five hundred and seventy, or approximately 25 percent of the group's personnel signed up for the four-week courses offered. Most popular subjects of those offered were Business Administration, Mathematics, and Foreign Languages, in that order.

Late in the month, Special Services made a call for musicians, actors, and entertainers in hopes of producing a home-talent show and entertainment.

High-point men had their hopes of going home built up several times in the month as lists were compiled and then canceled but finally most of the men were on their way to the STATES. Many new men were assigned to the group as replacements in June.

Changes in Group Headquarters staff personnel included:

Surgeon:

Maj. William M. Shubery vice Maj Frederick Coehns

Engineering officer

Capt herbert A. Rooney, Jr. vice Capt Richard O. Marsten

Armament officer

Capt James J. Thomas vice Capt Clarence H. Rowland

II

OPERATIONS SECTION

June saw a continuation of the training schedule of the 99th Group. Gunnery, formation, local transition and pathfinder training flights were made.

June 26 saw the first of the weekly 5th Wing bombing problems with a simulated attack on the Bologna-Rome railroad bridge. (A secondary target was the Iorni marshalling yards.)

The 99th, flying in third position with 24 of its B-17s, took off at 0700 and returned to its base at 1200. An escort of fighters covered the formation of bombers against a simulated attack from other fighters. Gunners received valuable training in tracking the attackers with empty guns. The group went in over the primary target in formation of squadrons in train, taking aerial photographs to simulate dropping of bombs.

Other training included ground schools in Geo-training, C-1 instructions, navigation, engineering and bombing lectures.

The program of aerial tours for the group's personnel was continued over former targets hit by the unit. A total of forty-one B-17s were used in this operation between 1 June and 9 June, each carrying ten passengers and skeleton [sic] crews. Regular rest camp flights also were made to fields near Naples, Rome, and Pisa.

Many ships were ferried to Gicia and many re-deployed personnel were carried from points in Italy.

SQUADRON HISTORIES

HIGHLIGHTS OF 346TH SQUADRON HISTORY:

MANY changes were made in officer personnel of the squadron in June, including: Executive officer, Capt Griffith vice Maj Kusterer; Adjutant, Lt McNabb vice Capt Masters; Flight Surgeon, Capt Bonick vice Capt Hughes; Engineer, Capt Jones vice Capt Chance; Armament,, Lt Malan vice Capt Brock; Gunnery, Lt Nelson vice Capt Kirkendall; Communications, Capt Cunningham vice Capt Richmier; and Personal Equipment, Lt Goldstien vice Lt Smith.

An intensive program was begun to improve and consolidate the living area of the personnel. Eleven men were [chosen] to attend the Army University at Florence.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 347TH SQUADRON HISTORY:

Changes in personnel of the squadron in June were outstanding, a nearly 100 percent turnover being made. Principal officer changes were: Adjutant, Capt H.H. Heady vice Lt James Seacord; Engineering, Capt D.O. Griffith vice Capt W.E. Henry; Armament, Lt H.M. Powell vice Capt J.J. Sanborn; Intelligence, Lt C.D. Yankauer vice Capt H.J. Blum.

During the sight-seeing tours, one crew of the squadron ferried the commanding general of the American occupational forces at Linz, Austria to Paris, the crew remaining over night in the French capital. The training program for combat personnel was continued and practice missions and formations flown. The EM softball team led the group league at the end of the month. The I&E program was well underway and 15 men were selected to attend the Army University at Florence.

A squadron library was opened with more than 300 volumes. The squadron building program got underway with the ground being broken 25 June for the first of the enlisted men's huts. One Bronze Star medal was awarded.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 348TH SQUADRON HISTORY:

The following changes in staff personnel were made in June: Armament, Capt D.B. Tepper vice Capt Wagner; Communications, Lt P.J. Polito vice Lt R.G. Carrota; Gunnery, Lt R.K. Gilliam vice Lt C.M. French; Intelligence, Capt F.J. Montalto vice Capt K.J. Mack; Adjutant, Lt B.R. Elder vice Capt S.D. Kem; Supply, Lt N. Horochena vice Lt P. Bohenek; Personal Equipment, Lt E.S. Hodges vice F/O C.L. Marshall.

The EM Club elected new officers and held a beer party in June. Fifteen men were assigned to the Army University at Florence under the I&E program. Two Bronze Star medals were awarded in the month.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 416TH SQUADRON HISTORY:

Changes in squadron staff personnel included: Executive Officer, Maj B.C. Bowman vice Capt R.E. Sizemore; intelligence, Capt J.M. Jackson vice Lt B.A. Dieatrck; Supply, Lt M.E. Baker vice R.M. Shapiro; Adjutant, Capt H.C. Richards vice Lt Frank Leone; Surgeon, Capt P.J. Daugherty vice Capt J.F. Hattenbach.

The I&E program is well underway and 15 men have been sent to the university at Florence. Combat personnel received scheduled training. Much interest was shown in the athletic program. A building program also was started.

JULY 45

The 99th Bombardment Group (H) in July entered upon a program of expanded building, preparing for a long stay at its present base. The construction of living quarters, remodeling of group and squadron installations was well underway by the end of the month.

Group Headquarters added to its mess hall; I&E remodeled farm buildings near the line area for classrooms; and the Squadrons were erecting tuffa block living quarters for personnel and improving club and other installations.

In the 347th Squadron, the housing program called for the construction of four rows of fifteen houses each for the enlisted men and two rows of eight houses each for officers living quarters. Thirty-five of the EM houses and one of the officers' had been completed by the end of the month. The building program was going ahead at the rate of one house every six hours.

The skyline of the 348th Squadron was taking shape as the new 48-man enlisted men's barracks was completed. Officers were making an addition to their club house.

Building received a slight setback at the end of the month, especially the light type as tents and latrines, when high winds swept over Tortorella flats, leveling several headquarters and squadron installations.

Building materials have been salvaged from the bases of group[s] moving out, scavenger parties making daily trips seeking lumber, tuffa blocks and plumbing material. Many items of furniture also were acquired to make life more bearable for the personnel. Among additions to facilities at the group headquarters was a new pipeline carrying running water to the mess hall.

The roaring winds also wrecked communication lines and commercial electric lines serving the group. Rapid and efficient repairs by the communication section restored service in short order. A week before the wind storm, practically every telephone line to the squadrons from group headquarters was burnt in two when an Italian farmer set fire to his field through which the line passed. The RAF fire department put the blaze out and service was restored within a few hours.

The group medical detachment continued its malaria control program in July, giving the second DDT spraying to all installations and oiling nearby streams and ponds. A new metal roof was installed on the group dispensary.

The S-4 section started its annual inventory in the month. A showdown inspection and marking of all clothing and equipment of enlisted personnel also was accomplished in July.

A weekly news summary of events in the pacific area was begun, the briefing being given each Thursday evening before the GI movie. Public relations released 1000 hometown stories in July on the Group's assignment to the occupational air force in Europe.

During July, the I&E section of the Group made final plans for Tortorella Institute of Technology, the unit school. A survey of study plans was made and analyzed. More than 1000 textbooks and other equipment were obtained for the school.

Farm buildings and other installations near the line area were remodeled into six classrooms, a study hall and library. More will be added later.

In addition to the unit school set-up, I&E conducted a weekly orientation program and selected students for the army schools being run at Florence. Sixty-five students were sent to the University study center for a four-week course; and thirty-one to the University of Florence for a three-month course in the artistic, cultural, economic, and social aspects of Italy, past and present.

Rest camp quotas were filled in July, the group personnel enjoying the relief from the heat and dust of the base at the various army and air force recreation centers. The opening of the special Service Swiss Leave tour was very popular with the personnel. Thirty-one enlisted men were chosen from the 99th B.G. to represent the 15th AAF on the first tour.

The men of the Group were assigned to the "C-2" tour which included stops at Lugano, Lusern, Interlaken, Bern, Zurion, and Lacarno. Seven full days were spent enjoying the scenic beauty of this neutral country. Overnight stops were made at the best hotels. Only complaints were: not enough money or time. Glowing accounts of the trip were related by the returnees.

Group Special Services organized a group band under the direction of Lt Kinard in July. Two men were sent to the Central Music School in Rome by the section.

Entertainment for the month included a U.S.O. show at the open air theater and sixteen movies. Approximately 600 attended each movie.

Much new athletic equipment was obtained and distributed to the squadrons. The Group hard and softball leagues were in full swing and PT programs were being carried out in all squadrons and headquarters. One officer and one enlisted man were assigned to attend the PT school at Rome.

A new supply of games (bingo, cards, etc.) were distributed to the various clubs of the group. A handicraft shop also was opened where the personnel may participate in belt weaving, clay modeling, airplane modeling and metal working.

In the field of sports, the 347th Squadron's Wiffle Birds won the Group enlisted men's softball tournament while the 416th Squadron's Hubbas copped the officers' division in the second tournament of the season. A third tournament is now underway. Five men of the 99th participated in the Allied track and field meet at Bari the first of the month. The Wiffle Birds were runners-up in the 5th Wing softball tournament.

A lively turnover in personnel continued in July as more men were re-deployed, many men going over the 85 point mark as belated battle-star credit was given. Group strength as of July, 1945, was 345 officers and 1615 enlisted men. As of 31 July, 1945, there were 370 officers and 1679 enlisted personnel. This was a gain of 89 in the month.

Principal changes in staff officer personnel in July included:

Lt Col Dale Anderson, deputy group commander, returned to the US on TDY to attend the Command and Staff School at Ft Leavenworth, Kan.

Capt Edward A. Schmuck was appointed Group intelligence officer vice Capt Ernest F. Baldwin, Jr., who returned to the States. Lt R. Stringfield was assigned as Group photo-interpreter officer.

In the 348th Squadron, 1st Lt Samuel C. Meele became intelligence officer vice Capt F.J. Montalto and Capt Robert W. Schuets became operations officer vice Maj William E. Scott. In the 416th Squadron, Capt Hamilton Hass was assigned as intelligence officer vice Capt J.W. Jackson. In the 346th Squadron, 1st Lt Guy Otwell was appointed intelligence officer vice Capt David W. Woodard.

OPERATIONS

Operations in July of the 99th Bombardment Group (H) consisted of routine training flights and transportation flights, carrying personnel to rest camps and for change of stations and the movement of supplies and ferrying of ships to other fields.

A total of 685 daylight take-offs were made in July and 21 night take-offs. A day-by-day report of flights follows:

	A/C off Training	A/C off Transport
1 July	1	2
2 "	7	21
4 "	1	14
5 "	29	19
6 "	15	6
7 "	11	13
8 "	1	6
9 "	19	15
10 "	11	22
11 "	32	4

12 "	14	5
13 "	19	15
14 "	12	29
15 "	--	18
16 "	27	4
17 "	25	10
18 "	12	24
19 "	25	7
20 "	12	13
21 "	11	3
22 "	1	8
23 "	24	14
24 "	9	10
25 "	13	14
26 "	16	7
27 "	12	12
28 "	8	20
29 "	--	5
30 "	11	6
31 "	9	4

HERE TIS

Vol 3, No. 3

1 July 45

Published Weekly by the Special Service and I&E Sections, 99th Bomb Group (H)LIBRARY WEEK

An attempt is being made to establish a good library system in each squadron. The Council Books--excellent and varied reading matter--are coming in regularly but are often left unused in offices and living quarters. This week let's concentrate on a house-cleaning project in so far as books are concerned. Take them to the S-2 office so that the I&E Officer can make them available to everybody in an organized manner. You'll find more and better books available this way than you will by "hoarding" them in your tent. Hq personnel bring yours to the Special Service Office.

"BRAIN TRUST" FOR SURE THIS WEEK

The I&E Section let Special Service steal the show last Thursday and postponed its scheduled "Brain Trust" so that men could swoon from "The Voice." There shouldn't be any competition this week--so don't fail to be in the Group Theater at 7:30 Thursday opening, 5 July, for the interesting and informative session with some Foggia area quiz kids. There will be a panel of five members, most of whom you have heard over the radio, including an ARC lovely and Lt Obrentz, 346th.--Just before the G.I. Movies--Don't Forget.

LEAGUE WINNERS

It ain't positive, but the Whiffle Birds in the EM Softball league have virtually sowed up the pennant while the mighty Hubbas from the 416th have definitely stolen the crown in the Officers' race. For details, turn to the "Sports Page."

HOW WOULD YOU SELECT A STUDENT
TO ATTEND THE UNIVERSITY AT FLORENCE?

On Saturday past, 62 men of the 99th got off to the first term of the Army Education Study Center at Florence. Our quota was the largest in the Wing--given out on the basis of the number of applicants from each Group. There was only a short time (a matter of less than an hour) in which to select the 62 men from the over 600 applicants. Naturally, careful consideration could not be given everybody. Each unit seemed to have used a different method of selecting--questioned by many who did not go, and also questioned by those of use who made the selection.

It is imperative that we establish some fair method of selecting students for the Florence school--and set up a priority roster so that when a quota is given we can submit the names without question from those with a low priority rating--or from section heads. How to select the deserving men in order of their merit is by no means an easy assignment.

Should a man with two or three years of college take precedence over high school graduates or undergraduates who need only a subject or two to complete their requirements for diplomas? Should an applicant who has been doing correspondence work have a higher priority than one who has never enrolled in a USAFI course? Should time overseas be a deciding factor? Should a man go regardless of his job, or should we send only those who we can spare? The important considerations should be sincerity of purpose, qualifications that will ensure a student's ability to avail himself of the opportunities at the school, and general worthiness. These are not easy things to determine and rate on a priority scale.

You Can Help Select

During this present week, the I&E officers and enlisted men in the Group are going to meet and thrash out this problem. Some basis for selection will be determined, subject to the approval of the Group Commander. On that basis, then, each man will be reconsidered and given a priority rating. Those liable to be chosen for the next quota will [be told a week or two] ahead of time. With this system, their section heads should be prepared to [replace them] for the term. It will not be an easy job--so if you have ideas on the [subject by all means] make them known. Pencil a note by Thursday to the Group I&E Office and [give it to your] mail man--or see your Sq. officer. DON'T JUST SIT [and

_____] For the sake of fairness we need to consider every angle now. A basis for a priority rating will be determined this week. Once determined, it probably [will not change]. Speak now or expect no sympathy if it rubs you the wrong way later on.

FRAGS

346th

Nope, we don't have an alibi for having lost the Group softball league, it was just the breaks, and the other guys were there to grab them when they came. Our very fine friend, 1st Sgt Grassl of the 347th, has profited greatly by the losses of the Rattlers, and O'Toole. The boys from the 347th might just as well have taken poor O'Toole's pocketbook while they were at it. Old man Miller made a fortune and he just saw the end of the last game. Some people have all the luck! . . . Everything is going fine at the 346th Repple Depple, the only squawk from the boys is the long chow line, and, Brother, that line goes almost out to Manfredonia. Some of the boys have a good system. They take their mess kits down to the beach, and when they have finished bathing, they just grab the skillet and jump into the chow line. . . . Can you beat the nerve of some people? I heard a guy, just this morning, griping about the fresh eggs. He said @#%\$, I'm getting sick of eggs." That big cloud of dust in the combat area the other night was not a cyclone, as most fellows thought--just a little fracas between the men in our outfit--Farnsworth and Toth. With boxing gloves, of course. . . . It's time to go to work now (and don't laugh, Zwerdling), so maybe I'll be back next week with more poop. I hope not. If I am, you can find me at 42nd St., Co. A, 346th Repple Depple. Come on replacement! Or Section Eight! or Something--make like a bullet and get me out of this place!!!!Huh? Zwerdling? Hell, leave him here, he's happy in the service!

347th

Upon returning from Venice, I expected to find that all the "old gang" had left--instead, I walked into a building program that leaves but little doubt (if any) that at least part of the 99th will have the opportunity (or misfortune) to wade through another siege of Italian mud. To quote a popular comic strip "Confoosin' by not amoozin." Who would have thought so many new men would still be coming in? Quite recently, about 15 had to use the annex of the Mess hall for a dormitory. Why? We had the tents but somebody turned in all the tent stakes to the Quartermaster! Why is it that every time our ball team loses a game (which isn't so very often) Zwerdling always _____ the rest is illegible.

348th

Just to prove to you that his country (Editor's error; don't blame Mac) can produce something besides windy, dusty days, here's a quote from the Jan. 28 issue of "HERE 'TIS"--"Late flood news: If the rains don't stop before the end of the month, according to reliable reports, supplies are to be [delivered?] to the 348th by air. This system is already being used successfully by the 416th.: Wonderful country, Italy!! There's always so much to look forward to! . . . Ask Steffensmeier what went on at the Lymie camp one night last week between 1130 and 0230. And don't let him forget to tell you about Joines' now handmade shorts. . . The building boom is on again. Tufa block piles are springing up all over the area--makes us think of the spring of '44. This time, the barracks rumor is no rumor, so we hear. . . The first batch of schoolboys packed up and got off to a good start last week, with an 0430 H-hour. By now, they should be cramming it in up there in Florence. There's a lot of interest in the new university, and it's a darn good opportunity to learn something now or do some brushing up.

416th

Oh Frankie!!! - then that gorgeous hunk of stuff called Jinx--Say, isn't this Foggia getting quite social??? However, I don't think it was necessary for Benjamin to get to the Flagella in the A.M. . . True, all the boys are quite hungry for American _____! We could give three loud "_____" to our officers' team--the boys won the championship--but where the heck did they get the name _____??? Our two Jimmies in the Orderly Room--putting out an S.O.S. for that _____ stuff that goes down so smoooooth!!! Make it a point to be at the E.M. Bar when Mustaugh, Greene and _____ get the "office" that they

are leaving for the New Country. _____ ILLEGIBLE _____ Sooooo many new faces around here how about each joker wearing a little card with his name on--let's get to know each other. _____ ILLEGIBLE

HQ: ILLEGIBLE

Chapel Chimes

FINDING GOD IN HELL

The Psalms record this striking phrase, "Though I make my bed in hell, behold thou art there" (Paul 139:8). That is a striking line. If millions of people are to find God today, it is in hell that they must find him, for that is where they are, in the hell created by war. But how can a man find God in hell, in the environment of evil, where nearly everything seems to deny him?

The answer is that men have found God in the most desperately evil and unpromising places and conditions. Jesus did. He evidently felt on the cross a momentary sense of loneliness, as shown in his words, "My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" But shortly after he found God, even on the cross, for he said, "Into thy hands I commit my spirit."

An men are finding God amid the evil, the slaughter and the death of this war.

We find him whenever we have the conviction of our souls to God. No evil situation can change that. A soldier in the First World War narrowly missed being hit by a bullet which took off his tin hat. A buddy thought to make a joke of it, "But suppose your head, and not your hat, had been shot off. What would you have done then?" Quickly, the soldier answered, "I'd have said, 'Good morning, God.'" He had the idea!

We may find God in hell, in this war, in that we find his judgment on sin, which has caused this war. War is a vivid illustration of that simple but severe truth, "whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." It is true of nations as well. Sow greed, hatred, aggression, indifference to justice, and the harvest will be war, as it always has been.

We find God in hell, in the hell of this war, in the noble sacrificial acts which war has brought forth. These marks of a love that seeks not is own, and does not hesitate to risk and to give its life as a ransom for others, are sparks of the divine. God and the divine traits of love and heroism and unselfishness are not absent from the ranks of the armed forces, and mean can find God in hell in them.

Men find God in the dark and grim locale of war by enlisting in his cause, the large cause of helping him bring in his kingdom of righteousness.

If you feel, as men may well feel, that the place you are in resembles hell, then remember that "Though I make my bed in hell," God is there and you can find him.

Church Schedule for 1 July thru 8th

CATHOLIC: Weekday Mass: 6:45

Am, Chaplain Rice, Hq Chapel

Confession before Mass.

Sunday: 8:00 & 10:30

PROTESTANT: Day Room Devotionals

347th - 8:00

Ord. - 8:45

348th - 9:30

416th - 10:15

346th - 11:00

Briefing Room: 7:00 PM

JEWISH: Chapel Tent: 1900, 3rd

FLAGELLA MOVIE SCHEDULE

MON/TUES, 2, 3rd July - "THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU" - Dennis Morgan
2 and 7 PM

WED/THURS, 4, 5th July - "A NIGHT TO REMEMBER" - Loretta Young, Brian Aherne
2 and 7 PM

FRI/SAT, 6, 7th July - "SUNDAY DINNER FOR A SOLDIER" - Ann Baxter, John Hodiak
2 and 7 PM

SUN, 8th July - "BUFFALO BILL" - Joel McCrea, Maria O'Hern
2 and 7 PM

99TH BOMB GROUP MOVIE SCHEDULE

MONDAY, 2 July

"IT'S A PLEASURE" (Technicolor)

Sonja Henie, Michael O'Shea

1900 - 347th, 348th, & Hq.

2045 - 346th, 416th & Ord.

THURSDAY, 5 July

G.I. MOVIES: 2030: One Showing

SATURDAY, 7 July

"FRISCO SAL"

Suzanne Foster, Turhan Bey

1900 - 347th, 348th, & Hq.

2045 - 346th, 416th, & Ord.

WEDNESDAY, 4 July

"SAN DIEGO, I LOVE YOU:

Louise Albritton, John Hall

1900 - 346th, 416th, & Ord.

2045 - 347th, 348th, & Hq.

Sports for Sports

Softball: Despite four games to be made up in the EM League, it looks as though the Whiffle Birds have copped top honors. However, there is a way that they could lose (Hark ye Rattlers in the 346th). De Boids have a game yet to make up with the G.I.-ravaged-but-nevery-say-die Office Boys. If the pencil pushers can weight enough salt on the tail of the W.B.s to eek out a win--Yes, you're right--they will have tied with the Rattlers for first place. And you know what a playoff like that means--what with all the dinaro around just after pay-day and poker. The Whiffle Birds can be beat--if you don't believe it ask the last-place Fubars who raked them over the coals this week--4 to 0.

Final standings will be published next week--after Zwerdling gets back from his goofing-off "deal" at the Bari Track Meet. Other scores for the week were: Electrons 11-office Boys 3; Rattlers 6-Pelicans 1; Barracks 5-Ordnance 3. Games to be made up are: Flak Catchers vs Short Circuits; and the Office Boys vs Pelicans, Whiffle Birds, and Barracks.

There will be another tournament: Details next week.

Hubba! Hubba! Hubba!! Hail the mighty 416th! Even if the War Wearies win the two games still to made up, they cannot oust the first-place Hubbas. They clinched the tourney this week by trouncing the War Wearies decisively--9 to 1. The only other game played was a close and hard fought (almost literally) game between the Wheels and Hamburg Homs. The latter won 7 to 6.

ENLISTED MEN'S LEAGUE			OFFICERS' LEAGUE		
W	L		W	L	
Whiffle Birds	7	1	Barracks	3	5
Rattlers	7	2	Short Circ.	3	5
Electrons	6	3	Ordnance	3	6
Flak Catchers	4	3	Office Boys	2	4
Pelicans	3	5	Fubars	2	7
			Hubbas	8	1
			War Weary	6	2
			Hamburg H	6	3
			Eagles	3	4
			Wheels	3	6
			Scrubs	0	10

Baseball: O'Toole of the 346th issues a challenge to all baseball teams. If you can organize a team, give the 346th a ring--and some competition. The Ord. Section will probably call first, for they have a team in the process of organization. There is baseball equipment. If there are any questions, call the Spec. Serv. Office.

Track Meet: Right now in Bari we have five men participating in the Allied Track and Field Meet for the 99th. I/Sgt Deimer, 346th, shot put; Pfc Catalano, 346th, 100 yd dash; Pfc Heller, 346th, high hurdles; Pfc Zwerdling, Hq., shot put; Pfc Mills, 347th, broad jump. Let's wish 'em luck.

LAW OFFICES

**O'TOOLE, JOHNSON, KNOWLTON,
ROLF, GRAFTON & EKLUND**

175 WEST APPLE AT FIRST, P.O. BOX 786
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN 49443-0786
616/722-1621

December 4, 1987

Mr. Victor "Fab" Fabiniak
2310 E. Liberty
Vermilion, OH 44089

Dear Mr. Fabiniak:

Your inquiry with regard to J. S. "Jerry" Knowlton was forwarded to my mother in Florida.

My father died several years ago. He lived a happy, productive, useful life following his release from POW camp.

I am sending to you a typed copy of the POW camp notes that my father kept on toilet paper. They may be of some interest to your group. I notice that your name is listed along with others on the last page.

Sincerely yours,


Michael M. Knowlton

PAUL T. SORENSEN, 1966
JOSEPH T. RILEY, 1975
EDWARD C. FARMER, SR., 1975
RAYMOND J. ENGLE, 1982

ROBERT D. EKLUND
EDWARD A. GRAFTON
G. THOMAS JOHNSON
GEORGE W. JOHNSON
MICHAEL M. KNOWLTON
THOMAS J. O'TOOLE
FOSTER D. POTTER
MICHAEL L. ROLF

STEVEN J. BAKER
CHRISTOPHER L. KELLY
JOHN C. SCHRIER

OF COUNSEL
CYRUS M. POPPEN
HAROLD M. STREET

Tuesday, February 27

Shot down Augsburgs - 1:30 p.m. Captured--Gerhinger--Moser--Kogut--Hunter--Jones--Krulock. In truck to Luftwaffe 262 field. Interrogated and searched. Nite in jail.

Wednesday, February 28

Up at four a.m. to R.R. Station. Long wait. Rode all day. Noon at Menningen. rode all nite to German U.S.O. at 3 a.m. March 1 for barley and coffee. Met Russians.

Thursday, March 1

Slept 2 hours in sheep manure box care--on train again--noon--went new ULM. rode on train until 10 p.m. to Stuttgart. Suppose to eat but didn't stop. Arrived next a.m. at H__berg. New heid in a.m. Walked to military college. Stayed there all day. Sweat out big air raid. Boarded train in afternoon. Rode all nite.

Friday, March 2

Arrive Frankfurt 3 a.m. Went to hole under RR station. Left at 4 a.m. Received meat and bread--first meal. No cigs. Took trolley to Oberusel. Sweat Box, more search, more questions--cold, solitary confinement, poor food.

Saturday, March 3

More questions. Pulled out for shipment. Met Moser, Bill Jones, Robie on ahead of us. Also met Grant McLaughlin and stayed in collection area all Saturday nite and Sunday. cold. No food. First cigs from bull durham.

Sunday, March 4

Left Oberkusel in rain to Frank to Wetzlar and Dulag. Sweat out, strafing and bombing.

Monday, March 5

Dulag luftat 2 a.m. Stayed in cold room until 8 a.m. Then shower, Red Cross cigs and first meal. Met Bill, etc. again.

Wednesday, March 14

Left Dulag for Neuremberg. Marched to New Weil. Stayed in box car until Friday a.m. really sweat B-26 bombing formations and fighters. POW on cars, over 400 men in all. Major Campbell in charge. Had Red Cross parcels. Ate well. Under may passing through Frankfurt, Wurzburg and Schweinfurt. Arrived camp Sunday, March 18.

Notes on Neuremberg Camp

Communal mess. No bombing. Made knives. Slept on floor in barracks. Food not too good. Roll calls. Whole crew in camp except Reigert. Influx of POW from Hammersberg and their study of freedom and re-capture. Stayed at Neuremberg until Wednesday, April 4th. Easter Sunday Mass.

Wednesday, April 4

Left at 2 p.m. Dive bombed and stopped at Feust. 3 men killed. 3 wounded. All damned scared. Cal Goode in charge. Bedded down in woods about 7 p.m. Good camp. Good meal from Red Cross parcel. Second alert.

Thursday, April 5

Breakfast 5 a.m. On road at 8 a.m. At noon saw bombing of Neuremberg. Rumored it fell shortly afterward. Marched until 9 p.m. Sweat out chow line at Newmarket until 12 midnite. Heavy rain and cold. Left Newmarket at 2 a.m. in rain. Marched all nite in rain. Averaged total of 28-32 km from start to stop at Pollen.

Friday, April 6

Short 4 hour halt in wet woods. Stopped at 6 a.m. Ate big meal. Just made bed and had to move on. Walked with wet heavy packs north 15 miles to Bukngries. Got another Red Cross parcel for two of us. More rain. Got slice of bread. Slept in Catholic church 150 men crowded. Cold and hard.

Saturday, April 7

Walked 24 kno to this castle. Bedded down in barn at 11 p.m. Very long wait. Very tired and weary.

Sunday, April 8

36 hour layover. Beautiful day. Good food. Dried our clothes, washed sox. Should clean up. Made butter and golden syrup. Slept snow plow.

Monday, April 9

Covered 22 km to Neustadt at Daneau River. Saw road block and pillboxes in construction. Bridged mine bedded down in barn at small town 2 kno beyond Neustadt. Both Bill and I very tired. Bill's ankle getting bad and my right arch about shot. Ate a meal of fried spuds, steak, cocoa, bread and jam.

Tuesday, April 10

Breakfast at 7 a.m. Coffee, bacon, bread, oatmeal and raisins. We dropped out to join sick list. Started these notes. Scotty Snedean joined us. Stayed in Grebbenflaten all day and nite.

Wednesday, April

Got G.I.s and cramps. Ruff nite. Loaded on ox carts. Received French parcel. P--strafed train 11 a.m. Mulhausen. 2 p.m. left Mulhausen. 3 p.m. arrived Siegenburg. 5 p.m. stayed at small farm outside of Siegenburg. Beautiful, rolling well cared for land. Siegenburg a big _____.

High Spots at Dulag

Jolly stark. bombings. Nite fighters. Meal and cigs. Fire in Bill's room. 2nd shower. Met Max Little and Paul Klimko. Walks on perimeter. Rain and cold. Floyd Nispers. Germans at Bill Call. Father McGowan. First letters home. Also telegram. Bombing of Nitzlar. Left Reigert at Dulag. Strafing attack by P-47 on way to New Wail. Brewing center. Several large breweries. As a result whole countryside raises hops. Hops require a high, specially constructed trellis--wonder why so many. Churches have Moslem influence in architecture? young boys wear topcoats, Bavarian leather short pants. Everyone works farms. Girls healthy and husky. Houses neat as a pin. All remove shoes before entering homes. Road blocks and slit trenches. All dong road. 2 p.m. heavy bombing all around us. We guess it to be front line support. Russians supposed to have cut Wiem-Muinich autoban. Fighting in Hanover and Bremen. Very little news. Reports that army and party are splitting. Our slap-happy guard gets ready to shoot us if we don't get off wagon. For supper bacon and eggs, fried potatoes, cocoa, fresh dates. To bed at dark. Stomach better. Bill predicted end of war today.

Thursday, April 12

Up at 6:30 a.m. Breakfast of fried dog biscuits and potatoes and meat and tea. Raining again. Feeling better. Learned we are to stay here remainder of day. 3 p.m. examined by medics. We are to continue by ox carts. Told to move to another barn. Walked to next town to learn we were to sleep in same place as before. Stomach very upset. Ate cereal for supper. Cooked macaroni and meat for Bill. Bedded down in same place. No trades for eggs, etc. Rumor spearheads are 26 km NW at lngalstadt. Heard artillery fire but not very heavy. In bed at 9 p.m.

Friday, April 13

Up at 7 a.m. Rain again. Breakfast of cereal and dog bisquits. Very good. Good wash with hot water. Will shave later today. Going out now to trade for eggs. Still have G.I.s. Showered and washed underwear. Supper of macaroni and salmon and tea. in bed at 5 p.m. Called 14 men out of barn to go to next camp by truck about 11 p.m. Stomach better. G.I.s better. No trade. Prices too high.

Saturday, April 14

Up at 7 a.m. Breakfast of oatmeal and German black bread and coffee. Lunch of fresh meat and bread and tea. Supper navy beans and spam and cocoa. Roll call at 10 a.m. Told we'd be here until Monday. Bread and potato ration. Took complete bath in pail. Feeling better. P-61 shot and dive bombed a few miles north of here. Washed underwear and socks. No news of war. Learned Franklin Roosevelt had died. House next door seems to hold about six females. All Hungarians. Will trade but prices are very high. No rain. Beautiful sunset. Had strange feeling something big would happen today but so far no go. 47th day

POW. Front must not be very close or we would be moving. Smoking French cigs, taste like cigars. Called troupe 7. Every fellow here has a real horror story to tell. Wish I could list all of them. Now nearly 7:30 p.m. and almost time to roll in. Have food enough for a week if necessary.

Sunday, April 15

Up at 7 a.m. Name of this town is Neudermehstaldt. Mostly Hungarians. Nearly all Catholics. Many shrines to Mary. Mass and communion at 7:15. Beautiful old church. Stations run in reverse order. A German officer to communion. There are 908 of us in this town. 12 P-38s overhead at 11 a.m. Breakfast of cereal and toast. Lunch made spam, potatoes. Noticed quite a few Hungarian S.S. storm troops around all heavily armed. Each had individual tank buster. Wonder what it means. Artillery fire seems heavier today nearby all to south and west. 48th day down.

Monday, April 16

49th day a POW. 6th day at this place. Today they have moved 60 of the more sick and lame by truck about 20 km south of here. Told me may move us but no one knows for sure. Today has been a lazy sunshiny day. Breakfast of oatmeal and toast and coffee and bread pudding at 10 a.m. Lunch of pea soup. Supper macaroni and meat--cake and cocoa. Many heavy bombers overhead at 3 p.m. Hit targets NE and SW. We believe NE target 210s heading for our squadrons. Wonder if they got any. Trading has been better today. 1/4 cake G.I. soap for 3/4 swan and 1/4 coffee can cocoa. Bill also got some _____ potatoes for 2 cigs. 7 p.m. Latest news. We are due to leave here at 7:30 a.m. and so to bed at 9 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17

50th day. Up at 6 a.m. Best breakfast yet. Hash brown potatoes, bacon and eggs, toast, jam and coffee. On the move 1 km at 8 a.m. Received a french or Belgian parcel. Very good. Cake, cookies, honey butter, candy, oatmeal, meat, peas, meal, biscuits, cigarettes and tea. Also 1/5 loaf of German bread. Stopped until 11 a.m. due to, go 11 km and receive more food and _____ a few dogs. Today is grand, warm sunshine. Stomach and feet are better. What we need now is a cart. No one seems to be in a hurry, even the Jerries. My opinion is that we are on the road until the end of the war. Pray God it comes soon. Left our farm area at 11 a.m. and what a rate race. We covered 12-14 km in 3 hours. Plenty of hills, plenty hot. It knocked the hell out of us. By 3 p.m. we arrived at _____ having gone thru Taumannsdorf and Hinterlan. Both of us very weary. Farm here is very crowded and disorganized. Our group leader is John Dunn, 1st American captured in April, 1942. A Navy pilot. Has 17 escapes to his credit. Feet are bad! Both of us! Had a chat with a tommy who has been here five years. Been at Sagan and Hamilburg. Has some real stories to tell. Also met a navigator shot down at Sweinfurth. Dearly wish I could tabulate all those tales. In to bed early. Straw very thin. Boards got pretty hard. But it was o.k. during nite. Plenty of aircraft overhead. 1/5 loaf of bread per each.

Wednesday, April 18

Up at 7:30 a.m. oatmeal for breakfast. News? Russians have captured linz, and are making big drive down Daniber Valley. Americans at Leipzieg. There is a very big kiln at this farm. Must be fertile. Guess we are not due to move today. We are now 23 km from Meusburg. Their _____ broken so they say. Also they have 91000 POWs there. Secured double bread ration 277 of loaf per man. Very large formations of heavies overhead. All Germans seem to have picked up expression Huba Huba. Sounds funny to hear them use it. No moving on today. Bill and I are now listed to ride because of our feet. Also received 1/4 parcel per man. Cigs holding out fine. So is food. Very pleasant warm day countryside is beautiful.

Thursday, April 19

Aircraft overhead during nite. Feel better if they stay way. 52nd day a P.O.W. Up at 7:00 a.m. or earlier. Oatmeal again. Everyone but 169 now scheduled to ride have left. We are here for rest of day at least. Beatty Sneddon has gone on. Bill mentioned and I agreed with him that Jones actually seemed pleased Shields is missing. Thoughts of home are predominant. We are both so weary of this war shouldn't complain when so many have been P.O.W. so much longer than we. News tonite best yet. Goebbles on road says trust in him and in God and they will fight to last German. Artillery fire this a.m. was sparkled

of tank only 15 km away. Britakening has been taken. Got our first parcel there after all nite walk. Front is only about 30 miles away to north. Guards say they will not fight and are now hunting civilian clothes.

Friday, April 20

Adolph Hitler's birthday. A beautiful day. Many medium A-26 overhead at 10:00 a.m. Heavies at noon. Hitting targets a short way north and east and south. 1/4 loaf bread issue. We are both gaining weight _____ many German soldiers who look like front line troops on the road--with equipment --seem to be retreating. Timing here it is officially summer. have still to see a Robin. Cherry trees in bloom. County side really lovely. Word has it we move at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow. Getting a full parcel a piece now. British. We now have enough food for at least 10 days and so to bed.

Saturday, April 21

We are due to move out 9:00 a.m. so are up early. A good show by P-47 not far away. Bags on wagon and so we go to Pffefferhausen 8 1/2 km away. Ate a can of pork and potatoes for lunch and then I had a real stomach ache. Went to bed. Bill brought a real cup of cocoa. DAmned good. Stayed in bed until next a.m.

Sunday, April 22

55 day a Kgf. 19th day on the road. Feel much better today. It must be this German bread. On the road at 9:00 a.m. Thru Pffefferhausen to Gammotodorf. Halt 2 hours and then on to Moosburg. Again our bags on the wagon. We walked. Today is cold. Rain and a driving wind. Hours wait at Moosburg gate. Irony--Pansies in a Besan camp. We sleep on a cement floor. Crowded. We are glad to be inside.

Monday, April 23

Floor was hard but it was warm and we slept. Had shower this a.m. left us weak as kittens. Moved into bks. Crowded One parcel for six men _____ day which is OK. Six E.M. in bks all the rest officers. Bad stomach again today. Wonder what [causes] it? Bill gave me his mattress. War news is good. We are on 30 minute alert to leave here. Russians in Berlin!

Tuesday, April 24

Feeling better. Borrowed Smokey Joe to cook breakfast. Rumor says we are moving to Salsburg--about 120 km away. Must get ready to move. Washed socks this a.m. Wonderful news report tonite. Allies 40 E and 40 miles W. Germans have agreed not to move us. Everyone feels liberation is in matter of just a few days. Stomach fine today. American cigs camels. Wow. Met Moser and McLaughlin today. They are in next bks. Good to see them. Bill and I agreed again today that our greatest concern is still our families. Their fears and worries about us. Our greatest desire is to get word to them. Lots of entertainment in bks tonite.

Wednesday, April 25

Conf opens in San Francisco today. Wonder what results will be. Sun is out but wind is short. Heavy frost last nite. Much artillery fire and flak & movement of motorized units last nite. Wonder if gerries are retreating to defend Munich? B-24s overhead at 11:00 a.m. Target Reglusburg? My guess is yes. Large formations of A-20s and A-26 overhead going East and South. We received a Canadian parcel today. Very good! 10 Meigs very low over camp heading West, carrying personal bunks. Hudge Badge--trading in EM area. Ours Jones--Robber and Grantz. All well. Ball games in camp. Full baseball uniforms. The Shisen truck painted white with red cross. Tall, skinny bald head Englishmen smoking a long pipe and wearing shorts and looking cold as hell. Scotchmen [sic] in kilts. And so to bed. Bread ration 1/2 loaf per man!

Thursday, April 26

59th day a Krieze. A warm fine day. News very good. Had [idea] to make a lamp out of a Smokey Joe. Chrome plated and all! Had a real "Bash" by moonlite. A full can of Bordens milk and a can of English crackers. Berlin being laid to waste.

Friday, April 27

2 months--60 days. Camp taken over by _____ allied officers at 1500 today. _____ ours continued to be very good. [Recon] planes overhead. artillery fire close. Capt Hart left yesterday. Announcement at appelle today said he was given 21 days solitary confinement and to be returned to state in irons to face court martial.

Saturday, April 28

A cold rainy day. Cooking done inside on Smokey Joes. Fischer's hand pretty bad. Smoke in bldg is heavy. News good. 1200 _____ says Banana has capitulated. Two tank men captured 2 days ago S.E. of us. Augsburg has fallen. So also Bremen. Bill and I receive our second parcel since arriving here at Moosburg. Wonder if I'll be right--me said April 29 was the day of liberation. Even after liberation I believe well be here a week or more. 1800--Announcement. On Monday each man will receive one parcel to last him one week. It is now 8:00 p.m. We are going to bash with our second can of cocoa. Most of our thoughts these days are of food--food--food! Special dishes I'd like--a plate of fudge--chocolate cake--a quart of milk--a dill pickle--pie--cake--jam--candy. We are all hungry for sweets! I wish I had sufficient optimism to permit me to write a letter to my darlings. I'd like so much to do it but as long as I am in Germany I feel anything can still happen anytime. Rumor has it there are nearly 100,000 of us here--but that we can question. He evacuated in 5 days. I wonder.

Sunday, April 29

1200 noon. What a day! Today really seems to be the DAY. 8:00 a.m. smoke to N.W. 8:30 small arms fire indistance. 1000 fighting all around us. Heavy and light artillery. One man in our bks shot in leg, probably by a guard. Piper cubs overhead. All of us ordered into bks. Special order keeping us here. Special order from S.A.C.--about evacuation. 5000 of us will go out each day to be flown to Southern France and be on our way home 5 days after leaving here. Hit the bks floor a half dozen times. S.A.C. in truck with our troops SS division in Moosburg holding our 1/2 mile away. We a full infantry and cook and artillery division storming Moosburg. 1200 First Sherman tank at our gate. When we can leave bks we can be sure Moosburg has fallen. In the meantime we really sweat it out! No church today and I am really sorry about it! 1240 _____ colours are raised over the camp! No goons at morning roll call! 2:00 p.m. a Sherman tank came thru the camp. Tank fire continues. Day is cloudy, wind cold and cutting.

Monday, April 30

News correspondents in camp. Handed in my name to INS hoping it will be in local papers. Snow! Heavy artillery fire from behind camp. Many yanks in camp. Even four U.S.O. girls. White women! Lowell Newma famous news reporter here special news on our evacuation! Gen Eisenhower has sent special officers here. Will be by air 3 to 7 days before we start. 5 to 7 days in Southern France and then on our way. Will move from here as soon as air strip is constructed. A radio in next bks--jazz and latest news! We are assured of enough to eat! A complete new issue of clothes in France. Misc--Ribbons we are entitled to wear, wings. E.I.O. good conduct, air medal--Pres Citation--2 battle stars. I am also being put in for D.F.C. and Purple Heart so also Bill. Get 4 D bars in box today. My how good.

Tuesday, May 1

Cal Jones announced this a.m. we are no longer P.O.W.s but U.S. Soldiers! WOW! Free men. Very heavy artillery fire north of camp at 4 a.m. Whole bks shock. News is good! Munich has fallen. Snowing and cold. Shaved and shined. Wish I could have a hot shower. Russians hold May Day Parade in camp. Patton and General Lee visit camp. Bill and I [move to] tent. First white bread! Told we leave Saturday nite by plane.

Wednesday, May 2

Snow and rain and cold all morning. Slightly warmer in afternoon. All of us register for trip home. Receive ration of rice. Wonderful. Everyone is living on edge. Latest story which we'd like to believe is that we'll be home 14 days after leaving here. Groutz, Jones, etc., are scheduled to leave before us. Met Valray Bleech S/Sgt, 1810 Miles Ave KA 30. We hope to go home together. Latest report--We are being flown to England. G.I. trucks all over place. Germans being searched by our soldiers. A dash of their own treatment. They don't like it much.

Thursday, May 3

Cold in morning, still no real news about moving. We are all pretty anxious. Clear at noon. Bill, Moser and I went to Moosberg in afternoon. Houses all have white flags. Austrians docile, Russians and Limeys going wild. Some fellows getting so real souvenirs. In to bed early. Our coldest nite.

Friday, May 4

Clear and cold. Still no news of moving. Bill and Crower go to town bring back 5 truck parcels. Good thing we needed them. Cake with choc frosting. Cal Goode says things are all screwed up. He leaves for SHAEF and says he'll get us out of here.

Saturday, May 5

Another cold dreary day. How the wind blows. Wonder if the tent will stand. Guard house gives down. Not a stick of wood left. Bill took off. Got 2 [chickens] and a wrist watch and 8 _____ . Big meal of rice pudding.

Sunday, May 6

Nice day! No chance to go to church. No chance to get out of camp. All passes stopped. 2 generals and 2 representatives inspect camp. Cal Goode lays cards on table. Chicken for dinner. Meat pie for supper. Big news! 10:00 p.m. Cal Goode announces 17,000 P.O.W.s will leave camp tomorrow. Much excitement. Major, Bill, Garlow calls roll. We stay in bed. New loading lists are made up. None of us get much sleep.

Monday, May 7

70 days from Augsburg, 8 days since liberation. We all get deloused. We may move today. My guess is tomorrow. 300 truck available to take us to 4 different airfields. (Landshut, Regensburg, Struba and Ingastadt). After spending the entire day just waiting around (a very nice day, warm and sunny) we are told we leave at 0530 a.m. tomorrow. One Red Cross parcel for six men. Met Lt. Smith--who was supposed to have been killed when two 416th planes collided over Linz. Guess he was the only one to get out. Bud Bisher brought over a can of stew from a 1041 and we had a bash! Lights continue to burn all nite or nearly so.

Tuesday, May 8

Up at 0330. Breakfast of cereal and coffee roll each at 0500. March to truck. A ride of about 60 kms to Ingalstradt. Flower trees in blossom. Country side beautiful. Traveled over same road we had walked from Nurenburg. Many signs of war, trucks, tanks, bomb and shell craters. Some towns were no more. Arrival at air strip reveals there are over 2000 waiting, all ahead of us--and no planes. I figure we'll be lucky to get out of here by Thursday. Sun hot and all of us get sunburned. We are issued 3 K Rations. Into town (Ingalstradt) to spend the night. What an experience. A feather bed. People happy when we tell them war officially over as of 2:00 p.m. today.

Wednesday, May 9

A beautiful day. Return to field. Roll call. C-47 start landing at 9:00 a.m. We are all elated. But figure over 100 have land before we will be ready to go! All who went to town have some real stories to tell. Fellows who stayed out here not so happy. JU-87 landed yesterday and 3 Jerries surrendered. Ach--Ach guns opened up on them. This is really a large field. Every type of Ger plane. But what a Barrenburg the field and Ingalstadt has taken. We have waited all day for a plane. Here it is 8:00 p.m. and we need just 5 more planes. That one will be ours. But I guess "we've had it"! We stay in an ammo dump. 20 & 40 mm all over the place. Load group 27 takes off.

Thursday, May 10

2 years in army! Load groups 28, 29, 30 take off. Word has it 50 planes due here about 2:00 p.m. to be flown to [Le Havre] the second plane in will be ours. We are 32. Warm, nice, day. Bob, Val, Bill and I play bridge. 67 planes landed here yesterday a.m. and returned in afternoon. Heap much traffic. Gosh, what I wouldn't give for a bath. Primar says we get a 60 day furlo! Our plane arrives and we are flown to _____ . See Cathedral of _____. It is truly beautiful. Arrive at this camp for processing, shower, etc. Val goes to another tent--Bill, Bob and I stay together. Plenty food!

Friday, May 11

3:00 a.m. called out of bed for our shower and to start processing. By 10:00 a.m. we have had our shots, etc. then wait until 4:00 p.m. to go to dispersal camp. At 6:00 p.m. we leave there and board an old broken down train. Bill, Bob and I are split. My car has no windows. We ride all nite on hard seats. But no one seems to really mind--We are on our way home.

Saturday, May 12

3:00 a.m. Stop for chow. Army certainly does a wonderful job. Turkey, peas, carrots, egg nog, peaches and potatoes and coffee and butter & bread. Country side is beautiful. We meet a French train loaded with French soldiers returning home after 5 years as P.O.W.s 10:00 a.m. Another 2 hour stop for chow. There are 90 in our train load. All day and late into the evening is spent waiting. Finally arriving in this small French town very near Le Havre and then by truck to LUCKY STRIKE CAMP. After endless waiting we register, get blankets and a cot, and food at 3:00 a.m.

Sunday, May 13

A day of rest. Warm but much wind and dust. Eat out of mess kits. Plenty of rumors but no action. Saw my first show "Bowery to Broadway." The nites are cold.

Monday, May 14

Still at "Lucky Strike!" No work--another day of doing nothing. We are scheduled for a medical screening but it doesn't happen.

Tuesday, May 15

Medical screening

No changes made by typist, except where indicated.

In Air Battle Over Sicily**U.S. Gunner Downs 7 Planes**

(This dispatch was written by Staff Sgt. Benjamin F. Warmer III, of San Francisco, a Fortress gunner who shot down seven enemy planes in a great aerial battle over Gerbini, Sicily, Monday, his seventh wedding anniversary. This probably was a record kill for a single gunner on one mission. Warmer is a former bodyguard of Treasury Secretary Morgenthau.

By STAFF SGT. BENJAMIN F. WARMER III
A FLYING FORTRESS BASE IN NORTH AFRICA, July 6. (AP)—

"Judge, I kept my word." That's what I want to tell my father, Superior Court Judge Benjamin F. Warmer of San Bernardino, Calif., because I promised to get a few planes for him when I came over here. I named my gun "The Judge" and it came through today in great shape.

I got at least seven planes and I believe I hit and damaged more. We were told before the take-off that we were hitting one of the toughest spots in Sicily, and we accepted it at its face value without losing confidence in our ability to come through. The warning out to be a bit of an understatement.

About five minutes off the target we ran into a howling anti-aircraft barrage, and coming up through their own flak were more enemy pursuit planes than we had ever seen. It had been their habit to lay outside their flak until it was over, but today they came right into their own fire.

GUNS WINKING

The first plane I got a shot at came in at the start—a Messer-

schnitt peeled off from our right and leveled straight at us with his guns winking. I winked back until the German was 50 yards away, and then I saw him burst into flames and plough down under our Fortress. I signalled the left waist gunner to look out of his window and see if the plane went down. He nodded yes.

Number two and number three were daisies. Two M-109s made a run together at the Fortress. I got one on the way in. He peeled off in a roll. The other came on but broke his run at about 50 yards and I opened up on his belly when he exposed it in a turn. The first plane to the right for approximately 1000 yards and the pilot balled out. The second plane went down and the pilot also left it.

from Margaret Boatwright's files

Meantime one of our own Fortresses had been set on fire.

The next two victories I didn't even intend to claim, but the gunners in some other plane saw them parachuting down. There was a Messerschmitt making a run at our Fortress and I picked him up as he started his bank, held the trigger down until the plane began to smoke, and he started out of control like a leaf floating in the breeze.

GETS 2 MORE

The other one was making a run on a ship of ours—the one that was in trouble. The enemy had to pass within 50 yards of me, so I put approximately 200 rounds into him and the last I saw of him he was in a vertical dive and burning.

I got two more fighters, but didn't have time to identify them positively. They were both making passes at a Fortress behind us, and as they banked to make a run on her they had to pass me. They first tried dodging tactics when they saw my

tracers, but he was too close for me to miss and he went down before he got to the plane he was after. The other one was doing the same thing. He was just under our tail and below us and shooting at the ship behind us when one of my incendiaries made him explode in the air. He was number seven.

WANTED ACTION

I passed up my chance for a commission in the army to become a gunner because I wanted to get some action, and today I had my hands full.

I knew every one of our boys who went down—we had been eating together, palling around together and living together for eight months. I only wish I could have gotten a plane for every one of them.

We looked on those fellows who shot it out with us today with sort of mixed emotions. We respected them for their flying ability, because they are part of the German air force's Flying Circus.

TERRIFIC FIGHT

I think we are capable of handling them in the same way on every mission if it becomes necessary, but I don't think they can stand it. In fact, I doubt if they ever had a worse beating than they received today.

I've just finished reading the synopsis of a book, "Queens Die Proudly," and it exemplifies perfectly just how I felt when I saw two of our Fortresses go down. One was burning from stern to stern as three fighters made passes at her. The ball turret gunner was still in position and he got all three in that one pass. Every gunner in the squadron will verify it. He went down with the Queen.

It isn't the machine alone—it's the combination of the men and the machine that makes the Fortress.



SHE HAS A REASON TO SMILE—Helen C. Warmer, wife of Staff Sgt. Benjamin Warmer, looks over letters recently received from him on the occasion of their sixth anniversary which her husband celebrated by knocking down seven planes in one engagement over Sicily. He is a gunner in the Air Force and his picture is beside Mrs. Warmer on the table.—(NEA Telephoto)

From the Stars and Stripes, July 3, 1945

TARGET FOR TONIGHT: PARTISAN COUNTRY

THE 885TH NEVER DROPPED A BOMB BUT IT PLAYED A BIG PART IN VICTORY

By Capt BILL MUNRO, Jr.
Special to the Stars and Stripes
ITALY

THE 885TH Bomb Squadron Heavy Special--Until now top secret-- never dropped a bomb in almost 3,000 sorties. It existed solely to drop supplies to Partisans in enemy territory, for the most part in France, Italy, and Yugoslavia. Its targets were secret zones, always in the wildest type of country. A typical load consisted of Sten guns, rifles and ammunition; sometimes the load included "Joes," intrepid Allied agents who risked a spy's death to parachute out and help organize resistance forces.



"He was mentioned in his home-town paper!"

Yank Over Rome Dropped Bombs 'n Grabbed Fiddle

OMAHA, Sept. 12 (AP).—One Yank really fiddled while Rome burned during the first bombing assault on the Italian capital, Capt. Harry R. Burrell of Omaha, pilot of a bomber in the raid, wrote his parents.

"After bombs were on their way down into Rome, one of the boys left his waist gun long enough to pick up a violin he had borrowed from the Red Cross and offered a rendition of 'Yankee Doodle.' So history repeated itself—and he fiddled while Rome burned," Captain Burrell said.

from Margaret Boatwright's files.

The squadron flew B-24s and some B-17s. Except in rare instances it flew by night. Its unwieldy heavy bombers had to fly low and make drops dangerously close to stalling speed. And the very features that made targets safe places for Partisans to congregate made them death traps for B-24s in any hands but those of heads-up pilots.

The 885th was "special" all around: special crews training, problems, loads and targets. As an indication of how "special" it was, it probably was the only four-engined outfit anywhere to have a plane return with a rifle slug that entered through the top of the wing.

ITS THRILLING and security-shrouded story began in October, 1943, when the "Special Flight Section" of the 15th Air Force, equipped with three B-17s, flew experimental dropping missions to the Maquis in France from Africa. Mechanics had modified the ships at the El Aounia field near Tunis, painting the bellies black, fixing flame dampeners on the exhausts and removing ball turrets to install special dropping hatches.

Operating all the way across the Mediterranean from Blida, Algeria, the Forts made some successful drops, but the cloak and dagger heavies didn't get into high gear until the 885th was activated in March, 1944, under Col Monro MacClosky, a West Pointer from the MAAF planning staff who had flown on some of the experimental trips from Blida. Eight of the B-24s were added to the squadron's plane power; crews were obtained on OS from bomb groups and initial know-how was furnished by the British, who had pioneered in the business.

CREWS were not trained easily. Men who could fly heavy bombers in formation over targets in daylight at 20,000 feet could not fly single ships into mountainous dropping zones on the deck at night. Pilot and copilot had to be checked on instrument flying, low-speed flying, low-altitude work and bad flying weather. The bombardier, who served as the plane's eyes from his nose perch, had to learn map-reading and night contact navigation. The navigator, who worked in a lighted cabin behind the bombardier's blacked-out nose compartment, had to bone up on celestial navigation, use of the sextant, dead reckoning.

OF NECESSITY, the squadron's forte became navigation. Skilled navigation that won the 885th its Distinguished Unit Citation for the night operations of 12 August, 1944. Eleven unescorted heavies took off from Africa, on eleven separate missions to France. There was no moon. Navigation was by instrument, stars, and the rare recognition points that could be discerned by the light of the milky way. With some of them required to fly below mountain peaks, all 11 heavies found their targets, successfully dropped 18 agents and 67,000 pounds of supplies and returned to their African base.

The shortest distance from Blida to France was more than 400 miles. The Balearic Islands furnished the only checkpoint and at the end of the trip navigators were required to hit a spot on the French coast from 10 to 15 miles wide, a stretch fringed with flak as a cogent motivating factor.

BOMBARDIERS who rode out each mission in the darkness and so had the best night vision in the ship carried maps and a dimmed flashlight. They kept their eyes peeled for recognition points which, depending on the moon, were not too plentiful at night under the best of conditions. They called out the islands, coastline features, big river bends, lakes, mountains and cities. In France, the squadron used one town that they always found poorly blacked-out and a prison camp that had to be lighted to prevent escapes.

Navigators who never got a glimpse of the territory over which they were flying, kept a plot of the ship's position and took astral shots on the longer flight legs. They depended on the bombardier for vision and the tail gunner for drift readings. If the actual drift compared well with briefed "metro" dope, experienced navigators would make the prescribed turns over the Balearics even when clouds prevented visual confirmation, timing themselves on the factors of drift, speed and time lapse.

IN AUGUST, missions were flown on 21 nights and all available aircraft flew on every operation. In that month the squadron attained a serviceability rate of 80 percent. In February, missions were flown on 26 out of 28 days. In those two months 84 percent of the missions were successful, as compared with a yardstick of 50 percent, which was considered satisfactory.

The 885th's operations fell naturally into three main phases: the period of operation from Africa to France ending in September, 1944; the period of operating to targets in the Balkans and northern Italy..from Brindisi in Italy between September and March; and the period of operating to north-western Italy from the base at Rosignano, from March to the end of the war. The squadron also flew scattered missions to Czechoslovakia and Austria and one into Germany.

Perhaps because it was necessary for an outfit engaged in dangerous work with inevitable losses, perhaps because he always knew what he wanted to do, or, perhaps because MacClosky was just built that way, he was a one-man show, exercising his command with a firm hand. An efficient commander but not a popular one, his men nevertheless admired the way he "operated" in the squadron's behalf, often going straight to the generals above him for whatever he needed--and getting it.

Specific loads were carried for specific targets, but usually the bulk of the load was suitable for a number of targets, which made the alternate target system possible. Containers in the bomb bays were toggled out by the bombardier and packages were pushed out of the hatch well by a gunner-dispatcher on the bombardier's flashing light signal. Whereas bombs are released ahead of the target because of the continuance of their forward motion after release from the plane, the parachuted packages and containers had to be dropped directly over the reception area. For an exact drop, usually two or more runs were made over the target, half of the load being released each time.

AGENTS SAT behind the package hatch and dropped on the light signal. Among the 500 agents the squadron dropped before the war ended were men in their 50s, one man with only one arm and several women radio operators. One Frenchman, whose home in France was flanked by Germans on one side and collaborationists on the other, asked to be dropped in a plot of ground directly behind his house. The drop was accurate.

Supplies included, besides small arms, some bazookas and occasionally a pack howitzer; mines and demolition equipment, caps and fuses; food, clothing and boots; medical stores, radio kits, flashlights. Once, when an American aviator was reported down in France with severe burns, special ointment was dropped the next night.

RECEPTION lights usually were laid out in the form of a pre-arranged rectangular letter with an additional light to the side flashing a code letter. The enemy sometimes set up false targets, and, in a few instances, fooled crews into dropping on them. Daylight targets were marked with panel letters plus smoking fires, but navigation was so much simpler in the daytime there was little difficulty in finding the right target.

From the point of view of the patriots it was best to have targets in hidden ravines, but low-level approaches to such targets at night were extremely difficult. The squadron made night drops in some of Europe's most mountainous country; in ravines on the Isere River north of Grenoble, France; in the Italian Alps and in the Tyrol. Sometimes the targets were more than a mile below peaks which ran for more than two or three miles on either side--ravines into which even a daring pilot would hesitate to take a four-engined aircraft in daylight, let alone at near-stalling speed on a moonless night.

ENEMY opposition was not lacking, although it was held to a minimum by night flying and careful avoidance of known flak positions.

The last aircraft the group lost was to five Italian fighters on a daylight job. Three aircraft were "sneaking" into the Alps by way of France to avoid known fighter bases in northern Italy when one was hopped by the five Italians. The tail gunner shot down one and damaged one, but the B-24 caught fire and the crew jumped. Three of the crew were put together in the room of a castle which served as a PW compound. They were visited by the four pilots who had destroyed their plane.

The Italians wouldn't admit there had been a fifth, but the next day the men saw a military funeral taking place outside their window. Later the Italians admitted one of the five had been shot down and another plane had been wrecked in crash landing. The pilots said the reason they had not attacked previously from that base was that for months they had not been able to secure any gasoline.

REPORTS WHICH came back from the underground fairly quickly told them how successful or unsuccessful their drops had been. In two or three line messages alive with drama they would be told how many packages were received in good shape; maybe that the plane was heard, but no drop received. Sometimes there would be a complaint that the drop was off the target. But usually it was a message of gratitude. One said: "Roses to the pilot for his daring drop in difficult terrain. All containers landed within two hundred yards. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks."

Sometimes terse messages would be received explaining why no reception had been present to take a scheduled drop: "Shop in Marselle being watched" or "Patrol of White Russians in vicinity." Once this brief story arrived: "Regret that we were unable to be at the ground. We were betrayed in the afternoon. We have assassinated the betrayer."

THE UNIT'S losses during its entire history were only 17 B-17s and B-24s. Only one or two of them went down for known reasons. The others can be accounted for only by conjecture. Partisans found three of the crashes.

The only explicit report the squadron ever got from the field on an aircraft loss came from the Italian Partisan unit known as the "Third Garibaldi Assault Division Alliota." This message gave a clear impression of the feeling the Partisans had for the men who helped them from the skies.

The message said, in part:

"...After making two circles over the field, the plane dropped two containers; immediately afterward a tongue of flame rose from the motor to the left of the fuselage; the flame was followed by a hissing sound, then a roar, and almost at once the plane fell, striking the lowest slope of a hill. The Patriots hurried to the place. The plane was a funeral pyre, rent by the explosion of the ammunition which it had been carrying...

"The funeral was held on 24 February...

"THE PEOPLE of Zavattarello had come en masse to pay the last tribute to the heroic airmen who had died in the attempt to bring aid to their brothers fighting the hard Partisan battle. In front of the cortege flew the flag of the Garibaldi Brigade "Crespi," in whose zone the plane had fallen. The coffins were buried in one grave, lined with cement and whitewashed so that the bodies could be removed when the Allied Government and the families of the men requested it. A rough-cut stone was placed over the grave with the following epitaph: 'Stricken by destiny as they extended an offer of brotherly aid....' At the moment when the coffins were lowered, the Garibaldini fired a salvo.... Pious hands are already laying the first spring flowers on the grave."



FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Member _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____ Rank _____

Mailing Address _____
Number/Street City/State Zip Code

- Annual Membership (\$15) Check Enclosed (Tax Deductible)
 Life Membership (\$150) Check Enclosed (Tax Deductible)
 Life Membership Installment Payment \$ _____ Enclosed
 Active Retired Separated Friend of Fifteenth

15th AF Unit _____ Date _____ 15th AF Unit _____ Date _____

Mail Check and Application to:

Fifteenth Air Force Association • P.O. Box 6325 • March Air Force Base, CA 92518



FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 6325

MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 92518

6 April 1989

Mr. George Coen
2908 Aliso Drive N.E.
Albuquerque, NM 87110

Dear George:

Our Las Vegas Reunion planning is going well and our schedule is now firm, so we wanted to update you on arrangements. Our reunion pre-registration package is being printed now and we will make a First Class mailing to all members in about ten days. The package will be repeated in the Sortie which will be mailed in early May. I am over printing the forms, so if you need some to mail to 99th Bomb Group people who are not members of the 15th AFA, I will be happy to send you some. Membership in the 15th AFA is not required and guests and friends of 15th are welcome.

Our program is now firm and includes a welcome reception hosted by the Association; tours of Las Vegas; 15th Air Force luncheon with a briefing on current operations by Lt Gen Richard Burpee; a special patriotic program by the 15th Air Force Band of the Golden West; golf tournament at Nellis Air Force Base; 15th Air Force Banquet with a Forties Show appropriate for our emphasis on our WW II heritage and the 50th anniversary of the B-24, dance, and patriotic grand finale including a special appearance by Bob Hope; a farewell brunch; and a memorial service with wreath laying.

In addition to your newsletter, we would greatly appreciate any publicity you can provide us there in New Mexico. Most newspapers, radio stations, shoppers' guides, civic bulletin boards, etc. will accept public service announcements without charge. If you can help us, the notice we are placing in other parts of the country is: **** 15th Air Force Reunion Aug 13-17, 1989, Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, NV. Info: 15th Air Force Association, P.O. Box 6325, March AFB, CA 92518. Special appearance by Bob Hope; 15th Air Force Band of the Golden West; rare WW II film of the 15th Air Force in action; 15th Air Force Luncheon with update by the present 15th Air Force Commander on current operations; Las Vegas Shows and gaming; 15th Air Force banquet with special patriotic show; and a memorial service. Guests and friends of 15th Air Force are welcome. ****

Look forward to seeing you in August - our regards to you and our friends in the 99th Bomb Group.

Kind regards,

Ben
C.E. Ben Franklin

Enjoy it and look forward to the reunion - then it's being invited to the group reunion.

— GUARDING A HERITAGE — DEFENDING TOMORROW —

15TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION REUNION INFORMATION SHEET LAS VEGAS REUNION 13-17 AUGUST 1989

1. LAS VEGAS REUNION PACKAGE: Our reunion package is an all inclusive package of the scheduled 15AFA reunion activities. It includes a welcome reception hosted by the Association (hour and a half free bar and hors d'oeuvres); 15th Air Force luncheon and program; a special patriotic program by the 15th Air Force Band; Coffee and Danish prior to the business meeting; exhibits and combat theater; 15th Air Force Banquet with show, dance and patriotic grand finale; **a special appearance by Bob Hope**, a farewell brunch; a memorial service with wreath laying; and all registration fees. Since we have negotiated a package deal with the hotel and caterers, single event tickets are not available. Optional activities listed below are **not** included and may be purchased separately as desired.

2. OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES: The Riviera **"Splash"** show is an award winning Las Vegas show with dancing, singing, magicians and special production numbers. Two drinks and tip are included in the admission price. The Riviera has reserved Monday night (14 Aug) for the 15th Air Force. To receive discounted tickets (\$22 each), they must be purchased in advance using our reunion registration form. The **Golf Tournament** is scheduled for a shotgun start at 7AM on Monday morning (14 Aug) at Nellis Air Force Base and is limited to the first 144 players to return the registration form. The \$40 price includes green fees, cart, sandwich lunch, beer, soft drinks and prizes. Other **Las Vegas shows** and **tours** of Las Vegas, celebrity homes, Boulder Dam and the Grand Canyon will be available at the tour and show desk in our registration area.

3. REFUNDS: Full refund will be made if written cancellation is received at our 15th AFA office by August 6. After August 6, refund is subject to charges by caterers and vendors. **No** refunds can be made for partial attendance.

4. HOTEL RESERVATION PROCEDURES: We have blocked sufficient rooms at the Riviera to accommodate expected attendance. The room rate is \$59 per night for a single or double plus 7% Clark County room tax. Reduced rates are also available for suites and penthouses as shown on the hotel reservation form. Complete and return the hotel reservation form on the opposite page with one night's deposit. Deposit may **only** be paid by personal check or American Express card. On check-in the Riviera accepts most commonly held credit cards for payment of room and charges. If you want to stay near a friend, please indicate your preference on a separate sheet and attach to your reservation form. Our special rate applies for two days before until two days after the reunion for those who want an extended visit (11-20 Aug). If you have guests or friends, you must return a hotel reservation card and deposit for **each** room desired. The hotel will accept copies of the reservation form on the opposite page.

IMPORTANT: The Riviera will only hold our room block until **23 July**. After 23 July the Riviera will release all rooms from our block which have not been reserved with a completed hotel reservation form and one night's deposit. Reservations received after 23 July are subject to availability. Please note that check-in time is 3PM and check-out is at noon. Additional information about the hotel may be obtained at (800) 634-6753.

5. REGISTRATION: Registration will begin at 11AM on Sunday (13 Aug) in the lobby of the Riviera Hotel Convention Center and continue on Monday (14 Aug) from 9AM-5PM. At registration you will receive a welcome kit which will contain Las Vegas literature, maps, discount coupons, etc.—and name tags and name tag holders. The name tag must be worn at all times since it will be your badge for entry into our reunion area. The entire convention center has been reserved for our activities and entry into the area will be controlled by uniformed security. The name tag will also serve as your ticket for entry into all activities included in the reunion package as listed in paragraph one. Since the name tag serves as a ticket to all events within our reunion area, guest passes for non-payees will not be available.

6. DUES: We have not prepared a membership renewal mailing since the first of the year due to the press of reunion planning. In lieu of mailing the regular renewal statement, we have coded our mailing label to indicate the status of your dues. If your label has a series of "???", you owe already, or will owe by August, this year's dues. Please mail them to us as soon as possible so we can focus all our efforts on reunion planning. We have provided a space on the reunion registration form for attendees to include their dues in their payment for the reunion package.

7. AIR TRAVEL: American Airlines is our official reunion carrier. Call (800) 433-1790 and use STAR # 03894E for identification to receive discount of 40% off the full day coach fare with 7 days advance purchase. AA will also offer 5% off any published roundtrip airfare including First Class.

8. GROUND TRANSPORTATION: Bell Trans Airport Service is located at the Las Vegas Airport on the ground floor in the baggage area and will arrange transportation to the Riviera for \$2.75 per person one way or \$5.50 per person roundtrip. (702) 739-7990.

9. CAR RENTAL: Our car rental for the reunion is Payless Car Rental located adjacent to the Las Vegas Airport. Payless has courtesy buses which will pick you up at the curb outside the baggage area and deliver you to the rental office. An economy car with air conditioning and automatic shift rents for \$92 for the four day reunion period. A full size rents for \$128 for the same period. Rate does not include gas, tax or optional collision damage waiver. For advance reservation, call (800) 437-7312.

10. PARKING: Free parking is available in the hotel's adjoining parking structure. Please note that a new wing is being constructed at the front of the hotel and the temporary hotel lobby entrance is on the south side of the building.

11. RV CAMPGROUNDS: There are two RV parks located on the "Strip" near the Riviera. Both are full service parks. Circusland RV Park is located across the street from the Riviera behind Circus Circus Casino & Hotel and is priced at \$10.70 a night. Call (800) 634-3450 and ask for the RV Park. Stardust RV Park is located a few blocks down the "Strip" from the Riviera adjacent to the Stardust Casino & Hotel and is priced at \$8.95 a night. It is a Good Sam Club Park and Good Sam members receive a 10% discount. Call (800) 824-6033 and ask for the RV Park.

12. REUNION MEMORY ALBUM: We have contracted with Creative Reunions to publish a reunion memory book to commemorate our Las Vegas Reunion. The book will have year book type photographs of couples and individuals, candid photographs of people and activities, and a directory of reunion attendees. A professional photographer will be set up in our reunion exhibit and display area to photograph couples and individuals. There is no obligation or charge to have your picture taken. Everyone photographed will appear in the book. The cost of the book is \$10 for those wishing to purchase one. No money will be collected at the reunion; all members will be mailed an order form prior to the reunion. Books will be shipped approximately 10 weeks after material is compiled.

13. GUESTS: Guests and friends are welcome and will find the program interesting and enjoyable even if not 15th AF veterans.

14. DRESS: Suit & tie are suggested for men attending the banquet. The Riviera is a resort and dress for all other events is casual and we recommend that you dress comfortably.

15. RIVIERA HOTEL SHOWS: In addition to the "Splash" show in the Riviera's Versailles Theater, the hotel has three additional shows located in the hotel's Mardi Gras Plaza. These shows include "Crazy Girls", "An Evening at the La Cage" and "An Evening at the Improv." Our reunion attendees will receive coupons which will permit them to purchase two tickets for the price of one. **Note:** Most of these shows are **ADULT** and may not appeal to all attendees.

ROOM RESERVATION CARD
(One Room Per Card Please)
RIVIERA HOTEL & CASINO

NAME: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
STREET ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
ARRIVAL DATE: _____ HOUR _____ M
DEPARTURE DATE: _____ HOUR _____ M
(Check-out time noon/Check-in time 3 p.m.)

Welcome!	
FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION REUNION AUGUST 11-20, 1989	
ROOM TYPE	RATES
Single Occupancy	\$59.00 Triple: \$69.00
Double Occupancy	\$59.00 Quad: \$79.00
Room Preference	<input type="checkbox"/> King <input type="checkbox"/> Double-Double
SUITES: All suites subject to confirmation.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Petite:	\$125.00 Penthouse:
<input type="checkbox"/> One-Bedroom	\$160.00 1BR: \$375
<input type="checkbox"/> Two-Bedroom	\$210.00 2BR: \$450
<input type="checkbox"/> Please send information for a hospitality suite.	
All reservations subject to local room tax.	

ALL reservations must be received by 7/23 and accompanied by a one-night room deposit. Call (800) 634-6753 for additional information or changes. Please charge my American Express card with a _____ deposit.

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature _____

**15TH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION
REUNION REGISTRATION FORM
LAS VEGAS REUNION 13 - 17 AUGUST 1989**

1. Mail this form or a copy with check or money order for **full payment** to 15th Air Force Association, P.O. Box 6325, March AFB, CA 92518.

2. Make all checks or money orders payable to 15th AFA Reunion.

3. We expect a record attendance and all 15th AFA activities will be reserved on a first-come basis. Reservations will be confirmed by mailing you a blue 15th AFA confirmation card. Allow 4 - 6 weeks for receipt.

4. Late registration (receipt after 23 July) will **not** be confirmed, but will be passed to the Las Vegas Committee and is subject to availability of space.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY:

FULL NAME _____
(First) (MI) (Last)

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ 15AF GROUP _____

TELEPHONE(_____) _____ SPOUSE _____ 15AF SQDN _____
(First Name)

NUMBER OF GUESTS _____ **NOTE: (Count guests only. Do not include yourself or spouse. All guests are welcome, but must pay for the \$95 reunion package as listed below.)**

HOTEL RESERVATION AT _____ ARRIVAL DATE _____ TIME _____

DEPARTURE DATE _____ TIME _____

GOLF HANDICAP(S) (IF PLAYING) _____

(First Name) (Last Name) (Handicap)

(First Name) (Last Name) (Handicap)

(First Name) (Last Name) (Handicap)

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15AFA REUNION POCKET SCHEDULE

13 AUG: * Registration (11AM-5PM) * Combat Theater & Exhibits (11AM-5PM) * Welcome Reception & Mixer (6PM-7:30PM) * Free Evening for Crew & Group Dinners and Las Vegas Shows *

14 AUG: * Golf Tournament (7AM-1PM) Nellis AFB * Registration (9AM-5PM) * Combat Theater & Exhibits (9AM-5PM) * Tours as desired * Riviera Splash Show as desired (8PM-10PM) * Free Evening for Crew & Group Dinners and Las Vegas Shows *

15 AUG: * Registration (9AM-1PM) * Combat Theater & Exhibits (9AM-5PM) * 15th Air Force Luncheon (11:30AM-1:30PM) * Tours as desired * Free Evening for Crew & Group Dinners and Las Vegas Shows *

16 AUG: * 15th AFA Business Meeting (9AM-10AM) * Tours as desired * Combat Theater & Exhibits (10AM-4PM) * 15AFA Banquet & Show (6:00PM-10:30PM) *

17 AUG: * Brunch (10AM-11AM) * Memorial Service (11AM-11:30AM) * Departure *

Note: All activities are at the Riviera except as noted.

We warn all 99ers that very few of our wives will accept collect calls from Las Vegas.

My eldest son is named George, so it happens that I sometimes identify myself as "Big George". On one occasion I called Martha at home and identified myself to the Operator for the collect call as "Big George". Martha understood the Operator to say that there was a call from "Dick George" and declined to accept the call in my absence.

I was forced to place the call a second time under one of my other aliases!

Old Man Coen



We would like to remind all newer members that we published Escape Statements in earlier issues of this Newsletter until we had published all of them which we had. Hence, your statements may possibly be found in a 1985 or 1986 Newsletter.

george

Every now and then we find that one of our Gentle Readers takes umbrage because of a difference of opinion as to what happened during one of those discussions with the representatives of the Third (Thousand Year) Reich.

Far from being surprised at such differences, we are pleased that there is pretty good agreement between the accounts of the action.

It has been said that battle recollections are like recollections of dances - one can remember with whom one danced but not the order of the dances. Because of this lack of agreement among truthful men, one author, General S.L.A. Marshall, has even devised a technique for determining the most likely sequence of battlefield events from the series of discordant eye-witness accounts.

Your editor has had the experience of having all of the witnesses to a violent death agree exactly as to events, and it was anything but reassuring.

We therefore submit that there is no reason to be perturbed if your account does not agree with another's. End of lecture. geo



Be it known to all of you Navigators that the Editor was able to spot Canopus as soon as he got to West Texas and was able to observe and steer by that star until he reached Ft. Davis. But Canopus is not in these latitudes the lovely yellow star we saw in Brazil and Gambia. It is dimmer and colorless.

geo

1944
AAF

from the files of Associate Member Robert Whitcombe



"You'll Go Places On This Team!"

1st Lt. Richard J. Niederriter, pilot, 1st Lt. Richard A. Carocari, navigator, Sgt. Richard W. Evans, tail-gunner, and 1st Lt. Lester A. Darst, bombardier, (left to right in foreground above) have hit most of Germany's "hot spots" in their Flying Fortress, the "Winsome Winn." Asked which was their most exciting mission, their answer was unanimous: "Anklam!"

"You probably never heard of Anklam," Lt. Carocari said. "Before the war it was just a little jerk-water town a hundred miles or so from Berlin. But the Nazis built a Focke-Wulf assembly plant there. And our assignment was to flatten it."

"I plotted my course for Berlin, to make Jerry think that was where we were heading. And we hadn't any more than crossed Denmark until the reception committee buzzed out to meet us. At least 300 German fighters hit our flight. They'd come barreling in from all directions at once... the fire from their cannons and machine guns making a solid sheet of flame along their wings. The going was hot and heavy for awhile."

"Hot and heavy is right," Lt. Niederriter said. "We were under fire for 3 1/2 hours. But our gunners were too smart—and too good—for them. Evans here had his tail-gun knocked out, so he came up and fired the flexible gun in the nose. When the ball-turret got fouled up with oil from a damaged line, the ball-gunner adjusted it so it would keep revolving—to fool the fighters—and then he climbed out and lent a hand at the waist-guns. It was the prettiest piece of teamwork I've ever seen."

"That's what really licked 'em," Sgt. Evans said. "Teamwork! Lt. Niederriter had his hands full keeping the Winsome Winn on her course... yet all the time,

he sat up there and called the shots for us gunners. We sure did work those German fighters over. We saw two blow up in mid-air."

"Finally," Lt. Darst said, "we changed our course and cut for Anklam. The F.W.'s gave us a breathing spell as we swung in over the town and we made a nice, smooth bombing run. I saw our eggs land square on that factory. And, brother, did we plaster it! They won't make fighter planes there very soon again!"

Lt. Niederriter grinned. "Sure," he said, "you go plenty of places in the AAF. And it's not exactly joyriding, either. But we've got a job to do. And we work together to do it."

"And I think that's the important thing for any young fellow—who wants to win his wings as Gunner, Bombardier, Navigator or Pilot—to remember..."

"You're on a team in the AAF—from the time you step into your first training plane until you get up there in action. And it's a winning team... an unbeatable team... the 'greatest team in the world!'"

U. S. ARMY RECRUITING SERVICE



FLY AND FIGHT WITH THE



"They came barreling in from all directions!"

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GREATEST TEAM IN THE WORLD

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AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

JOHN R. was one of those throwbacks to the Western heroes of yore—a strong, silent type who prided himself on his physical conditioning and would never admit to pain. When he began to feel rumblings in his chest while at his job in a defense plant, he dismissed it as “just a little indigestion.” He went to the plant nurse, apologized for taking her time over a little matter like indigestion and asked for some antacid tablets. The nurse, however, pressed him closely about his symptoms, concluded they were a sign of something more serious and insisted on his being examined by a doctor. In a short time, John R. was on his way to the hospital. The “indigestion” was actually the onset of a heart attack. The prompt emergency treatment insured his survival and, eventually, complete recovery.

As far as the nurse was concerned, the case was routine. But the employe—having learned in the hos-

pital of the many cases of coronary attacks which prove fatal—felt it was something of a miracle. Had he known the background of the nurse, he would have placed even more stress on that word “miracle.”

Patsy Li Fasano, a soft-spoken and self-effacing professional nurse who never talks about her past, was the central figure of a true-life adventure so astounding that it too has been characterized a miracle.

The first chapter unfolded on Guadalcanal 36 years ago. Japanese troops suspected that residents of a native village were feeding information to the Americans and they massacred the entire village. Only one person survived—a girl between four and five years old who had been brutally beaten around the head, stabbed with a bayonet and left for dead in a ditch. Three Melanesian natives from another village found her and brought her to Rev. Frederic P. Gehring, Catholic chaplain to U.S. naval forces on the jungle island and popularly known as the “Padre of Guadalcanal.”

“She was burning up with fever and appeared to be in a deep coma,” Father Gehring recalls. “I sent out a hurry call to Dr. James Delaney, our Navy medico, and he confirmed my worst fears. He told me, ‘I can’t see any hope for her but you can always try praying to the Great Physician!’”

The Padre stayed with the child

all night, praying. She remained motionless until the morning when, incredibly, she began to stir. When Dr. Delaney examined her later, he shook his head in wonderment: “As a doctor, I can scarcely believe this, but it looks like she’s going to live.”

Now a strange situation existed on Guadalcanal. There were thousands of American fighting men—and one little girl. The Marines and Seabees who visited her in the Padre’s tent called her a Thanksgiving gift because she had come to them a little before Thanksgiving. But she was a strange child who never smiled and uttered hardly a sound. She showed no emotion except during aerial and artillery bombardments when she went into uncontrollable hysterics. When shells landed close by, they protected her with their bodies. To calm her, they would sing, dance and clown for her. Her entertainers included Barney Ross, the former boxing champion turned Marine war

hero, Buddy Brennan of Guy Lombardo’s orchestra, and two Hollywood personalities in Navy uniform, actor Robert Montgomery and producer Gene Markey (now a retired Rear Admiral).

The Marines insisted this orphan of war had to have a name. All sorts of names were thrown up for grabs and discarded. Then Father Gehring decided to call her “Patsy Li.” “Patsy” was the closest first name he could think of for “Pao-Pei,” which meant “Little Pet” in the Mandarin dialect he had learned as a pre-war missionary to China. “Li” was his own Chinese nickname. The Chinese couldn’t pronounce Gehring. Since he wore a Lee hat they gave him that name, spelled Chinese-style.

The child remained with her American friends through the most crucial weeks of the fighting. When the Marines and Army units gained firm control of most of the island, a plane was provided so the Padre could take the waif out of the war zone. He flew her to an island in the New Hebrides where French Marist nuns ran a crude little orphanage. They agreed to rear the child.

“She cried so pitifully when I handed her over to Père Jean, the head of the Marist mission, I almost couldn’t bear to leave her,” says Father Gehring. “But she had to have a home somewhere.”

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

Guadalcanal’s Miracle Girl

Correspondent Foster Hailey of the *New York Times* was intrigued by the Padre’s account of how the child had been saved, and how much he regretted leaving her. “You may have lost your little orphan, chaplain, but I have found a very good feature story,” Hailey remarked.

Hailey’s story about the rescue of Patsy Li, illustrated by a picture taken by a Navy photographer, had repercussions thousands of miles away. When World War II ended, the Padre of Guadalcanal received a strange letter from a Chinese woman living in Singapore. She had just received a clipping of that old story from a relative living in America. Her name was Ruth Li. She told this story:

She, her husband and their little daughter, Patsy, had been on the last evacuation ship out of Singapore, fleeing the Japanese advance. The ship had been bombed and sunk a few miles from the harbor, and although she and her husband were rescued, their child was not. She had last been seen floating out to open sea on a piece of wreckage.

Mrs. Li refused to accept the obvious conclusion—that her child had drowned—and for more than three years had searched false leads trying to locate her. Her husband had ridiculed her “obsession” and bitter quarrels led to their divorce. Now she was sure this “obsession” had been vindicated. She saw a resemblance in the published picture to her child, although admittedly the child’s head was bandaged and her face contorted with sobs. More important, the child had been identified in the newspaper as “Patsy Li.”

As gently as he could, the Padre wrote back that the child who had survived the Guadalcanal massacre could not possibly be hers. He told the Singapore mother that he had made up the name of “Patsy Li” out of his head, or more properly, his hat. He could just as easily have called her “Patsy Stetson.” Besides, Guadalcanal was 4,000 miles away from Singapore harbor. He could see no conceivable way the child could have gotten from the one place to the other.

But what is 4,000 miles to a mother? After exchanging a few more letters with the Padre, she insisted on following her instincts and making the long trip to the New Hebrides to see for herself.

At first, Mrs. Li experienced cruel disappointment. She had lost a pretty little child born to a well-to-do,

highly cultured family. She found a sullen, awkward girl who had none of these graces. The savage beating inflicted on her by Japanese soldiers, the terror bombings on Guadalcanal and the trauma of being suddenly separated from those who had saved and protected her had combined to block out any memory of her early years. Her conscious life had begun in the orphanage. Despite its bare furnishings and its poverty, it represented the only security she knew. She had been told who this woman was and what she was looking for but she didn’t know her and she resented her.

Hurt and confused, Mrs. Li was prepared to go home but an island official convinced her to stay a few days. She began carefully observing the girl. She checked for tiny, telltale scars around the eyelids that her child had been born with. The scars were there!

The girl was then given a crucial handwriting test. When Mrs. Li’s daughter was first learning English, she wrote her words in block letters and always inverted her “E’s.” Mrs. Li had brought along a postcard her child had once written. Under the scrutiny of island officials, she dictated it to the girl in the orphanage letter by letter. The girl did not know what the post-card message meant because the only language she knew was the French taught her by the nuns. The nuns had also instructed her to write in Continental script. Yet when she wrote down the words as dictated to her, she instinctively wrote not in her usual Continental script but in block letters. And she inverted her “E’s” exactly as it had been done on the postcard Mrs. Li was holding!

The impossible, the unbelievable, had come to pass. The two Patsy Lis were actually one. (A comparison of dental charts after Patsy returned to Singapore gave further confirmation.)

Miracles, however, can founder on the rocks of human frailty. Back in Singapore, the still-troubled girl had difficulty adjusting to a new environment. Living in a broken home disturbed her. Her mother was so anxious that she make up for the years lost from top-grade schools that she pushed her hard. The relations became frigid.

Ever since Father Gehring had been informed of the miracle of discovery, he had kept up a correspondence with both Ruth Li and Patsy Li. He felt a responsibility for Patsy’s well-being and when Mrs. Li asked if he could help resolve this

difficult situation, he arranged to bring Patsy to America.

With time and care, Patsy blossomed. She won a degree in nursing science at Catholic University in Washington, DC and spent several years as a nurse in Washington and Baltimore hospitals, health-care facilities and defense plants. Today, she is married to Angelo Fasano. The couple now lives in a town house in Albuquerque, NM and Patsy has joined the nursing staff of Sandia Laboratories, a research facility which designs and develops nuclear weapons for the government.

The grown-up “Miracle Girl of World War II” is now a little past 40 and thoroughly Americanized. (“There is no country in the world that has the greatness and the freedom of America,” she says simply.)

The Padre, now associated with the Vincentian Missions and headquartered in Philadelphia, remains an integral part of Patsy’s life. The two visit and correspond often. At a party that Barney Ross hosted for Patsy at Grossinger’s resort in New York State—not long before the ex-champion’s death—Father Gehring and Eleanor Bumgardner, the person who had served as Patsy’s American guardian, urged Patsy to initiate a full reconciliation with her mother. That reconciliation has come to pass. Ruth Li now lives in Albuquerque, too, a short distance from the Fasanos.

How did the “Miracle Girl” make that incredible trip across the Pacific in 1942? Patsy’s memory of what happened to her has never returned (she can only recall “floating around and around in water”). But Father Gehring learned of two British seamen who plucked a child out of the water near the burning evacuation ship. The seamen said they placed the child on a small float. Father Gehring believes that child was Patsy, that a Japanese vessel taking supplies to Guadalcanal picked her up and dumped her off on that island with a native family.

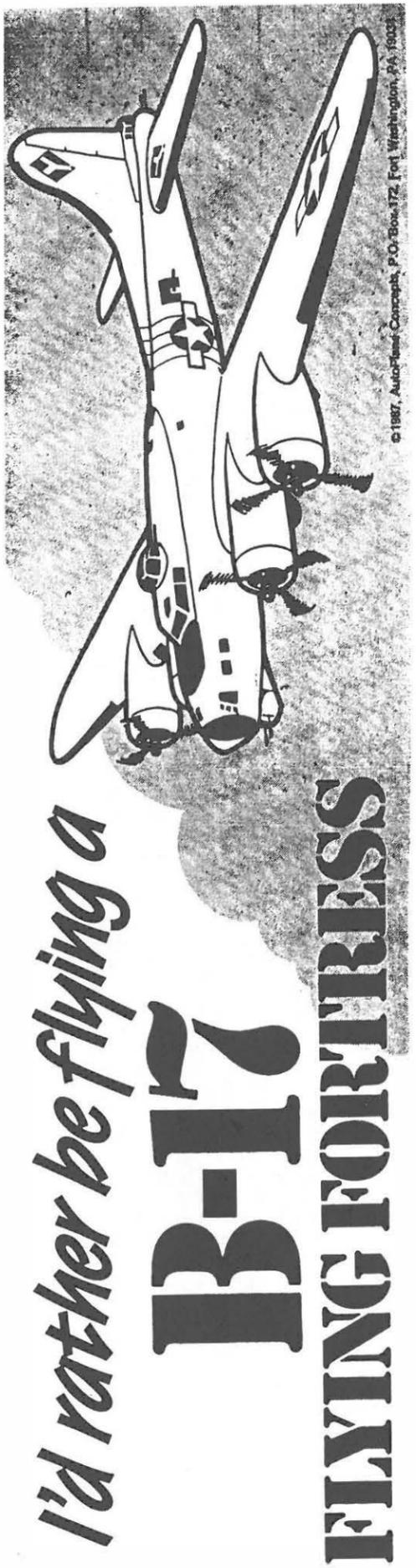
“I never forget to give thanks to God for choosing me to play a key role in Patsy’s life,” says Father Gehring. “Her story proves once again that there is no power in the world greater than the power of Faith.”

—Martin Abramson

Martin Abramson is a magazine writer, former war correspondent and the author of “The Barney Ross Story (Monkey on My Back)”; “The Padre of Guadalcanal Story”, and other books.



Top photo shows Father Frederic P. Gehring, a former U.S. Navy chaplain, with Patsy Li during her graduation at Walsingham Academy, Williamsburg, VA. Bottom photo shows a reunion between Father Gehring and Patsy Li with Mrs. Frank S. Wright (the former Eleanor Bumgardner) at left



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MUSSOLINI *Hibbert - Ballentine Books

'On my grave I want this epitaph' he once said with that staggering lack of both humor and restraint that characterizes the apocalyptic pronouncements of megalomaniacs: 'Here lies one of the most intelligent animals ever to appear on the surface of the earth'.' p.23

When the Italian Navy agreed that some British hospital ships might go to Malta for the relief of the wounded, Mussolini vetoed the suggestion on the grounds that many things other than medical supplies and doctors might get through, just as during the previous winter, some timely supplies of petrol had been landed at Benghazi in ships of the Italian Red Cross. p. 87

As usual Hitler talked and talked. Mussolini sat 'cross-legged on the edge of his armchair, which was too big and too deep for him, and listened patiently and impassively, clasping his hands on his knees' as the Fuhrer insisted on a vigorous fight in both Italy and Russia until victory had been won. He rudely contrasted the spirit in Germany where fifteen-year old boys were fighting in anti-aircraft batteries, with the situation in Italy where much more realistic methods would have to be adopted, where the Government commanded insufficient respect, where defeatism was rampant, where cowards and traitors would have to be shot, where the only solution lay in placing all Italian forces under German command.

The Duce, rubbing his mouth with the back of his hand and mopping the sweat from his face with a handkerchief, did not respond. Indeed it seems that he only spoke twice during the entire meeting. On the first occasion it was to correct a statement that had been made about the population of Corsica, and, on the second, it was to announce, after a secretary had handed him a message, 'At this moment the enemy is carrying out a heavy air attack on Rome.' p. 107



LUFTWAFFE - page 2

Reichsminister Albert Speer realized fullwell the signifigance of the fuel shortage, and by the late summer of 1943 his sweeping reorganization of the industry began to bear fruit as the syathetic fuel plants raised production by leaps and bounds. Stocks steadily rose, to nearly 400,000 tons by December 1943 and a record 574,000 tons by April 1944.

This, then, was the position in May 1944, when the American strategic bombers began to concentrate their efforts against the German oil producing centers. In June the Royal Air Force joined them for new, by routing the night bombers in over France, where after the invasion the German air reporting organization was rapidly approaching collapse, it was possible to avoid the worst effects of the defences. . . .

The effect of the combined Allied air offensive against the German oil industry was devastating. By 22nd June production had fallen by about ninety per cent, and the production of aviation fuel for that month was only 52,000 tons compared with 195,000 tons in May. As the attacks continued, things went from bad to worse: in July only 35,000 tons were produced, in August 16,000, and in September a paltry 7,000 tons. p. 146

LONE STAR Fehrenbach 1968

He (Houston) was hard - rocklike on the battlefield - and he had in one way or another killed many men. But he had a streak of magnanimity broader than most Americans of his time. Few men ever showed less rancor for his former enemies, above all when they were at his feet. p. 349

In the 19th century, and for the first three decades of the 20th, the national government of the United States impinged less on its citizens than any in the western world, except the Swiss. p. 437

DUEL OF EAGLES

p. 2



Periodically, however, Dowding was invited to Air Ministry conferences to discuss equipment. At one of these he asked for bulletproof wind-screens for his Hurricane and Spitfire fighters. "To my astonishment," he related, "the whole table dissolved in gusts of laughter as though I had asked for something grotesquely impossible."

Without flinching he told them, "if Chicago gangsters can have bulletproof glass in their cars I can see no reason why my pilots should not have the same." . . . "I shd no idea how many lives were saved."

My own life would be one. p. 150

Joachim's adventure was hardly noticed beside the catastrophe which befell Oberleutnant S. - his name is never mentioned in connection with it. At 2:23 P.M. S. took off from Landsberg, near Munich, leading a Kette of three Heinkels in Staffel 8. Target: Dijon-Longvic. In the cloud S.'s Kette became separated from the other two Ketten in the Staffel so he had to go on with it alone. He saw an airfield which he took to be Dole-Favaux. The Kette bombed.

At that moment, 3:40 P.M., the Flugwache (Air Filter Center) at the German town of Freiburg, near Baden, saw "three aircraft . . . clearly recognized as Heinkel 111-P cross (German national markings), clearly seen through binoculars." At 3:59 P.M. it was reported. "Airport Freiburg bombed . . . two aircraft sighted with German national markings . . ." These and other details were contained in a report dated May 10 from the Officer Commanding Luftgau VII. Oberleutnant S. and his Kette had brought tragedy to the peaceful town of Freiburg. Fifty-seven civilians, including several children, were killed by their bombs - sixty-nine in all, of which twenty-four were duds. So there was no problem in identifying their German origin.

When Goering read the Luftgau VII report that evening he was beside himself. His Luftwaffe bombing an open German town - and on the first day of the western offensive! "That's a fine way to start the campaign," he raged. "The Luftwaffe and myself look quite ridiculous. How can we account for it to the German public?"

That was left to Goebbels. First he accused the French, then he shifted the blame to the British. "In reprisal . . . the German Air Force will reply in the same manner. . . every further attack will be paid back fivefold on English or French towns."

So the British were made the culprits. . . Even when the secret inquiry confirmed that Oberleutnant S. was responsible, there was no court-martial. It would not do for the truth to get out, for the Freiburg incident would soon serve Hitler as an alibi for bombing Allied towns. p. 223

The Luftwaffe's attack on Rotterdam the previous day was also discussed. Both Hitler and the Allies had up to then been careful not to provoke a general bombing war on one another. But with no fear of retaliation (as at Warsaw and Rotterdam), the Germans had not hesitated to bomb targets in residential areas, killing civilians by hundreds.

He (a British pilot in a parachute) was fair game for that Luftwaffe pilot. Even Dowding thought so. "On the ethics of shooting at aircraft crews who have bailed out," it was his opinion that Germans descending over England were prospective prisoners and should be immune, while British pilots descending over England were still potential combatants. German pilots were perfectly entitled to fire on our defending airmen. p. 296

from THE STRAW GIANT by Arthur T. Hadley

Another disruptive wartime JCS dispute that still weakens the Giant was the Interservice/Intraservice Rivalry over manpower. There was never enough manpower to go around, and educated manpower was in particularly short supply. Each of the three services bid constantly for the small pool of what they considered the best, often without knowing for what exactly they wanted such men. For example, in 1939 the Air Force was training only two hundred aviation cadets a year. They had to be college graduates, be recommended by three prominent persons in their communities, and pass a rigorous written examination. There was a continuous shortage of pilots, many people were failing the exam, and Congress was upset at the low number of cadets.

Secretary for Air Lovett became convinced that the written examination had nothing to do with flying ability; but the Air Force staff, led by General Arnold, insisted it measured skills they must have. Lovett, a World War I hero as a naval aviator, took the aviation cadet exam and failed. He next gave it to Julius Stratton, the president of MIT, who failed. The two of them then gave it ten MIT students at random, and the only one to get a high grade was a female chemistry wizard from a family of musicians. When Lovett threatened to go public with this tidbit, the Air Staff wisely threw in the towel. The service lowered its education requirements for pilots to high school graduation, and changed the written test. The number of those entering the Air Force increased five times. p. 49

Three months before D-day the Army transferred some 30,000 protesting aviation cadets into the ground forces. I remember looking at some of these men as they arrived at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, where I was then a tank officer. I thought how tall and alert these ex-cadets looked and how much I would like to get some of them into my outfit. First, though, these men had to be persuaded to fight. A large number of the ex-cadets mutinied, refused to accept training and had to be herded into a theatre and threatened with imprisonment before they agreed to serve in the ground forces. p.54

One time during that [the Korean] war, at the end of his [General Marshall's] testimony before the House Appropriations Committee, some smarmy placeman on the committee unctuously asked, "Is there anything more we can do for you, General Marshall?"

Marshall was gathering his papers together and icily replied, "Yes, give me same considerate attention when I next come before you in time of peace to ask for far less." p.87

When a senator asked JCS Chairman Omar Bradley what the Russians would need to march to the English Channel, he replied, "Shoes." p.123

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1957 was General Nathan ("Nate") Twining, a doughty, totally honest if somewhat parochial Air Force General. (I always liked his dictum about testifying before Congress: "Don't ever lie to them. But don't blab the truth either.") p.130

The ridiculousness of relying on systems analysis and computer printouts to determine weapons buys was vividly brought home to me because I was once part of the military industrial complex. In those TFX days, credit card companies were stickier about issuing credit cards to individuals, particularly such oddball types as writers, directors, actresses, than they are now. To help myself and some others obtain credit cards, I formed a fictitious tank company, known as Hadley Tank. (Or notional tank company, if you prefer the jargon of intelligence.) Of the fortunes of Hadley Tank I have written elsewhere: how the company was eventually listed in various business directories and its officers were asked to lecture at various symposiums: the difficulties we had avoiding various secret clearances: the trouble we had refusing your money.

What is important to record here is that McNamara's office invited me down to Washington to receive the Defense Department's E for Excellence for my company because we had "never had a shortfall." What more is there to say about relying solely on efficiency experts and their computers? We not only had no shortfall, we had no long fall, we didn't even have a windfall. We had never built a damn thing. Yet in McNamara's world, Hadley Tank was one of the most efficientl run companies in the United States. To think that with a little bad luck, had I been Hadley Plane instead of Hadley Tank, we might have been stuck building the TFX.
p.156

The accuracy revolution makes negotiations with the Soviet Union over arms control even more difficult. Imposing verifiable limits on the numbers of strategic nuclear weapons that both sides may possess has been an almost impossible task. Now, in addition to limits on numbers, secure agreements must be reached on the type of guidance system permitted in the missile's nose or inside the ground radar station. Reliable verification is an item the Soviets find most threatening to their control over their police society. They have not wanted us to know if their leaders are married or how many children they have, much less allow inspection of the guidance systems of their missiles. p.205

I was the first or second tank in the column that liberated a major concentration camp, Magdeburg. When I came round the corner of that pine forest lane and saw the human skeletons hanging from the barbed wire enclosing the camp, I thought, how barbarous of men to string up corpses. Then some of the skeletons moved slightly and I realized I was looking at the starved living. There was a horror beyond the horror of all the dying I had seen. I learned a lesson that day. There are worse events than battle. When they come to take you off to the camp, fight. And people who tell you that you will be better off in the camps than resisting are not your friends. p.207

REUNIONS

3 Aug 1989 - 19 BGA Dayton OH

James A. Kiracofe, 274 Quinn Rd., West Alexandria OH 45381,
Phone (513) 839-4441 or Robert E. Ley, 3574 Wellston Ct.,
Simi Valley CA 93063 - Phone (818) 703-7717.

13 Aug 1989 15AFA, Las Vegas NV

P.O.Box 6325, March Air Force Base, CA 92518

19 Aug 1989 National Warplane Museum, Geneseo NY

P.O.Box 159, Geneseo NY 14454, Ph. 716/243-0690

Spring 1990 99th Bomb Group, Huntsville AL

H.E.Christiansen, 4520 Panorama Dr., Huntsville AL 35801

1991 99th Bomb Group, Albuquerque NM

Bernice Barr, 7413 Vista del Arroyo, Albuquerque NM 87109

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We do not stop the subscriptions of deceased members; we extend the subscription gratis for an extra year. But please remember to send us any change of address.

* * * * *



TAPS

PETE BEZER,

March 12, 1989

Dear Bernie.-

First, [one of] our Historical Society and . . . of the original 99ers to go to Africa with General Upthegrove has left us. I talked with Pete and Loistwice before Laurel and I left for Texas and he was very ill. He had the same lung problems that I have . . . He entered Wright-Pat on the morning we left for Texas.

Pete was a real joy to have on our Dayton Reunion committee.
Jim Sopp

AMBROSE LATOUR

Today's mail brought sad news. From the daughter of Ambrose Latour I learned that her father passed away Feb. 7, 1989. "Amby" was my Navigator on my 50th. Please inform the members. C.D.Boggs

HAROLD LUTHER

This is a difficult letter to write - and it has taken me a long time to let you know that my husband Harold passed away very suddenly on October 1, 1988.

It had been on my mind, but I was made aware of the importance of informing you about Harold upon receiving correspondence from two members of Harold's overseas group. Harold would have been so pleased to hear from them!

We both enjoyed attending your reunion in Albuquerque - and the get-togethers with the crew members who were there, were very special to Harold.

I am enclosing a copy of the death notice.

sincerely yours, Jean C. Luther, S. 70-W. 17734 Muskego Drive,
Muskego, WI 53150

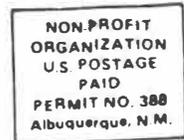
MARTIN E. EARGLE

Martin E. Eargle, USAF Retired who was a pilot in the 346th died of a heart Nov 5, 1988 in Fort Worth. His wife Ruth still lives at 4378 Sahara Pl., Ft. Worth, TX 76115 Dave Ankeny

JOHN VAN CLEAF

John Van Cleaf of 228 Manor Rd., Staten Island, NY. 10314 . . . passed away on Feb. 16, 1989 of a massive heart attack. . . very truly yours, Miss Julia Van Cleaf (sister)

99th Bomb Gp Historical Society
 Walter H. Butler - Treasurer
 8608 Bellehaven Pl. N.E.
 Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112



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