



THE
99th Bomb Group
Historical Society
 Newsletter



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Nov 1, 1991



SOCIETY OFFICERS, 1991-1992

PRESIDENT - HARVEY JENNINGS	VICE PRESIDENT - LEN HOPEN
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SECRETARY - H.E. CHRISTIANSEN	EDITOR - GEORGE F. COEN
CHAPLAIN - JOE KENNEY	



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi 99'ers:

I have been in touch with M. L. Larkin and Mike Yarima, our hosts for the reunion in Rapid City, and everything is running smoothly. The date for the reunion is September 1 through 5, 1992, at the Howard Johnson Hotel. A letter has been received from the hotel stating that you could arrive two days early or stay two days later at the same rate as the reunion rate - \$52.00 plus tax for two people or \$44.00 plus tax for one person.

A letter has been received through Bernie Barr from the member who was to host the 1993 reunion in Long Beach. He will be unable to host the reunion due to other commitments and he has also resigned from the Board of Governors. The Site Committee has been notified and they are now in the process of locating another site for 1993. More information on this at a later date.

If any member would like to host a reunion, gather all the necessary information and present it to the Site Committee - L. F. Hopen, Chairman; Leonard Smith and R. J. Bacher.

Also, any member who would like to be nominated to the Board should get in touch with the Nominating Committee - Joe Kenney, Chairman, Joe Chance and R. H. Worthington.

I hope each of you had a nice Labor Day weekend. God Bless.

Sincerely,

Harvey Jennings
 Harvey Jennings

2 9801 Richmond Drive
Kansas City, Mo. 64134
August 19, 1991

DEAR GEORGE,

MARGE AND JIM SMITH OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, ARE HOSTING AN
INFORMAL MINI-REUNION OF THE 99th BOMB GROUP IN OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS,
(JUST ACROSS THE STATE LINE FROM KANSAS CITY, MO.) APRIL 1 thru 5, 1992,
AT THE RODEWAY INN.

THIS REUNION IS ONLY FOR THOSE PEOPLE WHO CAN'T GO 17 MONTHS WITHOUT
A GET-TOGETHER, AND IS NOT TO BE SEEN AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE 1992 REUNION
IN RAPID CITY SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 1992. HOWEVER, ANYONE WHO WAS NOT
PLANNING TO GO TO RAPID CITY WILL BE WELCOME TO THIS REUNION, ALONG
WITH THOSE OF US WHO PLAN TO ATTEND BOTH REUNIONS.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING, PLEASE WRITE OR CALL JIM SMITH,
9801 Richmond Drive, Kansas City, Mo. 64134, - or phone 816-761-0588
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WE WILL SEND YOU THE INFORMATION. APRIL IS NOT
FAR OFF! TIME'S AWASTING!

GEORGE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOU PUTTING THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE
NEXT NEWSLETTER.

YOURS TRULY,



You cannot lose 'em all. When Rose Getting asked our help
in locating her late husband, Harry's outfit we furnished the addresses of
all of the B-17 Groups in North Africa. It turns out that Harry, who had
died in 1972, had been one of our own 347th in the 99th. This makes our *day!*



3 CHAPLAINS CORNER

GREETINGS:

Looking back to the Thanksgiving Day at Oudeni in Tunisia, though it was much
appreciated, it did lack a considerable amount of the amenities we had been accus-
tomed to at home, but we still gave thanks for who we were and what we had.

Also, let's consider the privations suffered by the Colonists who landed on
Plymouth Rock December 21, 1620. Nearly half of the 103 people who came over on
the Mayflower perished through that first terrible winter and spring. Yet, their
crops were abundant through that first summer and their larders were full. Fish
and game were plentiful. The very first Thanksgiving Dinner was held that fall!

In the September issue of our 99th Bulletin, Les Hansen's letter along with the
346th Bomb Squadron's War Diary caused deep thought provoking some very deep seated
memories, all truly worthy. Just think how very young we actually were back then
and yet, we accomplished a most difficult and dirty job that we hadn't asked for.
Think also about our Ground Crews and all the problems they faced in January of
1944 with fifteen B-17s to work on with only 9 crews lacking necessary facilities
and equipment. They did remarkably well in spite of their significantly heavier
loads.

This upcoming Thanksgiving Day should be one that we all cherish, one where we
can truly give thanks remembering what we experienced on each of those special days
in both 1943 and 1944. Remember how this Holiday began with the Colonists. Give
thanks for all of our 99rs who did so much during those dark days, all of it when
most of us were still kids. We need to give thanks for the successful conclusion
of the Persian Gulf War and how the mighty U. S. Air Force was the decisive factor
in completely decimating Saddam Hussein's war machine which made the way easy for
our ground forces. Thanks for the literal collapse of the Communist Regime' in
Russia. Finally, give thanks for this Nation which, even with all our problems, is
still the greatest Nation this world has ever known by a very wide margin.

A Prayer for our Air Force seems appropriate here: "Almighty God, who makes the
clouds His chariot and walks upon the wings of the wind; Have mercy on our Airmen,
and when they fly high in the sky, give them the assurance of Thy protection, that
they may do their duty with clear minds and fearless hearts, confident that in life
or death that Thou, the eternal God, is their Refuge, and underneath are Thine ever-
lasting arms; through Jesus Christ, amen." (this taken from the Presbyterian Book
of Worship)

From Philipians Chapter 4, verse 6: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in
everything, by prayer and petition with Thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Joe C. Kenney, Chaplain



Dear Bernie:

Upon returning from a trip to Florida, I found the July, 1991 Newsletter with my letter and your reply in it.

I am certain the date of the mission which Col. Glassford led was December 29, 1944. My diary, written on the day of the mission, gives that date, and I am enclosing a copy of a certificate of the Operations Officer showing all of my missions. It shows the mission to Innsbruck was on 29 December 1944. I did not arrive in Italy until October, 1944.

Jack Shull of Johnstown, Ohio was on that mission (it was the sixth mission for both of us), and he wrote me after reading the July Newsletter stating "Your account of that mission is certainly accurate as to time, place and things that happened."

Jack noted that he was co-pilot on the crew of Courtney Abbot, that they lost the hydraulic system and most of their oxygen system, that they dropped their bombs in the Adriatic, had to manually crank down the landing gear, used three chutes for braking and ground looped on landing.

I hope this fills in more details on that mission.

Sincerely,

Bill
William C. Calvin
819 W. Adams Street
Clinton, Il. 61727

Dear Bill:

Thanks for your letter and the additional information on the Dec 29, 1944 mission. I was relying on my memory when I responded to your earlier letter. So you see that it sometimes fails me. Jack Shull did write and agrees with you and Les Hanson on details of the fiasco. Yours is the type of letters George Coen loves to receive and put in the newsletter. We do wish others would send in information concerning their activities or missions or anything about their time in the 99th Bomb Group. Looking at your list of combat missions brought back many memories of my combat experiences since I flew to many of the same targets. Keep in touch and hope to see you in Rapid City nest fall.

Best Regards

Bernie

Dear Bernie,

Although we have never met; I feel like I know you after reading all the newsletters. I fully intended to make this years reunion but sickness in the family prevented this. God willing I hope to make ^{next} years reunion in Rapid City. Hopefully you still have posters and pins available? Have enclosed check for \$11,50 to cover cost. I was a member of the 347th from Oct. 44 to end of war.

Read with interest Les Hansons account of the infamous raid on Innsbruck on Dec. 29th. His account is accurate but I did not remember the Colonels name. He wasn't around long enough! I did fly this mission as co-pilot on Courtney Abbots crew. After three passes at seperate targets we were shot up pretty bad and returned home. oxygen was out on about half the ship and we had lost the hydraulics. I remember that we landed with chutes for brakes and prayers. At the end of the runway we ground looped I remember that Major Schroeder remarking the 347th would never fly again with that crazy ass again as lead.

Sincerely,

s/ W. Jack Shull

Dear Jack:

Yes Jack I still have lots of posters and pins of all four Squadrons and I have just mailed yours. Thanks for your letter and the details on the mission. I do remember that at the critique at the end of the mission all the crew members were very upset. Al Schroeder did make the same kind of remark to me and that helped me to make the call to Col Ryan at 5th Wing. and the Col was gone in a couple of days. Looking forward to seeing you at one of our future reunions-don't wait too long though.

Best to you,

Bernie

Dear Bernie,

First off, let me compliment you and your lovely wife, Doris, for the bang up job you did at the May reunion in Albuquerque. Lila and I enjoyed ourselves thouroughly.

I've been meaning to write you since reading the July newsletter. I must take issue with you over the famous Glassford mission. It did take place on the 29th of December, 1944. as Bill Colvin states. I flew on that one and it remains unforgettable to me. I was hit on that one and had my first taste of pure panic. Also as I discovered later, my father's commanding officer during the first world war was Glassford, s father, also Colonel. I take it that he performed somewhat better than his son.

Our squadron, the 416th, seperated from the group and flew to the target, Innsbruck. As I recall, the bombardier was hit and out of action on the first run, but we continued around the target three times, never out of range of the flak and never dropping the bombs. One by one the other planes peeled off and left us, so that we completed the last circuit alone. Our engineer Dick Costetler, toggled out the bombs on the way to the secondary, which was Udine; perhaps the only cool and considered action of the whole flight.

Near Udine we were jumped by five FW-190's, and I thought that we had had it, for sure; but like the 7th Cavalry, a lone SPITFIRE showed up and drove them away, afterwards escorting us almost back to the base.

I would dearly love to read any other correspondence from people on that mission.

Sincerely
s/John

John B. Nevin
Apartado Postal #243
Guanajuato, GTD.
Mexico 36000

Dear John,
 It was great of you and Lila to come all the way from Mexico City to join in the activities of the Albuquerque Reunion. I am sure you two did enjoy it--especially the Saturday night dance--We watched you as you glided around the floor. GREAT!
 Thanks for your account of the mission, it adds to our records and memories as we read the accounts

John thanks for the reproduction of one of your paintings. It is really good. I wish that our reproduction was good enough to put it in our letter. Perhaps you could paint the Group one to give at a Reunion as Frank Pierce and Liz Gilbert did. I'm sure your 99th Bomb Group bumper sticker shows up good in Mexico. Keep in touch and hope to see you again.

Best Regards,

Bernie

TO ALL 99th MEMBERS, I do still have POSTERS AND SQUADRON PINS AVAILABLE_ ORDER NOW!!!! BERNIE BARR

*****!

Dear Sir:

I'm writing you--maybe you will be so kind as to forward my letter to the person who reads stories about the 99th personnel and has them printed or something.

Here goes--this is a story about two persons going on rest camp leave from the 346th Bomb Sqdn. (This story could be made into a movie and played on T.V. under the heading of the 99th Bomb Group.) We were stationed in Foggia main.

Two soldiers went to (Cherignolia (sp?)) in Italy (or some town) on the way to Bari, Italy. They stopped at a house of ill repute for a little Figgi-Figgi. They went ~~down~~ down the winding streets until they found (or were led to) the house of ill repute by kids who seemed to know everything. They went inside and were drinking wine and playing with the girls there when a knock sounded on the THICK door downstairs.

It was two British soldiers who were very much in their cups. They were demanding to be let in. We ~~_____~~ about it and tossed an empty bottle out the window (hitting one of the British soldiers a glancing blow on the eyebrow. We didn't know this). When the soldiers came to realize that they weren't going to be let in, they started looking for ways to get in. The next thing we knew, was that a British soldier's head was appearing at the window with a pistol in his hand. (The hand that was over the window sill.) He started shooting. (A bullet went just behind me and into the wall and another just missed ~~_____~~) The girls disappeared through a hole in the roof. The person who did the shooting finally disappeared down the drain pipe. We (~~_____~~ & me) finally went downstairs and cautiously peered out the door. We then chased up and down the streets looking for them; (Don't know what we would have done had we found them.) and finally went back to the highway and continued on to Oran and rest camp. The Andrews Sisters were playing in town.

Another story about Payne and myself. We went the other way; this time on a three-day rest camp or something, to a place with a lake and amusement park (I think).

We went to a man with a boat (sail) and girl out in the water. We negotiated with the man and set sail. We got a little Figgi-Figgi and later, when the boat was under sail and going at full speed, I jumped overboard holding on to a rope and came up turning over on my back. I think he let the sail down and turned the boat around to retrieve me. After a good chewing out by the skipper of the boat, he docked it and we went ashore.

You have permission to edit this.

Sincerely yours,
 Signature illegible,

August 8, 1991

Dear George:

I am writing to bring you up to date on our General Upthegrove. He has been in and out of the Hospital since Reunion.

When I got back from the Reunion, I called. He was in the Hospital and his daughters were with Betty. He later went to the Ecumenical Nursing Home in Bradford. I really don't know what his problem was, but he wasn't eating and he was losing weight. While in the Hospital he began to put on weight again.

Bernie had given me a packet of Reunion goodies to take to him. I didn't get out until Father's Day weekend. He was real pleased with envelope of things. I played the tape of the tribute Bernie made to the General at the Banquet. He was touched & emotional. I thought he would be getting home soon but instead he went back into the Hospital.

About the first of August I called. Betty said he had been home for the afternoon. She thought he would be home soon, but instead he went back into the nursing home. I called again August 5th, Betty said he is doing real well, walking, eating and putting on weight. She hopes he will be home soon but thinks he likes all the attention he is getting from the nurses.

I wish I lived a little nearer to them. It's about 125 miles.

Sure hope the General will be home soon and wouldn't it be wonderful if he could make the 50th Anniversary of the 99th in Rapid City. I am sure looking forward to being there..

Sincerely,

Peg

Margaret Billingsley
 RR 1 Box 100
 Troy, PA 16947

UNIT HISTORY
348TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 99TH BOMBARDMENT GRG

MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 1944



A. ADMINISTRATION

Station: Foggia Airdrome #2, Italy
 Strength: 1 February, 1944, 83 officers and 367 enlisted men
 29 February, 1944, 71 officers and 352 enlisted men
 Decrease for February: 12 officers and 15 enlisted men.

Capt. Sheldon D. Kem appointed Executive Officer 21st January, 1944. 1st Lt. Robert W. Masters appointed Adjutant effective 21st January, 1944. During the past month there were quite a number of changes in the Operations Office. Capt. Harold E. Murphree, Jr., succeeded Capt. Thomas J. Davis, Jr., as Operations Officer and in a few days he also was succeeded by 1st Lt. Donald E. Frye. At the same time 1st Lt. William J. Quinlivan was appointed as Assistant Operations Officer. 1st Lt. Clyde M. French appointed Assistant Engineering Officer. Capt. George E. Bransom, Jr., relieved from command 18th February, 1944. Capt. Harold E. Murphree, Jr., assumed command 18th February, 1944.

B. BATTLES

4 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off on a mission over Toulon Harbor, France. Bombs were not dropped on target and most of the A/C jettisoned their bombs in the sea. All A/C returned safely.

10 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. ten A/C took off at 0640 and dropped 120x 500lb. bombs over Cisterna, Italy. Flak heavy and no E/AC encountered. Hits at NE and SW edges of town. All A/C returned safely at 1045.

14 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Eight A/C took off at 0945 and dropped 84x500lb. bombs on Modena M/Y, Italy. A/C 817 returned early due to malfunctions of tail guns. Flak heavy and 10 E/AC encountered which were not aggressive. Target area well covered. All A/C returned safely at 1630.

15 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0807 and dropped 108x500 lb. bombs on Cassino Monastery, Italy. Flak light. E/AC none. Target area well covered. All A/C returned safely at 1108.

17 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0840 and dropped 216 clusters of fragmentation bombs over Vehicles and Shops at Albano, Italy. Flak heavy and intense. E/AC none. All A/C returned safely at 1240.

22 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Six A/C took off at 0800 and dropped 72x500 lb. bombs over Zagreb A/D, Yugoslavia. Flak slight. E/AC none. Target area well covered. All A/C returned safely at 1300.

22 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Five A/C took off at 0850 and dropped no bombs due to heavy overcast of target area. Target ME Factory at Regensburg, Germany. Flak heavy. E/AC encountered 20 to 25 fighters. Official claims of E/AC destroyed: T/Sgt. Harry (NMI) McFarland, ME-109, S/Sgt. Roy L. Gray, ME-210, T/Sgt. Kenneth S. Stanfield, ME-109, S/Sgt. Imador F. Hardin, ME-210, T/Sgt. John E. Bartlett, ME-109, T/Sgt. Arthur P. Howland, ME-210. All A/C returned safely at 1555

24 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1000. Seven A/C returned early due to weather conditions. Other two A/C continued on to target and dropped 24x500 lb. bombs over Fiume Oil Refinery, Italy. Flak slight. Three to five E/AC encountered. Target area well covered. A/C returned safely at 1530.

25 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Five A/C took off at 0511 and dropped 60x500 lb. bombs over Pola Harbor and Shipping, Italy. Flak heavy. E/AC none. Fair coverage of target area. All A/C returned safely at 1215.

25 February, 1944 -- Foggia #2. Four A/C took off at 0835 and dropped 48x500 lb. bombs

over ME Factory, Regensburg, Germany. Flak heavy. E/AC encountered 100 to 125 ME-109s, ME-110s, ME-210s and JU-88s. Official claims of E/AC destroyed: S/Sgt. Eugene (NMI) Donovan, FW-190, S/Sgt. George D. Hamm, ME-109, 2nd Lt. Michael N. Fitzgerald, ME-109, S/Sgt. Douglas B. Fisher, FW-190, S/Sgt. Garnett S. Ladd, JU-88 and ME-109, S/Sgt. Norris L. Harrison, ME-109, S/Sgt. Paul W. Wiseman, ME-110, 2nd Lt. Roy D. Baty, Jr., ME-109, T/Sgt. Anthony A. Giarrana, ME-109, S/Sgt. Verl W. Clark, ME-20. Target area well covered. All A/C returned safely at 1625.

C. CASUALTIES

2nd Lt. Kenneth W. Merideth, 2nd Lt. Charles E. Schmidt, and S/Sgt. Charles H. Steffens wounded in action 14th February 1944. S/Sgt. Thomas W. Hill wounded in action 17th February 1944.

D. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Capt. George E. Bransom, Jr., Distinguished Flying Cross. Capt. Thomas J. Davis, Jr., Distinguished Flying Cross.

FEB 1 -- It was a beautiful day, and being nonoperational, most of the men took off on passes to town. We had roast beef for chow in the evening. A movie was shown on the base entitled "War in Russia."

Feb 2 -- Scheduled mission recalled after the planes were over enemy territory. Everybody curious to know why planes were recalled. Lieutenant George W. Rohrer, missing in action since 10 October 1943, returned to the squadron.

Feb 3 -- It was a nonoperational day. A committee was formed among the enlisted men to maintain entertainment to keep the morale high. They had great plans of holding dances and ideas of improvements needed for the squadron. February 14th was the date selected for a dance.

Feb 4 -- Operational. Six of our A/C did not return from mission and everybody anxiously awaiting word whether or not they had landed at friendly fields. Our building program continued to make progress. A Nissen hut was being erected for a mess hall.

Feb 5 -- Nonoperational. It was a routine day. After chow in the evening the Squadron was addressed by Capt. G.E. Bransom, the Commanding Officer. Major M.E. Davis, former Commanding Officer, was a visitor.

Feb 6 -- Scheduled mission canceled after briefing. We started to use Nissen hut for mess hall.

Feb 7 -- It was a nonoperational day. A light snow fell in the afternoon, melting before it hit the ground.

Feb 8 -- Nonoperational. We had fresh meat for dinner and supper. A new replacement crew came in today bringing the latest magazines from the States. A movie was shown on the base in the evening.

Feb 9 -- Scheduled mission canceled at briefing. There was a cold rain and strong wind throughout the day.

Feb 10 -- Operational. Lt. W.F. Sheehey completed 50th mission. Capt. J.A. Saresy, Group Adjutant, visited the Squadron and commented that "it was a pretty good setup." In the evening a movie was shown on the base.

Feb 11 -- Today was a happy day even for the lowly private. Everybody was issued cots. Up until this time, only the first three grades of enlisted men were issued cots. The mission for today was canceled after the men waited at their A/C for about three hours. It started raining early in the morning and did not let up until late in the evening. Our living area was a sea of mud.

Feb 12 --One of our combat crews left this morning for England and later in the afternoon a replacement crew arrived from England. Everyone curious to know what the deal is on the exchange of crews. Scheduled mission called off in the morning. A mission was scheduled in the afternoon and all our A/C were recalled after being airborne. Our meals continue to show improvement as hamburgers were served for supper. A movie entitled "The Navy Comes Through" was shown on the base in the evening.

Feb 13 -- The first snowfall of the season that blanketed the ground was with us today. Scheduled mission canceled after the men waited all morning to take off. Despite the muddy conditions caused by the rain and snow of the past several days, there was a large turnout at church services.

Feb 14 -- It was an operational day and it was happy day for Lt. Julius Horowitz, Lt. Leroy Weyrick, and T/Sgt. S.A. Ciceralo as they completed their tour of duty. Today's mission being their 50th. Ten combat men were frostbitten due to the extreme cold. A squadron dance for the enlisted personnel was held in Foggia. The affair turned out to be a failure as the expected Italian Signorinas did not show up in great numbers.

Feb 15 -- The morale went into high gear today as the incoming mail was quite heavy. Some of the men received as high as twenty to twenty five letters. The censors expected to be very busy on the outgoing mail. Lt. Robert L. Lee completed 50th mission. A movie entitled "Son of Fury" was shown on the base.

Feb 16 -- A meeting of all combat crews was held this morning. Capt. H.E. Murphree, Jr., the new Operations Officer, lectured to the crews. Today being a nonoperational day gave most of the men an opportunity of going to town to take much needed baths. Transportation was furnished today, inaugurating bus service to town on nonoperational days.

Feb 17 -- Today started early as H-hour was 0335. Capt. W.A. Lorence, one of our new pilots that joined our Squadron recently, commented after today's mission that he "had never seen flak in the Pacific Theater like he had seen today." This is Capt Lorence's second tour of duty, previously completing 45 missions in the Pacific. We had a red air raid alert during the afternoon.

Feb 18 -- Scheduled mission canceled after the combat men were at the A/C ready to take off. Everybody disappointed as H-hour was at 0330. Capt. G.E. Branson, Commanding Officer, made a farewell address to the Squadron personnel, as he was leaving for the "good old States" in the morning. Capt. H.E. Murphree, Jr., the new C.O., made a speech at the same meeting emphasizing that he will carry on with the same policies as his predecessor.

Feb 19 -- It was a nonoperational day. Lt. Col. Ford J. Lauer, new Commanding Officer of the Group, inspected the various departments of the Squadron. It looks like the Quartermaster is keeping his word of supplying fresh meat and fresh butter daily. Fresh hamburgers were served for chow in the evening. The Special Service Department kept up their good work by presenting another movie on the base.

Feb 20 -- Our A/C returned early after taking off for scheduled mission on account of weather. We experienced our coldest day since arriving in Italy. A special G.I. revue was presented on the base.

Feb 21 --The day started off with a lot of confusion. Two different missions were scheduled to take off. After the first mission was briefed it was decided to make one mission out of the two. Finally the whole thing was called off on account of weather conditions. Two Red Cross girls helped serve doughnuts to supplement our chow, this evening, of fresh steak.

Feb 22 -- We participated in and completed two mission today. There was a large turnout at the movie shown on the base entitled "Girl Crazy." The Group Orchestra entertained the audience before the picture. This was the first appearance of the orchestra before the Group. They sure made a hit with the crowd playing the latest popular tunes.

Feb 23 -- All of our A/C were recalled after taking off for mission. An inspection of the line was made by Wing. Outside of the inspection it was a routine day. A party of eight men from the Armament Section came back from their hunting trip with three deer as their spoils.

Feb 24 -- It was an operational day. On today's mission seven of our A/c returned early, becoming lost from the rest of the group. Lt. P.H. Franklin, pilot of crew that came from England, could not understand why the Eighth Air Force A/C have the latest navigational equipment which we do not have in the Fifteenth Air Force. Lt. Franklin was also surprised to find us still using quite a number of B-17F models while over in England the USAAF were using the latest B-17G models.

Feb 25 --Plenty of excitement today. There were two missions. Here is the story as told to S-2 on the mission to Regensburg, Germany. There was a running aerial duel that lasted for 1 hour and 45 minutes. Our A/C were attacked by 100 to 125 E/AC who tried all kinds of tactics. They came in all around the clock, tried serial bombing from above and also firing rockets. Our Squadron was more fortunate than other as all our A/C returned safely. Our gunners claimed of destroying 15 E/AC. Without a doubt this was the greatest aerial duel in the history of our Squadron, surpassing the Gerbini battle of 5th July 1943.

Feb 26 -- Today was a holiday as it was nonoperational. The men were still talking about the mission of the day before. It rained practically all day.

Feb 27 -- A meeting of all officers was held to make plans to organize an officers club. The Chaplain's living quarters and office burned down early this morning. The Orderly Room moved into a building formerly occupied by an Italian family, who were ordered to move. Today was nonoperational and there was a large turnout at the USO stage show held in the afternoon on the base.

Feb 28 -- S-2 and S-3 moved into their new home. The building is a new stone structure built by the Engineers with the help of low cal Italian labor. Our new mess hall was completed and we celebrated the opening by having pork chops for supper. Today was nonoperational and a practice mission was held to keep the boys in shape.

Feb 29 -- Scheduled mission canceled after the men were awakened at H-hour. Today being the last day of the month was pay day. The poker and crap games started early in the afternoon. A radio was installed in the mess hall and made a popular hit with the men. In fact, this was the first music some of the men had heard since coming to Italy.

31 March 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records
TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Forces, Attention: Historian
(Through Channels)

1. Unit history of the 348th Bomb Squadron for the period 1 March, 1944 to 31 March, 1944.
 - a. The present designation is 348th Bomb Squadron, 99th bomb Group (H), 5th Wing, (US), 15th Air Force.
 - b. Changes in organization
 - (1) No changes in unit designation
 - (2) No transfer of units
 - (3) No changes in Commanding Officer
 - (4) Staff Officers
1st Lt. W.J. Quinlivan became S-3 vice 1st Lt. D.E. Frye, 14 March 1944.
 - c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted
 - (1) Month of March 1944
 - (a) At beginning 424
 - (b) Net increase 22
 - (c) At end 446

- (d) Stations
Foggia A/D #2, Tororella, Italy.
- (e) Movements
None
- (f) Campaigns
 - (1) Italian
 - (2) 8 September 1944 to 31 March 1944, still in progress
- (g) Operations

2 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0620 to bomb Troop Concentrations, Anzio Beachhead, Italy. Two hundred sixteen frags dropped. Flak heavy and no E/AC encountered. All A/C returned safely at 1025.

3 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0900 to bomb Rome Littorio M/Y, Italy. One hundred eight 500 lb. bombs dropped. Flak heavy. No E/AC encountered. Target area well covered. All returned safely at 1350.

7 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0640 to bomb Toulon Harbor, France, but did not bomb due to overcast. All A/C returned safely with their bombs at 1655.

11 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0900 and dropped 107x500 lb. bombs on Padua M/Y, Italy. Flak light. Three to six E/AC encountered. All A/C returned safely to base.

15 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Eight A/C took off at 0745 and dropped 48x1000 lb. bombs on Cassino, Italy. Target area well covered. Flak slight and no E/AC encountered. All returned safely at 1050.

17 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0900 to bomb Fischamend Market, A/C Factory, Germany, but did not drop bombs due to overcast. No flak. Eight to ten FW-190s and ME-109s encountered. All returned safely at 1535.

18 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Eight A/C took off at 0700 and dropped 168 frags on Villaorba A/D, Italy. A/C 817 returned with 24 frags. Target area well covered. Flak heavy. E/AC

encountered 50 FW-190s and Me-109s. Claims of E/AC destroyed: S/Sgt. James B. McGill, ME-109, 2nd Lt. D.W. Rossi, FW-190, 2nd Lt. G.D. Sweem, FW-190, and 2nd Lt. M.N. Fitzgerald, FW-190. All A/C returned safely at 1215.

19 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Seven A/C took off at 1010 and dropped 84x500 lb. bombs on Klagenfurt A/D, Germany. Flak heavy and 15 to 20 E/AC encountered. Claims of E/AC destroyed: T/Sgt. W.E. Schildt, FW-190 and S/Sgt. W.T. Vreeland, ME-109. All A/C returned safely to base at 1600.

22 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1210. A/C 470 returned early due to supercharger trouble. All others dropped 48x1000 lb. bombs on Verona M/Y, Italy. Flak heavy. No E/AC encountered. All A/C returned safely at 1815.

28 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Eight A/C took off at 0852. A/C 135 returned early due to leak in oil tank. All others dropped 84x500 lb. bombs on Verona M/Y, Italy. Flak heavy. Target area well covered. E/AC encountered 5 FW-190s and Me-109s. All A/C returned safely at 1424.

29 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0745. A/C 135 returned early due to gasoline leak. Others dropped 96x500 lb. bombs on Turin M/Y, Italy. Flak heavy. Five E/AC encountered. Target area well covered. All returned safely at 1435.

30 March 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0723 and dropped 108x500 lb. bombs on Sofia, Bulgaria. Flak heavy and 5 E/AC encountered. Target area well covered. All returned at 1313.

- h. Commanding Officers in Important Operations
 - (1) All of our missions during the past month were led by Capt. H.E. Murphree, Jr., Lt. W.J. Quinlivan, and Lt. T.L. Whitaker.
- i. Losses in Action -- Officers and men
 - (1) No losses
 - (2) Lt. S.E. Perkins wounded in action, 29 March 1944, on mission over Sofia, Bulgaria.
- j. Members who have distinguished themselves.
 - (1) 1st Lt. D.E. Frye for extraordinary achievement on bombing target of opportunity, Villanova A/D, Italy, on return-early from mission over Turin, Italy, 1 December 1943. Distinguished Flying Cross, General order #52, 15th JA.F.
 - (2) S/Sgt. Eugene (NMI) Donovan, 16075440. For gallantry in action on mission over Innsbruck, Germany, on 19 December 1943. Coming off target, Sgt. Donovan's guns jammed and while repairing them he was hit in the thigh and lower leg by an exploding twenty (20) millimeter shell. Despite these wounds he completed the clearing of one gun and resumed fire at the attacking aircraft. He remained at his post until the enemy was driven off, only then did he accept first aid from fellow crew members. Silver Star, General order #145, 15th A.F.

**WAR DIARY OF
THE 348TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 99TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
MONTH OF MARCH 1944**

MAR 1 -- The first day of the month started with mission being canceled on account of weather. The A/C were airborne over field and were recalled by tower operator. Fresh steak was served for chow in the evening.

MAR 2 -- Activities for today started early as H-hour was 0300. Lt. C.K. Fortune and S/Sgt. V.W. Clark completed 50th mission. Major R.L. McMillan, new Executive Officer, inspected Squadron area and offices. It was a beautiful spring day. A movie was shown on the base in the evening.

MAR 3 -- It was an operational day. Lt. D.E. Frye completed 50th mission. A vote was held among the enlisted personnel whether or not to have a bar in the new day room that was near completion. The results were in the affirmative. Quite a number of the members of the Squadron were disappointed as they did not think a bar and day room would mix.

MAR 4 -- Our A/C were recalled after being airborne. The official opening of our new mess hall was celebrated at the evening chow. Beer was served. The new mess building is stone and was built by local Italian labor. There was a large turnout at the stage show, "its a Date", held at the Red Cross theater in Foggia.

MAR 5 -- Scheduled mission canceled on account of weather. It rained in the morning and cleared up around noon-time. The Red Cross served doughnuts at the evening chow. A meeting of the officers was held and it was decided that censorship of the enlisted men's mail would be done hereafter by each department head.

MAR 6 -- Mission canceled after the men were briefed and at their A/C ready to take off. A Squadron formation was held to honor the presentation of medals to some of the combat personnel at a ceremony in front of Group Headquarters. Col. C.W. Lawrence, Commanding Officer of Fifth Wing, presented the medals. It rained practically throughout the day and in the afternoon it became colder. In the evening a movie entitled "Gentleman Jim" was shown on the base. Due to the cold nasty rain the evening was a poor attendance.

MAR 7 -- It was an operational day. Lt. M.L. Smith and S/Sgt. P.W. Wiseman completed 50th mission. The new system of censorship of the enlisted men's mail by their own department heads has backfired as the majority still bring their mail to S-2. Fresh ham was on the menu for chow at supper.

MAR 8 -- Three red air raid alerts during the early morning. Fresh eggs served for breakfast. It was a nonoperational day. In the evening we had eight Wacs as our guests for supper. Music was furnished by the Group Orchestra under the direction of S/Sgt. Irwin Portages. This entertaining program was arranged by our Morale Committee.

MAR 9 -- Scheduled mission canceled after the Charge of Quarters awakened everybody at H-hour, which was at 0440. Italian K.P.s were being used at the mess hall. This was a very popular move with the men working on the line; as they supplied the kitchen with four men every day. A movie entitled "Lady Be Good" was shown on the base. Chicken was on the menu for chow at supper.

MAR 10 -- The same story today as yesterday. Scheduled mission canceled after the men were briefed and on their way to the line. It rained all day long and our living area was a sea of mud. Our Group insignia was changed by official order. Hereafter a Y with the Arabic numeral 3 under it, will be painted on the tail of our A/C. The Y stands for 5th Wing and the 3 for the 99th Group. Our Group will still be known publicly as the "Diamondback." This name was adopted several weeks ago in a name contest conducted by Group Headquarters.

MAR 11 -- It was an operational day. Lt. N.D. Collier completed 50th mission. The weather looked like rain in the morning due to heavy overcast. In the afternoon the sun came out and it turned out to be a beautiful Spring day. Our Supply Section was busy erecting seven new tents for the new Group that is to be on detached service with our Squadron. They were very disappointed as the expected arrival of the new Group failed to materialize today.

MAR 12 -- Rain started falling early this morning and did not let up until midnight. It was the heaviest rainfall we experienced since coming to Italy. Our bivouac area was not only a sea of mud, but there were miniature lakes throughout our living area. Scheduled mission canceled after briefing.

MAR 13 -- Mission canceled after briefing. The men were getting disgusted with so many missions being scrubbed. Today was PX day and a Baby Ruth bar was the special treat of this week's ration. Lt. Col. Ford J. Lauer, Group Commander, inspected the Squadron area.

MAR 14 -- Today was another holiday. There was a strong wind and dust storm that reminded us of the Sirrocco that we experienced when we were based at Navarin, Algeria, last summer. A G.I. revue staged by the Group was held and a good time was had by all that attended.

MAR 15 -- There were two missions scheduled today. The first mission was completed successfully and the second ended in an early return. The chief talk around the base among the combat personnel was the new order that the men would not return to the States after completing 50 missions. This order did not go over so well with the men, although the present personnel are not affected, as the new edict goes into effect on new crews. The 773rd Squadron of the 463rd Bomb Group joined our Squadron on detached service.

MAR 16 -- Rain started falling early this morning and did not stop until noon. Scheduled mission canceled after briefing. Our bivouac area was a sea of mud. A movie entitled "DuBarry Was a Lady" was shown on the base.

MAR 17 -- It was an operational day and Lt. W.J. Mulcahy and S/Sgt. L.K. Kirsh completed tour of duty on today's mission. It was a beautiful spring day. The heavy mud caused by the rain of the previous day started drying. Fresh hamburgers were served at chow for supper.

MAR 18 -- Operational day. T/Sgt. J.V. Carey and S/Sgt. M.C. Kern completed tour of duty on today's mission. It was a busy day for the enlisted men, cleaning their rifles, as an inspection was held in the afternoon. A movie was shown on the base entitled "The Man from Down Under."

MAR 19 -- It was an operational day. A couple of Red Cross girls cheered the boys up a bit by serving coffee and doughnuts in the afternoon. In the evening the stage show, "Hey Rookie," was held in Foggia and all that attended commented that "it was the best G.I. show seen overseas." There was a red air raid alert about 2000 that lasted about twenty minutes.

MAR 20 -- Scheduled mission canceled after briefing. A practice mission was held in the afternoon. A Medical Inspector from Wing inspected the Squadron area. In the evening a movie was shown on the base.

MAR 21 -- Today was another holiday, it being a nonoperational day. This being the first day of Spring, it was a beautiful day. A meeting of all combat crews was held at the S-2 Office by Lt. A.F. Sentous.

MAR 22 -- After standing by most of the morning our Squadron took off and completed successful mission. Twelve men left today for rest camp on Isle of Capri. This is the first time that two men from the ground enlisted personnel were sent. The ten men that were at the rest camp returned this evening.

MAR 23 -- H-hour at 0210. This broke all records as this was the earliest H-hour in the history of our Squadron. After our A/C were airborne they were recalled.

MAR 24 -- We did the same today as happened yesterday. After our A/C were airborne they turned back on account of nonoperational weather. a USO stage show was held on the base this evening headed by the movie actor, John Garfield, and also Eddie Foy, Jr. A good time was had by all that attended. Our Communications Section began installing a public address system today.

MAR 25 -- Schedule mission canceled after briefing. Winter returned today as it became cold and windy. In the evening a movie was shown on the base.

MAR 26 -- Our A/C after being airborne turned back on account of nonoperational weather. The men were disgusted with so many turnbacks on account of weather. The chief comment among the men. "They were beginning to wonder whether this was Hitler's secret weapon." Roast beef and chocolate cake were on the menu for chow at supper. The Group Orchestra made a hit with their show entitled "Carimelli Carnival" which was presented this evening on the base. We traded all of our B-17Gs with the 2nd Bomb Group in exchange for their B-17Fs.

MAR 27 -- Nonoperational. It was a cold and windy day. The enlisted men's day-room was completed. A Squadron meeting among the enlisted men was held. The purpose of the meeting was to select committees and the setting up of rules in running the new Enlisted Men's Club. The opening date was set for March 31, 1944. A movie was shown on the base entitled "Princes O'Rourke."

MAR 28 -- It was an operational day and we completed one of our most successful missions. The weather continued to be cold and windy. The enlisted men's day-room was officially opened today. The building of the day-room is stone and was built by local Italian labor under the direction of Cpl. T.S. Guffey. The latest soft-cushioned furniture was bought and placed in the day-room. Pineapple pie was served a chow for supper.

MAR 29 -- The weather changed and it was a beautiful spring day. Most everyone took advantage of it by airing their blankets in the sun. A successful mission was completed without incident. Quite a number of colds among the personnel. Capt. J.A. Sarsy, Group Adjutant, inspected the records of the various departments.

MAR 30 -- Operational today. The 773rd Squadron of the 463rd Bomb Gp. left us and we were joined by the 817th Squadron of the 483rd Bomb Gp. There were quite a number of rumors that we were supposed to trade our B-17Fs for their new B-17Gs. In the evening a movie was shown on the base entitled "Slightly Dangerous."

MAR 31 -- We closed our the month by having a holiday, it being a nonoperational day. The enlisted personnel were paid early in the afternoon. The grand opening of the enlisted men's bar started right after pay call. The card and crap games were going far into the night.

**THREE HUNDRED FORTY EIGHTH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON
NINETY NINTH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ARMY AIR FORCES
Office of the Operations Officer**

MTO. APO 520
23 April 1944

SUBJECT: Combat Crews on Today's Mission
TO: Operations Officer, Ninety Ninth Bombardment Group (H) AAF

B-17G #648 Crew 51 (1) B-17G #988 Crew 59 (2)

P	Barnett, J.A.	Lt Col	P	Lovering, E.R.	2nd Lt
CP	Whitaker, T.D.	1st Lt	CP	Mainwaring, N.K.	2nd Lt
N	Blanks, J.B.	1st Lt	N	O'Rourke, N.K.	2nd Lt
B	Jankousky, C.K.	2nd Lt	B	Satterwhite, W.A.	2nd Lt
E	Casleberry, H.D.	S/Sgt	E	Kaufman, C.	S/Sgt
AE	Fisher, D.B.	S/Sgt	AE	Davis, C.L.	Sgt
R	Snavey, J.K.	T/Sgt	R	Eisen, H.J.	S/Sgt
G	Donovon, E.	S/Sgt	AR	Crist, C.F.	Sgt
G	Schwiesow, S.R.	S/Sgt	G	McGrath, T.H.	Sgt
N	Neihaus, H.D.	2nd Lt	G	Gibbs, E.H.	Sgt

B-17G #036 Crew 64 (3) B-17G #069 Crew 53 (4)

P	Schmidt, C.E.	2nd Lt	P	Highfill, T.N.	1st Lt
CP	Heggeness, F.W.	2nd Lt	CP	Anderson, C.G.	2nd Lt
N	Grosch, A.L.	2nd Lt	N	Morrison, R.J.	2nd Lt
B	Funk, K.C.	2nd Lt	B	Perkins, E.E.	1st Lt
E	Sanchelli, C.R.	Sgt	E	Schildt, W.E.	T/Sgt
AE	Moore, C.P.	Sgt	AE	Hamilton, J.J.	S/Sgt
R	Flowe, C.M.	Sgt	R	Gins, S.	T/Sgt
AR	Murray, R.E.	S/Sgt	AR	Hoey, A.E.	S/Sgt
G	Westphal, R.C.	Sgt	G	Gioia, A.	S/Sgt
G	McCrary, B.B.	Pfc	G	Hilbun, J.S.	S/Sgt

B-17G #041 Crew 58 (5) B-17G #996 Crew 70 (6)

P	Chapelle, J.F.	2nd Lt	P	Moudy, R.T., Jr.	2nd Lt
CP	Ferry, E.V.	2nd Lt	CP	Sublett, J.A.	2nd Lt
N	Dunn, J.J.	2nd Lt	N	Geiger, H.C.	2nd Lt
B	Weir, J.A.	1st Lt	B	Stempe, G.J.	2nd Lt
E	Lapinski, J.A.	S/Sgt	E	Avery, C.T.	Sgt
AE	Larson, R.F.	Cpl	AE	Katz, S.H.	Sgt
R	Zalkin, N.	S/Sgt	R	Kuzan, P.N.	Sgt
AR	Anson, W.W.	Sgt	AR	Curtis, M.L.	Pfc
G	Metzsinger, D.F.	Cpl	G	Pipes, R.N.	Sgt
G	Longan, C.W.	Cpl	G	Perry, R. Jr.	Sgt

B-17G #061 Crew 60 (7) B-17G #057 Crew 69 (8)

P	Franklin, P.H. Jr.	1st Lt	P	Hoover, W.P. Jr.	1st Lt
CP	Gildea, T.J. Jr.	2nd Lt	CP	Young, W.E.	2nd Lt
N	Wolek, J.N.	2nd Lt	N	Morrissey, J.M.	2nd Lt
B	Ditzel, K.I.	2nd Lt	B	Meredith, K.W.	2nd Lt

E	Walters, A.S.	T/Sgt	E	Cornelson, W.R.	T/Sgt
AE	Yorgin, M. Jr.	S/Sgt	AE	Luther, James B.	T/Sgt
R	Parris, H.T. Jr.	T/Sgt	R	McCuire, B.J.	T/Sgt
AR	Watson, W.H.	S/Sgt	AR	Blevins, A.L.	S/Sgt
G	McLaughlin, T.M.	S/Sgt	G	Lindo, H.	S/Sgt
G	McGill, J.B.	S/Sgt	G	Repp, C.A.	S/Sgt
F	Rushia, Kenneth Jr.	Cpl			

B-17G #984 Crew 66 (9)

P	Cannedy, P.J.	2nd Lt
CP	Reynolds, F.J.	2nd Lt
N	Swanson, C.	2nd Lt
B	Coers, H.A.	1st Lt
E	Bartlett, J.E.	T/Sgt
AE	Davis, B.M.	S/Sgt
R	Bernstein, R.	T/Sgt
AR	Hanvelt, R.C.	S/Sgt
G	Duncan, C.E.	S/Sgt
G	Dykes, W.A.	S/Sgt

A TRUE COPY:

For the Squadron Commander:

Certified by JOHN A. SAROSY
Major, Air Corps

T.D. Whitaker
1st Lt., Air Corps
Ass't Operations Officer

30 April 1944

SUBJECT: Historical Records
TO: Commanding General, Fifteenth Air Force, Attention Historian
(Through Channels)

1. Unit history of the 348th Bomb Squadron for the period 1 April, 1944 to 30 April, 1944.

a. The present designation is 348th Bomb Squadron, 99th Bomb Group (H) 5th Wing, (US), 15th Air Force.

b. Changes in organization

- (1) No changes in unit designation
- (2) No transfer of units
- (3) No changes in Commanding Officer
- (4) Staff Officers

1st Lt. T.M. Highfill became Assistant S-3 vice 1st Lt. T.D.

Whitaker, 27 April 1944.

c. Strength, commissioned and enlisted

- (1) Month of April 1944
 - (a) at beginning 448
 - (b) net increase 0
 - (c) net decrease 5
 - (d) at end 445

d. Stations

Foggia A/D #2, Tortorella, Italy

e. Movements

None

- f. Campaigns
 - (1) Italian
 - (2) 8 September 1943 to 30 April 1944, still in progress.
- g. Operations

2 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Ten A/C took off at 0745 to bomb Steyr Ball Bearing Works, Austria. A/C #997 returned early on account of engine trouble. Nine A/C dropped 108 x 500 lb. bombs. Flak heavy and 75 E/AC encountered. Official claims: 3 E/AC destroyed and 2 E/AC probably destroyed. Target missed completely. All A/C returned safely at 1455.

3 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Eight A/C took off at 0705 and dropped 96 x 500 lb. bombs on Budapest A/C Factory, Hungary. Flak heavy. No E/AC encountered. Target area well covered. All planes back safely at 1355.

4 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1045 to bomb Bucharest M/Y, Rumania. Five of our A/C returned early, losing the formation because of weather. Four A/C dropped 48 x 500 lb. bombs on assigned target and covered it well. Flak heavy, moderate and inaccurate. Ten to fifteen ME-109s and FW-190s encountered. Four official claims of E/AC destroyed. Those A/C bombing returned safely at 1820.

5 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1104 to bomb Ploesti M/Y, Rumania. A/C #984 returned early due to engine trouble. Eight A/C dropped 96 x 500 lb. bombs and completely covered the target area. Flak heavy, intense and accurate. Ten to fifteen E/AC encountered, but not very aggressive. All A/C returned safely at 1845.

7 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1030 and dropped 106 x 500 lb. bombs on Treviso M/Y, Italy. Flak heavy and no E/AC encountered. Target area well covered. All A/C landed safely at 1530.

12 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Ten A/C took off at 0900 to bomb Fischamend Market A/C Factory, Austria. All dropped 120 x 500 lb. bombs and covered assigned target well. Flak heavy, intense and accurate. No E/AC encountered. All A/C returned safely at 1530.

13 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Ten A/C took off at 0840 and dropped 120 x 500 lb. bombs on Gyer A/C Factory, Hungary. Target area well covered. Flak slight and inaccurate. No E/AC encountered. All A/C back safely at 1430.

15 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Ten A/C took off at 0810 to bomb Ploesti M/Y, Rumania. A/C #984 returned early. Nine A/C dropped 324 x 100 lb bombs at 1240. Target bombed through 10/10 clouds, smoke covered area. Flak heavy, intense and inaccurate. Five E/AC encountered. No claims. All A/C returned safely at 1527.

16 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Ten A/C took off at 0742. Primary target (Brasov A/D and A/C Factory, Rumania) was not located due to weather. 120 x 500 lb. bombs were dropped at 1220 on Belgrade Rogosarski A/C Factory, Yugoslavia. City was hit. Flak heavy, intense, accurate; barrage and tracking. Three E/AC seen, but none encountered. Two men wounded from flak and Nine A/C received flak holes. All A/C returned safely at 1430.

17 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0925 to bomb Belgrade Ikarus A/C Factory, Yugoslavia. A/C #041 returned early. Eight A/C dropped 96 x 500 lb. bombs at 1212. Fires and smoke covered target area. Flak heavy, moderate to intense. No E/AC encountered. All A/C landed safely at 1520.

20 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1010. Primary target (Vicenza M/Y, Italy) was not bombed due to overcast of target area. Nine A/C dropped 106 x 500 lb. bombs at 1355 on Venice Harbor and Shipping, Italy. The target, a large ship in the harbor, was not hit but bombs fell all around it. Flak none at target, but heavy, inaccurate flak en route. Three E/AC seen, but no encounters. All planes returned at 1620.

23 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1105 and dropped 108 x 500 lb. bombs at 1427 on Wiener Neustadt A/C Factory, Austria. Target area well covered. Flak heavy, intense, accurate. Twenty E/AC seen, six encountered. One man wounded from flak. All A/C returned safely at 1720.

24 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0745 to bomb Ploesti M/Y, Rumania. A/C #016 and #041 returned early. Flak heavy, intense and accurate. Twenty E/AC seen, five encountered. Official claims: 3 E/AC destroyed. All planes down at 1515.

28 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 1215 to bomb Plombino Steel Factory, Italy. A/C #988 returned early. Eight A/C dropped 96 x 500 lb. bombs at 1452. Target area well covered, fires and black smoke throughout assigned area. Flak slight, heavy and inaccurate. No E/AC encountered. All A/C returned safely at 1705.

29 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Nine A/C took off at 0736 and dropped 54 x 500 lb. bombs on Toulon Harbor Installations at 1140. Target area obscured by smoke. Flak heavy, moderate and inaccurate. No E/AC encountered. All A/C landed safely at 1535.

30 April 1944 -- Foggia #2. Eight A/C took off at 0830 and dropped 96 x 500 lb. bombs on Varese A/C factory, Italy at 1207. Target area covered by very good pattern. Flak none at target, some en route. Thirty to forty E/AC encountered. Unofficial claims: 7 E/AC destroyed, 2 probably destroyed, and 1 damaged. All A/C returned safely at 1505.

h. Commanding officers in important operations

(1) All of our missions during the past month were led by Capt. H.E. Murphree, Jr., 1st Lt T.D. Whitaker, Lt Col. Barnett (from Group Hqs.) and Maj. J.A. Christensen.

i. Losses in action -- officers and men

(1) No losses
 (2) Lt E.R. Lovering and S/Sgt G.S. Ladd wounded in action, 16 April 1944, on mission over Belgrade Rogosarski A/C Factory, Yugoslavia. S/Sgt T.M. McLaughlin wounded in action 25 April 1944, on mission over Wiener Neustadt A/C Factory, Austria.

j. Members who have distinguished themselves

(1) 2nd Lt. G.W. Rohrer for gallantry in action while participating in aerial flight over Greece. On October 10, 1943, Lt Rohrer's aircraft was shot down and he was forced to bail out over the water. After reaching land he was picked up and sheltered by fishermen and by means of the "underground" eventually found his way to the British Military Mission. While with the B.M.M he took part in a number of extremely dangerous missions. He was instrumental in obtaining most valuable information. Silver Star, General Order #179, 15th Air Force.

(2) 2nd Lt Horner F. Carpenter, Jr. 0-798970. For extraordinary achievement while participating in a mission to an important enemy base in Italy. His aircraft was struck by numerous fragmentation bombs which caused heavy damage. Six live bombs lodged in the wing imperiling the safety of the entire aircraft and crew. Lt Carpenter ordered seven of his crew to bail out, knowing that a rough landing would cause the bombs to explode. Lt Carpenter successfully landed his aircraft, saving a valuable military aircraft and the lives of his crew.

(3) 2nd Lt Clayton J. Johnson, 0-802054. For extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flight on a mission over an important enemy base in Italy. His aircraft was struck by numerous fragmentation bombs, six lodging in the wing and endangering the lives of the entire crew and also the aircraft. Seven crew members were bailed out, knowing that a rough landing would cause the aircraft to be exploded by the bombs. Lt Johnson and his pilot stayed with the aircraft in the hope of saving it for combat. Lt Johnson aided in a successful landing which resulted in the saving of many lives and a valuable military aircraft.

Both (2) and (3) above were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross on General order #93, 15th Air Force.

2. Enclosed is the war diary of this unit for the period 1 April 1944 to 30 April 1944.

For the Commanding Officer:

A.F. SENTOUS
 Capt, A.C.
 S-2 Officer.

**WAR DIARY OF THE
348TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 99TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)**

MONTH OF APRIL 1944

APR 1 -- The month was started by having a real April Fool's day. H-hour at 0730 and then after briefing the mission was canceled on account of weather. There was a strong wind during the morning that blew over several tents. We had roast beef and pineapple pie for chow at supper time.

APR 2 -- Operational. Beautiful spring day. The clocks were moved ahead one hour today and so there was a change in our chow schedule. In the evening quite a number of the men took in the opera being shown in Foggia at the Red Cross theater.

APR 3 -- It was an operational day. This mission marked the first time our Squadron was over Hungary. The big surprise came when it turned out to be a "milk run." The morale among the flying personnel hit a new low today on account of the ruling that the men would not go home after completing fifty missions. Also, the men would not be grounded, but would continue flying until grounded by the Flight Surgeon. A movie entitled "Dr. Gillespie's Assistant" was shown.

APR 4 -- We shattered precedent again today when our Squadron completed a successful mission over the Rumanian capitol. This marked the first time we were on a mission over Rumania. In the evening two Red Cross girls distributed coffee and doughnuts at the Enlisted Men's Club. There was also a G.I. band playing the latest popular tunes. A merry evening was had by all that attended.

APR 5 -- There was a heavy fog that greeted us this morning. After the fog lifted about 1100, our Squadron took off and completed a successful mission. In the afternoon a U.S.O. stage show was presented in the open field between the 416th Squadron and our bivouac area. Our chow for supper continues to be good as roast beef and pineapple pie were on the menu.

APR 6 -- Today was a holiday as it was nonoperational. A practice mission was flown. It was a beautiful day and the majority of men took off for town on passes. Lt. R.V. Smith, navigator who returned to the States in January to go to school, returned to the Squadron. He was kept very busy answering questions in regard to the home front.

APR 7 -- We were greeted this morning by another heavy fog. After the fog lifted our Squadron took off and completed successful mission. An educational film on malaria control was shown in the enlisted men's day-room. There was a red air raid alert at 2330 which lasted for thirty minutes.

APR 8 -- After our aircraft were airborne they were recalled by ground station. A U.S.O. camp show was presented on the base in the afternoon. Chocolate cake was on the menu for chow at supper. In the evening a movie entitled "Jack London" was shown on the base.

APR 9 -- Scheduled mission canceled just as briefing was about to start. Today being Easter, there was a large attendance at the outdoor services conducted by Chaplain Harold E. Whitlock. There was also a large attendance at the evening services. Quite a number of new anti-aircraft units moved in on the base. Beer was served at chow this evening. There was a red air raid alert at 2500 which lasted until 2530.

APR 10 -- Today was a nonoperational day. It was PX day and orange juice was included on the ration list. The morale of the combat personnel was high as official word was received that the men would go home after completing fifty missions. The official opening of the Officer's Club was held this evening and it was a grand success.

APR 11 -- Scheduled mission canceled after the men were briefed. It was a routine day with no unusual happenings. Chocolate cake was served at supper.

APR 12 -- It was an operational day. Lt. C.J. Biehl, Lt. J.T. Taylor, and Lt D.W. Rossi completed 50th mission. Capt. M. Layden, Flight Surgeon, went along on today's mission. A movie was shown on the base in the evening.

APR 13 -- It was an operational day. Lt. C.J. Johnson, Lt C.A. Brooks, S/Sgt M.F. Harwood finished 50th mission. Usual daily routine duties performed.

APR 14 -- today was nonoperational, but the Squadron flew a practice mission. There was a presentation of awards by General Atkinson at Group Headquarters. Thirty seven officers and sixty six enlisted men received Air Medals. Lt G.W. Rohrer, who has returned to the States, was among those listed for the Silver Star. S/Sgt E. Donovan was awarded the Silver Star, and Lt G.J. Johnson and Lt H. F. Carpenter, Jr. received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

APR 15 -- Today was operational. Lt. T.E. Blalock finished 50th mission. The Squadron received their first Coca Cola since they have been overseas. There was a W.A.C. dance at the Red Cross, but very few W.A.Cs turned out.

APR 16 -- Today was operational. Two men received flak wounds on the mission: Lt E.R. Lovering and S/Sgt G.S. Ladd both were hit by flak in the leg. Two officers and three enlisted men finished 50th mission. Lt G.R. Lockwood, Lt A.D. Oliver, T/Sgt R.J. Ourso, S/Sgt J.F. McMurray and S/Sgt I.F. Hardin.

APR 17 -- Today was operational. Lt L.A. Hughes, Jr., Lt. R.L. Carlson, Jr., T/Sgt A.P. Howland completed 50th mission. The boys on the line were having a lot of fun watching the Group that is attached to us land, for it was their first real combat mission. They made very poor landings. Our Squadron got its first good look at the P-51 on the line.

APR 18 -- Today was nonoperational and therefore it was very quiet around camp for most of the men went on pass. Sgt D.F. Lee, Sgt Edward Graham, Cpl Joe Abbott and Cpl George Smalley were transferred to the 2nd Bomb Group with the pathfinder ship.

APR 19 -- Today was nonoperational. Most of the men were on pass and there were a number of ball games in the area. The 347th Squadron officers challenged our officers to a ball game in the afternoon. A captain from the 15th Air Force gave a lecture to three combat crews on personal equipment. A movie was shown at Group Headquarters in the evening entitled "We've Never Been Licked."

APR 20 -- Today was operational and also the deadline on mosquito bars. Lt Bohenic has been appointed malaria control officer. Eleven men who have completed 50 missions went home this morning. Four men also finished 50th mission today; S/Sgt R.D. Howie, T/Sgt K.S. Standfield, S/Sgt T.W. Hill and Lt K.R. Barlow.

APR 21 -- Today was operational, but the planes were called back after being airborne. Some of the men took off for town on pass in the afternoon. Everything pretty quiet and usual Squadron duties performed.

APR 22 -- Today was nonoperational. A "whimpy" crashed at the edge of the Squadron area during the early morning. No one was injured, the crew had bailed out over Barletta. It didn't miss our bivouac area by much and could have caused a lot of damage. The 817th Bomb Group that has been attached to us moved to their own field; this raised the men's morale for now we won't have to sweat the long chow lines. The officers and enlisted men spent the day in a series of soft ball games.

APR 23 -- Today was operational and we completed a very successful mission. Eight men finished their 50th mission today. They were Lt P.H. Franklin, Lt T.D. Whitaker, S/Sgt S.R. Schwiesow, T/Sgt J.K. Snavely, S/Sgt A.S. Walters, S/Sgt T.M. McLaughlin, S/Sgt H.T. Parris and S/Sgt E.D. Castelberry. The orderly room moved into their new office. This left the officers more room to enlarge their club, for the orderly room was using the ground floor of the same building.

APR 24 -- Today was operational. Three men finished their 50th mission today: S/Sgt W.T. Vreeland, Lt H.N. Terry, Lt J.B. Blanks. There were two red alerts after dark.

APR 25 -- Today was operational, but the planes were called back after being airborne on account of weather. There was a U.S.O. show in the afternoon which helped to raise the boys' morale. The rest of the day was very quiet.

APR 26 -- Today was nonoperational. It was very quiet in camp and rained most the night. The men who had completed their 50 missions were briefed for their trip home. They weren't very anxious to go for they are only on D.S. for thirty days.

APR 27 -- Mission canceled an hour after H-hour. It rained most of the day. Thirty five "50 mission men" went home on D.S.

APR 28 -- Today was operational, but the day was very quiet in camp. Lt K.L. Ditzel and S/Sgt E. Donovan finished their 50th mission.

APR 29 -- Today was operational and seven men finished 50th mission: Capt J. Mckowen, Lt J.A. Weir, T/Sgt N. Hardy, S/Sgt W.B. Johnson, T/Sgt D.G. Martin, T/Sgt J.D. Luther, and S/Sgt K.S. Morris. Today marked the ground crews' first year's service overseas. We had Coca Cola for evening chow.

APR 30 -- Today was operational. We received two new crews which will e a big help, for we are running short with so many men finishing up. S/Sgt R.L. Horn completed his 50th mission today.



Mr. George Coen
2908 Aliso Drive SE
Albuquerque, N.M. 87110

September 4, 1991

Dear George,

I was surprised and delighted to see my old aircraft listed in the section of aircraft transferred to the 99th from the 483rd about March 31, 1944. The aircraft was #42-106995 - "The Anthony J." I put this plane in a corn field near Bals in Rumania the day of 23 June 1944. We all walked away safely and spent some time as POWs. Except that the props were slightly bent and three of the engines were out, and she had numerous holes throughout, she was in pretty good shape.

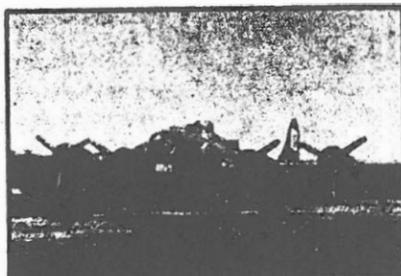
I can't imagine anyone getting her out of the field, but she is either performing some other function or is still there!

Good work

Harold W. Brazier
Col, USAF (Ret'd)

85330 Lorane Hwy
Eugene, OR 97405

P.S. This was my third raid on Ploesti. I guess my luck ran out!



BOOK SEQUEL PLANNED. My publisher has asked me to produce a second volume of *Strangers in a Strange Land*. I need help with the two planes pictured above. The olive drab B-17G once belonged to the 100BG. The photo was said to have been taken in April 1945 at Hildesheim Airfield. The second photo is a B-17G, #44-8753, taken somewhere in Germany. This radar ship appears absolutely intact. Any information on the two a/c would be appreciated.

Hans-Heiri Stapfer, Bergstrasse 35,
CH-8810 Horgen/ZH, Switzerland

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* * * * *

Aug 30 * * * Trib
Albu. Tribune.

Seymour "Sye" Feldman, a Royal Air Force flier who was in the invasion of France 45 years ago, recently was at a reunion in Normandy that was attended by Queen Elizabeth II. She unveiled a memorial at Bayeux where Feldman played his bagpipe for her. Feldman is a retired flight-service special-



Feldman

ist who was with the Federal Aviation Administration for more than 30 years. He was in the Royal Air Force from 1942 to 1948. He received the Distinguished Flying Cross in July 1944.

Sye has graciously played for our 99th Reunions.

QUOTES

from WORKERS' PARADISE LOST by Eugene Lyons

The harm worked by defects in a national economy are not merely cumulative, not a matter of simple addition. They multiply geometrically, each failure breeding new and larger failures. It is this process that finally compelled the Soviet dictatorship to seek correctives. Its economists and other specialists have not merely been allowed but encouraged to examine and criticize the functioning of the economy - but not the state monopoly, national planning, or socialism as such. p. 169

alone, Pravda reported). But the prices are arbitrary and useless to management, since they do not reflect true costs. A French economist and socialist, André Philip, was astonished to learn during a Soviet visit in 1956 that prices for various commodities were often decided by consulting foreign mail-order catalogs. p.182

A few years ago the then Premier Krushchev conluded a eulogy to Major Yuri Gagarin, the first man to orbit our planet, with an impassioned appeal for better farm production. He called upon the peasants to match the astronaut's feat in the skies with feats of diligence on the earth. Unwittingly, he thus pointed up a deep-running paradox of communism in practice. A system able to produce Sputniks and Luniks in the newest area of human endeavor was bogged down in farming, the oldest area.

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 May 1992 American Former P.O.Ws, Stalag XVII-B Knoxville TN

Lester J. Levy, 4047 Division, Metairie LA 70002 - Ph. (504) 888-8850

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Marion J. Larkin, 3827 Clifton, Rapid City, SD
 230ct 1992 461 BG Dayton OH

Frank C. O'Bannon, P.O.Box 36600, Tucson AZ 85740
 or Ed Chan, P.O.Box 117, New Hyde Park, NY 11040



TAPS

Harry W. Getting

Harry, a pilot of the 347th, died in July, 1972.
 John F. O'Connell

HENRY A. Lutkenhouse, Age 91, Father of Henry E. Lutkenhouse of the 416th

LUTKENHOUSE--Henry A. Lutkenhouse, 91, a resident of Albuquerque since 1983, died Wednesday, September 25, 1991. He was born in New York City in 1900. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1917 to 1918. He earned his Architectural degree from New York University and worked for 54 years, 31 years as a Naval Architect, for the U.S. Navy. During World War II, he redesigned 50 destroyers that had been taken out of mothballs and were given to the British on a lend lease arrangement.

He retired in 1964. His wife, Lucienne Becca Lutkenhouse preceded him in death in January 1965. He remarried in 1966 and moved to Florida in 1968. He was preceded in death by his wife, Katherine, in July 1989. He is survived by two sons, Henry E. and wife Sarah, of Albuquerque, and Emile A. and wife Jane, of Staten Island, NY; three grandchildren, Linda Buchanan, and husband John, of Burke, VA. Anne Lutkenhouse, of Staten Island, NY. and Richard Lutkenhouse, of

Albuquerque; one great-grandson, Matthew Buchanan, of Burke, VA; one sister, Charlotte Goetz, of Lakeworth, Florida. He has numerous nieces, and nephews. He was loved by all. Visitation was held at Strong-Thorne 1100 Coal on Monday, September 30, from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. He has been taken to the Hanley Funeral Home, in Staten Island, New York for services and burial there. Strong-Thorne 1100 Coal SE in charge of arrangements.