

99TH BOMB GROUP



B-17 FLYING FORTRESS

1943 • • AFRICA/EUROPE • • 1945

395 COMBAT MISSIONS



THE 99th BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 13, No. 6

February 1994

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for having confidence in me to elect me President of the 99th BGHS for the coming year.

We are fortunate to get Fran Grantz to take on the job of Society Chaplain. Dick Drain will be our Historian. Dick has traced every B-17 that passed through the 99th in great detail.

Since George Coen resigned in ill health (we all wish him the best) as Newsletter Editor Bernie Barr has taken on the job until someone volunteers to take on the job. As you know communication is the glue that keeps our Society functioning. . . without it the organization will wither away. Please contact Bernie Barr if you can take on this job. You will get all the cooperation that can be mustered.

The visit to March Air Force Base during our Ontario Reunion was unforgettable. The acrobatic demonstrations by an F-15 and an F-16 at different intervals were awesome. We were able to climb a ladder and see inside the cockpit of the F-16. We saw an F-117 Stealth Bomber flying alongside the runway as we were leaving the Base. The Air Force Thunderbirds were unable to give their formation show since the lead pilot was grounded for a back problem.

We need your input to keep the newsletter interesting. How about some experiences from Flight Line and off Flight Line folks. Without your efforts the planes couldn't have flown. . . so get a pen and paper and send your stories to Walter or Bernie.

Until the next Newsletter in May '94 stay well and enjoy life. Sincerely,
Jules Horowitz

The many, many friends of Don and Laurel Sopp will be sorry to hear that they are both confined to a Nursing Home in Kettering, Ohio. A card or brief note from all their friends and acquaintances would do much for their spirits. Address: Mr. & Mrs. Don Sopp, Carriage By The Lake Nursing Home, Kettering, Ohio 45429



MARGE AND JIM SMITH'S REPORT ON ONTARIO REUNION

175 folks enjoyed the 99th BGHS reunion at Ontario, CA the last week of October '93. There was something for everyone ! The Hospitality Room was open for those who wished to just visit, with even a Ladies Hospitality Room for those who wanted a retreat, plus many activities for those who wanted to be on the go. Arkie Clark was in charge of the Hospitality Room ably assisted by Bob Bacher, Walter Harbison and Art Knipp. Doris Barr oversaw the ladies hospitality room. . . .A bus load of members went to Disneyland and Knotts Berry Farm on Wednesday. . . .113 members attended the Squadron Dinners where many war experiences were recounted. . . .A large group went to Universal Studios on Thursday. . . .The Wild Animal Kingdom trip had to be canceled because of the brush fires in the L.A. area. There were many fires but not near Ontario. Smoke in the air a good bit of the time reminded us of the fires. . . .Many went to Chino Airport on Friday to view the very impressive display of WW II and other aircraft and memorabilia. Our thanks to John Moller who shared his expertise and hospitality as a volunteer. A bus load went to beautiful Lake Arrowhead and enjoyed seeing the million dollar homes on a boat ride, and 8 ladies went on a crafts trip with Doris Barr. All enjoyed the various Friday trips. . . .Saturday 3 bus loads went to March Air Force Base and enjoyed the fledgling museum, aircraft display and a short air show. . . .160 attended the Banquet Saturday evening. After a brief Memorial Moment and Taps, the festivities continued. Peg Billingsley crocheted a beautiful Afghan for a door prize, won by Jeanne Sholtis. Bottles of champagne were presented to various folks as awards; for instance, one to Bill Kidwiler for being held longest as a POW (2 years); to the crew with the most members present (McCianahan's with 4); and to the oldest member (Ray Schwanbeck). Others were for who came the longest distance, the oldest woman, the squadron with the most ground personnel, most grandchildren and most great grandchildren. . . .A professional disc jockey and wife furnished dancing and listening music enjoyed by all. . . .Sunday mornings continental breakfast was filled with "good-byes and 'til we meet agains". . . .Our '94 regular reunion is Hampton, VA September '94 with Bob and Billie Bacher as hosts. . . .Many thanks to the Barrs, Butlers, Paul Shank and others who helped arrange such a good reunion.

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Bernie and Walter personally thank everyone for their help in making the ONTARIO reunion a big success. ARKIE CLARK said that this was the best Group of members that he had ever worked with. . . .Thanks !



THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



When Julius Horowitz called to say he had been elected President and asked if I would serve as Chaplain for the Society, I hesitated. After a few moments and questioning as to the duties for the Chaplain, I acceded to his request.

Then I got to thinking I began looking into the memory bank! Years of service... locations...Chaplains I'd meet...all the usual trail follows the mind's trail through memory! Then I suddenly realized one morning, as I looked in the mirror to shave, I can't be a Chaplain, because those guys were "HOLY JOES"...and I ain't no holy joe!!!

You see, I remembered "Father Joe", the Catholic Chaplain at Santa Ana AAB when I was taking preflight as a cadet in 1944, and Rev. McCune who stopped by at our CDT at Carroll College in Waukesha, WI, and those guys stood out as HOLY JOES!....and I was to be one like them!!!!

Oh, I can't remember them all...sometimes I went to chapel...sometimes, like the rest of us, Sunday was a great day for "sackin' in" and I could log some good time at that altitude! At Lowry Field #2 at Denver, we were in classes on Sunday. Our day off was Tuesday and the Chaplain came around to remind us that we were expected at Chapel. Wow! And my memory from the 346th BS and the 99th is too short: I flew with Connie Shields and Bob Moser as their togglier on February 27, 1945, after less than a month in the outfit.

Now I remember, too our own recent Chaplains: Harvey Jennings and Joe Kenney. God bless their memory and the contribution they've made for us! . . .But amidst this reverie, it seems a line comes back ...from a Chaplain's column in some base's newssheet. This line I pass on to you. . .

"This is the Day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it !"

Regardless of where we are in this journey called out lives, we live one day at a time. And we all belong in the family of God, our Creator and Father. This is a New Year and we begin, each day, with a prayer for His blessing and our thanksgiving in gladness to celebrate its wonder and joys ! I would appreciate hearing from you with ideas you'd like included in this column. Perhaps you can remember some of the Chaplains who have crossed your path. Perhaps there's a good "preacher" story in there somewhere !God bless you, my comrades, and us all together !

Cordially

Francis W. Grantz



NOTES AND LETTERS

Dear Walter:

Regarding the September 1, 1993 issue with the photo of two 17 s that ran together. . . I was sitting in a 17 not more than 100 yards from the accident site. . . The reason for the crash was that the 17s lined up with engines running waiting for take-off turns and the pilot either experienced brake loss or wasn't paying attention. . . Now days you call this following too close (his insurance did not cover this loss, especially if he had State Farm Insurance.) . . . Thought I'd put my two cents worth in.

Best Regards,

George Frame
George Frame

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James V. O'Donnely, Squadron Navigator identified the crew members pictured in the last issue. He was standing second from the left. Raymond Kane, Squadron Commander was on the far left. George Welborn, Squadron Bombardier was third from the left, and Bill Kinard, Squadron & Group Co-pilot on the far right.

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LEONARD SMITH, site selection chairman, called to say that he was making the final arrangements with the SHERATON WEST PORT PLAZA INN FOR OUR MAY 1995 REUNION IN ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. Mark your calendars. Len will keep us informed on developments.

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With the original concept and design of our Memorial Monument at the AIR FORCE MUSEUM at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio the project was to be completed in three steps. The installation of the monument was completed in 1986. Laying a concrete pad surrounding the memorial was completed a couple of years later. Now a contract has been signed by Bernie Barr and Walter Butler to complete the final step, i.e., the placement of a bench on the concrete pad for visitors to sit, rest, and view our Memorial. The Air Force Museum has approved the contract and our contractor promises installation by April 1, 1994. Granite materials to be used are the same as used in our Memorial and will be compatible with the original. This will complete our project.

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In looking forward to our November '94 issue we will be in the 50 year time frame of the LONE WOLF MISSIONS (single plane attacks against enemy targets). Your editor would like to publish a special issue on this. Please send your story about your participation on a mission or in preparation for such a mission. We should have a great issue if we can get enough input from individuals with their stories. Please get us your information no later than the first week of October '94.

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For information to be included in our quarterly newsletters (FEBRUARY, MAY, AUGUST, & NOVEMBER each year) you should submit it no later than the first of April, July, October, & January each year. Until further notice newsletter information should be directed to Bernie Barr or Walter Butler. EVERYONE HAS A STORY ! PLEASE TYPE IT IF POSSIBLE AND SEND IT ALONG FOR A FUTURE ISSUE.

**DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA MINI-REUNION
APRIL 20-24, 1994
99TH BG HISTORICAL SOCIETY REGISTRATION SHEET**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Spouse: _____ Date of Arrival: _____

SUB - TOTAL

Registration Fee: (Before 3/1/94 - \$20.00 ea.)(After 3/1/94 - \$23.00 ea.) _____

Wednesday: Registration all day in the hotel lobby or the hospitality room. _____

6:30 P.M. - WELCOME BASH - POOLSIDE PICNIC SUPPER !!!

(Before 3/1/94 - \$7.50 ea.)(After 3/1/94) - \$8.50 ea.) _____

Thursday: **TOUR OF THE DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY** (Before - \$5.00 ea.)(After - \$6.00 ea.) _____

Friday: **"The Top Of The Surf" Penthouse Banquet Room.** Dinner will be at 6:30 P.M. Open Bar - 5:30 'til 6:30 Dancing from 8 'til 10 P.M. _____

(Before 3/1 - \$25.00 ea.) (After 3/1 - \$28.00 ea.) _____

Choice of Dinner: Prime Rib of Beef _____ or

Baked Stuff Shrimp
Wrapped in Bacon _____

Saturday: There is so much to do and to see in this area that no one will be bored !!! Lots of restaurants . . . BEAUTIFUL BEACH Shopping Center right across the street. **TOTAL** _____

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY: Coffee and . . . in the hospitality room each morning from 7 'til 9 A.M. ----- **No Charge**

Sunday: There are many churches not far from the hotel. Thoes that are left can all meet for Lunch/Dinner/Brunch ? together.

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FOR DAYTONA AIRPORT ARRIVALS we have contacted the CHERCERS CAB CO. and they will bring you to the RAMADA BEACH RESORT HOTEL for a \$10.00 fee for one or two persons. Extra passengers at \$1.00 each. Also the Magees are willing to meet anyone who lets them know their flight number and arrival time. They have several volunteers for this but need more ! It is 6 or 7 miles thru city traffic to the airport.

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CALL THE RAMADA BEACH RESORT HOTEL TOLL FREE AT 1-800-654-8216 FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS. Rooms are \$53.00 for single or double occupancy. Rooms are available with 2 beds or king size beds. Efficiency available at \$10.00 extra.

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SEND REGISTRATION SHEET AND CHECK TO: Mort Magee, 8 Butternut Circle. Ormond Beach, FL 32174 . Mort and Virginia can be reached by phone at 1-904-673-8549. **Make check payable to:**

99th Bomb Group Mini-Reunion

If you have any tapes of interest bring them along. There will be a VCR AND TV IN OUR HOSPITALITY ROOM

BERNIE BARR VOLUNTEERS TO BE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

During the Ontario Board of Directors meeting the subject of future newsletter editors was discussed. Since Bernie had been doing this job for several issues he agreed to continue to gather materials and provide to Roy Worthington to put into printable form, print, assemble, affix mailing labels and mail.

In this issue Bernie has included the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting and discussions at the Membership Meeting as reported by our very able Secretary CHRIS CHRISTIANSEN. Also included is the latest Constitution and By Laws approved by our members during our Rapid City reunion so you will be aware of what is happening in our Society. If you would like to be a member of the Board of Directors just let any Board member know. We do need new Board members and ideas. **SPEAK UP YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!**

Bernie wants to underline his comments in the Board Meeting report concerning the value of WALTER BUTLER to our Society. Walter has kept our records, addresses and changes, collected the dues, etc. Without his efforts where would we be . . . ? Walter is now closing the records and financial accounts for 1993. As soon as he finishes he will give them to JOHN HENRY to audit. The results will be printed in the May '94 issue.

TAPS • TAPS • TAPS • TAPS • TAPS

IRA S. EARLY • STANLEY STAATS • DANIEL DOERR • JOSEPH FREELAND

RICHARD BARTHEL • GENE ANTHONY CANGIGLIA • ERNEST A. BALL

ROY WACHAL • FRANK AMBROSE

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NEW MEMBERS

- Edward C. Karnes, P.O. Box 54, Bansall, CA 92003
- Allen D. Willis, Jr., 2992 No. Kimberly Court, Doraville, GA 30340
- Mathew P. Miller, 802 Warren Ave, Apt. 9, Dowers Grove, IL 60515
- William Rossmore, 448 Old Long Ridge Road, Stamford, CT 06903
- Fred G. Roberts, 1241 High St., P.O. Box 931, Rawlins, WY 82301

NEW ADDRESSES

- Walter F. O'Neill, 3852 Castelar St., Omaha, NE 68105
- Aaron Lipman, 4656 Caranbola Circle North, Coconut Creek, FL 33066
- John V. Moller, 8965 Diamond Falls Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89117
- Norris W. King, 7436 West 83rd Way, Arvada, CO 80003

**99th B G H S
Officers and Directors 1993**

Past Presidents

Roy H. Worthington Jr. Director 16786 Thomas White Drive Air Force Village West Riverside, CA 92518	1990-1994	909-697-2621
Denzel L. Clark, Director 10506 Estate LN Dallas, Texas 75238	1992-1996	214-348-2723
Walter H. Butler, Treasurer 8608 Bellehaven Pl. NE Albuquerque, NM 87112	1992-1996	505-293-3012
Leonard Hopon, Director 337 Richland Drive Lancaster, PA 17601	1990-1994	717-569-1518
Julius Horowitz, President 3507 Oaks Way #911 Pompano Beach, FL 33069	1992-1996	305-973-1677
H.E. Christiansen Secretary 4520 Panorama Dr.S.E. Huntsville, AL 35801	1993-1997	205-534-9646
Al Schroeder Director 550 S. Ocean Blvd.#1901 Boca Raton, FL 33432-6247	1993-1997	407-391-7471
Leonard Smith Director 524 Brookwood Drive Olympia Fields, IL 60461	1991-1995	708-748-2087
Jas. L. Smith Vice President 9801 Richmond Dr. Kansas City, MO 64134	1992-1996	816-761-0588
William W. Henderson Director 1735 E. Anderson St. Pensacola, FL 32503	1993-1997	904-438-5388

George F. Coen 2908 Aliso Dr. NE Albuquerque, NM 87110		505-888-4634
Bernie S. Barr 7408 Vista del Arroyo NE Albuquerque, NM 87109		505-884-7970
Joe Chance P.O. Box 59 Old Mission, MI 49673		616-223-7448
Lewellyn T. Boatwright, Star Route, Box 144C Corrales, NM 87048		505-898-1564
J.W. Smallwood P.O. Box 177 Brownsville, VT 05037		802-484-3353
Leonard Hopon 337 Richland Drive Lancaster, PA 17601		717-569-1518
Roy Worthington Jr. 16786 Thomas White Drive Air Force Village West Riverside, CA 92518		

**RD # 1, Box 187A
Sidman, Pennsylvania 15955
23 December, 1993**

Hody,

Enclosed is my dues for the next two years, and that's being very optimistic after having had a triple by-pass. I need some help from you in obtaining some information I need to complete my BIO on the 99th Bomb Group and the 347th Squadron.

Specifically, sometime in February March or April '45, I picked-up a crew of ours that had crash landed on a RAF Tactical fighter base up north near Rimini, right on the front lines of the ground war; Rimini is on the NE part of Italy on the Adriatic Sea. After 49 years I need some knowledge concerning this pick-up. If you would be so kind as to put a little message in the Jan. 94 (or next one) News letter concerning my inquire, I would be most grateful. The message could say: "Any combat crew member of the 347th that can remember anything about your crash landing near Rimini, on a RAF tactical fighter field, during February, March or April, '45, and your pick-up in our speedy B-17 transport 046, please get in touch with the pilot of the pick-up ship with any information you can think of. Sent info to John A. Plummer, RD # 1, Box 187A, Sidman, Pennsylvania 15955".

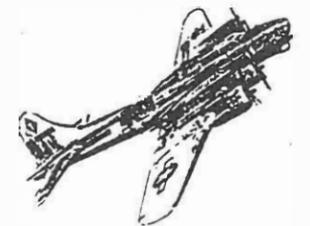
Looking forward to seeing you at Norfolk in '94.

John A. Plummer

Group Lead Pilot and 347th Ops Officer, Dec., '44 - April '45.

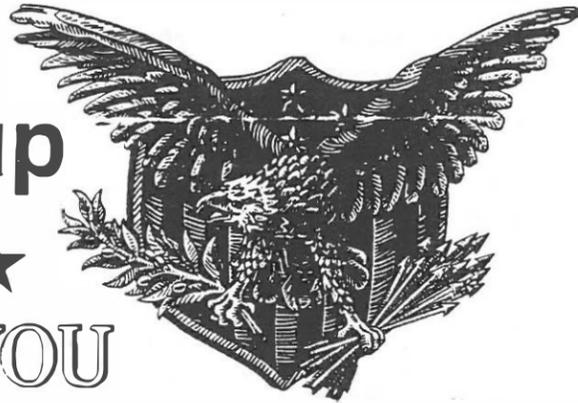
P. S. . . I was also on my second consecutive combat tour. I was injured on my 38th Sortie (66th Mission) by flak at Weiner Neustadt on 14 March 1945. This ended my combat flying which began on 13 July 1944. I progressed from flying wing position to element lead, to Squadron lead to Group lead. John Plummer.

**Never try to teach a pig to sing,
It wastes your time and it annoys the pig.**



OUR HONOR ROLL

99th Bomb Group



★ ★ ★ ★
WE SALUTE YOU

For outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy on 5 July 1943. When it was necessary to neutralize Sicilian based fighters immediately prior to the invasion, the 99th Bombardment Group was called to furnish twenty-four (24) B-17 type aircraft to attack with fragmentation bombs and destroy enemy fighters and installations on the south half of the main airfield at Gerbini. As twenty-seven (27) Fortresses of the 99th Bombardment Group neared the target, they were attacked by an estimated one hundred (100) enemy aircraft consisting of ME-109's, FW-190's, and Macchi 202's, which made persistent aggressive and determined attacks from all angles, singularly and in groups, in a furious attempt to break up the bomber formation. Returning the fire with devastating effect, the 99th Bombardment Group successfully penetrated the enemy defenses and dropped three thousand, two hundred, and forty (3,240) fragmentation bombs, covering the assigned target so completely that twenty (20) out of twenty-eight (28) enemy fighters on the ground were destroyed and many installations including hangars, fuel supplies, and ammunition dumps were severely damaged.

During the battle with enemy fighters in the air which continued before, during, and after the bombing run, the Fortresses of the 99th Bombardment Group took a terrific toll of the enemy planes. Officially approved claims consisted of thirty-eight (38) fighters destroyed, eleven (11) probably destroyed, and one (1) damaged, against the loss of three (3) bombers. The destruction of seventy (70) enemy fighters by this group in a single mission was a serious blow to the defenses of Sicily, and played a major part in setting the stage for the invasion five (5) days later.

By the courage, heroism, and determination of the air crews, together with the professional skill and devotion to duty of the ground personnel, the officers and men of the 99th Bombardment Group have upheld the highest traditions of the Military Service, thereby reflecting great credit upon themselves and the Armed Forces of the United States of America.

By Command of Major General Twining

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR OUR SOCIETY ?

What's ahead is up to each of us. If you will host a reunion please let JULIUS HOROWITZ know. Jules is our new President and would very much appreciate your help in this or with ideas that may help keep our Society going strong. Jules can be reached in writing at 3507 Oaks Way, #911, Pompano Beach, FL 33069 or by telephone at (305) 973-1677. Your support will very much be appreciated.

MINUTES OF THE 99TH BOMB GROUP OFFICIAL BOARD MEETING

26 and 29 OCTOBER 1993

ONTARIO CALIFORNIA

ATTENDEES:

OFFICERS:

ROY WORTHINGTON, PRESIDENT

WALTER BUTLER, TREASURER

CHRIS CHRISTIANSEN, SECRETARY

DIRECTORS :

LEONARD J. HOPEN

BOB BACHER

DENZEL CLARK

JIM SMITH

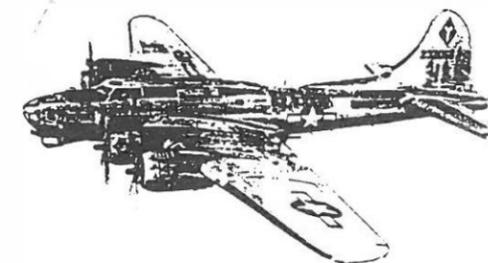
ALSO PRESENT:

BERNIE BARR, EX PRESIDENT

BILL HENDERSON, CANDIDATE

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. PRESIDENT ROY WORTHINGTON CALLED THE GROUP TO ORDER AND NOTED THAT BOARD MEMBERS JEFF WAUGESPACK JULES HOROWITZ AND LEN SMITH WERE NOT IN ATTENDANCE INCLUDING THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE -JULES HOROWITZ AND JOE CHANCE WHO WERE TO ARRIVE LATER.

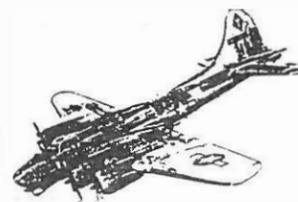


B. PRESIDENT ROY NOTICED A NEW PERSON AT THE TABLE. BERNIE BARR THEN INTRODUCED BILL HENDERSON AS A CANDIDATE. BERNIE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD TOLD BILL ABOUT OUR GROUP. AND PROCEEDED TO PUT BILL'S NAME UP FOR NOMINATION. DENZEL CLARK SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

C. PRESIDENT ROY ASKED ABOUT OUR GETTING A NEW CHAPLAIN SINCE WE HAD LOST OUR DEAR FRIEND JOE KENNEY. JIM SMITH ASKED IF THIS WAS NOT THE DUTY OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE BUT BERNIE STATED THAT THE PRESIDENT COULD APPOINT A PERSON. ROY ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS. LEN HOPEN SUGGESTED FRANCIS GRANTZ. BOB BACHER GAVE US A BACKGROUND ON FRANCIS STATING THAT HE HAD BEEN A MINISTER BUT WAS NOT HERE AS HE HAD RECENTLY UNDERGONE BYPASS SURGERY. LEN STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE SURGERY. FRANCIS WILL BE APPROACHED TO SEE IF HE WOULD ACCEPT.

D. PRESIDENT ROY THEN ASKED FOR A REPORT FROM THE SITE COMMITTEE. BOB BACHER GAVE US BLOW BY BLOW DESCRIPTION OF HIS AND LEN SMITH'S VISIT TO HAMPTON VA. THEY HAD GONE TO SEVERAL MOTELS BUT SETTLED ON THE SHERATON WHICH IS GOING TO BE TAKEN OVER BY AN INSURANCE COMPANY BUT WILL GIVE THE SAME DEAL(S). ALEXANDRIA VIRGINIA WAS MENTIONED BUT SINCE ALL THE TROUBLE IN WASHINGTON IT WAS NOT THOUGHT TO BE A WISE CHOICE.. THE 1994 REUNION WILL BE IN HAMPTON VERGINIA. LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

E. BERNIE BARR RELATED HIS VISIT TOWASHINGTON WHEN IT WAS CONSIDERED BUT INSTEAD WE WENT TO RAPID CITY. HE SUGGESTED THAT WASHINGTON MIGHT BE CONSIDERED IN 1996 BUT THAT THIS REUNION AT ONTARIO IS HIS LAST HOSTING. JIM SMITH QUESTIONED HAVING A SITE WITHOUT A HOST. BERNIE BARR RELATED OBTAINING THE ONTARIO SITE AFTER HARVEY JENNING'S PASSING..



F. BERNIE BARR SUGGESTED WE TABLE THE 96 REUNION DISCUSSION BUT LEN HOPEN SUGGESTED THAT WE NOT TABLE THE DISCUSSION BUT AMEND THE SUGGESTION TO LEAVE THE DECISION FOR SITES TO THE SITE COMMITTEE. THE MOTION WAS AMENDED AS SUGGESTED AND SECONDED BY DENZIL CLARK. THE SITE COMMITTEE WILL BE THE ONE THEN TO DISCUSS THE 1996 REUNION SITE..

G. PRESIDENT ROY THEN PRESENTED TWO LETTERS [ATTACHED HERETO] THAT WE HAD RECEIVED FROM ELLSWORTH AFB. COLONEL ROETTER RELATED THAT ELLSWORTH PERSONNEL ARE IN THE FINAL STAGES OF COLLECTING ARTIFACTS AND THAT ELLSWORTH WOULD BE A FINE LOCATION FOR THE PERMANENT HOME OF THE 99TH BG HISTORY.

H. BERNIE BARR GAVE A BACKGROUND STATING THAT OUR BYLAWS PROVIDED THAT THE DISPOSITION OF ASSETS, MEMORABILIA AND ETC. WILL GO TO MAXWELL AFB ALABAMA. [ARTICLE XIV--DISSOLUTION STATES "THE 99TH BGHS SHALL MAKE NO DISTRIBUTION OF GAINS OR PROFITS UPON DISSOLUTION, BUT SHALL UPON DISSOLUTION DISTRIBUTE SUCH GAINS OR PROFITS, TOGETHER WITH ALL SOCIETY PICTURES, DIARIES, ORDERS, LETTERS, AND FILES TO THE ALBERT SIMPSON HISTORICAL RESEARCH CENTER, MAXWELL AFB ALABAMA.]. BERNIE RELATED THAT WHEN HE WAS PRESIDENT, HE HAD CONTACTED MARCH AFB MUSEUM PEOPLE BUT WAS TOLD THAT THE MARCH MUSEUM WAS OF A CLASS NOT SUITABLE FOR OUR USE BUT THAT THEY WERE TO BUILD A NEW MUSEUM (WHICH THE ONTARIO ATTENDEES VISITED) THAT WOULD BE SUITABLE. BERNIE WENT ON TO SUGGEST THAT WE CONSIDER MARCH, ELLSWORTH, AND MAXWELL. DENZEL CLARK MOVED THAT WE NOT CHANGE BUT LEAVE AS IS. WALTER BUTLER SECONDED. ALL APPROVED.

I. PRESIDENT ROY STATED THAT HE KNEW OF NO FURTHER BUSINESS BUT BOB BACHER WANTED TO DISCUSS THE NEWSLETTER. GEORGE COEN HAD RESIGNED AS EDITOR AND NO ONE HAS COME FORWARD TO VOLUNTEER. DENZEL CLARK SUGGESTED THAT WE HAVE DICK DRAIN ASSIST AS HE HAS A GREAT DEAL OF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND. THE OVERALL TENOR OF THE DISCUSSION WAS THAT WE NEED MORE DATA FROM INDIVIDUALS. DENZEL CLARK RELATED HIS EXPERIENCES WITH

THE GUNNER'S ASSOCIATION AND FELT THAT EVEN WE PEOPLE AT THE TABLE HERE COULD SUPPLY STORIES OF INTEREST. PRESIDENT ROY WENT ON TO RELATE THAT HIS BUSINESS RELATED SITUATION HAS CHANGED BUT THAT HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONTINUE PUBLICATION OF THE NEWSLETTER. PERSONS ARE TO SEND INFORMATION TO BERNIE AS WE ARE DOING AND HE WILL COORDINATE WITH ROY AS HAS BEEN DONE.

J. PRESIDENT ROY ANNOUNCED THAT NOW WE WOULD DISCUSS OLD BUSINESS BUT WALTER BUTLER STATED THAT WE HAD NOT DISCUSSED THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

K. DENZEL CLARK MOVED THAT WE ACCEPT THE TREASURER'S REPORT AS PRESENTED. LEN HOPEN SECONDED. ALL APPROVED.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. LEN HOPEN REMINDED THE GROUP THAT AN OLD BUSINESS ITEM WAS THAT OF AN AUDIT REVIEW PROCEDURE THAT HE HAD ASSIGNED LAST YEAR IN RAPID CITY. BERNIE BARR BROUGHT FORTH A DOCUMENT [COPY ATTACHED] THAT HE AND WALTER WERE PROVIDING IN RESPONSE THERETO. WALTER PROCEEDED TO PASS OUT THE DOCUMENT WHICH LISTED THREE TYPES OF AUDIT - COMPILATION, REVIEW, AND FULL BLOWN AUDIT. THAT AN OUTSIDE FIRM COULD PROVIDE RANGING IN COST FROM \$300-\$1600. THE GROUP TOOK A FEW MINUTES TO REVIEW. (DENZEL CLARK STATED THAT HE COULD PROVIDE US WITH A FORM THAT THE GUNNERS USE.) AFTER READING, JIM SMITH ASKED WHY AN OUTSIDE AUDIT. LEN HOPEN STATED THAT IT WAS A LIABILITY ISSUE AND HE WANTED WALTER AND BERNIE TO BE PROTECTED. WALTER RESPONDED THAT OUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION DID NOT HANDLE LARGE SUMS OF MONEY. DENZEL CLARK RELATED HIS GUNNERS GROUP SITUATION STATING THAT A AUDIT OF CHECKS AND CHECK BOOK IS ALL THAT IS REQUIRED AND THAT WE SHOULD JUST DO OUR OWN AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST. WALTER BUTLER STATED THAT LEW BOATWRIGHT HAD HEADED THE AUDIT COMMITTEE FOR SEVERAL YEARS BUT WOULD RATHER WE GET SOMEONE ELSE.. LEN HOPEN STATED THAT SINCE HE BROUGHT UP THE ISSUE, HE WOULD SECOND THE MOTION TO HAVE US DO OUR OWN. ALL AGREED. ROY AND WILBUR WILL WORK OUT THE DETAILS FOR THE NEW PRESIDENT TO APPOINT AN AUDIT COMMITTEE.

B. THE GROUP THEN DISCUSSED THE ISSUE OF DUES. BERNIE BARR STATED THAT HE WAS LOOKING OUT FOR THE BENEFIT OF WALTER BUTLER WHO CANNOT BE RUNNING TO THE BANK THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TO DEPOSIT A \$15.00 DUES PAYMENT. IT WAS AGREED THAT DUES WERE DUE ON 01 JANUARY EACH YEAR AND IF NOT RECEIVED WITHIN 30 DAYS THAT THE MEMBER WOULD BE DROPPED. ROY SUGGESTED THE NEXT LETTER WILL STRESS DUES PAYMENTS. WALTER BUTLER ALSO STATED THAT HE NEEDS TO BE REMINDED OF PEOPLE MOVING AS THAT TOO CAN BECOME A HASSLE..

C. BERNIE BARR POINTED OUT THAT THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER CONTAINED POLICY CHANGES TO THE BYLAWS THAT HAD BEEN APPROVED IN RAPID CITY AND THAT HE AND WALTER BUTLER HAD SET FORTH A CONSTITUTION THAT WAS DISTRIBUTED TO THE GROUP. (COPY ATTACHED) LEN HOPEN NOTED THAT THE DUES ISSUE WAS SET FORTH IN ARTICLE XI. PRESIDENT ROY NOTED THAT WE HAD BEEN USING BYLAWS IN THE PAST AND THAT THIS WAS GOOD..

D. DENZEL CLARK WANTED TO DISCUSS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIFE MEMBERSHIP BUT IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT ARTICLE III ALREADY PROVIDES FOR SUCH. DENZEL SUGGESTED A FEE OF \$125.00. THIS IDEA WAS TALKED AMONG THE GROUP WITH DENZEL MAKING A MOTION TO ESTABLISH THE FEE BUT AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSION DENZEL WITHDREW HIS MOTION.

E. BERNIE BARR MOVED THAT WE ADJOURN WHICH WAS SECONDED BY DENZEL CLARK.

BUSINESS SESSION

A. PRESIDENT ROY CALLED THE GROUP TO ORDER AND WELCOMED EVERYONE TO ONTARIO AND GAVE RECOGNITION AND THANKS TO BERNIE BARR AND WALTER BUTLER IN CONDUCTING THE REUNION.

B. PRESIDENT ROY MENTIONED THE READING OF THE MINUTES BUT THIS WAS DISPENSED.

I REPORTS OF OFFICERS

A. VICE PRESIDENT JIM SMITH WAS RECOGNIZED BUT HAD NO REPORTS. JIM DID GIVE THANKS TO BERNIE AND WALTER FOR THE GOOD REUNION.

B. TREASURER WALTER BUTLER HAD NO COMMENTS BUT BERNIE BARR COMMENTED THAT WE WERE FINANCIALLY SOUND AND STATED THAT "WALTER BUTLER IS THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE 99TH.

C. PRESIDENT ROY TALKED ON THE DUES SITUATION STATING THAT 01 JANUARY IS THE DUE DATE AND THAT DUES NOT RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBER WITHIN 30 DAYS --MEMBER WILL BE REMOVED FROM ROLLS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE HAVE TO BE "HARD HAT" IN THE FUTURE. ROY DID MENTION [JOKINGLY] THAT A MEMBER COULD COMPUTE HIS LIFE EXPECTANCY AND PREPAY HIS DUES TILL THEN.

II COMMITTEE REPORTS

SITE SELECTION--BOB BACHER. BOB ANNOUNCED THAT THE 94 REUNION WILL BE AT HAMPTON ROADS VIRGINIA AND THAT HE AND LEN SMITH HAVE ARRANGED FOR A MEETING PLACE IN ST LOUIS IN 1995 WITH FRANCIS GRANTZ SERVING AS THE HOST. A QUESTION WAS RAISED ABOUT THE DATE OF THE HAMPTON REUNION. BOB REPLIED THAT IT WOULD BE 05 SEPTEMBER. BERNIE BARR STATED THAT A SPRING REUNION IN ST LOUIS WAS PLANNED.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE-JULES HOROWITZ

JULES STATED THAT THERE WERE TWO NOMINEES, BILL HENDERSON AND AL SCHROEDER. THESE MEN WERE RECOGNIZED. BERNIE BARR MOVED THAT WE ACCEPT THE NOMINEES, SECONDED BY JIM SMITH. THOSE PRESENT ACCEPTED THE TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS. PRESIDENT ROY WELCOMED THEM TO THE BOARD.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS--THERE WAS NONE BROUGHT TO THE FLOOR.

NEW BUSINESS--LIKELIKE, NONE.

FLOOR DISCUSSIONS

A. DELBERT LAUDNER ASKED A QUESTION REGARDING LIFE MEMBERSHIPS. PRESIDENT ROY RESPONDED THAT THE BOARD DID TALK ABOUT THAT VERY SUBJECT BUT THAT NO LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES WERE ESTABLISHED.

B. ANOTHER PERSON, NOT IDENTIFIED, QUESTIONED IF RAPID CITY HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED AS A PERMANENT SITE. PRESIDENT ROY POINTED OUT TO THE GROUP THAT THE GENTLEMAN WAS REFERRING TO THE COLONEL ROETTER LETTER THAT WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD ABOUT A PERMANENT SITE FOR MEETINGS BUT THAT NO ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN. PRESIDENT ROY ASKED FOR INPUT FROM THE FLOOR. THE GENTLEMEN DID NOT THINK THAT THE REFERENCE WAS TO A PERMANENT MEETING SITE BUT ONCE EVERY THREE TO FIVE YEARS AND THAT THE REFERENCE WAS FOR A PERMANENT SITE FOR MEMORABILIA.

BERNIE BARR RESTATED HIS STORY THAT HE RELATED IN OUR BOARD MEETING ABOUT MAXWELL, MARCH AND ELLSWORTH.

C. AL GENTRY STATED THAT HE HAD VISITED MAXWELL AFB FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES BUT DID NOT SEE ANY DISPLAYS. BERNIE TOLD OF OUR ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR CONTRIBUTION AND THAT WE COULD SEND MEMORABILIA, IF WE DESIRED.

D. ANOTHER UNIDENTIFIED PERSON ASKED WHY WE COULDN'T KEEP THE 99TH ALIVE WITH THE 99TH ACTIVE AT ELLSWORTH.

BERNIE BARR RESPONDED THAT WE ARE A VETERANS GROUP AND WHEN ALL VETERANS ARE GONE, THE ORGANIZATION CEASES.

THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON DID NOT THINK HIS STATEMENT WAS UNDERSTOOD AS HE WAS REFERRING TO THE 99TH STRATEGIC WING AND THAT AS THESE PERSONS RETIRE FROM ACTIVE DUTY THAT THEY COULD BECOME MEMBERS AND KEEP THE 99TH ALIVE.

BERNIE BARR STATED THAT JIM ROBINSON RETIRED LAST YEAR AND HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORARY MEMBERSHIP FOR ONE YEAR BUT HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM SINCE.

E. PRESIDENT ROY WENT ON TO SAY THAT ANY RETIRED ACTIVE DUTY PERSON CAN JOIN IF HE DESIRES. ROY WENT ON TO SAY IF WE HAD ARTIFACTS TO GIVE TO THE ELLSWORTH HERITAGE FOUNDATION MUSEUM THAT IT WOULD BE WELCOMED AND CARED FOR PROPERLY.

F. A QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR ASKED IF THE MUSEUM IS A PART OF THE AIR FORCE. ROY STATED THAT THERE WAS A CONNECTION.

G. SOMEONE ELSE ASKED IF THE ELLSWORTH MUSEUM WOULD CONTINUE SHOULD ELLSWORTH BE CLOSED? THE ANSWER WAS NOT KNOWN BUT PROBABLY WOULD.

H. FRED HUEGLIN SUGGESTED THAT THE BOARD SHOULD APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE MUSEUM SITUATION AND REPORT NEXT YEAR.

I. ANOTHER QUESTION FROM THE FLOOR WAS THE SELECTION OF SITES. WILL WE CONTINUE TO HAVE DIFFERENT LOCATIONS FROM YEAR TO YEAR AS NOW? ROY STATED IN THE AFFIRMATIVE AND THE PERSON STATED THAT HE LIKED THE ARRANGEMENT.

BERNIE BARR SAID THAT WE ARE ALWAYS NEEDING VOLUNTEERS TO HOST REUNIONS AND FOR INTERESTED PERSONS TO COME FORTH.

J. PRESIDENT ROY ASKED IF THERE WERE ADDITIONAL COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR.

K. JOHN WERTZ AROSE AND ASKED IF ANYONE HAD SEEN THE 15TH AF INFORMATION THAT HE HAD STATING THAT THE 99TH HAD BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE CURRENT ISSUE. HE ASKED TO READ WHAT HE HAD. PRESIDENT ROY ASKED HIM TO PROCEED.

MR. WERTZ POINTED OUT THAT A GREAT DEAL OF CHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND THAT HE HAD A LETTER FROM RETIREES OF THE MARCH ORGANIZATION THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST. FOR EXAMPLE, THE 22ND AIR REFUELING GROUP AT TRAVIS IS BEING DEACTIVATED; NORTON AFB IS CLOSING IN EARLY 1994 AND A LOT OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONS ARE MOVING TO MARCH BUT THAT THE RESERVE FOLKS DON'T KNOW IF

THEY WILL RECEIVE FUNDING TO KEEPS MARCH IS CLOSING IN 1996. THE 15TH AF IS MOVING TO TRAVIS. THE 15TH AF WILL NO LONGER BE A BOMBER COMMAND AS THIS DUTY HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE 8TH AF. [AS AN EDITORIAL NOTE, THIS INFO WILL BE PUBLISHED IN A FORTHCOMING NEWSLETTER FOR ALL TO READ]. MR. WERTZ DID NOT KNOW AT THIS POINT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE 15TH AF ASSOCIATION.

L. FRANK ENGLISH WHO HAS BEEN A STRONG SUPPORTER OF OUR 99THBG IS A BOARD MEMBER OF THE 15TH AF ASSOCIATION GAVE US A RUN DOWN ON HAPPENINGS. HE STATED THAT ON THE 21ST OF JUNE THAT THE 15TH FLAG WAS TO BE RETIRED TO TRAVIS BUT NO ACTION BY CONGRESS WAS FORTHCOMING. THIS WAS TRIED AGAIN ON THE 30TH OF JUNE BUT STILL NO ACTION, HOWEVER A GENERAL OFFICER DID ENCASE THE FLAG AND TOOK IT TO TRAVIS. BUT NO PERSONNEL WERE MOVED.

FRANK HAD HOPED THAT WE COULD HAVE HAD THE 15TH AF'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION THIS WEEKEND BUT IN FACT COME MONDAY (01 NOVEMBER) THAT HE AND OTHERS WERE TO MEET AT MARCH AFB AND BE FLOWN TO TRAVIS FOR A LUNCHEON AND A CELEBRATION AT 1:00 HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 15TH AF. FRANK WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE 15TH IS STILL AN ACTIVE GROUP AND THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE MEETINGS AT MARCH ON A REGULAR BASIS.

M. THE BUSINESS SESSION ADJOURNED. (A NON FORMAL DISCUSSION THEN TOOK PLACE REGARDING OUR TRIP TO MARCH AFB ON SATURDAY. FRANK ENGLISH ADDED ADDITIONAL COMMENTS REGARDING THE TILES THAT SEVERAL HAD PURCHASED.)

(THE BOARD MEMBERS REMAINED FOR THE SECOND BOARD MEETING SESSION.)

SECOND BOARD MEETING

PRESIDENT ROY CALLED THE BOARD TO ORDER WELCOMING THE NEW MEMBERS-BILL HENDERSON AND AL SCHROEDER..

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED:

CHRIS CHRISTIANSEN--[205] 461 7351

JAMES L. SMITH--[216] 365 3023

LEN HOPEN--[717] 569 1518

WALTER BUTLER--[505] 293 3012

BERNIE BARR [505] 884 7970

AL SCHROEDER [407] 391 7471

BILL HENDERSON [904] 438 5388

JOE CHANCE [616] 223 7448

JULES HOROWITZ [305] 973 1677

DENZEL L. CLARK [214] 348 2723

ROY WORTHINGTON ~~[805] 736 7997~~ (909) 697-2621

A. THE READING OF THE MINUTES BY THE SECRETARY WAS SKIPPED.

B. A REPORT OF THE OFFICERS WAS REQUESTED BUT THERE WERE NO ADDITIONAL COMMENTS. PRESIDENT ROY THEN REQUESTED THAT THE FLOOR BE OPENED TO **NOMINATE OFFICERS** WITH THE NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT FIRST. JULES HOROWITZ STATED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW IF HE WAS OUT OF ORDER BUT THAT HE HAD HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH DICK DRAIN WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO BE HISTORIAN. BERNIE BARR STATED THAT THIS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PRESIDENT. JULES RESPECTFULLY WITHDREW HIS COMMENTS.

C JIM SMITH NOMINATED JULES HOROWITZ AS PRESIDENT.

BERNIE BARR STATED THAT JULES IS A GREAT GUY BUT THOUGHT THAT ROY WOULD CONTINUE AS HE HAD BEEN DOING A GREAT JOB

AND HAD TAKEN OVER THE PUBLISHING OF THE NEWSLETTER. BERNIE SUGGESTED WE TABLE THE NOMINATION. PRESIDENT ROY STATED THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED BUT WOULD CONTINUE PUBLISHING THE NEWSLETTER.

JULES NAME WAS PUT TO A VOTE AND WAS APPROVED.

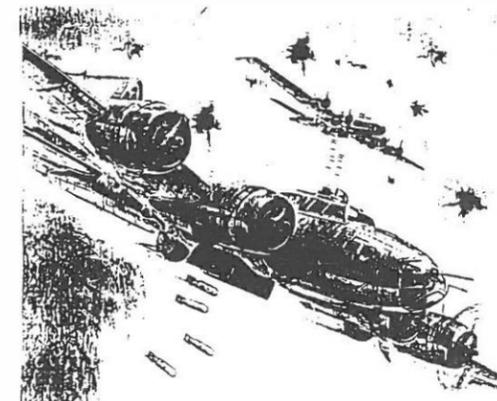
D. JULES THEN NOMINATED JIM SMITH AS VICE PRESIDENT. HIS NOMINATION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED.

E. NEXT CAME THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY. BOB BACHER ASKED IF CHRIS WAS WILLING TO CONTINUE? BERNIE ASKED IF THE SECRETARY IS A BOARD POSITION. ARTICLE VIII STATES THAT THE OFFICERS SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEN HOPEN STATED THAT HE WOULD PUT CHRIS' NAME UP FOR NOMINATION. AL SCHROEDER SAID HE'D SECOND. BERNIE STATED THAT THE MEMBERSHIP WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT. CHRIS WAS ASKED IF HE'D ACCEPT WHICH HE AGREED. AL SCHROEDER STATED THAT THE NOMINATION WOULD NEED TO BE PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP. ROY ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF CHRIS' NOMINATION AS SECRETARY WHICH WAS APPROVED.

F. THE TREASURER'S NOMINATION WAS NEXT. JIM SMITH NOMINATED OUR CURRENT TREASURER WALTER BUTLER. HIS NOMINATION WAS SECONDED AND APPROVED.

G. JULES HOROWITZ BROUGHT UP THE SELECTION OF A CHAPLAIN. FRANCIS GRANTZ WAS THE CANDIDATE AS DISCUSSED EARLIER. SINCE IT IS THE DUTY OF THE PRESIDENT TO APPOINT, BOTH ROY AND JULES WILL MEET TO ARRANGE FOR A NEW CHAPLAIN.



CONSTITUTION

THE 99TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
(As Amended 1993)

H. JULES THEN BROUGHT UP THE OFFICE OF HISTORIAN AND TOLD OF DICK DRAIN'S WILLINGNESS TO SERVE. JULES GAVE A BACKGROUND OF DICK DRAIN'S QUALIFICATIONS AND WILLINGNESS TO SERVE. THE ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED. SINCE THIS IS AN APPOINTED POSITION, IT WAS RECOMMENDED THAT GEORGE COEN CONTINUE AS HISTORIAN EMERITUS.

I. BOB BACHER RAISED THE QUESTION OF OUR 99TH PAPERS AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM.. JIM SMITH STATED THAT THE MUSEUM AT WRIGHT PATTERSON WOULD CERTAINLY CONTINUE AS A PERMANENT MUSEUM BUT BERNIE BARR STATED THAT WRIGHT PAT IS WANTING VISUAL INFORMATION.

J. JIM SMITH ASKED IF ANYTHING WAS EVER DONE ABOUT HAVING BENCHES AT THE 99TH MEMORIAL MARKER AT WRIGHT PATTERSON.. BERNIE BARR STATED THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME TWO THOUSAND DOLLARS LEFT OVER FROM THE MEMORIAL FUND AND THAT HE THOUGHT JIM SOPP WAS TO TAKE CARE OF THIS MATTER.. JIM SMITH STATED THAT JIM SOPP IS NO LONGER ABLE TO UNDERTAKE THIS DUTY.

K. DENZEL CLARK SUGGESTED WE HOLD OFF ON THE MUSEUM DECISION AS THINGS ARE TOO UNCERTAIN. JULES SUGGESTED WE LEAVE THINGS AS THEY ARE PLANNED FOR MAXWELL.

L. JULES STATED THAT HE WOULD ACCEPT SUGGESTIONS FROM THE GROUP FOR THE UPCOMING NEW YEAR. HE THOUGHT PHONE NUMBERS OF THE BOARD WOULD BE HELPFUL. ROY STATED HE WAS HAVING CHRIS DO THAT NOW.

JULES STATED THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN A PRESIDENT BEFORE BUT THAT HE'D HAD HELP BY JIM SOPP WITH THE REUNION HE HOSTED IN FT LAUDERDALE.

M. ROY ASKED THAT WE ADJOURN WHICH WAS SECONDED.

RESECTFULLY SUBMITTED

H.E. "CHRIS" CHRISTLANSEN-SECRETARY

ARTICLE I--ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be: The 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society (BGHS). The organization may at its pleasure, by a majority vote of the membership present at the annual Membership meeting, change its name.

ARTICLE II--PURPOSES

To perpetuate the history of the 99th Bombardment Group and the memcry of lost comrades.

To arrange for reunions and periodic tours to provide social and recreational activities for the members.

ARTICLE III--MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall be open to all who were members of, or attached to, the US 99th Bombardment Group during wartime. Spouses, widows, or widowers of those who served in the 99th Bombardment Group are also eligible for membership.

Members may become Life Members upon payment of Life Membership dues as established by the Board of Directors.

Air Historians and others interested in the goals of this organization may become associates. Associates may attend meetings and other 99 BGHS activities and will receive the bimonthly journal and other publications. Associates may not vote.

ARTICLE IV--MEETINGS

A Membership Meeting of this organization shall be held during the regular annual reunion. A notice shall be mailed to every member-in-good-standing at his address as it appears in the membership list of this organization. Such notices shall be placed in the 99BGHS Newsletter telling the time and place of the Members Meeting.

Not less than a majority of members-in-good-standing present at a Members Meeting shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this organization. Members who have not paid dues for the current year may not vote. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors, providing members-in-good-standing are notified two weeks in advance of the date.

ARTICLE V--VOTING

At all meetings, all votes shall be viva voce.

At any Membership Meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted. Only the question(s) stated in the call may be voted in Special Meetings.

ARTICLE VI--ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 - Call to order
- 2 - Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting
- 3 - Report of officers
- 4 - Committee reports
- 5 - Unfinished business
- 6 - New business
- 7 - Adjournment

ARTICLE VII--BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of at least three (3) members plus the elected officers of this organization. At least one of the Directors elected shall be a resident of the state of New Mexico and a citizen of the United States.

To be eligible for office, nominees for the Board of Directors must have been members of the 99 BGHS for at least one year before the election.

The Directors to be chosen for the ensuing years shall be chosen at the annual Membership Meeting of this organization, and they shall serve for a term of four years. Directors elected for the first time must be present at the Membership Meeting.

The Board of Directors shall have control and management of the affairs of this organization. The Board of Directors shall commission an independent audit to be conducted each year.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors who are present shall constitute a quorum. Each Director shall have one vote and such voting may be done by proxy. The President may call for a vote by mail, providing each Director is polled.

The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may, in its discretion, determine necessary.

ARTICLE VIII--OFFICERS

The officers of the organization shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any one officer may serve in more than one office at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

These officers shall be members of the Board of Directors, and shall be elected by new Board of Directors after the annual Membership Meeting.

An officer shall preside at all Membership Meetings.

The President shall be the titular head of the organization and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, exercise general supervision over the affairs of the organization.

The Vice President shall exercise the office of the President, in his absence or upon the inability of the President to act, with rights and responsibilities as if he had been duly elected President.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records, file certificates required by law, federal or state, and will give and serve all notices to members of this organization. The Secretary will be the official custodian of the records and seal of this organization. The Secretary will also attend to regular correspondence of the organization and will execute duties incident to the office of Secretary.

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the organization and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the organization; shall render at stated periods, as the Board of Directors shall determine, a written account of the finances of the organization and such report shall be physically affixed to the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting; and shall exercise all duties incidental to the office of the Treasurer.

The Vice President for Newsletter shall be elected to the Board by the Board of Directors for an indeterminate length of time at the pleasure of the Board. This nonvoting member of the Board shall normally be the Editor of the 99 BGHS News. This officer will also be responsible for promotion of 99 BGHS activities, and will provide advice and counsel to the Board.

No officer shall for reason of the office be entitled to receive any salary or compensation, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an officer or Director from receiving compensation from the organization for services other than as Director or officer.

ARTICLE IX--SALARIES

The Board of Directors shall hire and fix compensation of any and all employees which they, in their discretion, may determine to be necessary in the conduct of the business of the organization.

ARTICLE X--COMMITTEES

Regular committees of this organization shall be established by the President. Committee members shall be appointed by the President for terms of office for a period of one (1) year or less if sooner terminated.

Standing committees shall be established by the Board of Directors as required. The President shall appoint members to standing committees for indefinite terms.

ARTICLE XI--DUES

The dues of this organization shall be \$15.00 per annum and shall be payable on the first day of January of each year. Dues may be changed by a majority vote of the members-in-good-standing at the annual Members Meeting.

ARTICLE XII--CHAPTERS

99 BGHS members may form chapters (state or local area) for social purposes provided: (1) A prerequisite for Chapter Membership is current membership in the 99 BGHS, and (2) Program and activities are not in conflict with the 99 BGHS spirit and purpose.

Local committees formed for the purpose of creating 99 BGHS Chapters must draft proposed Charter or articles of Incorporation and proposed bylaws. These drafts must be submitted to the 99 BGHS Board of Directors for approval before further organization actions are undertaken.

Upon inactivation, the residual effects of a chapter (funds, property, historical documents and artifacts, etc.) must become the property of the 99 BGHS.

ARTICLE XIII--AMENDMENTS

These measures may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of members-in-good-standing present at an annual Members Meeting or at a called Special Meeting.

The 99 BGHS shall make no distribution of gains or profits upon dissolution, but shall upon dissolution distribute such gains or profits, together with all Society pictures, diaries, orders, letters, and files to the Albert Simpson Historical Research Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

George F. Coe
Vice President for Newsletter

Walter H. Butler
Treasurer

BYLAWS OF THE 99 BGHS

1. New Members proposed for the Board of Directors (BOD) shall be elected by the membership at the annual Membership Meeting.

2. Officers shall be elected by the new Board of Directors after the Membership Meeting.

To meet these requirements, a preliminary BOD meeting shall be held to transact regular business and to prepare a slate of candidates for the Board of Directors to be presented for election at the Membership meeting. The final BOD meeting shall be held following the Membership meeting to elect the Officers of the 99th BGHS and to complete any outstanding business remaining from the preliminary meeting.

A. A member being nominated to the BOD should attend the preliminary BOD meeting, in a nonvoting capacity, to meet seated Directors and Officers and to affirm willingness to serve as a Director.

B. After election at the Membership meeting, the candidate immediately shall assume the position of Director along with voting rights at the final BOD meeting.

C. A member who completes the normal four-year term as a Director leaves the BOD at the end of the Reunion of his fourth year in office. This allows a departing Director to maintain a vote until Society business is completed by the BOD for that year.

D. A Director is expected to attend all BOD meetings during his term of office.

E. A Director vacates his office by death, by resignation accepted by the President, or by absence from two consecutive annual BOD meetings.

F. A Past President has all the rights and privileges of a Director at the BOD meetings which he attends.

G. ROBERTS RULES OF ORDER is the guideline for conducting the business and affairs of the 99th BGHS.

These policies were approved by the Board of Directors. Len Hopen, President of the 99th BGHS, presented them to the general membership meeting on Friday, September 4, 1992 at Ellsworth Air Force Base, SD. The membership approved these policies.

George F. Coe
Vice President for Newsletter

Walter H. Butler
Treasurer

Report by Homer W. McClanahan, former pilot in the 346th Sqd. of the 99th Bomb Group.

Marle Smith's report on the happenings to my crew was in the news letter of 1 November 1992. Harry Slesnick's report was in the 1 January 1993 news letter. I assume that it is now my turn to jot down most of what I can remember about that fateful mission to Innsbruck on 29 December, 1944. I must confess that my memory about a lot of details is not the best, I have no written records of any kind. I was with the Italian Partisans in the southern Alps from 29 December until the big drive across the Poe Valley. I'm not going to relate all the details, only the important parts. One happening which is not related to the rest of my story but is rather funny. We arrived at one of their posts in the afternoon, they had butchered a old Ox of some kind that morning and had been boiling his head in a large kettle all day. For dinner they threw some pasta in the pot. Everyone got a tin bowl dipped from the pot which consisted of soup, pasta and a little of the meat which had fallen off the skull. When I got my bowl, there, staring at me was one of the eye balls. Needless to say I spooned it out, threw it in the fire and enjoyed the rest. Now to my tale.

As Harry related we were to bomb Innsbruck and our ship was flying lead for the 346th SQD. Our position was the left hand SQD. of the 99th Group. All was going well as we approached the Italian coast at the northern end of the Adriatic Sea where according to our briefing we were to continue in a north westerly direction to Innsbruck.

Instead, we made an approximate ninety degree turn to the left and proceeded inland till we made a right hand turn into Brenner Pass. As we turned right into the pass, being the left SQD. we caught hell first. Jerry had a lot of JU-88's protecting his main supply line (the railroad and highway). I was told later that only one plane from my Squadron was able to continue to the target. As I remember we were at twenty-seven thousand feet at the time.

The engineer (Jackson) reported No. 2 engine on fire. It was feathered and very soon a fire in

the bomb bay was reported. We left the formation and salvoed the bombs. The fire appeared to be getting worse so a decision was made to abandon ship. After I thought the crew was gone I went back into the bomb bay to check aft. The Waist Gunner Orban was still there, I motioned for him to jump, and he did. While in the bomb bay I noticed that the fire had burned through the bulkhead from the wing root and was being fed by gas from the wing. I returned to the cockpit and while recharging my 'walkaround' bottle, I looked out the window and saw the upper wing skin behind No. 2 engine bubble up and peel back revealing a wing full of fire. I then went down to the forward hatch, sat down with legs hanging out, ducked my head and rolled out.

From this point my story differs from the other crew members as I never saw any of them again until years after the war. After leaving the plane I lost consciousness, from fright I think, since I didn't have a head injury that would explain it. I came to in my chute, my oxygen bottle and mask were gone but otherwise in one piece. It would appear that I was going to land in a fair sized town but by slipping the chute I landed in a small village on the other side of a river which ran between the two. Later I was told there had been a German Detachment in the larger town but they had to go ten miles downstream to a bridge to cross over and I was gone before they arrived.

With the luck of the Irish I swung into a tree when I landed which knocked me out temporarily. When I recovered a bit I realized that there were several women and children standing around and a man in a priest's robe was helping me to stand up. I had landed in a graveyard beside a little Catholic Church. Before I was fully recovered, two men walked up, they were dressed in civilian clothes and each had a sub-machine gun slung over his shoulder. They motioned for me to follow them and started walking off so I fell right in behind them. We proceeded up the mountain

side which was all terraced vineyards. Each time we approached a farmhouse one of them would go ahead and meet us on the trail with a glass containing a clear liquid (I found it wasn't water but distilled wine which the natives used extensively). After I had a drink we would continue up the hillside. That was pretty strong stuff, because I didn't remember getting to the farmhouse where we stopped. My next recollection was being awakened about ten o'clock at night, I was laying on a straw mat with a couple of blankets. They had fetched a doctor up from down below to check me over. I guess I passed muster as they let me go back to sleep.

I found out the next day that this farmhouse was the head quarters for an Italian Partisans Group. I was sleeping in a large loft on the second floor of the farmhouse. About twelve other men were also sleeping there. Several of them took me down to the kitchen for breakfast. There was the farmer, his wife and young daughter plus another woman who I found out had been brought up from below to help out. The three women prepared and served the food. So far no one spoke English so I had a terrible time making the farmer's wife understand that I wanted my egg cooked. Turned out they tapped a hole in the end of the egg and sucked the inside out raw.

Late that afternoon the first English speaking men showed up. They were two English soldiers who had been captured by the Italians in Northern Africa early in the war. They had been in an Italian prison camp when Mussolini fell from power. The guards walked off so these guys took off for the mountains and joined the Partisans. They gave me a run down on the organization which was composed mostly of former Italian Alpine troops who had deserted and gone into the mountains under Mussolini's rule. They had a semi-military organization with the men scattered around at different spots in the mountains. They used buildings which were used by Italians in the summer when they took their cattle to higher elevations to graze. The group had a radio which was used mostly to arrange parachute drops of supplies from our air force. They

notified their contact in Rome that I was there. They brought me back a message which suggested that if I could find a suitable location to land a small plane, they might pick me up. I consulted my British friends since they had been running around these mountains for a couple of years. They assured me that such a place did not exist. A message so stating was sent back to Rome.

A few days later I was moved to another of their posts, located a little higher up and with no women to cook. Over a period of several days I was joined by several other men who had also been shot down and were in the Partisans custody. A P-51 pilot, a B-25 pilot and a couple of his crew. They had gathered us up into one location with the idea of helping us get to Yugoslavia. In addition to the supplies which the air force dropped by parachute, they were also supplied with money and were able to buy anything that was for sale. It was decided that the B-25 pilot and I would attempt the trip first, then if we made it the guide would return for the next two and so on. We were furnished skis and since neither of us had been on skis before we spent about a week practicing. My buddy (B-25 pilot) was fitted with shoes with ice cleats on the soles. They weren't able to get any in my size, so I had to do with what I had.

The guide picked us up and we started out with skis over the shoulder and a bed roll. On the second day I slipped on ice on the trail and went sliding down about a thirty degree slope covered with snow and ice. The last thing I remember was being tangled up with those damn skis. I came to about a week later. I was at another one of the Partisan post. My buddy said that I had ended up about one thousand five hundred feet down the mountain from the trail. They had obtained help from the men at this post and had transported me to their post. I had received a rather large cut on the head. They taped it up as best they could with their first aid kit. They did a pretty good job, I have no ill effects today.

The guide had gone back and picked up two more men and before I was able to travel, we received word that they had been machin-

gunned crossing a bridge. That was the end of the Yugoslavian plan.

By the time I was able to travel, someone had decided to gather up all of us shot down folks and escapees in one place. The place was over in another range of mountains and required a dangerous crossing of a valley and I was to be picked up by a group which was making the trip. After I joined the group I found that it consisted of the high command of the Partisans. Some of them wore red kerchiefs around their neck which indicated they were communist. The valley which we had to cross had a major highway and railroad. We came to a mountain village in late afternoon from which you could look down and see the highway and railroad tracks. The village put on a big feed that evening (I was with the big shots) and afterward they had a dance. Then after midnight we started down the trail to cross the valley.

In preparation for our crossing, they sent down an advance party to set up machine gun posts on each side of the valley. They had received word back that they were in position before we left the village. We crossed the railroad tracks adjacent to where they entered a tunnel. We hesitated there while several men laid plastic explosive charges on the rails well up into the tunnel and connected by fuse wire and a trip switch. We then continued on up the trail on the other side. We stopped about halfway up and waited for a train coming up the valley after it entered the tunnel it really blew big time.

When I got to my destination a couple of days later I found I had lots of company. As I remember there were eventually around thirty, mostly American but several British, one Frenchman, one Indian (from India) and two Majors from "A" force. They had parachuted in along with radio gear and a radio operator. Their mission was to arrange to get us all back to our own forces.

The first plan was to bring in a Catalina flying boat to land on a lake and pick us up. I never did know where the lake was and if I heard the name, I don't remember it now. Two days before we were to start our march to the lake,

Jerry moved in anti-aircraft guns around the lake which of course killed that plan.

The next plan was to build a landing strip. There was a mountain valley down the hill from where we were staying. It was photographed by our air force to check the approaches, length, etc. We were told it was okay and when and if we got a suitable strip built they would send an aircraft to pick us up. There was considerable leveling and grading to do, but the big item was a large pond which had been dammed up to collect water for the cattle which grazed there in the summers.

This of course would have been impossible for us, but as I said this outfit was supplied by parachute and it included money, so they were able to hire laborers, who came up the mountain side every morning and went back down every evening (at least they disappeared from our area). They also brought several teams of horses, lots of wheelbarrows and shovels. Of course all of us who were anxious to catch a plane out joined the labor force wherever we could. As I remember there were about seventy-five people working on the project.

The valley was surrounded by forest, so trees were cut down and trimmed of branches. The trees were dragged by the horses to the stock pond. They were placed in the pond perpendicular to the [to be] runway. The brush was tamped between the logs. We then carted tons of dirt to cover the whole thing. That was the main use for all those wheelbarrows. I don't remember how long it took, but shortly it was completed and it was a pretty fair landing strip. In fact I felt I could safely get in and out with a B-17 with about fifty percent of capacity load. Headquarters in Rome was notified and we waited impatiently for a plane to come in and pick us up.

In the meantime two British men arrived and said their orders were to fly out with us. Turned out they were British agents who had been operating in Venice which was south of our location. They were carrying intelligence information for the coming drive across the Po Valley. These agents said that the rumor down

in Venice was that we had a squadron of fighters up there. Needless to say we were on the radio every day to ask when that plane was coming and we were told that they couldn't spare the fighters to protect a plane. That answer didn't set well with us but all we could do was sit around and cuss Air Force Headquarters. We did have a diversion during this time, a British spitfire fighter made a forced landing on our strip. Wheeis were up and the pilot was not injured.

After about a week, the British must have decided that they couldn't depend on the air force to bring their agents out and they sent in a plane at night to pick them up. By prearrangement via radio we gathered wood and prepared to light fires to mark the runway. The fires were lit at an agreed upon time and the plane landed without incident. The plane taxied back, turned into takeoff position and sat with the engine idling waiting for the two agents and their baggage to be loaded. The plane was open cockpit (two in front and pilot in back) so I went up to the plane and introduced myself to the pilot and asked him what he thought of our strip. He said it was wonderful and he surely didn't expect anything this good. Very briefly I told him our problem and asked if he would go to Air Force Headquarters when he got back, and give them my name and tell them that I said they had shit in their necks. He laughed and said "I'll do it bank and you can bank on it". I believe he did because the next day we got word that they would be coming the next day.

Again the luck of the Irish, the weather socked in. It had been beautiful for weeks, but on that morning the peaks were all in the clouds. We didn't expect anybody to make it in under those conditions. However we did hear them circling above the clouds which did improve our attitude. The weather stayed that way for what seemed like weeks, anyway until the big offensive drive across the Poe Valley started. On getting word of this we moved to another location where it would be convenient to go down and greet our army when they arrived. When the tanks rolled up the valley we went down the mountain side and gave ourselves up to friendly

forces.

I was loaded in a truck along with the others and transported to a delousing station (Which I needed badly). After delousing, squadron 346 sent a B-17 up to pick me up. I didn't find many people still with the squadron who I remembered, but there were a number who remembered me and the circumstances concerning my being shot down. That's when I found out what really happened concerning the leadership of our ill-fated mission and I've been mad as hell ever since.

To top it off I was sent home on a banana boat (United Fruit Co.) and every time we went over a large swell the prop would come out of the water. The resulting vibrations reminded me of the day I had a runaway prop over Vienna.

Roundabout Humor

Billy Bob: "How often do you rotate your tires?"

Ray Bob: "Heck, every time I drive, I guess."

Dry Wit

Customer: "Can you clean these pants?"

Dry cleaner: "Well, Ma'am, these pants are satin."

Customer: "I know that! I want you to remove whatever it was I sat in!"



"Any other training besides potty?"

REGISTRATION

99th BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY REUNION

HOLIDAY INN HAMPTON-COLISEUM HAMPTON, VA

SEPTEMBER 6 - 11 1994

NAME _____ SQUADRON _____
 SPOUSE _____ GUEST NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE _____ ADDITIONAL GUEST _____

DATE/ EVENTS	NO. PERSONS	COST BEFORE	COST AFTER	TOTAL
TUES SEPT. 6	ATTENDING	JULY 15 '94	JULY 15 '94	
REGISTRATION----		\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	
WEDNESDAY SEPT 7		\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00	
Virginia Air & Space Museum, Naval Tour & Buffet Lunch 10:00AM- 3:00 PM				
THURSDAY SEPT. 8		\$ 22.00	\$ 25.00	
Colonial Williamsburg Overview plus York Town 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM				
FRIDAY SEPT. 9		\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	
Langley Air Base Plus Luncheon and Membership Meeting 11:30AM-2:30 PM				
Board of Directors Meeting ----- 9:00 AM		Friday Sept 9 1994		
Board of Directors Meeting-----3:30 PM		" " " "		
SATURDAY SEPT 10		\$ 22.00	\$ 25.00	
BANQUET at Hotel (Music-Entertainment) Open Bar---6:00 PM Photograph at 5:00 PM Sit down at 7:00 PM				
		Total ----		

Please send Payment to(99th BGHS Reunion Fund)

To:  ROBERT J BACHER
692 N ABBE RD
ELYRIA, OH 44035

SATURDAY is an open day till Banquet.
Golfer get a hold of Leonard Smith
(in News Letter) Four Courses Ten Minutes

from Hotel. There is a Shuttle Service to Both Air Port from Hotel. There will be Coffee in lobby every morning at Six AM. There is also Shuttle for those who want to visit Mall across the street ask at desk. (DON'T WALK DANGEROUS) Has Beauty Salon.

We try to keep walking down to a minimum most trip.

GHOSTS

There are ghosts that haunt my mind
 Not spirits from the present
 But those from forty-five years back in time
 They are ghosts of the men and planes
 that once owned the sky



Why they haunt me I do not know
 For some reason they will not let me go
 They fought ferocious battles over land and sea
 Even in death they have a lot to show

In a book I saw a photo of a man
 I thought I'd like to meet
 I later found out he met his death
 at 25,000 feet

He has probably been long forgotten
 My thoughts do not want to leave him behind
 He was once young like me
 Because of that man I am free

Tho the soldiers lie sleeping in their eternal nests
 And their great planes have been cast aside
 The ghosts of the air war cannot rest
 Most have forgotten about that day
 But with me the ghosts of the air war
 will forever stay

By Jill Chandler
 2120 E. Boone
 Spokane, WA 99202



 BE AT WAR WITH YOUR VICES, AT PEACE WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND LET
 EVERY NEW YEAR FIND YOU A BETTER PERSON. (B. Franklin)

#####

BEGIN THE NEW YEAR SQUARE WITH EVERY MAN. (R.B. Thomas)



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 HAMPTON, VA 23666 • 1-800-842-9370

Please Reserve _____ room(s) for _____ persons

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (business) (_____) - _____
area code

Telephone (home) (_____) - _____
area code

Share With: _____

99TH BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOC.

Name of Group or Organization

NONE

Group Number

JULY 24, 1994

Reservation cut-off deadline

What time do you expect to arrive? _____

Arrival Date: _____

Departure Date: _____

Reunion Sept-6-11-1994

CALL TOLL FREE - 1-800-842-9370

Reservation Dates: September 6-11, 1994

Rates:	Single	Double Occupancy
2 Double Beds	\$59	\$59
King Bed	\$59	\$59
Suite	—	—
Other	—	—
Extra Person Charge	_____	_____

All reservations must be guaranteed. We suggest that all reservations be guaranteed by enclosing a check or money order for the first night's room rate plus 9.5% tax, or a credit card number and signature.

Diners Club _____ Carte Blanche _____ American Express _____

Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover _____ Choice _____

Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____

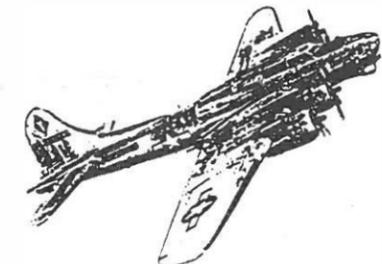
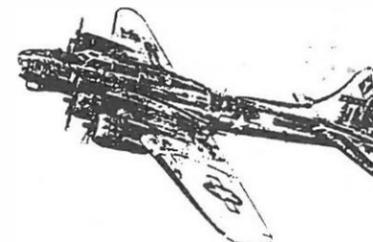
Signature _____

Rollaway beds are additional.

Children under 12 stay free with their parents.

Cancellation: A guaranteed reservation will be held all night. Should you need to cancel your reservation prior to arrival, please cancel no later than 6:00 PM the day of arrival, or you will be charged for (1) one night's room and tax. (Make sure you get a cancellation number.)

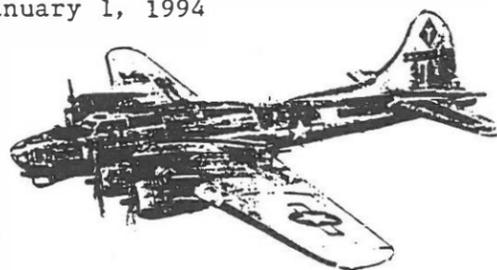
The Holiday Inn® hotel of Hampton is in the heartland of the fascinating and famous Virginia Tidewater Area. Set on 13 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds, the Inn has 324 comfortable guest rooms with color TVs, Showtime, CNN, ESPN and individual climate control.



27300 Hickory Blvd.
Bonita Springs, FL. 33923

January 1, 1994

99th Bomb Group Historical Society Newsletter
c/o Walter Butler
8608 Bellehaven Place, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87712



Re: Second Tour

Dear Roy, Jules and Walt:

I noted in the September 1993 Newsletter (which some kind soul got to me at my new address in Florida) that second tours are a topic.

One night in the fall of '44, after a late stand-down order for the next day, I found myself on the dark flight line temporarily out of work. Half of my bomb trailers were unloaded and half the ready aircraft had unfuzed 500 pounders on the bomb racks. In the hopes that the next Frag Order, late the following afternoon, would not change the load; I told our four platoon sergeants to help the armorers to unload the airplanes but to leave the trailers loaded. They were to take them back to our bomb dump and to post guards, and tell the rest of the gang to knock-off and go back to their tents to sleep for a change.

A rare evening not loading planes made it possible for Al Clark, a fellow ordnance guy, and me to go to the Group HQ O'Club where a crap game was in progress. When my turn with the dice came, I spoke in "Coal Country Pennsylvanian" to the dice and threw a pair of aces, losing my bet and much bigger bets of many of the flyers who were betting on the "come". One of the group, a handsome, blond Captain, looked across the table at me and said, "you did that about as badly as you blocked in Pottsville."

Charley Zalonka, a Bombardier/Navigator in one of our squadrons, and I had been in high school at the same time in the anthracite coal region of eastern Pennsylvania. Charley, about 200 pounds and sturdy, had been a very good fullback. At 135 pounds, I was at least three strings down from him in the pecking order for jocks. I didn't often get on the field unless our opposition was pretty bad. Charley, on the other hand, was good enough to get a scholarship and regular employment as a fullback for Coach Jim Crowley at Fordham University. I joined the Air Corps after graduation and lost track of Zalonka.

Now, at least five years later, here was Charley at Foggia #2 in Tortorella, Italy. I learned later that the 99th was his second tour. He had done a B-17 tour in the 8th and had made at least one Ploesti mission prior to joining us. Since he did not enjoy life in the States, he volunteered for another combat tour. Zalonka, an unsung hero in my estimation, was killed after the war when a B-36 he was crew on was lost in the southwest of the U.S. I'm not sure how many sorties he flew with the 99th, but he was a hell of a soldier.

Bob Duffy
Bob Duffy,
Ordnance, 99th B/G, '43-'45

From Richmond take Route I-64 South. From Norfolk take Route I-64 North. EXIT at B Interchange (Mercury Blvd.). Turn RIGHT off Mercury Blvd. at the first driveway, near right to HOLIDAY INN. Don't let other Hotel drives confuse you.

Hampton

FROM THE SEA TO THE STARS

• Coliseum Area



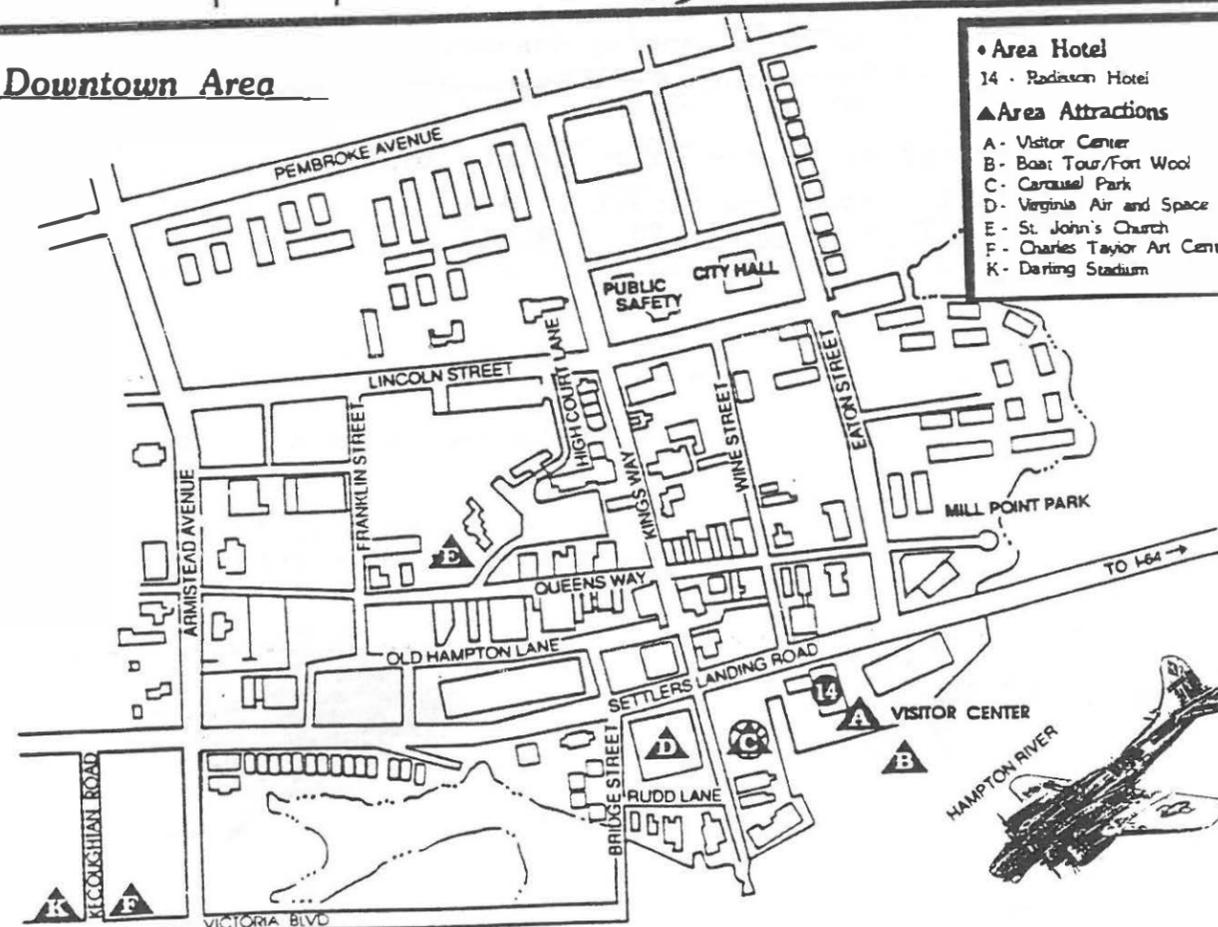
• Area Hotels

- 3 Comfort Inn
- 4 Courtyard by Marriott
- 5 Days Inn
- 6 Econo Lodge
- 8 Fairfield Inn
- 10 Hampton Inn
- 12 Holiday Inn Hampton
- 13 LaQuinta Inn
- 15 Red Roof Inn
- 17 Sheraton Inn Coliseum

▲ Area Attractions

- G - Bluebird Gap Farm

• Downtown Area



• Area Hotel

- 14 - Radisson Hotel

▲ Area Attractions

- A - Visitor Center
- B - Boat Tour/Fort Wood
- C - Carousel Park
- D - Virginia Air and Space Ctr.
- E - St. John's Church
- F - Charles Taylor Art Center
- K - Darling Stadium

TOURS FOR THE 99TH HISTORICAL BOMB GROUP SOCIETY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1994 - VIRGINIA AIR & SPACE CENTER WITH IMAX THEATER, NAVAL BASE TOUR AND BUFFET LUNCH INCLUDED ON BASE, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Visit the Air & Space Museum, official visitors center for the NASA Research facility, and home to the 300 seat IMAX theater. See exhibits, space gallery, suspended aircraft and history of the Hampton Roads area. Next, a special treat for all Hampton Roads visitors is touring the Norfolk Naval Base, the largest naval installation in the world. See aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and aircraft. Have lunch on base with active duty military personnel.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994 - COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG OVERVIEW & YORKTOWN, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Spend the morning in Colonial Williamsburg. Stroll through the restored area of this lovely colonial capital city with your guide providing history. Lunch on your own in one of the famous colonial taverns or in Merchants Square. Admire the view as you ride along the scenic Colonial Parkway to the quaint village of Yorktown. Visit the National Park Service Visitors Center, which includes exhibits relating to the Battle of Yorktown, and a 12 minute film. View the battlefields of the Revolutionary War from the rooftop overlook.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1994 - LANGLEY AIR FORCE BASE & LUNCH, 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Enjoy a windshield tour of Langley Air Force Base, established in 1917, and home of the NASA Langley Research Center. See the flight line and a static display of aircraft. Lunch will be included on base at the NCO Club.

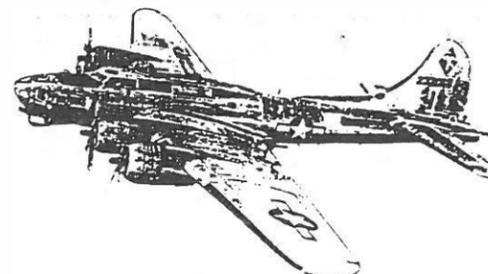
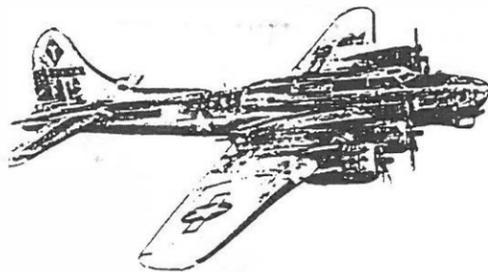
There will be coffee in the Lobby by six AM

There is a Mall across the street with a Beauty Salon plus many stores but DON'T WALK ACROSS TO IT AS IT IS VERY DANGEROUS. the hotel has a shuttle bus at the Hotel ask at the desk.

The Photographer will be in the area of the Banquet Room to take your picture for the Photo Album at five o'clock or 1700 hours.

Have a good time and if you need help see me or the front desk
ROBERT BACHER THANKS for coming.

The Banquet will start at 1900 hour or Seven O'clock there will be a open Bar before the Banquet around 1700 HR. or Five O'clock.

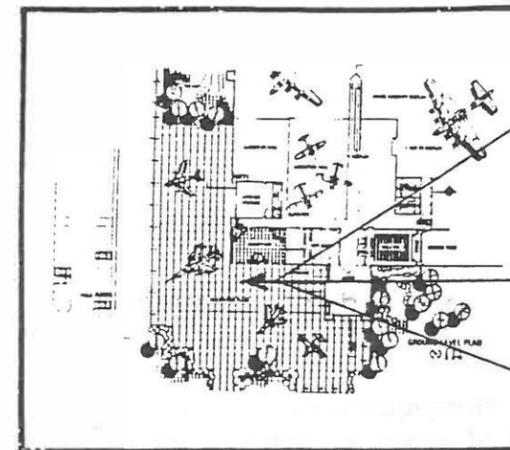


The MARCH AIR FORCE BASE MUSEUM FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 6463, MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CA 92518 WILL PUT YOUR NAME ON A PERMANENT TILE IN THE MUSEUM FLOOR. If interested send them the completed form printed below.

THE MARCH FIELD
MUSEUM FOUNDATION



P.O. Box 6463
March Air Force Base, California 92518



Be a part of the
March Field Museum
Tribute in Tile.

YOUR NAME HERE
OR MESSAGE
YOUR TRIBUTE IN TILE

\$35 contribution, one line (20 sp.)
\$50 contribution, two lines (20 sp. ea.)

Reservation Form: Mail payment to: March Field Museum Foundation, March AFB, CA 92518 (714) 655-2533

NAME	DAY PHONE	EVENING PHONE
ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP
OFFICE USE ONLY		
ENCLOSED IS MY CHECK FOR	CHARGE MY:	CARD NUMBER
	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> M.C.	EXPIRATION DATE
SIGNATURE TO CHARGE MY ACCOUNT	CHECK HERE IF THIS IS A GIFT OR MEMORIAL	
	<input type="checkbox"/> GIFT	<input type="checkbox"/> MEMORIAL TILE #

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO
MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION
A TAX EXEMPT NON-PROFIT
CORPORATION
Address of individual to receive
Gift/Memorial Acknowledgement
(Attach Additional Address)

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

THE MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

Invites you to immortalize your name or message on a 6" tile to be set in the outside Heritage Courtyard/Plaza of the new March Field Museum. **HELP PAVE THE WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MARCH FIELD MUSEUM.** Who says you can't live forever? You can! For a contribution of \$35 (one line up to 20 spaces); or \$50 (two lines with 20 spaces each line) a 6" **NAME TILE** will be set in place in the Museum Heritage Courtyard / Plaza. Following completion of the new building you will, in fact, gain immortality by becoming a legend in your own tile! The Museum Foundation will also accept Messages (with space limitations noted below) depicting **memorials, commemoratives, birthdays, celebrations, recognitions, etc.**

HURRY! IT'S FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED. The first several thousand tiles will be Blue in color, the remainder Sandstone.

PLEASE SEND ME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTION OPTIONS.
Check

Please fill in the OFFICIAL INSTRUCTION FORM BELOW noting that blank spaces between words are part of the 20 spaces available per line (2 lines max.) & print in upper case block letters. **HERE IS HOW TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION:** Make tax-deductible check or Money Order Payable to March Field Museum Foundation. VISA-MASTERCARD, by mail or phone (714) 655-2533 or in person for cash. Use the above form as a checklist. You will receive a certificate of recognition.

TILE 1

TILE 2

LINE 1

LINE 1

LINE 2

LINE 2

99TH BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Walter H. Butler, Treasurer
8608 Bellehavan Place, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

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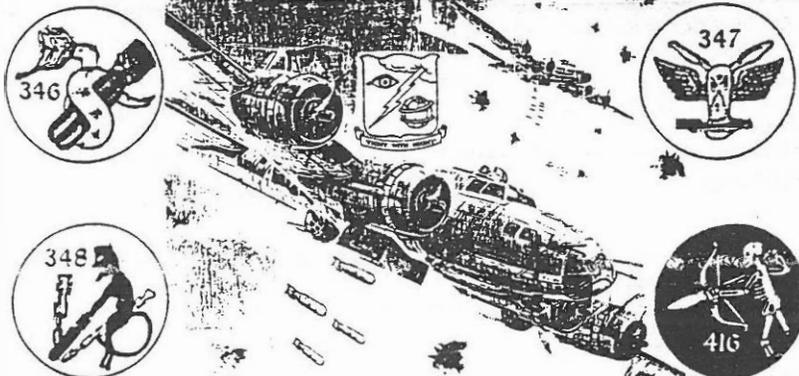
FEBRUARY 1994

NAME _____ SQUADRON _____ ASSOC _____
ADDRESS _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

If your address block above does not have 1994 or later in the upper right hand corner you are not a current dues paying member. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter after this issue please send your 1994 dues to Walter Butler, Treasurer, at the 'return address' above before the end of March '94 or your name will be dropped from the membership roster and you will not receive additional issues. Dues are only \$15.00 yearly. Also remember to send your 1995

and subsequent years dues to Walter before the end of January each year to stay current. Your membership will be dropped if you fail to send dues for the current year before the end of January each year. You may pay as many in advance as you care to however. Previous issues (1981 thru 1986) are available for \$5.00 postpaid for all six years. 1987 thru 1993 issues are available for \$10.00 per year.

99TH BOMB GROUP



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