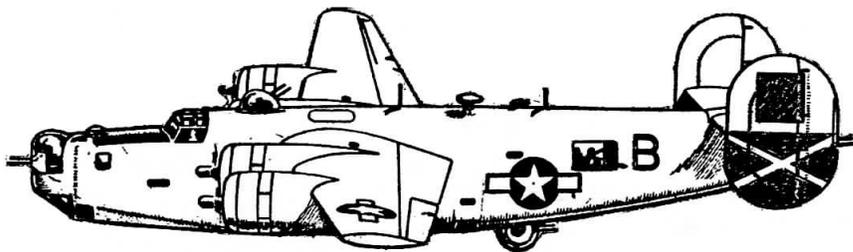


LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



NO.2

DEC 1967

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWER OPERATORS

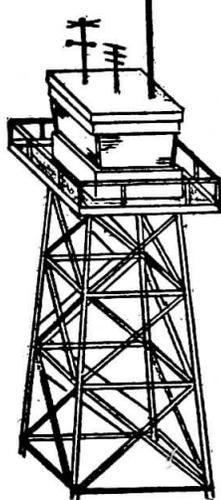
Your response to the newsletter was truly gratifying. Approximately 250 letters were mailed and because several members responded to our appeal for names and addresses of 485th veterans, we shall be mailing over 300 letters this time.

We wish to express our gratitude to those who generously contributed to the support of the newsletter and sincerely hope this issue of the letter justifies your contribution.

Every attempt has been made to acknowledge the many letters received. But due to our small staff - which we are attempting to enlarge - we may have over-looked one or two. However, we appreciate everyone and we also appreciate the assistance we have received from so many members, individuals whom we have never met personally, yet people who have nonetheless thrown open their resources to us, simply because they want to preserve a page of military aviation history that is fast becoming a dim memory. We want to thank you and them for your support ... the photos, the tidbits of information and the letters of encouragement. This your newsletter and the staff earnestly solicits your letters of information, news items and support so that we may continue to improve the letter.

MISSION NO. 3: DAYTON - SPRINGBORO, OHIO

Rendezvousing in Springboro, Ohio, about eight miles south of Dayton, the ol' veterans of the 485th accomplished another mission during the week-end of 19-20 August 1967. Hosted by Mr and Mrs Edmond Manning (828), the 3rd Annual Group Reunion was a highly successful and memorable event.



Activities began Friday (18th) evening when several of the guests gathered at the Mannings' residence. Visiting with the Mannings were Mr and Mrs Gerhard Hohaus (830), Long Island, N.Y.; Mr and Mrs Howard Woodyard (831), Lambertville, Mich.; Mr and Mrs Robert Deeds & Family (828), Toledo, Ohio; Mr and Mrs Minor Huckleby (Gp Hq), Wheatridge, Colo.; Mr and Mrs Karl Anderson (828), Carrollton, Ohio; Mr and Mrs Clemmie Norris (828), E. Spencer, N.C.; Mr Ralph Compton (828), Troutman, N.C.; Mr Dean Bassett (828), Charlotte, N.C.; Mr Ray Shaffer (828), Garrettsville, Ohio; Mr and Mrs Ambrose Borgetti (828), Whiting, Ind.



TOWER OPERATORS

Front- L to R: William Schoultz and Robert Deeds. Std- L to R: Carl Gigowski and Howard Woodyard.

1968 REUNION

The 4th Annual Reunion will be held during the week-end of 18 August 1968 in Dearborn, Michigan. Mr and Mrs Howard Woodyard will host the event. A visit to the past will be made by a trip to the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village. Watch for further details.

Saturday (19th) morning, the reunion went into high gear at the Split Rail Lodge, the IP for the mission. Among the new arrivals were Mr and Mrs William Wulf (829), Cumberland, Ind.; Mr and Mrs Robert Thompson (829), Sun Prairie, Wisc.; Mr and Mrs Carl Gigowski & Son (828), Grand Rapids, Mich.; Mr Lyle Talbott (830), Crooksville, Ohio; Mr Robert Kuns & Son (828), Candem, Ind.; Mr and Mrs Edward Nett (828CO), Kettering, Ohio. With several veterans attending for the first time, there were new stories and biographical sketches to be related.

After a delicious lunch and a round or two, it was time to set course for the AF Museum where the group assembled at the most famous aircraft ever to see service with the AAF - the LIBERATOR - for group pictures.

Here, admiring the ol' bomber was Col Calvin Fite, USAF, former Ops Officer and CO of the 828th. It was an unforgettable moment, seeing the two commanders together for the first time in 23 years. Col Fite is now stationed at Wright-Patterson AF Base.

It would take pages to describe the many aircraft on display and the static displays in the Museum. Indeed, we highly recommend a visit to the AF Museum at Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio.

Completing the tour of the Museum, it was back to the motels to freshen up a bit for the dinner. Forming at the lodge, the flight took-off - in the wrong direction, heading for Cincinnati. Executing a 180, the flight assumed a heading for Dayton - except for one vehicle - and in short time arrived at the destination. Waiting at the restaurant were Mr and Mrs Nicholas Montulli (828), Rochester, N.Y.

Following the dinner and speeches by Col Fite, Ed Nett and Carl Gigowski (Windy), it was "Tally-Ho" as the group headed for the lodge for de-briefing and refreshments. Waiting for us at the lodge was our lost vehicle.

Highlighting the evenings entertainment was the awards presentation staged by Robert Deeds and Howard Woodyard. Awards for numerous events, achievements and beauty were presented to several guests. Typical of the awards were: Best topping of gray hair - Gerhard Hohaus; Least amount of topping - Ray Shaffer; The oldest bachelor - Lyle Talbott; Best dressed - Ed Nett; Traveled the furthest - Minor Hucceby, just to name a few. And there were awards for the ladies.

One couple missed by the veterans who have attended the past reunions was Mr and Mrs William Schoultz (828), Newton Falls, Ohio, who inaugurated the Group Reunion in 1965. Bill had experienced a heart attack during the summer and was home recuperating and unable to attend. A long distance call was placed to Newton Falls and the entire gang had a few words with Bill.

Sunday (20th) morning signaled the end of the reunion and the beginning of the difficult task of saying good-by. As several of the guests were enjoying that last cup of coffee with the Mannings, Mr Charles Barnes (828), Dayton, Ohio, stopped by.



THE 485TH VETERANS AT THE AF MUSEUM - Std, L to R: R. Thompson, M. Hucceby, D. Bassett, R. Shaffer, L. Talbott, R. Compton, G. Hohaus, A. Borgetti, K. Anderson, R. Deeds, R. Kuns, H. Woodyard, E. Nett, Col C. Fite, and W. Wulf. Knl, L to R: E. Manning, C. Gigowski, B. Kuns and C. Norris.

IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

Each year we lose a few of the fellows from the 485th. When we send out the newsletter, some are returned, marked DECEASED - RETURN TO SENDER. Or we receive a letter from their wife telling us the sad news.

This year I had plans to go to the reunion in Dayton. But after three heart attacks and 19 days in the hospital, the doctor said no traveling for me. So I missed my first reunion.

The fellows of the 485th did not forget me at the reunion. On Saturday evening they telephoned me long distance and we talked for 40 minutes. It was good to hear all your comments and wishing me a speedy recovery. I want to thank you and everyone who sent me cards.

I hope to make the next reunion and I hope to see you all there. Let's make it the best one of all.

WILLIAM H. SCHULTZ 12-67

To Mr and Mrs Ed Manning a sincere thank you for a job well done. All had a wonderful time. The event and the meeting of ol' buddies will be long remembered.

It was a great pleasure meeting all of you and we sincerely hope to see all of you and more of the ol' vets at the '68 reunion. For to meet an ol' buddy after a period of more than 20 years is an experience cherished forever.

ROBERT DEEDS & CARL GIGOWSKI

PARDON OUR BOO-BOO

WE failed to mention in our previous letter that Mr and Mrs Jim Andrews (828) Beaver, Pa. attended the '66 reunion in Grand Rapids, Mich.

DO YOU REMEMBER....?

.....That tiny island of Vis - a bit of heaven - where hundreds of emergency landings were made, saving the lives of thousands of crew members?

.....The accordionist in the 828th, who practiced in the remotely located john at the request of the tenants of the low rent tent district?

.....The New Years Eve show presented by the Group Orchestra at Grant's Tomb followed by the antics of Lt Ryan and Lt Boigan?

.....(And to repeat) If any of the original assigned bombers of the Group survived the war and returned to the States?

Answers to two of the questions in the first newsletter were provided by James Ridout and Salvatore LoBello.

Col John Cornett went down over Vienna, Austria on March 23, 1945. Flying with the Col and other Group personnel were Jim, his pilot Lloyd Allan and three others of his crew, including Robert Thompson. Clearing the target area, they crash-landed in Hungary and were captured. Later, on April 29, 1945, the crew was released at Mooseberg, Germany.

Salvatore LoBello was on the same mission during which Col Tomhave went down. For his story, see THIS IS HOW IT WAS. Additional information on these incidents and the above questions would be greatly appreciated.

GROUP HISTORY PROJECT

More than 300 photos were contributed to the project, which were recorded on 135mm film and returned. Also, several personal accounts were received. A complete roster of the Squadron and Group Hq was requested from the National Personnel Records Center. However, they charge a fee for this service, ranging from five dollars and up to - depending on the magnitude of the request. This will require a new approach.

Much material is still needed to make the history complete. Particularly, photos of crews from all Sqdns, photos of ground personnel and aircraft of the 829th, 830th, and 831st. More personal accounts are desired, including from the ground personnel describing the many preparations that went into getting the mission off the ground.

All items forwarded will be acknowledged and returned by registered mail after reproduction. Appropriate credit will be given all material used.

A sincere thank you is extended to the following contributors for graciously lending personal photographs, orders, personal accounts and other material: Lt Col Homer Hale, William Brien, Donald Stahl, George Williams, William Beggs, Lawrence Hohmann, Ralph Wakefield, Rollie Palmer, Salvatore LoBello, Burl Jackson and Hovey Ball.

CARL GIGOWSKI

THIS IS HOW IT WAS

Salvatore LoBello, 829th Radio Operator, flew the mission of February 16, 1945; the same mission during which Col Tomhave went down. With his kind permission, we present the picture as he recorded it.

"Today's mission really hit close to home. Our target was Regensburg Airfield, a high priority target because of the large number of jet aircraft on the field. We had reached the target, sweating out the whole trip and as we ploughed through the flak, one of our aircraft exploded in mid-air after receiving a direct hit.

"Homeward bound, we were flying at about 18,000 feet and as we approached the Alps we ran into flak again. Our ship was just clear of the flak when I looked out of the waist window and witnessed a sight I shall never forget. It appeared that Col Tomhave's ship was out of control after taking a direct hit and collided with Stockdale's ship. I saw them collide in mid-air - followed them - hoping and praying for those little white chutes to appear. But as fate probably wanted it - only four chutes billowed out. Four chutes!! From two bombers carrying ten men each. Stockdale's men and the men flying with the Col were my true buddies.... It all seems like a nightmare."

James Ridout, 828th Gunner, noted in his letter that Col Tomhave was captured and on February 22, 1945 was killed at Nurnberg, Germany during an attack on a POW train - apparently, on which he was traveling.

Lawrence Hohmann, 828th, sent a news item from one of the overseas newspapers describing the adventures of 1st Lt Kenneth Wydler's crew during the mission to Pola, Italy on February 7, 1945.

.....They were 10 until flak hit the Liberator on its bomb run. Although wounded, the Navigator kept toggling the bombs until a shell exploded inside the nose and his body fell through the gaping hole. The explosion knocked out both pilots and the nose gunner, and ignited leaking hydraulic fluid in the bomb bay.

"When I regained consciousness our compartment was filled with smoke," 2nd Lt Michael L. Goglia, the co-pilot remembers. "Both windows had been blown out and the plane was in a dive."

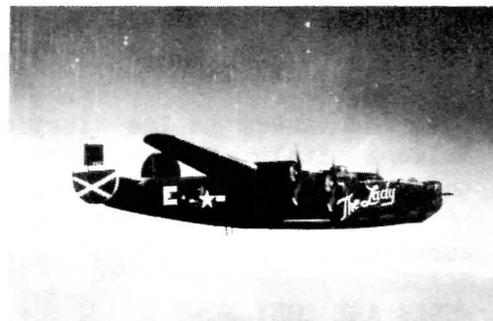
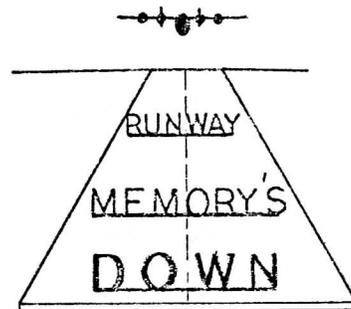
1st Lt Kenneth Wydler, the pilot, had closed the throttles as the explosion knocked him out, thereby preventing a spin. He came to just after the co-pilot, and together they brought the bomber out of the dive.

Sgt Robert Espenshade, the nose gunner, recovered consciousness to find himself trapped without a parachute in the nose turret which was partially severed from the fuselage by a six-foot gap. The turret glass was shattered and the interphone and oxygen system were out. Despite a numbing wind and the pain from a broken rib Sgt Espenshade stood up and indicated to the pilot he was all right.

1st Lt Niran Kellogg, the Bombardier, escaped the navigator's fate because he had left the compartment just before the anti-aircraft shell hit. Lt Kellogg had been trying to loosen the frozen bomb bay doors and later went back to kick out a bomb which had hung up.

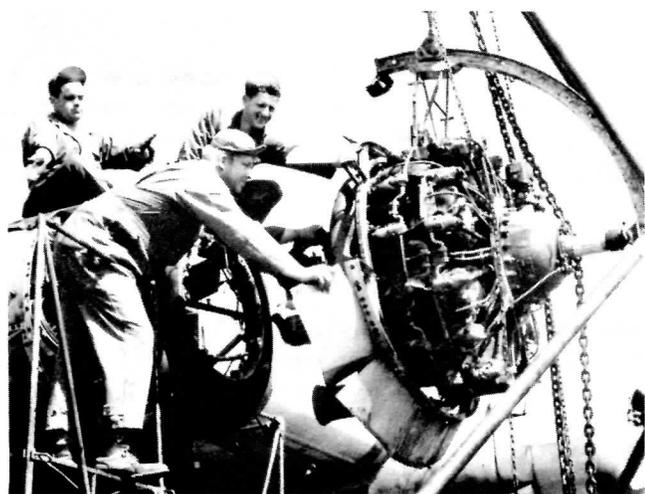


CAPT J.C. CARLIN & CREW (829) Photo-S.LoBello



RED"E" (828) Photo-K.Anderson

ENGINE CHANGE: MSGT W. Kenneally, MSGT W. Jensen & SGT F. Harkay (828)
Photo-G. Ick



FLAK!

Photo-R. Deeds

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING
Published annually by and for the
veterans of the 485th Bomb Group

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DOWN ON THE FLIGHT LINE

Photo-C. Gigowski

With all instruments out of order and bucking a freezing wind the pilots headed the crippled bomber homeward. Sgt Harold Suess, the engineer-gunner, tried several times to reach the trapped nose gunner, but each time the gusts of wind forced him back.

Arriving over the home base, Sgt Suess carefully lowered the nose wheel and cranked the main gear and flaps into place. After a rather hard landing the bomber rolled to a safe stop.

Besides the large hole in the nose section, one wing had been punctured more than 70 times. There were two large holes in the bomb bay and 35 more in the waist.....

Then there is the story of a 15AF tail gunner on a Liberator flying a mission to Balzona, Italy when the Liberator received a direct hit, severing the bomber in two at the waist section. Spinning from 22,000 ft, the tail section smashed through a clump of trees and came to rest on the ground. Suffering from burns and bruises, the gunner survived and was captured by a German patrol.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Anyone knowing of the whereabouts of the personnel noted below, please contact the staff and the information will be forwarded. Also, the staff would like to contact the two former Group COs noted below with their last known address. Newsletters mailed to these addresses were returned, marked "Addressee Unknown".

Col Douglas M. Cairns (Ret)
Apt H-8 1200 Leon St
Durham, N. Carolina

Col John B. Cornet
4608th Support Sqdn
Ent AF Base, Colo.

Dean Bassett would appreciate any assistance in locating Lyle M. Alexander of Texas. Col Homer Hale would like to contact Roy L. Reeve. They went overseas together and later Roy was transferred to Group Operations. Your editor would like to locate the tail gunner of his crew, Lewis D. Junior - last known address: 1424 R St NW Washington, DC.

Are you trying to locate a buddie? If so, let us know for we might just be able to help you.

MAIL ROOM

Many letters were received during the year and so we thought it would be fitting to enlarge the MAIL ROOM into sections for each of the Squadrons and Group Hq. Eventually, we hope to have a reporter for each unit and you are encouraged to direct your correspondence to them. However, anyone of the staff will be most happy to hear from you.

485TH GP HQ

One of the ol' veterans heard from was Ralph W. Johnson, St. Helena, Calif., who joined the Group at Fairmont as Communications Officer. Ralph sent us the address of Minor Huckleby, whom we had the pleasure of meeting at the reunion. Another member of the Communications Section heard from was Ralph Wakefield, West Stockholm, New York. We received some fine photos along with other material for the historical project from Ralph.

CARL GIGOWSKI

828TH SQDN

Another year has rolled around. We have been busy answering letters and cards. It was good to hear from so many of you and to receive the many Christmas cards.

Received a letter from CMS Henry Fisher. He is still in service and just returned from Guam. He hopes to make the '68 reunion. Karl Anderson wrote about the newsletter. He likes it so well he gets it out and reads it occasionally, reminsing about the

days in sunny Italy. It is always good to hear from Karl. Also, a short note from Lt Col Harold S. Julin requesting his name be added to the mailing list. Good to hear from Col Calvin W. Fite again. He is still in the service - a trip to Viet Nam and now at Wright-Patterson AF Base. Received a card from Dick Bates. Sorry he could not make the reunion in Dayton and will try to be back with us in '68. A very nice letter from Larry Hohmann, who sent several photos of the ol' days. Thanks a lot Larry, we need all the help we can get.

John Wheeler from the original Crew 14 would like to hear from any of his former crew members. Their ship was "ROUGH DEAL LUCILLE". Clemmie Norris of "LUCKY 7" crew writes he would like to have his pilot's address - Capt Thomas H. McDowell or any of the crew members. We hope he finds them. A short letter from George Healy and Stanley - read our reunion notice in the American Legion mag, and requested info. William L. Brien sent some good pictures and suggested contacting the Group Photographer for more. (What was his name? - Ed.)

Received a nice letter from Robert Beamish, who after spending some 20 years in the Army, has retired. He is very interested in the 485th activities and hopes to make the '68 reunion. Fred Buzan sent a short note informing us of his new address so that he will continue to receive our mail. It was good to hear from Nicholas Montullo again. Nick wrote a tremendous letter. Nick has made two reunions and enjoys them very much.

John Thull wrote he also enjoyed the newsletter. John has made it to several of the reunions. Received a card from Wilbur Brown, who hopes to make the '68 reunion. Also a letter from T.W. Leggett, Jr. and a letter from my Sqdn buddy Joseph Faraci. C.J. Kusiak sent me two addresses that helped to locate Herb Wren and Raymond Mescher. All four of us were in the same tent in sunny Italy.

Hope I haven't missed anyone this time. Keep the letters and cards coming. It sure is nice to hear from you all. Keeps us busy, but we like that.

WILLIAM H. SCHULTZ

829TH SQDN

Several members of the 829th expressed their appreciation of the newsletter and inquired about the reunion. Also, material for the Group history project was received and several letters were exchanged.

Salvatore LoBello, Radio Operator on Capt (now Lt Col) J.C. Carlin's crew provided the excellent account of Col Tomhave's last mission on that fateful day - February 16, 1945. (See THIS IS HOW IT WAS - Ed.) Several letters were exchanged and Sal provided much material for the history. And the boss of CARLIN'S COBBERS, Lt Col James C. Carlin dropped us a line expressing his appreciation for the newsletter.

Another interesting letter was received from James A. Ridout, Gunner on Captain Lloyd Allan's crew. As a matter of interest, Jim was on the same mission on which Col (now Maj Gen) Arnold was shot down; also on the mission during which Col Tomhave went down and finally was shot down with the third Group CO - Col Cornet. Jim also related what happened to Col Tomhave and what happened to Col Cornet. From the same crew, Robert A. Thompson was heard from and we had the pleasure of meeting him at the reunion.

Once again we heard from Bill Beggs, who sent along addresses of his crew members and several photos for the history. Also from BRYSON'S BRUISERS, your editor had the pleasure of meeting Hovey J. Ball, who stopped in during his vacation. Jim supplied many photos and material for the history. Had a very enjoyable visit with Jim, reminiscing of the days with the Group in Italy.

Corresponded with Lt Col Homer G. Hale, Jr. and received a very interesting account of his unforgettable experience of July 19, 1944 when he was shot down over

Munich on his 35th mission. Col Hale is presently stationed on Guam.

E. L. Bundy sent along several names to add to the mailing list. Frank Lozier contacted us about the reunion and mentioned his ol' fellow- worker, Tom Heaton. How about Tom's addresses, Frank? Bill Wulf inquired about the reunion and we had the pleasure of meeting Bill at the reunion. Also heard from Bradley Davis and Delmar Brinkman, who hopes to make the '68 reunion.

From out Oklahoma way, your editor received a long distance call from Sid W. Connellee. Had a nice conversation with Sid and sure would like to meet him at the reunion. (Haven't forgotten you, Sid -CG).

CARL GIGOWSKI

830TH SQDN

George Williams sent a note complementing the newsletter and a picture of "TAIL HEAVY". What a doll. A card was received from Tom Fraser, pilot, who flew the famous bomber "LIFE" on its 100th mission. (Did "LIFE" survive the war? - Ed.) Word was received from C. J. Schawalder, who was with the Sqdn from Nebraska until the Group returned to the States. Unable to attend the '67 reunion, CJ hopes to make the '68 reunion.

Gerhard W. Hohaus inquired about the reunion and we had the pleasure of meeting him at the reunion. And Carroll Eichner and Russel Severn dropped us a note requesting reunion information.

CARL GIGOWSKI

831ST SQDN

I was glad to see the many letters from the veterans of the Sqdn, received since the mailing of the newsletter. Received a note from Isadore Silberman, Larry Vieth, and John Jones. Lester J. Sutter sent a letter complementing the newsletter and mentioned that he is in contact with Harold Combs, who also sent words of encouragement on the letter which brought back many a memory for him.

Kirby Stephens, an active member of the Nicholson Post 38 in Baton Rouge, sent several names for the mailing list. Burl Jackson, sent along numerous names and several photos for the history project. Burl finished his missions on November 4, 1944. Don Stahl, inspired by the letter really got busy and devoted a lot of time obtaining many manes for the mailing list. (A good job, Don - Ed.) While passing through Newton, Falls, Marshall Knight stopped in for a visit with Bill Schoultz.

I enjoyed a visit one Sunday afternoon with Harold Dundan and his family. On a southern trip in December '67, I stopped to see Harold Combs and his mother, Lester Sutter and his wife and Chuck Reynolds and his family.

Some of the names I do not remember. So, come to the reunion in August and lets get reacquainted. Also, lets give the Sqdn a record attendance this year, for we have been outnumbered by the other Sqdns at the past reunions. And above all, keep the mail room of the 831st busy.

HOWARD WOODYARD

(Also, received word from Joseph Tabellion and B. Plocica -Ed.)

JOURNEY'S END - Members deceased since the end of WWII

Russel Cory (828)

Willard Jensen (828) 1962

Richard O. Gibson (828) 1962

Jack Entwhistle (828) 1966

Rex O'Dell (828) 1948

Russel Chapman

Earl Blackwell 1959

Freeman Shindledecker (828) 1965

Henry Boyer (828) 1964

Homer Thomas (831)

John Roe (Gp Hq)

Orlie M. Stagman (831)

Alfred W. Grass (828)