



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



No. 40

March 2006

Colombia, So. Carolina 2006 by Bob Hanson

As you know, we lost Bob Benson January 27, 2006. He had been ill for some time, but kept it unknown to most of us and always had an up attitude. He will be sorely missed and we offer our sincere sympathy to Dorothy and family. As deputy chairman, I will willingly carry on in behalf of the 485th bombgroup.

Our next reunion will be in Colombia, So. Carolina. Dates will be October 19th to October 23rd 2006. We will be staying at the Clarion Hotel in downtown Columbia.

The rates will be \$89.00 plus tax. The reunion will be starting **THURSDAY, October 19th** and will end **MONDAY at noon, October 23rd, 2006**. The hotel had previously booked a large wedding reception for Saturday evening, and could not handle that and our banquet on same night, so plan on opening day, Thursday, October 19th...a tour on Friday, to be announced and an airshow at Colombia Airport on Saturday October 21st. Business meeting and squadron meetings will be Sunday morning and pictures and banquet on Sunday evening. Our memorial breakfast will be Monday morning and goodbyes by noon on Monday, October 23rd. Plan on attending, and being the state capital, I am sure we'll have an interesting reunion. All hotel reservations and information data will be mailed at a later date.



In Memoriam



Robert M. Benson

May 22, 1921

January 27, 2006

The Fun and Sun Reunion in Tucson by Lynn Cotterman

The 41st annual reunion of the 485th Bombgroup was held from September 28th to October 2, 2005 in the Sheraton Hotel in the beautiful city of Tucson, Arizona surrounded by two mountain ranges. The picturesque mountains can be viewed from anywhere in the city because the height of the buildings is restricted to four stories outside the downtown area.

The hotel was an indoor/outdoor facility because of the mild weather. The facilities were in separate buildings connected by covered walkways around the large pool area which was enclosed with a six foot high wrought iron fence. The hospitality building opened out into the fenced area so we were opening and closing the "clanging gates" quite often. A breakfast



continued on pg. 2

buffet was included in the price of the room which was convenient and also made the cost of the room even more attractive.

To avoid overbooking, that happened last year, Michele, daughter of Leo Gagne, and I called most of the ones who attended the reunion last year to try to get a handle on the number planning to attend this year. We still had a larger crowd than we had anticipated, but we were able to work out accommodations.

I arrived Tuesday, but not many other veterans arrived early this year. I ran into Tony and Gert Siller and the Nardi's, Frank, Kitty and daughter, Barbara. Ted Dey, President of Air Force Reunions, intended to host the reunion, but cancelled because his father was seriously ill. He hired a former hostess, Kaye Hendricks, that had retired from the company, to fill in for him and she did a great job.

Several of the regular attendees who had reservations had to cancel for various reasons. Among them were our Chairman, Bob Benson and spouse, Dorothy, because Bob wasn't quite up to traveling yet; Col. Dan Sjodin was home with a cold and a temperature; Bob and Mildred Rector who live in Biloxi, Mississippi were greeted by Hurricane Katrina. Their house was spared, but everything around it was devastated. Other regulars that cancelled were Jack and Irene Godfrey; Warren and Evelyn Gorman; Hank & Virginia Dolim. However, Lloyd Proudlove who has missed the last several reunions showed up with ten guests this year.

Wednesday, Bill Cummings, pilot from the 830th Squadron and an Air Force veteran pilot of 28 years

volunteered to set up the bar and refreshments again this year with the help of his son, Philip, who is a Vietnam vet. (Philip said it was the other way around.) As usual they did a "bang up" job. Bill said his other son, David, who usually tends bar with them is recovering slowly from a stroke he suffered last year. We had an open bar again this year thanks to the generosity of the Estate of Ben Skelton, who was a pilot in the 829th Squadron. After the hospitality room was set up, I had lunch with some of the guys at Schlotzsky's, a New York Deli, located next to the hotel.

Wednesday evening the hugging and joyful cries could be heard coming from the Hospitality room as the vets and families arrived. Although we see many attractions each year in different cities that we visit nothing compares to the first evening of the reunion when friends get together again in the hospitality room.

Thursday our tour took us to the Pima Air & Space Museum and the adjacent "Bone Yard" where thousands of aircraft are stored. As we traveled down Kolb Ave. near the Museum we saw aircraft parked in the Bone Yard on both sides of the Ave. The museum has five large hangers filled with displays and aircraft, including a B-24 and a B-17. On display outside are over 200 more aircraft. The inside of the B-24 seems smaller every time I see it. The museum enjoys an international reputation as one of the best anywhere. The time spent there passed quickly.

Thursday evening we enjoyed a buffet dinner at the hotel followed by one of the best entertainers of the reunion; teenage Mariachi players. They received a standing ovation.

Friday we boarded the tour bus and traveled to the hills west of the city to Old Tucson, "Hollywood in the Desert". I was impressed by the size of the movie set. There are 40 complete buildings, not just the fronts facing the street. The program included a shoot out performed by stuntmen and lunch at Big Jake's.

It was early afternoon when we returned to the hotel. I joined Frank Nardi's family and we drove to an upscale shopping mall in the northern part of the city. Kitty and Barbara were casing the clothing stores and I could tell they were planning to return the next day. We had dinner at one of the several restaurants in the center. It was Friday night so things were jumping.

Saturday, The Group meeting was held in the morning with Bob Hanson, Sr., Deputy Chairman, presiding. Bob is getting to be a pro at conducting the meetings and they move right along like clockwork. The squadron meetings followed.

When I entered the hospitality room in the afternoon I noticed a group around a pretty young lady. It was Pop Arnold's daughter, Kathleen. She had brought Pop's picture album and was explaining the photos to the guys. Kathleen lives with her husband of 22 years and their daughter in a suburb of Denver, Colorado. Before she was married, Kathleen had a career as a Congressional Investigator with the U. S. General Accounting Office and rose to Supervisory Audit Manager in the Denver Regional Office. She is a delightful and interesting person and everyone enjoyed



continued next page



continued

visiting with her. She is very sociable and I don't think she has ever met a stranger. Pop and Katherine raised a winner.

In another part of the hospitality room was a wine tasting group. Jerry Whiting's Partisan friend from Yugoslavia has a vineyard and sent Jerry a bottle of spirits for the veterans at the reunion. Jerry said he wanted someone to try it first to see if it was safe to drink. Everyone who sampled it had the same reaction, "WOW!". It burned all the way down, like Kentucky moonshine. The guys who were downed in Yugoslavia said they had the same reaction when drinking the local beverage there. It was a nice friendly gesture on the part of the Partisans.

Interestingly enough, the Partisan who sent the spirits is the one who rescued Richard Boehme when Boehme and his crew ditched off the coast of Croatia in October 1944. The partisan and his cousin swam out into the bay and cut Boehme free of his shroud lines and brought him to shore while being shot at from across the bay. Tito's partisans as well as the Chetniks helped many American flyers avoid the Germans and to return to Venosa. Saturday evening after the photo session we entered the banquet room. I met Lt General Mark Schmidt and his lovely wife, Lisa. They are a very gracious couple and seemed to enjoy meeting the veterans and their families. General Schmidt seemed young to me to be a three star General, but let's face it, anyone that is 25-30 years younger than we are is young.

Jerry Whiting was in charge of the medal presentation program and did a commendable job. Dinner and dancing followed, but many ladies

were disappointed that the proficient dancer, Colonel Dan, was missing. The evening wound down and an enjoyable day came to a close.

Sunday morning The Memorial program followed the breakfast. Sherrill Burba who usually is charge of the program was not able to attend the reunion because of illness in the family. Al Martin filled his shoes as we honored the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice and the veterans who have passed away since. "Some gave much, others gave all".

Some of us relaxed and stayed over until Monday. I had dinner Sunday evening with Glenn and D.D. Hess, Jerry and Ann Whiting, and Bill and June Ryan at a Mexican Restaurant, "Las Margarita". Then I joined the Nardi's for a nightcap and we closed the reunion book for another year. *Next Fall we are planning another great time at the reunion in Columbia, South Carolina. See you there!*

Editor's note: Have read this and flew on same mission September 24, 1944 to West Marshalling Yard in Salonika, Greece. Author was shot down and was a POW for about 90 days. Believe ALL would enjoy this book.

MISSION LOG
from the
"MILK RUN"
to FREEDOM

Copies of the memoirs are \$15.00 including postage and can be purchased by check to:

Wm. F. McLean • 115 Andre Ave.
Wakefield, RI 02879-1519



Jerry Whiting appointed 485th Historian

Jerry is the son of the late Wayne Whiting who was the tail gunner on Bob Baker's crew in the 831st Squadron. Jerry has a Bachelor of Arts degree from the university of California and a Master's degree. He worked in law enforcement in the San Francisco bay area for 28 years in various assignments before retiring. Also he worked with several European police departments. He became interested in his father's military career and the 485th Bombgroup when he read 200 letters that Wayne had written to his mother (Jerry's grandmother) while in Italy. After a couple years of research Jerry, with his father, published a book titled, "I'm Off To War Mother, But I'll Be Back". He had a quite a number of research papers about the 485th that he had compiled when writing the book. He started working with Sammy answering inquiries. Jerry also worked with me in compiling over 3000 names of 485th veterans that served in Italy and entering them on a spreadsheet with some information about each. Jerry noted that there were many MIA's (Missing in action) on the spreadsheet and he wondered what

continued next page



had happened to the crews after they bailed out on a mission. After two more years of research that included visiting crash sites in Poland and talking with witnesses, he published a second book titled, "Don't Let The Blue Star Turn To Gold". Because of his efforts there are very few MIA's from the 485th that are unaccounted for. He currently keeps in touch with historians in several countries.

The 485th Committee had no problem voting unanimously in favor of his appointment.

Lynn Cotterman



Sammy, 485th Historian Retires

Sammy Schneider, 485th Group Historian, announced his retirement. He had his 89th birthday in October and said it was time to move on. Sammy became Historian after Carl Gigowski, the former historian, passed away in 1993. Sammy assembled Carl's research papers, added more stories and photos and published the book, "This Is How It Was", The History of the 485th Bombgroup. Since all the missions were not described in the book, there was a demand for another book. Sammy published the second book titled, "Missions By The Numbers". Sammy has spent many hours researching Air Force records to answer inquiries from the 2nd and 3rd generations of the veterans. Whenever a question came up about the 485th Bombgroup the answer was, "Ask Sammy". He has had health problems including paralysis from the waist down during the latter part of his life, but he has always bounced back and continued to work which has been an inspiration to all of us. He has retired, but he will still be around as a consultant. He recommended Jerry Whiting for his replacement.



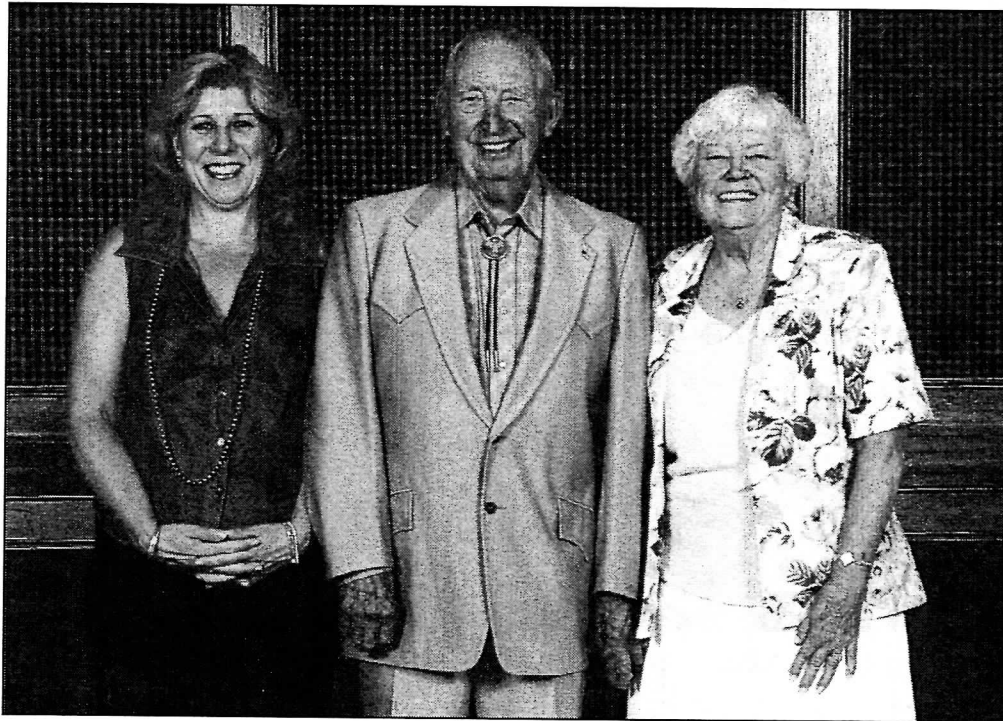
Sam Schneider • 8271 S. Continental Divide Rd. • Littleton, CO 80128
E-mail: Sammytg_828(@)msn.com • (303) 933-3490

Journey's End - May They Rest in Peace

Fred	Almgren	828th	2005	Carl	Mazoni	828th	2005
Chester	Ballengee	828th	2005	John	McCabe	828th	2003
Simon	Baytala, Jr.	830th	2005	Eugene	McCarthy	830th	2005
Robert	Benson HQS	2006		Kindred	Muse	830th	2004
Myron	Berke	828th	2005	John	Nagle	830th	2004
Gilbert W	Biaas	829th	2005	Wythe	Napier	829th	2005
Elmer	Ellis	828th	2004	Albert	Neal	831st	
Richard L.	Fedell	830th	2005	Col. D. F	Parr (Ret)	829th	2005
Clinton D.	Feller	829th	2005	George A.	Pasch	829th	2001
W. C. (Chuck)	Forester	830th	2005	Robert	Plaister	830th	2005
Frank E	Gallagher	830th	2005	Hollis	Porter	830th	2004
Hugh L.	Garnett	830th		Dr. Maurice	Prive	HQS	2005
Carl	Grace	828th		John W.	Raynes	828th	2005
Joe B.	Green	828th		Henry	Ring	828th	
Richard P.	Hagen	829th	2005	LeMar	Sharpe	830th	2005
John	Hawks	829th	2006	Guy L.	Snyder	831st	2005
Eugene	Hayes	828th		Charles F	Springer	829th	2005
Robert E.	Houck	828th	2004	Lyle	Talbott	830th	2005
Art A.	Housden	830th		Tom	Tamaraz	831st	2005
Richard E.	Juday	830th	2003	Thomas	Toot	829th	2005
Calvin M.	Kelly	831st	2005	Albert	Trenshe	828th	2005
Robert E.	King	828th		William J.	Van Meer	828th	2005
Andrew	Kirr	829th	2004	Bob	Vanderpool	828th	2002
David S.	Korkuc	829th	2005	George	Ward	828th	2002
Herman	Laorna	828th	2005	Volney	Wiggins	831st	1959
Louis Q.	Martin	830th	2005	H. George	Williams	831st	2005

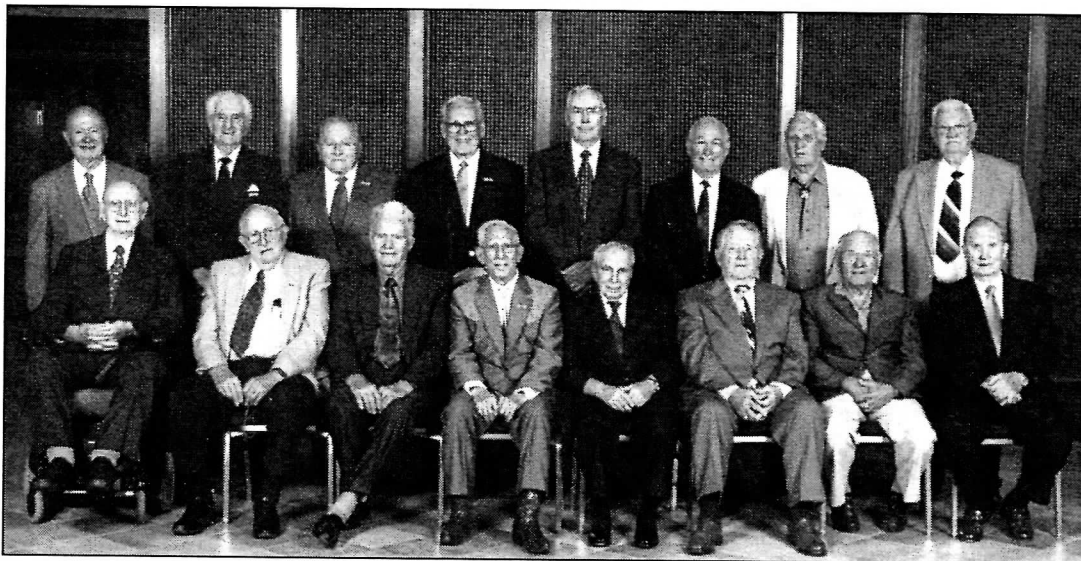


HEADQUARTERS



Headquarters: Kathleen Arnold, Warren Sortomme, Joyce Sortomme

828TH SQUADRON

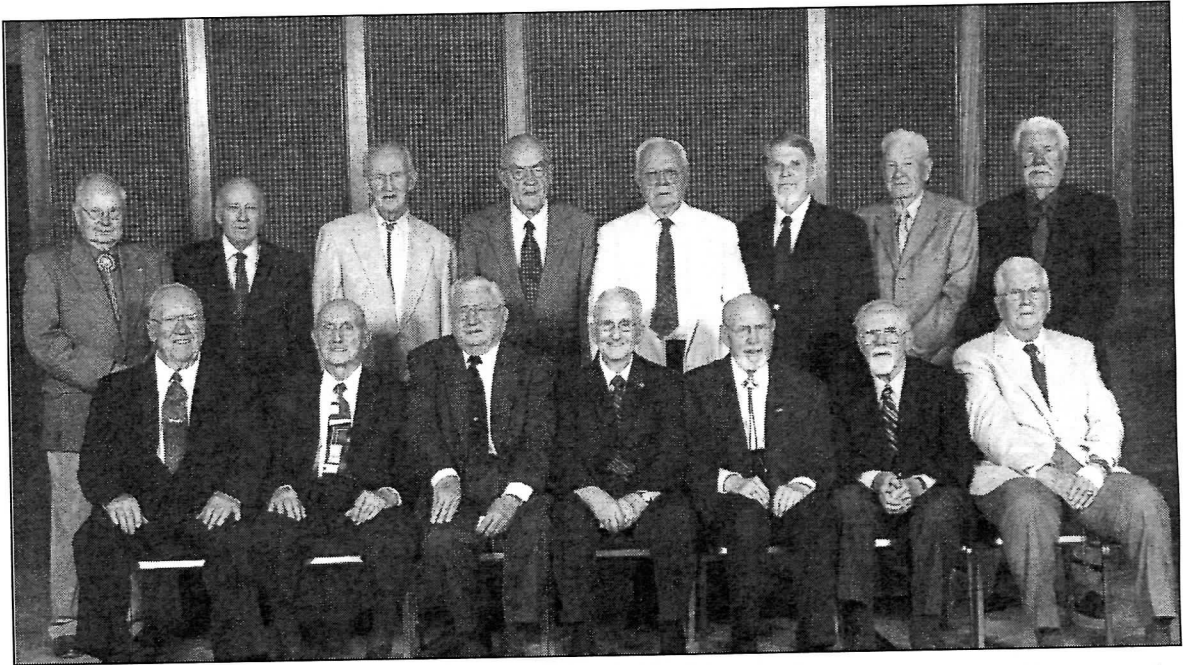


Row 1: Kenneth Wall, H.E. Choate, Bill Ryan, Tony Siller, Nick Montulli,
Gregory Lahay, Gordon Sorenso, Lee Busroe

Row 2: Larry Sullivan, John DiRusso, Jim Rau, Peter Whitney, Charles Taylor,
Jack Eden, Bill Williams, Arthur Hurley



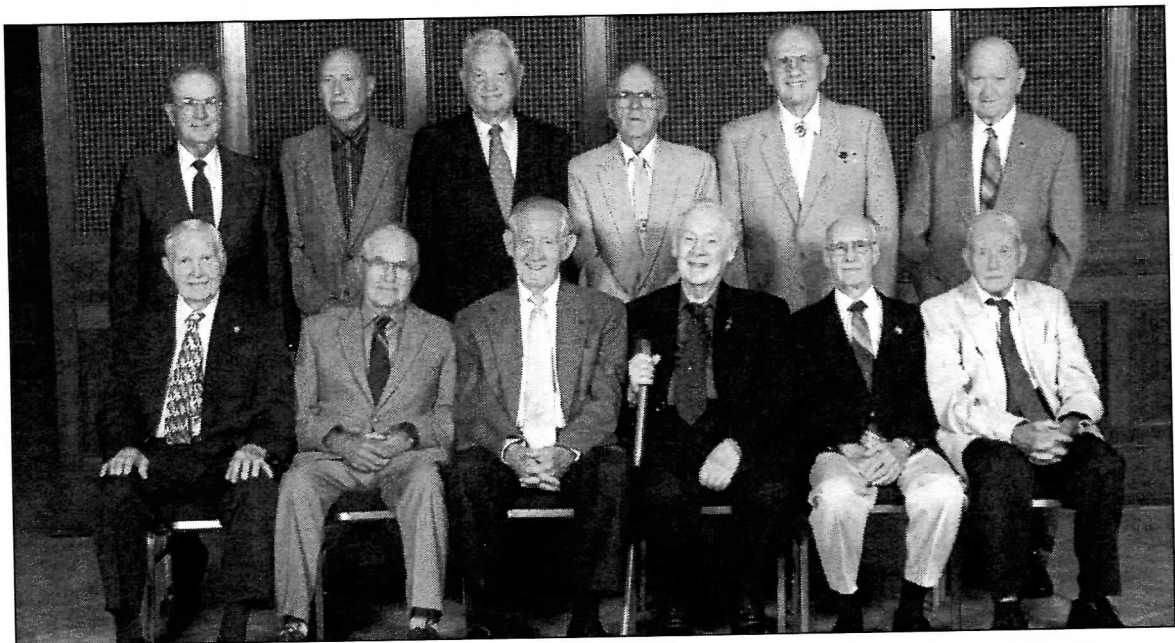
829TH SQUADRON



Row 1: Al Martin, Milt Fundling, Art Fowler, Bill Culver, Bob Brown, Bill McLean, Richard Doyle

Row 2: Marvin Lindsey, Lewis Buchanan, John Duntley, Harold Johnson,
Alan Carlson, Russ Arthur, Wayne Smith, Jack Behunin

830TH SQUADRON

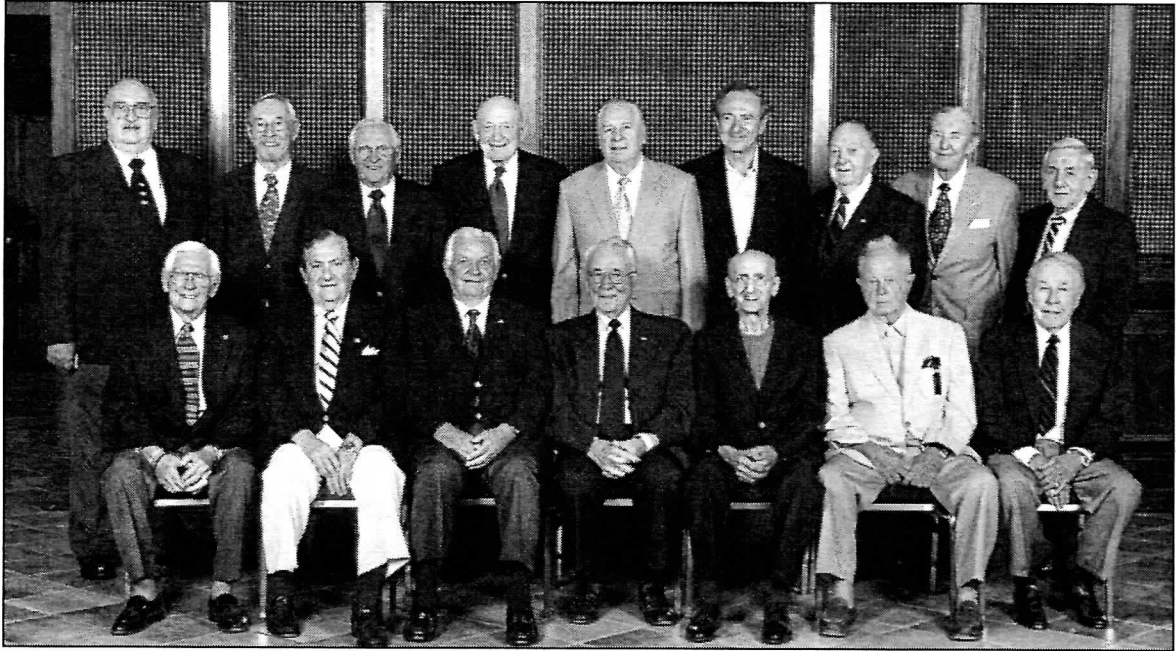


Row 1: Donald Landrum, Ted Levine, Joseph Rippinger, Clarence Miller, Harold Kempffer, James Hunter, Buford Cooper

Row 2: Millen Wetjen, Walter Michalke, Herb Muhlemann, George Dyer, Bill Cummings



831ST SQUADRON



Row 1: Lloyd Proudlove, Ferank Nardi, Bob Hickman, Vern Christensen,
Tom Tamraz, Hal Wilder, Clifford Woodbury

Row 2: Glenn Hess, Bill Brokaw, Lynn Cotterman, Jesse Ladbetter, John Breen, Jim Scheib,
Warren Meyers, Bob Hanson, Sr., John Jackson

POWs/MIAs



Row 1: Warren Sortomme, Lloyd Proudlove, Vern Christensen, Bill Culver, Marvin Lindsey, Bill McLean

Row 2: Bill Ryan, Tom Tamaraz, Frank Nardi, Don Landrum, Richard Doyle



828TH 2ND & 3RD GENERATION



Row 1: Susanne Wall, Karen Snow, Lisa Walker, Lisa Falchetti, Joanne Glynn, Kathryn Sullivan

Row 2: Tony Kajawa, David Snow, Leanne Williams, Keith Williams, Ronnie Taylor,
Barry Wareham, Joe Custen, Larry Boelchter

WIDOWS



Muriel Mickle, Mary Swann, Leona Schoultz, Carlene Sheldor



829TH 2ND & 3RD GENERATIONS



Row 1: Kathy Lindsey, Steve Lindsey, Sarah Bernhardt

Row 2: Don Meer, William McLean, Jr., Michael Shelor

830TH 2ND & 3RD GENERATIONS



Row 1: Patrick Kempffer, Beverly Biggs, Michelle Cummings, Evann Swann,
Heidi Beason, Carol McIntire, Cathry Colbert

Row 2: Mike Kempffer, Phil Cummings, Steve sharpe, Joesph Rippinger III,
Randy Cooper, Neal Swanne, Marke Swanne, Scott McIntire



831ST 2ND & 3RD GENERATION

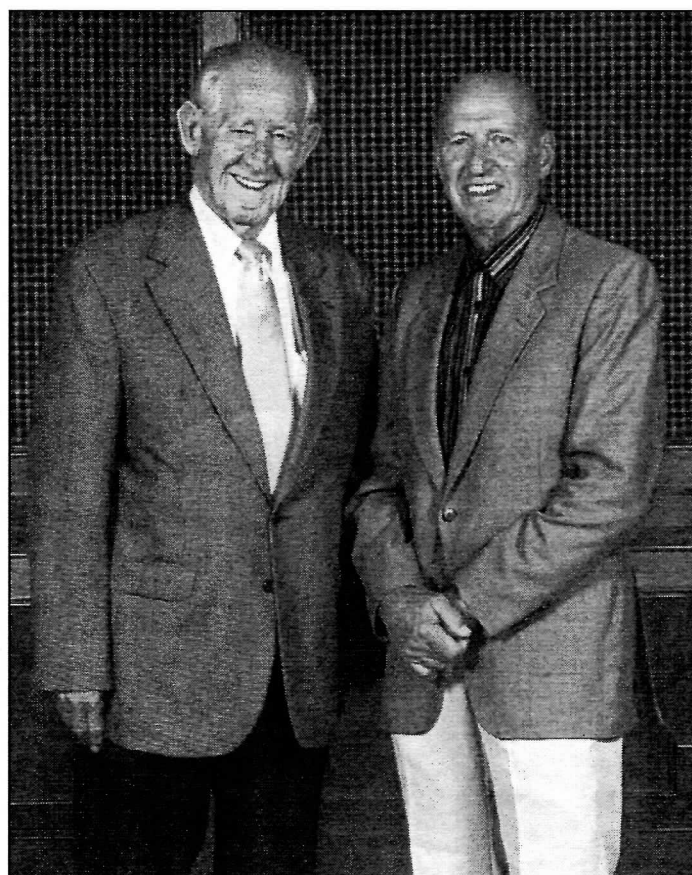


Row 1: Ann Whiting, Linda Haley, Leslie, Uslan, Rebecca Uslan, Ruth Kaplan, Patti Haley, Timberlee Tamaz Grove, Judy McCaleb, Emily McCaleb, Nic McCaleb

Row 2: John Hanson, Robert Hanson, Jr., Jerry Whiting, Kay Gary, Roger Gary, Stephen Kaplan, Charles Kaplan, Nadia Kaplan, Tonnie Buerger, Barbara Nardi Mason, Tom Haley, Gail Eamon, Jim Eamon, Diane Nole, Daniel Nole, John McCaleb, Jeff Scheib, Jim Scheib

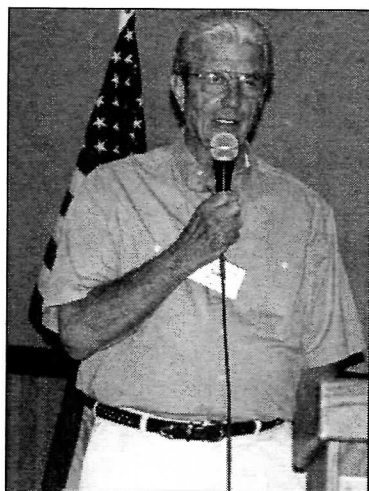
FIRST TIMERS

Joseph Rippinger, Jr., Millen Wetzen,
(Not in Picture) Don Crouch, Robert Gordon



Minutes of the 485th Bombgroup

Business Meeting - Saturday, 1 October 2005, Sheraton Tucson Hotel; Tucson, Arizona



1st Timer Don Crouch at Business Meeting

Deputy Chairman, Bob Hanson, called the meeting to order. This was the 41st Annual Reunion of the 485th Heavy Bombardment Group. A silent prayer was said for those who were lost overseas, members of the 831st Squadron who were lost on the Hamilton (sunk on the way overseas), the ones who joined Journeys End since the last reunion, and all those who are ill and couldn't attend. Bob Benson who is ill-keep in prayers. Dan Sodjin who is running a temperature and sore throat; Sherrill Burba whose wife is ill and all the others who are ill.

Bob Hanson led the Group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"The Secretary's report of the 2004 Reunion in Washington, DC was read and approved with the following change: Attendance of the 832st at Washington is changed to 18.

Lynn Cotterman presented the Treasurers report. A balance of \$3,499.28 was in the Treasury at the beginning of the 2005 Reunion.

Sam Schneider the 485th Historian, has retired due to health. Sammy

published the book "This Is The Way It Is" from his predecessor's notes (Carl Gigowski) and further research of his own. Sammy published his second book "Missions By The Numbers" after much research. Jerry Whiting will be the new 485th Historian. After much research of 2nd and 3rd Generation 485th families Jerry has printed his second book "Don't let the Blue Star Turn Gold". Jerry Whiting and Szymon Serwatha (from Poland) did research on the recovery of the 485th crash site in 2004. At that time Poland was honoring the 60th anniversary of the crash, Jerry, and Bill Williams attended this service. The Polish Government honored the crash victims with the Polish War Cross, which has been presented to all the victims families, which could be found. Jerry found the family of Lewis Kaplan and they will be



Jerry Whiting and Szymon Serwatha at Business Meeting

honored at this evening's banquet, Due to the efforts of Lt. Cmdr Lisa Walker's contacting the right people, Lt. Gen. Mark Schmidt, Commander of the 12th Air Force will be presenting this medal.

Bob Hanson thanked the Ben Skelton estate for the open bar and also Bill Cummings son Phil for doing the bar. Wished Bill's son David a speedy recovery from his stroke.

The oldest veteran in attendance was Hank Dahlberg, Hank has a new cap to show he is the oldest, and credits his 89 years to being a teetotaler: no smokes and a nursing home at \$4500.00 a month. A total of 74 veterans were in attendance at the reunion.



Those attending the business meeting are as follows:

Headquarters	1
828th Squadron	23
829th Squadron	16
830th Squadron	15
831st Squadron	18
Widows	5
First Timers	4

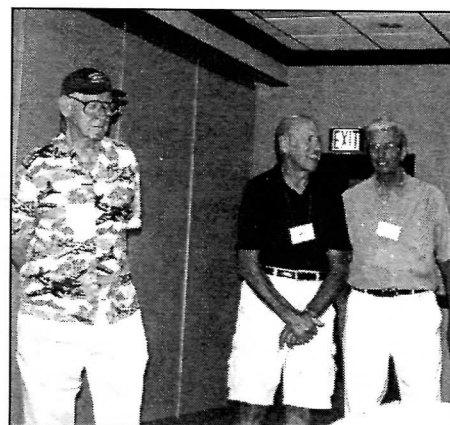
Pow Mia's Recognized

2nd & 3rd Generations recognized

First Timers were: Joseph Rippinger, Jr. Millen Wetjen, Don Croyuch and Rovert Gordon Hank Dahlberg designed the glasses for this year's reunion.

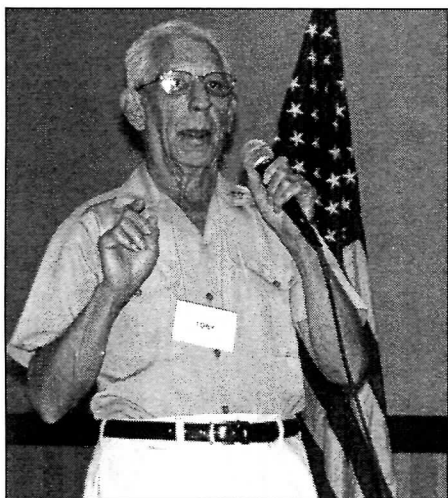
Crews with the most member in attendance:

John Jackson	831st
Wayne Smith	829th
Jack Whatley	828th (Took trophy home)



1st Timers at the Business Meeting





Tony Siller of 828th - Thanks for Running the Squadron Meeting

Photos will be at 4:00 pm in the outside Foyer. All should have their ID's with them.

Next year's reunion choices:

First choice by Bob Hanson was in St. Pete Beach; but would be very expensive, so it was not one of the considerations.

Columbia, SC was a choice as proposed by Bob Brown of the 829th Squadron. Columbia is a people place and the people are very friendly. They have a group called "Celebrate Freedom" which works closely with reunions. The Doolittle Raiders had their reunion there a couple of years ago. The Convention Center will work with Ted Dey; the hotels are good and rates are competitive with past year rates. Columbia is a favorable place for a reunion. Possible tours are the Art Museum, History Museum and Military Installation. The 485th Bombgroup will get publicity and will be recognized.

Transportation:

Airlines with good connections and Amtrak is available. Shuttle bus runs - make arrangements.

Charleston, SC was the other

choice. Rates for hotel average \$79 with River View rooms averaging \$99. There is the probability of shuttle buses. Tours would be a cruise, 2 or 3- hour city tour of the Battery and Ft. Sumner.

Vote taken:
Columbia 37
Charleston 16

The Reunion will be in Columbia, SC in 2006.

Southern Heritage, Byron Kennedy, has 30 books of "This Is How It Was". Information for purchasing books is in the Lightweight Tower. Hal Wilder has his book "Grandfather Stories" for sale at a price of \$25.00.

Al Martin wants all persons who will be participating in the Memorial Breakfast to meet with him a few minutes after the business meeting concludes.

George Dyer recommended the reunion could be shortened by one day. The reasoning is that it would be less expense and the connections would be better. Bill Brokaw said to shorten the reunion would squeeze scheduling.

The 485th Reunion was started by Bill and Leona Schultz in 1960 as a get together of the 828th Squadron. The first five reunions had about 7 persons attending. After 1965 the reunion included all Squadrons.

Bill Cummings requested that all items be removed from the Memorabilia Room.

May 10, 1944 was the first time the 485th flew combat. Roy Daniel's crew was the first shot down and then Lloyd Proudlove's crew. Charlie Taylor read a tribute poem he wrote honoring Gen. "Pop"

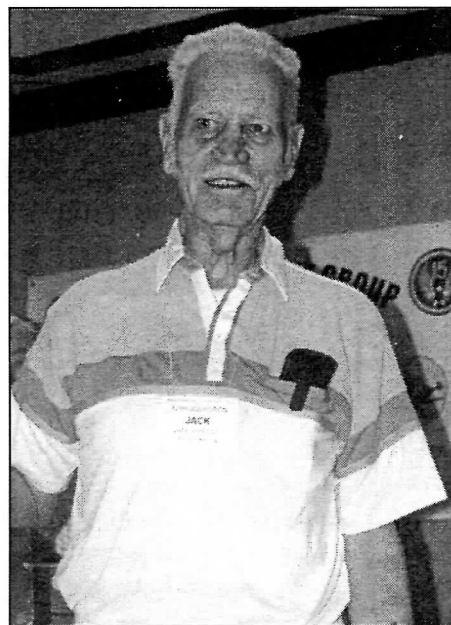
Arnold. Kathleen Arnold, "Pop" Arnold's daughter was in attendance at the reunion.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

*Submitted by
Frances J. Fowler, Secretary*

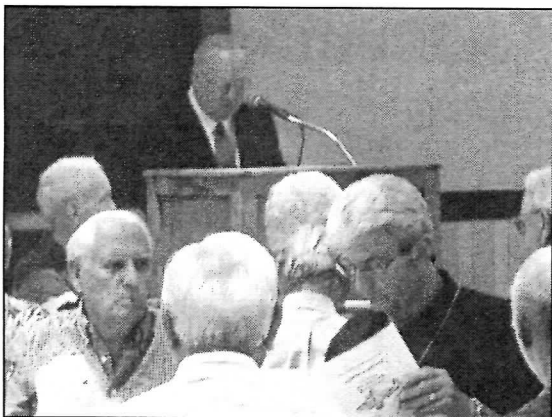


Hank Dahlburg Speaking at the Meeting



Jack Whatley, 828th





*Memorial breakfast with
Al Martin at podium.*



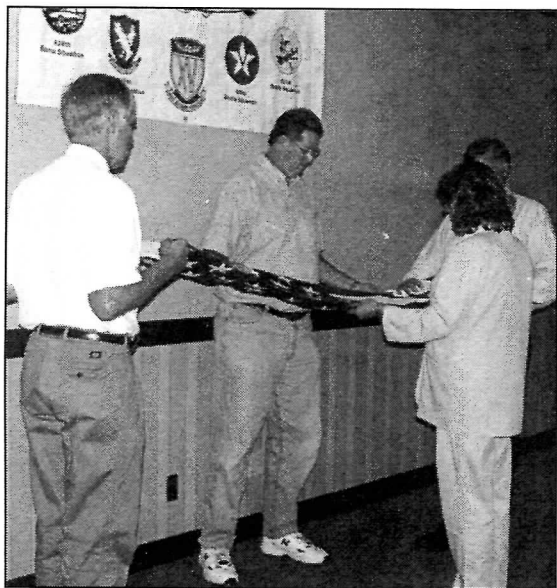
*At Medal Presentation L to R...
Bob Hanson Jr., Bob Hanson, Sr.,
Lt. General Mark Schmidt, John Hanson and Warren Meyers*



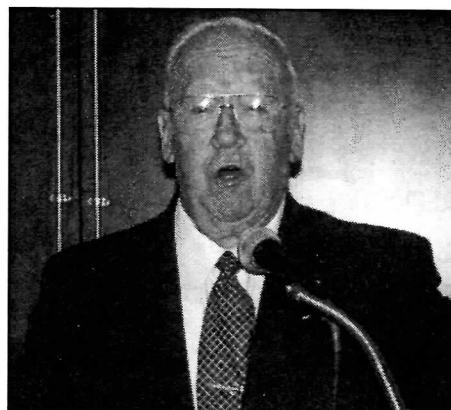
*Lloyd Proudlove - Bill Brokow
at the Business Meeting*



*Bob Hanson and Fran Fowler During
Picture Taking Duties Before Banquet*



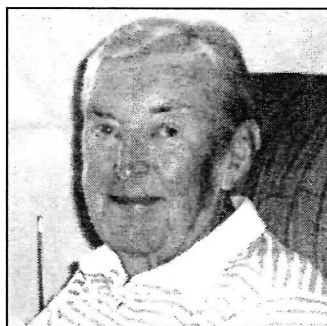
Flag Folding Ceremony



*Al Martin at
Sunday Meeting*

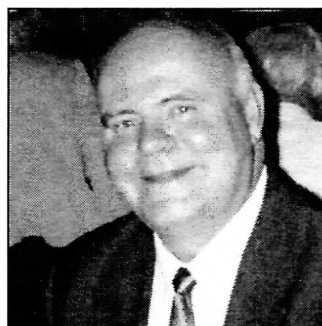


485th Bombardment Group



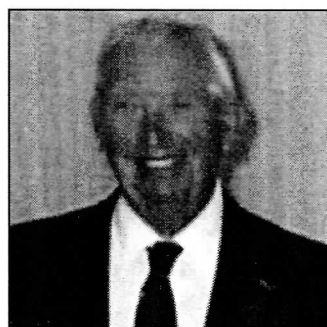
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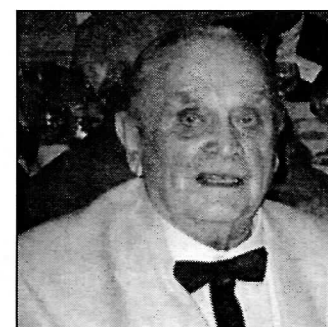
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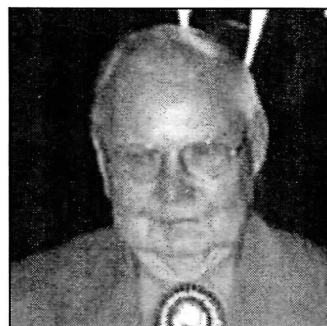
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Frances Fowler
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Clarksville, TN 37043
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(931) 368-1105



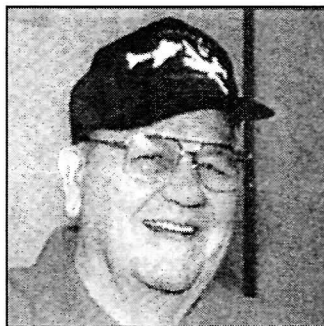
828TH SQUADRON

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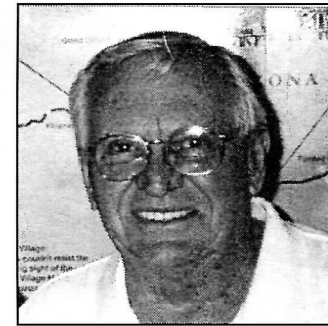
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(817) 326-4010



830TH SQUADRON
REPORTER

George Dyer
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Stuttgart, AK 72160
(870) 673-1044



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Albuquerque, NM 87111
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(505) 823-2283



485th Bombgroup Memorial Breakfast

October 2, 2005 Sheraton Tucson; Tucson, Arizona

Al Martin hosted the Memorial Breakfast as Sherrill Burba was unable to attend the reunion due to his wife's health problems. Don Whiteman's wife had hip surgery so he was also unable to attend.

Katy Dyer read from *Our National Anthem*. As there was no piano and the keyboard sound system was too low the *Battle Hymn Of The Republic* was sung by the entire group.

The Significance of the U.S. Flag Folding Ceremony was read by Lt. Cmdr Lisa Walker with Linda Haley, Phil Cummings, Mark Swann and

Neal Swann folding the flag at each part of the reading.

The Fifteenth Air Force Prayer, written by Sherrill Burba, was read by Frances Fowler.

The Reading from *The Old Testament: Psalm 23* was read by Keith Williams. The Reading From the *New Testament: Revelation 21* was read by Joyce Busroe. The entire group joined in singing *Amazing Grace*.

Al Martin sang "*Jesus Is All The World To Me*" and read Don Whiteman's message including

Psalms 70. Bob Hanson, Sr. read *The Missing Man*, explaining the table at the front of the room.

The entire group sang *America The Beautiful*. Everyone sang *Let There Be Peace On Earth* and Keith Williams read "We will Not Forget". Leanne Williams led the *Prayer Of Benediction*.

The Memorial Breakfast ended with all wishing each other a farewell until next year in Columbia, SC.



Mail Room 828th Squadron

by Lynn Cotterman

Sherrill Burba was unable to attend this year, so we thank Tony Siller for taking over the squadron meeting for him.

Leona Schoultz acted as recording sec. and they had a good turnout. Thanks to Both Tony and Leona for taking care of an important part of the reunion we will look forward to seeing Sherrill Burba in Colombia in 2008.



Herb and Betty Muehleemann
at the Banquet

Mail Room 829th Squadron

by Marvin Lindsay

Report of the 829th Squadron meeting recorded by Alice Arthur, called to order with a welcome to all and a thank you to Alice for recording the minutes, a Thank You to Fran Fowler for making the labels and keeping up with the changes in the Group roster, sadly most address changes are reflected in Journey's End.

Minutes of 2004 meeting were read and approved. The financial report reflects a balance of \$610.76. Which is adequate for mailing expense, detailed statement is available upon request. Twenty-Four veterans & family members present.

Journey's End 2004 Barton Brown, Irvin Wolf, and Tom Peyton. 2005, Charles Springer, David Korkuc, Wythe Napier, Mrs. Bill Long, and Mrs. Stephen Berner. Thank you all for attending and keeping me informed of address changes and the Passing of Squadron members and loved ones. Welcome second

generation, relatives and friends, especially the Shelor family. Again this year my Sister Jody Boyd from Scottsdale, and her daughter Sarah Bernhardt from Tucson, were able to join us also son Steve and wife Kathy from Salado TX and son Don from Elk City OK. joined us.

Correspondence was read, an obituary of Gilbert Biggs, a letter from Ken O'Connell and a new address for Frank Anderson, whose Granddaughter is serving in Iraq.

New business Fran Fowler presented a new roster, information about checking with the Veterans Administration for a chance that present medical condition might be service connected and the Veteran be eligible for compensation. Jack Behunin encouraged members to use the internet to search for crew members. Everyone is encouraged to read/buy the books available by Sam Schneider, Jerry Whiting,

Continued next page



Bill Mac Clean, and Roy Daniels all telling of 485 encounters. Members began telling of our war experiences, both harrowing and humorous we were sorry we did not have a tape recorder.

A highlight of the year for me was in April when the Collings Foundation B24 came to Dallas, my son Steve, his grandson and I all took a ride in the grand old bird over Big D. The meeting concluded 35 with a request to keep the cards & letters coming and plan to attend 2006 in SC.

Recorded & Submitted by Alice Arthur.

At the 2004 reunion in Alexandria, Russ and Alice Arthur were joined by family members, for Christmas 2004 their Granddaughter, Rachel Butler, age 14 gave Russ, her Grandfather this letter and poem attached. (See page 28) They shared it with me and I would like to pass it on. A tribute to our second and third generation Families. Russ was the Bombardier on Wayne Smith's Crew.

Our Thursday Evening started with a delicious buffet at the Hotel and was rounded out with very unique entertainment by Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson A Youth Mariachi group, our entertainers were a talented group of musicians in age from 13-19 years of age from 5 area schools. Los Changuitos celebrated 40 years in Oct. 2004. The purposes of the organization is to provide Creative and wholesome activity for it's members, to develop members artistic talent, to instill in it's members self esteem and pride in music, To promote the city of Tucson, and entertain. Students who have spent 4 years in the group as "performing members" are

eligible for College scholarships. The Group went to Las Cruces International Mariachi Conference in November 2005 and performed with Linda Rondstadt and other Mariachi Celebrities.

We offer congratulations to our Reunion Coordinator for a Great evening.

*We hope to see Ya'll
in Columbia in 2006!*



Anna & Alan Carlson at banquet

Mail Room 830th Squadron

by George E. Dyer

After our general business meeting, the 830th squadron met in the Palo Verde Room for our squadron meeting. Opening the meeting with a hearty welcome, Mr. Buford Cooper opened our meeting with a prayer and we also recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Starting the meeting by introducing any first timers, we had two who were asked to stand, give their names, home base, and how they found out about the reunion. Going through this procedure with our guests, of which we had several, we then went into the business of our squadron.

Any old or new business was handled at this time. In checking the number that attended last year's reunion, any that wanted to, were asked to make a few remarks. I also asked for those that flew their full tour, as well as the ones who had been shot down, wounded, POW's to make comments.

Each year, I select one to speak about their most memorable mission and this year, Mr. Walter Michalfe was asked to do this. He did an excellent job, and then several stood and told stories about some of their missions.

I then asked everyone to please let me know of any changes in addresses, phone numbers, including area codes. This is very important as the US postal service will not forward bulk mail such as the Lightweight Tower publication or my squadron news.

The treasury for the 830th is well in the black so no donations were collected at this meeting. After wishing everyone in attendance a safe trip home and try to stay healthy, the meeting was dismissed with a prayer by Buford Cooper. I was asked this year to report on the Saturday night banquet and metal presentation ceremonies as follows: the food was excellent, service was good and prompt. The band played our type of music---namely the 1940's version before and after the metal ceremonies. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Jerry Whiting who prepared the following write-up about the Metal ceremony.

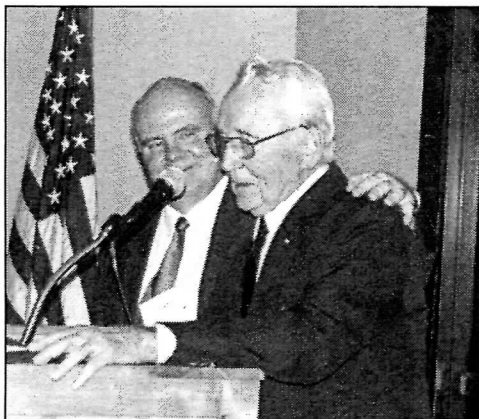
Just one of the boys.

George E. Dyer



Medal Ceremony

Jerry Whiting



Jerry Whiting and Vern Christensen at Medal presentation Saturday Night

The 485th BG was honored this year when Lt. General Mark Schmidt, his wife Lisa, and some of his staff joined us at our reunion banquet. General Schmidt, current commander of the 12th Air Force, had a special mission, the presentation of a medal to the family of an 831st Squadron airman killed 61 years ago.

The story began several years ago, when Polish President Lech Wallensa authorized the presentation of the Polish War Cross to Captain William Lawrence's 831st Sqdn. crew. (As mentioned in a previous LWT article, six of the crew were killed and five survived.)

The survivors were presented the medals. A few of the families of the deceased were located, but several of the families were not found, despite efforts by the Air Force. One such family was the family of Lewis Kaplan.

In 2005, Burl Jackson, a friend of Kaplan's and a member of Kaplan's original crew, sent Jerry Whiting a letter he received in 1944 from Kaplan's sister, Rebecca Uslan. Whiting located Rebecca and her daughter, Leslie. The Uslans soon made plans to join us at the 485th reunion, to honor Lewis Kaplan. Ultimately, ten of Kaplan's family attended.

We felt the banquet would be a perfect time to present the medal. We contacted Maxwell AFB, requesting the presence of Dan Mortensen, Air Force historian, to assist with the presentation. (Dan originally found several of the crew – Lt. Commander Lisa Walker, U.S. Navy (daughter of Billy Walker, 828th Squadron), assisted by writing a letter to the USAF Chief of Staff.



Lt. General Mark Schmidt presenting medal to Lewis Kaplans's sister, Rebecca Uslan

Dan Mortensen attended, spending time with Kaplan's family but had to leave before the medal ceremony. The Chief of Staff selected Lt. General Schmidt to present the medal, a wonderful choice. General Schmidt's father was a B-25 pilot during WWII in the Pacific Theater. Polish historian (and friend of the 485th) Szymon Serwatka and his family also honored us with their attendance, representing Poland.

At the ceremony, Jerry Whiting provided background information and Vernon Christensen, from Lawrence's crew, spoke about his crew. General Schmidt paid tribute to the entire 485th Bombgroup, and then spoke directly to the Kaplan family, before presenting the medal to Rebecca Uslan, who was joined by her daughters Leslie Uslan and Ronnie Buerger. Leslie Uslan spoke to the group on behalf of her family. It was a wonderful, touching ceremony, one that none of us will forget.



Lt. General Mark Schmidt and Vern Christensen.



Mail Room 831st Squadron

by Lynn
Cotterman

The Pima Air Museum has five large hangars filled with aircraft and many displays. Over 200 aircraft are on display outside.

The dry desert air and the sparse rainfall protect the airplanes from deteriorating. When we entered the grounds of the museum we were given a map of the facility showing the location of the aircraft and displays in each of the five hangars. Frank Nardi was with me and we walked by the SR-71 Blackbird to hangar #3 to see the B-24.

I wanted to take some photos of the equipment inside the B-24 to refresh my memory. We have been helping the Yugoslavian divers identify pieces of ditched planes that they have found on the ocean floor. As we approached the old bird I could see the bomb bay doors were open, but I was disappointed when looking inside.

There was clear plexiglass mounted inside the prevented us from going to the flight deck. So much for photos. We saw several other WWII planes there, B-25, A-26, TG-6, etc.

We walked outside to where the presidents' plane is parked. It is a DC-6 that was used by Presidents Kennedy and Johnson. We walked up the steps (no jetway) and entered the back of the plane. The aircraft seemed very narrow and not very plush in comparison to today's airplanes. In the back compartment was the president's sleeping quarters that had a single bed, but not much else. Moving forward we entered the working room with desk and chairs where he could hold a meeting of not more than 4-5 people.

Next was the secret service and press room and beyond that was a kitchenette behind the cockpit. It was an interesting tour and reminded us how of fast things have improved in our life time.

We returned to hangar #1 and ran into Linda, daughter of Bob Hickman. She was excited and told us she had just finished a "Hands On" flight simulator and her arms were still shaking. We spent some time in the Gift Shop and then it was time to catch our bus.

The squadron meeting was attended by 30 vets, wives, offspring and friends. This is the first meeting that I can remember that Dan Sjodin has missed. He was home with a cold and temperature.

I called him after the reunion and he said he felt much better.

We have one newcomer, Robert Gordon, who was the nose gunner on Lloyd Simpson's crew. He had intended to attend the reunion, but had to cancel because of illness. He hopes to see everyone in Columbia next year. We lost several vets this year. You can find their names on the Journey's End list.

Hank Dahlberg, our Squadron Engineering Officer, gave a detail account of young Barbara's accident. I had heard a couple of versions of the accident and was glad to get the straight scoop.

If a question comes up in the meetings about an incident or a mission usually someone comes up with an answer. Next year we will be in Columbia, SC. Bob Brown, the host, says that Columbia has excellent facilities. Get your reservations in early and I'll see you there.

More Fun!



Bill Brokow and Warren
Sortomme by B24.



Lynn Cotterman and
Kaye Hendericks of
Armed Forces Reunion, Inc.



Kathleen Arnold with the
Lloyd Proudlove Family.



Popular Books in 1944:

I Never left Home
Bob Hope

Ten Years in Japan
Joseph C. Grew

Under Cover
John Roy Johnson



Old Tucson (Studios) Headquarters, Warren Sortomme

Our trip through the city of Tucson, founded 1860, to Old Tucson (Studios), founded in 1939, on bus # 1 was most enjoyable thanks to our well informed tour guide. He was a former fighter pilot and told us many interesting facts of Tucson and the surrounding area.

The Old Tucson Studios are a replica of 1860's Tucson and were built in 1939 for the \$2.5 million film "Arizona" starring William Holden and Jean Arthur. This set new standards of realism for Hollywood western, moving away from studio backdrops to outdoor epics.

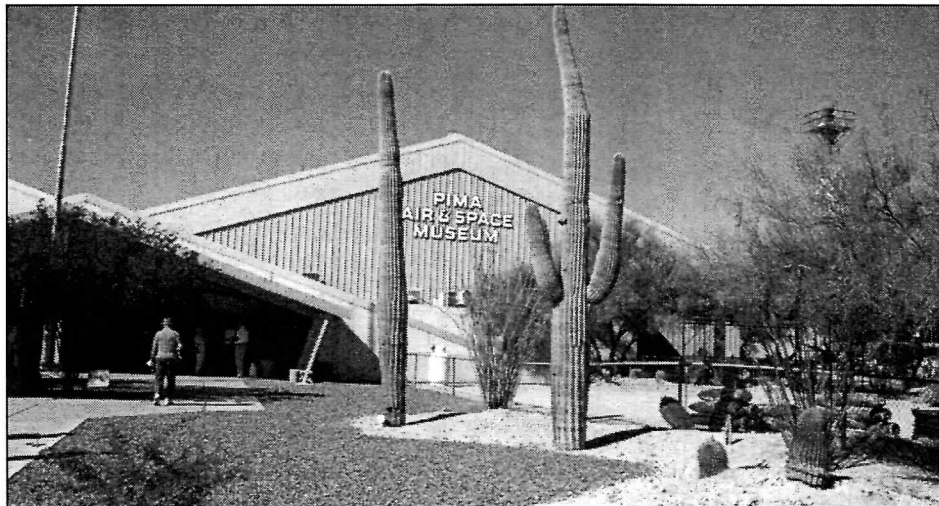


*Lynn Cotterman & Showgirl
at Old Tucson*

Local craftsmen built the town from scratch, erecting more than 50 buildings in 40 days and made more than 350,000 adobe bricks from the desert dirt to create authentic structures. Many of those structures still stand.

Old Tucson was not used after the filming of Arizona until 1945 when scenes for the film "The Bells of St. Mary's", starring Bing Crosby and Ingrid Bergman were shot there. Hollywood began taking notice of the

studios and many films were made there in the 40's and 50's starring Gene Autrey, Jimmy Stewart, Burt Lancaster, Kirk Douglas, Glenn Ford and Ronald Reagan.



Pima Air & Space Museum

Following the long drive on Grant Road, Interstate 10 and Ajo Highway through Tucson Mountain Park viewing thousands of Saguaros, which look like tall skinny people not knowing what to do with their arms, we arrived at the gates of Old Tucson Studios.

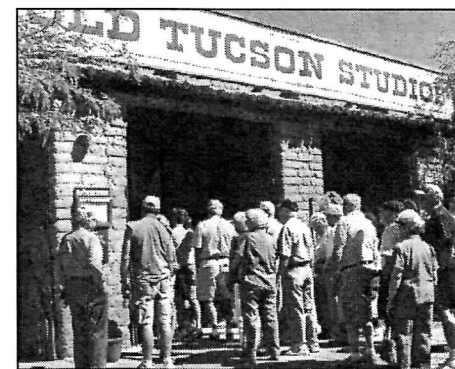
The weather man was very kind to us for our stay in Tucson, the temperature in the 90's was so much better than the previous week of over the 100's. We enjoyed looking inside the old buildings, most of them offer clothing goods, food and beverage items or souvenirs and "air conditioning". Riding the train around the perimeter of the studios was a bit warm but fun to see many of the decorations getting ready for Halloween. Gun Fights, famous for the old west, were enacted in the Town Square. The good guys must have won because the guns were silenced when the bad guys were flat on their backs on the ground.

Time for lunch! ! ! The Grand Palace Hotel and Saloon, located in the town

Square, served a good ol' Western Barbecue Sandwich lunch to all of the hot, dry and tired 485thers. Baked beans, coleslaw, a big chocolate brownie and a choice of a canned soft

drink was included with the sandwich. The bar was open in the saloon and a large mug of draft beer was mighty inviting.

Following some old western entertainment in the theater of the hotel, time was running short to do last minute shopping and picture taking before boarding the bus for our return drive, which included down town Tucson, to our hotel.



*Old Tucson Studios -
a Wonderful Day!*



A Journey Begins



by Kathleen Arnold

I would like to tell you about a journey's beginning, which began over 3 years ago when I received a phone call from a journalist named Starr Smith. He was writing about Jimmy Stewart's experience as a Bomber Pilot in WWII and was hoping to interview my Dad, but he had to settle for me, since Pop was now gone. Many of you know that Pop was Jimmy Stewart's Commander at the 29th Bombgroup in Boise, and he played a pivotal role in getting Jimmy a combat assignment in England. Over the years, I have written down my Dad's Jimmy Stewart stories, and Starr and I talked extensively about Pop and Jimmy's relationship and about Pop's military career in general. He suggested that I write my own family book about my Dad. The seed was planted, I thought, why not? To do so meant I would have to do something that I wasn't that comfortable with; invade my Dad's personal records. I finally worked up the courage and hauled home a mountain of files, papers, photographs, books, etc. and prepared a attack. That experience opened up a whole new world and purpose for me and began my Journey to Tucson.

As I began to chronicle over 70 years of my Dad's life, one letter written in November 2001 by a Polish man grabbed my attention first. I had no idea whether my Dad

had ever responded to that letter before he passed away. Little did I know then, that two years later I would meet the author of that letter in Tucson, Arizona; Szymon Serwatka. In Szymon's letter, he referenced two men and my Dad and had circled the names of these men in red pen. Those names were Sammy Schneider and Warren Sortor and although the names rang a bell, I was curious to know more about them. So, I picked up my Dad's copy of This Is How It Was, and read every word from cover to cover for the first time. I was totally fascinated and over the next year, I immersed myself into the history and personnel of the 485th Bombgroup. Becoming a WWII nut in the process, I researched, referenced, cross-referenced and indexed historical information to my documents and I read many books and personal accounts of Allied Airmen, POWs in Europe beginning with. By God We Made It! by Vernon O. Christensen. Eventually, the names I'd read about and the pictures I'd seen became so familiar to me. I could recognize faces, relate to their experiences, and feel for them. Finally, after making my way through my Dad's files and data, I called Sammy Schneider. That phone call was an inspirational turning point for me and after Sammy and I talked, I had a new mission.

I was compelled to meet the heroic men of the 485th whom I had gotten to on paper and from whom I'd heard my Dad proudly talk about for many years. My first trip was to meet Sammy who lived only a few miles from me and that was a glorious day! For two people who had never met, there was an instant bond and comfortable familiarity

between us. He convinced me more than ever that I must meet the rest of the Group. By this time however, the 2004 reunion in Alexandria had already taken place, but when I read in the Lightweight Tower that the next reunion would be in Tucson, I was intrigued. Not only did Pop graduate from the University of Arizona at Tucson in 1936 his first Command assignment was the 39th Bombgroup at Davis-Monthan Field in 1942, age of 28. Believing in the powers of fate, I felt Pop was sending me a divine message that this is the reunion I needed to go to. I then called Warren Sortomme, the other name my Dad had circled in red in Szymon's letter. Talking to Warren was especially exciting for me because he was shot down with my Dad and the only direct connection to that event that I knew of. Confirming that Warren was going to be at the reunion, there was no longer any doubt in my mind. I was going to Tucson.

My mother had been a valuable, supportive resource for me throughout my mission to document my Dad's life and she told me my trip to Tucson would be "thrilling." But my experience in Tucson was so profound, a once in a lifetime experience, that went well beyond thrilling. Initially, my primary reason for going was to meet the veterans of the Group, however, never did I expect the overwhelming flood of emotions, the heartfelt outpouring of love and the esteemed welcome that I received from every single person there. Not only was it a dream come true to finally look into the twinkling eyes of the men I'd gotten to know so well in my imagination, but to also meet their warm, wonderful and generous families

Continued next page



was an unexpected bonus gift. I wish to express my deepest gratitude to all of you who shared your life and stories with me, and for making my journey so rewarding and full-filling. You have helped me know my Dad as much more than just a father, but as a man, a leader, a friend. I'm so proud to have had the opportunity to represent my Dad and let all of you know how important you were to him during his life. I'm especially honored to join the elite group of sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, mothers and wives, for whom you've answered lifelong questions, solved old mysteries, brought comfort and closure to, and shared a few "lies" and laughs with. For that I salute all of you, and I know Pop would too.

For me, it's a wonderful beginning of cherished new friendships and relationships to come. I am so sorry I didn't get to talk to everyone who was there because I know that every single person, no matter what generation, has a valuable story to share and I can't wait to hear it! I won't say goodbye, but instead, see you later.

My journey continues.

EDITORS NOTE:

Jerry has a few books left of original publication...

*I'm Off To War, Mother,
But I'll be Back -*

\$14.95 plus \$5.00 S&H
This is another for your
485th collection!
Very Interesting!

Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold

By Jerry Whiting



This is a 250 page hardcover book about airmen in the 485th Bombgroup who were shot down over occupied Europe. The book includes 65 photos. These stories are about the struggle to survive for these downed airmen, so that blue star proudly hanging in the window at home wouldn't be replaced by a gold one. They are also the stories of family waiting at home of receiving the dreaded Missing in Action telegram and not knowing if their loved one survived.

These are accounts of love, duty and courage. Each is placed in the historical context of what was happening elsewhere in the world at the time. The author visited Europe to locate witnesses and visited the crash site of one of the downed bombers. Each chapter was extensively researched and the author shares background history of how each story came to be, often with surprising revelations. Several contain eyewitness accounts from Europeans. In one chapter two Croatians tell the story of rescuing three airmen while under fire in another Polish farmers tell of the 485th bomber that fell in a nearby field.

There are stories of capture, evasion and escape. This is an inspirational book suitable for the family.

For your copy send a check for
\$20+\$5 shipping and handling to:
Jerry Whiting • 2576 Fox Circle • Walnut Creek, CA 94596



Notes from the Historian

by Jerry Whiting

It has been a busy year, starting with the efforts to finish my book. Sammy Schneider contacted me several months ago, asking if I would consider taking over as the historian. I agreed, but only if he would stay involved and help me, so here I am.

An important part of this position is providing people with information when requests are made. A very important part of the historian's assignment will continue to be to provide timely responses to these requests. I rely on the Squadron Reporters to provide me with answers I don't have and will also contact others in the group. Some requests relate to specific missions; others are about individuals in the group or specific aircraft information. All inquiries and requests will be answered.

One request was concerning the December 17, 1944 mission to Blechhammer. John Bybee, a writer, is writing a book and needed answers. The mission report reveals "rockets fired from the ground were observed" over Hungary and Bybee is looking for an eyewitness. I contacted Colonel John Atkinson, who led the mission, and he has no memory of this. I've contacted a couple of others, but found no eyewitnesses. If any of you have info, let me know.

We're also looking for other information to include with the 485th history. Lynn Cotterman and I are collecting information about "Lone Wolf" missions flown by the 485th. I discussed this with Colonel Herblin at the Washington D.C. reunion. Colonel Herblin flew some of these single plane raids flown

only at night or in bad weather. It appeared these missions were discontinued, due to high losses at the end of 1944, until Lisa Walker supplied us with the diary of her father, Billie Walker (828th Squadron, Lt. William Brien's crew). The diary shows he flew two "Lone Wolf" raids, on February 17, 1945 to Zagreb and April 12, 1945 to Munich and was wounded on the last one. There is no record of either mission in the official records. If any of you can shed light on this, particularly on 1945 missions, please contact Lynn or me.

I've heard rumors of sabotage in the 485th, but found no substantiation. What I had heard was that someone put explosives in the wheel wells of B-24's, causing planes to blow up after take-off. I know rumors abounded, but if you have any information that would substantiate this (or prove it false), it would be very helpful.

I continue to accumulate info about the 485th. This includes copies of diaries, navigators logs and unpublished stories. I plan to provide copies of these to Maxwell AFB, where the 485th records are housed. Meanwhile, these items are extremely valuable for research. If you have copies of these (or other items) that you'd like to share, I'm happy to receive these things.

Meanwhile, we'll keep searching for answers for those who inquire. If you have any research questions, feel free to contact me.

We are excited about a new 485th website that is under construction. It will contain the group history, missions, stories, photos, reunion

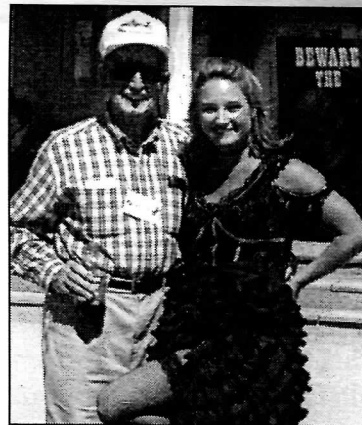
information and much more. The new website is being sponsored through the generosity of Barbara Mason, the daughter of Frank and Kitty Nardi. The site is being designed by graphic artist Troy Cooper, who works in Barbara's company. It will be first class and a site you will be proud of. We'll have more details to share soon.

Jerry Whiting
2546 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
email: EAJWWhiting@aol.com
Phone: (925) 934-5204

More Old Tucson...



Joyce & Warren Sortomme at Pima Air Museum



Milt Fundling & Showgirl at Old Tucson



831ST BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)
APO 520 US ARMY

30 April 1945

MEYERS, OTTO W

1st Lt.

O-776673

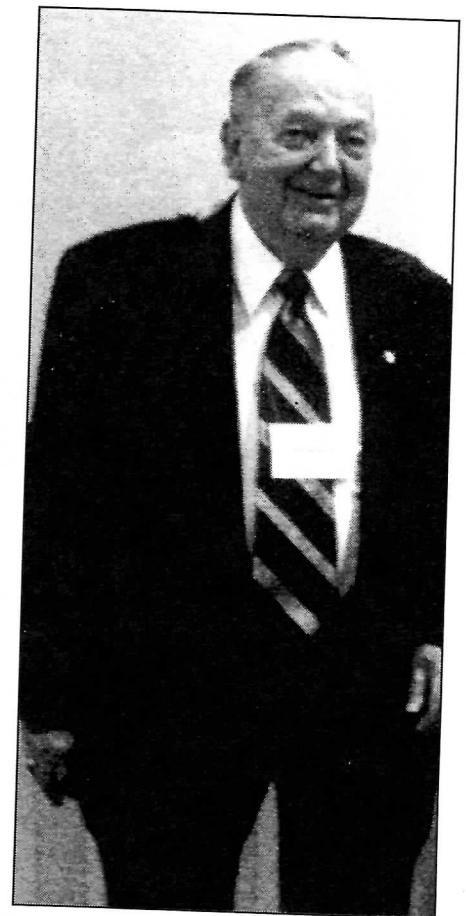
LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT-- Bombardier.

WOULD YOU AGREE TO HAVE THIS OFFICER RETURN TO YOUR ORGANIZATION? -- Yes.

DO YOU RECOMMEND HIM FOR A POSITION OF EQUAL OR GREATER RESPONSIBILITY THAN PREVIOUSLY HELD? -- Yes.

During his tour of duty in this theater 1st OTTO MEYERS has proven himself an excellent bombardier. His ability to lead his squadron over the target in such a manner that the highest per cent of damage was obtained has been proven on many occasions. Lt. Meyers has demonstrated his ability and leadership in such a manner that he was chosen to lead the squadron on its last mission against the heavily defended target of Linz. Lt. Meyers justified this confidence by dropping his bombs squarely on the target. It is with this and many other splendid performances in mind that I recommend Lt. Meyers for duty that requires a high degree of leadership and ability.

William D. Ceeley
WILLIAM D. CEELEY
Major, Air Corps
Commanding



Last Mission

April 25th 1945

for the 485th

to Linz Austria

Bombardier Warren Meyers
of

John Jackson's crew was
lead of 832st squadron
and

Lt. Meyers Scored
a direct hit on the target.

He has also attended

nearly every

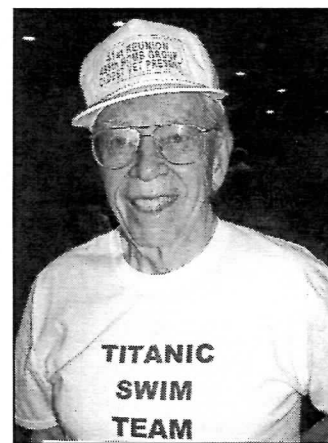
Reunion since

Edwardsville, IL in 1969





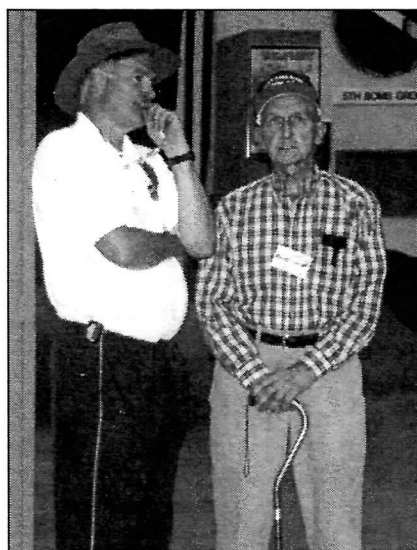
Los Changuitos Feos de Tucson Mariachi Band Thursday Evening



Hank Dahlberg - Oldest Vet Present and professional swim instructor (smile)



Lewis Kaplan Family and Sxymon Serrwatha, wife and son

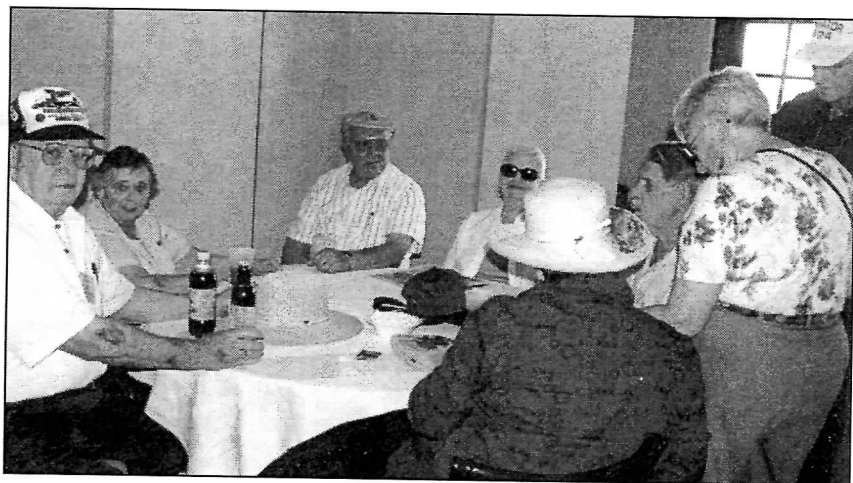


Lynn Swann & Milt Fundling



General and Mrs. Mark Schmidt at banquet





The Fowlers visiting in hospitality room



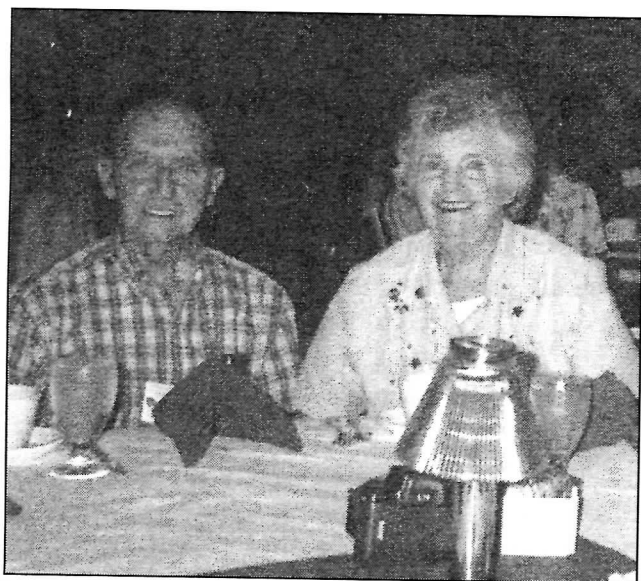
Tom & Lillian Tamraz



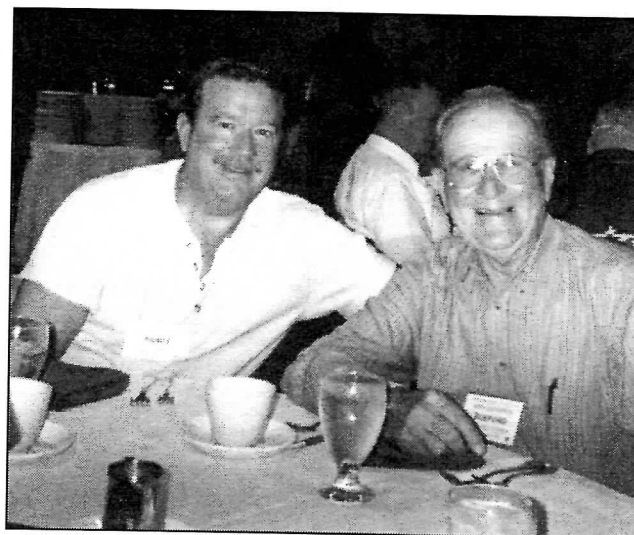
Mr. & Mrs. Lee Busroe



Katy & George Dyer



Milt and Frances Fundling



Randy & Bueford Cooper



Continuing Searches For Planes and Crews

by Jerry Whiting

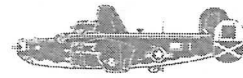
Last year we included an article about B-24's recently found in Europe, with the promise of an update if any 485th B-24's were located. Since then, crash sites of three 485th B-24's have been located.

On March 2, 1945 there was a midair crash over Austria of two 828th B.S. planes enroute to Linz, Austria. These planes (42-52064) and (42-52644) were piloted by Earl Pooley and Carl Langley. Both planes were recently found near Walchensee, Austria. Austrian researcher Jakob Mayer was instrumental in locating the sites. On Sept. 10, 2005 a ceremony was held at the site, with local officials and nearby residents attending. Also in attendance was Don Magness, brother of John Magness (deceased) from Pooley's crew.

In early April of this year, I was asked to assist in identifying a B-24 that had just been found in the Adriatic, not far from Zara. Croatian divers made a positive identification by the tail number on the plane. The plane was an 829th B.S. plane, flown by Richard Boehme, lost on the October 16, 1944 mission to Graz, Austria. A complete story of this plane and crew is included in my new book *Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold*. Bill Culver, top turret gunner who was flying with Boehme's crew, was contacted and put in touch with those who found the plane. Culver has contacted the Partisan woman who rescued him and was recently sent a piece of the aircraft. Judy Birdsong, daughter of the bombardier, Richard Weintritt (deceased), was also contacted.

Dr. Jakob Mayer is currently searching for an 828th Bomb Squadron plane, piloted by Robert Ware and Bill Ryan, shot down near Bruck on February 23, 1945. When I recently contacted him, he had leads and felt he would soon find the wreckage.

A chance phone conversation with another 485th Vet led to the identification of the crash site of an 831st B.S. plane, piloted by Jerome Warner. This plane went down on the November 20, 1944 mission to Blechhammer. The Vet, top turret gunner Frank Hennessey said the plane was shot down near Zilina,

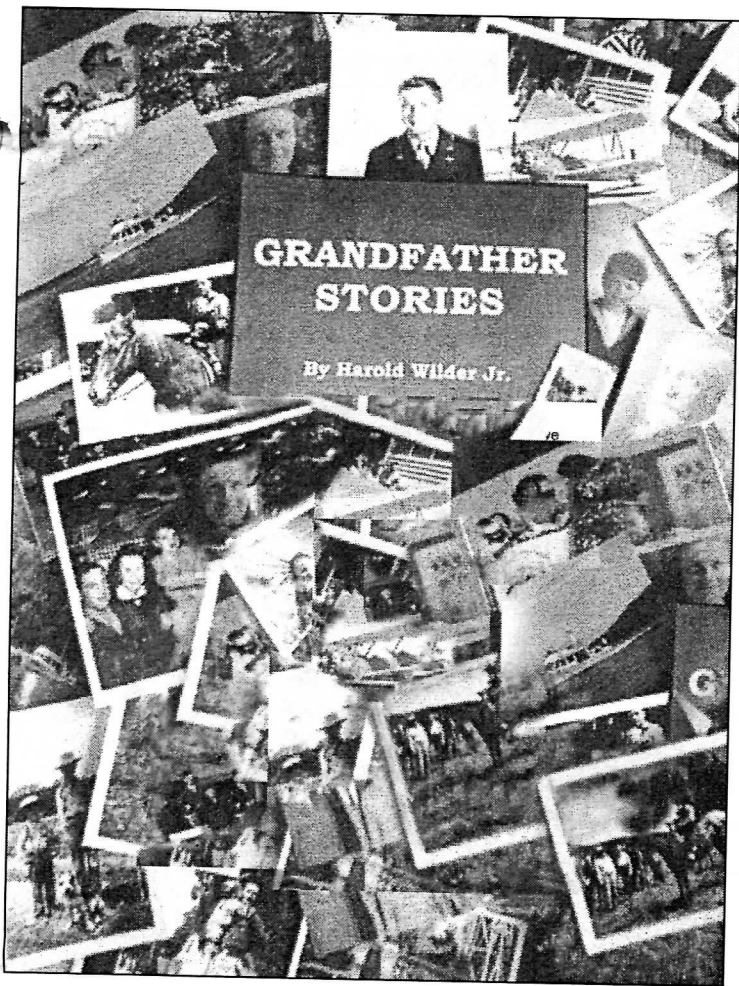


Czechoslovakia. I recalled that Slovakian research Peter Kassak made an inquiry about this crew a couple of years ago. I gave the info to Kassak, who immediately identified the site from old records. The site is now under water, due to a dam project.

When requests are made for information, we're aware that the remains of some airmen are still missing and this is considered when providing information. For instance, in Bulgaria, Professor Stan Stanev, who teaches at Shumen University, believes he has located the crash site of John Crouchley's plane. Crouchley, an 828th Bomb Squadron pilot, was shot down in Bulgaria on June 28, 1944 returning from a mission to Bucharest. Crouchley stayed with the plane, allowing the crew to get out, but died in the crash. Local records show he was buried near the crash site, but his remains were never returned. Stanev is researching this in Bulgaria. I recently met with Dan Crouchley, nephew of John Crouchley. We're hoping to solve this mystery for the Crouchley family, with the assistance of our Bulgarian friends.

Lastly, there's the case of Lt. Arthur Lindell. Lindell and his 828th B.S. crew were lost over Blechhammer on December 26, 1944. The copilot that day was Avery Gilliland, who replaced the regular copilot, Duke Wareham. Local records show all nine crewmen were buried locally, yet their remains were never recovered, identified and returned. Barry Wareham, son of Duke Wareham, has taken a real interest in this. He located Bessie Lindell Hannahs, sister of Art Lindell. She and some of the family met with some of us at the Tucson reunion, including Bill Williams (828th gunner from Gilliland's crew.), Barry Wareham, Tony Kujawa (nephew of gunner Joseph Lajkowicz, who was on the plane) and Szymon Scrwatka. We decided to form an informal committee to try to find answers. Szymon Serwatka and his group are looking for records and answers in Poland. On this side of the ocean? Bill Williams, Barry Wareham, Lisa Walker (daughter of Billy Walker, 828th Squadron), Tony Kujawa, Lynn Cotterman and I are looking for records that might help. Any significant finds will be turned over to our government.



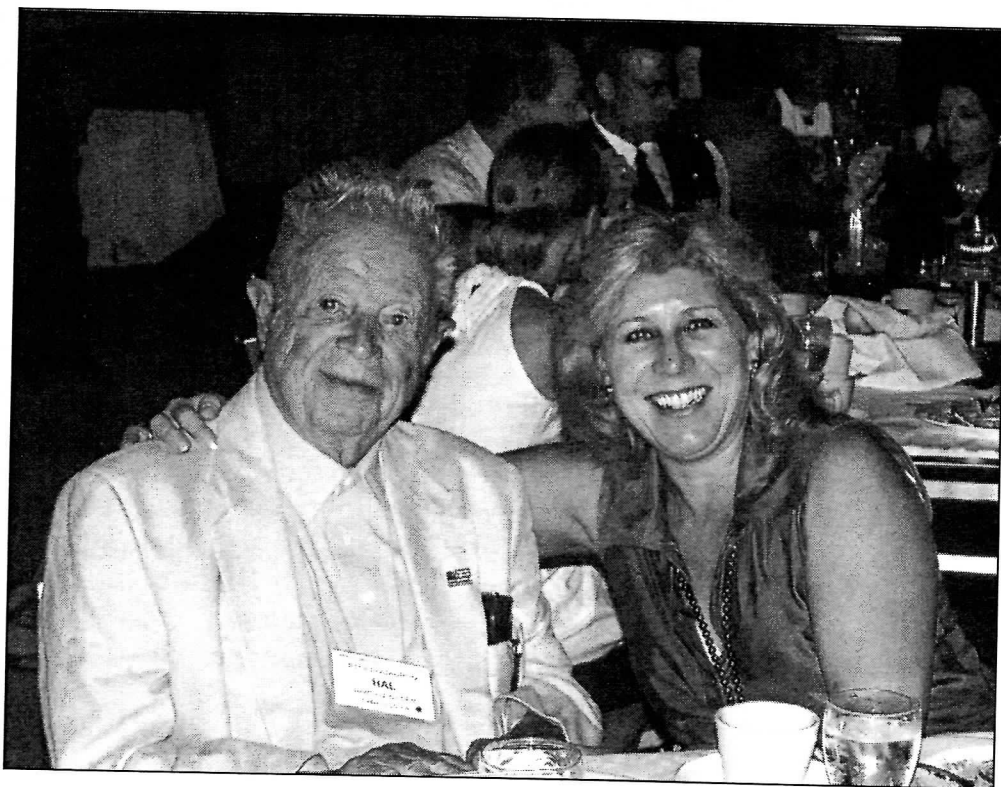


GRANDFATHER STORIES

Hal Wilder
200 So. Glenn Drive
Camarillo, CA 93011

805-484-1602
info@grandfatherstories.com
email: HWilder@verizon.net

Hal Wilder and Kathleen Arnold



For Russell Arthur

December 2004

Rachael Butler
Age 14
Minneapolis, MN

Pappy,

This gift was inspired by you and our trip together to Washington, DC for the Air Force reunion. I wanted to give you something that would let you know that I was thinking about what you did for our country. Then I read an article about Christmas Eve in 1944. This poem is for you and all the other men and women who served on our behalf 60 years ago...

Where were you on the night of December twenty-fourth,
nineteen forty-four?
In the air, on the sea, ready and waiting
on the forest floor.
Loved ones far away at home, wrinkled pictures leave
you wanting more.
Did you long to talk face to face, just hoping your letters would
get to their door?
Christmas Eve held no more hope than
the nights before
Who was it you were fighting for?
Was it for me?

Where were you on Christmas Eve day?
Flying, marching, sailing, waiting in a foxhole hoping the Germans
would just keep away.
Remembering family, wishing you were home
to stay?
Fight was the order and you did all you could to keep
the enemy at bay
You may have wanted to come home
without delay
Who were you fighting for, asking if I may?
Was it for me?

Where were you on the twenty-fourth, part of the forces, in the night?
Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines,
fighting for what's right.
Were you longing to be home, with family in a
room warm and bright?
But you stayed, even though many of the things you saw
gave you fright.
Were you re-reading letters keeping images of family
in sight?
For whom were you willing to fight?
Was it for me?



~FOND FLASHBACKS~

A look at a specific year from the past, recalling the people, places and events that made the news. This issue, we turn back the clock to...

The Year in Review: World War II remains the topic on everyone's mind as the United States and the rest of the Allies fight to defeat the Axis powers.

On June 4, Rome falls to the Allies. Two days later—D-Day—the Allies begin “Operation OVERLORD”, the invasion of Western Europe with a massive movement of manpower and materiel into France through a beachhead on the Normandy coast. D-Day is a costly success and a turning point in the war.

The invasion had been requested for years by Russian leader Joseph Stalin, whose country has been relentlessly attacked by the Germans. The invasion of France forces Germany to fight a war on two fronts, splitting its forces.

Later in the summer, German leader Adolf Hitler survives an assassination attempt and the Allies invade southern France. In Asia, the Allies begin attacking Japan with B-29 Superfortress bombers and the fight to win the Pacific theater continues.

MAC'S BACK, BUT GLENN'S GONE.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur made good on his promise to return to the Philippines when he waded ashore (below) 2 years after he was ordered to escape. Sadly, bandleader Glenn Miller (above), was lost when his plane disappeared.



In October, nearly 700 Allied warships and transports mass to invade Leyte, in the Philippines. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander of Allied forces in the Southwest Pacific, walks through the surf onto the beach, making good on his promise, “I shall return.” He had been ordered to flee the Philippines after prolonged battles with the Japanese in 1942.

As the year draws to a close, a German counterattack in the Ardennes causes a dent in the Allies' lines. Surrounded and outnumbered, American forces at Bastogne hold out. Moving quickly, the U.S. 1st and 9th armies attack from the north and the 3rd army attacks from the south to push the enemy back in a costly campaign known as the Battle of the Bulge.

Back in England, unmanned German V-2 rockets rain terror on London. They are the first medium-range ballistic missiles.

In the United States, while almost 7,000 people are enjoying a performance of the Ringling Brothers Circus in Hartford, Connecticut, a fire erupts, incinerating the main tent in 6 minutes. Hundreds are injured and 168 people die, making this the worst circus disaster in history.

On the Home Front: People support the troops by participating in paper and metal drives that supply nearly half the steel, tin and paper needed for the war effort.

Pasta sales slide due to shortages of cheese and tomato sauce, while Jell-O becomes a substitute for canned fruit being sent to the front lines. Because so many women (roughly 3.5 million) are working alongside 6 million men on assembly lines, home baking declines and baking powder sales fall.

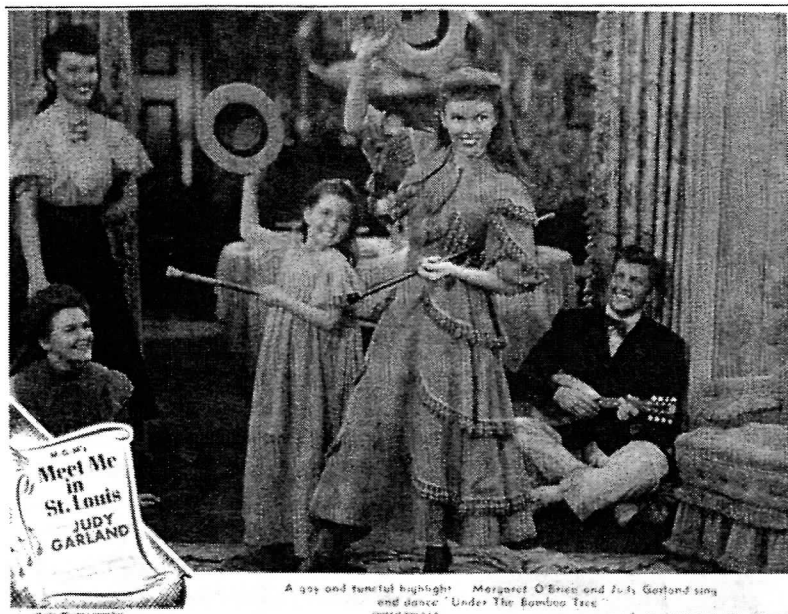
Neighborhood grocery stores proliferate, instead of supermarkets, because of gas rationing that prevents longer shopping trips.

Names in the News: Bill Mauldin's *Willie & Joe* cartoons gain



Everett Collection





A gay and tuneful highlight: Margaret O'Brien and Judy Garland sing and dance "Under the Bamboo Tree."



Photos on this page: Everett Collection

popularity after moving from *Yank and Stars and Stripes* into the domestic press.

Lt. John F. Kennedy receives the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for extreme heroism. He rescued two sailors from his PT boat crew in 1943 after a Japanese destroyer cut it in half.

Major Richard Bong surpasses Eddie Rickenbacker's 26-year-old record

DIVERSION AND DRAMA.

Folks on the home front were entertained in spite of the war. Judy Garland (above), Bing Crosby (right) and Roy Rogers (below left) provided some welcome music, while Bogey and Bergman (above right) outfoxed the Nazis in *Casablanca*.

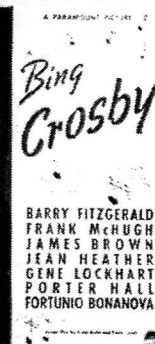
by destroying his 27th Japanese aircraft.

A plane carrying Glenn Miller disappears over the English Channel. Miller, the most popular band-leader in the Big Band era, had joined the Army Air Force in 1942 to create a dance band to play for the troops.

Movies: The Academy Awards given in 1944 for movies from the previous year include Best Picture, *Casablanca*, starring Humphrey Bogart and Ingrid Bergman; Best Actor, Paul Lukas in *Watch on the Rhine*; and Best Actress, Jennifer Jones in *The Song of Bernadette*.

New movies include *Going My Way* with Bing Crosby and Barry Fitzgerald, *Double Indemnity* with Fred MacMurray and Barbara Stanwyck, *Gaslight* with Charles Boyer and Ingrid Bergman, *Lifeboat* with Tallulah Bankhead and William Bendix, *Laura* with Gene Tierney and Clifton Webb, *Hail the Conquering Hero* with Eddie

GOING MY WAY



Rise Stevens Famous Centrolite of Metropolitan Opera Association B.G. SYLVA, Executive Producer LEO MCCAREY

Bracken and Ella Raines, *Meet Me in St. Louis* with Judy Garland and Margaret O'Brien, *Up in Arms* with Danny Kaye and *Cover Girl* with Rita Hayworth.



A Few Prices from 1944

First-class stamp, 3¢
Bread, 9¢ a loaf
Gasoline, 21¢ a gallon
Minimum wage, 30¢
an hour
Milk, 62¢ a gallon
Average price of a car,
\$1,220
Average annual salary,
\$2,600
Average cost of a house,
\$8,600



THE BIG STORY!! BREAKING NEWS!

A second printing of "This Is How It Was", the history of 485th Bomb Group (H) has been completed!

However, only 300 copies were printed and are being sold on a first come basis.

Don't be left out! Order today!!

Call Southern Heritage Press 1-800-282-2823 and have your VISA or Mastercard ready. The price is \$39.95 plus \$5.95 for shipping and handling for a total of \$45.90.

Editors Note:

Just talked to Southern Heritage Press. They have less than 20 copies left—last printing! Order now for your family!



COOK	POP ARNOLD	CORNETT	CAIRNS	NETT	SAMMY
HANCOCK	Sortomme			MONROE	PARLI
BUNDY	TOWERS			ICK	LASSEIGNE
FOWLER	HUCKEY	SIMS	TRINCHE	AKINS	HERRINGER
WOODYARD	COTTERMAN	GEYER	CARLSON	SHELOD	KEELE
ROBERT BAKER	ANDERSON	BROWN	LLOYD ARNOLD	CHOATE	BENSON
TUNSTALL CREW 45	GREENWOOD CREW 45	ROFIELD CREW 45	RICHMOND CREW 45	FROHLING CREW 45	SJODIN
OLIVER CREW 45	DYER CREW 45	COTTINGHAM CREW 45	WESLEY CREW 45	TOWNE CREW 45	SWANN
CATHCART CREW 35	MCGEEHEE CREW 35	ROEHN CREW 35	LINDSAY CREW 35	WOLF CREW 45	FUNDING
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BROKAW	ABBOTT	WHITEMAN	HALL	MORGAN	SCHLICHTER
HANSEN	HICKMAN				

PERSONAL TILES

15th Air Force Wall - March Field, California

Personal Tiles can still be made and be set at our 485th plaque on the 15th AF Wall. The cost is \$50.00 for one line of 20 spaces and \$75.00 for two lines of 20 spaces. Here are two examples of tiles that have been set on our island.

MGM WALTER E ARNOLD CPT ROBERT B SKELTON
CMD 485 BOMB GP POW PILOT CREW 24 829 SQ

To order a tile, send the lettering to me with no more than 20 spaces for each line.

Warren D. Sortomme, 3490 Turquoise Lane, Oceanside, CA 92056-4866, (760) 945-8439, Sortomme@dslexreme.com

Check made out to: The March Field Museum Foundation

485th Vets Tiles - January 1, 2004

Headquarters - Walter E. Arnold, Robert M. Benson, Douglas M. Cairns, Ben B. Cook, John B. Cornett, S.W. Hancock, Hadley M. Huckey, Warren Sortomme and Loyd F. Towers.

828th SQD - Jess Akins, Karl Anderson, Lloyd Arnold, Arlyn Brown, Horace Choate, George Ick, Lionel L. Lasseigne, Roger Monroe, Edward Nett, Clifford L. Parli, Sammy Schneider, Ben O. Sims and Albert Trinch.

829th SQD - Big Alice from Dallas - Jay T. Baker, Gerald Behunin, Earl L. Bundy, Robert J. Camden, Allen W. Carlson, Kenneth L. Carter, Joseph W. Cathcart, Arthur J. Fowler, Milton Funding, William G. Furgueson, Harvey H. Huber, San A. Keele, Michael I. Kopcha, Marvin H. Lindsay, William G. Long, Slayton M. McGeehe, Donald P. Roen, Marion E. Shelor, Robert B. Skelton, Donald R. Whiteman, Wallace Williams and Irvin N. Wolf.

830th SQD - Robert E. Baker, Bill Cottoingham, George Dyer, M. Greenwood, Chuck Heringer, Joseph H. Morgan, Bill Oliver, Joe Richmond, Paul Rofield, W. Schlichter, Everett H. Swann, Bob Towne, Fran Tunstall and R. Wesley.

831st SQD - C.A. Abbott, William Brokaw, Lynn Cotterman, William Geyer, R. Oliver Haden, Earl A. Hall, David T. Hansen, Robert W. Hickman, Dan Sjodin and Howard P. Woodyard.

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**CLASSY
STITCHES**
4700 Reno Hwy,
Fallon, NV
89406
775-426-0077

Caps are still available from Classy Stitches in Fallon, Nevada. The order form can be used, but using the toll free 1-888-270-66286 number is best. Tell them you are from the 485th Bombgroup and the type of cap you would like. They will make the regular 485th cap or variations such as, My Dad, My Father, My Grandpa or My Great Grandpa Flew B-24's in 485th Bombgroup WW-II Venosa, Italy.

Former prisoners of war caps can also be purchased. Inform the nice people of the camp number such as Stalag Luft I, Stalag Luft II, Satalag Luft III, etc.

Hit Songs in 1944...

Don't Fence Me In, Bing Crosby and the Andrew Sisters

I'll Walk Alone, Dinah Shore

Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive, Johnny Mercer & Harold Arnold

Name		
Address		
Phone		
E-Mail		
Quantity	Cost	Total
	x \$10.00	
	Sub-Total	
	Shipping/Handling	\$6.95
	TOTAL DUE	
Visa/MC/AMEX		
Card Number		
Exp. Date		
THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATRONAGE!		





**WE SALUTE THE VETERANS OF
WORLD WAR II
AND ALL VETERANS**

