



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



No. 45

March 2011

San Diego, California 2011 by Phil Cummings

San Diego, California will be the site of the 2011 reunion. San Diego is home of 1.3 million people with a long history dating back to the early 1600's. The city had a great influx of people during the gold rush period of 1848. The water front was developed and has been growing ever since. San Diego experiences a year round climate in the 60-70 range which will make for a very enjoyable visit.

San Diego is the home of both Naval and Marine bases. The USS Nimitz and USS Ronald Regan aircraft carriers call San Diego their home port. The Marines have the Marines Corps recruiting depot and Marine Corps air station.



The reunion dates are September 28 through October 2, 2011. The hotel hosting us this year will be the Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Diego - Mission Valley. Tour information will be available through the Squadron reporters mid to late Summer 2011. Hope to see the current veterans and families as well as new comers in San Diego.

Charleston, South Carolina by Patti Ledbetter Haley

The 46th Annual 485th Bomb Group Reunion was held October 20th through October 24th 2010 at the Sheraton Charleston Airport Hotel at 4770 Goer Dr. in North Charleston. The hotel was strategically near the historic downtown district and approximately three miles from the Charleston International Airport. Charleston is a unique quintessential capsule of part of our country's history. It is located just south of the midpoint of South Carolina's coastline, at the confluence of the Ashley and Cooper Rivers. The five terminals make port activity second only to tourism as an important industry in South Carolina.

142 Veterans, friends, 2nd & 3rd generation families attended the reunion. The outstanding events and camaraderie made for another exceptional gathering. Thanks to everyone who worked on coordinating the trip. Phil, Bill and Michelle Cummings and others did a splendid job on maintaining the hospitality room, which was conveniently located off the lobby. Gerry Weinstein once again brought some of the spectacular photos taken during the war by his Dad, Sy Weinstein, Group Photographic Officer. These were on display in the hospitality room and poster size copies were available for purchase from Gerry. Those of us who arrived on Wednesday enjoyed greeting and

visiting old friends as well as meeting new ones who were attending for the first time. Some of us enjoyed the pasta buffet at the hotel while others ventured out for a seafood dinner, for which Charleston is known.

Charleston is known as the Holy City due to the number of steeples which dot the skyline, and for the fact it was one of the few cities in the original 13 colonies to provide religious tolerance. Thursday's guided tour of the city gave an interesting overview of the history and feel for the culture there which is a mix of military, social propriety, and religious freedom, all threaded together with an intriguing history. Interesting architecture, a tour of the Citadel,

shopping at the old Market Area, and a harbor cruise all contributed to everyone getting into the Charleston spirit. We were on our own for lunch in the Market Area. The day concluded with a dinner buffet and an entertaining barbershop quartet.

On Friday, everyone enjoyed a trip to Patriots Point and lunch at the Crab House. The Patriot's Point, USS Yorktown, and all that it includes is a "must see" when visiting Charleston. Much more time could have been spent on this part of the tour. After dinner on our own, we retreated to the Hospitality Room for a presentation of "Venosa, Then and Now," a video and photo presentation by Jerry Whiting. This was followed by a question and answer session by Emanuela Briscese and Jerry.

On Saturday, the business and squadron meetings took place with Bob Hanson turning the reins over to Phil Cummings. Voting for the next year's location took place with the majority picking San Diego. In the afternoon, we were privileged to view a presentation by Brad Branch entitled "On the Wing." Brad's father was in the 465th Bomb Group. This video included interviews and color combat footage. The cocktail hour, photo session, and banquet took place that evening.

There were some definite highlights of the trip. One was the return visit of the Briscese and Mollica families. We also welcomed back Jakob Mayer from Innsbruck, Austria. They definitely bring a special touch with their visits. Another was the video

presentation by Jerry Whiting. Since the trip, he has made this video available for purchase and I would recommend adding it to your collection of memorabilia. An unplanned event occurred which gave us all a great feeling of pride was the presence in our hotel of soldiers on their way to be deployed. We invited them to our Hospitality Room to share refreshments and exchange greetings and stories. They seemed grateful and a little overwhelmed at the idea we included them in our group.

The reunion concluded with the Sunday Morning Prayer Breakfast. A number of second and third generation family members participated in this moving service.

City Tour and Harbor Cruise of Charleston, SC by Steve & Marvin Lindsay

The 485th bus groups departed hotel and traveled down into historic Charleston, driving past Hampton Park and stopping at the Citadel for a brief tour of the Summerall Chapel. The Citadel has a very interesting history opening in 1843 and till 1995 was a single male gender institution. The freshman cadets all must walk at a 100 pace minute rate in the "gutter"- alongside the sidewalk. The present enrollment of 2,500 cadets conducts a weekly parade every Friday afternoon and is well attended. Approximately 45% of the cadets enter the armed forces thru the ROTC program.

Historic Charleston was one of the earlier cities to adopt a preservation society to keep and maintain the city buildings in their "historic" appearance. We saw the Ashley School for girls, a "finishing" school for women who have many nationally known alumni. We learned about side of house "piasoses" and the formality of an "opened gate" or "closed gate" (welcome or not welcome). We saw the Pigley Wigley pig porch ornaments and the "scene" these animal ornaments caused was controversial, however they still remain today. We also saw the "mail, bail, hail, and jail" corner, an intersection with a Church, a City, a County and a Federal building on the four corners.

We stopped briefly and saw a replica of the "Hunley" submarine and heard of the restoration project on the original craft.

The city of Charleston lies along the "Woodstock fault line" and had endured earthquakes in the past. Buildings are reinforced with "bars" running thru them, holding them together. The decorations covering the ends of these "tie" bars are very artistic. Hurricanes also hit Charleston, with Hugo being the last major one in early 1980's.

Charleston, from as early as 1775, was revolting against England. In that year there was a rebellion led by Charleston patriots, who destroyed rolls of paper which were to be used for "tax stamps." Charleston has a very long history of providing "port defense" during the Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I and World War II. We toured past "Battery Point" and stopped in downtown historic Charleston, shopping in the market and eating lunch on our own. We boarded up and went to Port of Charleston, where we boarded a cruise ship for a harbor tour.

The Port of Charleston is the 3rd busiest on the east coast after New York City and New Jersey. 2,500 ships annually dock in Charleston and 1.5 million containers pass thru this port. The Harbor cruise enabled us to see how the port defense of Charleston was achieved thru Fort Moultrie's, Fort Sumner's and Battery Point's guns.

We returned from the cruise, boarded the buses and, as we headed home, heard about the "Jenkins Orphanage", the origination of American Jazz music and the place where the dance "The Charleston" came from. We arrived back to Charleston Airport Sheraton around 3:00 pm.



The Citadel

Padgett-Thomas Barracks built in 1922.

The first building on campus after the college relocated from Marion Square



Enjoying the Harbor Cruise

Left to right:
Lina & Carlo Briscese
Vern Christensen
Emanuela Briscese
John & Rae Mollica



485th line for Harbor Cruise



U.S. Custom House

Patriot's Point Museum Tour by Mark Leslie

On a glorious autumn day, we boarded two buses for the short ride over the Cooper River to Mt. Pleasant. The ride over the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge provided a spectacular view of Charleston Harbor. Built in 2005, this is the longest cable-stayed bridge in the Western Hemisphere. Minutes later, we arrived at the Patriot's Point Naval and Maritime Museum. The centerpiece of the museum is the USS Yorktown World War II aircraft carrier, which gives insight on how the men of the U.S. Navy lived and fought the aerial battles against the Japanese in the Pacific Theater. The carrier itself was a museum, but it also served as an exhibition space for aircraft, space capsules, weaponry, etc. Additional exhibits included the USS Clamagore submarine, the Medal of Honor museum and a full scale Vietnam era Naval Tactical Support Base.



USS Yorktown Bell

Commissioned on April 15, 1943, the USS Yorktown is an Essex-class carrier with the naval designation "CV-10". At first, she was to be named the USS Bon Homme Richard, but was renamed in honor of the only American carrier lost in the pivotal Battle of Midway (USS Yorktown CV-5). Almost 900 feet in length and displacing 27,100 tons, this seafaring air base carried 3400 men and an air group of 90 planes. She entered combat in the fall of 1943 and played a significant role in the Pacific offensive that ended with the defeat of Japan in 1945. Yorktown earned the Presidential Unit Citation and 11 battle stars for service during the war. Her post World War II service required modifications to handle jet aircraft, and later, an antisubmarine warfare mission during the Vietnam War. Yorktown recovered the Apollo 8 astronauts in 1968 and was featured in the 1970 movie "Tora! Tora! Tora!" After being decommissioned, the aircraft carrier was towed to

Charleston and formally dedicated as a memorial on the 200th anniversary of the Navy, 13 October 1975. Access to the carrier was a long pier lined with American flags. The ten knot wind blowing the flags made for some incredible pictures. Volunteers at the visitor's desk helped everyone decide which exhibits and self-guided tours they wanted to take in. As you can imagine, there was a lot of ground to cover and a short period of time to do it.

The flight deck and hangar deck had almost 30 aircraft on display ranging from an N-2 Stearman to an F-18 Hornet. The World War II vintage airplanes included the F4F Wildcat, the F4U Corsair, the F6F Hellcat, the SBD Dauntless and the TBF Avenger (the type of torpedo bomber former President George H. W. Bush was flying when he was shot down on 2 September 1944 over Chichi Jima). For some reason there were no B-24s on display, but they did have a B-25 providing close air support for the snack bar. This was conveniently located next to an exhibit about the famous B-25 "Doolittle Raid" on Tokyo flown by Army Air Corps crews off the deck of the USS Hornet. Other "aerospace" vehicles included a mock up of the Wright flyer, the Mercury "Friendship 7", and Apollo 8 space capsules. Friendship 7 is the capsule which Sen. John Glenn flew as the first American to orbit the earth on 20 February 1962.



USS Yorktown Bridge

The hangar deck also included movie theaters, a flight simulator and the Medal of Honor museum. This exhibit provides a history of our nation's highest award for military valor and tells about the heroic achievements of the award's recipients. It was highly recommended by all who visited it.

Our self-guided tours took us all throughout the aircraft carrier. The lower decks gave access to the engine rooms and many of the "living and working" quarters on board including the mess area, dental spaces, sick bay, etc. The flight deck and bridge gave us an idea of how the air wing command and control functioned. We also got a commanding view from the Captain's bridge.

Many people saved time to walk through the USS Clamagore submarine or visit the Naval Tactical Support Base exhibit. Of course, no tour would be complete without a walk through the souvenir shop. John Mollica looked like a true naval commander when he emerged from the gift shop wearing a Captain's hat!

If you'd like to learn more about the Patriot's Point Naval and Maritime Museum, please visit patriotspoint.org.

Exploring the aircraft carrier and all the museum exhibits worked up an appetite, so we headed over to the Charleston Crab House for lunch. We were intrigued by the upside down sign over the front door which our tour guides explained was the result of the establishment being "flipped" in 2006 on the popular TV show "Flip This House". Many people opted for the Southern specialty on the menu—shrimp and grits, while others enjoyed a fried shrimp salad or perhaps the flounder platter. The friendly wait staff was a bit overwhelmed, but the food was very good and the company was excellent!



Charleston Crab House Sign



View of the Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge, also known as the New Cooper River Bridge
From the deck of the USS Yorktown

Notes from the Historian by Jerry Whiting

There are so many things of interest that have happened this year that I don't know where to start. On April 24th, I attended a special event in Bakersfield, California. There was a special ceremony, sort of a re-dedication of the field at East Bakersfield High in memory of Ray Permenter from the 829th Sqdn, a member of Randall Beardon's crew who lost his life when he was shot down over Vienna on July 8, 1944. I mentioned in a previous article that the field was named in his honor, but Ray's cousin, Ned Permenter, worked diligently for several months to have a permanent display erected so no one would ever forget the name of the field and why it was named. Neal and Mark Swann both attended, as did Bill Williams (828th Sqdn), who drove down from his home in Visalia, CA.

Neal offered to fly me down by private plane and I accepted the gracious offer. Mark also flew in and met us at the airport in Bakersfield. Bill and I both spoke at the ceremony on behalf of the 485th. We were pleasantly surprised to meet Kerry Savee, son of Ken Savee (831st Sqdn), at the ceremony. June Paine, widow of Leo (828th Sqdn) lives in Bakersfield. She read about the dedication in the local newspaper and attended with some of her family. Needless to say, the 485th was well-represented and it was a very nice event. Ned Permenter and East Bakersfield High deserve a lot of credit for their work in honoring this fallen airman.

Late in the Spring I finished a book I was writing about some WWII Vets who live locally. I fulfilled a promise I made to this informal group several years ago. The name of the book is *Veterans in the Mist: Memoirs of the Third Thursday Lunch Bunch*. There aren't any stories about the 485th in this book.

During the summer, I followed the Collings Foundation and their B-24, B-17 and P-51 to several of their stops in California, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska. I bought an old motor home for this purpose at the beginning of the year. The last event I attended was in Omaha. Mark LaScotte (son of Eugene LaScotte, 828th Sqdn) drove down from Minnesota and spent three days with me, helping me sell books. Terry Boettcher (son of Donald Boettcher, 828th Sqdn) drove over for a day from Iowa. John Schill (830th Sqdn pilot) stopped by a

couple of times, as did Dan Crouchley (nephew of Dud Crouchley, 828th Sqdn). Both Dan and John live in Omaha. The group of us all had lunch together the day I arrived and had a great time visiting. Dan and his wife had Mark and me over for dinner one night. The Omaha stop was a very special time for me.

I continue to get lots of inquiries from the website, hundreds this past year. A few of the Vets and a lot of the next generation continue to find us. Many are in search of information and I answer every request, most within 24 hours.

I also spent a couple of months producing *In the Shadow of Mt. Vulture: Venosa, Then and Now*, the DVD that was shown at the reunion. I wasn't sure how it would be received, so I made no provisions to have copies made. I was pleasantly surprised to see it that many attendees wanted a copy. Jolene Stockton has a friend in Albuquerque, Mike Candelaria, who is in the DVD reproduction business. I wanted the copies professionally made and Mike did a wonderful job, at an excellent price, to help us out. If there's any profit on this venture, it will be used to maintain the 485th website.

Some of you ordered DVD's before Christmas. There may have been a problem with my local Post Office not charging the proper postage. If any of you ordered and received a DVD with postage due, please let me know and I'll reimburse you for any additional costs. If you'd like a copy of the DVD, please see order information it at the bottom of page 33.

Those of you who attended the 2009 Reunion in Cincinnati remember Sime Lisica, the Croatian researcher who joined us at the reunion. I got an email from Sime several months ago and he was very anxious to talk to me. He told me he received a call from a researcher friend in Croatia. The friend located a B-24 crash site in a remote area. At the crash site, the researcher found some partial skeletal remains and an American dog tag. Not wanting to just leave these items, this friend carefully retrieved the remains and dog tag and took them home. Sime's friend wanted my assistance in contacting our government to insure the matter would be handled seriously and properly. I phoned my contact at the Dept. of Defense (DPMO) and they immediately got involved, getting in touch

with Sime's friend within a couple of days. A representative from the Army Casualty Office, stationed in Germany, subsequently went to Croatia to retrieve the remains.

This airman was not from the 485th Bomb Group, but from another group stationed in Italy. I don't like to be secretive, but it's important that the military complete their investigation and make any appropriate family notifications before this information becomes public, so I'm not providing the name of the airman. (In this case it's possible that other remains from this airman were already recovered.) The significance of this story is that these international contacts, friendships and trusting relationships are very important and this is just one more example.

Several months ago, we were contacted by Georg Hoffman. Georg is working on his PhD at the University of Graz, Austria. He is also affiliated with the University of Budapest, Hungary. Georg was looking for assistance with some investigation work he was doing regarding SS executions in the Graz area at the end of the war. (You'll see an article regarding this elsewhere in this issue.) For those of you who aren't aware of it, Austria was full of SS men near the end of the war who were retreating as the Russians advanced into Austria. In early October, Georg and two of his co-workers Dorothea and Nicole were in California for a seminar and visited Ann and me. I took them to interview Bill Ryan (828th Sqdn copilot) because he was a POW in a Graz hospital during the same time period they were researching and had helpful information for them.



Dorothea, Nicole & Georg

I was extremely happy that Jakob Mayer from Innsbruck joined us again this year at our reunion. To have him and Pasquale Libutti from Venosa there at the same time was a real thrill. If you've never attended a reunion or haven't attended for a while and are able to do so, I hope you can join us in San Diego this year. There are so many of you I haven't met and would like to meet.

This year I was happy to see many first-timers there, both Vets and next generations, including some I've corresponded with in the past. I can't name all of you, but it was great meeting you. Another very special event was the "reunification" of several crew members from Jim Cameron's 829th crew and/or their relatives. I was so busy that I couldn't spend much time with them, but I know how special this was for them to be together for the first time since the war ended.

I sincerely appreciate all the letters, emails and correspondence. I need to give a special thanks to Mark LaScotte who has been of great assistance again this year with research. I'm developing my own website now, in addition to the 485th website, in case any of you are interested. It's at <http://www.jwhitingwarstories.com/>. Thanks for supporting the 485th. The 485th had some of the fewest numbers of any bomb group in WWII because it existed for such a short time, yet it remains one of the strongest associations, with good reunion attendance. We're active and successful because of the support and the interest you take in the group.



Jerry Whiting & Terry Boettcher

Friday Night Venosa Presentation

by Jerry Whiting

The Friday night event was dedicated to Venosa, Italy. Approximately 140 attended the presentation in the hospitality room. The evening began with Jerry Whiting introducing Emanuela Briscese, who assisted with the presentation, and our special guest from Venosa, Pasquale Libutti. Emanuela is the daughter of Carlo and Lina Briscese, and, although American born, she has spent a lot of time in Venosa and speaks fluent Italian. She read a touching tribute to the 485th Bomb Group written by Pasquale (see next page) and followed this with a short presentation on modern Venosa.

Jerry then introduced the short documentary film he produced, "In the Shadow of Mt. Vulture: Venosa, Then and Now". The 24-minute DVD showed many of the familiar landmarks witnessed by the men of the 485th, with then and now photos and modern video of the former airfield. The film ended with a tribute to the 485th Bomb Group.

After the video, Jerry answered questions about the making of the film. He introduced Carlo and Lina Briscese and John and Rae Mollica, the friends of the 485th who are from Venosa, but now living in Florida. After this the formal presentation ended, the group had the opportunity to informally meet with these experts on Venosa and get their questions answered.

At the end of the presentation, Michele Cummings announced that it was Bill Cummings' 90th birthday and that cake was being provided for everyone. Those in attendance sang "Happy Birthday" to Bill.

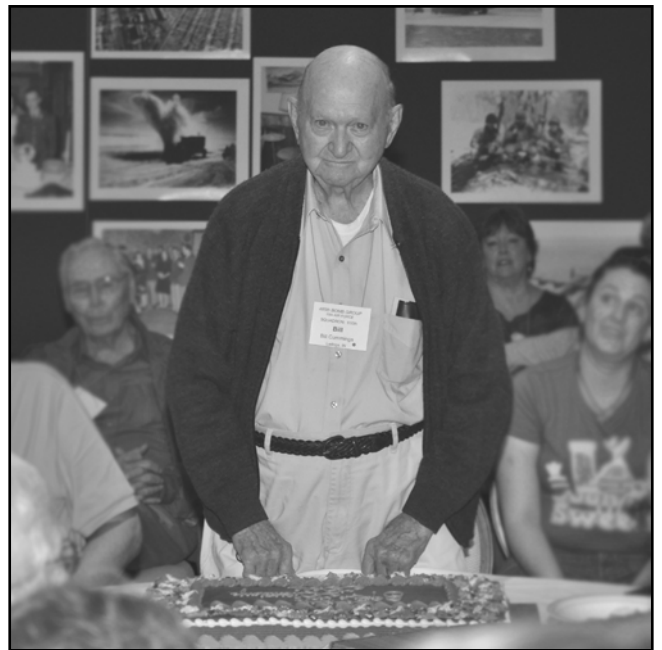
Shortly after the presentation concluded, some in attendance learned there was a group of soldiers staying at the hotel, training for overseas deployment. An announcement was made and the soldiers were invited to join us, with men and women in today's U.S. Army getting the opportunity to meet some of the men of the U.S. Army Air Force. It was a fun, meaningful evening for all who attended.

To order a copy of Jerry's DVD see the ad at the bottom of page 33 or his website at:

<http://www.jwhitingwarstories.com/>



Jerry Whiting presenting Venosa, Then & Now



Bill Cummings shares his 90th birthday cake with the 485th following the Friday evening presentation



Phil Cummings with soldiers that joined the 485th following the Friday evening presentation

Letter from Pasquale Libutti

Before beginning, let me say how much I am very moved to be here, at this Reunion.

I was born in 1964, and I know the Second World War through books and movie, just like others of the my generation; but above all, when I was only a kid, I heard the stories told by my father and other people of the same age. Often these stories, with much admiration, spoke of those who we in Italy and Europe called “The Liberators”: the soldiers who fought for freedom. The characters of these stories were not the polite but often “cold” Commonwealth Troops, not the Britons who were fair but usually introvert, strict, sometimes arrogant,— the characters of the stories were the brave, informal and ever always friendly young Americans: you Veterans. Therefore meeting you today, for me, it’s the realization of an old dream, and simultaneously a great honor.

I live in Rionero, a town about ten miles from Venosa. Ten miles, in our narrow Italy, is a considerable distance: therefore, until three years ago, I was absolutely unaware about the Venosa Airfield. I discovered it by chance, talking with natives of Venosa; only one month later I met Jerry Whiting, Terry Boettcher and the 485th Bomb Group Association.

In these three years, many things have happened. I know some of you personally, others through e-mail, others instead by reading books by Jerry Whiting, Sammy Schneider, or the Lightweight Tower. Jerry came to Venosa twice, the second time to attend to the dedication of an Italian book regarding the Airfield; in attendance was also Mrs. Amy Bliss, of the American Consulate of Naples.

Most importantly, a group of Italian friends of Venosa and other towns, before strangers to each other, are now walking on the same paths of the young American flyers, learning a lot of things about their experiences during the war. The Italian group is growing, scheduling other projects: the latest of which is to locate many crashed planes, long forgotten in the Mont Vulture area, the mountain visible from Venosa. Through today we have found the exact crash sites of 4 B-24’s (one belonged to the 485th BG), other planes located have not been

identified by Group; this is another way to remember these soldiers, fallen a long time ago.

It’s impossible for me, today, to mention every one of the friends involved in what we feel to be not a cold historical research, but a real human adventure, that brings us closer to these brave men. It’s my duty, therefore, to give you greetings from all of them, and especially to communicate the thoughts of Renato Mancino, Vincenzo Miranda, Giovanni Marino, Vito L’Erario, Antonio Sedile, Giuseppe Cassano, Donato Maiorella, Rino Savino: they gave me the task to represent some of their feelings, shared by all of the Italian friends.

The first message is, simply this: the young American soldiers aren’t forgotten in Italy and in Venosa, where they served during the war. We feel their history as a part of our own history: we are giving you a testimony of that, and other evidences we will give you in future.

The second message is: now, apart from our eyewitnesses of that time— one of them being Carlo Briscese, now an American citizen – another younger generation is interested in keeping this memory alive, and isn’t a matter of simply “historical curiosity”, but the heartfelt memory of the people who were our Liberators.

Third message: we encourage all of the children and grandchildren of the men who were in the 485th to continue to support your Association. It’s the way to bring together fathers, sons, relatives and friends. This is the way, again, to KEEP ‘EM FLYING.



Pasquale Libutti & Wayne Smith

Buffet Dinner by Santi Stockton grandson of John M. Veal, Jr. 830th

This years' annual buffet dinner on Thursday October 21st was a very special event for all those who were in attendance. It began with Phil Cummins welcoming everyone and sharing some of his wonderful personality and witty humor. The food was delicious as always and very plentiful. It was obvious that the 485th family was together again and in high spirits! It is very rare these days to participate in an event that openly displays such kindness and respect for one another as the 485th!

As the meal continued, we were all delighted to hear the harmonic sounds of Charleston's own Barbershop accapella group, the Charleston Connection. Their songs brought us all to feel that warm sensation of community through the power of music. This quartet really engaged the audience with their fabulous voices and funny banter. As the evening came to a close all were able to sing along to various melodies and reminisce of the wonderful memories that music can conjure.



Phil Cummings' humor kicks off the evening!



Barbershop accapella group entertains!



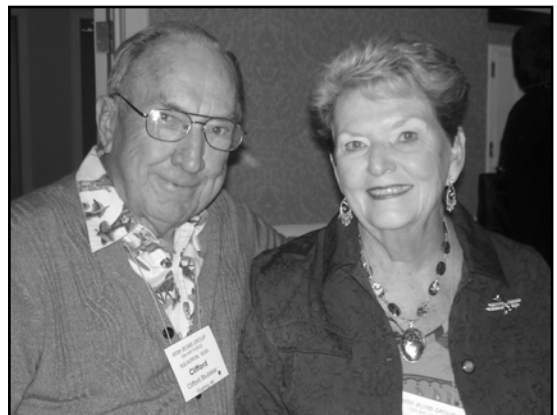
George Chaplin, Bob Hickman & Hal Wilder



Jolene Veal Stockton & Diane Leslie



Pam Hanson-Phillips, Bob Hanson & Russ Hanson



Cliff & Carol Studaker

Banquet and Entertainment by Ronnie Taylor son of Charlie Taylor 828th

On Saturday evening, everyone gathered at 5:00 pm for squadron and group pictures. A cash bar was available. Phil Cummings opened the banquet with a welcome greeting and George Chaplin led the group in prayer. Dinner music was provided by The Mike Bond Quartet which played tunes from the WWII era. Everyone seemed to enjoy their music and later many couples danced to the old familiar songs. The menu consisted of Prime Rib or Chicken Florentine along with salad, vegetables, and dessert.

Most everyone seemed to enjoy the meal. The highlight had to be the entertainment from John Mollica. John loves to sing in his wonderful Italian style and is quite good. If you close your eyes you could imagine Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, or Al Martino in the room. We appreciate his personality and the enthusiasm that he brings to the group. All in all it was another great night of music, food and fellowship.



Charlie & Maverine Taylor



John Mollica serenades the 485th



Virginia & Clyde Corbett



Gilbert Bell, Charles Bain & Colleen Bain



Frances Fundling, Anne Johnson,
Lynn Gallo & Lee Cristelle



Patti Ledbetter Haley & Jesse Ledbetter

485TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP



**CHAIRMAN &
830TH SQUADRON REPORTER**
Phillip Cummings
Son of William P. Cummings 830th
10605 Traders Pass
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112
E-mail: philgrampa@comcast.net
(317) 299-4704



TREASURER
Jolene Stockton
Daughter of John M. Veal, Jr. 830th
408 Palomas Drive, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
E-mail: jojo408@comcast.net
(505) 266-3207



485TH SECRETARY
Frances Fowler
Wife of Arthur Fowler 829th
140 Lyme Drive
Clarksville, Tennessee 37043
E-mail: 485bombgroup@charter.net
(931) 368-1106



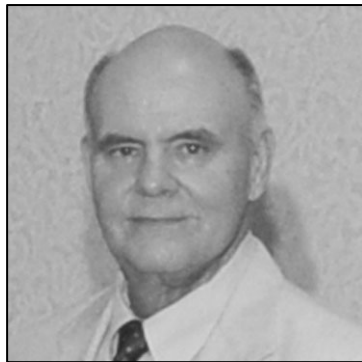
HEADQUARTERS REPORTER
Kathleen Arnold
Daughter of Col. Walter "Pop" Arnold
15095 E. Grand Ave.
Aurora, Colorado 80015
E-mail: kathleen15095@comcast.net
(303) 690-3790



828TH SQUADRON REPORTER
Terry Boettcher
Son of Donald E. Boettcher 828th
12813 Ford Trial North
Indianola, Iowa 50125
E-mail: CBETCH4@aol.com
(515) 961-4845



829TH SQUADRON REPORTER
Marvin H. Lindsay
3900 Cimarron Trail
Granbury, Texas 76049
E-mail: mhlindsay@windstream.net
(817) 326-4010



HISTORIAN
831ST SQUADRON REPORTER
Jerry Whiting
Son of Wayne B. Whiting 831st
2576 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, California 94596
E-mail: EAJWwhiting@aol.com
(925) 934-5204



**LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER
CALLING NEWSLETTER**
Steve Sharpe
Son of James F. Sharpe Jr. 830th - LIFE
1816 Hawthorne Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
E-mail: lightweighttower@gmail.com

HEADQUARTERS



Mary Habstritt & Gerry Weinstein

SPECIAL GUESTS



Front Row: Lina & Emanuela Briscese, Rae Mollica
Back Row: Carlo Briscese, Brad Branch,
 Pasquale Libutti, John Mollica, Jakob Mayer

FIRST TIMERS



Alexander Vrobletsky, Wilson Leon, & Homer Jones

828TH SQUADRON



Alexander Gilbert, Raymond Custer, Charlie Taylor, Robert Yates, Jack Whatley, Gilbert Bell

829TH SQUADRON



Front Row: Alexander Vroblesky, Reginald Lyons, Russell Arthur, Jack Behunin, Harold Johnson
Back Row: Homer Jones, Wilson Leon, Wayne Smith, Marvin Lindsay, Bob Brown



830TH SQUADRON

Front Row: Howard Boxley, Bill Cummings & Red Kempffer

Back Row: Clyde Corbett, Clifford Studaker & John Sellers,

831ST SQUADRON

Front Row: Harold Wilder, George Chaplin, Vern Christiansen

Back Row: Bob Hickman, Bob Hanson, Jesse Ledbetter



828TH SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Charlie Taylor Second Row: Gail Higdon, Robbie Higdon, Madison Taylor, Katy Doran, Allison Taylor, Mary Beth Taylor, Carol LaScotte Third Row: Steven Yates, Cathy Yates, Charles Bain, Karen Bain, Carol Yates, Russell Brook, Candice Smith, Patricia Ocho, Laura Gilbert Traner, Misty Taylor, Mark LaScotte, Terry Boetcher Forth Row: Ronnie Taylor, Eugene Taylor, Dean Taylor Sr., Michael Smith, Beverly Adams

829TH SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Anne Johnson, Lee Cristelli, Ardyth Redfern, Dorinda Jones Cooper, Virginia Vroblesky, Donna Vroblesky Second Row: Chris Searfoss, Lynn Gallo, Louanne LaRoche, Larry Jones, Rick Jones, Larry Lyons, David Vroblesky, Andrea Lindsay Third Row: Bib Arthur, Cash Knight, Steve Redfern, Homer Jones, Jr., Dean Smith, Joe Kristan, Don Vroblesky, Steve Lindsay, Joe Stephens

830TH SQUADRON - GUESTS



Peter Sawyer, Denise Sawyer, Neal Swann, Brenda Corbett, Barry Corbett, Santiago Stockton, Jolene Stockton, Phil Cummings, Michele Cummings, Esther Corbett, Steve Sharpe, Joe Crabill, Mike Kempffer

831ST SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Kay Brown-Gary, Ann Whiting, Dianne Leslie, Patti Ledbetter-Haley, Blanche Gworek-Asher, Candy Jones Miles, Linda Haley, Pam Hanson-Philips

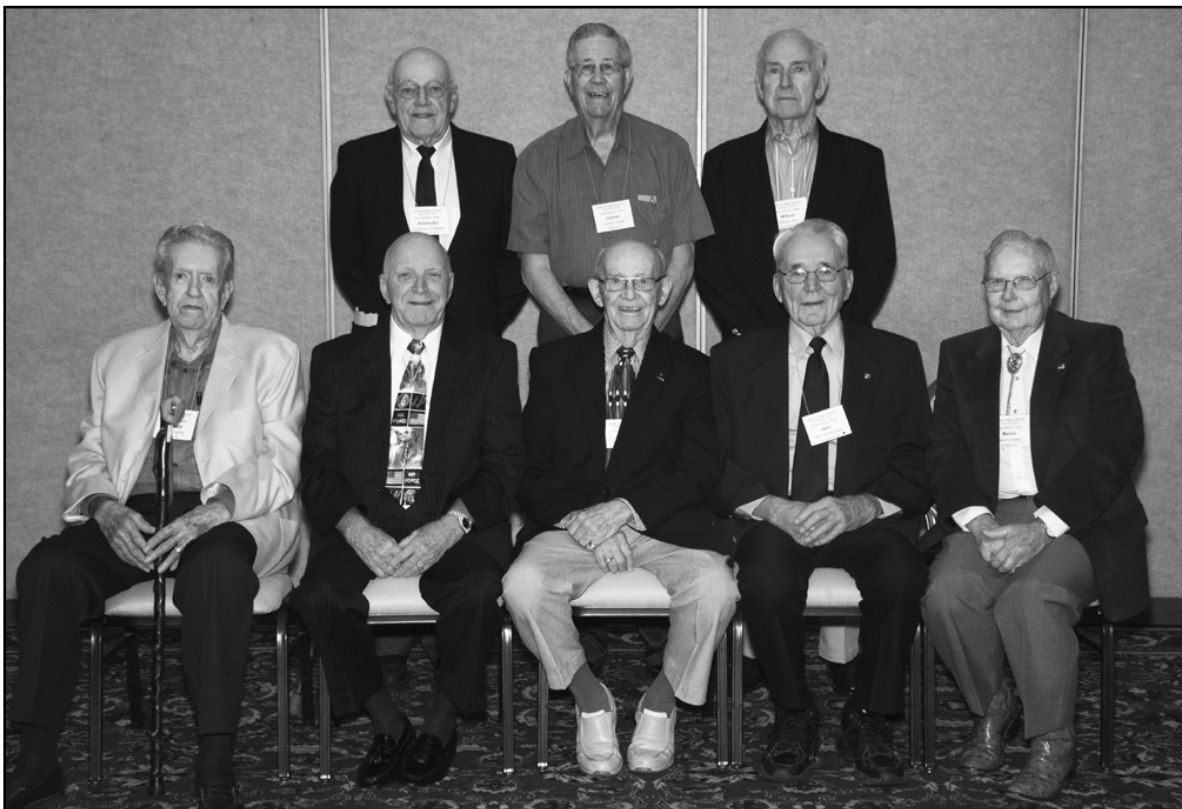
Back Row: Bob Gary, Jerry Whiting, Bill Leslie, Tom Haley, Mark Leslie, Walter Gworek, Russ Christiansen, Russ Hanson, Bill Phillips

WIVES & WIDOWS OF VETERANS



Front Row: Marie Ledbetter, Martha Yates, Frances Fowler, Virginia Vroblesky, Jo Jones, Ann Sellers, Susan Palmer Back Row: Catherine Gilbert, Sonia Nakis, Frances Fundling, Maverine Taylor, Mary Ann Behunin, Mickey Kempffer, Carol Studaker, Colleen Bell, Virginia Corbett, Alice Arthur, Margie Smith

POWS / MIAs



Front Row: Reginald Lyons, Robert Yates, George Chaplin, Vern Christiansen, Marvin Lindsay
Back Row: Alexander Vroblesky, Homer Jones, Wilson Leon

Sunny Charleston!



Cathy & Steven Yates, Martha Yates,
Charles & Karen Bain, Jack Yates,
Carol Yates & Russell Brook



George Chaplin, Ted, Bob Hanson,
& Vern Christensen



Harold "Red" Kempffer



Jack Whatley & Sue Palmer



Wayne & Margie Smith



Lina & Carlo Briscese, Vern Christiansen,
Emanuela Briscese, John & Rae Mollica

MINUTES OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP

Business Meeting Saturday, October 23rd 2010 Charleston, South Carolina

The 46th Annual Reunion Business Meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Cummings. Phil led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then a silent prayer was said for those who have joined Journeys End since the last reunion, all those lost on the USS Hamilton, and those too ill to attend the reunion.

Phil thanked Ashley with Armed Forces Reunion for her great job. Jim Schieb has taken on the task of getting the name of the 485th Bomb Group into as many publications as possible. Tony Siller was thanked for doing the artwork and writings for the glasses, as well as thanks to Kathleen Arnold for getting them made and shipping them to the reunion. Phil also thanked all others who helped with meetings and in the Hospitality Room.

Fran Fowler read the Secretary's Report from the 2009 reunion in Cincinnati. It was approved as written.



The Treasurers report was read. Beginning balance was \$7,459.47. After expenses for the year the final balance is \$6,704.74. The most expense is printing and mailing of the Lightweight Tower and the Reunion glasses. The

Treasurers report was approved.

First Timers were: Russ Hanson, Joe Crabill, Andrea Lindsay, Charles Baines, Russ Christiansen, Dean Smith, Steve Redburn, Homer Jones, Earl Blake Alexander, and Katy Doran.

Hal Wilder took home the hat for being the oldest veteran in attendance at the reunion.



Veterans in attendance at the Business Meeting:

828th Squadron	6
829th Squadron	8
830th Squadron	5
831st Squadron	6

The last count of attendance was 161 with 26 veterans in attendance.

Jerry Whiting gave the Historian's report. It was finally determined that the lost ring did not belong to Peter Lambros. Katy Doran's father Lee Koller was on the same crew and she will do some research on the ring.



Dan Crouchley (nephew of John Crouchley) and wife attended a memorial service in Bulgaria for

485th men lost in WWII and will report their trip in Lightweight Tower. John is still MIA and hopefully his remains will be found. See page 26 article.

Atrocities against two men of the 831st who were killed after their June 13, 1944 mission over Munich was reported. These atrocities were presented at the Nuremburg trials. These men were on Herbert Frels crew.

Sime Lisica was overwhelmed with his 485th Reunion visit last year in Ohio. He promised to locate crash sites in Croatia. A friend of Sime's found dog tags & remains of a 461st Bomb Group person, Jerry is helping them connect with US officials.

The monument in Bakersfield, CA was dedicated with a Memorial. Neil Swann, Mark Leslie and Bill Williams joined the memorial.

Jerry introduced Pasquale Libutti from Italy and Jacob Mayer from Innsbruck, Austria.

Several "film folks" attended the reunion this year. First, Jerry introduced Brad Branch. Brad's father was in the 465th Bomb Group. Brad is the Executive Producer of the film *On The Wing* that he screened in the hospitality room Saturday afternoon. If you'd like a copy of Brad's DVD, please see order information it at the bottom of page 33.

Joe Stephens was also in attendance and was documenting the reunion on film with his adopted Dad, Al Vroblesky (829th).

Next Year Reunion: Salt Lake City, Utah has a history of Mormon culture and also the Great Salt Lake. San Diego, California has the military base, beautiful beaches and much history. Seattle too expensive and was eliminated as a choice.

A vote was taken:

Salt Lake City – 5

San Diego – unanimous

The 2011 reunion will be in San Diego.

Old Business: Bob Hanson thanked Phil for a great job.

New Business: Kay Brown-Gary and husband, Bob, made a donation to the Hospitality room in memory of her father, Kenneth Brown.

Phil thanked the Sheraton for all the help they gave and meeting our needs.

Pictures will be at 5:00 PM starting with Headquarters, and continuing through all Squadrons. Be prompt and wear your name tag.

Linda Haley told of the honor flight for WWII veterans to Washington, DC to visit the WWII

Memorial. This is a free one day trip to Washington. For more information see the website:

<http://www.honorflight.org/>



The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Frances J. Fowler, Secretary

Important Information Needed by Jerry Whiting

The new National Historian for the Tuskegee Airmen, Ms. Zellie Orr, recently contacted me. She is very interested in the meeting of the Tuskegee Airmen and the 485th Bomb Group when 17 crews of the 485th landed at the Redtails' base at Ramitelli on December 29, 1944 following the Verona mission. This was a significant event in their history (as well as in the 485th history) in that the 485th spent several days at the fighter base waiting for the weather to clear. I've spoken to a few of you who participated in this event and have statements from a

few who are no longer with us. If you were there at Ramitelli and haven't spoken with me in the past about this, please contact me, by email, phone or note, so I can obtain more information from you.

Jerry Whiting
2576 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
EAJWWhiting@aol.com
925-934-5204

45 Years of Lightweight Tower Available on Website

Thanks to the scanning efforts of Mark LaScotte, we now have all 45 years of the Lightweight Tower Newsletters available on our website. The newsletters can be read online or download.

<http://www.485thbg.org/LWT.htm>

Videos on YouTube

As attendees of recent reunions know, Steve Sharpe often videos parts of our reunions. We are in the process of uploading these videos to a Lightweight Tower YouTube page. Tune in to see the latest uploads.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/LightWeightTower>



Shirley & Howard Boxley

HEADQUARTERS / MY JOURNEY CONTINUES

By: Kathleen Arnold, HQ Reporter

Daughter of Pop Arnold, First 485th Group Commander

Hello to all my 485th friends! I was disappointed that family obligations kept me from attending the reunion in Charleston this year. As HQ Reporter, I have been pondering what interesting news I could report to the readers since I wasn't there. Well, I want to tell you a story about my Dad's Old Timer pocketknife that he took to war with him. His mother gave his Grandfather's knife to him when he was young & Dad always carried it. He thought it was lost forever in the forest of Blechhammer, another casualty of war, but for the courageous acts of British POWs, that knife, like thousands of other American & British POWs, made its way safely back home.

The story began on August 27, 1944, when Dad hit the ground at Blechhammer near Heydebreck, Poland. His leg was seriously injured & he was losing a tremendous amount of blood. He bandaged his wound & using his escape map, he made a tourniquet to stop the bleeding. He was starting to lose sight when a group of British POWs found him, gave him aide, & most likely saved his life. The POWs stayed with Dad several hours & during that time, Dad gave them his mother's address in El Paso & asked them to write her; he lost his Grandfather's knife in the woods; & he gave his escape map to the POWs before the Germans took him. These brave souls were his guardian angels.

Then after the war, in August 1945, a year after he'd been shot down Dad went home to El Paso & discovered that Corporal A.E. Wilkinson, a British POW, had indeed written his mother as Dad requested, & there was a package from the Corporal. Inside was his Grandfather's Old Timer pocketknife. Dad was astonished at this noble gesture & wrote to Corporal Wilkinson but never heard back. He always wondered who were Lance Corporal A.E. Wilkinson & the other Brits who helped him. And, if that knife could talk, what story would it tell?

Now, 66 years later, I attempted to answer those questions. With Jerry Whiting as my "Wingman" he steered me to our 485th friends & allies, Szymon Serwatka, & Waldemar Ociepski. They referred me to a British woman, an amateur historian researching the history of her father's experience in Bau und Arbeitsbattalion 20 (BAB 20), the work camp where Dad's rescuers were from. Her name is Alison Robertson, & she was anxious to help. She told me that during her 10 years of research a number of former BAB

20 POWs took considerable pains to help with her research & wrote her many letters. Sadly, they have all died, including Corporal Wilkinson & she was unable to trace any living family members. But, she had one letter from a POW which mentions how a group of POWs from BAB 20 helped a colonel after he was shot down. To quote, "Alec 'Ginger' Hendry has a very interesting story to tell about helping an injured American colonel who bailed out. I seem to remember that he & a few others retrieved the colonel who gave him a detailed map of the area." Eureka!

In 2005, Alison tried to trace both Alec Hendry & the American colonel but met with no success, until now. The colonel referred to in the letter was none other than Colonel Walter E. 'Pop' Arnold, 485th Group Commander. We were both excited because that one reference solved some of the mystery; we now had the name of another guardian angel who helped Dad & he verified that Pop indeed gave them his escape map.

Alison was inspired to dig deeper & came across a BAB 20 POW named "Dusty Miller" who she attempted to interview years ago but he declined to talk as his memories were too painful & personal. For my sake, she decided to pick up the phone & try him again. Maybe he would have some recollection of the event.

When she spoke to him, Dusty was again very hesitant but when she mentioned Colonel Walter Arnold, Dusty broke his code of silence & responded, "You mean the American colonel we helped in the forest?" Eureka! Alison was beside herself with excitement. Unknowingly she had stumbled upon another member of the group who first found my Dad. Dusty never spoke of his POW experience but he agreed to tell Alison about the day they found Pop Arnold 66 years ago. In Dusty's words:

"During the bombing we picked up Colonel Arnold. We were in a work party in the marsh. When the bombing started we took what cover we could & fled deeper into the woods. I saw an Ack Ack man who had a parachute (he would have wanted the silk & was smiling.) I realized what had happened & went to look for the American. We'd do anything to help the Yanks. They were fighting for us. During the bombing missions we always looked out for survivors when we saw planes shot down, & tried to reach them before the Germans got there. There were Germans & civilians in the area but not close to us."

“I searched for the American & was first on the scene, but I was with about 5 other mates, mostly Scots. When I found Colonel Arnold, I noticed he was wearing shoes & he looked so clean, like a spaceman. His leg was badly wounded but he knew what he was doing & had put on a tourniquet. He was a brave man & told me what to do so I could help him. When I found Colonel Arnold I looked at him & he looked at me. He told me, ‘I’m Colonel Arnold from El Paso, Texas.’ I replied, ‘We can’t stand to salute you, we’re too busy!’”

(Note: This last comment is Dusty’s British humor, because the bombing mission was still raging around the area & shells from spent Ack Ack are descending on them like confetti, trees are shattering & debris & explosions are going on all around them. It was extremely dangerous in the forest at that moment & humor was a survival mechanism for these POWs. Also, the POWs in labor camps had only wooden clogs to wear & lived in unspeakable filth, so Dusty’s astonishment at Dad’s shoes & cleanliness is understandable.) Dusty continues:

“He’d lost his knife. It was important to him because it was some sort of heirloom. We made a stretcher, using our braces (suspenders) looked after him & took him to the first foresters hut we came to. Here we handed him in so his wounds could be treated. We went back later, hoping to find his knife but were chased off. An Ack Ack battery was located close to the spot & the Mongolians who manned that battery were vicious & would kill you just for your boots. Even the Germans were frightened of them. We weren’t supposed to be there & when they discovered us, our German guards told us off.”

Dusty’s account opened many questions & visuals in my mind. He actually spoke to my father & gave me on-the-scene insights of my Dad’s situation. But mostly, I was surprised he mentioned Dad’s knife. Alison said as she spoke to Dusty, she could tell he was very concerned over the loss of the knife & after all these years, it was paramount in his thoughts. It was obviously important to them to find it & Dusty had no idea the knife had been retrieved by Corporal Wilkinson. Dusty & his mates risked their lives, & severe punishment, going back to the Mongolian battery to search for it. He was absolutely delighted to learn that it had been found & returned to my Dad. He was also thrilled to learn Dad survived & went on to an accomplished military career; that something good came out of that horrible ordeal.

Dusty was one of the youngest men to be held in BAB 20 & was captured in 1940 in France. He was marched across Europe, held in several POW camps before finally ending up at Heydebreck with BAB 20. When the Russian front reached BAB 20 in January 1945, the camp was evacuated & a column of 1000 POWs’ including Corporal Wilkinson, Alec ‘Ginger’ Hendry, Dusty Miller, & my Dad’s pocketknife, began a grueling death march towards the East. They survived not only the bombing missions of the 15th Air Force but the death march, & the deadly bombing of Bayreuth.

Everyday I look at that very same Old Timer knife, willing it to speak to me, to reveal its story & secrets. I hope it helped Dad’s guardian angels survive their ordeal, that it was used to find them food when they were starving, or to make them shelter on the death march, or protect them from harm in the cold dark uncertain nights. When I hold it in my hand, I wonder who’s hands has it felt. Did touching it bring someone comfort & a bit of hope?

Dad knew his fate could have turned out worse if he hadn’t fallen into friendly hands first. He knew without their help, he could have died. I wrote to Dusty on behalf of myself & my Dad expressing our heartfelt gratitude & eternal thanks for what he & his mates did so long ago. I heard back that Dusty was quite ill, & that his family was gathering from New Zealand for what may be their last visit together. However, Alison said Dusty told her my letter so uplifted him, but it was also extremely emotional to read. He was looking forward to sharing it with his family when they arrived. He has never spoken to his family about his ordeal, but this was one experience he was actually proud to tell them about.

Wherever Dusty Miller is right now, I wish him God’s eternal peace & who knows, maybe he, Corporal Wilkinson, Ginger Hendry, & all Pop’s British guardian angels will meet again under heavenly circumstances, & proudly share their stories.

My Journey Continues.



MAIL ROOM 828th SQUADRON

By Terry Boettcher

The 828th veterans, friends & family gathered following the full 485th meeting. The Taylor & Yates families accounted for 21 of the 38 registered 828th reunion attendees. Our mailing list is down 8 from last year to a total of 181 which includes 73 veterans. The 828th has an email group of 54 individuals composed of veterans & multiple generations.

The squadron money account total was increased by the donation of \$220 giving a budget total of \$676 for the upcoming year.

Jakob Mayer of Innsbruck, Austria was asked to say a few words regarding his most recent activity. You will remember he was also in attendance in San Antonio. Jakob has researched & explored numerous crash sites in Austria, including those of the 485th & has been instrumental in the placement of memorial plaques at several such sites. Jakob discovered & secured the 50 caliber waist gun used by Jack Yates that was in a private artifact collection. Both Jakob & Jack are exploring the possibility of shipping this weapon from Austria to the USA but have run into some unexpected bureaucratic red tape. The Yates family will be contacting their Senator for assistance.

It was noted in the meeting that Dan Crouchley, a normal attendee at the reunions, was absent this year. He is the nephew of Lt. John D. Crouchley & had very recently returned home from a trip to Bulgaria. Lt. Crouchley went down with his B-24 on the mission to Bucharest, Rumania on 6-28-1944. He kept the plane in the air until the crew had bailed out of the aircraft but in doing so lost his own life. Dan recently received official notice from JPAC of the approved exploratory excavation of his uncle's remains for return & burial. His determined effort in this matter has been at a minimum commendable but in actuality nothing short of remarkable.

The meeting opened up for each attendee to talk & there were again some great individual comments & short stories. Katie Doran, a first time attendee, spoke with great eloquence & passion on her experience in meeting the veterans. Katie's father was KIA & this reunion held great meaning for her.

It was noted that Jack Whatley looked great in his Class A uniform that still fits him perfectly.

All those associated with the 828th that are accessible by email are no longer receiving traditional hard copy mail from the squadron. All correspondence is electronic in

order to save on mailing expense. Those without email will continue to be contacted by traditional mail service. I urge family members & 828th veterans to contact me to be added to our email list. There is normally monthly email with interesting videos, articles & historical links relevant to the 828th. Email me at Cbetch4@aol.com to be included.

MAIL ROOM 829th SQUADRON

By Marvin Lindsay

The squadron meeting of the 829th was opened by Marvin Lindsay with a silent prayer for those loved ones lost during the last year & honoring those who could not be with us. Journey's End for 2010 included from the 829th Bill Culver, Milton Fundling, Wilfred Kerkhove, Ed Krider, & Seymour Segan.

Marvin thanked Alice Arthur for recording our meetings & Fran Fowler for keeping our mailing rosters, labels, & Journey's End list updated in addition to her duties as group secretary. Also, a special thanks to Steve & Laura Sharpe for the excellent job they are doing with the Lightweight Tower Calling.

First timers Alexander & Virginia Vrobley & family along with Homer Jones & Wilson Leon had an inspiring story to tell of grandson Rick Jones finding out about the reunion & getting four crew members together after 66 years. Their plane was shot down & the pilot had all crew members bail out. The pilot went down with the plane & was rescued by Greek patriots. He later saw a picture of German soldiers marching prisoners down a street & recognized these four men as his crew members. The pilot contacted the War Department which was able to inform families that their sons were still alive. Wilson Leon, who had not known about the reunion, said being here was like being rehabilitated twice. Jack Behunin gave a U.S Army Air Corps (prior to US Air Force) cap to each of these reunited crew members.

The group then shared the history of the reunion from 1965 when the 828th started to get together. Frances Fundling was able to add many memories of her husband, Milton, who died this year, Marvin made the comment he was shot down three days after D-Day & did not know about D-Day until after he was taken prisoner.

The first timers were interested in how many who attend reunions had stayed in the military. Two of these first timers had stayed in for 20 years.

Joe Kristan, another first timer, passed around a picture of his father's crew asking if anyone had known his father or other crew members. Unfortunately, no one recognized anyone from the photo.

Marvin read a letter out loud from Jack Hudson, a radio ground crew member, who had sent a copy of his military story which is available to the 829th.

Finances were reported to be \$103.74. The hat was passed & \$466.00 was added. This money will cover postage & materials for the 829th.

Dean Smith, son of Wayne Smith, reported attending an air show in Midland, Texas, where people were able to see the B-24 "Diamond Lil". He spoke proudly of his father's service in the war.

Having no old or new business, Marvin said to mark calendars for San Diego in 2011.

The group was dismissed at 1100 hours.
Respectfully submitted,
Alice Arthur



Russ Arthur with daughter Bib Arthur



Marvin Lindsay with granddaughter
Andrea Lindsay Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class

MAIL ROOM 830th SQUADRON

By Philip Cummings

As I was not in the meeting when it started, I have to acknowledge Cliff Studaker for helping out & getting the meeting started. The veterans in attendance for the 830th squadron were Howard Boxley, Bill Cummings, Harold Kempffer, Clyde Corbett, Cliff Studaker & John Sellers.

The veterans entertained the group with their stories of Venosa & relived some of their most notable moments. The second generation never gets tired of hearing these tales. We thank all the veterans for sharing them with us.

Every one enjoyed Patriots Point & spent hours on the USS Yorktown with its many displays & aircraft. I enjoyed it so much I was the last one to the bus & I was holding up lunch.

Even though the numbers were down of the veterans, it seems that the 830th family enjoyed themselves during the reunion. Special thanks to all the 1st timers that came to the reunion & hope to see you all in San Diego.

MAIL ROOM 831ST SQUADRON

By Jerry Whiting

The meeting was called to order with 26 in attendance. We began the meeting with a moment of silence for those who are no longer with us. The first order of business was the Treasurer's report. There was \$183 in the 831st treasury at the beginning of the meeting. A hat was passed & \$170 was collected, bringing the total to \$353 at the end of the meeting.

We asked everyone to introduce themselves. This is always a favorite time for me because we get to hear new interesting stories. This year was no exception & the introductions, coupled with stories by our vets, took up most of our time.

There was no new business, so the meeting was adjourned. I'd encourage all of you who attend the reunions to attend the business meeting & a squadron meeting. These are not the dull & boring events one might assume, but are full of joking, humor & fascinating stories. You won't be disappointed if you attend.

I appreciate all the correspondence I've had with 831st Vets and/or their families this past year. I can't acknowledge all of them individually, but know that I do enjoy hearing from you. I also want to thank those who have generously donated to the 831st mailing fund.

Lt. John D. Crouchley, Jr. Bulgarian Crash Site

By: Dan Crouchley, nephew of Lt. Crouchley

The small, sleepy village of Churen Bulgaria rests on the side of a hill in the Rhodopi Mountains of southwest Bulgaria. On June 28, 1944, seven-year-old villager Natka Gagova's attention was drawn by the roar of engines in the sky. Looking north, she saw a large airplane moving southwest, flying very low and trailing smoke. She watched it suddenly plunge to the earth, crash through the tall pine trees and plough into the ground on the next ridge, only 1.6 kilometers southeast of the village. Fire erupted from the mangled wreck and smoldered for almost two days.

That plane was B-24H #42-52701, 485th Bomb Group, 828th Squadron manned by the following crew:

2nd. Lt. John D. Crouchley, Jr. - pilot - Providence, Rhode Island
2nd. Lt. William J. Hays - co-pilot - Mansfield, Georgia
2nd. Lt. William Hollowell - navigator - St. Paul, Minnesota
2nd. Lt. John Wilson - bombardier - Galeburg, Illinois
S/Sgt. Eugene A. LaScotte - nose gunner - St. Paul, Minnesota
S/Sgt. Donald R. Turner - gunner - Frankford, Missouri
S/Sgt. Edward G. Johnson - ball gunner - Delight, Arkansas
S/Sgt. Ralph F. Perillo-waist gunner - Wakefield, Massachusetts
S/Sgt. William J. Van Meer-radio operator/gunner - Beloit, Kansas
Sgt. Thomas A. Langstaff-tail gunner - Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania



Lt. John D. Crouchley, Jr.

The bomber had been severely damaged by Me-109 cannon fire during a 15th Air Force mission to bomb the Titan Oil Refineries and rail yards in Bucharest, Romania. The crippled plane fell behind the 485th group formation and struggled southward, losing altitude as it entered Bulgarian airspace. The Rhodopi Mountains rose to the south and it became apparent that the plane did not have enough altitude to clear the mountains. Lt. Crouchley gave his crew the bailout order.

There was a problem. The automatic pilot had been blown out by a 20-mm cannon shell from one of the many Me-109s that had attacked the group at Bucharest. Crouchley had to manually control the plane by stick and rudder to allow the crew to bail out. The nine crewmembers made their way out of the plane, all surviving their parachute jump and becoming POWs at the camp in Shumen Bulgaria. Co-pilot Lt. Bill Hays was last to jump. "You coming?" Hays called back to the flight deck. "Yes! Get the hell out!" Crouchley ordered. Hays tumbled from the bomb bay estimating that the ground was only 400 feet below. Crouchley likely let go of the controls in an attempt to exit the doomed plane and died when the uncontrolled B-24 plunged into the ground.

On October 2, 2010, a group of visitors came to the village of Churen, hiked to the edge of the forest and followed an old logging road into the dense cover of pine trees. The group, James Warlick, U.S. Ambassador to Bulgaria, Bulgarian college professor Stanimir Stanev and four members of the Ambassador's staff, were leading my wife and me to the site where my Uncle Dud, 2nd Lt. John Dudley Crouchley, crashed and died sixty-six years earlier.

The dirt road was wet and rutted, but passable, as we made our way deeper into the forest. Guided by a GPS reading and reaching a stone marker left by previous visitors, we left the road and climbed downhill into the forest past wild boar holes and over fallen trees. We split up and searched the undergrowth. Shouts through the forest made it clear that the GPS reading was fallible and that finding the site was harder than expected. I wondered whether we had come 5, 500 miles to fail! Two of our team had been there before and, after some tense moments, a shout echoed through the forest, "I found it!"

The crash site is on the side of a hill amid the tall pines. A visitor walking though the area now would not notice anything special about the site. A closer inspection revealed four holes where the giant engines of the B-24 gouged out the earth. Small pieces of the plane are scattered around the area. The forest floor is littered with short lengths of pipe, wrinkled and torn aluminum pieces, broken plexi-glass, a rusted box that held the plane's radio, a ring of metal the diameter of a gun turret lined with small gear teeth. I gathered some pieces as mementos of my uncle, his crew and our journey to his final resting place.

Stan Stanev, who had helped an American team first locate the site in 2007, pointed out the spot where my Uncle's remains are thought to be buried in a shallow grave. Spontaneously, the group held a moment of silence in honor of the fallen pilot. I told the story of a young man, recently married and awaiting the birth of a first child. I told how his life ended here in these quiet woods. I spoke of his parents and how they would have given anything to have known this place. A small flask was raised and a toast was made in his honor.

From my pocket, I took a small vial of soil gathered from the Rhode Island graves of Dud's parents and from the graves of his brothers Bob and Ted (my Dad). As I sprinkled it over Dud's resting place, my wife and I reflected, "Well, Dud, your family has found you. It's taken a long time, but we're here. We'll take you home soon."

* * *

On October 15, 2010, less than a week after our return from Bulgaria, the Excavation Decision Board (EDB) of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC) approved the excavation of Lt. John Dudley Crouchley's crash site. The excavation is expected to take place in 2012.



Left to Right: Anni Hristov, U.S. Embassy Protocol Officer; Commander Mark Anderson, U.S. Naval Attaché, Maureen and Dan Crouchley; Bulgarian Col. Stanimir Stanev (Ret.); Lt. Col. Bob Mathers, U.S. Army Attaché; U.S. Ambassador Jim Warlick.

The rusted box on the ground is the casing of the B-24H's radio.



Life for British Prisoners of War at Bau Arbeitsbattalion 20 (BAB 20) Blechhammer, Poland

By: Kathleen Arnold

For those of you who flew missions to Blechhammer, you know it was a huge industrial complex near Heydebreck, Poland. My recent contact with Alison Robertson (see HQ Reporter article) while I was researching my Dad's experience there made me realize what it was like to be a British POW on the ground in one of the six labor camps located in the Heydebreck area. It was very tough being caught up on the receiving end of things.

The location of BAB 20 was within the target area, nestled among buildings inside the plant and thereby illegal according to Geneva Conventions. The case was taken to the War Crimes Tribunal after the war.

The camp was hit often but, by the mercy of God, relatively few men were killed. Alison told me the soil in the forests around Blechhammer was very sandy and Veterans told her that many more lives would have been lost were it not for this sand. Many bombs were buried upon impact rather than exploding immediately.

The men of BAB 20 endured a life of great hardship and the knowledge that they may have helped American airmen survive was uplifting because something good can come from a place of such misery. Many of the British POWs there spoke of their sadness when they witnessed the loss of USAAF planes and crew. These tough missions were flown by brave men who were far too young to die.

The camp was made up of two Battalions of POW's. Each Battalion was divided into three Companies. In accordance with the terms of the Geneva Convention, all men below the rank of NCO had to work. Most of the jobs on the site were related to the construction of the site. It was forced labor and the men performed acts of sabotage whenever possible. Life at Heydebreck was a fragile experience. You never knew what the next day would bring.

Some were forced to work for IG Farben Industry, an enormous German chemical company. The Nazis needed oil for their war effort and IG Farben had developed a way of making synthetic oil using coal and water, both of which were in plentiful supply at Heydebreck. Jobs

were usually manual labor types such as digging trenches for foundations, pipes or cable. Some of the men worked as assistants to the Volks Deutsch as mechanics, fitters or electricians. Alison's father was assigned to work with a party who were installing overhead electric lines, but after he worked there for a few months, he managed to change jobs after his friend was killed beside him in an accident. After that he dug trenches. They worked long hours in all weathers, bearing in mind that the temperature in Poland can plummet to -30 degrees in winter.

There were approximately 1,200 men held at BAB 20. This number dropped, however, after the bombing missions began. The camp was bombed from the summer of 1944 until December. POWs were allowed to run to the woods when the alarm sirens sounded warning them of an imminent attack, but they lost some of the most popular men in the camp when a bomb killed some of their theatrical actors who were sheltering in the woods. A guard was also killed. A few men had to stay behind in the camp for various reasons, the sick and some camp staff as well as the Padre whose job it was to search for delayed action bombs.

In January 1945, the sky was ablaze with light and POWs heard the roar of guns to the east. They knew the Russian Front was very near to their camp. Some of them thought this would be bad news for the British as well as the Nazis for no one knew how the Russian Army would treat any British Prisoners of War who fell into their hands. On January 22, 1945, 1000 prisoners of BAB 20 were ordered to move out and thus began a grueling death march to the East. When it was all over the British POWs were delighted to know that the Heydebreck complex was destroyed before any oil could be produced.

Today, the location of all the former British POW camps is peaceful, with birds sweetly singing in the vast dense forests that surround Blechhammer. The fields and dark towering forests of Heydebreck continue to hide a myriad of secrets and who knows what evidence they will eventually yield. But, as noted above, something good has come out of such a terrible place; the Blechhammer Museum. I wish to thank Waldemar Ociepski and his colleagues for their tireless work in promoting the interests of the British POWs and American airmen who left a part of themselves behind in Blechhammer.

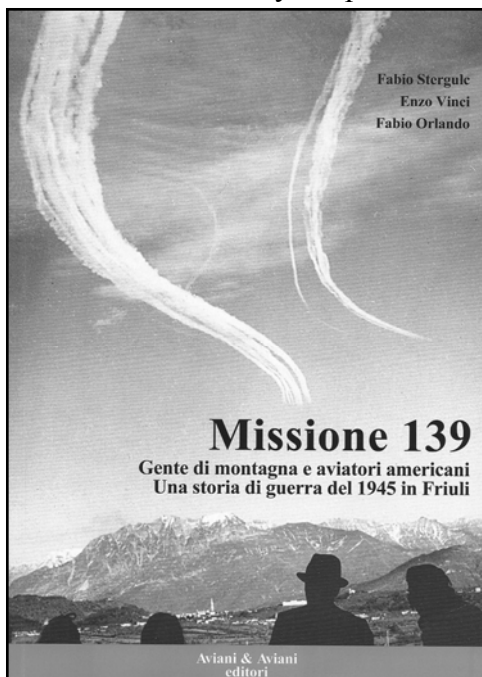
A New Italian Book about the 485th Bomb Group

by Jerry Whiting

A new Italian book about the 485th Bomb Group was published in April 2010. The Book is titled *Missione 139: Gente di montagna e aviatori americani, Una storia di Guerra del 1945 en Friuli* (Mission 139: People of the mountains and American airmen, a story of war in 1945 in the Friuli region). The 184-page paperback tells an in-depth story of the group's 139th mission on February 16, 1945 to Regensburg, Germany. The book is really about the two crews who were shot down on this mission, the crews of Colonel Tomhave and Lt. Stockdale.

The book was written by Fabio Stergule, Fabio Orlando and Enzo Vinci. These authors went to extremes to get information for their book, using all available resources. They obtained information from two survivors of the mission, Walt Fergus (Tomhave's crew) and Earl Beatty (Stockdale's crew) as well as getting information from other men on the mission and family members of crewmen who did not survive. They located and interviewed Italian witnesses, including a 100+ year-old man who worked in the hospital in nearby Tarvisio, where one of the survivors (Major Bryant) was treated until the war ended. They climbed a rugged mountain and located the crash sites, identified by wreckage. They even searched the American archives to put the pieces together.

Unfortunately, the book is printed only in Italian. We are making inquiries about the possibility of an English printing, but there are currently no plans for this. It's too bad, because the book tells a very complete story, with many details that were not previously known. Our Italian friends deserve kudos for their wonderful effort.



485th Fond Memories

by Jolene Stockton

The Hospitality Room

meeting – greeting
caring – sharing
stories – glories
places – faces
new – few
presentations – congratulations
new friends – old friends – never ends....

The Citadel

young cadets = fast pace
beautiful chapel = full of grace
General Clark's resting place

Harbor Cruise

peaceful, playful versus
forts and fighting
Patriot's Point
a carrier sighting

City Marketplace

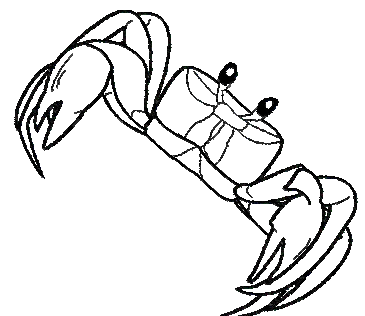
weavers of leaves
needles and grass
sellers of fabrics
jewelry and glass



Bridges, bridges, bridges
ever connecting waters and rivers
peninsulas and islands

Charleston

Proper sized lots
of Southern mansions,
First city of preservation rules
for keeping them intact.
Narrow streets, sea walls,
porches and gardens,
A city on the peninsula,
being Southern, a fact.
Southern pralines, green tomatoes
crab houses, too,
Not to mention
gorgeous beaches,
All waiting
For you!



Celebrating Veterans' Day in October

By: Katy Koller Doran, Greensburg, PA

Veterans' Day came early for me in 2010 – in October, rather than the official date in November. Instead of a single day with a parade, an official ceremony and a round of speeches and civic events, my veterans' celebration in Charleston, SC was your 485th Bomber Group Reunion - and three phenomenal days when I discovered family I'd never known existed.

It took a long time, my entire life of 66 years, in fact – to find the 485th BG. A series of random events and coincidences from the fall of 2009 led me to you:

- A memorial on a mountain in Austria dedicated to the 19 young men who lost their lives due to a mid-air mishap and collision between their two planes on March 2, 1945.
- The anonymous return of that mysterious 1941 class ring, believed to have come from the crash site.
- My spur-of-the-moment Google of my dad's name and finding a search underway for relatives or acquaintances of Sgt. Lee Koller in regards to that ring.
- Phone and email exchanges with two amazing men, 485th BG Historian, Jerry Whiting and Don Magness, the brother of one of those young men who fell from the sky along with my dad.

However, my life experiences have taught me that there are very few "random coincidences" in our lives, and I believe my finding the 485th BG was meant to be.

I was only 6 months old when my dad fell from the sky that day, so the only contact or memory I have of Lee Koller, B-24 tail gunner, 828th Squadron, 485th Bomb Group, is from 1986, standing over a single white marble cross - just one of more than 11,000 other markers - on a gentle hill in the Lorraine Memorial Cemetery, Metz, France.

Like so many war widows, my mom picked up the pieces of her life, remarried and carried the two of us on with our lives in a new family, a new existence. I had been only an occasional visitor to the box of mementoes from my dad's life, the most interesting being a childhood photo album, the "Galloping Ghost" crew photo and his Purple Heart. It wasn't until my conversations with Jerry and Don and my joining the search for the proper recipient of the 1941 class ring that I dug out that collection, actually read the small bundle of letters, and began to discover a real opportunity to

learn something more. I visited the 485th BG website and for the first time in my life learned details of that tragic accident that took 19 young lives in March, 1945, thanks to the moving eye witness account written by Lynn Cotterman. And finally, I took that final step and signed on for my husband Glen and I to attend the Reunion in Charleston.

And that's where all of you – the 485th Bomber Group and the Reunion special guests from Austria and representing Venosa, Italy – became especially meaningful. I didn't truly expect to find anyone who knew my dad. He was, after all, only there a few short months. And while the details of his life on the base outside of Venosa, whatever sort of man he might have become in the world if things had been different will never be known, I believe I met him among the men of the 485th BG.

Your stories about the base, the little town of Venosa, some of your experiences as officers and crewmen might have been my dad's. Your pride of service and how you remain humble for having done your duty – even when being heroes in the eyes of your families for surviving crashes and being POWs – made me equally proud that my dad was one of your numbers.

The passage of the years since 1944 and '45 have overtaken you. But during those few days in October dedicated to recall, the shadows of your youthful selves may have helped you stand a little straighter, move a little more briskly than usual. Along with the maturity, wisdom, and experiences of each lifetime, your eyes still held the sparkle of young men, as well.

It is both a joy and a privilege to recall that memorable Reunion weekend and remember each veteran member of the 485th BG, brothers-in-arms to my father, as a beloved, long-lost uncle. Your lovely and gracious wives are my aunts, your children and grandchildren are cousins. I am proud to consider every one of you as family.



Katy Doran & Vern Christensen

In Search of the Truth

By Jerry Whiting

Sometimes when researching the history of the 485th Bomb Group, I've come upon information that is very sad, troublesome and angering, particularly when it comes to the handling of POWs. I've always maintained that the truth is critical and we should not attempt to alter history. We can learn from it. At other times I've been confused and occasionally inspired, when I've learned of true, documented events that didn't seem to fit with what I thought to be true. This past year one such event came to light.

This story involves the crew of Robert Ware, 828th Squadron, shot down over Bruck, Austria on February 23, 1945. Researchers from the University of Graz, led by Georg Hoffman, contacted us originally for assistance in investigating atrocities of American airmen near the end of the war in and around Graz, Austria. A mass gravesite has been found that these researchers believe contain the remains of holocaust victims, Russian POWs and several American airmen. At the end of the war the SS began executing U.S. airmen who had been recently shot down and held in the Graz area. Through a strange series of events, a 485th crew entered into this search for information, even though no 485th airmen were executed in Graz at the end of the war.

There was one case the Austrians were uncertain about, involving a B-17 copilot who is listed as MIA. The Austrians have many records and have interviewed a surviving SS trooper who freely discussed other executions, but claimed this airman was not executed, but had possibly died of injuries.

This story struck a chord somewhere in my brain. I recalled interviewing 828th Sqdn copilot Bill Ryan, shot down over Bruck with Robert Ware's crew, for my book *Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold*. Bill was kept in a hospital in Graz, due to the seriousness of his injuries from late February 1945 until the end of the war. I remember that Bill told me about a B-17 copilot, whose name he didn't recall, who died in the bed next to him of injuries suffered during a bail-out. Hmmmm, was there a connection?

I phoned Bill, who lives nearby. I asked him to answer a few questions, explaining I would tell him what this was about after he answered the questions. I asked him about the incident we discussed more than six years ago. He told me the story again, narrowing the time frame down to mid-March. Bill told me the airman's leg was

amputated, due to massive injuries and he died within a day or two. Bill was a witness to his death and there was no foul play involved. He reiterated the copilot was in the hospital bed alongside his bed.

Bill never knew the young man's name, but told me there was another member of the man's crew in the hospital, a navigator or bombardier. The man was there for just a short time. Bill didn't know his name, but remembered they called him something like "Bing". Armed with this, I recontacted Georg Hoffman in Austria. The bombardier's last name on the crew in question was Beningo and the crew was shot down on March 19, 1945. It looks like we have the answer to that mystery, at least to the cause of death, although the airman's remains have yet to be found. We know now he was not the victim of an atrocity. This crew was from the 463rd Bomb Group.

In yet another twist to this story, records for the Ware crew were located in the National Archives containing some of the information about the crews who were victims of atrocities. Our Austrian friends located these records. In these files we learned that two other airmen on Ware's crew were extremely lucky men.

The two men were captured after their bail out and taken together in a horse-drawn cart to the village of Frohnleiten. A member of the Volkssturm (Home Guard), whose name was Reiter, arrived shortly before the airmen. He began complaining to villagers that an SS officer wanted the captured airmen taken away in a cart, not on foot. Soon the Americans entered the town with the SS officer, named as "Untersturmfuehrer Ludensky" in the report, following on horseback. Reiter began berating Ludensky in front of townspeople, saying he should be ashamed of himself for shaking hands with criminals.

Ludensky replied, "Shame on you. If you were in danger, you'd keep silent. Now you are free and you shoot your mouth off. You want to teach the law to me, a frontline soldier? Let's go to the front lines. There you can show me your skills. You have remained here at your house with your wife and children and you have no idea what it's like out there. I don't care about you. I have done my duty as a soldier. I believe there are still decent people, but you want to shoot a helpless man?" At that point Police Inspector Vogrin, standing nearby intervened, telling Reiter to keep quiet. Reiter continued bustling around with his rifle in his arms, but the airmen were not harmed.

Continued on next page

In Search of the Truth (continued)

We know that one of these airmen was Merle Shields, the radio operator, from a similar story he told to one of his crew after the war. It's possible the other airman was William Sniegowski, the flight engineer, but this has not been confirmed. Both survived. Since this incident was documented in Austrian police records by two separate witnesses corroborated by a statement Shields made in a letter after the war, it appears this story is factual. So

strange as it may seem, while some SS troops were engaged in executions of American airmen in Graz, several miles away another SS officer possibly saved the lives of two 485th Bomb Group airmen.

(Jack Yates, the tail gunner on this crew whom some of you know from recent reunions, was another survivor. He and Bill Ryan met for the first time since the war at the 2008 reunion.)

Memorial Breakfast - Sunday – October 24th, 2010

The reunion in Charleston was ended with the traditional Memorial Breakfast. After the buffet breakfast was completed, Phil Cummings thanked all who had participated in the organization and running of the reunion. Neal Swann then took over as the emcee of the Memorial Breakfast. Since his SF Giants had just defeated the Phillies for the pennant he spoke about the heroes of the baseball game, and then dedicated the program to his real heroes, the men of the 485th.

The flag folding was narrated by Patti Haley, Santiago Stockton read the National Anthem, and Jolene Stockton read the 23rd Psalm. We were then blessed by a homily from Father George, who is one of several men of the cloth that the 485th is proud to call their own.

Bob Hanson then read the "missing man" and John Molica led the reunion in Let There Be Peace On Earth. Father George then led the Prayer of Benediction, and the Memorial Service was ended. It was well attended, and the attendees were happy with the program and the solemnity shown. The reunion was then adjourned until next year, in San Diego, California, and many hugs and fond farewells were said by those in attendance.



Neal Swann leads the
485th Memorial Breakfast

Special THANKS to Frances Fundling,
Barry Corbett and Mark Leslie Photos for
sharing their personal photos for the
newsletter publication.



Corbett Family Celebrates Clyde's 88th Birthday during the Reunion
Denise & Peter Sawyer, Virginia & Clyde Corbett, Esther Corbett & Brenda Corbett

JOURNEY'S END - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Robert Baldwin	830th	2010	Niran Kelly	831st	2010
Laverne Bock	831st		Wilfred Kerkhove	829th	2010
Robert Boettcher	829th		Lee Kohler	828th	1945
Kenneth H. Brown	831st	2010	Ed Krider	829th	2010
Victor Conti	831st	2010	Eugene Lamar	831st	2009
William Cook	830th		Leonard Little	831st	2010
Joseph Creighton	829th	2008	Richard Mattison	828th	2010
Bill Culver	829th	2010	Bob Monahan	831st	2011
Dean Davis	828th	2010	Nick Montulli	828th	2010
John DiRusso	828th	2010	Lamont Parker	831st	
August Forster	828th		Ralph Raines	831st	
Herbert Frels	831st	2010	Joseph Salese	828th	1998
James Fulford	831st	2010	Ed Sawyer	829th	
Milton Fundling	829th	2010	Carl Schmalenberger	829th	
David Heiman	828th	2010	Seymour Segan	829th	2010
Dewey Holcomb	829th		Rex C. Stanley	828th	2009
Jack Hudson	829th	2010	Kenneth Wall	828th	2011
Rodney Hufstader	831st	2009	Joe P. Williams	831st	2010
Warren Ireland	830th	2009	Niran Kelly	831st	2010

In the Shadow of Mt. Vulture

Venosa, Then and Now

Does anyone in Italy remember the 485th Bomb Group? Many 485th Vets have asked this question. Jerry Whiting felt this question must be answered. He had photos and amateur video he shot on two research trips to Venosa and the surrounding area, the former home of the 485th Bomb Group. He juxtaposes the photos and video with wartime photos taken by the American airmen to produce this 24-minute DVD, which answers these questions. The answers may surprise you, but be prepared for an emotional ending that will make you feel proud. This video also contains more than 100 wartime photos, taken by the men of the 485th Bomb Group. Profits, if any, will be used for future maintenance of the 485th website.

The price is \$12, which includes shipping.

To receive a copy, send a check for \$12 to:

Jerry Whiting
2576 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

email:
eajwwhiting@aol.com

On The Wing

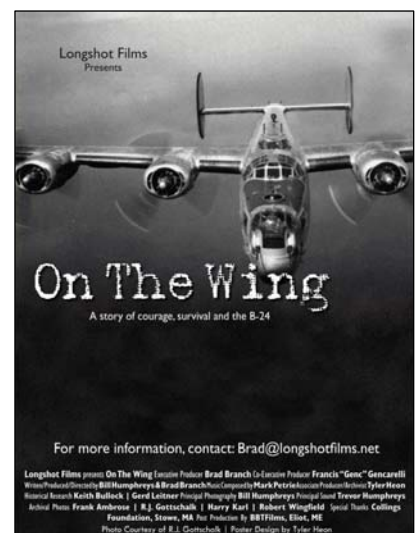
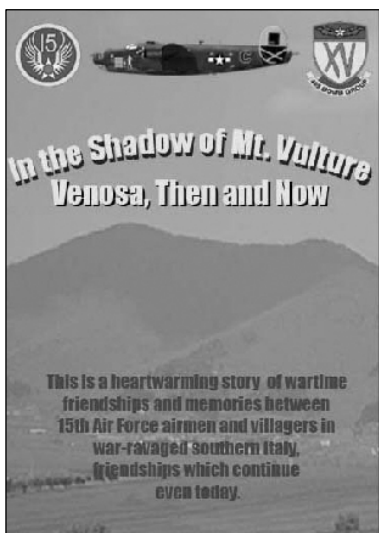
The 15th Air Force Rallies Again

The film is an emotional look at the 15th air force 60 years after one of the shortest and most intensive air battles to occur over central European air space during World War II. On The Wing is a 90-minute documentary conceived and developed by Brad Branch of LongShot who is also serving as the Executive Producer. The project was shot entirely on location in the U.S., Austria, Canada, Germany and Italy. On The Wing – is the story of courage, survival and the B-24. Footage of the B-24 and B-17 in flight was gathered through the courtesy of the Collings Foundation of Stowe, Massachusetts who maintains and flies one of the few, if not only airworthy B-24 in existence.

To receive a copy, send check or money order for \$25.95 plus \$3.00 S&H (\$28.95 total) to:

LongShot Films
P.O. Box 122
Portsmouth, NH 03802
or call 603.494.2284

email:
brad@longshotfilms.net



485TH BOMB GROUP BOOKS

I'M OFF TO WAR, MOTHER, BUT I'LL BE BACK

By Jerry Whiting and Wayne Whiting

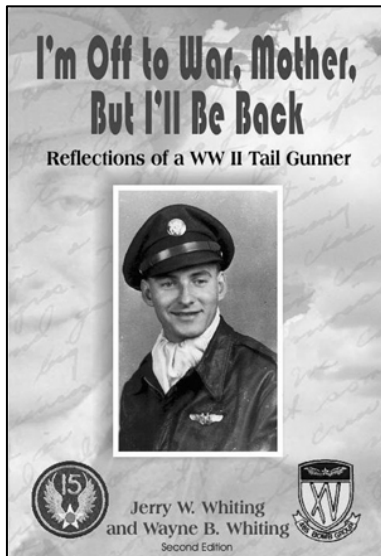
This newly revised edition, released in June 2007, is now a hardcover book. This expanded; collector's edition 250+ page book has nearly 100 photos. This is the true story of a 485th BG tail gunner, enhanced by excerpts of more than 200 letters he wrote home. It includes:

The survival tale of an 831st Squadron airman and his buddies who were shot down over enemy territory, but eluded capture and returned to Italy six weeks later. The story of the 485th Bomb Group's unique relationship with the Tuskegee Airmen.

The saga of one of the last bomber crews shot down over Europe on the final mission flown by the 485th, and their "capture" by the Russians.

The capture of a Messerschmitt pilot and his fighter by two pilots and a navigator from the 830th Squadron.

The miraculous account of a navigator's survival after he was blown out of his bomber and fell 10,000 feet without a parachute.



JUNE 2007 REVISED HARDCOVER
COLLECTOR'S EDITION!

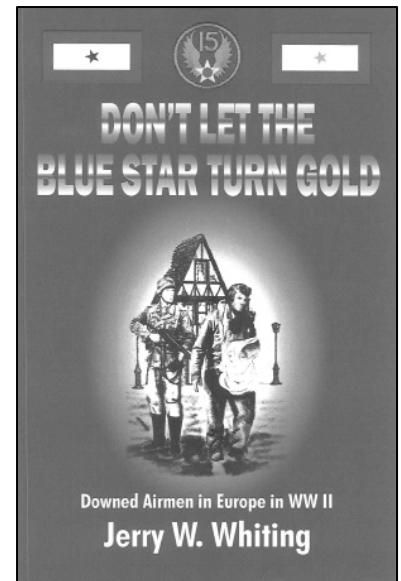
The continuing search today for a 9-man crew lost over Blechhammer.

DON'T LET THE BLUE STAR TURN GOLD

By Jerry Whiting

These are true stories of 485th Bomb Group airmen who didn't return from bombing missions. The 250-page hardcover book has 65 photos. The stories are about the struggle to survive, so that blue star proudly hanging in the window at home wouldn't be replaced by a gold one.

There are accounts of love, duty and courage. Included are stories of the families at home and their efforts to cope, after receiving that dreaded telegram advising them their loved one was Missing In Action. There are accounts from Europeans who witnessed the bombers falling, including recent stories from some who aided the airmen. Each story is placed in the context of what was happening elsewhere in the world. The author shares background history of how each story came to be, often with surprising revelations. This is a book about captures, escapes, evasions and....sometimes death. Painstakingly researched and inspirational, it's a must read for anyone interested in WWII history, particularly for those interested in the 485th Bomb Group.



BOOK ORDER FORM

Book	Price	# of books	Total
<i>Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold</i>	\$ 20.00		\$
<i>I'm Off to War, Mother, But I'll Be Back</i>	\$ 20.00		\$
<i>Mission By The Numbers</i> Edited by Sammy Schneider	\$ 20.00		\$
\$5 for 1-2 books, \$10 for 3-8 book		Shipping/Handling	\$
		(All books shipped 1st class or Priority Mail)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Total amount enclosed	\$


(Check or money order payable to: Jerry Whiting)

Ship to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail order form to:

Jerry Whiting 2576 Fox Circle Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Phone: (925) 934-5204 Email: EAJWWWhiting@aol.com

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	SHELOR	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
BIG ALICE FROM DALLAS CREW 24	SKELTON CREW 24	KOPCHA CREW 24	HUBER CREW 24	FURGUESON CREW 24	LONG CREW 24
BEHUNIN CREW 24	JAY BAKER CREW 24	WILLIAMS CREW 24	CARTER CREW 24	CAMDEN CREW 24	HADEN
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

MGEN 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@dslextre.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, Arlynn Brown, Horace Choate, George Ick, Lionel L. Lasseigne, Roger Monroe, Edward Nett, Clifford L. Parli, Sammy Schneider, Ben O. Sims and Albert Trinche.

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 Cottingham, 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.

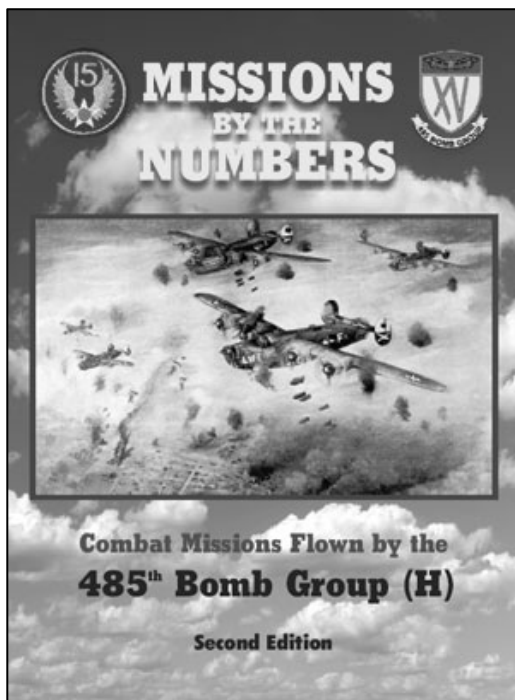
831st SQD - C.A. Abbott, William Brokaw, Lynn Cotterman, William Geyer, R. Oliver Haden, Earl A. Hall, David T. Hansen, Robert W. Hickman, Dan Sjodin and Howard P. Woodyard.

MISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS

Edited by Sammy Schneider

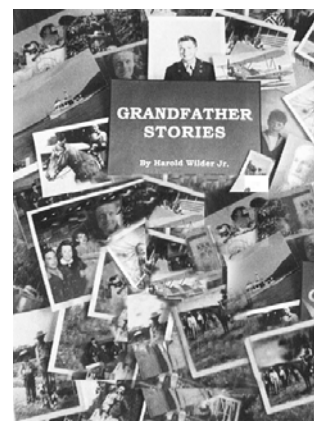
This book includes mission summaries of 187 combat missions flown by the 485th Bomb Group. Included are stories written by several members of the group that tell the complete story of a mission, from the minute the coded message was received until the mission was completed. Also included is the story of a gunner who was shot down and captured and the story of a crew that struggled to make it safely through the Brenner Valley, also known as "flak alley", with severe battle damage.

There are 20+ photos in this 190-page, quality paperback book, including several photos of bomb strikes, damaged B-24s, escort fighters and reconnaissance photos, as well as maps and charts. There is also reference information on group losses and bomb types, a sample of a pilot's "flimsy" (secret plan for the mission) and much, much more. This is a book about the 485th Bomb Group, told by the men who lived it. This is a very limited edition.



Only 300 copies have been printed, so get your copies now.

\$20+ shipping. See order form on page 34



GRANDFATHER STORIES

Hal Wilder

200 South Glenn Drive, Apt 23
Camarillo, CA 93011-7902

805-484-1602

<http://www.grandfatherstories.com/>
email: Wilder495@verizon.net

WWII B-24's IN ITALY

"A Unique VIDEO"

by Capt. Henry "Hank" Dahlberg



831st Bomb Squadron
Engineering Officer
485th Bomb Group
15th Air Force

An amazing video made primarily from personal 35mm color slides each with full commentary. It includes:

- 1943 training scenes in the US.
- Scenes along the Southern Route to Italy and a map of the route. Florida to Puerto Rico, then Brazil, then Dakar, W. Africa, Tunis and finally Venosa, Italy.
- Loss of the Liberty Ship *Paul Hamilton*.
- A year of war-time activities at Venosa, plus trips to Bari, Rome and Naples.
- Shots of badly damaged B-24's that "made it home."

\$12.00

includes p&h (in US)

Check or MO only, please

Iris Dahlberg

6191 S. Southwood Dr.

Centennial, CO 80121-2452

485th Memories

