



Historian's Update



Jerry Whiting

I thought it might be time for a brief update and report from the historian, since we no longer have our newsletter.

M.I.A. Conference

The 485th's good friend Szymon Serwatka and yours truly co-hosted a conference in Krakow, Poland March 31st-April 3rd of this year. The purpose was to bring together some of the best Eastern and Central European researchers and historians with our Dept. of Defense investigators (DPAA) who actively search for MIA's and a group called History Flight that has a contract with our government to recover MIA's. Those who have attended reunions will recognize the names some of the Europeans in attendance, including Szymon, Sime Lisica, and Pasquale Libutti. There were nearly 30 in attendance, from Serbia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Italy and Poland. With a couple of exceptions these are all experts whom I've communicated with in the past.

Colonel Stanimir Stanev, from Bulgaria, presented a compelling case for the recovery of MIA pilot "Dud" Crouchley, 828th Sqdn, still missing in Bulgaria. The first two days were classroom presentations by various attendees. The third day Szymon arranged a bus tour to Blechhammer, where he discussed the case of the Lindell crew, 829th Sqdn, and we visited the crash site. All 9 men from this crew are still missing. The fourth day Szymon took those remaining on a tour to the Birkenau concentration camp. It was a somber, but meaningful trip. By introducing our Dept. of Defense and History Flight investigators to some of the best pro-American investigators in Europe, we're hoping to aid in more recoveries of Americans.

B-24 crash site just located in Croatia

I just learned that two of our researcher friends in Croatia, Sime Lisica and Radovan Zivonovic, located the wreckage of a B-24 near Zadar. There is a good chance they've found the crash site of a 485th

plane, 41-28797, of Lt. Roy Daniel's 829th Sqdn crew that was lost on the May 29, 1944 mission to Vienna. This is all very preliminary but it's always exciting to know the 485th isn't forgotten. (This entire crew survived the war as POWs.)

2016 Dallas Reunion

The reunion is fast approaching (Oct 13th-16th) and will be held at the Wyndham Garden North Dallas Hotel, where we had the 2014 reunion. If you're considering attending, but haven't signed up, you may want to register at the hotel. The hotel contacted me a few days ago and said the rooms are quickly filling up. There is no cancellation fee if you cancel a few days in advance. I've heard a rumor that our Red Tail (Tuskegee Airman) buddy, Bob Friend, is hoping to attend. Georg Hoffman and Nicole Goll, the Austrian Historians who gave us a presentation in Washington D.C., are also hoping to attend, the last I heard. The reunions are different than our stand alone reunions, but still interesting. Mark LaScotte and I will be there. Hope you can join us. More info is available on the 485th website.

And Along the Way

We're experiencing technical difficulties with the website and haven't been able to make any updates or corrections for several months. We're hoping to have it fixed soon. On a personal note, I will be following the Collings Foundation and their WWII airplanes for most of July, doing book signings and spreading the good word about the history of the 485th. Szymon Serwatka will join me along the way in Denver, along with his son, Witek, and plans are for him to travel with me as far as Omaha. So if you happen to be in Bozeman, Casper, Centennial, Colorado Springs, Ft. Collins, Grand Island, Lincoln, or Omaha when the planes are there, stop by and say hello. I don't use Facebook, but respond to all emails and still get and answer requests regularly. So if there is something you want to tell me or just want to say hello, you can email me at EAJWWhiting@aol.com. Until the next time, keep the memories alive and stay in touch.