

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

NO. 1

DECEMBER 1966

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWER OPERATORS

Twenty some odd years have passed since the adventurous days of the 485th in Italy. Now, the events of those days are a part of the Air Force heritage of history and tradition. With this, the first issue of the 485th newsletter, LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING, the editors wish to introduce a newsletter of personal interest and reflections about the veterans of the 485th.

It is the aim of this letter to enhance the memories of this great adventure and to induce a fraternal atmosphere among the many participants. Moreover, it is hoped that this letter will provide that additional spark of inducement which will incite the members to attend the reunions.

Briefly then, these are the goals of LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING. We earnestly hope to reflect the interest of the 485th veterans and look forward to any and all comments and criticism. Your letters of information and support are sincerely requested for this project. In turn, we shall endeavor to provide an interesting and informative newsletter.

Carl P. Gigowski
Robert S. Deeds
William H. Schoultz

1967 REUNION

Tentatively, the date of the 1967 reunion is set for the weekend of 19 August 1967 in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Manning of Springboro, Ohio will be the host. The reunion will be

(Cont on page 2)

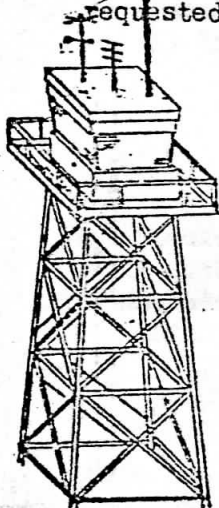
MISSION NO. 2: GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Early Friday, August 19, 1966 several members of the Group were on course to Grand Rapids, Michigan for the second reunion of the 485th Bomb Group. The weather and traffic conditions were good and by evening the weary travelers were reporting in on target - The Gateway Motel in Grand Rapids. Completing the first phase of the mission, the guests were interrogated at the residence of the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gigowski, during a pre-reunion social visit.

Among the early arrivals, was Mr. James J. McFaaden (828th), who breezed in from Philadelphia, Pa. late Thursday, August 18. Mac, as he is better known in circles, is one of the lively set and provided many good hearty laughs for all during the entire reunion. Others arriving Friday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Karl Anderson, Carrollton, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Casimir Kusiak and daughter Suzie, Norridge, Ill. (828th); Mr. Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, Ohio (830th) and Mr. George Ick, Lisbon, North Dakota (828th). Around mid-night, Mr. Roy Reiten, Marshall, Minn. (828th) buzzed in.

Around 9 A.M. Saturday morning on the 20th, the reunion got underway at the Rendezvous Room at the Gateway Motel. Arriving on schedule were Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Borgetti, Whiting, Ind. (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Deeds, Toledo, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. William H. Schoultz,

(cont on page 2)



highlighted by a trip to the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AF Base. Watch for further announcements.

Newton Falls, Ohio (828th) and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Woodyard, Lambertville, Michigan (831st).

For some it was a repeat of the 1965 reunion, for others it was meeting old tent-mates and buddies for the first time since 1945. Consequently, there were many new stories, experiences and biographical sketches to recount.

First and most important on the agenda was to open the refreshment bar. This accomplished, the business meeting got underway in proper style. It was not difficult to keep the meeting at a minimum with a short discussion of the newsletter, the group history project, and the reunion for next year. Then back to the war stories.

Rather than participate in the suggested tours, the guests elected to remain at the Rendezvous Room, near the refreshments and continue on with their favorite war stories and personal accounts since the days spent in sunny Italy. Roy Reiten related many of his experiences as a PW. Jim Andrews, 828th pilot and a volunteer for the "Pathfinder missions", acquainted us with his experiences, training for the night missions. Particularly, the chore of navigating at night with only the stars as a guide. There were many more adventurous stories and some humorous ones. Grasping the situation at hand, the ladies decided to go shopping at one of the local shipping centers. Guess who financed this expedition.

It seems that father time accelerated the hands on the clock for all too soon, time out was called as the guests returned to their rooms to freshen up a bit for the big dinner. By seven in the evening, everyone was at the Comet Restaurant, waiting for the goodies to be served. In the meantime, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Parsegean, Skokie, Ill. (829th) and Mr. and Mrs. John Thull, Romsey, Ill. (828th) arrived. Satisfying the appetites in good order, the guests returned to the Rendezvous Room and the refreshment bar. Movies on Palesti, Air Combat over Germany and of the Water-Winter Wonder Land: Michigan were shown. All too soon it was mid-night and the days activities came to an end.

Sunday morning, August 21st, the guests were invited for breakfast at the home of the hosts. By noon, the guests began to depart on the long journey home. By mid-afternoon, all were homeward bound. Everyone had a good time and it was a wonderful experience shared by all, meeting old buddies and reliving some of the perilous and humorous adventures as members of the 485th. All are eager to attend the 1967 reunion.

MISSION NO. 1: NEWTON FALLS, OHIO

The first Group reunion was held in Newton Falls, Ohio on the weekend of August 14 and 15, 1965, and was hosted by Mr. and Mrs. William Schoultz. Previously, the reunion was a 828th event and was changed to a Group reunion as attendance and correspondence from other Squadron members increased. Prior to the 1965 reunion, the 828th held five reunions.

Attending the reunion were: Mr. and Mrs. Karl Anderson, Carrollton, Ohio (828th); Mr. Ray Shaffer, Garrettsville, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Borgetti, Whiting, Ind. (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Robert Deeds, Toledo, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Sullivan, Boston, Mass. (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Nicolas Montulli, Rochester, N. Y. (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Otis Shay, Morgantown, W. V. (831st); Mr. and Mrs. Howard Woodyard, Lambertville, Mich. (831st); Mr. Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, Ohio (830th); Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Manning, Springboro, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Knight, Indianola, Ill.; Mr. Burl Jackson, Lima, Ohio (830th); Mr. Gus Lamakos, Parma, Ohio (828th) and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gigowski, Grand Rapids, Michigan (828th).

This was a first meeting for several members and as evident by the good time had by all, Mr. and Mrs. Schoultz did a fine job inaugurating an event which will be looked forward to each year by all.

THE MAILROOM

During the year, correspondence was received from numerous members of the Group. Response to the reunion notice published in the V.F.W., American Legion, and Air Force magazines was good. Notices sent to addresses obtained some 20 years ago were forwarded, received and answered. Most of the members expressed regret not being able to attend the reunion due to work, vacation schedules or illness, but indicated that at first opportunity would attend future reunions.

One of the members we were happy to hear from was Major General Walter E. "Pop" Arnold. As the old timers of the Group may recall, General Arnold was the man who shaped the four Squadrons into combat readiness and took the Group overseas to sunny Italy. Later, on 27 August 1944, General (then Col.) went down over Blechhammer, Germany and became a prisoner of war. Today, General Arnold is stationed in Ankara, Turkey, where he is Chief of Staff of the Combined Military Planning Staff. The General hopes to be with us next year at which time we shall "Draft or Volunteer" the General as guest speaker.

It was good to hear from Mr. Edward H. Nett, C.O. of the 828th, from out California way. Because of airline reservation problems and an unexpected personal commitment, Mr. (Col. as we remember him) Nett was unable to attend the reunion. However, we are looking forward to seeing him at the 1967 reunion.

Other members heard from were: Dr. Stephen Sedlak (828th Navigator), Mr. Keith Mayhew (828th Pilot), SMSgt Larry Vieth (831st Sqdn Inspector), Mr. David H. Anderson (830th), Mr. Bill Beggs (829th - Arm. Gunner on Capt Vern Bryson's crew, "Bryson's Bruisers"), Lt. Col. Homer G. Hale Jr., Mr. Herbert F. Little (828th Gunner), Mr. Joseph Durst (828th Navigator), Mr. William L. Brien (828th Pilot) and Mr. Carl D. Grace (828th Pilot). We have also been in contact with Col. Calvin W. Fite, the second C.O. of the 828th, who is stationed at Andrews AF Base.

It was good to hear from all of you and we wish to express our thanks for writing us. We are anxious to hear from all of you again and from more of the members, the Squadron and Group Commanders. If you have addresses of former members, send them along so that we may add them to our mailing list, which is available upon request. Please let us hear from you.

DO YOU REMEMBER-----?

What happened to Lt Col John P. Tomhave, who became C.O. of the 485th on 30 August 1944 and went down on a mission over Regensburg, Germany on 19 February 1945.

What happened to Col John B. Cornett, third C.O. of the 485th and on 23 March 1945 went down over Vienna, Austria.

What happened to Lt Col Douglas M. Cairns, the fourth C.O. of the 485th.

If any of the original assigned aircraft of the Group survived the war and returned to the States?

What happened to Sgt T.S. Itie, D-8001 of the 828th, who became the Groups' mascot. Did the Sarge fly any missions?

GROUP HISTORY PROJECT

At the reunion and in correspondence, several members inquired about a history of the 485th. To the best of our knowledge, one has never been published. After viewing the many photographs and listening to the many war stories, your editor volunteered to start compiling material for a Group history. The Air Force Office of Information was contacted for direction on the history and you editor was referred to the Historical Division at Maxwell AF Base for information and the Aeronautical Charting and Information Center for Air Force photographs. Because of the many official tasks to perform with a minimum of personnel, the Historical Division cannot undertake any unofficial task. However, the Historical Division did extend an invitation to your editor to visit the Historical Division and research the many documents which relate to the 485th Bomb Group. Photographs of the 485th bombing the Duna Airdrome, Budapest, Hungary and 485th aircraft markings are the only ones available from the Aeronautical Charting and Information Center. Incidentally, the only history of the 485th published by the Air Force was a brief sketch in Maurer Maurer (ed.), Air Force Combat Units of World War II.

Rather than having a straight forward historical theme, your editor desires to add a personal touch to the 485th story by including personal accounts of the missions and supporting activities, including the dramatic and humorous incidents. Consequently, I am trying to contact the original crew members of the Group, hoping to obtain personal accounts of the activities and missions during the early days of the Group when the crews had to sweat out the serious threat of enemy fighters along with the flak, inclement weather and the fuel supply for the big thirsty bird.

The contributions of all former members of "Pegasus Group" is urgently requested, through written personal recollections - including humorous and unusual events - , copies or reproductions of the Group newsletter, "BOMBS AWAY" and photographs of crews, ground personnel, aircraft and the Group area. In particular, material on the 829th, 830th, 831st and Group Hq. is needed. Anything you believe would be useful in the history would be most gratefully appreciated. All articles forwarded will be acknowledged and returned by insured or registered mail after reproduction.

Your editor sincerely thanks the following contributors for graciously lending personal photographs, orders and other material: William Schoultz, Karl Anderson, Robert S. Deeds, George Ick and Ed. Parsegean.

Carl P. Gigowski

JOURNEY'S END

Members deceased since the end of WWII
Russel Cory (828th)
Willard Jensen (828th) Feb. 20, 1962
Richard O. Gibson (828th) Jul. 15, 1962
Jack Entwistle (828th) May 27, 1966
Rex O'Dell (828th) May 1948
Russel Chapman
Freeman Shindledecker (828th) Sept. 1965
Henry Boyer (828th) 1964

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