



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



NO. 6

DEC 1971

MISSION NO 7: ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY

The Boardwalk of Atlantic City was the target of the 485th veterans during the week-end of August 21, 1971, as the ol veterans gathered for the Seventh Annual Group Reunion at the Chalfonte Haddon Hotel. Under the leadership of Stanley and Alice Turecki (828), Passaic, New Jersey, the frolicsome event was a memorable experience for all.

Most of the veterans arrived Friday giving an early start to the event. With a snap of the finger and a little hokus-pokus, Stanley converted his suite to a hospitality room, well stocked with refreshments. And as ol buddies greeted one another and cheerfully reminisced about their association within the WWII events of the 485th -over a glass of spirits (for those old age aches and pains) - the day silently and quickly disappeared into night.

Mid-Saturday morning the regular short business meeting was held. Progress of the Group history was noted, the newsletter finances reviewed and reunion locations discussed. Sites for the '72 and '73 reunion were verified. It was recommended that the '74 reunion be held in the western section as a reunion was never conducted out thata way.

With the sun shining thru a hazy sky, many of the guests spent the afternoon leisurely strolling on the famous boardwalk, resulting in numerous pairs of tired aching feet. Probably a distance record was set by Willie Best and his wife, for both arrived at the briefing room with howling doggies. And Willie was about out of steam. (Cont Page 2)

PRISONER OF WAR

On 26 March 1945, 26 of the Group's Liberators were off at 0905 hours to bomb the Bratislava Ranger Marshalling Yard in Czech. An hour later, 5 additional Liberators took-off, of which four joined the Group formation after assembly. One Liberator aborted.

At 1321 hours the formation was over the target at 22,000 feet and dropped 61 tons of bombs thru clear skies hitting the car repair and shop area, cutting all tracks and inflicting severe damage to the rolling stock. Accurate - heavy flak was encountered for three minutes. As the formation rallied off the target, weather was encountered which caused the formation to scattered. 'Baker' box lost the formation and returned to Venosa alone, encountering accurate - heavy flak over Moosbierbaum and at Nagykanizsa.

Immediately after Bombs Away, two burst of flak exploded between the lead Liberator, piloted by Major Pruitt, and 830th Lib 49930, piloted by Lt George Manuel, flying in no. 3 position. Control cables on the lead Lib were cut and no. 3 and 4 engine of 930 were hit. (Cont Page 6)

DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS FOR 1972 REUNION - The 485th Bomb Group (H) eight Annual Reunion will be held August 25-27, 1972 at the Astro-World Hotel in Houston, Texas. The big event will be hosted by Mr and Mrs Andre Salazar, 1030 Chantilly Lane, Houston, Texas 77018. Complete details forthcoming soon.

1971 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) 828TH EAGLES - F, L to R: Nick Montulli, Karl Anderson, Wm Schoultz, Joseph Faraci, John Raffale and Clarence Eden. R, L to R: Robert Deeds, Edward 'Pappy' DeVane, Jim McFadden, Ambrose Borgetti, Adelbert 'The Hawk' Hawkins, Robert Beamish, Stanley Turecki, Richard Mattison, Ray Thaler, Somers Corson and Ben Christ.
- (2) 829TH EAGLES - F, L to R: R. Carpenter, Marvin Lindsay, Homer Hale, LC, USAF Ret, Casper Fasano, Ralph Kreyer and George Healy. R, L to R: Don Wallach, Robert Thompson, Bernie Rempe, Alex Malkoski, Earl Bundy, Del Brinkman and Joseph DeMauro.
- (3) 830TH EAGLES - F, L to R: William 'Willie' Best, Claude Sheline, Lyle Talbott, Henry Cannon and Charley Onley. R, L to R: John Brabson, Robert Laughin, Ted Lipinski, and Frank Caster.
- (4) 831ST EAGLES - F, L to R: Otto Meyers, Don Hasler, George Cleghorn, Harold Dundon, George Winters and Howard Woodyard. R, L to R: Don Stahl, Larry Veith, Leonard Little, Edward Stauverman, Richard McLawhorn, Victor Bone and Robert Barrett.

MISSION NO 7 (Cont)

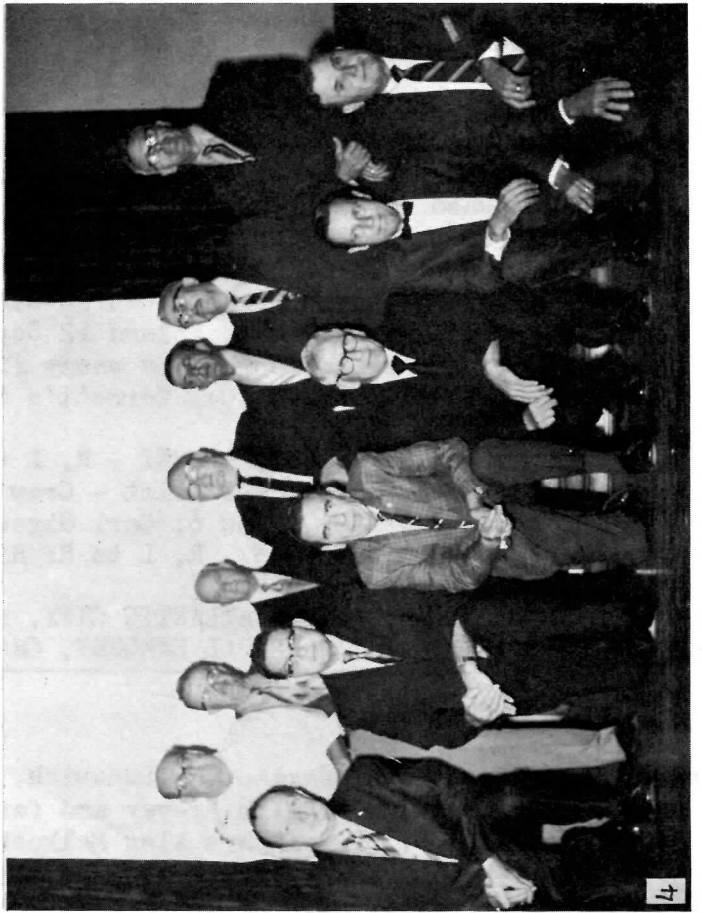
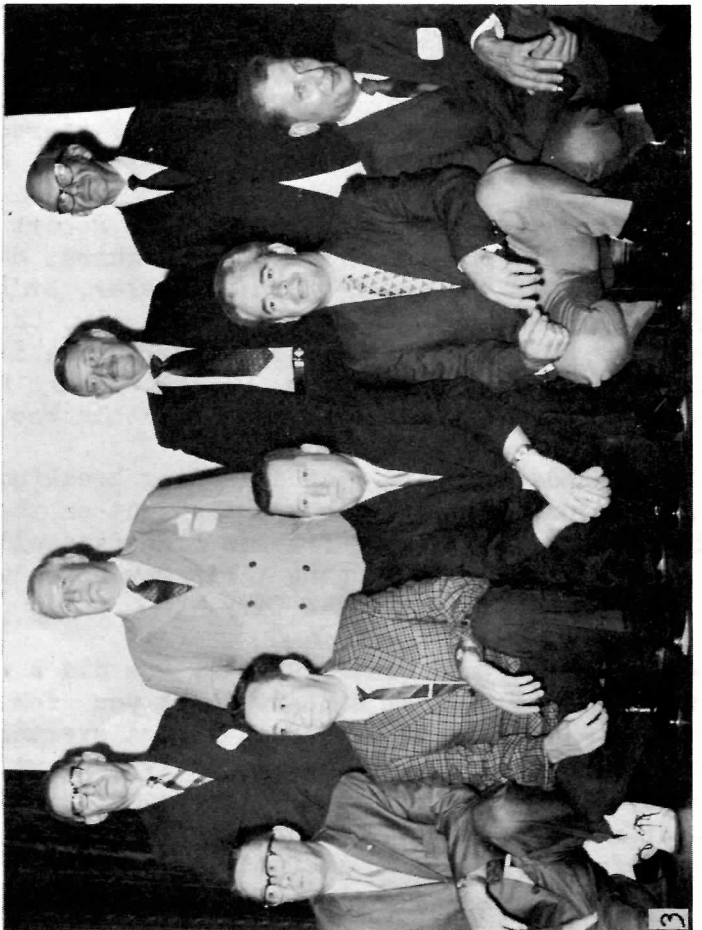
By late afternoon, the hospitality room was a very lively spot. Personal collections of photos and mementos were on display which helped to relive fond moments of high adventure. Leonard Little brought along his most unusual sovereigns - pieces of the Liberator he was on during the mission to Pardubice, Czech. and shot down. The sovereigns were sent to Leonard by Mr Juraj Rajnec of Trencin, Czech., who compiled a detailed account of the mission as related to Leonard's crew and Liberator. And there were the humorists, Larry Vocino, Paul Lund, John Raffale and Joseph Faraci, who with their natural ability and outgoing personalities, provided the humorous or lighter side of life. Apparently, Roy Reeve was on a Pathfinder flight. Roy was seen checking in the briefing room and then not heard from for sometime. Just as Big Fence was about to be called upon for a rescue flight, Roy returned - to refuel.

By 7:30 in the evening the guests were seated for the last big event of the reunion the impressive delectable dinner. With the veterans and their families and guests gathered in one large room, the success of the reunion was quite evident. Activities following the dinner were kept to a minimum, allowing the many veterans who had met an old buddie for the first time since the days of Italy, to continue on with their reminicing. Following the photo-taking it was back to the hospitality room where the action continued until the early hours.

Surpassing last year's attendance, the 7th annual reunion was the largest to date with 62 veterans and their families and guests attending. From Group Headquarters attending were Col and Mrs William Herblin, Washington, DC; Mr and Mrs Edward Kral, New Hyde Park, NY; Mr and Mrs Irving Rubinfeld, Union, NJ; Mr Lawrence Vocino, Clifton, NJ and Mr and Mrs Paul Lund, Flanders, NJ.

Out numbering the other Squadrons in attendance was the 828th with the following veterans attending: Mr and Mrs Karl Anderson and family, Carrollton, OH; Mr and Mrs Robert Beamish, Wheaton, MD; Mr and Mrs Ambrose Borgetti, Whitting, IN; Mr Ben Christ and guest Mr W 'Doc' La Roach, Lockport, NY; Mr and Mrs Robert Deeds and son LeRoy, Toledo, OH; Mr and Mrs Edward 'Pappy' DeVane, Tampa, FL; Mr Clarence Eden, Breckenridge, TX; Mr and Mrs Joseph Faraci, Brooklyn, NY; Mr Carl Gigowski, Grand Rapids, MI; Mr and Mrs Adelbert Hawkins and family, Toledo, OH; Mr and Mrs Edmond Manning, Springboro, OH; Mr and Mrs Richard Mattison and family, Scoti, NY; Mr and Mrs Nicholas Montulli, Rochester, NY; Mr and Mrs John Raffale, Brooklyn, NY; Mr and Mrs William Schoultz, Newton Falls, OH; Mr and Mrs James McFadden, Philadelphia, PA; Mr Sam Schneider, Long Island, NY; Mr and Mrs Stanley Turecki, Passaic, NJ; Mr and Mrs Raymond Thaler, Cliffside, NJ and Mr Somers Corson, Ocean City, NJ.

Veterans from the 829th attending were Mr and Mrs Delmar Brinkman, Silver Creek, NY; Mr and Mrs Earl Bundy and family, Columbus, OH; Mr and Mrs Raymond Carpenter, N Fulton,



1971 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) GROUP HQ EAGLES - L to R: Paul Lund, Col William Herblin, USAF Ret, Edward Kral, Lawrence Vocino and Irving Rubinfeld.
- (2) 485TH POW'S - L to R: Lt Col Homer Hale, USAF Ret - 829th Crew 21 Bombardier. Liberator downed by flak over Munich, Ger. 19 July 1944; Stanley Turecki, 828th Crew 10 Radio Operator. Liberator downed by flak - Vienna, Aus. 26 June 1944; Leonard Little, Gunner, Lt Mulligan's Crew (831st). Liberator downed by Me 109's - Pardubice, Czech. 24 August 1944; George Winters, 831st Crew 77 Navigator. Liberator downed by flak - Oswiecim, Poland 12 Sept 1944; Marvin Lindsay, 829th Crew 35 Radio Operator. Liberator downed by enemy fighters - Munich, Ger. 9 June 1944. Robert Thompson, 829th Gunner, Col Cornett's Crew. Liberator hit by flak - Vienna, Aus. 22 March 1945.
- (3) 828TH RED 'E' (THE LADY) ALUMNI - R, L to R: Robert Deeds, Armorer; Karl Anderson, Crew Chief; Clarence Eden, Pilot - Crew 6 (Original crew of THE LADY); Robert Bea-mish, Radio Operator, Crew 6; Carl Gigowski, 828th Repl Crew 9, pilot on THE LADY's last flight, 19 Jan 1945. R, L to R: Richard Mattison, Gunner, Crew 6 and Sam Schneider, Gunner, Crew 6.
- (4) THE FAMOUS BOARDWALK OF ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY.
- (5) 485TH BOMB GROUP 7TH ANNUAL BANQUET, CHALFONTE HADDON HALL HOTEL, 21 Aug 1971.

MISSION NO 7 (Cont)

NY; Mr and Mrs Casper Fasano, N Brunswick, NJ; Lt Col and Mrs Homer Hale and family, Athens, GA; Mr and Mrs Ralph Kreyer and family, Shorehan, NY; Mr and Mrs Marvin Lindsay, el Dorado, KS; Mr and Mrs Alex Malkoski, Phoenixville, PA; Mr Roy Reeve, Sperryville, VA; Mr and Mrs Bernie Rempe and family, Oklahoma City, OK; Mr and Mrs Robert Thompson, Sun Praire, WI; Mr and Mrs Joseph DeMaure, Short Hills, NJ; Mr and Mrs Don Wallach and family, Midwest City, OK and Mr and Mrs George Healy, Columbus, OH.

From the 830th attending the reunion were Mr and Mrs William Best, Rochester, NY; Mr Henry Cannon, Conway, SC; Mr and Mrs Claude Sheline, Monaca, PA; Mr and Mrs Frank Caster, Hightstown, NJ; Mr and Mrs John Brabson, Kingston, NJ; Mr and Mrs Charles onley, York, PA; Mr and Mrs Ted Lipinski, Patterson, NJ; Mr and Mrs Robert Laughlin, Hookstown, PA and Mr Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, OH.

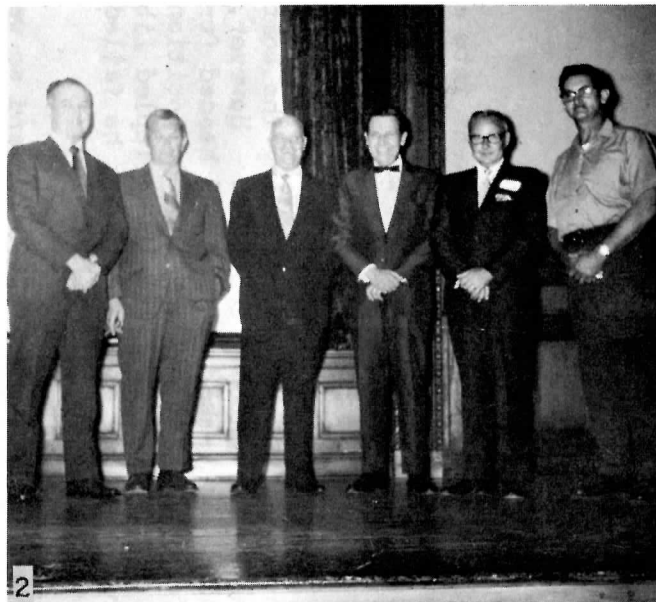
The 831st veterans attending were Mr Robert Barrett, Fayetteville, NY; Mr Victor Bone, Chicago, IL; Mr and Mrs George Cleghorn, Shrewsbury, MO; Mr and Mrs Harold Dundon, New Holland, OH; Mr and Mrs Donald Hasler, St Louis, MO; Mr and Mrs Leonard Little, Tampa, FL; Mr and Mrs Otto Meyers and family, Chicago, IL; Mr Donald Stahl, Milton, Pa; Mr and Mrs Harold Richards, Bellevue Peoria, IL; Mr Edward Stauverman, Munster, IN; Mr Lawrence Vieth, Wilmington, DE; Mr and Mrs George Winters, Leonia, NJ; Mr and Mrs Howard woodyard and guest Mr and Mrs Noble Woodyard, Lambertville, MI.

Comes Sunday morning - an awakening breakfast with plenty of coffee, a short meeting to conclude the activity and then out on the sun deck for a final relaxing moment as ol buddies and newly-made friends bade farewell - until next time. By mid-day most everyone was driving or winging their way home with memories of a most entertaining time on the Boardwalk of Atlantic City.

- - - Stanley and Alice Turecki, you did a magificent job hosting the reunion. Everyone sends you a most sincere thank you for providing a moment in our life on which to build another fond memory. Almost everyone greeted at least one ol buddie not seen since the adventurous days in Italy. Next year deep in the heart of Texas, we hope to enjoy again, the company of the many veterans and their families whom we have met at past reunions and to meet the many veterans out west at Houston, Texas in August. We are grateful for the ever increasing attendance and to all for making the reunion a success. (The Staff)



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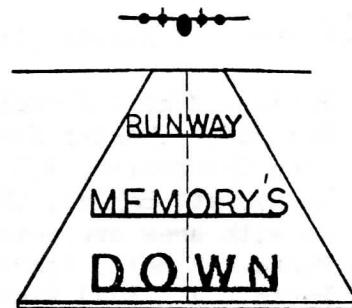
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DOWN MEMORY'S RUNWAY (Opposite Page)

- (1 Photo - MSgt C Konkolewski) 830th Bomb Sqdn Repl Crew. F, L to R: Sgt Charles Dykes, EG; SSgt Chester Konkolewski, RG; Sgt Ray Liebold, BTG; Sgt Leon Wilkins, G; Sgt John Chamberlin, NTG and Sgt Aldo Grandoni, TTG. R, L to R: Lt Francis Newton, P; Lt Everett Bahker, CP; Lt William McColly, N and Lt Osborne, B. (Lt Osborne did not go with crew overseas. (See POW feature for SSgt Konkolewski's story)
- (2 Photo - H Ball) Fearless 485th Warrior ready for combat. (Can you identify him?)
- (3 Photo - R Reeve) Venosa Air Field 1944-45.
- (4 Photo - G Ick) MSgt Lester Cox and Sgt Ben Christ, Crew Chief and Asst Crew Chief of 828th RG, ROUGH DEAL LUCILLE, 42-94791H.
- (5 Photo - D Brinkman) 830th WI, PRINCESS MARIE, 42-52694H and Lt D Brinkman.
- (6 Photo - D Brinkman) 830th WH, BUZZ JOB, 42-52724H. (See 'This Is How It Was' for information on the two 830th Libs.

THIS IS HOW IT WAS (Cont)

"Several days later, one of our men was questioned by an MP about a fire out Venosa way on the 24th. Upon reporting the incident to Group the fire was located in the vicinity of the mountain with the large cross. A rescue crew was sent out to investigate and found the burned bomber. It was determined that the Lib, flying through heavy clouds, hit the mountain and bounced into a ravine and burned. All crew members perished. As the bombs were still unarmed, they did not exploded and later, were removed by the bomb disposal section."

Ralph Johnson, Gp Hq, sent in the following story which it is hoped that it will stir the ol vets memories for more details. "A Liberator, while taking off on a mission, blew a tire. Making a couple of ground loops, the Lib ended up going backwards, coming to rest just short of the communications building. One engine continued to run, even after the pilot switched it off. With a full load of gas and bombs, there was an air of excitement until one of the men climbed up on the wing and shorted out the mags on the engine, finally stopping it. Yup, all in a days work for the ground personnel."

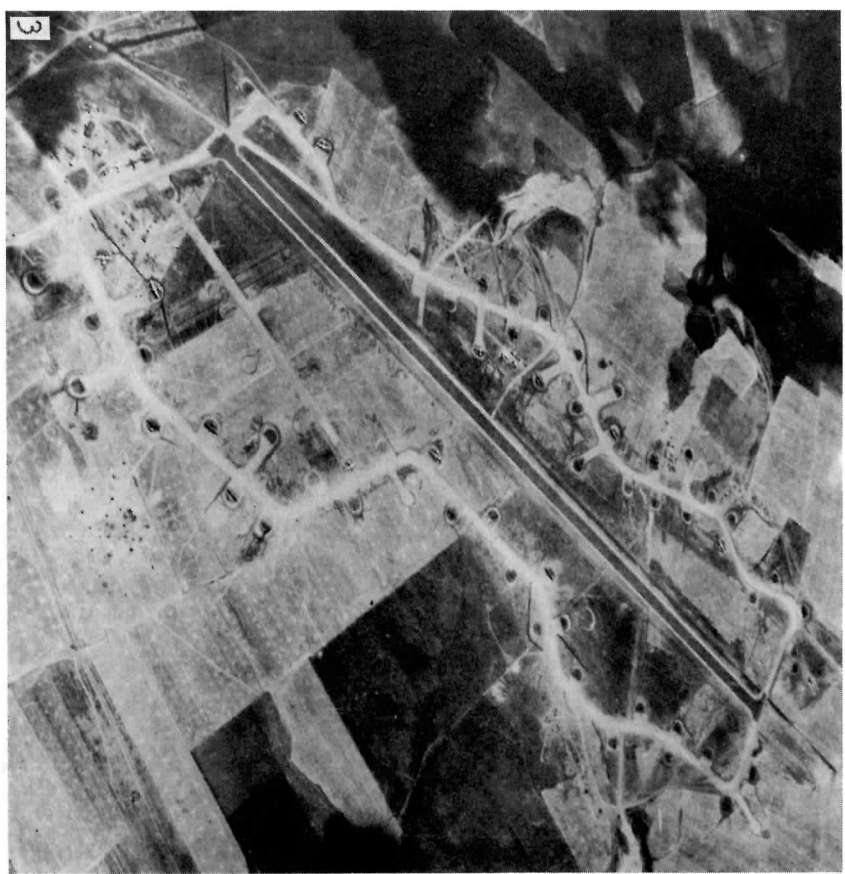
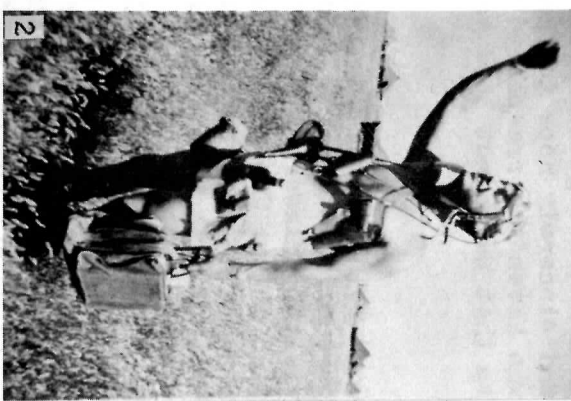
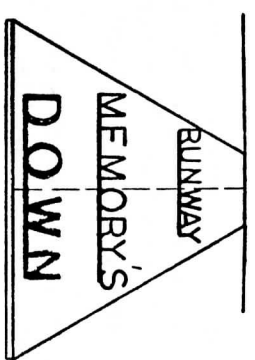
GRAND OLD LIBS - - In the previous issue we told of MSgt Lester York and his Liberator, THE CHARACTER, believed to be the only originally assigned Lib to survive the war. However Del Brinkman provided a list of the Group's Libs which flew the Group's final mission of the war on 25 April 1945 to Linz, Austria which revealed that others survived. 830th WN, 41-29504H assigned to Crew 45, pilot Lt Francis Tunstall. 830th WI, 42-52694H, PRINCESS MARIE, assigned to Crew 53, pilot Lt H Garnett, CC MSgt J Herman. 830th WH, 42-52724H, BUZZ JOB assigned to Crew 41, pilot Lt W Boling.

Another original bomber that survived was LITTLE EMMA, 42-78136G assigned to 829th crew 25, pilot Lt C Duecker. Late in its career, LITTLE EMMA under went modification and became known as the ROME SPECIAL. THE HEAT'S ON, 828th RZ, 42-78474G was the oldest Lib of the 828th. It was crewed by MSgt John Waldeyer and Sgt Bill Schoultz.

On its last mission (25 April 1945) LIFE received major flak damage and landed at Zara, Yugo. where it was left. A notation on Elliot Seagraves' photo of LIFE showed it flew 110 missions. Her crew chief was MSgt Chester Davis. BUZZ JOB landed at Zara, Yugo. on 24 April 1945, with no 3 engine out and was left there for an engine change. Del Brinkman's photo of BUZZ JOB noted it flew over a 100 missions. Charley Onley, C Flight Chief of the 830th, sent word that the mission, 19 March 1945 was the 81st for PRINCESS MARIE, the 80th for BUZZ JOB and the 84th for LIFE. (Would like to hear from crew members who flew these Libs and personnel who crewed them. - ED)

MAIL ROOM

During 1971 seventy-nine names were added to our mailing roster bring the number of vets



MAIL ROOM (Cont)

erans that we are in contact with to 499. Many of these are from the 830th contacted by Lyle Talbott, 830th Reporter, who sent out over 400 letters to the names on a set of orders received from Everett Swann, 830th 1st Sgt. Any orders you may have showing addresses, please forward and we will attempt to make contact.

Many of the 485th veterans have a military status (Retired), which we would like to reflect on your mailing address. If yours does not appear, please advise us of your status. We are grateful for the many letters and Christmas cards received during the year and sincerely hope to hear from you all again in '72, particularly from the veterans who haven't corresponded with us to date. Please keep us posted on any address change so that we do not lose you.

485TH BOMB GROUP HQ

Good to hear from Gen 'Pop' Arnold again from Colorado Springs, CO, who sent along his personal photo album which was viewed by all at the reunion. He noted that on a recent visit to Maxwell AFB, he met Col Ken Muse, Director of Operations, who flew no 2 position on the General's wing, when the General was shot down on 27 Aug 1944. Pop was seriously injured by flak on the mission and will have his story for us in a future issue. Minor Huckleby, Denver, CO sent word that he visited Hans Lai of Gp Hq again.

From Carmel By The Sea, CA, correspondence was received from Hugh Bayless, Gp Sgt Major. Hugh, City Administrator for Carmel made LIFE Magazine on 9 April 71. Apparently, Hugh began to lose patience with the lengthy federal and state questionnaires. So he composed a Response Questionnaire which among other questions, asked the sender if he knows of any Supreme Court decision which requires him to reply and whom can he refer to if the answers to his questionnaire are unsatisfactory. The only response, silence. Hugh sent Dr Roy Peck's address, who is semi-retired, living in Carmel. Roy was the 828th Flight Surgeon and always had the special nerve tonic available for flak happy crews. John Hannah, Sacramento, CA noted that the reunion in Atlantic City was a bit too far to travel and hopes to attend one closer to home. Received an interesting letter from Ralph Johnson, Gp Comm Officer, who now resides in Sun City, AZ. Says his combat radius is about 13 miles - the distance to Phoenix and return. Ralph sent two interesting short stories, one which appears in 'This Is How It Was' feature.

Received a note from Ed Kral. From Miami, FL, Bill Angle wrote expressing his appreciation of the n'letter. Larry Vocino, Clifton, NJ, noted he was off to Italy again and is working on a brief history of Venosa for the n'letter. Squire Bolton, our Red Cross Director, Yucaipa, CA, included a note in his Christmas card stating he hopes to make one of the reunions.

Bob Tipton, 408th Air Eng Sqdn, London, OH, sent a nice letter containing the story of the 830th Lib, WM, which crashed on the air field, 8 Jan 1945, along with photos of the Lib. The story will appear in the next issue. Thank you all for answering the call from Lightweight Tower and we hope to hear from all in '72. (CARL GIGOWSKI)

828TH BOMB SQDN

We are pleased to tell you the '71 reunion in Atlantic City, was a big success and sincerely thank Stanley and Alice Turecki for an outstanding event. 'A job well Done.' It was great to journey to Atlantic City to renew old friendships with ol 828th buddies. I heard a lot of old stories - some new ones too - and for a while, I wondered if I was in the same outfit. This year there were 125 guests for the banquet on Saturday night, exceeding all other reunions. With plenty of sights to take in and shops to visit, the ladies and youngsters had a great time on the Boardwalk, one they shall always remember.

I received correspondence from the following, who could not make the reunion this year:

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

Fred Croushore, Jeannette, PA; Col Calvin Fite, Nashville, TN; George Ick, Lisbon, ND; Irvin Schroeder, Anamosa, IA; Paul Keelin, Santa Fe, NM; Edward Clark, Long Island, NY; Richard Bates, College Park, MD; Fred Buzan, Babylon, NY; Chester Shepherd, Belmont, MA; John Byrne, Findlay, OH; CMSgt Henry Fisher, Denver, CO; Lawrence Hohmann, Springfield, OR; Leonard Rozanski, Cleveland, OH; Bob Kuns, Camden, IN; William Brien, Huntsville, AL; John Waldeyer, Long Island, NY and John Lerch, Bedford, MA, who sent a list of the missions he flew. Received a letter from Alvin Bergeron, Groves, TX and Donald Henselin, Great Falls, MT. They all enjoyed the newsletter.

The '72 reunion should be another excellent reunion. Received word from Houston that the reunion site will be in the middle of Houston's entertainment center with plenty to do for the whole family. I am looking forward to meeting the 828th vets from out that way. Keep sending in the letters and I will try to answer them all. Please keep us posted on any address changes. I sincerely thank all for sending in postage donations for the newsletter. The best to all in '72.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Received a letter from Bob Beamish noting that he enjoyed a copy of the Liberator Club's newsletter 'BRIEFING'.
(BILL SCHOULTZ)

829TH BOMB SQDN

I want to thank Stanley and Alice Turecki for all the work and planning to make a most successful reunion again this year. It was certainly enjoyed by all. We were happy to have six 829th members and their families make the reunion for the first time - Casper Fasano, Ralph Kreyer, Alex Malkoski, Roy Reeve, Joe DeMauro and Ray Carpenter. I had hoped more would make the reunion from the eastern area. Ray Carpenter, Fulton, NY wrote us last summer, inviting us to come see them at reunion time and helped planned our vacation in upper New York. It was a treat to meet his family and have them make the reunion.

I talked with Danny O'Keefe, who was unable to attend the reunion. Conversed with Ebe Reynolds, who sent his regards to all. Ebe had to keep his store open on Saturday and so could not make the reunion. Al O'Brien noted he wanted to attend the reunion but that week-end, his daughter was getting married. Al was on Lt Col Homer Hale's crew - shot down with Homer and also in the same POW camp.

Heard from Hugh White, Anchorage, Alaska, who was disappointed that he could not make the reunion. An attorney, Hugh had court cases scheduled that week. He reminded me of our stormy flight across the Atlantic and the time his crew chief forgot to set the brakes on Lib 782 at Venosa. When no. 3 engine was started, the Lib taxied into the engine crew stand and threw the tool box and tools thru the side of the aircraft.

It was a pleasure to contact Robert T Marland, who is Commissioner of Railroads for the state of Nebraska, in Lincoln. He and his wife are anxious to attend the reunion in Houston and I am looking forward to seeing them again. Stanley Lis, Marlboro, MA, of Capt W G Ferguson's crew sent his regards. They had just bought a new home and could not make the reunion. Glad to get the news of R B Skelton moving to Chicago from Dallas, Texas with Sears Roebuck. Feel sure it's a nice promotion and hope it doesn't keep him from getting back to Texas for the reunion.

Wythe J Napier, Dallas, TX, replied to our reunion notice in the VFW magazine. He has retired from the Air Force as a MSgt. I have received several letters and addresses of our ground crew members from him. We had a long visit when I was in Dallas and he is working to get in touch with new 829th vets. Ray Carpenter found Clarence Moore still lived in Bristol, TN. Clarence has written and is real enthused about attending one of the reunions.

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

Slayton McGehee, Dallas, TX, sent us the address of Joe W Cathcart in Nashville, TN. I called Joe while passing thru Nashville recently, and found him wanting to hear about and see his old friends. Tom Aspinall, Haileah, FL, contacted by Wythe Napier, wrote for news of the 485th. Enjoyed a long letter from Lt Col Hal Cline (Ret), Seligman, AZ, where he is in the real estate business. Hal had many memories of Venosa and had returned there a few years ago and found a B-24 fuselage being used as a chicken coop. I hope to get pictures of Venosa Air Field as it looks today.

I want to thank all the gang for sending a buck along with their letters as it keeps us in postage, supplies to keep expanding our Sqdn contacts. I would like all of you to keep up the good work of finding new members. Encourage all members and their families to join us in Houston in '72 for the wives and youngsters will have a good time as well as the ol vets. We'd like to be noted as having the largest attendance in '72.

(EARL BUNDY)

830TH BOMB SQDN

1971 was a good year for the 830th. We had our largest attendance since the conception of the 485th reunion. John Brabson, Henry Cannon, Dr Frank Caster, Robert Laughin, Ted Lipinski, Charles Onley, and Claude Sheline attended their first reunion along with Willie Best and yours truly. All enjoyed the event, swapping old war stories and seeing former buddies again for the first time in many years. Charles Onley noted the reunion was one of the most rewarding experiences in many a year, as he and his wife enjoyed themselves greatly. Ironically, Bob Laughin had worked and lived in a town only ten miles from my home in the late 40's and neither of us were aware of this until it was mentioned at the reunion.

Many thanks to Everett Swann, 830th 1st Sgt, for providing shipping orders which enable us to contact several veterans. Everett is now retired from the military and is living in N Edwards, CA. Received a nice letter from genial Jake Disston, who states he plays golf with a fellow who lived in Trieste and was injured as a result of one of the 485th raids on the city. Always good to hear from you, Jake. 'Kudos' to George Crabill, Mel-beta, NB, who sent copies of my letter to fellow crew members and supplied current addresses of eight crew members. Francis Tunstall, 830th pilot, an avid reader of the newsletter, is currently living in Cocoa Beach, FL and will attempt to join us in Houston. Francis was the 830th champion poker player. I am sure many of you will remember him. He should know Charles Shackelford, 830th pilot, who also enjoyed the sport. Incidentally, if anyone knows the whereabouts of Shackelford, please notify me as I would like to get in contact with him.

Had a nice chat with Col William Herblin at the reunion. He was the pilot, along with a Col from Wing as co-pilot, 830th Bombardier and Navigator and the enlisted personnel of Crew 52, of which I was the Nose Turret Gunner, that led the Group on its first mission. I believe Robert McLeary, Ball Turret Gunner, made the first combat modification on the B-24. During the mission, the co-pilot used the pilot's relief tube and much to the distress and dislike of Tex, the discharge froze on the windows of the ball turret. Immediately, choice words were heard on the inter-com. After the Lib was parked, Tex stormed up to the flight deck and dismembered the relief tube with his trench knife and remarked, "No --- will ever do that to me again in this ship."

After dinner Saturday night, Dr Frank Caster gave a brief reading of his nostalgic memories of Venosa. At the conclusion, he pulled back the lapel of his jacket and displayed his Good Conduct Medal, which verified what all good 830th veterans knew -- we were the most decorated Sqdn in the Group.

On Dec 2, I visited with Julian Kokenge in Cincinnati and enjoyed exchanging stories of the past and present. First time I've seen Julian since the latter part of '44. He will try to join us at one of our reunions.

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

Received letters from the following who are interested in receiving the n'letter and reunion information. Neil Bentz, Guy Botard, George Hambrick, Delbert Hawkins, Jack Blum, Don Kogos, Lawrence Martin, Christian Nelson, Wedward Pope, Rod Ritchie, Jack Snipes and Harry Wheeler. If any of these names ring a bell and you would like to contact them please write and I will supply the addresses. Space is not available for complete addresses of the above.

All news is not happy as I received word that John Truss died Dec 28, '68 and John 'Bud' Degan passed away March 1966. I'm sure, you who knew these friends will be saddened by this news and may we extend our sympathies to the widow and relatives of these fine men.

Veterans - that's the news for '71 but for one remark - we learned to walk in '71, let's run in '72 to Houston, Texas.

EDITOR'S NOTE - Received a letter from Fred Schneider stating that Elliot Seagraves contacted him, aided by the newsletter. Both were in the 830th from the days at Gowan Air Field. Charley Orley, York, PA sent several photos and information on the old Libs of the Sqdn. His photos will appear in future issues. Everett Swann sent shipping orders and several photos. From Julian Kokenge, I received a photo of LIFE and a decal design which we hope to have produced. Bob McVann, Ashland, KY noted that he enjoys the letter and will be seeing us at one of the reunions. Francis Tunstall, 830th Poker Player sent his best wishes to all and will possibly see him in Houston. Elliot Seagraves sent very informative letters, including the story of the missing B-24 on 24 August 44.

(LYLE TALBOTT)

831ST BOMB SQDN

We certainly enjoyed the reunion in Atlantic City. My wife and I journeyed with the Bob Deeds and their son Roy traveled with my brother Noble and his wife. Noble has visited reunions previously and was in Italy during the same period our Group was there. We made a vacation of our trip, visiting Hershey, PA and Gettysburg, PA enjoying the interesting places on the return trip. I would like to suggest that you all get your vacation plans made so that we can see you in Houston.

We heard from Isadore Silberman, Kansas, MO, who wrote that he had spent time in Atlantic City before going overseas. He noted that he knew Sgt York, crew chief of the CHARACTER in Italy. Sorry he could not make the reunion to renew his memories of Atlantic City. Ed Stauverman sent us names of crew members and we got together on the Boardwalk. Harry McGaw, Bloomsburgh, PA, wrote of a very interesting trip to Germany, where he saw some of the places which were bombed during WWII. He recently retired from service.

Received letters from Rollie Palmer, Cedar Rapids, IA; Lester Sutter, St Louis, MO; Don Hasler, St Louis, MO and E J McCarthy, Modesto, CA who wrote he had also known Sgt York. Had several phone calls from Frank Fliss, Chicago, Ill. Glad to received the new address of Ralph Summers. Thought we had lost you. Our thanks to those of you who contributed to the expense of printing and mailing the newsletter.

We regret losing one of our members on March 1, 1971, Othmar L Young. We enjoyed hearing from him and will miss his letters.

Our next reunion on 26 August, '72 will be in Houston, Texas, hosted by one of our Sqdn members, Dr and Mrs Andre Salazar. I have been in touch with Andy and everything is A-OK for another wonderful reunion. (You aren't planning a little side trip to the moon for us, Andy?)

EDITOR'S NOTE - Robert Barrett sent notes from his WWII diary which provided several pieces of missing information for the history. Corresponded with Leonard Little, exchanging information and will have his story in a future issue. (HOWARD WOODYARD)

FROM THE TOWER OPERATORS

Since the beginning of the 485th Activities which started in 1965, we have continued to progress very favorable each year. We are happy to note that again in 1971, the mailing roster, reunion attendance and newsletter have made marked progress, and we look to '72 for a continuation of this progress. Best of all, your excellent support continues.

Again, we wish to thank Julian Kokenge for designing a decal for our organization, which will be available to you, provided printing costs are not prohibitive. A membership card is in the making, which will identify you as a member of the 485th Bomb Group (H) Alumni. To Del Brinkman and Ed Kral, a sincere thank you for their kind offer of special assistance, which we will call upon in the future.

Work is continuing on several interesting stories for future issues. As always, we welcome your suggestions for improvement.

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

Published annually by and for the veterans of the 485th Bomb GP (H)

Editor: Carl P Gigowski
344 Eola St SE
Grand Rapids, Mich 49507

Ass't Editor & 828th Reporter:
William H Schoultz
532 Park Ave
Newton Falls, Ohio 44444

829th Reporter:
Earl L Bundy
5773 Middlefield Drive
Columbus, Ohio 43220

830th Reporter:
Lyle Talbott
310 Mohican Drive
Crooksville, Ohio 43731

831st Reporter:
Howard P Woodyard
3539 Butternut Drive
Lambertville, Mich 48144

Contributing Editor:
Robert S Deeds
4643 286th St
Toledo, Ohio 43611

JOURNEYS END

Members Deceased Since The End Of WWII			
BARRETT, Sam	830		
BARQUIST, Ernie	828	1967	
BLACKWELL, Earl	828	1959	
BOYER, Henry	828	1964	
BRODRICK, GeraldA	828	1968	
CHAPMAN, Russel	828		
COREY, Russel	828		
DEGAN, John	830	1966	
DI MATTEO, Gene	828	1969	
ENTWHISTLE, Jack	828	1959	
GIBSON, Richard O	828	1962	
GILLESPIE, Kenneth	GpHQ		
GRASS, Alfred W	828		
HARRISON, Wallace	GpHQ	1945	
JENSEN, Willard	828	1962	
JOHNSON, Ralph	829	1966	
KETCHAM, Frank D	828	1968	
LISH, Gilbert	829	1968	
OBERLE, Robert	828	1970	
O'DELL, Rex	828	1948	
PRATZ, William S	GpHQ		
REUTER, Clarence W	GpHQ		
ROE, John	GpHQ		
SHINDLEDECKER, Freeman	828	1965	
SOLLINGER, Edward	828	1968	
STAGMAN, Orlie M	831		
TANNER, William	829	1971	
THOMAS, Homer	831		
THOMPSON, Harold V	831	1971	
TRUSS, John	830	1968	
WILLIAMS, Garland O	829	1965	
YOUNG, Othmar L	831	1971	

If you recall any incidents, humorous or adventurous, please send them in. Our sincere thanks for your continued support and our best wishes for 72.

GROUP HISTORY PROJECT

Work is continuing on the text of the Group history, but somewhat behind schedule. New material continues to arrive and is being added to the text. Many excellent photos are on hand, which require identification. As work continues, several of you will be contacted for assistance in identification.

Again, I am most grateful to the following contributors: Everett Swann, Bob Tipton, Elliot Seagraves, Robert Barrett, Gen 'Pop' Arnold, Charley Onley, Early Bundy, Alex Malkowski, Larry Vieth and John Lerch. The reproduction of the material is almost completed and will be returned shortly.

More personal experiences are desired, particularly on the missions to Ploesti and to Munich on 9 June '44 when the Group lost 5 crews. Photos and other material can always be used for the n'letter.