



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



NO.7

DEC 1972

MISSION NO 8: HOUSTON, TEXAS

The eight annual reunion of the 485th Bomb Group was held at the Astro-World hotel, Houston, Texas during the week-end of August 25 - 27, 1972. Mr and Mrs Andre Salazar (831) hosted the occasion, providing another memorable experience in the adventures of the 485th veterans.

Many of the veterans, arriving on Thursday, visited the numerous interesting sights of Houston. Your reporter arrived in Houston around six o'clock Friday evening and found the action well underway as most of the veterans had arrived then. An abundant supply of refreshments was available in the Hospitality Room as ol buddies and comrades heartily greeted each other, signaling the beginning of another great gathering of the gray-ing eagles.

Bill Schoultz conducted the business meeting Saturday morning which started late due to the potent (?) ice used in the cocktails. Several topics were discussed and are noted briefly: The newsletter - higher cost of printing and mailing - which is reflected by an increase in our request for donations. The reunion date - moved up to the first week end of August so that more could attend for it was noted that many schools were in session by the lateral part of August. (Cont Page 2)

PRISONER OF WAR

SSgt Leonard Little, tail turret gunner on Lt James Mulligan's crew, 831st Bomb Sqdn, was shot down and captured by the Germans on August 24, 1944 near the target area of Pardubice, Czechoslovakia exactly one month after joining the 831st. Last fall, Leonard and his wife Grace traveled Europe which included a tour of Czechoslovakia. With the kind assistance of Jauraj Rejnec, Czechoslovakian Aviation Historian, they returned to the site where Leonard's adventure began after bailing out of the disabled Liberator, FLAK SHAK III. Here is Leonard's interesting account of the memorable journey into the past - 28 years ago.

----- On September 12th we left Tampa by jet, arriving in Vienna, Austria on the 13th. Here we rented a Volkswagon and spent the next four weeks touring Czechoslovakia, East and West Germany, and Austria before returning to Vienna for our flight home. The first ten days were spent visiting places pertinent to our Pardubice mission and various places I had been held prisoner. It was a real adventure.

Early Thursday morning, the 14th, we drove down the Danube River from Vienna to the Czechoslovakian frontier near Bratislava. Even though we had our passports and Czech. visas in order
(Cont Page 4)

73 REUNION GOES EAST

The 485th Bomb Group (H) Ninth Annual Reunion will be held August 3 - 5, 1973 in Rochester, New York. Mark this date for another great adventure - hosted by Mr and Mrs William Best, 30 White Oak Drive, Rochester, New York 14616. Tentatively, the 1974 reunion will be in York, Nebraska and the 1975 reunion in Denver, Colo. Complete info to be sent in the near future.

1972 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) 828TH VETERANS - F, L to R: Edmond Manning, Jim McFadden, Clarence Eden, Bill Schoultz and I. Parker. M, L to R: Robert Deeds, Roger Jones, Ben Christ, Jesse Akin, Stanley Turecki and Alvin Bergeron. R, L to R: Clarence Hartman, George Ick and Buck Pickle.
- (2) 829TH VETERANS - F, L to R: Bernard Rempe, Marvin Lindsay, Lt Col Homer Hale and Don Wallach. R, L to R: Kearney Weyand, Charlie Duecker, Al Peschka, Milton Fundling and Wythe Napier.
- (3) 830TH VETERANS - F, L to R: Eugene Tolle, Lyle Talbott, Del Hawkins, Claude Shelton and George Hambrick. M. L to R: Rod Ritchie, Willie Best, Jack Blum, Francis Tunstall and Louis Wolf. R, L to R: Col Ken Muse, USAF, Hollis Porter and Jesse Wood.
- (4) 831ST VETERANS - F, L to R: Andre Salazar and Harold Dundon. R, L to R: Lester Sutter, Victor Bone, Woody Woodyard and Paul Werner.

MISSION NO 8 (Cont)

Robert Marland suggested York, Nebraska for the 1974 reunion with Mr and Mrs Charles Duecker as Host and Hostess and Bob Marland, Co-host. As a note of interest, it will be thirty years since the 485th organized and trained for combat at Fairmont Army Air Field near York. The Colorado area was selected for the '75 reunion with Minor Huckleby, Henry Fischer and Rod Ritchie directing the event. With an increase in the reunion registration fee agreed upon, the meeting was concluded with a coffee break.

Several of the guests went on tour of the Astrodome and other places of interest during the afternoon. While others went shopping, some returned to the Hospitality Room to greet late arrivals.

In the evening a buffet dinner was attended by the veterans and their families - in all eighty-nine. Bob Deeds MC'd the activities following the dinner which included the introduction of the veterans and their families and a most enjoyable speech by Louis Wolf with a moment of silence for our departed buddies of the 485th. After photographing the graying eagles it was a continuation of the fraternal posture in the Hospitality Room - visiting and reliving some of the adventures in Italy while reviewing the many photos brought to the reunion.

A short meeting Sunday morning concluded the reunion with a review of the business meeting accomplishments, financial report and payment of expenses. With a hearty 'Arrive - merci' until next reunion, it was the beginning of sentimental journey home by auto and jetliner while a few remained to see more of Houston.

Forty-seven veterans and their families attended the reunion of the 485th Alumni. Group Headquarters was represented by Col Minor Huckleby, Denver, Colorado; Mr Harry Lacky, Athens, Ohio and Mr and Mrs Robert Marland of Lincoln, Nebraska.

The 828th had the largest attendance with the following: Mr and Mrs Jesse Akin, Houston, Texas; Mr and Mrs Alvin Bergeron, Groves, Texas; Mr Fred Buzan, Babylon, New York; Mr Ben Christ and Guest, 'Doc' La Roach, Lockport, New York; Mr and Mrs Robert Deeds, Toledo, Ohio; Mr Clarence Eden, Breckenridge, Texas; Mr and Mrs Clarence Hartman, Houston, Texas; Mr George Ick, Lisbon, N. Dakota; Mr and Mrs Edmond Manning, Springboro, Ohio; Mr and Mrs James McFadden and guests Mr and Mrs James Diem, Philadelphia, Pa; Mr I. A. Parker, Minneapolis, Minn; Mr and Mrs Buck Pickle, Jasper, Texas; Mr Roger Jones, Athens, Ohio; Mr and Mrs Stanley Turecki, Passaic, New Jersey and Mr and Mrs William Schoultz, Newton Falls, Ohio.

From the 829th were: Mr and Mrs Charles Duecker, Lincoln, Nebraska; Mr and Mrs Milton Fundling, Texas City, Texas; LC and Mrs Homer Hale, Athens, Georgia; Mr and Mrs Marvin Lindsay, El Dorado, Kansas; Mr Wythe Napier, Dallas, Texas; Mr and Mrs Al Peschka,



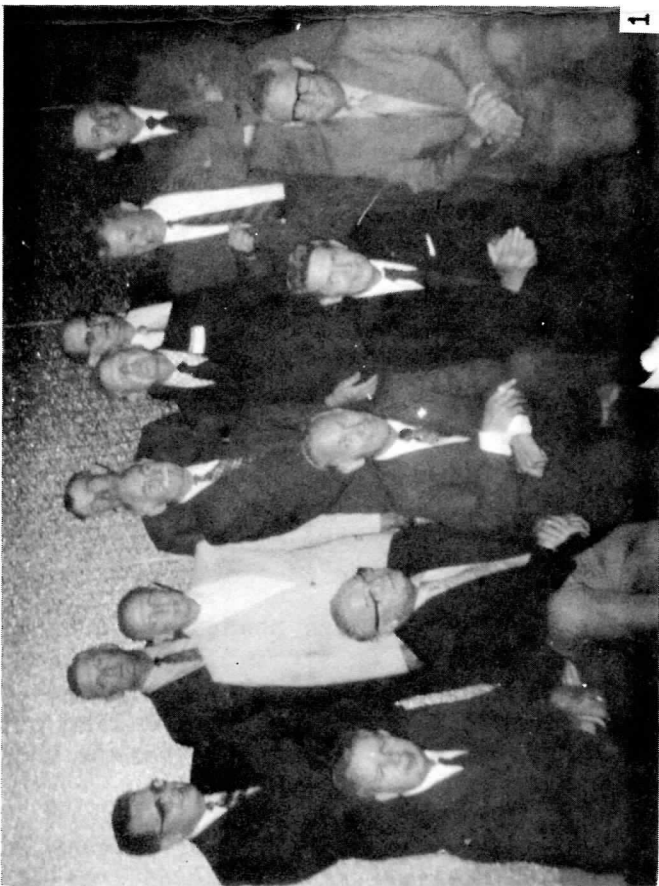
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1972 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) Bill Schoultz conducting the business meeting, assisted by Leona Schoultz, Woody Woodyard, Cowboy Best and Mrs William Best.
- (2) L to R: Bill Schoultz, Ben Christ, Clarence Hartman, Jesse Akin, George Ick and Stanley Turecki - 828th.
- (3) L to R: Wythe Napier, Milton Fundling and Al Peschka - 829th.
- (4) Host and Hostess - Dr Andre and Henrietta Salazar.
- (5) L to R: Eugene Tolle, Willie Best and Rod Ritchie - 830th.
- (6) Col Minor Huckleby and Harry Lackey - Gp Hq.
- (7) Astro-dome, Houston, Texas.

MISSION NO 8 (Cont)

Austin, Texas; Mr and Mrs Bernard Rempe, Oklahoma City, Okla; Mr and Mrs Don Wallach, Midwest City, Okla and Mr and Mrs Kearney Weyand, Round Top, Texas.

The 830th was represented by a growing attendance of Mr and Mrs William Best, Rochester, New York; Mr Jack Blum, Atlanta, Georgia; Mr and Mrs George Hambrick, Houston, Texas; Mr and Mrs Delbert R Hawkins, Winifield, Kansas; Col Kinnard H Muse, Maxwell AFB, Ala; Mr and Mrs Hollis H Porter, Orlando, Florida; Mr Rod Ritchie, Minturn, Colo; Mr Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, Ohio; Mr Eugene Tolle, Abilene, Texas; Mr and Mrs Francis Tunstall, Coca Beach, Fla; Mr Louis Wolf, Sheldon, Ia; Mr and Mrs Claude Sheline, Monaca, Pa and Mr Jesse Wood, Glassboro, New Jersey.

The 831st veterans attending were Mr Victor Bone, Chicago, Ill; Mr and Mrs Harold Dundon, New Holland, Ohio; Dr and Mrs Andre Salazar, Houston, Texas; Mr and Mrs Lester Sutter, St Louis, Mo; Mr and Mrs Paul G Werner, Houston, Texas and Mr and Mrs Howard P Woodyard, Lambertville, Michigan.

****ROBERT DEEDS****

---- Indeed, we are most grateful to Andre and Henri Salazar for providing another memorable reunion of the 485th veterans. All extend a most sincere thank you for a grand experience in the ASTRO-WORLD. We are anxious to see all of you again in 1973 at Rochester, New York. As the reunion returns west for the following two years we do hope to meet the many veterans down east - those whom we met in the past and those who have never attended a reunion - during the week-end of August 4th in Rochester. Again, the staff sends a cordial thank you for making another successful reunion.

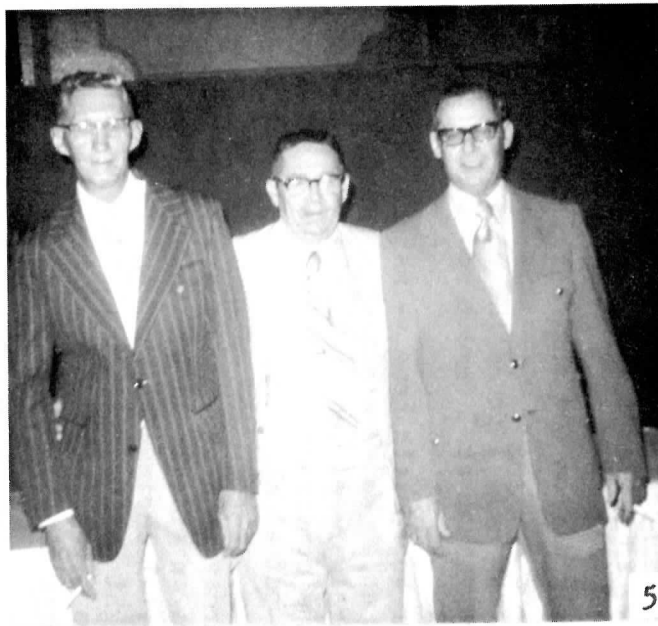
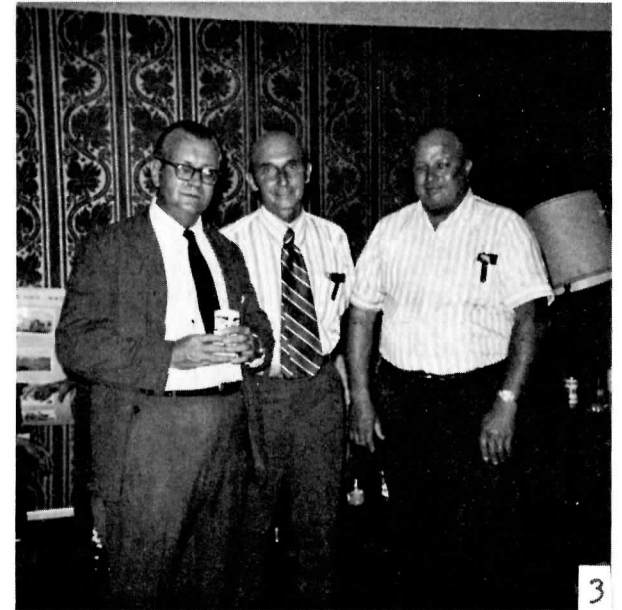
PRISONER OF WAR (Cont)

it took over an hour to fill out forms, purchase Czech money, and pass the automobile and luggage inspection.

We arrived in Terncin in the early afternoon and met Juraj at the "Laugaricio Hotel" where he had made reservations for us. Juraj's brother joined us later and the four of us drove to Juraj's home where we met his wife and two teenage sons. A very pleasant evening was spent talking and looking at his collection of pictures, Liberator parts, and the collection of material for his book. The article, "Target Pardubice", is completed and has been sent to the American Aviation Historical Society for publication.

Friday morning Juraj, Grace and I mounted our mighty Volkswagon and headed for southern Bohemia some one hundred sixty miles from Slovakia. Enroute, we stopped at a war memorial in the town of Studena that listed their war dead of both World Wars. There was a large bronze plaque in the middle depicting a falling B-24 with the crew bailing out. Juraj told us that a Liberator had crashed at this spot, destroying the buildings there and it was subsequently made into a memorial park.

At the next town, Strmilov, we visited the cemetery where nine members of Captain Damos' crew were buried. This was the 464th Group's Liberator that exploded, killing



DOWN MEMORY'S RUNWAY (Opposite Page)

- (1 Photo - A Malkoski) 485th Lib a few seconds from "Mission Completed".
- (2 Photo - D Anderson) Capt Robert V Griffin, 1st CO of the 830th Bomb Sqdn.
- (3 Photo - H Hazen) Sgt Mike Friedman, 828th Ordnance Section.
- (4 Photo - R Reeve) 829th Bomb Sqdn Repl Crew. F, L to R: 2Lt James P Cahen III, N, (KIA); 1Lt Arthur Karns, P; 1Lt Sidney W Connellee, B. R, L to R: SSgt Lewis B Matthews, NTG, (MIA); TSgt James W Dixon, E, (MIA); SSgt Walter Fergus, TTG, (POW) and SSgt John Mas, RO. Not in photo - 2Lt Bill Pahlman, CP.
- (5 Photo - J Tabellion) Sgt Wm "Willie" Best, 830th Ordnance Section.
- (6 Photo - Squire Bolton) Capt Edward Kral, Gp Pers Eqpt Officer; Lt Ralph J Wakefield Gp Elec Officer; Squire Bolton, Red Cross Director and CWO John M Hannan, Gp Tech Inspector.
- (7 Photo - H Ball) 485th Warriors in the heat of c----- a hot foot?

PRISONER OF WAR (Cont)

everyone except the pilot, Captain Damore, who escaped with minor injuries. A thorough search failed to reveal the graves. Juraj did some investigating several weeks after we were there and discovered that the bodies had been exhumed by the American Military Mission on August 21, 1946 and returned to the United States.

It was late afternoon and the weather had turned cold and cloudy when we arrived at the farm village of Lomy. Juraj stopped two men to ask about the location of the crash site of FLAK SHAK III. They led us up a hill on the edge of the village where there was a depression in the side of the slope. One of the men picked up an object that appeared to be a large muddy piece of limestone rock. When wiped clean it proved to be a glob of melted aluminum with some recognizable steel bolts and Dzus fasteners embedded in it. We had to leave but Juraj told the men we would return the following day to dig up some fragments.

We found a hotel in Jindrichuv Hradec (this town was named Neuhaus by the Germans during their occupation of Czechoslovakia) that had a restaurant. During dinner Juraj called Dr Vosejпка at the local hospital. The doctor said that we would meet him at the hospital and then spend the night in his home or chateau in the forest.

Dr Vosejпка had the hospital ledger from 1944 opened to August 24th where my name and details of my operation were recorded. He also had his diary describing the air combat over the hospital and the bringing in of the wounded. Juraj translated this for us and later, in spite of the poor lighting I was able to photograph the ledger and diary.

We walked from the office building to the hospital where the doctor took me into the operating room. The operating table used for me 28 years ago was still in use for surgery. Down the hall I found the room, I had spent the three days following my operation, to be very much as I remembered it.

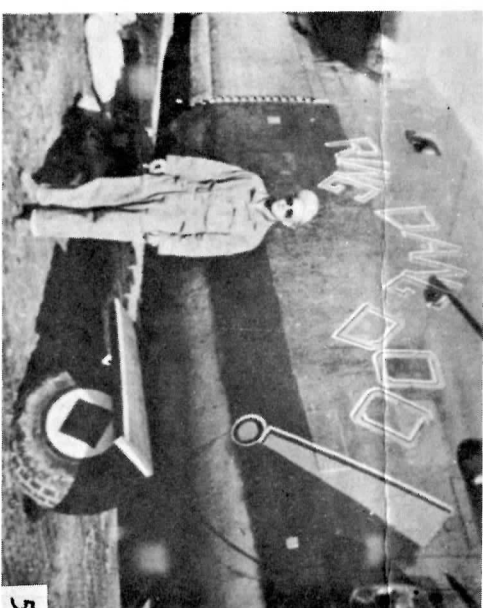
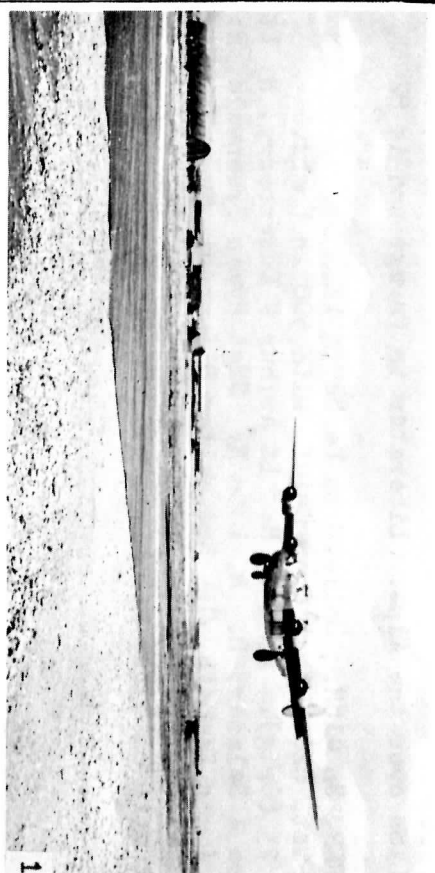
At Dr Vosejпка's home we met his wife and youngest son who came over to his father's to meet us. We were seated around the dining table where good Czechoslovakian food and drinks were served until the wee hours of the next morning. Juraj had to translate all of the conversation, since he was the only one we visited that spoke English, not only here but at all other places he took us.

Saturday we awoke to a dark rainy day. After breakfast we returned to the hospital where an elderly lady came up to the doctor's office to see me. She had worked at the hospital during the war and remembered when the German officer, Major Karl Nowak had brought me in. After photographing the hospital, we drove to another part of the town where I was in the German training compound. The rain was coming down hard and it was so dark that I could not get photographs at the compound.

After leaving Dr Vosejпка at his son's home we returned to Lomy to get fragments of our



RUNWAY
MEMORY'S
DOWN



DOWN MEMORY'S RUNWAY (Opposite Page)

- (1 Photo - Gen W Arnold) 485th Libs over the Alps. Liberator in foreground is 829th YO, Sn 42-50422J.
- (2 Photo - F Coltrin) GOL WALLOPER, Sn 418H. Believe to be 829th YF.
- (3 Photo - B Christ) Sgt Ben Christ, 828th Asst Crew Chief, with 500 lb bombs.
- (4 Photo - R Heskes) 831st Crew 75 (Orig). F, L to R: Lt Arthur V Dusenberry, N; Lt Edwin A Sibila, P and Lt Andre A Salazar, B. R, L to R: SSgt Hyman Greenwald, R; Sgt Louis Schoenman, G; Sgt James Lambeth, G; Sgt Walter S Iwanski, E; Sgt Roy L Bulls, G and Sgt Raymond J Heskes, G. Not in photo - Lt Louis H Grau, CP.
- (5 Photo - A Malkoski) Artist at work on 831st Lib 42-78149G, DOUBLE TROUBLE. Can you identify the artist?

PRISONER OF WAR (Cont)

B-24. A number of the village men were gathered at their social center in the town square, drinking beer while waiting for us. Two of the men went out in the cold rain to dig in the side of the hill for plane parts. They wouldn't hear of me going out to help dig and insisted that we stay and drink with them. Later, we went up to the crash site and selected a few pieces that we would be able to bring back to the States in our luggage.

We had planned to drive up to Pardubice Saturday afternoon, but the weather delayed us too long in Lomy. So we returned to Jindrichew Hradec (Neuhaus) to spend the night. After dinner Juraj and I left my wife at the hotel and drove out in the drak rainy night to Lake Krvavy (Lake of Blood). Juraj insisted that I try to locate the place where I landed in my chute and was captured. We followed a rough clay and rock road over half way around the lake until it ended at a farm house. The farmer and his dogs got pretty excited about our appearance. Juraj talked to him but the man had not been there during the war and didn't know where the American fliers had landed at the lake. Even in daylight I probably couldn't have found the place since the forest around the lake had changed so much.

Sunday morning, the weather improved and we drove north to Pardubice. Jaruj took us to the house of Mr Bicik where we had our noon meal. Mr Bicik was a member of the Pardubice Fire Department during the war and fought the oil refinery fire after our air raid. During the meal I looked thru his album of pictures and newspaper articles about the Pardubice mission. He gave several pictures of bomb and fire damage to the city.

After lunch we walked through the historic section of old Pardubice and to the castle which now is the city museum. One of the displays in the museum is an unexploded 500 pound bomb that was dropped on August 24, 1944. It was recovered in the area where the 485th Group hit.

After leaving the museum, Juraj and Mr Bicik rode with us pointing out the area of the air raid. We stopped at the entrance to the oil refinery where we sadly said farewell to a fine friend, Juraj Rajnynec. Juraj returned to Trencin by train and we continued on to Prague to continue a never to be forgotten adventure which exceeded our greatest expectations. The friendliness and hospitality of the Europeans, especially Juraj Rajnynec, was most gratifying. -----

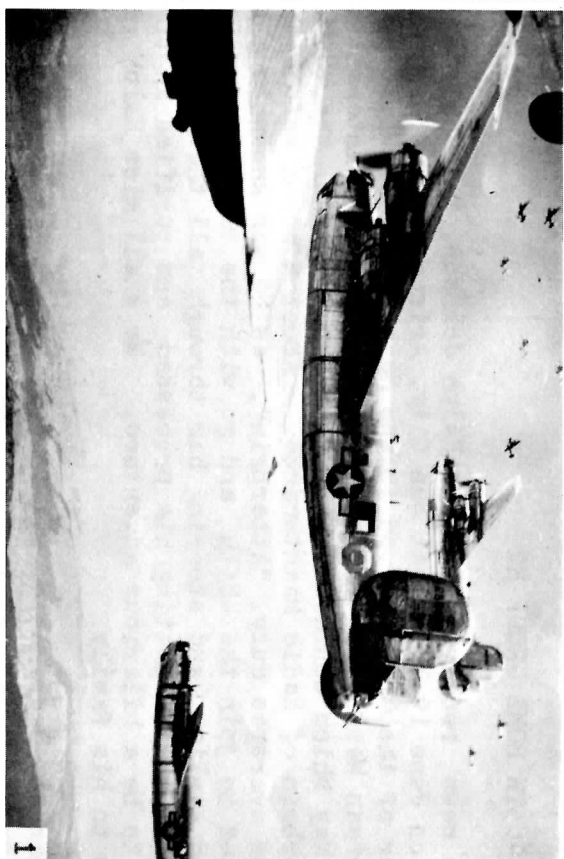
LEONARD LITTLE

MAIL ROOM

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? As in the past our mailing roste grew in '72 and now contains 520 PLEASE LET US KNOW veterans. But unfortunately, we lost several for they failed to keep us posted on their neww address. Additional publications have been located which carry reunion announcements thru which we hope to make new contacts.

We are grateful for the many letters and Christmas cards received and know we will hear from you all again in '73.

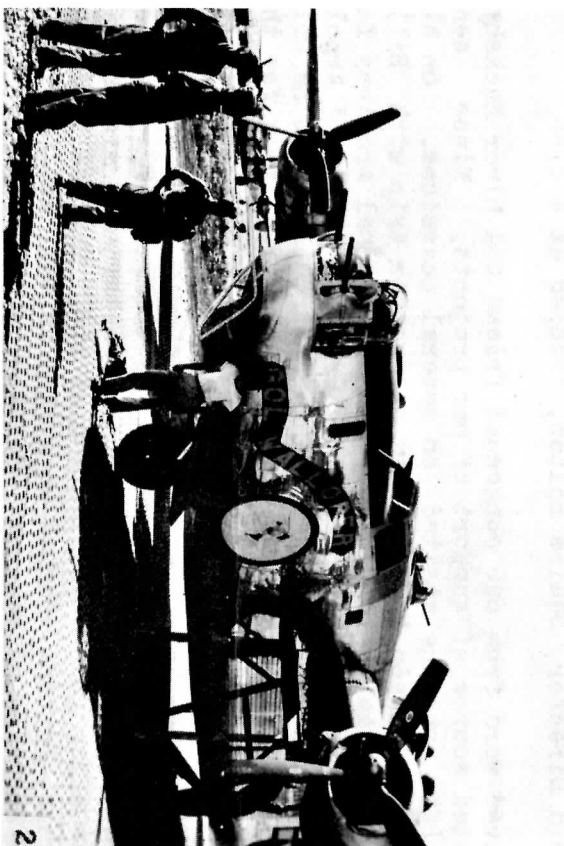
RUNWAY
MEMORY'S
DOWN



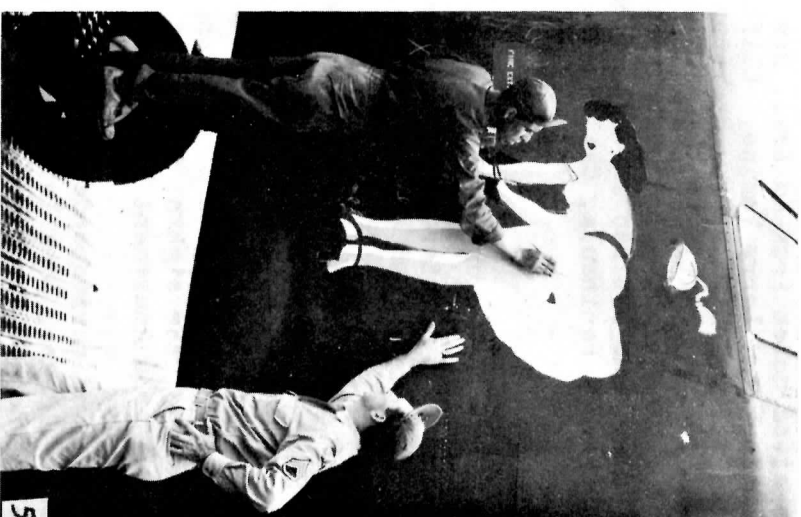
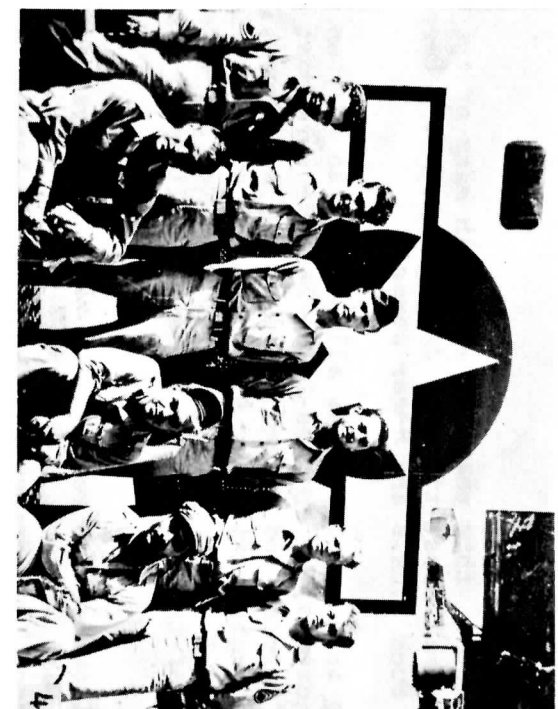
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485TH BOMB GROUP HQ



We were saddened by the news received from Mrs Ralph Johnson, that Col Ralph Johnson passed away on June 19, 1972 at Sun City, Arizona. Ralph, Group Communications Officer of the 485th served in the Mexican border wars, both World Wars and the Korean War before retiring. Received another interesting letter from Ralph in May which contained another unusual yarn of the 485th, concerning a Sgt Atterbrin of Radio Maintenance. About a month before the Group was to leave for overseas duty, "Atterbrin", as he was known to all, was about to be drafted and wanted to join the 485th and go with the Group overseas. The process of getting him drafted earlier and steering him through all the entanglements until he finally reached the Group; getting him processed and purified in time to go with the Group, turned out to be a hilarious adventure. We shall miss Ralph and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.

Received a note from Major John Hannan, Sacramento, California expressing a thoughtful theme - We are getting older as our memories get longer. Col Merlin Baker, San Jose, California noted his enjoyment of the newsletter along with a change of address. And our good friend, the Red Cross Field Director, Squire Bolton, dropped us a line.

From out of the wild west we received word from our congenial friend Col Minor Huckleby, Denver, Colorado, who is a dedicated source of support of our projects. Minor sent several photos received from Hans Lai, whom he visited on several occasions. On his many travels, Minor visited with Ralph Johnson in March and on another trip with Bill Wulf. Minor indicated that he is really going to dig deep in his personal archives for more stories of the 485th. Received a nice note from our good Group CO Gen 'POP' Arnold, Colorado Springs, Colorado, who continues a busy career in his retirement. Says he will make one of our reunions. We sure are anxious to see him again, particularly for the '74 reunion at the home of the 485th, York, Nebraska.

Received notes from Ed Kral, New Hyde Park, New York; Ralph Wakefield, West Stockholm, New York and Larry Vocino, Clifton, New Jersey. All expressed their enjoyment of our newsletter. Roy Reeves, Sperryville, Virginia noted that on his Pathfinder missions at the reunion in Atlantic City he was using 220 octane instead of 110. Hmm, no wonder he was flying high. Mel Goodson, Phoenix, Arizona dropped us a line as well as Col William Bradley, who retired in July after 25 years of service. Col Bradley now resides in Palos Verdes Peninsula, California. ****CARL GIGOWSKI****

828TH BOMB SQDN



It was great to fly to Houston this year and meet with many of the 828th veterans. There were several first timers - Jesse Akin, Alvin Bergeron, Fred Buzan, I.A. Parker, Buck Pickle and Roger Jones.

Everyone had a good time in Houston and we all wanted to stay on a few more days. The host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Andre Salazar were just great. We arrived on Thursday afternoon and stayed until Monday afternoon. There was always something to do at the Astrodome - with the Astrodome, the Astroworld and the many other sights of Houston, to many to write about. Your reporter and wife took in many of the sights, including a tour of the Astrodome and a baseball game, and the Astro-World Amusement Park.

I received correspondence from the following this year: I.A. Parker, Wayzata, Minn; John Waldeyer, Long Island, New York; Carl Gigowski, Grand Rapids, Mich; Nicholas Montulli, Rochester, New York; J.N. MacKinnon, San Francisco, Calif; Roger Monroe, Irvine, Calif; Bob Kuns, Camden, Ind; Ambrose Borgetti, Whitting, Ind; Matthew Gadd, Covington,

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

ton, Kentucky; Sherrill Burba, Onley, Texas; Lawrence Hohmann, Springfield, Ore; Ben Christ, Lockport, New York; John Wheeler, Georgetown, Ind; Ed Clark, Sands Point, New York; Chester Popkowski, West Lynn, Mass; Robert Deeds, Toledo, Ohio; Joseph Gill, Columbus, Ohio; Roy Reiten, Granite Falls, Minn; William Copeland, Huntersville, N. Carolina; Ed Manning, Springboro, Ohio; Mart Van Kirk, Phelps, New York; Fred Buzan, Babylon, New York; Jess Akin, Houston, Texas; Clarence Hartman, Houston, Texas; George Ick, Lisbon, N. Dakota; Ray Thaler, Ridgefield, New Jersey; Gilbert Bell, West Branch, Michigan; Ed Nett, Dayton, Ohio; William Brien, Huntsville, Ala; Charles Morgan, San Francisco, Calif; Karl Anderson, Carrollton, Ohio and from the 828th 1st Sgt, Bailey F Jenkins, Northport, Ala.

If you desire a list of the 828th veterans I have, please let me know and I will try to oblige. Received a letter from Don Hasler, St Louis, Mo in Apr with the usual monetary support and his plans to attend the reunion in Houston. Was very shocked to hear from his wife in June that Don passed away suddenly May 20 of a heart attack. He was one of our regular reunion participants and we shall certainly miss him. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

Mail was returned to us from the following: Col Lloyd Proudlove, APO, New York; Robert V Hansen, St Petersburg Beach, Fla; Aristotle Vayianas, Irvington, New Jersey; Robert Halling, Osseo, Minn; Martin Caine, New York, New York; Vincent Petrella, Cambridge, Mass; Theodore Jacobs, Arlington, Virginia and Hugo Cross, Westport, Conn. If you know the current address of any of these, please send it in. ****BILL SCHOULTZ****

829TH BOMB SQDN



I am more enthused each year as we get in touch with more of our long lost friends. We made a lot of new contacts since the summer of 1971. I was unable to make it to Houston but all the gang were working to make it a grand reunion. I'll have to work twice as hard next year to make up for not being there.

One of our new contacts this year was Al Peschka, our Supply Sgt. It was a treat to hear from him and he sent in addresses of five new members. Several made it to Houston. I heard from Bob Marland, 829th CO, and am happy he is working hard for the 829th. He obtained the invitation for us to come to York, Nebraska for our '74 reunion. He had been ill but at the last minute flew down for the reunion in Houston.

I received a letter from Fred Heaton and his wife. They were unhappy they could not make the reunion. Someone quit work the week before they were leaving, so they could not attend. I'm hoping they make it next year as Fred retires from Delco after 38 years next July 31st. Had a line from Al O'Briens who are looking forward to another reunion and sent a buck for the newsletter.

Contacted Eugene H Schlais, our 829th Supply Officer, this past year. I was very sorry to get a reply from his wife that he had passed away this past spring. They have three children - all married. Mrs Schlais sent many pictures and Squadron records which I'm sure will be helpful to Carl in completing the Group history.

In a letter from Wythe Napier, I was sorry to hear Tony Mastrangelo was sick at reunion time and couldn't attend. See you next year, Tony. Wythe also noted that another 829th veteran, Mr Grubbs from Arkansas, had passed away this year.

I sent your editor, the invitation that Bob Marland received for the 485th, to have its 1974 reunion in York, Nebraska. It was sent to Houston but got lost in the Astro-World

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

mail room for a month before coming back to me. Hope Carl will print a little of it. The York Chamber of Commerce seemed proud and happy to invite us there. 1974 will be our 30th anniversary since the 485th was formed there.

Had a newsy letter from Ray Carpenter, catching me up on all the fishing and hunting news around Fulton, New York. He and his family surprised us by stopping in at our home this fall. Happy to get a line from Glen Nesbitt after all these years. He's working for General Telephone at Rocahontas, Arkansas now.

Had a long letter from Attorney Hugh White of Anchorage, Alaska. Real disappointed because he could not make the reunion. He would like to host the reunion in Anchorage some year if we could come up. He says its only three hours flying time and \$100.00 one way from Seattle. He would like to show us how to pan for gold.

I want to thank all of our gang for their letters and hope you all enjoy the news as much as I do. Received \$22.00 in donations this year so keep the dollars coming along with more new addresses. See you in Rochester, New York next year. ****EARL BUNDY****

TALES FROM TALBOTT'S 830TH MAIL BAG



I'm happy to report an increase of letters in 1972, and it's very rewarding to hear from former Squadron veterans, and learn what they are doing. I believe the 830th has the distinction of having the only member of the 485th on active duty, Col Kinnard Muse. Col Muse, who piloted the first replacement crew in the 830th, is on active flying status and is stationed at Maxwell AFB, Alabama. He flew a T-3 to Houston and joined us at the reunion.

Col Richard Griffin reports he has sold his cattle ranch and is now living in Ogden, Utah. Good luck and much happiness in your present venture in life. After many communications, I finally met Mr and Mrs Delbert Hawkins and Rod Ritchie. Rod is a good man to have around - very capable of assisting distressed souls to their room when the spirits take over. Thanks Rod. Jesse Wood who played clarinet and sax in the Venosa Dance Band, is still puffing away in "Bonsal Blues", his legion military band.

Pete Porter, on three days notice, made it to Houston. I learned his wife was formerly from a town three miles from where I live. Thus, we had much to talk about as we work for the same corporation. Cecil Densmore reported he was shot down July 20, 1944 and would provide photos of the POW camp. Hope to see you at a reunion as I believe I flew a few missions with your crew. Paul Charlton, 830th cook, has 25 years with Lees Carpet. I don't know if his background of making "hot Cakes" is related to his success with Lees or not. How about that, Paul? Thanks for the photos.

After a two year absence, Louis Wolf, 830th Humorist, appeared in Houston, adding his unique wit to the party. Always good to have you around Louie. Bob Esarey mailed some items for the history and newsletter. Charles Fournier, gunner on Lt Tompkins crew, is now manager of a tool and die shop in North Miami, Florida. Hope you can make it to Rochester and thanks for the photos. Life has it's sad moments and one of our good friends will think 1972 was not a good year. Charles Onley was subjected to the flooding in Pennsylvania, loosing his home and possessions. Later he was involved in an auto accident and severely injured, requiring many months for recovery. Lets all send Charlie a card or letter to his new address - 1700 C Devers Road, York, PA 17404 - and let him know we are thinking of him and help cheer him during his recovery. Yes, it could happen to anyone of us.

Space will not permit me to go into details of our member's families, but I can proudly

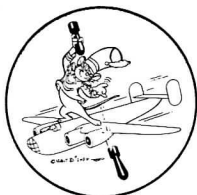
MAIL ROOM (Cont)

say, "Our people seem to be doing well for themselves and have very nice and successful Children."

Thanks to Mr and Mrs Andre Salazar for making the 1972 reunion a happy friendly affair. And now, 1973 - Mr and Mrs William Best will be our hosts in Rochester. Willie says he is going to live up to his name and make it the 'Best Reunion' yet. I would say that is quite a challenge. But knowing Bill, he will do his darn'dest to live up to that statement. Lets make our plans now and help Willie.

Thanks to all who donated to the Newsletter Fund. The old shoestring is getting mighty worn and now we maybe able to replace it. Now to borrow a phrase from old Dino, "Keep those cards and letters coming." I hope to see you in Rochester. **LYLE TALBOTT**

831ST BOMB SQDN



Another successful reunion behind us. I want to personally thank our gracious host and hostess, Dr and Mrs Andre Salazar of the 831st, for conducting the affair. Everyone will remember their experiences in Houston with pleasure. We did miss some of our 'ol regulars' at the reunion and sure hope they will be able to attend next year in Rochester.

We are looking forward to the reunion next year. Knowing our host and hostess, Mr and Mrs Willie Best, we will be having another great time - if Willie can get over being so bashful. - Ha!

Our Squadron attendance in Houston was not large with only six including the host. Paul Werner made the reunion for the first time. Glad you made it Paul. The rest of us have attended most of the previous reunions. Let's do better next year with each of us bringing a buddy to swell the 831st representation.

We received correspondence from the following: Ray Heskes, St Louis, Missouri; Eugene McCarthy, Modesto, Calif; Bill Harrington, Omaha, Nebraska; Frank Fliss, Wheeling, Ill; George Winter, Leonia, New Jersey; Ed Stauverman, Munster, Ind; Kenneth Brown, Stewardville, New Jersey; Burl Jackson, Lima, Ohio; Isadore Silberman, Kansas City, Missouri; Albert Paul, Charleston, Ill; John Jones, Athens, Ohio; Dan Sjodin, Minneapolis, Minn; (Thanks to Wythe Napier of the 829th); Harold Richards, Peoria, Ill; Kenneth J Boeh, Davenport, Iowa; Larry Vieth, Wilmington, Del and Harry McGaw, Bloomsburg, Penn. We were glad to have Andy Salazar give us the name of Dr P.W. Cadenhead, Hempstead, Texas. Sorry you didn't make the reunion 'Doc'. Hope to see you next year.

Thanks to all of you for your continued interest and donations to the projects. Keep it coming! If any of you would like addresses of any of our Sqdn or Group veterans, let me know and I will mail you a copy. There're several names I am checking on of which I have the city but not the street address.

Again, this year I received many phone calls, pictures and Christmas cards and friendly letters, including one from Austria. Everyone seems to like our little newsletter. One individual lost his copy and sent for another so he can show it to his friends.

I want to thank all of you for sending a buck along for the newsletter expenses. Keep sending old mailing lists, shipping orders and our mailing list will continue to grow. The best of all to you all in 1973. **WOODY WOODYARD**

DATE LINE - MONDAY, SEPT 25, 1972

Bob Marland, Lincoln, Nebraska, sent the following article by Tom Allan, World-Herald Staff Writer, which appeared in the Omaha World-Herald.

DATE LINE (Cont)

FAIRMONT, NEB. --- Dark clouds hung overhead. Raindrops splattered in the old deserted and forgotten facility of the past. The former Fairmont Army Air Base, which once hummed with the screech of motors of B-24 bombers and the buzz of up to 3,000 airmen, was silent and lonely.

Unlike other Nebraska World War II bomber bases, such as those at Grand Island, Kearney and Alliance throbbing with new life as combination modern air terminals and industrial parks, the Fairmont base two miles south of town is all but forgotten. True, it is a state airfield and the cluster of new metal hangars gleam in marked contrast on the ancient apron.

But in the rain it was deserted. No personnel were present. No pilots stood by in the ready room. The only sound around two small planes was the patter of raindrops. A horse grazed silently near one of the four old wooden hangars, two of them standing empty awaiting the harvest to continue their peace time role as storers of grain.

Two workmen in one, the only sign of activity on the once throbbing line, cleaned out the remains of last year's crop, preparing for the new. Grazing up at the wooden girders, his voice echoing in the vaulted stillness, one said:

"These old hangars are getting old. We fixed this one after storm damage in 1964 but its leaking again. They ain't gonna last forever."

The runways are still there. But weeds and even a tree sprout from cracks in them where 31 years ago members of the 485th Bomb Group roared off into the wild blue yonder to combat missions in Africa and Europe after seven months of final training here.

Rain-filled chuck-holes mirrored the dark clouds overhead. All that remains of the old

YORK

Chamber of Commerce

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HOTEL McCLOUD
YORK, NEBRASKA

AREA CODE 402 PHONE 362-5531

August 10, 1972

President of the 485th Bomb Group Reunion
Houston, Texas

Dear Sir:

You thought we'd forgotten you, didn't you? Never! You men meant too much to our home community of York, Nebraska. You activated Fairmont Air Base. You initiated it. And if memory serves correctly, you did your share in activating both York Country Club (the officers' off-base home) and the USO for non-coms. You all stirred many a soft spot in the hearts of the people in Geneva and York who had the fortune of meeting you.

Not until we chanced to meet one of the men in your group---Bob Marland of Lincoln, now State Railway Commissioner, did we realize that you are having a reunion---and far, far away from here.

Therefore, we extend you a most cordial invitation to give York consideration for your next reunion. If, when you were here, you thought we have good food and hospitality, you should give us a chance to entertain you now in some of our ultra-facilities, the result of which no doubt stems from Interstate 80 located a mere two and one-half miles south of York.

Also our Country Club has improved immeasurably with a brand new club house and the fairways and grass greens manicured to the 'nth degree. By the time of your next reunion we will have improved our Auditorium to include a complete air conditioning. In fact, men, you wouldn't know the old "Home Away from Home," during those days you spent in the midst.

Our motel accommodations are adequate with at least 205 rooms, (\$14-16) in the Ramada, Camelot and Palmer Inn, all new motels erected the past year, plus another 150 at the other end of York, at somewhat lower rates.

Remember men, the ribbons of concrete are still at the base as are the hangars, although some are or might be filled with corn, but those which aren't impress me as being a place where there could be plenty of tipping, reminiscing and dancing. All we need is for you to make this a time to never be forgotten. We'll make sure Edna will be there (but not the slot machines, darn it, state law). Also many of those hostesses and gals who took such good care of the non-coms at the U.S.O. will probably be around. All we need now is your rousing approval. We promise to house and feed you well. And, remember, we are centrally located in these United States right on the Junction of Highway 81 and Interstate 80.

We're hoping to get a nod of approval from you all.

Sincerely,
Pete Frandsen
P.L. Frandsen, Executive Vice President

DATE LINE (Cont)

barracks are broken foundations. Trees grown tall in them give silent testimony to the passing of years. It'll buzz again in a few weeks when trucks snort in to fill the old hangars with corn and milo. Then except for the comparative infrequent arrival or take-off of a small plane there will be silence again.

Age is taking its toll but there will be a chance for one last hurrah for all the long and the short and the tall -- bless them all -- old ghosts of the past. Members of the 485th Bomb Group Association last month at its annual reunion at Houston, Texas voted to accept the invitation of the nearby York Chamber of Commerce -- their favorite leave town -- and come back in 1974 to the spot where they were formed and trained.

State Railway Commission Chairman Bob Marland of Lincoln, the Connecticut Yankee who first fell in love with Nebraska as the group's operations officer and flight leader said 300 to 400 members will be back. And maybe for one last time the old ghost will live again.

485TH NAMED LIBERATORS

The affection and pride felt by the flight crews and ground crews of their Liberators and combat record was expressed in the way the bombers were named and decorated. Here are the names of 485th Liberators collected to date. Can you add to it?

AVAILABLE		MIZ-PAH	830 WC 42-52713H
BATCHLOR'S ROOST	831	MY BRINY MARLYN	831 42-78134G
BETTER LATE THAN NEVER	828 RK 42-78446G	MY BROTHER AND I	828 RO 42-52703H
BIG ALICE FROM DALLAS	829 YX 42-52730H	NUDIST KAY III	830 WK 42-51992J
BIZZY BITCH		OUR BELLE	830
BLACK SWAN		OUTCAST	830 42-78089G
BOOZER	830	PICK-UP	830 WL 42-94750H
BUZZ JOB	830 WH 42-52724H	PIXIE FROM POUGHKEEPSIE	
CHARACTER	831 BM 42-52727H	PRINCES MARIE	830 WI 42-52694H
CHERRY CHASER III	828	QUEEN BEE	
DOUBLE TROUBLE	829 42-78149G	RAPE SHAPE	829 42-78137G
EASY MAID		RING DANG DOO	
FIFTY MISSION FROM BROADWAY		ROUGH DEAL LUCILLE	828 RG 42-94791H
FLAK SHAK	831 41-29534H	ROUGH HOUSE ANNIE	831 BR 42-50819J
FLAK SHAK II	831 BZ 44-49899L	SENERITA	
FLAK SHAK III	831 BM 44-10501J	SICKCALL	
GINEE		SLIC CHIC	830 WM 95460
GOL WALLOPER	829 YF 418H	STARDUST	
HELL'S ANGEL		STARDUSTER	
HELL FROM HEAVEN		SUB-DEPOT SUE	
HIGH HOPES	L	TAIL HEAVY	831 BC 41-28834H
HITLERS EGG MEN		TAILWIND	829
HOMEWARD ANGEL	829 YJ 44-41157J	TAILWIND II	829 YB 78416
HOT PANTS	831 BH	TEXAS STAR	828
LAZY EIGHT	828	THE HEAT'S ON	828 RZ 42-78474G
LIFE	830 WF 42-52728H	THE JERRIE ANN	828 RH 42-78116H
LIL MIKE		THE LADY	828 RE 42-52725H
LITTLE EMMA	829 42-78136G	THIS IS IT	
MICKY FINN		TRAVELER	831
MISS FITZ	829 YY 41-29503H	VALIANT LADY	831
MISS MYLOVEN	42-50921	VEE DEE	831 BJ
MISS MYNOOKY		WINONA BELLE	
MISSTIT	829 YK 42-78141G	YANKEE DOODLE DANDY	828 RA 42-52718H

THIS IS HOW IT WAS

On February 16, 1945, Col John Tomhave, Group CO, was leading the Group formation on the return flight from bombing Regensburg, Germany. Near Villach, Austria flak was encountered and the Col's Liberator and the Liberator piloted by Lt Carl Stockdale were shot down. Five chutes were seen to open - one from the Col's Liberator and four from Lt Stockdale's. Col Tomhave was believed to be the only one to have bailed out of his Liberator.

Sid Connellee, Bombardier on the crew of Lt Arthur Karns, sent in a briefing on his crew which revealed more details on that fate-full day for the airmen of Lt Karns' crew were flying with Col Tomhave.

Lt Karns crew arrived in Italy during the summer of 1944 and were assigned to the 829th. Of the crew of nine only one was to complete his tour of duty - Lt Connellee. On September 24, 1944 while bombing the rail yards at Salonika, Greece, Lt Karns' Liberator was hit by flak, wounding the tail turret gunner, co-pilot and Lt Connellee. The co-pilot was partially paralyzed and returned to the States. The gunner and Lt Connellee returned to duty after recovering from wounds at the 26th General Hospital in Bari. Lt Karns became Control Tower Officer and stayed with the Group until the war ended.

Of the crew, Lt James Cahen III, N; TSgt James W Dixon, E; SSgt Roy W Burke, G; SSgt Lewis B Matthews, G and SSgt Walter F Fergus were members of Col Tomhave's

crew on February 16th. Lt Cahen was killed and the others became POWs or missing in action. Lt Connellee, eventually completed his missions and returned to the States.

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

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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, Gerald A	828	1968
BROWN, Wilbur	828	1972
CHAPMAN, Russel	828	
COREY, Russel	828	
COX, Lester C	828	1972
DEGAN, John	830	1966
DI MATTEO, Gene	828	1969
DONACHE, Leigh	829	1971
ENTWHISTLE, Jack	828	1959
GIBSON, Richard O	828	1962
GILLESPIE, Kenneth	GpHq	
GRASS, Alfred W	828	
GRUBBS	829	1972
HARRISON, Wallace	GpHq	1945
HASLER, Donald E	831	1972
JENSEN, Willard	828	1962
JOHNSON, Ralph W, Col	GpHq	1972
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	
ROBERDEAU, Horace	830	
ROE, John	GpHq	
SCHLAIS, Eugene H	829	1972
SHINDLEDECKER, Freeman	828	1965
SOLLINGER, Edward	828	1968
STAGMAN, Orlie M	831	
TANNER, William	829	1971
THOMAS, Homer	829	
THOMPSON, Harold V	831	1971
THORNE, John N	829	1971
TRUSS, John	830	1968
WILLIAMS, Garland O	829	1965
YOUNG, Othmar L	831	1971

FROM THE EDITOR

1972 was a most unusual and busy year for me. Consequently, the progress on the Group history was effected and fell behind. Now the routine is normal again and progress is being made. I wish to thank all for making the '72 reunion a successful event and our plans indicate there will be many more. I am grateful to Leonard Little for providing the story of his visit to Czechoslovakia; Wythe Napier, Woody Woodyard, Bob Deeds and Bill Schoultz for providing a photo selection of the reunion; and all who sent in material for the history and newsletter. The Staff and I are grateful for the generous support given by so many which has allowed us to add another page to the newsletter. Our best wishes to all for 1973

C GIGOWSKI