



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



NO 14

DEC 1979

MISSION NO. 15: PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA - Carl Gigowski

Flying the reciprocal course of last year's mission, the ol' 485th eagles descended on Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania during the week-end of August 3 - 5, 1979. The target was the Pittsburgh Airport Holiday Inn, just north of the International Airport. With perfect weather, Claude and Thelma Sheline 830th Bomb Sqdn, led the largest formation of eagles on a most happy and memorable mission setting a new record for reunion attendance. Another record breaker was our 831st Reporter, Woody Woodyard, along with Col Dan Sojdin, 831st CO. Some how the two managed to shatter past Squadron attendance records and establish a new record that will practically require an act of Congress to beat - like a recall to active duty.

Your editor arrived on the scene late Friday evening, like a member of the jet set and found the reunion in full swing. Checking in with the registrars, Marguarette Woodyard, Laura Rempe, Leona Schultz, Theresa Carpenter, and Martha Bundy, I was soon relieved of part of my allowance. It was here in the main lobby that I could see indications that this was going to be a great reunion for I was greeted by several ol' friends of previous reunions along with several new veterans. For sure now, I had to get in the action. But first, up to my room which over looked the Airport. Beautiful. Later, much later, I was to enjoy the mighty roar of the jets taking off in the early morning skies. Well, it was off to the Hospitality Room. Once inside, I was convinced that this reunion was to be the largest ever. However I didn't realized that a large number of the ol eagles

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GOOD-BY VENOSA, 1945 - HELLO VENOSA, 1980

Editor's Note: On April 25, 1945 the 485th Liberators flew in combat for the last time. The next day the Group was alerted for the movement we all were anxiously awaiting; returning to the good ol USA. First our Liberators were flown to Gioia, Italy. Next selected crews were transferred to other Bomb Groups as your editor was, returning to the States two months later. However majority of the personnel stayed with the Group, broke camp and returned to the States by ship. Now, 35 years later many of us are returning to the site of the 485th Airfield, Venosa. The story of this visit will be in the next issue of the newsletter. Now let us return to Venosa 1945 with the following story received by Bill Schoultz. The author is unknown.

GOOD-BY VENOSA, 1945

April twenty-sixth, nineteen forty-five. This was the first notice, we had of being alerted to get ready to break camp. We are to have all bombs back to the bomb dump, trucks checked for shortages and equipment packed for shipment by Saturday.

Saturday, April twenty-ninth. Convoy
(Cont Page 6)

RETURN TO VENOSA, ITALY

In lieu of the annual reunion the mission for the 485th veterans will be an European tour with a return to the WWII site of the 485th BG airfield at Venosa, Italy. Guided by Bernie and Laura Rempe and the Bentley Hedges Travel Service during Sept 15, 1980 to Oct 2, 1980. The 1981 reunion will be in Louisville, KY, hosted by Al Martin, 829th.

1979 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

TOP - 828TH VETERANS: Front, L to R - August Horvath, North Merrick, NY; Roger Jones, Athens, OH; Karl Anderson, Carrollton, OH; Harold Weaver, Logaton, PA, and Sherill Burba, Olney, TX. Middle, L to R - Clarence McMaster, Pittsburgh, PA; Robert Prentiss, Westchester, PA; Clarence 'Jack' Eden, Breckenridge, TX; Carl Gigowski, Grand Rapids, MI, and Robert Holihan, Sunnyvale, CA. Rear, L to R - Emil Opalka, Anchorage, AK; Robert Beamish, Wheaton, MD; Robert Deeds, Toledo, OH; Irvin Parker, Minneapolis, MN; Arthur Hurley, Mokena, IL, and R. Jones. Not in photo - Ray Johrde, Coral Gables, FL; Paul Anderson, and James Andrews, Beaver, PA.

BOTTOM - 829TH VETERANS: Front, L to R - Earl Isaacson, Gardena, CA; Delmar Brinkman, Silver Creek, NY; George Healy, Columbus, OH; Milton Fundling, Texas City, TX; Al Peschka, Austin, TX; Sal LoBello, Bronx, NY, and James Ball, M₁sawaka, IN. Middle, L to R - Floyd Swanson, Wausa, NB; R Merrell, Kansas City, KS; Al Martin, Fern Creek, KY; Joe Cathcart, Nashville, TN; Phillip Bobier, Columbus, OH and Al O'Brien, Troy, NY. Rear, L to R - Wythe Napier, Dallas, TX; Bill Ferrell, Tacoma, WA; Robert Peterson, Sinclairville, NY; Bernie Rempe, Tulsa, OK; Earl Bundy, Columbus, OH and Robert Trafford, McMurray, PA. Not in photo - Ebe Reynolds, Greenwood, DE; Espy Spencer, New Brighton, PA, and Alan Pound, Columbus, OH.

MISSION NO. 15 (Cont from Page 1)

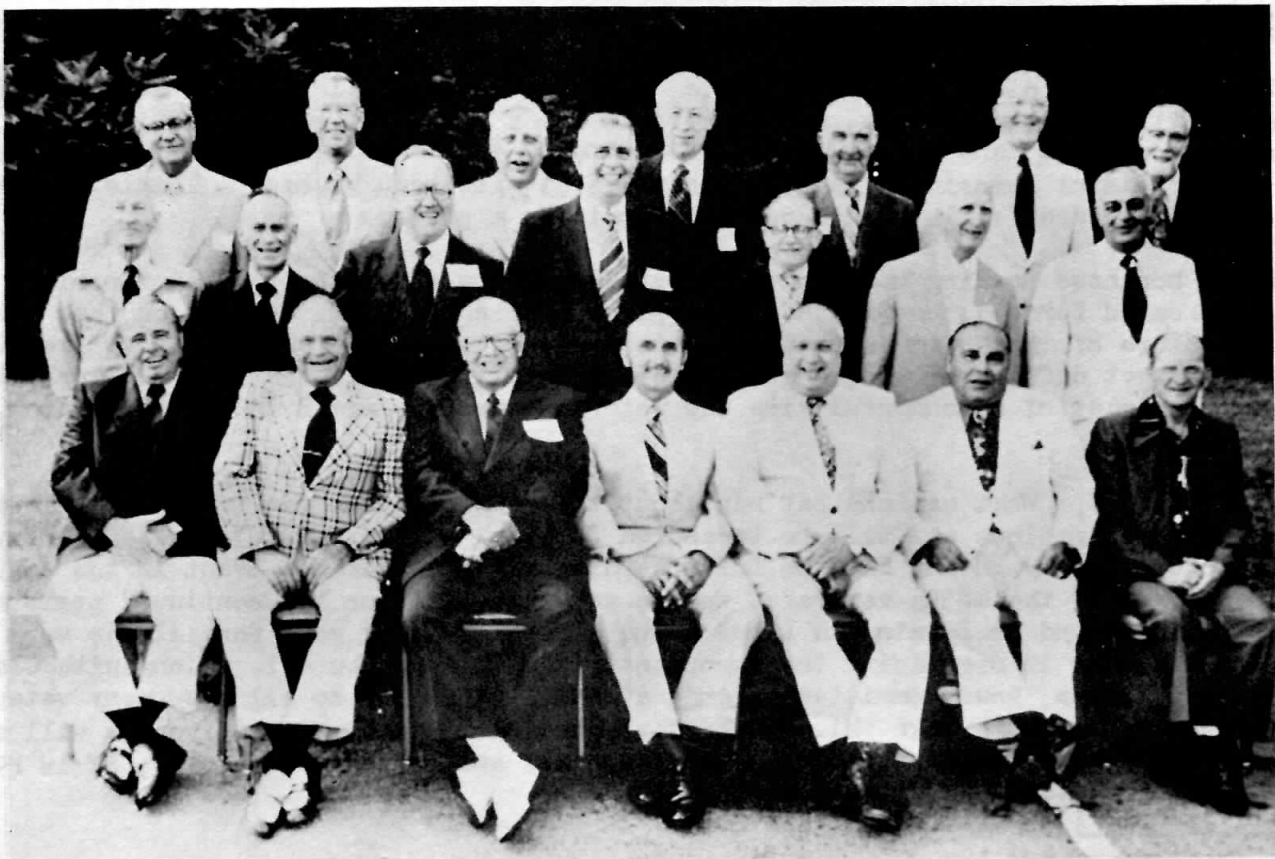
were from the 831st. Like at previous reunions it was the greatest pleasure to meet ol buddies and the many new veterans.

The mood was well established for a happy time and your ol' editor soon fell in line. Once again we were participating in the missions of the past. However, this time they were sprinkled with bits of humor and with the proper spirits they were much easier accomplished, whether you were a cook, crew chief, armour, driver, crew member or what have you. As with any mission, the time comes when one must recoup for the events of the next day. Shortly after mid-night the ops room closed.

The climatic day of the reunion, Saturday, began at 9 AM as Earl Bundy called the regular business meeting to order. Welcoming the veterans to the reunion, Earl led all in a tribute to our departed comrades with a moment of silent prayer and a reading of the 485th Prayer by Sherril Burba, the author. Leona Schultz reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting, followed with a mimi-speech by your editor. Laura Rempe brought us up to date on the European trip and introduced Bentley Hedges, our travel agent, who answered numerous questions about the trip. Bentley's description of the itinerary indicated the trip would be one remembered forever. Claude Sheline gave us the schedule for the events fo the day with a tour to begin at 1030 AM and ending about 4 PM.

Right at 1030 the busses arrived, the passengers boarded and were off on a five hour tour of the city, passing through the industrial area on the way to Mount Washington, the location of one of the oldest passenger inclines in existence and a panoramic view of the Golden Triangle. As for the few that choose to remain at the Inn, it was back to the Hospitality Room to renew ol acquaintances as experienced by your editor. Again I had the pleasure of meeting Jim Andrews, co-pilot on Lt Asimakes Maniatty's crew, who lived in the tent across the cobble sidewalk from our tent. You may recall the night they had a red hot time in their tent and burned a skylite in it. Also met August Horvath, another 828th pilot, for the first time since our days in Italy. And then there was Sal LoBello of the Bronx whom I corresponded with on many ocaasions and finally got to met at the reunion. No one was aware of the passing of time until the busses returned at 4 PM, allowing all time for a little R and R before the evening's activities.

At 6 PM the photographers arrived as the eagles assembled for the photographic session. When it came turn for the 831st, well, it created a problem. It looked like everyone belonged to the Squadron. The photographer kept backing away, the vets kept squeezing together. When the photographer was about a block away, he had the Squadron all in view and snapped the photo you see on page five.



1979 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

TOP - 830TH VETERANS: Front, L to R - Vito Sakall, Fullerton, CA; Frank Ward, Toms River, NJ; Robert Laughin, Georgetown, PA; Claude Sheline, Monaca, PA; Lawrence Martin, New Brighton, MN; Lester DeJong, Grand Rapids, MI, and Joseph Tabellion, Bolivar, OH. Middle, L to R - Clarence Miller, Souderton, PA; Robert McVann, Ashland, KY; Hollis Porter, Orlando, FL; Ted Lipinski, Waretown, NJ; Frank Caster, Hightstown, NJ; Charles Onley, York, PA; Roy Tempinski, Elmhurst, IL and Stuart Gansell, Picture Rocks, PA. Rear, L to R - Ralph Skinner, Weston Mills, NY; Rod Ritchie, Minturn, CO; William Anderson, Pittsburgh, PA; Leonard Heckert, Hazelwood, MO; Neal Schawalder, Portersville, PA; Roy Hertzog, Mohrsville, PA, and Robert Lewis, Burnside, KY. Not in photo - Earl Miner, Ann Arbor, MI; Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, OH and B Hammond.

BOTTOM - 831ST VETERANS: Front, L to R - John Driscoll, Ravena, NY; Kenneth Lawrence, Wooster, OH; Donald Webb, Bellefonte, PA, and Albert Paul, Charlestown, IL. 2nd Row, Front, L to R - Ed Stauverman, Naples, FL; Howard Woodyard, Lambertville, MI; William Spence, Sayre, OK; Vincent Lewis, Hershey, PA; Henry Dahlberg, Glenview, IL; Col Dan Sjodin, Blaine, MN; John Jones, Athens, OH; Joseph Farinetti, Baltimore, MD; John Nagle, Little Falls, NY; Ned Peirano, Pleasant Hill, CA, and Robert Lewis, Sacramento, CA. 3rd row, L to R - Otis Shay, Morgantown, WV; Leonard Little, Tampa, FL; Robert Hanson, St Petersburg, FL; John Jackson, Waynesburg, PA; Mal Redington, Silver Springs, MD; O Warren Meyers, Chicago, IL; Robert Monahan, Gaithersburg, MD; Lewis Baker, West Mifflin, PA; Ralph Raines, Gaston, OR; Michael Lupoli, Brooklyn, NY; George Winter, Leonia, NJ; Harold Dundon, New Holland, OH; Vernon Christenson, Plentywood, MT and Jesse Ledbetter, Asheville, NC. 4th row, L to R - Eugene McCarthy, Modesto, CA; Richard McLawhorn, Winterville, NC; Robert Halling, New Brighton, MN; Paul Knoll, Mercer, PA; Thomas Straight, Weirton, WV; Stephen Mlinoz, Plymouth, MI; Walter Iwanski, Elmwood Park, IL; John Godfrey, Reynoldsburg, OH; Donald Evjen, Pontiac, MI; Luke Terry, Martinsburg, WV; Robert Brown, Birmingham, MI; John Breen, West Seneca, NY, and Homer Disharoon, Laurel, DE.

MISSION NO. 15 (Cont from Page 2)

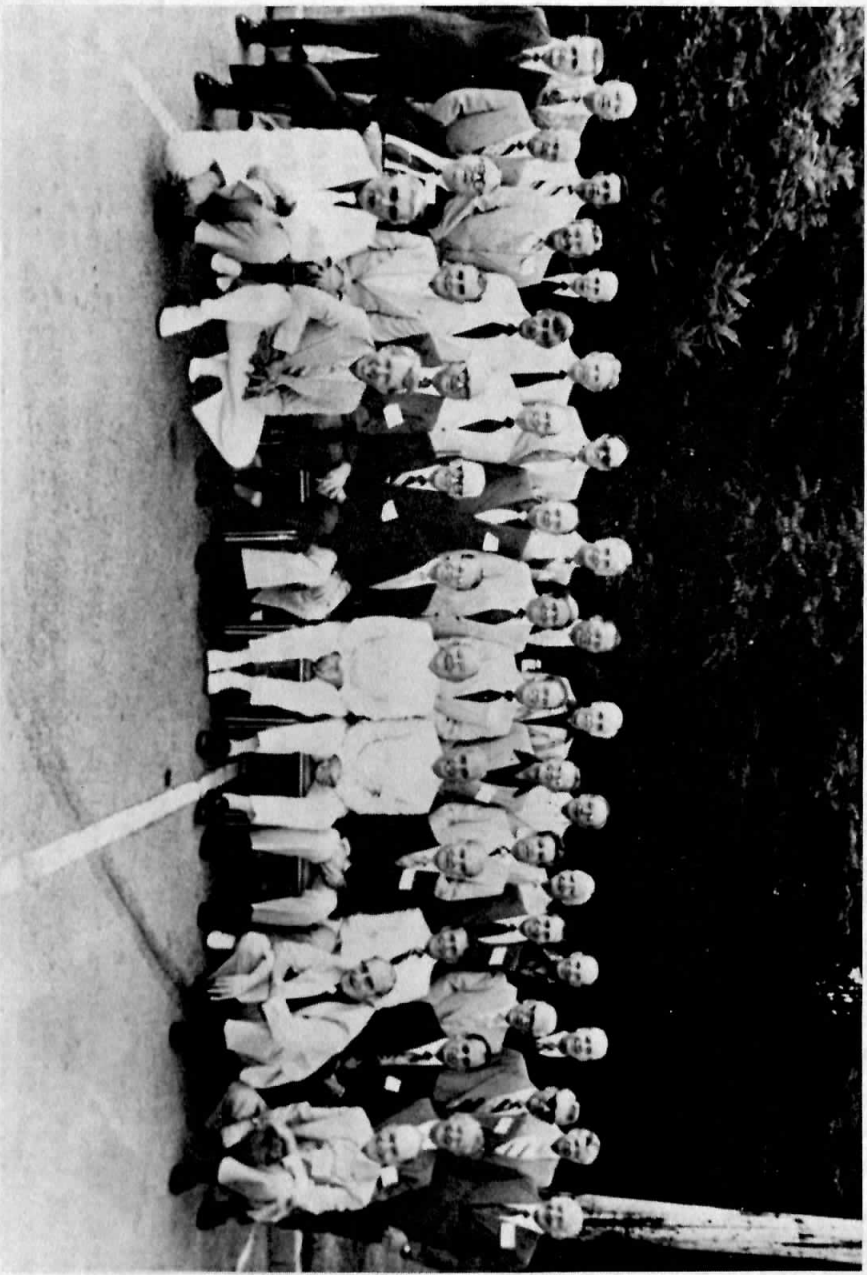
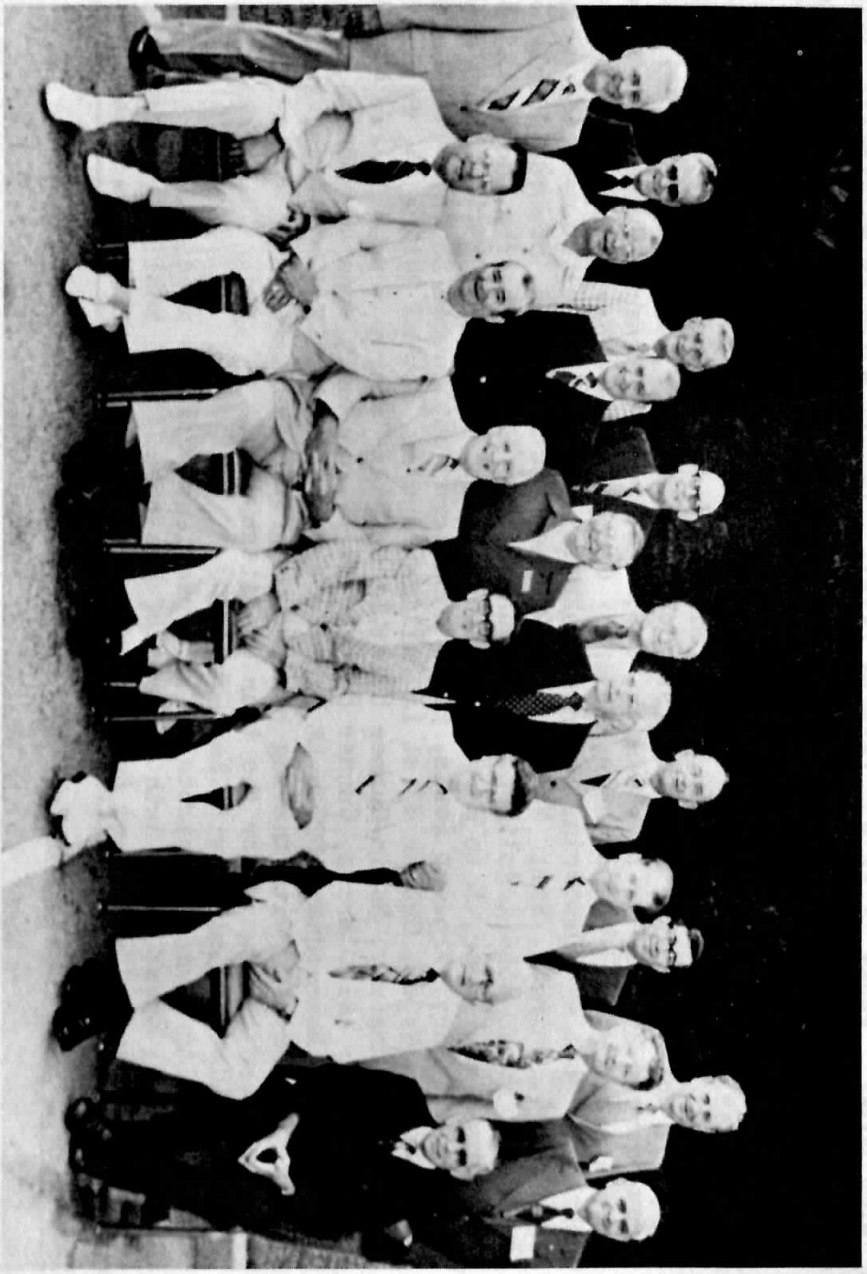
Now it was time to dine. And dine we did, enjoying a most delicious three-meat course buffet. Little did we realize that we were in for a wonderful evening of dancing and reminiscing as the band played the great sound of the 1940 era which surely brought back many pleasant memories. And just maybe, it also brought back a little tingle of that devil-may-care feeling which could creep in on a person.

The final business meeting was conducted Sunday morning with reports that financial matters were cared for and the European trip plans near completion. And so another memorable adventure of the 485th veterans came to a close. Like the ending of past reunions it was somewhat difficult bidding good-bye or just so long until the next reunion. With pleasant memories of a wonderful time the veterans were off again in all directions, returning home.

COMMITTEE'S NOTE - What can one say new about the reunions when the events continue to be great, more precious and will be treasured forever. What we will say is thank you, thank you Claude and Thelma Sheline for providing a most memorable event in the continuing adventures of the 485th veterans. We are very grateful for the continued assistance of the ladies. And to Bernie and Laura Rempe a special thank you, for all the work you have accomplished in organizing the European trip. We love you all. Along with Claude and Thelma Sheline, your committee extends a hearty thank you to all the many veterans who travel from afar to make this the biggest reunion to date. Many of you we will travel with on the European tour and we hope to see all and more in Louisville, KY in 1981.

GOOD-BY VENOSA, 1945 (Cont from Page 1)

of twenty trucks and forty-eight trailers left for Malfredonia. Some ordinance material shipped to Bari. Others all packed to go by trucks.



1979 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) 485TH POWs: Front, L to R - Leonard Little, Gunner 831st Lt Mulligan's crew, downed 24 Aug 44, Pardubic, Czech; Earl Isaacson, Gunner 829th crew 38; Rex Merrell, Gunner 829th crew 38, both downed 8 July 44, Vienna, Aus; Mel Redington, Bombardier 831st crew 68, downed 23 June 44, Guirgiu, Rom; Robert Peterson, Pilot 829th crew 38, downed 8 July 44, Vienna, Aus and Phillip Bobier, Pilot 829th crew 29, downed 23 June 44, Guirgiu, Rom. Middle, L to R - Espy Spencer, Gunner 828th crew 39, downed 30 July 44, Budapest, Hun; Lewis Baker, Co-pilot 831st Lt Blood's crew, downed 26 Dec 44, Blechhammer, Ger; Vernon Christenson, Gunner 831st crew 62, downed 13 Sept 44, Oswiecim, Poland; George Winter, Navigator 831st crew 77, downed 13 Sept 44, Oswiecim, Poland; Luke Terry, Co-pilot 831st crew 68, downed 23 June 44, Guirgiu, Rom; Vito Sakall, Gunner 830th crew 59, downed 30 July 44, Budapest, Hun; Robert Holihan, Radio/Gunner 82th Lt Fabry's crew, downed 15 Nov 44, Linz, Aus. Rear, L to R - Joe Cathcart, Pilot 829th crew 35, downed 9 June 44, Munich, Ger; Vincent Lewis, Pilot 831st crew 68, downed 20 July 44, Munich, Ger; Donald Evjen, Gunner 831st Lt Mulligan's crew, downed 24 Aug 44, Pardubic, Czech; John Godfrey, Radio/Gunner 831st Lt Mulligan's crew downed 24 Aug 44, Pardubic, Czech; Al O'Brien, Gunner 830th crew 44, downed 9 June 44, Munich, Ger; Emil Opalka, Bombardier, 828th Lt Fabry's crew, downed 15 Nov 44, Linz, Aus.
- (2) The big little band with the big band sound of the '40s.
- (3) Time to board the buses for the tour of Pittsburgh.
- (4) Our host, Claude Sheline with Earl Bundy.
- (5) Leona Schoultz reviewing minutes of the previous business meeting.
- (6) Robert Brown, 831st Pilot iwth members of his crew; Paul Knoll, Tom Straight, Robert Brown, Ralph Raines and Kenneth Lawrence. Not in photo - Donald Webb.

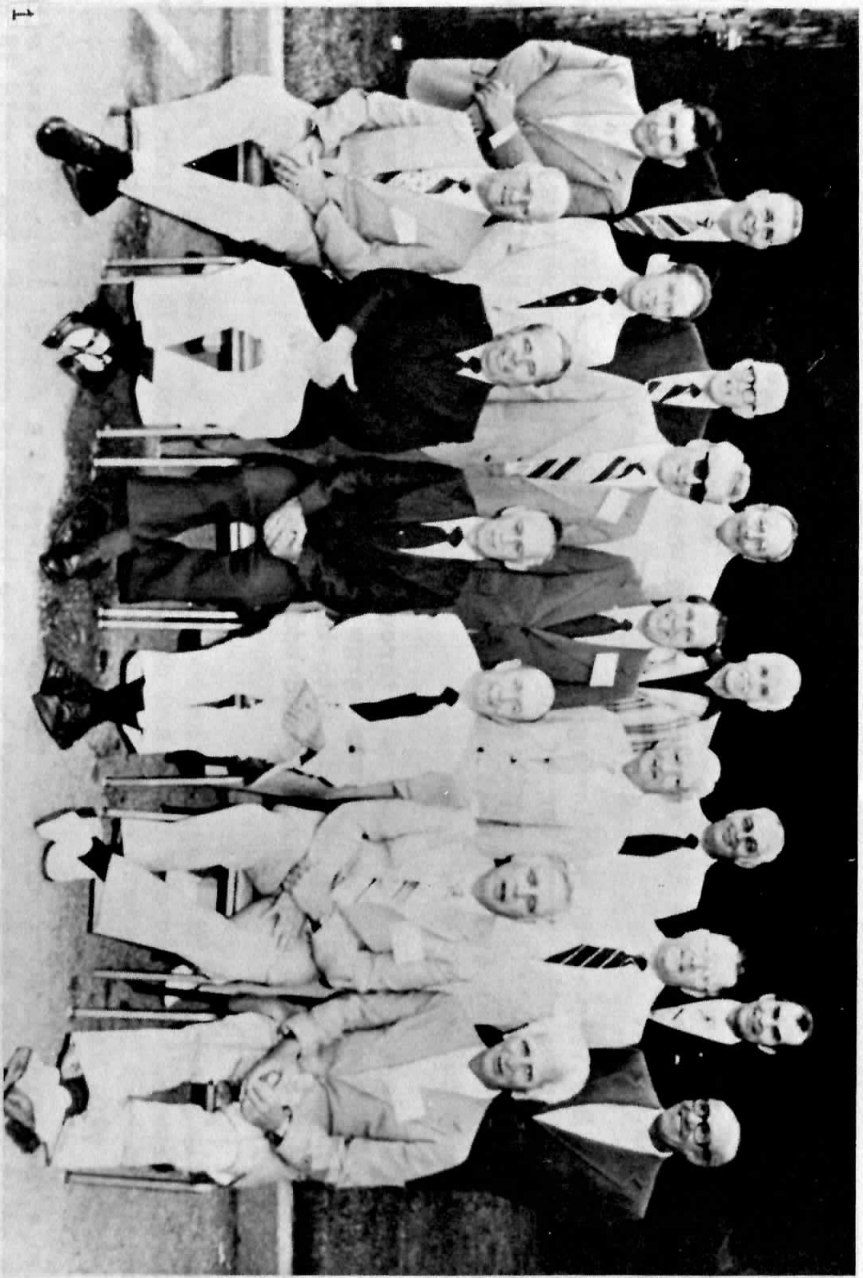
GOOD-BY VENOSA, 1945 (Cont from Page 4)

April twenty-ninth to May seventh. Very busy with details, such as working at the supply room, cleaning excess junk out of houses and tents, etc. Lots of fires burning all around the camp. There was a mountain of tin barrels and gas cans. It was a dirty job taking the tents down as they were covered with soot. Some of the men slept out in the open the last two nights. We were fourtuate enough to have the twenty by twenty-four foot tufa stone house built for us by the Italians for a few cartons of cigarettes and twenty dollars. Six of us lived in it, but the last two nights it held fourteen of us. The service club was jammed full and all the tables were moved out of the mess hall and men slept in there. Our house looked like a barracks.

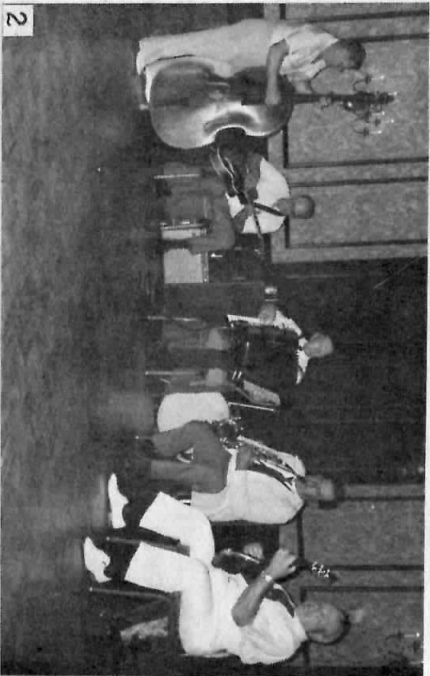
May seventh, the day for moving. We were up at two am. Had breakfast out under the stars, consisting of two boiled eggs, bread and coffee. We had plenty of time from then on as we were scheduled to leave at five. Twelve ordinance men were to leave at nine thirty and be guards of the baggage, etc on the train. The rest of us were to leave by truck. We were all packed ahead of time, so all we had to do was fold our cots.

The trucks came at four, twenty-four for our Squadron and the same for another. The other two Squadrons are to leave the next day. We got off on time and it was quite a line of truckseven though the other Squadron didn't start out when we did. Each truck pulled a cargo trailer with luggage in it. There were fifteen enlisted men and one officer in each truck. We had a case of C rations, about four chicken sandwiches and five gallon can of water.

The roads were fairly smooth after the first twelve miles. They were black-top pavement except where the bridges were out. The mountains we traveled through reminded me of the Rockies. Talk about horseshoe curves, they sure have them. It was the Appenines we were traveling thru. The only difference between these and the Rockies was that there were no guard rails on the roads here. The drivers sure could wheel the trucks. We passed thru some fair size towns high up in the mountains. Had a big time tossing hard candy and C rations to the kids along the way.



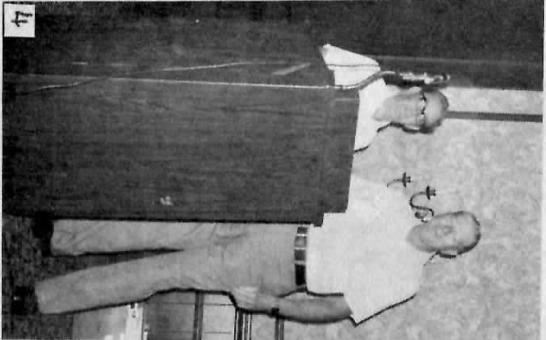
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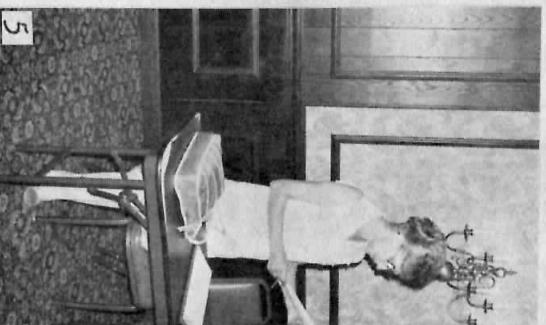
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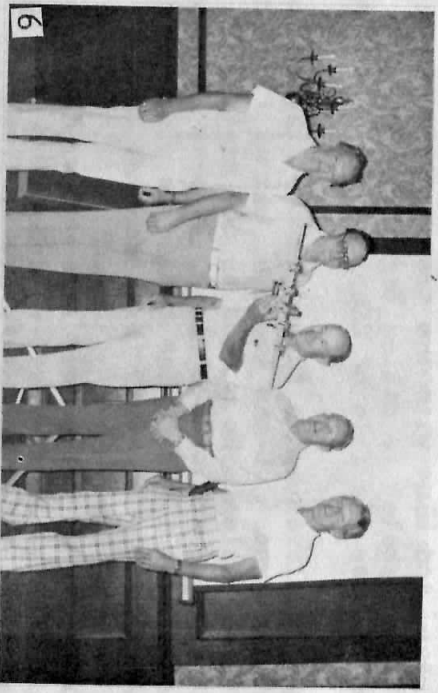
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In the mountains, we passed a procession of people of all ages, parading along the highway. Most of them had their shoes hanging around their necks and were carrying a lunch. Frequently about three of the women would sing. They had marched seven miles and had five more to go to reach the top of the mountain where they were going to pray for rain. It was quite a sight.

Next thing on the trip worth mentioning was the sight of Mt Vesuvius. Yes, we were getting close to Naples, the first leg of our journey home. Mt Vesuvius was kind of a disappointment as it didn't look any different than our mountains back at the base. Guess to those that flew over it and in it would say different. I heard said that some of our B-24s flew down in the crater.

We missed the heart of Naples on our way through. We were housed in what used to be the University of Naples, which was a very large area. I don't know how many men can be taken care of here, but I imagine well into the thousands. The buildings were all three stories above the ground and really looked odd as they are all camouflaged to look like a forest from the air.

It was shortly after one PM when we arrived and it didn't take us long to find a bunk and take a shower. We were all tired and dusty so the shower felt good. Our bunks were all double deckers and no mattresses, just plain boards. They sure got hard towards morning. We each had four blankets. I used three under and one over.

We have a nice view looking out over the bay. There is a rugged looking island with a castle on it connected to the mainland by a long bridge or causeway. The castle is called Castle Del Ovo.

There are three formations a day during which announcements are made and then we go for chow. The chow line is quite long but they seem to get the men through quite fast. Use to have longer lines in basic. At first reville was at five AM, but was changed to five forty-five AM with breakfast at six thirty. Food is rather good.

At four o'clock on the afternoon of May seventh we heard the news of the end of the war in Europe. The air-raid sirens blew first, followed by a lot of church bells, which rang almost all night. The news came out in The Stars And Stripes paper the next morning. Quite a day.

May eight to May fourteenth. The whole week was a week of waiting. Most of the time was spent at the Red Cross or lying around in our bunks. From where we were staying it was about a half hour train ride to downtown Naples. The buildings were painted brown, green, and blue with the trees painted on them, blended in well with the hills in back. The town below is called Bagnolia and is on the water's edge. On days when it isn't hazy we can see the Isle of Capri and Mt Vesuvius. At times smoke still comes from it.

On May eleventh, we turned in our Italian money to be exchanged later for US money. On the afternoon of the twelfth, was my first chance for a pass, so I thought I would like to see Naples. We walked to the station in Bagnolia and waited an hour for the train. It arrived at three o'clock. I guess there was no charge for servicemen as no one tried to collect a fare. The train was electric and was very crowded. Seems like we traveled two thirds of the way thru tunnels.

In Naples we walked our legs off window shopping. I borrowed ten dollars and bought some nice cameos from street vendors, who made them on the spot. We had a meal there which wasn't too bad, but can't say I liked the fried green tomatoes. We got back to camp about eight-thirty, all tuckered out. The next day the three of us were sick.

On the thirteenth, we had to turn in two of our blankets, so we had an idea we would be

leaving soon. The bed sure was hard the next night. The next morning we got up shortly after five. After chow we took our bags out in front of the building and then gave the place a good scrubbing.

We boarded trucks at eight o'clock and waited in the hot sun. The Red Cross passed out doughnuts which sure hit the spot. We were soon at the dock and ready to board ship. The ship was the largest I had ever seen. I believe in civilian life it was the liner America and now was the US Man Of War, West Point. It must be seven or eight hundred feet long. It has nine decks and looks about twelve stories high.

Boarding the ship, we had quite a long way to walk, carrying a full duffle bag on our shoulders. Some of the men had to get out of line and rest. I made it, but must admit it was a struggle especially with a pair of GI shoes digging into my shoulder. As crowded as we were, it wasn't as bad as the trip over. That trip was twenty-six days long on the Liberty ship John S Hoban. We were getting quite hungry the last few days after running short of food.

There are four hundred on the crew and there will be a total of about ten thousand men on board. We were some of the first to board and are on the main deck. The ship is a maze of corridors and stairways, easy to lose one's way. It is difficult to walk anyway as it is so crowded. Some of the men are playing cards on deck, sprawled all over. It was not easy to step without stepping on someone.

Two Squadrons in our outfit are pulling KP. That's about twelve hundred men. We alternate every other day. I am a food server, serving two meals and off two. This gives about five hours work in two days. It is very hot in the kitchen. The meals are really something to brag about. The first meal on board was frankfurters and sourkraut, boiled potatoes, bread, jam and coffee. I asked one of the cooks if all meals were that good, and he said that this one was only a quick get-up meal. Since then we've had fried potatoes for every breakfast along with scrambled eggs and sausage. There are six serving lines.

All day long, there was an endless line of men boarding. There are fifteen hundred hospitalized cases of which one thousand are litter cases. Finally on the afternoon of the fifteenth, at five o'clock, we get under way. While still in the harbor we got a good view of Mt Vesuvius as the ship was anchored out from the ancient city of Pompeii.

Shortly after leaving, we passed the Isle of Capri. Towards evening we ran into a very heavy fog. It didn't seem to slow us down. Skies cleared up sometime during the night. The sea was calm. Most of the day on the seventeenth, we were in sight of Spain and at three in the afternoon passed Gibraltar. Here we watched a anti-aircraft battery fire on a target pulled by an aircraft. The barrage was intense and eventually they cut the tow rope and the target floated lazily into the sea. We also saw several schools of porpoises.

On the way out into the Atlantic we had a destroyer escort and a naval blimp with us for awhile. They departed sometime after dark. It wasn't long before the sea began to get rough and amongst the men were signs of seasickness.

Sunday, May 20th. The sea isn't too rough. However there are fairly large swells and we get a lot of pitch-roll motion. By now we are well over half way to the US and should dock Wednesday afternoon.

Monday and Tuesday we were in a storm, which was quite rough. For a while, were able to go out on the promenade deck which is two decks above the main deck, about seventy feet above the water. However, it was still a place to get wet for the waves were splashing over it. I felt sorry for a lot of the men for they were very sick. I wasn't sick but


I had felt better in my life. Down in the kitchen we had quite a time keeping the pots and pans from sliding around. It helped to put burlap sacks under them to keep them in place.

Tuesday evening it cleared and Wednesday was a nice day. We kept looking for land during the day, but it wasn't until Thursday morning that we first sighted it. I went on deck at six thirty and we were in Hampton Roads, pulling into Newport News, Virginia, the same place we had left from about fourteen months earlier.

It is now nine thirty AM and troops are unloading, but we have about six hours to wait. I guess first on, last off. But having to wait another half day isn't bad as long as we are here in the good ol USA.

MAIL ROOM

485TH BOMB GROUP HQ - C Gigowski



As time marches on we must expect some sad news along with the good news which one is so used to receiving. Thus it is with a sadden heart that I must tell you all of the passing of Ed Kral (New Hyde Park, NY) on October 3, 1980. Although I did not know Ed overseas, I had the pleasure of meeting him at the reunions and corresponding with him, I got to know him quite well. I am sure all in Group Hq knew Ed and will join in with me in extending our most sincere condolence to his wife Jean and family.

After receiving Sy Weinstein address from Maurice Priver, I have been in contact with him. Sy is another New Yorker and was our Group Photo Officer from the beginning at Fairmont until just after Col Tomhave was shot down. Sy then transferred to Photo Recon HQ in Caserta. Later, he moved up to Southern France and Germany with the 2nd Photo Unit doing recon - liaison photo work for the 3rd and 7th American Armies and later with the French 1st Army. His business takes him regularly to Italy and has visited Venosa on several occasions. Sy noted that there are several of the tufa-block buildings that were built during the war, are still in use for grain storage particularly in the Group Hq's area. He also noted that the area is easily recognized because of Mt Volturno.

Received letters from Bill Angle and Ted Brown, members of Col Arnold's crew on that fateful day of 27 August 1944, when they were downed by flak over Blechhammer, Germany. Bill has retired and resides in New Port Richey, Florida. Ted is planning on making the trip to Europe with us. George Flack, New Orleans, LA; Lee Shoemaker, Cocoa Beach, FL and Joe Collins, Salamanix, NY expressed their appreciation of our newsletter and hopes of making a reunion.

Word was received from several of the 485th Hq veterans from out West. Hugh Bayless, Carmel, CA has retired. Col Doug Cairns, Redlands, CA will join us for the European trip. Mel Goodson, Phoenix, AZ, who is 75 years young, is planning on the European trip and as he noted, "If Father Time cooperates." Joe Landis, Hollywood, CA; Dr Maurice Priver, Los Angeles and Col William Bradley, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA indicated their appreciation of our newsletter.

Thank you all so very much for writing and your continued support of the newsletter. We now are on the 14th issue of the newsletter and I believe we will make it thru the alphabet for the Sqdn letter on the Lib in the newsletter masthead. You all now take care.

828TH BOMB SQDN - Bob Deeds



It was a rather quiet year in the 828th mail room. However, we did hear from numerous new veterans who had seen our reunion notice in the veteran magazines. Indeed, we would like to hear from all of you with news of

MAIL ROOM (Cont from Page 10)

yourself and a donation for the newsletter as the cost of printing and mailing increases each year. Perhaps a friend of yours noted he was not hearing from us. It could be because I haven't heard from him.

The year was a full one for Dorothy and I. I spent some time in the hospital, our son married in June, the reunion in August and our daughter married in September. The year 1979 will be one for the Deed's to remember.

Our reunion was another great one. It's too bad more veterans can't find time to attend as the reunions are a memorable event. The 831st had the highest attendance this time and we must say thanks to Marquerite and Woody Woodyard for their continuous devotion over the years in helping to make the event a great success. They deserve our most sincere gratitude.

The party who put it all together at Pittsburgh was Claude and Thelma Sheline. They did a great job, starting Thursday when the early arrivals started coming until the late ones departed on Sunday and Monday. For those who did not attend, some of the highlights of the reunion were the meeting of ol buddies in the hospitality room where the refreshments were served, the business meeting Saturday morning followed by a tour of the city. During the evening there was a cocktail hour, a wonderful dinner and dance. At the meeting Sunday morning the reunion was concluded as each veteran related their duty with the Group and their present occupation.

There were several new veterans from the 828th attending for the first time. Emil Opalka flew in from Anchorage, Alaska and was awarded our traveling trophy for traveling the greatest distance. The first timers were August Horvath, North Merrick, NY; Harold Weaver, Logaton, PA; Clarence Mc Masters, Pittsburgh, PA; Paul Alexander, Indianola, IA; Ray Johrde, Coral Gables, FL; Robert Prentiss, West Chester, PA, and Bob Holhan, Sunnyvale, CA.

And there were our old friends, Art Hurley, Irv Parker, Roger Jones, Sherrill Burba, Jack Eden, Bob Beamish, Andy Anderson, Jim McFadden, and Jim Andrews. Recently Andy underwent surgery and has recovered nicely. Our special guest was Leona Schoultz, who as always assists at our meetings, taking notes and welcoming the new members. And as always, all expressed their sincere gratitude for a wonderful time and particularly the ladies who remarked how surprised they were at our affair and how they enjoyed it.

829TH BOMB SQDN - Earl Bundy



We enjoyed another exceptional reunion in August this year. Claude Sheline and his wife, Thelma had made thorough plans for the event. A large crowd had assembled by Friday evening and I was happy to see so many new members attending their first reunion. From the 829th were Ebe Reynolds, Bill Trafford, Alan Pound, Bob Bobier and Espy Spencer.

We enjoyed perfect weather throughout the weekend. On Saturday afternoon there was a big bus tour followed by a most enjoyable evening which included a cocktail hour, an exquisite dinner and an evening of dancing to the music of the 40s that many couples enjoyed.

I had a busy year keeping up with correspondence. I'm sure we gained more new addresses than we lost. We heard from Fred E Waters, Ben Skeleton, and Kenneth Robison. Kenneth called to let us know he could not make the reunion as that day he was helping at a barbecue in Louisville, Kentucky to elect John Y Brown, Governor of Kentucky. We also heard from Margie Mills telling of her husband Ernest, passing away as a result of a truck accident. Heard from Roy W Burke, Charles Crane, Al O'Brien and numerous times from Bernard and Laura Rempe, who are helping with the reunion plans and arranging for our 1980 European Tour. Laura invited Bently Hedges and his wife to the reunion. At the Satur-

MORE 485TH VETERANS

828TH BOMB SQDN

BELK, George W
HORVATH, August
MURPHY, William
WOOD, Jesse

829TH BOMB SQDN

BOBIER, P. R.
BURKE, Roy W
POUND, Alan G
SPENCER, Espy A
TANKERSLEY, Lloyd

830TH BOMB SQDN

ASAY, Theodore C
FOX, Edward
FORAN, Laverne
HECKERT, Leonard
LEWIS, Robert T
MINER, Earl
SLOAN, Curtiss E
TEMPINSKI, Roy

831ST BOMB SQDN

BAKER, Lewis B
BELL, Glen

BREEN, John J
BROKAW, Bill
COOK, John P
COOK, William
EVJEN, Donald D
KNOLL, Paul
LAWLER, Arthur
LAWRENCE, Kenneth
LEWIS, Robert H
LUPOLI, Michael
MANSON, Sid
MAULL, Verden

MICHALEC, Leo
MORRIS, Gerald H
MERREL, Tom
NAGLE, John F
PARTACZ, Walter A
RAINES, Ralph
SCHETZE, Wm J
SCHWARTZ, George
SNYDER, Guy L
STRAIGHT, Thomas L
WEBB, Donald C

MAIL ROOM (Cont from Page 11)

day meeting, Bently briefed the group on the tour. They plan to accompany the group on the tour. To date there are 124 members going and there is room for more.

I want to thank the many members of our Squadron who have so faithfully donated dollars to keep the 'Lightweight Tower' in print. We are solvent so stay alert and keep looking for more buddies who may live in your area.

830TH BOMB SQDN - Lyle Talbott



A great big thanks to Mr and Mrs Claude Sheline, the host for the 1979 reunion in Pittsburgh. A job well done by all in attendance which was a record for the 485th. Twenty-five members of the 830th attended - many for the first time - Earl Miner, the last Squadron Bombardier, with fellow crew member Leonard Heckert; Clarence Miller and Stuart Gansell, members of Lt Jones' crew, Bob Lewis, Bill Anderson, and Burke Hammond. Incidentally Burke arrived late and I have no home address on him. If any of you readers can provide his address, I will be happy to send him a newsletter.

Other veterans attending were - Vito Sakall, Neal Schwalder, Rod Ritchie, Frank Caster, Charles Onley, Bob Laughlin, Frank Ward, Lawrence Martin, Roy Hertzog, Ralph Skinner, Hollis Porter, Bob McVann, Ted Lipinski, Lew DeJong, Joe Tabellion, Claude Sheline, and yours truly. The Holiday Inn afforded us with very good service, food and a dance which was most enjoyable. The tours and fraternization in the hospitality room were enjoyed by all.

Correspondence for the year was very good, many excellent communications from Clarence Miller, and Elliot Seagraves. Incidentally, Elliot stated he would not attend duty to the illness of his wife. Unfortunately she passed away the morning our reunion began, thus I know his good friends will share with me in extending our deepest sympathy to him and family. Bob Scholtman reported the death of George Crabill, one of the early replacement pilots. George was with us at York and the Minneapolis reunions.

Curtis Sloan, former co-pilot on Lt Jones' crew, wrote a very interesting letter about some of his experiences after leaving the 830th. Curtis had two more military overseas assignments of which one was The Berlin Airlift. Also served three tours in Africa and the Middle East seismographing for oil companies. Curtis is now semi-retired and lives on a small ranch in Texas. Earl Minor reported he may have some material that could be used in a future newsletter. Received letters and Christmas cards from Bob Lewis, Roy Foster, Roy Hertzog, Joe Tabellion, Gale Rowland, Charles Onley, and Jesse Woods.

I had a very pleasant surprise - I was watching the Bob Hope Desert Classic on TV and what do you know? Dr Earl Pennell, former 829th Flight Surgeon, was on the tube playing

with the Pros. I was thrilled to see Earl as if I had been in the tournament myself. The summer of 1978, Earl had hip surgery - quite a comeback.

A reminder to you veterans - no reunion in 1980. The tour to Europe and down to Venosa is the substitute. It's a very well planned and affordable tour in this era of inflation. I hope as many of you, who are able, will join the veterans to revisit our home away from home. In 1981 we will reunite in Louisville, Kentucky, with Al Martin as our host. This should be another good reunion as Louisville and the surrounding area should provide some interesting places to visit.

Thanks to those who have donated to the newsletter fund and will welcome donations from any who have not. THAT'S ALL FOLKS, this old reporter is going to the couch.

831ST BOMB SQDN - WOODY Woodyard



HERE'S "WOODY"! - reporting the news of the 831st Squadron, 485th Bomb Gp. Our last reunion held in the rolling green hills of Pennsylvania just outside Pittsburgh, was a huge success, as have been all the past reunions. Thanks to Mr and Mrs Claude Sheline, 830th; and to Neal Schawalter, 830th and Clarence McMasters, 828th, for assisting so much to make it a big and very enjoyable occasion. The weather was wonderful, the programs were beautifully planned and enjoyed immensely by all. I hope there is always a band available to provide the music for our style of dancing.

This was the largest attended reunion so far with 107 veterans registered and about 225 attending the Saturday night dinner and dance. And by the way, now that I have my voice back, I want to tell you that the 831st had at least 42 veterans present. I predict that in '81 at Louisville, Kentucky it will be even more. Another thing that made this reunion so enjoyable was the many new veterans attending, including 20 new members from the 831st. I am glad to have a part in getting them together again with their long ago buddies. It is rewarding and wonderful to see old buddies meeting each other again after 35 years or more. And in some instances, not even knowing that they made it thru the war. For you that have never attended one of these reunions, plan on doing so, as this can happen to you too.

Some of the pilots managed to get several of their crew members to attend. Bob Brown took first place with the most crew members attending - Paul Knoll, Tom Straight, Donald Webb, Ralph Raines, and Kenneth Lawrence. Congratulations! Jesse Ledbetter took second place with five of his crew attending - Lewis Baker, John Breen, Ed Paul, and Mike Lupoli. John Jackson took third place with four of his crew attending - Bob Hanson, Warren Meyers, and Bob Halling. Good work, all! I hope there will be even more who can get their crew members to attend the '81 reunion in Louisville.

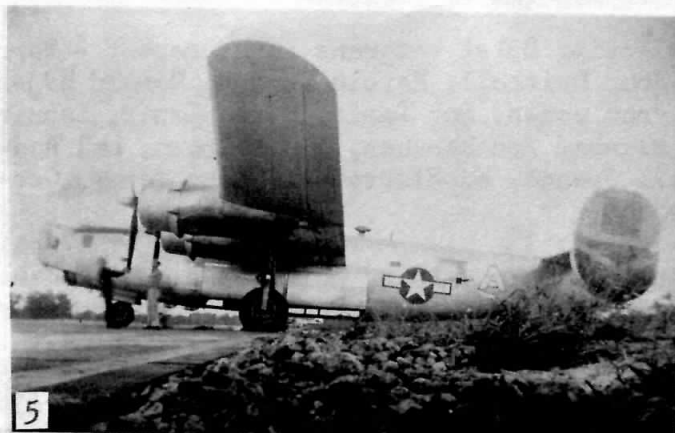
In addition to the above noted members the following 831st veterans were present - Vern Christensen, Hank Dahlberg, Homer Disharoon, John Driscoll, Harold Dundon, Donald Evjen, Joe Farinetti, John Godfrey, Walter Iwanski, John Jones, Bob Lewis, Vince Lewis, Leonard Little, Gene McCarthy, Dick McLawhorn, Steve Mlinoz, Bob Monahan, Ned Peirano, Mal Redington, John Nagle, Otis Shay, Dan Sjodin, Bill Spence, Ed Stauverman, Luke Terry, George Winter, and your reporter "Woody" Woodyard.

The following members had planned to attend but due to one thing or another didn't make it - Vic Bone, William O'Hara, Les Sutter, Harold Richards, Burl Jackson, Tom Cooper, Frank Chaffin, Hugo Cross, Walter Partacz, and Guy Snyder.

I received a letter from Donald Kitzmiller, dated August 1978, during December of '78. I answered it immediately to the address given - 3200 Del Rey Blvd, #23, Las Curces, NM 88001 and the letter was returned. Does anyone have Don's current address. He noted

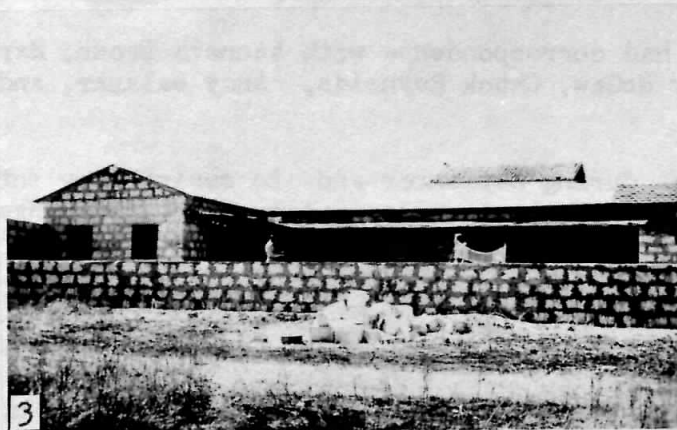


- 1, 2 Photo - C Onley - Packing the Squadron Gear. MSgt Samuels, Line Chief, standing in front.
- 3, 4 Photo - C Onley - The 830th Squadron becomes deserted as the personnel leave for Naples for the final journey home.
- 5 Photo - E McCarthy - 485th White A in British Ciana Atkinson Field home-ward bound.
- 6 Photo - B Jackson - 15th AF Liberators home from the war.





- 1 Photo - D Bassett - MSgt Dean Bassett, 828th Crew Chief and his Liberator "LAZY EIGHT".
- 2 Photo - E Pinnell - Captain Leo Czachorowski, Group Dentist and his Assistant.
- 3 Photo - Gen Arnold - The "Eagle's Nest", home of General Arnold's Staff. Quarters built by Col Fritz Coltrin and company.
- 4 Photo - G Ick - The Brown Bomber, Joe Louis visits the 485th during the summer of 1944.
- 5 Photo - W Wulf - Big League ball game at the 485th Airfield. (Anyone remember the location of the ball field?)



Members Deceased Since The End Of WWII

ANNINOS, Milton P	828	1971	GILLESPIE, Kenneth	GpH	ROE, John	GpH
BAGGS, Bill	830	1969	GRASS, Alfred W	828	+RYBORCYK, Joseph P	828 1979
BAKKE, Wayne	828	1976	GREENWOOD, Lloyd H	830	RYDER, William	831 1972
BARRETT, Sam	830		GRUBBS, William E	829 1972	SCHALIS, Eugene H	829 1972
BARQUIST, Ernie	828	1967	HARRISON, Wallace	GpH 1945	SCHOULTZ, William H	828 1975
BEHNKE, Laurel L	828	1967	HASLER, Donald E	831 1972	SHEPHERD, Chester D	828 1973
BEST, Willie	830	1978	HUCKEY, H M, LCol	GpH 1973	SHINDLEDECKER, F	828 1965
BLACKWELL, Earl	828	1959	JENSEN, Willard	828 1962	SIMPSON, Chas R	828
BOETTCHER, Donald E	828	1948	JOHNSON, R W, Col	GpH 1972	SMITH, Kenneth H	829 1977
BOYER, Henry	828	1964	JOHNSON, Ralph P	829 1966	SOLLINGER, Edward	828 1968
BRIDTRICK, Gerald A	828	1968	JONES, Glenn G, Jr	830 1974	STAGMAN, Orlie M	831
BROWN, Wilbur	828	1972	KEANELLY, Wm C	828 1973	+STRAIT, Carrol	829 1976
CAMPANELLA, John	829		KETCHAM, Frank D	828 1968	SULLIVAN, Hailey	829 1960
CARLSON, Arthur	829	1977	KOKENGE, Julian	830 1977	SWANN, Everett H	830 1975
CATHY, Joe	830		+KRAL, Ed	GpH 1979	+TALLESON, Julius Q	831 1977
+CAUDLE, James	828	1976	LIA, Hans	GpH 1973	TANNER, William	829 1971
CHAPMAN, Russel	828		LISH, Gilbert	829 1968	THOMAS, Homer	829
CHRIST, Ben	828	1976	MC GINN, Charles J	828	THOMPSON, George	830 1976
COREY, Russel	828		MIFLIN, Ed	829 1971	THOMPSON, Harold V	831 1971
COX, Lester C	828	1972	+MILLS, Ernest	829 1977	THOMPSON, Robert A	829 1977
+CRABILL, George	830	1979	NESBITT, J Glenn	829 1977	THRONE, John N	829 1971
DEGAN, John	830	1966	OBERLE, Robert	828 1970	TITON, Edgar	830
DI MATTEO, Gene	828	1969	O'DELL, Rex	828 1948	TRUSS, John	830 1968
DONACHE, Leigh	829	1971	+PERILLO, Ralph	828 1979	WILLIAMS, Garland O	829 1965
ENTWHISTLE, Jack	828	1959	PICKLE, Buck	828 1973	+WOLF, William F	829 1979
FORESTER, August R	828		PRATZ, Wm S	GpH	YANKEE, Wayne	828
FREITAS, Henry E	828		REUTER, C W	GpH	YOUNG, Othmar	831 1971
GIBSON, Richard O	828	1962	ROBERDEAU, H, Major	830 1972	YOUNG, Robert C	831 1972

MAIL ROOM (Cont from Page 13)

that he was co-pilot for Capt John Hanson and Capt John Jones. I also heard from a few members from the other Squadrons - Karl Anderson, Bob Deeds, Jim McFadden, Irv Parker, Henry Fisher, Al O'Brien, Leona Schoultz, Carl Gigowski and Laura Rempe.

In addition to hearing from the above I have had correspondence with Kenneth Brown, Harold Combs, Gerald Grady, Cletus Harner, Harry McGaw, Chuck Reynolds, Andy Salazar, and Guy Snyder.

We are looking forward to the trip to Venosa during September and to seeing many of you there. If not at Venosa, we hope to see you in Louisville in August '81. Thanks to all who have so faithfully supported our financial needs for mailing costs. It is very much appreciated.

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

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

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FROM YOUR EDITOR - Carl Gigowski

It was in 1966, that your ol' editor, along with Bill Schoultz and Bob Deeds climbed up Lightweight Tower, with his typewriter and pounded out the first issue of our annual newsletter. Then a year later "Woody" joined and eventually we filled the tower with Earl Bundy and Lyle Talbott joining in. We have seen the newsletter grow, our mailing roster grow and reunion attendance grow. All have been wonderful years.

The main ingredient that has made this a wonderful job is you - the 485th veterans who have continued to give us support that is unprecedented. There is one other ingredient, our wives, who, also support our activities. I am very grateful to all of you.

Even though I have been promoted to Grandpa, I shall continue to give you the best newsletter I know how. Take care now.