



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



No. 17

Dec 1982

MISSION NO. 18: AUSTIN, TEXAS — Carl Gigowski

Texas, the Lone Star state, stamping grounds for cowboys, longhorns, wonderful people and giant Armadillos (and I mean big ones) was the area the ol 485th eagles set out for with their computers locked in on Austin. The attraction was the seventeenth annual reunion during the weekend of August 6-8, 1982 at the Marriott Inn hosted by the great Texans, Al and Alvera Peschka. Everything is big in Texas and sure enough, so was the reunion which was another memorable experience of the 485th saga.

Traveling to the reunion usually is a routine adventure by jet for me. However, it was a little different as United's flight was ten minutes late departing Grand Rapids. On the ground at O'Hara we waited twenty minutes for a gate to clear for deplaning. I made a mad dash to the American Airlines concourse, checked on board and almost immediately we were on our way to the big country — Texas. The jet arrived at 5 p.m. in Austin where the temperature was 95 plus. It sure felt good to be inside the Inn where it was cool.

Well the Texans were waiting for me, Sherrill Burba, Al Peschka and Wythe Napier, who informed me about the giant Armadillos and their fancy of Yankees, Polish style. For some reason I was not asked to show my passport which I had in lieu of the special Texan passport I had seen. Upon hearing the stories of the giant Armadillos I wished I had packed a cannon. Checking in with the registrars, Martha Bundy, Laura Rempe, Marguerite Woodyard, I took the lift to my room and then ventured on to room 737 where the action was. Here one gets in the mood of the reunion for here the ol eagles have gathered to win WWII again. After a couple of Lone Stars and tonic I was ready to take on the giant Armadillos. As the evening progressed I became well indoctrinated about the great state of Texas and by the time the hospitality room was secured I was ready to become a citizen of Texas.

Friday the temperature reached 100. Fortunately the humidity was on the low side, unlike Michigan, and it turned out to be a beautiful day. The ol eagles continue to arrive through the day. Most of the time was spent visiting with old friends and new members attending for the first.

Saturday morning at 0845, Earl Bundy called the business meeting to order and Sherrill Burba started the meeting with the 485th prayer. Laura Rempe read the minutes of the previous meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. Al Peschka welcomed all to Austin, announced the day's schedule which would begin at 10:30 a.m. with a bus tour of Austin, returning at 4:00 p.m. Group pictures would be taken at 6 p.m. banquet at 7:30 p.m., and dancing from 8:30 to 12:30. The reunion would be concluded with a short business meeting Sunday morning.

Twenty-four veterans attended their first reunion. A suggestion was made that everyone contact their local newspaper editors and have a reunion announcement placed in the paper in an effort to let more people know of our meetings. The formation of a 485th Association was discussed and Jack Eden reported on the legal aspects and recommended the organization be formed in Ohio as the organization was started in the state. Vince Lewis made the motion that an association be formed and was seconded by Al Peshka and approved by a majority of the veterans.

A report was given on the 485th Memorial at the Air Force Museum, noting that dedication ceremonies would be conducted at Wright-Patterson AF Base, Dayton, Ohio on October 2, 1982 at 10 a.m. Hoping to have our Group Chaplain preside at the ceremonies, it was learned that Chaplain Golder, who lived in Austin passed away in 1967.

Laura Rempe briefed us on the Alaskan tour and reunion which was suggested to be held in Anchorage in 1984. The topic was to be discussed further at Sunday's meeting. Art Hurley reported on the '83 reunion to be held in the Chicago area. Dean Bassett announced that he would like to host the group in North Carolina. A letter from the family of Lt. John R. Biles, 380th pilot, requesting any information about John's last flight or aircraft. A motion was made, seconded and carried that any coverage received for the memorial, would be used by the

CHICAGO!

The Eighteenth Annual Reunion of the 485th Bomb Group (H) will be held August 4-7, 1983 at the Holiday Inn O'Hare/Kennedy, Chicago, Illinois. Our host will be Arthur Hurley, 19504 S. Wolf Road, Mokena, Ill. 60488.

Squadrons for mailing expenses. Howard Woodyard announced that Ralph Raines recently was awarded the DFC for his work as a navigator on a mission in 1945 on "The Character," piloted by Don Webb.

Traveling from one time zone to another can cause problems. Such was the case for Woody. Forgetting to reset his watch, Woody was, for reasons unknown to the audience, trying to speed up the meeting to make sure we would be finished in time for the bus tour scheduled for 10 a.m. When Woody announced the time he was kindly informed he was rushing thru life and should reset his watch. Yes, the meeting adjourned in time for the bus tour.

Shortly after 10 a.m. the buses were boarded and the tour was underway to the first stop at the capital building of Texas. The building was constructed in 1888 of Texas red granite from Granite Mountain near Marble Falls. The height of the dome is 309 feet, 8 inches, seven feet higher than the United States Capital. A very impressive and historically interesting structure. Continuing on we traveled on Red River Street, past the Waterloo Compound, O'Henry's home and museum on east 5th street. Stopped at the large Treaty Oak on Baylor street which is estimated to be 500 to 600 years old. Its branches shade more than a quarter of an acre of ground and have a spread of 127 feet. It is believed that Stephen Austin signed the first boundary line agreement between the Indians and whites under the canopy of the giant oak branches. visited Zilker Park and Barton Springs, Austin's spring-fed natural swimming pool, with water temperatures at a constant 68 degrees. It was an Indian campsite and a stopping place for Spanish explorers. On Pecan street we stopped for lunch at The Old Pecan Street Cafe for French cuisine and pastries in an old world atmosphere. First stop after lunch was the LBJ Library and Museum located on 14 acres just east of Texas Memorial Stadium on the University of Texas. The building houses all the important papers of Lyndon B. Johnson and includes a complete re-creation of Johnson's Oval Office. On San Marcos street we stopped at the historical French Legation dating back to 1841 when it was occupied by Charge D'affaires Alphonse de Saligny, the French representative to the Republic of Texas. Traveling back to the Inn one noticed several moonlight towers which were built in 1885 and are still used today. Arriving back at the Inn at 4:40, we had time to prepare for the big evening at our leisure.

Again the ol eagles proudly posed for the many photographers. For the next hour all enjoyed a most sumptuous menu for the evening banquet. As the banquet ended Al Peschka presented awards of Honorary Texas Citizenship to Earl Bundy, Lyle Talbott, Howard Woodyard, Bob Deeds and Carl Gigowski. Bill and Jean Farrell were commissioned in the Texas Navy. And Al was presented an honorary degree. Once again the ol eagles returned to those wonderful youthful days by the band playing music of the big band era. Thus with the great music of the 30's and 40's the evening rapidly faded and that magic hour arrived when many returned to the hospitality room for a final farewell of another great event.

Early Sunday morning Milt and Francis Fundling presented their slide show of the memorable trip of Europe and returning to Venosa. A wonderful experience to relive the trip again. Then Earl Bundy opened the final meeting with a silent prayer for our departed comrades. All expressed sincere appreciation to Al and Alvera Peschka for a wonderful reunion. Bill Farrell of Tacoma, Washington was the veteran traveling the greatest distance to the reunion. Crew 45 of the 830th had the most crew members in attendance and George Dyer of Stuttgart, Arkansas proudly claimed the award. Dean Bassett will host the reunion in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1984. Laura Rempe presented the itinerary for the Alaskan tour. Fifteen veterans indicated they would make the tour. There was a suggestion made that the reunion date be moved to September to avoid the warm weather and high lodging rates. After some discussion the notion failed.

Alvera Peschka sent her thanks for the flowers received which rekindled her spirits and she did manage to spend time with us. With a closing prayer the '83 reunion ended. Many so-long for now echos were heard as the veterans departed for home with a promise to meet again in '83 at the gathering of ol 485th eagles in Chicago.

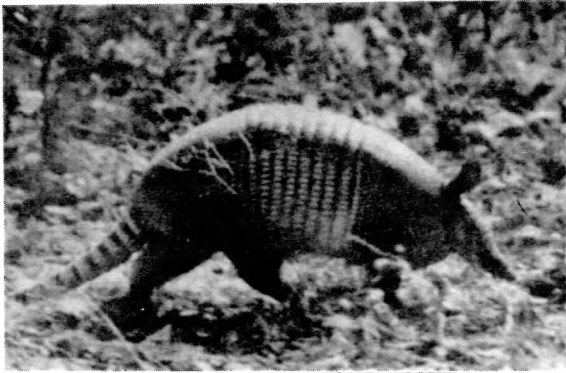


IN HONOR OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP (H) VETERANS

It started when Col. Vincent Lewis, USAF Ret of the 831st came upon the USAF Museum Memorial Tree Program at the USAF Museum, Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio. Noting a memorial to the men of the 464th Bomb Group (H), 55th Bomb Wing, Col Lewis was inspired to investigate the possibilities of having a like memorial to honor the members of the 485th. Discussing the program with Museum personnel, Col Lewis was informed that the cost of the memorial would be around \$1500 which would include the tree, memorial stone with attached plaque and the necessary construction at the memorial site.

Reviewing the project with several 831st members it was decided to make this a Group project and hopefully to have it completed by reunion time, August 1982. Woody and Marguerite Woodyard initiated a fund raising program for the project and the response was most outstanding as the veterans responded in their usual unprecedented manner. Col Lewis continued working on the dedication program, contacting numerous individuals for the dedication ceremony and making the arrangements for the program. With assistance from other 485th members the projected was completed by October and the dedication conducted on October 2, 1982.

Again as in the past the 485th veterans demonstrated their fine "Esprit de Corps" in making another project a great success. This time for a living memorial to the 485th veterans to be shared by all. We are most grateful and extend a hearty thank you to Col Lewis; Woody and Marguerite Woodyard; Col Ed Nett, 828th CO; Earl Bundy, 829th; Robert Samuels, 830th; Lyle Talbott, 830th and to all who help make this project a success. Thank You.



Giant Texas Armadillo



Eagle's Nest, Marriott Inn



Registration



Business Meeting



E Bundy, right, H Woodyard, center, and guest



830th Crew 45 - M Frohling, R Towne, B Cottingham, G Dyer



Band With The 40s Sound



New Texans - L Talbott, C Gigowski, H Woodyard, E Bundy and the sponsor A Feschka, center

DFC AWARDED 485th VET

More than 37 years after successfully navigating a 485th Bomb Group Liberator on a solo mission to a bomb run, an Oregon veteran was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

The ceremonies, held on June 24, 1982, honored Ralph W. Raines, 62, now owner of Raines Logging Co.

Raines was a staff sergeant/ball gunner with the 831st Bomb Squadron in 1945. He had flown 26 missions as a gunner by early that year when he was pressed into service as a navigator.

He was a member of the crew of Capt. Robert L. Brown. Later, when Capt. Brown was appointed to the staff of group headquarters, Lt. Donald L. Webb became the crew's first pilot.

Raines was cited for a bombing mission to Bratislava, Czechoslovakia on March 25, 1945 when he flew as a navigator. Alone and unprotected by fighter planes because of an hour's late takeoff, Raines' plane did not catch up with the rest of the group until it was on the bomb run.

The medal awarded to Raines cites his "unerring navigational skills" in successfully guiding the plane to the target and back to home base at Venosa, Italy. Soon after the mission Lt. Webb recommended Raines for the citation.

When the 485th reunion was held in Louisville two years ago, Webb discovered that Raines had never received the citation, nor did he hear that the recommendation had been turned down.

In an effort to discover the status of the recommendation, Webb called the Pentagon from his newspaper publishing office in Boyertown, Pa.

"I went through about seven echelons" of bureaucracy before even getting to the right department in Randolph Field, Texas," Webb recalls.

But, after months of forms and paperork flying back and forth from both Raines and Webb to the US Air Force, a decision was made. In January 1982, the decoration citing Raines' "professional skill and devotion to duty" was finally authorized by Secretary of the Air Force Verne Orr.

The citation was presented in June of last year at the Oregon Air National Guard base at Portland. Gen. Fred M. Rosenbaum, assistant state adjutant general, Oregon Air National Guard, made the presentation on behalf of Secretary Orr.

Witnessing the ceremony were Raines' wife, Helen; son, Ralph; friends of the family and Webb and his wife, Helen, who traveled to Oregon to visit Raines and witness the ceremony.

There is no way to know how many 485th veterans received DFCs. But no one else, we suspect, had to wait 37 years.



PLOESTI, 10 AUGUST 1944

Once again the target for the 485th Liberators was Ploesti. This would be the sixth mission to the oil fields as the first of twenty-eight Liberators started rolling down the runway at 0710 hours. There would be one more trip to Ploesti for the 485th before the area would be over run by the Russians on 30 August 1944. Divided into two attack units, Major Thomas O'Brien, 829th CO, led the first and Major Dale Seeds, Ass't Group Operations Officer led the second. After rendezvousing with the 460th Bomb Group, the formation was joined by their little friends, twenty P-51s, at 1045 hours. Five of the Liberators aborted prior to bombing.

One of the Liberators flying the mission was the well known "MISS FITZ." One of the original Liberators, "MISS FITZ" was manned by crew 28 until 2 August 1944 when Lt. Francis Lozito's crew was assigned. The crew had trained for combat duty at Boise, Idaho and then on to Lincoln, Nebraska to receive a new Liberator to fly overseas. The flight to Italy took them to Bangor, Maine; New Foundland; Azores; Africa and Venosa, Italy where they were assigned to the 829th Bomb Squadron. After flying numerous training missions and a couple of missions with a combat experienced crew, they were ready for their own bomber which was "MISS FITZ."

Twenty-three bombers flying at 25,000 feet dropped 56 tons of bombs on the Astr-Romano Oil Refinery at 1045 hours. "Ack-Ack was all over the place," Kenneth Robinson, Flight Engineer, later recalled, "We got a direct hit in the bomb bay and a hit in number two engine and fuel tank. The engine caught fire immediately, but went out as soon as I activated the fire extinguisher. With number two engine feathered, number three engine was hit. Loosing all its oil the engine seized and stopped. Next, the prop was shot off number one engine. With only number four engine remaining we salvoed the bomb load and descended rapidly to 16,000 feet. In the time remaining we threw out everything we could get our hands on — except our parachutes. Unable to maintain altitude the order to "bail out" was given.

In the meantime about fifteen Me109s were observed in the target area but did not approach the formation. Sixteen bombers received minor flak damage.

"Sgt Richard Salasar went out first," Robinson continues, "Followed by Sgt. Thomas West, SSgt Forrest Yeager, TSgt Edgar Helms, Lt Clifford Manderscheid and Lt William Donovan. With the bomber on auto-pilot I helped Lt Lozito and Lt Hall with their parachutes and we headed for the bomb bay. I jumped first followed by Hall and Loziot. At this time we were at 12,500 feet. The mountains in front appeared to be higher." "After bailing out I watched "MISS FITZ" make her final journey. Losing altitude, "MISS FITZ" completed a perfect 360 and then peeled off like she was going in for a



GP HQ - Col and Mrs Douglas Cairns



485TH POWs - Front; R. Lindsey, C. Korkolewski, V. Lewis. Rear; J. Cathcart, P. Airey, D. Syjen.



828TH - Front; D. Whatley, G. Anderson. Rear; R. Eden, A. Montulli, J. Burba.



829TH - Front; C. Lancia, L. Col-luccio, J. Ferrell, F. Haugen, F. Fundling, E. Wyand. Rear; M. Bundy, L. Rempe, A. Peshka.

unanimous approval to roll out at 8:30 Sunday morning to see the slides. I can assure you we were all there and the excellent photography took us back thru Europe and all of Italy. Following the slide show we concluded the reunion with an excellent meeting.

I had many letters this past year from the 829th members. Very happy to find several new members and I am hopeful we can find more before the next reunion. Two meetings were conducted in Dayton, Ohio to develop plans for the dedication of the 485th memorial at the Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Excellent cooperation was rendered by personnel of the Museum and members of the 485th. I am sure we will have a most honorable dedication ceremony for our Bomb Group.

I want to thank all 829th members for sending in donations to maintain the annual newsletter "Lightweight Tower." If you haven't sent in a dollar for some time, please do so as it takes about one dollar for a single issue nowadays. It has really been a treat hearing from so many of the gang in all Squadrons as a result of sending translated copies of the history of Venosa, Italy to 485th members that attended reunions during the past five years. Even received word from "Pop" Arnold, our CO. Hope he can make our '83 reunion in Chicago. See you all there.

830th BOMB SQDN — Lyle Talbott



Seventeen 830th veterans began arriving in Austin for the 882 reunion on Wednesday — Ted Lipinski, Frank Ward, Howard Sanborn, Robert Samuels, Neil Schwalder, Rod Ritchie, Robert Esary and myself. "First Timers" included George Dyer, Billy Cottingham, Mike

Frohlic, Robert Towne — all members of Major Francis Tunstall's crew — Harold Sheppard, Charles Forrester, co-pilot on Capt Jeringan's crew, Guy Botard, Ordinance, and Chester Konkolewski, Radio Operator on Lt. Francis Newton's crew.

Chester was a POW and is very active in American Ex-Prisoners of War, Inc. as Commander of the San Antonio Chapter No. 1. As an additional duty, Chester is the editor of the Chapter's monthly newsletter. It was a real joy to have so many members attend the reunion for the first time.

Major Tunstall and Joe Richmond sent regrets of being unable to attend. However, Major Tunstall hopes to see us at the '83 reunion in Chicago. I would like to thank Al Peschka and Sherrell Burba for their efforts and time spent in making the reunion another fun and successful event. While on the subject of the reunion, a letter from Martin B. Biles, 9600 E. Bexhill Drive, Kensington, MD 20895 was read, which made reference to the mission of January 20, 1945 during which his brother Lt. John R. Biles (Bob), a 830th pilot and crew went down in the Adriatic Sea on the return flight home. I appeal to any

485th reader who could supply additional information on Lt. Biles last flight to contact his brother, Martin.

It has been proposed that a future reunion be held in Alaska. I would like an honest survey of the people who would attend. A post card or letter will suffice. It would be somewhat of an expensive venture, thus we soliciate your sincere intention. This would enable the Travel Agent to prepare an accurate package based on a listing of intent. Please give this matter serious thought.

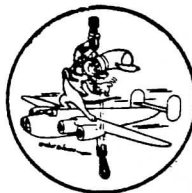
We were fortunate to have a mini-reunion in Dayton, Ohio on October 2, 1982 for the dedication of the living memorial to the 485th Bomb Group. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Skinner, Robert Samuels and myself attended. Again the event was well planned, a good time for all. I would like to thank the members of the 830th who donated toward this worthy project which will remain to be seen by all who visit the Air Force Museum.

I have received many communications from 830th members and other 485th buddies. One of the most interesting was from Bud Foran about a certain little Faux Pas, he and Eugene Lenfest engaged in while flying to Naples. I'm sure Bud will tell you the story if you get him cornered at the reunion. However, all of the news was not as gratifying as Bud's. I'm sorry to report the passing of Eugene Lenfest (Oct. 1981), Jesse Wood (Jan. 1982) and James Vail (June 1982). May we extend our sympathies to the widows of our friends and buddies.

Another item: LeRoy W. Newby, 810 North Terrace Drive, Webster City, IA 50595, a neighbor of ours in Italy, a bombardier in the 460th Bomb Group has written a book entitled Green Flak Over Ploesti." It will be published by Presidio Press, Novato, CA sometime in 1983. It deals with bombing raids, conditions, problems of the 15th and 8th Air Forces. If you care to add it to your collection, watch for it in book stores. Or for more information contact the author.

The reunion for 1983 will be in Chicago. The location is very accessible for those flying or driving. Arthur Hurley will be the host and that is what he does best. So let's have another good time in Chicago during August. I have rambled long enough. Thanks to all who have donated to the newsletter fund and Happy Holidays to all.

831st BOMB SQDN — Howard Woodyard



Another year has gone by and it was a busy one. We are not going to list all the names of those who corresponded with me during the year as there were so many due to the regular mail, the Austin reunion and the mail regarding the very successful drive for the 485th Bomb Group

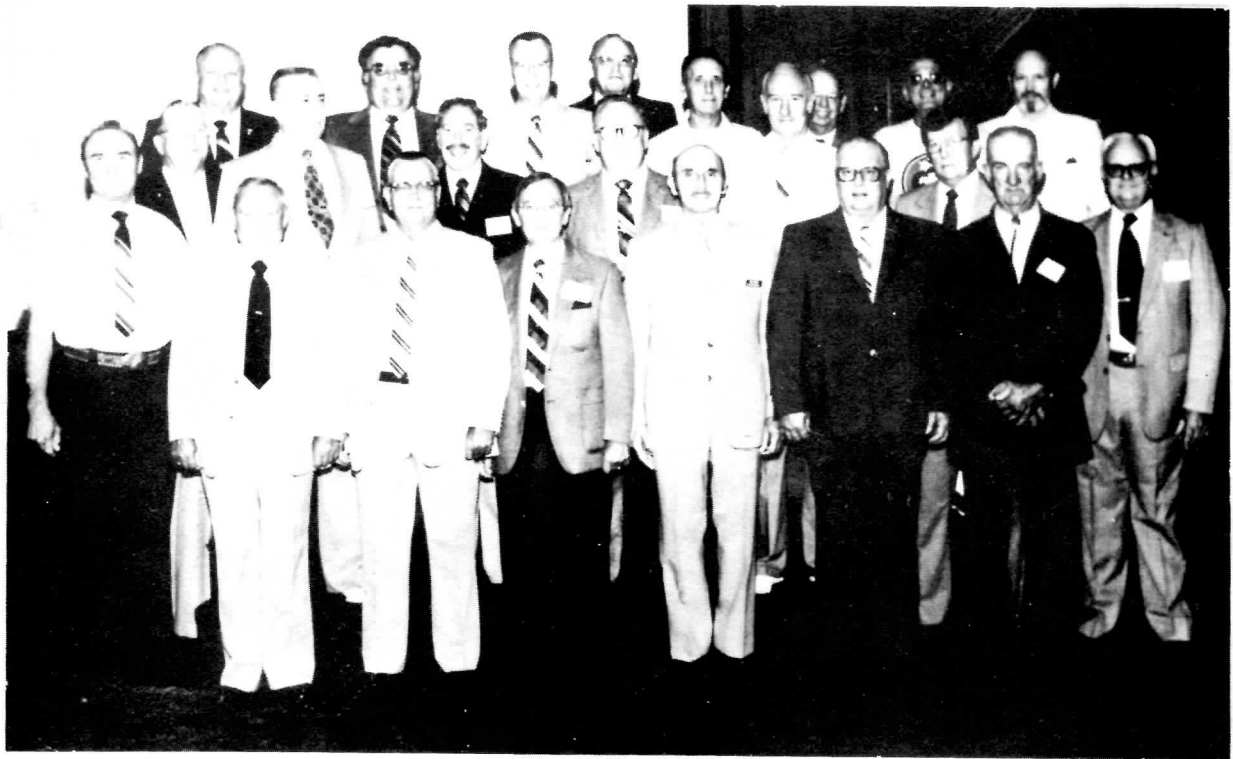
Living Tree Memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton.

Al and Alvera Peschka hosted a most successful reunion

REUNION PICTORIAL



828TH - Front; J Whatley, K Anderson, S Barba, N Montulli, J Eden. Rear; G Ick, C Gigowski, CJ Hartman, A Hurley, D Bassett, A Brown.



829TH - Front; C Harrell, M Lindsey, W Napier, F Lancia, M Fundling, K Weyand, B Rempe. Middle; E Bundy, J Cathcart, P Colluccia, A Martin, J Carlin, R Haugen, A Carlson. Rear - A Peschka, F Lambrecht, B Ferrell, K Robison, N Fessler, J Vandendries, W Combs, R Brown.

REUNION PICTORIAL



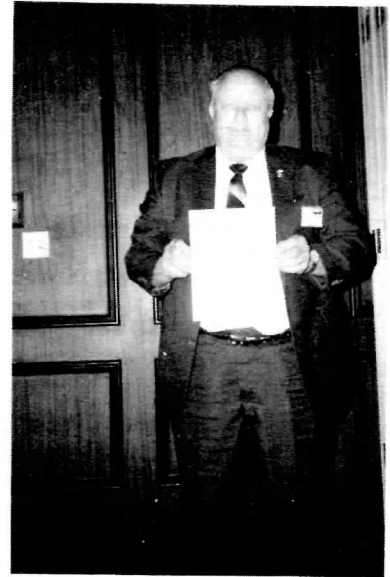
830TH - Front; T Lipinski, F Ward, C Konkolewski, S Sanborn, R Towne. Middle: R Samuels, G Dyer, H Sheppard, B Cottingham, M Frohling. Rear; L Talbott, R Esarey, T Russell, W Forester, R Ritchie, N Schawalter.



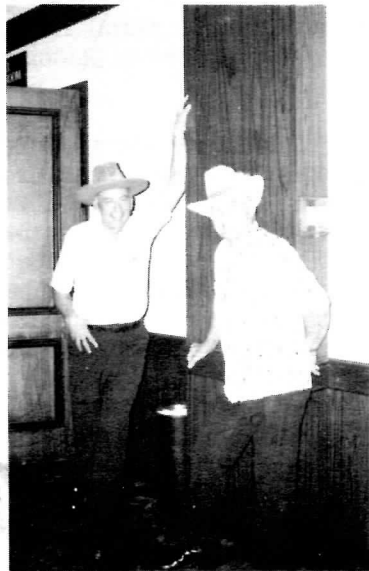
831ST - Front; H Woodyard, A Salazar, D Sjodin, M Lipman, J Jackson, C Woodbury. Middle; L Schoeneman, B Nauman, O Meyers, R Raines, T Straight. Rear; W Iwinski, D McLawnorn, E Stauverman, W Soence, P Airey, V Lewis. Last Row; D Lee, D Syjen, B Hanson.



831ST - Front; M Meyers, L Spence, C Sjodin, H Salazar, R Jackson, Middle; R Schoeneman, H Iwinski, M Woodyard, W Lipman. Rear; L Hansen, H Lee, S Airey, M Straight, M Nauman.



Al Peschka, Host



Polish Cowboys - C Gigowski and C Konkolewski



Bill and Jane Farrell

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

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

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June 24, 1982 Ralph Raines receives the Distinguished Flying Cross from Brig Gen Fred M Rosenbaum as his wife, Helen looks on. See story page 4

landing. The left wing hit first, spinning her around. When the dust settled, there she was, all together. I believe we could have ridden the bomber to its final resting place with no problems. Twenty-nine minutes had elapsed since we first hit over the target."

"Soon we were in the hands of the Yugoslavian Partisans. After about eight days of hiding in barns we got the entire crew together. Next we were turned over to English agents who radio for transportation for us, several other crews and a few Italians and English personnel. Three cargo planes and four fighters arrived, landing in an open field. Returning to Bari, we stayed in a hospital for a week, on to rest camp and finally returning to the 829th."

"The crew never flew together again. Lt Lozito stayed in Bari as Operations Officer. TSgt Helms, Radio Operator, worked in the Control Tower. The rest of the crew went into the replacement pool. I flew several missions with Captain Cline and Captain Kearny as Flight Engineer. Completing forty-seven missions I returned state-side."

Returning from the target the P-51s left the formation at 1220 hours. Liberator 863 made an emergency landing and returned to Venosa at 1930 hours. The mission ended as twenty-one Liberators began landing at 1432 hours.



MAIL ROOM

485th BOMB GROUP HQ — Carl Gigowski



Another year has become history and again it is time to record the continuous saga of the 485th veterans. One way we do this is in the mail room section of the newsletter where we report on our correspondence and possibly express some personal feeling and views. However, as

always, it is heart warming to receive correspondence from you all.

I would have to believe that most of the old veterans are still going strong as indicated by Ralph Wakefield's letter. Ralph is still working full time at Potsdam College. However he is looking forward to the time when he will be free to travel and attend the reunions. The photo of the California Colonel, John Hannan, I am sure brought back memories of Venosa, for Ralph, John, Ed Kral and Squire Bolton shared a bungalow at Venosa International Airfield. The entry by Hugh Bayless was enjoyed by Ralph as he remembers Hugh for his kindness. Ralph sends his best wishes to all.

From the other side of the US, the California Colonel signaled again and it was great to have received his message, although it was sad. John's son was hospitalized in Houston, Texas and passed away shortly before the reunion. Both John and Virginia expressed their regrets on being unable to attend the reunion and plan to see all in Chicago in '83. John plans to retire in late '83 or early '84. Also, from out west, notes were received from Dr.

Maurice Priver and Dr. William Bradley. Both seem to be enjoying working as neither has retired. Col. Doug Cairns and Lillian transmitted a cheerful note and I am sure we shall see them at another reunion.

From Greenwood, Mississippi word was received of the passing of another comrade. Mrs. Doris Ladner wrote a beautiful letter informing us of the passing of her husband, Major Walter Ladner, as we knew him in Italy as our Intelligence Officer who briefed us on all of our missions. Lt. Col. Ladner was 73 and spent his life time as an engineer. We all send our sincere condolences to his wife Doris and family.

828th BOMB SQDN — Bob Deeds



To quote a phrase, "How time flies," is to say the least. The reunions seem to come and go more rapidly. We were unable to attend the reunion in Austin, Texas because of health problems. Happy to hear reports that all did have a great time. We did go to Dayton, Ohio for the

dedication of the 485th Bomb Group Memorial. Howard and Marguerite Woodyard did a great job of planning a very impressive ceremony.

Currently, I have a mailing list of 165 members that have been contacted over the years. This year I heard from twenty-five members. Twelve of them were new members, including Frank Buck, James A. Bowman, William Brooks, Howard Keech, John H. McCabe, Walter Szaeko, Felix M. Tidwell, and Zack L. Phillips. I am sorry to report that four members were transferred to the Journey's End roster: Henry T. Hazen, Sam Peppard, Don Gilbert, and Jackson Winters.

If you would like a copy of the 828th mailing roster or any information, I would be most happy to accommodate you. We will try our best to help you locate a member of the Group. We do ask that you send a donation to cover mailing expenses. Our best wishes to all.

829th BOMB SQDN — Earl Bundy



It was a treat to beat the 831st again by having one more member in attendance for the reunion. We all had a wonderful time and really enjoyed the accommodations and arrangements made by Al Peschka. I am so proud as Chairman of our Group Reporters from each Squadron

that we can accomplish so much and maintain a very cooperative organization that continues to grow and develop more lasting friendships each year. We were very happy to have twenty-four veterans attending the reunion for the first this year.

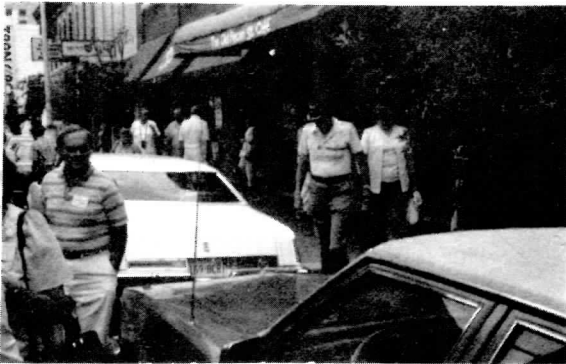
Al Peschka arranged a most enjoyable tour of Austin and then topped it off with a fine dinner dance during the evening. I was pleased that Milt and Francis Fundling brought their color slides of the trip to Venosa. We had a



At The State Capital



LBJ Library and Museum



Old Pecan Street Cafe



French Legation (1841)



Tour Guides - Bonnie and Mike

VENOSA, ITALY — 3 March 1945

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the
Group
The big wheels and wigs were grinding out poop.
The bombers were parked on their hardstands with care
Waiting for armament soon to be there.
The fliers were all nestled all snug in the beds
When out of the darkness there came quite a knock.
We cursed the OD and looked at the clock.
Briefing will be in two hours, he said.
Time marches on and the minutes fly by
So it's out of the sack and make with the flying.
We rush to the mess hall quick as a flash;
We ate cold powdered eggs and hideous hash.
Then a long bumpy ride to the Group briefing room
Where the big wigs preside and dish out our doom.
The target is told and the first six rows faint
For lo and behold! Vienna, it ain't!
The brain has slipped up, oh my poor aching back,
We're bombing a target that throws up no flak.
So, it's back to the truck and off to the line;
The road is now smooth and the weather is fine.
The crew is at stations, the check list is run,
The engines run smoothly as we give them the gun.
Then suddenly the pilot wails in despair.
Look at the tower, they just shot up a flare.
We dash to the window with a heart full of dread —
The pilot is right! The damn thing is red!
So, it's back to the sack and we sweat out our fate,
For there's a practice formation at a quarter past eight.

485th BG Author Unknown



828th



829th

Dedication of the



Memorial

Saturday, 2 October 1982

United States Air Force Museum
Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio



830th



831st

PRAYER FOR THE 485th BOMB GROUP

Lord, God Almighty, Pilot of our faith, Co-pilot on this life's journey, be our ever present navigator on our mission on your earth.

Teach us to communicate with our fellow man, to engineer our lives in such way that we shall complete the mission you would have us do in this earthly theatre of operations.

May our guns of virtue be ever primed, "Against politics without principle; pleasure without work; knowledge without character; business without morality; science without humanity; freedom without patriotism; and religion without sacrifice".

Lord, when we have finished our mission of life; may the beacon of your heavenly tower be calling us to a safe return to the runway of eternal life where we may find a permanent stand down on that hard stand prepared by the ground crews of heaven, where the flak of life can no longer be seen, and the guns of pain, illness and despair are silenced for evermore, and we can reside in our homeland of eternal rest and peace.

Be with our comrades and their families who have already passed through the vapor trail of life.

God, we give thee thanks for the good things of life, the friendship, the fellowship, the "viva la compagnie" of this group, yes, even life itself.

Please be unto each of us now and forever more

Amen

Sherrill Burba

PROGRAM

1015 hours—Air Force Museum Theatre

Opening Remarks:

Vincent P. Lewis, Lieutenant Colonel USAF
Retired, Master of Ceremonies

Invocation:

Captain Frank Mayernick, Chaplin,
Headquarters AFLC

Recognition:

Introduction of the Relatives of the Members of
the 485th Bomb Group Who Died in Combat

Guest Speaker:

John G. Murphy, Lieutenant General USAF
Commander, 15th Air Force
March AFB, California

1050 hours—Memorial Site West of the Museum

Memorial Unveiling/Wreath Presentation:

Carl Gigowski, Bob Deeds, Earl Bundy,
Lyle Talbot and Howard Woodyard

Presentation of the 485th Bomb Group Memorial to
the Air Force Museum:

Douglas M. Cairns, Colonel USAF Retired

Acceptance of Memorial by the Air Force Museum:

Richard L. Uppstrom, Colonel USAF

Director, Wright Patterson Air Force Museum

Recital of the 485th Bomb Group Prayer:

Read by Mr. Sherrill Burba, Composer

Closing Remarks:

Vincent P. Lewis

Benediction:

Captain Frank Mayernick

Taps and 21 Gun Salute:

Wright Patterson Ceremonial Team

1130 hours—Air Force Museum Theatre

Film—Target Ploesti

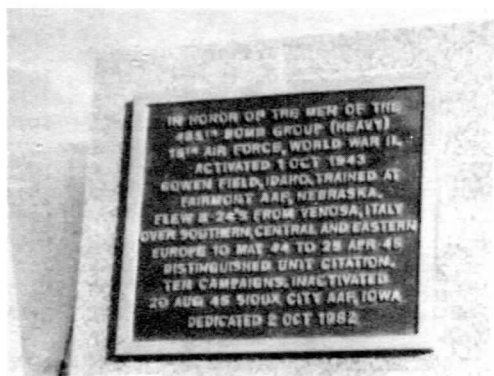
1200-1800 hours—Air Force Museum Tour

1830-0100 hours—Defense Electronic Supply Center

Officers Club
1507 Wilmington Pike
Dayton, Ohio

Dining and Dancing

DEDICATION OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP MEMORIAL



485TH BG Memorial Plaque



Col Richard L Uppstrom, USAF



In Memory of the 485th BG



LCol Vincent Lewis, USAF Ret



Col Douglas Cairns, USAF Ret



The Memorial Tree



485th Bomb Group Veterans



USAF Museum, Dayton, Ohio

JOURNEYS END

Members Deceased Since The End Of WWII

ANNINOS, Milton	828	1971	GILLESPIE, Kenneth	GpH	REYMAN, Arthur H	830
BAGGS, Bill	830	1969	GOODSON, James M	GpH	ROBERDEAU, H, Maj	830 1972
BAKKE, Wayne	828	1976	GRASS, Alfred W	828	ROE, John	GpH
BARRETT, Sam	830		GREENWOOD, Lloyd H	830	RYBORCYK, Joseph P	828 1979
BARQUIST, Ernie	828	1967	GRUBBS, Wm E	829 1972	RYDER, William	831 1972
BECKLEY, Paul	828	1981	HARRISON, Wallace	GpH 1945	SCHALIS, Eugene H	829 1972
BEHNKE, Laurel L	828	1967	HASLER, Donald E	831 1972	SCHOULTZ, Wm H	828 1975
BEST, Willie	830	1978	HERMAN, Joseph J	830	SHEPHERD, Chester D	828 1973
BLACKWELL, Earl	828	1959	HUCKEY, H.M. LCol	GpH 1973	SHINDLEDECKER, F	828 1965
BOETTCHE, Donald E	828	1948	JACKSON, S R	831 1980	SIMPSON, Chas R	828
BOYER, Henry	828	1964	JENSEN, Willard	828 1962	SMITH, Kenneth H	829 1977
BRODRICK, Gerald A	828	1968	JOHNSON, R W, Col	GpH 1972	SOLLINGER, Edward	828 1968
BROWN, Wilbur	828	1972	JOHNSON, Ralph P	829 1966	STAGMAN, Orlie M	831
CAMPANELLA, John	829		JONES, Glenn G, Jr	830 1974	STRAIT, Carrol	829 1976
CARLSON, Arthur	829	1977	KEANELLY, Wm C	828 1973	SULLIVAN, Hailey	829 1960
CATHY, Joe	830		KETCHAM, Frank D	828 1968	SUTTEREY, Merle	829 1982
CAUDLE, James	828	1976	KOKENGE, Julian	830 1977	SWANN, Everett H	830 1975
CHAPMAN, Russel	828		KRAL, Ed	GpH 1979	SWANSON, Floyd	829 1982
CHRIST, Ben	828	1976	LADNER, Walter A	GpH 1982	TALLESON, Julius Q	831 1977
CADENHEAD, Phil Dr	831	1981	LIA, Hans	GpH 1973	TANNER, Wm	829 1971
CLEGHORN, George	831	1981	LISH, Gilbert	829 1968	THOMAS, Homer	829
CORBIN, Allen B	829	1982	MAISUK, Stanley J	1975	THOMPSON, George	830 1976
COREY, Russel	828		MASTRANGLO, Tony	829 1982	THOMPSON, Harold V	831 1971
COX, Lester C	828	1972	MC GINNK, Charles J	828	THOMPSON, Robert A	829 1977
CRABILL, George	830	1979	MIFLIN, Ed	829 1971	THRONE, John N	829 1971
DEGAN, John	830	1966	MILLER, Robert W	831 1982	TITON, Edgar	830
DI MATTEO, Gene	828	1969	MILIS, Ernest	829 1977	TRUSS, John	830 1968
DONACHE, Leigh	829	1971	KRYER, Ralph	829 1981	WILLIAMS, Geo T	830 1980
ENTWHISTLE, Jack	828	1959	NESBITT, J Glenn	829 1977	WILLIAMS, Garland O	829 1965
FLISS, Frank	831	1981	OBERLE, Robert	828 1970	WOLF, Wm F	829 1979
FORRESTER, August R	828		O'DELL, Rex	828 1948	VALLES, Victor	828 1978
FREITAS, Henry E	828		PERILLO, Ralph	828 1979	YANKEE, Wayne	828
GIBSON, Richard O	828	1962	PICKLE, Buck	828 1973	YOUNG Othmar	831 1971
GILBERT, Don	828	1982	PRATZ, Wm S	GpH	YOUNG, Robert C	831 1972
GILLASPIE, Darrell K	830	1979	REUTER, C W	GpH		

in Austin, Texas. It was well planned and enjoyed by all who attended. Sorry that Alvera was able to attend for limited periods and hope her broken ribs are mended well in time for the reunion in Chicago. The 831st was not the top squadron in attendance. Al really recruited for his squadron and it paid off. There were three 831st veterans attending for the first time: Paul Airey, Darold Lee, and Morris Lipman.

As many of you know, the 485th Memorial at the Air Force Museum is completed and dedicated as of October 2, 1982. Several veterans attended the ceremony and I hope that all of the 485th veterans will eventually visit the shrine. The dedication ceremony was impressive and fitting. Vince Lewis deserves our sincere thanks for most of the planning. Ed Nett, 828th CO, of Dayton, was most helpful in planning the dinner Friday evening and the dinner dance Saturday evening, plus overseeing several other details. Robert Samuels, 830th, of Dayton, Earl Bundy, 829th and myself did our bit in making this a success. If any who attended the dedication did not sign the registration book, please advise.

We regret to report that Mrs. Miller of Lompoc, California advised us that her husband, Robert, passed away on March 27, 1982. Our sympathy to her and family — we shall miss Bob.

I enjoyed hearing from all of you and if I have overlooked answering any of your letters or failed to acknowledge your financial support, please let me know. I certainly do

not mean to miss anyone. But if I have done so, please accept my apologies.

Hope to see you in Chicago on August 5-7, 1983 at the reunion in the Windy City hosted by Art Hurley of the 828th.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

Eighteen years ago, at the first reunion at the home of Bill Schoultz, Newton Fall, Ohio I volunteer to edit and publish a newsletter. The following year we had our first newsletter. And with the assistance of the Sqdn Reporters and you veterans, the newsletter became a record of the 485th saga.

As time marches on, the course of events can cause one to reassess priorities. Thus, it is with a sad heart that I am retiring as your editor, but happy to turn the job over to Donald Webb. Don is most qualified for he is editor of his hometown newspaper. I shall continue as Gp Hq Reporter and Group Historian. Knowing the esprit de corps of the 485th veterans, I know that Don will received the wonderful support given to me.

For me, it was an honor and a great pleasure to be your editor. I sincerely thank everyone for your support. My top project will be the Group history. CARL GIGOWSKI