



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



No. 23

February 1989

'89 Reunion Set for San Antonio



Reunion Headquarters — Downtown San Antonio

By Chet Konkolewski

San Antonio, Texas has been chosen as the location for the 1989 reunion for veterans of the 485th Bomb Group. Registration will open on September 6 and activities continue through September 11.

Host facility will be the Marriott Riverwalk Hotel, located in the heart of downtown San Antonio. It is within walking distance of the Alamo as well as the Tower of the Americas, Rivercenter Mall, the Institute of Texan Culture and many more facilities.

San Antonio is: Fiestas, music, elegant boutiques and festive restaurants. It is also the Riverwalk and, of course, the Alamo. San Antonio is also the place where chili was invented, the birthplace of the United States Air Force and much, much more.

As Will Rogers dubbed San Antonio: "One of America's unique cities" where a city whose past is every bit alive as its present — a rich tapestry of sights, sounds, tastes, woven from a diversity of cultures and histories, with a texture unlike any other.

You may come to see the Alamo, but when you leave we guarantee that there will be much more that you will remember.

Programs for veterans and their families are still in the developing stages, but some of the highlights include: A Tex-

88 Reunion — A Big Success

By Woody Woodyard

On September 27, 1988 a lot of graying eagles started flying in to roost at the Hilton Hotel in St. Petersburg Beach, Fla. Before long there were no more roosting space left and the rest of the eagles had to roost at the Holiday Inn next door. That made it even better — for a real good reunion by the large number of vets and vets widows — 185 vets total.

On Tuesday evening all of the reporters and wives were invited to the Hanson "Pent House Apartment" for a meeting, with refreshments and snacks. Afterwards we had dinner at a nice seafood restaurant on the bay. A very nice start for a good and

successful reunion. Thank you, Bob and Lynda Hanson.

Wednesday was the start of registrations and later, more fun, opening of the hospitality room which was well attended. The bubbly bubbled, the tales started and buddies continued their stories, not finished from the last reunion. This is why it is all so much fun.

Early Thursday all the golfers took off for the links, and I understand they had a ball. I don't know who won the prizes, but I can almost guess. Later the ladies — and men — took off via shuttle bus for John's Pass Village. It was enjoyable buying souvenirs and trinkets. We went

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 12)

'88 Reunion —

(Continued from page one)

up to the revolving bar at the top of the Hilton, and watched the "blast-off" of the rocket and spaceship. It was more visible than we had hoped for. That was a real thrilling event for everyone watching. It was a first for me and many of the others.

There were more registrations and bathing and lolling on the beach and by the pool, soaking up the sun. The terrace was really nice for snacks, drinks, and just visiting and more stories. The flying surfers were a real sight to watch, and so were the beautiful bathers — I heard. The hospitality room was open most of the day and all evening.

Late in the afternoon a bunch of us from the group went over to Alice Turecki's, who lives close by the big new bridge, and had a wonderful buffet dinner and refreshments. Leona Schoultz assisted her. It was a real party — thanks, Alice! The "left overs" were brought to the hospitality room and all was consumed for lunch on Friday.

Friday was the day for the big meeting which was very fruitful. To begin, the mayor of St. Petersburg Beach was there and welcomed us and declared Friday as the 485th Bomb Group Day — quite an honor for us. There was a tie for traveling the farthest to attend the reunion. Two from Hawaii shared the honors.

There was some discussion about having drawings of the 485th B 24's. Leonard Little was to look into this and report on it. (See the Notice in this issue).

A highlight of the meeting was the awarding of the Ford B-24 lapel pin to Marguerite and me for having attended all 24 reunions. Ha! There were so many things brought up and settled at the meeting reported in the minutes.

The evening was very nice — the ride on the Captain Anderson cruise boat out into the bay. We had a delicious dinner and dancing. We saw something most of us have never seen — a



Among the sites planned for the San Antonio reunion is a trip to Lackland Air Force Base. Shown above is the Parade Ground Monument.

waterspout and another one was forming. Glad it did not come our way! Frances Fundling took a picture of them and sent me one. It was real good!

I went up on the bridge and talked with the captain. Very interesting fellow, he is an excellent navigator and brought us safely back to harbor. I invited him to come to Toledo and I'd give him a ride on my brother's real steam boat, a stern wheeler, but not as large as the Anderson.

To start Saturday off, three bus loads of us took off for Busch Gardens. It was quite interesting with beautiful flowers and shrubs for tropical effect, and there were lots of animals, insects, etc. like a zoo. The pandas were very popular, their last day to be there. They were the first I had seen.

The brewery was interesting, especially the free beer went over big. Went back to the hotel and the hospitality room to rest. Then we dressed for our pictures followed by a delicious chicken dinner and dancing. The orchestra was fine and played our kind of music. It was a very enjoyable evening. (Unfortunately, after our dance the band leader suffered a heart attack and died. We regret this, it was a shock. His wife was the vocalist.)

Some time was spent in the hospitality room afterward with

more stories which ended another enjoyable day.

Sunday morning we chose our best pictures and ordered the ones we wanted. He was a good photographer, but again his camera was not big enough to take the 831st as clearly as the smaller groups.

Then to the memorial service and breakfast. This was in memory of all our fallen comrades, especially for the 146 men lost when the USS Paul Hamilton was sunk. These men were half of the 831st squadron. No survivors from that tragedy. I hope that by now the individual crosses in the U.S. Military Cemetery near Algiers will have their names on them. The service was very moving and fitting. Sherrill Burba and those who helped him deserve our commendation for the excellent job.

The "Ham and Egg" breakfast was delicious. Shortly after all the old Eagles started taking off for their home roosts. Hope they all made it home safely. I am still trying to figure out how our rooms could be square in a round building.

Thanks Bob and Lynda for this wonderful reunion. I was thankful and proud of both of you.

Minutes of Meeting

September 30, 1988

The meeting of the 485th Bomb Group Association was called to order by Earl Bundy on Friday September 30th, 1988 — 9 A.M. — at the St. Petersburg Beach Hilton Hotel, St. Petersburg Beach, Florida.

Earl introduced Bob Hanson, host for the reunion, who in turn, introduced Mayor Ron McKenna. After a short talk, Mayor McKenna presented the 485th Bomb Group with a proclamation declaring, Friday September 30th, 1988, as 485th Bomb Group Day.

Lynda Hanson read the minutes of the meetings at Scottsdale, Ariz. reunion in 1987. Minutes were approved.

General Walter "Pop" Arnold was introduced and thanked all who attended the dedication of the 485th plaque at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs Sept. 28th, 1987.

Earl Bundy read the poem written in 1984 by Bernard and Laura Rempe's son in law, Dean Stevenson — "The Fighting Men of the 485th."

Ed Nett sent best wishes to the 485th as he was unable to attend the reunion and hopes to see everyone in Dayton, Ohio for the 1990 reunion.

Bob Hanson thanked all who came and all who helped make our reunion a success. Hanson presented a B-24 pin to Margurite and Howard Woodyard for their many years of work with the 485th B.G. This pin was donated by Mrs. Evelyn Forbes, of St. Petersburg, who saw our reunion write-up in the St. Petersburg Times. She worked in Ford's Willow Run B-24 factory during WW 2 and was presented the pin from them.

First timers introduced themselves. There were 26 at the meeting. The final count of veterans attending were:

Headquarters	9
828th	41
Vets & 2 women	
829th	42
Vets & 2 women	

830th

Vets & 2 women

831st

Vets & 1 woman

Total

35

57

184

Vets incl. 3 women

Alice Turecki was thanked for the lovely dinner she had on Thursday night at her home for the 828th and all others who could attend.

Bob Benson announced those going to Epcot or Disney World after reunion could get a special rate at the Wynfield Inn in Kissimmee, Fl. for the 485th B.G.

Earl Bundy told of the cemetery in Carthage, Tunisia where the 485th members who were killed on the S.S. Paul Hamilton, were buried and that their names would be given at the Memorial Breakfast on Sunday morning. Sherrill Burba will be conducting the services along with Al Martin as a song leader and Rosalie Jackson, pianist.

Ken Robison announced that he had named one of his horses "Venosa Flyer" and it will be known as a B-24 horse.

Chet Konkowlewski told of some of the highlights for the 1989 reunion in San Antonio, Texas and invited all to attend. Dates to be September 6th to 10th, 1989 — all data and material to be mailed early 1989. Stella Konkowleski was thanked for her delicious buffet in the hospitality room on Thursday. Leonard Little showed a drawing in silver of a B-24 by a local artist. It was voted and passed to order 50 at \$15.00 each, to be distributed at 1989 reunion.

Bob Benson told of pictures in hospitality suite of bombing raids of 485th and many pictures which will be of interest to all of their time spent in Italy. Leonard Little said he would make prints, but it was later determined that photographer Bill Angle would do same.

John Hannen, of headquarters, introduced his wife of 46 years and made mention that many years ago, he attended St. Petersburg High School, left before WW 2 and this was his first trip back to St. Petersburg.

Earl Bundy made mention of a

Greek commemorative medal available to all members of the 485th. This is a liberation medal signed by the Greek Government.

It was mentioned that a B-24 is being restored at the Kissimmee, Florida airport. Also, that a Warner-Robbins Air Museum in Georgia should be a stop if traveling that way.

Dan Sjodin thanked General Arnold for hosting us in Colorado Springs. Our motel accommodations were superb, the dedication at the Memorial Wall, tour of the Air Force Academy and beautiful luncheon at the Officers Club were a perfect ending of our 1987 reunion.

Karl Anderson asked that all new veterans give their addresses to their squadron leaders and those of any buddies who have not been contacted.

The crews with the most members attending were from the 831st. John Jackson's crew with six and John Godfrey of Jim Mulligan's crew also had six in attendance. After some discussion, Jackson won the trophy after guessing numbers.

Ground crews with the most attending were from the 829th. Phil Colluccio accepted the trophy in behalf of the 829th.

Sid Manson won for coming the furthest distance from Kailus-Kon, Hawaii. He was tied with Lynn Cotterman from Kahului, Hawaii.

Andy Anderson told how reunions first started. The first group reunion was held in Newton Falls, Ohio in August 1965 and was hosted by Bill and Leona Schoultz. Previously the reunion was an 828th event and was changed to a Group reunion as attendance and correspondence from other squadron members increased. Prior to the 1965 reunion, the 828th held five reunions.

Earl Bundy asked for a host for 1991 reunions. There were no volunteers and it was tabled until next year.

Howard Woodyard gave the amount in 485th bank account as \$3,801.86 and this was drawing

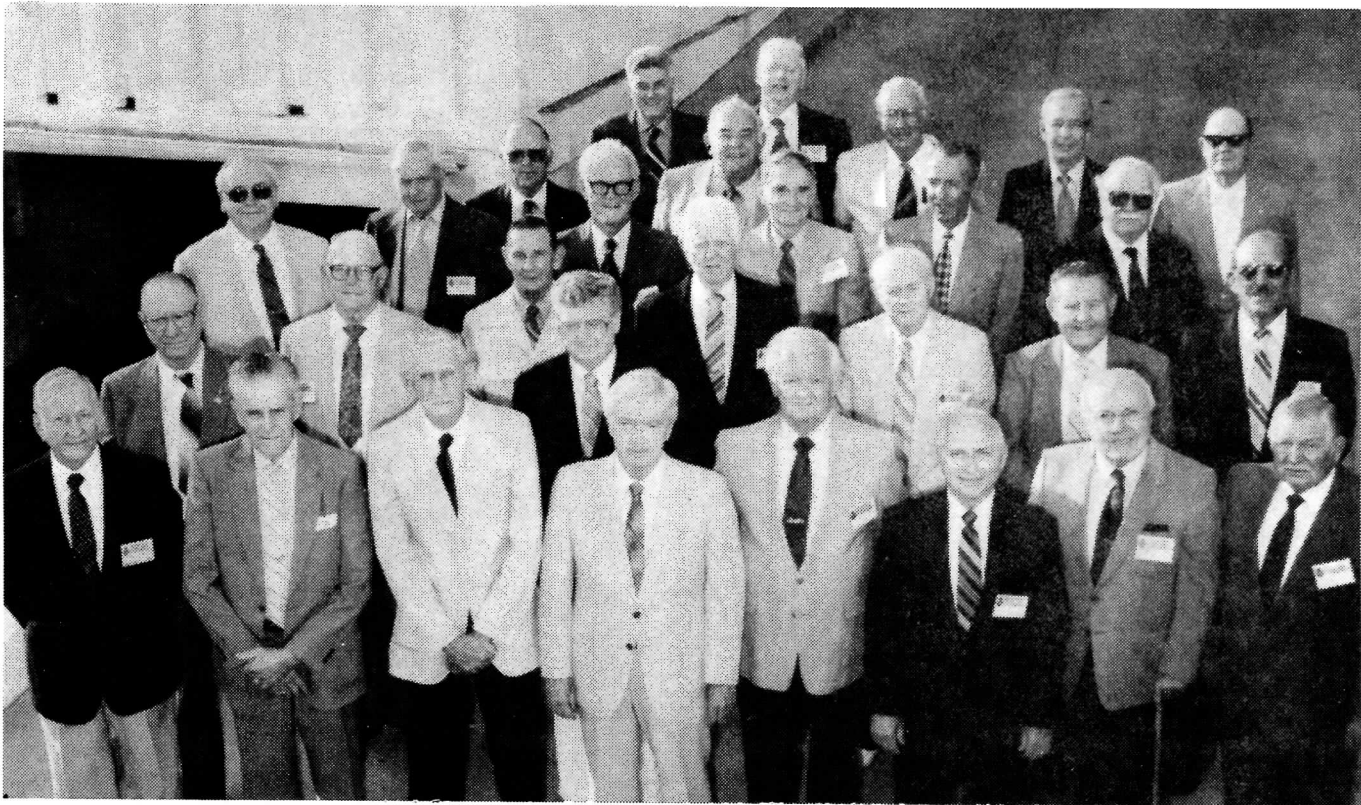
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828th SQUADRON — First row, left to right: H. T. Alford, Karl Anderson, Sam Schnieder, Leona Schoultz, Nick Montulli, Herman Laorno, Carl Mazzoni, Al Hawkins, E. J. (Pappy) DeVane. Second row: Lyle Alexander, Bill Conley, Sherrill Burba, Ken Ponta, Joe Coker, John Treble. Third row: Ray Trautman, Willard Smith, Joe Cox, Jack Eden, Clif Parli, Warren Domey, Bryce Blakley. Fourth row: Martin Bishop, Martin Lydard, C. O. Eckfeld, Joe Marrone, Houston Register. Fifth row: Warren Mickle, Jim Rau. Sixth row: Bob Deeds, Clem Norris, Bill Lancaster, Ken Wall, Tom McDowel, Bill Fritz, Leslie Black, Larry Sullivan, Dick Matison. Not shown: Art Hurley, Roger Monroe, Tom Roemer, Lloyd Huset and Paul McCutcheon.

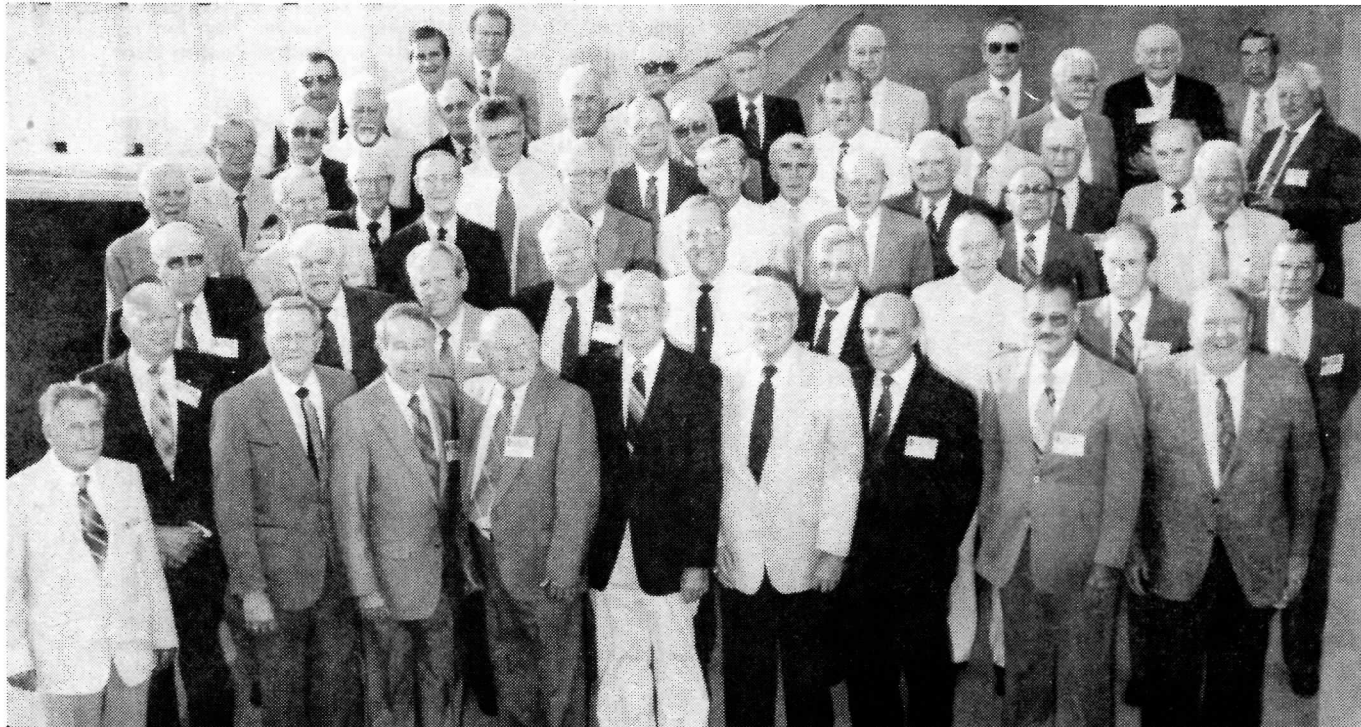


829th SQUADRON — First row, left to right: Art Karnes, Milt Fundling, Forrest Yeager, M.V.H. Dann, Homer Hale, Hovey Ball, Earl Pinelli. Second row: Al Martin, Nick Hank, Kermit Feldman, Bill Culver, Al O'Brien, Roy Anderson, R. J. Scott. Third row: Marvin Lindsay, Mike Kilbury, Chas Crane, Dan Roehm, Bernard Rempe, Robert C. Brown, James Gray. Fourth row: Joe Nuesle, Roy Daniel, Layton Tuggle, Dave Roth, Art Smith, Ed Sawyer. Fifth row: Joe Cathcart, Leon Best, Clark Miller. Sixth row: Earl Isaacson, Robert Peterson, Bill Long, Bob Camden, Earl Bundy, Barton Brown, Kenneth Robison, William Rucker. Not shown: Bob Boettcher and Herman Garber.



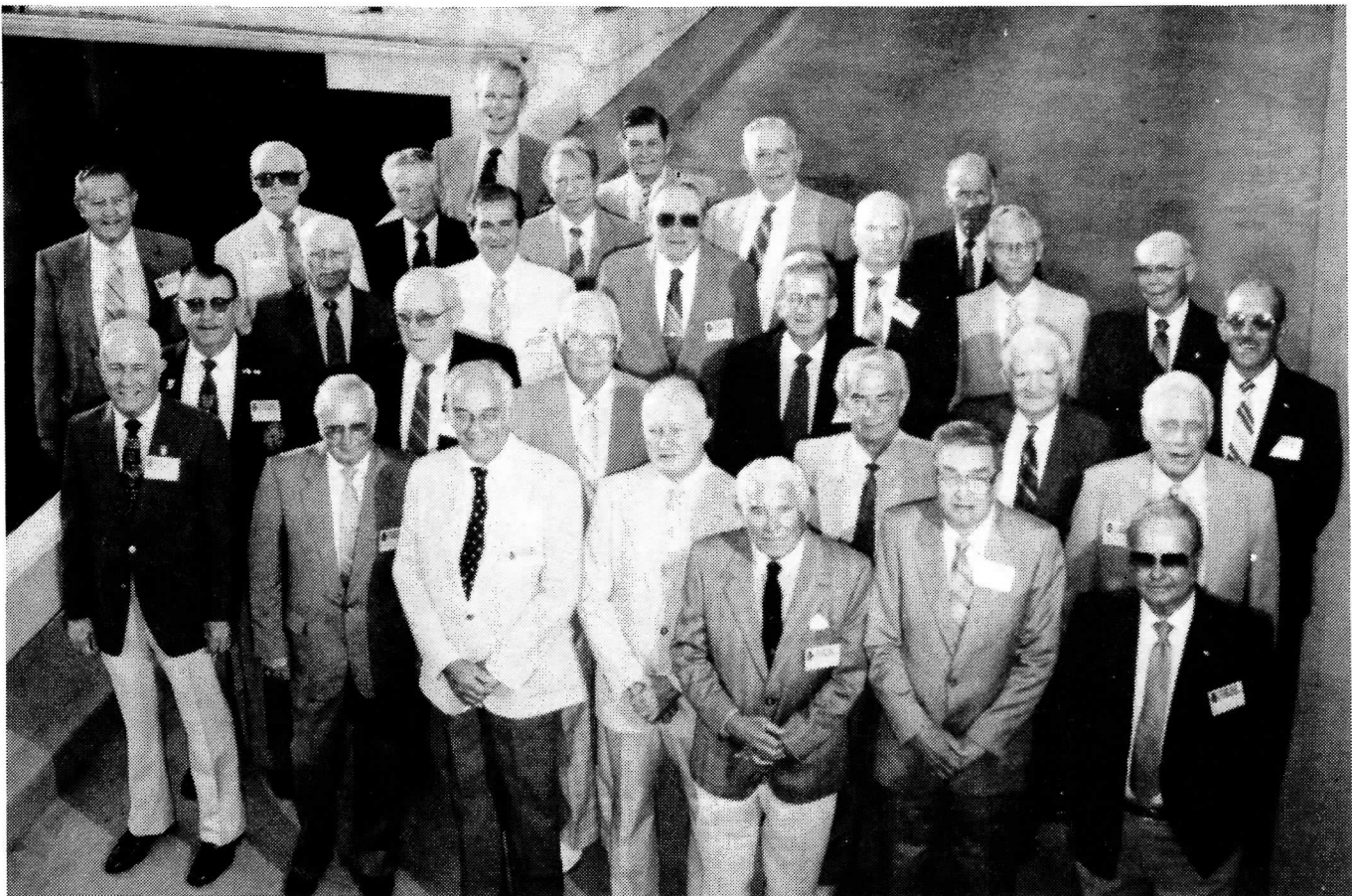
830th SQUADRON — First row, left to right: John Forst, Ralph Skinner, Rod Ritchie, Frank Gallagher, Harry Oberholtzer, Steve Paynic, Howard Sanborn, Ted Lupinski. Second row: Bob Samuels, Lawrence Martin. Third row: Howard Boxley, Earl Schiffmacher, Warren Forrester, L. E. Foran, Chet Konkolewski, George Raidel. Fourth row, Pete Peterson, James Hunter, Francis

Tunstall, William Boling, Richard Griffin, Tom Russell. Fifth row: Herbert Mehlemann, Mel Taylor. Sixth row: Arthur Cook, Robert McAlpine, Robert Plaister, James Blitch, S. Barnes. Not in picture: Cliff Martin, Travis Robinson, Jacob Disston, Bernard Schames, Leroy Sanders, and Paul McCutcheon.



831th SQUADRON — First row, left to right: John Nagle, E. V. Lee, Ralph Raines, Cliff Woodbury, Dan Sjodin, Homer Cotton, Lynn Cotterman, Andres Salazar, Wandell Townsend, Bob Mona. Second row: Morgan Browning, Leo O'Brien, George Terrell, Harold Richards, Jack Bremer, Jack Jackson, Warren Meyers, Lewis Baker, Russell Cooper. Third row: W. A. Miller, Ken Lawrence, Don Webb, Rollie Palmer, Bob Hanson (host), Leo Prince, Bob Halling, Harlan Tinney, Gene Lamar. Fourth row:

Frank Pratt, Robert Baker, Ed Wroblewski, David Hansen, Luke Terry, Leonard Little, Woody Woodyard. Fifth row: Richard Kingsbury, Ned Peirano, Steve Mlinaz, Vic Bone, Bob Plocica, Robert Lewis, Bob Edinger, Robert Hanna, James Bright, Frank Nardi, Bob Rector, Jack Godrey, Leo Gagne, John Breen, Don Evjen, Jesse Ledbetter, Kenneth Brown. Not in picture: Sid Manson, Wm. Ceely, Willis Jolly, Harry Stein, Mike Lupoli and Wayne Whiting.



POW'S AT REUNION — Somewhere along the line, we failed to get the names of the POW'S in proper order. All we have are those in the picture. Perhaps you can match the names with the faces in the photo. POW's attending the reunion include: Ed Sawyer, Leonard Little, Don Evjen, David Roth, Roy Daniel, George Raidel, Frank Nardi, Bob Rector, Leo Gagne, John

Godfrey, John Cornett, Joe Cathcart, Pete Peterson, Earl Isaacson, Morgan Browning, L. O'Brien, Luke Terry, E. V. Lee, Homer Hale, Frank Pratt, Chet Konkolewski, Bill Culver, Ken Brown, James Bright, James Scott, Forrest Yeager, Don Roehn, Marv Lindsay, Leon Best and "pop" Arnold.

Minutes —

(Continued from page three)

interest in a savings account.

It was announced that the B-24 Liberator 50th anniversary reunion will be in Fr. Worth, Texas May 19-21-1989 and the 15th Air Force Association reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada will be held August 13-18, 1989.

The meeting was closed with Earl Bundy reading the 485th prayer written by Sherrill Burba.

A motion was made and seconded that the 1988 reunion meeting be closed. Meeting adjourned.

Lynda Hanson
Secretary —
485th B. G. Reunion



HEADQUARTERS — Front row, left to right: Leo Czachorowski, John (Beau) Cornett, "Pop" Arnold, Bob Benson and Dave Kilberg. Back row: Bill Angle, Doug Cairns, Sid Manson and John Hannan. Not shown: John Gold and Woody Wood.

829th Veterans Reunited

Three of the four members of the 829th squadron engineering office were reunited at the Phoenix reunion in 1987, the first time since 1945.

William Trafford, Earl Bundy and Kermit Feldman attended the reunion. The only missing member of the group was Paul Van Amburg.

The first home for this quartet was not unfamiliar to most veterans of the 485th. It was an Army tent.

Months later, they built an engineering office on the flight line and the four of them added a 12' by 12' room. There they lived until the end of the war.

In the spring of 1945, 16 gallons of 100-octane fuel was ignited by accident one morning at three o'clock in the engineering office adjoining the living quarters.

The four of them were practically blown out of bed. They lost most of the material belongings, but the structure was rebuilt before it was time to return to the States.

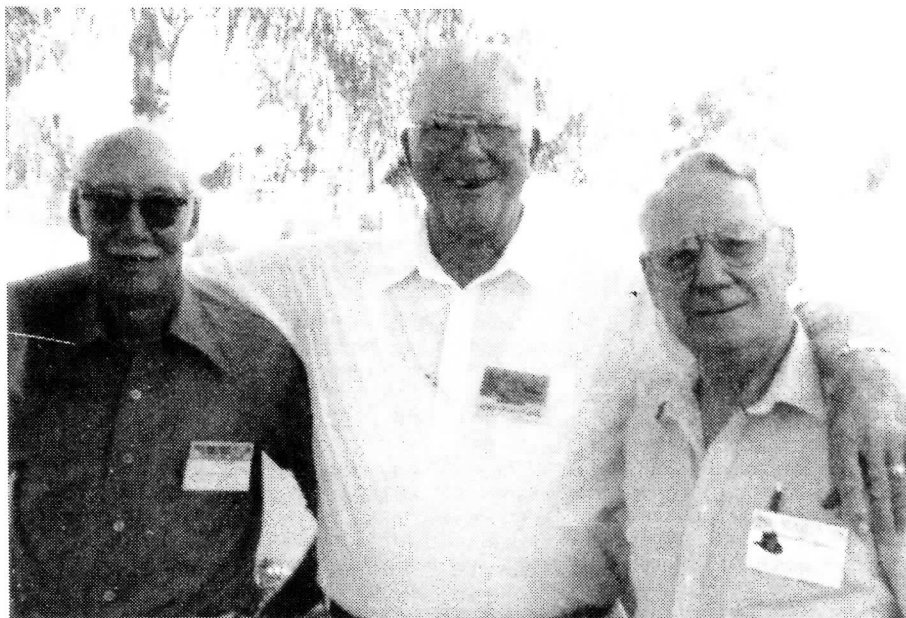
The four of them had a lot to talk about at the Phoenix reunion.

Yugoslavia Seeks Names

The Yugoslavia Embassy in Washington, D.C. is seeking names and addresses of World War 2 pilots rescued in Yugoslavia.

According to a notice, sent by Roger Monroe and printed in the Air Force Times, survivors and friends of those pilots are to be invited to a Yugoslav Air Force and Air Defense Day next May 21.

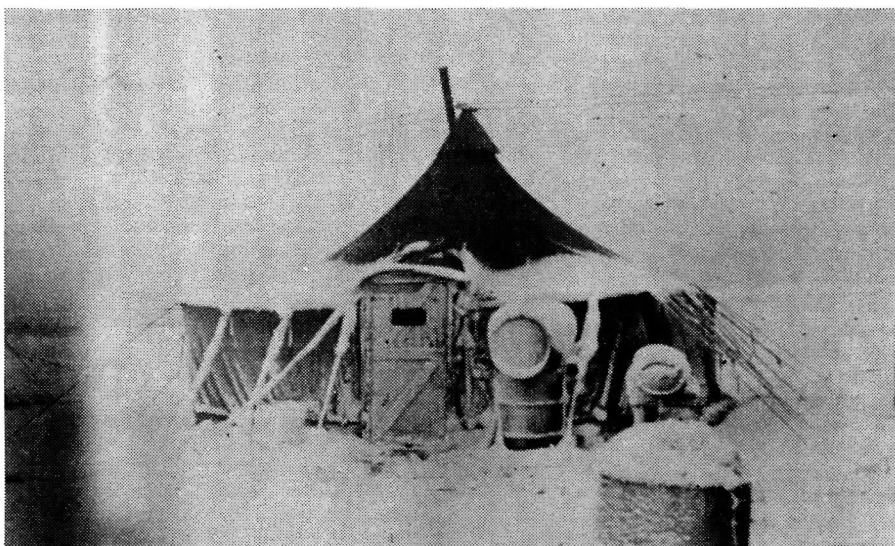
According to the notice they are seeking pilots rescued by the Chetniks or Partisans. Anyone interested should contact Col. Dragan Ikonovic, Defense, Military, Naval and Air Attache, Embassy of Yugoslavia, 2410 California St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.



Together at the Phoenix reunion were, left to right: William Trafford, Earl Bundy and Kermit Feldman.



The first 829th engineering staff home.



The staff in front of the newly-constructed engineering office in the 1944-45 winter. Left to right are: Paul Van Amburg, William S. Trafford, Earl L. Bundy and Kermit Feldman.

Diary of a Prisoner of War

(Editor's Note — Below is reprinted the second of a two-part diary compiled by a former prisoner of war, Bill Gammon, of Portland, Oregon. An upper gunner attached to the 829st Squadron, Bill was a POW for nearly a year and kept a diary for the last six months.)

BLACK MARCH — Start

Feb. 5, 1945

What a way to spend a birthday. The French and British commando prisoners who were marching from Poland and other spots in East Prussia have been stopping over here the past three days now which goes to prove how hard pressed Jerry is at the moment. The Russians today are 55 kilos from Stetten and about the same at Berlin. Frankly I can't see Jerry's point in continuing the fight. Berlin will be destroyed — at what price glory? We are on half ration. Red Cross now also helps Jerry rations. No bread of any kind for the past two weeks. Tonight they told us that we start on our hike through Germany tomorrow.

Feb. 9, 1945

Hell holds no terror for me now, for I've experienced it the past three days. The first day we traveled 18 kilos, the second 25, and the third 16. After the first half a day, every step was torment. With a blister the size of a quarter on my left little toe and both arches beating like triphammers. Oh boy, if some of the people in the States could see these columns marching through this mud, snow and ice. Where they are taking us, no one knows. We are resting here one day and then we travel on.

Feb. 17, 1945

Well, to continue the story of this trip. The aim of Jerry is undoubtedly to get us past Stetten and the Russian menace. The 10th we traveled approximately 30 kilos, walked until seven-thirty. Walked through the woods after dark. Was a wonderful place to make good an escape, but who wants to try it in the dead of winter in enemy territory. Thirteen of our guards are supposed to have deserted. God alone knows how many of our outfit fell out because they couldn't keep up. Every day we have at least three wagons full of men who can't walk and occasionally men hanging on the back of them for support, because there's not enough wagons to carry all the weak guys. Three Tommies (infantry) joined us. Their situation was that their guards got panicky and deserted them. For two weeks they had been traveling west, stopping at night at lonely farmhouses. None of the military they met would take charge of them until they joined our outfit.

Feb. 13

We started our march 40 kilos from Swinemullen. We were to find barns for the night midway. We arrived at Wolfen at ten-thirty. Had a hot lunch of noodle soup (really good) and were told that we would have to make the whole trip, because there weren't any barns to keep us. About four o'clock, a misty rain began. Boy, was that a miserable march. At ten-thirty we were four kilos from our destination and everyone was moving on nerve alone. The major decided we would camp out in an open field. Jack, Thompson and I slept together. About midnight the rain ceased, but we were so cold and wet, few were able to sleep.

Feb. 14

At eight o'clock we started again. Jerry issued us a Red Cross parcel to every five men. We got to Swinemullen and the whole outfit was ferried across the Oder River on a huge railroad ferry boat. We marched 20 kilos in all.

Feb. 15

Yesterday was Valentine's Day. Today we marched 19 kilos and had spuds for supper boiled with jackets and all, unwashed, like we used to cook them for hogs on the farm. They sure were good.

Feb. 16

Today the Jerrys decided to give us a much needed rest, which Dr. Pollock (English) has been insisting on for the past days. We only have to march five kilos today to a small village where they have plenty of nice warm barns. We have been promised bread and hot spuds. We got hot water and more hot spuds.

Feb. 17

Today we get to rest all day. We got hot water for breakfast to make hot coffee or hot milk (those who have any of their Red Cross left). We are supposed to get potato soup for lunch, about two o'clock. My ankles were so swollen last night that I had to unlace my shoes all the way to the bottom to get them off. I couldn't feel any bones at the ankle. However, I got the first night of sound sleep I've had for a week.

Feb. 18

We rested for another day.

Feb. 19

Hiked through another day.

Feb. 20

Resting today as the Major had some woman whom he was showing the notorious "luff gangsters."

Feb. 21

Started hiking again today.

Mon., Feb. 26, 1945

Resting yesterday and today. It's impossible to make many kilos now. The men are too weak from lack of food. Chapman and Dr. Pollack are trying to get in contact with the "protecting power" to explain the situation to them. Maybe Jerry will let the telegram go through. So far Jerry has issued us almost a loaf of bread per man for the entire trip. When I think of the good treatment the German prisoners receive in the States. Maybe we are going somewhere. They won't tell us. Yesterday I traded my wrist watch for two loaves of bread, about three pounds of loose sugar and a little less than a pound of wurst (sausage). I won't starve for a few days now. My watch wasn't exactly new. Two and a half years of service. The food is worth considerably more than the watch under the circumstances.

Tues., Feb. 27, 1945

Oh boy, yesterday we ate. There are only 100 men in this barn. We have two boilers and we get all the hot water we want. We had hot potatoes last night. Today we had soup made of potatoes and a few onions and cabbage which we traded our last cigs for. We had the soup twice. A milk can each time. Sure seems nice to have that feeling under the belt again.

Wed., Feb. 28, 1945

Still eating today. Had Jerry coffee for break-

fast. Thick pea and potato soup for lunch, with meat added to the latter for supper. Red Cross is supposed to arrive tomorrow morning. Jerry says we will remain here for eight days or more. Apparently they don't have a lager for us. Ten thousand men takes quite a large establishment. Maybe Jerry is "sweating" out the war, too. It seems to be progressing well, from what we can find out on both fronts.

Thurs. March 1, 1945

Sure is a beautiful morning. Sun shining outside. More like a May day than March. The situation is improving here. With better food we all feel better. However, I hear some of the guys don't have as good a deal as we do in this barn. This afternoon it sure turned cold. Hail, sleet. Was miserable all night. About five o'clock Red Cross arrived. A whole parcel per man. I don't think we would have been much happier if we had heard the war was over. They told us we might not get any more.

Fri., March 2, 1945

Tomorrow at eight we are supposed to start hiking again. I hope it turns warmer.

Tues., March 6, 1945

We have marched four days now. 21 kilos the first day, 31 kilos the second, 16 yesterday and 26 today. We marched half of ours today through mud. Sure was rough going. My food is almost "kapoot."

Wed., March 7, 1945

Resting today. For the total trip so far we have received approximately a loaf and a half of bread. Tomorrow morning we are supposed to get one fifth of a loaf which will last us three days and if we are lucky we get a pound of butter for ten men. We are supposed to get the same rations as the guards. They get a half of bread, one half pound of butter and one half meat every three days. Of course Jerry has the excuse that lack of transportation and the lack of sufficient rations present. Two days ago we received our first sausage. One half pound to every 54 men. The only solution was to throw it into the soup. Sometimes the civilians are persuaded to give us a small bit for our soup if we're lucky. I've shaved twice on the trip because we don't get enough water even for drinking.

You can look at the fellows around you and see the effects of malnutrition. Ten to fifteen percent of the guys have dysentery, which doesn't improve the situation any. They tell us that we move again tomorrow and have three more days to walk. The destination this time is supposed to be between Hanover and Hamburg. The lice have almost devoured me. I look as though I have the measles over the largest share of my body. I'm dreaming of clean clothes, a hot bath and a steak dinner. When the war is over (and I'm still alive) I'm going to see that dream is fulfilled.

Thurs., March 8, 1945

Arrived at another barn about one o'clock. Has some very poor barley cereal and hot water for supper. Boy if we don't get some food soon it's going to be difficult to go on. For two days Dr. Pollock had been trying to get a kid by the name of Clark to the hospital (with pneumonia). This morning they consented, but he died

as they entered the door of the hospital. Some people in the States are going to be very angry when they hear of the state of this march.

Fri., March 9, 1945

Resting over today. Why no one seems to know. We are supposed to be only two days' march from the camp. We are now south of Kiel. This morning I took my underclothes off and gleaned some thirty lice. My body looks as though I had measles. We got some hot water and two potatoes today. We are supposed to get one third of a loaf of bread tonight at roll call.

Sat. March 10, 1945

Today again we rest. Apparently there is still a hold-up ahead somewhere. Frank Parks was here yesterday afternoon to see how things are going. He went on ahead to try to get us some more Red Cross. Last night Jerry issued us four and a half loaves of bread and two pounds and a half of "marg" to every ten men, which is supposed to last four days. We have been promised better rations. I hope we get them for everyone is suffering from malnutrition. I hope we move tomorrow for if we are to go anywhere, it's better to get it over with.

Mon., March 12, 1945

We are still resting at the same barn today. This morning Chapman told us that the Major said we go 20 kilos tomorrow, 20 the day after, arriving at a location where we would be shipped still further. Last night we learned that Kolon had fallen and Dusseldorf was encircled and everything moving fast on the Western front, with Breslin and Dresden taken on the Eastern front. Everyone here is in hopes that the end of the month will be all. I'm still dreaming of food. Home-cooked cookies, cakes and candy.

Thurs., March 15, 1945

We marched 22 kilos Tuesday and 23 Wednesday. Arrived here last evening about three-thirty. In barns again. They tell us that we are to get better rations as they have larger boilers here. We are to stay here until we are shipped out by rail, but I wouldn't be surprised if we stayed here till the end of the war, which I don't think will be long.

Fri., March 23, 1945

Are marching today.

Mon., March 26, 1945

Today is John's birthday. I hope he is O.K. We arrived here yesterday after four more days of marching. I dropped out for two days with Flora who the doc thinks has appendicitis. They left him in the rest barn to be sent to the hospital. We got a half parcel per man which has lasted for five days now. I feel lots better now, although I was pretty weak for a few days. The Major says now that there are 40 boxcars here now to transport us but they have no engines. We are supposed to leave here within the next five days. I believe we'll leave here marching although "Jerry" says otherwise. This morning we received 3/10 of loaf of bread and a pound of butter to nine men, to last three days, beginning today. There's none of mine left now. Hunger pains again.

Fri., March 30, 1945

Wednesday at 2:30 we were loaded on boxcars (60 men to a car, crowded). Received 3 3/4 loaves of bread and 1 1/2 pounds of butter for ten men. Stayed in the cars until Thursday at eleven-thirty when we finally got an engine which took us 60 kilos to the camp where we are now at. Sure feels good to be behind barb wire again. When we got off the station, infantry guards took over and marched us two kilos to

the camp. It's a very large place. There is supposed to be 11,000 POW's in our lager. There is also another section with French, Polish, Russian, etc. We got a hot shower (first bath in 52 days) and our clothes were deloused with steam. Sure felt nice to be clean again. I hope the bugs are taken care of. We got Jerry coffee this morning with a butter can of soup at noon. At four-thirty the same. This is supposed to be every day's ration. Sunday we are supposed to get bread rations. We got one half Canadian parcel this afternoon, which is to last for an indefinite time. No one knows. We are 50 men to a large tent. We got our sack this morning. One of the guards told us this morning that rations were poor but don't worry, your own Army will soon be here. He seemed quite happy about it. The "limeys" are sure excited. They all expect to be home within two or three weeks.

Sat., March 31, 1945

It has been decided definitely that we remain in our tents, which isn't too bad a deal. We aren't so terribly crowded, plenty of food, air. I'm still grateful that the trip is finished. God certainly was merciful on the trip. The weather was nice, considering the time of year. A very mild winter. Rumors here are sure circulating about the war. The total collapse of Germany is expected any moment. From the news the Allied armies on the Western front are all on the rampage. One American Army sixty miles from here. The British are supposed to be even closer. The "limeys" expect to be free men in less than a fortnight. Sure sounds good.

Easter, April 1, 1945

A very dreary morning. A chill in the air, low clouds and trying to rain. We got our first issue of bread here this morning. One-eighth loaf, with four small spuds. However, the rations here are better than I have encountered since I've been down. In fact, if we could get a Red Cross parcel per week, it wouldn't be bad at all. However, from what we hear, we have been cut off from Lubeck (the point of Red Cross entering Germany) by the British Army. Everyone is hoping for an immediate liberation. It sure would be nice to get hold of C-rations and powdered eggs again.

I certainly would like to be home today. Sunrise service and breakfast afterwards. Boy, some of the meals I dream up would choke an elephant. What I wouldn't give for some of Dad's fried chicken and gravy.

Fri., April 13, 1945

Last Friday we left the camp at Tallingstead on another evacuation. Jerry issued us one half pound peas, one fourth pound barley, salt, sugar, one pound butter and a small loaf of bread. We are supposed to do our own cooking in kettles or pans we can manage to get. A picnic. We have marched 10 kilos or less per day except yesterday when we made 16. On the road at the barns I have managed to secure some oats and today some sugar beets. The second day, Jerry issued us one and two thirds pounds of corn beef. We are supposed to get bread and butter again today. The other rations, who knows. Sure better rations than Jerry ever gave us before. Beautiful weather. We see Spits and Typhoons strafing every day. They come over us and identify us apparently and go looking for a truck. Sure good to see them out in pairs, playing around. No rations. Resting today.

Tues., April 17, 1945

Arrived here last night. Chris and I bought about two pounds of potatoes for two cigs each. Boy are we eating — spuds with a little salt and kohlrabi if we are lucky enough to pinch one. This morning was issued 3/4 klm can of Jerry meal to use in our soups. Jerry gave us two cows which are killed and are to be divided among 1,200 men. We'll probably get 1/2 pound of meat per man. I am surviving this trip better than the one before, mostly at the expense of Jerry civilians. We heard two days ago that Roosevelt was dead. Sure hope not. Rumors of all kinds are being circulated about the war. I hope it's over soon. I've thought about taking off but the end is so near, it's not worth the chance of being shot while escaping.

Fri., April 20, 1945

Wednesday about two o'clock we crossed the Elbe river on our continued evacuation. We walked a total of about 15 kilos. Yesterday the group ahead of us left the woods trail and entered the highway. Some "Spit" eager beaver spotted them, thinking they were Jerry troops, went down, strafed them and dropped "frag" bombs with the result of six guards killed, fifteen British POW's and 75 more wounded. Quite a mistake. Last evening we were issued two Red Cross parcels per man. Boy are we eating now. Something is sure wrong somewhere. Manna from heaven.

Tues., April 24, 1945

Sunday rested again. It seems Jerry is keeping us just a jump ahead of the Allied spearheads, which are usually only 15 or 20 kilos behind us. Spits are overhead every day and all night long you can hear the R.A.F. at work. The farm where we are resting today gave us plenty of potatoes, an issue of three or four carrots per man and five gallons of milk both days. The civilian merely asked for a statement from our leader, stating such, so he could show it to the Allies when they get here. Seems as though all of Germany is expecting the end in the near future. This trip sure is different from the other one.

Sun., April 28, '45

Yesterday we received a full parcel issue of Red Cross. We have been resting here the past few days. Jerry says we will stay in this neighborhood for possibly the duration. The Red Cross truck drivers insist that parcels will be plentiful here. I sure hope so. We heard that last night the Italian front surrendered. Seems that the end is approaching. Three-fourths of Berlin supposed to have fallen.

May 2 to 4

FREE MAN

Got up in the morning. Jerries were drifting by all morning with news that the Tommies were anywhere from five to 25 kilos behind us. About eleven-thirty up the road came a jeep with three Tommies. Boy — cheers, yells, cat-calls. What a din. Sure a bunch of kids. About five o'clock "Trine" and I decided to take off for home. We walked two kilos to the next town, rode a wagon the next four to a village. There a bunch of Tommies (POW's) on a Jerry half track picked us up and hauled us 20 kilos to the canal. Two Polish girls said they would try to get us a place to sleep. They were staying at a village two kilos away with their families. So we walked there. They were loaded with food they had swiped from the Jerries. When we got to the farm, they took us to the house and insisted that the jerries (continued on next page)

Diary —

(continued from previous page)

billet us for the night. We ate cheese (delicious) and a quart of quinces. The next morning we had bacon and eggs (three), cold ham, jelly, bread, cheese, all the milk we wanted and country butter. When we left they begged us to stay at least another day with them, mostly because of the American coffee we gave them. We walked across the canal on a half-sunken barge and ran into a truck depot set up the night before. The Tommies gave us hot tea and crackers. They loaded us on trucks and hauled us across the Elbe at Laurneburg on a pontoon bridge and on to Luneburg which is POW clearing station. Got new clothes and a delousing here and good hot chow. The Tommies here would give us the shirts off their backs if we would only ask for them. We are supposed to fly from here today to Le Havre, France, and from there boat to home, sure aren't losing time, which doesn't make me mad. We rode on trucks to a field below Hanover where we are to catch C-47's.

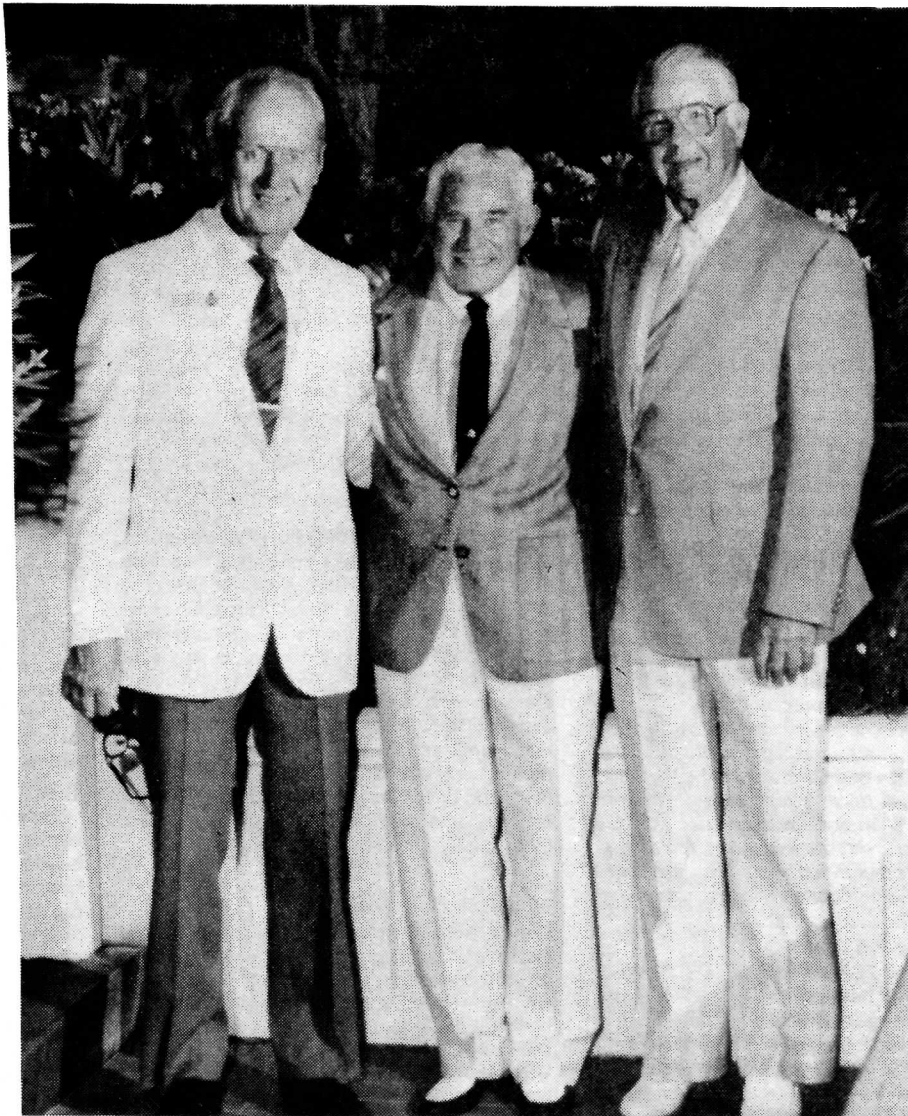
May 5, 1945

Last night we went to a British amateur show here on the field. This morning we received British cigs, matches, and a roll of mints.

Thurs., May 17, 1945

Flew from that field to Brussels. Stayed there 24 hours. Went to town that evening in Tommie's uniform, on VE night. Boy, what a crowd. Not only were the streets full, the people were wild. Confetti was everywhere, in your eyes and in your mouth if you dared open it.

From there we took train to Manur, Belgium, when we received new GT's. Sure good to get in a fitting uniform and a P-4 ration. Stayed here two nights. Then to Lucky Strike Camp at Le Havre, France, a train trip of 18 hours. On the train I got sick, so along with five other guys we were sent to Staton Hospital No. 28. My legs were swollen twice normal size. The Doc said it was caused by malnutrition. We have sure eaten good while here. We are supposed to leave here tomorrow morning. I'm eager to get that boat.



FORMER CO'S — Three former 485th commanding officers attended the St. Petersburg reunion. They are, left to right, Col. Doug Cairns, Gen. "Pop" Arnold and Col. John (Beau) Cornett.

Greek Medal Available

We have received word that 485th Bomb Group personnel are eligible for a Greek liberation medal, issued by the government of Greece.

Details on how to apply for the medal, if you are interested, can be had by writing to:

Embassy of Greece, Air Attache, 2228 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008. The phone number is (202) 234-0561.



P.O.W. Medal

The prisoner of war medal authorized by congress is now available for presentation to former POW'S. The medal will be issued at no cost to anyone who was taken prisoner of war and held captive after April 5, 1917.

Records show approximately 142,000 service people qualify from action during World War I, World War II, The Korean conflict and Vietnam.

Former prisoners of war or their next-of-kin may apply for the medal by writing to the military records center of the

service which they were a part of during their imprisonment. A toll-free number: 1-800-873-3768 has been established to take requests for applications and provide information about the medal.

Requests for the medal must include: full name, service number, social security number, VA claims number, date and place of birth, branch of service, unit of assignment when captured and dates of confinement and release as a prisoner of war.

The medal may be awarded posthumously to the legal next of kin.

Prints of B-24 To Be Available

Progress has been made toward getting the artist, Dan Witkoff, to make up a print of a 485th B-24 for us.

When this was considered at the reunion, there was a split vote as to the aircraft being an olive drab B-24H or a silver B-24J. The artist will show both B-24's flying in formation. We hope there will be prints available some time in February.

The prints will be on heavy, top quality paper depicting two Liberators (one olive drab and one silver) of the 485th flying in formation. They will be 18" x 14" prints of very accurate pencil renderings of the two planes.

These prints will be available at \$15 each plus packing and mailing charge of \$2.25.

If you desire to order them, please contact Leonard Little, 3820 Horatio St., Tampa, Fl. 33609. They will also be available at the reunion in San Antonio in September.



A CHRISTMAS GIFT — Ken Ponte, an artist and 828th veteran, was so impressed with the hospitality shown by Gen. Pop Arnold and his family at the Colorado Springs dedication ceremonies, that he sent an 18" by 15" water color painting to Pop for a Christmas gift. Pop wanted to take it to St. Petersburg to share it with everyone, but it was too large. Thus, Pop had a photograph made of it and is sharing it with us by having it reproduced here. We hope the words will be readable.



JOURNEY'S END

(Editor's Note - We have promised readers a complete list of Group members who have died since the end of the war. Unfortunately the task took more time than we had. We will, instead, publish the list in next year's Lightweight Tower. In the meantime, if you have names which you think might have been missed, please send the information (name, year, or date of death, if known) to the editor before October 1, 1989.)

Dr. Alfred Aborjaily, 828th	1988
John R. Brabson, 830th July 16,	1985
John Dzikoski, Jr., 831st	1988
Charles W. Fields, 829th	Oct. 1988
Chaplain Golder, Hqts.	1980
George Healy, 829th	Nov. 1987
H. E. Jones, 829th	1985
Charles S. Mincher, 829th	Aug. 1987
John C. Norris, 829th	Jan. 1988
Edward G. Pope, 830th	Feb. 29, 1988
Laron Rouch, 829th	June 1987
Charles B. Shackleford	May 5, 1987
William Spence, 831st	Aug. 5, 1988
Harold Thompson, 831st	1988



MIA'S AT REUNION — Left to right, Forrest Yeager, Ken Robinson, Bill Culver, "pop" Arnold, Harry Oberholtzer, John Russell Cooper and Gene LaMar.

San Antonio —

(Continued from page 1)

Mex night at the hotel, a pass in review by the graduating class of basic trainees at Lackland Air Force Base, a B-24 luncheon at the Billy Mitchell Hall, etc.

Being planned is a bit of Texas hospitality at the Lonestar Brewing Co. with a good ol' Texas barbecued beef/chicken dinner on the lakeside patio.

The Lackland tour will begin at 8 a.m. on Friday and the Lone Star trip at 6 p.m. There are still some fine details to be worked out on these two, but, rest assured, they're going to be great.

At 9 a.m. Saturday we will hold our general meeting, then break for lunch. The picture-taking session will begin at 6 p.m.

The Saturday evening banquet will follow. It will be a coat and tie affair. A cash bar will be available for those in need of liquid refreshments. Banquet seating will be by squadrons, so there will be no need to rush into the ballroom area.

I have extended a personal invitation to a well-known person of national stature; as of this writing I have yet to hear a firm commitment. More on this at a later date.

Arrangements are in the planning stages for limousine service pickup at the San Antonio airport. Those arriving by car will be able to park next to the hotel in a parking garage at a cost of \$3.40 per day, as opposed to \$5 per day at the hotel.

Recreational Vehicle parking and campgrounds are at the Jellystone RV Park, 2617 Roosevelt Avenue, approximately three miles from the hotel. Rates are \$16 per day with a 10% discount with Good Sam. Stay six days and get one free. Another is the Alamo KAO, located off Gember Road near I-35, approximately six miles from the hotel. Rates are \$17.45 per couple.

The headquarters hotel is



AT REGISTRATION DESK — Among those women who manned the registration desk at St. Pete's were Lynda Hanson (left) and Marguerite Woodyard. They, plus a few others, were the ones who kept things in order.

Plane Lost Over Morocco

By Earl Bundy

Lt. Robert J. Olney and his crew of nine, in B-24 No. 140 of the 829th Squadron, were in route to Italy through Dakar, then to Marakech, Morocco, in March 1944.

Their plane took off just ahead of our plane No. 782, piloted by Hugh B. White, from Marakech in route to Oudna, Tunisia.

We circled in the valley to gain altitude. Going through a pass in the mountains, we encountered a snow storm. We dropped 3,000 feet in a down-draft and came to within a few hundred feet of the snow-covered mountain tops and pine trees.

Next there was an up-draft and we got through the pass and had

easily accessible for those arriving by freeway or by air. It is just a block from Interstate 35/37 and 15 minutes from the airport.

It is 30 stories tall and has 502 guest rooms, with individual climate control, cable TV and in-room movies. You can swim in an indoor-outdoor pool and use an exercise room. You can jog along the Riverwalk, or through Hemisphere Park, relax in a hydrotherapy pool or sauna, or ride a river boat.

You can step outside and take a 10-cent ride in an open motor-driven street car, reminiscent of the old days.

Room Rates are \$60 plus tax

no further difficulties reaching Tunisia. We were surprised to find that Lt. Olney had not reached Tunisia. Later we learned the plane was missing. In fact, it was not found for six to eight months later.

I learned this year that all 10 members of the crew were interred in a group burial site, Section 2, Grave 1737 in the Fort Scott National Cemetery, Fort Scott, Kan.

Those lost were: Lt. James L. Asher, Sgt. Raymond R. Hever, Lt. Robert J. Olney, Sgt. Julius B. Roberts, Lt. Wallace C. Whaley, Jr., Sgt. Glenn C. Badger, S/Sgt. Andrew Latzo, Lt. Edward R. Osborn, Lt. Winton W. Wenzel and Sgt. Clifford W. Yost

for single or double rooms. Most of the rooms with balconies will face the Riverwalk. A total of 225 rooms have been booked, so get reservations in early. These rates will be available on September 6 and will be available to you if you wish to stay for an additional few days to sightsee.

You should bring light, casual clothing. The average temperatures at that time of year is 90 to 92 degrees in the day and 70 to 73 degrees at night, but with low humidity.

Don't forget to bring your cameras and videos. Registration and program agendas will be sent when all is finalized.

The Day When 154 Men Were Lost

By Sam Schneider

On the 1st of April (1944) the ground echelon of the 485th Bomb Group (H) marched up the "gang plank" and by late afternoon began their long voyage to Italy.

The next morning they joined Convoy UGS-38 which was made up of 85 mercant vessels and by mid-afternoon were joined by their escort, Task Force 66.

Traveling most of the time in a calm sea and under clear skies, the crossing of the Atlantic was made without incident. For the men aboard the ships, the routine was rather monotonous, broken occasionally by card games and the rattling of dice.

For the high-spirited individuals there were boxing bouts which provided entertainment for many. Evenings were spent at the movies and just plain talking about home and those left behind, or reading of books from the Red Cross kits.

On April 18, as the convoy passed Gibraltar, an excursion boat sailed through the middle of the convoy. The next day as the men of the 828th were being inspected, two high flying aircraft were observed over the convoy. The planes were suspected of being enemy observation aircraft.

"During the inspection," related Sgt Lawrence H. Hohmann, 828th Ordnance Section, "the captain of the ship informed us that in case the ship was attacked and hit, we wouldn't have much to worry about, as the ship's cargo consisted of lumber."

The next day, April 20, there were several daytime alerts as the convoy, steaming at 7.5 knots, approached Cape Bengut, approximately 50 miles east of Algiers. It was dusk when the first enemy aircraft were sighted — 2103 hrs.

The attack came from ahead on a bearing of about 100 degrees true. The planes barely skimmed the water and employed the dark shoreline as background to blur their silhouettes and to frustrate the radar. The attack was delivered in three waves.

About a minute later the third attack wave — a group of Heinkels 111's — swept in on the convoy's port



DIRECT HIT — This is what men risked who went to sea, even in the Allied-controlled Mediterranean Sea during World War II. Off the coast of North Africa, a German bomber made a direct hit on an Allied freighter. On the left is the silhouette of another ship. The 831st squadron lost 154 men in the attack.

bow. Shortly, a Heinkel torpedo smashed into the *De Lansdale*, the blast wrecking the ship's fireroom. Seventeen minutes later the DE was ordered abandoned.

Some 235 survivors, two fatally injured, were rescued. Forty-seven of her crew were lost. Lt. Robert Morgenthau, son of the Secretary of Treasury, was one of the last to leave the DE, jumping into the water from the bridge.

The Luftwaffe scored heavily in the battle. An estimated six enemy aircraft were shot down in the battle and five more damaged. Casualties suffered by the convoy were heavy compared to those inflicted on the enemy.

In addition to the loss of the *De Lansdale*, two merchant vessels were sunk with the loss of 498 men, including 8 officers and 146 enlisted men of the 831st squadron. The ship carrying the 831st personnel exploded and sunk in 30 seconds.

"When the alert was sounded," recalled Sgt. Hohmann, "The troops were ordered below deck. I was in the mess compartment when the hatch covers fell on the tables, probably blown in by the tremendous explosion of the ship carrying the 831st personnel, which was approximately 1,000 feet from our shipmaking a fearful sound.

"The next morning, one of the gunners, stationed forward, stated he saw two bombs straddle the bow of our ship. Oil was splattered over the ship and was decorated with radar tinsel from the ship's explosion. A large burned spot was noticeable on

a nearby ship. The water was strewn with refuse."

"At 2050 we were all called below deck and informed that we might be attacked at any moment," PFC Fred E. Croushore, 828th Armanent Section, later noted in his diary. "Moments later the alarm was sounded and all lights on the ship went out as the ship's gunners begin firing at the attackers. Next came the explosion of bombs. At 2220 the 'All clear' was sounded.

"I went on deck as did most of the others to get some fresh air. After one hour and twenty minutes below deck with little ventilation and the air fouled with burned gun powder, one needed the fresh air badly. The time spent below during the attack passed quickly and many thoughts passed thru my mind. It was an occasion I shall never forget.

"On deck we found out that we were very close to the main action. There were two bombs dropped about fifty feet from our ship. Only one of the bombs exploded. The ship in front received a direct hit, sending its oil cargo high into the sky.

"Our ship was covered with oil as were the personnel who were topside during the attack. Later we found out that the ship in front of us was blown clear out of the water and the entire crew perished. One converted escort that joined the convoy at Oran, also, was sunk."

On April 29 and 30 the ground echelon, 41 officers and 976 enlisted men, landed at various ports in Italy and then proceeded by rail to their base in Venosa.

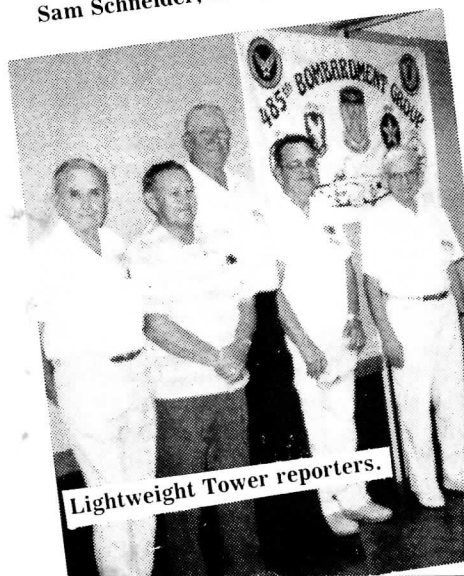
Scenes at St. Petersburg Reunion



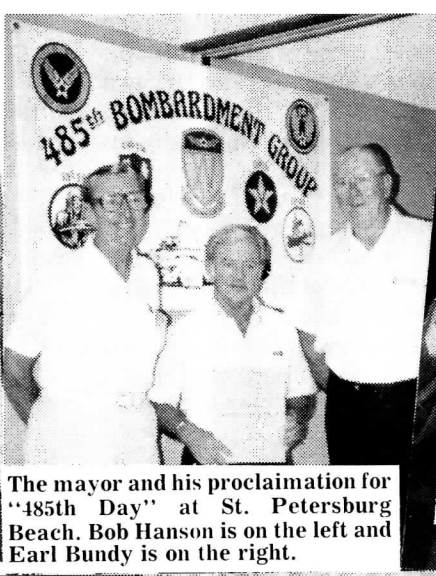
Members of Crew 6 who flew "The Lady" along with "Pop" Arnold. Left to right, Houston Register, Bob Deeds, "Pop" Arnold, Sam Schneider, Matty Mattison and Joe Marrone.



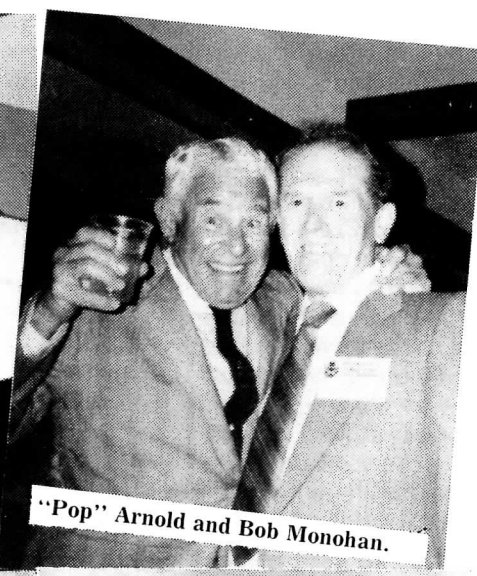
A table of guests at the Saturday night banquet.



Lightweight Tower reporters.



The mayor and his proclamation for "485th Day" at St. Petersburg Beach. Bob Hanson is on the left and Earl Bundy is on the right.



"Pop" Arnold and Bob Monohan.



First row, left to right: Bob Kuns, Bob Donna, Gil Bell, Forest Levile, Ken Ponte and Bob Deeds. Back row: Art Hurley, Carl Mazzone, Ken Moore and John Anderson (visitor).



On the boat trip, we witnessed a water spout over the Gulf of Mexico.

MAIL ROOM

485TH BOMB GROUP HQ —

Bob Benson



As correspondent for Group Headquarters, I'm your "new kid on the block." During my first year in this "position," I have had, what I consider, many rewarding experiences. In my efforts in locating many of the headquarters men, I resorted to using all kinds of methods but, for your information, I did not call on the IRS or any local police departments for assistance. I've been successful in locating 45 of our men and I'm still searching for more of them. In locating some of you, it has been quite a challenge, believe me, but it has also been interesting, sometimes frustrating, and many times gratifying.

In addition, I was saddened to learn of 14 of our men who have passed on. I'm listing their names for your information: Ted Brown, Earl Devereaux, Kenneth Gillispie, William Golder (Chaplain), J. Melvin Goodson, Jay Jaynes, Lloyd Johnson, Edward Kral, Walter Ladner, Joseph Landis, Paul Lund, Roy Reeve, William Tanner and Larry Vocino. My sincere sympathy goes out to their families.

Over the past year or so, I have enjoyed and appreciated hearing from Burt Andrus, Tony Annie, Merlin Baker, Hugh Bayless, Doc. Bradley, Don Colmer, Rex Corderman, George Flach, Shirley Hancock, Norm Harellick, Syd Harrison, Bill Herblin, Carl Lange, Bob Marland, Quent Meyer, Les Natho, Sherman Peters, Doc. Priver, Linden Shoemaker, Bob Schroeder, Bob Sigg, Warren Sortomme, Loyd Towers, Ralph Wakefield and Sy Weinstein. I thank each of you for your letters and/or phone calls. And, to those of you who have sent contributions to help with my expenses, I thank you very much.

I've read about, or heard of, many successful lives since 1945, and my congratulations go to each of you who have done so well. On the other hand, I am very sorry to learn about the many misfortunes and reverses in the lives of some of you. It has been nearly 44-years since we were all together and, over that span of time, all of us have had some sort of difficulty at one time or another. But, for some that difficulty has been greater than for others.

Of the now 45-group headquarters men who are on our mailing list, there were eleven who attended the St. Petersburg Beach reunion. For some, it was their first time: — John "Beau" Cornett, one of our group commanders; Leo Czachorowski, group dentist who showed only a small amount of sympathy for a toothache (I'm only kidding, Leo); John Gold, group headquarters personnel; Dave Kilberg, group navigator; Sid Manson, group weather officer; and "Woody" Wood, group supply officer. They all had a great time, and I hope we'll see them again at the San Antonio reunion.

The others who attended the St. Pete. reunion were: "Pop" Arnold, feeling good and looking in great health; Bill Angle, who never changes and really doesn't look old enough to be attending our reunions; Doug Cairns, who is another one who looks great and appears the same year

after year; and John Hannan, who always has a good time at the reunions and we enjoy visiting about our individual stamp collections.

Dorothy and I truly enjoyed being with all of you at St. Petersburg Beach, and we look forward to the San Antonio reunion. And, to the wives who attended — you're all something special and a delight to be with.

Each year that I attend one of our reunions, I get to know more and more of the men from the four squadrons — and their wives, which adds so very much to the enjoyment. They're a great bunch, and a lot of fun to be with. As a matter of fact, I'm thoroughly convinced that we're all a wonderful group of people, and I'm not biased — no, not me.

God be willing, we'll see a lot of you at San Antonio in September. Hope you all have a wonderful 1989.

828TH BOMB SQDN —

Bob Deeds



This year has passed by all too quickly; it has been good to the 828th. Many of our replacement crews are beginning to show up. It must be retirement time that has made this possible because the numbers on the address sheet are increasing.

This past year with several vacation trips I was able to visit with many of you. The first of the year I spent in Florida visiting with Bob and Linda Hanson to talk about our reunion in the fall. Spent time with E. J. "Pappy" and Dee Devane, another get together with Al and Anna Carlston and Alice Turecki. Talked over past reunions with Vic and Janny Bone and a telephone conversation with Bob Deleney. Spent two days with my pal Sam Schneider in Port Charlotte.

In June about twelve veterans got together with Carol and Mary Mazzoni in Chicago. It was one of the hottest days of the year. We just stayed inside and told stories. Found two new fellows, Bob Donnan and E. J. Leville, along with the rest of our old timers. Missed my friend Nick and Delores Borgetti; they had other commitments.

Went to the East Coast and visited with my tent buddy, Somers Corson. Somers and I visited many of the resort areas and saw a lot of early America in Southern New Jersey. Looking forward to another visit next spring along with Jack Bersack and George Barnes.

The past year there were several new names added to our list. My mail included Leslie Black, Ira Bronson, Warren Domer, E. G. Johnston, Harold Julin, Martin Lydard, Nick Lupo, Joe Milo, E. L. McDonald, Walter Radlo, and John Treble. If I may have missed someone, I'm sorry.

For our big reunion in Florida I went down early as I have many friends in this area. Helping Bob and Linda Hanson with a lot of detail work. Many veterans had arrived early and were visting all around Florida.

Thursday, September 28th things really got under way with many beginning to show up. Our

faithful registrar, Marguerite Woodyard, kept things moving on the registration desk along with many helpers. Bob Hanson had opened the hospitality room and the refreshments and the stories really got started.

At this time I would like to take a moment and thank Alice Turecki for having us over to her house for a delicious dinner along with her helper, Leona Schoultz. Stan past away just before the Nashville reunion and one of his wishes was to have as many of his 485th friends together that had visited him in Atlantic City. Many thanks to Alice for the really fine meal and friendship.

Friday the reunion was well under way. Bob Hanson had the shuttle go up for us; we saw the jet streams from atop the Hilton. The women and some of the men went shopping at John's Pass. In the evening we went on a dinner cruise and saw two water spouts in the gulf. After the dinner cruise it was back to the hospitality room and more stories.

The highlight of Saturday was the trip To Busch Gardens. It was the last day for the Pandas to be seen here in the United States, then they were to be sent back to China. The evening first started out with picture taking with five veterans missing. Tom Rommer, Art Hurley, Roger Monroe, Lloyd Huset and Paul McCutcheon. Then we had dinner, dancing and a floor show.

To the ones who went over on the boat, Paul put on a boxing exhibition on the James Hoban. Paul also contributes his model B-24 for our memorial services on Sunday.

On Sunday, Sherril Burba put on an outstanding memorial service for the men that were lost, April 20, 1944. The rest of the day was spent saying good-bys to past friends, with many veterans staying over the next week and visiting and sight-seeing in Florida.

I know I have not covered everything. I want you all to know your friends of those Venosa days were thinking of you guys that were not there. Send me any information about yourself, someone will want to hear how you are doing.

As usual I want to "Thank You" fellows who make possible our mail-room, newsletter and all the rest of the items that go to help with the reunion.

"Thank You's" must go again to Alice Turecki, Leona Schultz for that great dinner on Thursday, to Lory Hohmann, Sam Schneider for their help with material on the boats, Art Hurley who contributes our envelopes and helps in many other ways, and all the other fellows who have sent along stories or snapshots. Please identify names on the back of each picture that you send.

Till we meet in San Antonio, Texas, or Dayton, Ohio. Keep my mail box full; I enjoy hearing from you.



829th BOMB SQDN. —

Earl Bundy



We were happy to have another most enjoyable reunion. The 829th was well represented but I was surprised there weren't more.

I want to thank all those who came for their contributions to my mail fund. Others have mailed checks during the year and I want to thank them too as our mailing costs have certainly been increasing.

You missed some fine tours, such as Busch Gardens, if you weren't there. We were able to watch the Discovery blast off on Thursday morning, even though it was on the East Coast and we were on the West Coast of Florida.

I was pleased during the year to receive many contacts from new members of the 829th and 485th. We are getting nearly 900 on our mailing list now. Thus, you can see why each reporter needs your support for mailing costs.

I was pleased to have Bob Benson take over as reporter for the Headquarters personnel. He has found 20 to 30 of the Headquarters Group during the past year. It was timely as Carl Gigowski was building a new home this summer. Just found he has moved in and is retiring as of this week. He is anxious to get back into the swing with the 485th. He can finish his book on the history of the 485th.

I enjoyed receiving pictures and stories from 829th members this year. This helps Don Webb maintain material for the "Lightweight Tower" to keep it interesting.

Six ladies attended this year even though their husbands had passed away. Ladies, do not hesitate to join our 485th family reunion. Many of us have been enjoying each other for the past 23 years.

830TH BOMB SQDN —

Chester Konkolewski



The mail box was certainly busy in '88. It gave me much pleasure in hearing from so many of you. Thank you for your letters and Christmas cards. May 1989 be kind and gentle, may you all share a wealth of happiness and may you all be blessed with good health.

At the Reunion in St. Petersburg, the Squadron was well represented and I had the opportunity to meet for the first time the following members; Arthur L. Cook, (CP) Crew #132; John Forst, (B) Crew #132; Clifford Martin, (P) Crew #51; Frank Gallagher, (N) Crew #56; Jacob (Jake) Disston III, Squadron Operations; Bernard Schames, Crew member; Silas Barnes, Crew #53, and Travis Robinso, Crew #53. It was a pleasure in meeting you all and sharing some memories of your experiences, just great.

The following veterans of the 830th were present: John Forst, Ralph Skinner, Rod Ritchie, Frank Gallagher, Harry Oberholtzer, Steve Paynic, Howard Sanborn, Ted Lipinski, Bob Samuels, Howard Boxley, Larry Martin, George Raidel, L.A. (Bud) Foran, Chuck Forester, Earl Schiffmacher, Everett (Pete) Peterson, James Hunter, Fran Tunstall, W. R. (Buzz) Boling, Richard Griffin, (Sq. Co.), Tom Russell, Herb Muehlman, Mem Taylor, Silas Barnes, James Blitch, Bob Plaister, Bob McAlpine, Art Cook, Lee Richardson, Clifford Martin, Jake Disston, Bernard Shames, and Paul McCutcheon. Everyone had a good time enjoying all those war stories.

I've had some on-going correspondence with Earl L. Miner, who was on the 830th staff as Squadron Bombadier, the latter part of '44. In his spare time Earl volunteers a few hours at the Pima Air Museum at Davis-Monthan, AZ.

Our former line chief, Bob Samuels, can't seem to keep away from airplanes, because he volunteers some of his time at the Air Museum in Dayton, OH. He just can't seem to keep his hands clean, as he has restored a few engines on some WWII aircraft. Keep'em flying Bob. Note: I will cover a lot more on this and some activities if some of the 830th vets in my letters later on.

If any of you know some of the guys from Venosa days who are not on the roster, supply me their names and addresses, I will then get the word out to these individuals, okay?

By chance if you're traveling thru Florida, Dale Grosnitz, one of our ground crew personnel, extends you an invitation to visit with him, drink a few while spreading some ole fashioned war stories. How about it? Address - Box 20614 Wiki-Wiki Lane, Tahita Village Mobile, Estero, FL 33928.

At this time I wish to report on some of our friends that have passed on. The daughter of Julia Best, wife of Willie Best, informs me that her mother passed away during 1987. Peter Brabson, son of John Brabson, informed me that his dad passed away on July 16, 1985 and his mother in June 1987. Mary Pope wife of Edward G. Pope, informed me that he passed away on February 29, 1988. Mary Jo Shackelford, wife of Charles B. Shackelford, passed away on May 5, 1987. We extend our sympathies to you all.

One last — don't forget that we will be meeting here in San Antonio during September. If conditions permit and your health holds up, I will be looking forward to greeting you. Best of health good wishes, happy days and may the good Lord be with you. Cherrio.



831ST BOMB SQDN —

Woody Woodyard



We very much appreciate all the Christmas cards, letters, notes and phone calls we received from many of you. We hope that we have answered all your inquiries; and if anything has been overlooked, please write again!

The St. Petersburg Beach reunion was great, and again there were many first timers. The 831st again had the greatest number from any squadron — 58 vets and one vet's widow. Bob and Lynda Hanson sure planned a good one, along with the able support of Grace and Leonard Little. Thanks to all of you.

Now, we are starting to plan for next year in San Antonio on September 6. Be sure you do attend this. Chet Konkolewski of the 830th will be hosting, and he has a good start on all the plans.

We appreciate hearing from Jack and Irene Godfrey. They are one of our best correspondents! We were so glad to hear from Ray Heskes. He had been on our list from 1969 but in 1981 we lost touch with him. We were so glad to get his new address and to get a nice letter from him. Hoped he'd make the Florida reunion — but maybe next time, Ray. Did you find your "original new" leather squadron insignia?

Also, we had a letter from David Hansen who then was a first-timer at the reunion. We are so glad to hear from so many new men, which we added to our mailing list. We have now over 200 on our active roster.

Paul W. Airey, CMSAF-Ret., informed me by letter that the new 485th Tactical Missile Wing, located in Belgium, was being disbanded due to the treaties with Russia. He sent along a history of the short lived 485th Missile Wing. Paul is still active, though retired, with the A.F. lecturing, advising, etc. He will try to attend the reunion in San Antonio.

To all members of the crew that flew "Tail Heavy". I have had some correspondence and phone calls about this ship, but I have lost my notes and cannot reply or comment. Sorry, will you please write or call again.

I don't know why but I received Sam Nenadich's commemorative medal from the Greek Embassy in November. I forwarded it on to him, but have not heard that he received it — hope that he did. I'm sure a lot of the fellows have or will be soon, receiving their medal. Bob Benson had his translated into English by an Orthodox Greek minister in Oklahoma City. He was pleased. Have received photos, made at reunion, from Bob Monahan, Ted Lipinski, Jack Breen and Frances Fundling. Hope some can be in Newsletter. Thanks you all!

There were thirteen first timers to attend St. Pete's reunion — Robert Baker, Morgan Browning, Lynn Cotterman, Homer Cotton, David Hansen, Willis Jolly, E. V. Lee, Sid Manson, W. A. Miller,

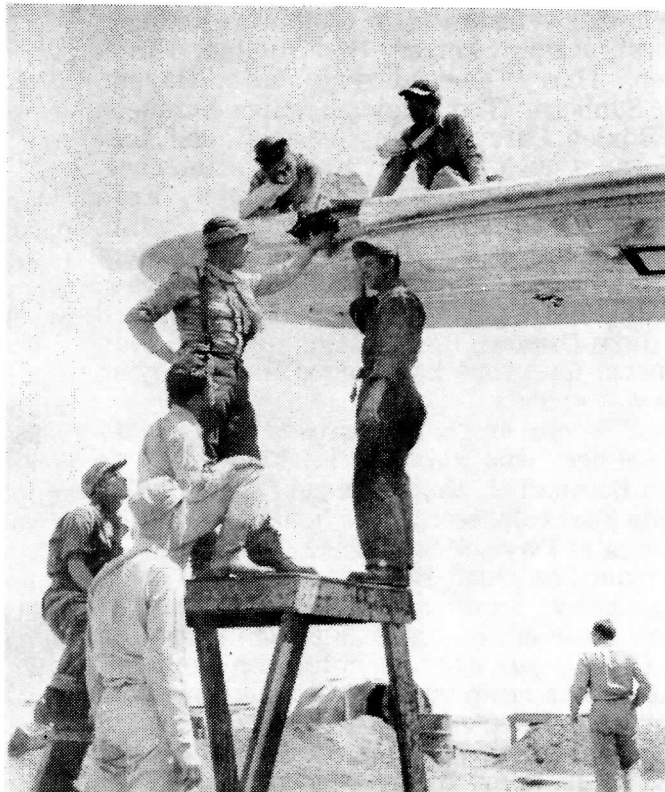
Rollie Palmer, R. B. Plociea, Leo Prince, and Wandell Townsend. Also those who had attended prior reunions: Lewis Baker, Vic Bone, John Bremer, James Bright, Ken Brown, Don Evjen, Jack Godfrey, Bob Halling, Robert Hanna, John Jackson, Dick Kingsbury, Ken Lawrence, Robert Lewis, Leonard Little, Jesse Ledbetter, Otto W. Meyers, Steve Mlinaz, Bob Monahan, Jack Nagle, Frank Nardi, Leo O'Brien, Ned Peirano, Frank Pratt, Ralph Raines, Bob Rector, Harold Richards, Andre Salazar, Harry Stein, Dan Sjodin, George Terrell, Luke Terry, Harlan Tinney, Donald Webb, Wayne Whiting, Cliff Woodbury, Leo Gagne, Gene LaMar, John Breen, Bob Edinger, Ed Wroblewski, Woody Woodyard, and of course our host, Robert Hanson.

Be sure you read the report on the St. Pete reunion including the coverage of the very nice memorial breakfast for the 831st men lost on the sinking of the S. S. Paul Hamilton.

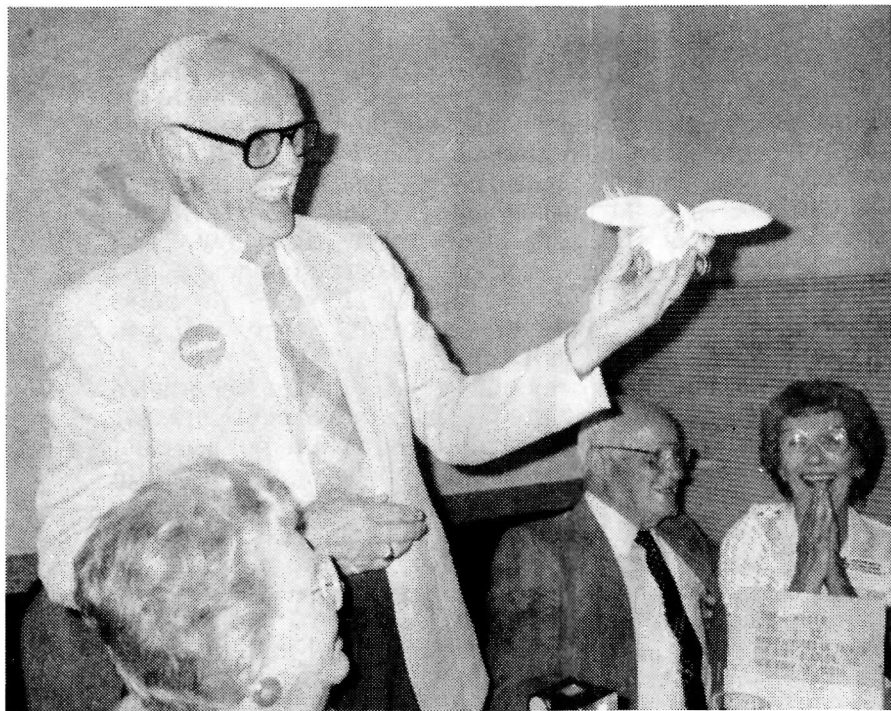
We are sad to report the passing of Bill Spence on August 5, 1988 and of his wife Lucy's prior passing in January, 1988. We sure will miss them as they were such faithful and fun people to know. Paul Airey also reported the recent deaths of two vets, who were on Hogan's crew, 1st Lt. John Dzikoski, Jr., Co-pilot, of Stevens Point, Wis. and S. Sgt. Harold Thompson, nose turret gunner, address unknown.

We were glad to have Alice Turecki, Leona Schoultz, and Helen Iwanski with us again this year. Hope they and others will come to San Antonio.

See you in September!!



FLAK DAMAGE — This photo was taken at Venosa after a mission to Vienna, Austria. The crew (No. 20 of the 829th) is inspecting damage from a 20mm shell. It is Pilot Donald Whiteman's crew. On the wing are Hal A. Sumrell, bombardier (left), and E. J. Meyer, gunner. Whiteman has his hand in the hole. Ray Lozon, engineer, is kneeling and Charles Musso is in the foreground. Others in the photo are unidentified ground personnel.



THE WHITE B-24 — John Godfrey accepted the B-24 made of shells as a consolation prize. The wives of John Jackson's crews presented it to the losing crew. John Godfrey's and John Jackson's crews had the same number of crew members at the St. Petersburg Beach reunion and Jackson won the toss and the regular award.

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

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