



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



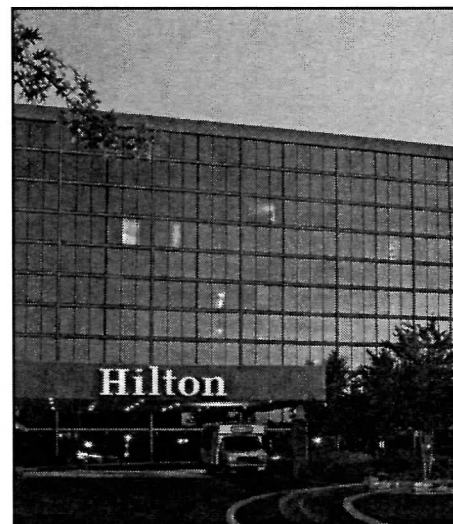
No. 41

March 2007

Kansas City, Mo. 2007 by Bob Hanson

Our next reunion will be in Kansas City, Missouri. Dates will be September 19th to September 23th, 2007. This will be Wednesday thru Sunday noon. We are back on our regular schedule once again. We will be staying at the Hilton Kansas City airport hotel. The room rate will be \$94.00 plus tax. Being very close to the airport, no expensive cab fare will be charged and a complimentary van to hotel is available.

The 485th has never been to Kansas City before and being centrally located, should be easy for all to fly or drive to. There will be numerous tours to select from, including a trip to Independence to visit President Harry Truman's library and home. We are hopeful of visiting Whiteman Air Force Base to inspect the B-2 bomber. Its something am sure most would like to see, but distance might be a problem—will put it in the maybe category. Have just talked to Armed Forces Reunions after having a letter from Buford Cooper and believe we will be able to go to the Air Force base to see the B-2. They had send me data on some other tours, so we'll have our choice when all information is mailed out at a later date.



With the 2nd and 3rd generation joining us more and more, am sure we'll once again, enjoy the companionship and interesting things to see and do. As we all know, we're not getting any younger, so lets all try to make this another memorable time. As the song goes "KANSAS CITY, HERE WE COME".

Reunion 42 in Friendly Columbia by Lynn Cotterman

The 42nd Annual 485th Bomb Group Reunion was held at the Clarion Hotel in Columbia, South Carolina from October 19-23, 2006. The reunion was a huge success largely as the result of the efforts of Robert Brown who has been promoting Columbia as a reunion site for several years. He served as host for his home town and obtained sponsors from the local businesses to provide several complimentary meals and transportation for the reunion attendees. Thank you, Bob.

The reunion opened Thursday and closed Monday which moved all the activities a day forward because the ball room was booked Saturday night when our banquet is normally scheduled. The hotel is located downtown near the Capitol Building and a couple of blocks from the campus of University of South Carolina. The hotel building was General Sherman's headquarters during his march through the South. A bronze plaque near the entrance records the event.

We had a nice crowd, just a few less than last year. Charlie Taylor did his part with 10 guests and the Studaker family accounted for 13 more attendees. Several early birds arrived Wednesday to be ready to set up the hospitality room the next day. The hospitality/memorabilia room was on the second floor and opened out to a large covered balcony. It was nice to sit out there during the day, but a little chilly in the evening. We had a few showers, but otherwise the weather co-operated. It was cloudy bright and



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pleasant on the tours.

Wednesday evening I joined Jerry Whiting, Laura and Steve Sharpe (second generation adults) to search for a restaurant. We ended up at a college hangout which was pretty noisy.

Thursday at one O'clock the hospitality room was officially opened by Bill Cummings and son, Phillip, who took care of the refreshments again this year. Donna Lee, Armed Forces Reunions Host, opened the registration desk. She was not only a cheerful and friendly host, but also very competent one. The Vets and their families started arriving late in the day after spending a few hours in the Atlanta airport. Most everyone was tired, so it was a quiet evening.

Friday morning we had our first of three complimentary breakfasts at the hotel. It was an excellent hot buffet with many choices. Our tour bus took us to Fort Jackson, the largest Army training base in the country. We watched the young men and women negotiate the confidence (obstacle) course. I looked at those youngsters and couldn't believe that we were that young when we were in Italy. I had lunch with Leo Gagne and his two daughters, Michele and Gail at the military dining facility (mess hall); another fabulous buffet. We toured the Fort Jackson museum and then returned to the hotel.

At the hospitality room we caught up with friends on the happenings of the past year. Several children and relatives of deceased veterans connected with veterans at the reunion who had information about their loved one and could provide the answers they had been seeking. Jerry Whiting was instrumental in bringing about many of these emotional meetings. For more information read the article "A

Time for Reflection" in this issue.

In the evening we attended a buffet dinner in the hotel with good entertainment afterwards. Three great buffets in one day-I should have been stuffed, but I went down for breakfast the next day.

Saturday we were bussed to the Columbia-Owens Downtown Airport to attend a program by the Celebrate Freedom Foundation. The short program honored the veterans from the 485th Bomb Group and members from the Tuskegee Air Corp. A WWII B-25 medium bomber was on display along with other Military vehicles, vintage automobiles and other WWII Memorabilia.

Then the tour bus took us to a Senior Citizen's Center in a residential area which was a challenge for the bus driver to negotiate the narrow streets. We enjoyed barbeque food, that was served in the dining hall. Included in the menu were pork barbeque, fried chicken, baked beans, cold slaw, etc. We were served sweeten ice tea, a Southern tradition, when the hosts saw it seemed too sweet for some of the Yankees they made un-sweetened tea available. I had lunch with Frank and Kitty Nardi, their daughter, Barbara Mason and Matty Mattison.

We returned to the hotel for dinner on our own. I had dinner with the guys in the hotel restaurant. I thought the restaurant had good menus and reasonable prices so there was no incentive to go elsewhere. After dinner I returned to the hospitality room and joined a roundtable discussion (shooting the bull). Kathleen Arnold who arrived in the afternoon joined us.

Sunday morning we attended the Group meeting conducted by chair-

man, Bob Hanson who always keeps the meeting moving and finishing on time. The minutes can be found elsewhere in this publication. The individual Squadron meetings followed the group meeting. Since it was Sunday many did not want to miss Sunday services, so Rev. Donald Whiteman held a nondenominational service in the ball room after the Squadron meetings.

In the afternoon I visited the hospitality room. On one of the tables was a large chocolate cake with white icing. Written across it in green frosting was "Happy 85th Birthday Bill Cummings". His children Michele and Phillip bought it so the group could celebrate Bill's birthday with them. Michele cut the cake and it disappeared in short order.

Michele had been spending a lot of time in the corner of the hospitality room with her laptop computer. We were curious as what she was doing. She had been snapping photos for the first few days of the reunion and now had over 200 candid photos of the attendees. She organized them by the days at the reunion and transferred them to a DVD with big band music. Michele didn't think it was a big deal, but ones who viewed the production enjoyed it and were impressed with her talent.

Sunday evening was photo time and the banquet. The photos were taken with a digital camera so we were able to see our group photos in color on a monitor a few minutes after they were taken. We enjoyed a delicious dinner and dancing afterwards to a live band.

Monday morning the traditional memorial breakfast was held in the ball room followed by the memorial service honoring our fallen comrades.

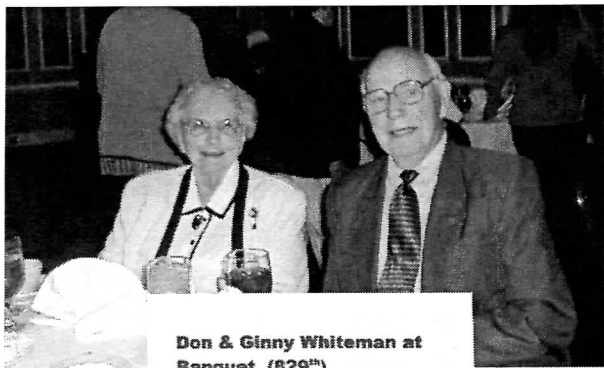


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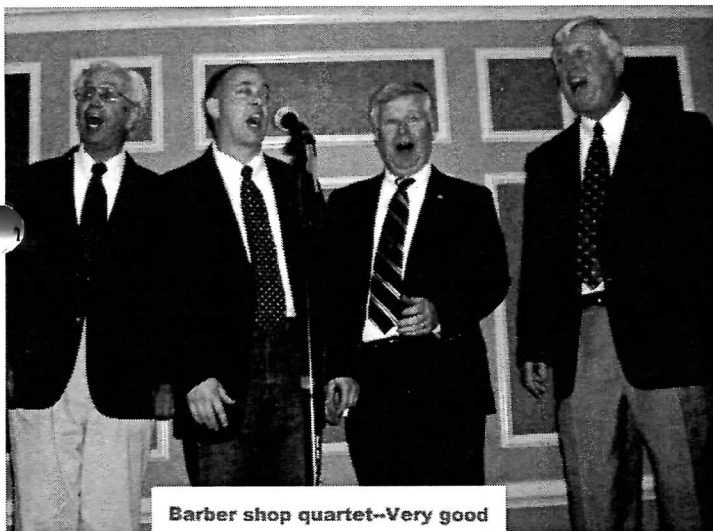
Then it was time to pack up and catch the shuttle for the airport.

Some of us avoided the rush by staying an extra day to explore the historic city that played a major role in the history of our country. Jim and Gwynne Ridout, Nick and Annette Montulli and I had a farewell dinner

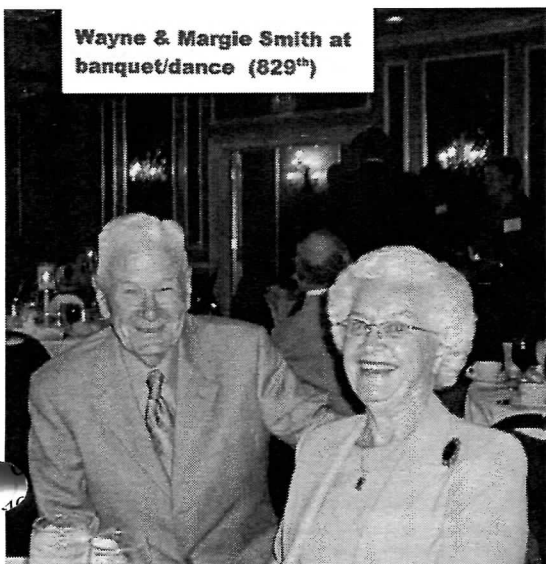
in the hotel dining room. I will see you in Kansas City next year; bring your family and friends.



Don & Ginny Whiteman at Banquet (829th)



Barber shop quartet-Very good



Wayne & Margie Smith at banquet/dance (829th)



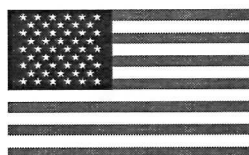
**Steve and Laura Sharpe (828th)
Wonderful photographers & willing to pitch in and be very helpful**



Milt & Frances Fundling at banquet/dance (829th)



Great band at Sun. night banquet/dance



**Minnie Pearl-(Joyce Blusroe) (828th)
Dinner/dance**

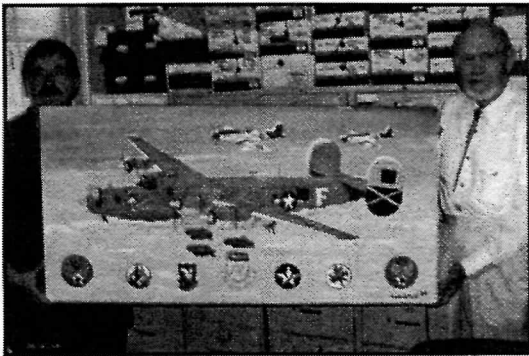


485th Bomb Group (H) Reunion

The 485th Bomb Group (H), part of the 15th Air Force that flew B-24 Liberator Bombers from their base in Italy during WWII, will reunite October 19-22, thanks to Col. (R) Robert Brown, 485th pilot, of Columbia, and the Celebrate Freedom Foundation.

CFF will host the group on Saturday, October-21, from 10am-lpm at the Curtiss-Wright Hangar at Columbia's Owens Downtown Airport. CFF members and their families are welcome to attend and admission is free. Come meet the 485th members and enjoy WWII military vehicles and

several era airplanes. On Saturday, members of the 485th will be treated to a display of WWII Army Air Corps artifacts and militaria, thanks to CFF Founding Member, Bruce Cotner.



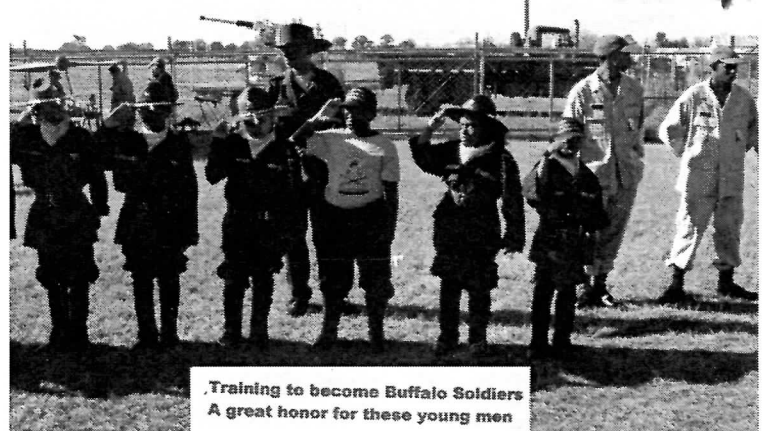
Artist Eddie Sutton, left, and Robert Brown, 485th Bomb Group veteran, are holding a painting created for the Reunion. Prints will be for sale at the Clarion Hotel on October 22nd.



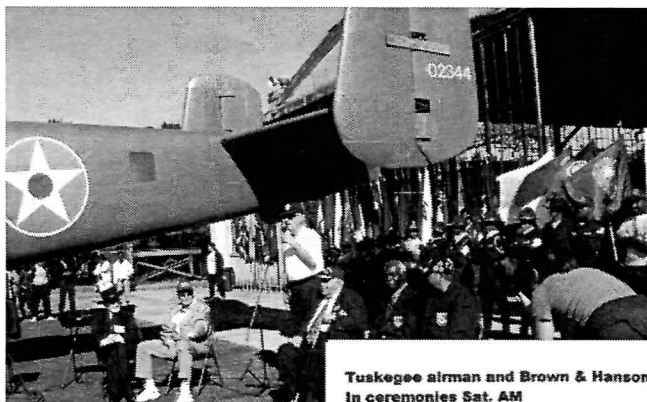
Stearman primary trainer at Owens Airport -- shades of Thunderbird Field 2 in Phoenix, Az.



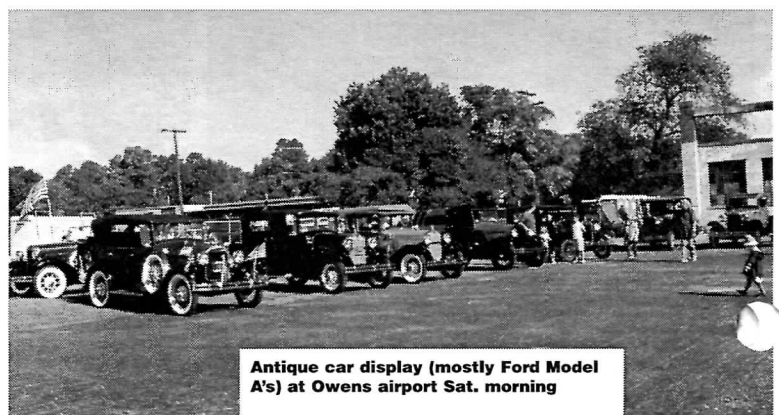
S. Burba by half-track at Owens airport Sat. AM



**Training to become Buffalo Soldiers
A great honor for these young men**



Tuskegee airman and Brown & Hanson in ceremonies Sat. AM



Antique car display (mostly Ford Model A's) at Owens airport Sat. morning





City of Columbia A Proclamation

WHEREAS, for the first time in history the City of Columbia will host a WWII B-24 Bomb Group Reunion; and

WHEREAS, veterans of the 485th Bombardment Group (H) WWII (European Theater) will celebrate their Annual Reunion in Columbia, October 19-23, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the 485th Bomb Group was part of the 15th Air Force of the US Army Air Force, and flew B-24 Liberator Bombers on 187 bombing missions during the period May 10, 1944 through April 25, 1945, from VENOSA Army Air Field in Italy, to targets in all countries of NAZI-occupied Europe, destroying oil refineries, marshaling yards, Air Bases and other installations vital to the WWII German/NAZI regime; and

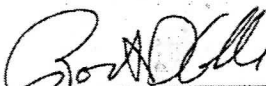
WHEREAS, the City of Columbia is privileged and proud to recognize and welcome the 485th BOMB GROUP REUNION 2006;

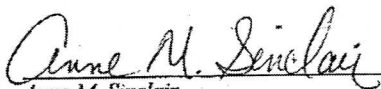
NOW, THEREFORE I, Robert D. Coble, Mayor of the City of Columbia, of the great State of South Carolina, along with my fellow members of Columbia City Council, do hereby proclaim October 21, 2006, as

485th BOMB GROUP (H) Day

in the City of Columbia and urge my fellow citizens to participate in the special activities planned for this special occasion.




Robert D. Coble
Mayor


Anne M. Sinclair
District III Council Member



SAMMY SCHNEIDER
1916 - 2006

Sammy passed away quietly August 12th 2000, just a few weeks before his 90th birthday. He was a very active member and promoter of the 485th Bomb Group. Until he retired last year, he was the historian and compiled material and published two books about the 485th. Sammy kept in touch with friend and members of the Group by his many e-mails. He was the tail-gunner on Clarence Eden's crew and completed 50 combat missions. Another member of the greatest generation is gone, but not forgotten.

485th Bomb Group Reunion 2006 Columbia, South Carolina

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation is proud to announce that its 2006 Heroes for Freedom Reunion will honor the 485th Bomb Group of the World War II European Theatre. The Group's 42nd Reunion is set for October 19-23 and will mark the first time in history that Columbia has hosted a WWII B-24 Bomb Group Reunion. The 485th was part the the 15th Air Force based in Italy and flew B-24 Liberator bombers. The group was instrumental in destroying oil fields, air bases, ammo dumps, and cutting off important communications with enemy forces. Much of their activity was directed toward rescue and repatriation of American air crews shot down across Europe. Not only were members of the 485th brothers in time of military peril, they continue to share a patriotic bond in the protection the freedoms we all enjoy today. The Celebrate Freedom Foundation will host members of the 485th at the Curtiss Wright Hangar at Owens Filed on Saturday, October 21, 10 am - 1 pm and again on Sunday, October 22, 4 pm - 6 pm for an autograph session. LTC Robert Brown of Columbia, USAF (Retired), was a pilot with the 485th during WWII. For additional information, contact Mr. Brown at 803-256-3700.





HEROIC 485TH BOMB GROUP BRINGS REUNION TO COLUMBIA

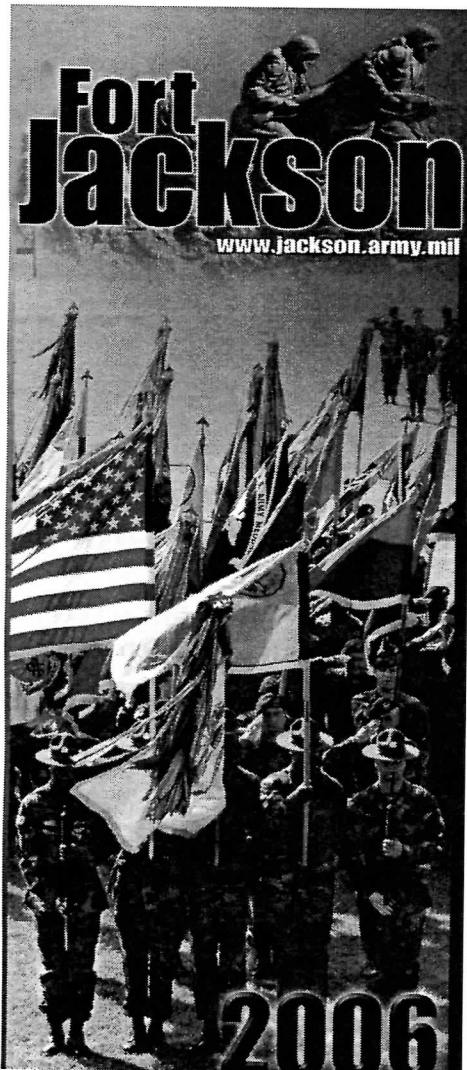
Historic First Meeting with the Tuskegee Airmen Planned

For Immediate Release Oct. 6, 2006

For additional information contact: Robert Brown (803) 256-3700

Celebration Freedom (803) 772-2945

www.CelebrateFreedomFoundation.org



Drill Sgt. at Ft. Jackson wearing new camouflage uniform



New recruit going over obstacle course

COLUMBIA, SC - the Celebrate Freedom Foundation is proud to announce that the 2006 Heroes of freedom Reunion will honor the 485th Bomb Group of the World War II European Theatre. The reunion is set for October 19-23 and will mark the first time in history that Columbia has hosted a WWII B-24 Bomb Group Reunion for a WWII heavy bomb group.

During their sorties over Europe, the 485th was often escorted and protected by the legendary Tuskegee Airmen. The 485th trusted the Tuskegee Airmen with their very lives, but due to the constraints of the era, members of these two groups never met. That will change on Saturday, Oct. 21 at Owens Field. History will be made when representatives of these two groups come together for the first time.

The Celebrate Freedom Foundation will host the 485th Owens Field on Saturday, Oct. 21 with a limited display of historic vehicles, static aircraft and a display of WWII military mem-

orabilia. The displays will be open from 10 am - 1 pm and the public is invited. Admission is free.

"Having served with the 485th as a B-24 Pilot and Squadron Operations Officer, and being a native South Carolinian and longtime resident of Columbia, it is my distinct please to serve as coordinator for the memorable event," said LTC Robert Brown (USAF Ret.) reunion coordinator. "Not only were we and the Tuskegee Airmen brothers in a time of military peril, we share a patriotic bond of the protection of the freedoms we all enjoy today."

To commemorate this historic event, artwork by Eddie Sutton featuring the B-24's and the P51 Red Tail Mustangs will be available. Members of the 485th will hold an autograph session on Sunday, October 22, 4 p. 6 pm at the Clarion Town House.



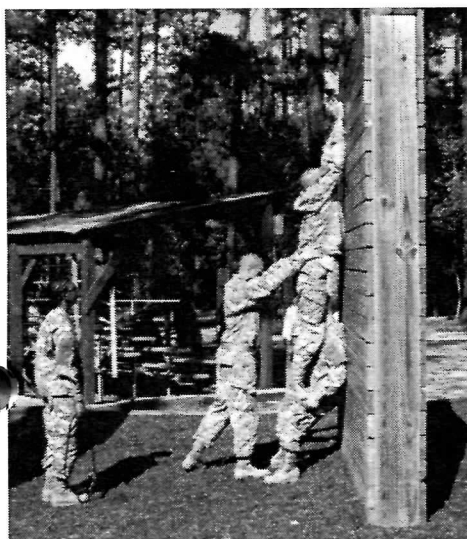
Journey's End - May They Rest in Peace

Benjamin F.	Anderson	829th	2006
William R.	Angle	H Q S	2006
James W.	Barnett	829th	2006
James	Blitch	830th	2005
Robert	Boal, Jr.	831st	2006
Bob	Bobier	829th	2006
Eugene	Britton	831st	2007
Vern	Bryson	830th	2005
Richard H.	Conklin	831st	2005
John R.	Cooper	831st	2006
Robert	Gordon	831st	2006
Derril	Gray	829th	
Morris "Smokey"	Haesh	831st	2006
Myron	Hails	828th	2006
Glenn	Hess	831st	2006
Burl	Jackson	831st	2006
Gerald Jerry	Johnson		2006
Richard E.	Juday	830th	2003
Orville	Kriefels	831st	2005
E. Vincent	Lee	831st	2006
Robert	Lewis	831st	2006

Paul	Lovejoy	830th	2005
Robert	McAlpine	830th	2006
Charlie	McDernott	830th	1995
Edward J.	Meyer	829th	2006
Steve	Mlinaz	831st	2006
Gerald	Morris	831st	2003
Kindred	Muse	830th	2004
Sammy	Nenadich	831st	2006
Richard H.	Peath	829th	2001
J. Ryan	Scott	829th	2006
LeMar	Sharpe	830th	2005
Herbert S.	Sieler	831st	2006
Guy L.	Snyder	831st	2005
Robert	Stanley	828th	2005
Harry T.	Steigerwalt	830th	2005
Clifford	Vanderbush	830th	2005
Clarence	Wolinski	829th	2004

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The 485th was part the the 15th Air Force based in Italy and flew B-24 Liberator bombers. Between May 1944 and April 1945, the 485th flew 187 missions to targets in Nazi-occupied Europe. The group was instrumental in destroying oil fields, air bases, ammo dumps, and cutting off important communications with enemy forces. The 15th Air Force directed much of its activity toward rescue and repatriation of American air crews shot down across Europe. No other Air Force recovered as many of its mission pilots and crews.



13 January 2007 Fort Jackson Tour Friday 20 October 2006

Fort Jackson, originally named Camp Jackson later named Fort Jackson for Andrew Jackson, seventh president of The United States and a native of the Palmetto State.

Fort Jackson is the largest and most active Initial Entry Training center in the U. S. Army. Training 50% of all soldiers and 70% of the women entering the Army.

Steeped in history The Fort started in 1917 with initial site of 1200 acres. Three months after construction began, 8000 World War I "Draftees" arrived for training. After WWI from 1925 until 1939 the Fort was used by the state National Guardsmen. During World War II (our era) more than 500,000 men and women received some phase of their training here.

Fort Jackson has remained active evolving into the present site of more than 52,000 acres of land, 53 Ranges and field

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HEADQUARTERS



Kathleen Arnold

828TH SQUADRON



Row 1: James Rau, Nick Montulli, Sherrill Burba, Lee Busroe, Clemmie Norris, Gregory Lahay, Kenneth Wall
Row 2: Gilbert Bell, Richard Mattison, Jack Whatley, Robert Yates, Arthur Hurley
Not Pictured: Alexander Gilbert



829TH SQUADRON



Row 1: Al Martin, Milton Fundling, Bob Brown, James Ridout, Arthur Russell, Wayne Smith

Row 2: Jack Behunin, Donald Whiteman, Arthur Fowler, Harold Johnson, Marvin Lindsay

830TH SQUADRON



Row 1: Bill Cummings, James Hunter, Herb Muhlemann, Frank Caster, Joe Rippinger, Clifford Studaker, Harold Kempffer, Donald Landrum, Robert Baldwin

Row 2: John Sellers, Raymond Engel, Howard Boxley, Walter Michalke, Buford Cooper, William DeVore, Ted Levine, Robert McAlpine



831ST SQUADRON

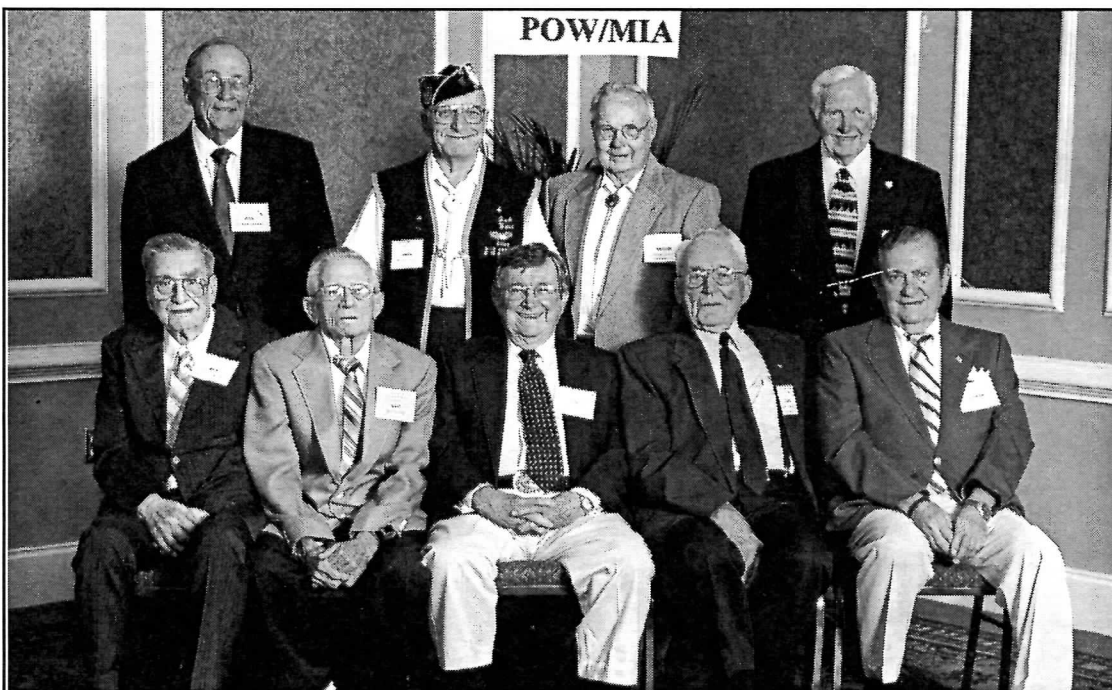


Row 1: Hank Dahlberg; Warren Meyers, Robert Hanson, Sr., Jesse Ledbetter, Vernon Christiansen, Lynn Cotterman

Row 2: Ken Brown, Leo Gagne, Hal Wilder, Clifford Woodbury, Frank Nardi, William Brokaw, Robert Hickman

Not in Picture: Daniel Ermakovich

POWs/MIAs

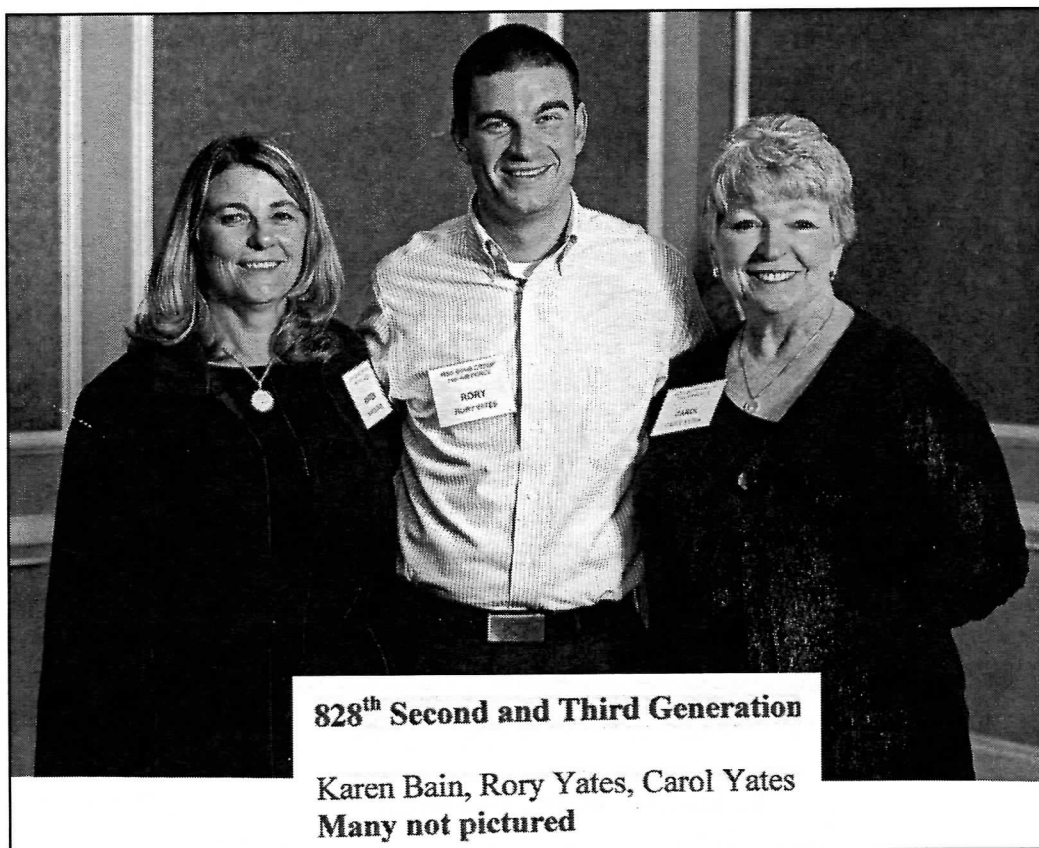


Row 1: Kenneth Brown, Leo Gagne, James Ridout, Vern Christiansen, Frank Nardi

Row 2: Raymond Engel, Robert Yates, Marvin Lindsay, Donald Landrum



828TH 2ND & 3RD GENERATION



WIDOWS



Leona Schoultz and Mary Swann, not pictured Joan Sites



829TH 2ND & 3RD GENERATIONS



829th Second and Third Generation

Row 1: Don Meier, Lee Cristelli, Lynn Gallo, Jody Boyd

Row 2: Kimberly Johnston, Kathy Lindsay, Steve Lindsay

830TH 2ND & 3RD GENERATIONS



830th Second and Third Generation

Row 1: Richard Keating, Jerry Engel, Gary Engel, Steve Sharpe, Beverly Biggs, Carol McIntire, Lloyd Rowland, Phil Cummings, Foster Chapman

Row 2: Joseph Rippinger, Jr. Randy Cooper, Brad Engel, Lillian Roland II, Ben Roland, Jolene Stockton, Santiago Stockton, John Asay, Scott Studaker, Lynn Studaker, Andrew Studaker, Robin Studaker



831ST 2ND & 3RD GENERATION



831st Second and Third Generation

Row 1: Bob Geary, Kay Browburg, Kelly Siske, Leslie Usan, Rebecca Usan, Linda Haley, Marian Rollings, Nathaniel Rollings

Row 2: Bob Hanson, Jr., Ken McLain, Bill Phillips, Pamela Hanson-Phillips, Gail Gagne, Michele Pelton, Barbara Mason, Raymond Rollings

WIVES OF VETERANS



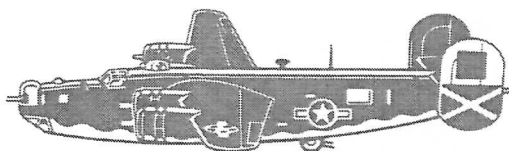
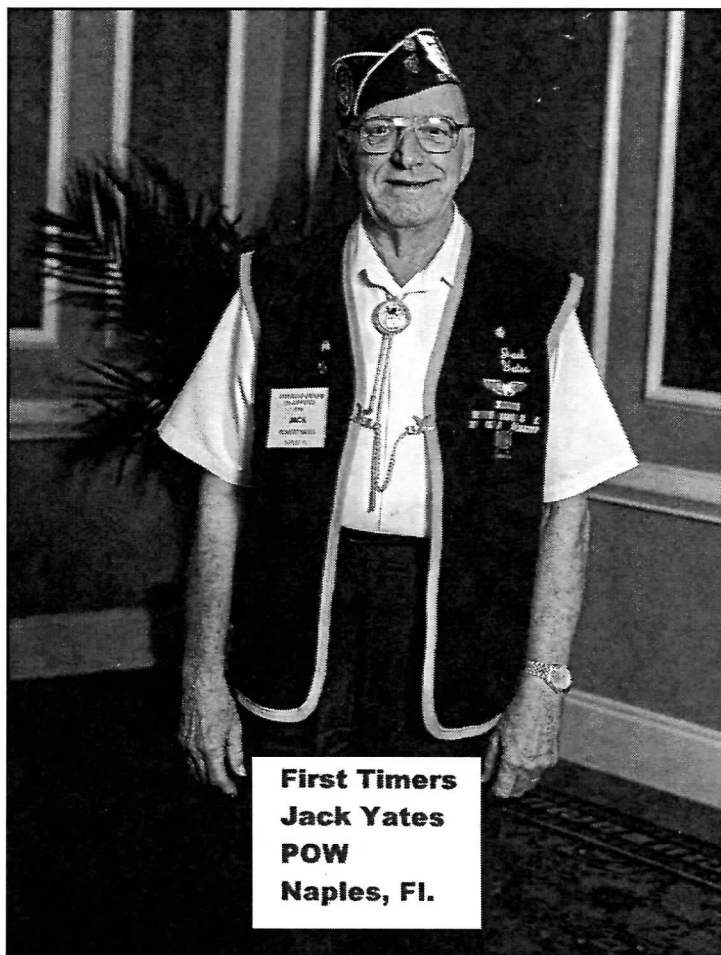
Row 1: Gwynne Ridout, Leona Schoultz, Mary Swann, Violet Hunter, Martha Joan Yates, Marie Ledbetter, Iris Dahlberg, Frances Fowler, Carline Landrum, Colleen Bell, Naomi Lindsay

Row 2: Ann Sellers, Kitty Nardi, Frances Norris, Mickey Kempffer, Frances Fundling, Margie Smith, Alice Arthur, Sally Hickman, Carol Studaker, Joyce Busroe, Helen Wall



FIRST TIMERS

Jack Yates



**4 Generations--Don & Carline Landrum
Their granddaughter, great grandson &
daughter, Beverly Biggs (830th)**



**Lynn Cotterman-Hank Dahl-
burg--Bob Hanson--W.T.
Simmons & wife Gemma**



Minutes of the 485th Bombgroup

Business Meeting - Saturday, 22 October 2006, Clarion Town House Hotel, Columbia, South Carolina

Chairman Bob Hanson called the meeting to order. This was the 42nd Annual Reunion of the 485th Bomb Group. A silent prayer was said for those who were lost overseas, members of the 831st Squadron who were lost when the USS Hamilton was sunk on the way overseas, the ones who have joined Journeys End since the last reunion, and all those who are ill and couldn't attend.

Bob Hanson led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Secretary's report of the 2005 reunion in Tucson, Arizona was read and approved as written.

Lynn Cotterman read the Treasurer's report. Lynn reported a balance of \$2,973.67 in the treasury. Registration fees were raised this year and the budget was cut to meet expenses. A minimum of 160 attendees need to come to the reunion to break even.

Lynn Cotterman has been appointed as Deputy Chairman of the Bomb Group.

Bob Brown was recognized as doing an excellent job above and beyond the call of duty to make this an outstanding reunion. The whole group appreciated Bob's efforts and the efforts of all the Sponsors who helped to make the reunion one of the best yet. The City of Columbia, and all members of the Celebrate Freedom group contributed so much to make this reunion a success. They furnished breakfast for everyone for three days and a special luncheon. A picture painted by a local Columbia artist will be presented to each veteran attending the reunion.

Hank Dahlberg was thanked for designing the glasses for this year's

reunion.

Jerry Whiting, Historian, reported that he was proud of the support for the continuing generations to keep the reunion going. He has made contact for more information in Venosa Italy. A person from Turino translated the information. Jerry read the message as translated. The web site is up and running and information should be sent to Jerry to add to this web site. Jerry, Kathleen Arnold's husband, set up the web site for the 485th Bomb Group. The web site will be updated to keep it current. Jerry reported that he was glad to see so many mini-reunions being held during the time we have in Columbia. Jerry donated a gunners dress uniform for the 485th to Blechhemmer for the museum, also a picture of the crew, which went down. A copy of the book "This Is How It Was" was presented to Bob Brown to be presented to the Mayor at this evening's banquet.

Sammy Schneider passed away this



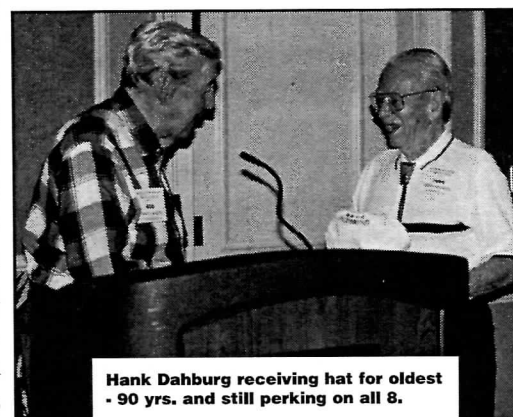
Lynn Cotterman presents plaque to Leona Schoultz.

year and his son was supposed to be here but was unable to attend. We will all miss Sammy.

Bill Cummings and son Phil were thanked for keeping the bar up and running. One son, David, was unable to attend due to a stroke and we will

all want to keep him in our prayers. Also the Estate of Ben Skelton was thanked for the money, which has been donated for the free bar at the reunions.

The oldest Veteran in Attendance was Hank Dahlberg at age 90. Hank was the oldest last year. A hat from the City of Columbia was presented to Hank for this honor. Lee Engel was the next oldest veteran, 89, in



Hank Dahlberg receiving hat for oldest - 90 yrs. and still perking on all 8.

attendance. Most veterans in attendance are associated with flying, but many are maintenance and ground crew personnel.

Jack Whatley had engine trouble on his plane and several times told the mechanics and they said it was fine. The last time he took some oil from the engine and put some file shavings in the oil, they got a new engine. Don Whiteman said the bomb doors wouldn't open once and they dropped the bombs through the doors and the doors were flapping in the breeze.

Leona Schoultz was honored for she and her husband starting this reunion. In 1960 her husband kept saying it would be great to have a reunion and she told him to do it or shut up. It ended up that Leona had to do the work of

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locating his crew. The first time there was about seven attending at the Shoultz's home. The reunion as we know it now was started in 1964 when all squadrons were invited. Lynn Cotterman presented Leona with a plaque honoring her and her husband for starting the reunion.

First Timers - Robert Yates of the 829th Squadron. Robert found out about the reunion in the American Legion paper about Jerry's Whiting's book and from there got information for the reunion.

Crew with the most members in attendance:

830th -3 Bill Devore
Bill Cummings
James Hunter

A total of 57 veterans were in attendance at the reunion. Those attending the business meeting are as follows:

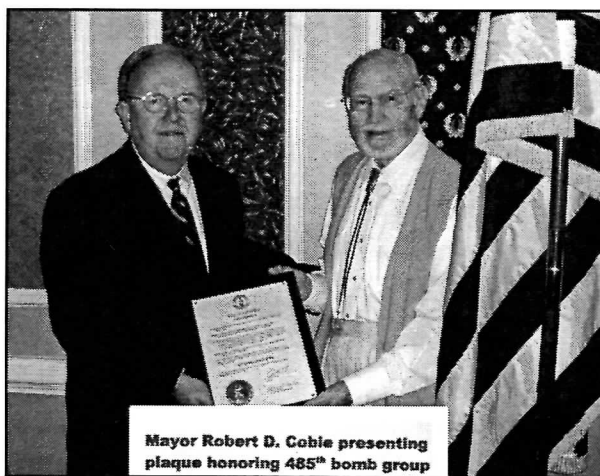
828th Squadron 25
829th Squadron 11
830th Squadron 17
831st Squadron 13

Widows 3
POWs/MIAs 8

Frank Nardi
Leo Gagne
Don Landron
Vern Christiansen
Robert Yates
Marvin Lindsay
Ray Engel

2nd and 3rd Generations - 40

Cities for next year's reunion were listed as Kansas City, MO and San Antonio, TX. Bob Hanson asked if there were any other places to be recommended. Albuquerque, NM was added to the list. Bob stated that Ted Dey reported that Kansas City, MO had excellent tours available, also



connections to the airport were very good. There are good hotels available in the area. Time frame for the reunion would be mid-September into October.

The reunion has been held in San Antonio before, but the city keeps changing. There are excellent tours available and good hotels. One person stated that Kansas City had excellent tours and said that he would be able to get us on the military base with a tour of the B-2 and visits with soldiers returning from Iraq. After some discussion the count was taken for next year's reunion.

Albuquerque	5
Kansas City	32
San Antonio	9

Next years reunion will be held in Kansas City, MO in mid-September to mid-October.

Persons missing from this years reunion who were remembered were Dan Sjodin who is ill; Warren Sortomme's granddaughter was graduating and they went to the graduation; George Dyer fell and broke ribs and was unable to travel; Howard Woodward has health problems but said hello to all; Jack Godfrey is very ill; Grace and Leonard Little both are ill and recently had a home invasion with the robbery giving them a great set back. Also missed very many others

that were not named.

Persons with books are Harold Wilder and Jerry Whiting has one in process. There is a list of books on the web where you can get them with permission of the author. Vern Christiansen has one listed on the web site.

Pictures will be taken in the Ballroom starting at 5:00 PM, wear your name badge for identification purposes. There will be citizens from Columbia interested in the veterans and will want signatures from the veterans. The picture to be signed was painted by an artist from Columbia.

After the individual Squadron meetings there will be a Sunday non-denomination service by Rev. Don Whiteman. All are invited.

Bill Cummins was recognized as he celebrated his 85th birthday this day. There will be cake in the Hospitality Room after the meeting.

Bob asked if there was any New Business and any Old Business. There was none.



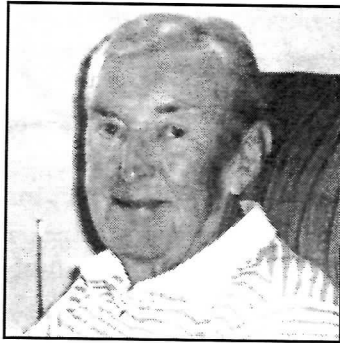
There are four (4) books known to have been written. Those by Sam Schneider; Jerry Whiting; William McLean and Ray Daniels.

It was motioned and seconded to close the meeting.

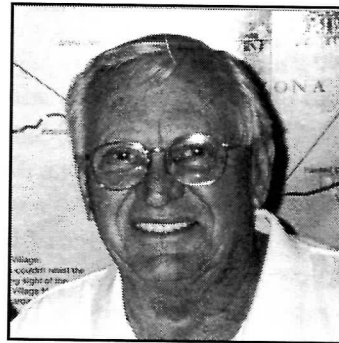
Respectfully Submitted:
Frances J. Fowler
Secretary



485th Bombardment Group



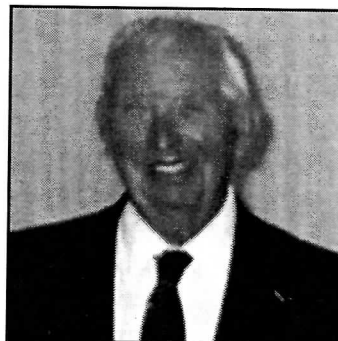
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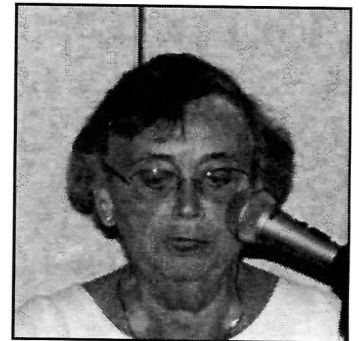
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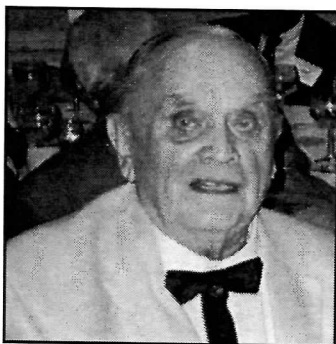
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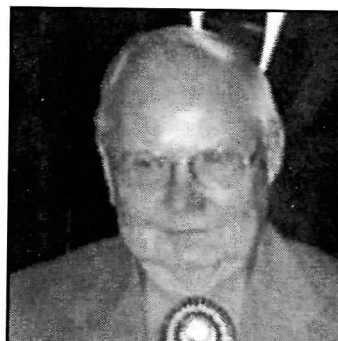
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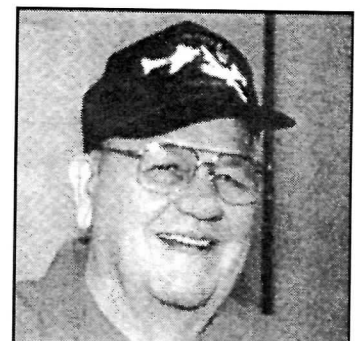
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Headquarters

By Warren D. Sortomme

Joyce and I were sorry to have missed the last reunion, first one in many years, but the late date did not work out with our travels.

Arriving home after more than four months on the road and pulling our trailer for 8,149 miles, we started the task of catching up on our mail for all of those enjoyable months.

One of the first letters I opened was from Patricia A. Kirk, William R. Angle's daughter, dated 10 August 2006. She enclosed a generous check to help pay for our corresponding expenses and informed me that Bill was unable to attend the reunion in Columbia, SC because of his health. He always enjoyed the reunions and the guys of the 485th.

As the mail pile dwindled, I found another letter from Patricia Kirk, this one dated 5 October 2006, sadly informing me that William Angle

passed away on 25 September 2006, two days before his 91 st birthday. She sends their best regards to all of the 485th Vets. "Journey's End" for William R. Angle: 9/27/15-9/25/06.

Pat also enclosed a copy of the 485th BG Thanksgiving Menu Bill had saved for 62 years. Roast Turkey, Mashed Potatoes, Dressing, Gravy and all of the trimmings. Sure sounded good to me, but I told her Pop and I were fortunate enough to have a piece of Spam on that day in Stalag Luft III.

Continued on pg. 20

485th Bombgroup Memorial Breakfast

October 23, 2006 - Clarion Hotel Columbia, SC
By Sherrill Burba

The Memorial breakfast program was attended by approximately 112 people.

We were fortunate to have Dr. Neal Swann do duty as pianist and in charge of flag folding ceremonies. He is an Eagle scout as are his sons. He also collects Model A Fords and has various ones in degrees of restoration. His late father was first sergeant of the 830th.

Numerous ladies stepped up and did readings during the breakfast and all efforts were appreciated.

I saw something this year that I had not noticed before-there was a silence and a sincere sign of reverence.

Rev. Don Whitman delivered his usual good homily and had everyone's attention during his talk. Rev. Don also had a non-denominational service after the Sunday squadron meetings and a good number attended.

The hotel staff was very cooperative in the preparation of the physical needs for the program. Al Martin did his usual good job in leading the singing and praising the Lord.

Hope to see you all in Kansas City in 2007.
God Bless

Mail Room - 828th Squadron

By Sherrill Burba

The 828th squadron met in regular session after the business meeting. The annual financial report was presented and balance was \$1007.55.0 Collection was taken and \$205.00 was added.

The squadron paid the cost of the Memorial programs for the second straight year. The cost was \$180.67. We also agreed to purchase a brick for the Kitty Hawk Monument to a Century of Flight at Kitty Hawk, NC. The Brick will read:

485th Bombardment Group

828th Bomb Squadron

Tony Stiller sent American flags to pass out to those in attendance.

Lt. Colonel Jack Whatley, retired, made many interesting comments.

The meeting adjourned after about 45 minutes.



Flag folding at memorial breakfast
Monday a.m.



Mail Room 829th Squadron



Report of the October 22, 2006 meeting of the 829th Squadron

The meeting of the 829th Squadron followed the general meeting of the 485th Bomb Group. Marvin Lindsay called the meeting to order. He thanked Alice Arthur and Fran Fowler for recording the meetings. Fran received a special "Thank You" for providing the master roster, making the mailing labels and keeping the Journey's End list current.

New Journey's End names for the 829th were: Ben Anderson, Sr., Edward J. Meyer, Mrs. Edith Blood, and John Hawks. All members are urged to keep Marvin informed about squadron members, changes of address, etc.

There were 2nd and 3rd generation members attending from Marvin's family, (his sons and daughter as well as his sister) and all members enjoy meeting those from all squadrons who attend the reunions. 829th members attending the squadron meeting were:

Gerald Behunin and wife, Mary Ann

Wayne Smith

Russ Arthur and wife, Alice

Art Fowler and wife, Fran

Don Whiteman and wife, Virginia

Robert Brown

Alvin Martin and wife, Icie

Marvin Lindsay and wife, Naomi and sister, Jody Boyd

Milton Fundling and wife, Frances

Harold Johnson

After all printing and mailing expenses were paid for the year to date, the

829th bank balance is \$588.52. This is adequate for squadron needs. A complete financial statement is available, if requested.

There was no old business presented.

Under new business, a special recognition was given for the tremendous

contribution Robert Brown made through his work in Columbia, S.C. for this reunion. He acquired sponsors for the breakfasts for the 485th, he worked with the tours and the Celebrate Freedom Foundation for the displays at

Dwens Field and the

wonderful connection with the Tuskegee Airmen and the fine poster presented to the 485th members attending. All agreed that Columbia, S.C. had truly welcomed the 485th and made the veterans feel genuinely appreciated.

Discussion followed about voting in the general meetings. Many families have several attending, sometimes the 485th member is deceased, widows are allowed to vote. A good example is Jerry Whiting, who is so involved, yet could not vote because his dad is deceased. We suggest that the policy be one vote per family.

Being no further business, some stories were shared. Milt Fundling recalled an encounter with "Pop" Arnold where Milt was told never to say he was "just ground crew"- for all the men were equally important. Bob Brown recalled 28 days on a convoy, Aug. - Sept. 1944 - there were many stories remembered about Liberty ships.

Marvin thanked everyone for coming and hoped to see all in Kansas City, MO in 2007. The meeting was concluded.

Respectfully submitted,

Alice M. Arthur

Recorder for th 829th



Milt Fondling with Betty Grable



Mail Room 830th Squadron

By Bill Cummings

The 830th squadron meeting was held in a hotel conference room after the groups general business meeting. George Dyer our regular squadron reporter was unable to attend this year due to an injury.

Bill Cummings, subbing for George, welcomed the 15 veterans and 2nd and 3rd generations and guests. Frank Caster opened our meeting with a prayer. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance. We had one new member this year and old and new business was held at this time.

John Sellers inspired everyone by his story relating to finding a relative of a crew member. Buford Cooper informed veterans if they needed help in any way to contact service officers available through veterans organizations. Clifford Studaker, our next speaker, related his experience with the bomb group. Thanks, fellows.

See you in Kansas City in 2007. Frank Caster closed the meeting with a prayer.

George and Katy were missed at our Columbia reunion. Your comrade - Bill

I was asked to report on the October 21 buffet dinner at the hotel. There were approximately 160 present for this festive occasion. The dinner and entertainment were both excellent and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. Bob Hanson opened the program calling on Don Whiteman for the opening prayer. Robert Brown was congratulated for all his efforts and work in doing an outstanding job in making this a FINE reunion. The mayor of Columbia welcomed the 485th bomb group.

A group provided barbershop harmony plus music by Dick Goodwin's band. Bob Hanson called Joyce Busroe to give her 'Minnie Pearl' program which all seemed to enjoy. We thank all of the entertainers for a very nice evening.

Fort Jackson - Continued from pg. 7

training sites and 1000 buildings. Training each year in excess of 45,000 men and women, including, Basic training, and advanced individual training. Other missions include Army Soldier support Institute, The Army Chaplain Center and School, and the Department of Defense Polygraph Institute, while other military installations have downsized or closed, Fort Jackson has grown. The Economic impact on the community is significant, contributing 2.6 billion dollars to local economy. In addition 1000 family members visit the area each year to attend Basic Training Graduation activities, using the local Hotels, restaurants and Shopping areas.

The day of our tour there were 6 Company Graduations taking place. Our tour consisted of 3 military busses, 1 passenger van and several "POV"s (that is military for Personal owned vehicles) and 7 very competent Drill Sgts. Tour Guides. We toured Ft Jackson Museum, The Confidence Course, Gun Ranges, Enjoyed lunch at The Reception Mess Hall. And took a driving tour of the Fort.

I can't speak for everyone, but this tour presented such A Positive approach to the training needed to complete our present missions, it is a welcome change from the seemingly mindless

negativism shown toward our military people that we find ourselves exposed to. The tour was another great part of the Reunion.

Thank You Columbia, thank You AFB and Thank You Robert Brown.

Respectfully submitted
Marvin Lindsay assisted by notes from
Kimberly Johnston (My
Grandaughter)

Headquarters - Continued from pg. 18

Received an informative letter from Lorrie Cornett-Cotton, daughter of Col. John "Beau" Cornett, our third and only living past 485th Group Commander. Beau turned 95 in October 2006 and extends his warmest wishes to all and regrets he could not make the reunion in SC.

Beau is living in a retirement home in

the assisted living area close to Lorrie's home. He still enjoys getting out and is fairly active, attending the rodeo, movies, exercising and eating out. Real good for a 95 year young retired AF Colonel and former POW.

We missed paying a visit to Hank and Althea Hancock by a mere 60 miles. A freezing snow storm from Alaska was

on its way to Montana so we sent our regrets and headed south as fast as possible. Hank and Althea send their best wishes to all and I hope they will be able to make the trip to KC.

All for now! ! Joyce and I wish all of you the best of everything and good health during 2007. Hope to see you in KC.





831st Squadron Mail Room

by Lynn Cotterman

Owens Airport Tour. Saturday morning our tour bus took us to the Columbia-Owens Downtown Airport for "Celebrate Freedom" Program. A WWII B-25 Mitchell Bomber was the centerpiece of the exhibit. Also there were limited displays of training aircraft, military vehicles, K-9 dogs, WWII memorabilia and several horses from the Buffalo Soldier unit. However, the largest display was of vintage automobiles. All of those Model A Fords lined up was something else. A squadron of young Buffalo Soldiers ages from about 6-12 in Buffalo soldier uniforms were very disciplined and stood at attention most of the time. Also artwork by Eddie Sutton featuring B-24's and P-51 Redtail Mustangs was available. There was a short program to honor the veterans from the 485th Bomb Group and members from the Tuskegee Air Corp and to recognize the sponsors of the show. The Tuskegee Airmen flew P-51 Mustangs and escorted us on some of our combat missions.

During WWII, Owens was a B-25 training base for pilots. Colonel Doolittle secretly trained 16 air crews at Owens field and later at Eglin Field Florida for a surprise raid on Japan early in the War. The 16 B-25 bombers were launched from the USS Hornet aircraft carrier in the Pacific and Colonel Doolittle led his Squadron on the first raid over Tokyo. The raid did not cause

major damage, but it was a great morale booster for the USA to be able to bomb the Japanese Island only a few months after the attack on Pearl Harbor. We were a peaceful nation and before the attack, the majority of the citizens had an isolationist view point. We had a poorly equipped army and were totally unprepared to fight a war. We needed a boost to our morale.

Squadron Meeting Thirteen veterans, relatives and friends totaling about 24 attended the meeting. I asked Jess Ledbetter to discuss the differences in flying between the B-24 and B-17 since he had flown both of them. Jess left an article from Air Force Magazine in the Hospitality room that discussed the history of the two aircraft. I'll bet you didn't know that the first heavy bomber mission over Europe was flown by B-24's, not B-17's. It was a good two months later before the first raid was flown over Europe by B-17's.

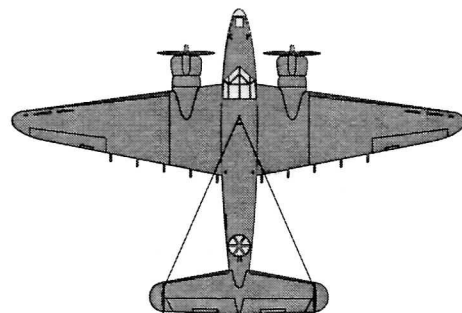
Vern Christensen updated us on the health of our C.O., Col. Dan Sjodin. Dan is taking new medication which has slowed down the progress of Alzheimers. Vern said that Dan sounded just like his old self, enthusiastic and happy. He is living in Minnesota with friends (a couple of Angels) who are taking good care of him.

Leslie Uslan, niece of Lewis Kaplan

who went down with Lawrence's crew, spoke about her trip back to Poland to visit the crash site. Jerry Whiting noted that the Polish people still honor the crash victims with fresh flowers daily at the site.

We have one new member, Irving Farber, 831st Squadron. He had never heard of our reunion until he saw my name in one of the reunion notices. He lives in Chicopee, MA. There were no veteran first timers from the 831st. However, each year we are welcoming more relatives and friends who seem to enjoy joining us in our informal discussion. Twelve veterans from our squadron have passed away since our meeting last year and their names are on the Journey's End list. We will do it again next year in Kansas City. I'll see you there.

Update: I called Colonel Dan in December to wish him a Merry Christmas. He answered the phone and was enthusiastic and pleased that I had called. He doesn't seemed to have changed much since I talked with him the last time.



My Journey Continues

by
Kathleen Arnold



Going to Columbia for my second 485th reunion was another fabulous lifetime experience for me, and I cannot thank you all enough for making me feel so welcomed and special. Again, you all touched my heart in ways I will never forget and I'm so humbled to be in the presence of such fine people. This time I felt like I was truly part of the group, one of the gang, a family member. When I arrived, it was very emotional to be recognized immediately, greeted and hugged by so many familiar faces, and surrounded by many new smiling faces. It was like coming home. Thank you all for blessing me with your friendship and again for sharing your heartfelt stories with me.

There were so many lasting impressions that I took home with me from Columbia, but I thought I'd share with you a Pop story that made an indelible impression on me when I first heard it. As you know, this year we were honored by having several Tuskegee Airmen at the reunion. Their presence brought to mind my Dad's story that he told us long ago regarding his "two black guardian angels." I know I told this story to many of you at the reunion but for those of you who couldn't attend or have never heard the story, I'd like to tell it again.

After Pop was shot down he recovered from his wounds in a

hospital for 3 months and in November 1944, when he was well enough, he was sent to Frankfurt for interrogation and then on to a POW camp. He went through quite an ordeal while in solitary confinement for a week and was then put on a train in Frankfurt bound for Stalag Luft III. En route he was nearly killed when allied planes bombed the marshalling yard his train was in, setting it on fire. Needless to say, he was emotionally and physically out of it when he arrived at the gates of the POW camp. He was greeted by old friends like Davy Jones and Dick Klocko who took him to their barracks in South camp to find Pop quarters. To quote Pop, he said, "I smelled pretty bad and was still very sick, weak and in a state of confusion after my ordeal. My leg was stiff and hadn't been cleaned, so none of the guys wanted to take me in with them! We continued to walk down the barracks trying to find someone to take me in and finally at the very end of the building were two black fighter pilots, Tuskegee airmen, Lt. Chuck Williams and Lt. Al Young. They said they'd take me in and the first thing they did was take me down to the showers, wash me, re-dress my wound, get me clean clothes and made me a bed between their bunks. I stayed with them for 3 days and they took such good care of me."

Years later, Pop told me that looking back on it, if he'd known then what he knows now, he would have asked to stay right there with those two Tuskegee airmen because they were so good to him and really fine guys. Eventually, Pop was found quarters with some of his old flying school classmates, but he never forgot the two black guardian angels who took him in when his own friends wouldn't. After the

camp was evacuated in January 1945, Pop lost track of his two Tuskegee friends, but after the war, he did visit Chuck Williams at his home in Los Angeles and spent a lovely evening with his family. Pop wanted to make sure that Lt. Williams was doing o.k. and he offered Chuck his assistance and expressed his lifelong gratitude for his kindness, compassion and generosity to him. The fate of Al Young after the war remained a mystery.

I just loved this story. It demonstrated the good and not-so-good side of mankind. Particularly, those who you thought were your friends showed their not-so-good side and two unlikely strangers showed their good side. I began a quest to find out if Chuck Williams and Al Young were still alive, and in 2000, Dad and I teamed up to see what we could find. Pop contacted the historian for the Stalag Luft III historical foundation and we discovered that Lt. Charles "Chuck" Williams, #1975, a P-51 pilot shot down 8/30/44, had passed away. The historian tracked down two other POW Tuskegee airmen who knew Chuck. They said that, "Chuck was a great guy and a hell of a chess player." I was glad that my Dad found out the fate of at least one of his guardian angels before he too passed away. The mystery of Al Young's fate still remained, however, thanks to the efforts of our own exceptional historian, Jerry Whiting, we believe we have solved part of the mystery. According to records, Al Young died in January 1945, while still a POW, and as of this writing, we don't know under what circumstances his death occurred. We have another mystery to solve so stay tuned, my journey continues!



485th Bomb Group Banquet

Clarion Towers Hotel, Columbia, SC

by Frances J. Fowler

Pictures of individual groups were taken by Clark Berry Photography, starting at 5:00 PM with Widows, 2nd and 3rd Generations and Wives following. Also in the Memorabilia Room Citizens of Columbia interested in our Veterans were there to get signatures of the copies of their picture painted by a local artist.

During dinner we were entertained with beautiful piano music by Dick Goodwin of Dick Goodwin's Big Band. During the evening music for dancing was provided by Dick Goodwin's Quintet. Musicians were Dick Goodwin, on piano and trumpet; Dough Graham on Clarinet and Saxophone; Dwight Spenser on Guitar; Terry Treham on Bass and Jim Hall on Drums. Great music for an evening of dancing.

Special guests at the banquet were gentlemen from the Tuskegee Airmen, Spann Watson Chapter. One of the original pilots of the P-51 was W. T. Simmons. Attendees were William McCarty, Jr., President; W. T. Simmons, Immediate Past President and Wife Gemma; Willie J. Leonard, Founding Member of the Chapter and wife Delorias.

Michelle Cummings has been taking photos since arrival and has made CDs available to all for a price of \$5.00.

A lithograph of the original painting by Columbia artist, Eddie Sutton, has been signed by the artist and was given to each veteran. The painting depicts a B-24 dropping bombs with the Tuskegee Airmen flying support. Additional copies of the painting were available for sale.

Dancing was enjoyed by many couples.

Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold

By Jerry Whiting



This is a 250 page hardcover book about airmen in the 485th Bombgroup who were shot down over occupied Europe. The book includes 65 photos. These stories are about the struggle to survive for these downed airmen, so that blue star proudly hanging in the window at home wouldn't be replaced by a gold one. They are also the stories of family waiting at home of receiving the dreaded Missing in Action telegram and not knowing if their loved one survived.

These are accounts of love, duty and courage. Each is placed in the historical context of what was happening elsewhere in the world at the time. The author visited Europe to locate witnesses and visited the crash site of one of the downed bombers. Each chapter was extensively researched and the author shares background history of how each story came to be, often with surprising revelations. Several contain eyewitness accounts from Europeans. In one chapter two Croatians tell the story of rescuing three airmen while under fire. In another, Polish farmers tell of the 485th bomber that fell in a nearby field.

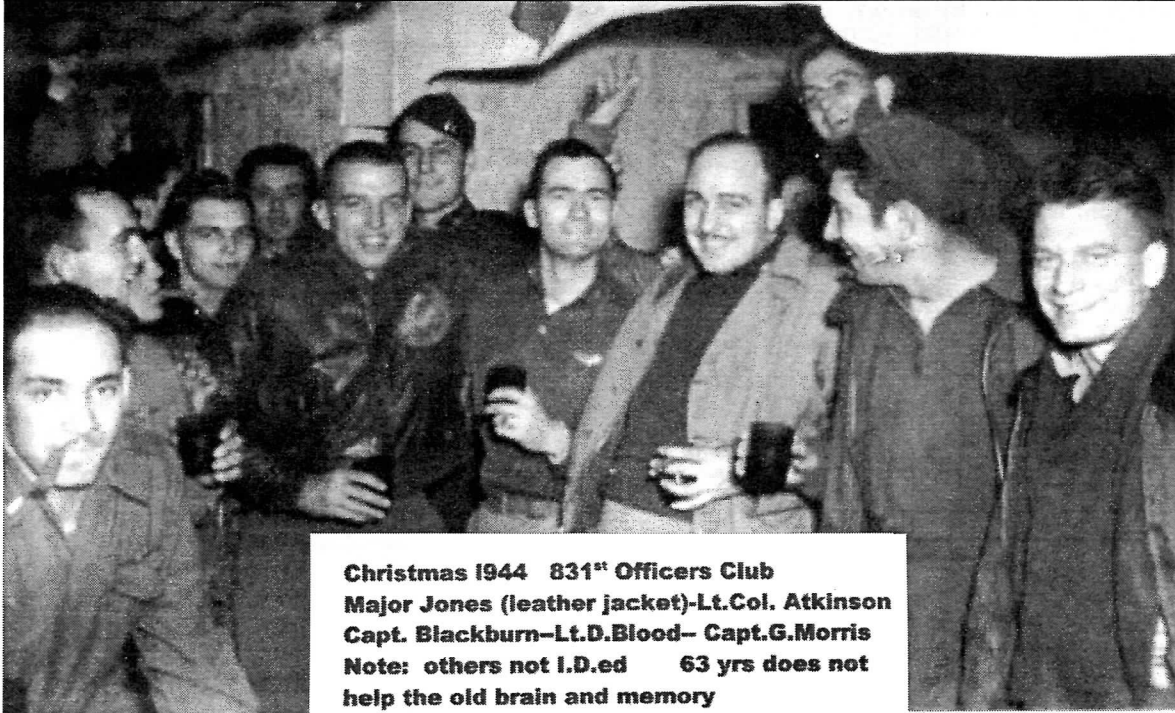
There are stories of capture, evasion and escape. This is an inspirational book suitable for the family.

For your copy send a check for
\$20+\$5 shipping and handling to:

Jerry Whiting • 2576 Fox Circle • Walnut Creek, CA 94596



Down Memory Lane



Christmas 1944 831st Officers Club
Major Jones (leather jacket)-Lt.Col. Atkinson
Capt. Blackburn-Lt.D.Blood- Capt.G.Morris
Note: others not I.D.ed 63 yrs does not
help the old brain and memory

DEC 1967



Front- L to R: William Schoultz and
Robert Deeds. Std- L to R: Carl
Gigowski and Howard Woodyard.

485th Living Tree Memorial



Bob Deeds & Woody Woodyard at Dayton
A/F Museum in summer of 1989



A Time for Reflection

Those of us who have recently attended a reunion realize how important these events are to all of us, for a variety of reasons. This past reunion in Columbia was an especially good reunion, with many "mini-reunions" that were heartwarming, but also provided answers to families in search of information.

The most obvious of these was one involving Cliff Studaker (830th Sqdn copilot on Ken Muse's crew). Several months ago Cliff mentioned to his grandson and granddaughter-in-law (Scott and Lynn) that he would like to locate the daughter of his friend and bombardier on his crew, John Veal. The daughter was just three months old when John was killed. Armed with little information, Lynn and Scott began their search. Within just a few weeks they located John's daughter, Jolene Stockton, in Albuquerque. What the Studaker family didn't know was that Jolene had also recently been searching for information about her father.

Jolene, her son and a cousin immediately made plans to attend the reunion, as did the Studaker family. The Studakers also found Ken Muse's daughter, Michelle Condon, and she wanted to attend with her husband. Additional searching led them to Foster Chapman, son of crew member Foster Chapman, and he also made plans to attend. Needless to say, it was a special time for all of them.

Another of these reunions involved Marian Rollings, the niece of Matt Hall. Matt was the copilot on Volney Wiggins' original 831st

crew. Matt was killed while flying with Captain William Lawrence's crew. Marian, her husband Ray and her two sons attended. They met Bob Hickman, who was the tail gunner on Wiggins' crew and Vernon Christensen from Lawrence's crew, one of the last to see Hall alive. They also met Rebecca Uslan and her daughter Leslie. Rebecca is the sister of Lewis Kaplan, who was also killed with Matt and who had exchanged letters during the war with Matt's mother.

Walt Gworek came to the reunion, hoping to find someone who had known his father, Walter Gworek, a gunner on Lloyd Proudlove's original 831st crew. Walt's father was a POW for a year and never talked much about his experiences and Walt was anxious to learn more. Walt was fortunate to meet Ken Brown from his father's crew, who also survived the war as a POW, and who provided Walt with information about his father's experiences.

Brian BeGole came to the reunion from Michigan. He could only spend one day at the reunion and was hoping someone could shed light on his uncle's death. Brian's uncle, William BeGole, was killed on November 1, 1944 when his plane crashed shortly after take-off, while taking men from the 485th to rest camp. Answers came from Art Hurley, who had specific information.

Jack Yates attended the reunion, a first-timer. Jack, the tail gunner on Robert Ware's 828th Squadron crew, was shot down over Bruck, Austria,

on February 23, 1945. Jack and his family were happy to meet up with Jack Whatley, his original copilot and Whatley's two sons.

More and more sons and daughters and relatives of 485th Vets are attending, even after the Vet has passed on. Many do it to honor the loved one; others attend in search of information, and some join us just be a part of a group of wonderful people.

Some Vets now bring their grandchildren. What a wonderful way to pass on the heritage and to let them learn about this group's contribution to WWII, their efforts to keep the world free so they can enjoy the lifestyles they have today. Much of this is not being taught in our school system, so this is one way for them to learn.

The 485th Bomb Group is a part of our rich history, both our country's history and of each family's history. The 485th Bomb Group Association is a very active group of people. Many WWII groups no longer have annual reunions. Our group will continue to have reunions as long as we keep the attendance up. Some ask what they can do to support our association and one of the best ways is to join us at our annual reunion. Newcomers are particularly welcome and no one is left out. If you have attended reunions years ago and haven't recently attended, you'll find the group smaller, but more intimate and welcoming. If you haven't attended, we promise you won't be disappointed.





This past year has breezed by, tainted by the loss of our former Historian, Sammy Schneider. He touched everyone who ever knew him and we certainly miss him.

I continue to make new contacts in various European countries, a valuable tool in researching the group's history. We now have serious volunteer researchers, willing to help us with our research, in Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Germany, Slovenia, Austria, Hungary, Croatia and Bulgaria. I keep in touch with most of them regularly. If any of you have a need for information having to do with the 485th in any of these countries, please let me know. They will do their best to help us.

One of my more recent "finds" is Giuseppe Pellegrino, in Venosa. As near as I can tell, Giuseppe is the Entertainment Director for the town of Venosa. Giuseppe is very interested in the 485th Bomb Group. He requested copies of photos of any of the townspeople that were taken by 485th members during the war. I sent him several photos and he was elated to get them. Giuseppe speaks little or no English, so he sends his emails in Italian, and I answer in English. (The few Italian words I know were taught to me by my dad and shouldn't be used in polite company.)

I sent Giuseppe a photo of an Italian boy that hung around the 831st Squadron area and was befriended by my dad and the others on Bob Baker's crew. I told Giuseppe his name was "Tony". Giuseppe did some checking and circulated the photo among his many contacts. Within a few weeks, Tony was identified as Antonio Preite, born in 1934. Tony's family lived on Castello Square in Venosa during the war and they often had Americans over to eat spaghetti. Tony recognized the photo of himself, but unfortunately didn't remember my dad. It's still nice to know he survived and to know his current status. If any of you have any specific questions for Giuseppe or would like to find someone or identify someone in a photo, let me know and I'll forward the request to him.

European visits this year -Michael Lindsay and his wife, son and daughter-in-law of Marvin Lindsay (829th Squadron), while living in Germany, visited the U.S. Military Cemetery at Lorraine. They found and decorated the grave of Allen McBride, Marvin's friend and crewmate who was shot down with Marvin on June 9, 1944. Michael and his wife also visited the remains of the Moosburg POW camp, where Marvin was liberated at the end of the war. They had hoped to make it to the site where Marvin's plane crashed at Segensburg, but were unable to do so.

Leslie Uslan, niece of Lewis Kaplan (831st Squadron KIA) went to Poland in September, on the 62nd anniversary of the date that Lewis Kaplan was killed (September 13, 1944-Auschwitz mission). She attended a touching memorial ceremony for Captain William Lawrence's crew and visited the museum at Wadowice, honoring the 485th. While in Poland, she visited Auschwitz and Blechhammer, getting to see the new museum honoring the 15th Air Force and Allied POWs, at Blechhammer. Her tour guide was the 485th's friend, Szymon Serwatka.

In early January, Bill Culver's granddaughter (Rachel) and grandson and granddaughter-in-law (Chris and Mandy) visited Croatia, meeting with local historian Sime Lisica. Some of you may recall that Bill was a replacement on Richard Boehme's 829th crew when they went down off the coast of Croatia on October 16, 1944. Sime hosted them and showed them the area and they were guests at a party hosted by Marija Glavan. Marija rescued Bill and one other crewman (Bob Bishop) from the Germans and hid Bill in a hole until Partisans could get him out of the area. Several generations of Marija's family were present at the celebration, where Marija was presented a bracelet from the Culvers. Marija's home was packed with family and friends and the event was covered by two newspapers and a TV station.

I appreciate the copies of memoirs, flight logs, letters, photos, and other documents that some of you have sent. Hope to see you all in Kansas City.



BYOB...Going, Going

For the past few years the laws concerning the sale of liquor have become more strict across the country and the liability suits against the owners and bartenders (and whomever else the lawyers can think of) have increased. This is a real concern of the hotel owners. Consequently the hotels have tightened up their rules for fear of a lawsuit and losing their liquor license.

Ted Dey said, "Obtaining a function (hospitality room) in

which to Bring Your Own Bottle (BYOB) is

a rare feat in today's market. One cannot select a location (hotel), march in and set up shop, it just doesn't work that way anymore." Ted said of seven hotels in Kansas City that would be suitable for our reunion, none will allow BYOB.

Also it has become more difficult each year to find a suitable location for our reunion, with meeting rooms and banquet facilities, at room rates under \$100.00. The room rates for the

seven hotels mentioned above all are over \$100.00.

Ted Dey and the personnel at the Armed Forces have performed admirably in hosting our reunions for the past several years. They have placed us in first class hotels at discounted prices, but the time is coming when adjustments will be necessary. Inflation and the laws are out of their hands. I'm sure that Ted, as always, will negotiate the best possibility contract with the hotels to keep the cost at a minimum.

www.485thBG.org

The new 485th Bomb Group website is finally up and running! It took longer than expected, but we have a site we can be proud of. Countless people have helped us along the way, with ideas, advice and encouragement. Jerry Seigel, son-in-law of Pop Arnold, designed the site (based on a concept by Lynn Cotterman and Jerry Whiting). Laura Sharpe, daughter-in-law of James Sharpe (830th Squadron) is helping enter new data.



The site has several categories:

Reunion info (*Reunion dates, location, details*)

485th History (*A brief history of the 485th*)

485th missions (*A list of missions flown by the 485th*)

Personnel list (*A list of the 3000+known personnel who served in the 485th*)

Air Crew (*A list of all known Air Crew, listed by pilot*)

KIA (*A list of all known members who were killed in action*)

Publications (*A list and brief description of all known publications*)

Assn Officers (*Current Association Board members*)

Contact us (*Contacts for the Historian and for 485th veterans*)

We are still collecting crew photos and will soon add the photos of air crews, along with photos of other

personnel who served in the 485th. We have added a few stories to the site and are looking for additional stories. Primarily we want new stories, not previously published in *Lightweight Tower* or other publications. We are not just looking for stories from and about flying personnel. We welcome stories from members who served in other assignments and from the next generation(s). Keep in mind that we are looking for stories of general interest and those which help us preserve the rich history of the 485th Bomb Group. If you have an idea for a story and would like input, contact Jerry Whiting or Lynn Cotterman. If you've written a story, send it to us for consideration. We intend to keep the information on this site current. This is particularly important regarding our reunions. As soon as dates and locations for future reunions are established, they will be posted. This will likely be weeks or even a few months before notifications can be made by mail, so the site is a valuable resource if you plan to join us at a reunion.

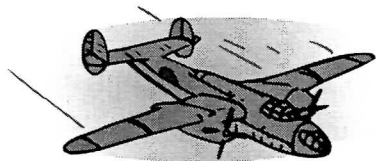
We have already received several "hits" on the site, where families of 485th Vets have found us. Some of them will be joining us at our next reunion. We respond to all inquiries about the 485th in a timely manner. We realize there are a few omissions and errors in our lists of members of the group and your input can help us in this area. Check out the site. We hope you enjoy it and let us know what you think.



Updates

Jerry Whiting

Planes - In reference to the article last year on the discovery of 485th planes in various countries, there have been no new finds. Austrian historian Jakob Mayer was apparently unable to make it up into the high Alps after the thaw last year, where he hoped to find the crash site of Robert Ware's plane, shot down near Bruck on February 23, 1945.



There is a new aircraft search in Hungary, an effort to learn what happened to the plane piloted by Charles Watson (828th Squadron) shot down near Mako, Hungary on March 3, 1945. The plane was in good condition and flyable when it landed. Hungarian researcher Nandor Mohos is working on this. (See related story by David Heiman.) While researching this plane, Nandor came across other Russian records showing a 485th plane (44-50414), which 830th pilot Joseph Cathey and his crew landed near Parndorf on April 25, 1945, was taken by the Russian Air Force and used by them after the war.

"Lone Wolf" night missions-

Regarding the request for information on "Lone Wolf" missions after December 1944, I received no new info from 485th folks, but I did receive an email several months ago from a 15th Air Force B-17 crewman who said he was familiar with these missions. In his email, he said these missions were secret at the time and should not have appeared in any mission report. Hmmmm.... just gets more interesting. I'm still looking for any info on missions after December 1944.

Sabotage in the 485th-In response to last years request for specific information about sabotage in the 485th, Don Whiteman (original 829th pilot)



sent me a copy of his memoirs. Don describes the August 10, 1944 mission to Ploesti, where they lost an engine and were forced to land at Brindisi on their way home. It was later discovered that the plane was sabotaged by cutting the safety wires on the fuel pressure adjustment screws of all 4 engines. The result in this case was that one of the screws

worked loose and fell out, resulting in the loss of fuel to that engine. Thanks Don for the info.

I also received copies of some letters from Foster Chapman's son. The letters were written home while Foster was at Venosa. Foster was the radio operator on Ken Muse's 830th crew. In a letter dated September 10, 1944, Foster mentions that the 464th Bomb Group had been having problems with sabotage, having three B-24's explode shortly after take-off in a one-week period, all having explosives in the wheel wells, designed to explode when the gear was retracted. He wrote there had been filed control wires in the 485th and the previous night an infantryman had been caught inside a 485th B-24. He said the plane was being inspected to determine if there had been sabotage. Anyone heard about this?

MIA's - Barry Wareham, son of Duke Wareham (828th pilot) recently informed me that the Poles are not giving up their search to determine what happened to the remains of Arthur Lindell's 9-man crew (828th Squadron), lost over Blechhammer on December 26, 1944. As some may recall from an

continued on pg. 30



Downed in Hungary

by David Heiman
Lt. Colonel, USAF, retired

(March 4, 1945)

Our B-24 aircrew arrived in Venosa, Italy in November 1944, as a replacement in the 828th Bomb Squadron, 485th Bomb Group. Lt. Charles Watson was the aircraft commander; I was the bombardier-navigator. Like many other aircrews, we lived in tents heated by improvised gasoline stoves. Mud was everywhere.

About the 14th mission for our crew, the target was the railroad yards at Szombathely, Hungary. The date was March 4, 1945, which we would remember well. Over the target the gas line to one of our engines was cut by a piece of shrapnel. By the time it was repaired, we

had only enough fuel for about two hours, and were five hours from home. We knew

the "Russian-German battle lines were in eastern Hungary and decided to get over Russian-held territory before any subsequent actions, such as bailing out or crash-landing. Later, our aircraft

commander (Watson) told us to prepare for bail-out; however, he spotted an open field where a landing might be possible. A good landing was made without incident. Later we learned the field was used by the Russian Air Force for emergency landings.

There was a village adjacent to the field named Szeged. We radioed from the aircraft to home base, to give our location, but received no acknowledgment. A large group of peasants had lined up at the edge of the field when we landed. It was obvious that a B-24 Liberator

was not a common item in their lives. The natives spoke only Hungarian, except for one man who said, in good English, "I'm going to take you home and give you fried eggs, potatoes, and bacon." It was about 3:00 PM and we had not had any lunch, so the menu sounded great. It then developed that our host had a grocery store in Brooklyn. He returned to Hungary for a visit just before international travel was cut off by WWII and could not return to Brooklyn.

For us, it was as if we were taken back two or three hundred years. It was a village of grass sod roofs, with no automobiles, except for an occasional Russian vehicle, and no water system except for a large well in the

village square. It was indeed picturesque to see the ladies going to and from the well with large crocks balanced on their heads. We never saw one dropped.

After two days in Szeged, the local Russian Army decided we should move to Mako, which was more metropolitan. We were housed in a large hotel, which the Russians were

using for an officers' rest camp. The front lines were only about 20 miles away; we could hear the artillery booming night and day.

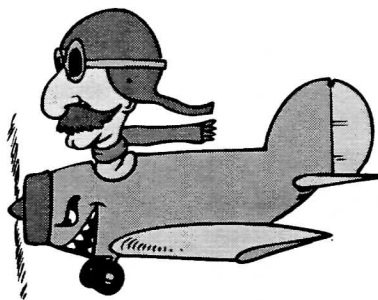
The Russian officer in charge of the Mako area was a jamor and was known as "the town major". Every few days we would ask him (through an interpreter) to contact the U.S. military and advise of our whereabouts, with no apparent success.



continued on pg. 30

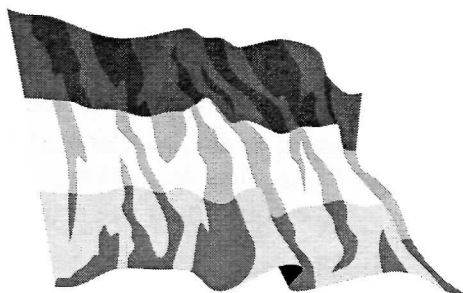


article last year, our Polish friends developed information that the men were buried locally, some in a British POW cemetery. New research reveals the possibility that 3 of the men may have been buried in a different British POW cemetery, closer to Blechhammer. Our Polish contacts in Blechhammer will keep us apprised of any findings.



Hungary - continued from pg. 29

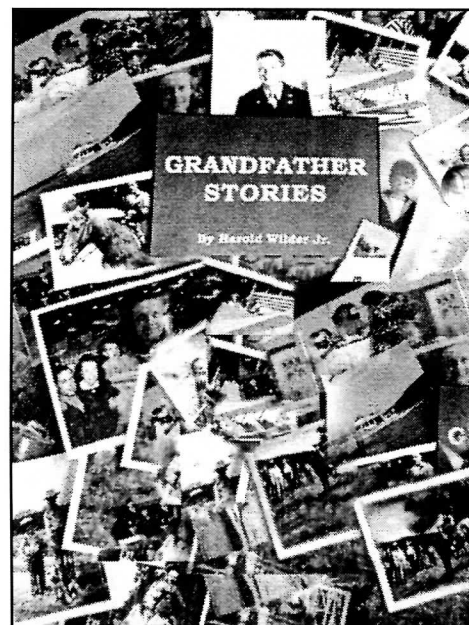
About 25 days went by; we were beginning to feel we might never be found. One morning, however, Pete Graves, our copilot, and I saw what looked like a U.S. Army jeep heading out of town. We ran after it, yelling. The driver heard us, turned around and drove back. He was a U.S. Army major. We told him about our crew and he said, "I've been in this area twice before looking for you and this was going to be my last trip."



Our radio message from Szeged to home base had been received and the major in the jeep had been dispatched from a British-American-Russian mission in Debrecen, Hungary. Their job was to round up Allied military personnel who were escapees, evades, or shot down in that area of Europe. We were driven

to Debrecen (second in size to Budapest) and treated royally, with new uniforms and great food for two days, then flown back to our base in Venosa, Italy. After a week of rest and recuperation at the Isle of Capri, we returned to bombing missions again. By then it was late April 1945, and shortly thereafter, VE Day was announced.

There is an incredible sequel to this story. After the war I lived in California and about 1965, my wife Elsie and I were at her sister's house for dinner. Elsie and her sister had always been fascinated by my Hungarian adventure, and asked me to tell the story to the dinner guests. When I mentioned the target, Szombathely, one of the guests jumped up and exclaimed, "The date was March 4, 1945, and your bombs missed. Otherwise I wouldn't be here today." He had been a prisoner of the Germans, forced to work in the railroad yards, even during bombing attacks. The coincidence of his being at the same dinner party 20 years later was, indeed, "stranger than fiction".



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15th Air Force Wall - March Field, California

Personal Tiles can still be made and be set at our 485th plaque on the 15th AF Wall. The cost is \$50.00 for one line of 20 spaces and \$75.00 for two lines of 20 spaces. Here are two examples of tiles that have been set on our island

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831st SQD - C.A. Abbott, William Brokaw, Lynn Cotterman, William Geyer, R. Oliver Haden, Earl A. Hall, David T. Hansen, Robert W. Hickman, Dan Sjodin and Howard P. Woodyard.

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Editor's note: Have read this and flew on same mission September 24, 1944 to West Marshalling Yard in Salonika, Greece. Author was shot down and was a POW for about 90 days. Believe ALL would enjoy this book.

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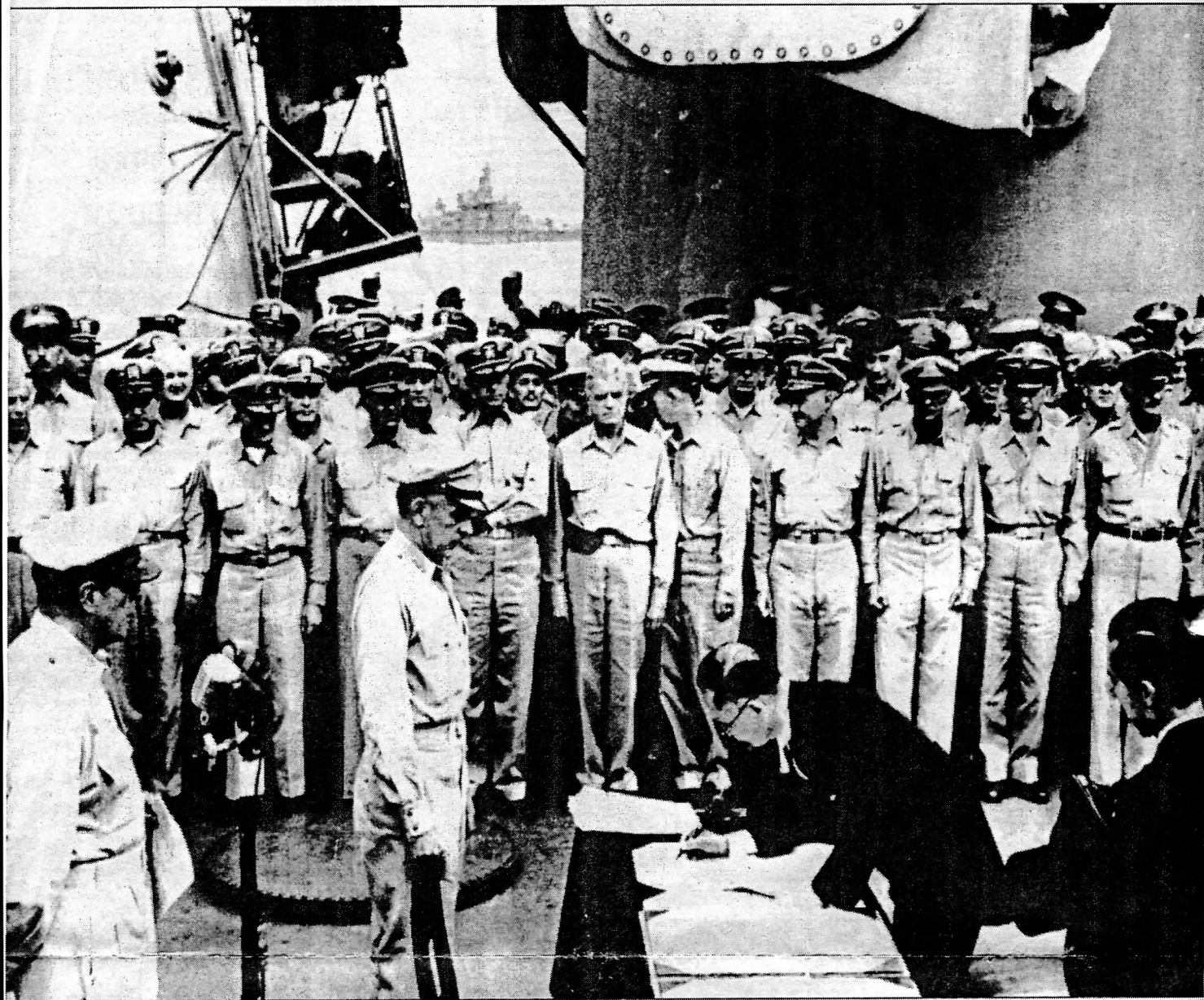
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“The war has turned out not necessarily to Japan’s advantage.”
— **Japanese Emperor Hirohito**, August 1945, in his first public speech.



Gen. Douglas MacArthur (foreground) looked on as Japanese Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu signed the surrender that brought World War II to an end on Sept. 2, 1945. The surrender was staged aboard the battleship USS Missouri partly because the vessel had been named for President Harry Truman’s home state.

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