



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



No. 46

March 2012

Washington, D.C. 2012 by Phil Cummings

We are going back to our National Capital for the 2012 reunion. This will be a chance for the second generation to visit the WWII memorial with the veterans to whom it is dedicated. The 485th BG had their 2004 reunion in Washington, D.C. & it was one of the most memorable reunions I have had the pleasure to attend with my father.

This year's reunion will be September 26th thru September 30th at the Double Tree Hotel at Crystal City. The hotel is just a few blocks from the Pentagon & Regan National airport, & is in close access to the metro rail system.

To let everyone have more time to enjoy the D.C. area, with its many monuments & entertainment areas, we will not have a Thursday night Banquet. There will still be the Saturday night dinner & pictures. I look forward to seeing everyone in Washington, D.C. for another memorable 485th Bomb Group reunion.



San Diego, California by Michele Cummings

The 485th Bomb Group Reunion began on September 28, 2011 with the registration booth being open from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The reunion goers arrived throughout the day & many new & old friendships were formed. There were hugs & kisses & generally everyone happy to have the start of the reunion. The Hospitality room was opened & it is here that the sharing of stories & pictures began. The Hospitality room walls were covered in pictures, with each person taking their turn to renew & remember their time in Italy. The stories were shared with second & third generations. The sharing went on to the wee hours of the morning.

Thursday, September 29th, was the first day of the reunion. Everyone

was eager to get the day started after having breakfast. The buses were loaded at 9:00 am for the City Tour & Seaport Village. It was a beautiful day in San Diego. The town of La Jolla was a beautiful Seaside town that offered much to see. The sights ranged from beautiful homes to seagulls on the ocean. One of the most amazing sights was the Mt Soledad memorial located on a hill that had the most amazing view. There were many famous people remembered there from actors to the presidents of the United States. There were many in our group that obtained the information for their loved ones to be remembered here. We continued to Seaport Village where we had lunch on our own & walked on the boardwalk along the ocean.

Everyone was having such a great time. The buses had to wait for stragglers & the tour guides were getting nervous, but we all made it for the trip back to the hotel. The day continued into the night with a dinner buffet & a speaker. As usual, when the formal festivities were over the hospitality room was full with more stories & new friendships being formed.

Friday, September 30th was started early once again with breakfast on our own & boarding buses at 9:45 am for The San Diego Air & Space Museum & Coronado Island. This tour was loved by everyone with much to be seen & talk about. Friday evening brought something that was new for the 485th reunion. The vets

were able to meet Tuskegee Airmen. A delicious dinner was provided by Lucas Films. This evening was talked about & praised at great lengths by all. The evening continued into the night in the hospitality room where the 485th vets were able to get to know the Tuskegee Airmen.

Saturday, October 1st brought us the business & squadron meetings. It was decided that the squadron meetings be conducted all together. It was a wonderful morning of fun filled

stories. There were a few that were hilarious & that could only be told by our beloved vets. In the afternoon, we were privileged to see the trailers of the upcoming movie, "Redtails" premiering in January 2012. The Tuskegee Airmen joined us for this & awards were given. The evening was filled with cocktails, pictures, more cocktails, dinner & dancing. This was an evening that will be remembered by many. After dancing, to the hospitality room we went to share memories & to say goodbye to

the friends & family that must leave in the early AM. The end has come & we must say goodbye to our dear friends in hopes we will all be together again next year. There was a buffet breakfast & a beautiful remembrance service. We parted our ways to our separate destinations with warm & friendly memories & in some cases new friendships.

City Tour & Seaport Village by Mark Leslie

We departed the hotel on a cool, overcast morning with a "marine layer" blanketing the city with fog. Driving to the north San Diego community of La Jolla, our tour guides gave us interesting facts about the history of the city. Home to many current military installations & a large veteran community, San Diego has always been very supportive of our national defense & those who have sacrificed for our freedom. During World War II, the navy had a huge presence due to the ports & ship building facilities & they still do today. In addition to the naval effort during the war, the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation (later Convair) built the B-24 here. According to our tour guides, over 40% of all B-24s were manufactured at this factory. Women provided much of the labor & although the true inspiration for "Rosie the Riveter" is unknown, the proud citizens of San Diego know their community had many "Rosie's" building the Liberator.

Our first "destination" was La Jolla or "the jewel"--an affluent residential area nestled on the hilly coastline of the Pacific & home of the Torrey Pines Golf course. After driving through this community, our buses climbed to the top of Mt Soledad. This peak rises over 800 feet above sea level & is home of the Mt Soledad Veterans Memorial. A large cross sits atop the hill & it's encircled by several curved walls displaying over 2,700 "plaques" honoring veterans. As we stretched our legs & took in the memorial, the fog began to burn off allowing us to enjoy the views from the hilltop.

Our next destination was Balboa Park, a beautiful 1,200 acre city park which is home to many museums & attractions including the city's Museum of Art & the

world-famous San Diego Zoo. During World War II, the Navy took over many buildings in the park & used them for the care & rehabilitation of wounded military personnel. The highlight of our day was a visit to the Veterans Museum & Memorial Center in Balboa Park. Housed in a building originally used as a Navy chapel, the museum has artifacts, displays & artwork honoring our war heroes. The city was making plans to demolish the building, but a group of veterans & concerned citizens set up a foundation & turned the chapel into a veterans museum. A docent gave us a brief overview of the museum & thanked our veterans for their service. He pointed out that local artists painted the murals on several walls. One mural was dedicated to those who had been Prisoners of War. The docent asked anyone who had the misfortune of being a POW to "sign" the wall. Three of our 485th men did so: George Chaplin, Vern Christensen & Marvin Lindsey.



Marvin Lindsey, Vern Christensen, & George Chaplin
At the POW wall inside the Veterans Museum
And Memorial Center

As mentioned earlier, the B-24 holds a special place in the hearts of the citizens of San Diego. Because of this relationship, the Veterans Museum dedicated the entire “back hallway” to B-24 memorabilia. Additionally, the memorial gardens had a bronze statue of a B-24 as the centerpiece of the reflecting pool. Everyone wanted to take pictures in front of the statue. It was definitely a “Kodak” moment. If you ever get the chance to visit San Diego, this is definitely a museum you want to see.



Our next stop was Seaport Village on San Diego Bay. We were free to choose from the many casual dining & restaurant choices for lunch. Before returning to the bus, most folks enjoyed a stroll along the boardwalk or shopped for souvenirs. Some people continued north along the waterfront & saw the memorial to the USS San Diego. If you made it over there, you most likely took some pictures of the USS Midway. This aircraft carrier last saw service during Desert Storm & now is a museum of Naval Aviation & Warfare.

Do you remember Alfred Eisenstaedt's famous picture of the “The Kiss” taken on V-J Day in Times Square? A large statue of this event stands on the wharf near the USS Midway, & it was another favorite photo spot. Albert Eisenstaedt took the picture on August 14, 1945 when President Truman announced the end of the war. The picture is formally known as “V-J Day in Times Square” & it first appeared in LIFE magazine.

After lunch, we could choose to go to Old Town or Coronado. The Friday tour was also going to Coronado, so those who signed up for both tours chose to continue to Old Town, known as the “birthplace” of California. In 1769, Father Junipero Serra established the first colonial mission here & by the 1820's, a small Mexican community was formed. Known as El Pueblo de San Diego, the U.S. Military raised the American flag in the Old Town San Diego Plaza in 1846.

Some of the group went to Coronado after lunch instead of Old Town. The highlight of the afternoon for this group was a stop at the Hotel del Coronado established in 1888.

Today Old Town's adobe buildings with stucco roofs serve as a thriving marketplace celebrating it's rich Hispanic history. Unfortunately, we were too full from lunch to take advantage of the excellent choices of Mexican restaurants, but we enjoyed the shopping & the quaint art galleries.

For more information about the places we visited on the tour please see the following websites:
www.soledadmemorial.com
www.veteranmuseum.org
www.oldtownsandiego.org



Air & Space Museum Cabrillo National Monument, and Old Point Loma Lighthouse by Steve Lindsay

We had 2 buses - Driver Joaquin and Tour Representative Joyce Bell in one bus, and Driver Paul with Tour Guide "Bunny" (she was born on Easter Sunday) on second bus. They provided us with an outstanding tour and tidbits of information on our outing. We first went to the "renowned" San Diego Air and Space Museum. With several volunteer docents, we were given a nice presentation of the museum. "The Wall of Transportation Mural", along with a variety of aircraft and space vehicles were viewed. Reuben H. Fleet's Consolidated Aircraft Corporation, the original builder of the Liberator B-24's was headquartered in San Diego, CA.

We stopped for lunch on our own at the old "ferry landing". We saw an original "nickel" collector that was used to collect the fares when ferry was the only method of connecting San Diego and Coronado Island. Traveling on, we stopped at the Hotel del Coronado, the largest wooden structure on the West Coast. The Island was sold in 1885 for \$110,000.00.

Construction on the hotel was started in March of 1887 and was finished a year later. The massive wooden roof was constructed with "pegs" and "glue" and not a single nail. Hotel del Coronado was also the world's first electrically lighted hotel. The technology was so new that the electrical wiring was installed inside the gas lines, in case the illumination failed and gas lights were needed. A room in 1888 was a \$1.50 a night, and one today goes for \$300.00 a night. The Nation's first illuminated outdoor Christmas Tree was displayed in 1904 on Hotel del Coronado's front lawn. After a brief tour of the Hotel on our own, we loaded up and were treated to a trip to Cabrillo National Monument.

The road up to Cabrillo National Monument and Old Point Loma Lighthouse brought us past Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery & provided us with a spectacular view of the San Diego Naval Base and Pacific Ocean. We arrived back to our Hotel in early afternoon.



Air & Space Museum



Point Loma Lighthouse



Hotel del Coronado



Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery

Notes from the Historian by Jerry Whiting

It has been another incredibly busy year. We continue to get lots of requests for information through the 485th website. I'll reference just a few of them. I'm guessing we had at least 150 inquiries, but I should keep a better record. Many continue to be from families, trying to put the puzzle together. Others are from historians, film makers & the like.

Markus Siebler, a German film maker, made a documentary about Herbert Frels' 831st Sqdn crew, shot down near Freising, Germany, on the June 13, 1944 mission to Munich. Steve Barnes, son of crew member Richard Barnes, wrote a story of this crew that was published in the 2008 *Lightweight Tower*. Siebler did extensive research on this crew & learned that three of the men from this crew were murdered by locals. Nose gunner Robert Boynton was shot by Nazi Party officials near the crash site; Copilot Dennis Griggs was initially taken to a jail & killed later the same day in his cell; gunner Thearon Ivy evaded capture for three days & was killed when he was found. Several of those involved were tried after the war (at Dachau) for these crimes, but the identities of the airmen weren't known at the time. All suspects escaped death in the 485th case, but some did serve prison sentences. Two of the involved Nazis, Max Herrmann & Hans Staudinger, were also implicated in the murders of three other American airmen in July 1944. These two men were convicted & hanged on December 5, 1947 at Landsberg. I provided Markus with as much background info as I had, as did Steve Barnes. The documentary is in German, but Markus promised to get me a sub-titled version when it becomes available. I'm anxious to see it.

I was contacted by Aperture Films early last year. They were commissioned by the National Parks Service to do a documentary about the Tuskegee Airmen, to be shown at the Tuskegee visitor's center upon completion. They wanted contact info for 485th airmen who had personal contacts & stories about the Red Tails. I provided them with information on several of our Vets. I know they contacted Jim Scheib & he was interviewed, but I'm unaware of any contacts they had with other Vets. They hoped to have the film finished early in 2012.

Late in the year, I was contacted by Margot Dahlquist, a researcher from the "History Detectives" program,

who was trying to identify the owner of a leather flight jacket for a possible segment. After several hours of researching that, it appeared the jacket wasn't from the 485th, but likely from another group in the 55th Bomb Wing.

In December, I received a nice email from Tracy Shenkman, the daughter of Curtis Russell Charles. Tracy told me her father was attached to the 485th & was a tech rep for Consolidated. She subsequently sent me his diary, with lots of info about his time at Venosa. I did not know the 485th had a tech rep & that he was at the base from August until the war ended. I find this very interesting. Further research indicated Curtis was a good friend of Sy Weinstein, 485th Photo Officer, so I put Stacy in touch with Gerry, Sy's son. Tracy said there is a possibility her family also has movies her father took while at Venosa. She has promised to share this if she finds it. I've never seen any video taken at Venosa, so it would be wonderful to have it.

Another person who contacted me was Rob Cohen, a relative of Lt. Cyrus Grant. He said Cyrus was killed while with the 485th & died on May 28, 1944. Rob subsequently sent me several documents, indicating that Lt. Grant was an armament officer, apparently assigned to Headquarters, 485th Bomb Group. He died either on May 25th or May 28, 1945, at Venosa. A letter to the family from Chaplain Golder indicates medical personnel did everything they could for him, but does not indicate how he died. The official notice to the family states he died "in the line of duty". Does anyone have a clue on this one? It's apparently not combat-related, at least not that I can find, but it would be nice to have the answer.

I appreciate the information many of you have sent. It helps fill in the blanks & often provides answers not available elsewhere. Diaries are particularly helpful. Thanks for all of your support & to those of you who continue to help with my research. One of these days I'll find the time to add about a dozen crew photos to the website & make some corrections. I'm not sure what the next project will be. I started a book last year, but decided to postpone it while I worked on the documentary about the 485th & the Red Tails. Maybe the next project will be resting & just catching up. Hope to see you in Washington D.C.

Friday Night Red Tails ‘Thank You’ Event by Jerry Whiting

The purpose of our Friday night event this year was to thank the “Red Tails”, the men of the 332nd Fighter Group, for hosting 17 bomber crews (170 men) at the end of December, 1944 and to honor both groups for their service. On December 29, 1944 the Venosa airfield was snowed in when the group returned from a mission to Verona, Italy. Colonel Tomhave, who was not on the mission, took off from Venosa in search of fields that were clear enough for the bombers to land. One such field was Ramitelli, home of the all-black 332nd Fighter Group, the “Red Tails” (or Tuskegee Airmen, as they are commonly known today). Seventeen of the bombers landed at Ramitelli, virtually without notice and the planes weren’t able to take off until January 3, 1945, due to the bad weather. (Some of the airmen returned by truck earlier, but most stayed until the weather cleared.) We decided to invite several of the original Red Tails who hosted the bomber crews to join us, along with their families

Seven of the Red Tails ultimately joined us. Zellie Orr, who was the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. National Historian, also joined us from Atlanta, as did another Historian, Craig Huntly, whose uncle was one of the original Red Tails.

The Red Tails began arriving Friday morning. Lucasfilm was a primary sponsor for the event, flying in some of the Red Tails from out of state and paying for their accommodations. They also provided transportation for the others who lived in southern California. We had greeters to meet the men and their families when they arrived.

Many had an opportunity to visit with 485th Vets and their families before the main event started. In addition to sponsoring the travel expenses for the Red Tails, Lucasfilm paid for a wonderful Italian buffet dinner that evening for ALL attendees. Bob Matousek, a friend of the 485th, supplied premium California wine from Calistoga Cellars, in which he is part owner. It was a truly wonderful experience to see these men together for the first time after all these years sharing food, wine and friendship.

After dinner, the formal presentation began with Jerry Whiting introducing the event and providing a brief summary of the original meeting in 1944. One of the Red Tails who joined us, Allie Peek, had not been

present to receive the Congressional Gold Medal when many others received it from President Bush several years ago. Zellie Orr presented a copy of the medal to Allie and he received a standing ovation from our audience. At this point Jerry spoke briefly about the documentary he produced about the original event in 1944 and introduced the film. He also said there would be a brief video intro from a fellow South Dakotan, who wanted to say a few words to the group.

Those in attendance were amazed to see Tom Brokaw on the screen when the lights were turned off. Tom paid a very personal video tribute to the men of the 485th and the 332nd Fighter Group, working together to save our freedom, as only Tom can do. There weren’t many dry eyes in the group when Tom finished.

The group then watched the 28-minute documentary, *New Years at Ramitelli: A Safe Haven for Change*. At the end of the presentation, a group photo was taken of all the Vets in attendance. After that, the group retired to the hospitality room to share more friendship for the remainder of the evening.

None of the attendees will forget this evening. NBC also sent George Lewis to do a news segment on this special meeting. It was aired at the end of the NBC Nightly News on October 5th.



Jerry Whiting, 485th Historian

Lucas Saturday Event by Jerry Whiting

Lucasfilm, represented by Amy Miller and Megan Matousek, provided the reunion attendees with an exclusive Saturday afternoon event. The presentation began with a beautiful rendition of "God Bless America" by John Mollica. As soon as John began singing the entire audience stood and joined in. The song was followed by Lucas employee Megan Matousek welcoming the group and explaining her connection to the 485th and to the Red Tails. Megan's grandfather was Wayne Whiting, 831st Sqdn tail gunner and her uncle is Jerry Whiting. This was followed by Amy Miller's introduction of the afternoon program, which was the showing of trailers from the Lucasfilm "Red Tails". Before the trailers were shown, Rick McCallum, well-known film producer and producer of the "Red Tails", provided a special treat in the form of a personal video introduction to the 485th Bomb Group and Red Tails in attendance. This was followed by the trailers. At the end of the presentation Amy provided a film poster of the upcoming film to all in attendance. When the presentation ended many of those present had their keepsake posters signed by the Red Tails and 485th Vets.

Home from War by Kay Brown Gary

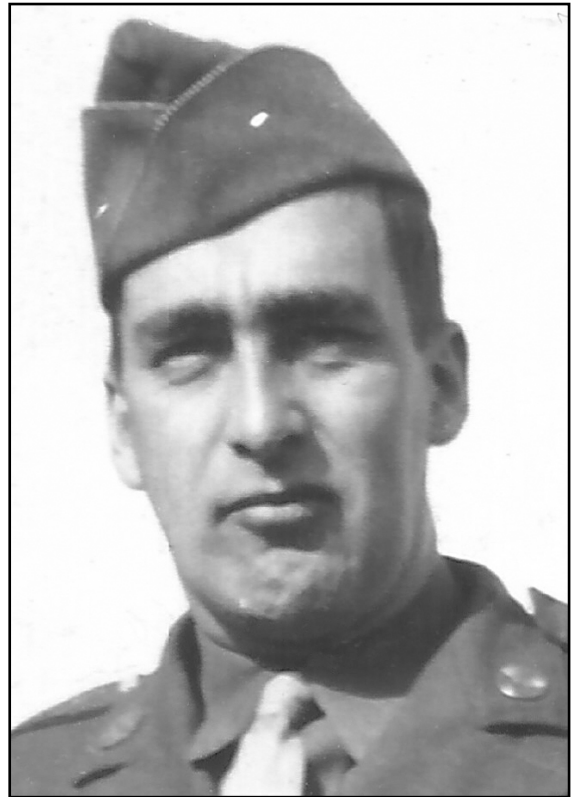
My father, Ken Brown of the 831st Sqd., returned home to Fort Dix after being a prisoner of war for just shy of 12 months. This would be his place to recuperate and regain back his strength for the next approximate 3 months. Upon leaving the military to meld back into the civilian life he returned to the house his family had owned for years in the town of Stewartsville New Jersey. This turned out to be the best move he could have made for his future family. As if planned by some higher being my mother lived across the street and was great friends with my father's sister. You probably already can see what the next step is ahead for Dad. My match maker aunt introduced Dad and Mom and this was the beginning of his life as a husband, father and family man.

Finding employment was the next important step to take. No job means, no ability to purchase the house he was currently living in and no family. Ingersoll-Rand would be Dad's employer for the next 33 years. It wasn't an easy job but Dad took taking care of his family his first priority.

The simple pleasures my father enjoyed were reading (a brilliant self-taught man), occasionally smoking a pipe or cigar, sitting in the back yard on warm evenings with my mother and taking us hiking every Sunday. Never one to socialize easily he still would offer himself to help wherever needed when it involved his family. Dad opened our world to many experiences through his vast knowledge and diverse experiences.

Once retired, Dad and Mom started to travel. Those years of traveling together were short lived. Mom passed away just 5 years after Dad's retirement. This is where I came in to attending the 485th Reunions. Every year, he looked forward to "Our" trip and seeing old friends and meeting new fellow veterans. Even though Dad is no longer with us, my husband and I always enjoy returning to the reunions to see old friends and meet new attendees.

Some might say Dad was an ordinary man, ordinary husband and ordinary father but to us "No Ordinary Man Was He."



About the Cold Cuts or ...Behind the Red Tails Event by Jerry Whiting

Several of you asked about the Friday night event and how it evolved, so...I will try to explain. I grew up hearing the story of the Red Tails from my dad. He was one of those 170 airmen who landed at Ramitelli that day in December, years before integration in our military was even considered. He was impressed with the hospitality of his hosts, staying in a tent with some of the mechanics, visiting with them and learning about their lives. I'm certain it impacted the way I grew up and I know it had a profound impact on his life. In the early years I questioned the accuracy, since no one else talked about an all-black fighter unit in Italy. More recently everyone knows about the Tuskegee Airmen.

For my first book, *I'm Off To War, Mother, But I'll Be Back*. I interviewed other 485th Vets who were at Ramitelli. Although individual experiences differed, the common theme was the way it impacted the men. All told of the great treatment they experienced. For some it was their first experience meeting black men on a personal basis. I told the story in my book, first published in 2001, a few weeks before my dad died. Since then it has been my dream to reunite some of the men who shared that experience. It was an important historical event, as well as one that changed lives. It was significant enough that General B.O. Davis Jr. later commented "Such a mixing of races would never have been allowed to occur in the United States."

I suggested this story to Chairman Phil Cummings as a good topic for our Friday night event. I wanted to invite several of the Red Tails, those involved in the original meeting. Phil suggested we provide food for the event, instead of the usual chips and pretzels. A couple years ago we established a tradition for having a Friday night presentation on some aspect of 485th history and the tradition did not involve charging for the event. So how do we provide food without charging? We certainly didn't have a budget for this. Phil said he'd donate a little and I said I would do the same. We had the idea of providing cold cuts as an evening dinner, shopping for the food ourselves to keep costs to a minimum. We both realized it wasn't our first choice, but we would make it work.

The next issue was finding Red Tails who were actually part of this experience. A woman named Zellie Orr contacted me about the same time the

concept was taking shape. Zellie was the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. National Historian. She heard about the original meeting and asked what I knew. We began sharing information. She asked if I had considered getting the men together. Her question was timely. She assisted by finding some of those who hosted the men of the 485th. That problem was solved.

Meanwhile, I began working on the presentation, and decided I should make a documentary. I didn't plan on doing video interviews of the 485th men involved, due to the costs. After further consideration, I realized I needed to interview one of the men on camera. My choice was Jim Scheib, my dad's copilot in the 831st Squadron. So we had an officer's story on video now. I was a little short on finances, but realized an enlisted man should be interviewed. Harold "Red" Kempffer, 830th Squadron, would be a great choice, since he helped when I put the original story together. The problem was that Harold lives in Minnesota and I'm in California. Mark LaScotte came to my rescue. Mark is the son of Eugene LaScotte, (828th Sqdn), lives in Minnesota and has been extremely helpful with research. Mark did the interview for me. I obtained other background and history from phone conversations with John Strang (830th), Art Kain (831st) and Chuck Porter (830th). Many others in our 485th family stepped in to help.

About those cold cuts... My niece, Megan Matousek, moved in with us last summer, temporarily. She had just landed her dream job with Lucasfilm. She was working on the re-release of the Star Wars films. She saw I was doing another video and asked about it. I told her the story. Megan had never read my book, so the story was mostly new. She became interested immediately; so did Bob Matousek, one of Megan's cousins and a family friend. Lucasfilm had their film *Red Tails* scheduled for release in 2012, so Megan relayed the story of her grandfather to people there and they became interested.

Amy Miller, Megan's coworker at Lucasfilm, contacted me. I explained that we were having this event to thank the Red Tails, but it must honor both groups. I stressed that this was not a black or white event, but a black and white event and that we'd like to have Lucasfilm attend, but wouldn't allow

interviews the night of the presentation. It was a special evening for our Vets and it was their time to be together. Amy totally agreed. Lucasfilm wanted to remain in the background and insisted on honoring both groups. Amy didn't feel cold cuts were appropriate for our Vets. She wanted an Italian buffet dinner and Lucas would pay for the dinner, for everyone! Lucasfilm would also pay travel expenses for the visiting Red Tails. Bob Matousek offered to provide premium wines from his California winery. I couldn't believe what was happening. It was beyond my wildest imagination and was all happening just weeks before the reunion.

When Bob Matousek told me his friend Tom Brokaw might like to attend, I told him Tom would be very welcome. Tom wasn't able to join us, but sent a personal video greeting to the group. I was still struggling to finish the documentary, getting help from many friends in the 485th with letters, photos, maps and even dialogue. At the last minute NBC Nightly News asked to attend. I explained the same ground rules as with Amy and NBC accepted those terms, agreeing to interview Vets the day after the presentation.

So that's how it all evolved. It was exhausting and stressful, but that dream did come true. I was very honored when Lucasfilm asked me to interview several 485th and 332nd Vets. I'm not sure what they

will do with the footage, but it was great being part of this. We couldn't have done it without Lucasfilm, Bob Matousek, Zellie Orr and a host of others. Amy Miller was great to work with. Most of all, I need to thank my niece, Megan, for believing in her grandpa's story enough to present it at Lucasfilm. I'm happy the men in both groups are finally receiving the attention they deserve. If you are interested in the documentary, it's available elsewhere in this issue.



Amy Miller & Megan Matousek



Film Crew with Bob Matousek & several Tuskegee Airmen

Buffet Dinner by Lynn Fundling Gallo Daughter of Milton Fundling - 829th

Jerry relayed to everyone that it was Mark Leslie's 50th birthday. Then Jerry introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Dan Mortensen, who is an Air Force historian working out of the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell Air Force Base in Alabama. He made a comparison about how the Air Force has changed from WWII until the present time. He explained how the Air Force has changed because the type of wars being fought today has changed. In WWII we had 1,100 bombers in Europe and fought an attrition battle with strategic strikes on infrastructures

with force on force. The Korean and Vietnam wars used Heavy attrition with force on force. Our new wars today in Iraq, Afghanistan, Serbia and Libya are being fought asymmetrically. Today we have 200 bombers with precision satellites to destroy infrastructures and not as much ground fighting as in WWII. We actually have a smaller fighting force than we had in the other wars, but we have all this new technology that far outweighs the enemy. Then Dr. Mortensen ended his speech with a poem he wrote entitled "Respect and Endless Tears" which was very moving.



Mark Leslie smiles as everyone is told it is his birthday



Dr. Dan Mortensen
Air Force Historian



Art Kain & Bob Friend



Jacquie O'Sullivan, Art & Valerie Kain,
and George & Jody Kain at Mt Soledad

Banquet and Entertainment by Santiago Stockton, Grandson of John Veal, Jr. - 830th

This year's banquet dinner found all attendees in high spirits! As dinner began loved ones of all ages celebrated the past, present, and future exchanging stories at each table as generations shared special moments in our lives with our 485th family. Every year at the banquet dinner, you can look around and feel welcome to join any table and converse with all attendees openly as if reuniting with a close friend. This night was no exception! The food was delicious and the company was delightfully welcoming. By having our reunion in California, we were able to see cultivating endless respect and pride for our

Grandfathers, parents, siblings and others whose sacrifices and hardships have made the lives of all around us better! Lets us reflect and take a moment to remember how special our servicemen are to us! May we all take a moment at our next meal to honor those who have, and will continue, to serve and protect us!! As the evening continued, it became apparent that the 485 family is a timeless concept that embraces honor, respect, love and unity regardless of race, gender, or age. Wishing all health and happiness!



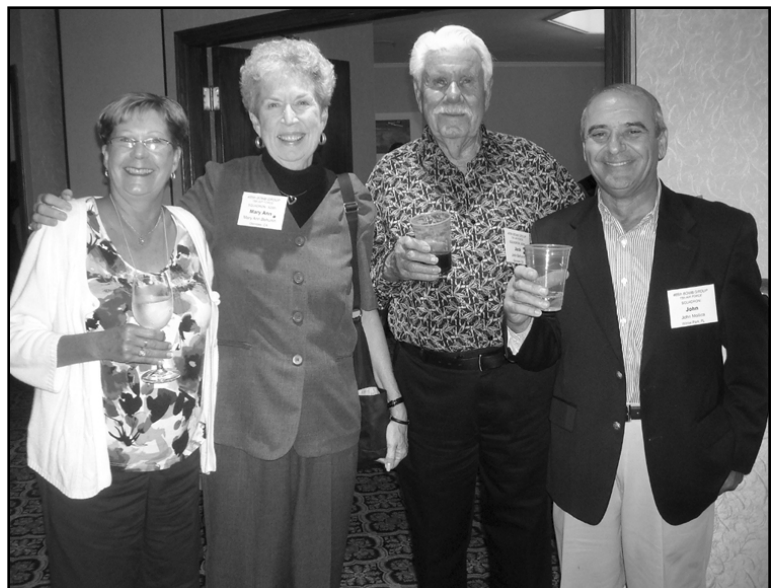
Ann & Jerry Whiting



Mark & Carol LaScotte



John M. Veal, Jr's Family
Jolene Veal Stockton (daughter) with
John (nephew) & Sue Assay



Lee Cristelli, Mary Ann & Jack Behunin,
and John Mollica

485TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP



**CHAIRMAN &
830TH SQUADRON REPORTER**
Phillip Cummings
Son of William P. Cummings 830th
10605 Traders Pass
Brownsburg, Indiana 46112
E-mail: philgrampa@comcast.net
(317) 299-4704



TREASURER
Jolene Stockton
Daughter of John M. Veal, Jr. 830th
408 Palomas Drive, NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108
E-mail: jojo408@comcast.net
(505) 266-3207



485TH SECRETARY
Frances Fowler
Wife of Arthur Fowler 829th
140 Lyme Drive
Clarksville, Tennessee 37043
E-mail: 485bombgroup@charter.net
(931) 368-1106



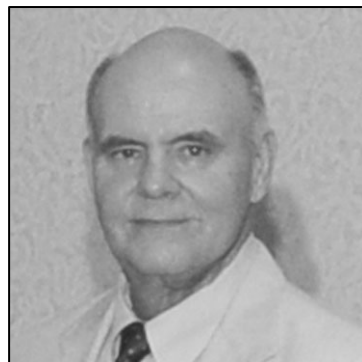
HEADQUARTERS REPORTER
Kathleen Arnold
Daughter of Col. Walter "Pop" Arnold
15095 E. Grand Ave.
Aurora, Colorado 80015
E-mail: kathleen15095@comcast.net
(303) 690-3790



828TH SQUADRON REPORTER
Terry Boettcher
Son of Donald E. Boettcher 828th
12813 Ford Trial North
Indianola, Iowa 50125
E-mail: CBETCH4@aol.com
(515) 961-4845



829TH SQUADRON REPORTER
Marvin H. Lindsay
3900 Cimarron Trail
Granbury, Texas 76049
E-mail: mhlindsay@windstream.net
(817) 326-4010



HISTORIAN
831ST SQUADRON REPORTER
Jerry Whiting
Son of Wayne B. Whiting 831st
2576 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, California 94596
E-mail: EAJWwhiting@aol.com
(925) 934-5204



**LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER
CALLING NEWSLETTER**
Steve Sharpe
Son of James F. Sharpe Jr. 830th - LIFE
1816 Hawthorne Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
E-mail: lightweighttower@gmail.com

HEADQUARTERS



Prescott Smith, Kathleen Arnold & Sam Smith

SPECIAL GUESTS



Front Row: Rae Mollica, Emanuela & Lina Briscese,
Back Row: John Mollica & Carlo Briscese

828TH SQUADRON



Jack Whatley, Sherrill Burba and Bill Williams

829TH SQUADRON



Wayne Smith, Marvin Lindsay, Harry Johnson and Jack Behunin

830TH SQUADRON



Red Kempffer, James Cundiff, Bueford Cooper

831ST SQUADRON



Bob Hanson, Vern Christensen, Arthur Kain, George Chaplin, Jesse Ledbetter, Jim Scheib

828TH SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Candy Miles & Carol LaScotte

Back Row: Keith Williams, Mark LaScotte, Robert Rankin-Gilliland

829TH SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Lynn Gallo, Colleen Smith, Lee Cristelli

Back Row: John Bertram, Bob Palmer, Tom Palmer, Dale Smith, Charlie Palmer, Dean Smith, Steve Lindsay

830TH SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Carol McIntier, Evaun Swann, Jolene Stockton, Michele Cummings, Sue Asay, Angela Pettmann

Back Row: Scott McIntier, Mark Swann, Santi Stockton, Phil Cummings, John Asay, Randy Cooper, Joe Crabill, Steve Sharpe

831ST SQUADRON - GUESTS



Front Row: Cathie Padgett, Patti Haley, Karen Ianniello, Gail Eamon, Blanche Gworek Aher, Jody Kain, Dianne Leslie, Jerry Dunnam

2nd Row: Russ Christensen, Paul Gworek, Jay Brown-Gary, Carrie Christensen, Susan Morrison, Jacquie O'Sullivan, Ann Whiting, Marisa Christensen, Mary Ann Gworek, Ted Goddard, George Kain

Back Row: Robert Gary, Marcus Padget, Jim Eamon, John Beck, Walter Gworek, Mark Leslie, Russ Hanson, Bill Leslie, Dave O'Sullivan, Jerry Whiting

POWS / MIAs



Vern Christiansen, Red Kempffer, Marvin Lindsay George Chaplin

WIVES & WIDOWS OF VETERANS



Front Row: Marie Ledbetter, Valerie Kain, Mickey Kempffer, Susan Palmer
Back Row: Margie Smith, Frances Fundling, Mary Ann Behunin, Ann Scheib



Jim & Ann Scheib



Michele & Phil Cummings



Mark Leslie, Jerry Dunnam, Allie Peek, Dianne Leslie & Zellie Orr



Tuskegee Airmen and the 485th Reunited After 67 Years

Front Row/Seated: Levi Thornhill, Ted Lumpkin, Harold Kempffer, Henry Moore, Clarence E. Huntley Jr., James Cundiff
Back Row / Standing: Vern Christiensen, Marvin Lindsay, Bueford Cooper, Bob Hanson, Jesse Ledbetter, Paul Green, Arthur Kain, Jim Scheib, Bob Friend, Wayne Smith, Jack Behunin, Jack Whatley, Allie Peek, George Chapin, Bill Williams

MINUTES OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP

Business Meeting Saturday, October 1st, 2011 San Diego, California

The 47th Annual Reunion Business Meeting was called to order by Chairman Phil Cummings. Phil led the group in a moment of silence for those who have joined Journeys End since the last reunion & led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Phil thanked Mark Leslie & Lee Cristelli for helping with the hospitality room & running errands. They've both helped Phil & Jerry tremendously during this year's reunion. Tony Siller was thanked for doing the artwork & writings for the glasses, as well as thanks to Kathleen Arnold for getting them made & shipping them to the reunion.

Phil made a motion to accept the Secretary's report as written in LWT, the motion was approved.

Jolene Stockton read the Treasurers report. Beginning balance was \$6,704.74 after expenses for the year the final balance is \$6,896.42. The Treasurers report was approved.

We had 13 first timers this year, many of which were 2nd & 3rd generation. Also attending, was first time Vet, Arthur Kain, from the 831st & much of his family.

Jack Whatley took home the hat for being the oldest veteran in attendance at the reunion.

We had a total of 16 Veterans in attendance with a total of 110 attendees at the reunion.

828th Squadron	3
829th Squadron	4
830th Squadron	3
831st Squadron	6

Jerry Whiting gave the Historian's report. He read a letter to the group from Pasquale Libutti. He also explained that Robert Fried of Brooklyn, NY is looking for information about his Uncle. Robert is the nephew of Staff Sergeant Milton Wolfson of the 829th who was shot down with Colonel John Tomhave.



Jerry took a moment to thank his niece Megan Matousek, Bob Matousek & LucasFilms for the dinner & events of Friday night. Megan was instrumental in pushing the event & works at LucasFilms. He shared the plan that vets in attendance would be able to receive copies of the Friday night video.

Jerry shared that he had recently spoken with Lynn Cotterman. See Jerry's 831st Squadron report for more details.

Jerry also offered a free copy of his DVD for all Veterans in attendance at the reunion. He reminded the attendees of the plan for a Saturday afternoon event. At 1pm LucasFilms screened the Red Tails Film trailer & gave movie posters to the attendees.

Kathleen shared several recent contacts she as made. See her article, "My Journey Continues" for details.

Phil asked for ideas for the 2012 reunion. He has been working with Armed Air Forces Reunions. The group suggested, Washington, D.C. & Norfolk, VA. Other ideas were discussed including Dallas, Seattle, various cities in Florida & Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

A vote was taken:

Pensacola, FL = 15

Dallas = 1½

Norfolk, VA = 9

Washington, D.C. = unanimous

The 2012 reunion will be in Washington, D.C. at the Double Tree Hotel near Reagan National Airport & shopping malls.

Pictures will be at 5:00 PM starting with Headquarters, & continuing through all Squadrons. Be prompt & wear your name tag.

The meeting was adjourned.



Phil Cummings
485th Group Chairman

NOTE: The group followed a new format for Squadron Meetings this year. Rather than have four individual meetings, the group stayed together following the Business Meeting & shared stories & news from each squadron.

HEADQUARTERS / MY JOURNEY CONTINUES

By: Kathleen Arnold, HQ Reporter

Daughter of Pop Arnold, First 485th Group Commander

As the year 2011 draws to a close, at the forefront of my thoughts is attending the reunion in San Diego this year. Seeing the smiling faces of our veterans & their families again, meeting new faces & new generations, & greeting our special Tuskegee guests was truly an honor for me. With my whole heart I wish to thank Jerry Whiting, who works tirelessly to bring pieces of our Group's history to life. By putting human faces to events he elevates our Group with pride & recognizes the exceptional character that defines the Greatest Generation regardless of color. I do not believe there is a finer Historian among the Bomb Groups than Jerry & we are blessed to have him.

To all the Veterans, their families & friends of the 485th Bomb Group thank you for all your contributions & support. For a bunch of "Lightweights" I think you are pretty awesome!

Thanks to all 485th members for remembering me with your daily e-mails, phone calls & letters that make my day.

To Bob Matsousek & Collette Clowes I raise my 485th Bomb Group glass to you for providing the wonderful Calistoga Cellar wine for our special event this year. Cheers!

To Tony Siller, thank you for putting your heart & soul into designing the 485th glasses. You are a true artist, honored veteran & beloved friend!

Thanks to Megan Matsousek, Lucas Productions & all those faces behind the scenes & cameras that made our Group shine nationally.

Thanks to all our Tuskegee friends for sharing your lives & stories with us & to Zellie Orr, a beautiful spirit, for helping to preserve their history for future generations.

On behalf of HQ personnel Bill Herblin, Warren Sortomme, Hank Hancock, & William Killian, & from Maurice Boney, 829th Squadron Commander, I wish to express their heartfelt wishes for good health & blessings for all their fellow 485th crewmembers.

Many Happy Landings!

MAIL ROOM 828th SQUADRON

By Terry Boettcher

Son of Donald E. Boettcher 828th Gunner

The 2011 reunion in San Diego did not include separate squadron meetings as the schedule would have it. Mark LaScotte was in attendance & was prepared to run the meeting as other matters made it impossible for me to attend this year.

What I can tell you was that there were a total of 16 veterans & family members at the reunion, down considerably from the past few years. Jack Whatley, Bill Williams & Sherrill Burba represented the veterans.

I can report that our current mailing list is at a total of 180 individuals & of that amount 64 are veterans of the 828th. We seem to pick up relatives along the way every year & this year was no exception. We have had contact with Debbie Kinerk & Julie Harrison who are nieces of John Dobler, Joel Kirch the son of Harold Kirch & the grandson of Carl Mazzoni, Michael. Many of the new contacts come about due to the 485th internet web site.

As the reporter I get to hear from 828th members & family during the year. I have talked to many of you on the phone & have had numerous emails, written correspondence, donations & Christmas cards. Thanks for staying in contact & it is great to hear from you all. I especially like hearing from the grandchildren of the veterans who are looking for information on their grandfathers. They are sometimes amazed at what they find & are always enthusiastic to learn more.

Financially, after the Christmas mailing our balance is at \$212.09. We are lower than average as we did not get the normal donations from a squadron meeting at the reunion. We still should have enough money for the next mailing.

Thanks for your continuing support of the 828th & I hope to see you in Washington, DC for the 2012 reunion.



Neal Swann & Sherrill Burba

MAIL ROOM 829th SQUADRON

By Marvin Lindsay

Squadron meetings as such were somewhat different this year, Chairman Phil elected to hold them jointly, as our numbers are dwindling & it gave us an opportunity to share stories & experiences. I think it went well. Missing from our Squadron were Alice & Russ Arthur. For some time, Alice has kept meticulous minutes & records of Squadron meetings. Fran Fowler, who in addition to her Secretarial duties, has been there to help the 829th. Both were absent due to health related problems, but we fully expect them to be present next year.

Journeys end for the year were Jack Hudson, Jim Rideout and, most recently, our good friend Al Martin. Our 2nd & 3rd generation families are more & more an integral part of the organization, as witnessed by Wayne & Margie Smith's family who made the trip. My own support group included my son, sister, & nephew. Though our numbers are smaller, we will always be "family". In attendance were, Jack & Mary Ann Behunin. Frances Fundling, Harry Johnson, Tom Palmer, Wayne & Margie Smith.



Steve & Marvin Lindsay



Margie & Wayne Smith

MAIL ROOM 831st SQUADRON

By Jerry Whiting

Son of Wayne B. Whiting 831st

Since our group was smaller this year, we didn't separate into squadrons after the general meeting, but continued as a group to share stories. One of the disadvantages of having separate squadron meetings has been that many of the attendees really enjoy hearing some of the stories that surface during the squadron meetings. The main advantage, of course, is that we can conduct any squadron business that is necessary. I have to say I did enjoy hearing some of the stories that came out. Even one of our Red Tail guests shared a humorous story with us. Since we didn't have our squadron meeting, I didn't have the opportunity to pass the hat for donations to the 831st fund. A few of you donated, anyway, & I appreciate it. As it stands today, we have \$120 in the 831st fund. That's a little less than it will take to get us through to the next reunion. Our annual costs are running about \$300.

We've lost quite a few of our Vets this year & it's not my practice to list them individually in the 831st notes; however, I feel like I have to comment on one we lost this past September. I called Lynn Cotterman a few days before the reunion. I could sense he wasn't doing well from the weakness in his voice. I tried to be as upbeat as I could. I asked him if he had any words of wisdom or anything he'd like me to tell his friends at the reunion. He said "Always get a second opinion." He was referring to a misdiagnosed health condition, but he laughed when he said it. A few days later he was gone. We'll sure miss him.

Lynn did so much for the 485th that I felt I had to mention him. He never took or wanted credit for anything he did, but he did so much. Things got done without fanfare. When he wasn't able to be active in the Association any longer, it was immediately obvious to us. So, Rest in Peace, Lynn. We miss you.

I've enjoyed hearing from several of you this past year. Hope to see as many of you as possible in Washington D.C.



Lynn Cotterman at the 2007 Reunion

An Interview with Milton Fundling by his grandson, Matt Cristelli

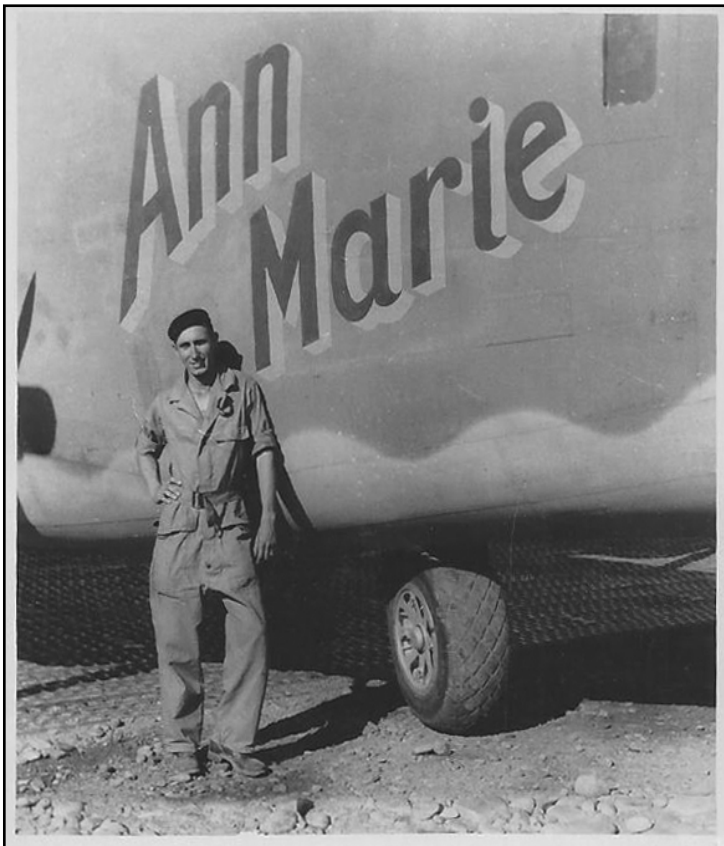
My grandfather served in WWII and I had the opportunity to ask him some questions about his military service. He was working at an electrical supply company in Galveston, Texas, on Sunday, December 7, 1941 when he found out that the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor. After the attack on Pearl Harbor he enlisted into the military at the age of 18 and received the rank of sergeant in the Army Air Corps. His job in the service was that of an airplane mechanic and instrument man. He served in the European Theater with the 15th Air Force in Italy. On the way to Italy, his convoy was attacked in the Mediterranean Sea on April 20, 1944, which was Hitler's birthday. He was on a ship called the SS Fitzhugh Lee.

Forty JU88's, which were German Bombers from Marseilles, France, attacked the convoy. The SS Fitzhugh Lee was able to dodge a torpedo attack but the ship next to them, the SS Paul Hamilton, took a direct hit and was destroyed in a massive explosion. During the battle a German fighter plane was shot down by the SS Fitzhugh Lee. Parts from the plane landed near the hold of the ship where the men were housed. The Fitzhugh Lee was able to make it to Sicily for a water stop and then to Bari, Italy, for its final destination. The most tragic thing my grandfather witnessed, next to the

destruction of the 500 plus men on the SS Paul Hamilton, was on his air field in Venosa, Italy. A plane carrying ten men and bombs spun out of control and came crashing back to the ground. The plane caught fire and only four out of the ten men survived the crash. When I asked my grandfather what he thought about Hitler and Stalin, he said, "I would like to use some bad words," but his answer was, "They were brutal dictators who were trying to take away the freedom of the western world." My grandfather said, "He would not like something like WWII to happen again, but at that time in my life, I would not have missed it for the world."

Germany surrendered and my grandfather returned to the US on a passenger ship that was taken over by the military. In May of 1945 he was sent to Biggs Field in El Paso, Texas, and then was reassigned to aircraft instrument school for B-29 Bombers in Seattle, Washington. The war ended while he was in Seattle and he returned to Ellington Field in Houston, Texas, where he was discharged from the military. I am proud to be the grandson of a WWII veteran.

Sadly, we lost Milton on July 21, 2010.



Milton Fundling
Venosa, Italy



Frances & Milton Fundling
2008 San Antonio Reunion

Thank You Fundling Family!

For all that you do!

From helping in the Hospitality room to taking such wonderful photos every year. We look forward to your smiling faces in all the various reunion places!

MY JOURNEY CONTINUES

By: Kathleen Arnold, HQ Reporter
Daughter of Pop Arnold,
First 485th Group Commander

Reflecting on events of the past year, it never ceases to amaze me that 485th history is still being discovered and out of the blue, distant voices from the past somehow find a way to speak to me. The first voice came from William R. Killian who was my Dad's Radio Operator. The second call came from Prescott Smith, the son of Colonel Robert E. Smith who was Dad's Co-Pilot and good friend. Finally, I heard from Maurice Boney, 829th Squadron Commander who is living just an hour from me in Colorado. Hearing from all of them was truly an exciting gift for me, and meeting both Colonel Smith's sons at the reunion in San Diego was an event I'll never forget.



It began with William Killian. After the war Bill worked briefly for American Airlines then left to work for the New York Telephone Co. At the same time he joined the New York Air National Guard. His unit was called up for the Korean War and transferred to March AFB in California. He was First Sergeant with several units, including a B-29 Squadron. After his release from active duty he took a full-time job with the Air National Guard and was the Administrative Supervisor for one of the units. He moved into Personnel & became the Base Military Personnel Manager, civilian status and also CM/Sgt. in military status. He did that until he retired in 1981. Bill is 90 years old and living in New York with his wife of 65 years.

Bill told me his story of what happened when their plane was shot down over Blechhammer on August 27, 1944. Sgt. Killian was at his radio station in the bomb bay section when suddenly the plane was hit by Flak before Bombs Away. Bill said the Flak was so forceful it actually bent the catwalk upwards. He was amazed they were able to get their bombs away based on the damage. He could look out and see a large hole in the fuselage and on the left wing. Smoke filled the entire plane. He got Quentin Meyers out of the Ball Turret, strapped his parachute on and they went out the camera hatch.

Bill, Capt. John Coffin and Sgt. Ted Brown came down in the same area away from the target. As Bill drifted closer to ground he watched a German bicyclist who never looked up and was unaware of the airmen falling from the sky. When they landed the 3 men were alone and quickly got together. They made plans to start their escape south—to Yugoslavia—a long ways away! They buried their parachutes, checked their escape maps and began walking. It was a bright sunny day in August and they soon came upon some teenage German boys swimming in a pond off in the distance. Bill thought surely they would be recognized in their American flight suits and the 3 men pondered what to do. They decided to just act normal and waved at the boys. To their surprise the boys gave friendly waves back and Bill and his group moved on amazed they weren't discovered. As they moved along they heard someone approaching on the road from behind. The 3 men took cover in some tall grass off the road. They crouched down hoping the old guy wouldn't see them. By some miracle, the guy either didn't see them or he

chose to ignore them and walked on by. Bill, Coffin and Brown continued walking and eventually came to a church in the distance. They watched as a group of Germans made their way to church and thought for sure they'd been spotted. Again, either the group didn't see them or they chose not to get involved and Bill, Coffin and Brown remained undetected.

By nightfall they made their way to a heavily wooded area to bed down. They slept by a fallen tree and got up at daylight to discover they were in the middle of a tree cutting area. It was dangerous to move in the daylight but the group had no choice. They walked until they hit a railroad track near a town area and they stopped to survey the situation. There was a field with a covered area beyond on the other side of the tracks but to get there meant having to cross the tracks and be exposed. They decided to risk it and that's when their luck ran out. They were spotted by a German in a railroad tower who alerted the Army. Several hours later they were captured & became prisoners of war.

Bill also had some other 485th history to share. You may recall Jerry Whiting's story in the 2010 Lightweight Tower about the shooting of S/Sgt. Leslie Dorow at their temporary base in Tunisia. Bill said at the time he was assigned to the 829th Squadron and his enlisted crew was still at Oudna on April 18, 1944 when S/Sgt. Dorow was killed. Doc Priver arranged for a funeral service and the 829th Operations Officer, Lt. Tipson, assigned Bill's crew to act as the Honor Guard at Sgt. Dorow's funeral. They rendered a gun salute over his burial. Very few crewmembers were even aware of the incident as most had moved to Venosa by that time.

Another gift from the 'Sky Gods' came when I received a call from Prescott Smith who is Colonel Robert E. Smith's oldest son. Colonel Smith was the Group Operations Officer and my Dad's Co-Pilot shot down with the crew over Blechhammer. Dad and Bob Smith were good friends and their relationship went back to 1943 when Dad got Smith transferred to the 485th from a base in Nevada. As Group Operations Officer, Bob and Pop worked closely every day and not only did they fly combat together, lead missions, they lived in the same quarters, relaxed together, drank together, and went to Cairo and Rome together. They shared good times and bad. Dad always said Bob Smith was "a helluva good guy!"

When Prescott (who likes to be called 'Puck') contacted me we were both beside ourselves with excitement. Puck had been going through old letters that his Dad had written home to his wife during the war. From several references in the letters it became apparent that Colonel Pop Arnold played a significant role in Colonel Smith's career and Puck wanted to learn more about his Dad's history. Through Jerry Whiting, Puck tracked me down. We talked for hours, and shared as much as we could about our fathers. When Puck found out about the reunion in San Diego he and his brother Sam decided to come. How glorious it was for me to meet both Col. Smith's sons. Our father's histories, and now ours, are intertwined and I felt so proud to have his sons by my side representing Headquarters for our fathers.

Then I got a call from Maurice Boney, the first 829th Squadron Commander. Maurice was shot down in May over the Adriatic and he and his crew clung to a dinghy for hours being shelled from shore by the Germans before being picked up by the British. He left the 485th after this traumatic incident and no one heard from him until now. Maurice ended up ranching near Johnstown, Colorado which is an hour north of Denver. After the war, he went back to his life in the cattle business in fact, he was worried about the diversity of the beef business and decided to spend most of his life trying to do something about it. He has been developing a breed of cattle called Irish Blacks and Irish Reds for nearly 40 years. The breed trademarked by Boney and marketed under an exclusive contractual agreement to a select but growing group of producers in 22 states, is gaining attention from cattle feeders, packers and restaurateurs as an answer to many of the industry's most pressing concerns. He is still active in the business at age 91 and I hope to get up to meet him very soon.

So, you can see how my journey continues and I cannot wait to see what surprises are in store for me in 2012. One thing I have learned is just when you think you have come to an end and there are no more chapters to write, another door opens up. Wishing everyone safe journeys and happy landings in 2012.

485th Bomb Group Missions with escort by 332nd Fighter Group

Date	Target
9-Jun-1944	Munich, Germany
11-Jun-1944	Smedervo, Yugoslavia
14-Jun-1944	Budapest, Hungary
23-Jun-1944	Giurgiu, Rumania
15-Jul-1944	Ploesti, Rumania
20-Jul-1944	Friedrichshafen, Germany
22-Jul-1944	Ploesti, Rumania
25-Jul-1944	Linz, Austria
26-Jun-1944	Vienna, Austria
28-Jul-1944	Ploesti, Rumania
6-Aug-1944	Tarascon, France
15-Aug-1944	St. Esprit, France
16-Aug-1944	Friedrichshafen, Germany
22-Aug-1944	Vienna, Austria
23-Aug-1944	St. Polten, Austria

Date	Target
27-Aug-1944	Blechhammer, Germany
7-Nov-1944	Adige, Italy
20-Nov-1944	Blechhammer, Germany
2-Dec-1944	Blechhammer, Germany
19-Dec-1944	Blechhammer, Germany
26-Dec-1944	Blechhammer, Germany
31-Jan-1945	Vienna, Austria
8-Feb-1945	Vienna, Austria
13-Feb-1945	Graz, Austria
14-Feb-1945	Vienna, Austria
1-Mar-1945	Vienna, Austria
19-Mar-1945	Muhldorf, Germany
16-Apr-1945	Bologna, Italy
20-Apr-1945	Northern Italy
23-Apr-1945	Northern Italy

In Search of Tommy White: the 485th's "Scottish Canadian" by John Bertram

PART ONE: From Toronto to San Diego: This dramatic mission photo is from a 485th Bomb Group sortie to Timisoara, Rumania on July 3, 1944. Unlike so many aerial combat photos, we know the exact date and location of this one because the crew member who snapped it later took the time to inscribe the information on the back of the original snapshot -- presumably for the benefit of his mother and father back in Canada, for whom he added (with perhaps a hint of pride?) the following details:

"ALL BOMBS HIT TARGET. #3 LEAD BOX 1st WAVE"



The plane-spotting photographer and mission-chronicler was the 485th's T/Sgt Thomas L. White, a Radio Operator & Waist Gunner with the 829th Squadron. Twelve weeks less a day after taking that picture, Tom White was killed (along with seven others of the plane's 10-man crew), when their B-24 Liberator was shot down over Greece. He was never married, and had no children.

Until not so long ago, that's pretty much all I knew of Tommy White's story. And that's a shame, because Tommy White is family.

But with the guidance of my "genealogy-genius" wife Mary, and thanks to her having made contact several years ago with the unfailingly helpful Jerry Whiting -- followed by some even more amazing cosmic coincidences that had me working in California 2 or 3 times this past year, including late September -- I suddenly found myself privileged to be attending the annual reunion of the official Association for the very Bombardment Group to which Tommy White belonged, and genuinely honored just to be in the presence of -- not to mention hear from, and actually get to speak to -- some of the vets who served at the same time, in the same place, and doing the same work as my great-uncle-in-law.

And this is where I have to add a personal note of thanks to all of the too-many-to-name folks at that reunion (you KNOW who you are!) who went out of their way to help this 485th "newbie" and wandering Canuck feel not only welcome, but even part of the extended Venosa family. I only

wish I'd had the time to talk more with each one of you -- but please be assured your hospitality was much appreciated, and will be long remembered.

PART TWO: From Kingston to Venosa (via Rochester, NY): The first child born in Canada to recently-arrived Scottish immigrant parents, Thomas Leitch White Jr. left his hometown of Kingston Ontario (about three hours east of Toronto) and moved to Rochester, New York when he was just 17. After working there almost nine years, he became a U.S. citizen in 1935. And on November 16, 1942, at the relatively advanced age of almost 34, Tommy enlisted in the US Army Air Corps -- following in his father's WWI volunteering footsteps. By late June of 1944, T/Sgt Thomas White began what was to become just three months serving in Venosa with the 485th, before being officially declared "Missing In Action", somewhere in Nazi-occupied Greece.

In the winter of '45, word reached Tommy's family in Canada that two members of his crew had in fact survived the ill-fated September 24 mission. Bombardier Joe Hackler, and Tail Gunner Dale Morrison, had apparently been taken prisoner by the Germans, had escaped, and by late December had eventually made their way back into Allied hands -- a full three months after their B-24 was shot down over Salonika.

But after recuperating, each of those young men took it upon themselves to write very poignant letters to Tommy's mother. They are reprinted in full in Chapter 9 of Jerry Whiting's highly-recommended "Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold", a book I'm sure many of you already own. My wife Mary provided the text of those letters to Jerry, transcribed from the original copies which have come down to her across three generations.

Here is just a portion of what the 485th's Lt. Hackler wrote to my wife's great-grandmother:

[...] I wanted to tell you how much the boys loved Tom. Seems like Tom was the life of our outfit. He always had a kind word; he always had a wisecrack for the others. We officers enjoyed him so much we visited in their tent quite often, and they came over to see us a lot, too. On missions we always chatted and joked over the interphone until just before the target, forgetting what lay ahead. Tom seemed always to be the one to lead the thoughts; he was older than the others as you may already know (I was the next oldest, 27). But I never knew anybody to fit into a group of boys like Tom did -- just perfectly. And every time he got a package from home he'd call the guys together for a celebration. He was just the nicest, kindest person I've known. [...] He made our every mission and our every day seem shorter and easier.

We have recently confirmed that while Dale Morrison passed away many years ago, Bombardier Joe Hackler is still alive at age 94, and resides in Fayetteville, Arkansas. It's ironic that the words he wrote some 67 years ago are now the best

and most detailed description we have of the person and family member known as Tommy White. We may never get to thank the 485th's Joe Hackler in person for that wonderful letter -- though I'm still hoping some way may yet be found to do just that. Because despite a handful of much-valued snapshots, Lt. Hackler's simple, heartfelt words paint the clearest and most vivid portrait of Tommy White, our forever silent, forever black & white great-uncle, that we're ever likely to have.

PART THREE: From San Diego to Everywhere Else, USA: What follows is a summary I printed out near the end of the Reunion, but was only able to hand out a few copies of -- so I'm anxious to pass it along now to the Lightweight Tower readership. It lists the basic stats re our great uncle, including each mission he flew with the 485th, and I would implore any of you to PLEASE make contact if anything about Tommy White's time in Venosa, his specific missions, or his training stateside (summarized below) parallels or overlaps in any way with your own experiences, memories or research.



T/Sgt Thomas Leitch "Tommy" White (1908-1944)
Radio Operator / Waist Gunner
485th BG; 829th K.I.A. Sept. 24, 1944

Tommy White Missions Flown:

June 23, '44 -- Giurgiu, Rumania
June 25, '44 -- Sete, France
June 28, '44 -- Bucharest, Rumania
July 2, '44 -- Budapest, Hungary
July 3, '44 -- Timisoara, Rumania
July 6, '44 -- Mestre M/Y, Italy
July 7, '44 -- Blechhammer, Germany
July 12, '44 -- Nimes M/Y, France
July 13, '44 -- Porto Marghera, Italy
July 14, '44 -- Porto Marghera, Italy
July 15, '44 -- Weiner Neudorf, Austria
July 20, '44 -- Friedrichshaven, Germany

July 22, '44 -- Ploesti, Rumania
Aug. 2, '44 -- Genoa, Italy
Aug. 6, '44 -- Tararcon Bridge, France
Aug. 6, '44 -- Blechhammer, Germany
Aug. 9, '44 -- Budapest, Hungary
Aug. 10, '44 -- Ploesti, Rumania
Aug. 12, '44 -- Gun Post, S. France
Aug. 13, '44 -- Sete, France
Aug. 14, '44 -- St. Tropez, France
Aug. 15, '44 -- Pont St. Esprit, France
Aug. 18, '44 -- Ploesti, Rumania
Aug. 21, '44 -- Nis A/F, Yugoslavia

Aug. 22, '44 -- Vienna, Austria
Aug. 23, '44 -- Markersdorf, Austria
Aug. 24, '44 -- Pardobice Oil, Czechoslovakia
Aug. 25, '44 -- Prostějov A/D, Czechoslovakia
Aug. 27, '44 -- Blechhammer, Germany
Sept. 5, '44 -- Szob, Hungary
Sept. 10, '44 -- Vienna, Austria
Sept. 18, '44 -- Budapest, Hungary
Sept. 22, '44 -- Munich, Germany
Sept. 24, '44 -- Salonika, Greece

Tommy's Crewmates (on the final mission, and we think on many if not most others):

Pilot - 1st Lt. Robert E. Hegmann
Co-pilot - 1st Lt. Bryson W. Watts
Navigator - 1st Lt. Marvin R. Weiner *
Navigator - 2nd Lt. Everett G. Latham
Bombardier - 1st Lt. Joe B. Hackler **

Engineer / Waist Gunner - T/Sgt. Walter K. Stone
Nose Gunner - T/Sgt. Joseph M. Cullen
Tail Gunner - S/Sgt. Dale E. Morrison **
Ball Gunner - S/Sgt. Cecil W. Smith

* Lt. Weiner was a fill-in for the Sept. 24 mission; ** only Hackler and Morrison survived

We are seeking ANY relevant information, pictures, etc. ~ including any mission accounts and/or crew lists for the sorties listed above; material on Technical & Gunnery training (Tommy's was at Sioux Falls S.D. and Tyndall Field, Florida); and even just daily life at Venosa (particularly from June through September of '44).

Would of course especially love to track down ANY photo that includes Tommy White while in Italy (so far we have none), or to hear from anyone who may have actually met him there.

Thank you!

John Bertram & Mary Gordon
86 Colin Ave., Toronto, ON M5P 2C2 Canada
416-486-2486 email: jb@jbmg.ca

Note: A fuller account of Tommy White's story, with many accompanying photos, can be found in an article I was asked to write last Fall by Vintage Wings of Canada, for their annual American Thanksgiving tribute, at this online address:

www.vintagewings.ca/VintageNews/Stories/tabid/116/ArticleType/ArticleView/ArticleID/329/language/en-CA/Default.aspx

Finally, in April of 1945... submitted by Jerry Whiting for Kerry & Ken Savee

(Editor's note: Ken Savee was the 831st squadron navigator late in the war. The following story is an excerpt from his unpublished memoirs, shared by his son Kerry, describing what was likely the April 9, 1945 mission, in which his assignment was lead navigator in a maximum effort mission. We join him in the story as he is preparing for the mission.)

Thus it was that I found myself in the tiny observer's compartment that had been built into the nose of the pilot's nacelle of a P-38 fighter, making pass after pass over the front lines. I was thoroughly briefed by the pilot on the landmarks and checkpoints that would guarantee our accurate approach to the target. Just as carefully the pilot oriented me on the position of our front lines, a safeguard against any mistake that would cause an accidental bomb drop on our forces. The sky would be full of heavy bombers so any kind of course error would jeopardize other formations that were going in at the same time we were.

Back at group there were additional briefings by Wing personnel, new navigation maps that were detailed to a finite level that I had never before seen, recon photograph studies and more. Late into the night and the next day I was fed instructions on how the mission was to be flown. The accent on safeguarding our troops was not the least of the material that was impressed upon me. Smoke pots of different colors would be set off on the ground to mark our lines. Flares would be fired at frequent intervals as further markers and, finally, interlocking radio beams would be used to identify safety limits to the pilots. The responsibilities of the mission were overwhelming.

Carefully, oh so carefully, like walking the line on a sidewalk, I guided the pilot along the route the next day. Nearing the Front I pointed out the now-familiar landmarks and references to him, bends in the river, lakes, towns, deep mountain clefts far ahead, smudges of colored smoke that were beginning to rise along our front, every meaningful detail and how each had a bearing on our mission. At the margin of the front lines the bombardier, who had received fly-over orientation

similar to mine, took over. He could now see his Initial Point, aiming point and the target!

My mind couldn't accommodate all that I saw that day! The air was wonderfully clear as we neared our objective. I was richly proud as I looked left and right through the windows in my tiny navigation compartment. As far as I could see in either direction, the sun glinted off the wings of the hundreds of bombers participating in this monstrous effort. Without a reference point by which to judge the motion, they looked like a huge painting in the sky. Looking

forward, I could see dimly the flash of artillery and columns of smoke rising against the backdrop of the dark mountains. Closer ahead, and below, I could see fighter planes flashing and darting about, like oversize insects as they harassed the enemy with deadly machinegun fire. In the middle distance, perfectly spaced echelons of medium bombers lazied across the vividly marked Allied lines to meet the returning fighters and drop their bombs.

The medium bombers slipped from my field of vision and I looked directly down upon a crazy quilt of multiple colors and shapes. Fields, rivers, and valleys, some stark in their contrasts, some in delicate gradients of green, played before my eyes. A staggered line of dense-colored smoke, red, green, blue yellow, and

white clearly defined the many elements of our ground forces. Out of the smoke bright flares streamed upward to meet us, to demand our attention and remind us that we had friends on the ground below. The montage that moved within the range of my absorbing eyes made me feel like I was a member of a privileged audience, rather than a responsible member of the great show that was being staged. My navigational duties were performed almost automatically as the fascination of the scene below held me in awe.

Quite obviously, the enemy offered no resistance to our bombers. The bomb drop was easy and with nothing to cause interference, accurate. Mission accomplished! I returned to my base excited and satisfied...and relieved! Within weeks the enemy surrendered.



Ken Savee, Navigator & Bob Brown, Pilot

The 485th Hospitality Room by Jolene Veal Stockton

As one rather new to the 485th Heavy Bomb Group's Reunions, each year I went home more impressed than the year before – by the wonderful existence and continual evolving of the Hospitality room. At first, I thought it was a place for the Vets and guys to have a drink....so stayed in my room lots. Little did I know what a special place our Hospitality Room is for all. (That's why I'm writing this article – so everyone will know.)

Our Hospitality Room has been where everyone gets together to tell stories and catch up on the past year's adventures. It has been in existence since at least 1999. Around 2003 Phil Cummings and his brother started heading it. In those earlier days the memorabilia was in a separate room from where people gathered. But folks like to sit down and discuss the displays and not have to go to another room to do it. So now each year Phil is making it a point to be sure we have a nice, big room where many activities can take place.



Each year our Veterans bring books, photo albums (lots of nice ones last year), and other displays of their 485th's mementos. We encourage more of you to do this, too! When Gerry Weinstein came for the first time - his photos added an entirely new dimension to the Hospitality Room. Now, we have "outsiders" who happen to be staying in the hotel, who are wanting to see the displays and meet our Vets. It's a natural place for visual presentations, talks and guest lectures. Jerry Whiting, our historian, has given great talks and shown DVD movies of our Vets in Italy – in the Hospitality Room. Last year we were treated to some special informal times with the Tuskegee Airmen there.

Since Phil was quite busy, he had lots of help from people. Lee Fundling Cristelli and Lynn Funling Gallo took charge of the bar and making sure everyone got refreshments when needed. Mark Leslie, Ann & Jerry Whiting and myself made sure that all of Gerry Weinstein's pictures and other displays were set up and making space available for anyone else to add theirs. From then on, everyone chipped in to make sure that it all ran smoothly.

Remember, the Hospitality Room has evolved into "the place to be". A place where we all can sit comfortably and visit with a genuine atmosphere of caring and fun. 'See you there in Washington, D.C.



Jess Ledbetter, Carolyn Futch, Patti Ledbetter Haley, Lee Futch, and Marie Ledbetter

TO THE VISITING PILOTS AND CREWS:

YOU HAVE BEEN THE GUESTS OF THE 332ND ALL NEGRO FIGHTER GROUP. WE HOPE THAT OUR FACILITIES, SUCH AS THEY ARE, WERE SUITABLE AND ADEQUATE ENOUGH TO HAVE MADE YOUR STAY HERE A PLEASANT ONE. ON BEHALF OF COLENEEL DAVIS AND THE COMMAND I EXTEND TO YOU OUR MOST HEARTY WISHES FOR A HAPPY NEW YEAR AND MANY HAPPIER LANDINGS. YOU ARE WELCOME TO RETURN HERE AT ANY TIME AND I AM SURE THAT WE CAN MAKE YOUR STAY AN ENJOYABLE ONE. THE PILOTS OF THIS COMMAND HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRES TO HAVE IT MAKE CLEAR THAT IT IS A PLEASURE TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU AND LOOK AFTER YOUR WELL BEING BOTH IN THE AIR AND HERE ON THE GROUND. REMEMBER, WHEN YOU ARE UP THERE AND SEE THE RED TAILED MUSTANGS IN THE SKY, THEY ARE YOUR FRIENDS OF THE 332ND FIGHTER GROUP. HERE IS HOPNG FOR A QUICK ENDING OF THE WAR AND A BETTER AND MORE PEACEFUL WORLD.

MANY HAPPY LANDINGS,

Eugene D. Weaver
EUGENE D. WEAVER,
CAPT., AIR CORPS
PUBLIC RELATIONS O.



485th Bomb Group Association



October 14, 2011

To the visiting pilots, personnel and families of the 332nd Fighter Group:

Just as your Group hosted our 485th crew members at your base in Ramitelli, Italy 66 years ago, so was it our pleasure to host you at our 47th annual reunion in September. We hope your time with us was as memorable and enjoyable as it was for us to have you. Please know you are welcome to return to our reunions at any time and you are considered honorary members of our Group, and our special friends. Just as your Group looked after the well-being of our crews in the air and on the ground, it was our honor to extend our hospitality to you and your families in San Diego.

Many Happy Landings,

Phil Cummings

Phillip Cummings, Chairman
485th Bomb Group Association

Cc: Copy of original 332nd Fighter Group letter left in our B-24 planes.



Jim Scheib, Art Kain & Harold Kempffer
485th Vets that landed at Ramitelli
after the Verona Mission
Dec. 29th, 1944





From the Desk of:
Paul T. Green
 Col. USAF (Ret)

28 October 2011

Dear Chairman Phillip Cummings:

Thank you so much for the follow-up letter to your fantastic reunion. It was also a much welcome surprise and deep appreciation that you included a copy of the letter that our 332nd PR guy put in your B-24 planes. I now have something else I can treasure. I will say it again later on in this note and here goes: "you do good work".

Angel and I had fantastic week end at the year 2011, 485 Bomb Group Annual Reunion in San Diego. To personally be with 485th crew members, their children, their grand children, their great grand children and their other relatives made this a rich and rewarding experience. Hopefully, other organizations will take note! What an enlightening and enjoyable experience.

Our deep and most sincere thank you for a great time in our lives. We will always cherish every moment we spent with your Group. Thanks for inviting us!

Paul Green

Paul Green
 Tuskegee Airman, Class 44G
 Former Member 332 Fighter Group
 99th Fighter Squadron

Angel Green
 Angel Green



Ted Lumpkin &
 Clarence E. Huntley Jr.

19 October 2011

Dear Members of the Association

What a pleasure it was to spend the time with you in San Diego. We appreciate the opportunity you gave us and the gracious, honest, special, and precious time you spent with us. Everything was super.

We would welcome the opportunity to be with all of you in the future. The special coverage that NBC, Channel 4 gave to the Tuskegee Airmen and the 485th Bomb Group that was taped from San Diego during that conference was also special and informative. I hope you all had a chance to see it.

Thanks again and again for a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Levi & Dorothy Thornhill

Levi & Dorothy Thornhill



Allie Peek &
 Levi Thornhill

Memorial Breakfast, Sunday, Oct 2nd, 2011 by Gail Eamon, Niece of Vern Christensen

The final event at the San Diego reunion was the traditional Sunday morning Breakfast and Memorial Service. The excellent buffet breakfast was accompanied with music provided by local musician Gordon Cheng. After breakfast, Neal Swann presided over the Memorial Service.

Neal introduced Mr. Cheng, who played a beautiful rendition of Chopin's Promenade as a prelude to the service. The US Flag Folding Ceremony was narrated by Mary Ann Gworek, and those folding the flag were Steve Lindsay, Dean Smith, Dale Smith, and in uniform, USN Brian Luther who presented the flag to the Missing Man Table. The significance of each fold of the flag was described by Mary Ann.

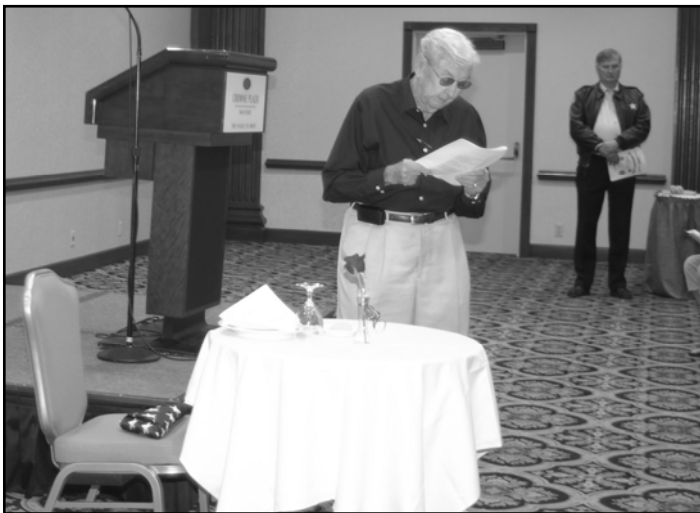
A reading from the New Testament, Revelations 21, was read by Carol McIntier. Santiago Stockton provided a reading of the fourth verse of our National Anthem, which concludes: "And the Star - Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave." The entire assembly then sang the Battle Hymn of the Republic.

George Chaplin (retired Episcopal priest and a 831st Squadron Veteran) provided the homily, noting that while there have been many changes in society since the war, there are some fundamental beliefs that we still hold dear. George concluded with a prayer.

Jolene Stockton provided a reading from the Old Testament, Psalm 23, including the familiar verse that carries much meaning for the veterans: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." The entire group sang "Amazing Grace".

Neal offered a few remarks, noting that as he toured the aircraft carrier Midway the previous day, in a small room in the ship he noticed that there was a setting of the same Missing Man Table that we always have at our reunions. Neal asked Bob Hanson to read the description of the Missing Man Table, which concludes "Let us remember all of our missing crew members and ground personnel, and honor them as we stand for a moment of silence." We all sang "Let There Be Peace On Earth", a song that had been suggested many years ago by Bob Hanson's wife as a fitting conclusion to the Memorial Service.

George Chaplin led us in the responsive "Prayer of Benediction", and Gordon Cheng played "Taps" to end the ceremony. With the reunion concluded, there were many good-byes and good wishes exchanged as the group dispersed, looking forward to next year's reunion in Washington, DC.



Bob Hanson read the description of the Missing Man Table



George Chaplin providing the homily



Mary Ann Gworek's narration of the flag folding by Brian Luther, Dean Smith, Steve Lindsay, Dale Smith


JOURNEY'S END - MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

Roy Anderson	829th	2006	George Ick	828th	2011
James Andrews	828th	2011	Frederick Irving	831st	
Don Atkinson	828th	2004	Lloyd Johanson	829th	
Malcom R. Bacon	830th		Harold Kirch	828th	2010
LaVern H. Bock	831st	2011	Francis Lashbrook	829th	2011
Carl Bostrom	831st	2011	Walter Malecki	830th	2011
Edward Britt	828th	2011	Al Martin	829th	2011
Lee Bursoe	828th	2011	Bob Monahan	831st	
Robert Camden	829th	2011	James K More	828th	
Dr. Richard Clark	829th		Robert T. Peterson	829th	2011
Lynn Cotterman	831st	2011	Jim Ridout	829th	2011
W. P. (Bill) Cummings	830th	2011	Warren Schilb	828th	
Richard Doyle	829th	2011	Dan Sjodin	831st	2012
James Fulford	831st		Arthur Thompson	830th	2010
Robert W. Halling	831st	2011	John Tobler	828th	2011
Ray Heskes	831 st		Harry T. Williams	831st	

Special THANKS to Frances Fundling, John Bertram, Mark Leslie & Mark Swann for sharing their personal photos for the newsletter publication.



Additional Reunion photos may be viewed at the link below:
http://www.485thbg.org/Reunion_Info.htm

PERSONAL TILES					
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					
COOK	POP ARNOLD	CORNETT	CAIRNS	NETT	SAMMY
HANCOCK	SORTOMME			MONROE	PARLI
BUNDY	TOWERS			ICK	LASSEIGNE
FOWLER	HUCKEY	SIMS	TRINCHE	AKINS	HERRINGER
WOODYARD	COTTERMAN	GEYER	CARLSON	SHELOR	KEELE
ROBERT BAKER	ANDERSON	BROWN	LLOYD ARNOLD	CHOATE	BENSON
TUNSTALL CREW 45	GREENWOOD CREW 45	ROFIELD CREW 45	RICHMOND CREW 45	FROHLING CREW 45	SJODIN
OLIVER CREW 45	DYER CREW 45	COTTINGHAM CREW 45	WESLEY CREW 45	TOWNE CREW 45	SWANN
CATHCART CREW 35	MCGEEHEE CREW 35	ROEHN CREW 35	LINDSAY CREW 45	WOLF CREW 45	FUNDING
BIG ALICE FROM DALLAS CREW 24	SKELTON CREW 24	KOPCHA CREW 24	HUBER CREW 24	FURGUESON CREW 24	LONG CREW 24
BEHUNIN CREW 24	JAY BAKER CREW 24	WILLIAMS CREW 24	CARTER CREW 24	CAMDEN CREW 24	HADEN
BROKAW	ABBOTT	WHITEMAN	HALL	MORGAN	SCHLICHTER
HANSEN	HICKMAN				

PERSONAL TILES

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

MGEN WALTER E ARNOLD CPT ROBERT B SKELTON
CMD 485 BOMB GP POW PILOT CREW 24 829 SQ

To order a tile, send the lettering to me with no more than 20 spaces for each line.

Warren D. Sortomme, 3490 Turquoise Lane, Oceanside, CA 92056-4866, (760) 945-8439, Sortomme@dslextre.com

Check made out to: The March Field Museum Foundation
485th Vets Tiles - January 1, 2004

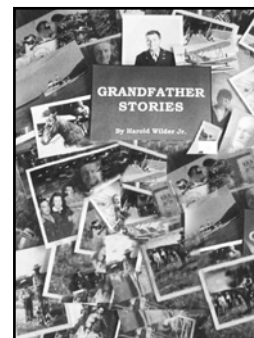
Headquarters - Walter E. Arnold, Robert M. Benson, Douglas M. Cairns, Ben B. Cook, John B. Cornett, S.W. Hancock, Hadley M. Huckey, Warren Sortomme and Loyd F. Towers.

828th SQD - Jess Akins, Karl Anderson, Lloyd Arnold, Arlynn Brown, Horace Choate, George Ick, Lionel L. Lasseigne, Roger Monroe, Edward Nett, Clifford L. Parli, Sammy Schneider, Ben O. Sims and Albert Trincbe.

829th SQD - Big Alice from Dallas - Jay T. Baker, Gerald Behunin, Earl L. Bundy, Robert J. Camden, Allen W. Carlson, Kenneth L. Carter, Joseph W. Cathcart, Arthur J. Fowler, Milton Funding, William G. Furgueson, Harvey H. Huber, San A. Keele, Michael I. Kopcha, Marvin H. Lindsay, William G. Long, Slayton M. McGehee, Donald P. Roen, Marion E. Shelor, Robert B. Skelton, Donald R. Whiteman, Wallace Williams and Irvin N. Wolf.

830th SQD - Robert E. Baker, Bill Cottingham, George Dyer, M. Greenwood, Chuck Heringer, Joseph H. Morgan, Bill Oliver, Joe Richmond, Paul Rofield, W. Schlichter, Everet H. Swann, Bob Towne, Fran Tunstall and R. Wesley.

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.



GRANDFATHER STORIES

Mailing address:

Hal Wilder, PO Box 252,
Camarillo, CA 93011

Email: halwilder@gmail.com

Phone number: 805.484.1602

Pacific Time Zone,

7a.m. to 7p.m. only, please

<http://www.grandfatherstories.com/>

485TH BOMB GROUP BOOKS & DVDS

I'M OFF TO WAR, MOTHER, BUT I'LL BE BACK

By Jerry and Wayne Whiting

This newly revised edition, released in June 2007, is now a hardcover book. This expanded; collector's edition 250+ page book has nearly 100 photos. This is the true story of a 485th BG tail gunner, enhanced by excerpts of more than 200 letters he wrote home. It includes:

- The survival tale of an 831st Squadron airman and his buddies who were shot down over enemy territory, but eluded capture and returned to Italy six weeks later.
- The story of the 485th Bomb Group's unique relationship with the Tuskegee Airmen.
- The saga of one of the last bomber crews shot down over Europe on the final mission flown by the 485th, and their "capture" by the Russians.
- The capture of a Messerschmitt pilot and his fighter by two pilots and a navigator from the 830th Squadron.
- The miraculous account of a navigator's survival after he was blown out of his bomber and fell 10,000 feet without a parachute.

The continuing search today for a 9-man crew lost over Blechhammer.

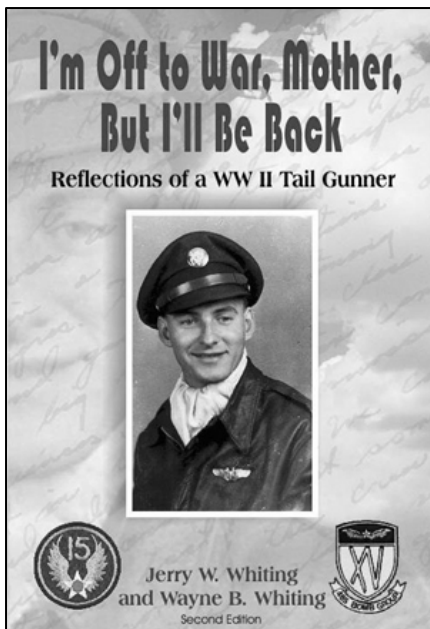
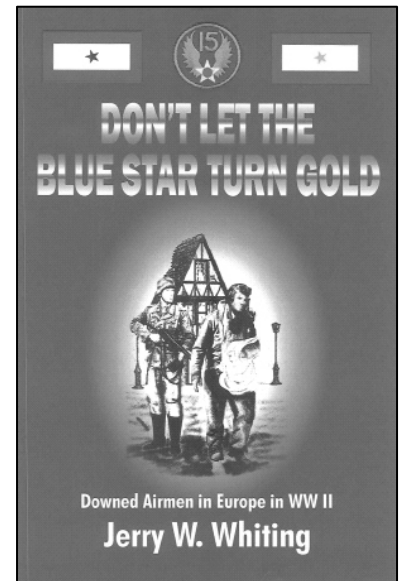
JUNE 2007 REVISED HARDCOVER
COLLECTOR'S EDITION!

DON'T LET THE BLUE STAR TURN GOLD

By Jerry Whiting

These are true stories of 485th Bomb Group airmen who didn't return from bombing missions. The 250-page hardcover book has 65 photos. The stories are about the struggle to survive, so that blue star proudly hanging in the window at home wouldn't be replaced by a gold one.

There are accounts of love, duty & courage. Included are stories of the families at home & their efforts to cope, after receiving that dreaded telegram advising them their loved one was Missing In Action. There are accounts from Europeans who witnessed the bombers falling, including recent stories from some who aided the airmen. Each story is placed in the context of what was happening elsewhere in the world. The author shares background history of how each story came to be, often with surprising revelations. This is a book about captures, escapes, evasions & sometimes death. Painstakingly researched & inspirational, it's a must read for anyone interested in WWII history, particularly for those interested in the 485th Bomb Group.



BOOK AND DVD ORDER FORM

Books and DVDs	Price	# of books/ DVDs	Total
<i>Don't Let the Blue Star Turn Gold</i>	\$ 20.00		\$
<i>I'm Off to War, Mother, But I'll Be Back</i>	\$ 20.00		\$
<i>Mission By By The Numbers</i> Edited by Sammy Schneider	\$ 20.00		\$
<i>In the Shadow of Mt. Vulture DVD</i>	\$ 12.00		\$
<i>New Year's At Ramitelli DVD</i>	\$ 12.00		\$
\$5 for 1-2 books, \$10 for 3-8 books		Shipping/Handling	\$
(All books shipped 1st class or Priority Mail)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Total amount enclosed			\$

(Check or money order payable to: Jerry Whiting)

Ship to:

Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Mail order form to:

Jerry Whiting 2576 Fox Circle Walnut Creek, California 94596

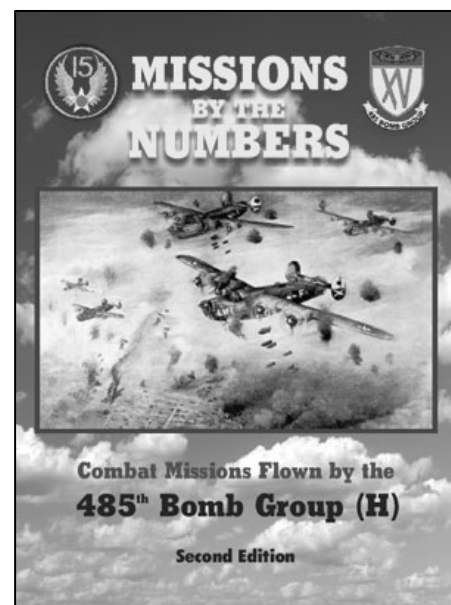
Phone: (925) 934-5204 Email: EAJWWhiting@aol.com

MISSIONS BY THE NUMBERS Edited by Sammy Schneider

This book includes mission summaries of 187 combat missions flown by the 485th Bomb Group. Included are stories written by several members of the group that tell the complete story of a mission, from the minute the coded message was received until the mission was completed. Also included is the story of a gunner who was shot down and captured and the story of a crew that struggled to make it safely through the Brenner Valley, also known as “flak alley”, with severe battle damage.

There are 20+ photos in this 190–page, quality paperback book, including several photos of bomb strikes, damaged B-24s, escort fighters and reconnaissance photos, as well as maps and charts. There is also reference information on group losses and bomb types, a sample of a pilot’s “flimsy” (secret plan for the mission) and much, much more. This is a book about the 485th Bomb Group, told by the men who lived it. This is a very limited edition.

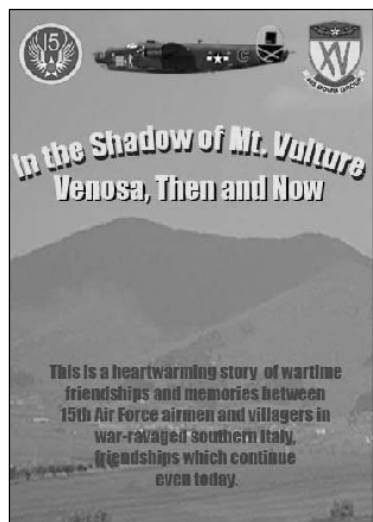
Only 300 copies have been printed, so get your copies now
\$20+ shipping. See order form on page 34



In the Shadow of Mt. Vulture Now Venosa, Then and Now

Does anyone in Italy remember the 485th Bomb Group? Many 485th Vets have asked this question. Jerry Whiting felt this question must be answered. He had photos and amateur video he shot on two research trips to Venosa and the surrounding area, the former home of the 485th Bomb Group. He juxtaposes the photos and video with wartime photos taken by the American airmen to produce this 24-minute DVD, which answers these questions. The answers may surprise you, but be prepared for an emotional ending that will make you feel proud.

This video also contains more than 100 wartime photos, taken by the men of the 485th Bomb Group. Profits, if any, will be used for future maintenance of the 485th website. The price is \$12, which includes shipping.



To receive a copy, send a check for \$12 to:

Jerry Whiting
2576 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

email:
eajwwhiting@aol.com

New Year's At Ramitelli: A Safe Haven for Change

This 28-minute DVD tells the story of the unique relationship between the 485th Bomb Group and the “Red Tails” of the 332nd Fighter Group. The two groups made history, not in the air, but on the ground, when 17 planes from the 485th landed at the 332nd fighter base at Ramitelli in late December 1944. Colonel Benjamin O. Davis Jr. later wrote about the meeting: “Such a mixing of races would never have been allowed to occur in the United States.”

Two 485th airmen tell the story in their own words in this documentary and several others provided background information. Many 485th family members were also involved in the production of this film. This was an event in which all those associated with the 485th can be proud. The video debuted at the 2011 reunion in San Diego and was written and produced by Jerry Whiting.

To receive a copy, send a check for \$12 to:

Jerry Whiting
2576 Fox Circle
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

email:
eajwwhiting@aol.com



Bari



Capri

**485th
Rest & Relaxation**



Foggia



Barletta



**Special
thanks to
Clarence
"Deacon"
Miller
for sharing
his photos!**

