

SARASOTA HERALD-TRIBUNE / TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1995

OBITUARIES

POW survived Nazi death camp

By Jim Hunter
STAFF WRITER

With the passing of Frederic C. Martini of Bradenton, his widow fears that the little-known story of his triumph over death in a Nazi concentration camp will also fade.

Martini, 76, was one of 81 American fliers who were shot down in the European theater during World War II and confined in the infamous Nazi death camp, Buchenwald.

He died Sept. 21 of complications from kidney failure.

His widow, Betty Martini of San Remo Shores, says those 81 men have never received the acknowledgment they should have from their government. Most Americans don't even know that American soldiers were held in a death camp, she said.

Martini survived Buchenwald, though he was plagued the rest of his life by chronic conditions because of the torture, deprivation and starvation inflicted on him by the Nazis.

He suffered liver disease, hypertension and kidney disease because of his treatment in Buchenwald, Betty Martini said.

Martini volunteered for service and was sent to England early in the spring of 1944. He was 25. As a sergeant in the Army Air Forces, he served as crew chief and gunner on a B-17 bomber.

Mortality rates on B-17s were high. Betty Martini said that in the nine missions her husband flew, his plane was shot down three times, crashing once in England, once in the English channel and the last time in occupied France.

The crew had to parachute from the burning Bomber — the navigator didn't make it. Martini delayed his jump and was injured when he hit the ground.

He was found by French Partisans. The rest of the crew, landing in another area, were captured right away by Germans.

He was sheltered by the Free French Underground until he healed and then tried to make his way to the Allies who were landing in Normandy.

He was captured by the German Gestapo, and because he was wearing French civilian clothes — priest's robes — when caught in Paris, he was sentenced to death as a spy.

He was shipped by boxcar to the infamous Buchenwald concentration camp in Weimar, Germany.

Betty Martini said the Nazis tortured him and threatened him daily with death in the gas chambers where Jews were being killed.

The Germans once gave the men injections, he told his wife, and he was the fifth one to get the same needle. He never knew what was in the injection, but he knew his chances for infection were pretty high, if nothing

else.

Betty Martini said that 50 years later, when Frederic Martini saw the movie "Schindler's List," he was greatly affected. With tears in his eyes, he told his wife that what the movie depicted in the death camp was indeed the way it had been for the Jews being killed in the gas chambers.

When the Red Cross heard of the plight of the Allied soldiers in Buchenwald, it began working to get them transferred to a German prisoner-of-war camp.

The effort was finally successful, but the men were forced to march barefoot and it was winter. They all suffered frostbite, and Martini's wife said he suffered the effects of that exposure, especially in his feet, for the rest of his life.

He was kept at the Stalag 7-A prisoner-of-war camp until he was rescued at the war's end by Gen. George Patton's armored division. When freed, Martini had lost 70 pounds and was suffering from extreme malnutrition.

After the war, Frederic and Betty were married in New York, and he later worked for the McGraw Edison Co. in New Hampshire. He came to Florida in 1971.

Betty Martini said that unlike some veterans, her husband was able to eventually talk with her about the horrors he had experienced and work through them, putting them in perspective. It wasn't easy at first, though.

"For a long time he was extremely edgy," she said.

Longtime friend and Anna Maria VFW Commander Bob Devane said that while Martini was very intelligent and good-humored, he also "was one tough guy."

"These POWs are a breed apart. Some people have forgotten about it. It's a great loss when somebody like this goes."

Today, Betty Martini says, a resolution to honor those American soldiers who were held in Buchenwald languishes in the U.S. House of Representatives, and she doesn't think it's right. Other countries have honored the 92 Allied airmen held at Buchenwald with the Americans.

Although she is not bitter, she still asks, "How many of the 81 are left? They've never been acknowledged by the government. I think it should be told.

"He was a great guy," she said.

Martini was a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Anna Maria Post 8199, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans and American Ex-Prisoners of War.

In addition to his wife, Martini is survived by his son, Frederic H. of Maui, Hawaii; a grandson, Frederic P.K.; and two sisters, Elizabeth Gebhardt of Holmes Beach and Lucille Virgilio of Bradenton and East Hampton N.Y.

There will be no visitation. A memorial service will be announced at a later date. Martini will be cremated, and his ashes will be scattered at sea. Memorial contributions may be made to Hepatitis Foundation International, 30 Sunrise Terrace Cedar Grove, NJ. 07009.



Martini

EDITOR'S NOTE: After 50 years, it's still hard to forgive.

Dear Ed,

I enclosed an obituary for Horton H. (Robbie) Robbins. He was the navigator on one of the original 385th crews. I was the bombardier.

Robbie was a great crew member. One of his best missions was the Oct. 14, 1943 Schweinfurt mission. Col. Van flew with us as co-pilot. We were under fighter attack continually from the target to the channel on the way back, and never lost a plane. The only group that managed that. Robbie successfully steered the whole division around any flak installations all the way back and Col. Vandevanter got his a D.F.C. for the job.

We remained close friends and both the co-pilot Al Corriveau and I visited Robbie early this year. We will miss him.

George B. Brown
514-A Cliff St.
Santa Cruz, CA. 95060

Norton H. Robbins, 78, of Bradenton, died Nov. 19, 1995, in Columbia Blake Medical Center.

There will be no visitation or services. Memorial contributions may be made to the charity of one's choice. Griffith-Cline Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



Born in Valparaiso, Ind., Mr. Robbins came to Manatee County from Greensboro, N.C., in 1981. He was a professor of economics at Guilford College and retired in 1981. He was an Episcopalian. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of World War II and served as a navigator on B-17s.

He is survived by his wife, Helen L.; and a sister, Mary Lou Dollins, of Decatur, Ga.



David C. Stover	October 1995
John Joseph	August 1995
Malcolm R. McMahan	November 1994
Donald B. Schaeffer	August 1995
Wayne Pringey	September 1995
Joseph P. Prichard	June 1995
Frederic Martini	September 1995
Harold W. Striemer	December 1994
Andrew Struke	August 1995
Dale P. Aubel	?
Lloyd Lamotte	January 1994
Wm. D. Meeks	?
Vincent G. Walzberg	September 1995
Eugene Curtis	November 1995
John Miller	February 1994
John D. McGregor	November 1993
David F. Buskin	January 1995
Norton H. Robbins	November 1995

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU EVERYWHERE!

Your editor couldn't believe the number of very flattering comments and "thank you's" received from so many of you at the Omaha Reunion. Made us feel real good-and appreciated.

Remember when President Bush was asked how he felt about all the work of being President and campaigning at the same time? He said "Don't cry for me Argentina"-guess he meant "I'm having fun".

We're having fun, too (why do editors have to refer to themselves as we?) It isn't all that much work as long as you keep sending in the stories and letters-"We" put them together, walk around the block to the printer who does most of the work. Then "We" proof-read (sometimes a lousy job like censoring mail used to be), get the address labels in shape, and get it out.

And it's always interesting to see what's coming next.



1^833-4183), a
10/15/95
David (^Stover ?
David C. "Smokey" Stover, age 74
of Sharpville, PA. died Saturday;
October 14, 1995 in Allegheny
General Hospital, Pittsburg, PA
following a brief illness. Born in
v i / . ^ g Cahton, he moved to PA. after
WWII. Mr Stover worked for the
f Pennsylvania Liquor Control
f Boardjis a store clerk retiring in;
A1988. He was a veteran of WW. II
F serving with the 548th Bomb
j Squadron 385th Bomb Group.

BULLETIN BOARD

NEW GROUP HISTORY REPORT

After numerous revisions and corrections, it is now in production, but will not be shipped until about January 15. Around 400 have been sold. If you haven't yet ordered yours, fill out the reservation form at once—they're going to print about 600 and when they're gone, they're gone.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

WANTED WANTED WANTED

If you went through Davis Monthan in 1942 or 1943, please let us know. As part of the 1997 Reunion in Tucson, we'll try to arrange for a feature story in the Tucson newspaper about "55 years ago at Davis Monthan". Send us your name and when you were there. We'll contact the newspaper to get it rolling.



REUNION BOOK PICTURES

28 more orders are needed to be able to print the Reunion Photo Book. Please send your order with \$20 check to Classic Reunions, 2515B - 7 Ave. Greeley, CO 80631-8447. Immediate action is imperative!



*Happy Holidays
From Jan & Lori
Interstate Printing*



*Christmas Greetings from
Lucy and John Ellis*

Once again we have asked your Editor for the hospitality of the pages of the *Hardlife Herald* to pass on our Christmas Greetings to all our many friends in the 385th BGMA. Although, by Chaplain Jim's computation (74 + 15) we are not yet old, Lucy, next year will have passed the golden threshold, and I shall not be far behind, we find we can no longer write the usual individual letters, we shall think of you all at the Festive Season.

*"To the members of the 385th Bomb Group
Memorial Association and their families, we
would like to extend a warm and joyful greeting
for the Holidays. May the New Year be a
healthy, happy and peaceful one.*

God Bless.

Bob & Nancy Valliere"



All our best wishes for the season.

Jane & Ed Stern

REUNION NOTES

By Sec & Host George Hruska

The 15th Biennial Reunion held in Omaha, Nebraska, September 27 to October 1, 1995 was another success. We were down in attendance but still had over 400 people at the Saturday night banquet. One nice thing - we made 33 "First Reunion" ribbons for the name tags and ran out.

Most of the registrants came in on Wednesday and got a good start on comingling and visiting in any of the three large rooms we called the "Hospitality Rooms". Bob Douglas did a superb job of setting up the bar and refreshments and getting it manned throughout the reunion. Vicki and Chris, Arkey Huber's daughters brought the PX, and it was a bit like having Arkey here, but not quite. Sure missed that guy. Joel Knuth of "Sentimental Journey" was busy all through the reunion in taking videos and interviewing individuals, crew members, and other groups getting their personal stories on tape.

In keeping with the idea of allowing more time for visiting and rap sessions outside tours were kept to a minimum. We did get to see the Lied Jungle - the worlds greatest indoor rainforest; The Kingdoms of the Seas Aquarium-450,000 gallons of fresh water with coral reef, brilliantly-colored fish and menacing sharks, the largest aquarium between Chicago and the west coast; a hefty lunch at the Officers Club at Offutt Air Force Base; the Strategic Air Command Museum; a select few got to visit the U.S. Strategic Command Underground Control Center (STRATCOM was established in 1992 to take the necessary steps to move the U.S. and the former Soviet Union further back from the nuclear brink). We visited Father Flanagan's Boys Town, highlighted by a very memorable commemoration ceremony held at the All Faiths Chapel complete with an honor guard from Offutt Air Force Base, an American Legion firing squad, taps, and "Amazing Grace" on the bagpipes. Eighty-two names were read - those of our group who passed away since the last reunion. Because of intermittent showers "picnic in the leaves" turned out to be a "box lunch in the gym".

At the Friday night barbecue we were entertained by the Heartland HoeDowners, a children group of clod-hoppers who stole the heart of our people. This group has won many national honors and appeared in the Thanksgiving Day parade this year. Entertaining also were "The Pipes of Bannockburn" a Scottish bagpipe group who played many favorites, and "Swing Street" a barbershop quartet who led us in a community sing.

The Saturday morning breakfast business meeting was short to allow more time for the Squadron meetings - but it seems that even more time should be allowed for this. From the reports I received on the Women's Brunch this was a highly entertaining and informative meeting. The topic was War Brides, war service, and/or "What I did during WW11". "Many a Tear Had to Fall, But It's All Over Now" I hope someone taped this. After these meetings a group departed for Lincoln, NE to see the Nphraclra-Wachinotnn gfafr fnnthall PAMp. Nebraska WOn

and as of this date still remains undefeated this season. The National Champs of 1994 are looking for a repeat in 1995.

The Saturday night banquet Speaker Lt. Col. Leo Smith reviewed how the Strategic Air Command kept the peace from the fall of the Iron Curtain to the fall of the Berlin Wall. We were entertained by the United States Air Force Air Combat Command "Heartland of America Band". The music was professional, and listening to the "oldies" was a pleasure. However, we did see a tear or two when the band led us in the singing of "The U.S. Air Force Song". Fifty years have gone by but we still remember our best marching song. We then had the raffle (winners were listed in the October Hardlife Herald) followed by the Greg Spivak Orchestra who played the dancing music of the Forties.

The Sunday morning all inclusive sit-down breakfast meeting passed several resolutions followed by making our choice of the site of the 1997 reunion site - choose between Tucson, AZ and Fargo, ND. (just kidding). TUCSON WON.

Dear George,

Thank you, or whoever, for representing us in the drawings at the Omaha reunion.

We sent the money as a token of our membership even though we could not attend.

Actually, I have not been active in the 385th Association. Not because it lacks interest, in fact I am proud of past membership in one of the original 8AF units, but because I have maintained touch with only one other member (Paul McDonald).

My tour in the UK was short. Arrived in January '45 as a gunnery officer, and of course, was assigned to staff attached to the 549th for flying. I did do one thing. In a matter of a few weeks managed six missions, flying in each of the gunnery positions. Lost interest when missions became food deliveries. As an enlisted gunnery instructor volunteered for combat duty in 1942, but we were "essential".

Have read the 385th history with interest and do enjoy the newsletters, if only to get a feel for those who flew the early combat missions.

We visited Great Ashfield in 1990, the only time in many trips to England since we deployed to Bradley Field in 1945. Visited the church and Memorial, but could find no other points I could remember. Strangely, I did remember the streets of Stowmarket and Ipswich.

Thanked the Gordons for donating the gift to the Omaha meeting. Keep the Association strong.

Truly yours,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bill sent \$5.00 for 3 raffle tickets and was one of the winners.

Dear Colonel Hruska:

I am once again pleased to report that the Eighth Air force Heritage Museum is progressing well towards opening dates of 13-14 May 1996. The building roof and side walls are being installed and much of the second floor steel has been erected. The design of the first five exhibits is complete and the work on the remaining thirteen is progressing well. Plans for grand opening are underway and we will inform everyone of the details after the first of the year.

Over the past few months several individuals and units have asked how they might get more specifically involved or contribute to the Museum effort. There are many specific items that are worthy of individual or unit sponsorship. The attached list gives some of the potential items that could be sponsored. Each contribution will be appropriately and gratefully acknowledged in a public manner. Should an individual, unit or organization be interested in sponsoring one or more of these items, please contact me. I can be reached by phone at 1-800-421-9428 or a letter stating your desires and intentions can be sent to our above address. Our organization will handle the details and procurement of the specific items.

Remember, your generosity will contribute significantly towards the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum becoming a "World Class" museum that will serve to preserve, protect and present your heritage for all future generations. Please give this correspondence your earliest attention and widest dissemination possible through your meetings and newsletters. Your continuing support is tremendously appreciated.

Respectfully,

Lt. Gen E.G. Shuler, Jr., USAF, Ret.
Chairman and CEO

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone volunteer to spearhead this effort? Write to President Bob with your ideas.

THE MIGHTY EIGHTH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

LIST OF POTENTIAL ITEMS FOR SPONSORSHIP

Manorial Gardens

- Walkways
- Plants
- Chapel
- Gazebo

Library/Archives

- Furnishings for Reading Room
- Book shelves
- Tables and chairs
- Service desk
- Equipment

examples:

- micro form readers/printers
- media items: including VCRs, monitors.

Furnishings for archives and artifacts

examples:

- work tables
- storage units
- flat files
- audio cassettes

Food Service Area

- Tables and chairs

Education Area

- Tables and chairs
- Storage cabinets
- Desk
- Equipment

examples:

- slide projector
- media items: including VCRs, monitors,
- audio cassettes

Rotunda

- State flags
- Service desks
- Unit flags

General Furnishings

- Benches for public areas

Outside Areas

- Extra flag poles for the front of the building
- Main sign at the entrance of the facility

Other ideas are most welcome.



Anglo-USA Red Cross Building at Stowmarket
September 1995

REUNION PICTURES 1995



George Salvador (left) telling his story to Sentimental Journey Crew



Sue & Joe DeGiacomo
Joe was a Waist Gunner on Mudge's Crew #17



Geri & Bill Clark and Friends



Walt Gazda & Ed Stem



President Bob being presidential in Omaha



Bob Smith receives a plaque from Bob Valliere



Reverend James Vance-Our Chaplain



John Pettenger-giving his treasurers report Gerry Donnelly-our 8th AF Representative



Boys Town
Father Flannagan's first house



George Hruska-our host at Omaha and long time secretary

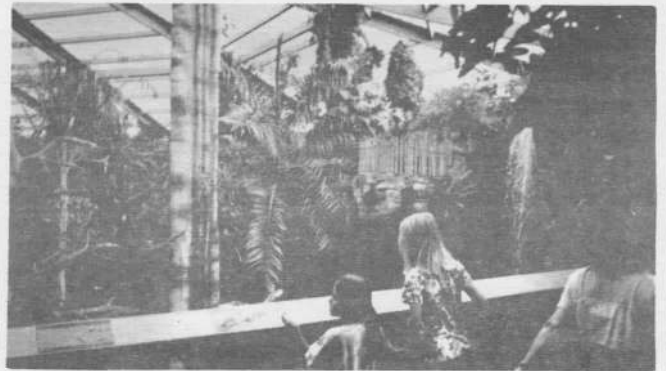


"Jesus" with teachers in the temple
at Father Flannagans House

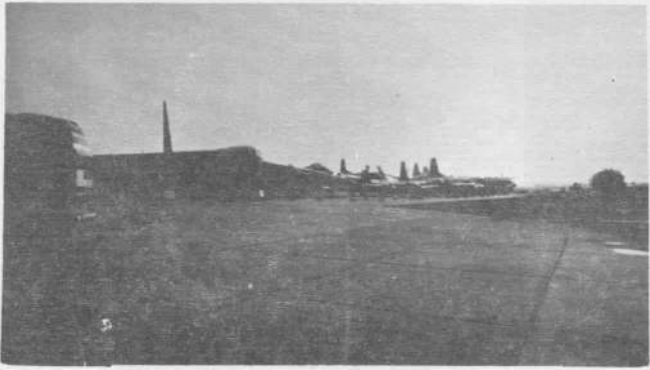




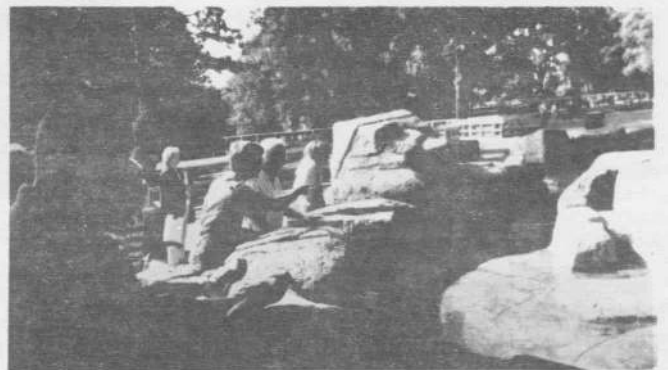
Boys Town, Nebraska



Lied Jungle



Offutt field Static Display of Planes



Lied Jungle



B-36 at Offutt



Lied Jungle & Zoo at Omaha



Offutt Field Static Display of Planes



Entering the Omaha Zoo



B-17 "King Bee"
William Clark & Jerry Mudge



Black Widow at Offutt



Offutt Field - B-17 & B-36



Ex-prisoners of war at the Reunion



Arch Benner - 549th Meeting



1995 Omaha
Drue Gillis and fripnHc



Carol & Wayne Detwiler
Buck & Irene Huber
Henry & Dru Dworshak



Sam Lyke and friends
on tour of air museum



Edie & Marty Girson



Gerry & Jane Ramaker



Air Force Band



Boys Town Buses



**ATTENDEES AT THE OMAHA REUNION
NEXT TIME IN TUCSON - LOOKS LIKE
NOVEMBER 17TH**

Abens, Donald	Henderson, William "Bill" A.	Detwiler, R. Wayne and Carol
Abrahamson, Clarence and Joan	Herrick, Mark T. and Janice	Dickason, Elmer L. and Betty
Altman, Danny	Hoagland, Bill R. and Mary	Dickey, Bart C. and Ruth
Anderson, Don	Howard, Pat N. and Jerry (Son)	Director, Howard and Bea
Anderson, Herbert E.	Howe, Homer F. and Jean	Dolan, Daniel H.
Anderson, John A. and Elizabeth	Hruska, George S. and Gen	Donnelly, Gerald W. and Virginia
Andrew, Hugh S.	Huber, Charles J. and Irene	Douglas, Robert E. and Vella
Andrews, Robert E.	Huber Haas, Vicki and Chris	Driscoll Jr., Arthur and Marynell
Am, Robert L. and Esther	Hunter MD, Don J. and Beverly	Duletsky, Paul
Atwell, Richard	Hyde, Daryl M	Dworshak, Henry I. and Dru
Audette, Albert E. and Priscilla	Hyde, Robert "Bob" C. and Margaret "Peg"	Elbert Jr., Edward (Ed) A. and Dorothy (Dot)
Baudier, Herbert L. and Virginia	Inglis, Doris E.	Eyman, Carl and Vivian
Behl, George J. and Mary	Inglis, Stephen	Fauber, Clarence
Bember, John K. and Jean	Jameson, Colleen	Felt, George E.
Benner, Arch V. and Bonita	Jameson, Richard	Fife, Bill A. and Mitzi
Benton, William M.	Jones, Donald E. and Edeltrude	Fuller, Francis R. and Olive
Bomser, Philip S.	Jones, Jr., Henry L and Martha	Gagnon, Henry C. and Yvette
Bond, James M.	Kavaliunas, John and Stella	Gallan, Plato and Constance
Brackett, Charles E. and Blanche	Kelly, Thomas R.	Gaul, Norman and Kay
Brashear, Wesley C. and Helen	Kevan, Trevor J.	Gazda, Walter S.
Brockner, Shiriey M.	Kivi, Louis P. and Effie	Gerdes, Dave
CampanelH, John	Klosterman, Donald and Shirley	Gerdes, Jason
Canaday, Denver M. and Noriko	Knight, Richard A. and Joan	Gerdes, Joy
Clark, William and Geri	Koon, W. H. and Lou	Gerdes, Pauline
Clew Jr., Harry F. and Carol	Kubr, Joe W. and Marjorie	Gesser, Jack T.
Colantino, Mario J. and Odess	LaCasse, Leo A. and Anne	Gillis, M. Drue and Pam
Cole, Earl L. and Ruth	Lancaster, O. V. and Doris	Girson, Marty and Edie
Cole, Etna	Ledy, Warren B. and Dorothy	Glazer, Sherman L and Lillian
Cole, Lynda	Love, Ben T. and Dorothy	Gottheim, Bernard
Cole, Matt	Lubicic, Charles	Grimes, Patricia H.
Collins, Donald E. and Tricia	Luckie, Sam and Nita	Grinstead, James J.
Cohhorpe, Sid and Lee	Lundell, LaVonne	Grodi, Wilmont C. and Barbara
Cook, Burnell A. and Loma	Lundell, Rev Paul	Guffey, Charles D.
Cook, Gordon W. and Natalie	Lybeck, Cliff and Shirley	Guffey, Lorenc
Cory, Bob and Kathryn	Lyke n, Samuel E. and Mary	Gunther, William G. and Vera
Coughlin, Charles H. and Connie	Marince, Paul C. and Irene	Hach, Robert O. and Elizabeth
Courtney, Roy E. and Margaret	Marshall, Robert T. and Eileen	Hackney, Gene P.
Cox, William J. and Marian	Martin, Earnest E. and Helen	Hagman, Willard and Lois
Crawford, Lester J. and Dorothy	Mathews, John W. and Betty	Hair, Thomas and Norma
Davis Jr., John E. and Betty	Mawer, Charles	Hake, Robert and Juanita
DeBerg, John and Dorothy	McAllister, Floyd and Dixie	Hanson, Carlyle J. and Mildred
DeGiacomo, Joe and Sue	McCauley, Charles W. and Ruth	Heard, Lyman B.
Dennis, David S.	McCawiey, Frank X. and Margaret (Peggy)	Heckel, Herman W. and Elizabeth
Dentinger, Stanley F. and Cleone	McDonald, J. G.	Hefner, James E.
Deter, Joe and Doris	McDonald, Paul R.	Helman, Tom and Arm

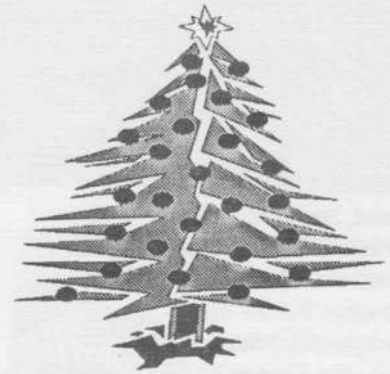
McElroy, Edward J. and Beverly
 McInnis, Ronald (Ron) and Evelyn
 McKibbin, Frank H.
 Melillo, W. "Kelly" and Mary
 Mellors, James W.
 Menkoff, George B.
 Messbauer, John J. and Grace
 Milligan, Robert S. and Ann
 Moebius, William and Jeanette
 Moll, Francis B. and Eddie
 Molzhan, Richard E. and Mary
 Montano, Arthur and Ann
 Moravek, Karl T.A. and Marguerite
 Mudge, Jerome and Vera
 Myers, Roland W. and Doris
 Nestler, Fred and Marion
 Newton, Tom and Daria
 Nicholls, William A. and Doris
 Noble, John D. and Julia
 Palmer, Roger D. and Donna
 Parker, Gordon W. and Connie
 Payne, James E. and Frances
 Payne, Robert A. and Virginia
 Pettenger, John F. and Ruth
 Pettit, Stan R.
 Phillips, Verne and Lavon
 Pool, Fain H. and Christine
 Poore, Eugene
 Poore, Forrest V.
 Poore, Kevin M.
 Poore, Linda
 Poore, Pam
 Popp, Jack W. and Bette
 Powell, Norman C.
 Provencio, Juan J. and Mary Lou
 Pyle, Byron and Georgia
 Ramaker, Jerry H. and Jane
 Raper, Marion E. and Catherine
 Ray, Arthur G.
 Raymond, James D.
 Reinken, Floyd D.
 Rhine, Robert H.
 Richards, Willard and Vivian
 Richardson, Howard and Vivian
 Richey, John E. and Marillyn

 Riva, Dr. Daniel F.
 Roquette, Stub and Vert
 Roquette, Vert
 Rosholt, Douglas A. and Virginia
 Roskey, O. Vernon
 Rosmussen, Bob J.
 Rosmussen, Nila
 Ryan, Paul W. and Jean
 Salvador, George and Alice

Schirmer, Mike and Sally
 Schubert, William F. and Santos
 Schulte, Walter and Norma
 Sharp, Russell and Elsie
 Shee, Bonnie
 Shee, Don
 Shoemaker, James G.
 Shoemaker, James P.
 Smith, Harold
 Smith, Peggy C. and Chuck
 Smith, Ralph P. and Gladys
 Smith, Robert C. and Jean
 Solenberger Jr., Cleve S. and Angela
 Stansfield, John H. and Sally
 Starnes, Wymer C. and Kathryn
 Stead, Gordon F.
 Steele, Fred C. and Dorothy
 Steil, Gerald O. and Dianne
 Stermer, Ed and Olga
 Stem, Ed and Jane
 Styler, William (Bill) L. and Jane
 Sunney, Maurice "Suds" D. and Charlotte
 Sunday, Wilbur
 Sutter, Frank M.
 Sutter, Frank
 Swartz, Quentin and Jean
 Taubkin, Milton L. and Helen
 Thompson, James A. and Dorothy
 Tipp, Marvin R. and Betty
 Todd, William E. and Mary
 Tracy, Tom and Mary
 Traudt, Ruth
 Traudt, Steve
 Trousdale, Harold A. and Marty
 Tulare, Willis E. and Doris
 VaHiere, Bob and Nancy
 Vance, Rev. James H. and Geri
 Vamedoe Jr., W. W. and Louise
 Vencill, Rolland and Arlene
 Vollmer, Ralph J. and Bonnie
 Wade, Thelma
 Walsh, Kenneth (Knobby) L.
 Weisgarber, Glenn P. and Erma
 Wilson, Robert W. and Coralie
 Wise, Lester A.
 Wojtkowski, John
 Wojtkowski, Wallace L. and Anna
 Wojtkowski, Wallace M.
 Wooden, Danny
 Wooden, James C. and Betty
 Yarema, Steven
 Zaputil, Steve W.
 Zeigler, Wayne G. and Eunice
 Zink, Virgil and Ann
 Zwick, Joe M. and Phyllis



Bob Valliere, President



Arch Benner - 1 st Vice President

George S. Hruska;

I received the application for membership to the 38.5th BGMA and the newsletters. I sent the check of \$ 10.00 of the treasurer, John Pettenger.

George, enclosed is a copy of a picture of flight crew #2083. The one that my brother was a member of. Would it be possible to put a copy of the picture in your newsletter? If so, I could send you an actual photo. I have all the names of all members of the crew. There was only one man who survived.

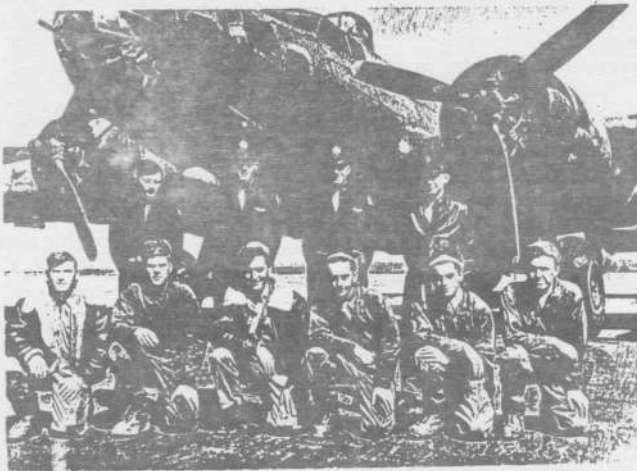
I do not have a lot of information about the crew, so anything you can provide for me would be appreciated. I don't even know if the plane (B-17) had a name, nor do I know what citations were awarded.

I hope this past reunion was a success. I would like to have been there but the time element was not in my favor. Maybe the next one will work out better for me.

George, I want to thank you for your time and effort for helping me. I am sorry that I did not get involved a few years earlier.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Ryan
Route #10, Box 119A
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22801
(540) 833-8225



Our crew - 2083

Officers L-R R.L. McDonald-Pilot, S.F. Ryan-Co-Pilot, W.T. Henry-Navigator, F.M. Chrisman-Bombardier.

Enlisted men L-R: Sgt. Brown-Engineer, Sgt. T. Linton-Asst Engineer, Sgt. R. Hale-Radioman, Sgt. P. Heffernan-Armorer, Sgt. A. Tiyeh-Waist Gunner, Sgt. B. Crosh-Tail Gunner.

550th Bomb Squadron
385th Bomb Group
8th Air Force

CLASS ACTION SUIT

Response to the call for support of a Class Action Suit in the October Hardlife brought a mixed, and disappointing reaction.

First, we received a supportive letter with a check that was unsigned. We returned the check for signature, and the correspondent (one of our regulars) returned the signature after tearing it off the bottom of the check.

Second, we received a good letter of support, which included 9 \$3 bills which we found to be of an unusual color and content. This respondent did make the generous offer that he would contribute the extra \$2 to the cause without expecting any extra share of the award.

A Ball turret gunner supported the effort with a letter, but he did not send a check, saying that he had promised his mother that he would not do anything that might be injurious to his health until he was 20. He did not start drinking coffee until he was in a POW camp.

And a Tail gunner reported that he had avoided coffee because he was afraid it might make him want to relieve himself on missions over 8 hours. He abstained except when he was on pass.

Several others sent checks just in appreciation of your Editor's efforts over the years, showing their confidence in our integrity.

The final blow came in a letter from one of our lawyer members, who pointed out that your Editor's 5 Children and 11 grandchildren would probaby mitigate against the effect of any testimony he could offer.

As of now, the effort is in limbo.



Nancy Valliere

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Ed and Jane,

Thanks for your letter received 17/11 /95 and pleased to hear you had a pleasant holiday.

You can appreciate from this card we are some of the folks who are trying to keep our living memorial flying. We both feel there's something about the WWII planes that gives us that feeling which is different to the many modern ones.

All the very best to you both.

Les and Peggy Gordon

Peggy is slowly getting better. Trust we will see you in '96 if these's a reunion over here.

With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

Dear Ed,

My grandfather, whom I never knew, was a B-17 pilot during WWII, and a member of the 385th Bomb Group. My father and I are trying to locate any surviving members of his crew or their families and were wondering if you would be able to help in any way. Here is the information I have thus far.

My grandfather's name is Charles Lundsberg, Jr. He was a member of the 8th Air Force, the 385th Bomb Group and the 548th Squadron. He was one of the youngest B-17 captains at the age of 19-20 and the name of his plane was "Flak Shak". When the plane got destroyed, he and his crew later flew the "Gallant Lady", which was shot down in September 1944. They were then taken to the prison camp Stalag Luft I, where they were prisoners of war until they were freed by the Russians.

I do know the last names of the crew members, but that's as far as I've been able to get. They are as follows:

Pilot: Charles Lundsberg, Jr.
 Engineer: Rabasco
 Navigator: Smallman
 Gunner: Henry
 Radio Operator: Krantz
 Co-Pilot: J. Ellvey
 Bombardier: Shabsis
 Ass't Engineer: Walker
 Tail Gunner: Morgan
 Asst. Radio Operator: Sizer

My father and I would be thrilled to hear from any of these

men or their families, if any of them happen to receive your newsletter. But even if not, we would like to receive a copy of the newsletter, if you have any extra to send. Or, if we could be put on a mailing list, that would be wonderful too. Also, I was curious to know if you had a copy of the 385th directory that might list the current address of all known bomb group members. If you do, could you possibly send a copy of that too?

We appreciate any assistance with our search. I have been in touch with several 8th AF members over the Internet, and they are wonderful people! I look forward to hearing back from you.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Page Wolf
 PO Box 148
 Roseville, IL 61473
 (309) 42/ 2325

Dear Ed,

I was a B-17 pilot in the 551st Bm Sq during the big one. Our airplane, "Crash Wagon III", was shot down about 60 miles north of Paris on June 12, 1944. Two of my crew members, gunners Sam Pennell and Fred Martini, were sheltered and passed along by the French underground when someone in that organization betrayed them and sold them out to the Gestapo. Both of them spent several months in that infamous concentration camp called Buchenwald. Sam died about five years ago and Fred passed away on September 21, 1995. I am confident that both their deaths were hastened by the experiences they endured at Buchenwald.

I am enclosing some newspaper clippings which Fred's widow sent to me. I would appreciate it very much if his obituary could be published in a forthcoming issue of the Hardlife Herald. I realize that the one which appeared in the Sarasota Herald Tribune is too long to be used in its entirety. I would be most grateful if it could be boiled down to a printable size.

Although I was not in the 385th long enough to be acquainted with many of the troops who are mentioned from time to time in the newsletter, I always enjoy it and occasionally read about someone I knew. You do a great job.

Thanks in advance. Please let me know if any additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Loren E. Jackson
 513 North N Street
 Lompoc, CA 93436

Dear Ed,

I finally completed my project of building the model of Great Ashfield, Elmswell and the planes of the 8th Air Force. I am in the process of buying a trailer so I can have a roving display. I am still collecting pictures, articles, VCR films and anything I can to add to the display.

I have received several requests from members of the 385th for copies of articles and pictures from my collection.

As soon as I get everything assembled back together, I will send you pictures of it.

Sincerely,

Merrit F. Andrews
"Andy"
Member of the Mr. Smith Crew.

Dear Mr. Stern:

I was fortunate enough to get back to the air base last summer, and while there isn't a lot left, it was still a great thrill to see it again. My youngest grandson turned nine years old on the runway where I turned twenty. It was really surprising to see the four squadrons stenciled on the brick wall, after fifty years, on one of the two remaining buildings.

The little church was so impressive, both inside and out, as was the fact that the English people still kept fresh flowers in it each week in memory of our dead.

Thanks a lot,

Don Graham
7789 John Telham Trail
McCalla, Alabama 35111

Dear Ed,

It was good seeing you again in Omaha.

In the last Hardlife Herald there was a picture of the "Betty Jo", with the caption that a replacement rudder had been installed and the "Square G" had been painted out. I am enclosing a picture I made after the war when the 385th was part of a ferry service carrying DP's from Austria to France. It clearly shows that the replacement rudder was still serviceable, and also shows that the paint job mentioned was completed to make the red checkered tail.

I never got a copy of that nose art picture, so I'm sorry, but the "Betty Jo" will not appear in the nose art section of the new history book. The publisher tells me it is in final production and I hope by the time this is published, is either in your hands or being mailed out.

Sincerely,

W.W. Varnedoe, Jr.
5000 Ketova Way
Huntsville, AL 35803

Betty Jo

43- 37893

551



Dear Ed & Jane,

Thank you for your part in making Jiis reunion in Omaha really super. The excitement of making and meeting friends and enjoying the fellowship and solidarity of this 385th Bomb Group and loved ones is unforgettable.

My dear husband, T/Sgt J. Roy Grimes was a Radio-Opr 551st Sq, 385th BG, then 19 years old. I saw him with his crew on the videos (Sentimental Journey) Sunday in the Omaha Room. WOW!!!

Of the many high moments, one was when the young men from Offutt AFB, dressed in dress WWII uniforms played the Army Air Corps Song, "Off We Go, Into The Wild Blue Yonder". If my husband had been there, EVERY girl would have been asked to dance to that wonderful swing-jazz music, played by both bands.

Again thanks. Looking forward to Tucson!

Sincerely,

Patricia Grimes
125 Infinity Rd
Durham, NC 27712

Dear Ed,

I'm on a number of mailing lists and regard your Hardlife Herald and our 95th BG publication two of the best. I really do appreciate receiving it.

Don't know whether you've been at our museum. Attached is a brochure - summer is the best time to visit. B-17, P-38 and several other planes are in warmer climates during our cold season. Memorial day weekend is best time to attend because (weather permitting) all planes are flown each day.

Our 8th AFHS (Minn Ch) volunteer at the museum and handle the weekend and holiday tours through the B-17.

John Anderson, Excelsior, MN and a regular on our B-17 crew is a 385th member. John is great to work with and we're all proud to be associated with him. Really a wonderful person.

Regards,

Jim Keefe
 Box 31068
 Bloomington, MN 55431
 (612) 831-4253



John Anderson-Flty Eng
 850 Rolling Bluff
 Excelsior, MN 55331

Dear Ed,

I thought you might like to have a picture of a tradition for Milligans Crew. Arky Huber had this beautiful plaque made of our Group Insignia. It was displayed each reunion and given to the crew with the greatest number of present participants. Our crew won each reunion. We were considered a lucky lead crew and we were so lucky to have so many survivors. After winning the plaque permanently we each individually shared it for two years until the next reunion.

Stanley Pettit, our radioman, is the last person to receive it and will hold it until Tucson when we plan to give it to the 8th Air Force Memorial Society for a permanent memorial of our group.

At this time I also would like to give you the sad news of the death of Eugene Curtis of Mitchell, Nebraska the 3rd of November 1995. He was a smart, gutsy guy, not big in size, but in ability as our engineer.

Sincerely,

Frank Sutter
 11652 N Desert Hills Dr. W
 Sun City, AZ 85351-3832



L-R: Clarence Abrahamson, Frank Sutter, Stan Pettit and Bob Milligan



Dear Ed,

Peggy and I had a mini-reunion with one 385th'er from Maine. This was Eldred Harrington who we assume has just recently joined the 385th Association as he was not listed in names and addresses of 385th. He apparently contacted John Pettenger and asked about coming back to England and was told to contact us which he did and much to the pleasure of the three of us.

I asked him to write to you with a story he has to tell. He was responsible for designing the memorial they now have in Sangerville, ME and I believe he supervised the building of it too.

Having seen the photos of the 385th insignia (wood carving) and the three trees photo of the picture, I felt as he is a lamb returning to the 385th fold after so many years I felt I had to give the photos to him and of course this leaves me with none of these photos now. Would you please help me in what way you can, preferable by sending me copies?

Before closing may we both say a very big and warm thank you for the invitation which we could keep to have a turkey slice from Jane and you. God keep you both.

Love from,

Les & Peggy Gordon

Eldred Harrington served under Hymie Gomberg on communications and before 8th AF was in the Merchant Navy and spent 10 days in an open boat with others before being rescued.

Dear Ed and Jane,

I have for some time been contemplating a letter to you to ask you to include a Christmas Greeting from us in your December Hardlife Herald. Maybe I am too late, if so, "so be it". If not, I would be grateful if you could do this service for us once again this year.

As I said, about being old, we are not as active as once we were, and letter writing is one of the things which seem to suffer. However, I am glad to be able to tell you that we are both well and relatively active for our years and are able to do, and enjoy, many of the things we used to do. We still keep our car on the road, and enjoy our potters round the beautiful countryside of the Southern Borderland between England and Wales.

Some of our friends have been here, and any who are in this area, known to us or not, are more than welcome to call for a chat, a 'cuppa' or coffee etc, just as they used to at Fox Farm.

Our younger son, Matthew and his wife Dianne, have now returned to England from South Africa, and we shall, once again have the pleasure of them all to be with us at Christmas time, grandchildren and one great grandson are still there, but hope to be with us before too long.

We still enjoy reading the Herald, and thank you for including us on your mailing list.

With our very best wishes to you both, and greetings to any members you see to pass them on.

From your old friends

John and Lucy Ellis
13 Dixton Close
Monmouth
Gwent NP5 3HE
Monmouth (01600) 15944

Dear Ed,

If you want some copy for the "Herald" I'm sending you my comments on the item of how the British managed to eke out their rations. It has been knocked out in a hurry, but you might like to publish-you are the boss.

Finally, dare I end on a sour note? Page 21 - I enjoyed Jim MacDonald's letter, but don't agree with "London was Spared". Living in London at the time, can you add a note sometime as this statement most misleading for those who are interested in getting historical facts right. There was no defense against V2's and we just had to take what was thrown at us. With a lot of damage to buildings and a lot of casualties. Let me break off for a moment as I have a book on this era, it should quote numbers - give me a few moments. Now back again and it's the first time I've look for these figures. (You buy these books and then don't find the time to read them!) 1115 V2's fired at the U.K., London received 517 with 2,612 people killed in London. 60 burst in the air prematurely which saved a lot of lives.

Sincerely,

Ron Durand
East View
14 Preston Paddock
Rustington
West Sussex, BN16 2AA
1903 776281

EDITOR'S NOTE: Here's Ron Durands comments about food rationing in response to that article we ran in the August Hardlife Herald.

The item on Page 17 of August '95 Newsletter was of real interest to me and it made me use my memory - I was eleven years old in 1940, lived in a southern suburb of London and had the job of doing all the family shopping as my mother was on war work, leaving home before most of the shops were open, and returning when they had shut. Which meant getting the wartime ration books, I've forgotten what evidence you had to take along to the office, but I guess it was the Identity Card which we all had to carry. Each person had their own ration book, and of course, the bigger the family - the bigger joint of meat you could buy when presenting the books.

Of course, in the towns and cities we only saw soldiers, sailors and airmen when they were visiting on leave passes. But I am sure in our Eastern Counties Americans were welcome in people's homes, first, because they brought cheerfulness when it was needed, friendship to our women with so many of their men away, and if sweets and tinned food was brought out of the pocket - we Brits, did the same thing when visiting friends and family. It was thought good manners to produce little bags of tea and sugar on calling, plus a homemade cake. It became part of our lives.

Even in towns, small backyards kept a few chickens and tame rabbits. I know I kept rabbits and learned the facts of life, in fact the whole population was educated by pamphlets being issued on all kinds of subjects. What foods were full of vitamins, recipes using less fat but substituting vegetables instead. In season we were urged to pick wild fruits and edible berries for immediate eating or preserved in bottles for the next winter. (In fact war-time recipes are still in books today suggesting how to eat well 'and take off a few inches around the waist!')

Fish was never rationed, and in those days there were hundreds of fresh fish shops in every town. (Not so many now). And of course, fish and chips on Fridays - marvelous food, the hot batter really filling to a young boy, plus crusty bread cut very thick.

Then again, in towns we were allowed plots on certain playing fields, call allotments. And many town people learned a lot as some did not have a garden, with children helping, they were introduced to a pastime which has lasted for the rest of their lives.

The Government opened up "British Restaurants" in church halls and urged the public to use them to supplement the basic ration. With the outcome that posh people were to be seen in such places, rubbing shoulders with the workers. Also schools had canteens, well, some of them. But all schools gave out free milk to children every day.

I am quite sure folk living in the country did better than us in the big towns. I'm quite sure pheasants, grouse, rabbits were snared as shooting would have alerted the "big" house. Bee Keepers would barter their honey for whatever they wanted and you can't stop enterprise where human beings exists, and it helped us to keep our spirits up - we were keeping our minds occupied and active.

For some reason the price of New Zealand Lamb sticks in my mind. I suppose I was given orders on how much to spend as money was "tight" in our household, my father dying when I was four. 2s 4d was the average for a leg or shoulder. To think it came from the furthest point away from the U.K. Compared with today's prices, you just shake your head in wonder.

I think the biggest shock which caused great depression was the sudden shortage of bread and potatoes AFTER the war. We could not understand it, we had won the war and what has gone wrong? It didn't last for long, but I recall it was a shock to us.

As you say Ed, How much do we waste every week? We civilians did not mind what we had to put up with, whether bombing or lack of luxury food - knowing that your men and women in uniform, and our's were doing great things. The rationing had to be - civilians were bringing our food to us in cargo ships at great cost.

You are wrong about petrol. This was only for doctors, fire and ambulance and of course public transport. When war was over, eventually we were allowed some petrol on ration. But few had cars - another world now, when you look back.

Dear Ed,

I wish to express my appreciation to the hundred-plus members of the 385th Bombardment Group Memorial Association and their wives who so thoughtfully signed the get well card forwarded to Marian by Bob Valliere, wishing her a speedy recovery. Since I cannot possibly write thank-you notes to all, I am taking this means of thanking everyone involved.

Marian is doing quite well. A cardiac catheterization was performed on Thursday, September 28, the first day of the Omaha biennial meeting, followed by a double bypass on Friday, September 29. She is now home from the hospital and well on her way to recovery. We both look forward to the Tucson meeting as an opportunity for us to express our appreciation personally.

Very truly yours,

Michael Gallagher

EDITOR'S NOTE: All our best for continued recovery, Marian. Mike was elected our 2nd Vice President at Omaha.

Dear Ed,

Once again the 548th (Engineering Dept) held a reunion. This time it was in Myrtle Beach, SC from September 7th thru September 10th. A good time was had by all because we enjoy each others company. It was hosted by Dave and Sue Beam, Vera and Herb Granger and Hazel and Mo Bridges.

I think I for one, look forward to these reunions.

Enclosed are pictures of the groups of men and their wives.



Wives picture, the names from left to right are: Standing-Edie Girson, Nita Luckie, Sue Beam, Vera Granger, Evelyn Tenbrook, and Mary Leggett.

Seated: Irene Huber, Frances Gentile, Dru Dworshak, Carol Detweiler and Hazel Brides.



Mens picture from left to right are:
Standing: Sam Luckie, Dave Beam, Henry Dworshak, Forbes Tenbrook, Wayne Detweiler, and Dale Legett.

Seated: Tommy Gentile, Herbert Granger, Martin Bridges, Charles Huber, Herman Siederer and Marty Girson.

Keep up the good work on the Herald. A belated Shana Toval, Happy New Year.

Respectfully,

Herman Siederer
601 Benner Street
Highland Park, NJ 08904

Dear Ed,

It was nice seeing you and your wife at the Reunion. A good time was had by all.

'Tis funny, as the memories fade, the stories get longer and better. I'm almost beginning to believe them.

Anyhow, I mentioned that our crew was never pictured in Hardlife. You advised me to send one. It is enclosed with the names on back.

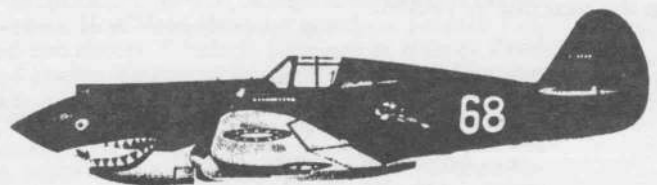
With pleasant memories

Philip S. Bomser
405 N. Ocean Blvd #604
Pompano Beach, FL 33062



Front Row: Pat Howard-Pilot; Ray Cragoe-Co-Pilot; Phil Bomser-Navigator; Chuck Stonesifer-Bombardier.

Back Row: Harold Robinson-Ball Turret; Maurice Peters-Radio; Richard Schau-Asst Engineer-Waist Gunner; Joe Parker-Engineer; Wymer Starnes-Tail Gunner; William Moffitt-Armorer-Gunner.



Curtiss P-40 Warhawk 3rd Sqdrn US Volunteer Group Kunming China 1942

Dear Ed,

We just got home from the reunion in Omaha and as per usual we had a great time, it is always great to get together and renew acquaintances with old friends.

I am sorry that more ground support people do not attend. Maybe they just don't realize how essential they were. If it were not for support personnel, there could be no combat crews flying.

Let's just give a thought to the Base Transportation Department - all drivers and vehicles. Without drivers and vehicles, all pilots and flying personnel would have one long walk to their quarters from the train station or if they flew in, from the flight line. We needed truck drivers to bring in ALL supplies - fuel for the aircraft, bombs for the aircraft, ammunition, parts to repair battle damage to aircraft, radio equipment, medical supplies, and food and anything else that was needed.

Every one on the Base was essential. If they were not, then they would not have been there.

Best regards,

Marty Girson

Dear Ed:

In 1992, I met Mr. Stephan Ross who was attached to the office of the Mayor of Boston, MA. The Mayor at that time was Raymond L. Flynn.

Mr. Ross was a survivor of the Dachau Concentration Camp when it was liberated in 1945. When he learned that I was a member of the 385th and that we had reunions and a news letter, he insisted on addressing that attached letter to the 385th Bomb Group.

Unfortunately, I misplaced the letter after receiving it and just found it again while going through some old mail. I am forwarding the letter to you before I lose it again.

Bea and I had a great time in Omaha and we are looking forward to the next one in Tucson.

Sincerely,

Howard Director
6698 10th Ave N. (#320)
Lake Worth, FL 33467

385th Bomb Group
4th Combat Wing
8th Air Force
Great Ashfield, England

I recently completed a speaking engagement at the Reunion of the 191st Tank Battalion in Louisville, KY. Being there with these men, who were so closely connected to my past rekindled the very strong feelings I have for the American Soldier.

I would like to express appreciation and gratitude to the men and women of the United States Armed Forces for your valiant effort during the liberation of the Dachau Concentration camp April 29, 1945.

You deserve so much praise and credit for all your sacrifices and dedication during WWII. As our liberators, you will always be remembered by the camp survivors for your gallantry and for the hope and compassion you provided to us.

I hate to think of what would have happened to us if you had not come at the time you did. You the G.I. Joes spoke the first kind words to us in years. You held in your arms our living skeletons, too weak to walk, to eat, or to live. You gave us our first bites of decent food. You provided medical help as best you could. You reached out to us with no reservations. To the camp survivors, G.I. Joe came from Heaven. You left your homes and families and at times you were also hungry, cold and disillusioned. We owe you all our gratitude, recognition and our acknowledgement.

I always envision in my mind the way you were 50 years ago. I can see your faces, your helmets, your uniforms, your boots and your weapons hanging on your body. You looked rough and tough and yet you showed so much empathy. You left an indelible mark on a fourteen year old boy that can never be erased. You were the pride of your nation, you preserved the Republic, your civilization, your religious freedom, and you set free a suffering humanity. You fought bravely and defeated the most vicious and evil empire the world has ever known.

"LEST WE FORGET" You and I, who saw it all, must forever be willing to bare witness to the authenticity of the Holocaust, which was perpetrated by a so called civilized nation. I will be forever grateful to each and everyone of you for saving my life, the life of my brother, and the lives of fellow camp victims.

You gave me the opportunity to become a productive human being in this great country of ours.

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Best personal regards,

Stephan Ross, LHD
LIC, Psychologist

Dear Ed,

I was very happy to meet you at the 385th Bomb Group's Reunion at Omaha, Nebraska. I was also very appreciative of your offer to obtain my dad's (Harlan K. Inglis) military records from the government. There are a few other things that I need to have done, in regards to my research for my book on my Dad's war years, that I am hoping that you can help me with. First, I would like to run an ad in the Hardlife Herald, asking for any information or stories about Harlan K. Inglis, pilot of the "Thoroughbred", 548th Squadron. I would also like to order a back issue of the Hardlife Herald, April 1978, as I am also looking for his obituary (Died: 23 January 1978). Any help you can give would be greatly appreciated. I hope to see you at the 1997 reunion at Tucson, AZ

Yours very sincerely,

Stephen R. Inglis
28880 Conejo View Dr.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

EDITOR'S NOTE: We sent Steve a copy of the page showing Harlan's obituary from the April '78 issue.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

1997 TUCSON REUNION

We've signed a contract with Doubletree Hotel in Tucson for November 14-18 1997 for the Reunion. That's the week before Thanksgiving—hope that our kids or grandchildren will get the Thanksgiving festivities ready while we're away! Start looking forward to it and planning to attend. Room rates will be about \$68.00 (plus tax). That's definitely "off-season" price.

Incidentally, the contract says "Cribs are complimentary but available on a first-come first serve basis". Anyone expecting?



TV WWII Documentary To Include Former Resident's Service

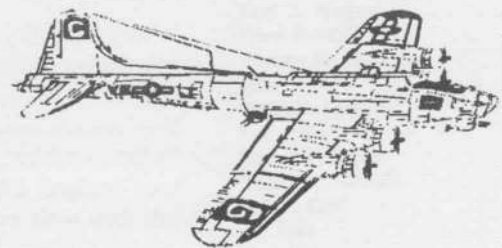
Former Robinson residents Ken Laffoon and his sister, Ruth Laffoon Miller, both of Tucson, AZ, are featured in the first of a **series**—of 28 weekly episodes to be shown on TV on the History Channel. In many areas this will be the A & E channel.

"Proudly They Served" is the name given to the program, featuring Ken Laffoon and the part he played in the 8th Air Force in World War II as a B-17 gunner, who flew 25 missions over Europe.

The TV documentary was made by Mobile Video Services, Ltd., in Washington, DC. Stephen Meeks, son of Paul and Darlene Laffoon Meeks and nephew of Ken, was the film's producer.

In this segment there is a 1943 photo of five Robinson cousins, Don Crail, Kenneth Murphy, Robert Badgley, Irvin Hale, and Ken Laffoon. Also included is a photo of three Robinson boys, all in the 8th Air Force, 385th Bomb Group, stationed in England in 1944: Bill Finkbinder (killed in action), John Johnson, and Ken Laffoon.

All the branches of the services in WW II, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War will be featured in this series.



DOUBLETREE HOTEL EDITOR S NOTE: SITE OF THE 1997 REUNION

445 S. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ, 85711 • 881^1200, FAX 323-5223



Tucson's "In-Town" Resort is centrally and conveniently located to major attractions, shopping, University and business districts. The Doubletree Hotel has 295 guest rooms and suites with 22,000 square feet of flexible meeting space to accommodate groups 10-1,200. Our 14 beautifully landscaped acres are perfect for outdoor dining, fiestas and relaxation. The Cactus Rose, Javelina Cantina and Lobby Bar complement our casual resort-style ambiance. Reid Park is across the street, featuring 36 holes of championship golf, 25 lighted tennis courts, Hi Corbett Field, driving range, jogging track and Zoo. All this and Doubletree's commitment to outstanding service make it the perfect choice.

Room Name	Square Feet	Width	Length	Ceiling Height	Theater	Classroom	Banquet	Reception	8x10 Booths
Grand Ballroom	9,728	76'	128'	14'	1,200	600	860	1,200	55*
Salons A, C, F, H	682	22'	31'	14'	50	32	48	50	3
Salons B, G	992	32'	31'	14'	95	60	84	100	5
Salons D, E	2,508	33'	76'	14'	378	144	216	315	13
Bonsai & Boojum	3,105	35'	69'	16'	320	180	288	375	21
Bonsai	1,305	45'	40'	16'	100	60	120	150	10
Boojum	1,778	45'	29'	16'	200	110	150	200	11
Cottonwood	992	31'	32'	10'	95	70	84	100	
Ironwood	576	24'	24'	10'	50	32	48	60	
Redwood	448	14'	32'	10'	56	20	36	40	
Basswood	372	16'	24'	10'	30	10	24	35	
Board Room	462	17'	28'	10'				conference for 18	
Palo Verde	594	17'	36'	10'	50	32	50	75	
Living Room	520	20'	26'	9'					30

* Includes Prefunction

22,000 SQUARE FEET

385^{BG}MA

ED STERN, EDITOR
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Fargo, ND 58108

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