

BACK TO THE SACK  
OHIO AIR FORCE  
SKY GODDESS  
SALLY B  
HONEY TONK SAL  
HESITATIN' HUSSY  
GROUND HOG  
BIG GAS BIRD  
STAR DUST  
LIBERTY BELLE  
ANGELS SISTER  
GREMLIN BUGGY II  
HIT PARADE JR  
ROUNDTRIP TICKET  
GOLDEN GOOSE  
WAR HORSE  
THE BLACKJACKER  
THUNDERBIRD  
OFF SPRING  
WANDERING DUCHESS  
CURLY'S KIDS  
MARY ELLEN  
DRAGON LADY  
WINNIE THE POOB  
MR WEARY  
MARY FAT  
SLY FOX  
MR SMITH  
SUGAR JO

THOROBRED  
**HARD LIFE**



**HERALD**  
MR. SMITH  
SUGAR JO  
PISTOL PACKIN MAMA  
MIS-FORTUNE  
SHACK N LADY

SKY CHIEF  
MR. LUCKY  
BARBARA B  
SHACK BUNNY  
SOUTHERN BELLE  
HELLS BELLS  
PIN UP GIRL  
PERRY'S PIRATES  
GIZMO  
MADAME SHOO SHOO  
PAT PENDING  
POSSIBLE STRAIGHT  
ROUNDTRIP JACK  
SPIRIT OF CHICAGO  
WAT 69  
MARY ELLEN III  
PRINCESS VAL  
SLO JO  
ROGER THE DODGER  
MICKY II  
SLEEPYTIME GIRL  
HOMESICK ANGEL  
LATEST RUMOR  
VIBRANT VIRGIN  
RAGGEDY ANNE  
STORK CLUB  
LADY ANN  
PICKLE FINGER OF 7  
SLEEPYTIME GAL  
MAIDEN AMERICA  
MISSION BELLE  
OL' RUM DUM  
MAC'S HACK  
LULU BELLE  
CRASH WAGON III  
IMPATIENT VIRGIN  
TARGET FOR TONIGHT  
JUNIOR  
OL' DOODLE BUG  
SWEET CHARIOT  
SWINGING DOOR  
MISSISSIPPI MISS  
SATAN'S MATE  
SLUCK CHECK  
KITTY'S REVENGE  
BELLE OF THE BLUE  
MARY ELLEN II



**NEWSLETTER OF THE  
385th BOMBARDMENT GROUP MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION**



**COMBAT UNITS**  
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**VOL. XVI NO. 1**  
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**FEBRUARY 1998**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**PRESIDENT**  
Michael R. Gallagher  
Gallagher, Sharp, Fulton & Norman  
Bulkley Bldg 1501 Euclid Ave.  
Cleveland, OH 44115  
216-241-5310

Your Executive Committee has been busily at work in a number of areas with varying degrees of progress.

**1ST VICE PRESIDENT**  
Robert A. Valliere  
18 Whiting Farm Rd.  
Branford, CT 06405-3223  
203-488-1622

**HERITAGE MUSEUM**  
Bob Valliere has assumed responsibility for the design and site of the 385th Monument in the Museum garden. We have been in touch with General Buck Shuler and his staff, Dr. Walter Brown, vice-president of the Heritage Museum Board, and Mr. Jim Fogarty, our contact with the De Pue Monument Company. The selection of a site must await the submission and approval of the monument design, but we have been assured of a preferred site, possibly one flanking the gate leading to the yet-unbuilt Heritage Chapel.

**2ND VICE PRESIDENT**  
Tom Newton  
PO Box 34  
Dallas, OR 97338-0034

Marian Gallagher  
45 Hopewell Trail  
Chargin Falls, OH 44022

**SECRETARY**  
George Hruska  
7442 Ontario St.  
Omaha, NE 68124  
402-397-1934

**TREASURER**  
Verne D.J. Phillips  
PO Drawer 5970  
Austin, TX 78763

**CHAPLAIN**  
Rev. James H. Vance  
15929 SE 46 Way  
Bellevue, WA 98006-3240  
425-746-8494

**EDITOR, HARDLIFE HERALD**  
Ed Stern  
P.O. Box 9466  
Fargo, ND 58106-9466  
701-237-0500  
FAX: 701-235-6724

**8th AF HISTORICAL UNIT CONTACT**  
Jerry Donnelly  
1077 SW 46th  
Miami, FL 33165  
305-221-3592

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LTC Raymond B. Tucker

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Ruel G. Welkert  
\*Frank B. Walls  
Vincent W. Masters  
\*John C. Ford  
\*James E. Emmons  
\*Paul Schulz  
Forrest V. Poore  
William A. Nicholls  
\*Earl L. Cole  
Sam Lyke  
Sid Colthorpe  
Robert C. Smith

**OUR NEXT REUNION**

The decision of where our next reunion will be held is essentially settled. It will be Savannah. The Heritage Museum can be reached  
**Continued on Page 2**

**Chaplain Sez**

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL,  
After rereading the article I wrote in the December issue of the "Hardlife Herald" this scripture came to mind. I am quoting from Contemporary English Version of Proverbs 3:5-8.

"With all your heart you must trust the Lord and not your own judgement. Always let him lead you, and he will clear the road for you to follow. Don't ever think that you are wise enough, but respect the Lord and stay away from evil. This will make you healthy, and you will feel strong."

Then along with that directive I want to quote from the same scripture version in James (my favorite book) 1:2-4.

"My friends, be glad, even if you have a lot of trouble. You know that you learn to endure by having your faith tested. But you must learn to endure everything, so that you will be completely mature and not lacking in anything."

Proverbs and James, these two books, contain the didactic spirit which primarily aims to make men think and all language is an appeal from one mind to another. There are many forms of the didactic in the Bible and if we follow the teachings of this wonderful book or books, we will coordinate with the higher purposes and experiences of the human soul.

For the new year why not make "The Bible" one of your main means of edifying your life.

Keep the "peace" and harmony will prevail.

Sincerely,  
Jim

**Continued from Page 1**

by bus within a half hour from downtown Savannah while it takes over two hours from Charleston, according to the Museum staff. When it will be held is still undecided, although there are strong arguments favoring mid-April 1999 when the weather in Savannah is quite delightful. Summer and early fall weather in Georgia can be unbearably hot.

George Hruska has undertaken responsibility for getting the ball rolling on the reunion. He is currently gathering pertinent information and preparing his recommendations. A number of professional agencies are interested in handling the details. The meeting should be one of our largest because of its connection with the Heritage Museum and because our monument will be dedicated at that time.

**MONUMENT FUND**

Contributions should be sent to Verne D. J. Philips, P.O. Drawer 5970, Austin, TX 78763. We are hoping to receive \$50.00 from at least 300 members. This would cover the amount budgeted for

the monument and should be sufficient to provide us with a memorial of which we can be proud. The amount collected by the publication date of this issue will appear elsewhere on these pages.

**LUXEMBOURG DEDICATION**

A splendid program has been arranged for the dedication of the 385th Memorial in Perle, Luxembourg on June 20 and 21,1998. A requiem for the 18 members of the 385th Bomb Group lost in a mid-air collision near Perle will be held on the 21st followed by a missing-man formation flyover. Roger Feller, who spoke so eloquently at our Tucson reunion, is chairman of the committee sponsoring the monument. The dedication ceremony is being held under the auspices of the United States Embassy in Luxembourg, the 52nd Fighter Wing Spangdahlem, and the Municipality of Rambrough. There will be parades and concerts. Altogether it should be an impressive event.

Planning to attend are Tom Newton, John Pettenger, Bob Valliere and myself, at our own expense. Others are invited and encouraged to attend. Tom Newton has volunteered to investigate travel and accomodation arrangements and to make this information available through the Hardlife Herald. He should have something for us in the next issue. A good turnout would show respect for our fallen comrades and appreciation to our friends in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Michael R. Gallagher  
President

**ROSTER CHANGES**

**CHANGES**

- John Bartemus  
6460 Morning Dove Dr  
Bradenton, FL 34210
- A. D Kneale  
4 Marpet Ln  
Bella Vista, AR 72714-1802
- Carl Larson  
PO Box 99  
Danevang, TX 77432
- Richard Molzahn  
314 Crawford Rd  
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169
- Floyd Reinken  
8108 Bromley Place  
Indianapolis, IN 46219
- Col. Ray Tucker  
1401 Johnson Ferry Rd  
Sp328-D73  
Marietta, GA 30062-8115

**NEW**

- Bruce Bennett  
16316 97th Ave Ct E  
Puyallup, WA 98375
- Prop Talk  
5770 Balboa Dr  
Oakland, CA 94611
- Bill Weaver  
706 19th Ave S  
Fargo, ND 58103

**DELETES**

- Robert W. Crider  
Don Lontz  
Elaine Olson (Schulz)

# BULLETIN BOARD

## SORRY!!!

In the December issue on Page 9, giving credit for some interesting items, thanked Marilyn Carter — should have been Marilyn Cavan. Her husband Charles, was one of our Intelligence Officers and your Editor's roommate at Great Ashfield.

## WE'RE LOOKING FOR STORIES

Here's an amusing situation that was talked about at the Tucson Reunion—one of our lead pilots, a Captain at the time, was asked to drive a jeep to the flight line. Couldn't do it—he enlisted at 18 from a State where he wasn't eligible for a driver's license so he'd never learned to drive. The rest of his crew didn't know! Any more stories like that out there?

## 385TH MONUMENT AT SAVANNAH

As you are aware, the 385th BGMA will place a free standing monument at the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah.

Our goal of \$15,000.00 can be easily achieved if we all donate towards this important project. Any amount will be appreciated. If 300 members contribute \$50.00 each, the drive will be complete.

We must act quickly, since desirable locations in the Memorial Gardens are limited. President Mike Gallagher has recently visited the museum and talked with officials. We will try to obtain a location by the entrance to the proposed Chapel. This necessitates promptness by membership response.

Please do it now so planning can continue in a positive direction.

Make your check out to: **385TH BGMLA** And mail it to: **Verne Philips, Treasurer, P.O. Drawer 5970, Austin, TX 78763.**

*Note: The Committee welcomes suggestions with respect to design and inscription. Give us your thoughts.*

Bob Valliere, Chairman  
385th BGMA Memorial Committee

## USAAF FIGHTER STORIES

Ian McLachlan's "USAAF Fighter Stories" is a dramatic book about the fighters that supported us - and also a little about the German planes they were battling. You who may have read Ian's "Eighth Air Force Bomber Stories" know what a great writer he is.

Rather than try to write a review of the book, we're reprinting the fly-leaf to tell you what you'll be reading. The book is available from Haynes Publishing Co., Sparkford, Nr Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7JJ England.

## MORE GOOD READING

Another book worth reading, even though it isn't about the 385th - "Wings of Morning" by Dr. Thomas Childers of the University of Pennsylvania History Department. He did a marvelously researched story about a B-24 crew from it's formation in 1942 through all the training, heading overseas, toughing it out through some of the toughest missions of the war, becoming a lead crew, rest home relaxation, the works. You'll relive your past - the pleasant, the unpleasant. Addison, Wesley are the publishers.

## 8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM

**Here's what it is like - let's get our Memorial funded so we can be there!!!!**





**\$15,000 Memorial Approved for  
8th Air Force Heritage Museum**

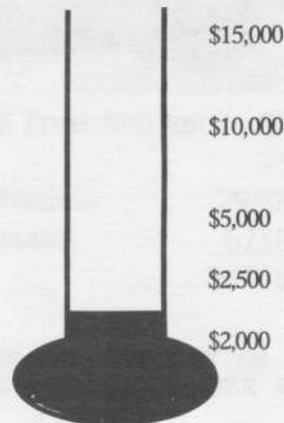
By a unanimous vote at Tucson, we approved a fund to build a significant monument memorializing our 385th Bomb Group. Past President Bob Valliere heads a committee to submit the design to the Executive Committee for approval. Funds have started to roll in, with over \$1850 in as this is written.

Discussion pointed out that 300 contributions of \$50 would bring in the needed funds. More would increase the size and impressiveness of our Memorial.

Send your contribution to Treasurer, Verne D.J. Phillips  
P.O. Drawer 5970  
Austin, Texas 78731-2105.

**Contributions to date:**

Plato Gallan	\$220.00
Thomas Hair	100.00
John DeBerg	20.00
Stanley Dentinger	100.00
Fred H. Nestler	50.00
Willard Hagman	50.00
John H. Stansfield	50.00
Burton Gelbman	50.00
Wayne Ziegler	50.00
Frank Moll	50.00
Don Klosterman	50.00
Martin C. Girson	50.00
Clifford Lybeck	50.00
Jeffrey L. Anderson	50.00
Henry I. Jones, Jr.	50.00
Ernest G. Baumann	50.00
John W. Mathews	50.00
Roger Felland, Luxembourg	50.00
Michael R. Gallagher	50.00
Richard D. Ryan	100.00
	<hr/>
	\$1290.00
Jim Albright (THANKS!)	\$1000.00
	<hr/>
	\$2290.00



**Attendees at Tucson Reunion**

Clarence Abrahson, Joan Callahan, Jim Albright, Oliver H Anderson, Jeff Anderson, Robert & Katherine Andrews, Albert & Priscilla Audette, J.L. Anderson, Eileen Anderson, Frank & Dorothy Bachman, Robert L & Marjorie Bailey, Robert Baldwin, Ernest Baumann, George & Mary Behl, Arch & Bonita Benner, Daryl & Alice Bentley, Frank & Mildred Bexfield, James B. Bond, Fred & Mary Boms, Jesse & Marion Brown, Denver & Norika Canady, Dis & Wanda Carney, Mario & Odessa Colantino, Donald & Patricia Collins, Charles & Connie Coughlin, Sidney & Lee Colthorpe, Tom & Margie Conway, Gordon & Natalie Cook, Roy & Sarah Courtney, Lanar & Edna Coverstone, William & Marian Cox, Lester & Dorothy Crawford, Burnell & Loma Cook, James Dacey, David S. Dennis, Stanely & Cleone Dentinger, Joseph & Doris Derer, William & Rosemary Dery, Barbara Robertson, Wayne & Carol Detwiler, Elmer & Betty Dickason, Gerlad & Virginia Donnelly, Chet & Betty Doron, Robert & Vella Douglas, Arthur & Mary Driscoll, Henry & Drusilla Dworshak, Dale Dykins, Carl & Vivian Eyman, Clarence Fauber, George & Peggy Felt, W.A. & Mitzi Fife, Ted & Martha Findeiss, Susan Fineman, Norman & June Franks, Francis & Olive Fuller, Henry & Yvette Gagnon, Michael Gallagher, Arch & Jean Garvin, Norman & Katherine Gual, Burton & Joyce Gelbman, Jack Gesser, Wesley Gildner, Drue & Pam Gillis, Marty & Edie Girson, James Grinstead, Katherine Rogers, Carl & Mary Grundler, William & Vera Gunther, Patricia Gorchak, J. Wm. Haney, Robert & Junita Hake, Gene Hackney, Willard & Lois Hagman, Thomas & Norma Hair, Chuck & Peg Halper, Caryle & Mildred Hanson, Robert & Elizabeth Hatch, Herman & Elizabeth Heckel, Harold Heidbreder, Thomas & Ann Helman, Mark & Janice Herrick, Russel & Judy Hill, William & Mary Hoagland, Pat & Eileen Howard, Homer & Jean Howe, George Hruska, Charles & Irene Huber, James Hughes, Don & Beverly Hunter, Robert Hyde, Fred & Jeanne Ihlenburg, Doris Inglis, Stephen Inglis, John & Mary Francis Johnson, John Joseph, Henry & Martha Jones, Thomas Kelly, Harold Kesler, Julie Kummerle, Trevor Kevan, Mike & Sharon Knidya, Louis & Effie Kivi, Donald & Shirley Klosterman, Richard & Joan Knight, Joe & Marjorie Kubr, Wallace & Lillian Kuester, Leo & Anne LaCasse, Kenneth & Veda Laffoon, Milton & Ivy Lane, Warren & Dorothy Ledy, Jerry & Betty Legg, Ben & Dorothy Love, Edwin & Kay Lowe, Charles Lubicic, Sam & Nita Luckie, Cliff & Shirley Lybeck, Sam & Mary Lyke, Lousi & Mary Massari, Karl & Marguerite Maravek, Paul & Irene Mamice, Robert & Eileem Marshall, Earnest & Helen Martin, Harry & Geri Martin, John & Betty Mathews, Charles Mawer, William & Virginia Mee, W.C. (Kelly) Melillo, George & Marie Menkoff, John & Grace Messbauer, Robert & Ann Milligan, William & Jeanette Moebius, Richard & Mary Jane Milzhan, Arthur & Ann Montano, Roland & Doris Myers, Jerome & Vera Mudge, Frand & Wife Moll, Stephen & Petrina Miles, Ian & Family McLaughlin, Frank & Margaret McCawley, Charles & Ruth McCauley, Paul McDonald, Edward & Beverly McElroy, Frank McKibbin, Fred & Marion Nestler, Thomas & Darla Newton, William & Doris Nicholls, Ellis Norwood, Maurice Nysether, Roger Orford, John & Ruth Pettinger, Lyndol & Evelyn Palin, Duane & Cathy Pangle, Larry Pangle, James & Frances Payne, Verne & Lavon Phillips, Jack & Bette Popp, Fain & Christine Pool, Forest Poore, Heyward & Lois Porter, Norman Powell, Joel & Margaret PUNCHES, Byron & Georgia Pyle, Marion & Catherine Raper, James Raymond, Grace Rice, Williard Richards,

Howard & Vivian Richardson, John & Marie Richardson, John & Marilym Richey, Peter Rizkivosky, Ray Rizkosky, Buck & Ginny Rogers, Clark & Peggy Rollins, John & Elizabeth Rosenfeld, Francis Roquette, Douglas & Virginia Rosholt, Keith & Elizabeth Ross, Andrew Ryan, Richard Ryan, Paul & Mildred Ryan, George & Alice Salvador, Myron & Eleanor Sanchez, A.L. & Mary Esther Schaefer, Charles & Wynelle Schaefer, Michael & Sally Schrimmer, Harold & Beatrice Schrotter, Walter & Norma Schulte, Jim & Samantha Scott, Milton & Ann Shlainsky, Robert & Doris Silver, Herman & Doris Siederer, Oscar Sinibaldi, Harold Smith, Lewis & Dee Smith, Peggy & Chuck Smith, Ralph & Gladys Smith, Truman Smith, Elmer & Jean Snow, Cleve & Angela Solenberger, John Spiegle, John & Sally Stansfield, Gordon & Lois Stead, Ed & Jane Stem, A.L. Sherry, Wilbur Sunday, Bob & Jean Smith, Frank Sutter, Bill & Jane Styler, Maurice & Charlotte Sumney, Jack & Dorothy Surrirt, Bob & Jeanette Summers, Milton & Helen Taubkin, Leslie (Dr.) & Mavis Thompspon, James & Dot Thompson, James Jr. & Dorothy Thompson, Patricia Thompson, Marvin & Betty Tipp, William & Mary Todd, Willis & Doris Tulare, Robert Valliere, Paul & Anne Van Boven, James & Geri Vance, Robert & Jennie Vandiver, Rolland & Arlene Vencill, Winifred Walls, William Whitehead, Robert & Coralie Wilson, Lester Wise, Harry & Norma Woltman, Harold & Vera Wrigley, J.T. Williams, Peggy Taylor, Beverly Wenshau, Steve Yarema, Steve Zaputil, William & Alice Zaruka, Wayne & Eunice Zeigler, Joseph Zwick.

**Editor's Note:** Great Stories from the Iowa Falls newspaper about Wayne Zeigler and his return to France 52 years after parachuting down after their plane hit trouble on a Jan. 1945 raid.



Photo submitted

Wayne Zeigler, a young 20-year old Army Air Force pilot, forced to bail out of his disabled aircraft, returned 52 years later to the site of the crash.

## The wings of remembrance of veteran Wayne Zeigler

*(This is the first of a two-part story about Iowa Falls businessman Wayne Zeigler and his recent return to France in search of his war memories.)*

**By LaDona Roelfs**  
Staff Writer

IOWA FALLS — How do you begin to say "thank you" to one man who, after 52 years, returns to your city as a representative of a country that fought for your freedom? As a hero? As a liberator? The city of St. Quentin, France, did it with receptions, banquets, medallions of honor, crash memorabilia, certificates, gifts and presentations, but most of all with love and respect.

The French newspaper announced it with excitement. "The mayors of four towns will host a reception to honor the veteran American who will honor us with his coming. It is our pleasure and justice that he deserves merit. Historian Jean Hallade invites everyone to this red letter day, or historical time. We will give him a reception that will thrill and surprise Mr. Zeigler"

The French artist, J. Lallemand, wrote it with respect, "...to tell you my own thankfulness for the job you have done, I can't give you anything important... That is the way to give a witness of the thankfulness of an artist and of all the people of Picardy to you and all the American soldiers who fought for our freedom. Thank you."

Wayne Zeigler, former U.S. Army Air Force pilot, experienced it with humility. "...By this time I was getting kind of floored, all this

had amassed tanks behind the front line and American planes were bombing the area with full force. Each aircraft carried 12,500-pound bombs. Groups of 1,600 to 1,800 bomber planes would target one particular location to be sure the ammunition factories or repair depots or tanks were knocked out. When in formation, the groups would move out two minutes apart in a division line that could be two hours long.

"Missions were assigned the night before so we'd want to see who was on," Zeigler remembers. "We'd go back to our barracks but you don't sleep much after that." By 4 a.m. the crews were up and into briefings, navigators in one room, gunners and bombardiers in another, pilots in another. The Commanding Officer would come into the darkened room, pull back the curtain and reveal the map. That was the first you found out where two hours later you'd be heading.



Wayne Zeigler

the same night. We were all standing and this reception went on for hours. They would talk then they would present me with something. I'm an honorary member of something or other. After the reception, there was a champagne dinner from 9 to midnight. We were just overwhelmed to be honest!"

Wayne Zeigler was the recipient of that love and respect when he recently returned to the city where the most traumatic event of his life took place.

### The event

The story began at an airfield near London, England. Wayne Zeigler had been flying B-17s, a four-engine heavy bomber aircraft, over much of German airspace since October, 1944. By mid-December the Battle of the Bulge had been fought and air support was being given to the infantry as much as possible. The Germans

**ZEIGLER**  
Continued on Page 2

what target you'd bomb and the route back, as well as weather information, altitudes, and what to expect for anti-aircraft fire.

This particular morning, Jan. 2, 1945, the mission was to bomb Aachen, a small village that contained a German tank repair depot. It was the ninth mission for the crew of nine men. They were good friends, later to become closer than brothers. "We were to bomb at 24,000 feet but at 22,000 feet our No. three engine was leaking oil. The engine didn't have enough oil pressure left to feather the prop, which created a lot of drag and vibration. Soon the other engine on the right side quit too. We couldn't keep up in the formation and started losing altitude. The navigator gave the heading back, but we had no idea how far it was or if we could make it."

Zeigler remembers he and the other pilot trying to hold the left rudder to keep it going.



Photo submitted

The crew of the B-17 <sup>55</sup> flew together on 28 missions over German territory, but

never talked about the crash of their aircraft on Jan. 2, 1945.

**it We flew a total of 28 combat missions. We never talked about the crash.**

55

— Wayne Zeigler  
WWII bomber pilot

straight but to no avail. The vibration made it impossible to keep control. "We gave the order to bail out and set the plane on auto pilot. We crawled into the catwalk under the nose. The hatch was open. I prayed. 'God, I put myself in your hands.' and rolled out."

Spinning head first you fall fast. It doesn't take long. The ground comes up to meet you |

very quickly. Pull the rip cord, the lines come out and a quick jerk. Then the peaceful floating. "All at once I heard the plane engine roar as if in a dive. I thought I'd been spotted by the enemy." It left and returned twice more. The third time Zeigler could see his B-17, which had broken loose from auto-pilot, diving through the clouds right at him. Suddenly it turned over and ran straight down into the ground, crashing, a ball of fire narrowly missing a small village less than a quarter-mile away.

Zeigler hit the ground with force, knocking him unconscious. "I landed face down. When I came to, my left side hurt. I rolled over and saw two people standing beside me, one with a pitchfork pulled back. They just stood there." Not knowing where he was or if this I

was the enemy, Zeigler also did not make any moves. Soon a crowd of 12-15 people came running over to him and started pulling in his chute and offering him a drink of what he later found to be strong French cognac. "I was a hero to these people because they had just been liberated."

After determining that he was now in France, just 20 miles on the allied side of the front line, he was taken by his rescuers to a field hospital in a school building in St. Quentin, France, two miles away from his landing. He was x-rayed and found to have no broken bones, just massive bruises which stiffened his left side. For almost three weeks their "hero" was laid up.

"After I was released from the hospital, I made my way back to the base and was with my unit by Jan. 30. On Feb. 3 our same

crew was together again and on a mission to Berlin. We flew a total of 28 combat missions. We never talked about the crash."

# The wings of remembrance of veteran Wayne Zeigler

*(The second of a two-part story of Iowa Falls businessman Wayne Zeigler who recently returned to France to revisit the site of his WWII plane crash and was honored by local citizens.)*

**By LaDona Roelfs**  
Staff Writer

End of one story, beginning of another.

On Inly 24, 1997, 52 years alter his B-17 bomber crashed into a frozen farm field near St. Quentin, France, former pilot Wayne Zeigler, now retired Iowa falls businessman, husband, father of four, made contact with officials at that city, asking for their help. He explained his dream of finding and revisiting the site of the plane crash and his landing.

Seven days later, on Inly 31, a response arrived from Bernard Lebrun, president of the Tourist Information Center in St. Quentin, population 11,000. He had included the following information: an invitation to stay in the city more than the one day planned; a map of the town where he could see the place of the crash and the site of the military field hospital in 1945; postcards with the Basilica (cathedral) and town hall; a copy of the page about the crash from

**11 It was a big surprise to get a letter from a son of Uncle Sam. We will never forget the soldiers that came. 5 5**

— St. Quentin newspaper

a book written by a local author about the air war taxi the liberation of Aisne; a hotel reservation on the town square; an escort from the railway station.

On Sept. 4, St. Quentin's revisited. The newspapers headlined his arrival. "In September crowds will meet this man who fell from the sky and came very near death on Jan. 2, 1945. The mayors of four towns will host a reception to honor the veteran American who will honor us with his coming. It is our pleasure and justice that he deserves merit..."

... and "We will do everything to make him welcome. It was a big surprise to get a letter from a son of Uncle Sam. We will never forget the soldiers that came ... He brings back good memories of the people here and we want to prove it to Mr. and Mrs. Zeigler

**ZEIGLER**  
Continued on Page 3



photo submitted

**Wayne Zeigler, WWII bomber pilot, returned to France only to be received as a hero. He was shot down near St. Quentin, France over 52 years ago.**







LaDona Roelfs/Times-Cltizan

Wayne and Eunice Zeigler proudly display the many medals and gifts they received on their recent trip back to the place where his bomber

crashed in France during World War II. He also was given several pieces of the original plane from local citizens.

## French give vet royal welcome

ZEIGLER

Continued from Page 1

that we haven't forgotten."

Upon arrival at noon Thursday, Sept. 4, Lebrun made contact with them and explained their schedule. "I'd written a long speech, but Bernard said after the Mayor of St. Quentin greets me and gives me a gift, I could make a 'short' response," Zeigler laughed. Lebrun led them up the second floor of this big fancy building. "They took us down a hall to a room, the big doors opened and 75-100 people were just crowding around us and talking. They didn't give you time to back out or anything. They took me up to the front and I started talking and then the Mayor gave a nice speech. The President of St. Quentin said how pleased he was that I came and gave me a medallion with the Crest of St. Quentin on it."

The Zeiglers had taken along gifts to present to their French hosts, including an Iowa Falls commemorative afghan. "Four different receptions were held to honor Wayne," Eunice said. "His was the only plane that had ever gone down in their area and the only crew member to return."

The people of this city then also presented their hero a certificate of honorary membership of the Association-of FrancoAmericane De

L'Aisne and a medallion; and a wrist-watch with the crest of Picardie on it; a lapel pin of the Crest of Homblies; a Certificate of Honor from St. Quentin; and a lapel pin of the Crest of Picardie.

Eunice was not forgotten. "I was given a bouquet of hundreds of flowers. It was so beautiful and so heavy I could hardly carry it. I had to lay it down after a while."

After all of this, there was a big banquet until midnight with champagne all around. "They had provided us with a great interpreter and we were very comfortable," Wayne said. "I was just overwhelmed," Eunice added.

The next day the Zeiglers were taken to the spot in the field where Wayne had landed 52 years before and met the boy, now a 65-year-old man, who had held a pitchfork over him. The man, Maurice Brasset, explained that he and his father, now deceased, had been afraid that the downed flier might be the German enemy.

During this ceremony, Zeigler was given a medallion of Andre Maginat from the Federation National Resistance, comparing Zeigler to a French resistance soldier and engraved with the Kennedy Eternal Flame, the American and French flags, the crest of the crew, and the last fighter plane. He was also presented with five parts from his actual plane that

were found near the crash site and had been saved by people in the community. These included a 4x6-inch piece of the aluminum aircraft skin which had been engraved and was presented to Wayne. He admits that that one caused him to choke up a bit.

Another reception was held in the home of two women, 6 and 12 year-old girls at the time of the crash, who had been part of the rescue. At this banquet Zeigler was given the Stamp of Picardie, which is an original "artist's trial" stamp drawing of the famous WWI battlefield. This stamp was designed for the French Post Office in 1975 and is included in Queen Elizabeth's stamp collection and presented personally to Wayne by the artist, J. Lallemand.

He wrote, "That (the giving of the stamp) is the way to give a witness of the thankfulness of an artist and of all the people of Picardy to you and all the American soldiers who fought for our freedom. Thank you."

"The French people were so wonderful. They are so grateful to the Americans for liberating them. The toasts were not only to honor me," Zeigler said, "but to honor the friendship between America and France in hopes that it will continue. I told them I would see to it that the American people know that they (the French citizens) still feel so thankful." «





First floor of this school in Perle Luxembourg will house our 385th Museum that Roger Feller is developing.

Dear Ed,

Dec 6, 1997

First of all - Thank you so very much for the very fine job that you did on and for the Tucson reunion. It was just super Ed and I wish that I could have helped you in some way.

Enclosed are some snaps that I took of the reunion. They are duplicates so use what you want and you can discard the rest.

It was a super reunion and we had a great time and the souvenir "Cactus" were great. Souvenirs are always nice.

Stay well and hope we can all make it to the next reunion.

Marty Girson



Mrs. Wanda Carney, Sid Carney & Millard Richards at Pima Air Museum.



Art & Mary Schaeffer



Millard Richards, Gerry Donnelly, Mrs Euncie Zeigler and Wayne Zeigler, Iowa Falls, IA



Bob & Junita Hake



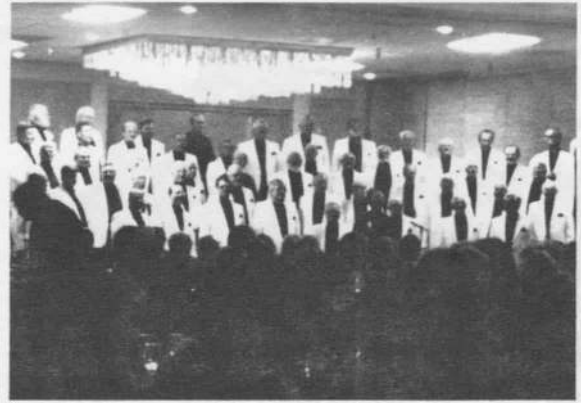
Ian & Sue McLachlan - John Pettenger



At the Desert Museum  
Nita Luckie, Wanda Carney, Carol Detwiler, Wayne D, Sam Luckie, Sid Carney, Irene Huber, Edie Girson



Shopping trip to Nogales, Mexico  
Gladys, Buck & Irene Huber, Marty & Edie Girson, Wayne & Carol Detwiler



The Tucson Men's Chorus



Marty Girson, Fain Pool, "Ed" Hughes



The McLachlans



Sunset and the Sugharos in Tucson



Smile, Leo!



Ex. Treasurer John Pettenger



Sam and Mary Lyke



Jack Gesser and Friend



At the Friday night get together



Tucson The Barber Shop Chorus



That's Kelley Melillo chowing up





The Sid Colthorpes



Past President Bob Smith  
President Bob Valliere & wife  
& Newly elected President Mike Gallagher



The Jerry Donnellys



The Tucson Desert  
through Marv Tipps eyes



Chaplain Jim & 3 of his ladies



Rumor is our gal  
Sam is the Ohio Air  
Force new Nosr Art  
(on Pilot's side).



Doc Hunter

Letter to follow

COPY



Average of these three old birdmen is only seventy-seven year at the Tucson Reunion. Helman, McKibbin & Richey

Dear Ed:

Chalk up another prime-time-first for pilot John Richey of the OHIO AIR FORCE, no matter it coming some 54 years after the first one. Who could think up anything better to make our Tucson reunion just past, a huge and happy success?

For not only did Big John fall heir to a long-lost daughter, her name is Samantha, but he has enlisted for himself a girl gunner for his one-time famous B-17. So how's that for a prime-time-first? And who is it to say he could do better? No gender gap here.

Although I'm not aware of a crew count made, the Richey crew had to be among the most, for we had seven members present. And the number is eight when we count Samantha standing in for her daddy, Maury Simpsori. Simp, as we called him (no pun), was our assistant flight engineer and right waist gunner. He passed away in 1988.

For Samantha's part, this was a Christmas present from her husband Jim Scott, who brought her all the way from their home in Massachusetts, hoping for closure to a lifetime of wondering about the combat crew her daddy was so deeply in love with.

Believe me, daddy John wasn't the only one all abiubberwhen she presented him a blown up photo of himself, taken the day he was given the DFC for the Munster mission, that most memorable time when his OAF gunners had knocked off that full dozen jerry boys.

Years ago, so said Samarrtha, het daddy had Irimselt framed the enlargement, and for as long asshe can remember, it had hung above his favorite easy chair. Sad to say, his wife had died when Samantha was only four, and as a single father he had raised her an army brat, as they say, until his retirement. So seemingly, her only mother was her daddy.

And now this night in Tucson, she gave it up, a gift all the way from a loving heart to our old-time sentimental skipper, John Richey, her daddy's hero.

Quite aside, but not really, was a surprise birthday party for the three wise men as shown herein with the skipper, navigator Frank McKibbin and scribe Tom Helman the CP.

Strange it was that Richey was 77 years old on November 17th, but both McKibbin and Helman were 77 on the same day, November 27th, hence the three-dippers party.

This was a first class operation, as retired airline captain and richman Richey hired the Doubletree Boardroom for a family gathering. There were fourteen folks all gathered around the Boardroom table, all chowing down at daddy's expense. And it was good!

Amazingly so, may I say it, that after all these years, there remains a bond that's stronger than mama's apron strings, holding this old crew together as brothers, with Richey still the unelected king-of-the-hili, or is it the bull-of-the-woods?

Thefourold gunners present were Jack Gesser (tailgun), Tom Hair (left waist), Milton Lane (radioman), and Chuck Schaefer (ball turret). Both our flight engineers have passed on; Mike Siwek (top turret), and Maury Simpson (right waist).

AndAWOL but still living was Bob Winnerman our ace bombardier. We all figured he was scared off when he heard the Doubletree was more than a mere motel. I thought every one knew a doubletree was what grandpa's two-horse team bounced road apples from.

Ed, this was a great reunion, and I know our gang not only enjoyed it all, but very much appreciate how well it was run. Part of us were among the fourteen stranded at the museum, but no big deal, if we'd had a pillow and a bottle of wine we'd uv fired up that old 390th B 17 and bussed ourselves. But thanks for coming for us, and for a great time in Tucson.

Tom Helman

Dear Ed,

While at the Tucson Reunion I saw a book entitled "Nose Art of the 385th Bomb Group".

I wonder if you know how I could get a copy of the book. If so it would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Paul Van Bo ven  
110LakeEreraldDr#202  
Oakland Park, FL 33309-6207

**Editor's Note:** Anyone help Paul on this?

Dear Ed,

Thank you for making us so welcome in Tucson. Having been involved in all the Reunions held in Great Ashfield, it was very special for us to attend our first one in the States, I know we speak for Roger as well when I say it was a very memorable weekend, especially meeting up with all the friends we had made at the Reunion held in Great Ashfield. We also enjoyed touring Arizona before coming to Tucson. The Grand Canyon was just amazing, making it a very memorable holiday for us. We were only too sorry that Ray and Di Barber were unable to come with us. Our children were very pleased to see us on our return.

I thought it would be of interest to Hard Life Herald readers to know that on the Sunday nearest Armistice Day when the whole country remembers the fallen of the 1st and 2nd World Wars, here at All Saints Church we also remember the men of the 385th who lost their lives and someone always reads a selection of names from the 385th Memorial book. This year while this was happening the children sprinkled poppy petals at the base of the Memorial altar and thanks to the generosity of the 385th the future of the Memorial chapel will always be protected forever.

Once again many thanks to everyone for making us so welcome in Tucson and wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

With Best Wishes

Stephen and Petrina Miles

### More pictures of the Reunion!



The Stems Ed, Jane & Susan (Fineman)

Dear Ed,

Each reunion seems to get better than the one before. Maybe its because we are two years older at each one.

Here are some pictures from the Tucson reunion. We thoroughly enjoy your consistent efforts in behalf of all of us.

Your respectfully,

Fain and Christine Pool



Christine Pool, Carl & Mary Grundler  
at Pima Air Museum



Christine and Fain Pool



December 1, 1997

Dear Ed,

What an extraordinary time it was in Tucson! The beauty of the area, both the desert and the city, was a pleasant surprise. It was a wonderful location for your reunion. The hosts did a very nice job. Especially enjoyable was the Pima Air Museum. It was a touching gesture by the gentlemen of the 390th BG to place the square G on the tail of the B-17G in their hangar, which brings me to the point of my letter.

I attended this reunion so that I might meet some of the members of the crew my Father flew with in 1943-44. I got much more than I expected. Words are hard to find to explain to you what these seven men mean to me. Throughout my childhood my Father told me about these fellas, fondly, with a lot of humor and sometimes quite sadly. I grew up with a deep appreciation of what they went through, what they sacrificed, and the debt our nation owes them. I knew these men and yet I didn't know them. They were locked in time for me, all of them young men, full of life, happy, wise cracking, frisky young bucks out to save the world from the fascist little wall paper hanger. Then the opportunity came to attend your reunion. It was a Christmas present from my husband, and I have never received one better. I went to Tucson with a picture of each of them in my mind. Believe me when I tell you I was concerned that once we met there would be little to say, awkward silences, all those small fears that accompany any new experience. I could not have been any further off base.....

They looked different, yes, older, a little slower, and just a little less frisky. But that's as far as the changes went. They burst to life before my very eyes and embraced me as though I was a daughter who had been away for a few years, not a stranger they had never met. We hugged, we kissed, we cried, we laughed and laughed, and through it all I had to keep pinching myself. It was five days I will treasure always. They told me stories, some about my Dad, some about themselves: all of them rich and varied and as alive to me as if I had been there myself. They took me with them to the big business meeting and then to the smaller squadron meeting. I was introduced as a representative of my Dad in the crew and almost exploded with pride. It was my privilege to sit in that room. Here are the names of the crew members I

went to meet and came away loving and hoping to see again very soon.

OHIO AIR FORCE  
549th SQUADRON

John Richey- Pilot  
Tom Helman- Co-pilot  
Frank McKibbin- Navigator  
Milt Lane- Radio Operator  
Tom Hair- Left Waist Gunner  
Jack Gesser- Tail Gunner  
Chuck Schaefer- Ball Turret Gunner

These wonderful men are now my friends, thanks to your organization and your reunion. No doubt, I never would have found them had it not been for the Hardlife Herald and for you, Ed.

A completely unexpected and incredible thing also happened at that reunion. It was their wives, gracious, kind ladies all of them. They too embraced me as their own and made me a part of and not apart from. To Ann, Norma, Marilyn, and Nell I say thank you from my heart for your gentleness and kindness to me. You are each, in your own way, so very special to me. And to Ivy Lane I must express a special thanks, for your stories, for your 'womans' take on how things were for the men over there. You gave the whole thing depth for me, meat to the stories, flavor to the daily life of the men. And you gave me understanding of how it was for civilians just trying to get along. And you helped me know my Dad a little better. You're a good egg Ivy. I'm so glad you were there.

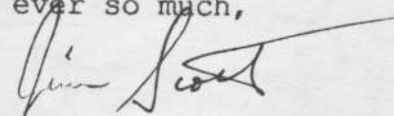
As I am in the business of selling books, meeting Ian MacLachlan was indeed a great pleasure. I had assumed him to be a unique and thoroughly decent fellow. He did not let me down. You must all be quite proud of the work he does on your outfit. Someday I hope to see him again, in England.

One of the biggest surprises for both my husband, Jim, and I came on the second night in the lobby of the Doubletree. We were looking at a display of a proposed memorial to the 385th in Luxembourg and commenting on it to one another. My husband said, "How kind of them to do this," and then a voice from behind us said, "No, it is we who thank these men. They saved our lives. I would not be alive today had it not been for these great men." We were seeing Roger Feller for the first time and he stood there with tears in his eyes shaking our hands. That was the first I knew of the 385ths part in the Food Drops over the

occupied territories. It was an astonishing story. And we found it even more astonishing that the entire town of Perle' has not forgotten these men and teaches every new generation of children about them. Although there has been some talk of a World War II Memorial in Washington, DC., to us, this was the most fitting memorial of all. These people will never forget you.

We hope your next reunion is soon, and we hope it is in Savannah. But, wherever it is we'll be there. Because these are men who deserve remembering, who deserve our honor and our humble thanks for all they did for the future generations of Americans.

Thank you again Ed, ever so much,

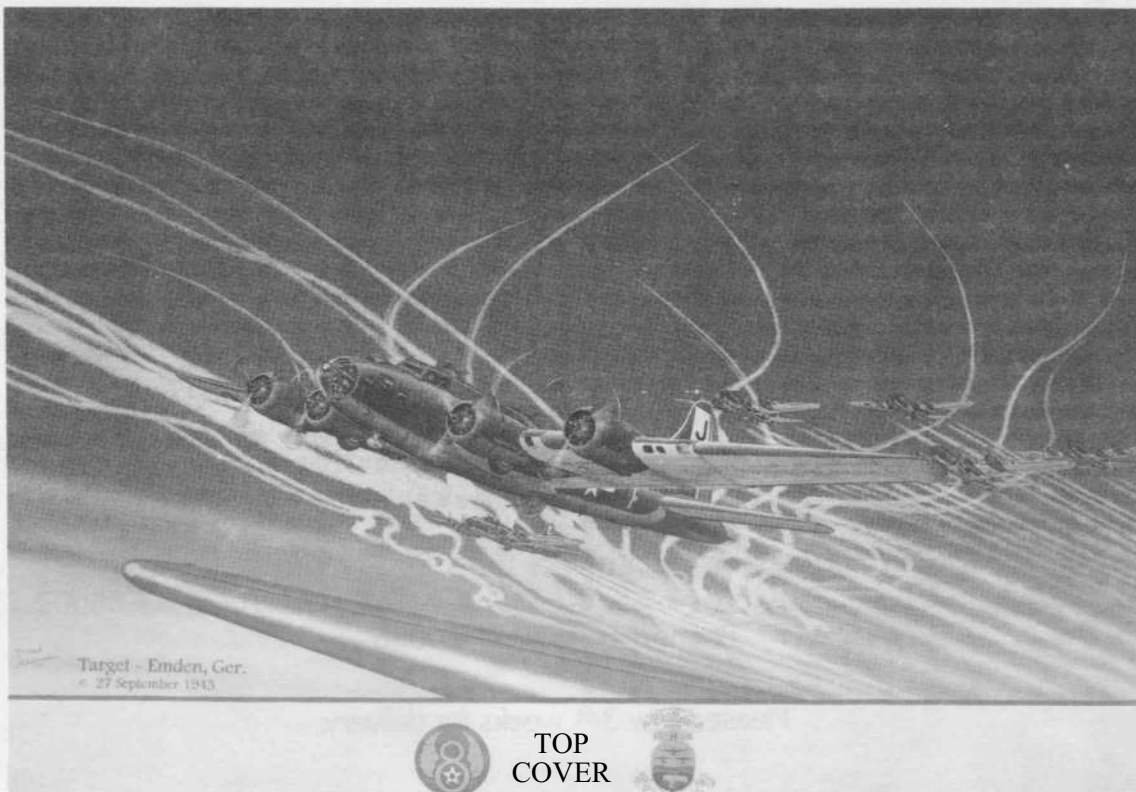
Samantha fl 

Samantha and Jim Scott

(daughter of Maury Simpson- Right Waist Gunner- Ohio Air Force )

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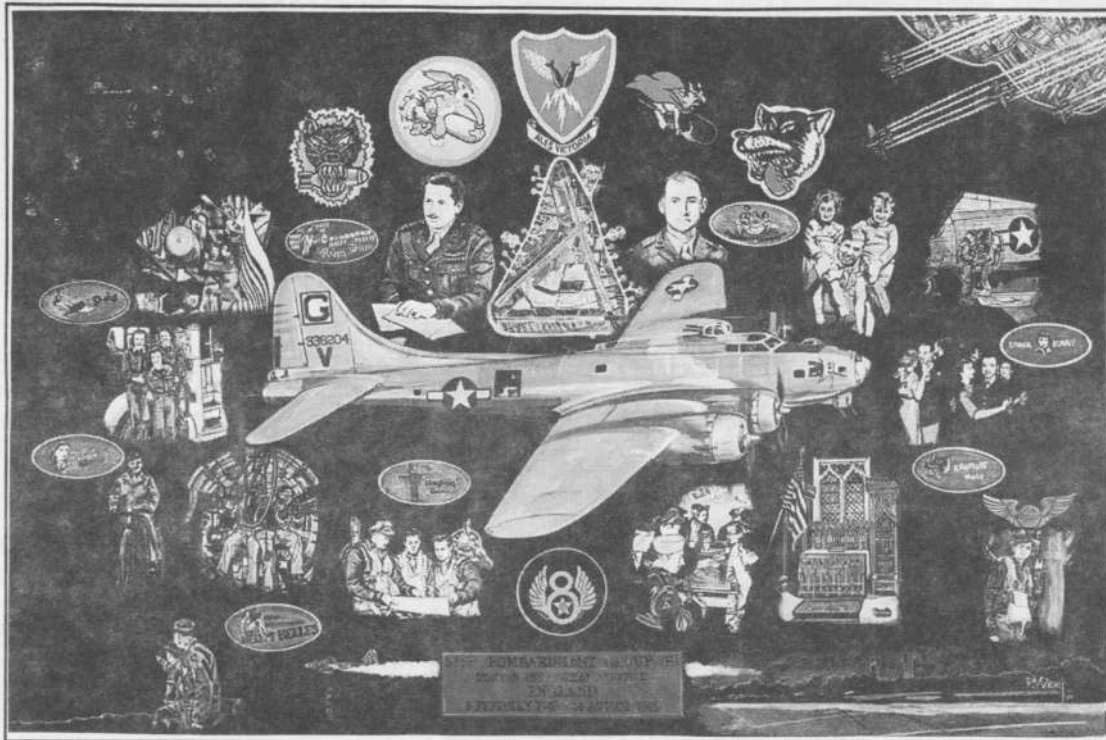
**Editor's Note:** Here's a picture that attracted a number of buyers at the Tucson Reunion. If you're interested write: Walter Bryne 6000 E. Valencia Rd, Tucson, AZ 85706. or call 520-547-3030





**Editor's Note:** This is a most interesting "Montage" that you'll be proud to display - lots of interest at the Tucson reunion.

## THE HISTORY OF THE 385TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HEAVY) IN ENGLAND DURING WORLD WAR II



An original painting presented to the 385th group on the occasion of their November 1997 reunion in Tucson, Arizona.

This artwork is now being offered as a beautiful, high quality print, 24" x 36", in a limited edition signed and numbered by the artist, Rosemary Dinegar-Dery.

The painting itself is intended for donation to the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia as part of the 385th group's memorial.

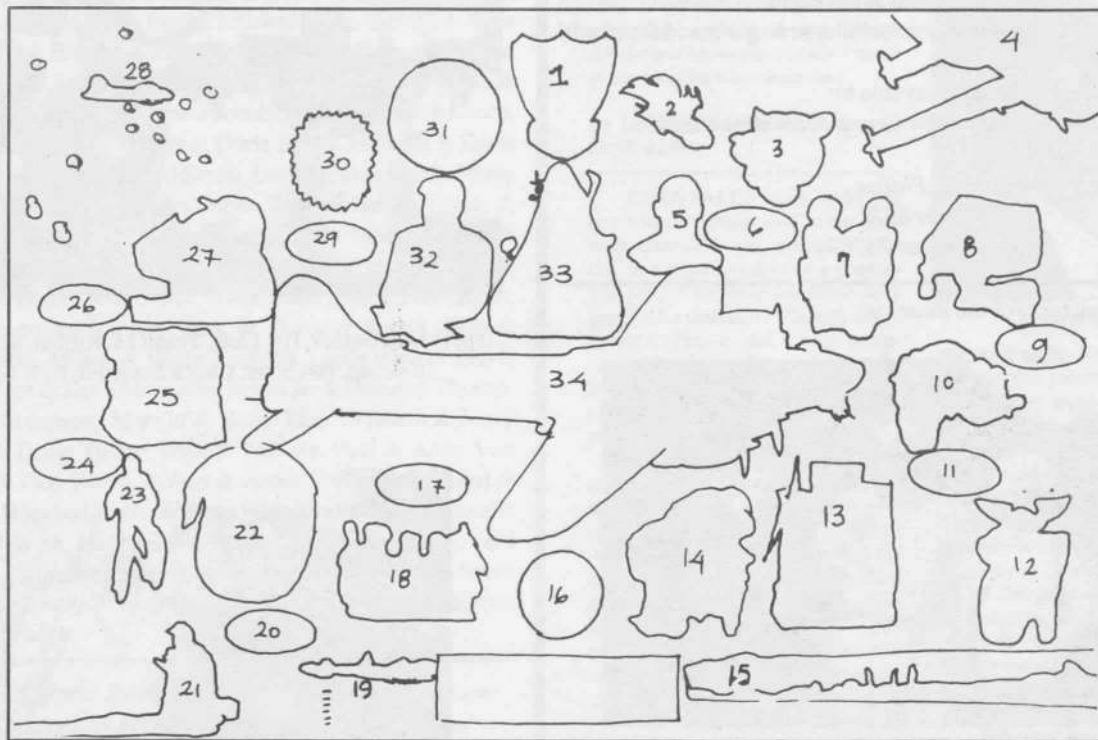
A donation of 5% from every sale will also be made to the group's memorial fund. The price of \$125, includes shipping and handling (Arizona residents please include tax).

Please send your check or money order for \$125, made out to Rosemary Dinegar-Dery c/o NOSE ART, P.O. BOX 155, FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86002. Phone/Fax - 520.774.0086

Please allow 3-4 weeks for delivery.

## The History of the 385th Bombardment Group (Heavy)

Painted by Rosemary Dinegar - Dery. ©1997



1. 385th Group Insignia.
2. 549th Squadron Insignia.
3. 551st Squadron Insignia.
4. Coast of England from 27,500 feet.
5. Col. Jumper (August 1944 - May 1945) Commanding Officer.
6. "Target For Tonight", Nose Art (549th).
7. War Orphans.
8. Medics.
9. "Shack Bunny" Nose Art (551 st).
10. Officers club dance.
11. "Raunchy Wolf" Nose Art (551 st).
12. Captain William A. Dery II, Navigator.  
(This Painting is dedicated to his memory).
13. The alter at All Saints Church in Great Ashfield, Suffolk County, England. A hand embossed volume rests on this 14th Century church's alter. Recorded there are names of the men who gave their lives.
14. After mission interrogations (by Capt. McMicking).
15. "Three Trees" at Great Ashfield.
16. 8th Air Force Insignia.
17. "Haybag Annie" Nose Art (550th).
18. Before mission briefing.  
(Major P Schultz • Lt. Col. V. Masters • Capt. L. Dentoni).
19. Bombing Run.
20. "Hell's Belle's" Nose Art (548th).
21. "Sweatin' 'Em In".
22. Waist Gunners (Oct '43).
23. "Doc" Savage and his bike.
24. "Ruby's Raiders" Nose Art (550th).
25. Red cross girls.
26. "Miss D Day" Nose Art (549th).
27. Loading bombs into the bomb bay.
28. Flak.
29. "Rum Dum", Nose Art (550th).
30. 550th Squadron Insignia.
31. 548th Squadron Insignia.
32. Col. Vandervanter (Feb. '43 - Aug. '44) Commanding Officer.
33. Air Station 155, Great Ashfield, from the air.
34. B-17, "Flying Fortress".

**Heritage Museum Monument**

At the Tucson business meeting, it was agreed to request donations of \$50.00 from each member of our association to finance the erection of a standing monument at the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah. Donations smaller or larger than \$50.00 will be gratefully accepted.

Please make check payable to:  
 385th Bombardment Group Memorial Fund  
 and mail them to:  
*Verne D.J. Philips*  
*P.O. Drawer 5970*  
*Austin, Texas 78763*



(1 to r) Jack Gesser, Ivy Lane, Frank McKibbin, Milt Lane, Tom Helman, Jim Scott, Chuck Schaefer, Nell Schaefer

A few more pictures of the Reunion



Mary & Carol Grundler, and Christine Pool



Stephen Miles & Ray McCool  
 Sugar beet farmer who owns part of Great Ashfield Air Strip

Dear Ed,

Your card of Dec. 11th was received today. I am sending along a couple of pictures of Stephen and Petrin Miles, their children, and yours truly taken by my wife during our visit. They are great folks and very supportive of the 385th. It was their intention to make it to the reunion. I hope they were able to do so.

Stay warm and dry up there during the rest of the winter. Your friend behind the cheddar curtain.

Ray McCool



(1 to r) Tom Helman, Samantha Scott, John Richey, Tom Hair, Jim Scott



Stephen & Petrina Miles  
 Children: Rachel, Emily, & Anthony  
 Ray McCool



Roger Feller  
22 rue de l'Ermitage  
L-8833 Wolwelange  
Luxembourg

## Memorial 385<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group

20<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup> June 1998

PERLE

Luxembourg

Under the Auspices of the  
United States Embassy  
in Luxembourg

and the Municipality of Rambrouch



## All 385th Bomb Group Members

### Invitation

### Programme

#### 19<sup>th</sup> June

Arrival D-Day Group (Historical cars W.W. II)

#### 20<sup>th</sup> June

Visit to the crash sites by historical cars.

At 3 Pm ,opening ceremony of the exhibition (pictures and original parts from the two planes) by the Ryan Family

Spangdahlem Air Base Gospel Choir

At 6 Pm ,performance presented by the Country Western Dance Team U.S. Air Force Spangdahlem.

At 8 Pm Concert by Show Fanfares Ripsdorf (Glenn Miller)

#### 21<sup>st</sup> June

At 2.30 Pm requiem for the 18 members of the 385<sup>th</sup> B. Group.

After the requiem dedication of the monument

Colour Guard-Honour Guard

Flyover U.S. planes (Missing Man Formation)

Luxembourg Army Platoon

Parade by the D-Day Remembrance group

At 7 Pm concert

The Committee



385th. BOMBARDMENT GROUP MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT TRUST  
ACCOUNTS TO YEAR ENDING 30th. JUNE 1997

Opening Balance 1.7.96	28.44	Transfer to High Premium	29800.00
Donations	446.47		
Fixed Term Repayment	28400.00	Transfer to Memorial Maintenance Account	767.57
Fixed Interest			
Oct.	773.18		
April	764.40		
May	124.88		
June	136.97		
Interest	3.65	Ceisl 1*1/xHlx	25.00
		Closing Balance	85.42
	30677.99		30677.99

\*\*\*\*\*

385th. MEMORIAL MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT

Opening Balance	5833.22		
Transfer from Trust Account	767.57		
Interest	157.28	Closing Balance	6758.07
	6758.07		6758.07

Summary as at 1.7.97

385th. Memorial Trust Account	85.42
Cash in Hand	25.00
High Premium Account	29800.00
Maintenance Account	<u>6758.07</u>
	36668.49

FOR US DOLLARS MULTIPLY BY 6% and add to BRIT TOTAL  
THE FUND INCLUDES LIFE MEMBER MONEY RAFFLES AND BTITISH  
AND INTEREST

FUNDS

J.F.P.

Dear Ed:

Our N.Y. house guest really enjoyed the reunion. Bill Zaruka met Dr. Don Hunter. That sewed up his (thing) he'd caught in Air Force jump suit. We'd fired red, yellow and green flares; so the Dr. was expecting a real war wound. When it was only Zoruka's "thing" caught in the zipper, WHOOOOO! He only had 4 stitches. He was okay. OUCH!

I'll look for letter to editor about the election.

Ken Laffoon

December?, 1997

Dear Ed,

For some time I have been wanting to drop you a few lines. As an associate member of the 385th BGMAI do not share the first hand experiences of those who served with distinction when called upon by our nation. I was a young teenager when the war ended in 1945. Both of my brothers served with the Eighth AF, one with the 94th BG at Bury St. Edmunds, and the younger, Ralph, as a pilot (Shack N Lady) with the 385th (548th Squadron). Both are now deceased. Ralph died on November 19, 1994 and Roland, the oldest of the three of us, on August 12, 1994.

It had been a lifelong desire of mine to someday visit the East Anglia area where my brothers served. That became a reality last September when my wife and I were able to visit both Great Ashfield and Bury St. Edmunds. I cannot say enough about how well we were treated by Stephen and Petrina Miles. They and their lovely children went out of their way to make us feel welcome and to show us all that we wanted to see while in the country. It is so refreshing to know that after a half century there are people who care to remember and preserve the efforts and the hardships that were shared by those who served with the 385th and the other Groups of the Eighth. As an educator it is my wish and hope that we can instill in this generation, and those to come, the important heritage that came out of the 1940s. When we consider the consequences that would have come from failure, the debt we owe to those Who served is almost beyond comprehension.

For your archives, Ed, I am sending a photo of my brother's crew. They flew 26 missions late in the war (Dec. '44 to April '45). To the best of my knowledge I believe all members are deceased except Bob Reeve, the Flight Engineer and Gib Munro the co-pilot. I had the great pleasure of meeting Bob and his lovely wife, Jo, a little over a year ago in Thief River Falls, MN. I have also been in touch with Gib Munro, who lives in New Mexico.

You do a great job on the Hardlife Herald. Keep up the good work

Sincerely yours,  
Ray McCool  
1201 Bay Ridge Road  
Madison, WI53716



CREW OF SHACK N LADY

Top Row, L to R: Bob Lamphere, Radio Operator; Dick Kober, Gunner; Chuck Every, Gunner; Bob Reeve, Flight Engineer.

Bottom Row, L to R: Johnny Grace, Gunner; Gib Munro, Co-pilot; Ralph McCool, Pilot; Jim Frydenlund, Nav/Bombardier; Fred Maracich, Gunner.

Dear Ed,

November 7

Reference the October 97 Hardlife Herald, on the back cover: according to my The Mighty Eighth book, autographed for me at the September 1995, 8th AFHS meeting here in St. Louis by Mr. Roger Freeman himself, the first commander of the 305th BG was none other than Curtis Emmerson LeMay himself and at no time was the name of John deRussy mentioned as a Group Commander. The news media probably got some signals wrong and made their usual screw up.

Sincerely,  
Allen P. Holtman, MSgt, USAF Ret  
Assc Mbr, 385th Bomb Gp Mem Assc  
705 Mendocina Ct #12  
Florissant, MO 63031-6093

## 385THBGMA

ED STERN  
PO BOX 9466  
FARGO, ND 58106-9466

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54876953321

JOSEPH B KOSCINSKI  
RR2BOX21A  
STONE LAKE WI 54876-9533

Dear Ed:

December 20, 1997

I was doing some reminiscing about how much I enjoy our reunions, and I was remembering our first reunion in 1989. It was the first time also that I had been reunited with my co-pilot, Walter Beauchamp, and bombardier, Carl "Charlie" Grundler, whom I hadn't seen in 45 years. We had so much fun together it left memories premanently implanted.

One of the many pleasant memories is the many trips we took on the two-story "Limey" bus to the activities. I remember sitting in the front row singing songs from WWII that we used to sing in those days long ago. One of the songs was sung to the tune "The Blues In The Night", but with different words, of course, which were made up by some anonymous songster. I wonder how many of our members would remember, or relate to the words of the song, as follows: "From Bremen to Berlin, From Munich to Bordeaux, Wherever the Big Friends go. I've been in some big shows; I've seen me some black flak; And there is one thing I know. A Jerry's a two-face; A worrysome thing, who'll leave you to sing, The Blues Over Berlin. See the bombers streamin', hear the fighters screamin', Mayday, I can't get my tanks off. See the bombers failin'; Hear the fighters callin'; Colgate! Now make with that recall! The Hooie, The Hooie; There's no turning back, so into the flak, and The Blues Over Berlin".

And I remember Leo LaCasse asking me to lead the singing for the song, "Minnie the Moocher", with all of the High Dee High Dee High's, and Ho Dee Ho's. I'll bet Leo remembers too!

I called Jerry Ramaker when I got back home to find out why he and Jane were not at Tucson and he told me that they both had medical problems which prevented their attending. Gratefully, they are doing better now in recovery.

Christine and I are so glad that you are still at the helm of the Hardlife Herald. Please add our gratitude to that of all of your other admirers.

Yours respectfully  
Fain & Christine Pool  
4718 82nd Ave Ct W  
Tacoma, WA 98466-2319



Fain &amp; Christine Pool

December 18, 1997

Dear Ed,

In a recent issue of the 385th BGMA newsletter my name was misspelled on the address label, as follows: Mrs. Jerry T. David. Please correct it to Mrs Jerry T. Davis.

I am the widow of Jack C. Davis, "Jerry" is my name, not his. In all the years Jack (and now I) have received the newsletter, I have never seen the names of his fellow crewmen. Just wondering.

Thank you for taking care of this matter for me.

Sincerely,  
Jerry T. Davis  
15900 Pine Rose Circle  
Little Rock, AR 72206-6826