

Hardlife



Herald



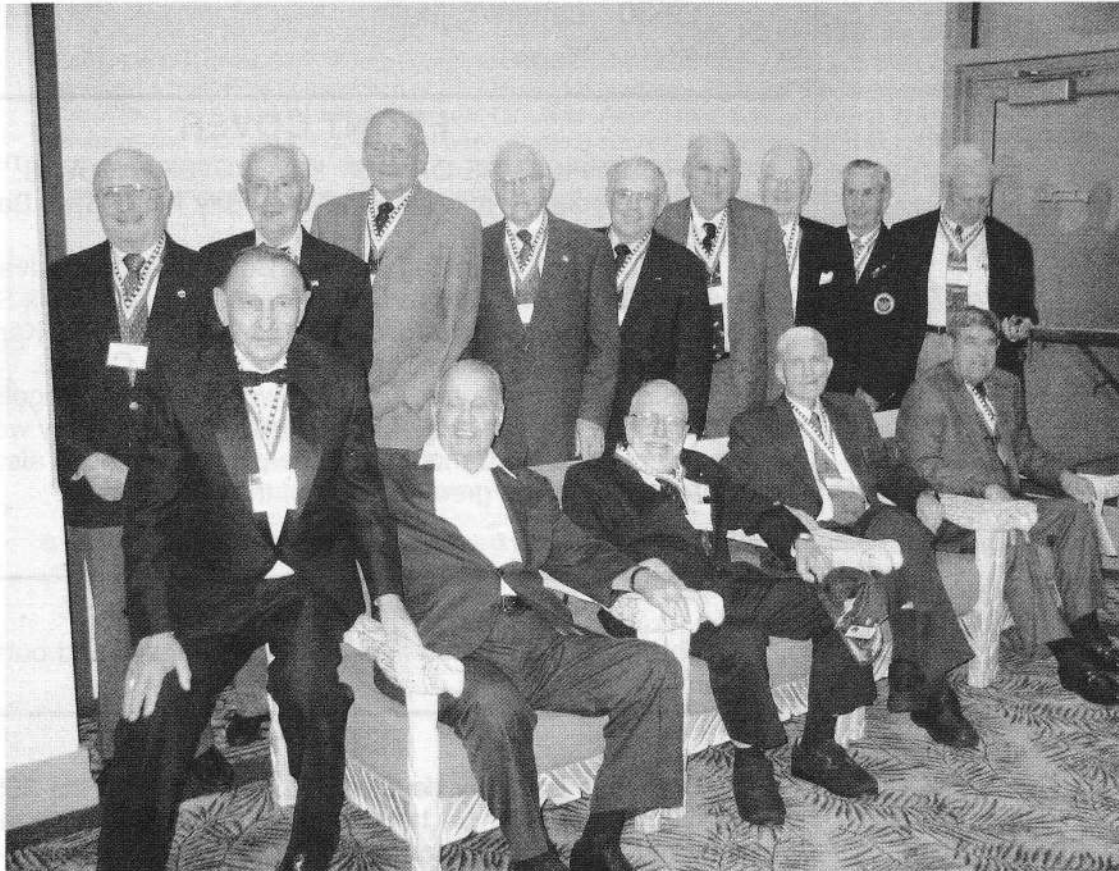
Newsletter of the
385th Bombardment Group Association

1942 - 1945 • Great Ashfield - Suffolk, England • Station 155

The Mighty Eighth

Vol. 23 Number 4

December, 2006



385TH BGA REUNION • KALAMAZOO, MI • JULY 17-22, 2007

Hardlife Herald

385th Bombardment Group (H)

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Past Presidents

*Ruel G. Weikert	'56-'72	*Earl Cole	'87-'89
*Frank Walls	'72-'75	Sam Lyke	'89-'91
Vincent Masters	'75-'77	*Sid Colthorpe	'91-'93
*John C. Ford	'77-'79	*Robert C. Smith	'93-'95
*James H. Emmons	'79-'81	Robert Valliere	'95-'97
*Paul Schulz	'81-'83	Michael Gallagher	'97-'99
*Forrest V. Poore	'83-'85	Tom Newton	'99-'01
William A. Nichols	'85-'87	Leo LaCasse, Jr.	'01-'03
		W. W. Varnedoe, Jr.	'03-'05

*deceased

Honorary Members

Roger Feller Eldon Nysethtr
Mayor Ferdinand Unsen

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FRONT COVER

GROUP PICTURE OF 385th BGA VETERANS AT 8TH AFHS RE-UNION (Immediately following the Saturday night Gala Banquet. Five missing members)

Left to Right, Standing: James Bond, George Salvador, Walter Schulte, John Picket, Charles Coughlin, John Hyatt, Lewis Smith, Albert Audette and Howard Richardson. Left to Right, Seated: Karl Moracvek, Samuel Lyke, Bill Varnedoe, Art Driscoll, and Joe Caurso.

Missing from picture: Jesse Brown, Lawrence Coggiola, Vincent Masters, Harry Shovan, and Bill Swindell. Vince and Judy went home on Friday so missed the Banquet and the picture. Swindell also left on Friday after taking some great pictures of the 385th events.

Picture was taken by Dee Smith, wife of Lewis Smith, from Wichita, KS.

BACK COVER

The current Air Force flying in a very special and outstanding formation.

EDITORIAL

This issue is mainly devoted to the coverage of the 385th BGA Reunion in Boissier City, LA held October 3-8, 2006. The reports of the events and the captions for the pictures of this 2006 385th BGA reunion, were composed by our President and forwarded to your editor for inclusion in this issue of the Hardlife Herald. Pictures were taken by Charles Hugh Holloway, Bill Swindell, and Dee Lewis.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 385th BGA was well represented at the 2006 Reunion with the largest delegation among some forty Bomb Groups in attendance at the 8th AFHS Reunion. Veterans and their family members enjoyed renewing friendships and meeting new members during the informal sessions in our private 385th hospitality suite, meeting daily 4:00 to 6:30 PM and 9:00 to 11:00 PM. Our host and hostess, Chuck Smith and Roy Anne Donnelly, covered all the cost of set-ups, drinks, and snacks for the entire group and their guests. Their generosity and support of the 385th, as 2nd generation members, is a wonderful expression of love and appreciation for what Chuck's father and other veterans did during WW2 to preserve and protect our freedom and liberty.

Seventeen former presidents were honored during the Thursday Luncheon Business Meeting. Those deceased and those living who could not attend were represented by a family member, colleague, friend, or designated member of the 385th BGA. Our Vice President, Albert Audette, assisted me in reading a script that identified each former president, his date of tenure, location of the reunion were elected,

and the historic events that happened during his tenure. Each was decorated with a red or white carnation and pictures were taken for the Hardlife Herald.

The ceremony was followed by a memorial service, planned and conducted by Walter Schulte from Westminster, CA. He read the names of 27 who have deceased since we last met in Arlington, VA, a year ago. We also honored ten deceased former presidents. Those representing them placed a small US flag at the point where their names were displayed on the exhibit that featured a large picture of the 385th patch (icon or logo).

During the business session we also celebrated two other events which was approved by the Board: (1) 30th Anniversary of the first official tour group return to Great Ashfield in 1976; (2) 20th Anniversary of the establishment of the 385th Memorial Trust Fund at All Saints Church, which maintains and preserves the 385th Memorial Altar, Stained Glass Window, and Book of Honor which contains the names of 413 veterans who paid the supreme price while stationed at Great Ashfield. Reports of these events appear in this issue of the Hardlife Herald so all of our mem-

bership can read about them and become aware of these historic events during the fifty year history of our WW2 Association.

Yes, we are proud that we had the largest delegation at the 8th AFHS Reunion. We were the third largest group at Kansas City with 56 present in 2004. We were the second largest group at Arlington, VA, with 66 present in 2005; and we lead the parade at Boisser City, LA with 69 present in 2006. We are holding our own, despite declining numbers of veterans, and we have been able to maintain our identity as the 385th BGA while meeting in conjunction with the 8th AFHS Reunion the past three years.

The next reunion will meet in Kalamazoo, MI, July 17-22, 2007. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend with family members, as the date is scheduled during the Summer rather than Fall after schools are in session. Information about the next reunion will be published in future issues of the Hardlife Herald and the 8th AF News. Please accept my personal greetings to all veterans and family members of the 385th BGA.

Art Driscoll
President, 385th BGA

DUES DUES DUES **DUES** DUES DUES DUES

Annual dues of Associate Members of the 385th Bomb Group Association are due in January of each year. Dues for the 2007 year are due on the first of January 2007. Members of the 385th BGA who have not paid their 2007 dues by the first day of February 2007 will be purged from the membership roster, and will no longer receive issues of the Hardlife Herald.

Don't wait! Pay your 2007 dues before January 1.

Make checks out to the 385th Bombardment Group Association and send them to:

Chuck Smith, Treasurer

P.O. Box 329

Alpharetta, GA 30009

Donations from Life Members are also gratefully accepted.

NEWSLETTERS OF THE 385TH BGA

by Bill Varnedoe, 385th BGA Historian

The first reunion of the 385th Bomb Group veterans was held at the Hotel Webster in Pittsburg, PA on August 3 and 4, 1957. This information is in the first Newsletter, known simply as News Bulletin #1, dated 27 May 1957, and was issued by Ruel G. Weikert. At that time 225 former members of the 385th BG were known, and 65 said they would attend, with 29 more maybes.

News Bulletin #2, dated August 1957, stated that about 40 385th BG members and wives attended a reunion. The following officers were elected: M. G. Weikert, President; John N. Nedlik, Treasurer; and F. B. Walls, Secretary. (Note: It was printed in the Bulletin this way, however the Bulletin was signed Ruel G. Weikert, and Nedlik was probably John Nedjelic).

News Bulletin #5, dated September 1960, stated that the reunion in New York City on August 5, 6, and 7 was a success. Apparently there were no dues at that time, but a request of \$1.00 was made to help defray the cost of the Bulletin.

Bulletins and/or Newsletters are missing up to 1975.

The next existing newsletter was simply called Members Newsletter and was dated 8 August 1975, although no Editor was mentioned. John Ford was the Secretary.

The next issue was dated 15 December 1975, and was called 385th Bombardment Group Reunion Association as shown on the newsletter masthead, and the Editor was John Ford. This newsletter reported that a reunion was held in Atlanta, GA on April 25 – 27, 1975, which established the first formal Constitution and By-Laws. These documents changed our association to the 385th Bombardment Group Memorial Association. The former "Reunion" was changed to "Memorial." There were still no dues, because a request was made for donations in this issue to help pay for the newsletters..

In April 1976, the Newsletter was known simply as Newsletter. However in a July 1976 issue of the Newsletter, membership dues of \$3.00 per year were established.

On 15 July 1981, Paul R. Schultz became the Editor of the

newsletter, but it retained its name as simply Newsletter.

In July 1983, Verne Phillips became the Editor of the Newsletter, and in October 1985, Ed Stern became the Editor. The name remained Newsletter until November 1987. The January 1988 issue had no name, however, the April 19, 1988 issue had a masthead of the Hardlife Herald, which was established by Editor, Ed Stern. Since then, this outstanding name of the newsletter of the 385th Bombardment Group Association has remained the Hardlife Herald.

In May 2001, Tom Newton became Editor, and in 2004, Frank X. McCawley became Editor.

In 2004, the "Memorial" in the Association's name was dropped and "Bombardment" was simplified to "Bomb," making our name "The 385th Bomb Group Association."

For a complete list of reunion locations, hosts, and Officers, see the book, "The Story of Van's Valiants, A History of the 385th Bomb Group", pp 58-59.

Today, the 385th Bomb Group Association is our name, and the Hardlife Herald is our newsletter.



Minutes of 385th BGA Annual Business Meeting

Friday 05 October 2006

At 1410 hours, President Art Driscoll called the business meeting to order. Secretary Lindley Weikert read the minutes of the previous meeting in Arlington, VA, and a motion to accept was seconded and approved by a vote of the members. Treasurer Chuck Smith gave a financial report for the three quarters of the current fiscal year running from 1 January to 30 September 2006. A summary of receipts and expenditures were reported as follows:

Total Assets	\$32,657.00
Money Market Reserves	28,623.00
Checking Account	4,034.00
Nine Months Gross Receipts 2006 ...	13,061.00

Increased when compared to two previous years:

2005 12 months gross receipts	\$9,535.00
2004 12 months gross receipts	11,623.00

Chuck reported that our membership is currently 460 members. In 2005, we had 550 members, and in 2000, we had 1500 members. Nearly one half of our members are Life Members. While they are not required to contribute dues, we hope that more of them will make annual donations to help cover our operating expenses. Otherwise, we will have a negative cash flow, and will have to dip into our cash reserves. A motion to accept the financial report as presented was seconded and approved by a vote of the members.

Art summarized the Report of Board Actions:

- 1.) Budget for 2007 was set by the Board at \$13,500.00 which is an increase of the 2006 budget by \$500.00. Most line items remain about the same with the cost of the Hardlife Herald budgeted at \$11,000.
- 2.) Hardlife Herald issues will be reduced to three per year. Printing costs continue to increase and are currently at about \$3,500.00 per issue. Also Editor Frank McCawley had previously indicated that he would appreciate a reduction in workload, if and when we reduce the number of issues per year.
- 3.) By-Laws were amended by the Board in Article V, Section 3, to read that the annual dues are changed from \$25.00 per year to \$35.00 per year. This was actually approved

by the Board in 2004, and this amount has been collected, even though the By-Laws were not amended until now.

- 4.) By-Laws were amended by the Board in Article II, Section 4, to read that members may vote either in person, by e-mail, or by postal mail. This amendment does not mandate votes by e-mail or postal mail, but hopefully will give the opportunity for more members of our membership to be involved in decisions that go beyond the power of the Board to act on behalf of the Association. These actions may include (a) election of officers and members-at-large of the 10 member Board of Directors, (b) location of the next reunion, (c) amendments to the Constitution, and (d) dissolution of the 385th BGA if and when that may become necessary. Otherwise the Board has the power to make decisions and take actions on behalf of the Association without the vote of the total membership. An updated copy of the By-Laws will be published in a future issue of the Hardlife Herald.
- 5.) The President announced that a nominating committee will be named to recommend a slate of officers and members-at-large to the Board to be elected at the 2007 reunion.
- 6.) A decision needed to be made about our Association Reunion and meeting with the next 8th AFHS reunion in Kalamazoo, MI scheduled for July 17-22, 2007. We did not take a vote of the 385th members at our Thursday luncheon because specific details of the reunion were not made public until the Saturday general business meeting of the 8th AFHS. The 8th AFHS voted to go to Kalamazoo, and the 385th BGA Board recommended that we meet with them as we have done the past three years.

PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR, AND ATTEND OUR NEXT REUNION WITH YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Lin Weikert, Secretary

385th BGA 2006 Reunion

The 385th Bombardment Group Association (BGA) held their 2006 Reunion with the 8th Air Force Historical Society (AFHS) in Boisser City, LA, October 3rd through October 8th. The 385th BGA business and Memorial events were held at the Thursday Luncheon, October 5th. Tours of the Boisser City area and of Barksdale AFB, home of the 8th Air Force, were organized by the 8th AFHS for all AFHS reunion attendees.

385TH BGA REUNION ATTENDEES

AMYX, Jane
AUDETTE, Albert
AUDETTE, Babs
BAKER, Don
BAKER, Nancy
BOND, James
BOND, Millard
BROWN, Jesse
BROWN, Marion
CARUSO, Joe
CARUSO, Adele
COGGIOLA, David
COGGIOLA, Lawrence
COUGHLIN, Charles
COUGHLIN, Connie
DONNELLY, Roy Anne
DRISCOLL, Art
DRISCOLL, Mary
DRISCOLL, Theda
MAGNON, Thomas
HOLLAWAY, Hugh
HOLLAWAY, Kathy

HYATT, John
LYKE, Sam
LYKE, Mary
LYKE, Bill
LYKE, Sharon
MASTERS, Vince
MASTERS, Judy
METCALFE, Anthony
METCALFE, Pamela
MOREVECK, Karl
MOREVECK, Marguerite
PECK, Betty
PICKETT, JR., John
PICKETT, Joanne
PICKETT, James
PICKETT, Elizabeth
PICKETT, John H.
PICKETT, Karen
PICKETT, Morgan
PICKETT, Aubry
PICKETT, Micah
Five names unknown

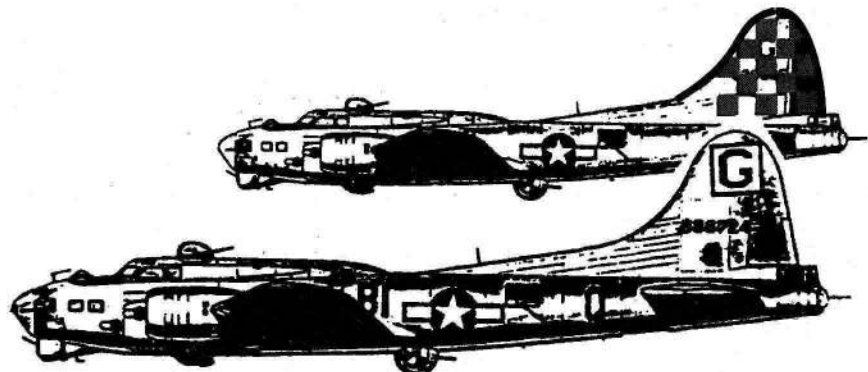
PICKETT, Pamela
PICKETT, Rachel
PICKETT, Katherine
PICKETT, Rebecca
PICKETT, Bradley
PICKETT, Andrea
CATES, Pamela
RICHARDSON, Howard
ROSKY, O. V.
SALVADOR, George
SALVADOR, Alice
SCHULTE, Walter
SCHULTE, Norma
SMITH, Chuck
SMITH, Lewis
SMITH, Dee
SHOVAN, Harry
SWINDELL, Bill
VARNEDOE, Bill
WEIKERT, Lindley
WEIKERT, Pattie

Total attendees: 69

Registered attendees: 52

Pickett family members at Banquet Dinner: 13

Unnamed 385th BGA attendees: 4



50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 385TH BGA

CELEBRATED OCTOBER 5, 2006

HONOREES: 18 PRESIDENTS

YEAR ELECTED	REUNION *** LOCATION	NAME OF PRESIDENT
1957	Pittsburg, PA	** Ruel G. Weikert
1972	Cleveland, OH	** Frank B. Walls
1975	Atlanta, GA	Vincent W. Masters
1977	Las Vegas, NV	** John C. Ford
1979	Kansas City, MO	** James H. Emmons
1981	Ft Walton Beach, FL	** Paul R. Schultz
1983	Colorado Springs, CO	** Forrest V. Poore
1985	Los Angeles, CA	William A. Nichols
1987	Dayton, OH	** Earle L. Cole
1989	Fargo, ND	Samuel E. Lyke, II
1991	Tulsa, OK	** Sidney E. Colthorpe
1993	Spokane, WA	** Robert C. Smith
1995	Omaha, NE	** Robert A. Valliere
1997	Tuscon, AZ	Michael R. Gallagher
1999	Savannah, GA	Thomas J. Newton
2001	Albuquerque, NM	Leo LaCasse
2003	Hampton, VA	William W. Varnedoe
2005	Arlington, VA	Arthur Driscoll, Jr.

** Deceased Presidents

*** Early gatherings and Reunions during 15 year tenure of First President, Ruel G. Weikert, 1956 – 1972.

1956 – Informal gathering of ten 385th BG veterans and their wives in Cleveland, OH, September 7-9, jump-started the formation of our WW2 Association. Officers named at that meeting were: President – Ruel G. Weikert; Secretary – Frank B. Walls; and Treasurer – John Nejedik.

1957 - These three officers were duly elected during the First Reunion, Pittsburg, PA, August 2-4, hosted by Frank Walls.

1958 – Next year, J. K. Hughs and others from the Mid-West hosted the Second Reunion in Chicago. (Date ?)

1960 – The Third Reunion was held in New York City, August 5-7. It was hosted by the men of the New York area, headed by Charles Edeistien.

Twelve years passed before the Fourth Reunion was

held in Cleveland, OH, July 22 and following, 1972. The reunion was finally rescheduled to meet in the city where the idea was originally conceived during 1956. Thanks to the faithfulness of Ruel G. Weikert and others involved in the formation and preservation of our beloved and significant WW2 Association.

THE 385TH BGA CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS OF OUR HISTORY DURING THE 2006 REUNION AT BOISSIER CITY, LA, AS WELL AS WITH OUR TOTAL MEMBERSHIP THROUGH THE PUBLICATION OF ARTICLES AND REPORTS IN THE FOUR ISSUES OF THE HARDLIFE HERALD DURING 2006.

INTERVIEWS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS

GUIDELINES AND FORMAT FOR GROUP INTERVIEWS OF FORMER PRESIDENTS OR REPRESENTATIVES DURING INFORMAL SESSIONS IN THE 385TH HOSPITALITY SUITE AT THE REUNION IN BOISSER CITY, OCTOBER 4-8, 2006

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS: Group sessions were scheduled on Thursday and Friday, October 4 and 5, 2006, in the 385th Hospitality Suite at 4:00-6:30 and 9:00-11.00 PM. MC will limit group sessions to not more than one hour out of each session. The former presidents, or representatives, had time to respond to questions and statements from the designated MC. The MC will start the interviews as soon as everyone has time to get drinks and some refreshments, hosted by Chuck and Roy Anne, and gets settled-in for the informal conversations.

OPEN THURSDAY – 4:00 – 6:30 PM. MC Albert Audette conducted the group interview from 4:30 - 5:30 PM. **HONOREES ARE:**

RUEL G. WEIKERT: 1st President who served 15 years, 1956–72. Deceased 12-17-99. Represented by his son, Lindley R. Weikert from Cincinnati, OH, who currently serves as a 2nd generation member and Secretary of the Board of Directors. His wife, Patti, was here also.

FRANK B. WALLS: 2nd President for a three year term, 1972-75. Deceased October 1996. Wife, Winnie Walls, is still living near their son, Winfred Walls, in St. Thomas, PA. We were honored to have their daughter, Janine S. Wolverton,

from Fontana, CA as his representative here at the Reunion, however, she was unable to attend.

VINCENT W. MASTERS: 3rd President, 1975-77. We were happy that Vince is alive and well and represented himself. Vincent's wife, Judy, was here with him. Vince is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the 385th BGA and has furnished a lot of memorabilia and exhibits on our early history, and the 1976 Tour Group to Great Ashfield.

JOHN S. FORD: 4th President, 1977-79. Deceased ? We attempted to contact his wife, Betty, but had no response even though the letters were not returned. He was represented by Chuck Smith and Roy Anne Donnelly. Chuck's mother, Peggy, and father knew Betty and John Ford personally, as John was elected president at the reunion following the one in Atlanta that was hosted by the Smiths in 1995.

OPEN FRIDAY – 4:00 – 6:30 PM. MC Bill Varnedoe conducted the group interviews from 4:30-5:30 PM. **HONORIES ARE:**

JOHN H. EMMONS: 5th President, 1979-1981. Deceased August 1997. No response from family members contacted, so we tried to obtain Ed Stern to represent John Emmons. Ed is 90 years old and hoped to attend the reunion, but was unable to come. John was represented by John and Joanne Pickett.

PAUL R. SCHULZ: 6th President, 1981-83. Deceased ? Family members were contacted, but did not respond. Paul was represented by George Salavador, who knew him per-

sonally. Paul was very active during the early history of the 385th BGA.

FORREST V. POORE: 7th President, 1983-1985. Deceased October 6, 1999. Children were contacted, but no response was received. Forrest was represented by Lewis Smith who had the opportunity to meet and visit with Forrest during the Reunion in Fort Walton Beach where he was elected president.

WILLIAM A. NICHOLS: 8th President, 1985-1987. William is still living in Alto, NJ with his wife, Doris, but he did not respond to our correspondence. We, Bill Varnedoe, have exchanged Christmas Greetings since the 1996 Tour Group to Great Ashfield. Bill Nichols was represented by Lt. Col. Karl Moravek (Ret.), who knew him personally because their respective pilots were good friends while stationed at Great Ashfield. The officers of both crews met together socially.

EARLE L. COLE: 9th President, 1987-1989. Deceased August 21, 1996. Ruth and family were contacted, but no response was received. Earle was represented by Joe and Adele Caruso from Carmack, NY.

OPEN FRIDAY – 4:00-6:30 PM. MC continued with the above conduct group from 4:30 – 5:30 PM. **HONOREES ARE:**

SAMUEL E. LYKE: 10th President, 1989-1991. Sam lives in Barksdale, OK and represented himself. He attended this reunion with his wife, Mary, and their son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Sharon Lyke. Bill is a 2nd generation member of the 385th BGA.

SIDNEY E. COLTHORPE: 11th President, 1991-1993. De-

ceased May 2, 2000. Sid's wife, Lee Colthorpe, lives in Hampton, VA, but was unable to come to the reunion because of a conflicting date for a family reunion. Sid was represented by Walter Schulte from Westminster, CA. Walter has been active and has been attending reunions since the reunion in Los Angeles in 1985.

OPEN SATURDAY – 4:30 – 5:30 PM. MC Bill Varnedoe conducted interviews from 4:30–5:30 PM.

HONOREES WERE:

ROBERT C. SMITH: 12th President. 1993-1995. Deceased January 18, 2000. His wife, Jean Smith, called to say none of the family was able to attend the reunion. She wanted John Pettinger or Archie Benner to represent Robert, but neither one of them was able to attend. Archie's wife, Bonnie, called Art about every 30 days for the past three months, giving a report on Archie's medical problems. He kept hoping to improve and come until the deadline of September 18 passed. They sent their regards to everyone. Robert Smith was represented by John Hyatt and Betty Peck from Flagstaff, AZ.

ROBERT A. VALLIERE: 13th President, 1995-1997. Our most recent death among former presidents, Robert died on January 7, 2006. His daughter, Bobbi Wisniowski, communicated with Art by e-mail and letter indicating

that their loss had been very difficult. Our thoughts and prayers are with both daughters, Bobbie and Rici, and the five grandchildren. Family members were unable to attend the reunion, so Robert Valliere was represented by Charles and Connie Coughlin from West Boylston, MA.

OPEN FRIDAY – 9:00 – 11:00 PM. MC Art Driscoll conducted group interviews from 9:30–10:30 PM.

HONOREES WERE :

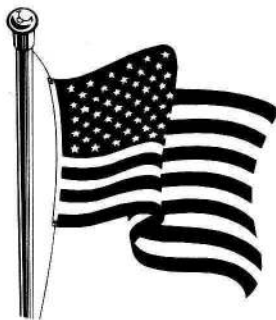
MICHAEL R. GALLAGHER: 14th President, 1997-1999. Alive and well from Cleveland, OH, so he will represent himself. Wife, Marian Gallagher, is here with him. Represented by James Bond as Mike was unable to come at the last moment.

THOMAS A. NEWTON: 15th President, 1999-2001. Tom and Darla planned to attend until the last moment when they cancelled their reservations. Art tried to put a guilt-trip on him as he was the person who got Art heavily involved during the 2000 tour group to Great Ashfield and Perle, and the Reunion in Albuquerque, NM. We also remember Darla's articles entitled the "Softer Side of Life" that were published in the Hardlife Herald. Our spouses remember the programs conducted for wives during reunions that featured Darla Newton and Marian Gallagher. Tom was represented by Jesse Brown from Navarre, FL, who is

accompanied by his wife, Marian. Jesse knows Tom personally, as he was a member of the 2000 Tour Group that was led by Tom. Both Darla and Marian had falls during the trip and sported black eyes for several days.

LEO LACASSE: 16th President, 2001-2003. Leo is living, but not well, in Roanoke, VA. Leo called Art to say he would not be able to attend the Reunion because of long time serious health problems of both he and his wife, Anne. Their son, Thomas, who is a second generation member has moved his family to Roanoke to assist his parents with their living conditions and doctor's appointments. Leo had requested that Vince Masters represent him in these ceremonies to honor former presidents. He also requested that we take time to wave the 385th Flag that he designed and constructed during his presidency, which was presented and dedicated during the 2003 Reunion in Hampton, VA, which was the last time we tried to conduct our own reunion. Since then, we have met annually in conjunction with the 8th AFHS Reunion.

WILLIAM A. VARNEDOE: 17th President, 2003-2005. Bill, alive and well, is from Huntsville, AL. He will represent himself. Bill is the long time Historian of the 385th BGA, and has compiled and maintains our Archives which will be eventually deposited at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum near Savannah, GA.



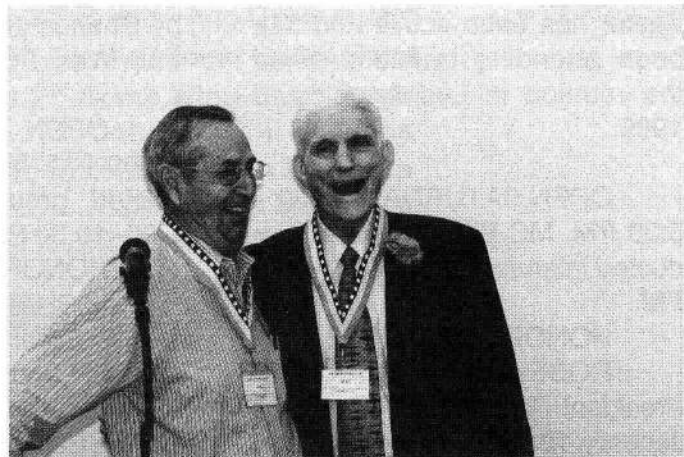
FORMER PRESIDENTS HONORED AT 385TH BGA LUNCHEON MEETING, OCTOBER 5, 2006



Driscoll Family Decorates Tables

Members of the Driscoll family decorate and facilitate the plan to honor 17 former presidents during the Thursday luncheon business meeting of the 385th BGA. Left to right: Dr. Charles Hugh Holloway, Kathy Holloway (oldest daughter), Theda Driscoll (Art's sister), Mary Driscoll, Art Driscoll, and Jane Amyx (youngest daughter).

IDs for each table displayed the name and tenure of two or three former presidents. Attached to each ID was a balloon flying overhead that was stamped with the theme to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation of our WW2 Association. Place cards marked the reserved seating arranged by sign-up of the attendees who purchased tickets. While the script was read to identify name and tenure of former presidents, Mary Driscoll was assisted by Kathy Holloway to pin a red or white carnation on the honoree, pictures were taken by Hugh Holloway, Bill Swindell, and a video shot by Jane Amyx. Thanks for the help of my family members, we enjoyed the interesting and exciting experiences of honoring our former presidents and celebrated three historic events approved by the Board of Directors. Reports of these events are covered elsewhere in the Hardlife Herald.

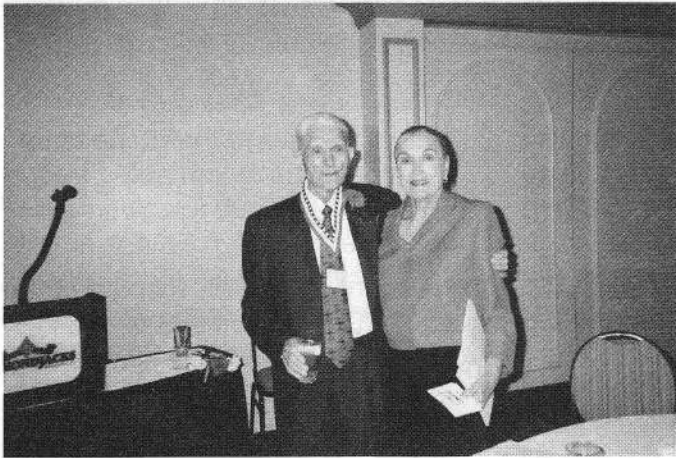


VP Albert Audette Helps President

VP, Albert Audette, made life interesting for President, Art Driscoll, as they took turns reading the script, during the Thursday luncheon meeting that honored 17 former presidents of the 385th BGA. Each were to present four or five honorees or the person representing them and then turn the script back to the alternate MC. The script identified the name, tenure, reunion location where elected president, and other brief data about events that happened during a particular president's tenure. Each honoree was decorated with a red or white carnation and pictures were taken for the Hardlife Herald. Driscoll did not pause after citing a president, but went immediately to the next honoree in order to control time. Audette paused after each presentation, rather than moving on to the one, in order to watch the procedures of my family crew and Bill Swindell do the honors, take the pictures, and video the ceremony. The video revealed the actions of Audette to be the reason we were running out of time. That is why we did not take a break between the Memorial Service led by Walter Schulte and the annual business meeting conducted following the luncheon. Our president and vice president had too much fun doing their thing.



"RUEL G. WEIKERT, 1st President served 15 years, 1956–72. Appointed president by group of 12 who met in Cleveland, OH, during Sept. 7–9, 1956, to begin formation and organization of our WW2 Association and plan the first Reunion at Pittsburgh, PA Aug. 2–4, 1957. Ruel served 11 months as president before being elected president at Pittsburgh. Represented by his son, Lindley R. Weikert, who serves as the Secretary of the current Board of Directors and as the 2nd Generation Contact Person. Lindley is decorated with a white carnation by Mary Driscoll, wife of the President. May I present Lin and wife, Patti, from Cincinnati, OH.



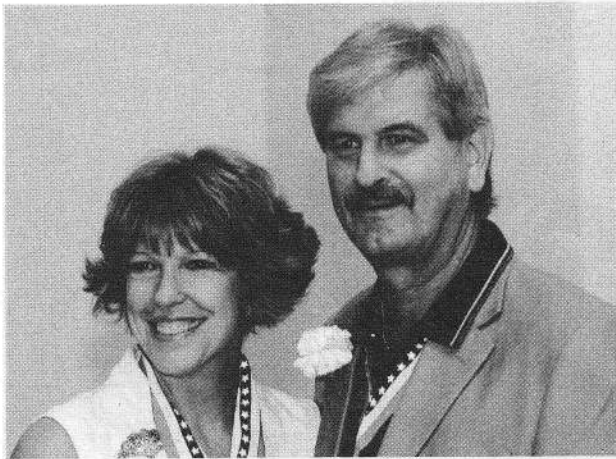
FRANK B. WALLS, 2nd President served three years, 1972–75. Elected president at reunion in Cleveland, OH, July 22 and following, 1972.

Was to be represented by his daughter, Janine S. Wolverton From Fontana, CA, who was not able to be there after arrangements were made by her brother, Winfred Walls, Of St Thomas, PA. We were told by Frank's wife, Winni, who lives close to Winfred in assisted living facilities with medical problems, but that her mind is still sharp as a tack. The President asked his sister, Theda Driscoll, to substitute for Janine Wolverton, who to represent her father, Frank B. Walls, as we honored the 2nd President of the Association.



VINCENT W. MASTERS, 3rd President, 1975–77. Elected at Reunion in Atlanta, GA. Hosted by Charles and Peggy Smith. Vince is alive and well, so will represent himself. He is accompanied by his wife, Judy.

Vince serves on the Board of Directors and provided some of the memorabilia for exhibits in the 385th Hospitality Suite. The first official 385th tour group returned to Great Ashfield in Sept. of 1976, during the tenure of Vincent. His Article in the May issue of Hardlife Herald gave credit to John and Betty Ford for planning and conducting the 1976 Tour group. They chartered a flight that carried a party of 187 veterans and family members.

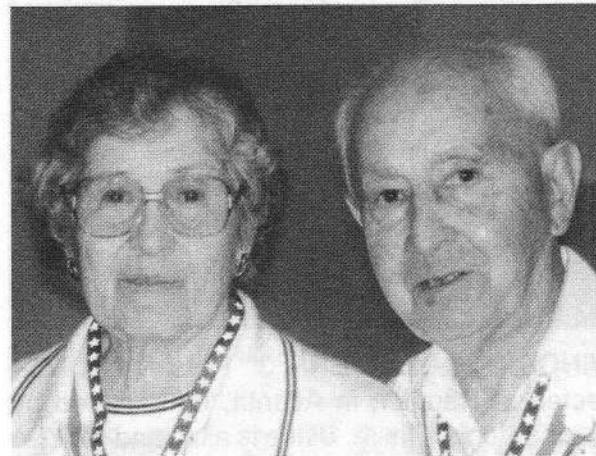


JOHN C. FORD, 4TH President, 1977–79. Elected at Reunion in Las Vegas.

Represented by Chuck Smith and Roy Anne Donnelly. Chuck's parents, Charles and Peggy Smith, traveled with the 1976 tour group and knew John and Betty Ford personally. We think Betty is still living because mail to her was not returned.

JAMES H. EMMONS, 5TH President, 1979–81. Elected at Reunion in Kansas City. Deceased Aug. 1997.

Represented by John Pickett and his wife, Joanne, from Many, LA.



FORREST V. POORE, 7TH President, 1983–1985. Elected at the Reunion in Colorado Springs, CO. Deceased Oct. 6, 1999.

Represented by Lewis Smith who had the opportunity to meet and visit with Forrest during the Reunion where Forrest was elected President. Lewis and Dee are from Wichita, KA.

PAL R. SCHULZ, 6TH President, 1981–83. Elected at the Reunion in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Deceased 1983 or 1984.

Represented by George Salvador who knew him personally and was active during the early history of the 385TH BGA. George and Alice are from Castle Rock, CO.





WILLIAM A. NICHOLS, 8th President, 1985–87. Elected at the Reunion in Los Angeles, CA. Still living in Atco, NJ, with wife Doris, but unable to attend the Reunion.

Represented by Lt. Col. Karl Moravek, who knew him personally while stationed at Great Ashfield. Their respective pilots were good friends and the two crews got together socially. Karl and Marguerite are from Phillips, WI.

EARLE L. COLE, 9th President, 1987–89. Elected at Reunion in Dayton, OH. Deceased Aug. 21, 1996.

Represented by Joe and Adele Caruso from Commack, NY. During April of 1988, the Newsletter was renamed Hardlife Herald by Ed Stern who had been editor since Oct., 1985. Hardlife was the call letters for our control tower at Great Ashfield.

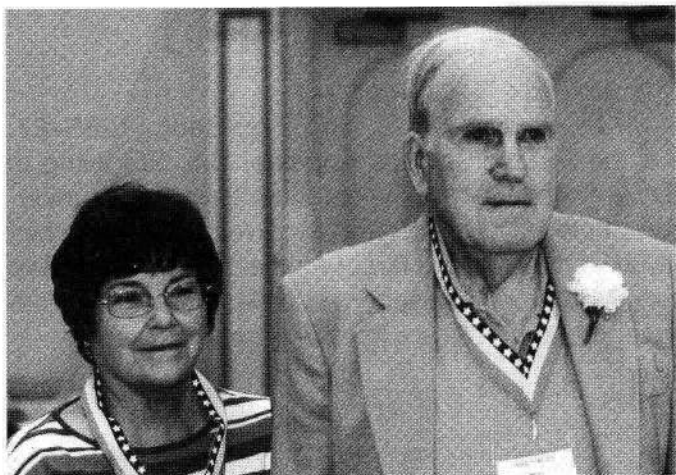


SAMUEL E. LYKE, 10th President, 1989–91. Elected at Reunion in Fargo, ND. Sam is alive and well so will represent himself. He is accompanied by his wife, Mary, and their son and daughter-in-law, Bill and Sharon Lyke. Bill is a second generation Life Member of the 385th BGA who wrote a very nice article published in the May 2006 issue of the Hardlife Herald about making a generous donation and encouraging the next generation to get involved in the 385th BGA.

SIDNEY E. COLTHORPE, 11th President, 1991–93. Elected at the Reunion in Tulsa, OK. Deceased May 2, 2000. His wife, Lee Colthorpe, is still living in Hampton, VA, but was unable to come because of a conflict of date for a large family reunion in Hampton this week.

Represented by Walter Schulte from Westminster, CA, who has been active attending Reunions since the one in Los Angeles in 1985. Walter is accompanied by his wife, Norma.



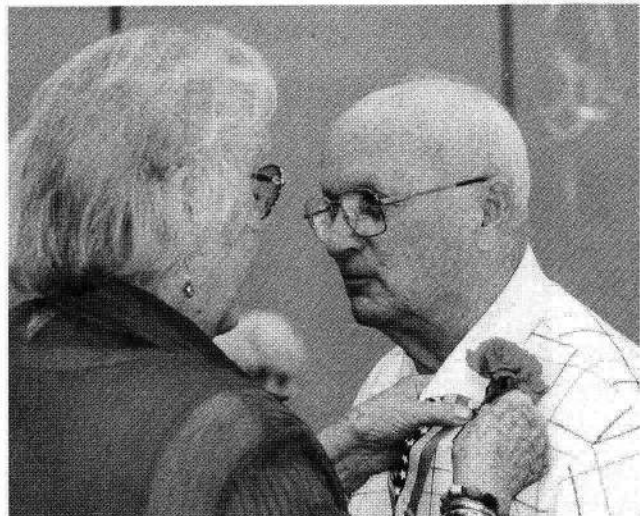
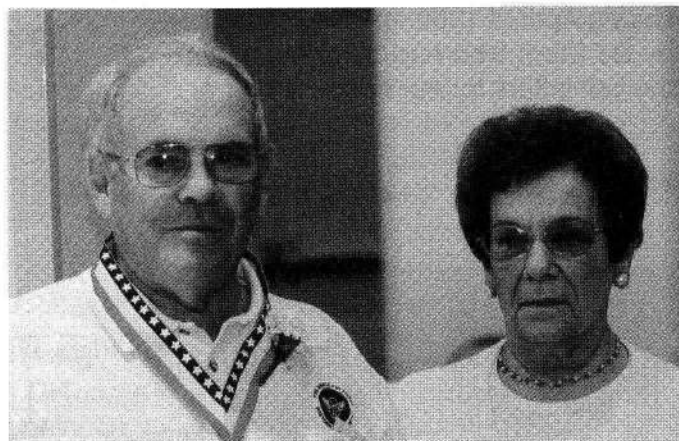


ROBERT C. SMITH, 12th President, 1993–95. Elected at the Reunion in Spokane, WA. Deceased Jan. 18, 2000. His wife, Jean Smith, called to say none of the family are able to attend the Reunion. She wanted John Pettinger or Archie Benner to represent Robert, but neither one of them were able to come. Archie's wife, Bonnie, called me about every 30 days during the past three months, to give me a status report on Archie's medical problems. He kept hoping to improve and come until the deadline of Sept. 18 passed. They sent their best wishes to everyone in the 385th BGA.

Robert Smith was represented by John Hyatt from Flagstaff, AZ. He was accompanied by Betty Peck.

ROBERT A. VALLIERE, 13th President, 1995–97. Elected at the Reunion in Omaha, NE. Our most recent death among former Presidents on Jan. 7, 2006. His daughter, Bobbie Wisniowski, communicated with me by email and postal mail, indicating that their loss had been very difficult. Our thoughts and prayers are with both daughters, Bobbie and Rici, and the five grandchildren.

Represented by Charles Coughlin from West Boylston, MA. Charles is accompanied with his wife, Connie. We remember that Valliere was the past president given the responsibility to raise funds for the 385th Monument to be placed at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum at Pooler, GA. With a great response from members of the 385th BGA, he raised more than the original goal of \$15,000.



MICHAEL R. GALLAGHER, 14th President, 1997–99. Elected at the Reunion in Tuscon, AZ. Mike is alive and well, living with his wife, Marian, in Cleveland, OH. He was to represent himself but was unable to come as planned.

Represented by James Bond from Edenton, NC. We remember that Gallagher presided over the Reunion in Savannah, GA, when we dedicated the beautiful 385th Monument in the Memorial Gardens of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. The total cost at \$21,380.62 was over budget, so Mike and Robert Valliere lead the campaign to secure additional funds necessary to complete this very worthy investment in the Legacy of the 385th BGA. We are very proud of this monument.



THOMAS A. NEWTON, 15th President, 1999–2001. Elected at Reunion in Savannah, GA. Tom is alive and well, with his wife, Darla, from Dalles, OR. They planned to be with us at this Reunion, but cancelled at the last minute.

Represented by Jesse Brown from Navarre, FL, who knew Tom well as he and Marian traveled with the 2000 Tour Group that was lead by Tom. In fact, both Darla and Marion fell while traveling in England and both were kidded about having black eyes.

LEO LACASSE, 16th President, 2001–2003. Elected at the Reunion in Albuquerque, NM. Alive but not well from Roanoke, VA. Leo called to say he would not be able to attend the Reunion because of the long time serious health problems of both he and his wife, Anne. Their son, Thomas, who is a second generation member, has moved his family to Roanoke to assist his parents with their living conditions and doctor appointments.

Leo requested Vince Masters represent him in these ceremonies to honor former presidents. He also requested that we take time to wave the 385th Flag, which he designed and constructed during his presidency. It was presented to the 385th BGA during the Reunion in Hampton, VA.



WILLIAM A. VARNEDOE, JR., 17th President, 2003–2005. Elected at the Reunion in Hampton, VA. Still alive and well from Huntsville, AL. Bill represented himself. His wife, Louise, was unable to attend as she was taking care of her sister, who is not well,

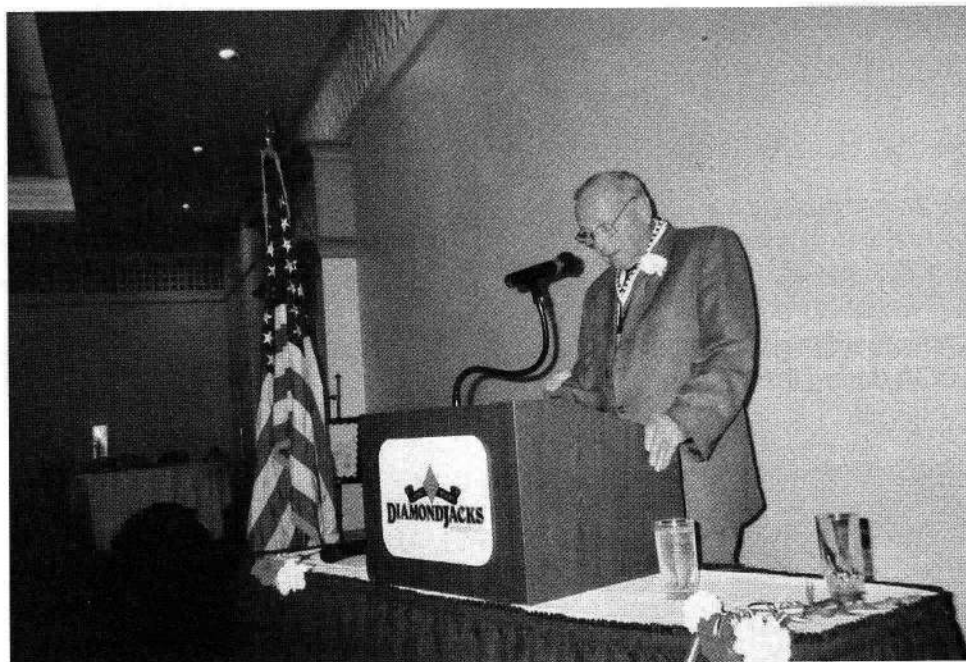
Bill serves on the Board of Directors as the Immediate Past President. He is a long time Historian of the 385th BGA and has compiled and maintained our Archives, which will eventually be deposited at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum near Savannah. He has completed digitizing more than one-third of our 297 combat missions on Excel Spread Sheets to make our Archives more accessible to family members, researchers, and historians. In the past, he manually provided data requested by family members.



ARTHUR DRISCOLL, JR., 18th President, 2005–2007. Elected at Reunion in Arlington, VA. Alive and reasonably well from Nashville, TN. Accompanied by his wife, Mary, and four other family members, who were recruited to help with decorations, the honoring of 17 former presidents with red or white carnations, taking pictures for the Hardlife Herald, and providing video tapes of the event. Other family members include: Our oldest daughter, Kathy and husband, Dr. Charles Hugh Holloway, from Dotham, AL; our youngest daughter, Jane Amyx, from Houston, TX; and my sister, Theda Driscoll, from Houston, TX. Bill Swindell from Rancho Murieta, CA, also took pictures for the Hardlife Herald.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED BGA MEMBERS AND DECEASED FORMER PRESIDENTS AT 385TH BGA THURSDAY LUNCHEON, OCTOBER 5, 2006



Walter Schulte Plans and Leads Memorial Service

After 17 former presidents or their representatives were presented, decorated, and photographed, a memorial service was conducted by Walter Schulte from Westminster, CA. Walter led the opening prayer and read the names of 28 members who have deceased since we met a year ago in Arlington, VA.

Art Driscoll also honored the memory of 10 deceased former presidents by asking each of their representatives to place a small US Flag on the exhibit bulletin board that featured a large image of the 385th Logo, with the names of five former presidents to the left and five to the right of the Patch. As they approached the exhibit board, one at a time, each was given a small US Flag to mount on the exhibit board. A spot was marked where each flag was to be placed next to the name of the former president.



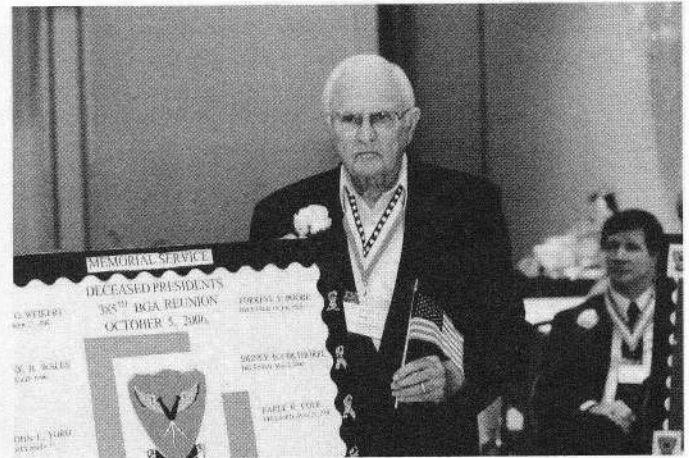
Lindley Weikert presented a flag to honor the memory of his father, Ruel Weikert, 1st President, 1956–72. Deceased 17 Dec. 1999,



Theda Driscoll was asked to substitute for Janine Wolverton, from Fontana, CA, who had planned to attend but was unable to be here to represent her father, Frank B. Walls, 2nd President 1972–75. Deceased Oct. 1996.



Chuck Smith presented a flag to honor the memory of John C. Ford, 4th President 1977–79. Date of death not known.



John Pickett presented a flag to honor the memory of James H. Evans, 5th President 1979–81. Deceased Aug. 1997.



George Salvador presented a flag to honor the memory of Paul R. Schulz, 6th President 1981–83. Deceased soon after his tenure ended in 1983.



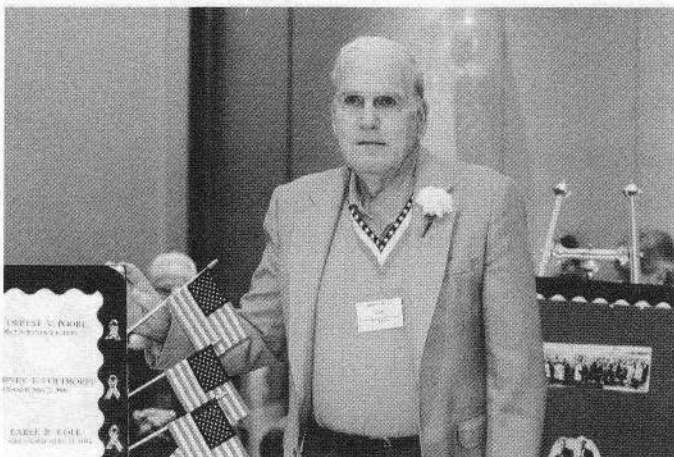
Lewis Smith presented a flag to honor the memory of Forrest V. Poore, 7th President 1983–85. Deceased 6 Oct. 1999.



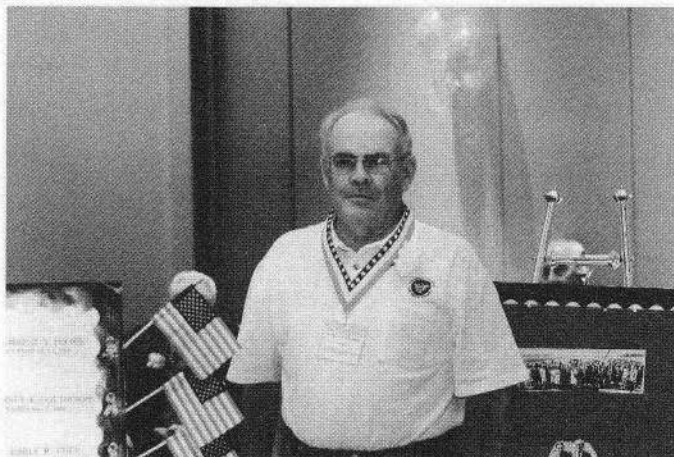
Joe Caruso presented a flag to honor the memory of Earle L. Cole, 9th President 1987–89. Deceased 21 Aug. 1996.



Walter Schulte presented a flag to honor the memory of Sidney E. Colthorpe, 11th President 1991–93. Deceased May 2, 2000.



John Hyatt presented a flag to honor the memory of Robert C. Smith, 12th President 1993–95. Deceased Jan. 18, 2000.



Charles Coughlin presented a flag to honor the memory of Robert A. Valliere, 13th President 1995–97.



Walter Schulte closed the memorial service with the reading of a poem, and we took a group picture before convening the annual business meeting of the 385th BGA.



This group picture of the memorial service is a combination of two exposures taken by Hugh Holloway and Lewis Smith. Hugh's picture had only eight of the participants, including James Bond, who was not supposed to be in this picture. Picture by Lewis had two extra people, James Bond and Jesse Brown. Both of them were wearing red carnations (representing living presidents), while all the others wore white carnations (representing deceased presidents). James and Jesse were seated close-by the exhibit, so I guess they didn't want to be left out of the group picture being taken at the end of the memorial service. So, James and Jesse were cut out of both exposures picture while Schulte, Coughlin and Pickett were patched onto the right edge of the picture even though their faces are smaller than the other seven participants. (This is what they call cut and paste in computer language). It was the best we could do under the circumstances. We were rushed to convene the annual business meeting of the 385th BGA, immediately following the memorial service so we could adjourn the luncheon meeting at 2:30 as promised.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the 385th BGA will meet in conjunction with the 8th AFHS Reunion in Boisser City, LA, October 4–8, 2006; This being our third consecutive year to register one of the larger delegations among some forty different bomb groups represented at the 8th AFHS Reunion;

Whereas, the 385th BGA will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the formation and first reunion during 1956–57; this being a series of significant events that occurred eleven years after WW2, under the leadership of Ruel G. Weikert from Cleveland, OH, who served as first president for fifteen years during 1957–72;

Whereas, the 385th BGA will celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the first official tour group return to our former WW2 airbase during 1976; This being located at Station 155, Great Ashfield, Suffolk, England, where repeated visit by our tour groups have been conducted every four or five years, to sustain and enjoy the unique bond of friendship between members of the 385th BG and local villagers near the area of Great Ashfield;

Whereas, the 385th BGA will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the establishment of a Memorial Trust Fund at All Saints Church in Great Ashfield; This being funded by some 316 life membership fees of \$100, that will maintain and preserve the 385th Memorial Altar, Stained Glass Window, and Book of Honor which is inscribed with the names of some 413 who paid the supreme sacrifice while stationed there during WW2;

Whereas, the 385th BGA plans to celebrate these events during a luncheon meeting, Thursday, October 5, 2006, 12:30 – 2:30PM; This being our focus of attention, we will honor seventeen former presidents with personal recognition for those who are still living and a memorial service for those who are deceased; Honorees unable to attend will be represented by a family member, a colleague, or a personal friend.

WITNESS THIS 5TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2006, THE 385TH BGA CELEBRATES THESE THREE HISTORIC EVENTS AND HEREWITH PROCLAIMS THEIR SIGNIFICANCE AS PART OF THE LEGACY OF THE 385TH BOMB GROUP, 93RD BOMB WING, 3RD AIR DIVISION, THE MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE, OF THE U.S. STRATEGIC AIR FORCES DURING WW2.

Arthur Driscoll, Jr.
President, 385th BGA

NOTE: This proclamation was addressed to Ivan L. McKinney, President of the 8th AFHS; Written and signed by Arthur Driscoll, Jr., President of the 385th BGA; and read to some 300 Reunion attendees during the general business session of the 8th AFHS, Boisser City, LA, Saturday, October 7, 2006.

Dedication of a Monument to the 8th AF Museum In Honor of all 8th Air Force Veterans

*Personified by
Major General Lewis E. Lyle (USAF Ret.)*

**Dedicated 6 October 2006
With Generous Support of the 2nd Bomb Wing
Colonel Daniel Charchian, Commander
During the 8th AFHS 32nd Annual Reunion**



Boissier City, Louisiana SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Master of Ceremonies	Lt Col Ivan L. McKinney (USAF Ret) President 8th AFHS
Opening Remarks	President McKinney
Invocation	Chaplain, Lt Col Ernie Savage
Posting of the Colors	Barksdale USAF Honor Guard
National Anthem	Susan Self Adams
Retirement of Colors	Barksdale USAF Honor Guard
Warmup Remarks	Lt Gen Howard Fish (USAF Ret)
Continuing Remarks	Dr. Walter Brown
Remarks by Honoree	Maj Gen Lew Lyle (USAF Ret)
Flyby	B-2 Stealth Bomber, 509th BW
Closing Remarks	President McKinney
Museum Visiting	Attendees at Ceremony
Lunch	Barksdale Club
Bus Tour of Barksdale	8AFHS Reunion Attendees

Major General Lewis E. Lyle (USAF Ret)

Maj Gen Lyle is soft-spoken and humble of demeanor, but don't let this fool you – he was an epitome of an innovative and aggressive warrior during those dangerous air battles of WW II, 1942–1945.

After graduating from college, he became an Army ground officer, but he turned in his 2nd Lt's commission to become an aviation cadet. He graduated as a 2nd Lt once again, but also with the wings of a pilot, just months before the U. S. entered the war. He flew his B-17 to Molesworth Air Base, England, and flew some of the first heavy bombardment

missions, helping to prove the value of daylight bombing, which became the USAAF standard. He served as a Group Deputy Commander, then Group Commander of the 379th Bomb Group, the Group that attained the highest bombing accuracy in the 8th AF. He also continued flying as a crew pilot until VE Day, flying 76 combat missions when 35 got you home.

After the war, General Lyle remained in service for a full career. Some of his assignments were a Chief of Plans for SAC, as Commander of overseas and stateside Air Divisions, including

the then-4th Air Division here at Barksdale, and in command positions in ICBM's maintenance and engineering.

General Lyle holds the Defense Service Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, DFC, Bronze Star, Air Medals and British and French decorations.

After retirement from the USAF, General Lyle contributed his talents to civilian industry in a variety of positions. He is also founder of the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, Savannah, Georgia. He now resides with his wife, Betty, in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Lieutenant General Howard Fish (USAF Ret)

Lt. Gen Fish had a distinguished 37-year career in the USAF, beginning as a bomber crew navigator during WW II. Flying in the 15th Air Force out of North Africa, his aircraft was shot down, and General Fish spent the remainder of the war as a POW. He remained in service after the war, flying "vittles" during the Berlin Blockade, then combat in

the Korean and Vietnam wars. During his long career, he served as Director of the Air Force Budget, Director of Defense Security Agency, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for International Security Affairs, and Chairman of the U. S. Delegation to the United Nations.

General Fish holds both the Defense and the Air Force Distin-

guished Service Medals, the Legion of Merit, DFC, Air Medals and the Purple Heart.

After retirement, General Fish continued his career for many years in civilian industry and in government service.

General Fish and his wife now live quietly in Shreveport.

Eighth Air Force

Historical Society

Annual Reunion 2006



Rejoice, whatever anguish rend your heart,
That God has given you, for a priceless dower,
To live in these great times and have your part
In Freedom's crowning hour.

Owen Seaman

From **Old and True 1939–1945**, Jacob Wayne Fredericks

32nd ANNUAL REUNION GALA BANQUET

7 October 2006

**Diamond Jack's Casino and Resort
Boisser City, Louisiana**

**Welcome to the
Thirty-Second Annual
Reunion**

**The Eighth Air Force
Historical Society
GALA BANQUET**

*** * * * ***

**The General Ira C. Eaker
Outstanding Airmanship Trophy**

THIS PRESTIGIOUS AWARD IS BEING PRESENTED TO A B-52H BOMBER AIRCREW OF THE 2ND BOMB WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LOUISIANA, WHILE ASSIGNED FOR COMBAT DUTY DURING OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM.

**Captain Dana L. Johnson, Aircraft Commander
Captain Brady P. Vauclin, Pilot
Captain Kevin J. Smith, Instructor Radar Navigator
Captain Adrian E. Stemple II, Radar Navigator
1st Lt. Joseph D. Foster, Electronics Warfare Officer**

**The Pursuit of Excellence
(Maintenance) Award**

The 2006 distinguished recognition presentation for Extraordinary Maintenance Achievement is presented to an Outstanding Maintenance Professional Airman, assigned to the 9th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale AFB, California

Senior Airman David F. Kristunas, Jr.

8TH AFHS GALA BANQUET PROGRAM
7 October 2006

CALL TO DINNER

Welcome President Ivan McKinny
Presentation of Colors.....Air Force 2nd Bomb Wing Color Guard
The National AnthemThe 56th Army National Guard Band
Retirement of ColorsAir Force 2nd Bomb Wing Color Guard
Invocation.....Lt. Col. (Ret) Phil Blaufuss
Cordon of Honor.....Air Force 2nd BW Cordon Members
Introduction of Head Table.....President McKinney
Candlelight Ceremony.....Belton Wolf

DINNER IS SERVED

Recognitions.....President McKinney
Eighth Air Force Awards Ceremony.....
..... Vice President Craig Harris and Air Force Staff

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

GUEST SPEAKER

Lt Gen Robert J. Elder, Jr. USAF
Commander Eighth Air Force – Barksdale AFB

Benediction.....Lt Col (Ret) Phil Blaufuss

GALA BANQUET MENU

Salad with warm Bacon Dressing
New York Strip Steak OR Golden Gate Salmon
Vegetable Medley
Rosemary Potatoes or Wild Rice
Rolls and Butter
Pecan Pie
Iced Tea and Coffee

GENERAL ELDER AND 385TH BGA MEMBERS



Left to Right: Lt. Col. (retired) Karl T. A. Moravek from Phillips, WI. Completed 17 combat missions with the 385th BG, flying four positions – waist, tail, and ball turret gunner. After WW2 returned to college at University of Wisconsin and was commissioned 2nd Lt. AFROTC. Received regular commission in 1958 and remained on active duty until 1968. Promoted to Lt. Col in 1986 and took early retirement with 20 years active service plus 4 years in reserve. Col. (retired) Howard Richardson from Brandon, MS. Completed 35 missions as a pilot with 548th Sq., 385th BG, August 1944. Served seven months as Operations Officer with 4th Combat Wing headquarters at Bury St Edmunds. Stationed at Langley AFB after WW2. Retired as Colonel, USAF, Feb. 3, 1973. Lt. Gen. Robert J. Elder, Jr., Guest Speaker, Gala Banquet, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2006. Commander Eighth Air Force; Commander Air Force Network Operations, Barksdale AFB, LA, and Joint Functional Component for Space and Global Strike, U.S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, NE. General Elder also commands Task Force 29\04, which is responsible for monitoring all nuclear bomber, reconnaissance and cruise missile generation operations. This is a cross-functional team that manages the generation, sustainment, logistics, security and safety of more than 100 B-2, B-52, U-2, EP-3 and RC-135 aircraft at seven bases. General Elder current assignment is his twenty-third over the last thirty years. His major awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal. Mary Driscoll, wife of the President of the 385th BGA. Art Driscoll from Nashville, TN. Completed 22 combat missions as low section lead pilot with the 549th SQ, 385th BG. Arrived at Great Ashfield in time for Christmas of 1944 and flew a new B-17 back to USA, June 19, 1945. Lt. Col. Charles Reid, 549th SQ Commander signed my orders and flew back to the States with my crew. He dispatched my co-pilot, Ganelle Bacchus, to the waist area with ten other passengers and took over the right hand seat in the cockpit. His SQ navigator, Capt. Jack Palmer, was a back-up for my navigator, Art Schaefer, from Tucson, AZ. Three days later we arrived at Bradley AFB safe and sound.

Picture taken by Lewis and Dee Smith, Wichita, KS

LIEUTENANT GENERAL ROBERT J. ELDER, JR.

Lt. Gen. Robert J. Elder, Jr. is Commander, 8th Air Force: Commander Air Force Network Operations, Barksdale AFB, LA, and Joint Functional Component for Space and Global Strike, U. S. Strategic Command, Offutt AFB, NE. As one of three active duty numbered air forces in Air Combat Command, 8th Air Force provides long-range global strike, battle management, surveillance and reconnaissance, intelligence, information operations, tactical air control, and expeditionary heavy construction capabilities to combat commanders. The "Mighty Eighth" also conducts computer network operations as the Air Force component to the Global Network Operations Joint Task Force and trains Air and Space Operations Center personnel for world-wide deployment and participations in the multinational Joint Expeditionary Force Experiment.

As the Joint Functional Component Commander for Space and Global Strike, General Elder serves as the lead integrator for USTRATCOM crisis action planning, conducts global strike planning to deliver rapid, extended range kinetic and non-kinetic effects in support of theater and national objectives, and provides situational awareness and integrated analysis of global mission capabilities for all STRATCOM operational responsibilities.

General Elder also commands Task Force 204, which is responsible for monitoring all nuclear bomber, reconnaissance and cruise missile generation operations - across-functional team that manages the generation, sustainment, logistics, security and safety of more than 100 B-2, B-52, U-2, EP-3 and RC-135 aircraft at seven bases.

General Elder's staff experience includes senior leadership positions with the Joint Staff, Air Staff, Air Combat Command and NATO. He has commanded operational wing, group, squadron and installations and has commanded unit deployments to all major theaters globally.

General Elder is a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, including 83 combat hours in operations Enduring Freedom. Aircraft flown include R-8C, B-52, T-38 and T-39. He holds a doctorate in engineering from the University of Detroit. He is a distinguished graduate of the Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB. He has completed many service colleges, including flag officer courses.

General Elder's current assignment is his twenty-third over the last thirty years. His major awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal.

OUR ENGLISH FRIENDS SENDS GREETINGS

OUR ENGLISH FRIENDS SEND GREETINGS

From: Stephan Miles
To: Arthur Driscoll
Tuesday, September 26, 2006
Subject: Celebration

Dear Art,

Sorry I have been so long in replying to your e-mail, but life has been very busy. Congratulations to the 385th on celebrating so many anniversaries in one year. I am very sorry nobody from Great Ashfield is able to represent us at your celebration but I hope you will pass on our good wishes to everyone.

How wonderful to be celebrating the formation of the 385th Memorial Association and the first reunion of 50 years ago. It is very difficult to comment as I was only one year's old at the time! But it has certainly been and continues to be a great association, and we hope future generations keep it going. The first Reunion Group visit to Great Ashfield in 1976 was a very memorable occasion with so many veterans attending, firstly a Church Service at All Saints Church with the re-presenting of the Stars and Stripes. The group then went to Ipswich for lunch with the Mayor, and returned to the Airfield for afternoon tea provided by the village. This was the beginning of so many memorable reunions which have taken place here in Great Ashfield, leading to the formation of the Endowment Trust Fund for which you all kindly donated, ensuring that the American Memorial Altar and window are maintained forever. This means so much to the people of Great Ashfield and we are so thankful for the great link between the 385th Memorial Association and the village.

With our very best wishes for a most enjoyable celebration at your reunion

Stephan

PROPOSED ARTICLE II AMENDMENT

Move to amend Article II, Meetings of the Membership as follows:

Section 1. Add "or the Board." between "determined by the members" and "at a previous meeting.", and add, "But if a personal meeting is not feasible, a mailing meeting of the members may be called by the President for a specific and definite time."

Section 2. Delete "at least two months" and add "but need not be" between "normally" and "at a reunion."

Section 3. Replace "voting members" with "members voting" and delete "in attendance at the meeting, in person or by proxy."

Section 4. After "Members may vote" delete "or by Proxy."

Proxies must be filed with the Secretary of the 385th BGA before or at the time of the meeting. No proxy shall be valid after six (6) months from its date of execution. Add, "or by mail. No mail vote received after the meeting adjournment time, announced by the President, shall be counted."

The complete Article II, Meeting of the Membership should now read:

Section 1. Meetings should be held annually, but in no case at periods longer than two years. The geographic location of the the meetings should be dispersed around the USA, if possible, but the meetings will be held at locations and dates as determined by the members or the

Board at a previous meeting. But if a personal meeting is not feasible, a mail meeting of members may be called by the President for a specific and definite time.

Section 2. Notice of meeting dates and location will be published in the Newsletter prior to the meeting. Meetings are normally, but need not be, at a reunion.

Section 3. A quorum at any member meeting shall consist of the members voting. A majority vote shall decide the question.

Section 4. Members may vote either in person or by mail. No mail vote received after the meeting adjournment time, announced by the President, shall be counted.

THE STORY OF VAN'S VALIANTS

by William W. Varnedoe

The Story of Van's Valiants A History of the 385th Bomb Group in World War II, 2nd Edition, is now available. After the last book on the history of the 385th Bomb Group was printed, several corrections and additions have been identified, therefore, a 2nd Edition has been written and printed.

Although the 2nd Edition is larger (144 pages,) it has improved picture quality, and several additions, yet it is still only \$25.00, post paid, (Foreign, \$30.00.) Order from W. W. Varnedoe, 5000 Ketova Way, Huntsville, AL 35803. (Checks or

Cash, No credit cards.) The book contains a chronological history of the 385th Bomb Group during World War II, plus a summary of the 385th Bomb Group Association, which was subsequently organized. There is a listing of each mission, several of these contain air stories as told by the airmen who flew on that mission. It also includes pictures about Great Ashfield, the 385th BG airfield, and several incidents that occurred at the base. It also includes 174 individual aircrew pictures and 147 pictures of the 385th Bomb Group's B-17s, most with nose art. An appendix lists

the statistics and cross-indices. Other books about the 385th Bomb Group are also listed.

The cost of the book mainly covers the cost of printing and mailing, and to make the material of the 385th Bomb Group more available to members and historians. Persons may wish to donate a copy of the book to their local library, veterans organizations and/or museums, as well as give copies to their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It is one way to keep the legacy of the 385th Bomb Group (H) from being forgotten.

DECEMBER 5, 1943

By Stewart H. Day

I will start off by listing things that happened on December 5, 1943 to the 385th Bomb Group.

We left our base at Great Ashfield, England in the early morning for Bordeaux, France to bomb the submarine pens. However, the target was clouded over, so none of our incendiary bombs were dropped. Over Biscay Bay on our way back to England we had engine trouble and dropped back about three or four miles from our formation. Dropping the bombs in the sea, we were attacked by two German fighters who came out of the sun. Both fired at the same time, one low and one high over and under my position in the tail. The waist, ball turret, radio room areas as well as engines and vertical tail were hit hard, and all persons in those areas were wounded. The first call on the intercom was to bail out, but Olowniuk (Walter), the RO, remarked that we were going to ditch. The pilot, Kleuser (Theodore), turned the plane and headed toward the shore. In the radio room, the extra rafts, parachutes, ammunition boxes and the floor were on fire. As Olowniuk threw them into the waist, I threw them out the door.

The ball turret gunner, Wysokinaki (Stanley), and the two waist gunners, O'Keefe (James) and DeGraw (Leo), were down on the floor badly wounded. Having put out the items on fire, Olownick and I, having dropped from 25,000 feet without our oxygen masks, were too tired to help the wounded men. We ditched without any further injuries.

Bombardier Tom Betow and navigator Frederick (Al) Albert came into the plane's waist area and helped the three wounded men into lift rafts. DeGraw and O'Keefe were put in one raft and Wysokinaki was placed in the same raft as me. One of the German fighter aircraft flew over us but did not fire.

Each raft held five men. Raft #1, held Walter Olowniuk, Stanley Wysokinaki, Frederick Albert, Theodore Klauser and me, Stewart Day. Raft #2 held John Slater, Thomas Betow, Ernest Hibbard, Leo DeGraw and James O'Keefe. Suddenly my raft, #1, began to receive sniper fire from the shore. We jumped overboard. Our pilot, Theodore Klauser, stood up and was shot in the head. Fred Albert, our navigator, was also shot. In waves two to three feet high, I lost my grip on Stanley Wysokinaki and Frederick Albert, and never saw them again.

After a number of hours, a German air-sea rescue plane landed and picked us, Walter Olownick, Fred Albert, John Slater and me, from the raft. John Slater was dead from either gunshot or from drowning. Albert died in the first aid room. Raft #2 drifted towards the shore, and I lost track of what happened to them. I heard rifle shots and machine gun fire from the shore.

Being interrogated, the Germans wanted to know how many men were on the aircraft. I told them ten men. They sent out a sea plane to look for more persons, and picked-up Tom Betow. I had a bad feeling that they would kill everyone who would make it to shore.

Our trip to a P.O.W. camp is another story. Walter Olowniuk and I were sent to P.O.W. camp 17B located in Krems, Austria. Tom Betow was sent to an Officer's Camp Luft 3.

I later learned that the soldiers whom shot at us while in the rafts were from India. They had been captured in Tobruck, North Africa, and were now fighting for the Germans. At one time they were in the British army. About 10 years ago, I received this information from a French historian.

For this mission, we were assigned a B-17 that our crew never had flown before. Since it was before daylight as we boarded the plane, we never checked it for a name or numbers. I don't think it had a name.

This is all I remember about that day.

Editor's Note: According to MACR 2164, the following list indicates:

1st Lt. Theodore J. Kleuser	Pilot	KIA
2nd Lt. John W. Slater	Co-pilot	KIA
1st Lt. Frederick D. Albert	Navigator	KIA
1st Lt. Thomas H. Batow	Bombardier	
Sgt. Ernest A. Hibbard	Top Turret	KIA
T/Sgt. Walter V. Olownick	Radio Oper.	
S/Sgt. Stanley Wysokinaki	Ball Turret	KIA
S/Sgt. Stewart H. Day, Jr.	Tail	
S/Sgt. Leo E. DeGraw	Left waist	KIA
S/Sgt. James W. O'Keefe	Right waist	KIA

LETTERS/E-MAILS

From: Di Barker
To: Art Dricoll
August 21, 2006
Subject: Boisser City Reunion

Dear All,

Roy and I have been giving the Reunion serious thought today, now that harvest is finished (when I could not find out where it was!) and we were keen to come as we haven't been over for a while. In fact I mailed you 'yes, we're coming,' just this morning, didn't I Barbara?

This afternoon I went to the travel agents and discussed flights with them and discovered it was going to cost us twice as much to travel over from, Monday to Saturday, as it would if we could stay a Saturday night in America – i.e. over 2000 (Pounds) for us both to travel! Unbelievable!!!!

To come for more nights and stay a Saturday night would have been cheaper – just over 1000 (Pounds), but the time of the Reunion is in a week where I take services on both Sundays and there is just no other ministers free to take over as we are spread very thin as it is, thus so much time away isn't feasible.

The Saturday prior to the Reunion we also have an 80th birthday in the family to attend. Added to the cost is obviously the threat of terrorism and the hassle of the extra surveillance at the airports. There have been further revelations this evening on our TVs from the August 10th arrests. My mother is quite frail now and I was dreading telling her that we traveling to America in October because I know she would be worry herself all the time we were away.

To be honest, we sat down over our meal this evening and looked at the pros and cons and have decided that it would be silly to spend a lot of money for a very short time, to put ourselves through the stress of it all.

We are very sorry because we had been thinking all along, even after Aug. 10th, that we would be going – but realistically, we feel it is better if we don't.

So, we will be thinking about you all and wishing we were with you – but knowing we have made the right decision for us.

Much love to you all, and to your families.

Di & Roy

LETTERS/E-MAILS

ARENA
TRAVEL

29 August 2006

Art Driscoll
Nashville, TN
USA

Dear Art

Has it been 30 years since the 385th Bomb Group Association made its first historic return to the UK.....it feel so much less.

The 1976 tour was very special for us at Arena as although it gave us the chance to arrange a tour in our own 'neck o' the woods' (something rare for us as a world-wide tour operator) we just had no idea of what to expect. We certainly didn't realize that we'd be working for such a wonderful group of people – positive, open, funny yet sincere and genuine, and the stories that we listened to fill our hearts with wonder and admiration. We met many amongst the group who became long-term friends giving us the additional pleasure of getting to know them better but alas, also the heightened sorrow on hearing that they had passed on.

From the first phone conversation with John Ford all those years ago, through all the subsequent 385th trips, to the latest e-mail from you Art, it has been a wonderful journey for us and there is no doubt that our lives have been enriched by knowing and working with the 385th.

My staff, my family and I wish all members an enjoyable reunion in Boisser City.

(s) David
David J. Wade

Taps

Alvin Vaira — Denver, CO — died November 12, 2005, age 81. He served as a togalier with the 8th Air Force, 385th Bomb Group, 551st Bomb Squadron in World War II. He was shot down over Germany on March 18, 1945, and was held as a POW in Stalag Luft I. He was a rancher and farmer, and later was in the insurance business in Montana.

by Ms. Dixie Vaira
Wife

Robert (Bob) Harvey — Kennewick, WA — passed away May 24, 2004. Bob was stationed in England in 1943–44. He was a radio operator on a B-17, and flew as lead radio operator at times. When he had completed his missions, Col. Vandeventer asked if he would fly one more time as his radio operator on a observance mission over Normandy on D-Day. Bob was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf clusters.

by Kay Harvey
Wife

Drue Gillis — Died May 2006. He was a ball turret gunner in the 549th Squadron, and flew on Blue Champagne. He was a good friend of Bill Hunter

by Chuck Smith

Arnold Miller — Albuquerque, NM — passed away April 25, 2006, age 89, just 3 weeks shy of his 90th birthday. As a Tech. Sgt. he served with the 385th BG in England from 1943 till mid 1944. He was a waist gunner and flew 29 combat missions. He attended the Bomb Group Association meetings in Spokane, Omaha and Tuscon. He enjoyed receiving the Hardlife Herald.

by Mrs. Fritz

David S. Dennis — Hartsdale, NY — died August 6, 2006. He served in the US Army Air Corp in WW II in the 385th Bomb Group, and participated in 25 heavy missions over Europe. He received a battlefield commission of 2nd Lieutenant, and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. After active duty he served in the Air Force Reserve and retired as a Lt. Colonel after 30 years service. He worked for IBM for 40 years as a System Analyst. He is survived by his wife, Arlone, six children, six grandchildren, and a brother. Internment was in Arlington National Cemetery, VA on September 15th.

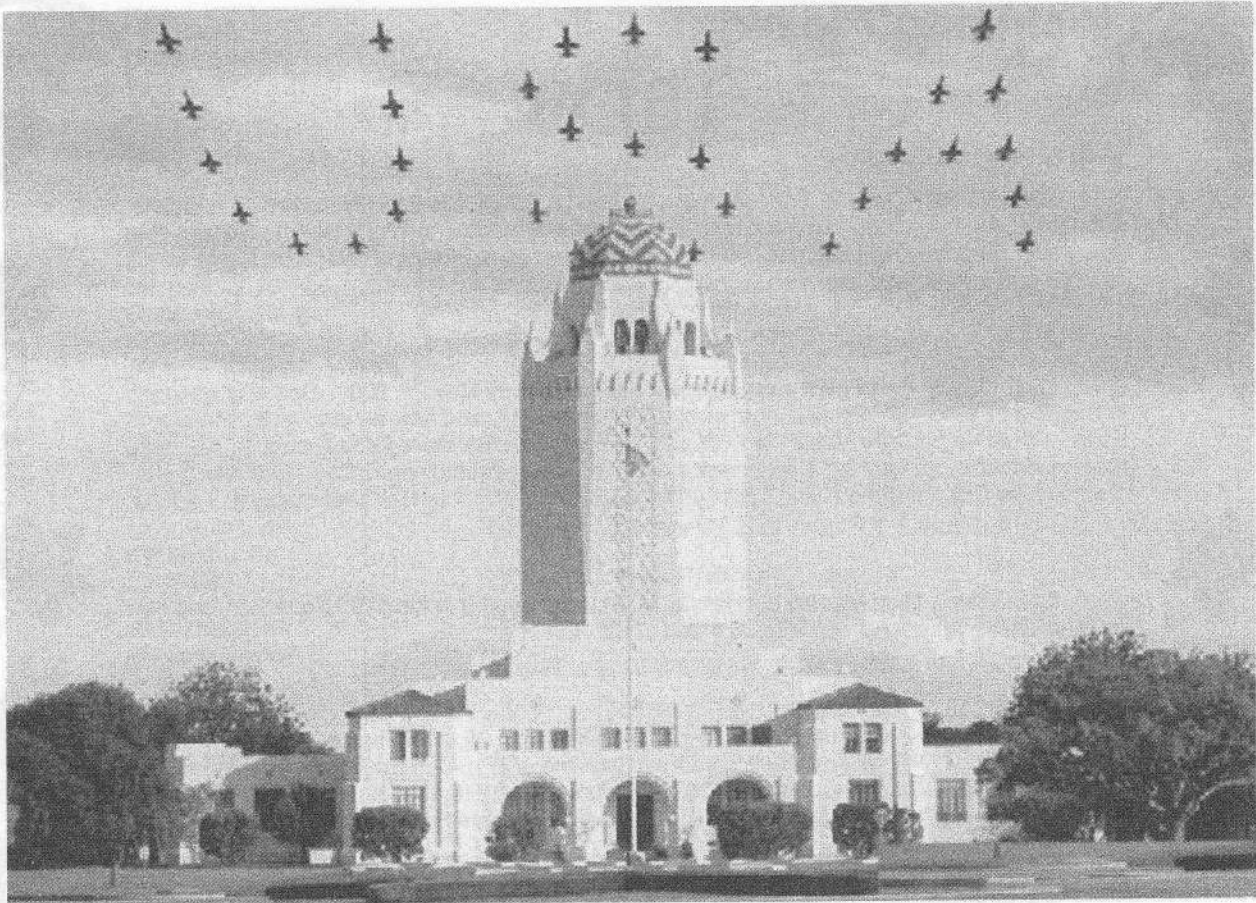
by David S. Dennis, Jr.
Son

Henry C. Gagnon — died July 26, 2006. He flew 36 combat missions in the ETO as a B-17 pilot with the 385th BG.

by Thomas Gagnon
3rd Generation Member

Harlan L. Cook — Owasso, OK — died May 2, 2006. He was a pilot with the 385th BG, 551st Sq. He was shot down April 22, 1944 over Hamm. Captured he served one year in Stalag Luft III. Harlan was an avid gardener and a talented artist. He was previously employed by GM in Kansas City, and McDonnell Douglas in Tulsa. He is survived by Julia, his wife of 62 years, two sons and two daughters, eight grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren, and one sister. Internment was at Graceland Memorial Park Cemetery, Owasso, Oklahoma.

by Carolyn Davis,
Daughter



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May 2006

385th BGA

Chuck Smith, Treasurer

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