



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



NO. 8

DEC 1973

MISSION NO 9: ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

Rochester, New York was the destination for the 485th Bomb Group veterans as they assembled at the FLAGSHIP ROCHESTER Hotel for their ninth annual reunion during the week end of August 3 - 5, 1973. Guiding the event to a most successful conclusion were Wm and Julie Best of Rochester.

Although there were early arrivals Thursday, the action began Friday afternoon as the graying eagles began arriving enmasse. The Hospitality Room buzzed with greetings and good old fashion conversation as the ol veterans got in the swing of things. Many mementos of those gone-by days were on hand to view, enhancing ones memory of their adventures in sunny southern Italy.

Saturday morning the usual short business meeting was held. It was noted that the reunion and newsletter finances were in the black. Location for the '76 reunion were solicited and Col Homer Hale of Athens, Georgia extended an invation for the reunion in Atlanta, Georgia. Richard McLaughorn stated that he would like to host a reunion in his home state of North Carolina, possibly in '77. Holding the reunion the first week end in August has shown favorable results and will be continued to be conducted the first week end of August. Following the coffee break, many of the guests ventured out to take in the sights of downtown Rochester. (Cont Page 2)

ESCAPE AND EVADE

The mission of 22 August 1944 was the sixth to Vienna, Austria for the 485th as twenty-eight Liberators began taking off at 0611 hours to bomb the Koreneuberg oil storage at Vienna. By now, Vienna was the second best defended area on the continent. The 1st attack unit was led by Major Richard V Griffin, 830th CO and Major Ralph E Monroe, 828th Ops Officer led the 2nd attack unit. After rendezvousing with the 460th Bomb Group, twenty P-51s and P-38s joined the formation at 0930 hours.

Three of the bombers aborted and at 1017 hours the formation released 57.5 tons of 500 lb bombs on the target from 23,000 feet with somewhat undesirable results. As usual, intense and accurate flak was encountered over the target, causing damage to fourteen bombers. As the bombers rallied off the target and set course for home, one Liberator was observed to lagged behind gradually until it was out of sight of the formation. The Liberator was Lt Edwin C Tuttle's, BIG STOOP, 41-28842H of the 830th crew 56. It was to be BIG STOOP's last flight as Lt Frank E Gallagher, Navigator of the crew, relates.

"I felt BIG STOOP Shudder as we caught a very close flak burst right after 'Bombs Away'. Even with the bomb bay (Cont Page 4)

74 REUNION - WESTWARD
The 485th Bomb Group (H) Tenth Annual Reunion will be held August 2 - 4, 1974 in York, Nebraska. Join us for a trip into the past as the veterans return to the old home of the 485th - Fairmont Air Field. Your host will be Robert Marland of Lincoln, Nebraska. Tentatively the 1975 reunion will be in Denver, CO.

1973 REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) 828TH VETERANS - F, L to R: Nick Montulli, Jim McFadden, Ben Christ, Karl Anderson and Walter Kixmiller. M, L to R: Carl Gigowski, Robert Deeds, Bill Schoultz, Ray Thaler, Irvin Parker and John Waldeyer. R, L To R: 'Pappy' DeVane, Micheal Yaworsky, Richard Mattison, Stanley Turecki and Joe Rybarczyk. (Not in photo - Fred Croushore and Alexander Gilbert)
- (2) 829TH VETERANS - F, L to R: R Carpenter, Jim Ball and Tony Mastrangelo. M, L to R: Wythe Napier, Fred Heaton and LtCol Homer Hale. R, L to R: Bernie Rempe, Albert O'Brien and Earl Bundy. (Not in photo - Robert Brimmler)
- (3) 830TH VETERANS - F, L to R: Ted Lipinski, Joe Targliarino, Lyle Talbott, Joe Tabellion and Willie Best. 2R, L to R: Frank Gallagher, Claude Sheline, Robert Laughin and Bob McVann. 3R, L to R: Roy Hertzog, C Schawalder, John Brabson, Charley Onley and Jesse Wood. 4R, L to R: Ralph Skinner, Hollis Porter, Rod Ritchie and Frank Caster. (Not in photo - LeRoy Dainels)
- (4) 831ST VETERANS - F, L to R: Harold Dundon, Mickey Baczewski and Larry Veith. M, L to R: Woody Woodyard, Vic Bone, Don Stahl and Harry McGaw. R, L to R: Ed Stauverman, Micheal Yaworsky, Richard McLawhorn and George Winters.

MISSION NO 9 (Cont)

A Social Hour was held in the Sword and Sabre dining room from 5 to 7 PM, followed by a buffet dinner with an excellent selection of food to suit everyones' taste. The weather was clear and comfortable while the graying eagles proudly posed for pictures and the guests relaxed on the veranda. As darkness approached many of the guests returned to the Hospitality Room while others enjoyed the night life of Rochester, elsewhere. The cheer atmosphere prevailed in the Hospitality Room until early hours as there were a couple of ol eagles reluctant to see the good time fade away into history.

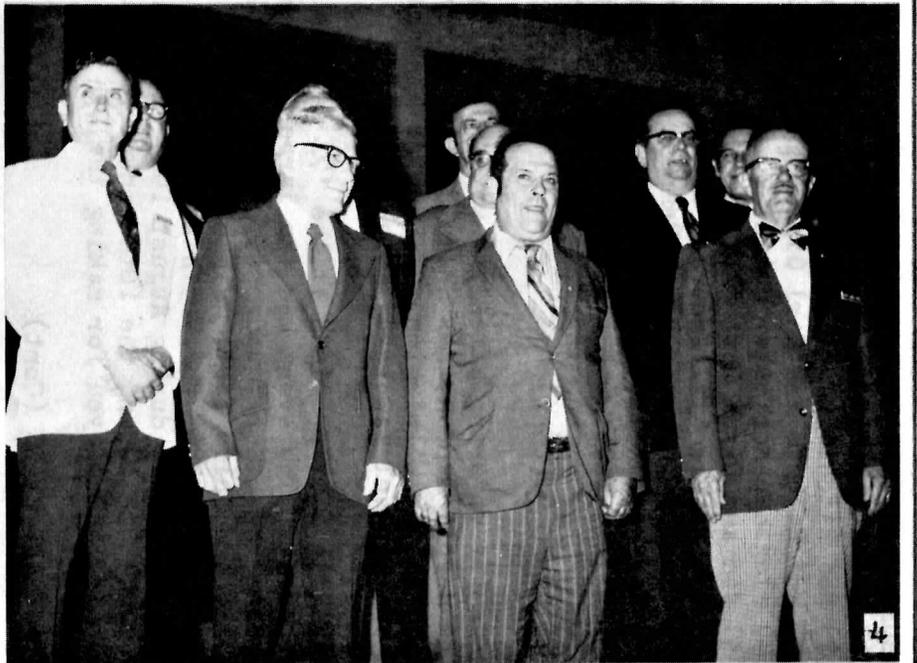
Sunday morning the reunion was concluded with a short business meeting reviewing the financial status of the reunion. Vicki Brown of the Rochester Democrat Chronicle interviewed Lyle Talbott, Stanley Turecki and Carl Gigowski for a personal story of WWII veterans.

Fifty-eight veterans - and with their family and guests - made the 9th reunion the largest to date. Edward Kral, New Hyde Park, NY and Ralph J Wakefield, West Stockholm, NY represented Group Headquarters.

The 828th was represented by Karl Anderson, Carrollton, Ohio; Ben Christ, Lockport, NY; Fred Croushore, Jeannette, PA; Robert Deeds, Toledo, OH; Ed 'Pappy' DeVane, Burke, VA; Carl Gigowski, Grand Rapids, MI; Alexander Gilbert, Scottsville, NY; Walter Kixmiller, Vincennes, IN; Richard Mattison, Scotia, NY; Nicholas Montulli, Rochester, NY; James McFadden, Philadelphia, PA; Irvin Parker, Minneapolis, MN; Joseph Rybarczyk, Auburn, NY; Bill Schoultz, Newton Falls, OH; Ray Thaler, Ridgefield, NJ; Stanley Turecki, Passaic, NJ and John Waldeyer, Long Island, NY.

From the 829th were Robert Brimmler, Spencerport, NY; R Carpenter, Fulton, NY; LCol Homer Hale, Athens, GA; Fred Heaton, Munice, IN; Anthony Mastrangilo, Rome, NY; Wythe Napier, Dallas, TX; Albert O'Brien, Troy, NY; Bernie Rempe, Oklahoma City, OK; and Earl Bundy, Columbus, OH.

The 830th did a great job in attendance, acheiving the largest for the first time with the attendance of Willie Best, Rochester, NY; John Brabson, Kingston, NJ; Frank Caster, Highstown, NJ; LeRoy Daniels, Amherst, NY; Frank Gallagher, Beverlay, MA; Roy Hertzog, Mohrsville, PA; Robert Laughin, Georgetown, PA; Ted Lipinski, Ridgefield, NJ; Robert McVann, Ashland, KY; Charley Onley, York, PA; Pete Porter, Orlando, FL; Rod Ritchie, Minturn, CO; C Schawalder, Pittsvurgh, PA; Claude Sheline, Monaca, PA; Ralph Skinner, Weston Mills, NY; Joseph Tabellion, Bolivar, OH; Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, OH; Joesph Tagliarino, Buffalo, NY and Jesse Wood, Glassboro, NJ.



REUNION PICTORIAL (Opposite Page)

- (1) Ralph Wakefield, Gp Hq, Frank Gallagher, 830th, Ed Kral, Gp Hq & Don Stahl, 831st
- (2) Rod Ritchie, Joe Tabellion, Willie Best and Roy Hertzog of the 830th
- (3) Rod Ritchie and Carl Gigowski at the Snack Bar
- (4) Flagship Rochester Hotel
- (5) Jim and Diann Best - Willie and Julie Best, the Hosts
- (6) Don Stahl, Karl Anderson and Richard McLawhorn (in foreground)
- (7) Stanley Turecki, Laura Rempe and Robert Deeds
- (8) Martha Bundy, Walter Kixmiller, Dorothy Deeds and Col Homer Hale
- (9) Willie Best, Bob Laughin, Mrs C Sheline, Ben Christ, Don Stahl and 'Doc' La Roach

MISSION NO 9 (Cont)

The 831st veterans attending were Mickey Baczewski, Gardner, MA; Victor Bone, Chicago, IL; Harold Dundon, New Holland, OH; Harry McGaw, Bloomsburg, PA; Richard McLawhorn, Larry Vieth, Wilmington, DE; George Winters, Leonia, NJ; Howard Woodyard, Lambertville, MI and Michael Yaworsky, Auburn, NY.

As Willie Best promised at the '72 reunion in Houston, Texas, the reunion in Rochester was great. The event had the largest attendance to date with the 830th attendance exceeding the other Squadrons. With great pleasure a sincere thank you is extended to Willie and Julie Best, Jim and Diann Best for providing one more unforgettable chapter in the journal of the 485th veterans. We hope all of you and many more will return to York, Nebraska during August 1974 and join in the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the 485th BG and the 10th annual reunion. The staff joins Willie and Julie Best in thanking all of you for making the 9th reunion a great success.

ESCAPE AND EVADE (Cont)

doors open the gas vapor was so thick in the bomb bay, you could not see through it. Another sickening thud - this time up front - a direct hit knocking out our oxygen system and number three engine. Still another hit and I could see a hole in the pad at my knees where the flak entered and another hole where it went out. The pilot adjusted the power settings and BIG STOOP rallied.

"The gas leak was repaired and we continued to fly on three engines, descending to lower altitudes for oxygen. Reaching 16,000 feet another engine quit. With two engines out and the others performing not at their best, BIG STOOP continued to loose altitude.

"From my position at the navigator's table I could see mountains dead ahead as we flew at 5000 feet, well below the mountain peaks. I informed the pilot that a pass through the mountains could not be located without turning around. He replied that there wasn't a chance of getting the bomber over the mountains and then gave the order for everyone to bail out."

The men in the waist section bailed out first. The Bombardier and Lt Gallagher left through the nose wheel opening with the pilots following after setting the bomber on auto-pilot. BIG STOOP continued serenely on its slow descent, as the two engines labored to keep it airborne. But soon BIG STOOP blended in with the foliage covering the mountains. Seconds later, there was a blinding flash and a muffled report - BIG STOOP crashed. A few minutes later all the crew members were together in good shape except for a couple of injured ankles.

A short time later Lt Gallagher and his crew members were picked up by the Chetniks forces and subsequently taken with other rescued fliers to Mihailovic's headquarters where they met the Chetnik leader. During their trek through the mountains, it took them three days to go ten miles to a doctor, who treated the injured, as Germans and Partisans were present. At one village, all the villagers turned out and gave them a



DOWN MEMORY'S RUNWAY (Opposite Page)

- (1 Photo - E Swann) 830th Crew 56 (Orig). F, L to R: SSgt Frank J Brockel, G; SSgt Donald B Landrum, E; SSgt Clifford Brown, G; Cpl Herschel L Hesenfuss, AG; SSgt Garnis Martin, R; SSgt Leon W Hoadley, G. R, L to R: Lt Edwin C Tuttle, P; Lt Lawrence D McGlivray, CP; Lt Frank E Gallagher, N; Lt Oscar Rutstein, B.
- (2 Photo - C Onley) MSgt Charley Onley, 830th Line Chief.
- (3 Photo - G Ick) 828th La Cooks - L to R: Cpl Alfred Grass, PFC John Jamnik, Sgt Jim Moonan, PFC Bernard 'Tiny' Jozokos and PFC Matt Gadd.
- (4 Photo - R Heskes) Flak Damage.
- (5 Photo - A Malkoski) P-51 escort on mission to Friedrichshafen, Ger. Aug 3, 1944.
- (6 Photo - H McGaw) Cpl Louis Smigalski, ___ Harry McGaw and ___ Merle Michelson, 831.

ESCAPE AND EVADE (Cont)

banquet. Here, there were no enemy present but at another village they narrowly escaped capture by the Germans. They continued to trek across the Yugoslavian mountains and twenty-seven days later all ten crew men were back at Venosa.

THIS IS HOW IT WAS

--- Ed. Note: Reflecting back to the events that unfolded during a combat mission over enemy territory in 1944 - 45, one has had occasion to speculate about events that were occurring 20,000 feet below on mother earth as the bombers winged their way to the target, released their bombs and returned home. In response to my request, Felix Rameder, Ebergassing, Austria, a small village ten miles south of Vienna, sent his observations of those days for as a youngster, he had observed many of the air raids in the Vienna area as the bombers flew over his home on their bomb run or as they rallied off a near by target. Here is his interesting story for which I am most grateful.

--- I saw most of the air raids over the Vienna area. As a youngster of 13, it was a great experience to watch the planes during an attack. During the first raids to the Vienna area in 1944, my mother would make me stay in the cellar of our home. Later, I would go to the cellar only if the bombers were approaching directly to Ebergassing. Usually I would stand in front of our home to watch the attack which sometimes was dangerous because of the pieces of flak falling like hailstones.

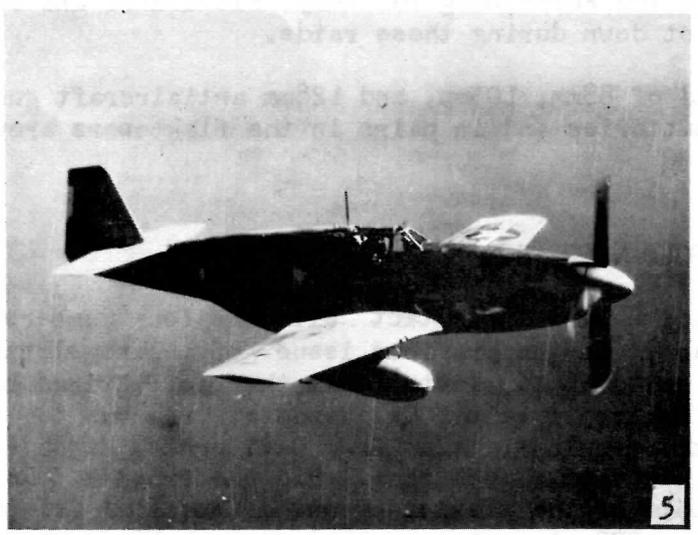
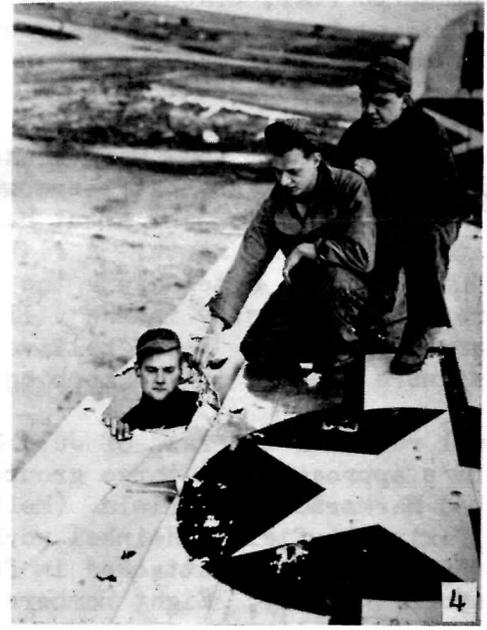
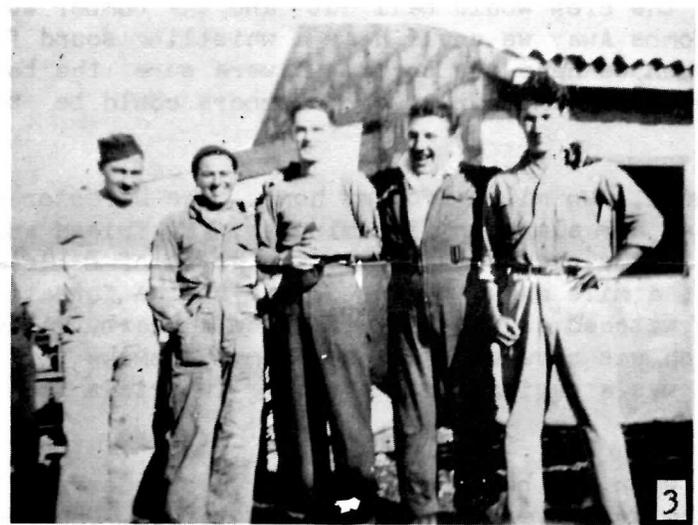
As the bombers approached Vienna, a horrible fear settled over the city. Some of the places that people could seek safety from the bombs, were the six flak towers in Vienna and the catacombs around St Stephens Cathedral in the old section of Vienna. Every morning between 0800 and 0900 hours, women with children and elderly people would go to these places and wait for the air alarm. If there was no alarm by 1200 hours they would return home. The factory workers were less fortunate for the shelters provided for them were quite unsafe. The people in the villages around Vienna would seek the safety of their cellars or go to home-made shelters a few miles from the village.

The following is a general description of the air alarms I experienced. Each day, four times each hour the air situation over the entire German Reichsgebiet (Reichs Area) was announced over the radio. When the 15th AF bombers were over Jugoslavia early in the morning, the people were advised, "Heavy bombers approaching Kornithia and Styria." We had a map of our area divided into quadrants which were numbered so we could follow the course of the bomber formation as information such as - 'Heavy bombers in quadrant 165, course north' - was given over the radio. Fifteen minutes before the alarm was sounded, the call of the cuckoo bird was heard over the radio at which time the people would proceed to the shelters. I was allowed to go home from school. As the bombers approached, the sirens were sounded three times followed by a steady sound as the bombers were very close. And then it was silence except for the radios announcing the air raid which one could hear from several homes as the windows were opened to prevent breakage.

As the bombers which appeared as little glistening dots in the sky, approached we could



RUNWAY
MEMORY'S
DOWN



DOWN MEMORY'S RUNWAY (Opposite Page)

- (1 Photo - C Gigowski) 828th Repl Crew 9, May 1945. F. L to R: Lt Ed DeKostic, B; Lt Carl P Gigowski, P; Lt Davis 'Tex' May, CP; Joseph Durst, N; R, L to R: Sgt Jack L Spafford, UTG; SSgt Joseph P Salese, BTG; Sgt Lewis D Junior, TTG; Sgt Freeman L Shindlecker, E; SSgt Ford A McMillan, R and Sgt Herbert F Little, NTG. Crew completed 29 missions.
- (2 Photo - W Napier) F, L to R: (Rank Unk) Garland O Williams, Andrew F Robinson and Anthony P Mastrangelo. R, L to R: Wythe J Napier, Thomas Aspinall, Merle W Sutterby and Roy P Kirchner, 829th Maintenance personnel.
- (3 Photo - A Malkoski) BIG STOOP, 41-28842H, 830th Liberator WJ.
- (4 Photo - E Swann) MUD, MUD and MUD. L to R: Major H L Roberdeau, Ex Officer, Capt Russel and Major John B Stoddart, Ops Officer of the 830th.
- (5 Photo - Gen Arnold) Col Acheson, 55th BW CO and Col Walter E Arnold, 1st Group CO of the 485th reviewing the troops on parade.
- (6 Photo - Col W Bradley) Group Hospital, Venosa, Italy, April, 1945.

THIS HOW IT WAS (Cont)

hear a hollow roar. Five minutes later the bombers would be flying in the flak zone of Vienna. The flak batteries would open fire filling the sky above with flak clouds which the bombers flew through. When a bomber was hit there was another distinct roar heard. The bomber would turn out of formation, the crew would bail out and the bomber would continue to roar, crashing to earth. At Bombs Away we could hear a whistling sound from the falling bombs. This was good, for when we hear the sound, we were sure the bombs would not hit us. Five minutes it was over and another wave of bombers could be seen approaching.

I remember May 24, 1944 when I was in school, two miles from my home. The Director announced to our class that there would be an air alarm in five minutes. My friend and I rode a bicycle home and about half way, on the open road, we saw a group of B-14s approaching from the north. A flak battery, a mile away, began to fire at the formation. We jumped into a ditch along the road and watched as the bombs fell on a nearby village. There was no industry in the village, which was covered by smoke from the smoke pots of a nearby air field and I believe that it was a navigational error. Two girls from my class were injured in the bombing.

I well remember the raid of July 8, 1944 when the bombers were over Florisdorf. The bombers approached in three groups from the west over the Alps to the target. One group bombed Markersdorf airfield (Me109 factory) west of Vienna. A group of B-17s bombed Zwolfaxing airfield (Heinkel works) five miles north of Ebergassing. The third group, the 55th Bomb Wing, attacked in four waves the Korneuburg refinery, Florisdorf and Jedlersdorf industry. Eight bombers were shot down during these raids.

The flak batteries around Vienna consisted of 88mm, 105mm, and 128mm antiaircraft guns. The 128mm guns were mounted on railroad batteries and in pairs in the flaktowers around Vienna.

MAIL ROOM

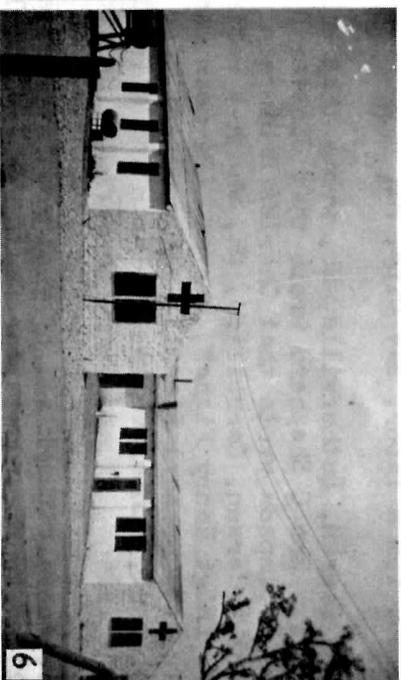
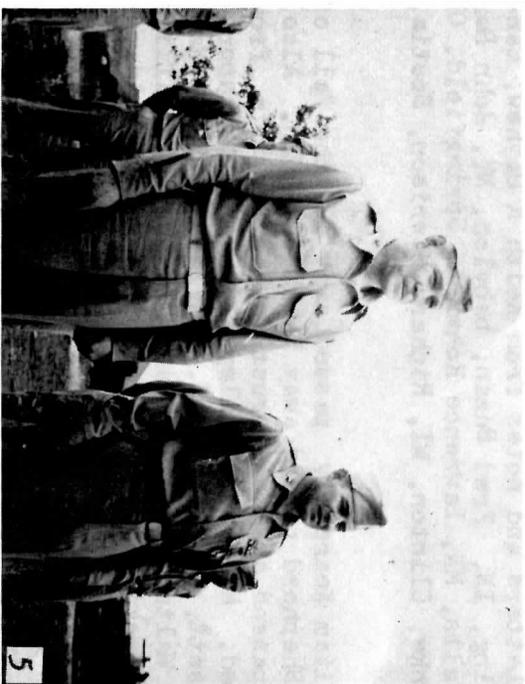
485TH BOMB GROUP HQ



It is interesting to note that we are in contact with the four members of Group Hq, whose photo appeared in the previous issue of the newsletter. Ed Krall, New Hyde Park, NY noted in his letter that the photo brings back nostalgic memories. Squire Bolton, Yucaipa, CA, sends his regards to all and plans on making one of the reunions. Also from California, Major John Hannan of Sacramento, sends his best wishes to all his old friends. Ralph Wakefield, West Stockholm, told of the passing of one of our dear friends, Col Minor Hucceby, Denver, CO on April 10, 1973. A most congenial person, Minor will be missed and we extend our sincere condolences to his family.



RUNWAY
MEMORY'S
DOWN



MAIL ROOM (Cont)

Received notes from Roy Reeve, Sperryville, VA; Fritz Coltran, Pebble Beach, CA; Mel Goodson, Phoenix, AZ and Dr Maurice Priver, Los Angeles, CA. Syd Harrison, San Francisco, CA contacted us and noted that he was quite a digger during those good ol days in Italy - of La Trines. Memories are getting better says Syd as he recalls an encounter with the MPs while buying tomato plants in Venosa. (And the memories are becoming more precious - Ed). Col William Bradley, Palos Verdes, CA sent photos of the Eagle's Nest at Venosa, Group Hospital and Medical personnel.

One cannot help becoming enthusiastic when mail is received from ol friends and contact is made with new ones. We do hope to hear from you all in '74 and see you in York.

C Gigowski

828TH BOMB SQDN



We had a grand time at Rochester this past year with more new 828th members attending their first reunion. Some of the veterans started arriving Thursday afternoon to get an early start. Most of the members are a little grayer now, but still full of the same old bounce and the story telling is still out of this world.

Several veterans have moved over the years and because they have not sent their new address to us, we have lost contact with them. I like to answer all your letters as soon as I can.

This year, I received correspondence from the following - Kenneth R Moore, Cisne, IL, who sent a picture of Charles E Graves, Phoenix, AZ and himself. Herb Wren, Houston, AR, who is retired now, sent pictures of Herb and me. A letter from Dr Melvin Bently, Waynesboro, GA, Walter Kixmiller, Vincennes, IN, a new member visited our home. Short letters from Ed Clark, Long Island, NY and Frank Kallis, Brownsville, PA, Ted and Norma Manning, Springboro, OH.

Two letters from Ben Christ. Thanks for the pictures, Ben (Lockport, NY). Messages from Col Calvin Fite, Nashville, TN, Bill Brien, Huntsville, AL, George Ick, Lisbon, ND, Dick and Jean Bates, College Park, MD, Carl and Mary Mazzoni, Dolton, IL, John Wheeler, Georgetown, IN, Gilbert Bell, W. Branch, MI, James Andrews, Beaver, PA, Fred Croushore, Jeannette, PA, Irvin Parker, Wayzata, MN, who sent names and addresses of 485th vets.

Letters from Bob and Doroty Deeds, Ray Troutman, A C Hawkins, all of Toledo, OH. Nick and Annette Montulli, Bill and Julie Best, Rochester, NY. New addresses - Ed DeVane, Burke, VA, J N MacKinnon, San Jose, CA, Harold Berry, Nutley, NJ, John Raffaele, Staten Island, NY and Henry Hazen, Portland, OR. Letters and notes from Keith R Mayhew, Canton, NY, Ambrose and Delores Borgetti, Whitting, IN, Fred Buzan, babylon, NY, John Bersack, Cherry Hill, NJ, Roy Reiten, Granite Falls, MN, Lawrence Hohmann, Springfield, OR, James McFadden, Philadelphia, PA, Laurel Behnke, Clinton, WI, Richard Marrison, Scotia, NY and Tom R Tabor, Bay City, MI.

Fred Baggan, Lutherville, MD, wrote that William Keaneally passed away in the fall of 1972. Mrs C Shepherd wrote that Chester D Shepherd passed away March 19, 1973. Also, Mrs C Simpson wrote that Charles R Simpson passed away on August 28, 1972. Note from Karl Anderson, Carrollton, OH, who has retired. Mail from Bailey F Jenkins, Northport, AL, CMSgt Henry Fisher, Denver, CO, Dean Bassett, Charlotte, NC, Richard Tuttle, Warsaw, IN, Dr Earl Pinnell, Palm Desert, CA, Walter McDonald, East Meadow, NY, William Copeland, Huntersville, NC, Stan and Alice Turecki, Passaic, NJ, John and Mary Waldeyer, Long Island, NY and Clarence Hartman, Houston, TX.

I sincerely thank all of you, who have called me through out the year and for the donations to the newsletter fund. We are all looking forward to next year, our 30th Anniversary at York. Hope we make that 400 mark.

BILL SCHOULTZ

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

EDITOR'S NOTE - It was a pleasure to be contacted about our activities by TSgt Mike Yaworsky, Radio Op/Gunner, Col Chester Ballengee, USAF Ret, pilot of Crew 14, Arthur Mayland, Flt Eng of Crew 7 and LtC Ralph Monroe, USAF Ret, Ops Officer of our Sqdn.

829TH BOMB SQDN



We enjoyed another wonderful reunion. It seems each one is better than the last. Tony Mastrangelo made this reunion his first and it was like being back in Venosa, to hear him and Wythe Napier, carrying on. They are both as sharp and ornery as ever. Other first timers were Bob Brimmler, Spencerport, NY. Bill and Julie Best did a fine job with arrangements. We kept the Hospitality Room full for two nights and a day and really caught up on news of past years.

I received a nice letter from Percy Burns, a post office employee at Minneapolis, MN. He sent five dollars for the mail fund and is anxious to get in contact with some of his buddies.

I had letters from Ray Carpenter, N. Fulton, NY, Allen Corbin, Los Angeles, CA, Mentor Metaxas, Indianapolis, IN, Casper Fasano, N Brunswick, NJ, Joe De Mauro, Short Hills, NJ and Sid Connelle, Oklahoma City, OK. Art Karns, Petersburg, MI sent his regrets that he couldn't make the reunion along with some pictures of interest.

I heard from Tom Aspinall, Hialeah, FL, Robert Hougen, Seguin, TX, Ben Skelton, Chicago, IL, Dave Underwood, Topeka, KS, Bill Sanders, Frankfort, KY, and Hugh B White, Anchorage, Alaska. Hugh noted that he plans to be on vacation the summer of '74 and hopes to make the reunion. He sent a standing invitation to his friends to come to Alaska and go hunting and fishing with him in the wilds of Alaska. A long letter from Stanley Lis, Morningdale, MA giving his appreciation for Lightweight Tower. He is anxious to make a reunion one of these times. My wife was also pleased to hear from his as Stanley mentioned an organization he joined overseas and would like some information on it. It was The Air Force Aid Society started by a General's wife. Stanley also noted that he and his wife have spotted UFOs in Mass.

Received a letter from Fred Heaton, who is enjoying his retirement. Fred told of John Campanella passing away on September 11, 1973. I'm sure he and his wife were pleased to received our thoughts and prayers from the reunion in August. Jim Gillett said that he and his wife will be at the reunion. They visited Ireland to see their daughter last fall and also toured Europe. They say the USA is the best.

My wife and I were real happy to hear from all the ol' friends this year, and look forward to seeing most of you at York in '74. I want to thank each of the 829th veterans above for sending your dollars for newsletter expenses. Keep hunting new addresses and keep your address current so we can keep in contact.

EARL BUNDY

EDITOR'S NOTE - Received a nice letter from our good friend Leonard Little down there in sunny Florida, who also shares a great interest in the Group's history. Col William Knowles, SAC Hq, who is about to retire, inquired about our activities and the letter.

TALES FROM TALBOTT'S 830TH MAIL BAG



The 'Pony Express' had a lighter load this year, bearing gifts and news from the 830th veterans and I am happy to report it was most rewarding to hear from you all. Col Richard Griffin, Ogden, UT, wrote a very nice letter with bits of information and expressing his regret of being unable to attend the '73 reunion and is planning on York. John Cichon, Edwardsville, PA wrote a most informative letter, including photos and clippings.

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

John, A member of the Ordnance Section, was unable to attend the reunion, missing an opportunity of meeting four other members of the Section - Willie Best, Rod Ritchie, Roy Hertzog and Joe Tabellion. I am sure John along with Russel Sovern, would have enjoyed the gathering. Russ of Topeka, KS, included in his letter photos of the ord. section.

'Dutch' Hertzog, Mohrsville, PA, George Williams, W Frankfort, IL, William Gullickson, Excelsior, MN and Lawrence Martin, New Brighton, MN all expressed their appreciation of the newsletter, almost reading the ink off by repeated readings and the happiness of hearing of former friends, who they had lost contact and seeing the photos of the vets as they look today. Tom Frasher, Jasper, TX, reported the passing of Butch Pickle of the 828th on July 3, 1973, who made his first and last reunion in Houston.

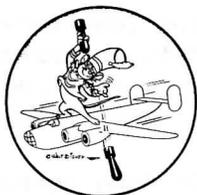
Elliott Seagraves, West Islip, NY, engineering, who was originally in the 11th Anti-Sub Sqdn, noted he served 22 months in Korea - a little different from those days in sunny Italy. DEDICATION is Charlie Onley, who with all of his difficulties in 1972, brought his aches and pains to Rochester to share in the happiness of our reunion and enjoyed every minute of it.

A big thank you from all of us, attending the reunion, to Bill and Julie Best who did a most commendable job hosting the reunion. Also Bill's son and Daughter-in-law, Jim and Diann, were drafted for snack bar-tending and did a tremendous job which was greatly appreciated. A job well done Bill, Julie, Diann and Jim, in making the 1973 reunion a great success. A reporter from the Rochester Democrat interviewed some of the veterans presenting a most favorable report of our reunion in a later edition of the paper.

Well veterans, that's the news for now and in closing I would like to say, "Let's make the '74 reunion in York for as we reflect on the past, we have more days behind us than ahead of us."
LYLE TALBOTT

EDITOR'S NOTE - Our good buddie, Willie Best, shot a few words my way, underscoring the fact that the 830th beat the 828th in attendance at the reunion. Nice going Willie, I'll toast to that. Gale Rowland, Bombardier on George Tompkins Crew 46, in his interesting letter wrote about Bill Baggs of our Group, a man destined to become an outstanding man in our time. We will have his story in the next n'letter. Received a nice letter from Bill Wulf, in which he noted the passing of our good friend Minor Huckeby and of Hans Lai, both of Group Hq.

831ST BOMB SQDN



We all had a real good time in Rochester, thanks to our host and hostess Willie and Julie Best. Eleven members from our Squadron were there and we hope more will be at York on August 2, 1974. This will be the 30th Anniversary of the forming of the 485th. We received excellent financial support this past year from amny of you and is greatly appreciated.

A letter was received from Mrs Ryder in July informing us of the passing of 'Red' Ryder on October 27, 1972. 'Red' was one of my special buddies in Italy and I was sadden to hear of his passing. We extend our sympathies to his family.

The response to my letter of June enclosed with the reunion announcement was wonderful, with correspondence received from Miles Allredge, Mesa, AZ, Robert Barrett, Fayetteville, NY, John Bock, Coleta, IL, Kenneth Boeh, Davenport, IA, Vic Bone, Chicago, IL, Ken Brown, Stewartville, NJ, Frank Chaffin, Corona, CA, George Cleghorn, Shrewsbury, MO, Harold Coombs, Fredericktown, MO, Hugh Cross, Westport, CT, Harold Dundon, New Holland, OH, Bob Hanson, St Petersburg, FL, Ray Heskes, St Louis, MO, Russ Howard, Belmont, MA, Rod Hufstader, Kennewick, WA, Walter Kwanski, Elmwood Park, IL, Burl Jackson, Lima, OH,

MAIL ROOM (Cont)

Theodore Jacobs, Annondale, VA, John Jones, Athens, OH, R R Knight, Dallas, TX, Morris Lipman, Houston, TX, Leonard Little, Tampa, FL, Eugene McCarthy, Modesto, CA and Harry McGaw, Bloomburg, PA.

Also received letters from Richard McLawhorn, Winterville, NC, Warren Meyers, Chicago, IL, Robert Miller, Lompoc, CA, Frank Nardi, Roanoke, VA, Rollie Palmer, Cedar Rapids, IA, Al Paul, Charlestown, IL, B Plocica, Tampa, FL, Dr Andrea Salazar, Houston, TX, Louis Sikes, Dennison, TX, Dan Sjodin, Minneapolis, MN, Ed Stauverman, Munster, IN (now from Naples, FL), Larry Vieth, Wilmington, DE, Ralph Summers, Manchester, MO, George Winters, Leonia, NJ and Don Stahl, Concord, MA.

HOT LINE!! I talked with Larry 'Sabre Sam' Veith on December 21. He told of being in Colorado during September on active duty with his Air National Guard unit. While there he visited with General Arnold in Colorado Springs and was his guest for the day. They had a great time. It seems that the General has given up flying for 'punching cattle'. Pop was unable to attend the '73 reunion as he, relatives and a group of friends were on a cattle drive 'down the old Chisholm Trail to Texas', well some place out west. Pop is planning on the '74 reunion in York and we are all anxious to see him again. Maybe Larry will be a 'cowhand' after his retirement in July. Larry also noted that he received a letter from Hank Dahlberg (retired), who visited the old field at Geneva, Nebraska and he will be attending the reunion in York.

We have enjoyed a busy year and hope to hear from all you regulars in 1974 and from the new members. Do your best to attend the York reunion in August and hope that the energy crisis won't interfere with your plans.
WOODY WOODYARD

EDITOR NOTE - Leonard Salvator of New York City expressed his enjoyment of the newsletter. From Harlingen, Texas Tom Cooper contacted us noting that his original assignment was with the 830th, recalls an ol buddy, 830th 1st Sgt Ev Swann. LTC Vincent Lewis, USAF Ret, requested info about our activities. TSgt Gerald Gardy, Gunner on Lt Jesse Minters Crew 68, contacted us from McGuire VA Hospital in Richmond, VA. Sgt Grady was shot down the later part of June 1944 and spent three and a half months in a Buligarian POW camp before being released after the Russians invade Buligaria.

THIS IS HOW IT WAS - DOWN ON THE LINE, April, 1945

Ingenuity, plus quick thinking, paid off this week down on the line when two 831st men, Sgt Walter Spencer and Cpl George Terrel put out the fire in an 828th gas trailer driven by Sgt George Murray of that Sqdn.

"The tractor driving the trailer had water in the gas, and stalled," declared Spencer later, "Murray tried unsuccessfully to get it going by towing it. Just as it reached the second fillstand, the truck backfired, igniting some of the spilled gas. Terrell and I were gasing up our ship, 931, about 3 hardstands away when it happened, so we got hold of a tractor and went over to help."

Towing the tractor and trailer from underneath the refilling stand pipe, George and Walter disconnected the two vehicles and towed the trailer to a safe area about 200 yards away - all the while the rear end of the trailer was burning furiously. Because of this fast work, they prevented what might have been a much more serious explosion. Both refuelers, the two "rescuers" have been in the Group since Boise days.

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

Published annually by and for the veterans of the 485th Bomb Gp (H)

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By VICKI BROWN

War 30 years ago wasn't so different from war in Vietnam, some World War II veterans visiting here say.

But it was that difference that made war in Italy, Germany, Romania and Austria preferable to the Vietnamese conflict, they add.

Sixty former members of the 485th Bomb Group, which spent 13 months in 1944 and 1945 based in Venosa, a town in southern Italy, wound up a three-day gathering at the downtown Flagnip Rochester Hotel.

Members of the group, which was attached to the 15th Air Force in the old U.S. Army Air Corps, talk proudly of their wartime experiences and get together annually to reminisce about old times.

One of them, Lyle Talbott, is now a postmaster in Crooksville, Ohio. Talbott says "warfare then was pretty much the same as today."

One of the chief differences, he says, was "we could identify the enemy." That, coupled with the Vietnamese lifestyle, which conditioned the people to live with much suffering, made Vietnam a more difficult war, Talbott says.

A Grand Rapids, Mich., man also notes some differences between warfare then and now. Carl Gigowski, who's writing a book about the 485th in his spare time, says "in World War II the allies were out to defeat Japan and Germany unconditionally.

in Vietnam it was limited warfare."

A bomber pilot turned engineer, Gigowski says that because the war in Vietnam was a limited war, bombers were used more for tactical missions than for strategic purposes.

Gigowski, who flew a B24 on 29 missions, says he'd rather have fought in World War II than in Vietnam because of the "limitations" and lack of goals in the latest U.S. conflict.

In World War II, he says, there were "no limitations on targets. The 15th Air Force came up with definite operations and it was an all out effort." For instance, Gigowski says, "we hit German oil fields in Vienna, Austria and Blechhammer, Germany. Once their capacity was lessened or reduced we would hit transportation and rail yards. It was always a definite target. Everyone was committed to it."

B-52's used in Vietnam were strategic bombers but were used more "for tactical support, mainly going after enemy ground forces," Gigowski says.

Another man attached to the Bomb Group was Stanley Turecki of Passaic, N.J. Turecki was separated from the group most of the time, however, while he spent 11½ months as a prisoner of war in Stettin, Germany.

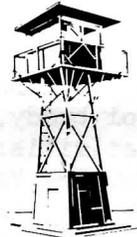
A radio operator and gunner, Turecki was on his 26th mission when his plane was hit

by flak and the 10-member crew was forced to bail out. Bailing out, he says with a smile, was "something we had never done before."

Turecki says he was probably treated a lot better than most Vietnamese prisoners of war. The Germans, he said, considered the Air Force superior and treated men like Turecki well in case they could be used as "bargaining agents" to end the war.

As a prisoner, Turecki says, he dined on potatoes, potato soup, coffee, a kind of turnip and occasionally on food sent in Red Cross packages.

William Schoultz, the Newton Falls, Ohio, man who first got the group together nine reunions ago, says the meetings, held in a different location each year, give the veterans a chance to renew old acquaintances and talk about what they went through overseas.



FROM YOUR EDITOR

With this issue of the newsletter, ninety-five pages of information about the 485th veterans has been published. When bound in a notebook your newsletters become a valuable historical document of your association with the Group - past and present. We have endeavored to present a picture of all the many activities that made the 485th an outstanding Group in the 15th AF. However, there are activities, as yet, not noted because material is lacking. To complete the picture, I most sincerely ask the help of the members of various sections to send in a write-up of their activity - such as planning a mission; preparing the bombers for the mission, the hot rod truck drivers who expressed us to briefing and to the flight line and the cooks who made that wonderful GI coffee, which we so affectionately called mud. History becomes more interesting with personal accounts of the men who made it.

I am sorry to say that little progress was made on the history for the past year was an unusually busy one for me. I Haven't given up and will continue to type away at it. So please keep the information coming.

I am indebted to Felix Rameder, Ebergassing, Austria and Juraj Rajnivec, Trencin, Czech. for the very interesting material they sent which can be viewed at the reunion. And to all, for your most generous support, a hearty thank you and our best for 1974.

JOURNEYS END

| Members Deceased Since | The End Of WWII |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| *ANNINOS, Milton P | 828 1971 |
| *BAGGS, Bill | 830 1969 |
| BARRETT, Sam | 830 |
| BARQUIST, Ernie | 828 1967 |
| BLACKWELL, Earl | 828 1959 |
| BOYER, Henry | 828 1964 |
| BRODRICK, Gerald A | 828 1968 |
| BROWN, Wilbur | 828 1972 |
| *CAMPANELLA, John | 829 |
| CHAPMAN, Russel | 828 |
| COREY, Russel | 828 |
| COX, Lester C | 828 1972 |
| DEGAN, John | 830 1966 |
| DI MATTEO, Gene | 828 1969 |
| DONACHE, Leigh | 829 1971 |
| ENTWHISTLE, Jack | 828 1959 |
| *FREITAS, Henry E | 828 |
| GIBSON, Richard O | 828 1962 |
| GILLESPIE, Kenneth | GpHq |
| GRASS, Alfred W | 828 |
| *GREENWOOD, Lloyd H | 830 |
| GRUBBS | 829 1972 |
| HARRISON, Wallace | GpHq 1945 |
| HASLER, Donald E | 831 1972 |
| *HUCKEY, H. M., LC | Gp Hq 1973 |
| JENSEN, Willard | 828 1962 |
| JOHNSON, R. W., Col | GpHq 1972 |
| JOHNSON, Ralph | 829 1966 |
| *KEANEALLY, Wm C | 828 1973 |
| KETCHAM, Frank D | 828 1968 |
| *LIA, Hans | GpHq 1973 |
| LISH, Gilbert | 829 1968 |
| *MC GINN, Chas J | 828 |
| *MIFLIN, Ed | 829 1971 |
| OBERLE, Robert | 828 1970 |
| O'DELL, Rex | 828 1948 |
| *PICKLE, Buck | 828 1973 |
| PRATZ, Wm S | GpHq |
| REUTER, Clarence W | GpHq |
| ROBERDEAU, Horace, Maj | 830 1972 |
| ROE, John | GpHq |
| *RYDER, Wm | 831 1972 |
| SCHALIS, Eugene H | 829 1972 |
| *SHEPHERD, Chester D | 828 1973 |
| SHINDLECKER, F. | 828 1965 |
| *SIMPSON, Chas R | 828 |
| SOLLINGER, Edward | 828 1968 |
| STAGMAN, Orlie M | 831 |
| TANNER, Wm | 829 1971 |
| THOMAS, Homer | 829 |
| THOMPSON, Harold V | 831 1971 |
| THORNE, John N | 829 1971 |
| TRUSS, John | 830 1968 |
| WILLIAMS, Garland O | 829 1965 |
| YOUNG, Othmar L | 831 1971 |