

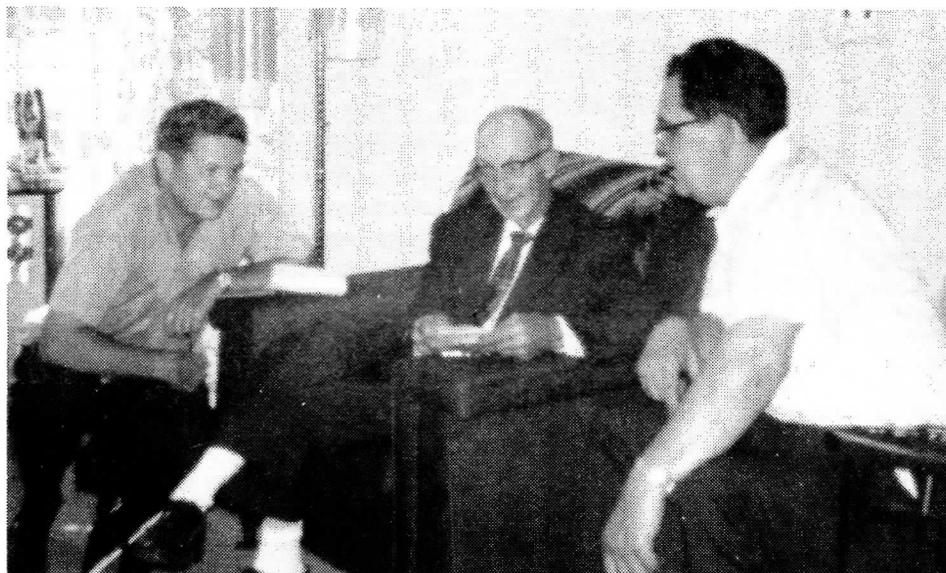


# Christmas Greetings



FIRST EDITION

DECEMBER 1988



First Reunion, 1955: Bill Schoultz, Karl Anderson and Bob Deeds.

It's that time of year again to send you fellows a Christmas letter. It's been a good year for me. I've heard from more than half of you. This keeps me busy on bad days answering your letters and putting my reports together.

Since the 1987 newsletter, I have spent time in Florida. Enjoyed phone calls and visits with E.J. "Pappy" Devane and Dee, Bob and Linda Hanson talking about our 1988 reunion, Vic Bone and his wife of the 831st, had a conversation with Bob Deleney and a day with my buddy Sam Schneider in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Visited with Carl and Mary Mazzoni in Chicago. We had some get-together. It turned out to be one of the hottest weekends this summer, with temperatures reaching 104 degrees. Needless to say we stayed in our motel rooms and talked over our different experiences. I missed my pal Ambrose Borgetti and Dolores, seems there was a wedding in the family. Two new fellows, Bob Donnan and wife Helen, Forest and Ollie Leville; among the old

timers were Bob and Kay Kuns, Gil and Colleen Bell, Ken and Vera Moore, Art Hurley, Ken Ponte and a visitor, John Anderson, who told us

about his group reunions. On Sunday the Mazzonis had us all over for dinner, Charlie Panagos and wife stopped by to say "Hi." The turn-out was great and fun was had by all.

Returned home and went to visit another tent buddy, Somers Corson, in Seaville Ocean View, New Jersey. Somers would like us to have a meeting in New Jersey next June along with Jack Bersack and George Barnes. Many of the fellows who live in the area like the idea. More on the date and information later.

Got ready for the big affair in St. Petersburg Beach. It was a dandy reunion. Many old friends and lots of new ones showed up. More on the reunion in our regular newsletter.

At this time I would like to wish you and yours the very best for the holiday season and the coming year. Keep in touch, "It's later than you think."

## 'Axis Sally' Earns Degree In 50 Years

### Nazi Propagandist Finishes Work On OWU Bachelor's

DELAWARE, O. (AP) — After 50 years, and a career as Nazi radio propagandist Axis Sally, Mildred E. Gillars has received her college degree at Ohio Wesleyan University.

Miss Gillars was awarded a bachelor of arts degree Sunday. She originally studied at Ohio Wesleyan from 1918-1922, but did not complete her degree program.

During the 1920s she toured with theater companies in the United States and Canada, but left for Europe in 1929 in search of better roles.

During World War II she worked for the German Ministry of Propaganda,

broadcasting a radio program from Berlin, aimed at U.S. soldiers. The program included nostalgic American love songs and messages urging soldiers to surrender.

She went into hiding when the allied forces advanced into Germany, but was captured in 1946. She was tried and convicted of treason and served 10 years in prison, where she converted to Catholicism.

Since 1960, Miss Gillars has taught music to children at Our Lady of Bethlehem School in Columbus.

*Editor's Note: Axis Sally died in 1985.*

# 828th Reunion

## Over Fifty

Everything hurts and what doesn't hurt doesn't work.

The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.

You feel like the day after the night before and you haven't been anywhere.

Your little black book contains only names followed by "M.D."

Your knees buckle and your belt won't.

Your back goes out more than you do.

You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.

When you see a pretty girl your pacemaker makes the garage door open.

You have too much room in the house and not enough room in the medicine cabinet.

The best part of your day is over when your alarm goes off.



Front row, left to right: Art Hurley, Carl Mazzone, Ken Moore, John Anderson (visitor). Back row: Bob Kuns, Bob Donnan, Gil Bell, Forest Leville, Ken Ponte, Bob Deeds.

June 25, 1988, one of Chicago's hottest days, 104 degrees, but all was cool at the mini 828th reunion.

The motel was located in East Hazelcrest, Illinois. On Friday, Gil and Colleen Bell, Kenneth and Vera Moore and Bob Deeds checked in. Mary and Carl Mazzone were on hand to say welcome. Arriving on Saturday were Bob and Kay Kuns, Mary and Carl Mazzone, Ken Ponte, Art Hurley, Bob and Helen Donnan. Needless to say the gab sessions started with the fellows in one room and the ladies in another. The heat was so intense outdoors, all enjoyed an air conditioned afternoon of conversation and hospitality.

A banquet dinner was set up in a small private banquet room across from the motel. It was quite a sight to see all the blue 282th caps walking through the parking lot and into the restaurant. Joining us for dinner were Forest and Ollie Leville, John Anderson, Sandra, Dale and Vikki Burkhardt, Jim, Susie and Jackie Mazzone. The Mazzone children enjoyed their father's friends and stories.

Bob Deeds led the group with the 828th Prayer. A delicious dinner was enjoyed and toasts were proposed. Bob Deeds acted as emcee with all the group participating, introducing themselves and their wives. After the

dinner, it was back to the motel for more conversation, etc.

On Sunday, all were invited to the Mazzonis' for lunch and our farewells. Joining us on that day were Charles Panagos and his wife. The fellows viewed films of Poliskia oil fields during lunch and then it was time to depart.

## Thank You

Men, I want to thank the ones who have contributed to our mail and newsletter. The newsletter and mail are very important because it helps me find old friends and keep in contact with each one of you. This year has been

the best year for finding replacement crews and P.O.W.s. Fellows, let me hear from you. This is your affair and I'm just doing my part.

Along with my "thank-yous," I would like to acknowledge Lory Hohmann and San Schneider for helping me with research on our boats and the men who were lost April 20, 1944; Art Hurley who has contributed the envelopes for our mailing and many other ways over these past years; Alice Turecki and Leona Schoultz for that great dinner they fixed for us on Thursday evening at her home in St. Petersburg. It's the women over the years that have kept us alive.



Atlanta, Georgia - 1975: Jack Eden, unknown, Baily Jenkins, Ed Nett, E. J. "Pappy" Devane, and Roger Monroe.

## Do You Remember?

# The First 'Practice Taxi' Mission

This was mission "number minus one" in May 1944 at the Venosa Airfield, Italy.

by Roger Monroe

### Question:

Who **does** remember it? I **know** the participating crew members and ground crews of the 828th bomb squadron do!

### The credit:

It should have been a "two-mission" sortie, since it lasted nearly as long as an average mission (airborne) and was almost as traumatic.

### The challenge:

Some aircraft (directed by pilots), upon our arrival at Venosa from Oujda, Tunisia (by way of Dakar, Casablanca and/or Marrakesh; Recife/Fortaleza, Brazil; Trinidad or Puerto Rico; West Palm Beach; and Lincoln and Fairmont, Nebraska), had some difficulty in staying on the PSP (pierced steel planking) in taxiing to the assigned hard stand parking spots. Negotiating the sharp, 90-degree turns and doing a 180-degree in the "parking lot" was a challenge to all.

### The task:

The higher powers decided to practice a simulated mission, taxiing the aircraft around the perimeter of the Lightweight airstrip. The 828th was selected for this operation since it was the first-numbered (not lowest) squadron in the group.

### The do NOT:

Most people in the services are familiar with the military truism, "Never volunteer for anything." I'm sure my "lengthy," two-year Air Corps career had previously taught me that, and if I **had** volunteered, I promised never to do it again.

### The DO:

We finally accomplished the mission after testing our engines at maximum military-rated power many times, extricating our Liberators from that thick, gooey mud. Quite often, we used tractors and trucks in assisting, attaching heavy chains to the gear areas. Success was rewarded numerous times, after repeated, frustrating incidents and damaged tempers.

### The results:

It proved to be an eventually rewar-

ding experience. We discovered many things, some even useful and beneficial.

### The findings:

Several facts were gathered:

1. Our engines held up at over-the-tech-order-allowed maximum power continuous running time.

2. You can't turn a B-24 at a 90-degree angle in less than three feet.

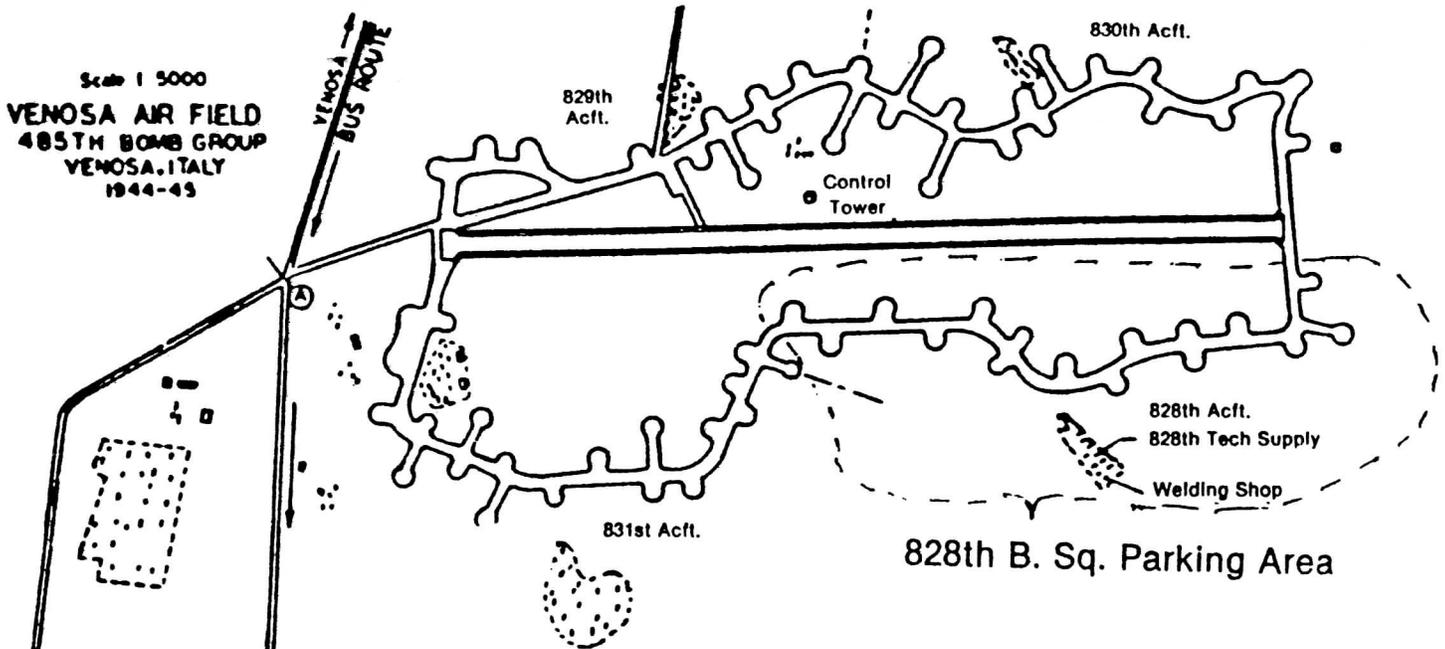
3. It is impossible to turn a Liberator in a 32-foot circle on a hardstand with a 15-foot radius.

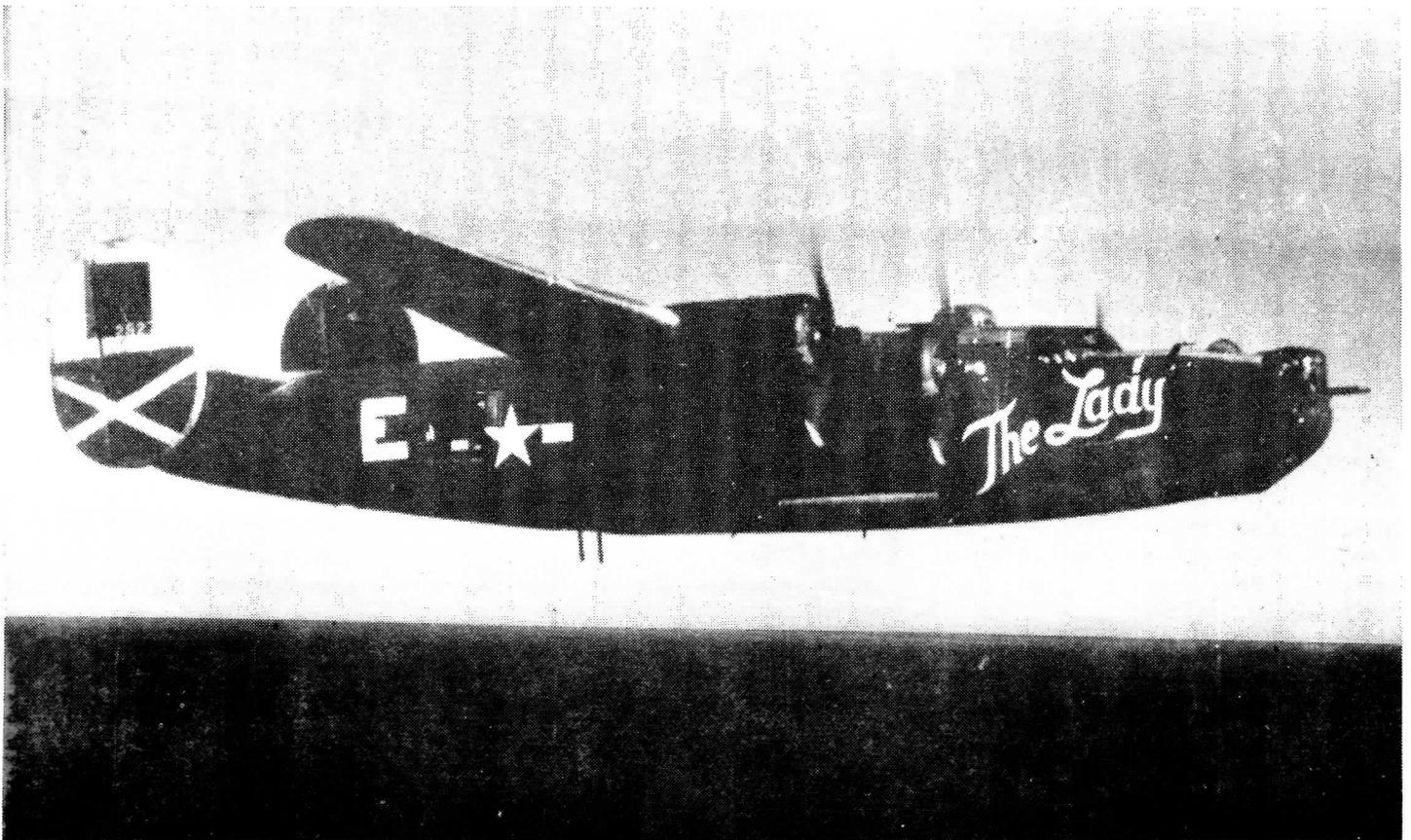
4. We needed stronger chains on the tractors to pull several tons of immovable flying machines through several yards of glue-filled, cement-like Italian mud.

5. The taxi-way hard spots were packed down nicely; the soft areas needed the water replaced with dry dirt and crushed rock.

6. The radio frequencies we used occasionally disintegrated under the choice expletives expressed.

7. The airfield construction engineers had some red faces, later assuaged with a darker-hued Italian vino.

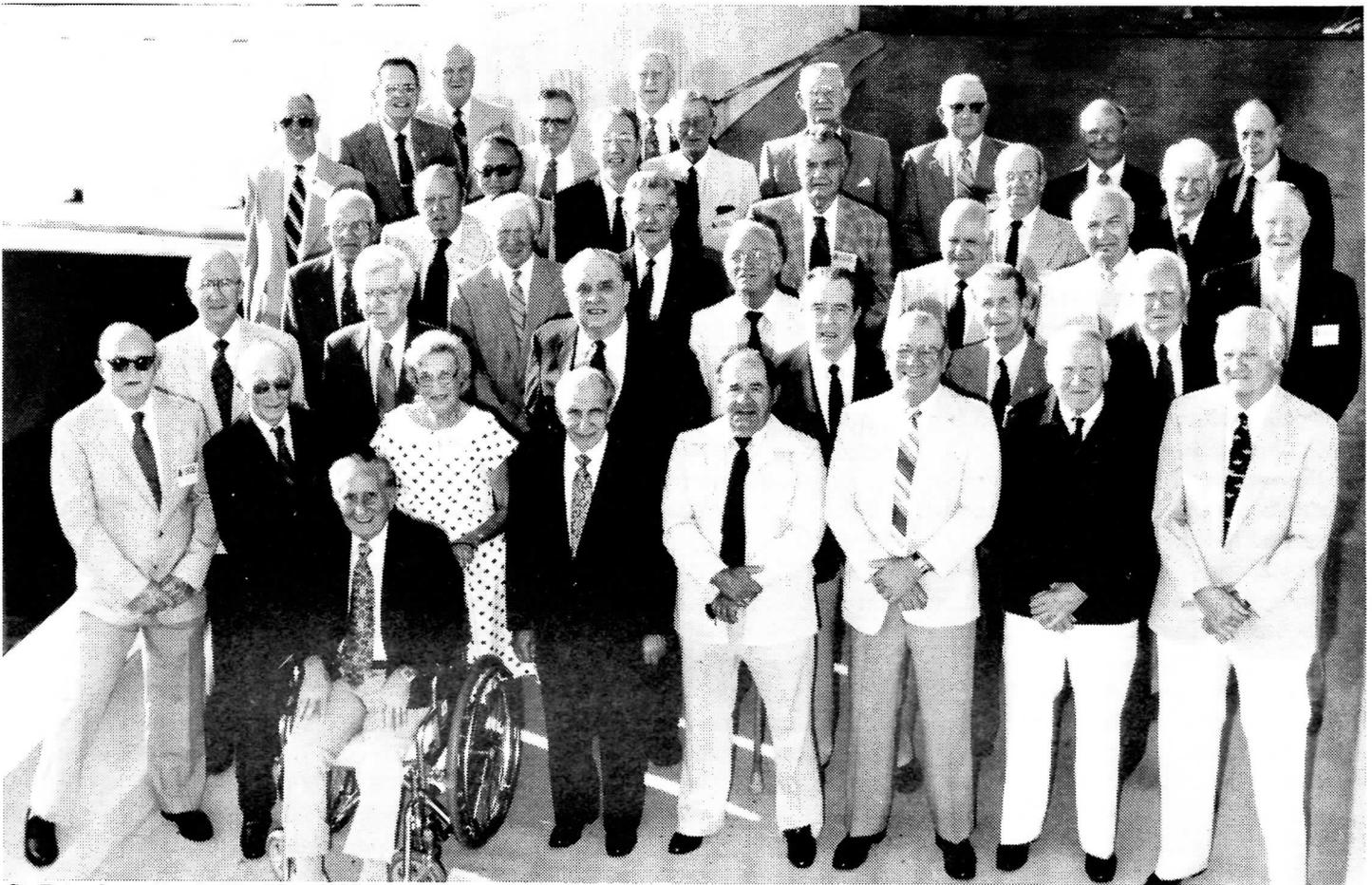




B-24 flying over the Alps — 1944



Toledo Reunion: Ted Manning, Bob Deeds, Bob Kuns, Bill Schoultz, Bill Copeland, Ralph Compton, Clem Norvis, Dean Bassett, Arlynn Brown. Kneeling: Karl Anderson, Henry Boyer, Del Hawkins, Jim McFadden, and Ambrose Borgetti.



St. Petersburg Beach, Florida - 1988 Reunion. 181 vets from 485th Bomb Group, 38 vets from 828th Bomb Group. First row, left to right: H. T. Alford, Karl Anderson, Leona Schoultz, Sam Schneider, Nick Montulli, Herman Laorno, Carl Mazzoni, Al Hawkins, E. J. "Pappy" Devane. Second row: Lyle Alexander, Bill Conley, Sherrill Buraba, Ken Ponte, Joe Coker, John Treble. Third row: Ray Trautman, Willard Smith, Joe Cox, Jack Eden, Clif Pavli, Warren Domey, Bryce Blakley. Fourth row: Martin Bishop, Martin Lydard, C. O. Edckfeld, Joe Morrone, Houston Register. Fifth row: Warren Mickle, Jim Rau. Sixth row: Bob Deeds, Bill Lancaster, Tom McDowel, Bill Fritz, Leslie Black, Larry Sullivan, Dick Mattison, Clem Norris, and Ken Wall.



This picture was taken to put in the papers back home, to show the tough conditions we had over there. Behnke, Hazen and Fuks are on the bomb truck.



Fairmont, Nebraska - early 1944: Laurel and Bev Behnke, and Lory Hohmann.

Dedicated to "The Good Ol' Boys (and Gals)"

# A Different World, But In Many Ways The Best Of Times

It is said that there are **three ages of woman: youth, middle age** and "**and you haven't changed.**" But change is the name of the game. Consider: We were **before the Pill** and the **population explosion**.

**But a lot has changed** since our big war (the "Middle War").

We were: Before television; before penicillin, polio shots, antibiotics and Frisbees; before frozen food, Dacron, Xerox, Kinsey; we were before credit cards, and nylon was only used in parachutes. For us, **time-sharing** meant **togetherness**, not **computers**: a **chip** meant a **piece of wood** (or "off the old block"), **hardware** meant **hardware**, and **software** wasn't even a word.

We were before Leonard Bernstein, yogurt, Ann Landers, plastics, the 40-hour week and the minimum wage. We got married first and **then** lived together. (How quaint can be you be?)

In our time, **closets** were for **clothes**, (not for coming out of); and a book about two young women living together in Europe **could** be called "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay." In those days, playboy referred to J.M.

Synge's hero of the Western World, penthouse **bunnies** were small rabbits and **rabbits** were not **Volkswagens**. We were before Grandma Moses and the Beatles; and cup-sizing for bras. We wore Peter Pan collars and thought a **deep cleavage** was something **butchers** did.

We were before Batman, "Grapes of Wrath," "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer," Stuart Little and Snoopy. Before DDT and vitamin pills, vodka in the United States, and the white wine craze. The buffalo was not nearly extinct, and its counterpart, the nickel, could be found.

When we were in training, pizzas, Cheerios, frozen orange juice, instant coffee and McDonald's were unheard of. We thought **fast food** was what you ate during **Lent**, or when you were in a hurry.

We were before Gorgeous George, "Citizen Kane," J.D. Salinger and Chiquita Banana. Before FM radio, electric typewriters, word processors, Muzak, Lazer Music, disco dancing — **and that's not all bad!**

In our day **cigarette smoking** was fashionable, **grass** was mowed, **Coke**

was something you drank, and **pot** was something you cooked in. We were before day-care centers, house-husbands, computer dating, dual careers and commuter marriages.

In the early 1940s, American schools were not desegregated, Blacks were not allowed to play in the major leagues, and the D.A.R. (Daughters of the American Revolution) would not allow Marian Anderson to sing in Constitution Hall. Then, "Made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam.

In our time there were **5-and-10-cent stores** where you could buy things for five and 10 cents. For just **one nickel** you could buy a Hershey bar or make a phone call, or buy a Coke, or buy **two** copies of the Harlingen Gazette and get change; or buy enough stamps to mail **one letter and two** postcards. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$659. But who could afford that then? Nobody! A pity, too, because gas was 14 cents a gallon.

If anyone in those days had asked us to explain CIA, M-S, NATO, UFO, NFL, SATs, JFK, ERA or IUD, we would have said, "Alphabet soup." We were **not** before the difference between sexes was discovered, but we were before **sex change**. We just made do with what we had. And we were the last generation that was so dumb as to think you needed a husband to have a baby.

And the Confederate airforce consisted **only** of hot air balloons, not what we say today! Wasn't that great?

And we didn't ask, "What can our country do for us?" We went out and **did** "What we could do for our country"!

Thank you!  
Roger Easy "Mo" Monroe  
Master of Ceremonies  
485th Bomb Group  
55th Bomb Wg.  
15th Air Force  
Circa 1944-1945



Top row: Phillips - radio operator, Cox - engineer, Angle - upper turrett, Buckley - nose turrett, Randall - ball turrett, Monroe - tail turrett. Bottom row: O'Neill - pilot, Marshall - co-pilot, Veilie - navigator, and Cohen - bombardier.

# Past Friends: Where Are They?

Many of you have asked about past friends of our Venosa days. Here is the address where they keep on file all Air Force people.

HQ AFMPC Worldwide Locator  
Northeast Office Place  
9504 I H 35 North  
San Antonio TX 78233 6636

There is a cost factor for looking up names.

Many of you have asked about ribbons or medals you think you have coming to you. Take your discharge or any other proof you may have to your nearest Regional V.A. Office in your area and ask for the "Service Officer." This person can help you or can advise you. You can check within your local veterans organization.

When checking at your Veterans Administration you can ask about your medical records. These records were once destroyed in a fire at St. Louis but now they have been found after many years.

If any of you fellows would like a copy of our 828th veterans, let me know and I'll send you a copy.

Here is a list of our deceased members that I know about. If you know of someone's name that was missed, send the information along with the year he died.

Aborjaily, Alfred Dr.	1988
Aderr, Earnest M.	
Anninos, Milton P.	
Bakke, Wayne	1976
Barquist, Ernie	1967
Bates, Richard	1982
Beamish, Robert E.	1985
Beckley, Paul	1981
Behnke, Laurel L.	1967
Blackwell, Earl	1959
Boettcher, Donald E.	1948
Bonus, Walter	1984
Boyer, Henry	1964
Bradtrick, Gerald A.	1968
Brown, Richard	
Brown, Wilbur	1972
Caudle, James	1976
Chapman, Russel	
Christ, Ben	1976
Choate, Horace	
Christenson, Gale	

Cuybley, Clyde		Oberle, Robert	
Cooker, Murrow	1981	O'Dell, Rex	1948
Corey, Russel		Meeting, David R.	1980
Cox, C. Lester	1972	Peppard, Sam	1981
Croushore, Fred		Pepper, Alvin J.	1987
Custer, Raymond		Peck, Roy	
Dekostic, Ed	1985	Perillo, Ralph	1979
Diamatteo, Gene		Pickle, Buck	1973
Ensminger, Donald	1950	Poplowski, Chester	
Enthwhistle, Jack	1959	Prentiss, Robert	
Forester, August		Reybarczk, Joe R.	1981
Freitas, Henry		Roberts, Charles Jr.	1987
Gibson, Richard	1962	Ryborcky, Joseph P.	1979
Gilber, Don	1982	Schoultz, William H.	1975
Grass, Alfred		Selby, Dick	1985
Hazen, Henry	1972	Shepard, Chester D.	1973
Holihan, Robert N.	1984	Shield, Merl	1984
Hodges, Lelton	1984	Siller, Antonio R.	
Jensen, Willard	1962	Simpson, Charles R.	
Kallis, Frank	1976	Sollinger, Edward	1968
Keanelly, William C.	1973	Sutterby, Merle	
Ketcham, Frank	1968	Turecki, Stan	1986
Kixmiller, Walter A.	1986	Tidwell, Felix M.	1982
Lamakos, Gus		Welsterman, Howard	1981
Lemon, George	1985	Winters, Jackson	1975
Marshall, Bob	1986	Ziembra, Alfred	
Livengood, Fred	1965	Landis, Joe	1986 Head Q
Mayhew, Keith R.	1986	Updike, Perry	1986 Head Q
McGinn, Charles			



VeNosa, Italy - 1944: (left to right) Major Goodson, Group Hdq.; Sgt. Piccone, 831st; Italian boy; Cpl. John Raffaele, 828th; and Cpl., Group Hdq.



Left to right: Crew 6 — R. Houston, B. Deeds, General Arnold, S. Schneider, M. Mattison and J. Morrone.



Minneapolis, MN - 1978: Jim McFadden.



Newton Falls, Ohio - 1965, First Group Reunion. Ted Manning, Karl Anderson, Lyle Tabbot, Bob Deeds, Ambrose Borgelli, ?, Howard Woodyard, and Bill Schultz.

**Robert S. Deeds**  
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