



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



NO. 28

MARCH 1994

Memphis to Host '94 Reunion



Exterior View — of the East Memphis Hilton, reunion headquarters. Shown is the front entrance with lavish landscaped grounds including a water sculpture in front of the hotel.

'93 Reunion A Success

By Earl Bundy

The 485th Bomb Group reunion, held in mid-September 1993 in Albuquerque, N.M., was proclaimed a roaring success by nearly 200 veterans and a like number of guests who attended.

Wednesday morning, September 15 was a busy day with many members arriving and the hospitality room buzzing with old stories and new ones, as well.

The registration crew moved from the hallway into the spacious hospitality room. It was grand to see so many "first timers" and learn some new stories and what experiences they had since 1945. Forty-eight years is a long time.

The golfers went to Kirtland Air

Base Golf Club. The fairways and greens were perfect, but we soon learned not to get in the rough.

I saw an owl living in the ground in a prairie dog town. I was lucky. They didn't get my golf ball.

On Thursday the majority of the reunioners toured the State Fair, the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque Museum and "Old Town" with 150 art galleries with adobe homes and plenty to buy.

In the evening we toured the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and Museum. They furnished a delicious Mexican dinner, followed by a traditional Pueblo Indian dance by a group who has toured the world performing.

On Friday, we enjoyed a most in-

(Continued on page 11)

The 30th reunion of the 485th Bomb Group will be held from September 14 to 18, 1994 in Memphis, Tenn., the "Home of the Blues."

Rocky and Enid Jordan will be the hosts and reunion will be held in the East Memphis Hilton, just off Highway I-240 and Poplar Avenue.

As we go to press details of the reunion have not yet been finalized, but Memphis has much to offer sightseers. Probably an evening on Beale Street will be scheduled in the "Heart of Jazzland."

Mud Island, in the Mississippi River just west of Memphis, holds the museum where the Memphis Belle, famous B-17 of World War II, is on display.

Other activities being discussed include a few hours on a Riverboat Casino, an afternoon at the Greyhound Dog Races and visits to the various parks, museums and nature centers so plentiful in and around Memphis. Graceland, the home of Elvis Presley, is also open for visitors.

The East Memphis Hilton is centrally located in the East Memphis business district and is convenient to shops, restaurants and the Clark Tower.

The hotel has an airport shuttle which will get guests to and from the airport in less than 15 minutes.

Our hosts, Rocky and Enid Jordan, are well qualified to represent Memphis in that they both served as royalty in the Memphis Cotton Carnival.

The carnival was designed to both

(Continued on page 12)

Schoultz Recalls Reunion Beginnings

The death of Carl Gigowski, one of the founders of the 485th reunions, has caused others to think back to those days of the beginnings of reunions.

One of the founders was the late Bill Schoultz, of the 828th squadron.

His wife, Leona, recounts for us how the reunions began back in the 1960s:

After many years of listening to Bob Deeds, Karl Anderson and my husband, Bill, talking about someone "ought to start a reunion," I got tired of hearing about it.

I told my husband on our way home from the Deeds' home in Toledo that "either he do something about it or keep his moth shut." Little did I know what I was getting into when I said I would help him.

All I had to start with was the fellows' names and hometowns of only the 828th. There were many days that I spent on the telephone getting phone numbers and addresses.

Finally, in 1960 we did get seven fellows together (plus families) for our first 828th reunion which was held in a park. The second and third reunions were held in Toledo, Ohio with Bob and Dorothy Deeds hosting.

After putting the reunion announcement in the veterans' magazine, the ball started to roll and other squadrons responded.

In 1965 our very first 485th Bomb Group reunion was held at our home where we had a very nice family turnout and many good friendships were made.

Our reunions have been growing every year and a lot of good friendships have been made.

It took a lot of hard work and patience, but it was all worth it. Thanks all of you for keeping it going.

Leona Schoultz

Death claims Carl Gigowski, Lightweight Tower Editor



Carl Gigowski — and his grandson, Matthew Darby, in the cockpit of a B-24. This photo was taken in June 1983.

Veterans of the 485th were shocked late last year to hear the death of Carl P. Gigowski.

Carl, 69, one of the persons who initiated the 485th reunions nearly 30 years ago, died on Friday, November 5, 1993. He was a resident of Sand Lake, Michigan and formerly of Grand Rapids.

Gigowski was the original editor of the Lightweight Tower Calling and was busy attempting to get this year's edition to press when he was stricken. He also served as the historian for the bomb group association.

He was a retiree of Smith Industries and a retired major of the U.S. Air Force reserves.

He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3794, Greenville, Mich.

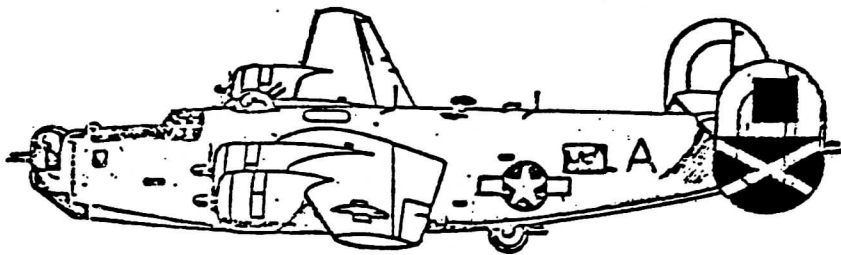
Surviving are his widow, Florence; a daughter, Carol Darby, of Lake Odessa, Mich.; a son, David Gigowski, of Atlanta, Ga.; a grandson and two sisters: Esther Siebaneicher and Joan Norkus.

On the opposite page is a reproduction of the first page of the very first issue of the Lightweight Tower, edited by the late Carl Gigowski in early 1966.

Carl was editor of the Lightweight Tower for most of its 28 issues. He gave up those duties in the mid 1980s when his health started to give way, but resumed the editing job in 1992.

Carl was also one of the founders of the 485th reunions. Without the pioneering work of those few men and their wives, the reunions would have never been the successes they have been for the past three decades.

This reproduction of the first Lightweight Tower is a small tribute to the untiring efforts of Carl Gigowski. He will be missed by one and all.



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

NO. 1

DECEMBER 1966

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE VETERANS OF THE 485TH BOMB GROUP

A MESSAGE FROM THE TOWER OPERATORS

Twenty some odd years have passed since the adventurous days of the 485th in Italy. Now, the events of those days are a part of the Air Force heritage of history and tradition. With this, the first issue of the 485th newsletter, LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING, the editors wish to introduce a newsletter of personal interest and reflections about the veterans of the 485th.

It is the aim of this letter to enhance the memories of this great adventure and to induce a fraternal atmosphere among the many participants. Moreover, it is hoped that this letter will provide that additional spark of inducement which will incite the members to attend the reunions.

Briefly then, these are the goals of LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING. We earnestly hope to reflect the interest of the 485th veterans and look forward to any and all comments and criticism. Your letters of information and support are sincerely requested for this project. In turn, we shall endeavor to provide an interesting and informative newsletter.

Carl P. Gigowski
Robert S. Deeds
William H. Schoultz

1967 REUNION

Tentatively, the date of the 1967 reunion is set for the weekend of 19 August 1967 in Dayton, Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Manning of Springboro, Ohio will be the host. The reunion will be

(Cont on page 2)

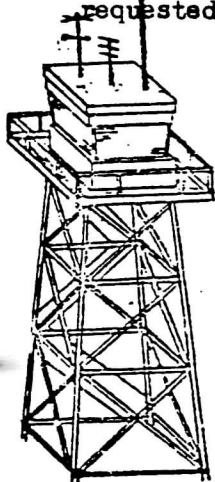
MISSION NO. 2: GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Early Friday, August 19, 1966 several members of the Group were on course to Grand Rapids, Michigan for the second reunion of the 485th Bomb Group. The weather and traffic conditions were good and by evening the weary travelers were reporting in on target - The Gateway Motel in Grand Rapids. Completing the first phase of the mission, the guests were interrogated at the residence of the hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Gigowski, during a pre-reunion social visit.

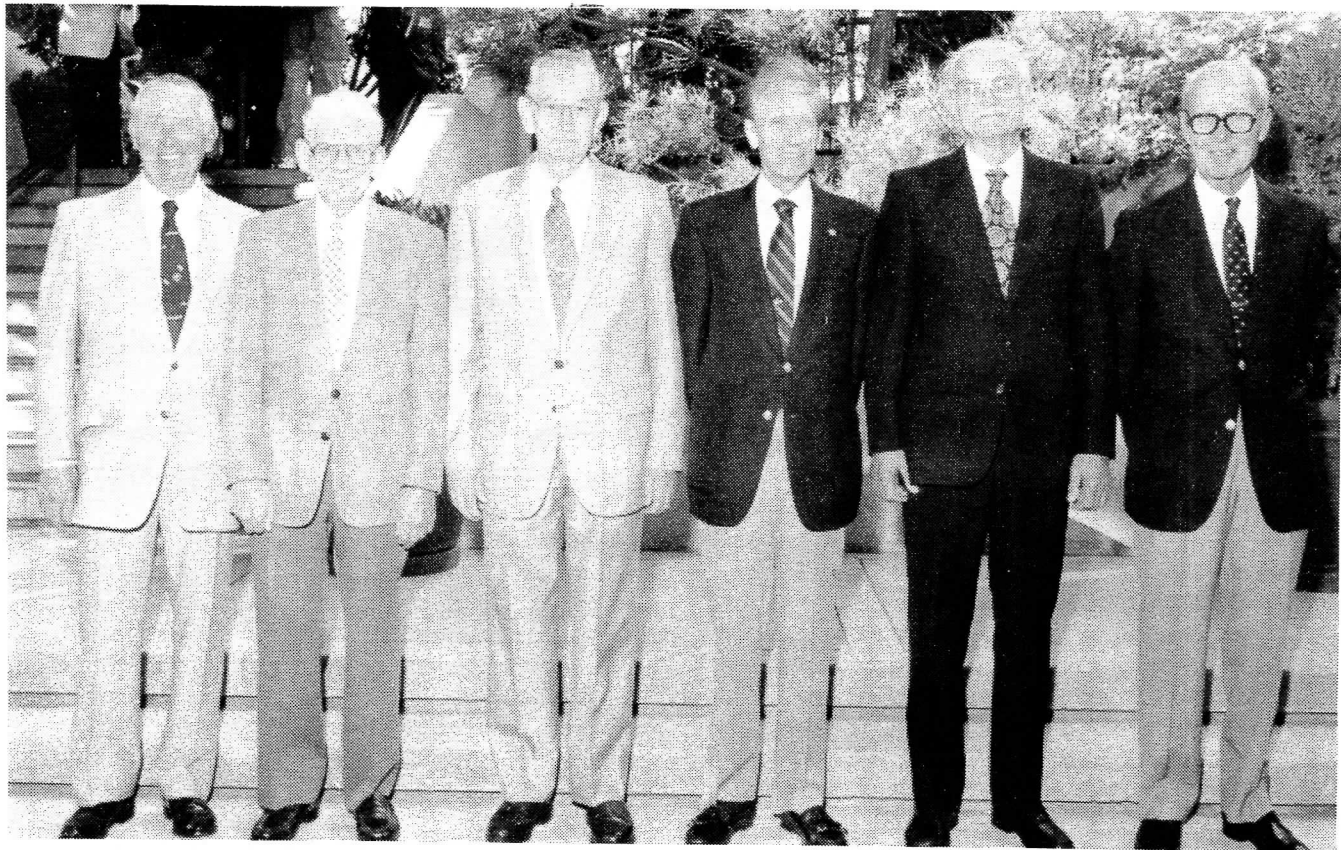
Among the early arrivals, was Mr. James J. McFaaden (828th), who breezed in from Philadelphia, Pa. late Thursday, August 18. Mac, as he is better known in circles, is one of the lively set and provided many good hearty laughs for all during the entire reunion. Others arriving Friday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Karl Anderson, Carrollton, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Casimir Kusiak and daughter Suzie, Norridge, Ill. (828th); Mr. Lyle Talbott, Crooksville, Ohio (830th) and Mr. George Ick, Lisbon, North Dakota (828th). Around mid-night, Mr. Roy Reiten, Marshall, Minn. (828th) buzzed in.

Around 9 A.M. Saturday morning on the 20th, the reunion got underway at the Rendezvous Room at the Gateway Motel. Arriving on schedule were Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Borgetti, Whiting, Ind. (828th); Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Deeds, Toledo, Ohio (828th); Mr. and Mrs. William H. Schoultz,

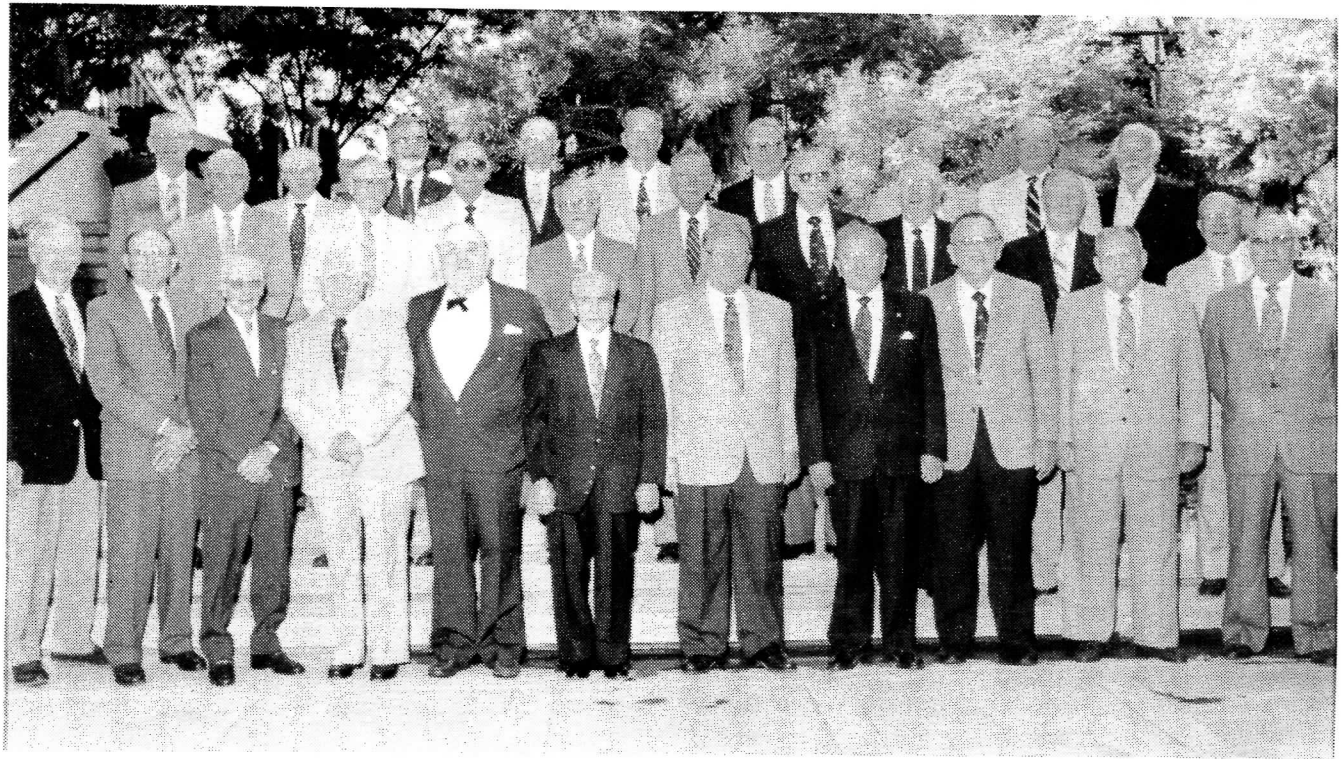
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Squadron Photos at Albuquerque



HEADQUARTERS — W. Sortomme, B. Benson, H. Cherry, L. Towers, H. Bayless, D. Cairns.



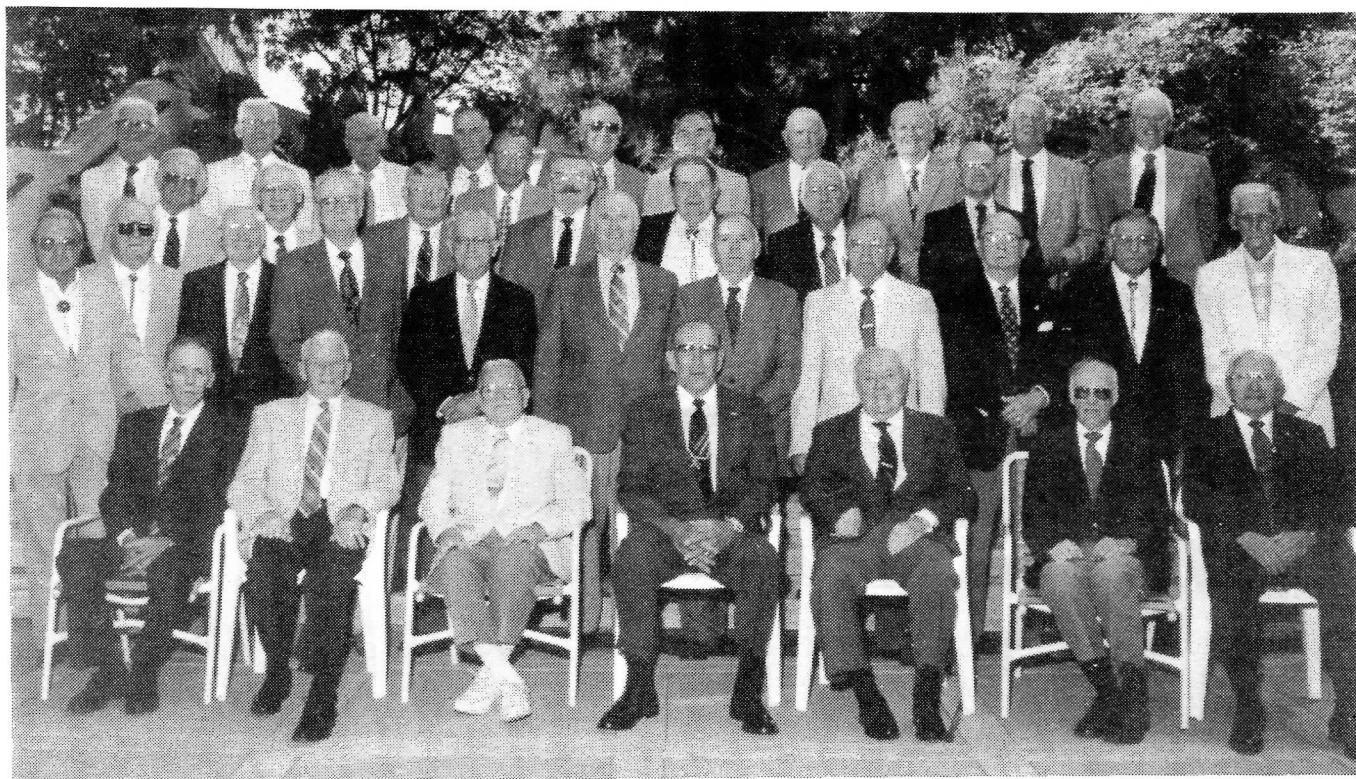
828TH SQUADRON — First row, left to right: W. Deobald, E. Beeson, K. Anderson, H. Little, S. Burba, N. Montulli, A. Borgetti, J. Rau, B. Deeds, B. Sites, J. Morrone. Second row: J. Bersack, W.

Lancaster, L. Paine, C. Norris, T. McDowell, K. Wall, D. Shannon, B. Blakely, L. Sullivan. Back row: W. Fritz, G. Bell, E. Opalha, G. Ick, M. Lydard, P. Whitney, T. Roemer, J. Moore, W. Reid.



829TH SQUADRON — First row, left to right: E. Bundy, J. Wellman, E. Meyer, J. Cathcart, W. Napier, C. West, B. Skelton, J. Behunin. Second Row: J. DeMaurs, T. Hough, E. Pinnell, F. Yeager, M. Lindsay, L. Best, F. Sims, S. McGehee, A. Martin, B.

Culver, J. Ridout, L. Allan, K. Robison, B. Long. Back row: S. Shelor, D. Roth, R. Daniel, A. Peschka, H. Dolim, V. Bryson, J. Scott, R. Brown, R. Peterson, A. O'Brien, B. Rempe, C. Crane, W. Ferrell, R. Mehrkens, M. Fundling, M. Kilbury.



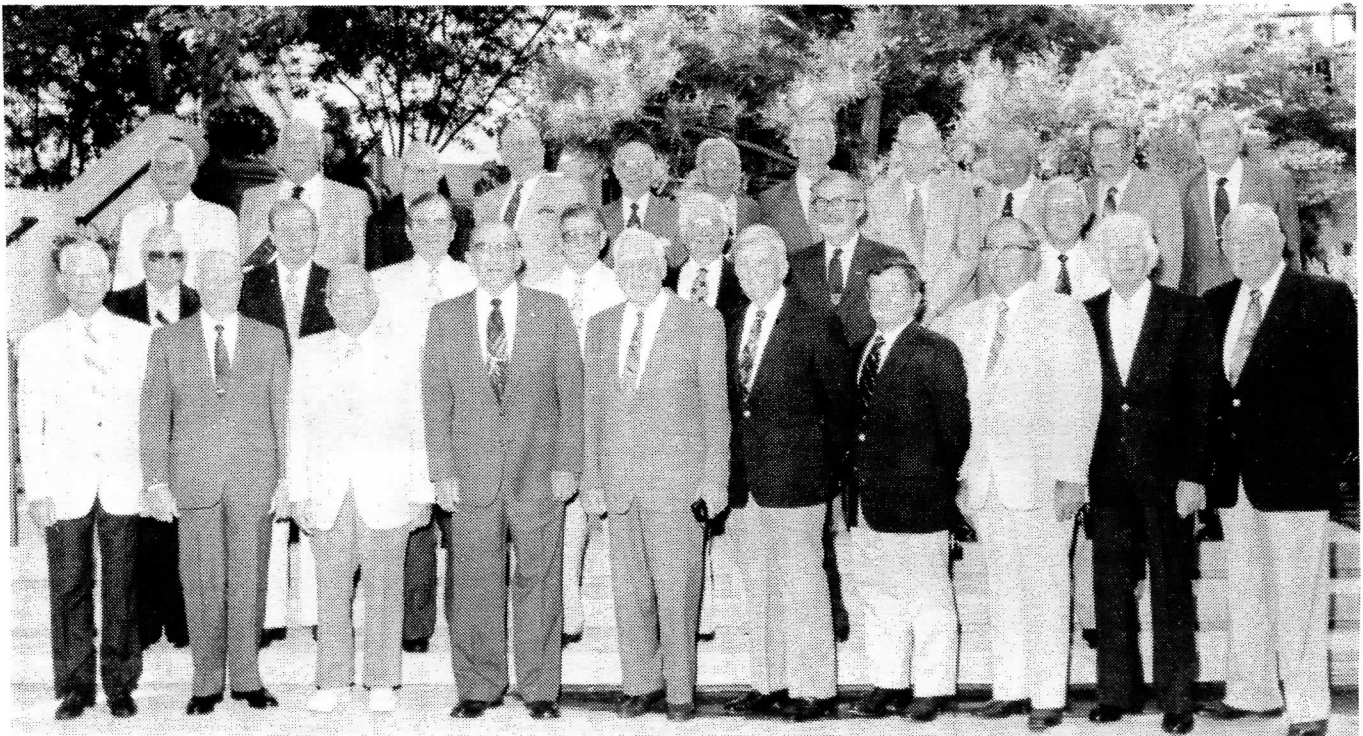
830th SQUADRON — Row one: M. Frohling, R. Haden, R. Roller, G. Raidel, S. Howard, H. Kempffer, S. Paynic. Second row: R. Baldwin, T. Russell, D. Landeum, J. McCarthy, S. Baytala, E. Miner, H. Muehlemann, A. Alfieri, S. Barnes, P. Russo, R. Ritchie.

Third row: A. Thompson, C. Miller, M. Bacon, L. Poulich, R. Griffin, W. Gorman, R. Plaister, H. Garnett. Back row: F. Turnstall, J. Morgan, J. Hunter, W. Devore, P. Peterson, W. Boling, W. Cummings, G. Dyer, P. Lovejoy, R. McAlpine.



831st SQUADRON — First row, left to right: Henry Dahlberg, Clive Patterson, Thomas Merrill, William Cook, John Nagle, A. A. Salazar, Richard Kingsbury, Lloyd Proudlove, Robert Monahan, Lewis Baker, Louis Schoeneman, Roy Bulls. Second row: Daniel Sjodin, Jim Johnson, Frank Chaffin, William Higbee, Cliff Woodbury, Hazen Suttksuls, Carl Spiegel, Hal Wilder, Frank Pratt, Robert Hanna, Robert Lewis, Harold Richards, Kenneth Brown,

Robert Swift. Third row: Unidentified. Back row: Robert Rector, Louis Sikes, Woody Woodyard, Eugene McCarthy, Ed Siantz, Steve Milnaz, Ned Peirano, David Hansen, Robert Dietrich, James Maetzold, B. Hanson, Edward Wroblewski, George Byrd, Jesse Ledbetter, Arthur Dusenberry, Bill Brokaw and Donald Evjen. (Editor's Note — Unfortunately the third row names were not available.)



POW'S — First row, left to right: D. Roth, L. Little, R. Rolland, G. Ralder, R. Petterson, B. Culver, J. Ridout, W. Sanders, L. Allan, S. McGehee. Second row: M. Lindsay, R. Rector, F. Nardi, L. Best, L.

Proudlove, J. Opalka, R. Mehrkens. Third row: A. O'Brien, P. Lovejoy, Scott Ryan, J. Cathcart, R. Daniel, F. Pratt, S. Shelor, H. Cherry, W. Sortomme, K. Brown, D. Evjen.



FIRST TIMERS — Row one: H. Wilder, (standing); J. Ridout, L. Slotsky, H. Suttkus, F. Sims, R. Baldwin, P. Russo, (standing).

Back row: C. Spiegel, H. Bayless, W. Sanders, W. Deobald, V. Bryson, M. Bacon, W. Gorman.

Kavanaugh Recalls Mission

Here is a story of a harrowing flight as reported by T/Sgt. George Kavanaugh, a radio operator-gunner, who was flying his 23rd mission with the 829th squadron out of Venosa, Italy on March 8, 1945:

We were flying the lead ship for the wing with Major Phil Cummings as pilot and our regular pilot, Lt. Glen Jones, as co-pilot.

On take-off the emergency life raft popped out and wrapped around our elevators. The pilots managed to keep the plane from stalling out and climbed to 2000 ft. Meanwhile T/Sgt. Richard Callahan had chopped a hole in the rear of the plane and was trying to pull the life raft off the elevators with the bomb hoist.

We had been in the air 20 minutes when Lt. Jones pressed the "bail out" bell. As my chute opened I saw three more chutes open and the nose of the plane drop.

The plane went down and exploded. Six men lost their lives: Major Phil Cummings, pilot; Lt. Glen Jones, co-pilot; Lt. Will Busick, navigator; T/Sgt. Richard Callahan, engineer; S/Sgt. Mike Kovich, tail gunner; S/Sgt. Al Gasiorek, top turret gunner.

Bailing out with me was a lieutenant I didn't know — S/Sgt. Richard Peath, ball turret gunner, now retired in Rochester, NY; Lt. Argie Simmons, bombardier, killed in a boating accident in 1975.

Our regular co-pilot, Col. Robert Brown, retired from the service in 1968 and is practicing law in Columbia, SC.

My 33rd and last mission to Linz, Austria on April 25, 1945 was also the last mission for the 15th Air Force.

I now live in Reno, NV with my wife of 20 years, our two children, work at the MGM Grand Hotel.

LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING

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

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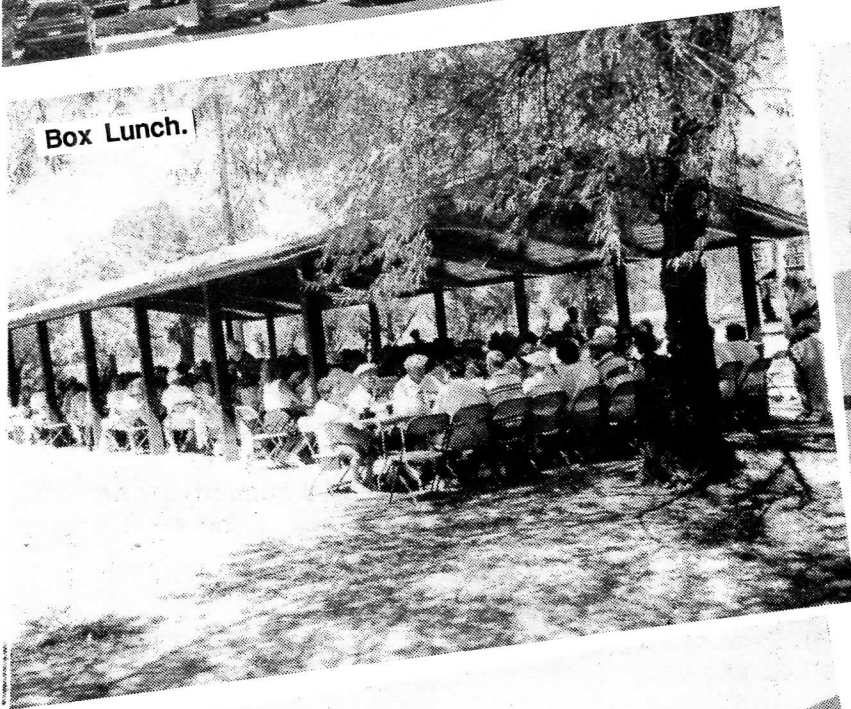
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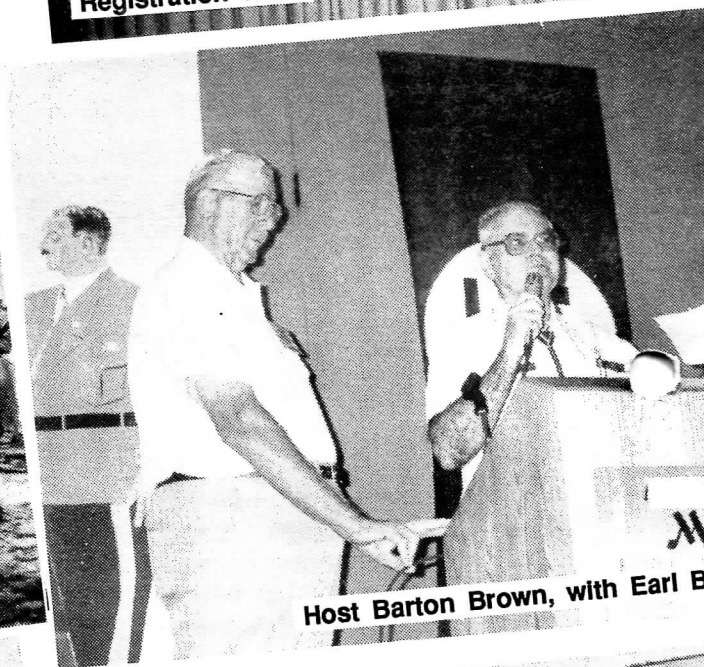
Headquarters hotel.



Registration desk.



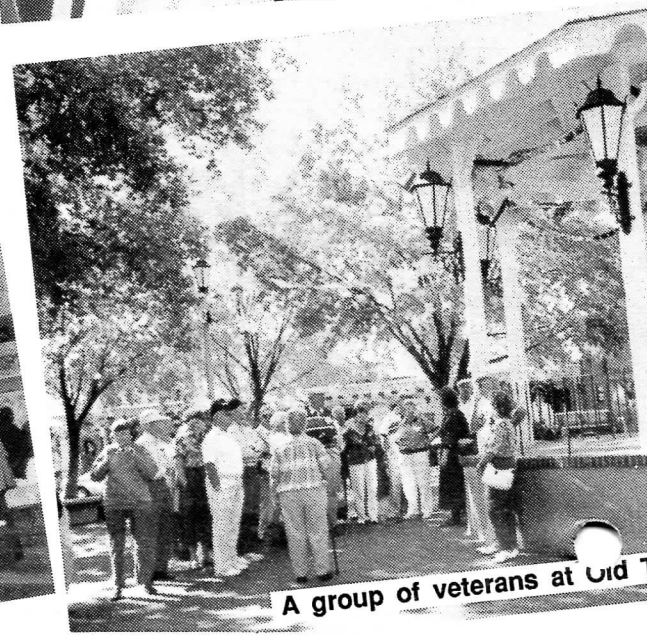
Box Lunch.



Host Barton Brown, with Earl B

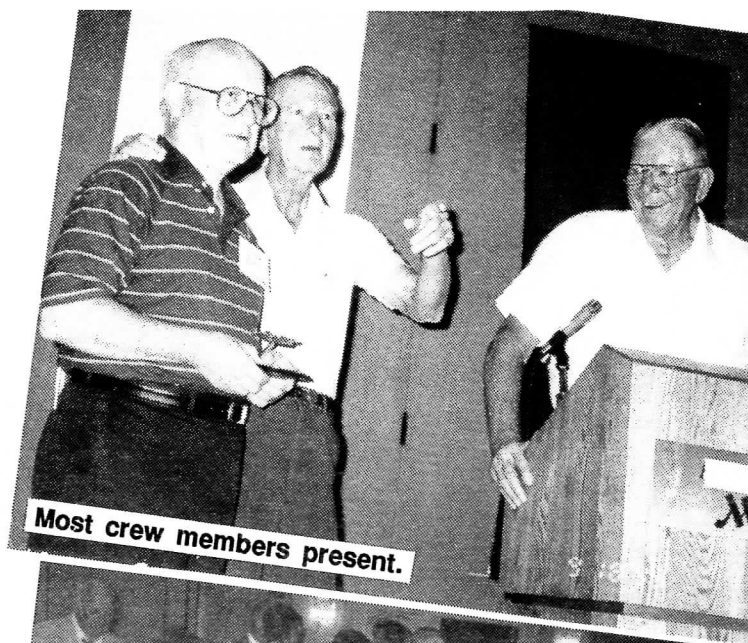


Indian Museum.

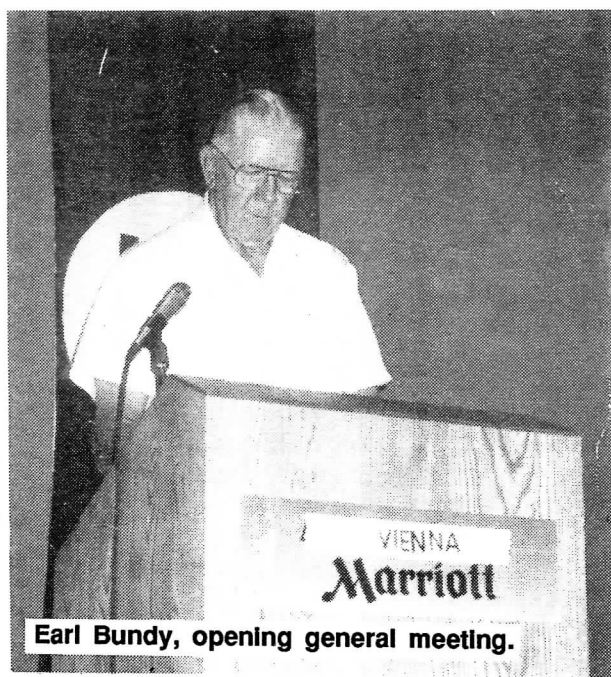


A group of veterans at Old T

Scenes at Albuquerque Reunion



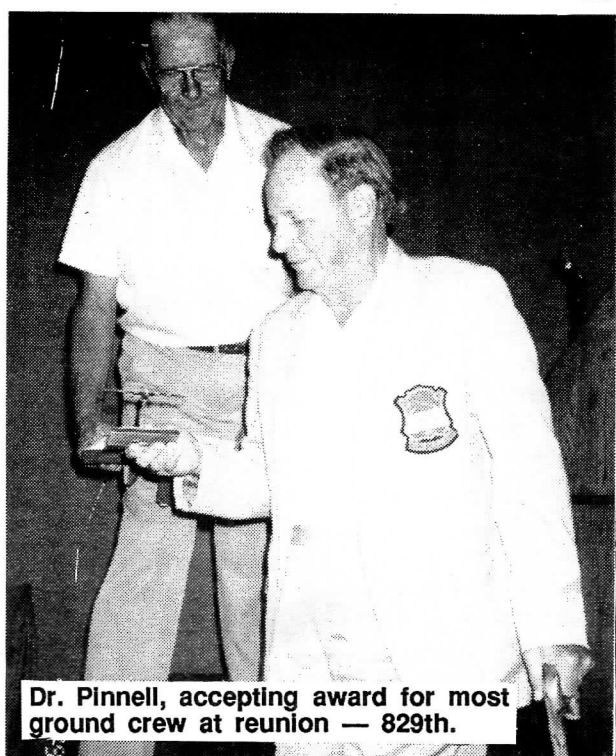
Most crew members present.



Earl Bundy, opening general meeting.



Rocky and Enid Jordan, our hosts for Memphis reunion.



Dr. Pinnell, accepting award for most ground crew at reunion — 829th.



General meeting.



Building the flag at memorial service.

Minutes of Albuquerque Meeting

Minutes of meeting of the 485th Bomb Group on September 18, 1993, at 9 a.m., at the Marriott Hotel in Albuquerque, N.M.

The meeting was called to order by Earl Bundy. After a moment of silent prayer for our departed comrades, the minutes were read from 1992 reunion, in Peabody, Mass. Minutes were approved as read.

All commanding officers were asked to stand. Those attending were: General Walter "Pop" Arnold, Douglas Cairns, Hank Dolim, Dan Sjodin and Richard Griffin.

Our co-host, Barton Brown, welcomed everyone and told that there were 184 veterans at reunion, with a total of 363 persons in attendance.

Headquarters: 7; 828th: 40; 829th: 45; 830th: 39; 831st: 53.

Barton thanked his wife, Betty Brown, and Lynn Cotterman for their help in co-hosting this reunion. He also mentioned the B-24 Museum in Pueblo, Colorado approximately 350 miles from Albuquerque. Anyone driving that way might want to stop and visit it.

Chet Konkolewski, the 830th reporter, had called and regretted that he and Stella could not attend, but they would see us next year in Memphis.

First timers were counted and there were 21. There were 26 P.O.W.s and 6 M.I.A.s attending business meeting.

Flight crews were counted. Hugh Garnett's and Tom McDowell's crews tied with six each. They matched coins and McDowell won, who in turn presented the trophy to his tail-gunner, Clem Norris. Hugh Garnett introduced his son, a pilot for U.S. Air airline.

Ground crews were counted and the trophy went to the 829th with 10 veterans in attendance. Earl Pinnell accepted and reminisced about Roy Reeves singing "You Are My Sunshine" at the Christmas party in Venosa. He asked us all to join him in singing this old favorite.

It was discussed and decided that

Doug Cairns and Andy Anderson were the oldest in attendance at 82 years young. Tom McDowell declared that he may be the youngest, as he was discharged at 21 years of age.

Earl Bundy asked who had travelled the farthest for the reunion. It was undecided and would be announced at dinner tonight. George Dyer then presented an award to Lynn Cotterman for coming the shortest distance. He now lives in Albuquerque. Lynn had won many times before when he lived in Kahului, Hawaii.

All past hosts and hostesses were asked to stand to be recognized and thanked once again.

Earl then introduced Ken Ponti, of the 828th, for the "special" entertainment portion of the meeting. Ken performed an hilarious skit, portraying a Nazi doctor at a briefing of Messerschmitt pilots, complete with a background picture of Der Fuhrer flanked by swastikas. There were removed after his skit as we continued our meeting.

Earl Bundy announced that the 485th reunion in 1994 would be held in Memphis, Tenn. with "Rocky" and Enid Jordan hosting. It will be held at the downtown Memphis Hilton. Dates will be September 14th thru 18th with many planned activities.

Earl asked for a host for 1995 reunion and Lloyd and June Proudlove graciously volunteered once again. The 485th had the 1987 reunion there in Scottsdale, Arizona. No others volunteered and the group accepted their hospitality with sincere thanks.

Bob Deeds thanked "Woody" and Marguerite Woodyard for all their diligent work before and during reunions. "Woody" gave a short talk and said it was "time for a change" and that he was stepping down. Lynn Cotterman has volunteered to take over, as reporter for the 831st squadron.

Bob Deeds also spoke of the reunion of the 485th Tactical Missile Wing in Great Falls, Montana that he had attended this year. He said that some of their members would like to

come to our reunion in Memphis. He also asked if our group would be interested in combining reunions with the 485th Tactical Missile Wing. After much discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the 485th Bomb Group remain as is.

Joe Cathcart introduced Fran Feeny of the "Travel Your Way Company" who spoke of the 12-day trip being planned to return to Italy and revisit Venosa. Dates to be April 12th thru April 23rd, 1994. Fran read a letter from the mayor of Venosa, Dr. Bruno Tramborelli, welcoming all the 485th to return to Venosa. Several had made the trip in 1980. Joe Cathcart suggested that we erect a plaque at the site of the airbase in Venosa and that he would check on this.

Dan Sjodin asked all of the original cadre who joined at Fairmont, Neb., before going overseas, to stand.

Bob Deeds reported that he was checking about obtaining additional 485th blue caps, as many had shown interest in same.

George Dyer asked all men to wear their name tags for pictures this evening, and to stay in place after picture, for persons taking names.

Bob Hanson read "The Fighting Men of the 485th" after which he introduced the author, Donald Stevenson, who was attending with his father-in-law, Bernard Rempe, of the 829th.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Lynda L. Hanson

Secretary, 485th Bomb Group

Italian Trip

A planned 1994 return trip to Venosa and other Italian spots for 485th Bomb Group veterans and families has been cancelled.

The trip, scheduled to run from April 12 to 23, was terminated because of "a very small response," according to Earl Bundy.

Joe Cathcart had been in charge of the planning for the tour.

Don Adams Writes of Tragic Mission

The article below is from a portion of a letter written recently by Donald L. Adams, of Long Beach, N.C.

It was written to Jim Barrison, one of the members of the crew of an 830th squadron B-24. Adams was the pilot and this is how he remembers that mission in the letter to Barrison:

Many years have passed since our April 11, 1945 mission to Campo Di Trens railroad bridge in the Brenner Pass. Due to your injury, you may not have some of the information about our mission. After the many years I may have forgotten some of the details but I wanted to give you the information as I remember.

Over the target area an 88 MM shell exploded off our right wing. The plane flying our wing went down and we do not know if anyone survived.

The bomb fragments came through the side of our plane and wounded you in the leg. I was hit in the neck area and had my spine chipped.

If it had been 1/4" forward, I would have blacked out and would not be here today. The #3 engine was badly damaged and we had to feather the propeller. The #4 engine was damaged and the maximum power was 22." We cleared the target area and you were given three serets of morphine and a tourniquet was used to reduce blood loss.

I had a decision to make as to whether to go to Switzerland or head south toward our base. We needed a hospital so we went south. We used more fuel than normal for engines #1 and #2 so we were low on fuel.

We contacted a base seven miles inland from Ancona. They were taking off for a mission (B-26) and we could not land on the runway. We were told to land parallel to the runway on the grass. We were at 10,000 feet at the end of the runway and decided to bring it in. I was reluctant to cut power to #4 engine and try to bring it back on. The landing gear was lowered and when we tried to lower the flaps, we found no hydraulic pressure.

It was almost a dead stick landing as we had 10,000 feet and a sharp

glide angle. We touched down at 150 MPH without flaps or brakes. We were approaching the end of the landing area at approximately 90 Mph and at the end of the field there was an embankment approximately 12 to 15 feet high. I wanted to swing the plane to the left or right, but a B-26 was on one side and a ditching machine on the other.

All of a sudden a small ditch was in our path. I yanked the nose up and shoved it down a few times and the nose wheel was knocked off. The plane slid on its nose and we stopped just short of the embankment.

You and I were taken to a British Hospital where our operations were performed. We had two miracles as the shell fragment did not completely disable me and we did not hit the embankment at the end of the landing.

After a few days of recuperation the surgeon came to me and asked if I could get him some cigars. There was a US facility about 10 miles away but I did not know if I could buy anything. About 10 minutes later I was told that a staff car was at the door for me. I was fortunate to buy a box of cigars and gave them to the surgeon. He was like a kid at Christmas time with a new toy. This was not much pay for two operations.

I presume that you were awarded a purple heart. I did not receive any acknowledgment that our crew returned even though the plane was badly damaged. I'm just thankful that we all got back alive.

I spent about six weeks at a staging area. We flew a B-24 back to Connecticut and went by train to Camp Attebury in Indiana. I was offered a conditional discharge as they had a surplus of pilots for the Pacific theater.

My wife and I went to work for Chrysler in Dayton, Ohio. They moved our operation to Bowling Green, KY. I had over 30 years of service when the plant there was sold. I went to work for Continental Air Filters. When I reached 65 years of age, I retired on a delayed pension from Chrysler.

I have had some health problems

the last three years. On March 10, 1990 I was operated on for a brain tumor. On October 29, 1992 I was operated on for prostate cancer. I am getting along very well and the doctor has given me a very good prognosis. We have three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Albuquerque —

(Continued from page 1)

teresting tour of the National Atomic Museum. It has the most complete collection of Air Force, Marine, Navy and Army nuclear weapons. For those who hadn't gained too much weight, there was a B-52B bomber for them to inspect.

Since we had good attendance, we almost filled four rooms for the individual squadron meetings.

The general business meeting was held Saturday morning and the usual picture-taking was scheduled Saturday evening before dinner.

There was always a full house in the hospitality room, checking all the pictures and reliving happenings from Italy nearly a half a century ago.

We filled an enormous banquet room for dinner Saturday evening. We enjoyed dancing to a seven-piece band until our ages told us it was time to give up and go to bed.

We had a big crowd in the grand ballroom for breakfast Sunday. "The Heroes of 1776" presented "The Building of the Flag" before our memorial service. It was very impressive, depicting the flag in colonial days down to the addition of the fiftieth star.

Following, Rev. Don Whiteman (829th pilot) presented an excellent service for us in memory of our many lost buddies.



How to Find a Lost Friend

Do you have an old Air Force buddy you've not heard from — don't know where he is?

According to Roger Monroe, 485th veteran and former executive officer and pilot, 13th Bomb Sq., 1950-51, there is a 50-50 chance you can locate the buddy.

You must follow the three steps listed below. It will cost only 66 cents.

The Air Force maintains correspondence addresses of all AF retirees and air reserve forces personnel as well as the military organization addresses of all active members.

To contact someone you knew but don't know their current address you or your surviving spouse should follow these instructions:

1. Place your letter in an envelope, seal and place a stamp on it showing your return address and your friend's name only.

2. Place the envelope addressed to your friend in another envelope along with identifying information about yourself (full name, grade, SSN and address) plus a separate sheet of paper showing known data about your friend such as grade, SSN or serial/service number, date of birth, former duty station, dates known to be at the last base etc.

3. Mail your letter to HQ AFMPC/MPCD003, Northeast Office Place, 9504 IH 35 North San Antonio TX 78233-6636. Be sure to affix sufficient overseas postage if you have reason to believe your friend does not reside in the United States.

Earl Bundy, of the 829th, submitted two other locator services you may want to try. One is: United States Air Force, c/o (A.F.P.M.R.C.), Randolph AFB, Texas 78148.

Write a letter to the person you wish to contact. Enclose it in a stamped envelope with his name on it.

In your letter to AFPMRC, give his name, rank, serial number and last location he served, plus any address you have.

A third locator service is offered by the Air Force Times, published at

Springfield, Va. 22159. It offers a free listing in the publication.

Merely send them the name, rank and last known address of your buddy; also your full name, full address, including zip code, and telephone number (if desired).

If you are looking for Air Force historical data, you can write to the Historical Research Center.

The address is: Hqts., USAF Historical Research Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama 36112-6678.

Memphis —

(Continued from page 1)
compliment the Cotton Industry and also encourage tourism in Memphis.

Enid was Carnival Queen for the 1991 Carnival. The Queen's reign is from February to February, the King being chosen in June.

Because of this, Enid and Rocky reigned together from June 1991 until the new queen was chosen in February 1992. It was the first time in the 76-year history of the carnival that a husband and wife had served at the same time as King and Queen.

The Carnival was designed after the New Orleans Mardi Gras with the glitter of Kings, Queens, Duchesses, elegant parties, colorful floats and parades.

Ed Nett, 828th commander, flew to Memphis for Enid's coronation and was designated a Nobleman and Queen's Escort for the Carnival.

Greek Medal

Have you received your Greek Liberation medal, issued by the Greek government?

If you are a veteran of service in the 485th Bomb Group, you are entitled to receive the medal.

For information, write to the Embassy of Greece, Air Attache, 2238 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.

According to those who have received the medal, it is a beautiful piece to add to your World War 2 mementoes.

Editorial

By Bob Deeds

I would like to take this time to thank the many people who made our reunions the success they have been.

This year Howard "Woody" and Marquerite Woodyard found it necessary to quit being the 831st reporter. Both have given lots of time to the building of our reunion. We cannot thank them enough for the many good times old and new friends had together.

Also I would like to say thanks to our command officers who looked out for us overseas. We were all boys in those days, but by the time we came home we were men.

Not to be overlooked is our many host and hostess over the years. These people are proud of their city and the many friends that they made in the service of their country.

A moment to thank the membership for keeping in contact with your reporters. It is your enthusiasm that keeps us all pumped up and looking toward next year.

Don't forget your many friends. Send them a card or make a phone call. It does not cost anything to spread some cheer in someone's life. Don't forget our widows. They can use information about the old gang.

Mini-Reunion Held in June

Art Hurley (828th) and Gary Nelson (Mokena) hosted another two-day mini-reunion in Mokena, Ill., this past June.

Those who attended "hit the jackpot," according to Roger Monroe, who plans the mini-reunions. The fishermen caught 42 beautiful silver salmon (coho) in all, out of Lake Michigan, all from seven to 12 inches.

Ed Nett says the lake waters were "a bit rough, but the nights were rougher." Just ask "Pop" Arnold.

THE GLADIATOR

We! are the finest fighter pilots.
We! are the fastest human hawks.
Two hundred thousand bucks were spent
To pay our training costs.

In flight we are more than adequate
Or very good at best.
We are kept superb in flying skills
With arduous flying tests.

We are flight Gladiators.
Our arena is the sky.
Its vast expanse and infinite space
Wherein we fight and fly.

Our weapon in an aluminum,
Fast, supersensitive dart
With rockets, bombs and cannon shells
Our lethal counterpart.

When on combat assignment,
We venture forth to fly.
There to perform heroically
Or valiantly to die.

In conflict with an enemy.
Who is similarly trained.
We pledge our lives to vanquish
Militarily ordained.

There is no massive audience
To view with bated breath.
No colosseum or stadium to
Enclose our duel with death.

Far up in the heavens,
Beyond the realm of sight.
Opposing gladiators wage,
Their skillful deadly fight.

Achieving a supremacy,
I reverently hope,
A fighter pilot doesn't die
When banished from the radar scope.

In a far off land, perhaps,
A pilot's mother cries.
Lamenting for a life erased.
A plume of smoke that streaked the skies.

To the triumph we attribute
Skill — Technology — The will divine.
Absence of the one or other,
The tearful mother — would be mine.

Don A. Alonso

JOURNEY'S END

Del Brinkman (828th)	Aug. 1993
Robert Cecil (831st)	
Fred Coltrin (Hdqts.)	1993
Carl Gigowski (828th)	Nov. 5, 1993
Dale Grospitz (830th)	February 1993
Carl Hirschman Jr. (830th)	Oct. 26, 1993
Earl Isaacson (829th)	1992
Walter A. Partacz (831st)	Dec. 24, 1993
Angus Phelts (831st)	Jan. 1993
Harold A. Pruitt (830th)	Oct. 23, 1993
Dominic Sanjotta (831st)	Oct. 13, 1992
Fred C. Savage (829th)	May 1992
Carl Schmalenberger (829th)	Oct. 1992
George Terrell (831st)	Feb. 8, 1993
Peter Venson (Hdqts.)	1993

MAIL ROOM

485TH BOMB GROUP HQ —
Bob Benson



There was a time when I had some difficulty in spelling the name of the city where we had our last reunion, but since being there for nearly a week I don't have a problem in spelling Albuquerque any more. You see, it's really easy to spell once you have been there.

And speaking of our reunion, it was another big success. We had around 382 in attendance, which included many wives and guests. We literally took over the Marriott hotel. and everyone seemed to have a wonderful time. From all the various conversations that went on in the lobby and hospitality room, there must have been a lot of very tired tongues upon arriving home.

Attending the reunion from headquarters were "Pop" Arnold, Lil and Doug Cairns (and many members of their family), Howard Cherry, Joyce and Warren Sortomme, Evelyn and Loyd Towers, Kitty and Hugh Bayless (for their first time) and, of course, Dorothy and I. Lylan and George Ostic showed up on Thursday and we had a brief visit, but they disappeared after that and weren't seen again. (I believe they had family who live in Albuquerque

and they spent time visiting them.) It was good to see George again after all these years, and the same goes for Hugh.

As always, the memorabilia room was a big drawing card. It seems we have new and different items that the men bring each year. It was a very active place.

Our 1994 reunion will be held at Memphis, Tenn., and full details are included elsewhere in this issue. Circle your calendar now and plan on being with us. If you have never attended one of the reunions, you shouldn't be putting it off. We're not getting any younger!

I am sorry to report that we lost two more of our headquarters men during the past year. Peter Venson (group photo) and Squire Bolton (Red Cross representative) have both passed on. Our sympathy is extended to both families.

Thanks very much to those of you who have been supportive by sending a donation toward my expenses. Your help is really appreciated.

I wish all of you a wonderful and very healthy 1994.

828TH BOMB SQDN —

Bob Deeds



The hour glass seems to fill up much faster these days. I can't believe the way time has moved. Our reunion as usual was a success; Barton and Betty Brown did a great job.

The tours of the city were superb. The meals were so good I should not eat till the next reunion. All our events were well attended. The dinner dance brought out the youth in many of us. We do rest more now.

Our memorial service on Sunday was superb. Put on by Sherrill Burrba and Al Martin. The "Building of the Flag" by the "National Sojourners" was outstanding. I'm sure the one's who stayed to see it will never forget it.

It's sad to report we lost several members last year.

Our squadron meeting was held Friday evening. We had 40 members. Three new men: Bill Slayton, Larry Slodskey and Bill Deobald. They all promise to come back.

In 1994 we meet in Memphis TN with Rocky and Enid Jordan being our host and hostess. Rocky was a bombardier in our squadron. This will be a big turnout. Please get your reservations in early so we can plan tours and meals.

We had all our command officers visit our squadron. These are the men that took us overseas and brought us home. Pop Arnold told us about being shot down and how men were treated in P.O.W. camps.

Wish to thank all for your contributions to our mail room. This is what keeps us in contact with people that can't make it to a reunion.

I've just been informed we have lost our first editor of our 485th newsletter, **Carl Gigowski**.

I first met Carl and his crew at our revetment in Italy. It held the **Lady**, our plane which many of us took pride in. Carl was a good leader. He took great pride in all that he did.

When we were trying to organize the 485th bomb group

reunion, it was our friends, Carl Gigowski and Bill Schoultz, who came forward and lead the way. These two fine men are gone.

They will always be in our memories of the reunions that followed. It was their work and dedication to an idea. That help so many find new friends.

829th BOMB SQDN. —

By Joe Cathcart for Earl Bundy



The reunion in Albuquerque was another five-star event and very well attended, perhaps the largest 829th turnout ever for a far-west reunion. Barton and Betty, along with Lynn, produced a real winner. However, we still were beaten out by the 831st for the attendance award. I don't know how Woody manages to always "one-up" us. He has done a fabulous job and I am sure his successor will continue along the path he blazed.

We enjoyed all of the activities, including a Sunday afternoon shopping tour to Sante Fe, an adjunct in which we were not alone. At Kirtland we were impressed by the nuclear exhibits and the static B-52. I am sure I would have no trouble flying the beast, but I was unable to get into it. Martha, however, had no trouble climbing into the cockpit.

We were saddened that some of our usual 829th veterans were no longer able to attend, but gladdened by new faces and old friends who had been missing for a few years. The wisdom of rotating our reunions from east to west was readily demonstrated by the presence of those who have been unable to be with us in the eastern U.S.

We were all very distressed when Ryan Scott's wife, Ruth, had to receive emergency treatment just prior to the Sunday breakfast. She was administered to by 485th medical personnel and rushed to a local hospital. We were delighted Monday morning when we found her in the hotel lobby waiting for transportation to the airport and the trip home to Columbia, South Carolina. I spoke with both Scotty and Ruth, November 1 and, though she still is having problems, she feels she is making progress. They are remembered in the 829th and all of the groups' prayers, I am sure.

The mailing fund is quite solvent. I doubt if there are many organizations that do not assess dues that can make that statement. Remember that we keep it that way by your voluntary contributions mailed to Earl Bundy or myself.

Elvis and I will see you at Rocky's reunion in Memphis.

830TH BOMB SQDN —

Chester Konkolewski



Once again the graying eagles gathered together in Albuquerque, N.M., to share memories from the past as well as the present, to enjoy the friendship and to just

have fun, that's what reunions are all about. We thank the Barton's and Lynn Cotterman, in hosting the reunion. I've been told it was a fine reunion.

Present at this bash were: Tony and Claire, Bud Bacon, Robert and Claire Baldwin, Si and Mary Barnes, Simon and Elaine Baytala Jr., James Blitch, William and Naomi Devore, William (Buzz) and Evelyn Bolling Jr., William and Betty Cummings, George and Kathrine Dyer, Mike and Bernece Frohling, Hugh Garnett and son, Warren and Evelyn Gorman, Richard and Marilyn Griffin, Ray and Opal Haden, Jim and Violet Hunter, Harold and Mickey Kempffer, Herb and Donna Kohlhorst and guest, Donald and Carline Landrum and guest, Paul and Jean Lovejoy, Bob MacAlpine, John and Anne McCarthy, Clarence (Deacon) and Ruth Miller, Earl and Marian Miner, Joe and Faye Morgan, Herbert and Elizabeth Muehlemann, Steve and Jean Paynic, Pete and Florence Peterson, Bob Plaister, daughter and guest, Lester and Wilma Poulich, George and Janet Raidel and guest, Rod Ritchie, Rolland Roller, Tom and Anne Russell, Patrick Russo, Howard and Mary Sanborn, Marion and Charlene Shelor, Arthur and Harriet Thompson and Francis Tunstall.

Since I could not be present George Dyer conducted the squadron meeting. Introduced as first timers were: Malcolm (Bud) Bacon, Robert Baldwin and wife, Warren Gorman and wife. These guys are the remaining crew members of "Bacon's Bievers". They were one of the last crews that flew "Life," also present were Earl and wife, who have attended a few reunions way back; Earl was the sqdn. bombardier, when the war came to an end.

Hugh Garnett of "Princess Marie" fame, who still does some flying today, his son, 44 years of age, flies for one of the major airlines.

At this meeting the members recommended that the following ideas be in place in future reunions. (1) Reserve front seats on buses for the handicapped, and let them board first. (2) When boarding buses for any function outside the hotel, all people will stand in line instead of bunching up like a herd of cattle. (3) Have the reunion sponsor issue name tags of squadron, colors. (4) When setting up seating arrangements with Hotel personnel, have them set up Banquet tables with identifying squadron colors, to wit; table covers, napkins, whatever.

A collection was made, however we did not know the names; sorry about this. George Dyer made a trip to San Antonio to see his buddy, Bill Cottingham, who then drove George over to my house, where George then turned over the collection to me, it was a substantial amount. The monies were then deposited in the 830th sqdn. account. Thank you.

Notes were taken by Katy Dyer. These were turned over to me. The Air Force tour was very, very nice, and the meals were excellent, and the Indian Old Town was

most interesting. However, the prices of items on sale were a bit too high.

The banquet dinner was superb, the steak was delicious. The band was an outstanding one; the dancers were in good form as they did not miss a beat. As usual Milt Fundling and wife, Dan Sodjan and wife, Frank Nardi and wife, Bob Rector and wife and a lot other dancers were out there cutting a rug.

On Sunday morning the breakfast was very good, the Memorial Service was very impressive, especially the raising of the flag, which was of great significance to one and all. Do believe that this type of ceremony should be repeated.

The mail box was certainly busy as I received a bunch of correspondence. Aldo Grandoni, from my original crew, James Barrett, Delbert Hawkins, Earl Miner who always has something to report, Bill Salter, Phil Frleta, James Kelly, Robert Lewis, mucho from Bud Bacon plus photos, John Reifer, a son of the navigator on Bacon's crew, William Anderson, Fred Schneider who worked in the orderly room, Sam Schneider, 828th, Charles (Chuck) Heringer, LeRoy Sanders, Jack Blum, mucho from Bob Esarey, Robert Samuels, Clyde Corbett with interesting info.

These guys who have supplied me with a wealth of info on who was who, a listing of all B-24's that were produced, etc., etc., Clarence Miller, Herb Kohlhorst, Leonard Vorba. Wayne Prosser, Harold Enochs, John Strang, Neil Schawalder, Ted Lipinski, James Roach, Ernie Perreault, Warren Gorman interesting letters, and communications with Bob Benson, Earl Bundy, Bob Deeds, Woody Woodyard, and good friend Mike Kilbury, supplying me with a computer printout of the mailing labels and sqdn. roster.

Telephone contacts with the following: Clyde Corbett, Thomas Falcone, Aldo Grandoni, Chuck Forester, George Raidel, Bud Bacon, Bob Lewis, nice conversation, Warren Gorman, Edward Muth, and my counterpart Lyle Talbott, we had an interesting conversation which lasted well over half hour. Received a whole bunch of Christ greetings, just too many to list, Stella and I do thank all of you, it was well received.

Want to thank the following for the donations in the past year and up to date. Robert Esarey, LeRoy Sanders, Deacon Miller, Tom Russell, James Roach, William Salter, Neil Schawalder, Herb Kohlhorst, Fred Schneider, Clyde Corbett, Earl Miner, Robert Baldwin, Robert Samuels, Walter Schlichter, William Anderson, Howard Boxley, Robert McAlpine, Richard Griffin, Robert Plaister, Tony Alfieri, Ernest Perreault, Clifford Studaker, Robert Lewis. If I missed anyone from listings and the above, do please excuse me, sometimes I just happen to forget, just give a nudge hey??

This past year we lost the following who went on their last flight into the beyond to meet their maker. Dale Grosplitz, one of the ground crew personnel, passed away February 1993; Carl Hirschman Jr., pilot of Crew #131, passed away October 26, 1993. Our sec-

ond Sqdn. Commander, Harold A. Pruitt, passed way October 23, 1993. I and members of the San Antonio Chapter of Ex-POW's were present for the burial services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, where we paid our last respects to a former POW. Carl Giguowski, our editor, passed away during November of 1993.

Some of our members met Bud Bacon at the reunion. Well, I was informed early this year that he suffered a stroke. I contacted Warren Gorman, his crew member, and he said that Bud is improving in fact he told Warren that he is going to the next reunion in Memphis. How about that? Send him a greeting and wish him well.

If any of you guys are not up to par, or your better half, let me know, okay? I've gotten to know a lot of you thru correspondence and through the telephone. You may not believe this, many a times especially when in receipt of letters I will recall your names and wonder how you all are doing, so just try to keep in touch with me or those you know.

During the month of November I traveled down to Port Charlotte to meet him in person as I said I would. You've seen his name mentioned in some articles in the LWT. I stayed at his residence for three and a half days and it was a rewarding experience. Sam Schneider cannot travel to our reunions as he is disabled and has to use a wheel chair and crutches around home. To keep himself occupied he has been taping articles from the LWT concerning the reports on the missions and has succeeded in putting out six tapes and I have listened to all of them. It is a fantastic job. Included in this are the sinking of the ship carrying all those ground crew personnel that lost their lives when the ship was torpedoed, plus other anecdotes. Now that he has a word processor which he is learning to use he will be able to write the book which will be titled "This Is How It Was" and get this published and sell it.

Whatever proceeds he gets will then be donated to the 485th Bomb Group account. Sam is a very dedicated person he just wants the people to understand what we all experienced. If you have any story to tell, I am sure that some of you have something to tell, now is your chance send it to Sam. He will add this to what he already has. Thank you.

During the month of December I had the pleasure in passing some time with "Deacon" Miller in San Antonio. He has a daughter and son-in-law who are both officers in the Air Force and who are stationed at Brooks AFB, Aero Space Science Center. They were stationed in Albuquerque, so when they received their transfer to here, Deacon helped them get packed down there, then he and his wife helped them get unpacked here in San Antonio. We had a good time discussing a lot of memories from way back it was nice, a wonderful family.

It was announced at the General Meeting held on Saturday, that the reunion will be held in Memphis, TN, September 14-18th, 1994. And that the following year 1995, will be held in Scottsdale, AZ, date not set.

Now you guys on the East Coast and Middle States, this is your chance to come and meet some of your buddies that you have not seen in years. Start making some plans. God willing I want to see you there as I would love to meet some of you that I have not met.

I sure missed seeing you all at the reunion. I do want to thank you for the beautiful card wishing me good health. I am doing fine and do feel pretty good.

In closing I wish you and yours, good luck, lots of cheer, happy days, the best of health and may the good Lord watch over you, may we meet later this year. Thanks and cheerio.

831ST BOMB SQDN —

Woody Woodyard



Hi, fellows:

Here we are with our 29th and very enjoyable and real successful reunion behind us. Thanks to our hosts Betty and Barton Brown of the 829th squadron and co-host Lynn Cotterman of the 831st Sqdn.

And by the way, Lynn will be your new 831st reporter and member of the reunion committee. He is well equipped, in all ways, and will serve you well and efficiently. I want to thank all of you for being so cooperative, and many of you for your financial support, in making my 29 years, with Marguerite's help, as squadron reporter much more enjoyable and informative for everyone. Thank you!

Sick call was a kinda busy one, guess everyone I knew of made it, and are back on the road to recovery. John Jones and wife were involved in a bad car accident, and both are recovering well. Bob Halling had a bad aneurysm of the aorta. He's coming along fine now. Jack Godfrey fell while cleaning the gutters on his house and got badly banged up with a broken bone here and there. He's using a walker right now for awhile. Mrs. Verba Parker had a possible heart attack in the lobby of our hotel. We called the paramedics and she was rushed to the hospital, but she came back and enjoyed the rest of the reunion.

My memory is bad, but I think I remember all of the wonderful things the hosts had for us to enjoy.

Again the 831st had the most vets there — 58. I want us all to help Lynn keep it the same. I'm sure he will; he is a hard worker and a very likeable fellow.

I especially want to thank my wife, Marguerite, for all the work she did for me. I could not have made it without her. She also did a lot for the whole 485th group in making it more successful.

Hope to see all of you again in Memphis next year. I'm sure they have big plans for us all, including the ducks in the Hotel. I am really looking forward to next year. You all keep healthy and be able to be there too.

Thanks to all of you. I will miss my job and feel kinda lonesome, but I'm sure a change will be good for us all. Wishing you all well.