



LIGHTWEIGHT TOWER CALLING



No. 33

March 1999

Denver To Host 1999 Reunion



Denver Marriott Southeast---Denver, Colorado

Louisville Kentucky Reunion - Fabulous

By Joe Cathcart, Col., Commonwealth of Kentucky

I have just about run out of adjectives to indicate the way I feel about the reunions. I'll call Louisville fabulous because those of us who have written

this report have used all the others I know. Surely Al Martin and Don Peden, not to forget Alice Peden, have staged one of

(continued on page 2)

The 1999 485th Bomb Group reunion will be held in Denver, Colorado, from Wednesday, September 15 until Sunday, September 19, 1999. We will be staying at the Denver Marriott Southeast in Denver. The room rate will be a flat \$68.00, plus 11.8% tax, and this rate will be available three days before and after the primary arrival and departure dates.

In view of the fact we had no volunteers for the 1999 reunion, we have contracted with Armed Forces Reunion, Inc. (AFR), P.O. Box 11327, Norfolk, Virginia 23517 (phone: 800-562-7226) to handle all details of this reunion. You may feel free to phone them regarding any questions you may have.

AFR has been handling the annual reunions for many veteran groups, including the 450th Bomb Group and the 95th Bomb Group, for the past four and six years, respectively, and each of these groups has expressed complete satisfaction. We feel confident our experience with them will be the same.

(continued on page 3)

(Reunion, continued from page 1)

our great ones. I think Louisville Number 2 exceeds Louisville Number 1, but that was hard to do. Congratulations to our host and all who contributed to this event.

Martha and I arrived at the Galt House Wednesday afternoon and were immediately in the thick of things. Old friends, new friends abounded at the registration desk, the lobby and the hospitality room. Old yarns were re-spun and have grown better and more exciting with the re-telling. Wednesday was spent in this type activity.

Thursday morning was golf time and the golfers were out early. I notice that their number is on the wain as age and arthritis takes its toll on our members. Those of us who chose to go on the "Bats and Bones" tour were in for a real treat. Our bus, after an overview of the city environs and residential areas, (Kentuckians live it up), crossed the river and visited the Falls of the Ohio State Park. Although I live just down the road in Nashville, this is something I had never heard of before. It seems that before it was made navigable by the Corps of Engineers the Ohio River dropped considerably in elevation. Where Louisville is located this created numerous falls and cataracts leaving river navigation possible above and below but not through the area resulting in Louisville's early growth. The falls created Devonian age fossil beds and the re-channeling of the river

exposed the largest outcropping of fossils in the world. The interpretive center has a museum and visual presentation of evolution of the area including life size models of fish, reptiles, mammals, birds, and humans that have existed during the ages. This Indiana State Park, I found, awesome. We then returned to the city where in a downtown area marked by a massive multi-story baseball bat, we were introduced to the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory. We were shown how the Louisville Slugger bats were made, Trophy bats from all of the great hitters, a model baseball park with audio tapes of famous announcers calling famous plays of the past and a pitching machine area where you can stand to the side of the catcher and see what a 90 mph fast ball looks like. (I am sure that having the opportunity I could have been a right handed Ted Williams).

Thursday was not over for those who chose the "Dinner at Huber's Family Farm". It was another bus ride into rural Indiana, a little farther than before, through beautiful farm country to Huber's Family Farm. This is a model farm of diversified crops primarily of the "Truck Garden" variety. The farm was impressive with a variety of vegetables growing, a pond with ducks and geese, and flower gardens. The piece-de-resistance however was the large dining hall with a band, a bar and serving lines of home cooked all-you-can-eat Sunday

farm-fare. Delicious but calorific. After eating, we were treated to a wagon ride, pulled by tractor, of the extensive farm leaving just enough time to browse the "Country Store" where you could shop for crafts, cheeses, fruits, sausages, and the best looking vegetables I have ever seen. I am tempted to drive the seven hour round-trip just to grocery shop. We then had time for our return trip without missing bed check.

Friday, we opted for "The Lexington Blue Grass Tour". This was a rather long bus trip to and from Lexington, but it was very rewarding. I think Lexington with its plethora of beautiful horse farms is one of the loveliest cities in the world (even though the University of Kentucky basketball team is quartered there). We drove past many of the lovely fenced and groomed horse pastures and exercise tracks and visited the International Museum of the Horse. Here we viewed numerous artifacts of the great thoroughbreds of the past, witnessed the training sessions of both riders and horses and attended a demonstration of various horse breeds through the ages. Afterward, we had the opportunity too have pictures taken astride of some of these wonderful animals. Martha, the greatest parasail veteran of St. Petersburg, of course opted to take advantage of this and with some assistance mounted the biggest beast of the show. We returned to Louisville in

(continued on page 3)

(Reunion, continued from page 2)
inample time for the evening activities.

Friday evening was dinner and entertainment in the Galt House. Music and singing were the highlights of the next two nights. We were entertained by a senior citizens chorus under the leadership of and accompanied by Charlotte More. The chorus, "The Silver Notes", rendered a wide selection of vocal harmony extending from 40's pops to inspirational. One of the featured soloist was the inimitable Al Martin.

We also were privileged to hear "The Master's Men", an all male chorus of high quality singing inspirational music. The bass section included the rich baritone of John Martin,

who is a nephew of Al. "The Way Over 44 Quartet" furnished a great selection of "Barber Shop" close harmony and were great after a shaky start with the amplification system. Of particular interest was their humorous selections. I always thrill to basso parts in close harmony arrangements and I was not disappointed. The band which played for listening and dancing was a large group who knew how to provide the right selections to get our over 70's crowd's attention and on the the dance floor. Needless to say, the food for both the Friday night dinner and the Saturday banquet could not be faulted. In attendance and recognized at the banquet were Major General and

(continued on page 12)

(Denver, continued from page 1)

Full details covering this reunion will be furnished in a separate mailing. You should enjoy the activities being planned, one of which will be a visit to the Air Force Academy where there is a bronze plaque commemorating the 485th Bomb Group on display. Also, please plan to attend the Sunday morning breakfast and memorial service.

In the meantime, please block-off September 15-19 on your calendar and plan to attend. None of us knows how many more reunions we'll be able to attend, so please come while you can and have a wonderful time.

See you in Denver in September!

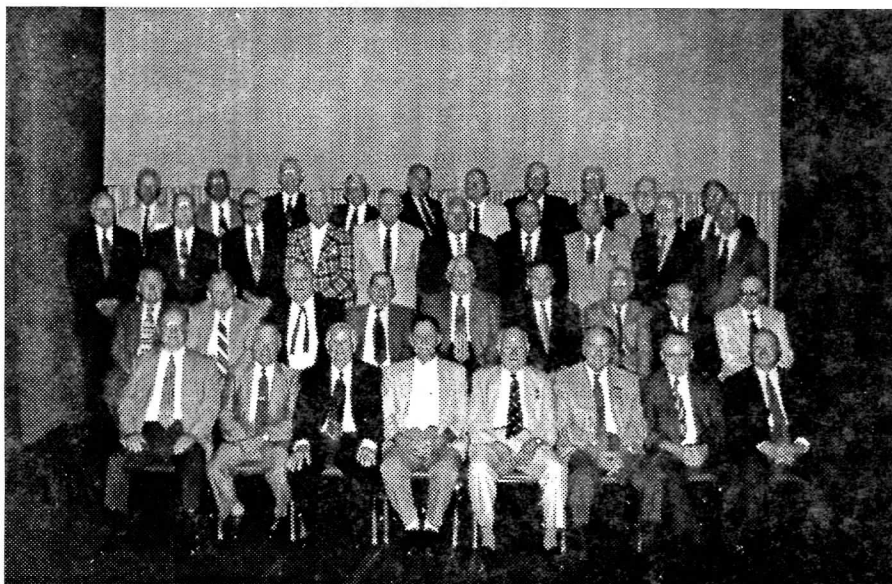
HEADQUARTERS



Row #1: Cecille Priver, Joyce Sortomme, Evelyn Towers
Row #2: Howard Cherry, Pop Arnold, Maurice Priver, M.D., Warren D. Sortomme, Loyd Towers, John B. Cornett

Squadron Photos

828th SQUADRON



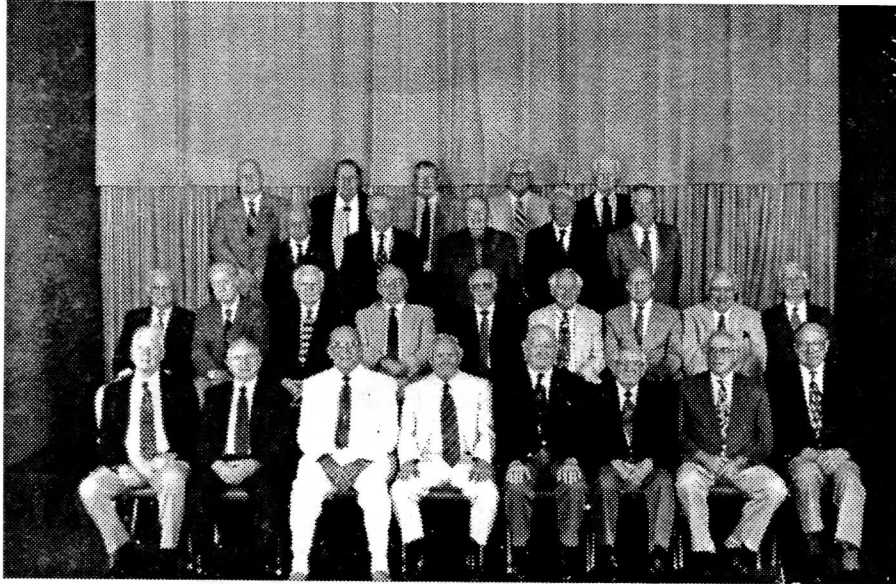
Row #1: Carl Mazzoni, Gordon Sorensen, Jesse Akin, Myron "Mike" Hailes, E.J. "Pappy" DeVane, Ed Nett, Joe O'Neill, Larry Sullivan Row #2: Lyle Alexander, Bud Sites, Sherrill Burba, Herman Laorno, D. Shannon, W. Sanders, Jack Eden, Nick Montulli, Gill Bell Row #3: Cliff Parli, J. Morrone, E. Beeson, John DiRusso, Bill Lancaster, Ambrose Borgetti, H. Julin, Warren Domer, Ken Wall, D. Roehn, Row #4: Dan Ermackovich, Art Hurley, Wm. Fritz, Dean Bassett, F. Freyermuth, Tom McDowell, George Ick, Don Peden, W. Reid, Jim Raul

829th SQUADRON



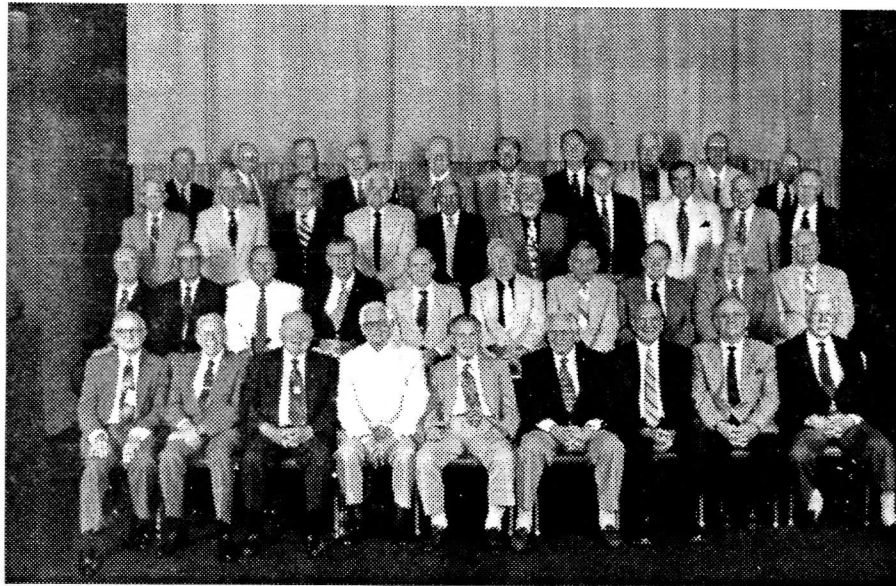
Row #1: Al Martin, Marvin Lindsay, Wythe Napier, Ryan Scott, Robert Brown, Henry "Hank" Dolim, Tommy Hough, George Kavanaugh Row #2: Milton Fundling, Calvin Frye, E. M. Krider, Gerald "Jack" Behunin, William MacClean, Art Fowler, Harold Johnson, Leon Best, Barton Brown Row #3: Don Paar, Irvin Wolf, Wayne Smith, Phillip Collucio, Tom West, Ed Meyer, Bob Peterson, Forrest Yeager, Billy Culver Row #4: Earl Bundy, Al Carlson, Ken Robison, Russell Authur, Joe Cathcart, Don Whiteman, Robert Haugen

830th SQUADRON



Row #1: Robert McAlpine, Stephen Paynic, George F. Raidel, Edward F. Gunic, Bill Cummings, Ted Lipinski, Lloyd Rich, Cliff Studaker Row #2: Simon Baytala Jr., John McCarthy, Don Randrum, Herb Muehlemann, Harold Kempffer, Thomas Falcone, Marvin Nicholson Jr., Bob Plaister, Clyde Corbett Row #3: Bob Baldwin, J. B. Cundiff, Russ Leary, Jim Hunter, W. K. Devore Row #4: George E. Dyer, Warren E. Gorman, Malcolm R. Bacon, Ralph A. Campbell, W. C. "Chuck" Forester

831th SQUADRON



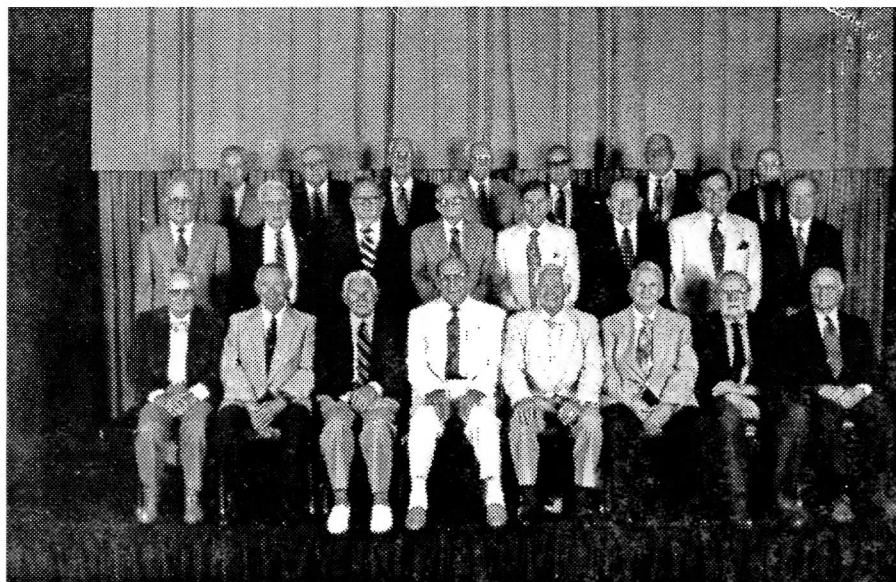
Row #1: Louis Sikes, Hank Dahlberg, Dan Sjodin, Lloyd Proudlove, John Nagle, Lynn Cotterman, Homer "Zeke" Cotton, Frank Chaffin, Robert Edinger Row #2: Bill Brokaw, James Fulford, Edward Siantz, Ed Wroblewski, Lewis Baker, Harold Richards, John Jackson, Warren Meyers, Bob Monahan, John Breen Row #3: Leo Gagne, Richard Conklin, Fredrick Irving, Dick Gardner, William Higbee, Richard Kingsbury, Ned Peirano, Frank Nardi, Howard Woodyard, Cliff Woodbury Row #4: Robert Rector, John Godfrey, Otis Shay, Morgan Browning, George Byrd, Robert Hanson, David Hansen, Stephen Mlinaz, Eugene McCarthy, Leonard Little

WIDOWS



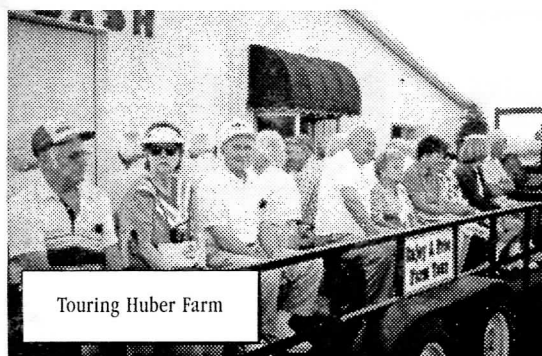
Row #1: Mary Karns, Lillian Cairns, Leona Scholtz
 Row #2: Murial Mickle, Ann Reifer, Janette Evjen

PRISONERS OF WAR

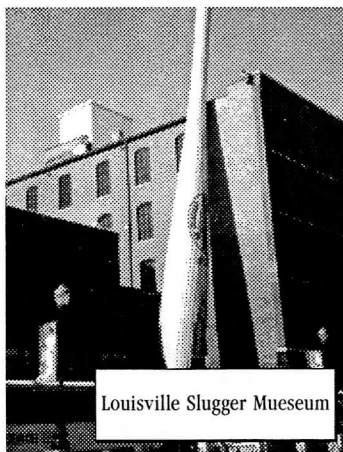


Row #1: Marvin Lindsay, Warren D. Sortomme, Pop Arnold, George D. Raidel, Lloyd Proudlove, Billy R. Culver, Wm. F. MacLean, Leonard Little Row #2: Ryan Scott, Bob Peterson, Fredrick Irving, Leo Gagne, Leon Best, Irvin Wolf, Frank Nardi, Robert R. Rector Row #3: Howard Cherry, Morgan Browning, John B. Cornett, John J. Godfrey, Walter Huebner, Joe Cathcart, Gordon Simpson

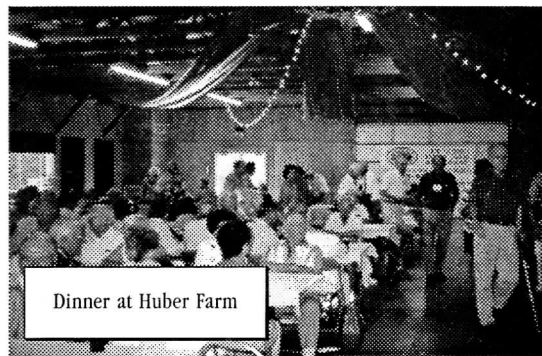
PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF REUNION ~ 1998



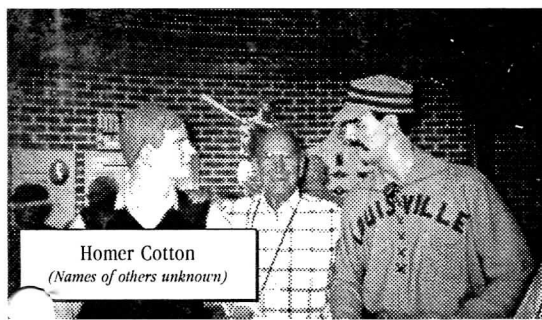
Touring Huber Farm



Louisville Slugger Museum



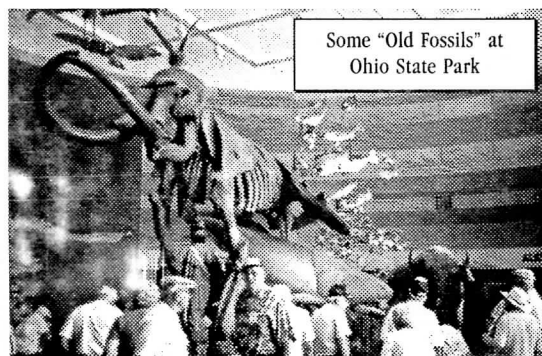
Dinner at Huber Farm



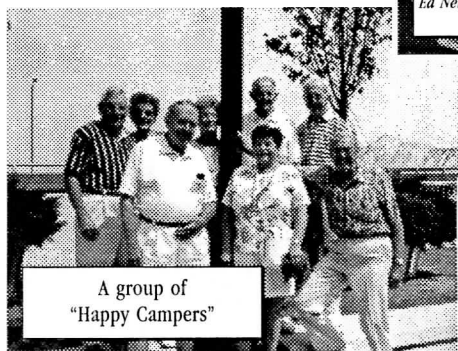
Homer Cotton
(Names of others unknown)



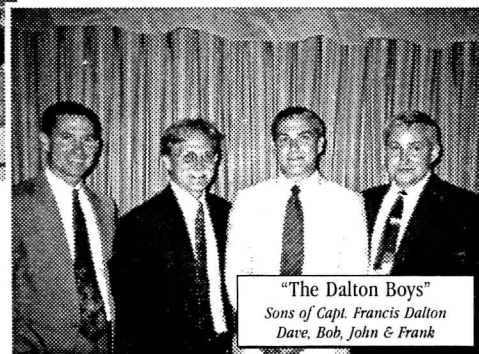
Horse Farm - Lexington
Ed Nett, Jess Akin, Lloyd Proudlove,
"Beau" Cornett



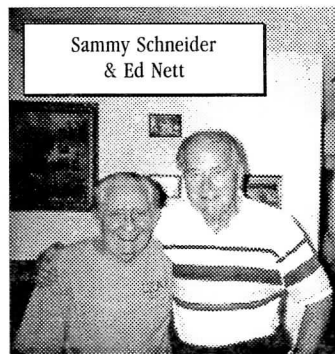
Some "Old Fossils" at
Ohio State Park



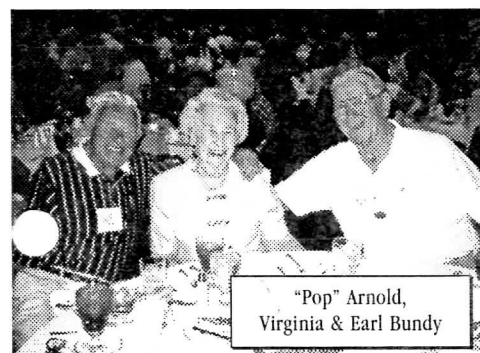
A group of
"Happy Campers"



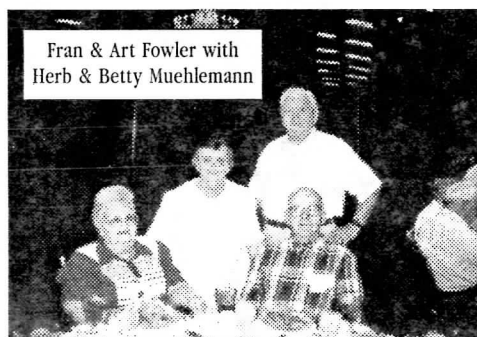
"The Dalton Boys"
Sons of Capt. Francis Dalton
Dave, Bob, John & Frank



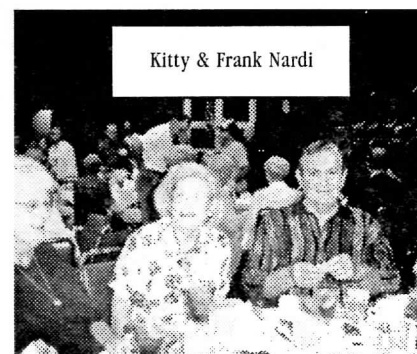
Sammy Schneider
& Ed Nett



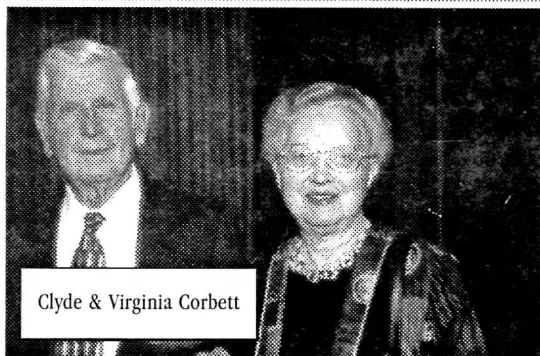
"Pop" Arnold,
Virginia & Earl Bundy



Fran & Art Fowler with
Herb & Betty Muehleemann



Kitty & Frank Nardi



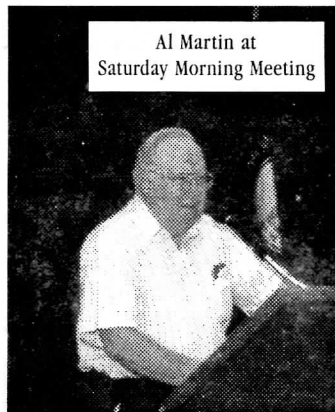
Clyde & Virginia Corbett



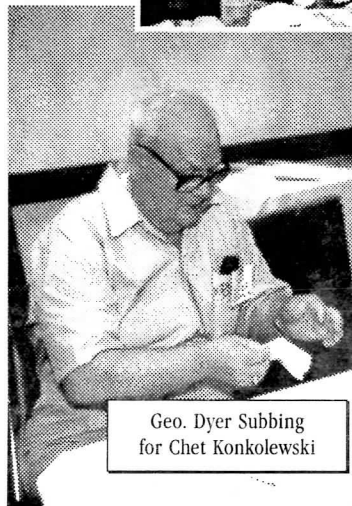
Nick & Annette Montulle



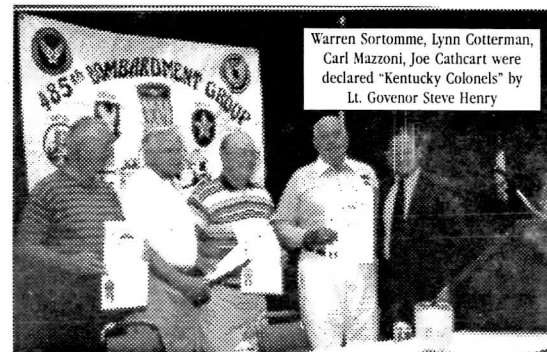
Bob Hanson made
Kentucky Colonel



Al Martin at
Saturday Morning Meeting

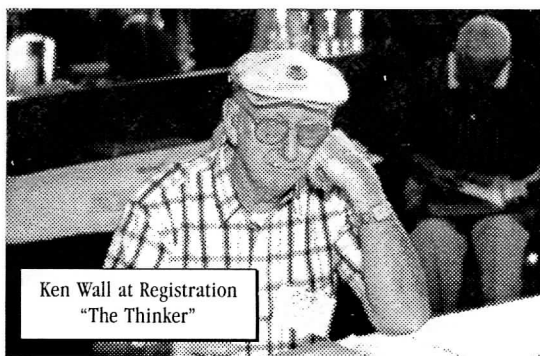


Geo. Dyer Subbing
for Chet Konkolewski



Warren Sortomme, Lynn Cotterman,
Carl Mazzoni, Joe Cathcart were
declared "Kentucky Colonels" by
Lt. Governor Steve Henry

OUR ENTERTAINERS



Ken Wall at Registration
"The Thinker"



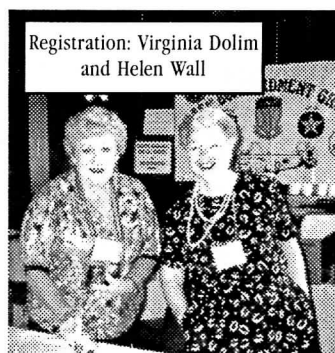
"Sizzle" provided the music
at the Saturday Evening Dance



"Silver Notes" entertained at the
Friday Galt House Dinner



Our Host
Al Martin



Registration: Virginia Dolim
and Helen Wall



At the Banquet Saturday, the
"Master Men's Choir" of the
South East Christian Church



"The Barber Shop Quartet" at
the Friday Night Dinner

HEADQUARTERS

by Warren Sortomme

Thanks to Col. George Rogers Cark and The Falls of the Ohio, the City of Louisville was founded in 1778 making it possible for Al Martin and Don Peden to host our 1998 reunion in their wonderful city. Thanks Al and Don for a job well done.

Located on the Ohio River with picturesque views of Clarksville and Jeffersonville, Indiana, the Galt House Hotel was our headquarters for the 34th reunion and with the help of Virginia Dolim, Fran Fowler, Lynda Hanson, Helen and Ken Wall, we signed-in, found our rooms, and made ready for a busy few days.

We all missed Bob and Dottie Benson (one of the few reunions they have not attended). Bob just started a new career in the golf business at age 77; so he thought it best to stay at work and wait for next year. Bob asked Bob Hanson to fill in for him, and, as usual, Mr. Hanson did an outstanding job of organizing the squadrons and presiding over the general meeting.

Headquarters had a fine group taking part in the busy schedule of events for four days and nights--Pop Arnold, Howard Cherry, John and Djoni Cornett, Dr. Maurice and Cecille Priver, Warren and Joyce Sortomme, Loyd and Evelyn Towers, Mrs. Douglas (Lillian) Cairns & family, Robert & Terry Cairns, Mimi & David Brooks. We all share fond memories of Louisville, Lexington and parts

of Indiana.

Those who did not play golf on a Thursday, September 3rd, toured Louisville by bus--Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby; Papa Johns, the brand new football stadium for the University of Louisville named after "Papa Johns Pizza Company". They had their first game Saturday, the 5th, and lost big to The University of Kentucky.

Visiting the Louisville Slugger Museum and The Hillerich and Bradsby Co. Baseball Bat Manufacturing facility, home of the Louisville Slugger and also a 120 foot 68,000 pound bat at the front entrance was next. Then on to the Falls of the Ohio in Clarksville, IN--a fossil bed of corals and prehistoric ocean life at least 400 million years old. Then it was time for lunch.

Thursday evening was an adventure to Starlight, Indiana and the Huber Family Farm, 360 acres of working farmland, including orchards, winery, cheese factory, farmers market and all the food you can eat in an outdoor atmosphere.

The Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, encompassing 1,032 acres for the history and heritage of all breeds of horses, a large museum and the burial site and memorial for the great Man O'War, was visited of Friday.

Our host, Al Martin, not only planned a special dinner of beef and chicken for Friday night, but also entertained us with his solos in the Silver

Notes Chorus Singing Group. A special treat was The South East Christian Church's "Master's Men Choir"--75 strong, directed by Melonie Wood.

The General Meeting was a great surprise to me, Lynn Cotterman, Joe Cathcart, Carl Mazzone and Bob Hanson. By proclamation from Governor Paul E. Patton, Lt. Governor Steve Henry made all of us Kentucky Colonels--promotions after all these years!!!! Al Martin told me Don Peden was responsible for these honors. Don is a good friend of the Governor.

During the meeting, it was announced that Denver, Colorado will host our 1999 reunion on September 14-19 at the Marriott Southeast Hotel. More on this at a later date--it should be a good one. I made a suggestion that we consider mounting a 485th plaque on the 15th Air Force Memorial Wall at the March Field Museum near Riverside, California. Joyce and I attended dedication ceremonies on October 29, 1998 and I believe it will be a fitting memorial. A few hundred dollars has already been donated by some of our veterans.

Headquarters had so few for our unit photo, Pop Arnold suggested the wives present join us: six vet and three ladies made a nice picture. Thanks Pop--maybe next year Kathy will be with us in Denver.

After an outstanding banquet & dance Saturday evening & Sunday morning
(continued on page 14)

MINUTES

Minutes of 485th Bomb Group business meeting--September 5, 1998 at 9AM at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

Deputy Chairman Bob Hanson called the meeting to order in the absence of chairman Bob Benson. A moment of silent prayer was offered for our departed comrades.

Al Martin introduced Lt. Governor Steve Henry of the State of Kentucky, who read a proclamation from Governor Paul E. Patton proclaiming Sept. 5th, 1998 as "485th Bomb Group Day in Kentucky". He then presented certificates to Warren Sortomme, Lynn Cotterman, Joe Cathcart, Carl Mazzoni, and Bob Hanson, making them Kentucky Colonels.

Minutes of the Dallas, Texas reunion were read by Secretary, Lynda Hanson. Minutes were approved as read.

The treasurer's report was read by Lynn Cotterman. A balance of \$2431.00 is in the 485th bomb group checking account.

Bob Hanson reported that Chester Konkolewski, 830th squadron reporter, is ill and could not attend the reunion!. George Dyer is taking over the reporter's duties on an interim basis.

Al Martin and Don and Alice Peden were thanked for all of their effort in making this a GREAT reunion. Al Martin thanked Helen and Ken Wall and all who had assisted in making this event successful. He

also said that there were 145 veterans attending this year. He stated that there would be squadron meetings immediately following the business meeting. Al Martin also said he would have retired Major General and Mrs. Phillip Ardery as guests for the banquet this evening. Gen. Ardery flew in the first B-24 raid on Polesi in 1943 and will speak about this at the banquet tonight. The Director of Louisville Regional--Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Mr. Henry W. Gresham and his wife will also be attending the banquet tonight. Al will also have as his special guest, Colonel Joe Dougherty, a close personal friend and Vietnam veteran. He also said that four sons of Francis Dalton, of the 829th original crew, would be attending tonight as would Al's son Jeff and wife Cheri who designed the art and printed the colorful tickets for all activities.

The count of squadrons were as follows:

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Headquarters | 9 |
| 828th | 39 |
| 829th | 33 |
| 830th | 29 |
| 831th | 43 |

Next was the count as follows:

| | |
|------------|----|
| POW'S | 23 |
| MIA'S | 4 |
| 1st Timers | 2 |
| Widows | 7 |

Carl Mazzoni said he wasn't missing--just AWOL with the Russians for awhile.

Crew of most member present--Jim Mulligans with 5-- Jack Godfrey accepted the

miniature B-24 for the coming year.

The count for ground crew attending is:

| | |
|-------|----|
| 828th | 11 |
| 829th | 5 |
| 830th | 2 |
| 831th | 3 |

Longest distance traveled was Bill Brokaw of Santa Cruz, California receiving the miniature B-24 for the coming year.

Next years reunion will be in Denver, Colorado at the Marriott Southeast and the dates will be September 14-19,1999, with rates at \$68.00. Bob Hanson then told of a Co. named Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. who will be handling all arrangements for us for this reunion. More details in Lightweight Tower.

Don Webb was thanked for his longtime service of printing Lightweight Tower but due to health reasons was unable to continue. Each squadron reporter was contacted to find a new printer for LWT. One was found by Bob Hanson: Abbey Printing Co. in St. Pete Beach, FL who submitted an acceptable bid for printing plus mailing costs.

Dan Sjodin asked for men to stand who had completed 50 missions.

John DeRusso read "Destiny" and "Please Remember Me" that he had written and asked that we write our Congressmen, Mayors, C.E.O's, etc. to fly the flag at

(continued on page 11)

The 15th Air Force Memorial Wall



The 15th Air Force Memorial Wall, 150' long with some 600 square feet of area, was dedicated at a special ceremony at the March Field Museum located adjacent to March Field Air Reserve Base on Interstate 215 near the city of Riverside, California on October 29, 1998.

Dedicated to the men and women of 15th Air Force and in particular its World War II heroes, the wall, in the courtyard of the museum will be adorned by plaques honoring the units of 15th Air Force.

Fifteenth Air Force was headquartered at March Air Force Base until 1993. The Fifteenth Air Force Association, which provided funds for the memorial as well as the bust of Gen. Jimmy Doolittle was a sponsor of the dedication. Given the long and glorious history of 15th Air Force at March, it is fitting that the March Field Museum be the site of the Fifteenth Air Force Memorial. Also, March Field is an easy 1 hour drive on Interstate Highways for 7 1/2 million people to view this Monument of History.

The cost of placing one of the plaques will be a one time payment of \$850.00 to the March Field Museum Foundation, Inc. Covering the cost of the perpetual care of the wall and plaques, and the mounting of the plaque on the wall. The cost of the plaque thru independent contractors is estimated at \$600.00

There is no deadline to raise this sum of money by donations from the 485th and its squadrons, but the sooner the better. Donations can be sent to our treasurer, Lynn Cotterman - 6425 Dorado Beach, NE - Albuquerque, NM 87111 or your Squadron Reporter.

(Minutes, continued from page 10)
half-mast on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th. He also asked that day be made a national holiday.

Carl Mazzoni made a motion to donate \$100.00 to John DeRusso's Dec. 7th program for his printing, mailing, and expenses. This was voted on & passed.

Warren Sortomme suggested that we donate \$1000.00 to the March Air Force Museum in California for a plaque of the 485th. After discussion, it was decided that this will be private donations of members. The squadron reporters will bring this up in their squadron meetings. It was also suggested that nay donations be made in Colonel Douglas Cairns memory and this was agreed upon.

George Dyer read "Freedom is not Free" and said it had been printed in the 15th airforce "Sortie" magazine.

A World War II Veteran's memorial has been planned for the mall in Washington, D.C. It was suggested that we make donations, individually to that.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11AM.

Respectfully submitted
Lynda L. Hanson
Recording Secretary

TEXAS CITY- BIRTHPLACE OF ARMY AIRBASE

(cousery of Milt. & Francis
Funding) - Before anyone ever

thought of singing, "Off We Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder", army fliers were doing just that from a tiny air field in Texas City -- the first army air base in the United States.

Congress in 1911 appriated money to buy aeronautical equipment for training and reconnaissance, and a school at College Park, Md., conducted experiments in flight photography and machine gun firing from planes.

But the motors of those flimsy planes didn't work well in cold weather, and because President Theodore Roosevelt feared trouble from Pancho Villa in Mexico, the fledging air force was moved to Texas City in February 1913.

They came by train with the 10,000 soldiers of the Second Division and 3,000 animals, bringing with them eight of the 12 planes owned by the United States Army.

Two were hydroplanes, which landed on water, were pulled to the beach and tied down. The others were pusher type, double propeller planes, chain driven like a bicycle. Big tents served as hangars.

By the end of 1912, there were 14 flying officers and 39 enlisted men in Texas City, under the command of Major General William H. Carter, who was Secretary of War.

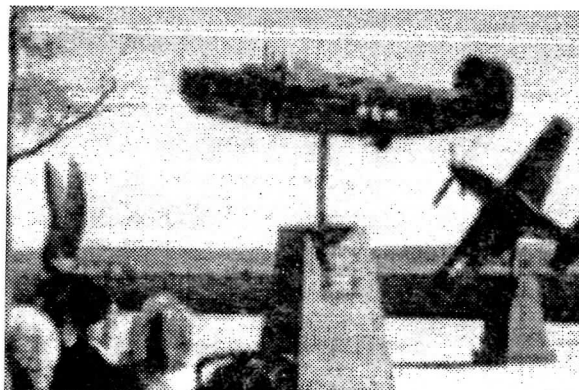
A home was built for him at 503 11th Ave.

The first long distance test flight was made from Texas City to San Antonio by Lt. Thomas Milling and W.C. Sherman. They traveled in a 70-horsepower Lewis Tractor.

Capt. Charles Chandler was the leader of America's first air squadron; two other officers were Lieutenants Call and Ellinton.

Lt. Call crashed in the northwest part of the city. An Air Force Base in California was later named in his honor.

(continued on page 17)



Dedication

The B-24 Bronze Memorial of the Liberator, a World War II Heavy Bomber, was made a gift by the B-24 Groups Memorial, Inc. of the Army Air Forces to the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, to honor the brave airmen we lost, the valiant ones who survived, and to all who designed, produced, maintained and flew this stalwart aircraft. The Memorial was placed as a permanent monument in the Honor Court at the Academy and dedicated September 25, 1998. There were more B-24 types produced than any other United State aircraft. It was used in combat and related activities in all theaters of operation during World War I by the United States Army Air Forces, United States Navy, Royal Air Force, Royal Canadian Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and other Allies. *"They shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31*

(Reunion, continued from page 3)

Mrs. Phillip Ardrey. He, a B-24 driver and participan in the first Ploesti raid, spoke briefly and was generous in his praise of those of us who came later and finished the job on that target. Also attending was Col. Joe Daugherty, a Vietnam veteran and close friend of Al's and Henry Gresham, Regional Director of the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Captain Francis X. Dalton was one of the original 829th pilots (Crew #27). He died in 1958. His memory was rekindled for his comrades by his four sons (The Dalton Boys) who attended the banquet. Those of us who spoke with them recognized a most valuable legacy from

our compatriot.

Our Saturday meeting was called to order by Deputy-Chair Bob Hanson in the absence of Chairman Bob Benson. Lt. Governor Steve Henry read a proclamation from Governor Paul E. Patton which proclaimed September 5, 1998 as 485th Bomb Group Day in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and then presented Kentucky Colonel Commissions to Warren Sortomme, Lynn Gotterman, Carl Mazzonni, Bob Hanson, and myself. I don't know about the others, but I was quite pleased. After 54 years, I was ready for a promotion. The treasurer report was read and approved, the bottom line

(continued on page 19)

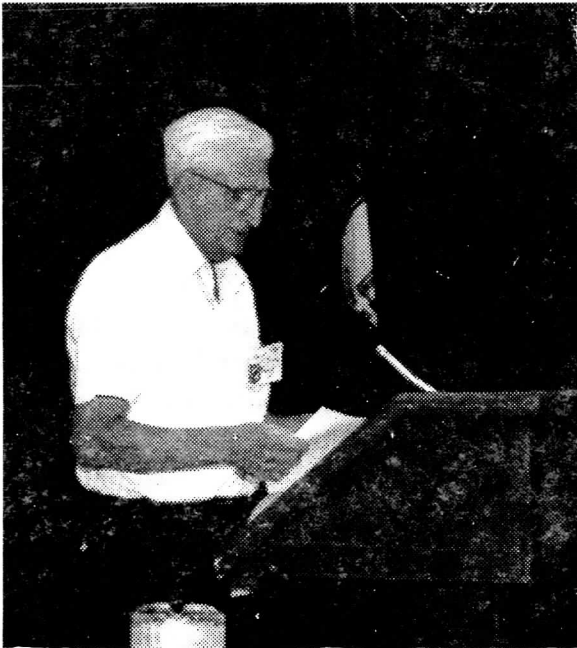
PEARL HARBOR:

December 7, 1941! On that Sunday morning we were typical American boys. By that night, we knew we had to become men -- fighting men. Henceforth, our flying training would be leading us toward air combat against an enemy who had attacked the U.S. We grew up that day. On that Sunday, our lives changed irrevocably and so did the life of the country. Texans remember the Alamo because every high school graduate in the state of Texas must learn Texas history.

Jews are determined that the world will never be allowed to forget the Holocaust because they know that "Those who don't remember history, are condemned to repeat it." President Franklin D. Roosevelt promised us that the day which shattered our lives would become a date that would "live in infamy". Wrong. Ask a young American now to name that date. It has not lived in infamy; it has died in memory. We members of Flying Cadet Class 42-B did indeed fly in mortal combat over Europe and the Pacific.

Out of 1,072 pilots in our graduating class, 225 were killed during World War II. Now we survivors are respectfully requesting that the date should not vanish into the dustbin of history. December 7 should be made a National Holiday. We are asking you to support an effort to fulfill President Roosevelt's assertion that the date will live in our national memory. For more info, contact: Roger E. Monroe (485 BG), 5205 Beachwalk Dr, Destin, FL 32541.

John Russo - Author



DESTINY

From the USS Arizona Pearl Harbor, USA

*I was just a farm boy from Iowa
Who joined the Navy to see the world.*

*And after some basic training
They Shipped me overseas to Pearl*

*I was assigned to the Arizona
And I was as happy as I could be
To me it was a beautiful ship
So I named it,
"KING OF THE SEA"*

*I trained as a Gunners
mate
And enjoyed it every
minute
It made me proud and I
just knew
If we got in a war the ship
would help us win it*

*So on a pretty Saturday
afternoon,
December 6th, 1941 to be
specific
We took a shore leave and,
Hit every bar in the South
Pacific*

*Soon our leave was over
And we all headed on back
Looking forward to Sunday
morning
When we got extra time in
the sack*

*Before going to sleep that
night*

*We talked and kidded about life after
Pearl
About the plans we had and
Making good in a civilian world*

*LIGHTS OUT! SLEEP TIGHT!
Was blared out over the horn
The weatherman says it's going to be
A beautiful Sunday morn*

AND SO WE WENT TO SLEEP!

*What happened next is very, very hard
to believe*

*An action took place that only
barbarians could conceive*

*The Arizona took one hell of a hit,
A Torpedo down the stack
The ship went down so very fast
We had no chance to even fight back*

*Life came to an end quickly, like
A thief comes in the night
For us it was all over
We would never join in the fight*

*Why did it have to happen that way:
Only God in His heaven has the right
to say*

*We had a lot of love to give
We had a lot of life to live
Some things are really just meant to be
And so we fulfilled our DESTINY*

*My love of the ocean
Meant the whole wide world to me
Now I'll sleep life eternal
In the bosom of this beautiful sea*

*So when you think about us
Please pause and say a prayer
And our souls will rest more peaceful
To know that you really care*

*From: Just an Iowa Farm Boy
Known Only Unto God*

*PLEASE REMEMBER PEARL
HARBOR FLY THE FLAG AT HALF
STAFF/MAST
ON EVERY DECEMBER 7th!*

(Headquarters, continued from page 9)
Memorial Breakfast, our thanks again to Al, Don, and Bob for a memorable reunion.

Received a nice note from Deputy C.O. Bill Herblin. He and his wife Kathryn sent regrets for not attending the '98 reunion, as they spent September in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, and Hungary visiting some of our old targets. Also, a note from Dr. Bill Bradley, who was unable to attend because of the results of a 1996 stroke. Hope both of the Col. Bills can join us in '99. Merlin Baker and Donald Huckleby, son of H.M. Huckleby, sent thanks for receiving "Lightweight Tower Calling".

Eight donations were made during the year to cover our expenses. Thanks much--hope I can count on your continued support. See you in Denver.

828th Bomb Squadron

Sherrill Burba

The 828th had 39 men at the Louisville reunion. Al Martin, Don Peden and Alice Peden did an excellent job in making this another memorable reunion.

The 828th voted to contribute \$250.00 to the 48th plaque at the 15th Air Force Association Memorial in memory of Col. Doug Cairns. The cost of a memorial is \$1,000 and hopefully enough individual contributions will come in to meet the quota. We also voted \$250.00 as a memorial to the three men most instrumental in

starting our reunion, ie, Bill Schontz, Bob Deeds, and Andy Anderson.

Carl Mazzone has done an excellent job as squadron reporter and Ed Nett paid him an excellent tribute. Carl retired and Sherrill Burba was elected reporter. Sherrill Burba made mention that it was the first election he had won in a while.

I anticipate an excellent reunion in Denver in 1999 having seen some of the early planning and it looks good.

The 828th had a bank balance as of October 1, 1998 of \$1,843.33. We owe \$500.00 to the 15th Air Force Association.

I have gone through the 828th May of 1945 roster and am writing letters to many on the list. In some cases, I have only found one person in my MANY names on the telephone disc list that matches the roster. However, I have found several 485th men through the disc and will be glad to look for anyone that will send me names.

At the Louisville reunion, we had two Squadron commanders present, ie, Col. Ed Nett and Col. Calvin Fite. Col. Doug Cairns was remembered during our squadron meeting as a good leader and for his service to our country. It was very good to see his family at the reunion.

Carl Mazzone was promoted too a Kentucky Colonel by proclamation from Governor Paul E. Patton, who was unable to attend, but his Lt. Governor, Steve Henry, made the appointment. We now have 6 Kentucky Colonels in the 828th squadron.

I will do my best to do a good job as your reporter for the 828th, and am open to any suggestions that anyone may have.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Denver in 1999.

MAIL ROOM

829th BOMB SQUADRON

Joe Cathcart

Al Martin and Don Peden hosted another memorable reunion in Louisville last September. The Galt House is an excellent venue and responded quickly to the few inevitable glitches that were met with our typical good humor and camaraderie. Martha and I arrived Wednesday and after checking in spent the rest of the day renewing old acquaintances. The rest of the reunion was spent in attending meetings and enjoying the great sequence of events our hosts had arranged. We did manage to relive some past memories briefly on an afternoon at the Brown Hotel, a completely refurbished icon of years past and to swim, sun and relax a short time at the Galt House pool. The 829th had an official count of 33 (all names elsewhere under our picture) and at least one more, Ben Skelton who had to leave because of illness. Ben, we sure hope that you are much improved and hope to see you in Denver next year.

Francis X. Dalton, one of our original Captains (our highest rank of a rated officer when we went overseas) and a great friend of all of his fellow

pilots finished his missions and returned state side the summer of 1944 and died untimely in 1958. We were delighted that his four sons (The Dalton Boys) attended our banquet. Saturday evening and those of us who had the opportunity to talk with them are convinced that they are a proud memorial to Captain Dalton.

While on the subject of memorials, it has been suggested that the 485th donate \$1,000 to the 15th Air Force museum for a plaque honoring the 485th similar to the ones we have at the Air Force Museum and the Air Force Academy Cemetery Wall. Our prorated share would be about \$250.00. The Squadron Fund has barely enough to cover the postage for Light Weight Tower and mailing associated with the reunion. Should we accumulate any extra it is sent to the chairman for his discretion, either to cover some of his office expense or to be forwarded to the Group Treasury. Since the reunion, I have disbursed a small amount to Bob Benson and plan to send a small sum to Mike Kilberry who prints our mailing labels and keeps our mailing list current. Consequently, I personally am making a donation to honor several groups and individuals not necessarily in any order.

1. Allen McBride, our tail gunner, KIA on our first flight.

2. The other officers on my crew (#35), Slayton McGehee, Don Roehn and Art

Carlson, all of whom are no longer with us.

3. Doug Cairns who I never served under but who I have learned to admire the last fifteen years.

4. All the great heros who served in the 829th and who never saw the USA again.

5. And finally, all who served in the 829th who are great friends either past, present, or future.

If anyone else cares to remember anyone this way, they can send me the donation and I will see that it is forwarded to the right place and will see that the honorees are recognized at the Denver reunion and in the LWTC following that reunion.

I also want to thank all who have contributed to the squadron fund and remind those of you who have not contributed yet that this is a very necessary irritant in order to keep things going.

So much for the commercials. Since I am also writing the general account for the reunion in this LWTC, I don't wish to be repetitive about the events that took place in Louisville other than to say everyone enjoyed themselves, ate too much at Huber's and the two hotel dinners and learned more about the Ohio River, horses and baseball bats than they ever expected.

During the past year, I have received an account of one of our original pilots, Bob Bobier's war time experiences with emphasis on his time spent in a Bulgarian Prison Camp. I

enjoyed it very much and hope it gets published soon.

I have also been informed of the Final Journey of Bill Trafford 7/26/98, Willis Combs 2/19/98, and Lawrence Stosky 2/2/98 not previously reported in LWTC. These comrades along with five others who were reported in the last LWTC but who had passed away after the Dallas reunion were remembered with a moment of silence at the squadron meeting.

As our numbers dwindle time spent with comrades of our "finest hours" become ever more precious. I hope that all of you enjoy good health and enough financial success to gather with us next September in Denver.

POST SCRIPT TO 829th SQUADRON MAIL CALL

Upon return from a European vacation December 11, I was informed of some very sad news. Ben Shelton passed away December 5, 1998. Ben was one of the 829th Squadron's original pilots. He and his crew flew "Big Alice From Dallas" and finished their missions in the late summer of 1944 having received many decorations and the rank of Captain.

Ben was an SMU graduate and retired from Sears as a VP Corporate Comptroller after having started with them as an office boy prior to his military service. He attended many reunions and was one of the 829th squadrons heaviest financial contributors once stating

that he would make up any deficit that was necessary in order that all 829th veterans received the Light Weight Tower regardless of their activity. He was a great spokesman for Liberator versus Fortress and 15th AF vs 8th AF and the 829th versus all the rest.

We all will miss Ben but all have been blessed by his presence among us.

I personally would like to thank all of you, too many to acknowledge individually, who have called or written me concerning this loss.

830th Bomb Squadron

*Geo Dyer--acting reporter at
Louisville reunion for
Chet Konkolewski*

Katy and I left Stuttgart at 6:15 AM on 9/2/98. We drove as Katy does not like flying, but she does a good job as my navigator.

We checked in at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville on 9/3/98 and met Helen and Ken Wall working the registration desk and doing their usual good job and trying to keep everyone happy.

As usual, enjoyed visiting the hospitality room and meeting old friends and telling and re-telling those familiar stories that occurred in those precious months between April 1944 and May 1945. Knowing full well that some of the stories have been embellished, never get tired of hearing them!

The bus ride to Huber's farm on Thursday was an inter-

esting one, and we enjoyed seeing the clean farms and roadsides. The dining room and entertainment complex at Huber's was wonderful, and the food (buffet style) left no one hungry.

Next morning the itinerary was the Kentucky horse park in Lexington, KY. The bus ride was lengthy but well worth the trip. The barns, homes, fences and everything pertaining to horses and farming was so well maintained, that you had to see it to believe it. The horse show that was put on for us was outstanding and the statues of some of the famous horses of day's past was something to behold. The horse museum was also an outstanding exhibit and everyone on the tour was duly impressed.

That evening was a banquet at the Galt House which Al Martin had arranged. He sang with a group called the Silver Notes, a group of senior citizens who had wonderful voices and naturally, the hits of WW II were very much enjoyed; also another group called the Master's men numbering about 75 sang several religious and patriotic songs. Al, as usual, kept the crowd impressed and he also was the soloist for a song or two.

Saturday morning was our regular business meeting at 9AM. Bob Hanson was chairman of the meeting as Bob Benson was unable to attend his reunion. Bob Hanson handled the meeting smoothly and kept things running along at the

right pace. Found out that 1999 reunion will be in Denver and will be handled by a Co. handling these group reunions for a number of years. I personally have feeling of anxiety about this, but hopefully everything will turn out alright.

After the business, we then had our individual squadron meetings. The 830th had 25 in attendance with one 1st timer among us. A few told of their experiences while in Venosa and it was a very good business meeting.

The picture taking before the Saturday night banquet started out to be a problem but quickly worked back to normal everyone seemed to be in good spirits to go into the banquet.

Al Martin, once again, had arranged for some wonderful entertainment, and after some sound problems, things went very smoothly and was really enjoyed by the group.

Sunday morning was the Memorial breakfast, which is one of the highlights of the reunion. As usual, some excellent talks and reading from the new and old Testament rounded out the occasion. Both Kathy and I would like to thank Al Martin and Don Peden for a very successful reunion--one that was well planned and extremely well done.

Just one of the boys
P.S. A note from Chet Konkolewski

Dear Friends: Am very sorry I could not attend in

(continued on page 18)

Journey's End

828th--Lory Hohmann
829th--Bill Trafford
Willis Combs
Lawrence Stosky
Ben Shelton
830th--Lester DeJongs
831st--Bert Roswell
Artie Poulos
Dan McGillicuddy
Ralein Hansen
Sam Giano
Wilmot Gibson
George Winter
Lewis Baker
Luke Terry
Joseph Farinetti
Paul Knoll

A LUCKY PHONE CALL

Two chance phone calls minutes apart provided Carol Ghaffari, the first daughter of Major Louis Farnsworth executive officer of the 831st with information she never knew about her father. He died on the Liberty Ship with other personnel from the 831st that was sunk by the Luftwaffe in the Mediterranean Sea. Carol was born four months after her father left for Italy. Her mother and father were married only a short time before Farnsworth left and her mother had little contact with her husband's family after his death.

Carol had never talked with anyone who knew her dad, except her mother. Nor had she ever met anyone who served with him in the service until two chance phone calls last November 1997. Washington

State Veteran Affairs Department asked relatives to confirm the names of Washington residents who died in World War II so their names could be inscribed on a memorial to be erected in Olympia.

When Carol called the state agency, she was told that yes, her father's name was on the list--and, by the way, someone else just called to make sure that Farnsworth was included. That was none other than Norman Lawrenz from the 831st. She telephoned Norman and found out that he had served under Major Farnsworth in Nebraska before they both left for Italy with the 831st Squadron. "He was an excellent officer, and was always concerned about his men," Norman recalled.

They were in the same convoy but on different ships. Norman witnessed the bombing and explosion of the Liberty Ship that carried Major Farnsworth and 153 other men from the 831st. He said it looked like it just disintegrated and it sank in seconds. There were no survivors.

Carol and her mother made plans to meet with Norman. "It's a connection for me," Carol said, "I find it precious to know that there was this young man who served under my dad and still remembers him". "There's a good reason to remember", Norman said.

(Texas, continued from page 12)

Ellington died a few years later in a California plane crash. Ellington Air Force Base near Houston is named for him.

In addition to the first Army long distance flight, aviators in Texas City also made the first night landing, when a pilot failed to reach the post before dark.

According to reports of the time, news spread through town and everyone came out to watch the event. All available lighting equipment was placed along the edges of the runway. There were no lights on the plane, but it made it in safely.

The First Aeronautical Squadron, organized at Texas City, was moved to San Diego, CA in the late summer of 1913.

The squadron served for five months with Gen. John "Blackjack" Pershing's 1916 Mexico border expedition.

BILL VIRGINIA'S NOTE PAD

The following is a diary kept in a small note pad by Bill Virginia in 1944 just prior to embarking for overseas and highlighted the events about to take place. Bill was a gunner, part of a replacement crew for Crew 33-829th Squadron. The original Crew 33 was shot down on Mission 22, June 9, 1944-Aircraft Factory-in Munich, Germany.

The first entry is dated October 21, 1944, Saturday.

We arrived at Camp Patrick Henry, VA from Aspen, Wyoming on Friday, the 20th. The train entering the camp area had armed MP's at each end of the railroad cars. We prepared our B-4 bags and barrack bags for the trip, carrying clothing and mess gear and personal items on the ship. The train ride from the camp to the Pier also carried armed MP's to discourage any attempts to go AWOL.

The train pulled up top the Pier. Four Liberty Ships were moored
(continued on page 18)

(830th, continued from page 16)

Louisville but had just spend a long 3 months being hospitalized. It sure took the starch out of me. I had major surgery including removing snarled intestines and hernia's at the stomach and chest areas. I am now at home recovering. Thank you all for your contributions to LWT and hopefully can be in Denver in 1999. May the good Lord watch over you. Cheerio

831st Squadron

Lynn Cotterman

Al Martin and Don & Alice Peden put together another great reunion in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The hotel was in a very convenient location with a great view overlooking the Ohio River. Down a few steps, more like a stairs, from the hotel to the river; there were several boats docked. One was a modified into a restaurant. I saw several members of our group enjoying lunch on the deck in the sunshine.

The first day I told a couple of the wives that I heard there was a nice shopping mall a few blocks down the street. They said, "Yes, we know, we've been there already". How do they find them so quick?

My favorite tour was the one to the Louisville Slugger Museum where they turn out baseball bats. I was a little nervous standing in the catcher's position while the pitching machine was throwing balls to home plate at 90 mph. I didn't realize how little time, like a

split second, the batters have to decide whether to swing or let it go by or duck!

When Bob Hanson volunteered to back up Bob Benson he didn't realize he was going to get involved so quick. I thought he did a good job in keeping the Saturday meeting under control and moving right along.

I received a letter from Ned & Evelyn Peirano telling of the passing of Ned's pilot, Bert Roswold. His crew flew the "Character" on the Group's last mission. Frank Nardi told me about the death of their Navigator, Sam Giaino. He attended his first reunion last year. At the reunion I learned that Dan McGillicuddy, Co-Pilot, and Artie Poulos, Flight Engineer, both had passed away. They were on Brady's crew. Also Ralein Hansen passed away in June.

Next year we will be in Denver hosted by the Armed Forces Reunions. Other veteran groups who have been using them for several years reported that they have been very well satisfied. So make your reservations early and I hope to see all of you there. I'm sure we will



(Bill, continued from page 17)

at the docks, and we approached the ships in formation, by RR car. On the Pier, a Navy Band was playing "Till We Meet Again" and Red Cross women were handing out small bags of soap, toothpaste, etc.. We boarded the ship on Pier 3, Newport News, VA at 1700 hours. After all the troops were on board, the ship pulled out into the harbor and left in convoy, Sunday October 22.

The convoy was only 8 ships at this point. We boarded about 15 air crew and 250 infantry soldiers in the forward hold. Bunks eight high formed the perimeter of the hold. The rectangular space in the center was common ground and served as eating space. Portable tables fitted into openings in the deck, providing stand up eating space.

OCTOBER 22, 1944

We pulled out to sea, and we were all on deck. About 30 Liberty Ships were in the convoy. The water was rough, and the ship rolled in the trough of the waves. Most of the infantry guys were sick and lived on the rails. Navy types and civilians working the ship hosed everything down several times that day. We had several destroyers escorting us as well as planes overhead.

The convoy was constantly getting larger as ships from east coast points joined us. We counted up to 70 ships late in the day and 8 destroyer escorts in the convoy now.

OCTOBER 23, 1944

We were sailing south east and riding in large swells. Water was crashing over the bow so only a limited number of troops were allowed on deck at a time. We took turns. The game below deck was to ride wooden benches from side to side of the open area as the ship rolled. This went on for days. The deck-side main sports were cards, checkers, and pounding 50 cent pieces on the deck, hitting them with mallets to make rings. I'll bet a thousand rings were made--you could hear the noise above and below decks. Sleeping was an adventure;

(continued on page 19)

(continued from page 18)

bunks were 8 high and about 35 inches apart. Careful in rolling over or trying to get out of ones way who was sea sick. The johns were all metal and in constant use. No fresh water was available except for drinking. Salt water soap may get you clean but no lather was produced. People were moving 24 hours a day.

OCTOBER 24, 1944

We had Navy PBM's and Blimps escorting the convoy which was over 100 ships. We sailed south east to the Gulf Stream and went around Bermuda and headed toward Gibraltar.

NOVEMBER 7, 1944

We were told on November 7th that we should sight Gibraltar on the 8th. Everyone was on deck as we passed through the Straits: On the right was Africa and on the left the "ROCK" of Gibraltar. Quite exciting.

We also heard that 2 days before a ship was sunk by German U Boats.

NOVEMBER 9, 1944

We actually passed the "Rock" about 1500, the coast on both sides, is rough, quite high mountains. The "Rock" was not easily distinguished from the surrounding areas, and we were all guessing where we were bound.

NOVEMBER 14, 1944

We have been on canned rations for several weeks. No fresh milk or food was available, having run out but after a week at sea. This effects the body and temper greatly. A few fights happened, but others would break them up quickly.

We entered the harbor at Augusta, Sicily. The convoy broke up early today. Many ships going on somewhere else. We pulled in the harbor and dropped anchor. Had a great view of the town and burned out ships in the area. Mt. Etna was snow covered as a great back drop to the scene. Small boats came out, and everyone was rail side. Italians sold souvenirs for cigarettes and other items. Price per carton was \$3.00 occupation currency. A carton cost .50 cents to us GI's.

NOVEMBER 16, 1944

We pulled out of Augusta Harbor at 0715 and sailed through the Straits of Mossipa ((? sorry. Don't know if I got that right)--humble typist) between Italy and Sicily. That evening we were allowed up on deck to watch the volcano STROMBOLI as we passed the Isle. We could see the eruptions (about every 10 minutes) and see the flow down to the sea. Very interesting.

NOVEMBER 17, 1944

We pulled into Naple's Harbor. The port was littered with sunken ships, and the area buildings were heavily damaged. Docks were built over sunken ships. It felt good to be on solid ground again. We were taken by truck to a camp South of Naples. The 292nd Replacement Center. The town of Caserta was three miles North and we were allowed to visit the town...lots of British Troops. Caserta was the Allied Headquarters for the Italian Campaign. We briefly visited the Prince's palace at Caserta. The reception room was the size of a football field, and the ceiling was about 4 floors high...at least 50 feet. Hugh tapestries hung on the walls. Marble floors and columns were all over the place. The gardens were full of fountains and statues. The palace covered a whole city block.

NOVEMBER 23, 1944

We left the 19th Replacement Battalion at Caserta and boarded a train headed East, up over the Apennine Mountains. A few miles from Caserta we saw large piles of wooden ammo crates and unused shells. We passed burned out boxcars and wrecked and German vehicles.

NOVEMBER 24, 1944

The train pulled into Bari, and we were glad to get off the train. Many civilians climbed on top of the cars and rode the entire trip this way. K-Rations were the meals of the trip.

NOVEMBER 25, 1944

We arrived at Venosa by truck from Bari and at the airfield, we were issued an 8 man tent from supply along with cots, sleeping bags, etc.. We managed to erect the tent as it was getting dark. Had K-Rations for

Thanksgiving Dinner. We spent the next few days scrounging a barrel and pipe for a heater, lanterns and light for the tent. Scrounging is a major event at the base.

NOVEMBER 27, 1944

We had an Operations Briefing of the main objectives of the bomb group. Three principle targets identified as: Blechhammer Oil Refinery, Munich and Vienna.

DECEMBER 4, 1944

We flew our first night flight from our field. It was to familiarize us with the local area. We were up only an hour.

I stop at this junction as the rest of the story pertains to some of the missions flown by Crew 33 with a promise from Terry O'Mahoney to send me the additional missions flown. Terry is the son of the Navigator--Robert O'Mahoney who passed away in October 1997 and is buried at Arlington Cemetery. Terry is a Chopper Pilot at Randolph Field, San Antonio.

(Reunion, continued from page 12)
being a bal anc of \$2431.00 which keeps us solvent at least until the LWTC comes out.

Bob reported that Chet Konkolewski's health kept him from attending and that George Dyer would serve as the 830th reporter on an interim basis. Our best wishes to Chet, we hope he returns soon.

Our Poet Laureate, John Russo, read two selections, "Destiny" and "Please Remember Me". He is campaigning to have more recognition of December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, perhaps a national holiday and has urged the membership to write our leaders to fly the flag at half mast. A motion was made and passed to donate \$100 to help defray his expenses.

Warren Sortomme Suggested we donate \$1000.00 to the March Air Force Museum (was the 15th Air Force Museum) for a plaque for the 485th. It was decided to accomplish this by individual donations. It was suggested

that donations be made in honor of Colonel Doug Cairns which was agreed upon later to be amended in at least some of the squadron meetings to include other honorees as well in order to better honor our wartime services.

There were two major changes announced in our past operations. Don Webb had to give up his long time service as publisher of LWTC due to health reasons. He was thanked profusely for his long time service to the group. This was not unexpected and for several years a new source has been solicited. Bob Hanson found one, the Abbey Printing Company, for printing and mailing, (the only one that quoted both). This was well within our price range. Bob will serve as liaison at least for this year.

The second item has to do with the reunions. As it takes well over a year to set up a reunion, the lack of a volunteer forced this one on the executive committee. An experienced company, Armed Forces Reunion Inc., has been contracted to handle the arrangements for the next reunion. this will be on a trial basis, only one year has been contracted, but it appears that with their superior leverage they can equal or better our costs and make a profit for themselves. We shall see. The reunion will be in Denver, CO September 14 - 19, 1999 at the Marriott Southeast. Details are included in this LWTC.

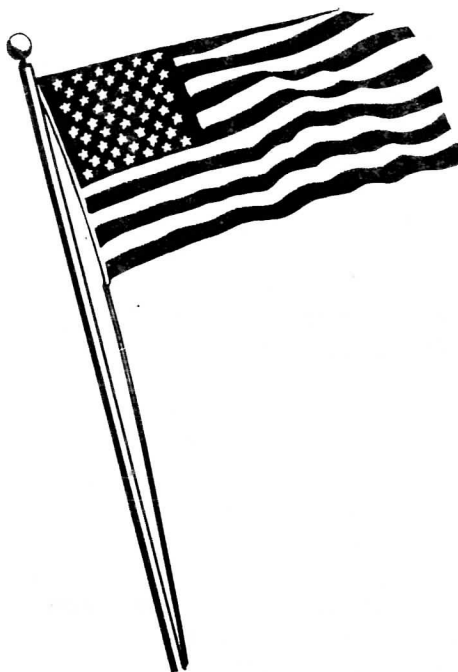
After the Group Meeting was adjourned, the Squadron meetings were held. Details of which can be found in the "Mail Call" section of the LWTC.

Pictures as usual were taken prior to the banquet.

Sunday again was perhaps the most meaningful day of the reunion. This of course was our Memorial Brunch where we took time out from our revelries to concentrate on those who were no longer with us. We followed our familiar format of prayers, hymns, Biblical readings, and patriotic and inspirational readings. Don Whiteman again contributed a brief sermonette as homage was paid to those we left behind and those who

have left our midst except in memory since our return. Colors were presented by the AFROTC from Moore High School in Louisville, the only Air Force ROTC in the area. It was a real treat too see the eager young faces of this group who are readying themselves, God forbid, to stand up against our next aggressor.

At the close of the brunch good-byes were exchanged and most of the group began their journey home filled with firm resolve to figuratively join hands again in Denver next September.



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Published annually by and
for the veterans of the 485th
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