



Historian's Update



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Once again, it has been quite a while since I've provided an update, so it's time to tell you what has been happening this year.

DPAA Conference

I was very surprised and honored this year to be invited to a DPAA conference in Washington D.C. this past October to teach a class on tools I've used in researching MIA cases. DPAA, as I referenced in the last update, stands for the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency. They're the folks who continue to search for MIA's from all recent conflicts around the world. I spoke to the WWII European group. It was a terrific experience and I met some of these experts I've only heard about in the past. At the end of my presentation I was given a plaque to thank me for my efforts. It's something I will always treasure.

Lt. "Dud" Crouchley Excavation

Last year in my update I discussed the historical conference in Krakow where Stan Stanev presented the case of Lt. Crouchley (828th B.S.), whose crash site he found in Bulgaria. We were hoping that DPAA would send a team to Bulgaria and attempt to bring Lt. Crouchley home. We were elated to learn DPAA sent a team this past July to excavate the site and spent two months there. At this time they have not released any information, but we will provide information when we have it.

Arlington National Cemetery Burial

Since we don't have an annual newsletter anymore, we do not maintain a "Journeys End" list for 485th Vets we've lost in the past year. I know we've had several. One, Bill Ryan, passed away earlier this year. Bill was a good friend of mine. He was a copilot in the 828th Squadron. Bill will be buried at Arlington on December 13th, with full military honors. I will attend the funeral to represent the 485th. Another attendee will be our Austrian Historian friend, Jakob Mayer. I will be thinking of all of our Vets we lost this year.

Contact me if you want additional details on the ceremony.

2017 New Orleans Reunion

I was unable to attend the reunion, but heard it went well. These combined reunions offer the opportunity for 485th families and friends to meet and engage Vets and their families from other 15th Air Force bomb groups. The reunion next year will be in Dayton, Ohio. More info will follow.

Website Update

Earlier this year I enlisted the assistance of Hughes Glantzberg, President of the 461st BG Association, to update our website. Hughes was able to keep the same "look" we had. I don't anticipate any major changes or additions now that it's updated. The original intent of the website was to provide basic information about the 485th and to be a way to find us. I will honor that original intent.

Crash Site Research

I learned recently that Radovan Zivanovic, a Croatian researcher friend, is interested in locating the crash site of Lt. Charles Fabry's aircraft. Fabry, a pilot in the 828th B.S., was shot down on 11/15/44 and is still MIA. I will provide an update as the investigation progresses. We owe a lot to our European researcher friends for their efforts to locate these sites.

And Along the Way...

I continue to get regular requests for information from 485th families and friends. Most are generated through our website. I respond to every request. I don't use Facebook. For some reason, some of the requests have reached my spam folder, so if you've tried to contact me and I didn't respond, please try again. I've been invited to Germany next year by a researcher, but I'm unsure if I can make the trip. I followed the Collings Foundation for most of the month of July and met a few of you along the way. Mark LaScotte joined me and travelled with me for a week. It's always nice to hear from and about 485th families and friends, so keep in touch.