

Hell's Angels Newsletter

303rd BOMB GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION, INC.

December 1989

Norfolk Targeted By 650 Hell's Angels

Reminiscent of the maximum efforts by the ground and aircrews during the combat days at Molesworth, 650 members of the 303rd Bomb Group Association gathered in Norfolk, Virginia to relive the days when their B-17s departed the English Coast to do battle with the Luftwaffe in the skies over Germany occupied Europe during World War II.

This was the second largest turnout in the history of the Association. The '85 reunion in Seattle is still tops with 850.

The general membership meeting held on Friday was both action packed and well attended. Highlights of the meeting were the election of a new slate of officers headed by Wilbur "Bud" Klint; amending of the by-laws which created a new vice-president position; creation of a new super-life-membership category to raise additional funds to continue the research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. and also to carry on an expanded yearly program of work. Other items discussed, such as invoicing members who pay dues annually, are covered more fully elsewhere



President Wilbur "Bud" Klint and Immediate Past President Dr. Carl Fyler carry Memorial Wreath followed by Past Presidents (l to r) E.C. "Al" Lehmann, William Eisenhart, Joe Vieira and Charles McClain.

in this newsletter.

One of the highlights of the entire reunion was the Memorial Service on Saturday morning at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk to honor and pay respect to our fallen comrades who gave their lives while serving with the 303rd in England and also to those

who have died since then. Also on the agenda was an all-day visit to historic Williamsburg and visits to the Maritime and War Museums.

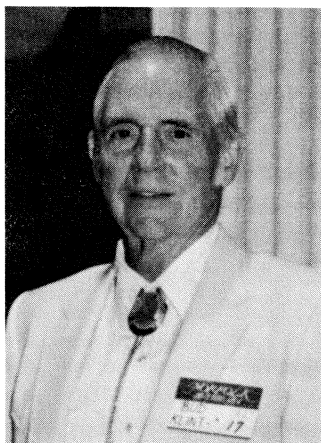
Proposals to hold the 1991 reunion in May in Schaumburg a suburb of Chicago and the 1992 reunion in September in Boise, Idaho to celebrate the

fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the 303rd Bomb Group there in 1942, were presented to the membership in attendance and passed unanimously. Since each of these reunions will be held 18 months apart, it is a compromise with the persons wishing to hold yearly reunions.

"This Bud's for You!"

I thank all of you for the honor bestowed on my by electing me President at our recent reunion in Norfolk-By-The-Sea. I don't come to this office with any grandiose plan for our association. The only thing I desire is to have the 303rd be the best Bomb Group Association in peacetime just as it was the best combat Group in wartime.

I do have two immediate goals which I hope you will adopt. It will take the cooperation of every member to accomplish these:

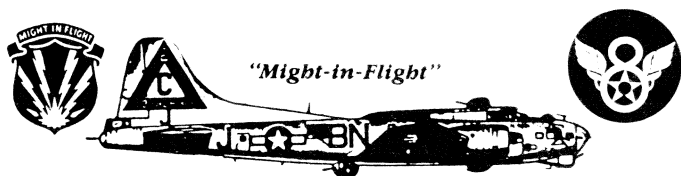


President Bud Klint.

1. Put the 303rd BGA on a sound financial base that will ensure its endurance and the perpetuation of its achievements and its legacy. We made a great start towards accomplishing this in Norfolk. You'll read about that elsewhere in this issue. Now we need the help of all of you who were unable to be a part of this effort in Norfolk. This is something each member can do, according to his own situation, and in gratitude for having survived, if not in tribute to those Hell's Angels who didn't. If each one does what he can, it

will enable us to move forward without the drag of financial uncertainty.

2. Increase our membership by 20 percent in the next 12 months. Our present membership is somewhere around 1500. I've heard all kind of estimates of the number of people assigned to the 303rd during wartime. Most agree that there were at least 8,000-10,000. We need to find those missing Angels, now! It will only take about 300 new members to register a 20 percent increase. Here are some ways you can help: (cont. pg. 2)



303rd BOMB GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION, INC. "HELLS ANGELS" NEWSLETTER

Editor: Hal Susskind
2602 Deerfoot Trail, Austin, TX 78704

The 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc., a tax exempt organization under IRS Code 501(c)(19), founded in 1975, is chartered in the State of Florida to perpetuate the history of the 303rd Bomb Group and to provide opportunities for 303rds to meet and do things together.

Because you are helping to perpetuate the history of the 303rd Bomb Group, your dues and/or donations to the 303rd Bomb Group Association are tax deductible.

The Association is open for membership to all persons assigned or attached to the 303rd Bomb Group, from its activation in 1942 in Boise, Idaho, throughout its war years at Molesworth Air Base in England to its deactivation in Casablanca in 1945. Spouses of 303rds may also become members. All other persons, interested in perpetuating the history of the 303rd Bomb Group and in furthering the aims of the Association, may apply for Associate status.

Membership years begin on the first day of January. In the future, the 303rd Bomb Group Newsletter will be sent only to paid up members. When you pay annual dues, the membership chairman will send you an updated membership card.

If you do not receive the 303rd Newsletter for a period of more than four months, it means you are delinquent in your dues for that calendar year.

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Following are thumbnail sketches of your 1989-1991 slate of officers:

President

Wilbur "Bud" Klint - 303BGA member since 1980. 427th co-pilot, pilot 1943-44. Co-pilot of Hullar crew - *Half A Wing, Three Engines, and a Prayer*. BGA newsletter editor 1983-85. Reunion committee member for many years. Managed 1987 Ft. Worth reunion. Co-manager 1989 Norfolk reunion. Sales, marketing, and advertising executive positions for almost 40 years with candy manufacturer and nationwide electronic corporation.

Vice President/Administration

Peter Michael Curry - 303 BGA member since 1983. Group Intelligence Officer 1942-45. Reputed to have briefed more combat missions in the 8AF than any other intelligence officer. Retired in 1946. Lawyer, admitted to practice of law in 1940. Active in many civic and legal philanthropic activities for many years. Has been a state judge in the state of Texas for more than 25 years.

Vice President/Reunions

Harley Cannon - 303BGA member since 2nd reunion. 358th sqdn. co-pilot, pilot and A/C Commander 1944-45. Ten years in active and inactive reserve 1940s and 1950s. Self employed as factory sales representative and distributor to the construction industry for over 40 years. Very active in community and church affairs. Vice president of 303 BGA in 1987-89.

Secretary

Carl Dubose - Incumbent Secretary, member of the 303 BGA since 1985. 427 sqdn pilot and A/C Commander, 1944-45. Over 30 years of military reserve service, retiring in 1980. College administrator at Victoria College, Texas for more than 40 years.

asking anyone who ever served with the 303rd to contact you. He may even want to run a news story about your experiences.

When I accepted the Presidency of this outfit, I agreed to do all I can to make a great Association even larger, stronger and better. I will work towards this end, but I need your support and cooperation. If "This Bud's for You" then I certainly need You to be for this Bud!

Bud Klint

Treasurer

Charles Schmeltzer - Incumbent treasurer, member of the 303BGA since 1985. 358th sqdn. gunner on D. Gamble's crew. Gunnery instructor stateside after 8AF/303BG tour. Partner in civil engineering consulting firm for many years. Retired in 1986. Considerable experience in money management as contract administrator for engineering firm.

358th Rep.

William S. McLeod, Jr. - Pilot, assigned 303BG in early Dec. 1944, flew 36 missions spent VE day in convoy headed for states. Later assigned to ATC flying C-54s. Completed second overseas tour in Nov. 1949. Separated from service and joined reserves. Became a financial consultant for 27 years retiring in Jan. 1987. Anxious to hear from members of 358th sqdn.

359th Rep.

Charles J. McClain - 303BGA member since first reunion, Past President 1977-79. 359th Sqdn. Bombardier 1943-44, was shot down 28 Feb. 1944, captured upon landing, escaped three days later and evaded back. Managed the 1975, 1977 and 1979 reunions. Retired from the AF as a Lt. Col. in 1968 and spent the next 15 years in education as a teacher, coach and administrator.

Hqtrs. Rep.

Carlton M. Smith - Joined the 303rd BG at Molesworth in Aug. 1943. Best remembered as the intelligence officer who briefed the bombardiers on their missions and interpreted the strike photos. Flew five combat missions. Made the AF his career and retired as a Lt. Col. in 1971 after 30 years. Spends most of his time lecturing, writing, teaching and researching genealogy.

Names and addresses and phone numbers of other incumbents are listed on page two.

THANKS

Words are inadequate to express my appreciation to the Reunion Committee and to the 303rd Bomb Group Association for their many expressions of love. We are truly grateful for the many helping hands and for the beautiful way you received Jack and Chris, our son and daughter, who took over in "mamas" absence. Chris expressed it as, "An experience we will never forget!"

"Chappie" Slawson

KLINT

If you know a 303rd who has not joined the association, convince him to do so. If you can't get him to cough up \$10, pay his first year's dues for him. Once he starts receiving our fine newsletter, he will realize what a bargain 303rd Membership really is.

Make a real effort to find one missing Angel. Look for names on copies of orders you may have in your personal archives. Look through your diary

of the War years and other records you may have. Then do a bit of detective work. If you've ever uncovered someone you haven't seen for 40-45 years, you know what a kick it is and how grateful that someone will be for your effort.

Another way to locate former 303rds is to get some news in your local newspaper. Talk with the Military or Special Features Editor. He will likely be happy to run a short notice

Hell's Angels Forum

Your Chance to Sound Off!

Ground Crew Experiences

I would like to thank the reunion committee and the Board of Directors for allowing the ground crews to have a meeting. It was a great experience and very informative. I hope that the committee will see fit to schedule this at future reunions.

If any ground crews have pictures or experiences, regardless of how trivial you think they may be, please send them to the following.

358th and 427th sqdns. to: Thomas Harrelson, 1506 S. Prudence Rd., Tucson, AZ 85710.
359th and 360th Sqdns. to: Martin Yanigo, 411 E. Railroad St., Nesquehoning, PA 18240.

Support groups to: Melvin McCoy, P.O. Box 1675, Rogue River, OR 97537.

Joe Worthington
Rt. 4, Box 384
Chestertown, MD 21620

Finding Lost Members

It has been several months since I last corresponded with you. I would like to commend you on the newsletter. It is not only interesting and well composed but very prompt in arrival. A fact I have deeper respect for since I was temporarily appointed as Public Information Officer of the Cimarron Strip Squadron of the Confederate Air Force. For the past three months my wife and I have put out the newsletter for our squadron.

At the start of airshow season the B-17 "Texas Raiders" was at our base. They had a B-17 crew list which my wife went thru and copied all the 303rd names. Of these 13, which had addresses, none were on the roster.

We have sent letters to these crew members and are starting to receive responses. To date 3 returned with no forwarding address but there is one who wishes to join the Association. He is Robert F. Kennedy, a tail-gunner from the 358thBS.

I have already sent him a membership application which my wife copied from a newsletter. I was hoping you could send him the latest newsletter. His address is 6108 Regent Park Road, Baltimore, MD 21228.

I hope to have more responses

come in in the near future from the remaining 9 men. I will keep you posted of any more affirmative letters that I hopefully will receive from them so your fine newsletter can be a greatly appreciated follow up for the new prospective members.

Charles D. Rukes, Jr.
Rt. 1, Box 147A
Geary, OK 73040

Ed. Note: The 303rd BGA would like to thank Rukes for his assistance in helping us find our lost members.

303rd Info Readily Available

Sorry to hear about Tailwheel, although, the way he and Wilson Ford use to put away the booze, it was in the books, I guess. Flew several leads with him as I previously told you.

Was going through my old Hell's Angels issues and found this Nov. '87 article. (It was the article on the Me-163 by Rex Reichert). Don't know why I didn't question it at the time. Anyhow, believe Reichert either was misquoted on the Komet as "Der Volksjager," or he just plain made a boo-boo. Am including the He-162 info to support my belief. I know "pickey-pickey!"

Have been corresponding (and helping) a young German Luftwaffe Historian on the Me-262, which was built at his hometown of Leipheim, a small town between Augsburg and Ulm. Found a lot of photos, strike reports, etc., for him at the Nat'l. Space Museum Library & Nat'l Archives in D.C. (Af History Office/ Bolling AFB (lots of 303rd microfilm there)). Also, many photos of me and various lead crews I flew with. All WW II, 8th AF photos, etc., are on film at the library. Everybody should visit it just once. Larry Wilson, one of the librarians is a vast source of info, and really as funny as hell to be around.

R.H. Gorham
358 J Ave.
Coronado, CA 92118-1140

Ed. Note: Tailwheel was known to lift a glass now and then but I never saw it affect his performance of duty which included his being awarded the Silver Star for helping to sink ships off North Africa.

Info on Rosey

Reference R.J. Said's request to the whereabouts of Nate Rosenbloom in the July issue of the newsletter, I was an old friend of "Nussey" as we used to call him. He spent a long time in G.I. hospitals with the leg problem and upon discharge went into the "Traffic Ticket" Service-they pay your ticket for you. I've lived in California for over 26 years so this goes back before then. "Nussey" was found dead on the outer drive of a heart attack. Bob Yonkman, also a Bombardier, Nussey's buddy and my friend is still around and lives in Michigan.

William Schultz
7815 Ampere Avenue
North Hollywood, CA 91605

Toots or Butch?

With reference to the picture of Sgt. Morton, top of the front cover of the Jan. '89 newsletter, I am wondering if anyone from the 360th can verify that he was on the aircraft "Toots," B-17F 42-2906? I was shot down over Hamburg, 25 July '43 and we lost four crewmen, Sgt. Morton died in the room with me at the hospital near Lubeck. Lt. Van Wie, the pilot; Sgts. Hlebasco, top turret, Theo Swanson, waist gunner all were lost.

Since publication of the Jan. '89 newsletter and the pictures and article by Bob Heiliger, I wrote to Bob to see if he could verify that the picture of Sgt. Morton, Eugene L., that flew ball turret on Van Wie's crew were the same person. I did not receive a response. Have also wondered over the years what's happened to the other crew members of "Toots." Copilot, James Walsh and navigator, Paul Blank were in Stalag Luft III with me. Radio operator was Bob W. Noll; left waist was Benjamin F. Spring; tail gunner, Robert C. Bridges. None of these guys are listed in the 1985 membership roster.

Since I was flying make-up missions with this crew, I wasn't as well acquainted as I was with my regular crew of Lady Luck. In fact, I could not remember the name of the aircraft we were shot down in until the past week when a neighbor loaned me his copy of Gray M. Volant's book, Vintage Aircraft Nose Art. By cross-checking the tail number of "Toots," page 53, of Volant's book, with the missing

aircrew report I have, I positively identified "Toots" as our ill-fated bird.

I have one other item, I hope some of the original 427th sqdn. guys can help out with reference to the picture on the back cover of the Aug. '88 newsletter. It shows the 427th guys pictured in front of the a/c City of Albuquerque. Can anyone identify the man (only one wearing a garrison cap) back row under the rear of the No. 3 engine cowl. I have a postal delivery lady in San Antonio who thinks it is her father, Lt. Bird, who was originally from San Angelo, Tx area. If I can get a positive identification from some of the 427th, I want to give her a copy of the picture.

Robert L. Taylor
2703 Spokane
San Antonio, TX 78222

Ed. Note: Not wishing to confuse the issue but according to the Honor Roll, the aircraft 42-29606 shot down on 25 July '43 was called Butch.

Information Wanted

I will not be able to attend the 303rd reunion, due to serious illness in the family.

I have lost contact with my crew members (the Malcom F. Damon crew).

I would appreciate it, if you could post my letter and card on your bulletin board at reunion, to help me locate my crew members.

Hoping you can assist me in locating the following crew members.

Malcom F. Damon
Milton G. Whitford
Howard G. Burr
John Keseric
Daniel J. Jordan
John M. Leenstra
Arthur M. Loy
Delbert N. Mikkelsen

Don K. Braun -
Ball Turret Gunner
11709 Slater
Overland Park, KS 66210
Phone 913-451-5754

I am writing in regard to any information you may have concerning my uncle, Winston C. Teter, who was killed in action over Germany during World War II. I am currently a member of the Iowa Air National Guard as is my wife, and I have a great deal of pride for the USAF and for the fact that my uncle served in the Army Air

Forum

Corps. As a result I am trying to research and find out all that I can about the time he served and the men who served with him when he was killed.

Presently I have the following information:

Winston C. Teter 37,683,815
killed in action 19 Feb 1945
mission - coking plant,
Gelsenkirchen, Germany
427th Bomb Sq, 303rd Bomb Gp,
Eighth Air Force
plane number - 42-39885 B-17G

In addition I have a list of eight names who I believe to have served with him. They are:

Wilfred Walder, pilot
John E. Roche, co-pilot
John Wolansky, navigator
Arthur E. Short, bombardier
Ray H. Engelhardt, engineer
Francis M. Gibbons, radio operator
Donald C. Mitchell, tail gunner
David Dales (Dole?), ball gunner

Included with this letter is my name and address, and phone number. I would appreciate any information you could give me concerning my uncle or any of the men who served with him, including other addresses where I could write for information. I anxiously look forward to hearing from you.

Deneil A. Parker
R.R. 1, Box 106
Churdan, IA 50050
(515) 544-3368

News From Abroad

On your question in the last newsletter concerning 303rd B.G. insignia, I checked records and found only two for the 359th. You can find enclosed some copies of the 303rd B.G. emblems over the years. The Hound Dog I find was used during the early part of the war and never made official, the other is a copy of the sign that hung outside the 303rd squadron headquarters during late '44 and '45, this looks to me like a human figure dropping some bombs on the target below. This sign I am informed was never made official so no colours are on record.

Up to 1946 no patch was registered for the 358th, 359th and the 360th. Smokey Stover was submitted after the war. The 427th is a simple thing that looks a bit like a road sign. I have made an attempt at the color of the early 359th but in the absence of young children I have no paint base so the colors are a bit off but the

small diagram carries the true colors.

Going back to Sqdn patches I reckon it would be worth asking your membership. I'm sure some members remember them and some still may have them, and now is the time to tie up all loose ends for history's sake.

As for members, maybe some of my 303rd friends are not members. Hal, do you have a list of names and addresses of members, if so I would very much like to have one. This would come in handy in keeping track with the chaps.

We are seeing a fair bit of B-17 action hereabouts. We have five B-17s here to make a film centered around the "Memphis Belle:" a couple from the USA, two from France and our own "Sally B" will be painted up to depict several B-17Fs. I hope to visit later on to look them over on the ground and take a few pictures. It's not often one sees a gathering of B-17s nowadays.

John T. Gell
170 High Street
Riseley
Bedfordshire
England-MK44 1DR

Ed. Note: I think it is ridiculous to find out at this late date that none of our squadron insignia were submitted for approval or made official. Regarding a membership roster, I plan on putting one out early in 1990 so check your mailing labels and make sure your current address is the one we have in the computer. I would hate to put out a new roster and have about 50 changes the first month.

303rd In Retrospect

I want to thank you and especially Walt Shayler for mentioning my name and my comment about not enough mention of the "Ground Troops" in the Hell's Angels Newsletter. You have no idea of how thrilled I was, when I was invited to join the 303rd BG Association, thanks to the 8th AF Association.

I in turn have located five or six 303rd's and have sent their names to Jim Reeves. I have intentions to meet Jim, as I am frequently in his area, Mission Viejo.

Col. Walt Shayler's home is just down the street from me and Walt is currently recuperating from surgery and is doing, "very nicely," according to him.

cording to him.

I showed Walt a copy of the painting, "Come straight in," which shows a Hell's Angeles B-17, with No. 1 engine on fire, prop feathered, and showing in the background is Molesworth's control tower, main hangers and small silhouettes of ground troops "sweating it out" for a successful landing. Only 250 copies of the painting were made.

Hal, first of all let me tell you how we felt when the combat crews took off and returned. We prayed in our own way for their return. Our hearts were heavy for the ones that didn't, as we counted the planes coming in. We knew how many went out, as we stood outside the hangar as they taxied by. The movie "Command Decision," depicts this very clearly.

Sgt. Robert Featherstone, gave me the painting, stating that I should have it for being closer to the airplane than he was. His job was, Parachute Rigger. In his post war years, he became a Federal Investigator and then an attorney for Exxon. We communicate quite often.

Yes, I was the drummer for the 303rd Bomb Group, "Rhythm Pilots," and Featherstone played baritone sax. I have located Roger P. Carocari, guitar and Frank Intersimone, alto sax. "Feather" and I are still trying to find the other members.

Major Holadia started the group of five; Bob Rabassa, tenor sax; Henry Kendall, piano; Einar Kaitz, alto sax; Frank Intersimone, alto sax; the major on bass and myself on drums. Father Skoner would come in and watch us rehearse. What a guy, Father Skoner was!

Referring to the booklet, "First 300 Hell's Angels," one picture shows a GI kneeling on the horizontal stabilizer; that is me placing my name on the bird. Another picture is on the base bus with two GIs hanging on. That is Prosynchak and Herbert Scotney of the 444th Sqdn. Another is a young aircraft mechanic working on a "1820" engine in a kneeling position. That is Jimmy Warren who played the trombone when the band enlarged. We had a twelve piece dance band toward the end. Lt. Dick Carr took over the band and also formed a marching band. Lt. Carr is also in the movie, "Command Decision." He is receiving a telephone message in the round "inset" sequence, when the field order is being received.

S/Sgt Roger Carocari, mess sergeant for the 359th told me the last time I called him, that Clark Gable gave him his 48 hour pass when Gable was in the orderly room.

I wonder who remembers the time the RAF accidentally dropped a practice bomb on the main hangar narrowly missing Major McCoy's Engineering Office. Made a small hole in the roof and concrete floor. It occurred at night.

Cpl. Dale Ragel and S/Sgt Brandon established a record for building up an "1820" engine, from box to completion, ready to hang in four hours. No one in the shop ever broke that record.

In the picture in the "First 300" which shows a foamed B-17, Sgt. Erwin Heins and I pulled it away from the flaming fuel on the parking area. We were on the perimeter and road on a cletrac, when two guys in a jeep told us they need it to pull an airplane. Heins and I did it.

Referring to the article on the "Scarlet Harlot" or the red and white striped "Buncher," it was a controlled crash landing by a tall, dark haired captain who had a "reputation." I forgot his name. All the hours expended by S/Sgt Ackre and his paint shop crew went for naught. Ackre and S/Sgt Martinez painted our music stands for the band.

When I arrived at Molesworth in Nov. 1942, Simeon Oxendine was in our quonset when I spent a short time in the 360th. Lewis Lyle was a Captain.

I saw Simeon later on television news when his people were having problems with his home state, North Carolina.

Lastly, I am somewhat disappointed with Lt. Col. John Woolnough's book, "The 8th AF Album." It is not, "the story of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in WW II. It is a pictorial history of the 446th Bomb Group. My question is, 'when did the 446th appear in the E.T.O.?' The 303rd was the second oldest group in the Mighty Eighth."

Would like to pass this on to my buddies. Red Phillips was here at my home on Aug. 2, on his way home to Mexico where he has a home. Red lives in Napa and has seen M/Sgt John Raos, machine shop chief.

I was in Fresno last summer and called Frank Trosi. Unfortunately he was not at home so I left my name and address with Mrs. Trosi.

Forum

Lt. Bodie Fite who worked the control tower lives in Rancho Palos Verdes. His sister Sue is my next door neighbor. (Historian, Al Lehmann also lives in Rancho Palos Verdes).

I ran into Col. Marion at an Oldsmobile Agency in Riverside, CA. Both of us were purchasing "new" 1950 Olds. (Col. Marion presently lives in Austin, TX)

I am trying to find a picture of the "Rhythm Pilots" to send along. Featherstone and I have been working to locate them. Al Lehmann steered me to Roger Carocari of the 359th. (We ran a photo of the dance band in the May 1988 issue of the newsletter)

Again I reiterate the Hell's Angels newsletter is superb. I will treasure all copies that I receive. Sincerely hope that you have enough space for this in the "Forum" section. Ground Troopers, start writing.

Raymond A. Espinoza
233 Phlox Ave.
Redlands, CA 92373

Ed. Note: It would be nice if we could get the dance band together for our 50th Anniversary reunion in Boise, Idaho in 1992.

Congratulations on the latest format for the Hell's Angels News. The articles are interesting and the paper should win a few prizes. Reference the Germany trip and meeting former enemies. Just ignore the critics, a well-balanced accurate history has to hear from both sides. Some Americans don't seem to realize that Germany just celebrated this year their 40th year as a democratic republic. They have been our NATO ally for about the same time. We need them on the side of the democracies. Having been stationed there in the Army for over three years in the early 60's, I can tell you that we were required to co-operate with Germany as an ally, especially during patriotic events. Germany is a real democracy.

Strangely enough, the British cling to their old time monarchy and their self-imposed class system which is certainly at odds with what our Founding Fathers wanted.

As you know I had my book, "B-17 Bomber Crew Diary" published in 1984 and it slightly fictionalized my crew's story. We flew 22 missions—and were shot

down—eighteen as Lead Crew. Three of the crew members were killed on the last mission. Two were from our crew and one was my barracks leader who was trying to get his last mission in with the so-called "Lucky Crew". We were marched up from the German front lines to Essen and then walked to Frankfurt for the most part. Arrived just in time for a British night bombing of the city. Following several incidents there we marched off to Oberursel and the Interrogation Center. After the usual solitary confinement we were herded into box-cars and shoulder to shoulder rode for days until we finally reached Nurnberg Stalag XIII D. After a respite there not counting being bombed the first three nights by the British, we made the long march to Moosburg going day and night, rain and shine. All of this—including the strafing and bombing by our own planes—was done on nearly empty stomachs. We were liberated by Gen. Patton's 14th Armored Div at Moosburg but still waited for days without food. I weighed 80 lbs when we were released. Have never been able to get down to anywhere close to that since.

I wonder if you could print this as I am looking for Lt. Paul Zimmerman who was the Ground Radio Officer of the 303rd. He ran the radio code school and radio training, and was stationed with the 303rd from 1942 to 1945. I knew him in 1944 and 45. He was probably from Cincinnati or St. Louis and was last heard from when he married in 1949 or 1950 in Cincinnati. It is thought he worked for Proctor and Gamble but they have no record of him.

Appreciate it if our members could contact me on this.

Ed Giering

AFEES To Meet

You may be interested to know that the Air Forces Escape and Evasion Society will hold its reunion in Memphis next May 24-28. I don't know how many 303rds are eligible for AFEES membership but think there are quite a few. I'm sure you know that to join AFEES you had to get shot down and get out and back to your unit, either escaping after capture, or never getting captured ("evading").

I think the first 303rd to evade was Gilbert Showalter of Milwaukee, in the 360th. I think I was se-

cond (I was no. 16 among all such) to get back. T/Sgt. Sid Devers, top-turret gunner and engineer on our plane, and I made it together. The records call him no. 17. And a few weeks later T/Sgt. Miles B. Jones, radio operator, made his way back. All four of us were shot down in December 1942 or January 1943.

AFEES had about 220 at the 1989 reunion. That was in Pittsburgh on Memorial Day weekend.

John W. Spence
1565 Vinton
Memphis, TN 38104

Ed. Note: I'll let Clayton David settle this one. I believe someone at the reunion said that Mays, shot down on 12, Dec. 1942 was the first one to walk out. Showalter was shot down on 12 Dec. also but with another crew. Spence, Devers and Jones were shot down on 23 Jan. 1943.

The Knockout Dropper

I am one of the boys that was a mechanic on the Knockout Dropper for quite sometime. I know we had quite a few missions on her when I was transferred down the coast of England into a B-17 unit (Rescue) where we dropped a plywood boat by parachute to pick up men in the channel, or any other area.

I am enclosing a short history of the Knockout Dropper and her missions and who was the pilot on each mission, all 75 of them.

Maybe you could run it in your newsletter some month. It is a good little paper. I even saw where a friend and member of the 359th died, Sid E. Guthrie. He was a member of the 359th when it was formed in Boise, Idaho. He was a crew chief.

I do hope you can read this and thanks for the information you gave me.

Wayne L. Trant
P.O. Box 1243
Arkansas Pass, TX 78336

Ed. Note: I hope to run the history of the Knockout Dropper in the next issue. I'm quite familiar with the Air Rescue B-17 with its lifeboat. I navigated in them in the early '50s out of Bermuda. Our area of responsibility covered an awful lot of water—over a million square miles of it.

Bacon, Becker and Borror

I was in the 303rd, 360th sqdn. Got to Molesworth the last of May '43. William S. Baker was our pilot. Charles M. Bacon started out as tail gunner. Charles got shot through the shoulder. I was waist gunner, went back, got him out of the tail and brought him up to the waist. Patched him up as best we could. We were shot up pretty bad and out of formation. We sat Charles on ammo boxes at the waist. He shot down a Me-109 from there. They gave him a Silver Star for it.

Another time, Virgil E. Bowman, waist gunner, climbed down into the bombay, picked up a 100 lb bomb which had its tail fin hooked on the bottom rack and dropped it. It was armed and had we closed the bombay doors, it would have been good-bye. The ball turret gunner saw it. Our last plane was "Allie-Oop."

We had a lot of close calls. Bacon was in the hospital a long time but when we got out, he came back and finished his 25 missions with another crew.

Our crew has sort of kept track of one another. Of course Baker is dead, McLane our navigator is dead. Charlie Bonn our radio operator is in Kentucky and Neal Fielder, our engineer, is in "Hawasssee," GA. Bowman and yours truly go to Lake Okeechobee, FL each winter. We fish together.

Bacon and I got together after we got back to the States and went back over with William Martin's crew and flew 32 more missions; then the war was over. Lt. Rex Mathison was co-pilot. A fellow by the name of Becker was on the crew. "Bacon, Becker and Borror" are probably on file in a lot of places. Fielder went back over and got shot down. He was a PW for awhile before he got home. We knew Lyle, Fyler and Heller's crews since they were in our barracks.

Where can I find a miniature B-17? The Air Force Recruiting place in the mall here, have all kinds of planes hanging in their office; but no B-17s. I don't think they even know what they are.

Norwood Borror
Rt. 2, Box 143
Keyser, WV 26726

Forum



What an ignominious end for such a lovely fighting lady - from "Vicious Virgin" to "The Scarlet Harlot."

I'm including a photo of V.V. in more glorious days, on one of the occasions the 427th lead the 303rd. I flew photographer, eleventh man on the crew.

Top row: second from right, Captain DuBell, operations officer. Front row: far left, Frank Neuner,

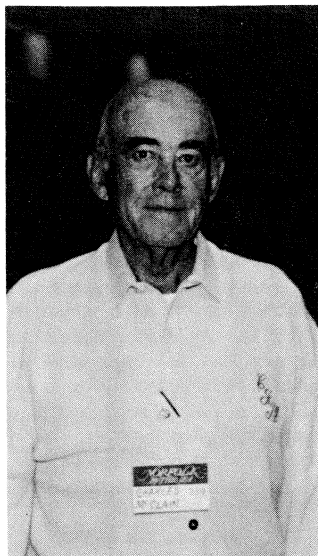
flight engineer. Front row: center, Mr. Gervais' little boy. The rest of the names escape me.

Joseph R. Gervais (427th)
1400 N. Baird - 140
Green Bay, WI 54302

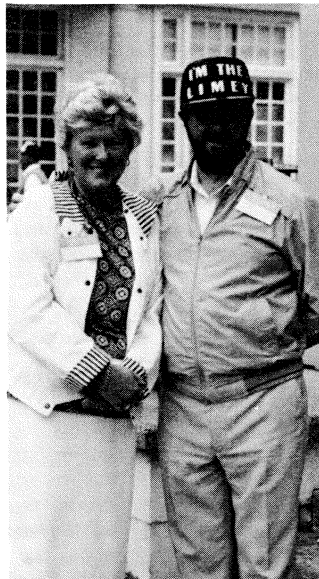
Ed. Note: Evidently the Vicious Virgin didn't suffer from lack of admirers; even the Germans had her number. See below.



Edwin Lamme holds up a piece of flak, a souvenir of the air war over Europe during WW II. It came from a shell which tore through the nose of his B-17 over Paris in Sept. of 1943. Flying as the Bombardier, Lamme was slightly wounded by the fragment which bears the number "341", the same number of his aircraft Vicious Virgin which he was flying in that day.



Charles McClain, past president of the 303rd BGA and presently 359th Sq. Rep.



Ray and Teresa Cossey from Merry Old England.



THEN — Lt. Krohn's Crew, March 1945; (standing l to r) Henry O'Sullivan, Toggeler; Louis Christen, Nav.; Robert Krohn, Pilot; Paul Kindig, Co-pilot; Joseph Monyok, Waist Gun.; (kneeling l to r) Malcolm McKenzie, R.O.; Norman Peterson, Flt. Eng.; John Minoff, Ball Tur.; and Arthur Morozas, Tail gunner.

Probably for the first time since the 303rd BGA was organized in 1975, a complete crew attended a reunion. That honor was achieved in Norfolk by Lt. Krohn's crew which celebrated their forty-fifth anniversary.

Lt. Krohn's crew was formed in the U.S. in October of 1944. They arrived in England and eventually joined the 427th Sqdn. of the 303rd on Feb. 26, 1945.

They flew their first mission on March 12, 1945. They were shot up over Berlin on their fourth mission, March 18, 1945 and landed their damaged plane on a small airstrip outside Warsaw, Poland. Three weeks later they arrived back at Molesworth via Russia, Iran, Egypt, Italy and France.

On April 8, 1945 they flew again. They completed 11 missions, the last one to Pilsen, Czechoslovakia on April 25, 1945 which incidentally was the last combat mission of the 303rd.



NOW — (standing l to r) Louis Christen, Paul Kindig, Malcolm McKenzie, Robert Krohn, Henry O'Sullivan, (kneeling l to r) Joseph Monyok, Arthur Morozas, John Minoff and Norman Peterson.

FALLEN COMRADES HONORED IN COLORFUL CEREMONY

The nearby church bell tolled ten, and the skies over Norfolk started to weep softly as the members of the 303rd Bomb Group, wives, family and friends gathered for a Memorial Service to honor and pay their respects to their fallen comrades.

The service was held on Saturday morning at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, Virginia.

The ceremony started with the posting of the colors by a United States Air Force Color Guard from Langley AFB. The invocation was given by Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr. of the 303rd Bomb Group.

Major General Don Logeman from the Tactical Air Command, Langley, AFB, Virginia, welcomed the 303rd Bomb Group Association to the historic site. He congratulated the 303rd Bomb Group for their outstanding achievements during WW II and for setting such high examples for members of the present day Air Force to emulate.

A Memorial wreath was laid at the site by the new and past presidents of the 303rd Bomb Group Association.

L. Melvin Schulstad who first joined the 303rd in 1942 at El Paso, Texas and was an A/C commander and Group Operations Officer at Molesworth gave the eulogy. His remarks follow.

"I am deeply moved by the privilege of participating with you, as we come together this brief moment, to remember; to honor and pay our respect to our fallen comrades who gave their lives to their country while serving with us in the 303rd Bomb Group in Molesworth, England.

I, like you, come humbly to this awesome task of paying a true and proper and worthy tribute to these gallant men.

It is fitting and proper that we gather on this memorial site; and in this historic Virginia; land of Jamestown; of Williamsburg, and Yorktown- land of our founding fathers who also fought and died for our then fledgling nation, a nation which had its earliest beginnings here, in this countryside.

As we stand here this morning, we are filled with gratitude for being among the living - we are filled with pride to have been a part of the lives of the heroic 303rd airmen who gave their lives that our nation might live.

We turn our thoughts with reverence and awe to those young men - and they were very young men - who, time and time again, with indomitable courage, mounted into the skys.

Skys sometimes sapphire blue; skys sometimes dark with foreboding - but always - every time - skys filled with the promise of death; but again and again; and yet again - they flew off into battle in their mighty war chariot - the noble - the majestic, the mighty B-17. For some it ended in a blinding flash.

For others it came after a long and cruel battle, aircraft and crew brutalized and tortured by fighters and flak, flame and fire and the fumes of war.

But still they went again and flew off to meet - each one of them - to meet his own - his personal destiny. And this they did as their duty - with unspeakable bravery - with undaunted courage and with such audacious spirit that we stand here today - 44 years later - in mute awe of their deeds, of their faith, of their spirit of sacrifice.

Because of them and their deeds, we as members of the 303rd, we as people, we as a nation can hold our head high in our pride of be-

ing their fellow citizens and fellow Americans.

So - to show proper honor, what great and new medalion shall we strike for them here today? Shall it be a medalion of silver? Shall it be a medalion of gold? No - for none are worthy. Neither are any words which we might utter; no matter how eloquent. No matter how brilliant the phrase.

But rather - we - as our founding fathers did when they signed our Declaration of Independence; we must pledge our lives; our fortunes and our sacred honor to forever uphold the principles upon which our nation stands, those principles for which they made the supreme sacrifice in giving their lives for this nation, for our country, our America, one nation indivisible, under God, with freedom and liberty and justice for all. . . For all of us. . . For all mankind."

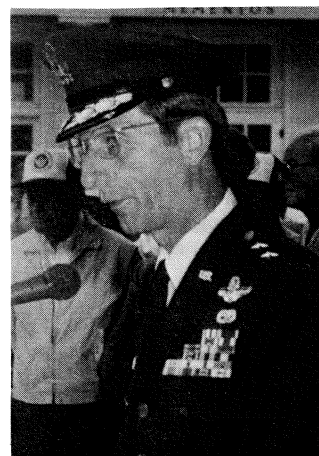
The Benediction portion of the memorial was conducted by Rev. Merritt O. Slawson, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret), one of the two chaplains who administered to the spiritual needs of the men of the 303rd during the combat days at Molesworth. Father Edmund Skoner, the Catholic Chaplain, passed away last year.

Following Benediction, a ceremonial salute to the fallen heroes was given by a Firing Detail from the U.S. Marine Corps Security Forces Company from Yorktown, Virginia.

As the strains of Taps, sounded by a USAF bugler, echoed throughout Mac Arthur Memorial, I couldn't help but think of some of the air battles over Germany and the sadness I felt when I saw a B-17 leave the formation in a slow spiral towards the ground followed by some anxious moments when I counted parachutes leaving the stricken plane; four . . . five . . . six . . . but where were the others? Although some 45 years had elapsed I had a feeling that they were there at the ceremony looking down favorably at what we were doing.

The magnificent tribute to the true heroes of the 303rd ended with the retirement of the colors. They are gone; but they will never be forgotten as long as there is a 303rd Bomb Group Association.

Hal Susskind



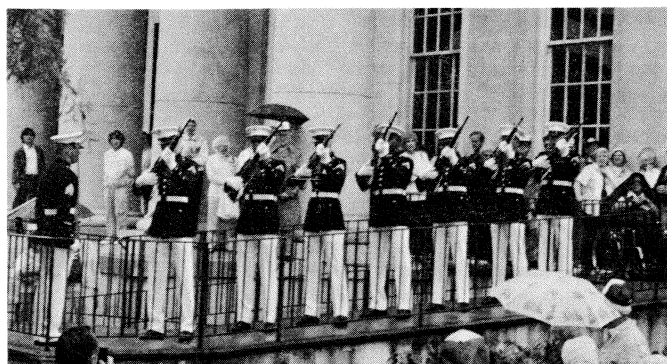
Maj. Gen. Don Logeman



Mel Schulstad



Chaplain Swanson gives Benediction. Rev. Rice who gave the invocation is in the background.



U.S. Marine Corps Firing Detail

Meetings, Meetings and More Meetings

During the recent annual reunion in Norfolk the outgoing and incoming Boards of Directors held three meetings and sandwiched in between was the general meeting of the membership. The official minutes of those meetings which were duly noted by the Secretary Carl Dubose covers more than nine pages of single spaced typing. Rather than take up half of the space of this newsletter by printing them in their entirety I will try to summarize the discussions. If anyone desires a copy of each of the meetings I will be more than glad to forward a copy to them.

Board Meeting of September 26, 1989.

Gen. Lyle stated that the group needed to establish a budget, determine ways to secure revenue, and first get the operation of the group on a sound basis. Then, the group should proceed with plans to join other units in establishing a memorial library or facility at a site to be selected. According to the By Laws, he said, one of the major objectives of the association was to memorialize the 303rd. Dues, according to the treasurers report were insufficient to cover operational expenses since life membership funds were to be held as a trust fund. The interest from these funds, along with annual membership dues were insufficient for operational expenses, especially since many members were failing to pay annual dues.

Since current income, dues plus trust fund interest, approximates \$5,200 annually, discussion centered on methods of enhancing revenue. Ideas proposed were: (1) give life members an opportunity to supplement their life funds so that the interest would equal to the \$10.00 annual dues paid by others, (2) get as many members as possible to pay annual dues (non-life members), (3) increase membership by finding "lost" members.

A general consensus would be: dues structure would not be changed; a voluntary contribution from life members would be solicited; new members would be actively searched for; collection of dues from all non-life members by invoicing, and solicitation of dues contributions from members of the group for all those who could not or otherwise did not pay.

Board Meeting of September 27, 1989.

Treasurer Charles Schmeltzer summarized the financial status stating that there was \$32,251 in Life Membership deposits (CDs), \$4,456 cash on hand a \$8,550 in PX inventory and cash. Financial results of the reunion committee expenditures and receipts would be available after the reunion.

Al Lehman, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee gave a comprehensive report including a number of recommendations and suggestions which resulted in many discussions such as a strong action against non-dues payers, and discontinuance of the association and its funds beyond the lifetime of the membership. The committee also recommended against annual reunions and paid advertisement in the newsletter.

Lew Lyle spoke to the group on "Now, the Future, and Funding." He stated that the major purpose, according to our by laws, is to memorialize the 303rd in perpetuity. He also recommended a positive approach towards retention of non-dues paying members by soliciting other members to pay these dues after intensive efforts to collect. During the discussion, direct mailing of invoices for dues was suggested as a method of getting delinquent dues paid. What



the Association needs is a master plan for what it intends to do but actions scheduled would depend on the financial status of the Association. He stressed that voluntary contributions should receive special recognition for their efforts.

Bill Heller, 360th Rep, reported that the 360th wants no distinction between ground and flight echelons. He recommended that life membership endowment funds be kept intact in order to perpetuate the 303rd beyond our lifetime.

Joe Worthington, representing the ground crews, reported that they are not interested in fracturization for the group but would prefer to remain with the squadrons rather than being assigned to the 444th Sub Depot. There was a consensus that more information about the recognition of ground crews and all other support groups should be forthcoming.

Harley Cannon gave a report on the facilities and programs possible at Schaumburg, Ill., proposed site for the next reunion.

George Stallings, who had been photocopying records at the National Archives, reported that approximately 60 percent of the work had been completed. More than 43 boxes finished with 33,128 master sheets and 33 boxes of copies 1 and 2 of the masters completed and stored in two garages in Washington, D.C. Considerable discussion on methods of dissemination of the copies materials to members ensued. It was suggested that the incoming president appoint a committee to research methods of distribution, storage site, and other considerations involved in the project. The group agreed to continue funding Stallings and crew until the project is completed. Mel McCoy nominating committee chairman, presented a list of names to be considered by the board for nomination. After considerable discussion, a slate was chosen.

General Membership meeting, September 29, 1989.

President Fyler noted the need for financial solvency by the group, lack of payment of dues, the need for funds for a first-rate newsletter, memorial plaques and wreaths, continuance of duplication of historical records, and the need for an 8th AF Memorial Library for storage and display of our historical materials. He then introduced Gen. Lew Lyle, special advisor to the group, to discuss financing and the future of the 303rd Bomb Group Association.

Gen Lyle defined the major purpose of the 303rd as being the preservation of the heritage of the group. He stated that the board of directors had determined to put the group on a sound financial basis. He stated the need for funds for attainment of records from the Archives, a task which is approximately 60 percent complete. We not only need to complete collection of historical documents and other materials, but also need to find more information on support groups, since most of the documents involve missions. He expressed the desire of the board to make the documents available to members of the group. Support group information would depend to some extent on verbal history from members as well as documents held by these individuals since archival records are minimal.

IN order to finance present and future projects, he stated that there would be no change in the dues structure, but there would be an opportunity for individuals to voluntarily participate in supplementing the foundation funds of the group. He said the group at the present time has about 50 percent of the funds needed to put it on a sound financial basis for annual operations, and the Board's objective was to put the group's finances in order prior to the reunion adjournment.

Bob Livingston presented three proposed changes to the By-Laws for a vote of the membership:

1. Add a second vice-president for reunion activities to the present executive committee.
2. Change the term of office (now two years) to provide for the continuation of officers in office until a successor has been elected or appointed for a vacated position.
3. All individuals who handle funds for the organization and have accountability for them and sign checks for the organization would be bonded.

Motion to adopted was seconded and carried. Officers listed on page two of this newsletter were then elected to serve until the next reunion in Chicago in 1991.

Gen. Lyle distributed a form providing for the voluntary contribution of members toward a trust fund which would generate sufficient income to put the group on a sound financial basis. Opportunity was also given to members to volunteer to pay for certain non-dues paying members and an opportunity to become a new life member at a cost sufficient to generate the same income from interest as dues paying members paid. Life members were encouraged to increase their life membership by \$100. It was stressed that existing dues structure would not be changed; all contribution being solicited would be voluntary.

After distribution of the forms, the meeting was adjourned.

Board Meeting, September 29, 1989.

Report by Gen. Lyle on the special fund raising effort at the general membership meeting stated that it was an excellent start, with more than \$12,000 collected and a number of delinquent dues payers were covered by the voluntary contributions.

Bill Heller reported that there was some dissatisfaction from members for the absence of a treasurer's report at the general meeting. It was noted that the report had been eliminated due to the need for time for the fund raising project. It was suggested that a summary report be placed in a subsequent newsletter.

It was agreed that continued efforts should be made to give members not in attendance at the annual reunion, an opportunity to participate in the fund raising effort. Pres. Klint appointed Gen. Lyle and Bill Heller co-chairman of on-going fund raising efforts.

Discussion ensued of the need for a memorial plaque on the B-17, at Barksdale Museum, now marked with the 303rd insignia, the cost should be approximately \$4,000.

The treasurer questioned as to who was responsible for mailing out the invoices for the payment of dues. Bill Heller volunteered the services of his mailing service at no cost to the group. All he would need was a set of labels showing the delinquents and all those regular members who pay their dues yearly. Invoices are expected to go out shortly.

Telling it like it is!

by Lew Lyle

For the past several years the elected officers of the 303rd BGA have been faced with cash flow problems partially brought on by the fact that in several of those years more than 450 members have, for some reason or another, failed to pay their dues resulting in an annual loss in revenue to the Association of some \$4,500.

To make the 303rd BGA operation more viable from a financial standpoint, your present Board of Directors have introduced a plan for financing annual operations in the future. This plan was approved by the members in attendance at the annual meeting in Norfolk.

The rationale behind the plan included the following facts:

a. It is unreasonable to ask volunteers to do a job for the Association and then fail to give them the financial support to do the task in a professional manner.

b. Our present yearly income does not produce the revenues to support our annual objectives.

c. That those who served in the 303rd in WW II are important members and that it is in our best interest to stay in touch with them even though for some reason they are delinquent in paying dues.

d. That a system designed to advise people as to their dues status be instituted ASAP. This is to be followed up by personal contact by the squadron representative with each individual who remains on the delinquent list.

e. We should give the membership at large the opportunity to make a voluntary contribution to insure that these delinquent members stay in the organization.

f. We have been assured by concerned members that we have enough support to meet this financial burden. As proof of this, approximately \$800 of the \$12,650 raised at the general membership meeting in Norfolk was earmarked for this

purpose. These are amazing figures when you stop to consider that only one third of the total membership (1500) were present at Norfolk.

g. Special recognition will be given to those who voluntarily:

1. Agree to help the organization by paying the dues of a non-paying, member. (See plan which is on one side of the insert to this newsletter)

2. Upgrade their Life Membership to Super Life Membership by paying an additional \$100 to what they have already paid for a Life Membership.

3. Raise their regular membership to Super Life Membership by paying \$175.

The additional money raised by Life and Super Life Memberships will be retained in a trust fund and only the interest generated from the fund will be used for operational expenses. It is hoped that each Super Life Membership will produce at least \$10 per year in interest.

Money in the trust fund will be used for projects like the one at Barksdale AFB Museum, Louisiana, where a B-17 housed there will be painted in 303rd colors and a plaque installed calling the attention of the general public to the exploits of the 303rd Bomb Group during wartime. This project is expected to cost the 303rd BGA about \$4,000. Lew Lyle and Bill Heller are presently working on this project. A ceremony should be held sometime in 1990.

A portion of the money in the trust fund will also be used for building a permanent home for "The Mighty Eighth" in the NW quadrant of the airport at Savannah, Georgia. The new terminal at the airport is scheduled to open in 1992 and if all goes as planned it is hoped that the new facility, the future home for all the records of all the units in the 8th AF, will open at the same time. The fund drive by all the units who were attached to the 8th AF in wartime is expected to start early in 1990.

Voluntary Contributions Top \$12,000

Preliminary breakout of the money raised or pledged at the general membership meeting on Sept. 29, 1989. Money is listed according to categories listed on voluntary commitment sheet inserted in this newsletter.

- A. \$ 300 Paying 1990 Regular Member dues in advance
- B. 800 For payment of dues owned by non-paying members
- C. 2450 Upgrading from regular to Super Life Member
- D. 9100 Upgrading life membership to Super Life Member

The following members made voluntary contributions and pledges under category B (Paying dues for non-paying members) as outlined on attached insert:

Ralph Sudderth, Dr. Carl Fyler, Lew Lyle, Fred Renhel, F. Reichel, Ralph Hays, E.C. Lehmann, William Heller, Charles Dando, Robert Galbraith, Robert Livingstone, Donald Foulk, Donald Gamble, William Smith, Victor Quebbeman, Malcom Magid, Lester Hansen, Alexander Borque, Clyde Engholm, R.D. Wentz, David Mathews, Paul Long, John L. Olson and Merlin Miller.

The following life members made voluntary contributions and pledges of \$100 (Raise investment in life membership to produce enough interest to equal at least \$10 per year) to qualify for Super Life Membership as outlined in category C of insert:

Edward Giering, Donald Smith, Charles Schmeltzer, John Buschmeyer, H.B. Johnson, Carlyle Frost, Eugene Girman, John Jenkins, Lloyd Holdcroft, Robert Hoyt, George Stallings, Orlan Chonat, Alvin Morton, Philip Eisenwinter, Bennie Koon, W.M. Eason, Dr. Carl Fyler, John King, Earl Steel, John Ford, Richard Miller, Maurice Hackler, Loy Tingley, George Pearson, Thomas Hardin, William Neff, Oron Rogers, Forrest Burton, Paul Barton, Robert Stewart, Morton Luman, Warren Hubley, Frances Vogel, John Tulloss, Frank De Cicco, Harold Susskind, Eugene McCutchan, William Eisenhart,

Loy Norris, Melvin Durst, C.A. Patterson III.

Ralph Hays, Gerald Palmer, E.C. Lehmann, Richard Eide, John Burcham, Charles Dando, Robert Galbraith, Robert Livingston, Donald Foulk, Carlton Smith, John Farrar, Harry Payne, Paul Henderson, R.E. Edmunds, L.S. Munroe, Joseph Freedman, D.R. Davis, Gil Murry, Fred Reichel, Kenneth Dick Haws, Robert A. Finley, Charles J. McClain, Robert J. Evans, Vernon Stone, Ralph F. Coburn, William McSween, Joseph Vieira, A.R. Westfall, Jr., Rev. Charles G. Rice, Jr., Lee E. Dolan, Jr., A.C. Steele, Jr., Joseph G. Worthington, Robert H. Rosborough, Raymond E. Holland, Darrell D. Gust, Elbert E. Stone, Albert E. Martel, Jr., Edwin B. Barry, Lewis H. Redhage, Zaven Jardarian, Yale Lasker.

Thomas M. O'Donnell, Whitney Haskell, Frederick E. Barnes, Vernon Morton, Antoni Bednarchuk, Malcom L. McKenzie, Armand Burch, Samuel W. Smith and Carl DuBose.

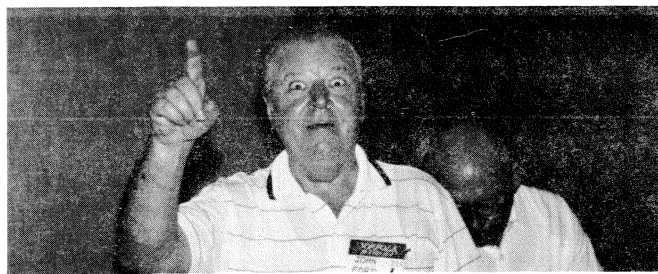
The following regular members made voluntary contributions of \$175 to qualify for Super Life Memberships as outlined in category D of insert (Raise my regular status to Super Life Membership):

Peter M. Curry, Charles Roth, John Casello, Wilbur Klint, William L. Clyatt, Joanna Tressler, Ralph Hays, Elmo Clark, J.R. Paullin, William Roche, Robert Lynch, Robert Moreman, Lee Fegette and Walter Mayer.

In this issue — Because the happenings at the reunion were so important I thought I would devote quite a bit of this issue to the efforts of our Board of Directors to put this organization on a sound financial basis as we approach our 50th birthday. I would like to thank Coleman Sanders and Bob Hand for contributing some of the photos used throughout. Sorry I had to slip Ralph Coburn's diary but it will appear in the next issue along with more photos from the reunion and a picture of the first wedding that took place between a member of the 303rd and an English lass. Seasons Greetings to all of you.



An invitation to have fun.



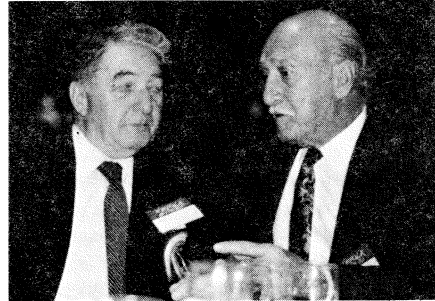
And John Ford is having it.



Joe Viera and Buzz Edwards.



Raymond Holland and friend relive the battle days



Intrigue: Mel Schulstad and Peter Curry.



Shirley Sanders and Jean DeCicco.



Rae Susskind, Ruth Cannon and Helen Hoke at Memorial Services.



Coleman Sanders, Mary and Bill Eisenhart.



Mary Klint, Omni Rep, Walt and Bev Mayer.

It's Chicago/Schaumburg

Norfolk-by-Sea is history. Now we can look forward to our next reunion.

A great many important items of business were discussed at the reunion, among them the selection of Chicago/Schaumburg as the site for our next reunion. It was accepted by acclamation.

Harley E. Cannon, our newly elected Vice-President/Reunions, prepared and presented a number of visuals reflecting to the area and outlined the preliminary ground work that had already been accomplished including the selection of the Schaumburg/Marriott for the headquarters at the very reasonable rate of \$50.00 per night for excellent accommodations. Harley also listed the various tours and events that he recommends to make the Hell's Angels stay in the Chicago a memorable one. The Board of Directors and the members in attendance accepted the time schedule for the week of May 23 through 28, which is the Memorial Day weekend. This allows 18 months until the 1991 meeting and another 18 months until the fiftieth anniversary reunion in Boise, Idaho.

"Each of these meetings will be memorable occasions," said Harley. "Let's all pledge to support and attend. Father Time has been taking his toll and will continue to do so in the future. Let's enjoy all the time that we can spare together and give him a hard time! See you all again at Chicago/Schaumburg in 1991."

303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc.

Might - in - Flight

APPLICATION FOR ☐ MEMBERSHIP FOR ☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP FOR ☐ ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP
 FOR ☐ SUPER LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Military Grade _____ Spouse's Name _____
 Street Address _____ Apt. # _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____ Home Phone (_____) _____ Bus. Phone (_____) _____ ext. _____
 Crew and/or Duty _____ Squadron _____ Pilot's Name _____ Retired Military Grade, If Any _____
 PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIP DUES/\$10.00 FOR CALENDAR YEAR**LIFE MEMBERSHIP DUES SCHEDULE**

60-64 years	\$75
65-69	60
70-74	45
75-77	30
78 years, or older	Free

Substantial savings are available to our members who wish to apply for Life Memberships. A few of our members have sent in money for 2 or even 3 years at the annual rate of \$10 per year. They should evaluate whether they might be able to save dollars by converting these prepayments to a Life Membership.

DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE MAIL!

Make Check or Money Order payable to:
 303rd Bomb Group (H) Association, Inc.

Mail to: Jim Reeves
 28101 Tefir
 Mission Viejo, CA 92692

PX NEWS

Several members of the 303rd Bomb Group have written books describing their many and varied experiences while flying combat from RAF Molesworth during World War II. Since it is not practical for our PX Administrator to stock all of the books at any one time, we thought we would list the books and tell you how to order them. Prices listed are only approximate since shipping charges and taxes (if any) are not included. Here's a list of the books and contacts:

They Helped Me Escape: From Amsterdam to Gibraltar in 1944, by Clayton David. Co-pilot David parachuted to safety from his burning B-17, landing on a dike in German-controlled Dutch territory. From there his life became an intriguing endeavor to evade capture. A story of courage and a debt of gratitude to the dedicated strangers who helped him on his "long walk to freedom." To order contact Clayton David, 19 Oak Ridge Pond Rd., Hannibal, MO 63401. (\$10 paper)

B-17 Bomber Crew Diary, by Richard J. Giering. The true experiences of a typical B-17

heavy bomber crew in slightly fictionalized form: training in the US, the 8th AF in England, and the highly charged effects of combat and of being shot down over enemy territory. Much of the book is devoted to the crew's time behind barbed wire, the observations of Germany while in transit, and of the Germans in wartime. To order contact Edward J. Giering, 47 Long Hill Rd., Clinton, CT 06413. (\$15 paper)

Chick's Crew, by Ben Smith Jr. Illustrated crew history and story of the combat crew led by pilot Lt. Anthony J. Cecchini, a big red haired Italian from Poughkeepsie, NY. His crew called themselves "Chick's Crew." This book is an account of their hair-raising experiences flying with the 8th Air Force but it also deals with all facets of their lives while living in England. It was written by the crew's radio operator. Drawings by the author. To order contact: Ben Smith Jr., 107 Albany Ave., Box 1586, Waycross, GA 31501. (\$15.95 hard cover)

Half A Wing, Three Engines and A Prayer: B-17s over Germany, by Brian D. O'Neill, an associate member of the 303rd BGA. The book relates the ex-

periences of Capt. Bob Hullar's crew during its 25 mission tour over Germany and occupied Europe during the hectic days of 1943-44. Five members of the crew look back on their common experiences holding nothing back. Their stories have been blended with accounts from many other 303rd bomber crews to achieve a finely woven account of what a combat crewman faced every time his aircraft lifted off from Molesworth. To order contact: Brian D. O'Neill, 22 Jeffrey Lane, East Windsor, NJ 08520. (\$16.95 paper)

IN MEMORIAM

Hendric S. Hudson (358th) age 66, died Aug. 9, 1989 at LaCrosse while vacationing on his houseboat on the Mississippi River. He was a pilot during the war while stationed at Molesworth. He was in the Air Force Reserve for 24 years retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He is survived by his wife Mona; two daughters and two grandchildren.

Laverne Edgeton (444th) died during the Spring at Grinnell, Iowa.

John J. Doherty (358th) age 71, died on Aug. 20, 1989 in St. Paul, Minn. Flew 25 missions as a gunner with the 303rd before he was shot down on Oct. 20, 1943. He parachuted from the burning aircraft suffering from gunshot wounds in his legs. He spent 18 months in a German POW camp. He was discharged from the service in August 1945 but was recalled to active duty as an engineer during the Korean war. He is survived by his son John Jr. and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Frank C. Hartter (358th) age 66, died on Oct. 14, 1987 in Phoenix, AZ. He is survived by his wife Marjorie.

Dr. John Comyn (Tex) was buried at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, Texas on March 30, 1989.

Herschell Nabors (360th) age 63, died on March 2, 1989. He flew as waist and tail gunner with many crews including several with Lt. Edmund's crew. He is survived by his wife Jane; one son, David and one daughter Janet Carole.

Tranum D. Goulding (359th) died July 1986.

Financial Status 303rd Bomb Group Association Inc.
November 1, 1989

OPERATING FUND	
Checking Account	\$ 2,603
Money Market Account	24,615
Total	27,218
TRUST FUND	
Certificates of Deposit	\$43,541
Outstanding Pledges	2,195
Total	45,736
ANNUAL BUDGET	
Newsletter	\$ 8,000
Newsletter inserts	1,000
Document Reproduction	4,000
Membership Office Expenses	1,000
General Admin. Expenses	2,000
Fidelity Bonds	500
Search for new members	1,000
Contingencies	2,500
Total Budget	\$20,000

SPECIAL NOTICE

TO: Members of the 303rd Bomb Group Association
FROM: Dr. Carl Fyler, Outgoing President

Thank you for the very nice plaque and pen set. It is certainly appreciated.

At the 8th AF reunion I placed the wreath at the AF Academy on Oct. 8 at the wall that holds the 303rd's bronze plaque. The wall is very impressive. It contains all the plaques from the 8th AF Groups.

I set up the 303rd's display using materials from the Space building, The Combat Air Museum, Walter Beckwith's Combat Gear and my war memorabilia. This was viewed for three days.

Thanks again for the lovely plaque and the kind note.

Floral Decorations in Honor of Downed 303rds

I suggested to President Fyler two years ago that the 303rd Bomb Group consider sending floral decorations to the American Military Cemeteries in remembrance of our fellows lost in World War II. He thought it an excellent idea and asked me to serve as Chairman of this project.

I wrote the American Battle Monuments Commission in Washington, D.C. and initiated overseas correspondence. I received lists of burials and booklets from all cemeteries. *Belgium* Ardennes, Henri-Chapelle, *England* Cambridge, *France* Brittany, Epinal, Lorraine, Normandy, *Luxembourg* Luxembourg, *Netherlands* Margraten Holland.

I believe Memorial Day is the most appropriate time to remember their costly sacrifice upon the altar of freedom in the service of our country. However, the appropriate time for a floral decoration at American Memorial Chapel, St. Paul's Cathedral in London or in Brington Church would be in November.

A floral wreath in the price range of \$50 should be quite suitable. It is not beyond reality to suggest that our Group establish a flower fund and develop a special brochure describing the plan in detail sponsoring a living endowment program. Interested persons may become a part of it by depositing money in units of \$100, \$50, or \$25 in memory of, or in honor of loved ones, and ultimately to build this legacy of giving up to whatever goal it takes.

A memorial wreath was placed at the American Cemetery Memorial Chapel at Cambridge, England on July 4, 1989 by an American airman. The ribbon inscription read:

We Remember Their Names — We Recall Faces
303rd Bomb Group

Alvin L. Morton

ADDRESS CHANGES

Anderson, Francis D., 3950 W. Sandy Bluff Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32561-2936

Basteau, Stephen B., 12525 4th St., Treasure Island, FL 33706-4432

Doherty, John J., 3270 N. Lexington Ave., Shoreview, MN 55126

Donnelly, Joe A., P.O. Box 231, Holding Ford, MN 56340-0231

Fleming, William V., 10000 N. US Hwy 98 Lot 68, Lakeland, FL 33809

Gould, Judith, 38 Dunham Rd., #201, Beverly, MA 01915

Goulding, Traynum D., 2747 2nd St., Long Beach, CA 90803

Hamilton, Mrs. Susan, Rt. 6, Box 6118, Jackson, GA 30233

Hayes, Ralph W., 13211 Lemon Ave., Grand Island, FL 32735

Henderson, George W., 228 E. Allen, Valley Center, KS 67247

Jenson, Horace B., P.O. Box 1745, Temple, TX 76503

Knox, George E., Penn Alto Hotel #1130, 13th Ave., Altoona, PA 16601

Knudson, Russell A., 383 Chaparral Ln., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420

Lubbers, Robert B., 64 Wakefield Ave., Pt. Washington, NY 11050

Magee, Jack R., 2627 St. Andrews Court, Alamogordo, NM 88310

Mayhugh, John C., 13821 Echo Park Circle, Burnsville, MN 55337

McCall, John William, 1 Keene Valley, NY 12943

McClurg, Galt L., 10695 W. 17th Ave., #331, Lakewood, CA 80215

Melenski, William E., Inaccurate Address

Muhl, William D., 1220 Elliott Rd. #44, Paradise, CA 95969-4133

Page, Frank N., No forwarding address

Parket, David H., 1385 Raleigh Road, Benson, NC 27504

Peter, Ted N., Heritage Park Apts. #122-3, 3555 Stober Bld., Las

Vegas, NV 89103

Prendergast, Bert T., No forwarding address

Quinn, Mrs. Edna, 3312 Carrington St., Tampa, FL 33611-2734

Sampson, Norma A., 501 N. 10th Ave., Ozark, MO 65721

Savelle, Wilho A., 5284 Grapewood Cove, Memphis, TN 38134

Schumacher, Bernard Rev., no forwarding address

Shepherd, Mrs. Gilliam - Deceased

Vastine, Robert E., P.O. Box 264, Greenbrier, TN 37073-0264

Williams, Lemuel R., 2448 Martin R., W. Biloxi, MS 39531

NEW MEMBERS

Aberdeen, James E., (358) 109 Shore Rd., Waterford, CT 06385

Balzano, Chris J. Jr., (A) 642 Saranac Dr., Winter Springs, FL 32708

Berardino, Don, (A) 460 Long Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15235

Hansen, Calvin D., (360) 3611 Shepherd Ln., Manitowoc, WI 54220

Jeglun, Wayne, (A) 7152 W. Country Club Dr. N, Sarasota, FL 34243

Lappo, Ted, (358) 7470 Apple, Muskegon, MI 49442

The Reunion Committee wishes to express its appreciation to the many 303rd members, wives and widows who spent countless hours working to insure the success of the Norfolk-by-the-Sea reunion. The volunteer tasks were numerous. To avoid overlooking anyone, we will not list names, but you all know who you are. Those who participate in these tasks have remarked about an enhanced feeling of "family" created within the group, so a sincere "thank you" is extended to each and everyone of you.

303rd BOMB GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION, INC.

C/O Hal Susskind

2602 Deerfoot Trail

Austin, TX 78704

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SEASONS GREETINGS