REUNION HOTEL MOVES

The 1987 461st Bomb Group Reunion will be held at the Westchester Marriott Hotel located at 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY 10951.

This move was, in the opinion of the Reunion Committee, to be in the best interest of the Group in that access is easier and the hotel is located in a more populous area. The amenities consist of an indoor swimming pool in the enclosed courtyard, sauna, hydrotherapy pool, health club and a roomful of electronic games for you and your younger generation to wile away the time. Three restaurants will tempt you, or you can enjoy an olde English Pub, or give the Lobby Lounge the once over.

There are several area attractions in Tarrytown such as the Sleepy Hollow Restorations and the famous Goebel Museum for those of you that get tired of the “war stories”.

This hotel is fully equipped with sprinklers and smoke alarms in each room, as are the hallways on each floor. 444 rooms are available and we can have all of them if we get our reservations in early. Reservations phone number: 1-800-228-9290. CAUTION: Identify yourself as being a member of the 461st Bomb Group. Reservations must be received by September 24, 1987. Advise the hotel, when registering, if you have any special requirements due to physical problems.

Prices of the rooms are $75 per room per night for single occupancy, and $79 per room per night for double, triple, and quad. An extra cot in your room is $12 per night. These prices are in effect for us from 1 October to 3 October, with check out by 1 PM on 4 October. Check in time is 3 PM. Rates three days before and seven days after will be $95 per night. These rooms normally run $125 per night.

Those of you traveling by RV or Trailers will be permitted to park on the back part of the parking lot. No hook-up facilities are available. As a matter of courtesy, you might drop Judy Stern, at the above address, a card advising her of your intentions. There are a few RV parks in the area.

There is no Cadet Parade on Friday. We will be able to ob-

(Continued on page 3)

ED H. SPETMAN—Group Treasurer

On January 18, 1987, Edward H. Spetman died of a heart attack in Omaha, Nebraska. Ed was our first Treasurer and was the prime mover in establishing this organization as it is now constituted. His many contacts with the State of Iowa and the Internal Revenue Department resulted in our becoming a Veterans tax free organization within a few months of our first reunion.

Ed was assigned to the crew of Ralph Seeman as a gunner. During his fifty missions he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters.

As Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Council Bluffs Savings Bank, he supervised the largest bank in southwest Iowa. Ed attended Iowa State University, Wisconsin School of Banking and Harvard School of Banking.

Ed is survived by his wife, Linda, daughter, Carol Ahrenhjolz, sons, Robert, Thomas, and Randall.

The Board of Directors wishes to extend their apology to our Jewish members in scheduling the reunion to take place coinciding with Yon Kippur. At scheduling time we were unaware of this conflict. Now that we are aware of this holiday, or any other similar holiday, we will make certain it will never happen again.
1987 DUES

1987 dues are now payable to Glenn Stempel. Please check your membership card as over 130 of you have already paid for 1987. If you are giving Associate Memberships please give full name and address for each member. In a little over two years we have increased our mailing list from 258 to over 1200 and our contributing members from zero to 365 in 1986.

GROUP HISTORY PRESENTED

Our thanks to Claude Hisey for presenting the Group with a copy of the Group History. If we ever get the time and money it is a hope that this history can be printed for all of you to enjoy.

1987 DUES

1987 dues are now payable to Glenn Stempel. Please check your membership card as over 130 of you have already paid for 1987. If you are giving Associate Memberships please give full name and address for each member. In a little over two years we have increased our mailing list from 258 to over 1200 and our contributing members from zero to 365 in 1986.

GROUP HISTORY PRESENTED

Our thanks to Claude Hisey for presenting the Group with a copy of the Group History. If we ever get the time and money it is a hope that this history can be printed for all of you to enjoy.

1987 DUES

1987 dues are now payable to Glenn Stempel. Please check your membership card as over 130 of you have already paid for 1987. If you are giving Associate Memberships please give full name and address for each member. In a little over two years we have increased our mailing list from 258 to over 1200 and our contributing members from zero to 365 in 1986.

GROUP HISTORY PRESENTED

Our thanks to Claude Hisey for presenting the Group with a copy of the Group History. If we ever get the time and money it is a hope that this history can be printed for all of you to enjoy.
serve the formation of one half of the Cadets for their noon meal from the parade grounds. A Memorial Service will be held in the Cadet Chapel during our tour of West Point. The Cadets will parade on Saturday at 11:30 AM.

Bob Hayes has offered to obtain tickets for the West Point football game on Saturday, 3 October. Cost of a ticket is $13. Request must be in his hands no later than 1 June. Those of you that are interested should send your check to Robert V. Hayes, 31 Grand Street, New York, NY 10956. The Group has NOT engaged any transportation for this game.

We will be lunching on Friday at the famous Bear Mountain Inn located a few miles south of West Point. Please note that you must make a selection as to what you wish as your entrée!

Please complete the tear slip and forward it as soon as possible. We have a wonderful Committee but they need your help in receiving the information in order that they may make this reunion the BEST ever! Don't forget to bring a lot of color film as the trees have been requested to put on their best!

AIRLINE DISCOUNT

Delta Air Lines, in cooperation with the 461st Bomb Group, is offering a special discount which affords a 40%-70% discount to New York City for attendees traveling on Delta round trip to its 1987 meeting. All you have to do is call 1-800-241-6760 for your reservation 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time daily. REFER TO FILE NUMBER: V0390. This special discount is available ONLY through this number. If you normally use the services of a travel agent, have them place your reservations through the above toll-free number to obtain the same advantages for you. Remember some fares have restrictions, markets may vary, and seats may be limited—so call early for reservations. Check with Delta for the best discount applicable to your itinerary! Honolulu and Montreal—30% discount. Originating travel will be allowed Sept 28 to Oct 3. Seven days advance ticketing will be required and a maximum stay of 21 days will be permitted.

*     *     *     *     *

PX MANAGER

We are looking for a volunteer to take over the management of the PX Account for a period of two years. This account makes available the pins, patches, etc. to members of the Group. Duties would consist of receiving and shipping orders and accounting of inventory and monies received to the Treasurer.

GROUP COWL MARKINGS

All documents and books reviewed so far are in error regarding the colors assigned to the Squadrons of our Group. The correct colors are:

- 764th Squadron: Green
- 765th Squadron: White
- 766th Squadron: Yellow
- 767th Squadron: Red

INTREPID AIRMEN OF THE 767TH BOMB SQUADRON

Date line—who knows—15th Air Force, Italy
In Parade Formation (tongue-in-cheek) the following members of the 767th Bomb Squadron were presented their Air Medals for actions against the enemy. Presenting the awards was Lt. R. Max Pacher to Lt. Denny Tenney. (Ed thinks that the last time two of the awardees tried to “Suck it in Mister!” was in Cadets—or was it that they had less to do it with then?)

AVIATION CADET ALUMNI ASSOC.

Seeking addresses of WWII pilot cadets. Purpose—assist in locating old classmates. Send Flight Class, locations of primary, basic, and advance schools along with your address and telephone to: Bob White, 54 Se ton Trail, Ormond Beach, FL 32074. You may include stamped envelop for current roster of particular Flight Class.

DISREGARD GI INSURANCE HOAX

A letter has again been circulated that urges all Veterans to apply for a Veterans Insurance Dividend. The letter claimed that a little publicized bill passed in Congress which would give all WWII veterans a dividend of 65 cents per thousand of GI insurance for each month of service. The VA disclaims the existence of any such bill. This one goes around every few years.

THE AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

Applications for membership may be sent to AFA, Lee Highway, Arlington, VA 22209-9963.

REUNION NOTICE

Bill Harrison, Publicity Chairman, is requesting that all members of national, or local, organizations, place a notice in their State Newsletter advising members of our forthcoming 1987 Reunion.

HAND CRAFTED GROUP INSIGNIA

Joseph D. Boblansky (764) has presented us with Group Insignia that he has crafted from leather. The work is outstanding! These works of art will be used as awards to individuals, or organizations, for services to our Group. In memory of Ed Spetman, our first Treasurer, the first two have been framed and presented to Mrs. Ed Spetman and the Council Bluffs Savings Bank.
Study in Contrasts

205 Missions Flown
In Year of Combat

"On April 2, visibility was good over the enemy railyards. There was another flash of fighters in the sky, and the 461st Liberators dropped a 200-pound bomb pattern on the enemy communication center."

The above report applied equally to the 461st. The key group was the 461st. The railroads of Rihace, Yugoslavia, and the targets of 12 miles from the railroad yards of Saint-Poth in Austria. Both were major swing points in the true sense of the word.

But it was between these two missions that were not so easy — Linz and Oderid, both scenes of heavy fighter activity — that the key elements of the Ploesti, top-priority targets seven times visited by our bunkers — and Vienna and Moosburg, tanks that together accounted for 10 of the more than 200 combat missions in our year of fighting.

There have been missions that have brought us glory along with the flash holes and red flares. On our April 12 mission to the Dora Repulicagrupp factory in Budapest, Hungary, we received our first citation as a distinguished unit. Then there was the July 13 mission to Ploesti, elimination of weeks of intensive training in the new technique of night bombing in the heart of the chemical smoke screen, and the Lufthansa and the perfect pattern that brought us our second citation.

As we attacked oil refineries bridges, railroads, coastal defenses, airfields, and factories in nine European countries, we learned new techniques for the heavy bomber. The Liberator proved, equally at home bombing the heavy oil installations on the invasion coast of Southern France prior to allotted landings as they did in pre-landing the Axis railroad bridges August 23. It was the first Liberator that bombed the Kempton refinery in Austria, February 16, operating from an altitude of 13,000 feet, a really important yard for the heavy bomber. Not all of our missions will be

(Continued on Page 11)

Liberaiders Hit
Key Targets in
Nine Countries

By Maj. Leigh M. Levee

In its first full year of combat in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations, the Group flew 205 missions against targets located in nine different countries: Austria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Rumania, and Yugoslavia.

For its first three months of operations, the Group was engaged in the bombing of the Group was the highest of any group in the Air Force.

The Group participated in the D-Day drive against the Germans in Italy on May 12, and in the invasion of Southern France on August 15.

Trommershauser Heads 764th Men

Major John Trommershauser of Chicago, Ill., is the fourth member of his squadron to receive promotion while in command of the 764th Bomb Squadron. In addition to the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, he has been awarded the DFC for the March 16 mission to the Moutchambar oil refineries. He has flown as group and deputy leader.

The three other commanders of the 764th who have received promotion in office have been Majors Marion C. Maxson, Major Edwin T. Grove, and Capt. Albert O. Wilke.

Two Men Receive Direct Commissions

The first of two direct commissions given in the 461st went to Ensign E. Shiftermiller, assigned as a line pilot in the 766th. Lt. Shiftermiller finished a tour of duty over targets in North Africa and the Mediterrenean, and came back for more. He has 44 combat missions and a DFC.

The second award of a pair of gold bars went to the former first sergeant of the 766th, Lt. B. Pegg of Richmond, Ind. Pegg enlisted in February, 1941, and underwent special army education. He lauded the Provost Marshall's office at Randolph Field, Tex., investigating civil arrests for a year and a half, and later, as a top-secret in both groups at Gowen Field, Idaho.

764 Men Survey Year's Activities

The life of the 764th Squadron overseas began some five months out of sight of our native shores when the luxury of an ocean cruise became confined with calisthenic formation, training lectures and guard duties. At night, night time flies in the darkness with Cpl. George Moody's tune, and below in the "dugouts" Lt. B. Perry was creating a small financial panic in an all-out poker game. Maj. John Savin's cigarettes smoked like wax, and did those good American greenbacks. S/Sgt. John Kendricks, who clung to the stair rail throughout, reported it was tough, very rough.

On the 15th of February all rumors were quelled when it was definitely announced we were to settle in Italy. Happily of all were Adm. Marshall, Guggio, and Captain, all of whom have until now seen their near and dear on the troubled peninsula.

Our first night on "Pneumonia Flats" gave us a preview of what was to be a battery away from home. What was referred to as the "squadron area" was a mountain of mountains made up by grudging, half-way up the hill and settled for dry quarters in a former horse corral. The very well-adaptedитет ahead to pitch their tents around what is now squadron headquarters.

AMM's Cappy On

Cpl. Montgomery's grease monkey started setting up shop on the line while we were still digging our first slit trenches. For a month they serviced our ship's knots in mail, while sweating out their crew chiefs who had been misplaced somewhere in Africa.

Soon we began combat operations and learned to spot M/Sgt. Joe's "Mr. Weevil," of the dependable generators, M/Sgt. Archer's "Old Bird," with the perpetually handicap, and M/Sgt. Brus's "Silly," which picked up more flak than our pop, Murphy, has flaws.

There were ships we grew to know — M/Sgt. Holland's "Red Jack," M/Sgt. Hardee's "Chippa-dak," and the new smooth Outlook, owned by M/Sgt. Big Chet, decorated with an original Caniff cartoon by Cpl. Harold J. McQuire.

By April 1 our EM Club was in full swing with M/Sgt. L. L. Perry as its first president, and M/Sgt. Wilford Irwin and S/Sgt. Louis P. Bell, as vice-president and secretary treasurer respectively.

"Put-Put" Appears

Under the initiation of Lt. S.S. Sloniker, and the editorship of Sgt. Art Foley, the "Put-Put" began its career. If short, career, Lt. Goodfriend and Coyer were regular contributors to the journal and Sgt. J. C. Sharp, one-time commercial artist, among the stylists.

By the time Christmas rolled around, we were welcomed, warm and muddy. S/Sgt. Harold T. Veig, who used to run his own hardware back in Sheldon, Ill., feels as good a Christmas cheer as we've eaten in O.D.'s. Sgt. Andrews topped off the affair with a quart of imported American rose-water, and Cpl. Poreno reported that Pal. Alfred L. Ives was well in the lead in the mail-bag soupwashes.

Two Specials Given During Specials

We began to look around us during the long winter nights and unceremoniously that Sgt. William Eckert was a former firefighter, that "Sonny" Hartley was a professional motocyclist and that a certain B-14 pilot once stung back at the Bulldog Inn in Oklahoma, Tex. We learned that the man they called "Hot-Shot Charley" was our own Lt. Kenneth Kele (although we did find him a minute suspect Lt. Black). We discovered that Major Trommershauser plays the bar-voil and that is St. Frank O'Neil, now busy, was in the army in occupation last war.

Sport Activities

The basketball season rolled around and carried our team of Greenberg, McRafferty, Cronin, Hoolestone,Joe, and, in special arrangements with the 766th, Smith and 32nd. Bill Everitt has covered every available inch of his car with pin-ups. The "Big Inch" above has begun to trickle warm wax and, Rypa, has gone AWOL again. Pvt. Joseph Ott's Italian marriage has been arranged with daughter. Sgt. Guiter's of the conscripted Marines is laying even money that the war will be finished July 15.

Things are looking up for the boy on the hill.

The 461st Liberator

Soviet Edition Published by the Political Affairs Office and its Information-Propaganda Office to commemorate the First Year of Combat of the 461st Bombardment Group.

Certificate of Pase by Field Press Censor. This paper may be mailed home.

Vol. 1, No. 2
April 1944

Editors: Sgt. Charles H. Dykes, Robert Paine, and Geoffrey L. Peters

This edition was published in Rome, Italy

Instituto Grafico Romano 11 Vescovo - Roma - Via Mario di Porta 5

FEBRUARY 1987
THE 461ST LIBERATOR
PAGE 5
Mail Call

Dear Frank,

In answer to your recent request, enclosed is a write up of the December 17, 1944 Odertal mission. This is only one man’s recollection of events that happened 42 years ago, so I’d like to hear from other people who also lived through that awful day.

You may want to clean up the language in a couple of spots for publication in the “Liberaider”, but I’m telling it like it happened.

Write if you get the opportunity, and in the meantime I’m looking forward to seeing you in New York next Fall.

Hugh Hanley

MISSION #151 ODERTAL, GERMANY
MY 10TH MISSION

By Hugh Hanley—765th Squadron

Having checked the flight board on the evening of Dec. 16th, and finding our crew scheduled for tomorrow’s mission, we all went to bed early. We were awakened at 4 AM with the terse notification, “briefing in an hour”. After coffee and a light breakfast (we didn’t have a big appetite on those days we were flying), we went to the briefing room. As we entered, and saw that grim black line due almost direct northeast into Eastern Germany, someone muttered, “Oh ——, Blechammer again!”. Bill McClain, our navigator replied, “No, it’s East of that area”.

S-2 began the briefing by telling us that the target today was Odertal, a small oil refinery near the Polish border. There would be a little if any flak. Ball turrets would not be lowered until we came to the IP, Zuckmentel. Loading was 6,500 lb GP’s and 2700 gals of fuel. Altitude would be 26000 ft. (What else?) Almost as an afterthought, he mentioned that we would likely catch fighter opposition. In retrospect, this would have to qualify as the understatement of the year, if not the century.

S-2 began the briefing by telling us that the target today was Odertal, a small oil refinery near the Polish border. There would be a little if any flak. Ball turrets would not be lowered until we came to the IP, Zuckmentel. Loading was 6,500 lb GP’s and 2700 gals of fuel. Altitude would be 26000 ft. (What else?) Almost as an afterthought, he mentioned that we would likely catch fighter opposition. In retrospect, this would have to qualify as the understatement of the year, if not the century.

Suddenly all hell breaks loose. “Kraut fighters at 3 o’clock”. “God Almighty, there must be 100 of them”. Not quite, but there’s a lot more than 50 FW-190s and ME-109s. Wing tip to wing tip they lay down a barrage of fire right through and in front of our flight. We’re hit. We lose No. 3 immediately and it’s running away. Feather No. 3. Were lucky, the feathering mechanism works. Somebody in the flight blows up in mid air (I don’t know who it was) [ED: The Group History does not mention this—only the losses of ten aircraft]. Ten men to oblivion. The enemy fighters break up into twos, swoop ahead and below us, and rake our underbellies with gun and cannon fire. Bernie Freeman calls out, “I got one of those bastards”. A 20 [mm] explodes in the compartment, and I take a small piece in the left leg. No. 4 starts running away and the 24 is starting to vibrate like a large mold of jell-o. The bail out alarm sounds. We have no hydraulic power, so I hit the salvo handle and the bomb load goes right through the bomb bay doors. Whoosh…! Eidsmore and I, after securing our chest chutes, make our way to the flight deck. It looks like the scene of an axe murder. Cody has had a 20 explode in the turret and is severely wounded about the face and head. Geier, who has taken a bullet through his left thigh, bails out the unconscious Cody through the now open bomb bay doors.

We met at the flight line, our crew consisted of the following: Phil Crossman—pilot; Whitey Kreps—co-pilot; Bill McClain—navigator; yours truly—bombardier; Larry Eidsmore—nose gunner; Lenny Geier—engineer; Val Barnson—radio op; Bill White—ball turret; Johnny Sainio—waist gunner; and Bernie Freeman—tail gunner. In addition to our regular crew, 1st Lt. Jack Cody, Squadron Gunnery Officer, would fly with us, and man the top turret. This necessitated moving Barnson to one of the waist guns.

The green flare arched into the sky and the mission was under way. A typical Italian winter day, weather overcast and somewhat chilly. Takeoff was uneventful and we began our climb to altitude and formation. Over the spur of the “boot”, and out over the Adriatic, climbing all the way. Strictly routine, as in the previous nine. Oxygen checks—crew banter. All of a sudden, somebody is in TROUBLE. “Horizontal” Moore is aborting—engine trouble. Lucky so and so. Through the alley between Vienna and Bratislava. Always NME. Check arming, five minutes to IP. Routine up to here.

I’m going out next. Scared? You bet the ranch I was scared! A very short prayer and Geronimo! Whipped out by the slipstream, I’m suddenly in a deathly still space, with no feeling of falling at all. I pull the rip cord ring and then hear the most beautiful sound in the world—THA…WHUNK, accompanied by a tooth jarring halt of my fall. Within minutes I hear our plane hit the ground in a massive explosion. As I finally break through the undercast, I see a small town to my left, and immediately 3 cars barrel out, heading for the area I am about to land. But that is another story.

(Continued on page 8)
Dear Frank,

In answer to your letter….. Gus Karalis’ letter describing his capture follows [Mission to Wiener Nuestadt]. I use his exact wording:

“… On May 24, 1944, our plane got shot up real bad as a matter of fact we lost all three engines before we jumped out, and we all got out alive—all 10 of us. (Thank God) I landed right outside of the target & what a mess that was, fire & flames all over the sky—plus all the flak from the ground. When I landed near a farm the people were throwing rocks at me but a German soldier took me to his house & told the people to leave me alone. From there he called the Gestapo to take me to jail. From the jail they shipped me & two other guys from my crew to Frankford, Germany. If I remember right wasn’t Smitty a red head? If so I remember when he shot the 45 at the Sgt. Who used to wake us up at 3:30AM…..”

Gus was right and wrong about the scaring of the C.Q. The person was a red head but his name wasn’t Smitty. It was “Pinky”. That’s what they called me. I wonder if Emily Karalis who is listed in the “Directory” is any relation to Gus. Not a common name. (His wife ED)…. 

Wally Robinson 767th

The following is an example of our continual trying to reach missing men from the Group. Bernard Cooney (764) requested our help and the information was passed on to Denny Perkins (766) in San Diego. Don’t hesitate to ask ANY member of the Group for help in locating a member that you have lost track of over the years.

“Frank C. O’Bannon

Bernard C. Cooney called last night. He said he has tried to get in touch with me for 20 years. He has the current addresses of the other crew members, mine was the last one he needed. The crew has had 2 reunions without me.

He promised to send you the details, with a copy to me.

I hope that an old driver’s license will serve as a snap shot of me. The best I could do at the moment, hope to do better in the future.

I sent my dues to the Treasurer in Iowa.

Yours truly, Edward B. Snyder—764th”

B-24 TIE-TAX

Members have requested information as to where tie-tac’s can be purchased. This item is available from Vogel & Sons (15th AFA), PO Box 1752, Waldorf, MD 20601. Cost is $6 plus $2.50 postage and handling fee. Another source is the B-24 Liberator Club, PO Box 841, San Diego, CA 92112. Cost is $6 plus $1.00 postage and handling fee. Specify model B-24J.

* * * * *

WENDOVER REVISITED—1984—1986

Fifteen years ago Lyman M. Delameter (764) drove by Wendover AFB, UT, and discovered the above “461” on the mountain to the west of the base. The gas station attendant stated that those numbers had been placed there during the war. Last year Del returned and took video pictures of the base and the sign on the mountain. We can only guess as to how it got there but there is a strong rumor that a case of beer had something to do with it. To those that provided proof to the younger generation that we had been there (ahead of Kilroy it seems) we would like to get the straight story for the rest of the troops. We would also like to identify the building below—it appears to be a club of some type.

WHO’S CLUB?

STALAG LUFT III EX-POW REUNION—May 21-24, Seattle, WA. Contact Bob Weinberg, 2229 Rock Creek Drive, Kerrville, TX 78028, or phone (512) 257-4643.

* * * * *

FORMER PRISONERS-OF-WAR are entitled to special VA benefits. For specialized service, call the nearest VA office or hospital or call toll free, any hour, 1-800-821-8139.

* * * * *

Aviation researcher-historian wants to be contacted by any pilots or air-crew members who have had combat with the early German jet-powered ME-262. Write to: Lorenz Rasse, 2940 Kennedy St., Livermore, CA 94550.

* * * * *
My captors would give me no information as to the fate of the rest of the crew, except to say that four bodies were found in the wreckage of the plane. Since there was ample time to bail out, we can only assume that the men aft of the bomb bay were either killed by gunfire or wounded so badly in the attack that they had no chance to bail out.

Three days later, I met Crossman, Kreps, and McClain in a POW staging area in Olmutz, Czechoslovakia, and sweated out the rest of the war with them in the same POW camp, Stalag Luft I. I met Jack Cody in France after liberation. He had lost his left eye, and the Germans had done extensive plastic surgery on his face. I got together with Lenny Geier and Larry Eidsmore in August 1945 when we were home on R&R, but have lost track of them since then.

December 17th, 1944—A day to remember!

Hi Ed (Spetman),

I don’t remember your name but, hell! I can’t even remember my own all the time.

I was a crew chief or something or another—can’t even remember the tail #’s now. I’d better come to another reunion and get reacquainted. Anyhow—do remember that my bird was parked next to the Maint Office so old Capt. Montgomery could keep an eye on me. I also remember one day old Montgomery (Maint Officer) says, “Harris, what’s the current price of pork?” I answered, “Hell, I don’t know. Why?” Old Monty says, “I thought you might know since your revetment looks like a damned pig pen!” That guy just didn’t appreciate “laid back”.

Since we are paying dues ($4.61) based on group—why not add Sqdn ($7.64 etc)? Build up the old kitty. (He did!)

James P. Harris (764)


MEMORIES

Dear Frank,

…. I am sending a copy of SO #19, also copy of orders relieving me from assignment in the 461st BG, many are 766 personnel, including Robert D. Flakner. I knew him quite well as he was an excellent magician. He always created a crowd in town as he would walk down the street, reach into the air and pull down a lighted cigarette, take a puff and toss it, and then repeat, plus other things. When I was in Korea I saw him on the front page of the Stars & Stripes pulling a deck of cards from his mouth. I didn’t get to see him however….

You mentioned General Glantzberg. Yes, I met him while I was in Wheelus. He came in from Rabat several times. I remember one time when he came in, in a T-33. I happened to be AO and met the General and his Staff Pilot. The Press was there and it was a going thing, the General posed for photo, with his cap on backwards, so the 3 stars didn’t show. The little Airman First Photographer ran up to me and told me he could not take a picture of the General with his hat on backwards. I broke from my position, marched up to the general, saluted, and asked if the General would please check his cap. So all turned out well….

I bumped into Maurice J. Ojserkis, from Walt Barans crew, at Stewart AFB, NY in 1952. Would like to hear from that crew as we went through OTV together…..

I am looking forward to getting back together with the crew. It is always so nice to see them again after all these years.

Again it was good to hear from you and keep up the good work.

Bill Powers—766th
STATE/AREA REPRESENTATIVES

The following members have agreed to represent the 461st, and to aid in finding members, in their state:

John F. Wilson (764) Alabama
Clifford Winham (765) Arizona
Tom Moss (765) Colorado
George Dickie (767) Connecticut
Bill Harrison (764) Florida
Charles F. Kostka (765) Idaho
Milton Radovsky (767) Maryland
Howard Ritter (765) Michigan
Patrick Forking (765) New Jersey
James Colavito (765) New Mexico
Ralph Seeman (766) Oregon
Robert Forster (766) Texas
Ralph Seeman (766) Washington
Jim Van Nostrand (765) Wyoming

If you have a name in their area they will try and find him for you. If you live in one of the open states and would like to help, please get in touch with your Squadron Director or Frank O’Bannon.

* * * * *

NAME TAGS—1987 REUNION

To Wally Robinson (767), and many others who have expressed concern, in deference to those of us that admit to a SLIGHT seeing problem (bifocals and trifocals), the 1987 REUNION name tags WILL BE WITH LARGE LETTERS for your name, slightly smaller for your HOMETOWN, and will be color coded with your Squadron color. Get your REGISTRATION form in early!

HAM RADIO OPERATORS

Jim Van Norstrand (765) requests that you contact him regarding the idea of establishing a 461st/15AF Ham Radio Net. Jim is operating a 2-meter Emergency Net in Jackson Hole, WY, and would like to establish a net for our personnel to chew the fat with on cold winter nights. Jim’s address is PO Box 1121, Jackson Hole, WY 83001, phone (307) 733-2132.

BOARD ACTIONS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—The current Board of Directors will act as the committee for the nomination of Officers and Squadron Directors. The nominations should be finalized for mailing out to the qualified membership for proxy vote not later than August 15, 1987. Tom Moss (765) is to act as Chairman of this committee. Nominations for inclusion on this ballot should be forwarded to Tom Moss or your Squadron Director for consideration and forwarding to the membership for election.

SQUADRON CAUCUS—A Squadron Caucus will be scheduled prior to the General Election at the Reunion for the selection of the Alternate Directors for 1990-1991.

AUDIT OF BANK ACCOUNT—Glen Stempel, Treasurer, will secure an independent audit of our Bank Account.

REUNIONS—Notification has been received that the 15th Air Force will hold its Reunion on 14-18 October 1987 at Colorado Springs and that the 50th Anniversary of the B-24 will be held 19-21 May 1989 in Ft. Worth. The Board approved the recommendation that we maintain our Reunion Schedule of every two years as voted by our membership. It was further recommended that all members be encouraged to attend each of the meetings as individuals and not as a major effort by the Group.

15th SPECIAL ORDERS—Will be purchased in order that we might secure names and hometowns of members that are not available to us by other means.

MEMORIAL PLAQUE COPIES—It was recommended that the cost of these plaques be placed at $20 each and that members desiring a copy forward requests and check to Frank O’Bannon in order that we might place this order immediately. [Due to the response from the members, this project is presently being placed on hold and will be activated after the Reunion.]

GLEN H. STEMPEL—In accordance with the Article V, By-laws of the 461st Bomb Group (H) 1943-1945, Inc., Glenn H. Stempel was appointed Secretary/Treasurer effective January 18, 1987, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Edward H. Spetman.

ITALIAN CORRESPONDENT—Approved the appointment of Ed Callahan (766) to be the Group’s Italian Correspondent. Ed will attempt to reestablish old contacts when given information that he can work with, addresses or pictures will help. He requests the inquires be “not too long, specialized or embarrassingly personal”.

LIBERAIDER EDITOR—The Board has approved the appointment of George D. Dickie (767) as the Editor of the Liberaider. George is a volunteer for this position and will assume the Editorship effective in the Fall of 1987. As the Editor of a similar paper for Pratt-Whitney there is no doubt that he can give you a newsletter of the First Order. Your current Editor felt his knapsack got a few pounds lighter with George’s offer.
OUR THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS WITHOUT WHO OUR LIBERAIDER AND WEST POINT REUNION WOULD NOT BECOME REALITIES:
Dear Frank,

I was sure glad to find that the 461st was looking for former members. Pete Tompas and Bob Basiliere are the only two I have kept in contact with. Bob may know some of the men in the New England area. I know he can get in touch with “Muff” Bryer, the Line Chief of the 765th. They both live in Seekonk, MA. I called Bob and he said he would get in touch with you.

I’m sorry I missed the reunion in Colorado Springs. My oldest daughter lives in Albuquerque, NM, and I was there about the time of your meeting….

Here are copies of a few orders I have. I hope they can be of some use in your search for former members.

Sincerely, R. E. Fox—765th

THE MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Regular Membership $30 per year
Life Membership $300 one-time

Mail to: March Air Force Base, CA 92518

LAST OF THE BOMBARDIERS

Down a lonely road, on a cold black night,
A miserable beggar trudges into sight.
And the people whisper over their beers,
Here comes the last of the Bombardiers.

What is a Bombardier? No reply.
But the men grow silent and the women sigh,
As a death-like silence fills the place.
Like the gaunt grey ghost of a long-last race.

Furtive glances from ceiling to floor,
Till someone or something opens the door.
And the bravest of hearts grow cold with fear,
For the thing in the door is a Bombardier.

His hands are bony and his hair is thin,
His back is curved like an old bent pin,
His eyes are two empty rings of black,
And he vaguely mumbles, “Shack, Shack, Shack”.

This ancient relic of the Second World War
Creeps across the floor and slouches at the bar.
And, in hollow tones from his sunken chest,
He demands a drink - and only the best.

The people say nothing but watch in the glass,
As the beggar produces his bombsight pass.
With glass to his lips, they hear him say,
“Bomb bays open; bombs away”.

Then speaking no word he staggers through the door,
And the last of the Bombardiers is seen no more.
But all through the years this phrase has stuck -
When you say “Bombardier” - you add, “Hard Luck”.

Author Unknown

* * * * *

BOMBARDIERS, INC.

Bombardiers, Inc., convenes its 2nd Reunion of former Bombardiers at San Antonio, TX 26-29 March 1987. Contact them at Star Rt. #1, Box 254, Eagle Harbor, MI 49951 for membership and details.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affinito, James</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Patterson, NJ</td>
<td>611</td>
<td>1/18/87</td>
<td>Council Bluffs, IA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alkire, Robert W.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>1981ca</td>
<td>Jamaica, IA</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ft Lauderdale, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowers, David E.</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>1977</td>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>750</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brodsky, Sidney D.</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>11/21/65</td>
<td>Ardmore, PA</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown, Joseph R.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>3/31/83</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crume, Lyle L.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>1948ca</td>
<td>Oakalla, TX</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donofrio, Michael</td>
<td>764</td>
<td>1946ca</td>
<td>Bridgeport, PA</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dotson, Thomas B.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>8/19/86</td>
<td>Tiffin, OH</td>
<td>511</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferguson, Robert C.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>10/7/86</td>
<td>Cedar Rapids, IA</td>
<td>757</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fisher, Manly K.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Hamburg, NY</td>
<td>757</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox, John H.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>1966ca</td>
<td>Nashville, TN</td>
<td>826</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genuardi, Jacob J.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Norristown, PA</td>
<td>750</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilbert, Ernest E.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Spokane, WA</td>
<td>747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hendrickson, Robert H.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>1/3/71</td>
<td>Minneapolis, MN</td>
<td>1034</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karalis, Gust A.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Koecherwitz, Irvin R.</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Madison, MN</td>
<td>686</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kowalczyk, Joseph J.</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Chicago, IL</td>
<td>911</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawson, Donald W.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>Worcester, MA</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lott, Leigh M.</td>
<td>461</td>
<td>8/1986</td>
<td>Hackettstown, NJ</td>
<td>9301</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lowen, Russell W.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Scranton, PA</td>
<td>747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lown, Russell W.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
<td>747</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonnell, Charles P.</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>9/8/45</td>
<td>Des Moines, IA</td>
<td>1092</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanders, Kenneth A.</td>
<td>767</td>
<td>1946ca</td>
<td>Dos Palos, CA</td>
<td>612</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEIGH M. LOTT—Group Historian**

Major Leigh M. Lott died in August of 1986 in Hackettstown, NJ. Assigned as the Group Combat Intelligence Officer on 12 August 1943, Maj. Lott remained in this position until his reassignment on 27 April 1945. During this period of time his responsibilities, over and above his assigned duties, included the gathering and editing of the Group History.

Following his service Major Lott went on to become the Superintendent of Schools for New Jersey.