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# 306th Echoes



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## 306th Bombardment Group Association



Jack Ryan speaks for the 306th members during the dedication of the plaque at the Air Force Academy cemetery.

### Nena Leary Gets Action to Repair Smith's Grave

When Nena Leary stopped by Arlington Cemetery to visit the grave of her late father, Joseph Brennan, 423rd, she decided to check the grave of Snuffy Smith, also in Section 66.

There she found the gravestone badly sunken, to the point that the legend could not be read.

She registered a complaint at the cemetery office and was given a form to fill out. When it asked, "relation to deceased," she wrote, "friend." Then she was informed that that was not good enough, and she wrote "Member of the 8th Air Force and 306th Bomb Group Associations."

A few days before she left with her mother, Catherine, for the Colorado Springs reunion she received a phone call from Arlington informing her that Snuffy Smith's gravestone had been redressed.

We all thank you Nena for your perseverance and quick thinking.

Johnny Desmond, who often sang at Thurlough and in Bedford with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, died of cancer in September in Los Angeles.

### 'No Finer Tribute ...'

As president of the 306th Bomb Group Association I welcome all of you to this ceremony. We are here today to immortalize, as best we can, in bronze and in granite, the heroic deeds and devotion to duty demonstrated by a great bomb group in which we had the honor to serve in World War II.

As the Latin inscription on the plaque reminds us in the words of the Roman poet Horace, *It is sweet and fitting to die for one's country*. To our fallen comrades we pay tribute today but in a very humble way. The sacrifice they made in the defense of their country was total, and nothing we say here can add to or detract from it. We may hope, though, that what we are doing here today has their celestial smile of benevolent approval.

But this plaque is dedicated not only to those who gave their life during a bitter thirty-one months of combat but to every man who served in any capacity in the 306th Bomb Group. There were more heroes on the ground at Thurlough than in the air over Europe during those long grueling months. There was no easy job in the Group and no job was without a significant contribution to the whole effort. As in a complicated piece of machinery, each job represented a single cog on a gear and all the gears had to be precision honed and to turn flawlessly for the machine to do the job for which it was designed. Had any cog sheared or failed, the machine would have stopped. The machine that was the 306th Bomb Group never stopped from its activation in March of 1942 until the end of the war in May of 1945. We can all hold our heads high knowing that we were part of such a combat unit.

We like to think of our war as the last conflict in which some slight traces of gallantry and chivalry still survived. By St. Augustine's definition it was a just war which had the full support of all Americans. The heroic deeds of the 306th in helping to gain victory for our country constitute a proud heritage in which we all share. Never forget that when the first American aircraft bombed Germany, it was the 306th Bomb Group

Turn to page 2

### 400 + Enjoy Reunion In Colorado

More than 400 strong they came, many from distant parts of the country to gather this year in Colorado Springs, CO. Against the scenic backdrop of the mountains, the third annual reunion of the 306th Bomb Group was scored a success.

Monty Montoya served as the 1985 reunion chairman and presented an interesting program for those assembled that took people to Pike's Peak, to the Air Force Academy, to the Circle K Ranch, and to myriad visiting groups that ebbed and flowed across the spacious hotel lobby, into dining rooms, and around the town.

When the banners were stowed Sunday morning, and the shuttle buses were filled for trips to the airport, there were many who begrudgingly found their cars, packed their bags and headed homeward or on to vacation places. But many of them were heard to mutter that they didn't really want to leave at that time. Another day or two would have been a welcome situation for many.

For those still working, it was back to work. For the retirees it was either homeward bound or else there was more travel planned into the mountainous regions of Colorado before heading back.

As one watched the TV weather man in the days following, it quickly was evident that the right week had been chosen. It wasn't long before snows hit Denver, and rain came within days after we vacated the Springs.

Montoya reports that there were 442 registrations in all, of which 244 were 306th men. There were 12 cancellations from that list and four no-shows.

On Thursday evening, 350 trekked out to the Flying W Ranch for a barbeque dinner and Western entertainment. On Friday, 398 boarded the buses for the Air Force Academy, the plaque dedica-

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**Come to Dayton, OH Sept. 11-13, 1986**

# Reunion

From page 1

tion and luncheon at the Officers' Club. Saturday morning the buses left the Clarion Hotel with 260 passengers for the cog railway road to Pike's Peak. And the Saturday night finale, the annual banquet, was attended by 404 persons.

Lt. Gen. A. P. Clark, former superintendent of the Air Force Academy and still a young looking, redheaded dynamo, was the speaker for the evening banquet. A longtime occupant of Stalag Luft III, from July 1942 to the end of the war, Clark was warmly greeted by those 306th men who had been his compatriots at Sagan, and the stories grew abundantly concerning those days.

He was introduced by Al LaChasse, the self-styled "First Pigeon" and the 306th man who spent the longest time himself in Stalag III. Al revealed that the then Lt. Col. Clark was actually "Big X," the top American in planning escapes from prison camp.

"Reunions are good things," Clark told his attentive audience. "It gives us a chance to tell those wild stories again, and to take pride in service and the nation."

However, he recalled that in order for anyone entering Stalag III to attract any attention with "his" story of harrowing experiences, he had to have bailed out without a parachute and survived. Otherwise, the audience had heard it all.

Gen. Clark recounted the story of General Vanaman's appearance at the prison camp, and how Clark was positive that Vanaman had not arrived by sheerest accident but had indeed been sent by the War Department intentionally. (Prior to World War II Vanaman had been the American air attache in Berlin, possessed of acquaintanceship with many Germans in high places and spoke fluent German.) But, alas, Clark had to pay off a bet once the war was over and he found there was no American plan to inject Vanaman into the action.

In referring to Korea and Vietnam, which he termed "messy,"

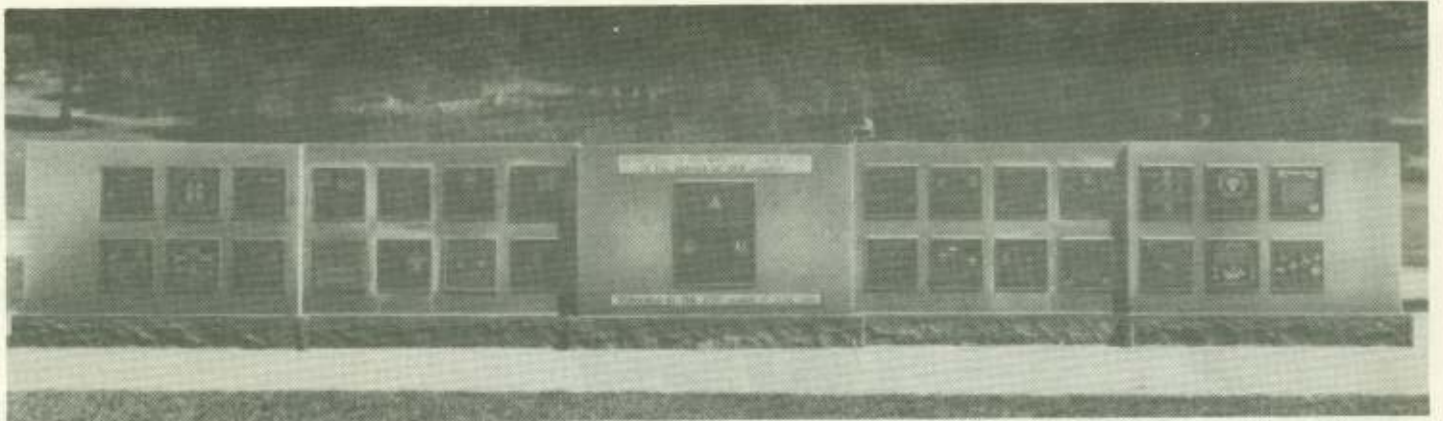


The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association: John Ryan, president; Robert Starzynski, Vice President; Russell A. Strong, secretary; and William M. Collins, Jr., treasurer. Directors: Robert Crane, William Houlihan and Gerald Rotter.

306th ECHOES is published four times annually: January, April, July and October, and is mailed free of charge to all known addresses of 306th personnel, 1942-45. Contributions in support of this effort may be remitted to the treasurer.

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Twenty-nine World War II units are memorialized on this wall at one end of the USAF Academy cemetery. The 306th plaque can be seen at the upper left corner, dedicated in ceremonies 6 September 1985, "to be remembered with pride by a generation as yet unborn."



Monty Montoya, 1985 reunion chairman.

General Clark warned that we must never get into a war which the country won't support.

Looking on down the road ahead, Clark said that our prospect in the future is for a series of dirty little wars "that will nibble us to death."

As General Clark had spent much of his career in "little" airplanes, at the conclusion of his remarks he was given a crystal replica of a B-17 in a presentation by Chairman Montoya.

Among special persons cited at the banquet were those wives who had first "met" the 306th in the training days at Wendover, Utah, with five in attendance, and the widows of 306th men who continue to attend and enjoy reunions: Mrs. Elbert Odle, Mrs. Maynard Dix, Mrs. Guillermo Perez, Mrs. Joseph Brennan and her daughter, Nena Leary, both of whom regularly attend 306th reunions wherever they may be.

## 'No Finer Tribute'

From page 1

which led the attack followed in trail by the rest of the Eighth Air Force. We were first then; we have always been first.

Today the multitude of grey heads which I observe before me reminds me that we are no longer the young stalwarts of the early forties out to do battle with the Luftwaffe. Those far-off days are now a cherished memory rekindled as we come together annually by the lasting bonds of friendship which they have produced. This bronze plaque on its granite base will outlast us all. It will stand here to remind future generations that there was once in World War II a 306th Bomb Group which first carried the attack to the enemy's heartland and continued to press the enemy until total victory had been achieved.

It is pleasant to imagine that at some day in the far distant future a group of young Boy Scouts on a tour of this Academy might pass by the hallowed spot and one youngster might point to our plaque and say to his fellow Scouts, "My great-grandfather was in this bomb group." I can think of no finer tribute from posterity than to be remembered with pride by a generation as yet unborn.

## Thanks from the Springs

From the 1985 Reunion Chairman:

The appreciative comments, letters and phone calls from participants in the 1985 reunion here in Colorado Springs have been most gratifying. For the committee members and myself it was a labor of love, and we wish to express our appreciation to all who participated in the event.

Special kudos are due to Jack Ryan, Walt Coons, Howard Sharkey, Joe Gabrish, George Arnold, Robert Proctor and Mrs. Joe Marciano for the work that they did in making the entire reunion a pleasurable event.

Chairing the committee for such a wonderful group, the members of the 306th Bomb Group, was a genuine privilege.

Monty Montoya

## Don't Wait Too Long!

A reunion of the 306th Bomb Group is a singular event, one in which every onetime inhabitant of Thurleigh between 1942 and 1945, ought to take part.

Excuses for not attending are legion, and most of them are quickly destroyed in the minds of those who do attend for the very first time.

Principally, it is fun; it is an opportunity to relive a bit of those days of our youth when so many gave so much. Those who gave their lives cannot be with us, but the reunion offers a time to remember them. Those who served and came home will find a reunion an excellent time to refresh fading memories, to relive the good parts of our time in England.

Increasingly, wives have become an important part of the reunion, and most of them go away exhilarated, having made new friends, having met those men their husbands have talked about, feeling a bit closer in spirit to those days which were so much a part of our total lives.

The events of the 306th Bomb Group are never to be forgotten, but are to be remembered in positive ways. There is a spirit that abounds in the reunion that in itself was a part of the success that the 306th enjoyed in its combat days.

Those who attend and enjoy return again, and many would agree with this writer that the only valid reasons for not attending are ill health or an economic status that will not permit such an expenditure of funds.

For all of the rest of you, we urge you to consider coming to Dayton in 1986, or planning along for a future reunion that may be closer to your home, and thus more easily attended. Just don't wait too long to enjoy one of the happiest events of your life.

One man attending the Colorado Springs reunion, his first, remarked that he attended a lot of meetings of professional and social organizations, but none of them had ever afforded him the enjoyment and the exhilaration he had received from meeting once again with old friends of the 306th.

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# Stalag III 'Lives' Again in Consolmagno Play for Kriegies

by Joe Consolmagno

Tunnel Harry, the "Great Escape" tunnel celebrated in history, book, and film, may be the most famous of the tunnels attempted from Stalag Luft III, but **Tunnel Bierstein** was the one dearest to my heart.

(For those of you who haven't been paying attention, Stalag Luft III was a Luftwaffe-run prisoner of war camp for Allied officer airmen. It was located at Sagan, Lower Silesia, about 90 miles southeast of Berlin in what is now Poland. I think I can safely say that at any time shortly before my arrival there in April, 1943, there were more flying officers from the 306th at Sagan than there were at Thurleigh.)

Alas, my part in the Bierstein caper will never go into my military record. It came forty years too late. Besides, like so many wartime deeds of derring-do forty years later, **Tunnel Bierstein** was purely fictional. It was created as the central motif of a one-act comedy for presentation at the 40th anniversary reunion of the ex-prisoners of Stalag Luft III in Denver in May, 1985.

The play was enacted by students of the University of Denver and directed by the head of the University's drama department. Because our improvised theater at the Marriott South had limited seating capacity, the players had to put on two performances to accommodate our audience, which totaled more than 1,000 ex-kriegies, wives, and friends. The second performance simplified live video taping of the play for inclusion in an overall tape of the event subsequently made available for purchase.

The single stage set, a reasonable facsimile of an actual room at Stalag Luft III, was built by

ex-POW's of the Denver area. These stalwarts also provided costumes for the production, the rag-tag remnants of kriegie clothes and GI issue, preserved from moths for four decades as sentimental memorabilia.

One of the set builders was retired Lieutenant General A.P. Clark, whose last active duty assignment was as superintendent of the Air Force Academy. As a shot-down fighter pilot during WW II, Clark was the anonymous "Big X" who directed all escape activities at the first all-American compound at Stalag Luft III. Old kriegie intimates today familiarly address the General by a lifelong nickname, but I am still too acutely conscious of the time when I knew only that his middle name was "Colonel" and his first name was "Yessir."

To the many of the Bierstein audience who thought they recognized the character, "The Colonel," on stage, I called attention to the disclaimer printed in our theater program: "Some of the characters, dialogue, and events represented in this play were real. Some were not."

Now safely out of the line of fire, I can boldly assert: all of the characters were real, though somewhat composite for transfer to the stage; all of the dialogue was true, though somewhat laundered for a civilized audience; all of the events happened—or nearly did—though somewhat spiced for comic-dramatic effect.

The Bierstein story line: a group of American prisoners makes a deal with two German ferrets to dig a tunnel for the Germans to "find." For their efforts the kriegies are to get a keg of beer from the ferrets. In return, the Germans hope to win a leave of absence from their superiors for their discovery. Com-



Denver University cast of "Tunnel Bierstein," with the play's author, Joe Consolmagno, former 367th navigator. A farce about Stalag Luft III, the comedy was presented at the 40th anniversary reunion of ex-POW's from Luft III.

plications ensue because this kind of individual enterprise is frowned upon by the seniors on both sides.

**Tunnel Bierstein** was a sequel to an earlier farce, **Strictly From Hunger**, presented at the 1980 reunion of the Stalag Luft III Ex-POW's at the old Bismark Theater in Chicago. It featured the same characters and the same setting. But in Chicago the play was acted by a group we called the Company of Old Farceurs, men who had put on plays together back in Stalag Luft III. Casting the Farceurs was made easy by the fact that many of them were the prototypes of the characters they were playing. However, now that the parts have been interpreted by young men of another generation, the characters have taken on the lives and identities of their own.

When **Tunnel Bierstein** finally reached the boards, I missed one little shard of one scene. In it a parched kriegie is taking his first sip of beer in two years, and he sighs ecstatically, "I've died and they've buried me under the Anheuser Busch!"

The pun never made it to the actual performance. It was deleted at the last minute, out of deference to our dinner speaker that night, a wheel in the Coors Brewing Company. As it turned out, I think it was a lousy trade-off. But then, I wrote the gag. Someone else wrote the dinner speech.

## 306th A Part Of Ceremonies

Memorial Day services were conducted 2 June at Madingley cemetery, Cambridge, honoring the dead of more than 25 American units and a number of other organizations.

Col. Lynn T. Beringer, commander of the 306th Strategic Wing at RAF Mildenhall, participated in the wreath laying ceremony for the 306th Bomb Group.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Paul took part, representing the Friends of the 8th Association.

Sir Peter Proby, the lord lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, was the speaker for the late afternoon event.

## 306th Plaque Added to Wall At Academy

The 306th Bomb Group has now formally added its exploits to the memorial wall at the U.S. Air Force Academy cemetery, a tradition begun several years ago by the 379th Bomb Group. There are presently 37 plaques emblazoned on the long, low granite monument.

The unveiling of the plaque came in ceremonies Friday, September 5, during the reunion of 306th members in Colorado Springs.

Buses took former fliers, ground personnel, and their wives and friends, to the Academy grounds, and the first stop was at the small cemetery there. The group gathered in front of the monument for a prayer by an Academy chaplain, followed by a welcome from Col. Robert Forrester, chief of staff.

The two highlights of this event were the remarks by Col. John L. Ryan, president of the 306th Association, which are to be found elsewhere in toto in this issue of **Echoes**, and the actual unveiling of the plaque.

It was also a social time of some import, because it was the first occasion during which at Colorado Springs all the reunion participants gathered together at one place. After the formal ceremonies were concluded, men and wives inspected the plaque more closely, many of them posing for pictures alongside it. And a constant shifting of alignments of people enabled the later arrivals to greet old friends.

Finally the entourage repaired to the waiting buses which took them to the officers' club for lunch. Afterwards we toured the Academy grounds with especial attention to the magnificent Chapel which dominates the landscape, the large fieldhouse which houses intramural and intercollegiate athletic programs, and the B-52 which has more recently become a part of the landscape.

In late afternoon the visitors returned to the Clarion Hotel where dinner arrangements were again informal to maximize opportunities for every one to visit with old friends.



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# PRISON CAMP SCHOOL

Irving Mills came to the 306th on 14 September 1943 as a tail gunner on Daniel Carey's 423rd crew. A month later he was one of the 100 306th men lost on Black Thursday at second Schweinfurt. On that mission he was with Lt. Vernon K. Cole's crew. He wrote the following piece in 1946-47 while a student at American University, Washington, D.C. Mills is now retired and living in Sonoma, CA, where he is studying and tasting a local product—wine! The first installment of this piece appeared in the July 1985 issue of Echoes.

By Irving Mills

Another continual cause for concern was the lack of notebooks, paper, textbooks, pencils, blackboards, and chalk; and the success of the school was due in no little part to the following relief agencies:

- War Prisoners Aid of the YM-CA
- European Society for Student Relief
- International Bureau of Education
- International Red Cross
- Ecumenical Commission of the Chaplaincy Service.

These agencies did all that was humanly possible to get us the requested material, although there were times when these were very long in coming. During the early days of the school and later on when communication was interrupted between Switzerland and Germany, we relied on the German canteen, which unfortunately had very little to supply at a very high cost.

For all practical purposes American initiative and inventiveness more often came to our rescue than did the German canteen, the students making their own notebooks from paper bags, tin can labels, and even from cigarette and soap wrappers. These latter were in loose-leaf style with metal binders, the binders being made with tin cans. Others merely carried a piece of cardboard which they used in the style of the ancient slate. Textbooks were always our biggest source of anxiety and they were never in sufficient quantity.

The last problem I will mention is one that actually should be a separate study in itself, namely that of the irresponsibility of the prisoners. Up until the day these men had been shot down, they had been subject to strict military discipline and after being shot down, the majority followed the orders that had been issued them: "Take orders from no one and do everything possible to obstruct the enemy without hurting yourself."

Many times during my internment I wished that we were under military discipline in order to accomplish something for ourselves and also in

order to work collectively. It was natural that after the military discipline the men had been under, a reaction should take place. We suffered greatly from that reaction in many respects. Many men were opposed to the school because they claimed that we had to grant concessions to the Germans for the privilege of having a school.

I, myself, feel that this was true but I also know that the few concessions we had to grant were repaid tenfold by the gains derived through the school. Many of the men felt no group responsibility whatsoever in the handling of books, paper, pencils, and the other supplies. Many of the men found nothing interesting in prison life and developed a hopeless philosophy of life which manifested itself in many ways. In my own personal experience, I have found that the length of time spent in prison had no relation to a man's degree of irresponsibility. It was of deep concern to the educational director to try to revive an interest in life. Many of the classes had to be sold to the men and in most cases once the stimulus was provided, he quickly snapped out of his irresponsibility.

#### USAFI

The part played by the United States Armed Forces Institute in our school was very small. We did not learn until late 1944 that a war prisoners branch of USAFI had been set up. We sent for particulars of the courses but very little was received. However, they did contribute one very important phase to our school and that was their evaluation and accreditation plan whereby men taking courses in prison could get credit toward a high school diploma or work towards college degrees. As soon as this news spread through camp, a new interest was aroused in the school and registration took a sudden upward swing. There were some correspondence courses sent into camp but this actually amounted to very little.

#### Extra-Curricular Activities

Besides the formal courses that I have already mentioned, there were many extra-curricular courses that met for discussion once or twice a week. They included the following:

- Aero Club
- Bible Study
- Boat Building and Sailing
- Business Men's Club
- Farm Planning and Management
- Game, Fish and Forestry
- Home Planning and Building
- Interned Airmen's Art Group
- Journalism
- Motorcycle Club
- Photo Forum
- Post-War Discussion Group

## BLUE MONDAY

*Our laundry chores made easy with this machine—It's made of a bucket, a Klim can and some wood.*



#### Information Program

As the war neared its climax, many men became interested in the problem of what to do once the war was over. I might mention in passing, that to us "once the war was over" meant the end of hostilities in the European Theater, as we felt that we would be immediately discharged. In fact, most men thought of themselves from the day they were shot down more as civilians than as soldiers.

The educational office tried to do as much as possible in consulting and guidance work and giving information as to what men could do once they were back in civilian life. The word was passed around camp that the educational director would try to help men with their problems. Unfortunately, he was the only man who was qualified in guidance work and therefore was greatly overworked. However, he did help a great many men in deciding what to do. Naturally, when we learned of the G.I. Bill of Rights, many of the men thought of returning to college. With this in mind, a survey of the camp was taken and every man who had graduated or attended a college was interviewed and the following information recorded:

- Name and barracks number of college man.
- Name and location of college attended.
- Major and minor field of study.
- Number of years spent at college.
- Date of graduation.
- Degrees held.

When this was completed, the educational director had a file and could refer a man interested in a particular school to one of the col-

lege men in camp who had attended that school. This was also done in connection with different vocations. Both plans were very successful. Many of the regularly scheduled classes also included at least one lecture on the possibility of entering into that field as a life time work. In classes such as Auto Mechanics, Photography, Salesmanship, etc., these were very successful.

As part of the educational activities of our camp I must also mention the library. By its very nature, the library naturally influenced and helped more men to pass their time profitably than did the school. In January 1945 we had over 2,000 volumes, ranging from paper-bound novels to weighty books on Constitutional Law. The library worked with a staff of six men plus a library representative in each of the barracks. The problems of the library were very similar to those of the school, the biggest being to get the books back within the seven-day period that was allowed.

During the winter months, the library staff went into the barracks and collected the books from the men and also would take any orders for books that the men desired so as to make it easier for the men to read. The library was run by a chief librarian who had been employed in this position in civilian life and his procedure was much like that of any library. We were also fortunate in having attached to the library a man who had been a bookbinder in civilian life. This helped no end in preserving the greatly overworked volumes.

## More Issues of 'Echoes'

Here's my help for future issues of Echoes!

I enclose \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support the production and mailing of the 306th Echoes. I also want to support continuing reunion activities for those who once served.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

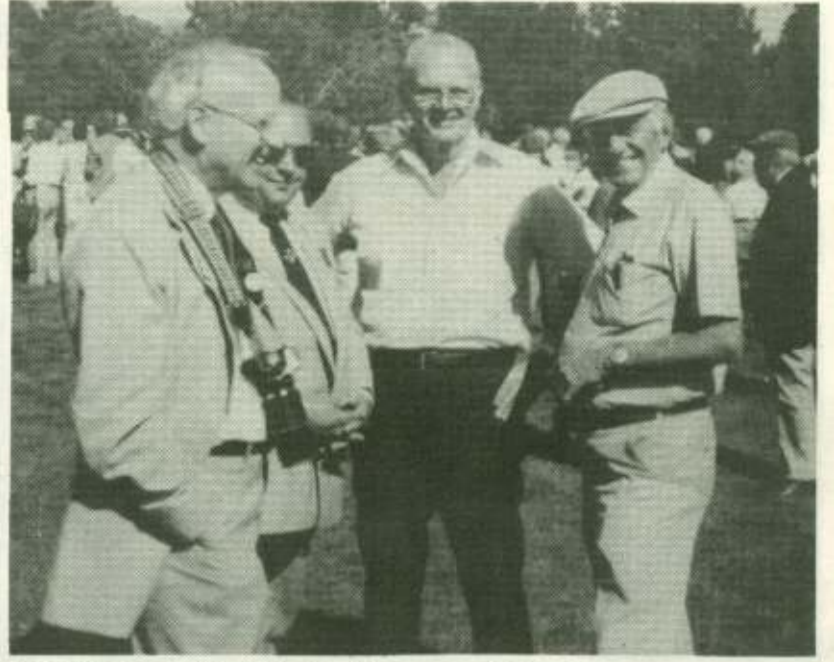
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Mail to: Wm. M. Collins, Jr.  
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Poland, OH 44514

# At the USAF Academy



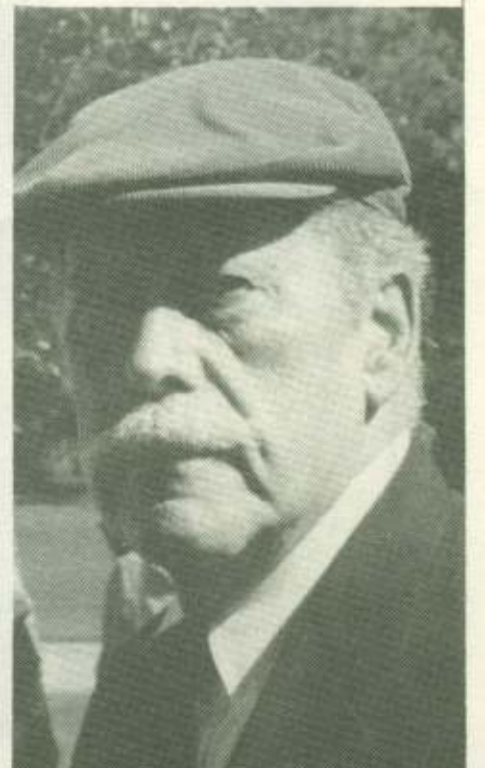
The angles of the Cadet Chapel at the Air Force Academy were the focus of many pictures.



Russell Strong, Gordon Richard, Ed Hennessy and Henry Terry.



They didn't look like this after a long night on the line repairing the planes for another raid in the morning.



Lionel Drew.



Telling the reunion story photographically has been the work of Bob Starzynski, Bill Houder, Ron Roczny and Russ Strong. We hope that you find it enjoyable, though incomplete in its coverage.

## ELSEWHERE at the REUNION



Graford Jennings and Ted Boswell.



Russell Strong, Dr. and Mrs. Thurman Shuller, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Bordner.



Medics of 1942 pose for the camera.



While the 367th was having its picture taken, the throng waited to step before the camera.

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Darwin and Erwin Wissenback, whose exploits figure in the early history of the 306th.



Pete Pappas, Harold Lightbown and Jack Schmidt.



Frank Potter and Jim Venabie.



Chatting while waiting for their turn with the camera are: left to right, B/Gen. William S. Rader, Reginald Robinson and Col. John L. Lambert.



A Chicago contingent: Ed Roncey, Robert C. Williams, Bob Starzynski and Jerry Kostal.



Bill Flanagan seldom misses a reunion. His wife is at the left.



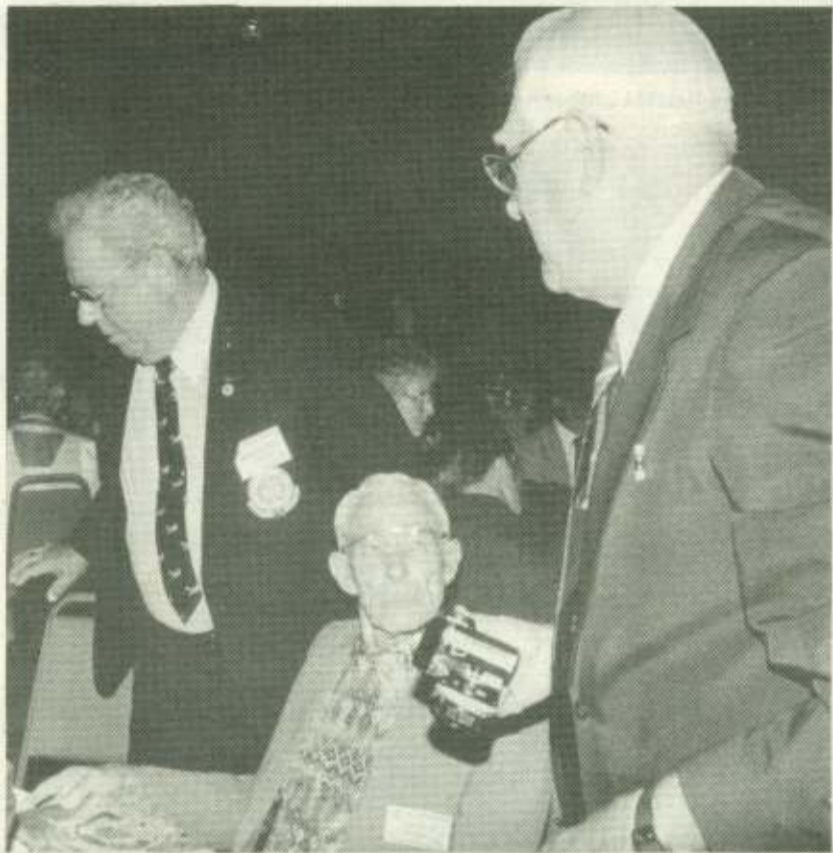
Nena Leary and Catherine Brennan, daughter and mother, who never miss a reunion.



L/Gen. A. P. Clark, Col. Jack Ryan and Joe Consolmagno, as the guest speaker emerged from his vehicle in front of the Clarion Hotel.



Mr. and Mrs. Clay Wilson, Gerald Kruse (Kruzynski) and Patrick Walsh.



Bob Seelos, Frank Yaussi and Casey Jones.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Starzynski and Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stellish.



Mr. and Mrs. Trygve Olsen and Col. and Mrs. C. Dale Briscoe.



Shel Biegel with Dr. and Mrs. Dennis Sharkey.



Bob Crane, unknown, Orville Karstedt and Eddie Perin.



B/Gen. William Rader, Mrs. Rader and M/Gen. James S. Cheney.





John McKee and Bob Hermann.



Betty and Bob Williams.

## Newly-Found

Andrews, Martin, 2 Gramerly Pl., Huntington, NY 11743 423.  
 Atherton, Roy, 114 5th St., Walnut, IL 61376 423.  
 Brandstrom, Roy, P.O. Box 115, Stanwood, WA 98292 423.  
 Bratrud, Edgar L., 3839 Pacific #204, Forest Grove, OR 97116 367.  
 Brennan, Gerard F., 21 Blanchard Rd., S. Weymouth, MA 02190 368.  
 Brown, B. Max, 565 Duchess Dr., Marietta, GA 30066 369.  
 Buchanan, Bennet F., 10880 Flaxton St., Culver City, CA 90230 423.  
 Burns, Stanley D., 2658 American River Dr., Sacramento, CA 95825 367.  
 Clocksin, Duane, 716 N. Border, Bogalusa, LA 70427 368.  
 Conroy, Anthony J., 10133 SW 61st Ave., Portland, OR 97219 368.  
 Consoulis, Peter, 251 Howe Ave., Passaic, NJ 07055 369.  
 Conyers, Ivan, 211 Fuller, Wenatchee, WA 98801 367.  
 Davis, Rolly A., 49 Woodbine Rd., Havertown, PA 19083 369.  
 Davis, Sidney, 5401 Zelzah, Unit 109, Encino, CA 91316 367.  
 Dorin, Robert, 251 SW 132nd Way H-217, Pembroke Pines, FL 33027 368.  
 Drenner, Raeburn, 3216 Medicine Man Way, Las Vegas, NV 89019 423.  
 Glass, William E., 10624 Johnson Rd., Bloomington, MN 55437 423.  
 Grimes, Thomas C., 677 Shadowlake Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360 368.  
 Gurr, Woodrow C., 614 Bullion Rd., Elko, NV 89801 368.  
 Hedberg, John K., 4970 Lowell Blvd., Denver, CO 80221 423.  
 Hitchcock, Charles F., 23825 15th SW #105, Bothell, WA 98021 369.  
 Husby, Irvin V., 23135 75th St. Pl. West, Edmonds, WA 98020 368.  
 Johansen, Alfred P., 18 Hunter Ln, Doylestown, PA 18901 369.  
 Jones, David E., 19160 Doewood Dr., Monument, CO 80132 423.  
 Jordan, Charles G., P.O. Box 280, Penryn, CA 95663 368.  
 Kaye, Herman H., 1905 Carla Ridge, Beverly Hills, CA 90210 423.  
 Kennedy, Werner H., 73 Sunrise Blvd. W, Mogadore, OH 44260 367.  
 Lewis, LTC George L., 3756 Princeton Way, Medford, OR 97504 367.  
 Libby, Orville E., 4389 Gretchen Pl., Lake Worth, FL 33463 369.  
 Mills, Elmer W., 4 Orchard Rd., Mahopac, NY 10541 369.  
 Moore, James R., 9343 Clearhurst, Dallas, TX 75238 369.  
 Morrison, Carl A., 1405 Shorebrook Dr. SW, Seattle, WA 98166 369.  
 Nabors, Owen K., 16113 NE 99th St., Remond, WA 98052 367.  
 Nasby, Oliver J., Rt. 3, Box 118, Liberty, IL 72347 423.  
 Nelson, Robert F., Box 74, Port Orford, OR 97465 368.  
 Nye, David E., Jr., 8910 107th St. SW, Tacoma, WA 98498 367.  
 Outcalt, Norman E., 6720 E. Culver, Scottsdale, AZ 85257 423.  
 Pedersen, Joseph W., 1103 SW Miller St., Portland, OR 97202 367.  
 Plumbtree, Lester L., 805 Irving St., Fullerton, NE 68638 369.  
 Puckett, Fred A., 515 Highland Dr. #133, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 368.  
 Rahn, Marshall J., P.O. Box 4582, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33338 367.  
 Romano, Lawrence, 100 Sterling Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704 527.  
 Ryan, James R., 1445 S. Sierra, Wichita, KS 67209 369.  
 Saunders, Earl R., 13452 Gable Hill Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375 369.  
 Shepard, Frederic K., 4325 S. Stone, Spokane, WA 99203 367.  
 Sherman, Fred P., Rt. 1, Box 107, Fayetteville, AR 72701 369.  
 Smith, Clyde, 417 Charing Cross Rd., Taylors, SC 29687 369.  
 Smith, Paul W., N 5918 Greenwood Blvd., Seattle, WA 98133 368.  
 Sorenson, Al, 5236 S. 212th, Kent, WA 98031 368.  
 Taylor, John, 114 Eastover Rd., Troy, NY 12182 423.  
 Tieck, Fred, 3611 1st NE, Auburn, WA 98002 423.  
 Tucker, Melvin T., 2715 Tamaia Terr., Quincy, IL 62301 369.  
 Williams, Charlie E., Rt. 6, 910 Pine Cove Ln., Jacksonville, TX 75766 368.  
 Wills, Henry L., Box 1866, Twin Falls, ID 83303 423.  
 Wright, John A., 718 Tousseau Dr., Fullerton, CA 92631 369.



Gen. Clark with his crystal B-17, and Monty Montoya.



Co-chairmen for the 1986 reunion at Dayton, OH, are Demetrius Chakiris, left, and Jack Grimm.

## Harris Story Told Well in New Book

Bomber Harris, *The Story of Sir Arthur Harris*, by Dudley Saward. Garden City, NY, Doubleday, 1985. 347 pp.

Dudley Saward leaves you no question about his unabashed hero worship of Bomber Harris! And second in his book is the Royal Air Force of 1939-45.

Saward saw Harris extensively before WWII, and during the war was the RAF Bomber Command radar officer, another vantage point from which to view the indomitable Harris.

There is no doubt that Harris stood large in the WWII air war picture. He dominated RAF Bomber Command as its leader, as its protector, and as one of the few who had carefully thought through what it was he wanted to do. From his early flying days every task was his training ground for future command, and when his nation summoned him to direct Bomber Command he was ready philosophically and psychologically.

He never lost sight of the enemy, never softened in his disdain for Hitler, and continued to send his bombers after the total German war machine to the very end. Unlike Churchill, and a horde of postwar apologists, Harris maintained his composure and his direction.

It was under the tutelage of Harris that Ira Eaker formed and rethought his own bombardment philosophy. Upon Eaker's arrival at 8th Bomber Command headquarters, he was invited to be the house guest of the Arthur Harris family, and it was in this setting that Harris imparted his own well thought out ideas concerning carrying the war to the enemy through air power.

In 1964, General Eisenhower wrote Harris on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of D-Day: "To you, one of my close associates in Overlord, I am impelled to send, once more, a special word of thanks. Your professional skill and selfless dedication to the cause which we all served will be noted by the histories of those dramatic months, but no historian could possibly be aware of the depth of

## 1986 Event Will Honor Ground Crews

Special honorees at the 1986 reunion of the 306th Bomb Group will be members of the ground crews, who were vital to keeping the planes in the air, says Jack Grimm, co-chairman of the event.

The reunion is planned for 11-14 September in Dayton, OH, and will be headquartered at Holiday Inn Dayton South, along I-75.

Reservation forms will appear in the January, April and July, 1986, issues of *Echoes*.

Among the highlights will be the dedication of a plaque and tree at the USAF Museum on the Friday schedule.

my obligation to you."

If there is a flaw in Saward's kind words, the question does rise as to the figures given for Bomber Command planes over the target on many raids. Others in writing of this period are not so sure that the RAF put all of those planes into the actual target area, and studies of at least certain major raids seem to seriously challenge such claims as Saward puts forth.

## Group

James S. Cheney  
Walter H. Coons and Beth  
William S. Rader and Stephanie  
Thurman Shuller and Joan  
Henry W. Terry  
Robert C. Williams and Betty

4th Station Complement  
William R. Carlile  
Carl Crozier and Jackie  
Earl Goodwin

449th SubDepot  
Manuel Garza

Ordnance  
Michael Stepenaskie

## Those Who Attended:

### 367th

Nelson Ake and Kathryn  
Clements Amundsen and Ginny  
Frank Ballish  
Joseph Broussard and Ada  
Winston Burroughs and Rose  
Bill Colvin and Arlyne  
Joe Consolmagno and Pat  
Walter Coons and Beth  
Arthur Crapsey and Jean  
Charles Crunican and Ann  
Ed Duran and Margaret  
William R. Edwards  
Larry Emeigh and Beatrice  
William Feeser and Polly  
William Futchik  
Clay Ganes and Thelma  
John Grimm and Ruth  
Walter Guy and Eileen  
Robert Hermann and Janice  
William Houlihan and Ruth; Cindy  
Morry Hursthouse and Elsa  
Ralph Irvine and Katherine  
Norman Johnson and Lorraine  
Owen Johnson and Jean  
John Kalb and Clem  
Jerome Kostal and Lillian  
Albert LaChasse  
C. Gus Lamb and Helen  
James Lenaghan and Mary Edna; Marty  
Don MacDonald and June  
Arthur Mack and Tess  
Chester Markiewicz and Cathie  
Talmage McDonough and Yvonne  
John McKee  
Herbert McVicar and Faye  
Norman Morrow and Alta  
William Mutz and Tina  
Richard O'Hara and "T"  
Hugh Phelean  
William S. Rader and Stephanie  
Fred J. Rector  
H. V. Roeder and Ernestine  
Edward Ronczy and Jo  
John Ryan and Janice  
Jack Schmidt and Gail  
Johnny Schupp and Mary  
Donald Sheridan and Faye  
Robert Schultz  
Robert Slavage  
P. D. Small and Virginia  
Bartlett Smith and Donna  
William S. Smith and Betty  
Myron Sorden and Kay  
Robert Starzynski and Louise  
Russell Strong and June  
Paul Tardiff and Eileen  
Henry W. Terry  
Leslie Turner and Muriel  
Adolph Visconti and Freida  
John Walkenhorst and Renee  
Richard Wallace and Marjorie  
Patrick Walsh  
Robert C. Williams and Betty  
Darwin A. Wissenback  
Erwin D. Wissenback

### 368th

Marshall Baker and Muriel  
Ralph Borner and Nell  
Wallace Boring and Betty  
Ted Biswell and Gloria  
William Brelin and Dot  
Elwood Brotzman and Mabel  
James Burgess  
William Cavaness and Dorothy  
M. E. Christianson and Em  
Ray Coleman and Marilyn  
Delmar Corderman and Peg  
Leland Deck and Elaine  
George DeVack and Lillian  
Robert Dodge and Hilda  
Joe Gabrish  
Leo Gallegos and Betty; Mike  
Al Greaves and Esther  
W. Clive Gurr and Mary  
Burton Gustafson  
Joe Hardesty and Vicki  
Joe Hoffman and Charlene  
Charles Holt and Virginia  
Russell Houghton  
T. Bane Husband and Betty  
H. Grafrod Jennings and Margaret  
Gus Krajcik and Dot  
Walter Latscha and Jayne  
W. Curtis Melton and Marcia  
James Milner  
Eduardo Montoya and Klara  
Irving Norton  
Robert Proctor and Barbara  
William S. Rader and Stephanie  
John Reynolds and Jane  
Reginald Robinson and Verna  
J. Louis Rodriguez and Rita; Mike  
Donald Ross and Janice  
Raymond Roy and Lil  
Jack Samway and Marie  
Robert Seelos and Mary  
John Smith and Joan  
Wayne Stellish and Ann  
Andy Vangalis and Helen  
Billy Wagoner and Jean

### 369th

Rex Barber and Delsa  
Sheldon Beigel and Gloria  
C. Dale Briscoe and Beti  
William Casey  
William Colantoni and Marie  
Calven Conrey and Tommy  
L. Brooks Cook and Evelyn  
Horace Corigliano and Ronnie  
Robert Crane  
Louis Damaso and Betty  
Everett Daniel and Martha  
Sid Davis and Joy  
James Edeler and Verna  
Wilson Elliott and Libia  
William Ferguson and Catherine  
William Flanagan and \_\_\_\_\_  
James Furay and Lucy  
Forest Goodwill and Hazel  
Richard Hankey  
Terry Harkins  
Arthur Harnois and Marge  
Harold Hartung and Frances; Susie  
Edward Hennessy  
John Hickey and Bett  
William Hogan and Elayne  
Irvin Husby  
Casey Jones and Luise  
Orville Karstaedt  
John Krische  
Jack Lewis and Mary  
Harold Lightbown and Arlene  
Rogers Littlejohn  
Edward Maliszewski  
James Moore  
Paul Morgan  
Ed Murphy and Gay  
Alfred Norman and Jeanette  
Trygve Olsen and Jenny  
Peter Pappas and Harriet  
Eddie Perin  
Malcolm Phillips and Vera  
Frank Potter and Terry  
Robert Riordan and Miriam  
Victor Rose  
Gerald Rotter and Lois  
Anthony Santoro and Margaret  
Earl Saunders and Jean  
Dennis Sharkey and Mary Rose  
Howard Sharkey and Dee  
Fred Sherman and Jo  
Edgar Smith and Irene  
Henry W. Terry  
John Thorn  
Harold Thornam and Jeanette  
Roy Trask and Dannie  
Alfred Villagran and Catherine  
James Wirth and Margaret  
Robert Wood and Carol  
Jack Wood and Patricia  
Ray Yerak and Reggie

### 423rd

Jack Amrey and Marie  
Harold Brown and Helen  
Guy Burnett and Norrine  
Don Casey and Martha  
Demetrius Chakiris and Stella  
James S. Cheney  
Mel Clark and Helen  
Freel Colvard  
Henry Cordery  
Harry Doles and Betty  
Raeburn Drenner  
Lionel Drew and Julie  
Milton Edwards and Betty  
Charles Fatica  
John Ferrari  
Leon Goetz and Jean  
William Guilfoyle and Mabel  
Joseph Hathaway and Pat  
Elmer Heap and Flossie  
Ken Herbster and Vivian  
Richard Hill  
Howard Hutchinson and Elaine  
George Johnson and Ruth  
David Jones  
H. Rex Jones and Doris  
Roy Kelley and Dorothy  
Gerald Kruse (Kruszynski)  
John Lambert and Fran  
Phillip Lanyon and Robbie  
Jacob Leroy and Bernice  
Jack Murphy  
A. J. Nahabedian  
Richard O'Hara and "T"  
Norman Outcalt and Elizabeth  
William Perry and Dottie  
Daryl Phillips and Helen  
Matthew Radnofsky  
Charles Randall and G. L.  
Paul Reieux and Aileen  
Arthur Resser and Evie  
Fred Riggle and Gary  
Jerrold Sanders and Bobbie  
Frederick Schaak and Berta  
Charles Schroeder and Georgia  
Frank Serafin and Florence  
Earl Shapland and Harriett  
J. P. Shutz  
Forrest Stewart and Ann  
Robert C. Thomas and Imogene  
Leo VanDeurzen and Florence  
James Venable and \_\_\_\_\_  
Eugene Walters and Toni  
Robert C. Williams and Betty  
Claiborne Wilson and Rachel  
Frank Yaussi  
Oliver Young and Helen  
Purvis Youree and Juanita

## 306th Bomb Group Reunion Colorado Springs, Colorado 9-7-85



### 'Why Men Love War'

If you've ever wondered about the philosophical bases for some of your own reactions to World War II and your participation in combat, you may want to read "Why Men Love War" by William Broyles, Jr., and appearing in the November 1984 issue of *Esquire* magazine,

"... war is the only utopia most

of us ever have," writes Broyles, who was the founding editor of *Texas Monthly* magazine, but has forsaken the editing business to become a full-time writer.

Broyles' own combat experience came as a lieutenant in Vietnam, so he writes out of this context, but there is a universality in his

work which transcends all centuries, and probably applies to all men who have faced the enemy in armed conflict.

He also observes, "The better the war story, the less it is likely to be true," which certainly gives WWII veterans pause for thought when one considers today our

ages and our proclivity for recounting events.

Perhaps one of his more thoughtful observations is: "Everyday life obscures the link between love and death, sex and destruction, beauty and horror, War obscures nothing."

**Fourth 306th Reunion:  
Dayton, OH: Sept. 11-13, 1986**



At the Flying W ranch for a Western cookout.



At the meeting of the executive committee: Reginald Robinson, Russell Strong, Jack Ryan, Robert Williams, Bob Starzynski and Gordon Richards.

**When you move,  
change your 306th address**