

2041 Hillsdale
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

October 1986
Vol. 11, No. 4

*Jack Ryan Memorial Address
at A.F. Museum*

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306th Bombardment Group Association

New LeMay Biography Praised in 306th Review

By M/Gen Delmar E. Wilson
Deputy CO, 306th Bomb Group, Apr 42-Jan 43

There are few military leaders whose careers are so important, so varied and so influential on the employment of air power that they demand a major biography. General Curtis E. LeMay is such a leader. Thomas M. Coffey's *Iron Eagle* is such a biography.

From the time he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1929 until his retirement in 1965 as Air Force Chief of Staff, General LeMay's role in developing the capabilities of strategic air power was widely recognized. He was commander of one of the first B-17 bomb groups that was deployed to England in 1942.

The ability of strategic bombers to operate against German targets in daylight was seriously questioned and particularly by some British leaders. LeMay developed defensive tactics to ward off German fighters and conclusively proved that daylight precision bombing could be achieved, with acceptable losses. The tactics formulated by LeMay became the standard for the forty-two heavy bomb groups that ultimately were assigned to the 8th Air Force. Former members of the 8th Air Force who served in England during WWII will find this section to be most interesting.

From England, LeMay was sent to command B-29 bomber forces that initially operated from bases in India and later from the Marianna's Islands in the Pacific. The initial strikes against Japanese targets were similar to the high altitude bomb runs used against German targets. Because of the nature and vulnerability of Japanese targets, LeMay devised a change in strategic bomber employment. Major industrial centers were attacked with incendiary bombs from medium altitudes and accounted for the destruction of 105 square miles in Tokyo, Osaka and Yokohama alone. The destruction of Japanese

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Dedicatory Remarks at AF Museum

By John L. Ryan

Last September we dedicated a plaque on the Memorial Wall at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs. Today we meet again here at this magnificent Air Force Museum to dedicate another bronze plaque and a living tree. These memorials are intentionally located at the two most heavily visited USAF installations. They will long remain as a reminder to posterity of the heroic deeds performed by the 306th Bomb Group in a bitterly fought war by a great group of determined young men at tremendous personal sacrifice.

In erecting these memorials and others in England, we are in reality striving for immortality for our old wartime unit. The 306th Bomb Group must never be forgotten. Certainly we will never forget that most memorable experience of our young lives.

However what we did some forty years ago we can never do again. Fate and the inexorable march of time dictate otherwise. High altitude daylight bombardment is no longer an accepted tactic; the aircraft and equipment we used years ago are now all obsolete; and the old warriors themselves are perhaps a bit too gray to carry the ball another time in defense of their country. Our accomplishments of the past are now a part of a personal history which can never be repeated as it was once acted out by us.

But, in spite of all these somber, nostalgic thoughts, I suspect that subconsciously we all refuse to believe that our old B-17 Group, in which we so proudly served, was

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885 Earn New POW Medals

Some 885 members of the 306th, or perhaps their survivors, will be entitled to the new Prisoner of War Medal, announced last summer. It is to be awarded to any military member who was taken prisoner after 5 April 1917.

The medal will rank as the highest decoration for service, coming behind those for valor and for achievement.

The face of the medal "is an eagle, symbol of the United States, and the American spirit, though surrounded by barbed wire and bayonet points, stands with pride and dignity, continually on the alert for the opportunity to seize hold of beloved freedom, thus symbolizing the hope that upholds the spirit of the prisoner of war."

On the reverse will be the recipient's name and below it engraved, "For honorable service while a Prisoner of War."

Specific eligibility criteria for the award have not yet been published.

306th Men Flock to '86 Reunion

It was the biggest yet!

There were 550 people registered for the reunion at Dayton, Sept. 11, 12 and 13, but there may well have been another hundred there, as well.

A limit had to be put on the event, because the two big meals could only accommodate 550 people in the main dining room of the Holiday Inn-Dayton Mall.

Ten buses and numerous private cars transported people from the Inn to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the USAF Museum.

The lobby of the Inn was full much of the time and the buffet breakfast lines were busy every morning. The talk went on in the Inn, in its guest rooms, lobbies, dining rooms, and wherever two old friends could sit and chat.

The highlights included the luau Thursday night, the Air Museum visit Friday morning and continuing into the afternoon, and the banquet Saturday night. In between these came the conversation, the general business meeting, and the private reunions that are so meaningful.

Col. John L. Ryan, outgoing president of the Association, presided at several events, but the real praise had to go to Jack Grimm, Demetrius Chakiris and members of the Dayton committee who had organized the event meticulously, but found the numbers desiring to attend beyond all expectations.

At the business meeting Judge Donald R. Ross, Omaha, NE, was elected president for the next year; Russell A. Strong, Kalamazoo, MI, was returned as secretary; William Houlihan, Belleville, MI, is the new vice president, and C. Dale Briscoe, San Antonio, TX, was chosen as treasurer.

Robert Starzynski, Chicago, IL, moved from the vice presidency to the board of directors, joining G. Kieth Jackson, Houston, TX,

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LeMay Book

(From page 1)

cities and accompanying casualties had seriously impaired the will of the government to continue the war. The atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the final blow.

The rapid demobilization of our military forces following WWII and subsequent developments on the international scene convinced government officials that unacceptable threats to our security were developing. LeMay emerged from the war as one of the most capable combat commanders and was chosen to organize and develop a Strategic Air Command. He was in command of SAC for eight years and built one of the world's most formidable military organizations. The true deterrent capability of this strategic bomber force against potential aggressors will probably never be fully assessed. The bottom line is a world free of global conflict.

LeMay's command of SAC was followed by assignment to the Pentagon, first as vice chief and later as chief of staff, USAF. The book deals at length with some of the conflicts he had in selling Department of Defense officials on the need for major weapons system developments and budget requirements. LeMay was known to be blunt, a man of few words and never accused of possessing the characteristics of a typical politician. Because his job dealt mainly in a political arena, he found himself often at loggerheads with high Department of Defense civilian officials.

Notwithstanding the turbulent situations confronting him, his determination, perseverance and integrity were successful in getting significant programs approved. The twenty odd years since his retirement in 1965 have, in most cases, upheld the foresight and wisdom of positions he took.

As a unique and great air force combat commander, General LeMay rightly belongs on the highest pedestal. Veterans of 8th and 20th Air Forces in WWII, in ad-



The 306th Bombardment Group Historical Association: Donald R. Ross, president; William F. Houlihan, vice president; Russell A. Strong, secretary, and C. Dale Briscoe, treasurer. Directors: Robert Crane, G. Kieth Jackson, Gerald Rotter, Robert Starzynski; Ralph Bordner and John L. Ryan, past presidents.

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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8th AF CONTACT MAN: WILLIAM M. COLLINS, JR., 2973 Heathernrae Drive, Poland, Ohio 44514. 216/757-3483.

The 306th Bomb Group Historical Association is a Federally tax exempt organization, and as a veterans' group is classified as 501 (c)(19).



Russ Strong, right, presents a WWII vintage Luftwaffe Leica aerial camera to a representative of the U.S. Air Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB, OH, representing Fran Waugh, Ft. Collins, CO, onetime 423rd photographer. Waugh had purchased the camera from a Britisher in mid-1945. He notes that the Luftwaffe experts were well aware that the best part of the camera's lens is close to the center, so that the lens on this camera was mounted at the end of a pullout tube which assured very sharp resolution in the negatives and prints produced. Waugh is shown in the picture at the right.

dition to today's professional airmen, will find this book extremely interesting.

Stop at Rest Area Brings New Member

"It Pays to Advertise." On our departure Sunday from Dayton we decided to take a motor trip through Kentucky and Tennessee. On Monday while making a stop at the Mitchellville, TN., Welcome Station a man approached us to ask about our "8th AF Historical Society" license plate.

In conversation we found out his name, Dale Thompson of 403 E. Walnut, Argus, Indiana 46501. He was a Wendover baby and an armament worker for the 423rd Sq., serving in England until the end of the war. His superior officer at one time was Capt. Henderson Knight.

He was unaware of our reunions and has assured us that he will attend the 1987 reunion. I gave him an extra *Echoes* that I picked up in the registration room and he was so delighted like a little boy who had just been given a candy bar.

Anyone who knew Dale can get in touch with him at the above mentioned address although he is in the process of retiring, maybe to Florida.

So you see, no matter where you go in this country, the "306th" is well known and represented.

—Louis F. Damaso, 369th Sqdn.



Dedication

(from page 1)

ever really deactivated. I think we share a lingering feeling that somehow, somewhere, off in the wild blue yonder, those old Triangle-H birds still drone through the skies with guns chattering, engines stuttering, flak rattling off wings and fuselage, and interphones crackling with gunners' cries of "Bandits, two o'clock high" and the occasional excited shout of "I got the SOB."

You may, if you wish, call this idle daydreaming or fanciful reverie of an old soldier. Regardless of what you choose to call it, the thought behind it is symptomatic of deep pride and great hope; pride in the wartime record of our unit and hope that what we have done in erecting these memorials will ensure that the accomplishments of our bomb group will never fade into cold, lifeless, World War II statistics.

Therefore, in memory of our fallen comrades and to the continued prosperity and health of those of us who here today commemorate both their deeds and ours, acting for them and for all of you, I dedicate this bronze plaque and this living tree to all who served in the first American bomb group over Germany, the 306th Bombardment Group (H).

This memorial is in recognition of our members who are no longer with us and in commemoration of our dedication to freedom and to our great nation. We hereby entrust it to the United States Air Force Museum for the benefit and edification of future generations of visitors who come here from

306th Fund Set Up at AF Academy

A 306th Bomb Group Endowment Fund has been established at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and gifts to that fund may be made by anyone, Col. John L. Ryan, immediate past president of the Association, announces.

Negotiations are continuing with officials at the Academy as to the uses to which the fund may be put. It is anticipated at this time that it will permit outstanding graduating cadets to avail themselves of graduate study opportunities that might not be open to them.

All contributions to this fund will be fully tax deductible, as the USAFA is a 501(c)(3) organization according to the Internal Revenue Service.

Checks should be made to AOG-306th Bomb Group Endowment Fund, and should be mailed to the Association of Graduates of USAFA, Inc., USAFA, CO 80840-5000.

More details on the continuing negotiations with the Academy will be forthcoming in future issues of *Echoes*. Permission to start such formal action was conferred by the membership at the 1986 annual meeting of the Group.



Guess who has moved to Hawaii? Paul Rieoux, 423rd pilot, now lives on Maui and brought his typical dress to Dayton.

around the world. May it serve to remind us all of our priceless heritage.

On behalf of the 306th Bombardment Group Association I am honored and pleased to officially present this memorial to the Air Force Museum.



British War Brides at Dayton

These are the British war brides who were present at the Dayton reunion. However, at the time this picture was taken no identifications were noted. The editor would like to run this picture in the next issue of Echoes, but needs your help in identifying the ladies. Please lend him your assistance.

Editorially Speaking . . .

In October of 1982 a relatively small group of former 306th members meeting in Cincinnati at the Eighth Air Force Reunion decided we wanted to start meeting as a separate group rather than as a small part of the meetings of the Eighth. My invitation to hold the first such national meeting was accepted and we held our reunion in Omaha in October of 1983. About 450 people attended.

Since that time our decision to meet separately has proven correct. At each of the reunions we have had more attendees than we had the prior year. This year we had so many who wanted to attend that we had to return several late registrations for lack of space.

September 10, 11, 12, 1987, we meet again in Washington, DC. I hope we have learned from past experiences the real necessity of making our individual attendance decisions early. Registrations should be forwarded to the Reunion Committee as soon as possible so the committee will have ample time to prepare. The Washington, DC, reunion should be the biggest and best yet, but we need your cooperation in this respect.

Each year I continue to marvel at the tremendous efforts of Russ Strong in forwarding the goals of this organization. He is our most valuable asset and will continue to be in the future, for which we will be forever in his debt. Bill Collins is another great contributor to the fortunes of the 306th, and we thank him for all the work he has done as our treasurer.

During the coming year I hope to carry on in the tradition of Ralph Bordner and John Ryan. Let me have your suggestions on how we can make a better organization for the benefit of us all.

Donald R. Ross
President
306th BG Association

Members of the 306th Bomb Group Association have been blessed with a series of excellent reunion chairmen, dating back to the first solo venture for the group at Omaha and including: Don Ross, Reginald Robinson, Monty Montoya. Now added to that list are **Jack Grimm** and **Demetrius Chakiris**, who co-chaired the most recent adventure in Dayton.

Not only did the co-chairmen perform beyond the fondest hopes of the officers and directors, but they were blessed with a large and dedicated committee who have their all for months in advance, and especially during the hectic days of the reunion itself. They appeared to be on duty for 24 hours a day—although we know it was not quite that bad.

Everything that needed to be done had been well planned in advance and only the execution awaited.

The hats of all those who attended are off to the Dayton committee, which in most cases includes wives, as well. We appreciate every moment of dedicated service you gave to the 306th, and we hope to see you in Washington to give you another "thank you" and to watch you enjoy the 1987 gathering.

Washington Site Ample for 1987

All of us in the "know" were saddened even before the 1986 reunion began in the knowledge that men and their wives were being turned away because we had no place to put them in Dayton. The desire to meet together was strong, the facilities were just not big enough.

But, we hope that 1987 brings a brighter day in which no one who wants to join in the reunion activities of the 306th will be forced to give up the idea.

The site is just outside Washington, D.C., in Arlington, VA, in the area known as Crystal City.

We have contracted with the Hyatt Regency Crystal City for the space in which to hold our reunion from Thursday, September 10 through Sunday, September 13. The hotel has 650 guest rooms, and the Regency Ballroom will seat 1,350 for a banquet. This ought to provide ample space for all of us. Room rates are set at \$69 per room per night.

Quoting from the hotel brochure: "Adjacent to Washington National Airport, Hyatt Regency Crystal City is just five minutes from the Pentagon and Alexandria, and ten minutes from the Capitol and main business area of Washington. Complimentary shuttle service is provided to the airport and nearby Metro subway, and an indoor garage provides parking for 362 cars."

More details will appear in future issues of Echoes.



Eighth Air Force memorial at the USAF Museum

Dedicatory Prayers at Dayton By AF Chaplain Howard Mellott

We are here, O Lord, to recognize and to remember the men and women of the 306th Bomb Group who so courageously gave of themselves for freedom: A freedom we so often take for granted; However, we are reminded daily how fragile and evasive this great gift so often is! We thank you for fathers, for husbands and for sons to whom this lasting memorial is dedicated. May this memorial, whenever it is seen and read, leave with all a deep impression of the sacrifices that peace and freedom so often require. We who stand here, both survivors and recipients, must never forget that what we enjoy as a nation today did not come easy, nor without a sacrificial cost. We dare not forget that in Your word we read: Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and that righteousness exalts a nation. We now ask for your blessing upon what has been done, said, and what we will do following this day.

Amen

As we near the close of this memorial plaque dedication, O God, we pause to remember the crew members killed and wounded in action, those killed in United Kingdom flying accidents, and those who were prisoners of war. It is our purpose never to let their efforts, their sacrifices, and in many instances, their lives, to have been given in vain: If needs be we would and will do the same as many have done since and will continue to do! Past and present events assure us of the brave and courageous men and women who continue to give that our freedom may remain strong: Korea, Vietnam, Lebanon, the peace missions the world over. We know America will remain great as long as there are those who continue to stand for freedom and who when, called upon, will go and give to defend that freedom. Thus, we declare, ready to stay or go; We, too, will defend as did these we have honored this day.

Amen

Gregory Sets Record Straight On 'Rose of York' Christening

Okay! Enough is enough. Let's get this *Rose of York* problem straightened out as to facts.

First: I am the individual who first named the A/C in question. It is I who presented then Princess Elizabeth with two dozen York roses at the start of the ceremony. It was myself and my crew who scrubbed the A/C clean for her "christening."

Secondly: An A/C with a Triangle "H" and serial number 547 was never assigned to Molesworth.

Thirdly: After the ceremony at AAF Station III (Thurleigh), Capt. Perry Raster, pilot; Lt. Talmadge McDonough, co-pilot; Capt. William Pleasant, navigator; T/Sgt. George Roberts and myself flew the *Rose of York* to Molesworth. We parked the *Rose of York* near the big hangar. While we went to get some chow, many, many troops from Molesworth took many, many pictures. It so happens that the Royal family visited Molesworth that same day—for what reason, I do not know.

If Captains Raster and Pleasant were alive today they would confirm the above. I know Roberts and McDonough will.

Come on Molesworth, straighten up and get off the backs of the 367th Clay Pigeons and the *First Over Germany* 306th Group.

Ed Gregory

M/Sgt. USAF Retired

Help Asked in Finding Lost

Unfortunately, we have lost contact with a number of 306th men who had been on our mailing list. We need the help of everyone in trying to relocate them, be they former crew mate, barracks mate, neighbor, or perhaps one with whom you exchange Christmas cards.

Below we have listed their names and former addresses and would appreciate any help you can give in trying to track them down. Please inform the secretary of a new address, or any other information you can acquire.

Mrs. Paul Bailey
1510 Lewis Av
Des Moines, IA 50315

Paul D. Calahan
87 S. Saxon Ave.
Bayshire LI, NY 11706

Richard S. Callaghan
36 Willow Rd.
Tinton Falls, NJ 07724

Bennie E. Campbell
808 Lyndale St.
Kingsville, TX 78363

Lloyd G. Crabtree
3001 Deer Trail Ln
Medford, OR 975019

Charles E. Cushing
448 Fielding Dr.
Pittsburgh, PA 15234

John L. Davis
7031 Albatross Dr.
Buena Park, CA 90620

James L. Dunn
Rt. 3, Box 680
Prineville, OR 97754

Burton H. Frazier
13 Juniper Ln
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Norman N. Haas
Rt. 9, Box 355
Albany, GA 31705

Claude L. Hostetter
501 S. 8th St.
Clinton, OK 73601

Merrill Immerman
Box 170 Rt. 2
Rockford, MN 55373

John D. Jones
610 1st St., Apt. 101
Ogden, UT 84404

Joseph E. Kosakowski
9 Carriage Ln.
East Granby, CT 06026

J. F. Layden
Rt. 1, Box 158A
Gilbertsville, PA 19404

David E. Lusk
41 S. 3rd St.
Lewisburg, PA 17837

William L. Murdock
Rt. 3, Box 96
Batesville, AR 72501

Dr. Louis A. Lame
2695 N. Haven Blvd.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223

Waverly Ormond
414 Amhurst
Iowa City, IA 52240

Lee Roy Patterson
1948 Medina Rd.
Medina, OH 44256

Wallace A. Preiemann
4655 N. Kenton
Chicago, IL 60639

John F. Quigley
2520 Kinglear Dr. #19
Monroeville, PA 15146

Paul W. Smith
N. 5918 Greenwood Blvd.
Seattle, WA 98103

Donald K. Suchy
201 5th St., NE
Mandan, ND 58554

H. R. Swiger
Winton, MN 55796

Eldred L. Tanner
10353 Fox Ct.
Denver, CO 80221

Woodrow W. Thomas
Ween's Creek
Annapolis, MD 21401

Kenneth E. Ward
861 July Way #2
Redding, CA 96003

A Peaceful Mission

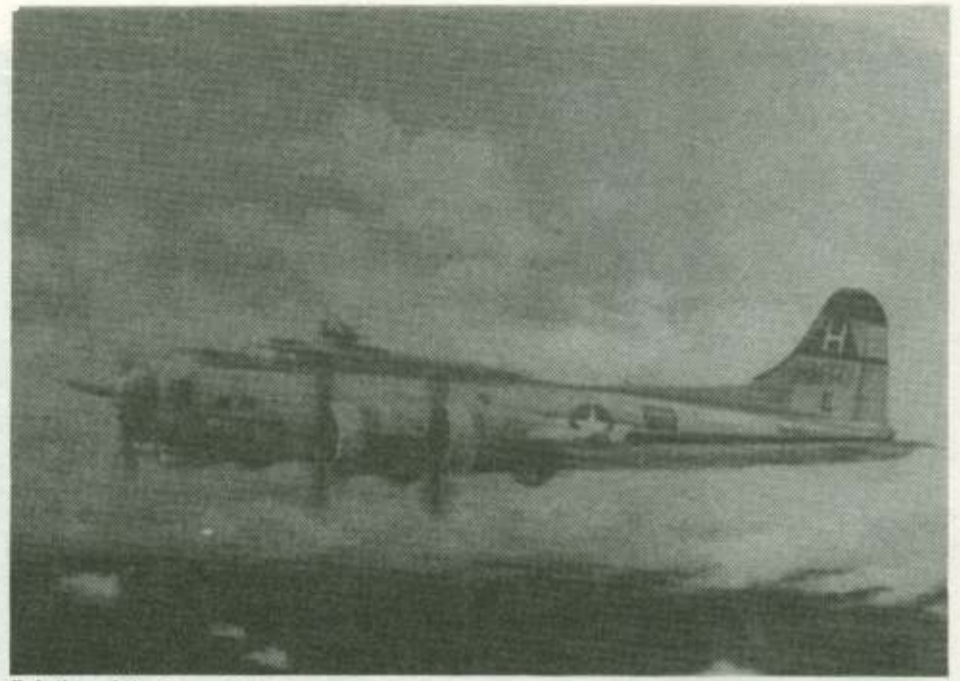
The welcome coast of England
You have seen before
On a wartime mission
Coming home once more.

Thank God you made it this time
"What next" you tiredly say
Get some sleep before the dawn
Forty years have gone since then
And you are still alive
Alive to sounds and life itself
But memories survive.

This time your journey is happy
And you are very proud
The shores of England loom again
From far below the cloud.

Now a peaceful mission
Back to that friendly shore
To remember all your buddies
You're coming home once more.

Connie Richards
306th B.G.H.A.
England



Painting of the *Rose of York* presented to Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace

Martin Crew Gives Queen New Painting

With the help of Queen Elizabeth, I think we can put the *Rose of York* controversy to rest once-and-for-all.

In September 1984 Paul Martin's 367th crew had its 40th reunion in England. While planning for the trip, there was an article in *Echoes* showing a painting of the *Rose* being presented to the Commanding General, SAC, at Omaha. Thinking it would be nice to have a copy made for the Queen, I wrote General Davis and asked for a photo of the painting that could be used to make a large copy. While waiting, I wrote the Queen inviting her out to our reunion at Thurleigh so that we could present her with a copy of the painting of HER airplane.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter written at the Queen's command by her personal secretary, Robert Fellowes. In my opinion, it spells out very clearly where the Queen was on July 6, 1944.

When I received the color slides from the General, it was impossible to have copies made for the Queen—the *Rose of York* was written in block letters and in place of the big open white rose, there was a red rosebud on each end of the name. Not to disappoint the Queen, I had a Cape Cod artist do a two foot by three foot rendering showing the *Rose* flying peacefully over the English countryside with the name in the original style, with a big open, white rose.

You will note in the letter that only one or two were to bring the copy of the painting to Buckingham Palace. I wrote and explained that it would be impossible to break up the crew on such a grand occasion. A quick telephone call while in London made it possible for our wives to join us.

When we arrived at the Palace there were thousands of people outside the gate waiting to see the changing of the guard. I'm sure they wondered who all the VIPs

At Buckingham

Those of Paul Martin's crew who attended the Buckingham Palace presentation were: Burns W. Roper (copilot) and wife, Helen; Arthur P. Trimble (navigator); Frank Whitney (radio operator) and wife, LaVonne; Robert Snow (ball turret) and wife, Ann; George Bachmann (waist gunner) and wife, Maxine; John Hall (tail gunner) and wife, Jean. Martin was accompanied by his sister, Virginia Eldridge.

were who entered the Palace. When the change of the guard started we were escorted to the Palace steps where we had ringside seats. What a thrill!

Another memorable event in London was our invitation for dinner at the Royal Air Force Club, a beautiful evening.

Our three-day stay in Bedford was full of memorable events. Foremost was our trip back to our old base by invitation of the superintendent of the Royal Air Force Establishment, who had us in for tea and biscuits, and a grand tour of the base. While there is nothing left of our old squadron areas, we did find the foundations of the 367th huts, which brought back a lot of memories.

Didn't mean to get carried away with such a long letter; just wanted to set the record straight as to where the *Rose of York* christening took place. One more thing, while at the Palace, Robert Fellowes told me that when he gave the Queen my letter, she asked him to go to the archives and bring the pictures taken to record the occasion 6 July 1944. He said she was most pleased that we remembered her.

Sincerely,
Paul Martin

306th Men Reunion

367 Squadron Clay Pigeons

Ake, Nelson & wife
Amundson, C. A. & wife
Angelle, Sal
Argo, Richard & wife
Ballish, Frank
Barr, Earl & wife
Beaudoin, A.T.
Bloom, John & wife
Broussard, Joe & wife
Burroughs, Winston & wife
Clarke, Alexander & wife
Consolmagno, Joe & wife
Crapsey, Arthur
De La Vars, Doug & wife
Edwards, Erie
Edwards, William
Feeser, Bill & wife
Futchik, W. E.
Gassman, Lawrence & wife
Goodin, Donald & wife
Hermann, Robert
Holland, Richard & wife
Jackson, G. R. Kieth
Kelly, Paul & wife
Kiely, Vincent & wife
Kostal, Jerry & wife
Lamb, Gus & wife
Lauer, Fred & wife
Lavery, Robert & wife
Leahy, Ed
Lenaghan, James & wife
Markowitz, Arthur & wife
Marsh, Donald & wife
McGovern, Fred & wife
McVicar, Herbert
Miller, Joe
Miller, Sidney & wife
Mullen, Francis
Mutz, William & wife
O'Hara, Richard & wife
Palmer, Harris & wife
Percic, Henry & wife
Peters, Ben & wife
Petrelli, Peter & wife
Phelan, Hugh & wife
Prokop, Louis & wife
Putt, Carroll & wife
Rawlings, G. Barney & wife
Rockwell, Robert & wife
Ronczy, Ed & wife
Ryan, John & wife
Savino, Joseph
Schmidt, Jack & wife
Smith, Bartlett & wife
Smith, William & wife
Sorden, Myron & wife
Starks, Cecil & wife
Starzynski, Robert
Steele, Paul & wife
Strong, Russell & wife
Twing, Harold & wife
Verdick, Hubert & wife
Visconti, A. L. & wife
Wallace, Richard & wife
Wiehrdt, Ralph & wife

369th Squadron Eager Beavers

Alexander, Kermit & wife
Baker, Marshall & wife
Bohland, Richard & wife
Bordner, Ralph & wife
Boring, Wallace & wife
Bourn, O.B.
Bradley, Charles & wife
Breslin, Bill & wife
Brotzman, Elwood & wife
Cavaness, William & wife
Christianson, M. E. & wife
Coleman, J. Ray & wife
Cook, Orval & wife
Deck, Leland
Fisher, George & wife
Gabrish, Joe
Gallegos, Leo & wife
Garrison, Calvin & wife
Groesbeck, Carl & wife
Houghton, Russell
Huddle, Donald & wife
Jennings, Horace & wife
Jones, Dewey & wife
Kessler, Lee

Korf, Glen & wife
Kracjik, August & wife
Lally, Glenn
Latscha, Walter & wife
MacPherson, John
Melton, Curtis
Morabeth, Paul & wife
Moriarty, E. T.
Nelson, Robert & wife
Norton, Irving
Owens, E.A.
Rehn, Albert & wife
Reynolds, John
Robinson, Reginald
Ross, Donald & wife
Schlessel, Daniel & wife
Seelos, Robert
Sheets, James & wife
Smith, Allen & wife
Teelon, Lynn & wife
Thayer, Reginald
Vangalis, Andy & wife
Wenrich, Paul
Wilson, Warren & wife

369th Squadron Fitin' Bitin'

Albertson, Walter & wife
Antous, George & wife
Banas, Charles
Barber, Rex & wife
Bates, George & wife
Belker, Joseph & wife
Bettinger, George
Birkenmier, Tony & wife
Bowles, Joe
Briscoe, Dale & wife
Casseday, Billy & wife
Cochran, Walter & wife
Collins, Bill & wife
Crane, Robert
Damaso, Louis & wife
Daniel, Everett & wife
Davis, Charles & wife
Dwiggins, Robert & wife
Edeler, James & wife
Fedorka, Alfred & wife
Fianagan, William & wife
Foster, Lawrence & wife
Frey, Elmer & wife
Furay, James & wife
Gallagher, Andrew & wife
Gaydosh, J. J. & wife
Grace, Robert
Hall, Marian
Hansen, Leif
Harken, Terry
Harnois, A. J. & wife
Hennessy, Edward
Hickey, John & wife
Hitchcock, Charles
Hogan, William & wife
Hoser, Harry & wife
Howard, John & wife
Howard, Roy & wife
Ingram, Grover & wife
James, Paul & wife
Johansen, Alfred & wife
Jones, Casey & wife
Jones, Richard & wife
Kolger, Bill & wife
Krische, John
Lightbown, Harold & wife
Liles, Walter & wife
Lyles, Joe & wife
Maliszewski, Ed
McMullen, Donald & wife
Mitchell, W. F. & wife
Morgan, Paul
Mullens, Chuck
Myers, Jerry & wife
Norman, Alfred & wife
Nuessen, Carl & wife
Olsen, Trygve & wife
Pappas, Peter & wife
Peckham, W. F. & wife
Perin, Eddie
Phillips, Malcolm & wife
Potter, Frank & wife
Rose, Victor
Rotter, Gerald & wife
Sammons, Colvin & wife
Santoro, Anthony & wife
Schieb, Ray & wife
Sharkey, Dennis & wife
Sharkey, Howard & wife

Smith, Edgar & wife
Stephens, George & wife
Stocker, Orville & wife
Taft, Chauncey & wife
Thach, John & wife
Thorn, John
Thornam, Harold & wife
Thwaite, James & wife
Trask, Roy & wife
Trostle, R. A.
Tzipowitz, Harry & wife
Valluzzo, Jack
Williams, Ralph & wife
Wood, Robert & wife
Woods, W. R. & wife
Wright, John & wife
Yerak, Ray & wife

423rd Squadron Grim Reapers

Alleman, Harry & wife
Amrey, Jack & wife
Armburst, Norman & wife
Baranowicz, Michael & wife
Barnett, John & wife
Beaver, Edward & wife
Berry, Leslie
Borges, Warren & wife
Brown, Harold & wife
Buchanan, Bennett T.
Butschek, Walter
Casey, Don & wife
Chakiris, Demetrius & wife
Clisby, Albert
Colvard, Freel
Courtwright, Elvin & wife
Daniel, Robert & wife
Dascoulias, Peter & wife
Delapoer, Jack & wife
Ebert, Dale & wife
Ellwood, Jack & wife
Endicott, John & wife
Fatica, Charles
Ferrari, John & wife
Fields, Robert & wife
Gavito, Carlos
Giancaspro, Frank & wife
Goetz, Leon & wife
Graham, Andrew
Hathaway, Joe & wife
Hill, Richard
Hillabrand, R. G.
Horner, George & wife
Johnson, William & wife
Jones, Rex & wife
Jordan, Ed & wife
Jung, William & wife
Kate, Hendrik & wife
Kaye, Herman & wife
Kelley, Roy & wife
Kester, Charles & wife
Knight, Henderson & wife
Kupferman, Saul
Lambert, John & wife
Leary, Nena
LeRoy, Jacob & wife
Lewis, Urban & wife
Lynch, William & wife
Mason, Rudolph & wife
McCollum, John
McKay, Mack
Meyer, Clayton & wife
Murphy, Jack
Myllykoski, Robert & wife
Nahabedian, A. J. & wife
Norris, Kenneth & wife
Outcalt, Norman & wife
Poston, James & wife
Radnofsky, Mat
Randall, Charles & wife
Reioux, Paul & wife
Robison, Brice & wife
Roth, Howard
Rucker, W. B. & wife
Schafer, Earle & wife
Shapland, Earl
Shutz, J. P.
Smith, Joyce
Spencer, Donald & wife
Stathas, Milton
Stewart, Forrest & wife
Strawn, Wilmer & wife
Taylor, William & wife
Tinklenberg, John & wife
VanDeurzen, Leo & wife
Walters, Eugene & wife
Williams, Robert & wife
Yaussi, Frank
Young, Oliver & wife

'87 England Tour Planned

Travel in England and Scotland is being planned for the spring of 1987, with a 306th twist to events, and under the guidance of Russ and June Strong, who are experienced in European travel leaders.

While they will depart from Detroit with any Midwestern venturers, other points of origin will be available in the U.S., with the tour group assembling at Boston's Logan Airport on a Northwest Airlines flight to London.

Upon arrival in the British capital, the group will board its tour bus and make its way to Bedford sometime in the afternoon. Two nights will be spent there, before the group heads for Edinburgh with stops in Lincoln and overnight in York.

After Scotland, the group will come through Chester to Coventry, Stratford, Oxford and back to London. The group will tour from there down to Coventry, Dover and Hastings, and wind up with two free days in London before flying back to Boston and home.

The cost per person will be approximately \$1,800.

For a detailed itinerary, application forms, etc., drop Russ Strong a note at 2041 Hillsdale, Kalamazoo, MI 49007, or call him at home, 616-344-6466, or at work, 616-383-6162.

New M-9 Bayonet on Order

To those familiar with the WWII-era bayonet, the following description of the new \$49 Army bayonet may be interesting:

The new M-9 is single-edged, has the more traditional configuration of a field knife and comes equipped with a scabbard that has a built-in sharpening stone.

The six-inch blade is also serrated along the rear of the top edge so it can be used as a saw. The Army says the device can be used to saw through the light metal used as "skin" on helicopters "to free downed helicopter pilots" and also to saw through half-inch hemp rope or small branches.

The bayonet also has a small hole in the blade toward the tip that allows it to be attached to the scabbard for use as a wire-cutter. Using the scabbard as one arm of the cutter, and the knife as the other, the soldier can use the two together to snip barbed wire.

Group Headquarters

Bairnsfather, John
Carlisle, William
Gransie, George
Hodges, Howard & wife
Hopper, Ray & wife
McMullen, William
Poray, Maynard
Richwine, James & wife
Romano, Lawrence & wife
Shuller, Thurman & wife

N.B. Because of the overflow crowd, a number of reservations were turned back, and additional persons who came at the last minute without reservations were present. We regret that there was no roster from which we could draw their names.







Group Headquarters personnel.



Col. John L. Ryan, president of the 306th Association, speaks at the plaque and tree dedication at the USAF Museum



A view of the throng listening to Col John L. Ryan pay tribute to the men of the 306th.



Thurman Shuller unveils the 306th plaque at the USAF Museum.

Photographic coverage of the Dayton reunion was provided by Bill Collins, Doug De La Vars, Ed Ronczy, Don Ross, Bob Starzynski, and Russ Strong.

THE MIGHTY EIGHTH
 19 JAN 1942 - 12 SEPT 1945
 EUROPEAN - AFRICAN - MIDDLE EASTERN
 THEATER OF OPERATIONS
 VIII BOMBER COMMAND 19 JANUARY 1942
 EIGHTH AIR FORCE 1 FEBRUARY 1942

FOR OFFENSIVE CAMPAIGN AND COMMANDERS

COMMANDER GENERAL HENRY H. HENDON	DEPUTY COMMANDER GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT	CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT	CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT
CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT	CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL WILLIAM H. TROTT

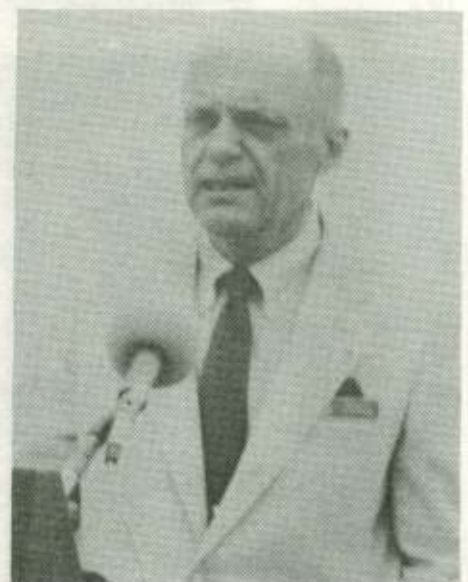
MEDAL OF HONOR

1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT	1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT
1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT	1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT
1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT	1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT
1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT	1ST LIEUTENANT WILLIAM H. TROTT

THE HERITAGE OF THIS PEOPLE IN THEIR QUEST FOR WORLD PEACE AGAINST
 TYRANNY AND OPPRESSION OF FREEDOM WAS HONORED BY THE COURAGEOUS
 SACRIFICE OF OVER 100,000 MEN AND WOMEN DURING WORLD WAR TWO WHO
 SERVED IN THE MIGHTIEST AIR COMBAT STRIKING FORCE EVER COMMITTED
 TO BATTLE - THE U.S. EIGHTH AIR FORCE. TO THESE MEN AND THE MANY
 WOMEN WHO WERE DEDICATED TO THEIR SERVICE AND THE MANY
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 THEIR SERVICE AND THE MANY WHO WERE DEDICATED TO THEIR SERVICE
 THE EIGHTH AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 OCTOBER 1986



Participants in the plaque and tree dedication: Col. Richard L. Uppstrom, USAF Museum director; Chaplain Howard V. Mellott; Jack Grimm, reunion co-chairman; Lt. Jeff Berringer, son of the present 306th Strategic Wing commander; and Dr. Thurman Shuller, who unveiled the 306th plaque.



Col. Richard L. Uppstrom, director of the USAF Museum, accepts the plaque and 306th tree for the USAF Museum.



Three 368th squadron bombardiers of another day: Reginald Thayer, Ralph Bordner and Irv Norton.



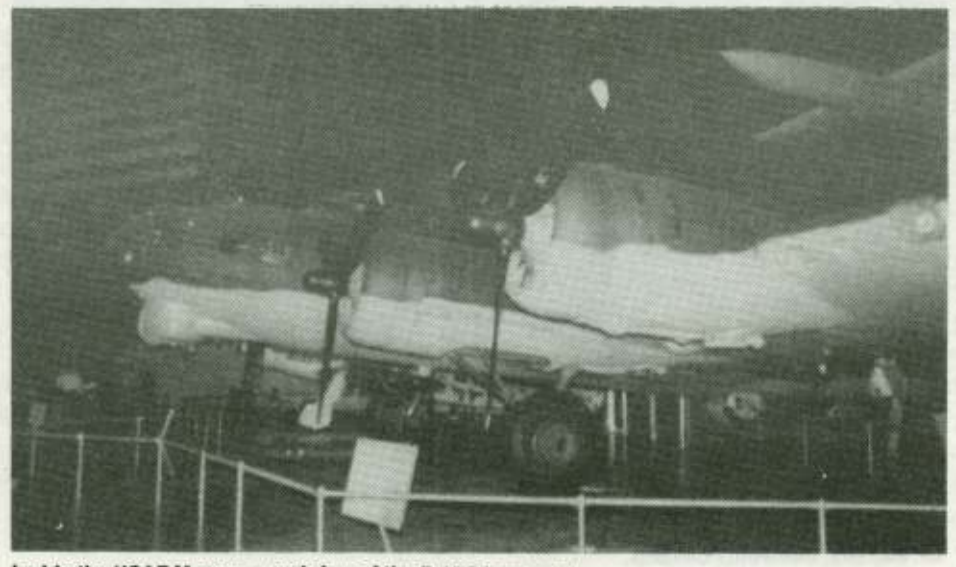
Robert and Betty Williams



Robert Starzynski and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lavery stand in front of the WWII-era British telephone booth, provided through the efforts of the 306th friends in Bedford.



Mr. and Mrs. George Fisher talk with George's old pilot, Reginald Robinson.



Inside the USAF Museum, and view of the B-17G housed there.



Col. H. Rex Jones



Mr. and Mrs. Leo Van Duerzen and Mrs. Doris Jones.



Col. Charles E. Fox, Jr., commander of the 2750th Air Base Wing, Writer-Patterson AFB, and Saturday banquet speaker.



Speakers' table at the Saturday banquet, from the left around the table: Mrs. Janice Ryan, Col. John L. Ryan, Mrs. Sharon Fox, Col. Charles Fox, Mrs. June Strong, Russell A. Strong, Chaplain Howard Mellott and Mrs. Mellott, and Mrs. Betty Collins.



Mr. and Mrs. James Sheets



Joe Miller, 367th



Bill Flanagan, 369th



The first two first sergeants of the 368th: John Reynolds and Marshall Baker.



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Grimm



Mr. and Mrs. Demetrius Chakiris.

306th Wing CO Onetime 423rd Member Writes Likes Tradition From African Mission Station Of WWII Era

The following comments were made in a letter by Col. Lynn T. Beringer, presently commander of the 306th Strategic Wing, RAF Mildenhall, England, and read during the dedication at Wright-Patterson AFB by John Grimm, co-chairman of the reunion:

"Never in my career have I found myself associated with a unit steeped in such tradition as is the 306th. The 306th has set a high standard of excellence through the years, and I salute all of you gathered today for dedicating a memorial to those who served. Mr. Grimm was kind enough to send me a picture of the plaque being dedicated, and as I read it, one phrase stood out as a promise—'their sacrifices in the defense of their country must never be forgotten.'

"You are fulfilling your part of the promise by gathering together today to reflect on why the 306th was at Thurleigh during WWII, why it flew as the first AAF bomb group over Germany, and why it had to defeat the Axis powers. I guarantee to you that the 306th is upholding its part, continuing to protect the liberty and freedom that past sacrifices made possible by supporting the USAF and its NATO allies.

"The main aircraft of the 306th is now the USAF air refueling aircraft and just as the 306th bombers trundled off airfields in East Anglia to strike at the heart of Nazism more than forty years ago, recently the 306th was an integral part of the force that struck at the heart of state sponsored terrorism.

"That is our promise to you today: to be ready to combat terrorism or any other form of aggression that threatens the freedom of the world. It is also our promise to those who have given their lives—to never forget the sacrifices they made in the defense of our country."

John J. Wohead was an original member of the 423rd Squadron, and excerpts from a recent letter describe his unusual vocation:

"I have a question—I am interested in knowing how many of the 306th group personnel have joined Societies, or Orders, to become priests, Brothers or Sisters, or to any other religious organizations.

"I am a Brother of the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers Society. On September 28, 1986, I will be 70 years old. I was assigned to Africa in 1955 and have been here ever since. This fall marks 31 years for me in the Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania.

"My work has been in building and repair. I was a carpenter before entering Maryknoll. I have learned about cement in almost all of its uses. . . I also know something about blacksmithing, auto mechanics and photography, which comes in handy. I have a portable electric arc welder. I worked in a boiler shop before the war. All of this comes in very handy out here with knowledge gained from experience and books.

"We have built or helped to build churches, a seminary, schools, clinics, convents, rectories and a youth center. I also have a vegetable garden.

"We had a very serious famine last year. We were able to help the people a great deal through the aid given by Catholic Relief Services. This aid was distributed with the help of our mission personnel, which made it possible to reach people who needed food at the grass roots level. This year it looks much better."

Brother John Wohead, M.M.
Bishops' Residence
Buhangija
PO Box 47
Shinyanga, Tanzania



Col. John L. Ryan, outgoing 306th president; John Bairnsfather, long time group intelligence officer and now 85 years old, and Donald R. Ross, new president of the 306th Association.

IRS States Deduction Requirements

Because a question was raised on our prior mention of possible income tax deductions for some reunion expenses, the secretary of the association contacted IRS, and received a reply in the form of Publication 526 (Revised Nov. 85), from which we have selected items which IRS underlined as pertinent to the 306th Bomb Group Association:

Qualified Organizations

You may deduct a contribution you made to, or for the use of, the following qualified organizations:

A war veteran organization.

You may deduct reasonable payments for necessary meals and lodging while you are away from home overnight giving your services to a qualified organization.

If you are a chosen representative attending a convention of a qualified organization, you may deduct unreimbursed expenses for travel and transportation. You may also deduct a reasonable amount for meals and lodging while away from home overnight in connection with the convention.

You may not deduct personal expenses for sightseeing, fishing parties, theatre parties, or night club. You also may not deduct travel, meals and lodging, and other expenses for your spouse or children.

As to whether you as an individual may want to deduct expenses for attending a 306th reunion is a matter which you will have to decide in conjunction with your attorney and/or accountant. The 306th Association can in no way counsel you on this matter.

Election

(from page 1)

Robert Crane, Portland, CT, and Gerald Rotter, Austin, TX.

William L. Collins, Poland, OH, the original treasurer of the association, received a tribute from Strong and a standing ovation at the business meeting upon his retirement.



Billy Casseday and his wife, left, join the luau throng.



The other side of the luau serving line.

Directors Settle Museum; Ask Response from Fund Donors

After considerable discussion, the Board of Directors took action at its Dayton meeting opposed to the investment of money in a 306th Museum in England.

This action was predicated on legal opinion that it would take at least ten years to effect the purchase of property, that costs would run in excess of \$100,000 per year and extend over a ten-year period, and that the increasing age of the 306th membership did not bode well for such an enterprise.

Entering into the picture was the disposition of the \$8,000 that has been contributed at past reunions by various members and is now being held by Bill Flanagan.

When the Directors, meeting with Flanagan, sought to have this money turned over to the Association treasury, Flanagan said that he only held the money in trust for those who have made contributions to this specific purpose. The Directors then agreed to ask, through *Echoes*, for those persons who had contributed to make their wishes known to the Association by the end of 1986.

Please indicate your wishes on the attached form and return it to the Secretary, 306th Bomb Group Association, 2041 Hillside, Kalamazoo, MI 49007.

- I would like my money turned over to the Association treasurer.
 As my contribution was only for the Museum project, I would prefer to have my money returned to me.
 My preference is _____

Signature _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

A Message from England

Two whole years have passed since we both, thanks to many of you, enjoyed the most wonderful holiday of our lives, that was seeing and being with you in Fort Worth.

A few of you have been back to England since then and we have seen you once again. For many of you your journey back to Thurleigh has never taken place.

Ask someone who has been back: What is there? and, anything more they will tell you.

The fields where your barracks stood, the Falcon, the Jackal, some of the people and the memories. We know some of the memories were not good, but war was not good anyway. The church where many of you prayed, and then prayed again in 1982 when the magnificent memorial was unveiled at Thurleigh, still stands. And there are those devoted members of the 306th Bomb Group Historical Association here in Britain. While we were here during the war, we were the children to whom you gave gum, sweets, and ice cream. Today we live to say thank you to you for those good things of yesterday. So, our memories of you are good!

We are still trying to find a suitable place for all your memorabilia. Things never go according to plan, especially here in England, but those of you who have seen the museum in our home, know that those artifacts are safe and available for all who wish to see them.

All of you who assembled at the Dayton reunion are having wonderful time, and our love and good wishes go with you. We hope you are thinking of coming back to Bedford and Thurleigh. If we could conduct you on a tour through the old base and through Bedford, as we passed the Corn Exchange you might once again hear the strains of Glenn Miller's *Moonlight Serenade*.

Come back once more!

Writing for all those in England dedicated to the memory of the 306th Bombardment Group, we are

Connie, Gordon & Lloyd Richards

This letter was delivered to the reunion by Peg Albertson, but when it was not read at the reunion banquet it was agreed that it would appear in *Echoes*.

DEATHS

Richard D. Adams, 369th pilot, who became an evadee when his plane was shot down 8 Nov 42 at Lille, died Apr 71. Adams received a medical discharge and became a geologist. His death came following open heart surgery. After returning to the States, Adams visited the families of those crew members who were killed in action and then met Sally Saunders, sister of tail gunner John Saunders. Adams and Sally were later married, but were divorced at the time of his death.

John F. Eskew, 367th gunner (Hanson's crew), died 12 May 86 in New Smyrna Beach, FL. He flew during mid-44.

John W. Gallareto, 367th engineer (McNeil's crew), died 5 Apr 86 in Santa Paula, CA. His missions came May-July 44.

James H. Higginbotham, 367th ground officer, died in Aug 86 in Spartanburg, SC. He was the uncle of Joe Lyles, 367th co-pilot, and they were at Thurleigh during the same period.

James A. Hobbs, 369th radio operator, died 1 Mar 2. He was the sole survivor of Tattershall's plane, 11 Jan 44 at Halberstadt.

Carl R. Kalbach, 369th engineer (Schoch's crew), died 2 June 86 in Lebanon, PA. He was a POW 26 Mar 44 (w. Price at Pas de Calais) and was in Stalag Luft I.

Raymond J. Kaminski, 449th subdepot and assistant section chief in the dope and fabric shop,

died 20 Aug 85 in Lorain, OH.

LTC John M. Kelly, 368th pilot, died in Scranton, PA, 28 Jul 86. He brought his crew to Thurleigh 21 Oct 43 and completed his 37th and last mission 22 Jun 44.

Audrey F. Klepper, 423rd engineer, died 6 Jul 86 in Goodland, KS. As a member of Welter's crew in early 44, he received both a Silver Star and Purple Heart, and because of wounds did not complete his tour until Dec 44.

Ivan L. McCoppin, 423rd gunner, died in St. Joseph, MO. He flew his tour in the first half of 44.

Elmer L. Nofsinger, 369th gunner (John Davis' crew), died 14 Feb 86 in McPherson, KS. He flew from June-December 44.

William M. Quinn, 369th gunner (Henley's crew), and POW (Babin's crew), 10 Apr 45 at Oranienburg, died 25 Jun 86 in Tucson, AZ.

Welton A. Shipley, 369th ball gunner (Rozett's crew), died Jan 86 in Chapin, SC. He flew from Nov 44-Jan 45.

LTC Ernest A. Skrainar, 368th co-pilot (Breslin's crew), died Oct 83 in Santa Clara, CA. He flew from May thru Jul 44.

Wallace A. Sneddon, 423rd, died 8 May 80 in Pauls Valley, OK.

George W. Tapper, 368th bombardier (Brunn's crew, late 43-mid 44), died recently in Oxnard, CA. He was wounded 26 Mar 44 on a "Noball" raid near St. Omer, France. He finished his tour 26 Jun 44.

Edward F. West, 423rd navigator (Welter's crew), died in Apr 86 in West Quincy, MA. He flew during Jan-Apr 44.



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2041 Hillside
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

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