



Little Rock Reunion festivities:
Col. Susan O'Konski (2007-2008
Vice President) and Joel LaBo
(current Treasurer).



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306th Echoes is published four times annually: January, April, July and October. *Echoes* is mailed free of charge to all known addresses of 306th personnel, 1942-1945. Contributions in support of this effort may be remitted to the treasurer.

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Handles all changes of address, current records, obituaries, and correspondence.
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Jami Harp (Peg Haapa Intern)
Lindsay Klar (Thurman Shuller Intern)
Jacob Peterson (Judge Donald Ross Intern)
Bradley Steele (Leland Kessler Intern)
Luke Truxal (Russell Strong Intern)

The 306th Bomb Group Historical Association is a Federally tax-exempt organization and as a veteran's group is classified as 501 © (19).

Obituaries

Please send the Association details of deaths or complete obituaries if you have them. Please send obituary information to the secretary:

Albert McMahan
272 N. Peachtree St.
Norcross, GA 30071
anmcmahan@bellsouth.net

Obituaries Received:

- **Harold J. Aiello**, 423rd mechanic and crew chief, died at home 26 Dec 07 in Toms River, NJ. He leaves his wife, Josephine, 1d, 3gc.
- **Leonard Anderson**, 368th waist/tail/nose gunner (Robert Dodge crew), died 8 Jun 04 in Langhorne, PA. His crew joined the Group Jul 44 and completed a 30-mission tour in 1945. He retired in 1983 from the Charleston, WV Gazette. He leaves his wife, Jean, 2c, 2gc.
- **Allen Berglund**, 368th radio operator (Duane Clocksin crew), died 10 April 00 in Sheboygan, WI. He completed 24 missions and was involved in the Casey Jones Project. Postwar he was a teacher. He was unmarried.
- **George Berner**, 423rd pilot, died 26 Dec 98 in Napa, CA. He joined the Group 13 Apr 44 and completed 33 missions in Aug. Berner remained in the AF flying cargo planes and retired in Aug 65 as a LTC. He left his wife, Mardelle, 2c.
- **Robert Beyer**, 369th waist gunner/photographer, died 21 Apr 04 in Grand Rapids, MI. He retired in 1982 after 35 years as a materials handling engineer. He leaves 3c, 2gc.
- **Sermon Bunch**, 1628th Ordnance Company supply sergeant, died 10 Feb 01 in Henderson, NV. He retired as public school custodian supervisor in 1987. He left his wife, Vera, 4c, 4ggc.
- **Merle Butcher**, 423rd cook, died 19 Jul 08 in Marlborough, MA. First, he was a cabinet maker and later custodian of an elementary school. He leaves 3c, 6gc.
- **Kenneth Carakostas**, 369th pilot, died 14 Jul 98 in Fruitport, MI. He completed a 35-mission tour between Oct 44 and Apr 45. He was a principal in the Michigan public school system retiring in 1976. He leaves 3c, 1gc.
- **Harold Carter**, 367th, died 22 Aug 01 in Anderson, SC. He retired from the Air Force as a MSgt with 27 years service. He left his wife, Janet, 2c.
- **Frank Childers**, 449th Sub Depot clerk, died 27 Apr 07 in Gallipolis, OH.
- **Walter Cochran**, 369th navigator (Robert Grace crew), died 11 Aug 08 in Duluth, GA. He joined the Group 9 Apr 45 and participated in the Casey Jones Project. He left his wife, Florence, 2c, 3gc, 5ggc.
- **George Coker**, 369th engineer (Irving Dudley crew), died 4 Dec 99 in Mitchellville, TN. He retired from the Tennessee school system in 1983 and was post master of the local post office. He left his wife, Icy Lee, 5c, 6gc.
- **Wayne Commons**, 369th, died 19 Nov 03 in Halsey, OR.
- **Cornelius Corwin**, 39th Service Group radio repair, died 6 Jun 96 in Bluffton, IN. He was the owner-operator of a construction excavating business. He left his wife, Mary Rose, 7c, 15gc, 25ggc.
- **Robert Cox**, 367th copilot (Henry Hanson crew) and later pilot, died 13 Jul 04 in Los Angeles, CA. He completed a tour between Feb and Jun 44.
- **Edward Craig**, 423rd waist gunner (Edward Lindsay crew), died 20 Mar 99 in Falmouth, MA. After the war he worked for the Massachusetts prison system for 45 years. He left 7c.
- **Vernon Crowton**, 369th waist gunner (Harold Mattson crew), died 16 Jan 07 in Leonard, MI. His crew was downed by flak 10 Jan 45 and was a POW.
- **Harley Cuvelier**, 369th mechanic and crew chief, died 1 Oct 04 in Dumont, IA. He was a farmer and rural mail carrier. He leaves his wife, Ruth, 2d, 2gc.
- **Ronald Dahly**, 368th pilot, joined the Group 4 Mar 43 and transferred the next day to the 305th Bomb Group, died 16 Jan 03 in Zellwood, FL. He was shot down on his 16th mission and was a POW for 24 months. He remained in the Air Force, saw service in Korea, and retired as a LTC in Dec 1989.
- **Edward Danaher**, 368th ball turret gunner (Carl Hathaway crew), died 25 Jul 08 in Underhill, VT. On 10 Jan 44, his 20th mission, his plane was severely damaged by flak, and he was seriously wounded in both legs and one arm. Post war he was a salesman. He leaves his wife, Jean, 11c, 32gc, 6ggc.
- **Robert Danknich**, 367th bombardier (Virgil Dingman crew), died 10 Nov 01 in Denver, CO. He was shot down on the 17 Jun 44 mission to Noyen, France, his 25th, and was a POW. Surviving were his wife, Jeanne, 3c, 4gc.
- **Paul Deemer**, died 10 Feb 06 in Bowling Green, KY.
- **James Deiley**, 4th Station Complement Squadron, died 27 Sep 98 in Pittsburgh, PA. He was in sales. He left his wife Ruth, 3c, 6gc.
- **Sam Disko**, 367th, reported as deceased 11 Jan 94 in IL.
- **Eugene Dore**, 369th ambulance driver, died 14 August 93 in Hopkins, MN. He worked as a warehouseman and retired in 1984. He left 3c, 10gc.
- **Alvin Enos**, 369th copilot (Sidney Wolfe crew), died 12 Dec 07 in Cuba, NY. His plane was shot down 5 Jan 44, his 3rd mission, and was a POW. He retired as a rural mail carrier in 1979 and as LTC from the Air Force Reserve in 1982. He leaves his wife, June, 1s, 2gc.
- **Clyde Fistler**, 423rd radar technician, died 29 Oct 94 in Mason City, IA. His overseas tour began in late 1943 and ended in mid 1945. After the war he worked for an electric power company. He leaves his wife, Helen, 3c, 8gc.
- **John Forgy**, 423rd radio operator (Clifford Steiger crew), died 6 Aug 08 in Springfield, MO. His crew joined the Group 16 Feb 45, completed 12 missions, and participated in the Casey Jones Project. He retired as a SMSgt from the Air Force Reserve in 1985 and as a US Postal Service city letter carrier in 1987. He leaves his wife, Martha, 5c, 8gc, 1ggc.

President's Corner



In western Texas, not far from the Permian Basin, Dr. Vernon Williams has hit a gusher. The creative talent and historic perspective of his pool of interns is setting a high standard for the 306th *Echoes*. It was a personal pleasure to meet several of these talented individuals at the Reunion in Little Rock, Arkansas. They are diverse, dedicated, and hard working. For such time as they are with us, we are the beneficiaries of their achievements.

Our Board Of Directors has decided to continue without imposing the payment of dues upon our members. I agree with this decision; however, to continue as a viable organization we need to increase our income. We have a good base of annual contributions but, if possible, I ask each of you to consider increasing your donations within your means. This will allow the continued funding of the publication of *Echoes* and the annual reunions.

In this new year of 2009, let us look forward with hope for good health and happiness for you and your loved ones.

John K. Hickey
President

Time is Running Out to Join the 40th Combat Wing UK Reunion Tour Wednesday pm May 20th – Sunday am May 31st 2009

Ralph Franklin reports that arrangements are entering the final stages for the big reunion event honoring those bomb groups in the 40th Combat Wing. Many of those signed up to attend are from nearby bomb groups at Podington and Chelveston, but so far no 306th BG veterans have sent in their reservations to attend. Since Thurleigh's Memorial Museum will be the focus of some of the most interesting travels back to World War II Bedfordshire, Ralph encourages you and your family to join the fun. Call or email Ralph as soon as you can plan to go or need more information.

For the first time since 1945, the former members of the 92nd, 305th and 306th Bomb Groups and their families are invited to join us in England and celebrate the heroic deeds of the 40th Combat Wing, who together flew daily missions into occupied Europe from the East Anglian airfields of Podington, Chelveston and Thurleigh.

Our group stay will be at the atmospheric Swan Hotel Bedford, beside the banks of the Ouse River, at the heart of Bedford Town. A place steeped in local history, dating back to the 15th century, the Swan is very much a piece of 'Ye Old England' but with 21st century facilities.

Tour to include: Welcome Reception Buffet, 40th Combat Wing Celebration Dinner and Farewell Banquet, Memorial Day Group Breakfast. Plus as part of the daily tours, there are 2 afternoon teas, and 7 lunches.

Guided tours to: Woburn Abbey and Woburn Safari Park, The Shuttleworth Old Warden Vintage Aircraft and Motor Vehicle collection, plus its nationally renowned Swiss Gardens, Bromham Water Mill, RAF Hendon and the national collection of the history of the RAF. Tour of the ancient Kings College Cambridge, plus the world famous wartime 'Eagle' Pub located in the centre of Cambridge City.

Highlights include:- 40th Combat Wing Day, a celebration of the history of the Wing and its three component heavy bomber groups. To be held at the 306th Bomb Group Museum, the home of the 306th, and the former home of the 40th Combat Wing Headquarters site.

This is a privately organised and run tour, aimed specifically at and for the benefit and enjoyment of the veterans and their families. It is hosted by the UK members of the 305th Bomb Group Memorial Association, with the kind assistance of their counterpart Associate Contacts and respective Officers of the 92nd and 306th BG Associations.

- **Couple/Two people sharing Pounds Sterling £1975.00 total**
- **Single person (includes supplement) Pounds Sterling £1450.00 total**
- **Excludes ALL air-land and travel costs from point of departure USA/return home**
- **Excludes ALL insurances – personal/travel/health**
- **The tour package commences and ends at The Bedford Swan Hotel**

For full descriptions, booking forms and further instructions:
please email Ian White, organiser, at – IW.305cando@googlemail.com
or write to: Ian White, 305th BGMA, Stable Cottage, Lower Dunge Farm,
West Ashton, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA14 6AX, England.

or contact the 306th BG representative:

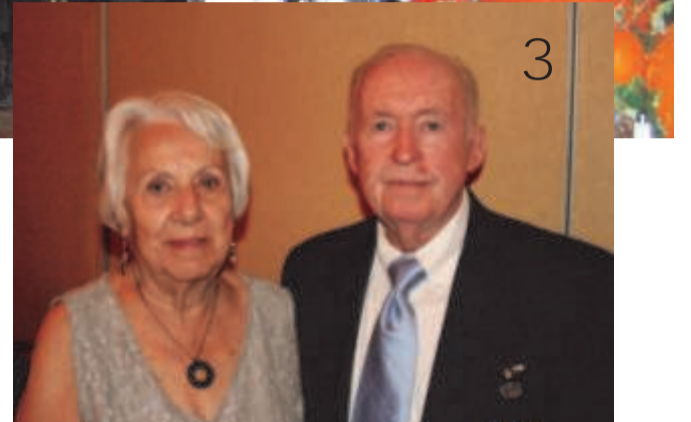
Ralph Franklin, 306th BG Memorial Museum
National School Cottage
Mill Hill, Keysoe, Beds MK44 2HP
Telephone from U.S. 011-44-1234-708715
306museum@nscmh.fsnet.co.uk
Website: www.306bg.co.uk

- **Richard Ramirez**, 369th radio operator, died 18 Jan 91 in San Antonio, TX. His plane was shot down 10 Jan 45 on his 19th mission, and he was a POW. He worked at Kelly AFB as a sheet metal specialist and in 1971 was deployed to Vietnam to repair planes and retired in 1979. He was survived by 6c, 7gc.
- **Leon Rivera**, died 11 Dec 98.
- **Helmuth Roeder**, 367th tail and ball turret gunner (John McKee crew), died 19 Jan 08 in Weimar, TX. He joined Group at Wendover, was downed by fighters 19 Dec 42 on the Romilly, France mission and was a POW. He retired in 1969 as part owner of a chain of auto parts stores. He leaves 1c, 2gc, 2ggc.
- **George Sampson**, 423rd radio operator, died 10 Nov 06 in Bridgeton, ME. He completed a combat tour. Postwar he was a flooring salesman and retired in 1986. He leaves his wife, June, 5c, 12gc, 3ggc.
- **Robert Shingler**, 368th copilot (Toy Husband crew), and pilot, died 1 Jan 98 in St. Clair Shores, MI. His crew arrived at Group 23 Apr 43 and completed a combat tour.
- **Forrest Stewart**, 423rd pilot, died 7 Aug 08 in Tampa, FL. He joined the Group 25 Sep 44 and completed his tour in Apr 45. Stewart graduated from U. Maine and retired as VP of Ingersoll-Rand in 1983. He leaves his wife, Ann, 2c, 6ggc.
- **Julius Tobias**, 423rd bombardier (Dale Ebert crew), died 17 Jun 99 in New York, NY. On 24 Apr 45 Oberpfafenhofen, Germany mission his plane had fighter damage and crash landed in Switzerland, and the crew was interned.
- **Joseph Trama**, 368th, died 5 Aug 07 at Mountain View Care Center in Scranton, PA. He was a retired sheet-metal worker.
- **Claude E. Tressler**, 367th aircraft and engine mechanic, died 7 Sep 08 in Connersville, IN. In 1985 he retired as a press operator. He leaves his wife, Ethel, an English war bride, 3c, 3gc, 3ggc.
- **Gus Tsairis**, 367th top turret gunner, died 20 Nov 05 in Nutley, NJ. His plane crippled by flak, landed in Switzerland, and the crew was interned. He leaves his wife, Georgia, 4c, 4gc.
- **Robert Weed**, 367th, died 22 Dec 07 in Opelika, AL.
- **Paul Wehunt**, 423rd ball turret gunner (Malcolm Frazee crew), died 23 Nov 03 in Yreka, CA. His plane ditched off the Belgian shore, and the crew picked up by a British rescue launch after a night in their dinghies. He retired as a self employed auto mechanic in 1981. He leaves 8c, 15gc, 18ggc.
- **Horace Wilson**, 423rd crew chief, died 23 Feb 05 at the VA Hospital in Ft. Harrison, MT. His saw service in England, Russia, and the Middle East.. He was a miner and sheet metal worker. He leaves his daughter, Valerie.
- **Charles Yeager**, 423rd photographer/gunner (Kenneth Blackwell crew), died at home 15 July 06 in Nescopeck, PA. He received the PH for shrapnel wounds and participated in the Casey Jones Project. He owned an insurance agency and optical company. He leaves his wife, Carol, 1c.

306 Family

- **Margaret Carakostas**, wife of Kenneth Carakostas, 368th pilot, died 3 Sep 08 in Grandville, MI.
- **Georgia Tsairis**, wife of Gus Tsairis, 367th engineer gunner, died 28 Oct 08 in Nutley, NJ.

- **George Franklin**, 423rd ball turret gunner (Carl Smythe crew), died 12 Aug 06 in Ouachita Parish, LA. His crew joined the Group 8 Aug 44 and completed a 35-mission tour 5 Jan 45. He became a prominent landowner and farmer. He leaves his wife, Bettie Jo, 3s, 4gc.
- **Burton Frazier**, 368th engineer (Charles Crooks crew), died at home 9 Nov 08 in Manchester, CT. His crew joined Group 30 Oct 44 and completed 29 missions. He worked for the US Postal Service retiring in 1982. He leaves 3c, 6gc, 2ggc.
- **Jewell Gann**, 423rd, died 14 Mar 06 in Corpus Christi, TX.
- **Bernard Grossman**, 367th navigator (Wesley Brinkley crew), died 23 Sep 08 in Lakewood, NJ. On 13 Dec 43, his first mission, his plane was damaged by flak forcing the crew to bail out into the North Sea, he was one of three picked up by German boats and was a POW. He retired as a major in 1966 and worked with the city of NY in 1982. He leaves 2c, 4gc, 1ggc.
- **MSgt Woodrow C. Gurr**, 368th armament chief, died 28 May 03 in Vernal, UT. He joined the Group at Wendover. He retired from Nevada Power in 1964 with 34 years service. He leaves his wife, Mary, 6c, 11gc, 21gc.
- **Charles Hale**, 367th navigator, died 5 Sep 05 in Akron, OH. After the war he taught English, art, and geography. He leaves 3c, 2gc.
- **James Harris**, 367th tail gunner (Richard Butler crew), died 6 May 07 in Little Falls, NY. His plane was downed by fighters 14 Oct 43, and he was MIA/POW. He retired as a supervisor at Remington Arms in 1981. He leaves his wife, Betty, 4c, 5gc, 1ggc, 2gggc.
- **William Hifler**, 367th, died 29 May 92 in Gainesville, TX.
- **Stanley Josell**, died 21 Dec 99 in Boynton Beach, FL.
- **Walter Keilt**, 368th pilot, died 21 Jan 08 in Concrete, WA. He joined the Group 1 Dec 43, completed a 28 mission tour in May 44, and was assigned to the Air Transport Group. Post war he worked as a mechanical engineer for Boeing and Northrop. He leaves 3n, 1gn.
- **Alton Kester**, 369th navigator (Gennaro Carrazzone crew), died 20 Jul 08 in Pittsburgh, PA. He completed a 35 mission tour in Dec 44. He was a civil engineer building communications towers and retired in 2001. He leaves 5c, 5gc.
- **Paul Kling**, 367th, died 9 Jun 07 in Melbourne, FL. He retired in 1982 as a refrigeration/AC engineer. He leaves his wife, Lucy, 2c, 3gc, 7ggc.
- **Kenneth Kohl**, 4th Weather, died 22 May 72 in Reading, PA. He continued working in the weather field for many years. He left his wife, June, 2c, 2gc.
- **Michael Kramer**, 369th bombardier (Walter Rozett crew), died 19 Dec 03 in Austin, TX. He joined the Group 25 Sep 44 and completed a 30-mission tour. He leaves his wife, Pat, 5c.
- **Edward Lockard**, 368th ball turret/nose gunner, died 24 Mar 99 in Pittsburgh, PA. He completed a 25-mission tour and after the war was a high school teacher retiring in 1986. He leaves his wife, Grace, 2c, 4gc.
- **Roy Marks**, 367th pilot, died 24 Sep 08 in Conroe, TX. He joined the Group 5 Feb 45, flew 26 missions and participated in the Casey Jones Project. Postwar he worked for Phillips Chemical retiring in 1976 and was a major in the Active Reserves for 22 years. He leaves his wife, Billie.
- **Donald Murphy**, 368th copilot (Frank Krzyston crew), died 16 Oct 96 in Logansport, IN. His crew joined the Group 21 Apr 44, and he departed 2 Aug 44 in hospital status. He retired from the railroad. He leaves his wife, Mary, 2c, 1gc.
- **Lawrence Neuhauser**, 367th ball turret gunner (Charles Tucker crew), died 12 Dec 07 at home in Pardeeville, WI. His crew joined the Group 3 Dec 43 and was MIA/POW 4 Jan 44. He was a master mechanic retiring in 1985. He leaves 6c, 19gc, 13ggc.
- **Larry Osterhoudt**, 369th ball turret gunner, died 1 Mar 02 in Orlando, FL. He completed 30 missions. Postwar he worked as an automobile mechanic and security guard. He leaves his wife, Jeanne, 3c, 5gc, 4ggc.
- **Beekman Pool**, 423rd intelligence officer and service pilot, died 12 Apr 04 in Dublin, NH. He worked for Planned Parenthood and general population control. He left his wife, Elizabeth, 1d, 1gs.
- **Clifford Raymond**, 367th waist gunner (Ben Peters crew), died 24 Jul 1994 in Claremont, NH. His crew arrived at Group 24 Jan 44 and completed a combat tour in Jun.



Little Rock Reunion Photographs
 Courtesy Em Christianson, Susan O'Konski, The Phelan Family, Robert Starzynski, and the ACU interns.



1) Veteran's group photograph, beginning of the banquet 2) Little Rock AFB Tour Group 3) Elizabeth and John Hickey 4) Jim, Hugh, Evelyn, and Dick Phelan 5) Albert Mahan, Robert Starzynski 6) Wayne and Margaret Stellish, Carol Petrucka 7) Janet and Grover Goode 8) Rocky Rockwell, Sheldon Beigel, Joel LaBo 9) Mary Beth Carney, Dr. Thurman Shuller, Henry Shuller 10) George and Elizabeth Stephens 11) Richard and Virginia Brown with daughter Patty 12) Joel Labo and Judith Hermley 13) Margaret Jennings, Barbara Neal, and Graford Jennings 14) Anna and Dick Phelan.



Send in your registration for this year's Fort Worth Western Reunion today. Hotel rooms are available for booking now, and the schedule is set for this exciting fall reunion. See page 7 in this issue.





1) Joel LaBo, Robert Starzynski, William Houlihan 2) Widows group picture before banquet 3) Jim and Paula Phelan, Ralph and Daphne Franklin 4) Lindsay Klar (the Thurman Shuller Intern) with Dr. Thurman Shuller (Lindsay is the author of "Army Air Force Medicine in WWII" in the July 2008 issue of *Echoes*) 5) Albert Mahan, unknown 6) Philip Mundell, Walter Rozett in left seat, C130 pilot in right seat 7) Albert Mahan, Carolyn Tate, Dr. Herman Kaye, Gloria Lu, Sally Mula 8) ACU interns: seated, left to right—Bradley Steele, Lindsay Klar, Natasia Jackson, Becca Fletcher. Back row, Jacob Peterson, Luke Truxal 9) The next generation group picture (this is the future for the 306th BG).



Do You Have a Family Member or Friend Stationed in England Now?

The Association needs to ship books and other items to our museum in Thurleigh. The best way to do that is to ship it to an APO address and have Ralph Franklin make arrangements to pick the items up from our military intermediary. If you have a friend or a family member currently stationed in England, and you think they would be willing to help, contact our secretary right away with the details.

Albert McMahan
 272 N. Peachtree St.
 Norcross, GA 30071
 ancmahan@bellsouth.net

Honor Flight A Program Honoring American Veterans

By Chase Brazell
The Leland Kessler Intern
Abilene Christian University

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization that sends veterans on a "Tour of Honor," a flight to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials free of cost. Since its inception in 2005, Honor Flight Network has flown over 17,000 World War II, Korea, and Vietnam War veterans to visit their respective memorials in Washington DC. Honor Flight encourages all veterans to apply as soon as possible, as there is a waiting list of over 7,000 veterans.

306th Bomb Group veteran Art Trimble spoke to Dr. Vernon L. Williams, Echoes editor last week, and urged everyone who is interested to consider making an application to participate in this rewarding program. Art and many of his friends in upstate New York are working towards doing just that. If you want to know more about what Art is doing, he can be contacted at his email address: atrimbl1@rochester.rr.com

To learn how to apply to Honor Flight, visit the Honor Flight website at www.honorflight.org or call 937-521-2400.



The Air Force Memorial in Washington, D.C. is one of the new destinations for Honor Flight. Consider making an application to go on an Honor Flight yourself or plan a family trip to see the new memorial dedicated to you and your comrades who flew or supported the Flying Fortresses at Thurleigh during World War II.

The Control Tower A Busy Place at Thurleigh



Giving to the 306th BG Association Makes Sense A Tax-Deductible Donation Goes a Long Way

Over the years 306th Bomb Group veterans and their families have made a real difference in keeping the Group alive and preserving its history for generations of Americans who were born after World War II and for those who are not yet born. Other bomb groups have not been so successful.

In recent years the preservation efforts have taken steps to take advantage of new technology to record memories, collect and digitize archival materials, and organize the 306th BG Historical Collection for preservation purposes. Not only will the history of the 306th live forever, the technology will allow veterans to tell their stories personally to generations of Americans hundreds of years from now. Your donations can help this preservation effort as the 306th BG Association oversees this new dynamic preservation program.

However, the Group's most pressing financial needs center on publishing the *Echoes* and funding the Association's traditional activities. Much of the cost for the preservation efforts is donated to the Association by Dr. Williams and the ACU university interns, but we continue to need your help in supporting the Association.

Consider writing a check today that will help the *Echoes* continue publication into the future. Many are committed to donating on a regular basis—monthly, quarterly, or an annual contribution. They are all tax deductible, since the 306th BG Association is a 501(c) (3) entity, recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a charitable organization. Others are considering an estate planning strategy that will benefit the 306th. Whatever you can do will make a real difference and allow the Association to continue without charging annual dues or resort to other revenue plans to support our operations.

Use the form below to send our treasurer your gift. Make your check out to the 306th Bomb Group Association and send it to:



Joel LaBo, Treasurer
306th Bomb Group Association
875 S. Worth
Birmingham, Michigan 48009



DONATIONS FOR THE 306TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

Those who are able are asked to make an annual contribution to keep everything running smoothly in our Association. There are no dues—so your gift is needed to support the 306th operations. Your gift is tax-deductible.

Name

Street and No.

City, State & Zip

Telephone No. 306th Unit



Send to:
Joel LaBo, Treasurer
306th Bomb Group Association
875 S. Worth
Birmingham, Michigan 48009

Date

Registration Form

306th Bomb Group Association Reunion
 Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott South Hotel — Ft. Worth, Texas
 8-12 October 2009

Registration fee (per person)..... x \$25.00 = \$_____

Friday, 9 October

Museum Tour - Texas Civil War Museum, Texas BBQ Lunch, x \$42.00 = \$_____ and C.R. Smith American Airlines Aviation Museum (9:30am-3pm)
 Prices include BBQ lunch.

Twelve O'Clock High Dinner - Trinity III (7 pm)..... x \$39.00 = \$_____

Saturday, 10 October

Ladies Breakfast - Trinity III (7:30-9am)..... x \$28.00 = \$_____

Ft. Worth Western Heritage Tour - Includes museums, cattle..... x \$29.00 = \$_____ drive recreation, lunch on your own in the heritage area, Billy Bobs, shopping (9:30am-3pm)

Banquet - Trinity III (7 pm)..... x \$41.00 = \$_____

Everything else on the schedule is free!

Total.....\$_____

Name_____

Address w/ City, State, Zip_____

Phone # (____)_____ E-Mail_____

Squadron_____ Assigned Duty_____

*Please make checks payable to: 306th Bomb Group Association Reunion and mail to:
 Joel LaBo, 875 S. Worth, Birmingham, Michigan 48009*

Please list the names and hometown for each person registered.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Is this your first reunion?_____ Veteran?_____ Family?_____

Please call the Dallas/Fort Worth Airport Marriott South direct to make reservations:

1-800-228-9290

Ask for 306th Bomb Group reunion rates:

Group Code is: bgabgaa

\$99.00 Single or Double Rooms—All One Price

Deadline for registration and hotel reservations is 17 September 2009.

Please help your 306th Bomb Group reunion planning, register and make hotel reservations early. Do it today!

**Reunion Schedule
 At Ft. Worth**

Thursday, 8 October

- Arrival - Pick up registration packets - Foyer to Trinity III (2 - 6 pm)
- Board Meeting (2-4 pm) Little Bear Board Room
- Oral History interviews (2-5pm)
- Dinner on your own (Rivercity Grille in hotel and other restaurants close by)

Friday, 9 October

- Arrival - Pick up registration packets - Foyer to Trinity III (8am-5pm)
- Oral History interviews (9am-5pm)
- Hospitality Room and Exhibits- Trinity III (8am-5pm; 7-10 pm)
- Cinema Room WWII Movies - Trinity I (9 am - 3 pm)
- Museum Tour - Texas Civil War Museum, Texas BBQ Lunch, and C.R. Smith American Airlines Aviation Museum (9:30am-3pm)
- Second Generation meeting - Trinity I (4 pm)
- 306th BG Web Demonstration - What's new on the 306th BG web and how to do research from your computer - Dr. Williams - Trinity I (5-5:45 pm)
- Twelve O'Clock High Dinner - Trinity III (Cash Bar 6-7pm, Dinner 7-9pm)

Saturday, 10 October

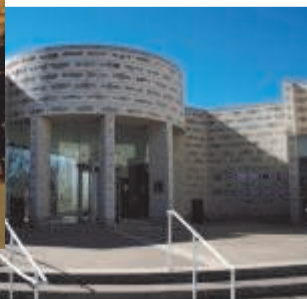
- Arrival - Pick up registration packets - Foyer to Trinity III (8am-5pm)
- Ladies Breakfast - Trinity III (7:30-9am)
- Business Meeting - Trinity III (9:15 am)
- Oral History interviews (11:30 am-5pm)
- Hospitality Room and Exhibits- Trinity III (1-5pm; 7-10 pm)
- Cinema Room WWII Movies - Trinity I (9 am - 3 pm)
- Ft. Worth Western Heritage Tour - (11:15am-4:30 pm) includes museums, cattle drive recreation, lunch on your own, Billy Bobs, shopping.
- Cash bar - Trinity III (6 pm – 9 pm)
- Veterans-only Group Photograph-Trinity III (6:45 pm)
- Widows Group & Next Generation Photograph Trinity III (6:50 pm)
- Banquet - Trinity III (7 pm)

Sunday, 11 October

- Arrival - Pick up registration packets - Foyer to Trinity III (8am-5pm)
- Memorial Service, Trinity III –Tribute to the Fallen and Folded Wings Memorial (9:00-10:30 am)
- Oral History interviews (1-5pm)
- Lunch on your own.
- Hospitality Room and Exhibits- Trinity III (1:30 -5pm)
- *Echoes* - Meet with your new *Echoes* staff. Question and Answer (2:00 pm)
- An Evening at Thurleigh—
 - ◆ A Thurleigh Museum Video Presentation by Ralph Franklin
 - ◆ Thurleigh at War– New film premiere and presentation by Dr. Vernon L. Williams – Trinity I (7:00-9pm)

Monday, 12 October

- Farewells
- Check out
- Travel Home — See you next year!



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Reunion Chairman

vwilliams@acu.edu

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Museum Notes

Thurleigh Airfield 306th Bomb Group Museum

More Treasures from WWII Return Home

by Ralph Franklin

"Memories are made of this" is often used when recalling events from the past, particularly when the subject is WW11. This is very true with many of our visitors to the museum. They also often comment how very personal some of our displays are, and this is what makes our presentations so unique when compared with many of the larger establishments. The following will add yet another dimension to the story of the 306th.

It all began on the morning of 9 October 1943, when twenty-two aircraft took off

Heinz Philipp
Dorfstrasse 12

W-2055 Wohltorf
Germany
1992

Wohltorf, 28. 11.

Dear Mr. MacCormack,

you are certainly astonished to receive a letter from Germany, written by a man you don't know and you never heard about. But we already acted with one another - in an evil time:

October 9th, 1943, between 2h and 3h p.m.

This happened in the danish atmosphere, exactly above the Danish isle SAMSØ, when we were forced to combat against each other.

At that time, I was air-engineer of a JUNKERS JU 88 (two motors), which was an aeroplane constructed as a night-fighter. During that time we had to fly by daylight, too, because there were no longer enough daylight-fighters - ME 109 and FW 190 - in Germany. My rank was sergeant.

My pilot was Lt. Stock (died in 1977). Our wireless operator was Corporal Willy Eiben killed in action during an air battle with a British night-fighter in 1944.

The particulars about my person are:

Born May, 18th, 1921; married since 1943; 1 son.

I'm a merchant by trade and was a representative of german and italian furniture factories.

Nowadays I retired and live with my wife in a lovely small village which is situated in a forest near Hamburg.

My hobbies are our two Alsatian wolfhound (sheep-dog) and fotografy.

After this brief introduction I hope you will have an idea of the person who is writing to you.

Since a couple of years, I try to find the adress of one of the members of Your crew.

We - this means our crew - knew, that some of your crew survived, because we saw them leaving your aeroplane by parachute after our last attack.

Already in 1970 we heard about a Danish man who was huntig at the 9th of October 1943 when four of your crew were landing close at him. This man also took some photographs of the crew-members.

Unfortunately the addresses went lost.

Some days ago I got your adress from Mr. Carsten Petersen from Danmark who writes books about the air-battle above Danmark.

I would be very pleased to get contact to you and would be gladdened if you are also interested in a communication.

I hope we will have an intensive correspondence and send to you my

Cordial Greetings

small island of Samsø, a Danish island off the Jutland Peninsula. Part of the crew were quickly gathered together by the Danish Underground. The men were hidden that Saturday night, but all were eventually captured by the Germans.

As the years passed, Carl Groesbeck and Miles McCormack remained good friends, the strong bond that united them in those dark days of WW11 is a tough one to break.

The events that took place during those traumatic times of 1943 are something that will never be erased from the memories of the young airmen (on both sides) who were forced to take part in the deadly battles over Europe. They would never meet following their duels in the skies over Europe. There are, however, exceptions in some cases, and this is one of those. In 1992, almost 50 years after the event, both Carl and Miles were taken by surprise to receive a letter (see letter at left) from Heinz Philipp, an Air-Engineer flying in the very JUNKERS 88 that was responsible for shooting them down. Time is a good healer, and those who were trying to kill each other in 1943, corresponded on several occasions. Eventually arrangements were made for Carl and his son Jon to visit Heinz in Hamburg on two occasions where documentation and two items recovered from the crash site were given to Carl, a gunner's cap and a couple of gear wheels from their B-17.

Now our story moves on to May 2008 when Carl joined the Goodbye Piccadilly tour of WWII England. On the day the tour visited Thurleigh, Carl was asked to present Daphne her Bledsoe Award (see the Museum Notes column in the July 2008 issue of *Echoes*). Carl and the rest of the crowd spent the day at the museum. In a letter from Carl sometime later, he referred to our wonderful first class 306th Bomb Group Museum, saying that "enough credit cannot be given for the professionalism of your efforts." This letter was followed by an e-mail received from his son Jon saying they would be sending the artifacts over, hoping they could be used in our museum. This we are delighted to do as we always love to set up small personal displays as a tribute to the individual donating the items.

The photograph below shows the two recovered items in one of our display cabinets, note the painting of a navigator at his position in a B-17.



Above: A display case at the 306th Bomb Group Museum in Thurleigh. Below: Ralph Franklin in action at home, being the consummate host on yet another 306th occasion.

Above: A letter from Heinz Philipp in 1992 to Miles McCormack who were once on opposing ends of the air war taking place over Europe.

from Thurleigh at 0825 hours, among them was the 368th squadron F model 42-37718H, piloted by 1st Lt. Roy C. Ranck. His co-pilot 2nd Lt. Miles C. McCormack and navigator 2nd Lt. Carl Groesbeck who will feature in the events which would take place many years later.

Back to the mission. An early and memorable briefing opened by Maj. Robert Williams, Group Operations Officer, requesting that if there were any doctors in the room they had better stay to revive anyone who fainted when the screen was rolled up on the map. No one did, but many deep breaths were taken. The three-pronged attack laid out for Gdynia, Marienburg and Anklam was far and away the most daring project yet undertaken by the 306th crews in England. Half the German fleet, supposedly lying out of range in the Gdynia harbor in Poland, was a tempting challenge to the five crews from the 368th.

Once airborne the rendezvous for the 40th Combat Wing was at low altitude over Thurleigh, this furnished a spectacular show for the men on the ground. The group then set off on the long trip to the harbor at Gdynia, thought by the Germans to be a safe haven. The harbor was situated 200 miles east of Berlin and served as a major storage base for naval and maritime equipment. A heavy smoke screen covered the target, but the group's bombs were dropped on estimated positions and did serious damage to the docks. Aerial photographs taken the following day showed the badly damaged trans-Atlantic liner, the *Stuttgart* being towed out of the harbor.

On the way home, German fighters attacked Lt. Ranck's plane and inflicted serious damage. The flight controls were badly mangled, and the oxygen system was shot out. After considering the situation, Ranck brought his aircraft down to 3,500 ft. and as he approached the Baltic Islands off the coast of Denmark, he ordered the crew to bail out. As soon as he released the controls the plane went into a dive, crashing on the

