

306th Echoes

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New Look for *Echoes*

By Vernon L. Williams
Editor

Upon the recommendation of your editor, the 306th BGA Board of Directors approved moving to a 8 1/2 x 11 format for *Echoes* to improve the readability of the issue and to allow everyone to print out easy-to-read copies of the *Echoes* on their printers at home. It also allows 306th families to circulate printable copies of the current issue to family and friends via email.

When trying to print the old tabloid size (11x17), newspaper format, your printer would compress the web version into tiny, hard to read pages as it squeezed the oversize page down to letter-size paper in your printer. With the new format, what you see is what you get. Printers will not have to squeeze the pages since the original pages are the same size as the paper in your printer. To print it at 306bg.org, select the "Echoes" tab and scroll down to the issue.

The newly formatted *Echoes* is no longer printed on a newspaper press in Abilene, but is produced by a printing company in San Diego. We will still have color, but just on pages 1, 2, 15, and 16. The rest of the interior pages will be black and white. As you can see in this issue, most of our photograph collection from World War II is black and white so the new format works well with our content.

The new format maintains the look of Russell Strong's long run of *Echoes* over the years. Russell was a dedicated journalist who applied his talents to the many 306th publications that he produced during his long run as Executive Secretary of the 306 BGA. The editor hopes that long-time readers will see the new issues as they arrive in the mailbox and think of Russell and all he did for the Association. This Winter 2013 issue carries on his legacy of service to the veterans and their families over the years.

Deets Refurbishes 306th Unit Logos

Clifford Deets is the latest of the Next Generation who is actively helping the 306th Bomb Group Association to make a difference for the future. There are many others who are doing so as well. Just take a look at the leadership box on page 2 to see some of these dedicated men and women who are keeping the history alive. There are others too: sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, and third/fourth generation family members.

Cliff has provided the Association with newly, refurbished art work of each bomb squadron's logo and also did a great job producing the 306th Bomb Group logo (see it on page 2). If any members need copies of any of these drawings, visit the 306th website and click on logos. You can right-click on any of the drawings and save the image to your computer. Thank you Cliff for all your work on this. Cliff is already at work on other 306th projects, assisting the leadership and also Dr. Williams at ACU with the digital archives and preparations for uploading to our web.

Plan to Attend the
New Orleans
Reunion at the
Embassy Suites
Convention Center
October 3-6, 2013
(See pages 12-13 for details)



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*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 obits as soon as possible after the death, to secretary (see contact information at left on this page below).

The secretary has learned of the following deaths:

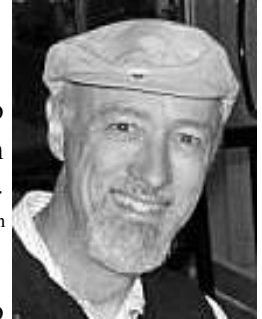
- **Baker, Dale Waid Sr**, 369th armorer, and a native of OH, died 18 Jan 12, at home in Columbus, OH at 88. He arrived at Thurleigh in Oct 43 and left Oct 45. Post-war in Columbus, he married Ruth in Jun 49, at which time he was a lathe operator. He retired as a Supply and Data Specialist at Defense Supply Center Columbus; he later was maintenance Supervisor for Wesley Glen Retirement Center, from which he retired Mar 90. Dale was an avid outdoorsman; he loved travel and was a devoted Buckeye fan. He was member of Life Church of Easton in Columbus; Fraternal Order of Eagles; and lifetime member of VFW. Cpl Baker is buried at Fairview Memorial Park, and survived by his wife Nellie, 3c, 2st-d, numerous gc and ggc.
- **Barnett, Eli 'Buzz'** 423rd turret gunner flight engineer (Guy Burnett Jr crew), originally from Boston, died in Marblehead, MA, 24 Feb 13, at 88. Eli arrived at Thurleigh 17 Jul 44, with Guy Burnett and Vern Rasmussen; with both of them, he enjoyed correspondence for many years. He flew 35 missions, completing his tour 24 Jan 45. He was a first-generation American who lost a number of relatives in the Holocaust, so his service to the US meant a great deal to him. Before he enlisted, he briefly attended Northeastern Univ. Post-war, he graduated in Mechanical Engineering at Western State Univ in CO, and earned his Master's from Boston State College. In 57, Eli married Doris; they moved to Marblehead in 62. He worked with The Ruge-Deforest consulting group at MIT (later Baldwin-Lima-Hamilton) on the commercial implementation of the SR-4 strain gauge. He later went on to be a Senior Engineer at Avco; and retired from Raytheon Corp at 70. He was actively involved in the Marblehead community for 50 years: as a part-time math/science tutor in the 60s; and active member of the former Temple Israel, Jewish Community Center, and Marblehead Rotary Club. He enjoyed fishing and his afternoon "old soldier's coffee club" at the local Dunkin Donuts. Doris, at 65, predeceased him in 95; survived by 1d, 2gd. **Posted at youtube.com is "Eli Barnett - Wentworth Veterans Project" which was a class project of Wentworth Institute of Technology interviewing Eli; it was completed shortly before he had a series of strokes in his last months.**
- **Bloker, Raymond E Jr**, 369th navigator (Andrew Kata crew), and a native of OH, died 14 Jul 12 in Gainesville, FL at 88. With Kata, he arrived at Thurleigh 27 Apr 44, and was downed 8 Aug (Caen mission) when their B-17 was hit over enemy lines. He was 1 of the 6 fortunate crew members whose parachutes apparently landed on, or near enough to, the British side, avoiding the Germans and rescued for a quick return to Thurleigh (versus the 4 in German hands who were POW). He flew 30 missions and departed in Aug 44. Post-war he married Betty in Jun 47 shortly after they both graduated Ohio State U. He was a financial analyst and accounting manager for Ford Motor Company in Cleveland, OH and Dearborn, MI for 33 years, retiring in Aug 81. They lived in Birmingham, MI for 39 years enjoying many winters in Naples, FL, where they moved fulltime in 03; in Dec 11



Obituaries continued on page 6

President's Column

I am Charles Neal, and I have big shoes to fill as acting president of our association due to Rocky Rockwell's resignation because of his declining health and recent death. Rocky resigned in April due to cancer, and died in May. I personally told him I will work hard to ensure his presidential year will be a success. I hope you will join me in fulfilling that goal for Rocky and all our 306th veterans. Please keep reading and see specific things you can do.



The Association has a number of second generation contributors including board members who are providing renewed vigor to the organization. Rocky, immediate past-president Walt Rozett, long time involved veterans such as Albert McMahan, Bill Houlihan and others have told me how pleased they are that there are descendants and friends that are dedicated to keeping the association active. The veterans, their wives and widows, most of whom cannot attend our annual get together, especially appreciate the continued publication of 306th Echoes. However, more than that, the second generation and beyond are honoring the men as well as educating and advancing the lessons of our venerated "greatest generation" heroes. While we know it gets more difficult each year for members of that generation to attend, we hope our 306th veterans will make every effort to attend our meeting in New Orleans in October. Yes it is a reunion; however, it is also a time for us in the subsequent generations to learn and to be inspired.

I am also inspired by many of our second generation participants. The love and respect they show for our 306th veterans and the memory of those who have passed away, motivate the second generation officers and board members. We had many ideas offered by second generation participants at the Savannah reunion. Your board has had a teleconference meeting (a first) and we expect to hold another, prior to meeting in New Orleans to consider and act on some of the ideas.

Dr. Vernon Williams, our historian, web master, editor of the 306th and board member has been doing tasks critical for the survival of the 306th for the past five years. That has provided the environment to involve more second generation contributors who are beginning to carry the work load of our association. One step in that direction is Karl Poythress and a committee planning this year's reunion, relieving Dr. Williams of one of his many burdens. Perhaps several of you receiving the issue of the 306th Echoes can help with another important project. Over the past five years Dr. Williams and some of his students at Abilene Christian University have scanned thousands of documents and most are now accessible on the 306th web site. However, more work needs to be done to finish the project. The documents have been scanned; however, they need some additional processing before they can be useful on our website. That process requires someone (or ones) to do a limited amount of HTML coding. If you have such skills or by virtue of other computer experiences could likely learn them in a few hours of instruction please contact me or Dr. Williams. The work can be done remotely. Other projects are in the works.

I expect second generation volunteers to organize an effort to visit vets and widows that live within a reasonable distance and just visit or perhaps do an interview if they are willing to discuss their past experiences. There are other ideas for projects that will be communicated in future editions of the 306th Echoes, via email and at the reunion.

A way that anyone can help is to make a donation to help defray the cost of printing and mailing the 306th Echoes (see page 14 for donation details).

Finally, I encourage all to come to the New Orleans reunion and meeting. There will be plenty of time for just visiting friends; consider coming early and/or staying a couple of extra days. Bring the younger generation as well. We plan to have some computers with flight simulators and other interesting things, and of course the city is an exciting one with fine food to eat and much to do and see.

Charles Neal, May 2013



Secretary's Column

By Barbara Neal

(Secretary contact information on page 2)

World War II Memorial Registry:

Each of our vets should be listed at this free website; hundreds are not. An excellent example of how a vet can list himself (or be listed by a family member or friend, who has the proper info about him) can be seen at the entry for our vet John Hazy. Proper info for a listing includes the vet's hometown; his first and last name; and his WWII service. PLEASE help get all listed: go to <http://www.wwiimemorial.com>; scroll down to "World War II Registry" where it says "To search the electronic World War II Registry of Americans who contributed to the war effort, or add the name of a loved one, click here." Click, & you'll be at the "Registry" page. Do 2 things: (1) Use the "Search the Registry" section, to search for the vet's name. If he is listed properly, please let me know. (2) If he is NOT listed, or is listed improperly, and IF you know the proper info to submit, please use the "Register an Honoree" section at the top of the Registry. Vet info can be added online, or by printing a form to fill in and mail.

Update on search for remains of my 306th uncle, Alfred Lubojacky, 369th ball turret gunner who was MIA 14 Feb 45 (Dresden mission): As follow-up to Apr-09 Echoes article, both Czech researchers and US DOD investigators have found an archived record, that Al was buried at the old German portion of the cemetery in what is now the Czech village of Vernerice (in Feb 45 was the German village of Wernstadt). The exact plot is unknown, since that cemetery's record-book has been missing since the end of WWII, when then-German villagers fled this area of what I understand to be part of the Sudetenland, relinquishing control of the village to Czechs.

Changed names: With thanks to Col. William Carlile, who sent his 1996 Directory to assist in research, here are 14 vets who by '96 had changed their names, as shown on p.78 of that Directory. This info can help future researchers unable to find info about a vet: Sal Aguilano later Sal Angelle; Cyril Bush later Cyril Busch; Nathan Chadakoff later Nathan Chaddick; Isadore Dorushkin later Robert Dorin; Eli Goldbarst later Lee Eli Barr;

Morris Hasinsky later Mike Harvey; Gerald Kruzynski later Gerald Kruse; Edward Migliarrio later Edward McLario; William S Raper later William S Rader; Barney Silverman later Barney Stevens; John Vale later John Val; Frank Wagenfohr later Frank Kirkham; Chester 'Tom' Wendoloski later Tom Wenn; Isaac Zalusky later Isaac Zale.

DD-214 (discharge record): Make sure to have a copy on hand if you served. After a vet dies, the DD-214 is needed in order to get a flag; to have military honors at the service; to get the vet grave marker; and for burial in a National Cemetery. Obtaining it can take up to 90 days or more. If you do not have a copy on hand, order a copy by calling the military records number for the V.A. 1-866-272-6272; be sure to call from the vet's local area. Another helpful number, if your vet has just died and you cannot locate his DD-214, is 1-800-827-1000.

Operation Frantic: Alert for any living vet who participated in this [for shuttle-bombing; crew chiefs and men sent from Thurleigh in Spring-44 to Russian bases in the Ukraine -- Poltava, Mirgorod, & Peryatin], who has not yet gotten the Russian Victory Medal: be aware that if you can present proof of your participation to the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC, you may still be able to get this handsome medal. Our vet William Drumm alerted me (368 crew chief; email bdrumm17@vermontel.net).

Drumm has identified line chief Bernie Fahey as the winter-jacketed man facing the camera in the last of the photos on p.5 in the July '09 Echoes article about Poltava (*see Poltava photograph, bottom left, page 5*), noting Bernie's jacket indicates this photo was made long after the rest of the 1200 men had returned to the UK, since they all enjoyed warm weather during their stay in Ukraine May thru Sep of '44. Years ago, Bill sent Russell Strong a cassette of his recollections of the entire 'Frantic' operation, which would help historians round out the story to include more than merely Poltava, which has been covered more extensively than the other bases, both in the book (*The Poltava Affair*, by Glen Ifield in '73) and in Echoes. Bill said most of the 1200 men never got to see Poltava, except on the way to, and later on the way back from, their bases at Mirgorod and Peryatin. Just getting there involved weeks in a British convoy to Port Said, Egypt; then weeks overland via train and truck to Tabriz, Iran; and then train to Poltava, Mirgorod, and Peryatin. By the time they returned from Russia in the waning days of the war, they returned to Liverpool, where they awaited transport back to the US, without seeing Thurleigh again.

Bedford Wartime Memories

Include the Yanks

By Vernon L. Williams

*Editor's Note: This article is drawn from materials that will appear in a chapter in a book that I am currently writing and is tentatively to be titled *Crucible of War: the Anglo-American Cultural Exchange in World War II England, 1942-1945.**

In April this year I traveled to England to speak at Exeter University on a related 306th Bomb Group topic, "Glenn Miller, Big Bands, and the Jitterbug in Wartime England." Much of the material in that presentation was drawn from my interviews of Land Girls who lived in hostels near Thurleigh and my research on the social life of men stationed in the Eighth Air Force during the war.

I spent my last day in England visiting friends in Bedford, including Ralph and Daphne Franklin (see page 15) and was hosted by my good friend Stuart Androbus, local historian and author. Stuart introduced me to a book about the Owen School

boys who were evacuated to Bedford for the duration of the war. The volume included reminiscences of the boys and some of the schoolgirls who lived in Bedford at the time. I found a chapter on the Yanks. It was here that I discovered some memories of Thurleigh and the men who spent much of their free time in Bedford. Here are some excerpts of these vivid memories that still remain a living part of their lives today. The children have never forgotten the Americans at Thurleigh or those who walked the streets of Bedford.

Many of the memories centered on the generosity of the Yanks. "American forces sometimes opened their camps near Bedford, picked children up in the Market Square and took them in lorries to Chicksands and Thurleigh. They fed us, played games with us and brought us back, each child clutching a sweetie bag," remembered Mary Hope.

Others also reminisced about the special times at Thurleigh. John Weston still remembers that "we had visits to an American airbase and were so well treated — ice cream and foods that we'd not experienced before." Ray Castle added that "the Americans I will never forget. They even found time to take some of us to Thurleigh to look over a B-



School boys in London departed for the new homes in the safety of the countryside. They carried with them their worldly belongings and a tag around their necks to identify who they were. Photograph courtesy East Anglia Air War Project.

17, followed by donuts and Coca-Cola during a lull in proceedings."

Some of the boys had extraordinary experiences at Thurleigh. Gerry Shaw recounted one on a lazy Saturday afternoon that is clear and vivid after more than seventy years. "One of my group had an American cousin in the USAAF based a few miles from Bedford, and a few of us hitched a lift and visited the base on a Saturday afternoon. We were treated very well to tea and in conversation, we said that we were in the Army Cadets and ATC. They said that if we had our parents' permission, they might be able to arrange for us to have a flight. That was enough for us!

We all wrote letters purporting to come from our parents giving permission for us to fly and, donning our various uniforms, again went out to the base the following weekend to meet our American friends. True

(Bedford continued on page 8)



Officer's Club at Poltava during Operation Frantic. Photograph courtesy East Anglia Air War Project.

Continued from page 2

they moved to Gainesville. He enjoyed golf, following all sports activities of the OH State Buckeyes, and duplicate bridge, attaining the rank of Bronze Life Master. Buried at FL National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL, Ray is survived by his wife Betty, 3c, 3gc.

- **Bowley, Albert John**, 367th / 369th pilot & 367th Operations Officer at end of combat thru Casey Jones Project, died 23 Feb 13 in Melbourne, FL at 91. He graduated West Point Jun 43; after B-17 transition training, was a B-17 instructor pilot at Tampa, FL and then Gulfport, MS; he arrived at Thurleigh as 367th pilot 27 Dec 44 (5 Jan-45 pilot 369th) and flew 22 missions. Made Capt 9 Mar 45; after W Bradley Butterfield on 14 Apr 45 died in Isle of Man crash, Bowley succeeded him as 367th Operations Officer 1 May 45. Following end of combat in Jun 45, Maj Bowley commanded the Casey Jones mapping project Aug 46 when he was assigned squadron operations officer of 305th BG at Lechfeld, Germany. Gen Bowley left Germany Jun 47 and continued in active duty with the USAF in various promotions around the world; in 71 M/Gen Bowley was deputy chief of staff, US Military Assistance Command, Vietnam. After 30 years on active duty, he worked in the Development Office of Stetson Univ in DeLand, FL from 73 - 93. He enjoyed golf and dancing with his wife, Marjorie. They spent winters in Indian River Colony Club, Melbourne, and summers in Linville Land Harbor, Newland, NC. After 65 years of marriage, Marjorie predeceased him 27 Feb 09 at 85. He is survived by 2c, 7gc, 5ggc. Graveside service at West Point Cemetery, 7 Jun 13 at 1:30pm. The family suggested donations to the Gen & Mrs Curtis Lemay Foundation, a charity that helps widows of all Air Force Retirees, both officer and enlisted.
- **Caldwell, Warren G**, 423rd flight engineer (crews of Daniel H Carey & Richard B Thompson) & ground crew, originally from Maiden, NC, died suddenly 17 Mar 13 in Portland, OR at 92. Caldwell arrived Thurleigh 14 Sep 43 with Carey; their crew was immediately broken up. He flew 13 or 15 missions before moving to ground crew. He was 1 of 7 sons serving in WWII (4 AF, 1 Marine, 2 Navy – 1 died on Okinawa; 2 German POWs); 2 younger brothers served in the Korean War. Warren left England in Nov 45; it took 4 ships to get to the US (1 collision; 2 engine failures). Post-war, he married Beatrice 25 Dec 46. He went to business college, but didn't get a degree; then was a long distance trucker for most of his life; he later worked as a construction foreman. They moved to Portland 20 years ago to live with their son, Greg; there Warren continued as primary caregiver for Bea, who had Alzheimer's for 20+ years. In their 54th year of marriage, she predeceased him at 84, in May 00. Warren and Greg took a 2-week trip to England, to visit Thurleigh in Sep 94, making many fond memories including their time with the Franklins. Warren was a Mason; he was active in many veteran organizations in OR; he liked golf and made his first hole-in-one at 88. On Saturday after Warren's graveside service at Willamette National Cemetery, his many Coffee Nook buddies enjoyed stories with the family over coffee at the country club. Survived by 1s, 1d.
- **Carleton, Robert G**, 369th radio operator gunner (Max I Williams crew initially & William D Wills) and POW, who was born in MT, died 11 Feb 13 in Los Angeles, CA, where he had long lived, at about 89 [b.1924]. Bob was enlisted 3 Feb 43 at Spokane, WA as a Pvt. Reported to Thurleigh 21 Apr 44 with Max I Williams. With Wills (and much of the crew who were originally with pilot John H Roberts), he was downed 11 May 44 (Saarbrucken mission); POW at Stalag 3 Sagan Silesia Bavaria Moved to Nuremberg Langwasser, with last report of 3 Jul 45 confirming Liberated or Repatriated. Bob and Mattie (who married Jun 80) were with us for our San Diego Reunion in 11.
- **Fredericks, Robert C** [whose surname from his enlistment throughout his service, was erroneously spelled "**Frederick**"], 367th ball-turret gunner (Roy Marks crew), died 27 Jan 13 in Greece, NY, near Rochester, at 90. He reported to Thurleigh 5 Feb 45 with Marks, flying a total of 48 missions, likely including some in the highly-valued Casey Jones Project mapping of Europe and Northern Africa after combat ceased. Post-war, Robert married Helen in Oct 53; she predeceased him in Apr 12. He worked for many years at the University Club of Rochester and Ridgmont Country Club; he could build, paint, wire, plumb and fix anything, as attested by his family and friends. In announcing his funeral mass of 9 Feb at St Lawrence Church, Rochester, the family suggested contributions be made to Honor Flight Rochester, NY, in his memory, to enable other WWII veterans the experience of a lifetime Robert enjoyed in Oct 11 when accompanied by one of his daughters. Survived by 4d, 13gc, 3ggc. It appears to the Secretary that he was the last member of his crew to die; if anyone knows otherwise, please alert the Secretary. [**Secretary's note: the Roy Marks 367th crew is erroneously labeled as the 368th crew of Lawrence Marks on p.68 of Russell Strong's book of Combat Crews photos; and is correctly labeled as Roy Marks 367th crew on p.175 of the same book's crews for which Strong had no photo at time of publication. Roy Marks, who died in Sep 08, flew 26 combat missions before flying with the Casey Jones Project.**]

- **Gary, Elwyn Ray Jr**, 367th pilot & co-pilot (Roy Marks crew), originally from Charlotte, NC, died 20 Aug 12 in Irmo, near Columbia, SC, at 87. He reported to Thurleigh 5 Feb 45 as co-pilot, and presumably flew as pilot in the Casey Jones Project. He graduated Univ of NC. He retired as a Chief Real Estate Appraiser from Dept of Housing & Urban Development. He was predeceased by his wife Rebecca, who died suddenly and unexpectedly in Jun 10 of pneumonia, and earlier by 1s. Survived by 2s, 3gd.
- **Jennings, Horace 'Graford,'** 368th armorer on the ground crew for 'Weary Bones,' longtime resident of Dallas, TX, died 30 Apr 2013, at 89. After he enlisted 28 Oct 42 in Lubbock, TX as a Pvt in the Air Corps, Graford arrived at Thurleigh 23 Dec 43, and was there, working through the dead of the night loading the bombs on the B-17s, through the end of the war. He retired as a plumbing inspector for the city of Dallas, and was employed for many years as an estimator for plumbing, heating and cooling contractors. He was a 32nd degree Mason Member of Scottish Rite; a longtime Sunday school teacher at Casa View Christian Church; an avid tennis player until his health prevented playing; and he enjoyed working on his family's genealogy. In his soft spoken and effective way, he served on the Reunion Committee for the Ft Worth reunion of Oct 84, in charge of displays. At our Ft Worth reunion of 09, we enjoyed seeing him with his entire family. Survived by his wife Margaret, 2s, he is buried at Dallas-Ft Worth National Cemetery.
- **Kontich, Miles M**, Group, S/Sgt (unknown duties), born in WA, and long a resident of Eugene, OR, died 9 Jan 13, just short of 96. When he was enlisted as a Pvt in the Air Corps in Jan 42 at Seattle, he was single, nearly age 25, with 4 years of high school; his civilian occupation was indexed as "skilled mechanics & repairmen, motor vehicles." In the 40 Census in his father's farm household in WA, at 23 he was employed as a truck driver in the building industry. Post-war, he worked for Willamette Graystone in Eugene as a marketing manager for the majority of his working career. His memorial service was at St Mary's Episcopal in Eugene. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis, 2s, 2gc.
- **McCaulie, William 'Bill' Terry**, 368th pilot, who grew up in Jacksonville, FL, died there 7 Mar 13 at 90. With his crew, he arrived at Thurleigh 1 Sep 44; he flew 35 missions from 11 Sep to 21 Jan 45. Post-war he remained in the USAF Reserves, serving his unit as Commander until 76. He retired after a 42-year career with Southern Bell. He was a member of Ortega United Methodist Church for 60+ years, and served the church in many positions. He was an active Boy Scout leader and Little League coach; loved tennis, swimming, sailing, and especially golf, at which he excelled. He is survived by Eunice, his wife of 68 years, 2c, 4gc.
- **Pelzel, Bernard 'Ben' C**, 369th medic & 368th ambulance driver, originally of MN, died 23 Mar 13 at 97 in Furlong, PA, near Philadelphia, where he and Marjo had moved in 11 to be with a daughter. Post-war, Ben drove a truck cross-country, worked in an airplane propeller factory, and got his pilot's license. In the late 50s he met Marjo, who had left Holland after the war to see the world; they married in 59. He was an Estate Manager in Westport, CT for 33 years. They retired initially to a house they built near Ludlow, VT, and later to Maine. Ben enjoyed working outside, growing amazing vegetables and flowers, and he loved to tinker in his garage; he could fix anything. His favorite activity was driving his motor home on various trips across the country. He also enjoyed riding his motorcycles, and spending time with his children and grandchildren. From Nov 12 (when Dr Thurman Shuller died) to Mar 13, Ben was the eldest living 306th medic. Survived by his wife of 54 years, Marjo; 5c; 6gc.
- **Schupp, Johnny Lanning** (original name Otto John Schupp), 367th Sq communications, non-flying radio man; & vocalist for Larry Emeigh's 16-piece band at Thurleigh, died 27 Feb 13 in Green Valley, AZ at 93. Before he went to Thurleigh, he married Mary Helen 19 July 42. He was at Thurleigh until the end. Post-war they lived just north of Washington, DC in Kensington, MD, where they reared their 3 sons. Initially he sang in Big Bands in Washington, DC, including at the Shoreham Blue Room [the Omni Shoreham is still a beautifully maintained hotel], and in Atlantic City and New York City. For a while he had a radio show in Washington, sponsored by his father's bakery, Schupp's Bakery, located at Chevy Chase Circle. In order to support his family, Johnny then worked in the bakery; he was a premier cake decorator. Not wishing to take over the family business when his parents retired, he then sold Chevrolets for about 25 to 30 years, quite successfully thanks to happy return customers and word-of-mouth referrals. He enjoyed golf and bowling, and had coached baseball through all 3 sons' years, plus 2 more years after they no longer played. Mary Helen had worked for OSS until their eldest son was born; she worked again for a company after their sons were older. They retired to Green Valley, AZ by 99. He was predeceased by 2s, and by his wife of 65 years, Mary Helen, in Sep 07 at 86; survived by 1s.
- **Stephens, George A Jr**, 369th flight engineer / top turret gunner (Jack Young crew), of Wichita, KS, died there 16 Mar 13, at 90. George arrived at Thurleigh with Young's crew 23 Dec 44; he flew 34 missions before the end of combat and continued with the Casey Jones mapping project. He and Elizabeth had married 20 Dec 42, and both worked at Culver Air-

(Bedford continued from page 5)

enough, a Flying Fortress was laid on and we went for a flight for about thirty minutes in an operational plane. We could not believe our luck. Needless to say, our parents never knew what we had been up to.”

The Americans probably did not realize that the boys were evacuees and most did not live with their parents. They were boarded out to strangers throughout Bedford and from their accounts in the history of their school, these boys had the run of Bedford.

Martin Mitchell remembered that the Americans could be a burden as well. “Yanks were a major attraction to the local girls. I never tried to compete. I would have been out for a duck [British expression for out of luck]. Even in Minehead, Devon, where the family went on holiday, there were Yanks and one stole my holiday girlfriend and left me with mixed feelings about them. On the one hand, they were allies, on the other hand, they purloined our girls; an unresolvable dilemma.”

But the memories were not all about the good things of life that the Americans brought to Bedford. There were memories of the war too, and the price that their Yank friends were making. Roy Castle remembered that “the war became very close and, on occasion, the morning air would be shattered by a huge explosion which could only mean a B-17 Flying Fortress must have crashed on take-off, fully laden with bombs at nearby Thurleigh airfield. And again in the late afternoon seeing the ‘lucky’ ones return with their damaged aircraft. Holes seemed to be

everywhere. An engine would be stopped, a tail plane missing and Very lights being fired to let the field know the state of the aircraft and crew.”

Philip Fawkes recalls “one sunny summer’s afternoon three or four of us cycled up to Thurleigh airfield north of Bedford. Several Flying Fortresses were parked round the perimeter. We got chatting to a rear gunner who gave us some M.G [machine gun] bullets 0.5” dia. Mid-afternoon a droning heralded the return of the squadrons from bombing Germany. They came in desultory fashion, some with rudders shot away, great holes shot in the fuselage and wings. Some of the fuselages stained red! This brought home the horror of war into our own backyard and showed us that the Americans were shedding their blood in our war.”

Castle echoed Fawkes’ sentiments. “Although we were in the safety of Bedford, it really brought home to me the bravery of those very young Americans and the losses they sustained. It did my heart good to see them arrive every night in town to enjoy themselves.... At night



Bomber Command [British] would take over and we would see them on their way to bomb Germany.”

Glenn Miller

Because Glenn Miller and the American Expeditionary Band was based in Bedford, the world of the big band and jitterbug became a big part of the lives of both the Americans and the British—especially the young English boys and girls. They found various ways to see and hear the famous American band.

Alan Davis recalled “the long queue in the covered alley next to the cinema to see Glenn Miller’s band. The wait was worthwhile as we heard all the numbers familiar from records.”

Max Eckstein would ride his bike over to the Officer’s Club on Goldington Road and “listened to the Glenn Miller band at the windows of the U.S. Officers’ Club.”

Gerry Shaw was lucky to be assigned to housing in a home in Queen’s Park, not far from the Co-Partners Hall where the Miller band rehearsed. “We would go down and listen outside whenever possible and the musicians would chat to us boys when they came out for fresh air. This was a real thrill for me as I was a Miller fan. I can still recall seeing these great musicians queuing up for fish and chips at Bridgman’s, the corner fish shop. Unfortunately, we only got brief glimpses of Glenn Miller himself, as he appeared very much aloof.”

Another boy and serious record collector saw Miller as diffident, not aloof. Frank Fenn described the fa-

mous band leader as “terse and laconic but responded in an amused but dismissive manner when I told him that, in addition to the records of his own band, I owned early recordings of him playing with Mound City Blue Blowers and the Louisiana Rhythm Kings. He was rather more forthcoming when he answered my query as to whether he had organized and played in Ray Noble’s first American band”

David Bernstein was an avid collector of autographs and the Miller band’s arrival represented a great opportunity for him. “There was a major AEF concert being broadcast by the BBC from the [Bedford] Corn Exchange. I got there early with my autograph book. I waited an hour. Glenn Miller came out of his staff car to rush up the steps. I interposed my [autograph] book. ‘After the show, son,’ he said. Another two hours to wait, one of which was spent listening to the live broadcast in his car on the radio with [Miller’s] sergeant. There was a crowd by the steps. I was in front. At last, Glenn Miller came down with a British major. I went forward. The major brushed me aside. Glenn Miller tapped the major on the shoulder and said, ‘I promised the kid.’ The kid still has the autograph.”

The Thurleigh Concert

The first airfield concert, the first of many, occurred at Thurleigh on July 14, 1944. While Miller and the AEF Band had received overwhelming receptions from their radio audiences and live performances in Bedford and London, Miller was not prepared for the reception he received at



Thurleigh. That reception would be repeated across East Anglia as Miller maintained an intense schedule of broadcasts and airfield concerts.

“That night, at Thurleigh Heavy Bombardment Base . . . , the American Band of the AEF mounted a makeshift stage inside a giant steel hanger. 3500 men of the Eighth Air Force sat on the dirt floor, on the wings of planes and on the lofty beams overhead. As the opening theme ‘Moonlight Serenade’ pumped the psychological life blood of American music back into those youthful, homesick hearts, Captain Miller walked out on to the stage. An eerie yell of welcome swelled from the

audience: a happy cry, yet filled with the weird wildness of a torrential spill of suddenly released frustrations. Colonel Kirby, whose efforts had transported the Band to the ETO, stood proudly listening at the far end of the hangar. After the show, Glenn walked straight to him to say,

“Colonel, making all the money in the music business could never have made me feel this rich.”

Later, soon after Miller was lost over the Channel and the band made ready to go to France without him, one of the Owen schoolboys, Joss Ackland, was visiting a cottage in Bedford where famed pianist Mel Powell was a frequent guest. Ackland remembered “saying good-bye to him when the orchestra was flying off. ‘Is Glenn Miller going with you?’ I asked. ‘No.’ he replied, ‘he’s gone ahead.’” Powell couldn’t bear to give the young boy the news that Miller was gone and lost in the war.



Continued from page 7

craft in Wichita before his service. Post-war, he went to Spartan School of Aeronautics in Tulsa on the GI bill, after which he was able to get a job in Dickenson, ND where he worked for a year, before they returned to Wichita, and he returned to Culver Aircraft. In 48 he began with Boeing in Wichita; he worked there 37 years before retiring in 85. George and Elizabeth attended their first reunion in Dayton, OH in 86, and two in England, in addition to most stateside reunions through Little Rock in 08, after which they were no longer able to travel. Predeceased by 1s who was a Vietnam vet, he is survived by his wife of 70 years, Elizabeth, 3d, 9gc, 9ggc, 1gggc.

- **Swierk, Walter J**, 367th (an original with 306th) aviation mechanic & later flight engineer, life-long resident of Philadelphia, PA, died 21 Oct 12 at 94. Swierk was enlisted in Jan 42 as a Pvt with no branch assignment. With the 367th Sq, when he departed by troop transport from Fort Dix, NJ, he was Pfc; at Thurleigh by 31 Dec 43 he was a Sgt. Post-war, in 47 he married Stephanie. His career was a master automobile mechanic; he had his own Philadelphia business for about 30 years. He loved telling military stories about war. His passions were art (he painted); boating (had his own yacht and was a certified Coast Guard instructor), and carpentry. He enjoyed watching the Philadelphia Eagles NFL team. He was a devout member of Saint Stanislaus, Polish Catholic Church, where his funeral was held; buried at St Mary's Ukrainian Cemetery in Elkins Park, PA, by his wife Stephanie, who predeceased him after 30 years of marriage in 77, at 54. Survived by 2c, 3gc, 1ggd.
- **Thompson, Dale V**, 423rd armament worker, life-long resident of Argos, IN, died 21 Feb 13 at Kosciusko Community Hospital, Warsaw, IN at 92, following a sudden illness. After having been a charter member of 7th Air-drome Squadron (Feb 42 to Jun 42), Dale was at Thurleigh Sep 42 to Nov 45. He loaded bombs and maintained 50-caliber guns on B-17s. Post-war he married Lois 22 Jun 47 Walnut Church of the Brethren. Dale was a heavy equipment operator, member of Local #150; the American Legion, and VFW. He was preceded in death by Lois in Dec 93 at 64; and by 1s, 1gs. Buried at Maple Grove Cemetery in Argos, Dale is survived by 4c, 10gc, 11ggc.

306th Family:

- **Bertenshaw, Nadine**, widow of 423rd crew chief Allen 'Bud' E Bertenshaw Sr, died at 93 on 15 Jun 12 after several months at Douglasville [GA] Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, near Lithia Springs, GA, where she and Bud moved in 88 from Park Ridge, IL. She and Bud met while she was on a convention trip to Chicago in the early 40s;

they married 28 Feb 42. She had a 20+ year career as an emergency room admitting clerk and medical transcriptionist, retiring from St James Hospital in Chicago Heights in 83. She loved going to church; was well known for her sweet disposition, her love of animals, plants, flowers, and her family. After 59 years of marriage, Bud predeceased her in May 01; survived by 4c, 9gc, 13ggc.

- **Hayen-Heisinger, Olga**, widow of 423rd tail-gunner Charles V Hayen (Howard Hutchinson crew), life-long resident of SD, died 9 Jun 12 at 84 in Mitchell. She and Hayen married in Aug 46. He died in May 95. In July 98 she married Francis 'Bud' Heisinger, a widower, Army vet of WWII and Korea who died in May 10. An active member of Trinity Lutheran in Mitchell, she is buried with Charles; survived by 5c, 2st-c, 17gc, 12ggc, 4st-gc, 4st-ggc.
- **Hingston, Ruby**, widow of Thomas Harry Hingston (449th SubDepot ground crew), life-long resident of Lynn, MA, died at Salem Hospital 9 Jun 12 at 91. She worked at T W Rogers Co and later in the Lynn Hospital Billing Office. She celebrated all accomplishments of her grandchildren; enjoyed cooking, knitting and sewing, and vacations with family in NH. After 67 years of marriage, Thomas 'Harry' died in Oct 09 at 89. They were predeceased by 1d; survived by 1s, 5gc.
- **Houlihan, Ruth**, wife of 367th NCO Medic William "Bill" F Houlihan, died 5 Feb 13 in Farmington, MI at 90. Ruth was born 74 miles east of Detroit in Thamesville, ON, Canada, and got her education in that area, including 2 years of commercial college. She immigrated here in early 46, and soon met Bill on St. Patricks Day. She worked as a secretary in local schools. She and Bill married 1 Oct 49. She became a US citizen in Apr 51, and worked at Carswell AFB, TX in 51-52. Her many interests included her family, music, and card clubs. She enjoyed accompanying Bill to many of the early reunions with the 8th AFHS, as well as later ones with our Association, including trips to the British Isles in 64, 92, and 97. Ruth is survived by Bill, her husband of 64 years, 1s, 1d, 4gc. Her obit requested, in lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Heart Association.
- **McAllister, Susie H**, wife of John Key McAllister, 367th pilot, died 4 Feb 13 in Melbourne, FL at 91. A native of AR who grew up in Little Rock, Susie graduated from AR State Teacher's College. She and John married in 44 and traveled many places around the world together. She worked in early childhood education, and was a strong Christian and loving homemaker who loved to be with family and friends. Preceded in death by 1s and 1d, she is survived by John, 2d, 9gc, 14ggc. Her obit gave special

thanks to hospice for their outstanding support through the difficult time with Alzheimer's.

- **Oakes, Eva 'Skip'** widow of 423rd pilot Curtis Oakes, died 3 Sep 06, two years after Curtis' death, a few days short of 80, at her home in Riverside, CA, of heart disease and lung cancer. She'd been in the loving care of her children and hospice, with time for visits from friends and a last visit to Balboa Beach. She and Curtis had lived in Riverside since 66, when he retired from the USAF. She was an active member of Grove Community Church and Bible Study there, and she enjoyed a weekly Tuesday dinner group of friends. Having worked for a time in a florist shop, she enjoyed creating seasonal arrangements for family and friends. She and Curtis enjoyed playing Tripoli, volleyball in their backyard, and travel to visit their children in WA. She was a lifetime bridge player and an avid gardener who enjoyed attracting butterflies and birds of all sizes, especially hummingbirds. Buried at Riverside National Cemetery with Curtis, in Sep 06 she was survived by 4c, and nearly 20gc/ggc.
- **Wilson, E Arleda 'Leda'**, wife of Wymond B Wilson, MD, 369 tail gunner (Jack Young crew), died 29 Jun 12 at Peabody Retirement Community in North Manchester, IN at 89. She and her husband long lived in nearby Mentone, IN, where she worked as a receptionist/bookkeeper for 47 years for her husband Dr. Wilson's office; his specialty was Internal Medicine. Prior to their marriage 27 Jun 53 in Pleasant Lake, Stueben Co, IN, she worked for Stueben County REMC and First National Bank in Fremont for 10 years, after graduating from Tri State College (42) with

secretarial training. She was a member of the Mentone United Methodist Church where she served on various committees; a Charter Life Member of the Kosciusko Community Hospital Auxiliary; and served as Past President of the Kosciusko County Medical Auxiliary. She was also an avid IU sports fan. Survived by her husband of 59 years, Dr. Wymond B. Wilson.

- **Wood, Carol**, widow of Robert H Wood, 369 pilot & co-pilot (George Walter crew), a native of NY, died 4 Oct 11, in Marietta, NY, at 88. Carol graduated from State College of Fredonia, and was a kindergarten teacher who was devoted to family, friends, and family traditions including her Sunday dinners. She was predeceased by her husband Robert, in Oct 09, and by 1s; survived by 1d, 2gd, 3ggc.

Obituaries Not Recent; Not Previously Published (Arranged by Date of Death)

- **Breeden, Lloyd George**, 368th ball-turret gunner (William McCaulie crew), died 25 Dec 11 in Spokane, WA at 87. He arrived at Thurleigh 1 Sep 44, and completed his combat tour 21 Jan 45. His radio man, J R 'Shorty' Winborn, remained a close friend throughout his life, and introduced him to his wife, Corinne. Post-war, he graduated from Gonzaga U and worked as a teacher and then principal. In the classroom he especially relished reading poetry to kids. His strong yet gentle voice not only brought stories to life, but also restored the cafeteria to order. Corinne served during the war as a dental hygienist at an Army Air Corp base in her hometown of Sioux Falls, SD. In 46 at age 20 she moved to Spokane where they met; she continued to work while he finished college until they began their family of 3 children. As a busy homemaker she also volunteered at school; made beautiful clothes (including their 2 daughters' wedding dresses); and enjoyed bowling – sticking with it even as she began to lose her eyesight. After 62 years of marriage, he predeceased Corinne by 3 months. They're survived by 2d, 2gc.
- **Rembold, Donald E**, 423rd ball-turret gunner (Curtis Oakes crew), originally of PA, died 26 Dec 10 in Valley Center, CA at 85. With Oakes crew, he arrived at Thurleigh 27 Mar 45; he was married to Jill when he was enlisted as a Pvt in the Air Corps in Aug 43. Post-war he was a self-employed contractor in the floor-covering trade, eventually operating his own business in Oil City, PA, where they lived for many years. He was also a pilot in the aviation industry. In 99 they moved to CA to be near grandchildren. Buried at Rockland Cemetery, Rockland, PA, he was predeceased in 90 by eldest son, Donald Jr; survived by Jill, his wife of 68 years, 2c, 2gc.

Continued on page 16



42-31471 "Doolittle's Destroyer" (306th BG 360th BS) lost on Berlin on 8 March 44 with McGarth crew, 10 pow, MACR 2908
Photograph courtesy East Anglia Air War Project

Registration Form

306th Bomb Group Historical Association Reunion – 3-6 October 2013

Embassy Suites Convention Center, 315 Julia St; New Orleans, LA 70130. For hotel reservations:
Ask for our group code “BGH” for group rate at 1-(800)-EMBASSY or at the hotel 1-(504)-525-1993

If you have issues reserving, you may call our Hotel contact, Loryn Cruz directly at (504) 378-4031

Group rates (pre-tax) Oct 3-6: King-size bed suites \$169/night (for 1-2 people); \$189 (for 3); \$209 (for 4)

Suites with 2 Double-beds: \$189/night (for 1 to 4 people, same price)

DEADLINE for Hotel reservations: Sept 11th or earlier if our block of rooms is full

Mandatory Registration Fee (per person; list names below)....., ___ x \$35 = \$ _____

Wednesday 2 October – Arrival Day – dinner on your own – no charge

Thursday 3 October – Arrival Day; Hospitality Room – no charge; Dinner on your own

Afternoon City Tour on small buses (limited to first 99 people reserving) ... ___ x \$25 = \$ _____

Friday 4 October Hospitality Room – no charge

WW2 Museum admission, 50-min film with small-bus/van shuttle for group members not walking ~5 blocks

(You MUST indicate # in each category, for admission wrist-bands)

WW2 Vets - Indicate # of WW2 Vets **on this Registration Form**# ___ x \$5 = \$ _____

Active or retired military; OR Students (age 5 thru college)# ___ x \$22 = \$ _____

Seniors 65 & older# ___ x \$26 = \$ _____

All other adults# ___ x \$30 = \$ _____

First Over Germany Dinner# ___ x \$49 = \$ _____

Saturday 5 October Hospitality Room – no charge

Official photo taken of attendees & Cash Bar cocktail hour before Banquet

Banquet ___ x \$49 = \$ _____

TOTAL for this Registration Form\$ _____

Full name of your family’s Thurleigh Vet _____ Circle one: Living Dec’d

His Squadron or base unit, if known _____ His duty at Thurleigh _____

If you are a Vet, and have NOT had an Oral History Interview, are you willing to do one? _____

Each person attending for this registration; how related to Thurleigh Vet; date plan to arrive @ Reunion

My name: _____ Day plan to arrive: ___/___/13

_____ Day plan to arrive: ___/___/13

_____ Day plan to arrive: ___/___/13

_____ Day plan to arrive: ___/___/13

Please add an asterisk * by the name of anyone attending his/her first Reunion

Circle if you have special needs: wheelchair accessible room; floor preference; food needs _____

My full street address (or PO Box) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ Email _____

Make check payable to “306th Bomb Group Association Reunion”

Mail check & Registration Form to Treasurer Judith Hermley; 5314 Bob Sikes Blvd; Jay, FL 32565

2013 Reunion/meeting New Orleans, LA Schedule

*Hospitality Room, Meeting Room, & Banquet Hall (Bayou Jean Lafitte Ballroom):
All on 6th floor – sections of the ballroom. Final version of schedule will be available at Reunion.*

Wednesday, 2 October: Pre-reunion day; visit friends with no scheduled events

- ◆ Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast 6:30a - 9:30a
- ◆ Volunteers setup Hospitality Room & Exhibits
- ◆ Complimentary Hotel Manager's Evening Reception in Atrium Lobby 5:30p - 7:30p
(Light hors d'oeuvres; beverages include wine & beer)
- ◆ Dinner on your own (many good restaurants nearby; list will be available)

Thursday, 3 October: ***Reunion/meeting officially begins***

- ◆ Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast 6:30a - 9:30a
- ◆ Arrival – Pick up registration packets in Hospitality Room (8:30a - 11:30a & 1:30p - 5:30p)
- ◆ Hospitality Room: 8:30a - 5:00p
(Exhibits, computer stations w 306th data, running flight simulators, films, etc.)
- ◆ Board Meeting: 10:00a
- ◆ Bus Tour of City (includes a 15-minute break): 12:30p - 3:30p
- ◆ Veterans Roundtable No. 1: 4:15p - tba
- ◆ Complimentary Lobby Reception: 5:30p - 7:30p (Light hors d'oeuvres; beverages include wine & beer)
- ◆ Dinner on your own (many good restaurants nearby; list will be available)

Friday, 4 October:

- ◆ Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast 6:30a - 9:30a
- ◆ Arrival – Pick up registration packets in Hospitality Room (8:30a - 11:30a & 1:30p - 5:30p)
- ◆ History/Research Session (content TBA) in Meeting Room: 8:15a - 9:30a:
- ◆ Hospitality Room: 8:30a - 5:00p
(Exhibits, computer stations w 306th data, running flight simulators, films, etc. 10:00a)
- ◆ Arrive at World War II Museum (opens 9a) at 10a; 11a reservation for its 50-min. Film
- ◆ Veterans Roundtable No. 1: 4:15p - tba
- ◆ Complimentary Lobby Reception: 5:30p - 7:30p (Light hors d'oeuvres; beverages include wine & beer)
- ◆ Group Dinner in Bayou Jean Lafitte Ballroom

Saturday, 5 October:

- ◆ Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast 7:30a - 10:30a
- ◆ Arrival – Registration packets available in Annual Meeting & later in Hospitality Room
- ◆ Annual 306th Meeting: 8:30a (all attendees are invited & can vote on slate, site for next reunion, & discuss any other business or issues.)
- ◆ Folded Wings Memorial Service ~10:30a (follows Annual Meeting) in new format this year
- ◆ Hospitality Room: noon - 5:00p
(Exhibits, computer stations w 306th data, running flight simulators, films, etc.)
- ◆ History/Research Session (content TBA) in Meeting Room: 2:00p
- ◆ Veterans Roundtable No. 3: 3:15p - tba
- ◆ Complimentary Lobby Reception: 5:30p - 7:30p (Light hors d'oeuvres; beverages include wine & beer)
- ◆ Photographs: 6:30p
- ◆ Banquet, Bayou Jean Lafitte Ballroom: 7:00p

Sunday, 6 October:

- ◆ Farewells and Check-out; travel home and see you next year!
- ◆ Complimentary Cooked-to-Order Breakfast 7:30a - 10:30a



Robert “Rocky” Rockwell Folded Wings



Top, Rocky Rockwell (left) and best friend, Harold Twing. Below, Rocky Rockwell in front of his quarters at Thurleigh. Twing Historical Collection, EAAWP.

Robert G. Rockwell Sr., age 88 of Danbury died on Monday May 13, 2013 at his home following a short illness. He was preceded in death by his wives Grace Rockwell and Ruth Williams.

Robert was born in Norwalk June 28, 1924, the son of the late George and Myrtle (Arlington) Rockwell. A longtime resident of Ridgefield and Indiana, Robert was employed by Nash Engineering, and as an estate keeper in New Canaan.

Robert proudly served in World War II, serving 33 missions with the 8th Air Force, 306th Bomb Group, 367th Bomb Squadron in Thurleigh, England. His passion for the 306th brought him to many reunions, and he most recently served a second term as president of the 306th Bomb Group Association.

Robert is survived by four children: Laura Cairns, Christine Dugan, Robin Kinney, and Robert Rockwell. He is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

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

Email Address Date

**Make checks payable to:
306th Bomb Group Association**

Send to:

**Judy Hermley, Treasurer
306th Bomb Group Association
5314 Bob Sikes Blvd
Jay, FL 32565**

Museum Notes

Thurleigh Airfield 306th Bomb Group Museum



Professor Vernon Williams visited the Franklins in late April on the last day of his speaking and research schedule in England. The Franklins were well and had opened the 306th BG Museum in March for the 2013 season. Ralph reported that Daphne is doing well and the two of them have been quite busy with visitors to the museum. With every season opening, there is much to do with cleaning and getting the exhibits ready for viewing. Ralph recounted that a number of special groups have visited the museum and expects this year to be a busy one. Both Ralph and Daphne are looking forward to the 2013 Reunion at New Orleans.

The Franklins have spent their retirement years building a museum dedicated to preserving the history of the 306th Bomb Group and its personal stationed at Thurleigh during the war years. The Franklin's exhibit design and the history on display there is a remarkable accomplishment. They continue to nurture the memory of the ground and air crews who served there so many years ago. *v/w*



I wanted to share some pictures from yesterday's dedication. I am so happy that we attended. Yesterday was another way of honoring my father.

It is so amazing how the community of Thurleigh embraced and still embraces the American servicemen. And living in England, I love seeing the American and the British Flag side by side.

Hope you have a wonderful Memorial Day.

Kennis Jarvis



Continued from page 11

- **Steele, "D A" David Addison Jr**, 423rd pilot, life-long resident of Greenville, Hunt Co, TX, died at Legend Health Care 13 Aug 11 at 92. Our records show he arrived at Thurleigh 11 Dec 42 and completed 25 missions, departing 30 State Teacher's College, he enlisted at Dallas, TX as an Aviation Cadet on 2 Nov 41. After Thurleigh, he married Beatrice 17 Aug 43 in Frostproof, FL. From 29, he was a member of Central Christian Church in Greenville, where he served as deacon and trustee emeritus. From 46 to 50 he was a free-lance sign painter; from 50 to 53 he was an inspector for Temco; and in 54 he opened his business, D A Steele Cabinet Works furniture restoration, where he worked until the year he died. Survived by his wife of about 68 years, Bea; 1s.
- **Chrapaty, Armand N**, 39th Services Group, long resident of Silver Spring, MD, died 23 Dec 10, at 97. Born in France in 13, in 21 he came to the US from Strasbourg, France at age 7 with his father (a Hebrew born in Russia), mother and 2 brothers, all born in France. As a US citizen, he was enlisted Feb 42 at 39 at Ft George Meade, MD, as a single tailor residing in Philadelphia, PA. From the Jul 99 Echoes, we know the 39th Services Group members were later assigned to bomb squadrons, the 449th Sub Depot, & 4th Station Complement Sq – all part of the "large group at Thurleigh who kept the base running, planes in the air, and performed all kinds of duties necessary to a community of 3,000 men with a mission to perform." We thank Col. Bill Carlile, who spoke with Chrapaty's son-in-law, John Boginis, who said he'd try to reproduce Chrapaty's Honorable Discharge (from wallet size to larger), which listed "Administrative NCO, [MOS] 502." He relayed that Chrapaty was Staff Sgt at Thurleigh Dec 42 to Dec 45, and head of its PX, of which he had a photo. Armand had reportedly said he was a navigator, which led a daughter to honor him at the online WWII Memorial Registry, saying his war activity included "flew 25 missions" in ETO. That online listing included his photo in WWII dress uniform, on which the Secretary can discern no rank insignia. The Secretary notes Yvonne Chrapaty (perhaps his wife) died in Jul 94, at 73, also in Silver Spring. Boginis noted Chrapaty had 2d, 1s, 4gc, 3ggc. No further info.
- **Baron, 'Izzy' Isdor Rubenstein**, 367th navigator (Roy Hoffman crew), native of Augusta, GA, died 30 Oct 10 at his longtime home in Tullahoma, TN, at 86. With Hoffman's crew, he arrived at Thurleigh 28 Nov 44; he flew 29 missions. Post-war he married Elizabeth in Mar 50, and was a licensed Professional Engineer and a Mechanical Engineer at Arnold Engineering Development Center, Arnold Air Force Base, Tullahoma, TN, at ARO, Inc, and Sverdrup for 27 years. He was a structural design engi-

neer, who designed the addition to the Tullahoma Fine Arts Center Building as well as the renovation and structural design for the South Jackson Civic Center in Tullahoma. For many years, he delivered Meals on Wheels in Tullahoma and was a member of the Rotary Club. Elizabeth, who predeceased Izzy at 69 in Mar 99, was a homemaker; a very active member and officer in the Tullahoma Women's Club; on the state board of the TN Federation of Women's Clubs; member of Lakewood Country Club Ladies Golf Association; and member of First United Methodist Church, where her services were held. His vet marker shows he was a Captain in the US Air Force, and bears the Star of David. They're buried at Rose Hill Memorial Gardens, Tullahoma, TN, survived by 3c, 4gc.

**Plan to Attend the
New Orleans
Reunion at the
Embassy Suites
Convention Center
October 3-6, 2013
(See pages 12-13 for details)**

