



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 1

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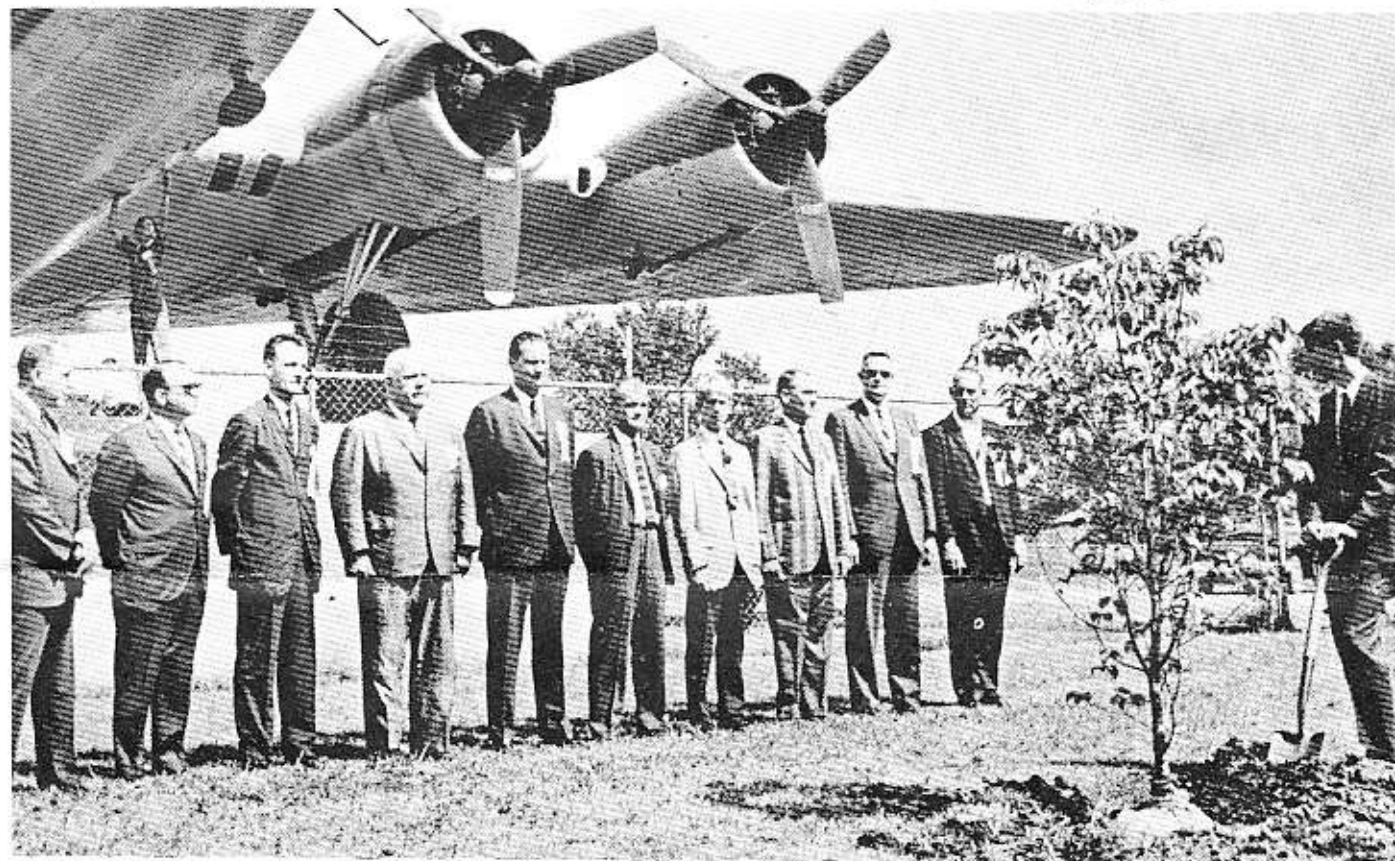
All Bombs 'On Target' At 25th Anniversary Meet

"BIG 25" had almost as much impact July 25-26-27 as the Big One did in 1943, but to the ex-91st-ers gathered in Memphis for Triangle A's 25th anniversary reunion it marked a big beginning rather than a thankful finish. "Something money couldn't buy," one summed it up. "A real fountain of youth, with buddies I haven't seen in 25 years." A wife declared she'd "never seen a group of men enjoy themselves so much!" And all of the 400 or so members, wives, and children at the silver anniversary meeting were in full agreement.

Those who couldn't make it this year had better begin planning right now for next year's shindig, scheduled for Denver sometime during the last two weeks in July.

Members began rolling into Memphis in force on Monday, July 24, and "lobbying" at the Sheraton-Peabody was in full swing by nightfall. Tuesday was turned over to registration, visiting, and examination of the "trophy room," where the walls and tables were covered with pictures, scrapbooks, and other mementoes of the "good old days."

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A re-dedication ceremony highlighted the reunion visit to the site of the "Memphis Belle," the famous 91st Fortress now permanently enshrined at the National Guard Armory in Memphis.

Shown planting a pink dogwood tree as a "living memorial" to Memphis to commemorate the Group's first reunion is 15-year-old Dean Giambrone, son of Joseph M. Giambrone, the Belle's old crew chief.

Observing the tree planting are, l. to r., Joseph Giambrone, Eastern division treasurer; Joseph Camelleri,

Eastern division co-chairman; Paul Chryst, Eastern division co-chairman; Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray (ret.), Reunion Committee president; Col. Robert K. Morgan (ret.), wartime pilot of the Belle; Clarence "Bill" Winchell, Belle's waist gunner; David Pitts, 14-year-old Pleasant Grove, Ala., youth who sparked the recent refurbishing of the Belle; Robert Gerstemeier, Eastern division secretary; M/Sgt. George Parks, Western division co-chairman, and Philip Taylor, Western division secretary.

All Bombs 'On Target'...

Coffee and sweets helped keep the yak-yak thick enough to walk on. That night a showing of "The Memphis Belle" and other Bassingbourne movies drew a crowd that overflowed the view area, making a second run necessary the next day.

Press and television coverage of the Group activities was great. The **Commercial Appeal** and the **Press-Scimitar** had stories and pictures in every edition, and every television newscast had 91st-ers in starring roles.

Wednesday was the big day activities-wise. First on the schedule was a group breakfast (the Peabody is famous for its Southern country-style breakfasts), and even at 8 o'clock the dining area couldn't have squeezed in another eager beaver.

At the Group luncheon at noon the 91st was welcomed to Memphis by Mayor William B. Ingram, WWII fighter pilot, who presented Maj. Gen. Wray with a key to the city. Honor guests at the luncheon were Col. Robert K.

Morgan, pilot of the "Memphis Belle," C. E. "Bill" Winchell, Belle waist gunner, and David Pitts, the 14-year-old Pleasant Grove, Ala., youth who was responsible for the refurbishing of the "Memphis Belle" memorial in Memphis.

In the afternoon a mass visit by bus to the Belle memorial was made, and Joseph D. Giambrone, Jr., 15-year-old son of East Coast Division treasurer Joe Giambrone, headed a "rededication" ceremony by planting a memorial dogwood tree before the historic plane.

Wednesday night a dinner-dance for members and wives in the Sky Room atop the Peabody wound up the day (and started the next) in great shape. Teenagers had their own dinner and record hop.

Thursday morning, members wound up the reunion with the only business session of the week, laying plans for continued growth of the reborn 91st. Members departed with only one complaint—"We needed one more day to get caught up on 25 years of talk!"



Even after 25 years 91st-ers haven't forgotten how to wait patiently in line. Here a group waits for one of the

four chartered buses to take them from the Sheraton to the re-dedication ceremonies.

The Ragged Irregular

These news letters are published quarterly in October, January, April, and July, in an effort to keep alive the spirit of the 91st Bombardment Group (H) and to maintain the fellowship of those who fought together in World War II from AF Station 121, Bassingbourne, England, 1942-1945.

Material for publication should be sent to the editor, Paul C. Burnett, Box 909, Auburn, Alabama 36830, not later than two weeks before the first day of the month of publication.

President

Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray (Ret)
1417 Ivanhoe St., Alexandria, Va. 22304

East Coast Division

(from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River)

Chairmen

Paul Chryst
1458 Hilltop Road, Pottstown, Pa. 19464
Joseph A. Camelleri
314 South 7th St., Reading, Pa. 19602

Secretary

Robert Gerstemeir
Kerr Road, RD #1, Lansdale, Pa. 19446

Treasurer

Joseph M. Giambrone
303 Brookside Ave., Glenside, Pa. 19038

West Coast Division

(from the Pacific to the Mississippi River)

Chairmen

George W. Parks
109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Calif. 94590
Edward P. Winslow
1935 Mt. Vernon Ct., Mt. View, Calif.

Secretary

Phillip R. Taylor
3030 Alta Vista, Alameda, Calif.

Treasurer

Robert H. Racicot
209 Lamont Court, Vallejo, Calif. 94590

Dues are \$3 per year, payable to the Division Treasurer. Get Your Buddies Back With Us. Send current addresses of former 91st-ers to the proper Division Secretary.

Reunion Business Session

In the only formal business session of the reunion several decisions vital to the continued growth of the 91st association were made.

1. A second annual reunion of 91st-ers was scheduled to be held during the last two weeks of July, 1968, in Denver. Exact days will be announced later, but for vacation planning save those last two weeks in July.

2. All present officers of the group were continued in office for 1968. Officers are listed on the masthead of the Irregular.

3. A permanent historical records section was established, to gather and preserve information about the 91st. Publications covering the group activities from 1942-45 will also be a function of the office. Paul C. Burnett, Box 909, Auburn, Ala., 36830, was named historian and editor. All persons with pertinent information, records, photographs, etc. are asked to contact him.

4. Plans for a group-sponsored flight for a Bassingbourne reunion were discussed, with favorable response from members. Though no definite decisions were made, a possible 1969 trip at an estimated round trip flight cost of \$180 per person was set forth. Trip time would last approximately three weeks.

5. Gen. Wray reported that the 91st Bomb Group (H) Reunion committee was incorporated as a non-profit organization in Ohio on 17 July, 1967. This means that gifts to the 91st organization are income tax deductible, as was the case with the 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association of a few years ago.

6. The group decided that membership dues would be continued at \$3 annually. Members failing to pay dues will be dropped from mailing lists.

What Can I Do To Help?

Over and over this question pops up—in hundreds of letters from newly-contacted ex-91st-ers, from the growing number of flights, and especially from those meeting at Memphis. Realizing that a small handful have worked night and day to "get the show on the road," most want to contribute toward a flourishing group. But—what can I do to help?

Several things every member can do are: (1) Pay the \$3 annual dues promptly and regularly. Correspondence, newsletters, convention planning, contacting "lost" members cost money, and if membership dues haven't stretched far enough, headquarters members have paid the deficits from their own pockets. (Additional donations exceedingly welcome!). (2) Make sure all your former 91st buddies know of our organization and join! Send all addresses you have to headquarters. (3) Organize regional flights and take part in local Rally Rounds. (4) Let us know what 91st historical information you have. (5) **Begin planning now for next year's reunion!**



Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray welcomes members at the Wednesday reunion luncheon. Mayor William B. Ingram, a WWII fighter pilot, also welcomed 91st-ers to Memphis and presented Gen. Wray with the keys to the city. In a later action Mayor Ingram sent certificates of Memphis citizenship to reunion registrants.

Shown above are, first row, 1. to r., Mrs. Paul (Nancy) Chryst, Mrs. Robert (Trudy) Gerstemeier, Mrs. Stanley T. (Esther Wray), and Mrs. John (Chung Oak) Parsons. Second row: Joseph Camelleri, Paul Chryst, Gen. Wray, George Parks.

Our thanks to... Maj. Paul W. Flourney and Joseph P. Gagliano, our Memphismen on the spot, who made arrangements, looked after details, and otherwise ran themselves ragged to make smooth our Memphis visit.

And to the Ladies the wives of Reunion Committee members who worked long and hard before and during the reunion at the endless jobs that accompany any such event,

Membership Roster Under Way

A complete roster of all 91st members currently of file, both East and West Coast Divisions, is under way, and copies will be made available as soon as compilation and printing can be completed.

Who has them? ... We're trying to get copies of the squadron insignia for our historic files and for publication use. Who has copies we can borrow and copy? If you have one in top condition drop a card to the editor... Also, if you have a copy of your squadron orders listing plane numbers and crew members for the migration flight from Newfoundland to the ETO, pass on a copy. The 322 sqdn. orders are on hand, thanks to Steve Lindley.

Squadron photographs made at the reunion will be printed in the January issue of The Irregular. Lack of time at the re-dedication ceremonies did not permit identification of all members in each group, but we expect to have completed the task by the next issue.

Now is the time to plan for next year's reunion.



Here members are getting a first hand look at one of the last surviving Fortresses of WWII. Parents and child-

ren alike had a ball climbing over, around, and through the plane "like Daddy used to fly."

Flight Leaders Named

Local flight leaders to help locate former 91st members and to conduct area Rally Rounds have been named in many sections of the country, but more are needed. If you are willing to serve your area, contact your divisional chairman.

The current flight leaders are:

Douglas Gibson, 2740 Knoxville, Long Beach, Calif. 90815 (Los Angeles area).

Jerry L. Newquist, 3624 56th S.W., Seattle, Wash. 98116.

David Calvert, 10900 W. 23rd Ave., Denver, Colo. 80215.

CMS Ken Jones, 115 Langley Dr., Waco, Texas 76705.

John Irak, 3578 Lincoln St., Gary, Indiana 46408.

J.C. Bill, P.O. Box 950, Jasper, Alabama 35501.

George Zucco, 2457 Allender Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15216.

Col. John R. Parsons, 1800 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

Wilfred P. Conlon, 1570 Main Street, Springfield, Mass. 01103.

Robert P. Hare III, Daytona, Florida.

Royal Order of the Rigid Digit...

The data form filled out by those attending the Memphis reunion asked about membership in the Rigid Digit fellowship. For a great many, this was the first they had heard about a former 91st institution that was both unique and noteworthy. Founded in the very dark days of 1942 by (then) Col. Stanley T. Wray to add a little humor to a decidedly unfunny existence, the Royal Order of the Rigid Digit gave recognition with pomp and circumstance to those persons (chiefly pilots) who pulled some really royal goof in the performance of their duties. A magnificent mahogany-mounted silver plaque, from John Bull Silversmiths, showing a clenched fist with middle finger erect and carrying the motto "You've had it, Chum!" was ceremoniously presented before assembled fellow officers. A small replica on a blue ribbon was worn around the neck until the recipient had worked off his "sin."

First to be so honored was a pilot who greased an A-20 onto the runway in a perfect landing, only to pull up the landing gear instead of the flaps.

Paid your dues yet? Don't make your buddies carry you.

1967 Memphis Reunion Roster

From every corner of the country ex-91st-ers rolled in for the 25th anniversary reunion, and everybody from A (Abb) to Z (Zucco) had a great time.

If we missed your family or squadron number it was because you missed our membership data form. In the next issue of the Irregular we plan to include data forms to be filled out by those who didn't complete them at the reunion.

Bob Abb (323)
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Allen (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick J. Amber & family (401)
Col. Thomas E. Ashinhurst (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Bankowsky
Mr. & Mrs. Edwin L. Baxley (322)
Donald Beal
Ralph J. Bell (401)
Col. George Birdsong (323)
Mr. & Mrs. John C. Bishop & family (323)
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Black & family (322)
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Blackburn (323)
John Blackowiak
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald A. Blaisure
Mr. & Mrs. David Bramble
Mr. & Mrs. Alton L. Brown & family (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold W. Brown & family (322)
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth E. Breckenridge (982 MP)

J. C. Bull (322)
William F. Burke (322)
Mr. & Mrs. Kermit Burman (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Paul C. Burnett & family (322)
John L. Butzler (982 MP)
Mr. & Mrs. David E. Calvert (323)
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Camelleri & family (322)
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Campbell & family (322)
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Carden
Mr. & Mrs. W. S. Carpenter & family (324)
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chryst & family (401)
Shan Clayton
R. E. Clement, Jr. (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E. Cliburn (324)
Mr. & Mrs. Ford C. Cowherd & family (323)
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Daley
Lt. Col. & Mrs. Clyde E. DeBaun (324)
Peter Delo
C.A. Dickson
Vernon L. Dion (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Everett Dodd
Robert Dorcy
Mr. & Mrs. Phil R. Dorn (401)
Mr. & Mrs. Wilbur C. Duemler (322)
Mr. & Mrs. Howard M. Dunham (323)
Ferrell Evans

(continued on page 7)



One of the most popular spots at the reunion was the trophy room, filled with photographs, scrapbooks, and mementoes of Bassingbourne days. Here a group looks

over a bit of the collection while enjoying coffee and sweets.

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(continued from page 6)

1967 Reunion Roster

John A. Evans (323)
 John A. Fearheller (322)
 Clayton Ferree
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul W. Flournoy, Jr. & family (322)
 Robert E. Foster
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Franke (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack P. Gaffney & family (401)
 Joseph S. Gagliano (322)
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Gerstemeier & family
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph M. Giambone & family
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas G. Gibson (401)
 Anyan A. Gordon (1st ST. COMP.)
 Walter E. Grabinski (401)
 Col. Thomas H. Gunn (324-401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Guzek & family (324)
 Oliver J. Hackwith (322)
 Mr. & Mrs. John T. Hardin & family (322)
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward Haller
 Joe Harlick (324)
 James A. Harrison (322)
 Mr. & Mrs. John A. Hassler (401)
 Marshall B. Haugen (322)
 Gaylord Henryson (322)
 William A. Hester (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas F. Higgins
 Whitmel W. Hill, Jr. (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Jack Hobson
 Col. Robert Hoffman (323)
 SMS Louis R. Holland, wife & family (401)
 James H. Hopkins
 Harry E. Hovermill (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Iiams
 Mr. & Mrs. John Irak (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Rex Jacobs & family (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl H. Johnson (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth L. Jones & family (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond E. Jones & family (401)
 Col. & Mrs. Frank S. Kamykowski (322 & 441 SD)
 Mr. & Mrs. James R. Knaub
 Horace Knight & daughter (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lackey & family (322)
 James V. LaGrossa (322)
 Rudy Lehman
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Lindley, Jr. (322)
 Mike London (982 MP)
 Mr. & Mrs. Howell B. Loper (323)
 Arthur MacLemore
 Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd J. Mahan (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Manzano (324)
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Marcus (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald P. Marks & family (401)
 Gerald R. Massie (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. McClesky (982 MP)
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. McCoy
 William G. J. McCrea (322)
 Paul G. McDuffee (401)
 Robert K. Morgan (324)
 Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Moretti (324)
 W. R. Middleton (Hdqts.)
 Mr. & Mrs. Edwin L. Miller (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Harold Mitchamore (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. John H. Mitchell & family (322)
 Mr. & Mrs. Herman Moser
 Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Nail
 W. Reese Mullins (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. George H. Odenwaller (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Oscar O'Neil
 William Page
 M/Sgt. George W. Parks
 Lt. Col. & Mrs. John R. Parsons, Jr. (322-401)
 Ed Peacock (322)
 Alfred H. Peters (401)
 Randall Peterson (323)
 Matt G. Pettera (401)
 C.O. Pierce
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Pullen
 Curtis Pyrah (324)
 Mr. & Mrs. William D. Raatz
 Mr. & Mrs. Edward B. Reppel Jr. (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. William A. Reynolds (323)
 R. C. Richardson (324)
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur E. Roper
 Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Roberts (Hdqts.)
 Joe Rose
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Samson
 Mr. & Mrs. Willis C. Schilly (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Morris J. Shapiro (324)
 Evelyn Ritscher
 Thomas Sharp
 Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Simpson & family (323)
 Howard E. Sisk (322)
 Sam M. Slaton (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert C. Sponsel (322)
 George Stuts
 Phillip R. Taylor (323)
 Mrs. Donald Tegler
 Albert K. Tucker (401)
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Weinstock (324)
 Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Wheeler & family (Hdqts.)
 Mr. & Mrs. Cecil E. Williams & family (323)
 Mr. & Mrs. C. E. "Bill" Winchell, Jr. & family (324)
 Maj. Gen. Erbon W. Wise (Hdqts.)
 Mr. & Mrs. Norman Wittman
 Maj. Gen. & Mrs. Stanley T. Wray (Hdqts.)
 Mr. & Mrs. C. H. Yanson (324-Hdqts.)
 Mr. & Mrs. Albert Yocuis (322)
 Thomas Young
 John Ventura
 George Zucco (322)

New Jersey Rally Round

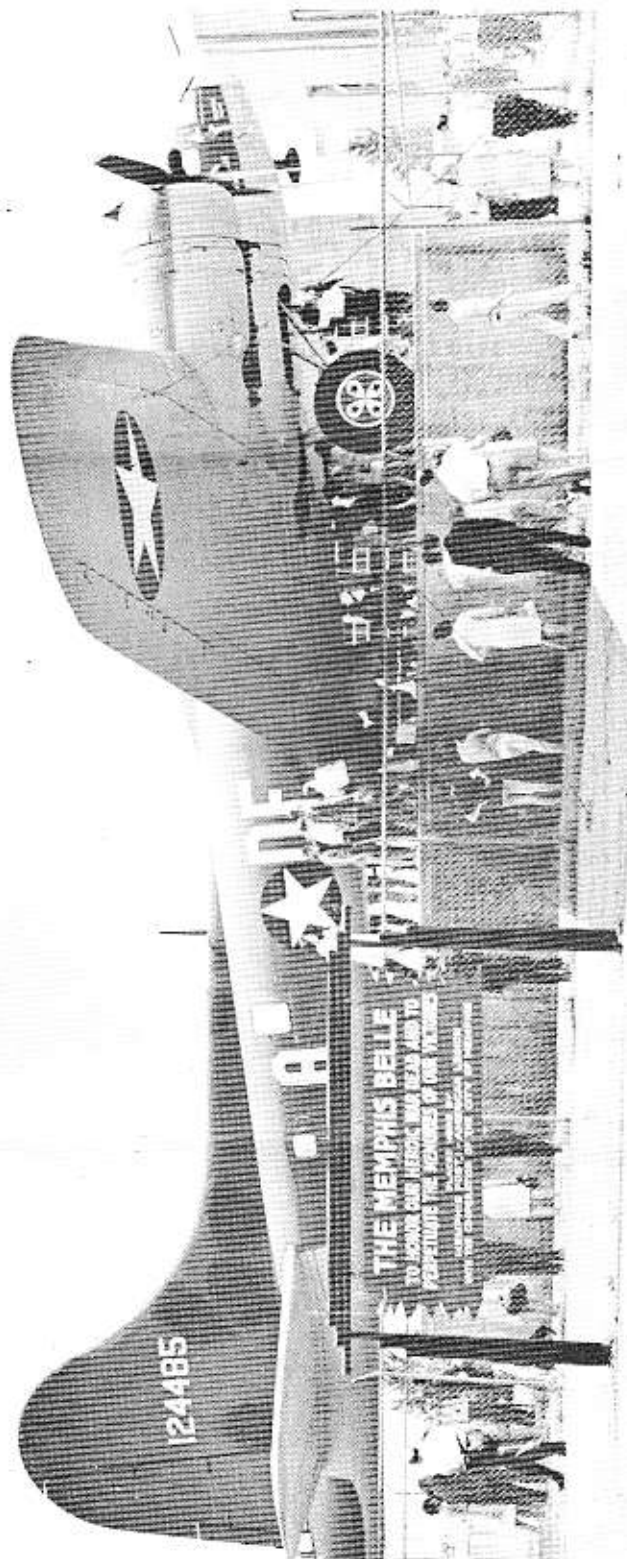
A New Jersey Rally Round is scheduled for Ocean City, N.J., Saturday, Oct. 28. Info flyers have been mailed to regional members, but if you were overlooked contact Robert E. Gerstemeier, Kerr Road, RD #1, Lansdale, Pa. 19446.

Let us know... what historical data, stories, pictures, articles, etc. you have concerning the 91st. We need material for our files and publications.

Oakland Rally Round

A Rally Round for 91st-ers in the Oakland, Calif. area has been set for Saturday, Nov. 4. Those needing details contact Phillip R. Taylor, 3030 Alta Vista, Calif., 94501.

Photographs on page 2, 5, 7, were taken by Gerald Massie, former 91st photographer, now assistant director of the Missouri Division of Commerce and Industrial Development. Photos on page 4 and 6 were taken by Joe Harlick, now with Boeing Aircraft.



Not only has Memphis refurbished this 91st veteran and improved its site, but bigger things are being discussed. Plans for enclosing the memorial and gathering

additional WWII relics to make a permanent museum are being studied.

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