



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 2

January, 1968

Make A Date In '68 - Denver Or Bust!

Promising to outdo even the "Fabulous First" in Memphis, the 91st Reunion Committees have just completed final plans for the Second National Reunion, scheduled for Denver in July.

Dates for the four-day affair have been set for July, 23-24-25-26, with the Denver Hyatt House Hotel serving as headquarters. The extra day has been added to give members more time for "visiting" and for sightseeing.

Arrangements are being handled by four Denver flight leaders, under the chairmanship of Sam Newton. Newton (whose co-pilot was Bert Stiles, author of the WWII air

classic "Serenade to the Big Bird") is being assisted by David Calvert, Jack Hobson, and Col. Henry Terry (Ret), former 91st Group C.O.

Members from all parts of the country will begin arriving at headquarters on Monday, July 22. Official registration will begin at the Hyatt House on Tuesday at 8 a.m. Throughout the day a trophy room with mementoes, scrapbooks, and pictures of Bassingbourne days will be open, with coffee and sweets "on the house."

At 6:45 Tuesday evening chartered buses will take
(continued on page 2)



Denver Hyatt House To Be Headquarters For Second National Reunion

Make A Date In '68...

interested members on a tour of nearby Coors Brewery, complete with free beer and a Dutch lunch. For those not making the tour, Air Force movies will be shown, including the epic Group documentary "The Memphis Belle."

On Wednesday, the day will begin at 8 a.m., with members meeting by squadrons for breakfast. At 9 o'clock, chartered buses will take the group on an all-day tour of the Air Force Academy, about 60 miles from Denver, near Colorado Springs. That night a second showing of movies will be given for those who missed the Tuesday screening.

A free morning for sightseeing and visiting has been scheduled for Thursday. At 11:30 the official Reunion Welcome Committee will begin. After lunch, special tours for the children are on tap, with buses taking youngsters to points of particular interest to them. An informal dinner-dance, preceded by a no-host cocktail hour, will wind up the day.

The only business session of the reunion will occupy Friday morning. Chief topics will include reunion objectives, the next national reunion, the 1969 trip back to Bassingbourne, and the election of officers. The business session will wind up the 1968 get-together.

A special feature of this year's reunion will be the first meeting of the newly organized P.O.W. flight, under the leadership of Joe Rose. Former "guests of Germany" will swap stalag experiences and get "Rose's Heroes" operating as a special unit of the 91st organization.

The Hyatt House, headquarters for all reunion activities, is located in downtown Denver. It offers a combination of Motor Hotel convenience with a relaxing, luxurious atmosphere. From the rooftop swimming pool and spacious sundeck on the 15th floor, members can get a sweeping view of the Denver skyline and the Rocky Mountains, clear to famous Pike's Peak, 70 miles to the south. Each of the 275 rooms and suites is equipped with ice-maker, wet-bar, and private balcony.

The hotel is "Home of the Playboy Club," which just opened in December, and the new "Kilty Room," so 91sters may "have a ball" during free hours.

Looking For A Model? Here's Revell's New 324th Plane 'Lady Luck'

91st-ers looking for a B-17 model will be especially pleased with a new release from Revell, Inc., of Venice, Calif., a B-17F named "Lady Luck." For some years Revell has used the "Memphis Belle" as their B-17 model, but with the 1967 production of "Lady Luck" the authenticity of the plane's insignia has been improved, and the company has continued with a 91st Bomb Group ship.

"Lady Luck" belonged to the 324 squadron. In addition to the correct squadron insignia DF (324) and call letter A, the model carries the triangle A, missing on the "Memphis Belle," and the correct aircraft number, 229837.

According to Revell's information, "Lady Luck" was transferred from the

91st and assigned to the Mediterranean Allied Air Force (MAAF), and returned to the United States in 1944. The package identifies the plane as belonging to the 324 Squadron, 91st Bomb Group.

The picture above, from the 91st files, shows "Lady Luck" on a raid

to Andres December 1943.

Our historical records indicate another 91st plane named "Lady Luck," probably with the 322 squadron at a later date than this model, but details are lacking. Information would be appreciated by the editor.



Here's Lady Luck' On The Andres Raid

1968 Membership Directory Ready

An up-to-the-minute directory of nearly 1100 former 91st-ers is now off the printing presses and ready for distribution. Members who had made advance orders for the roster have already been mailed their copies.

The directory lists the complete current addresses of 91st members in both the Eastern and Western divisions, alphabetically arranged, and complete with zip codes. The front and back covers of the book carry "in action" photographs of 91st planes.

Copies can be ordered from division treasurers at \$1

per directory. Members sending in their 1968 dues can conveniently order a copy at the same time.

Our Heartfelt Thanks...

Our heartfelt thanks to those members who have offered information and who have sent in material for the Irregular and our historical files. Because of the great pressure of compiling and printing the 1968 membership directory and preparing the January issue of the Irregular the editor has not been able personally to reply to these persons. If we haven't answered your letters it isn't because we are not truly grateful, and that every bit of assistance isn't most welcome.

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.

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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.

From The Editor's Desk...

Each One Reach One

For a great many years the Baptist church in promoting personal evangelism has used the motto "Each One Reach One." Perhaps never have so few words so aptly captured the secret of successful recruiting. If our swelling 91st membership is to reach its real potential it is going to take a "max effort" personal participation on the part of every single member. Here is a part that everyone—whatever his talents—can play in determining the continuing success of this great organization. While the group certainly is united by a strong common bond it is still the individual friendships which mean the most to the members. If each one will reach one former 91st-er, by tracking down a "lost" member, by encouraging a buddy to become an active participant, by dropping a note or making a phone call to an old friend, our organization is bound to snowball in membership and esprit de corps.

There is always the temptation to sit back and let "them" take care of things—to feel that somehow reunions will succeed, members be found, and publications appear as a sort of manna from heaven. "They" can't do anything to guarantee continuing success—only "us" can.

This is a job that calls for wholehearted teamwork, just as the job in 1942-1945 demanded it. Without every man doing his job Bassingbourne, no matter how unglamorous or insignificant he considered it, the whole effort was bound to fail.

So—let's all make this easiest and greatest contribution. Let your "good intentions" pave us a runway for takeoff, not a roadway to the nether region.

Denver Or Bust!

For those 91st-ers who "made" the first national Group reunion in Memphis no further invitation or advertisement is needed—just tell them the time and place! From experience they know that nothing is so satisfying and entertaining as getting together with their good friends of Bassingbourne days and reliving for a time their former exploits and escapades. Two former buddies meeting for the first time after 25 years, so happy they could hug each other, is really a sight to see! What is even more surprising is that the wives and children have the times of their lives, also.

Those of you who didn't make the first one will be missing the experience of a lifetime if you skip the Denver meet. And those who were with us in Memphis—think of the old friends you missed there that you will likely see in Denver.

The program being planned is a great one. Too, there's nothing like a Western vacation to get the whole family "out of the rut." Plan now to be with us at the Hyatt House on July 23-24-25-26. Better still, get in touch with those friends you've been wanting to see and make sure that they're with us too!

Make A Date In '68 — Denver or Bust!

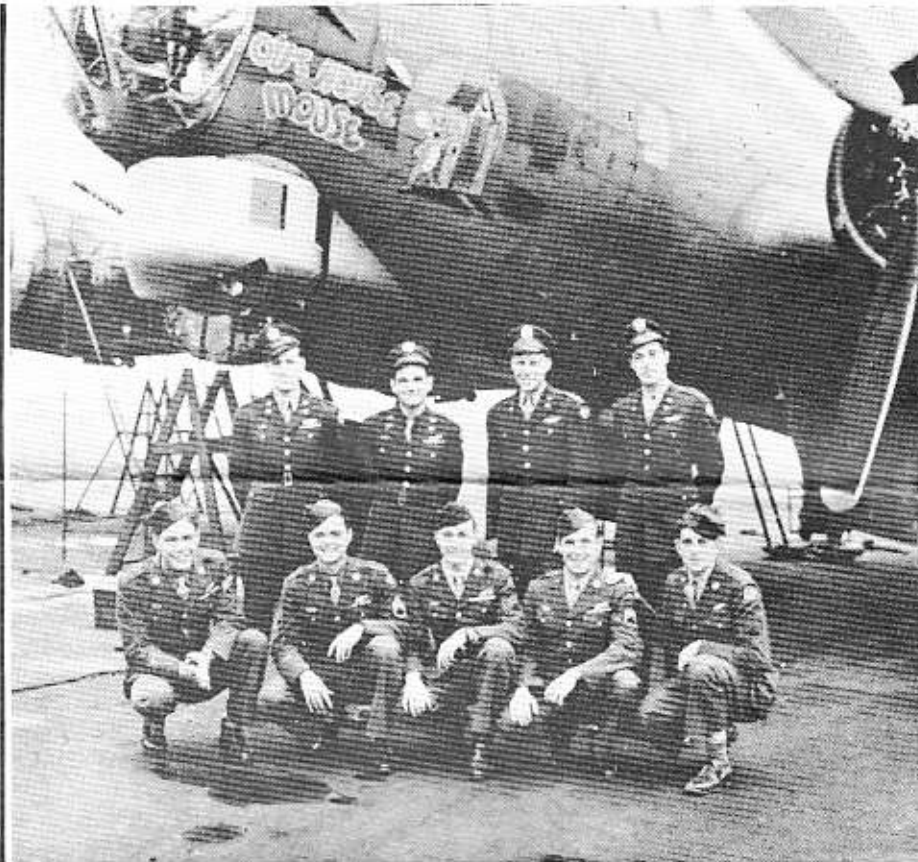
Plane On The Cover - 323 Squadron 'Outhouse Mouse'

In the initial issue of The Ragged Irregular the editor decided that a B-17 in flight would make a nice addition to the nameplate. It had to be an authentic 91st B-17, so the triangle A was added, and then to carry the authenticity further the editor added squadron designation and plane call letter—LG (322) V(Victor)—for "Chief Sly," one of the group's original planes (and the one he flew in).

Realizing that here was a good chance to recognize former 91st planes, it was decided that each issue would feature a different plane and a different squadron and time period.

This issue honors a 323 squadron plane, "Outhouse Mouse," one of the most durable planes of the 91st. "Outhouse Mouse," A/C # 231636, squadron letters OR (323) and call letter N (Nan), made a total of 139 missions, surpassed in this category in the entire 8th Air Force only by the 140 of another 91st ship, "909."

Four different crews finished tours flying "Outhouse Mouse." She made 12 bombing trips to Berlin. The Mouse was flown home to the United States in 1945, and rested in the Kingman, Arizona, boneyard until she was broken up with other aircraft in 1963.



One of the four crews that finished tours in "Outhouse Mouse" is shown here. They are, kneeling, 1 to r: N.C. Jorgenson (Engineer), Milton Lloyd (Radio), George Odenwaller (Ball), Al

Kus (Waist), and Walt Limberger (Tail). Standing, 1 to r: E.J. Harvey (Pilot), Paul Katz (Navigator), Martin Raber (Bombardier) and Phil Darbey (Co-Pilot).



Here are the men who kept the Mouse flying for 139 missions. Unfortunately, our files do not identify them.

If you can help us with identification please do,

Each One Reach One!

Early birds will be interested to know that the ball turret and tail gunner's positions were fleece lined.

Unfortunately, the identity of the ground crew that kept "Outhouse Mouse" flying so valiantly is not in our files, though we have their photograph. If some member can furnish this identification please pass it along.

In addition to the flying crew identified in the accompanying photo our records have one other crew for the Mouse: Willis C. Schilly (P), H.F. Larson (CP), H.A. Saska (N), Harold Woellert (Bomb), L.L. Reed (Eng), G.E. Stuts (Radio), C.D. Bradshaw (TG) and E.B. Reppel (Ball).

You members who are proud of your planes and crews send along the necessary info—we want a complete record in our files. Next issue will feature a 324 squadron plane.

Ocean City Rally Round Of October 28

The New Jersey resort town of Ocean City was the scene of an Eastern Division Rally Round on October 28. Members from a wide area of the East coast attended.

Winning honors for attending from the greatest distance was Oscar Dino of Middletown, New York. Runners-up were M/Gen. and Mrs. Stanley T. Wray of Alexandria, Va.

The group met in the afternoon at the VFW club for reminiscing, examining scrapbooks and photographs, and for an informal cocktail hour.

Later, the group had dinner at the Scotch House of Mr. and Mrs. Jack A. Fearheller (324).

Attending were: Oscar Dino (322); John P. Carter (322); Anthony Gaeta (323); Spud Paciotti (351 Bomb G); Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Giambalvo (323); Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Higgins (401); Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lalli (322);

M/Gen. & Mrs. Stanley T. Wray (Group C.O.); Nicholas Terefenko (322); Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Bellettiere (323); Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Lamia (guests); Mr. & Mrs. Steve O. Resko (401); Mr. & Mrs. George H. Odenwaller (323).

Mrs. Paul Tegler (324); Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Camelleri (324); Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chryst (401); Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gerstemeier (401); Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Giambone (324); Mr. & Mrs. Jack A. Fearheller (324), and Mr. & Mrs. Harold Horrocks (guests).

Look Out, Hogan - Here Comes Rose!

"Hogan's Heroes," TV's make-believe prisoners of war whose zany antics entertain millions weekly, may be more than matched by the 91st's newest flight, a POW branch headed by Joe Rose of Memphis.

"If we all get there next July," Joe says, "there should be some very interesting 'shot down' stories, and we can re-live at least part of our stalag days."

Joe, a former co-pilot who was shot down Oct. 10, 1943, on the Munster raid, has already contacted more than 40 former POW's in organizing "Rose's Heroes." He is planning a special get-together of ex-stalagers as a part of the National Reunion in Denver.

Those already contacted were from the files and membership data cards on hand at 91st headquarters. All 91st ex-POW's need to be contacted, so Rose urges former prisoners of war to get in touch with him as soon as possible. His address: Joe Rose, 2208 Jefferson Ave., Memphis, Tenn. 38104.

Each One Reach One!

Make A Date In '68 - Denver or Bust!



Shown here are part of the group enjoying themselves at the recent Ocean City Rally Round. In the foreground is Tony Gaeta (323), ex-POW, next is Barney Bellettiere (323), ex-POW, Mrs. and Mr. Vincent Lamia, guests of

Bellettiere from Brooklyn, and on the right side is Spud Paciotti, a member of the 351st Bomb Group, from Kirkwood, N. Y.

BIG 'FIND YOUR BUDDY' CONTEST!

Shown on pages 6 and 7 are the members who made the Memphis reunion. Due to an extreme press for time the photographer was not able to get identification when the

picture was made, and all subsequent efforts have failed. Also, members of supporting units and headquarters are not pictured.



IDENTIFY THESE AND WIN A PRIZE!

Some of you sharp-eyed eagles with good memories help us along with this. For the person identifying the members of his squadron (or the most of them) we will

send along an 8 by 10 glossy photograph of the squadron. For those who didn't make the first reunion, see how many of your old buddies you can still recognize.



Oakland Rally Round Of November 4

Oakland area 91st-ers got together November 4 at the Oakland Edgewater Inn for one of the biggest and best local Rally Rounds yet. Forty-four members and guests gathered in the swank 20th Century Room for the affair.

Flying in from the Eastern Division to join in the festivities were Group President M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Eastern division co-chairman Paul Chryst, and Col. John R. Parsons, Washington area flight leader.

The 20th Century Room was decorated with 91st pictures and mementoes, including a three-plane flight of model B-17s carrying Group insignia, LG V(Victor), DF F(Fox), led by OR C(Charlie).

The group viewed slides of the Memphis reunion and Air Force movies. After a dinner of prime ribs (with a special side dish of burssels sprouts for Gen. Wray) dancing and "visiting" continued until the small hours.

Present for duty were: M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray, (Ret), and son Mack Wray; Lt/Col. Paul Chryst, (401); Lt/Col. John R. Parsons (Ret), (401-322); Lt/Col. Ray J. Schwendiman (Ret) and wife, (324); Maj. Maurice J. Herman (Ret) and wife, (401); Maj. John W. Ryan (Ret) and wife, (324); SMS Henry Cordes (Ret) and wife, (401); SMS Louis R. Holland and wife, (401).

M/Sgt. Edward Jackman and wife, (323); M/Sgt. George W. Parks (Ret) and wife, (324-401); M/Sgt. Oliver Hackwith (Ret) and wife, (322); M/Sgt. Henry Hall and wife, (322); M/Sgt. Ernest V. Pry (Ret) and guest, (401); Philip R. Taylor and wife, (323); Robert H. Racicot and wife (441 Sub-D); John J. Lacorazza and wife, (401).

Doug Gibson and wife, (401); John Longaker and wife, (322); Charles Bonner, (322); Aubin Pene, (401); James E. Thomas, (441 Sub-D); Ralph Rappaport, (324); Randy Taylor and guest; Francis Flaherty and wife, (384 Bomb G.(H) Reporter), and Don Muratori and wife, photographer.

Make A Date In '68 — Denver or Bust!

Washington Area Rally Round

Long John Parsons, Phil Garris (just back from Spain), and Willis Stinson have gotten their heads together with Group president M. Gen. Stanley T. Wray and laid on a Rally Round for 91st alumni for January 13. Rendezvous point will be the Marriott Motor Hotel (Twin Bridges) at 1600 (4 p.m.).

According to Long John, "The troops will assemble on a BYOL basis to talk and drink with old buddies, swap lies and war stories, look at each other's photographs, view slides, look at movies, and toast each other again and again. Bring your wives. They had a great time at our last get-together. Adult children (if there is such a thing) are welcome, too, and so are friends and members of other outfits."

Dinner will be served at 7 p.m., featuring the luscious pot roast for which the Marriott is so well known. Tariff for everything—dinner, setups, tips and tax—will be \$7.50 per person.

Contact Col. John R. Parsons, 1800 Conn. Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009.

Don't Make Your Buddies Carry You



Seated, L to R: Phillip R. Taylor, M/Sgt. George W. Parks, M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Robert H. Racicot, Paul Chryst, John J. Lacorazza.

Standing, first row: Aubin Pene, M/Sgt. Oliver J. Hackwith, M/Sgt. Edward F. Jackman, Ralph Rappaport, Maj. Maurice J. Herman, Doug Gibson.

Back row, standing: SMS Henry Cordes, SMS Louis R. Holland, Francis Flaherty, M/Sgt. Henry Hall, Charles H. Bonner, James E. Thomas, John D. Longaker, Lt/Col. Ray J. Schwendiman, Lt/Col. John R. Parsons, Maj. John W. Ryan, M/Sgt. Ernest V. Pry.

Each One Reach One!

The Battle of Bassingbourne, or, Opportunity Only Knocks Once

Members who became 91st-ers after October, 1942, usually take for granted the luxuries of AF Station 131, Bassingbourne, admittedly the finest airfield in the 8th Air Force, and the envy of every other Group in the zone.

What most don't realize is that "Country Club South" wasn't handed to the 91st on a silver platter, but came only as a result of one of the Group's most outstanding military achievements, combining all the classic combat talents of the outfit—absolute fearlessness, clever strategy, magnificent logistics, dashing tactics, and much low cunning.

Original group home was a partly completed British airfield at Kimbolton, a tiny village some miles from Bedford, the nearest civilization. (That is, the nearest pubs). It was the typical war construction, with widely scattered, unheated half-round Nissen huts housing twelve men each, complemented with knee-deep mud everywhere. It had originally been planned for the British "Wimpy" light bomber outfit.

The ground echelon of the 91st left the States on the Queen Mary on September 5, 1942, and arrived at Gourrock, Scotland on September 11. They proceeded to Kimbolton the next day.

The air echelon proceeded in four waves, leaving from Bangor, Maine, and after a stopover at Newfoundland, on to Prestwick, Scotland and thence to Kimbolton. The first squadron, the 324, departed Bangor on September 25 and arrived at Kimbolton October 1. The others followed in close order.

Since the field had been planned for light bombers the heavy B-17s played havoc with the runways, and the group spent most of its training time waiting for patches to be made. Only three practice missions were made.

On 13 October B/Gen. Longfellow called Col. Wray and said they were thinking about moving the 91st to Bassingbourne, but wanted him to go down and look at the station. Col. Wray surveyed the station that afternoon and found it most suitable. He phoned back to Kimbolton and

From This...



Here enjoying the luxury of the Kimbolton station, crew members sweat out the start of one of the three training missions the group was able to fly from the faulty runways. On the left is Ross Frazier, then Thomas MacCormick, Clyde Gillespie, James Bullock (the navigator who found Hamm when nobody else in the 8th could, and helped get the 91st the Presidential citation), and an unidentified member. Holding up the building, maps at the ready, is the editor.

called a meeting of the Squadron Commanders for 2200.

At the meeting Col. Wray informed the commanders of his findings and ordered everything packed immediately for the move, with the first trucks scheduled to go through the gates of Bassingbourne at sun-up.

(continued on page 10)

To This...



Stretching out in all its splendor are the permanent, pre-war structures of Bassingbourne. This is the handing over

ceremony, when the 91st officially took over the base from the British, 21 April, 1943.

The Battle of Bassingbourne...

The convoy drove through the gates of Bassingbourne just as the first rays of the sun were beginning to glimmer in the east. The trucks unloaded and immediately went back to Kimbolton for the second contingent, which arrived back at 1400, leaving behind only a clean-up detail.

At 1600 Gen. Longfellow called Col. Wray on the office phone and asked him where the hell he was. Col. Wray answered "At Bassingbourne." Gen. Longfellow pointed out that headquarters had not decided to move the 91st, and the resulting explosion gave the group its first real taste of heavy bombardment. Faced with the 'fait accompli,' however, headquarters simmered down at last and decided that since the group had already moved it might as well stay.

Thus the 91st came into possession of the "gem of the Islands," the 8th Air Force Savoy, AF Station 121.

Long Beach Rally Round

A Rally Round of former 91st-ers (and their wives!) of the Long Beach-Los Angeles area has been scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 24, by Area Flight Leader Doug Gibson.

Aiming for a really memorable meeting, Doug has made reservations at Rochelle's in Long Beach. Highlighting the affair will be a prime rib dinner (\$6), a showing of color slides of the national reunion at Memphis, and possibly an Air Force movie. In addition, Rochelle's has dancing and entertainment nightly.

For those wishing to remain overnight the Land Mark Hotel (reasonable rates) is next door to Rochelle's.

If you can make it, please let Doug know at once. His address: Doug Gibson, 2740 Knoxville Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 90815.

IN MEMORIAM

As the years roll by, more and more of our former 91st-ers depart from our ranks. In compiling our 1968 membership directory we found that a number of our members were no longer with us. As a salute to these good friends and brave men we wish to print this "In Memoriam" roster:

Alfred Basile, Bethesda, Md.
 James W. Dorminy, Cordele, Ga.
 P. K. Ender, Louisville, Ky.
 Earl Ezell, Norfolk, Va.
 John Fillo, Bridgeport, Conn.
 Alfred Gentile, Dunmore, Pa.
 George H. Heilig, Norfolk, Va.
 William Jones, Norristown, Pa.
 Joseph Joseph, Ferriday, La.
 Francis J. Mahoney, Philadelphia, Pa.
 Leo Matros, Star Junction, Pa.
 John C. Moran, West Chester, Pa.
 Michael Northington, Clarksville, Tenn.
 S/Ldr. Peter Quayle, Royston, England
 R. O. Rasmussen, Detroit, Mich.
 K. W. Rutherford, Oneonta, Ala.
 Thomas J. Schofield
 Charles E. Sunne, Negaunee, Mich.

'Wray's Ragged Irregulars' Selected For Publication

Publication of "Wray's Ragged Irregulars," a book by C. Carlton Brechler covering the first year of combat operations of the 91st Bomb Group, has been undertaken as the initial project of the group's historical publications committee.

"Wray's Ragged Irregulars" was written during the early months of operation by Brechler, a group public information officer, at the suggestion of playwright Maxwell Anderson, who felt that the combat experience of the 91st "needed to be told."

In an effort to get complete authenticity in the various chapters Brechler has many of the stories told first hand by the participants. Almost every aspect of Bassingbourne life is covered, from combat missions to maintenance operations to weekend parties. Hundreds of names of 91st-ers make the story memorable reading for former group members.

Because of problems in getting higher echelon clearance of the material and unavoidable delays in making publication arrangements the book did not appear during WWII.

As one of the steps in getting a full and accurate history of the group, publication is being sought as soon as possible, perhaps during late 1968 or early 1969. The inclusion of a great many pictures of the persons and activities mentioned will be a feature.

Since this is an ambitious and relatively expensive undertaking, progress will necessarily be on a step-by-step basis, and unless considerable group interest is indicated publication would not be feasible. It is hoped that a nominal price of \$2 or \$3 can be set. Persons who would be interested in the book should drop a note to Paul C. Burnett, Box 909, Auburn, Ala. 36830.

Eastern Division Meetings Planned

Eastern Division flight leaders in a number of areas are eager to hold regional Rally Rounds and are trying to gather their "flocks" at a mutually convenient time and place. If you haven't made one of these affairs yet, here is your big chance. If you have, we need say no more!

In the Washington area, Col. John R. Parsons (1800 Conn. Ave. N.W., Washington, D. C. 20009) already has plans for one sometime in January. All 91st-ers in that area contact "Long John" at once and get in on the action.

In the Pittsburgh area three flight leaders are combining their talents, trying for the biggest Rally Round yet! With the tremendous number of members within easy distance of Pittsburgh their chances for success look good. So—you fellows in that area contact one of these: George Zucco, 2457 Allender Ave., Pittsburgh, 15216; Elmer Collinger, 8539 Dersam St., Pittsburgh, 15235, or Carl Gregg, 813 Main St., East Pittsburgh 15215.

All you New York Staters (and all others) who can reach the Middletown, N.Y. locale should get in touch with Flight Leader Oscar Dino, at 42 Wilson St., Middletown, N. Y. 10940.

Moving westward, Flight Leader John Irak, Jr. is trying to schedule a big Hoosier Hoopla in the Gary, Indiana, region. Contact John at 3578 Lincoln St., Gary, Ind. 46408 and help make it a big one.

Each One Reach One!

Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...Letters...

Dear Joe,

I received a copy of "The Ragged Irregular" for October and believe me it was a delightful surprise to find the 91st organized. My only regret is that I did not have any knowledge of the gathering in Memphis as I would have certainly been there.

I was with the 91st when it was activated at McWill Field and remained with it until it left England. I was with the 323rd and finally moved up to Hqs as base personnel Sgt/Major.

Enclosed please find a check for my membership dues, so please keep me on the mailing list.

Sincerely,
Sam L. Routman
P. O. Box 1378
Anniston, Ala. 35201

Dear Joe,

Congratulations again for a job well done! A lot of time and effort went into making the reunion the success that it was. John and I had a wonderful time in Memphis, and I was glad he got to see you again, many of his old 91st buddies and relive old memories and make a few new ones. We look forward to the next one.

Again to all of you who worked so hard—thanks! God willing, may we all meet again. Have a good year.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Irak

Dear Paul:

Many thanks for the Vol. 1, No. 1 of "The Ragged Irregular" publication. I really did enjoy it!

Let me compliment you and the staff very highly on the format of the bulletin, as well as the comprehensive reporting of all the vital news for the reader.

Realizing the tremendous effort necessary to expend on such a publication, and something of the cost involved in the production of it, I am enclosing herein a very small donation which will at least purchase some postage or paper. It happens to be all the currency that I have on my person at the moment, however, "the moment" is when I feel like contributing, so, "before the mood of the resolution passes" I would like to make a suggestion, if permissible? I suggest that you utilize the publication, which I feel certain everyone concerned relishes receiving, to request that all addressees, upon receipt of the bulletin each quarter slip loose change or a one dollar bill into an envelope and forward to the respective collection point, Vallejo or Glenside. This is to be extraneous to, and over and above the \$3 annual dues. I personally would feel inclined to do this small thing every quarterly receipt of the bulletin/magazine.

Best personal regards,
Paul G. McDuffee
4310 Beachway Drive
Tampa, Fla. 33609

Dear Mr. Giambrone,

Just received my first issue of the "Ragged Irregular"; wish I could have been in Memphis in July, but maybe next year in Denver.

I'm inclosing a check for \$6 for my 1967 and 1968 dues. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,
LaVerne McKelvy (322)
Box 45 RD 1
Howes Cove, N. Y. 12092

Dear Joe,

Sure enjoy the letters from the 91st—someday will make one of the get togethers.

Enclosed is \$10 for dues and for the cause.

As Ever,
Harvey R. Bonnel
230 Boulevard
Kenilworth, N. J. 07033

Dear Joe,

Here is a change of address, and included are dues plus additional donation.

I was sorry to have missed the reunion but I was in the process of retiring from the AF at that time.

My outfits at AF Station 121 were: 324th Bomb Sqdn.—commanding officer July 1944—May 1954; 91st Bomb Group commanding officer June 1945—Sept. 1945.

Best Wishes,
I. J. Klette
3440 Olentangy River Rd.
Apt. C-11
Columbus, Ohio 43202

Dear Joe,

I want to thank you for sending me a copy of the interesting Newsletter and was glad to read of the success your reunion had. My only regret was that my health did not make it possible to be there too. Perhaps I will be able to make the one next in Denver.

I don't know when the yearly dues are payable so I am enclosing my check for the next year's.

Sincerely,
Hugo Besler
1951 N. Howe St.
Chicago, Ill. 60614

Hi Joe,

First I heard of the 91st Group Reunion Committee was the arrival of "The Ragged Irregular" a few moments ago.

Count me in and thanks for laying the groundwork.

Phil Swanson (322)
"Skunkface" crew '43-'44
263 Cushing St.
Hingham, Mass. 02043

Joe,

Here is my \$3 for dues and for "The Ragged Irregular." Wish I had known about the reunion at Memphis—I would have been there.

Will be looking forward to the magazine and future get-togethers.

Harold E. Kirby
4106 Creek Ct., Rt. 8
Stone Mountain, Ga. 30083

Maybe this year...

Dear Mrs. Gerstemeier:

You are indeed right. Your request is a great deal different than most that I receive, and one that I would like very much to fulfill. However, in July I'm going to be in Switzerland making a film, and Switzerland is a far piece from Memphis, so I don't think I can accept your very warm invitation—much as I would like to.

To see the men again of the 91st would be a real pleasure. I remember the tour I took through England in the early years of the war, and I particularly recall the warm audience I worked for at the bomber bases. So maybe next year will be different, and I'll be free.

Be sure and let me know. Thank you very much for the picture you sent me. A wonderful souvenir of my visit to Basingbourne.

Most sincerely yours
Bing Crosby

The Last Irregular? Maybe...

The annual payment of \$3 for membership in the 91st Bomb Group (H) association is due by February. Members voted in the Memphis reunion that non-dues payers would be removed from our active mailing list after February.

If you want to continue membership and receive our publications regularly don't overlook this IMPORTANT duty. We hate to lose a single alumni, but everyone needs to share the responsibilities as well as the benefits. So...Use the coupon below.

Funds from the dues and contributions are used wholly to further the growth of the organization, to provide publications, track down 'lost' members, and to aid area get-togethers. Don't make your buddies carry you.

Help us build the 91st organization to greater and greater heights. Our goal for 1968 is to reach at least 2000 on our membership rolls. If each one will reach one we're sure to exceed it.

Members of the supporting units are also invited to join the 91st. They are:
441 Sub. Dep., 1st Sta. Comp., 1696 Ord., 1204 QM, 982 MP, 863 CWS, 556
APU, 206 Finance, 2024 Eng.F/F, 18 Weather, 243 Med. Disp.(Avn.), and
Red Cross.

Eastern Division Members (from the Atlantic to the Mississippi) mail dues to:
Joseph M. Giambrone 303 Brooksdale Ave. Glenside, Pa. 19038

Western Division Members (from the Mississippi to the Pacific) mail dues to:
Robert H. Racicot 209 Lamont Court, Vallejo, Calif. 94590

YES! KEEP 'EM FLYING IN '68

Name _____

Address (with zip code) _____

Dues _____ \$3

Directory _____ \$1

I'm hoping to attend the Denver reunion ...yes ...no

Make checks payable to 91st Bomb Group (H) Reunion Committee
No change? Drop in a \$5 bill for dues, directory, and 'the cause'