



# The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 3 No. 2

January, 1970

## Willow Grove Rally Round Scores Bullseye

A whopping group of 56 former 91st-ers and guests made a Willow Grove, Pa., Rally Round on November 15. Members from throughout the area from Virginia to Massachusetts braved snowstorms and 25 degree weather to make the affair.

Two 91st-ers, John A. Fearheller and Harry A. Dooley, became life members of the Memorial Association for donations of \$100 or more. In addition, for Fearheller it was also his birthday party.

This was the first Rally Round for a number of the members. Eastern Division secretary Bob Gerstemeier was reunited with his radio operator, John L. Wolstenholme, for the first time since the war, and division co-chairman Paul Chryst saw his flight engineer, Walter M. Satewicz, for the first time in 15 years.

An unusual angle was that four persons who made the very first mission the 91st ever flew were at the Rally  
(continued on page 2)



Gathered for the November 15 Rally Round at Willow Grove, Pa., were these 91st-ers: Front row, 1 to r, Ernie Kiss, Steve Perri, Paul Chryst, Harry Dooley, Robert DeGeorge. Second row: Fred Merkert, Bob Gerstemeier, Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Joe Giambrone, Oscar Dino,

Leroy Sheehan, Harry Hovermill. Back row: Paul Bara, Roy Smith, Russell Wilson, Harvey Bonnel, Warren W. Hill, Leo Lyons, John Slattery, John Fearheller, James McBride, Nicholas Terefenko, Walter Satewicz.

Come on, fellows, help keep 'em flying!

## Willow Grove Rally Round...

Mr. and Mrs. Leo L. Lyons, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Merkert, Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Smith, Mr. Harry A. Doolley, Mr. Robert DeGeorge, Mr. Paul C. Bara, Mr. and Mrs. Walter M. Satewicz, Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Hovermill, Mr. and Mrs. Warren W. Hill Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Russell W. Wilson.

Mr. Nicholas Terefenko, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kustin, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Wolstenholme, Mr. Edward Pearce (92 BG), Mr. and Mrs. John A. Fearheller, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gaeta and family, Spud Poccianti (351 BG), Mr. Oscar Dino, Mr. and Mrs. James R. McBride, Mr. and Mrs. Steven Perri, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Cherry, Mr. John

C. Slattery, and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chryst Jr.

Round. They were Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Ernest Kiss, Leroy C. Sheehan, and Steve Perri.

Receiving the prize for having traveled the greatest distance to attend were Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Smith of Liverpool, N. Y. Tony Gaeta, of Kirkwood, N. Y., had come by way of Fort Dix, N. J., to bring his son, who is in the army there, to the meeting with him.

Attending were: Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chryst, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Gerstemeier, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Giambrone, Mr. Joseph A. Camelleri, William Gerstemeier, Sgt. and Mrs. Hunsinger, Mr. Harvey Bonnell and friend, Mr. and Mrs. Leroy C. Sheehan, Mr. Ernest J. Kiss.



At the head table, from left to right were: Joe Camelleri, Joe Giambrone, Mary Jane Giambrone, Maj. Gen.

Wray, Trudie Gerstemeier, Bob Gerstemeier, Paul Chryst.

Come on, fellows, help keep 'em flying!

## Bob Bennett Hospitalized

Bob Bennett, one of the original Ragged Irregulars, a 322 sqdn. navigator on John T. Hardin's plane "Mizpah," has been hospitalized for some months following a stroke. He would greatly enjoy hearing from some of his old buddies. Write him at: Robert H. Bennett, c/o Mrs. Erma L. Cohoe, 3033 Jeanne Rd., Augusta, Ga. 30906. Bob is a patient at the Veteran's Hospital, Forest Hills Division, in Augusta.

## 91st Planes in 'Air Classics'

The December issue of Air Classics, in an article about the Kingman, Arizona, boneyard by Steve Birdsall called "Arizona Sundown" mentions the old 91st plane Hi Ho Silver, and tells the story of Cuthouse Mouse and her exploits. A full color picture of the 324's Just Nothing, DF F, 240000, is included. West Coast secretary-treasurer George Parks flew many of his missions in Just Nothing.

Come on, fellows, help keep 'em flying!



## 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)

### Public Relations

C. Carlton Brechler

5011 Elmgate Drive, Orchard Lake, Mich. 48033

### East Coast Division

(from the Atlantic to the Mississippi River)

#### Chairmen

Paul Chryst

1494 North Adams St. Pottstown, Pa. 19464

Joseph A. Camelleri

314 South 7th St., Reading, Pa. 19602

#### Secretary

Robert Gerstemeier

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

#### Treasurer

Joseph M. Giambrone

303 Brooksdale Ave., Glenside, Pa. 19038

### West Coast Division

(from the Pacific to the Mississippi River)

#### Chairmen

Phillip R. Taylor

2232 Seminary Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605

Maurice J. Herman

2821 Pruneridge Ave. Santa Clara, Calif. 95051

#### Secretary - Treasurer

George W. Parks

109 Wilshire Ave., 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.

## Membership Data Forms

We need data forms on ALL former 91st-ers. If you haven't sent

one in, please do so today. If you need the data form,

contact your division secretary.

**NOTICE NOTICE NOTICE**

## From The Editor's Desk...

Starting a new year is always an exciting and hopeful undertaking, and as the 91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Association begins another year it is certainly so with us. From a small beginning in 1966-67 we have seen our members grown to more than 1400, with national reunions at Memphis and Denver capped with an international get-together at Bassingbourn this past summer. Every week sees the finding of "lost" members, and our rolls continue to grow. As far as we can determine no other Air Force group of WW II comes anywhere close to our organization for size and vigor, but this only reflects the pride and esprit d'corp of the 91st from its very beginning--"the best damn group in the whole Air Force!"

With the recent revival of interest in WW II history our group has received an unusual degree of attention from air historians, both because of our outstanding achievements and the fact that our records are organized and our membership available for first-hand research.

As proud as we all are of our organization there is much more we could do. Too few still play an active part in developing the Memorial Association through their dues and contributions, their lending of pictures and records for the files, and their diligent efforts to put us in touch with those old timers we still have not tracked down. Thank God for those who do care!

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Since we have no national reunion scheduled for 1970 the importance of the area Rally Rounds is magnified. The Pennsylvania Rally Round reported in this issue and the upcoming Rally Round at Anaheim, Calif., on February 7 for the Western area bring old 91st-ers together to renew the fellowship. Upcoming the first week in May for the Dayton, Ohio, area is a Rally Round under flight leader J. R. Dempsey, so members anywhere within traveling distance of Dayton should mark that one on the calendar. A big one is scheduled for the Florida and Southeast area the third week in July at Tampa, with Paul McDuffee at the controls. Anyone wanting to combine a 91st Rally Round with a great Florida vacation should plan on this one. What we really need, though, are for some devoted members to undertake a Rally Round in those many areas where we have numbers of members but as yet have had no get-togethers. There are spots like this all over the country. It doesn't have to be an elaborate affair, and the number who attend is of little consequence. Whenever a few old 91st-ers get together to meet and talk over old times it meets the only qualification. Division headquarters are always ready to help with suggestions, advice, films, slides, etc. What is needed is someone on the local level who will get the ball rolling and follow through. If YOU'RE willing to give it a try in your area let the Eastern and Western Division chairman know. Also, we need volunteers to serve as flight leaders in many areas. If you're willing, let headquarters know.

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# Memorial To 'Wee Willie'-Death of a Veteran

Robert D. Iiams, a former 322 crew member of "Wee Willie", has given \$100 as a memorial to their waist gunner, James "Stogie" Houtchens, and the other crew members of this best known plane of the 91st. The crew that was flying the plane the day she went down was a make-up crew of members who needed a few more missions to complete their tours.

Here are perhaps the most sensational series of combat pictures of an aircraft taken during WW II, the death of the 322 squadron's famous "Wee Willie" on April 8, 1945, over Stendal, Germany. "Wee Willie" was on her

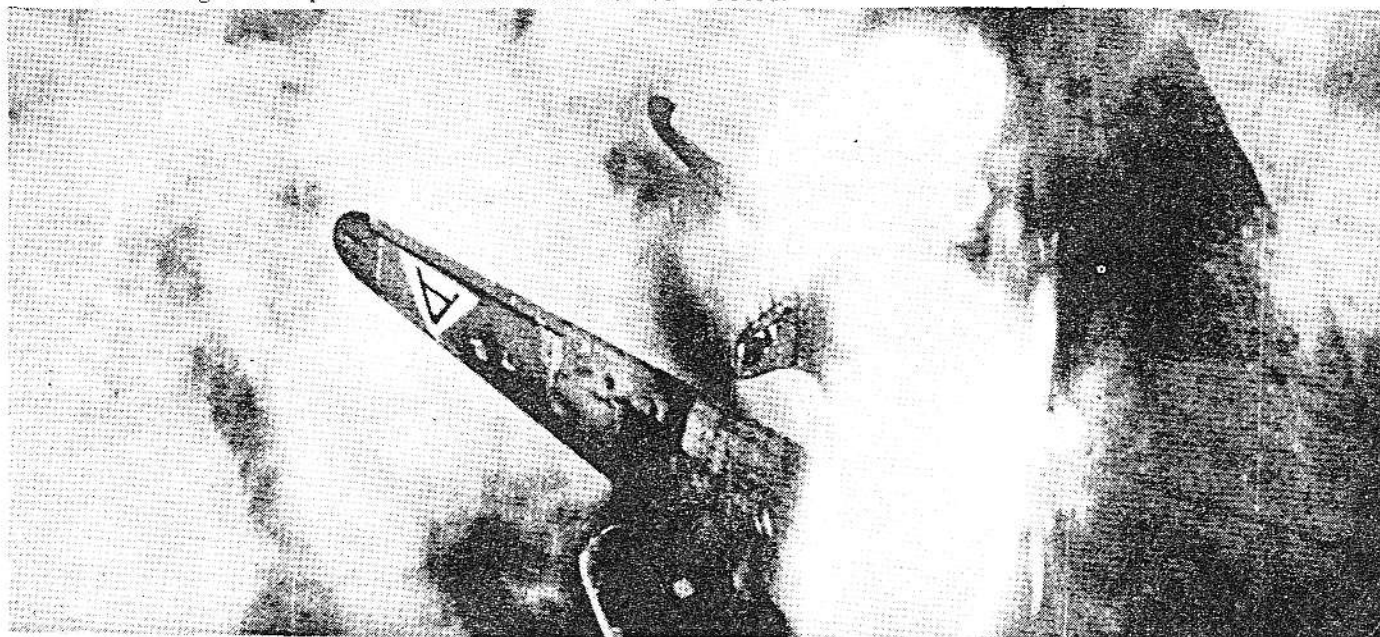
128th mission when she went down, the last plane lost by the 91st to enemy action. The plane was an olive drab B-17G, serial number 231333, that joined the 91st in the summer of 1943. The official shot released by the Air Force, that of "Wee Willie" losing the wing, states that it was due to an Me 109 hit, on April 10 at Oranienburg. Eyewitnesses from the group relate it was a direct hit from flak, and the date was April 8 at Stendal. Two men, the co-pilot and the tail gunner, escaped from the plane, the others were killed when the plane blew to bits. The pictures were taken at six-second intervals by a bomb-bay camera from another plane in the group.



Here is a nose shot of "Wee Willie."

These shots are from the collection of Joe Harlick. Members wishing 5 x 7 prints can obtain these for 75

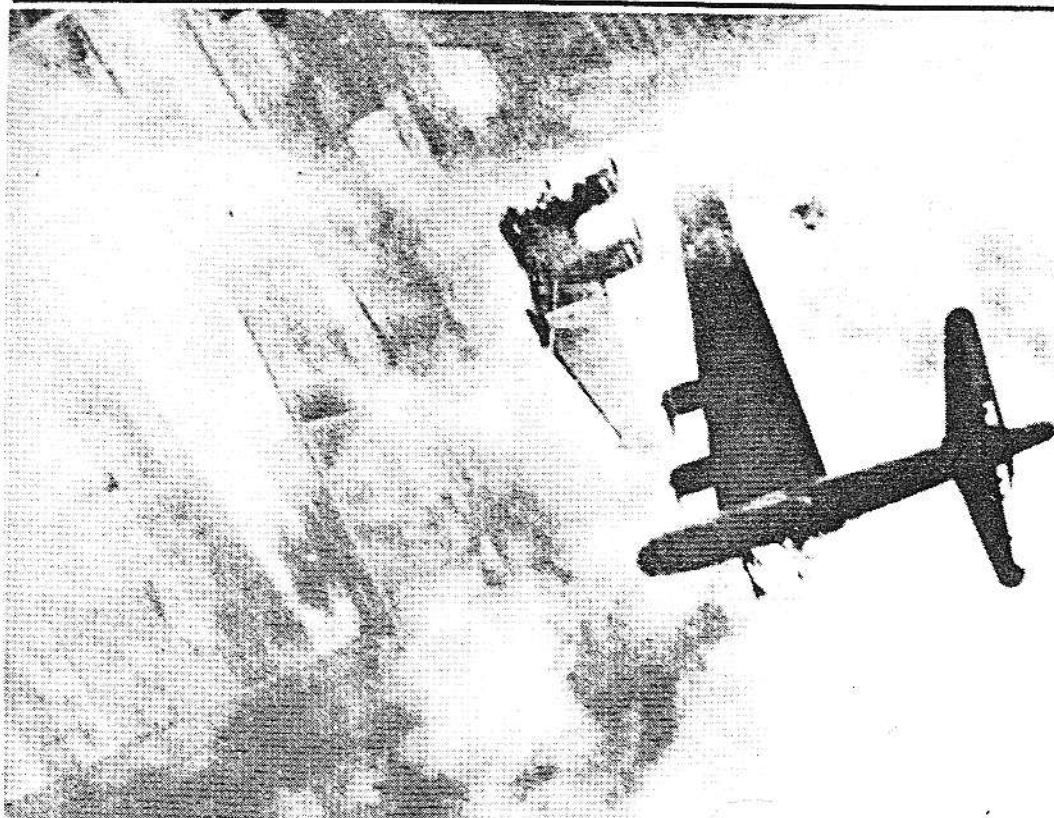
cents from Joe, or copy negatives for \$2.00. Contact Joe at: Joe Harlick, 19431 107th S.E., Renton, Washington 98055.



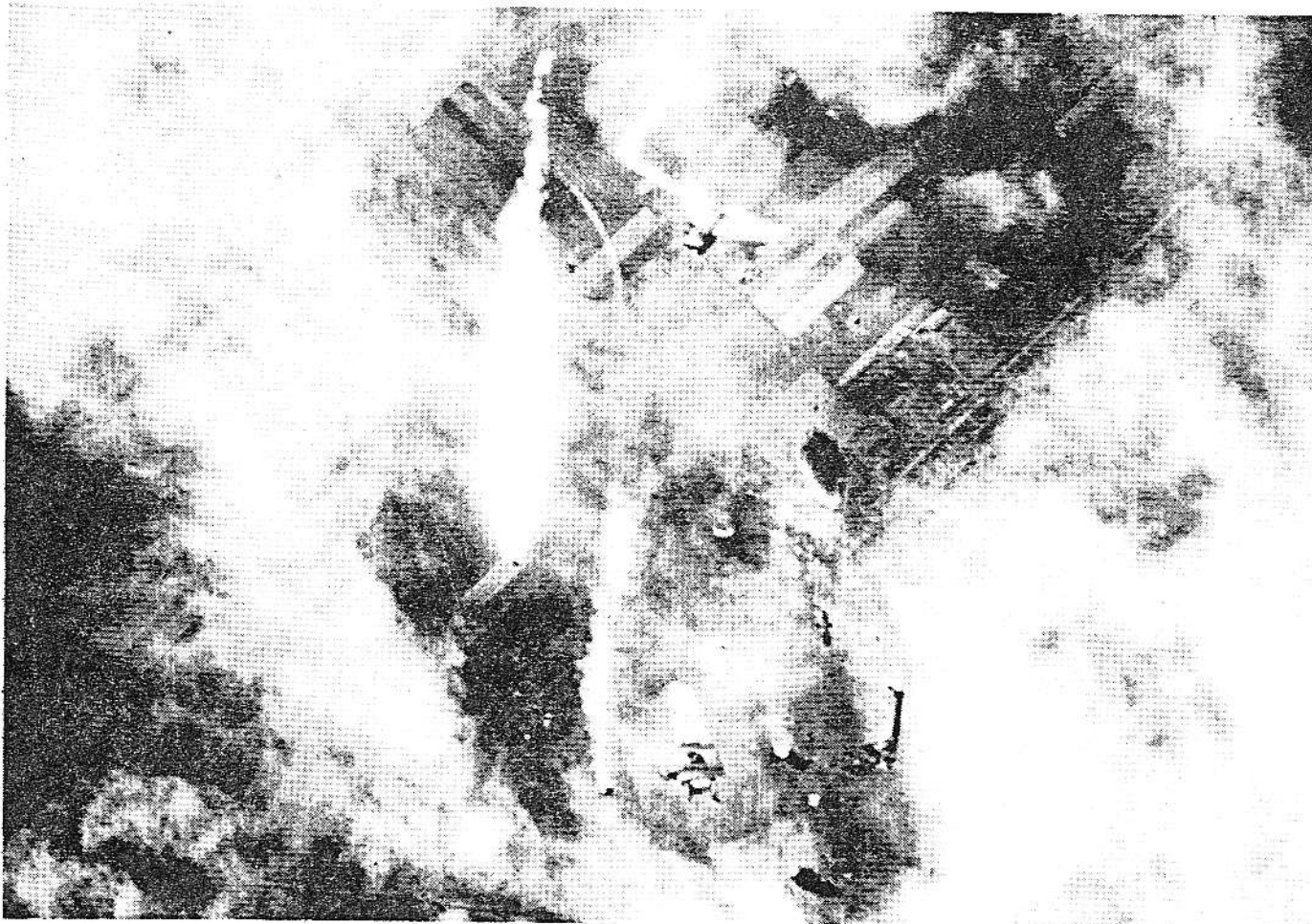
Shot one shows the plane immediately after being hit, enveloped by burning gasoline from the ruptured gas tank.

Note the wing already folding back after being blasted off.





Shot two is the widely reprinted picture of "Wee Willie" going down. The entire left wing floating free.



Six seconds later -- "Wee Willie" has exploded, and only bits and pieces float to the ground. To the best of our knowledge this is the first time all three pictures have been published.

# Set-Down in Sweden-'Lackin Shackin's' Saga

By Torbjorn Olausson

Editor's Note: Torbjorn Clausson is a television producer and director with the Swedish Broadcasting Corporation in Stockholm. He is currently working on a book for an American publisher covering American, English, German and Polish aircraft that force-landed in Sweden during WW II. Clausson is a permanent reserve officer and currently a captain in the Swedish Signal Corps. He would like to contact any 91st-ers whose plane landed in Sweden. Write him at Sveriges Radio, 105 10 Stockholm, Sweden.

Early on the foggy morning of 11 April 1944 a Flying Fortress with the serial number 42-39929 was to leave for Nazi Germany. That special B-17G was called "Lackin Shackin" and belonged to the 401st squadron of the 91st Bomb Group, based at Basingbourn, England. The crew consisted of ten persons: Frank C. Amman, pilot; Frank J. Butler, Jr., co-pilot; Harold Levin, navigator; Patrick McNulty, bombardier; John J. Lacorazza, engineer and upper-turret; Frank D. Byron, radio operator; Harold Hornick, waist gunner; Frank Martin, waist gunner; Irvin Kennedy, ball-turret gunner, and Leon Sexton, tail gunner. It was their 21st mission over Germany and everything seemed to work out all right.

When they came in over Hannover the flak was heavy, and suddenly they were hit. Both outboard engines were damaged. They were leaking oil and gasoline. The pilot feathered the engines and "Lackin Shackin" limped along. But suddenly the left inboard engine started acting up, and after some minutes they noticed that the fuel transfer system was damaged. The crew threw everything possible out of the plane to lighten it, and made what they thought was Denmark by ten miles.

When they came in from the south a German Me 210 had found them and started firing. They fired back, but the Me was not damaged. Suddenly the German missed the B-17 and fired directly towards a Swedish air-artillery base. The Swedes shot back and hit the Messer-

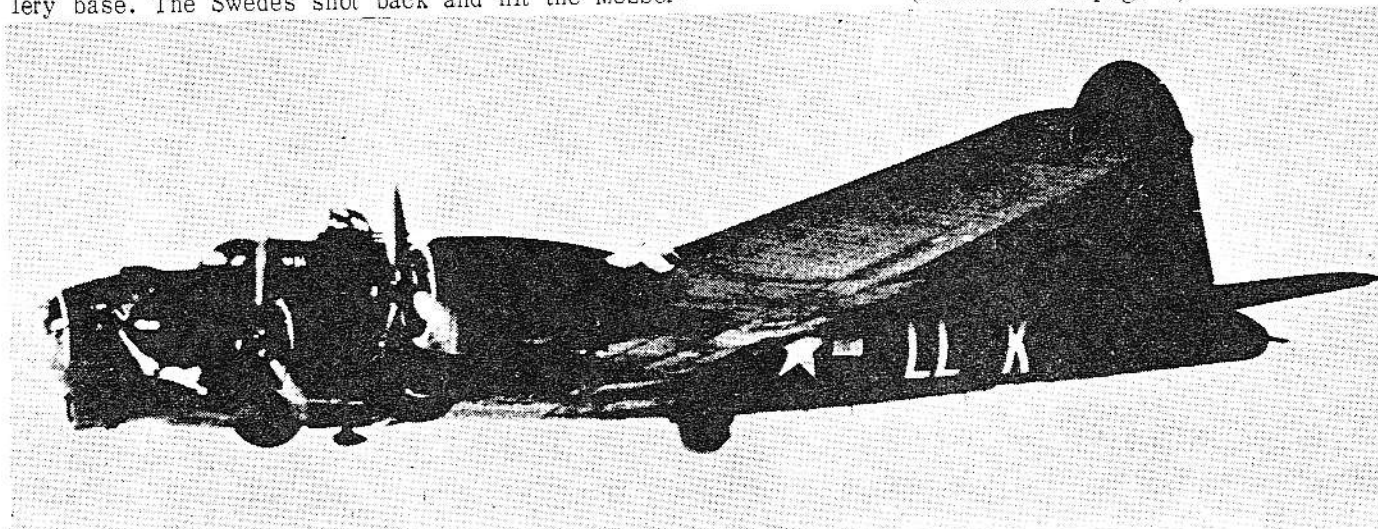


Torbjorn Olausson

schmitt with their first shot. "Lackin Shackin" circled around the burning Me and then went on eastwards. The Swedish air-defense fired again and one shot hit the B-17 even though it was meant to be just a warning shot. They stopped the shooting when the crew threw out emergency signs and one man parachuted. After a short while another man jumped. Some minutes later seven other men jumped, and one of them, the co-pilot, Frank J. Butler, Jr., broke both his legs when he landed in a snowy field. The rest of the crew were o.k.

The pilot had lowered his wheels after they had been

(continued on page 7)



"Lackin Shackin" in flight on a mission to Germany, before fateful mission No. 21.



## Set-Down in Sweden...

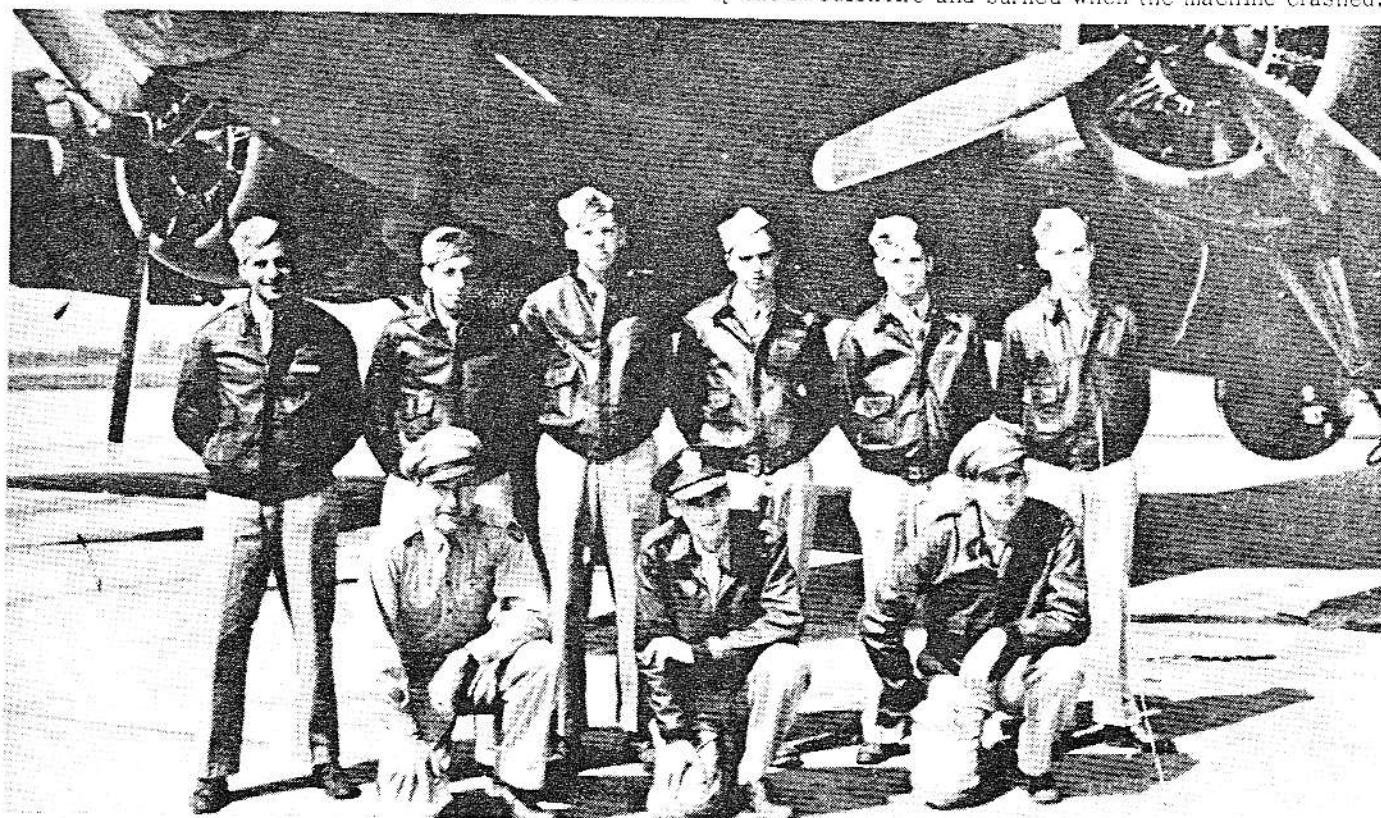
shot at by the Swedes and searched for a suitable field to land. He missed a field of flowers and passed over a high voltage line and crashed in a plowed field. With a crash it swept through a stone fence, and stones were thrown around. After fifty meters the plane stopped. In the crash landing three guns fell out and someone found a radio back in the stone fence. It was a 100% perfect landing with the wheels up and only some hundred liters of gas left.

People rushed up to the plane and one man, the pilot, jumped out. He came out unarmed after having put the guns in safety. He went towards a small house about 100 meters from the plane. The Swedes told him that he was in Sweden and he smiled happily because he thought they were over Denmark. He went back to the plane and

took his binoculars and then back to the house where the local defense visited him with pistols in their hands. Frank Amman became a prisoner in the house but a happy prisoner. He was given food -- eggs, bacon, and fresh milk, which was his favorite food, and cigarettes. Later he was brought by the military to Ystad where he met the rest of his crew. The plane was brought to a scrap firm in Ystad. The crew was interned in Sweden seven months and one dark night they were flown back to England by Air Transport Command.

Most of the men are still alive, and in Sweden the farmer who met the pilot is alive. He is an old man today, and his name is Emil Bengtsson, who lives in Rundels-gatan 16, 27300 TOMELILLA.

The Messerschmitt 210 crashed upon a Swedish soldier who was out bicycling, and the two Germans were killed by the Swedish fire and burned when the machine crashed.



Here is the crew of "Lackin Shackin" that force-landed in Sweden in 1944. Front row, kneeling: Frank C. Amman, pilot; Harold Levin, navigator; Patrick McNulty, bombardier. Not shown is Frank L. Butler, Jr., co-pilot.

Back row, 1 to r: John J. Lacorazza, engineer-gunner; Howard Hornick, waist gunner; Frank D. Byron, Jr., radio operator; Frank Martin, waist gunner; Irvin Kennedy, ball-turret, and Leon Sexton, tail gunner.



Here is "Lackin Shackin" after coming to rest on a plowed field in Sweden. After being hit by flak over Germany and attacked by a Me 210, shot by Swedish anti-

aircraft, and crashing through a stone wall, she rests in a farmer's field near Ystad, Sweden.

# Log of Missions - The Final Installment

Here is the continuation of the mission log begun in the July, 1968 issue. The left-hand numbers represent completed missions; the next row represents the alerts, and then the date is shown, by day and month.

301.	453.	26-2	Berlin	Completed	477.	26-3	Ebrach	Scrubbed	
302.	454.	27-2	Leipzig	Completed	478.	27-3	Fulda	Scrubbed	
303.	455.	28-2	Schwerte	Completed	323.	479.	28-3	Spandau	
304.	456.	1-3	Heilbronn	Completed			Stendal	Completed	
305.	457.	2-3	Id&Lo Chemnitz		324.	480.	30-3	Bremen	Completed
			Hi Jocketa	Completed	325.	481.	31-3	Halle	
306.	458.	3-3	Chemnitz	Completed			Aschersleben	Completed	
307.	459.	4-3	Id Reutlingen		482.	2-4	Snrydstrutden	Recalled	
			Hi&Lo Ulm	Completed	483.	3-4	Kaltenkirchen	Scrubbed	
308.	460.	7-3	Id&Hi Dortmund		484.	3-4	Beldringe	Scrubbed	
			Lo Giessen	Completed	326.	485.	4-4	Fassberg	Completed
309.	461.	8-3	Huls	Completed	327.	486.	5-4	Frafenwohr	Completed
310.	462.	9-3	Kassel	Completed	328.	487.	7-4	Kohlenbissen	Completed
311.	463.	10-3	Sinsen	Completed			Lo Fassberg	Completed	
312.	464.	12-3	Dillenburg	Completed	329.	488.	8-4	Stendal	Completed
313.	465.	14-3	Vlotho		330.	489.	9-4	Oberhaffenhofen	Completed
			Hi Osnabruck	Completed	331.	490.	10-4	Oranienburg	Completed
314.	466.	15-3	Oranienburg	Completed			Lo Rechlin/Larz	Completed	
	467.	16-3	Leipzig	Scrubbed	332.	491.	11-4	Freiham	Completed
315.	468.	17-3	Bohlen	Completed	492.	12-4	Bayreuth	Scrubbed	
316.	469.	18-3	Berlin	Completed	333.	493.	13-4	Neumunster	Completed
317.	470.	19-3	Plauen	Completed	334.	494.	15-4	Rocheft Area	Completed
318.	471.	21-3	Rheine/Salzberger	Completed	335.	495.	16-4	Regensburg	Completed
319.	472.	22-3	Dorsten	Completed	336.	496.	17-4	Dresden	Completed
320.	473.	23-3	Coesfeld	Completed	337.	497.	18-4	Rosenhain	Completed
321.	474.	24-3	Vechta	Completed	338.	498.	20-4	Brandenburg	Completed
322.	475.	24-3	Twente/Enschede	Completed	339.	499.	21-4	Munich	Completed
	476.	25-3	Zeititz	Recalled	340.	500.	25-4	Pilsen	Completed



## Blazer Patch Available

The latest in styles for the well-dressed 91st-er is this blazer patch, a project of the Western Division. To be fashionable for that upcoming Rally Round or reunion order yours for \$3 from either George Parks, 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Calif. 94590 if you are in the Western Division, or from Paul Chryst, 1494 North Adams St., Pottstown, Pa., 19464 for the Eastern Division.

## Bassingbourn Still Lives!

Bassingbourn RAF Station, the home of the old 91st as Air Force Station 121, which was closed by the Royal Air Force after "Operation Return" this summer, has gained a new lease on life as an Army base. Beginning in October the base became the home of a new Division of the Royal Anglian Regiment.

It will be a base for the Queen's Division Depot, which has been controlled from Bury St. Edmunds. The move of the unit is scheduled to be completed by the first of the year.



# New Members and Changes of Address

Trafford Dahle  
RFD  
Trimont, Minn. 56176

Lamond J. "Buck" Bailey  
Star Route  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Maj. Grant Benson (Ret.)  
1427 Carlos Court  
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Lawrence C. Smith  
2814 E. 45th Place NE  
Tulsa, Okla. 74110

Fred E. Schrandt  
2207 E. 19th  
Tulsa, Okla. 74104

James B. Morgan  
6934 E. Latimer Place  
Tulsa, Okla. 74115

Don Hayes  
129 Whitburn Court  
Stockton, Calif. 95207

Lt. Col. Lawrence E. Gaddis  
12996 Auton Ave.  
Riverside, Calif. 92508

Lt. Col. Marion H. Havelaar  
823rd Radar Sqdn. (Sage) (ADC)  
Spokane International Airport  
Spokane, Wash. 99219

Donald Mills  
Pierce Street  
Beaumont, Texas 77703

Virgil Mott  
4651 North Boulder  
Tulsa, Okla. 74126

Harry Klein  
67 The Fillance  
Bassingbourn, N. End  
Royston, Herts, England

Paul H. Schauffert  
R.R. # 1  
Pequot Lakes, Minn. 56472

Maj. Gen. Erbon W. Wise  
P.O. Box 99  
Sulphur, La. 70663

Charles E. Newlin  
3811 39th Ave.  
Oakland, Calif. 94619

Harold Mannon  
4800 North Osage  
Tulsa, Okla. 74126

Wilbur D. Renz  
R.R. 1, Box 73  
Muncie, Ind. 47302

Harold E. Pavonia  
4250 King  
Denver, Colo. 80211

Col. Robert W. Harris  
Box 912 Hq. 3 AF  
APO New York 09125

Richard Goldsmith  
Cambridge Square Apts, Apt. #150  
5501 West Washington  
Groves, Texas 77619

H. D. Cope  
5215 Pine Ave.  
Waco, Texas 76710

Harry E. Garner  
c/o Shell Oil Co.  
52 W. 52nd St.  
New York, N. Y. 10019

Dr. Paul F. Miner  
1333 W. Jefferson St.  
Boise, Idaho 83702

SMS Henry Cordes  
2445 Shoreline Dr., Apt. 202  
Alameda, Calif. 94501

Edmund Abdo  
300 Donny Drive  
R.D. #3  
Moscow, Pa. 18444

Come on, fellows, help keep 'em flying!

# New Members and Changes of Address

Phillip R. Taylor  
2232 Seminary Ave.  
Oakland, Calif. 94605

Ellsworth R. Cruse  
1735 Vizaheea Dr.  
Dubuque, Iowa

Maj. Grant Benson (Ret)  
1427 Carlos Court  
Santa Rosa, Calif. 95405

Col. William J. Auth (Ret)  
6124 Everest Way  
Sacramento, Calif. 95842

Paul Eizenzimmer  
618 Second Street, South  
Cold Spring, Minn. 56320

Dr. John B. O'Leary  
University Medical School  
Univ. of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55455

William E. Sticklen  
1844 Loudon Heights Rd.  
Charleston, W. Va. 25314

Kenneth Fligen  
P.O. Box 274  
Woodbridge, New Jersey 07095

Albert G. Romulis  
3819 Green Acres Rd.  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19154

Paul Bara  
14 Vitaloak Lane  
Levittown, Pa. 19054

John Stipe  
Apt. 415, 2600 DeKalb Pike  
Norristown, Pa. 19401

Theodore Lundberg  
250 Jackson Ave.  
Jamestown, N. Y. 14701

Col. L. A. Montalvo  
30 Azalea Ave.  
Satellite Beach, Florida 32935

Harry Klein  
67 The Fillance  
Bassingborun, W. End  
Royston, Herts., England

David C. Crow, Hon. Sec. EAAS  
Rutland House, Hay Street  
Steeple Morden,  
Royston, Herts, England

Lt. Col. Joseph J. Kozina  
4102 Dakota Court  
Alexandria, Va. 22312

CMS Robert L. Modell  
3006 March  
Grissom AFB, Indiana 46970

Eugene Emonds  
3516 Ferry Heights  
Fair Lawn, N. J. 07410

Russel O. Masteller  
22 Hunters Lane  
Williamville, N. Y.

William A. Bacon, Jr.  
4922 Old Court Rd.  
Randallstown, Md. 21133

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Cyril J. Braund  
15670 Irene Way  
Westminster, Calif. 92683

Kenneth Cochran  
640 West Imperial Ave., Apt. 3  
El Segundo, Calif. 90245

Hugh Ham  
18801 Calvert St.  
Reseda, Calif. 91335

Col. Thomas Gunn  
1024 Woodland Drive  
Arlington, Texas 76010

Merrill E. LaPoint  
Box 3612  
Hayward, Calif. 94544



SMS Willis W. McQuain  
360 East 8th Dr.  
Mesa, Ariz. 85201

Robert E. Hardister  
635 Lornmead  
Houston, Texas 77024

Robert W. McElroy  
44 Virginia St.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84103

Peter F. Deboy  
5112 Westland Blvd.  
Baltimore, Md. 21227

John B. Reash  
3551 Donvil Court  
Akron, Ohio 44319

Arthur A. Klinger  
Box 69  
Elizabethville, Pa. 17023

Jack R. Grosh  
3240 Walman Drive  
Columbus, Ohio 43224

Col. Charles E. Baldwin, Jr.  
6 Buckingham Place  
London S W 1, England

Avery O. Gage  
2156 Jonquil Place  
Rockford, Ill. 61107

Joseph M. Peris, Jr.  
198 Pritchard Ave.  
Corning, N. Y. 14830

Robert Singer  
29 North Street  
Camillus, N. Y. 13031

E. M. Lockhart  
254 Wallace Rd.  
Jackson, Tenn. 38301

### INCOME AND EXPENSES

January 1, 1968 - December 31, 1968

#### INCOME

Balance: January 1, 1968, Eastern Division	\$ 138.97	
Balance: January 1, 1968, Western Division	<u>262.03</u>	\$ 401.00
Dues - Directory - Gifts, Eastern Division	\$ 2,171.51	
Dues - Directory - Gifts, Western Division	<u>1,162.36</u>	
		3,333.87
Reunion at Denver, Colorado		<u>1,225.42</u>
Total Income:		\$ 4,960.29

#### EXPENSES

Eastern Division Printing - Stationery - Postage	\$ 2,198.80	
Western Division Printing - Stationery - Postage	<u>1,309.78</u>	
		\$ 3,508.58
Reunion Expenses: - Denver, Colorado		832.60
Retained Earnings Unappropriated:		
Eastern Division - (Cash Balance)	\$ 308.09	
Western Division - (Cash Balance)	<u>311.02</u>	
		<u>619.11</u>
Total Expenses:		\$ 4,960.29

#### STATEMENT OF ASSETS

Bank Balance - Eastern Division	\$ 308.09
Bank Balance - Western Division	<u>311.02</u>
Total Assets:	<u>\$ 619.11</u>

*Joseph M. Giambrone*  
Joseph M. Giambrone, Treasurer

## From the Editor's Desk...

Becoming a life member of the 91st Memorial Association through the contribution of \$100 or more is beginning to catch fire. The memorial to the crew of "Wee Willie," given by Robert D. Iiams and played up in this issue was the fourth such membership received. Since then, two more members, John A. Fearheller of Ocean City, N. J., and Harry A. Dooley of Philadelphia have also become "gold card" members. The complete list now includes: Maj. Gen. Stanley T. Wray, Col. Immanuel J. Klette, John L. Dowrick, Robert D. Iiams, John A. Fearheller, and Harry A. Dooley. This is a memorial gift that will do much to perpetuate the memory and fame of the grand old 91st. A reminder, too: the gifts are tax deductible since the 91st B.G. (H) Memorial Association is a registered non-profit organization.

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At very long last the publication of our first book, "Wray's Ragged Irregulars," written by Capt. Carlton Brechler during the first year of operations at Basingstoun, is nearing completion for the printer. Publishing books by the normal process is a very costly undertaking, and the 91st had no funds for this sort of enterprise. So we have to proceed by "scrounging" and "making arrangements" and whatever means we could. For that reason progress was slow--we would "borrow" a little typesetting, beg a few pictures, etc. But at last we are nearing the end, and a few more months will likely see us through. We believe that it is one of the truly outstanding books of WW II, unlike anything that has yet been done, since it is in large part written by those persons who actually took part in the activities and missions. In addition to a long text we are planning on many, many pictures, and all at a price below any commercially avail-

able book of its type. So a little more patience will see us through!

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Many, many of our members have never filled out membership data forms, whether through oversight or because they have mislaid their forms. We use these very, very often in tracking down information for writers and historians, and often a single data sheet gives us a clue to a source of information that can clear up many problems for these researchers. If you haven't sent yours in, please do! Additional copies can be obtained from Divisional headquarters for those who have mislaid their forms.

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February is the regular dues-paying month, and though there are other notices in this issue, here's one last reminder! It is your dues that make it possible to keep printing The Ragged Irregular, to assist with Rally Rounds, and to organize national reunions. Do your part in keeping the 91st flying--send in your contribution today. Don't make your buddies carry your share of the of the organization!

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You never know where you'll run into an ex-91st-er! Consider this note from Bill McGavern: "Along with about 30,000 other people I took a vacation at Long Beach Island, N. J., this past August. At about 6 a.m. one fine morning while strolling the beach I asked one of the surf fishermen how they were biting. Well, he had caught no fish, but I did! Shooting the breeze I discovered he was an old 91st alumni. Consider what the odds would be that on the 27 mile long island, 30,000 vacationers -- and I spoke to one! I promised to send his address in to the Memorial Association. He is Leo Lyons, Box 395, Rt. 33, Trenton, N. J. 08619."

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

**1970 membership dues for the 91st Bombardment Group (H) Memorial Association should be paid by February. WE NEED YOUR HELP to keep the Ragged Irregular coming and to carry out the many worthwhile projects of the Association.**

**Contributions to the Association are tax deductible, so dig deep and come up with something extra!**

**Contributions and dues should be sent to Division treasurers.**

**Eastern Division: Joseph M. Giambrone 303 Brooksdale Ave., Glenside, Pa. 19038**

**Western Division: George W. Parks 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Calif. 94590**

**DON'T WAIT - DO IT TODAY!**