



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 8 No. 1

February, 1975

Double-Header Reunion Great Success

The second half of the double-header reunion sponsored by the Eastern Division --Operation: One More Time overseas and the National Reunion at Valley Forge, Pa., June 22-27, was every bit as successful as Part One. Almost 140 members, wives, and guests attended the event at the George Washington Motor Lodge.

Many of those who had taken part in the overseas trip stayed on for the Pennsylvania get-together, and others journeyed

from as far away as California, Texas and Florida to take part.

Highlights of the reunion included a tour of Valley Forge Park, a tour of the Amish country, and visits to historic points in Philadelphia, including Independence Hall and the Betsy Ross House.

Three new Life Members were added to the growing list of \$100 contributors. They were M/Sgt. Eugene Rummell (Ret.),

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Memorial Association officers welcome guests to the National Reunion. Shown are Bob Gerstemeier, Eastern Division treasurer; George Parks, Western Division Sec.-Treasurer; Paul Chryst, Eastern Division

chairman; Association president M/Gen. Stanley T. Wray; Eastern Division treasurer Joe Giambrone, and Eastern Division co-chairman Joe Camelleri.

Edwin Miller, and Ammon Powell.

Winning the English pewter engraved mug for travelling the greatest distance to attend were Aubin and Jackie Pene of Brea, Calif.

Some of the first timers to attend a National Reunion were Eugene Rennemell, Gerald Bradley, Paul Wakler, Clifford Schultz, Michael Rheam, Joseph Sterling, John Guros, and Woodrow Whipple. John Conway, who learned of the 91st Memorial Association only 10 days before departure for Operation: One More Time made both the overseas trip and the Valley Forge reunion.

Attending the National Reunion at Valley Forge were: Jarvis Allen, Nick Bankovsky, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Bara, James, Betty, and Linda Bedwell, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Bertrand, Col. George Birdsong, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Bowles, Gerald Bradley, Mr. & Mrs. Ken Breckenridge, Forrest Bryant, Mrs. Goldie Cahill.

Joseph Camelleri, Mr. & Mrs. John Carr, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cenus, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chryst, Mr. & Mrs. John Conway, Mr. & Mrs. James Daley, Neil Daniels & son, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Dewhurst, Vernon Dion, Frank Donofrio, Robert Dorcy, Jack Fearheller & son, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Franke.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gerstemeier, Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Gettis, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Giambrone, Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Gold, Ms. Agnes Griffin, Mr. & Mrs. John Guros, Mr. & Mrs. James Harrison, Mr. & Mrs. John Hassler, Whitmal W. Hill, Mr. & Mrs. Dusty Hoffman, Mr. & Mrs. James Hopkins, Harry Hovermill.

Ron Jackson, Morrell Jones, Col. & Mrs. Frank Kamykowski, Mr. & Mrs. John Kurylo, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lackey, Ray & Jim; Mrs. Eldon Lapp & Allen, Michael London, Mr. & Mrs. Howell Loper, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Manzano, Mr. & Mrs. Edwin Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Miller, Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Moretti, Virgil Mott & son, Mr. & Mrs. James Norris, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Nuskey.

Mr. & Mrs. George Odenwaller and son, George W. Parks, John Parsons, Edward Peacock, Mr. & Mrs. Aubin Pene, Mr. & Mrs. Steve Perri, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Ammon Powell, Mr. & Mrs. Gary Romults, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Rennemell, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Rheam, Robert Roberts, Garrett Saunders, Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Schultz, Mr. & Mrs. Michael

Sibenac.

Joseph Sterling, Mr. & Mrs. John Taylor, Mr. & Mrs. Lumir Tomanek, John Ventura, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wahler, Kenneth Wallick, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Waslaski, Woodrow Whipple, Gen. Stanley T. Wray.



Ammon Powell, Western Division member from Fremont, Calif., receives his Rigid Digit award for his \$100 Life Membership contribution at Valley Forge.



M/Sgt. Eugene Rennemell (Ret.), 323rd crewman of Delta Rebel II, is presented his life membership award.



Edwin Miller joins the Life Membership ranks with his "finger" award from M/Gen. Wray.



Famed innkeeper of "Pene's Pub" at 91st gatherings, Aubin Pene and his wife Jackie of Brea, Calif., receive the English pewter engraved mug for having travelled the greatest distance to attend the Valley Forge Reunion.



Half the crew of the Delta Rebel II got together for the first time at the national reunion. Shown are Ernest Miller, Randall Peterson, Steve Perri, Gene Remmell, and Col. George Birdsong, pilot. Bob Abb, bombardier, was scheduled to join the crew but had to cancel at the last moment.

Just at press time we learned that Eastern Division secretary Bob Gerstemeier has been hospitalized with a heart attack. He is expected to be back at home before this issue of the R/I reaches you. A card to Bob at 930 Woodlawn Drive, Lansdale, Pa., 19446 would be a welcome lift.

New Directory Scheduled

A new 1975 membership directory is in the works and will be mailed to all dues paying members very soon.

It contains an updated list of addresses and many additional members names.

A unique cover designed by associate member Bob Stevens of "There I Was..." fame, will make the book especially attractive.

To get your copy don't forget to send your 1975 dues of \$5 along right now if you haven't already done so.

Eastern Division members should send their dues to Joseph M. Giambrone, 303 Brookdale Ave., Glenside, Pa. 19038.

Western Division members should send their dues to M/Sgt. George W. Parks (Ret.), 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Ca., 94590.

New Book By Bob Stevens

Associate member Bob Stevens, whose famous air cartoons "There I Was..." appear in Air Force magazine (and on occasion in the R/I) has a new book of his cartoons out that none of you will want to miss. Not only does "More There I Was..." contain those great cartoons of the life every airman experienced but the words to all those lusty wartime songs of airmen are included.

Bob's first collection, "There I Was..." is now in its 6th printing, and this one seems destined to be even more popular.

You can obtain your copy directly from Bob at the Village Press, P.O. Box 310, Fallbrook, Ca. 92028. The price is \$3.95 plus 30¢ postage and handling.

It's Dues Time Again!

If we are to keep the 91st Memorial Association flying high and proud we need the active support of every member on our roster! Send your \$5 annual dues to your Division Treasurer.

Eastern Division:

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

Western Division:

M/Sgt. George W. Parks (Ret.)
109 Wilshire Ave.
Vallejo, Calif. 94590

Fresno Rally Round Scores Smash Hit



A B-17 at the Fresno Gathering of Warbirds does a buzz job for spectators from

the 91st Rally Round. The Warbirds show was a highlight of the Western rally.

Another great Western Division Rally Round was held at Fresno, Calif., Sept. 6, 7, 8. The meet, held in conjunction with the Gathering of Warbirds annual air show, drew 102 members, associate members, wives and guests.

At the dinner held Saturday evening approximately 85 members of the Warbirds of America joined the group as guests.

A special fly-by of a B-17G for the 91st-ers was a highlight of the Saturday air show.

Speakers for the event were Col. Harold E. Comstock USAF (Ret.), ex-fighter pilot of the 56th Fighter Group (P-47s) and Lt. Col. Bob Stevens USAF (Ret.), of "There I Was..." cartoon fame. Both are associate members of the 91st.

Two new life members were added to the growing list of those who have donated \$100 to keep the 91st flying. They are Ralph Tomek, ex-401st sqdn., and William D. "Bill" Allen, associate member and officer of the B-17 Combat Crewmen and Wingmen.

The tremendous enthusiasm for the get-

together with the annual Gathering of Warbirds has western members planning a return visit to Fresno.

Attending were: Lt. Col. & Mrs. John R. McCombs USAF (Ret.) and daughter; M/Sgt. & Mrs. George W. Parks USAF (ret.); Mr. Earl McCullough; Mr. Aubin R. Pene; Mr. & Mrs. Curt Pyrah; M/Sgt. Eugene Letalien USAF (Ret.); Mr. Robert Letalien; Mr. & Mrs. Glen Herrington; CMSgt. & Mrs. Charles W. Yaroshak USAF (Ret.).

Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Clapp; Col. & Mrs. Donald S. Gauthier USAF (Ret.); Mr. & Mrs. Glenn V. Boyce; Mr. Mel Boyce; Mr. Frank G. Donofrio; Mr. & Mrs. Dolph D. Boyer; Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Moore; Lt. Col. Henry J. McFadden USAF (Ret.) and family; Ms. Pat McCormick; Mrs. Rosie Ortega & daughter; Mr. & Mrs. Bruce D. Moore.

SMSgt. & Mrs. John R. Paget USAF (Ret.); Lt. Col. and Mrs. Carl N. Smith USAF (Ret.); Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. Racicot and daughter; Mr. & Mrs. George W. "Bill" Parks; Mr. & Mrs. Doug Gibson; Mr. Chris "Ace" DeGuitaut; Mr. & Mrs. Louis Simpson;

Mr. & Mrs. Ammon Powell; Mr. & Mrs. William D. Allen; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph J. Tomek; Mr. Paul Grumbine; Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Puls; T/Sgt. & Mrs. Raymond S. Blaich Jr. USAF (Ret.); Mr. & Mrs. George W. Shook.

Mr. & Mrs. Leland E. Forsblad; Mr. & Mrs. Raymond A. Slominski; Mr. Perry & Mike Wofford; Mr. & Mrs. Clive M. Woodbury; SMSgt. & Mrs. Louis Holland USAF (Ret.); Mr. & Mrs. Curley Wells; Maj. Edward P. "Ted" Winslow USAF (Ret.); Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Taylor; Mr. & Mrs. Douglas P. Burton.

Mr. Robert M. Paulson; Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Peilsback; Mr. Vincent B. Evens;

Mr. & Mrs. Eric Moore; Mr. & Mrs. James Binning; Lt. Col. & Mrs. Robert "Bob" Stevens USAF (Ret.) and Mr. Lou Malone.

Earl McCullough received the pewter mug for travelling the greatest distance to attend-- from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

Guests from the Warbirds included: Dennis Buhn, Wayne Williams, Ken Spiva, Harry Harris, Sandy Crist, John H. Bell, John H. Bell II, Dan Dahn, John Herlihy, Ken Frank, Andy Lightbody, V. Schnepf, Nelson Knubduar, John Tley RAF (Ret.), Ernie Hunnicutt, Ray Cartwright, Edward Mahoney & son, Leonard Boyd, and Don Ryder.



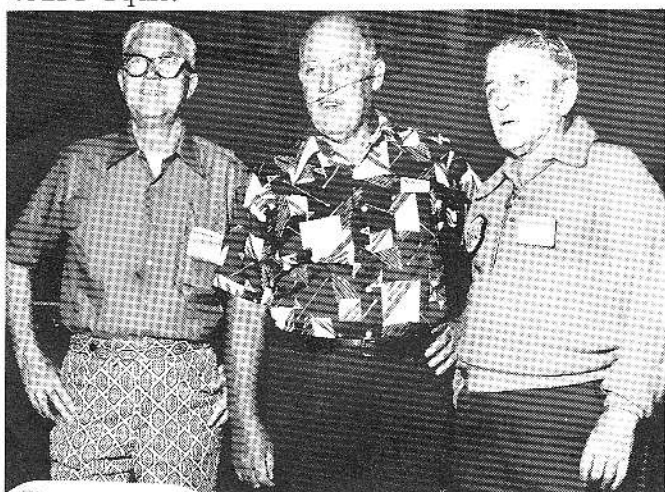
Members and guests enjoying conversation and drinks in the 91st hospitality room.



Two new Life Members receive their "fingers" from Sec.-Treas. George Parks. Standing, on the right, associate member Bill Allen; on the left is Ralph Tomek, 401st sqdn.



Guest speaker and associate member Col. Harold E. Comstock USAF (Ret.), ex-fighter pilot with the 56th Fighter Group at the mike.



Three crew members of the 401st together again--SM/Sgt Lou Holland (Ret.), SM/Sgt John Paget (Ret.) and M/Sgt. Gene Letalien (Ret.).



Western Division Chariman John McCombs has just been presented with a 25-year-old ditching light (still working) and two cans of "C" rations for cross country flights in his aircraft.



Associate member Lt. Col. Bob Stevens is presented with a group and squadron insignias plaque by Western Division Sec.-Treas. George Parks. Division chairman John McCombs is at the mike.



Collecting the pewter mug for coming the greatest distance to attend the Fresno rally round is Earl McCullough, ex-401st sqdn., from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

From the Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett
Box 909 Auburn, Al. 36830

For those of you who may be wondering where the October issue of the R/I disappeared to I would like to explain that the editor suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized during the period that it was scheduled for publication. Though the attack was a mild one I was not allowed to return to any sort of work until the middle of January, and have been on a very restricted work load since. So we skipped the October issue completely and take up again with this February issue. Hopefully we will be back on schedule by the April issue.

The many, many cards from 91st members was really a boost to morale and my wife and I were truly grateful for your best wishes and prayers. It was not possible to reply to each personally, but I do want to express to all my deepest thanks.

Our association president Gen. Wray very much appreciated the many cards and letters following his recent stroke. He wishes to pass along his thanks to all those 91st-ers and friends who extended their concern and prayers. Though Gen. Wray is well along the road to complete recovery he still has some difficulty with his right hand and has not been able personally to reply to each as he would have liked.

Flt. Lt. E.M.C. (Maurice) Rowe, who is writing a complete history of the 91st, and who did such a wonderful job of helping with Operation: One More Time, has a new address he wants passed along to 91st members. His new address is:

31 The Coppice
 Gatenby
 Northallerton
 N. Yorkshire
 DL7 9PF
 England

Maurice has two beautifully edited tapes of Operation: One More Time and the Syd Lawrence concert that some of you who made the trip might like copies of.

Addine and "W.C." Walt Carpenter of Holbrook, Arizona, made Operation: One More Time, and many of the 91st-ers accused W.C. of having the franchise on the

water closet concessions at each of the necessary bus stops enroute. W.C. took the jokes and the few pennies needed for admission at many places. After the Bassingbourn show, the Carpenters were the first to regain their baggage at Kennedy Airport and ran to catch the last plane from N.Y. to Arizona. They sent back a telegram to the members who made the National Reunion at Valley Forge, Pa., that said; "Best wishes for a successful reunion. We enjoyed Part 1 very much. Who has the "concessions" there?"

Four members of the crew of "Rhapsody In Red," 324th sqdn. DF-Y A/C # 959, met again at the National Reunion. They were Seymour Gold, tail gunner, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Clifford Schultz, radio operator, Chicago, Ill.; Elmer Gettis, navigator, Falls Church, Va., and Roy Bertrand, ball turret, Mamou, La. Two other crew members, V. Randy Chowning, engineer, Richmond, Va., and Gerald Block, waist gunner, Pittsburg, Pa., were scheduled to attend but had to cancel at the last minute.

The pilot, Frank Adams, died over Berlin Feb. 3, 1945, and the co-pilot, Monte B. Adams died in 1972.

The crew are trying to track down the remaining members-- Harold Burts, bombardier, of California, and Joe Sovina, waist gunner, Pennsylvania. Anyone who has a lead on these two or the crew chief of the plane is asked to contact C. M. Schultz, 3330 North Ridgeway, Chicago, Ill. 60618. Phone 212 267-0328.

The Western Division still has some of those beautiful gold braid 91st blazer patches available. These are really beautiful 91st mementoes. You may order them from Sec.-Treas. George W. Parks, 109 Wilshie Ave., Vallejo, Ca. 94590. The price is \$13 postpaid.

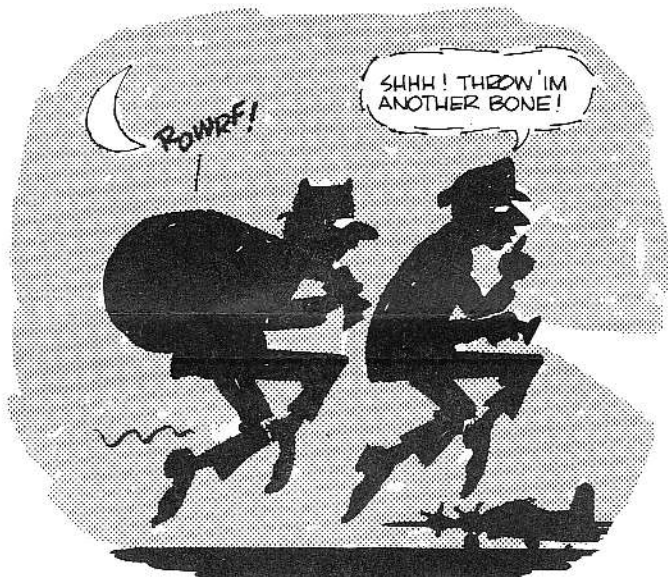
One of the highlights of Operation: One More Time was the visit to Opijnen, Holland, to visit the graves of eight 91st-ers whose plane went down there. The mayor of Opijnen has passed along the names of the surviving crew members, Keene C. McCannon, pilot, home address 1768 Upper Afton Road, St. Paul, Minn., and John P. Bruce, co-pilot, 6206 Medford Drive, Orlando, Florida.

HELP KEEP 'EM FLYING--SEND YOUR DUES!

Bob Stevens'

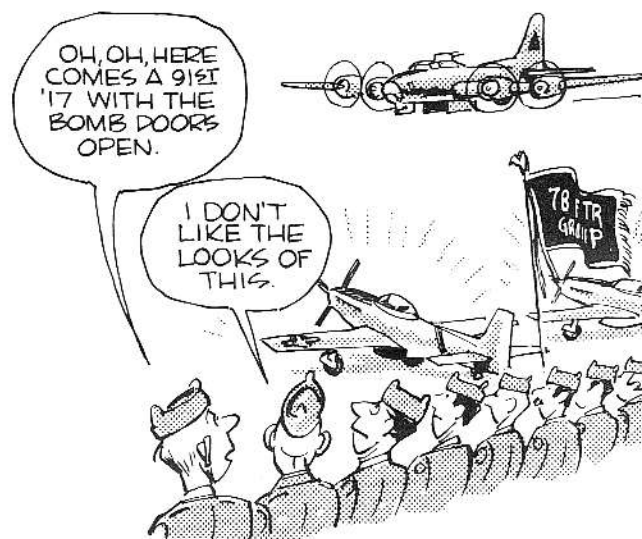
"There I was..."

IT ALL STARTED WHEN "REDLINE", CANINE MASCOT OF THE 91ST, WAS SPIRITED AWAY DURING A JOINT PARTY.



RIVALRY BETWEEN BOMBER and FIGHTER PILOTS IS LEGEND. A PARTICULARLY SPIRITED RIVALRY EXISTED BETWEEN THE 78TH FTR.GP, BASED AT DUXFORD, STATION 357, and THE 91ST BOMB GP(H) BASED AT BASSINGBOURN, STATION 121, IN JOLLY OLD...

THE WAR ENDED (WITH "REDLINE" STILL MIA) and THE AIR FORCE GOT BACK TO SPIT and POLISH PARADES -



Bob Stevens

THANKS TO GEO PARKS & FRANK DONOFRIO (91ST BG ASSN.)

THE 91ST WAITED WITH BATED BREATH TO SEE WHAT FORM RETALIATION WOULD TAKE. THE NEXT DAY A LONE '51 DROPPED A WREATH AT BASSINGBOURN.

