



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Association Newsletter

Vol. 10 No. 4

January, 1978

Memorial Dedication Work 'On Target'

Work on the 91st B.G. memorial project to be dedicated at Bassingbourn May 23 is progressing smoothly and rapidly, and a totally successful mission seems assured for the group.

Site preparation took a leap forward at the end of November with the planting of 56 trees and evergreens of six different colors in the form of a horseshoe framing the area. A suitable display of flowers will be added to the crescent for the spring event.

The cost of the trees and landscaping the area near the Depot's main entrance has been raised voluntarily by Sergeants, Warrent Officers, and Officers at the base,

members of the East Anglian Aviation Society and friends of the EAAS and the 91st.

The prop which will be the focal point of the memorial area is being mounted on a stainless steel support atop a stone marker by Ivett and Reed engineers in Cambridge. The B-17 prop was donated by WW II fighter ace Lt. Col. Urban Drew as an acknowledgement of the 8th Air Force to the American Bombers. The Hamilton propellor was discovered in Khartoum by one of Col. Drew's pilots of the air charter company he now operates.

Details of two charter tours to cover the Memorial Week have already gone to 1500 91st members and to



David Crowe (r), the 91st official CO, plant one of the trees framing the Memorial site.
Col. Hugh du V Lohan, Bassingbourn

1150 members of the 78th and 355th Fighter Groups who have been invited to join in memorial activities.

An 8-day tour departing New York on May 20 and returning May 28 covering the week of memorial activities is offered for \$688 per person.

A 15-day tour that would leave May 14 and include Brussels, Holland, Paris and Normandy before joining the group for memorial activities in the Cambridge area is offered for \$1147 per person.

Itinerary for the Memorial Week schedule has been changed somewhat from the details outlined in the charter flight flyer. The revised schedule is:

Saturday, May 20- Depart Kennedy Airport, N.Y. this evening by special charter aircraft.

Sunday, May 21- Arrive London and motor to Cambridge. Balance of day free to settle in and adjust to time change.

Monday, May 22- Cambridge. Day at leisure until other group arrives. Welcome dinner and briefing of week's events.

Tuesday, May 23- Cambridge. Motor

coaches depart hotel bound for Station 121 this morning. Upon arrival members can wander freely around camp area to find old sleeping quarters, places of work and leisure in WWII until time for Memorial Service and unveiling of 91st B.G. Memorial. A memorial tribute fly-over by a Lancaster Bomber and a Flying Fortress will highlight the wreath-laying ceremony. Lunch will be provided in the Officers Club with an official welcome to Basingbourn extended by the Depot Commander. After lunch, coaches will take you to the airfield where a display of WWII military vehicles will be available for inspection and a flying display will be presented by the Royston Model Aircraft Club. The 91st Museum will be open for viewing.

Wednesday, May 24- Cambridge. Motorcoaches depart hotel for the American Military Cemetery at Madingley. Services of remembrance and wreath-laying will be held with the Military Band of the U.S. Air Force-Europe in attendance. Depart Madingley and drive through the country-



The horseshoe-shaped planting of trees and evergreens marking the Memorial site is shown opposite the

Depot headquarters just inside the main entrance.

side of Cambridgeshire to a pub for an 'arf-n-arf' and snack. Afterward motor to Royston to meet the Mayor and view the Memorial Fountain, Royston Church and the famous Royston Cave. High tea and sandwiches will be served in the Town Hall before returning to Cambridge for dinner.

Thursday, May 25- Cambridge. This is Fighter Group day. The 78th will drive to Duxford and the 355th to Litlington Village. The 91st have the choice of joining the Fighter Groups or enjoying a free day.

A buffet snack will be served at the hotel before coaches depart for Station 121 and No. 3 hangar for a charity Glenn Miller Tribute Concert and Cabaret. The BBC Radio Orchestra will provide the music, and Miss Anne Shelton, who sang with Glenn Miller during the war

has agreed to sing. Music for dancing will be provided by the U.S. Air Force-Europe dance band following the concert.

Friday, May 26- Cambridge. Free day in London, Cambridge, etc.

Saturday, May 27- Depart hotels 9 a.m. and visit Wimpole Hall. Depart Wimpole Hall 11:30 for Station 121 where the 91st B.G., 355th F.G. and 78th F.G. are the honored guests for the Basingbourn Anglo-American Air Festival. This will be the biggest air show in Europe in 1978. Helping to plan the show is Flt. Lt. E.M.C. Rowe of the RAF, an associate member of the 91st who helped to arrange the biggest air show in Europe in 1977.

Sunday, May 28- Motor to London Airport this morning for jet flight to New York.

Let's Make Memphis Hum July 18-21

Response to the 1978 Nation Reunion set for July 18-21 in Memphis has been great so far, and it seems as if this one will be as memorable as our first reunion ever, held in Memphis in 1967.

A number of crews are working hard to get every member there, and competition between squadrons will be keen. The 401st has been ahead in a number of reunions, and the 322nd, 323rd, and 324th seem determined that this wont continue. If you haven't contacted your buddies to make sure they will be on hand, don't put it off!

The program announced by hosts Joe Gagliano and Frank Donofrio is:

Tuesday, July 18- Registration at the Rivermont Holiday Inn 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Showboat tour on the Mississippi River at approximately 8 p.m., including supper and dancing.

Wednesday, July 19- Registration 9 a.m. Fashion show and lunch 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. At 2 p.m. trip to Memphis Belle and sightseeing tour of Memphis. Evening for war stories over open bar in Hospitality Room.

Thursday, July 20- Demonstration on How to Pack a Suitcase by a

stewardess 10 until 11 a.m. Schlitz Brewery tour and Bar-B-Cue dinner 2 p.m. until 6 p.m.

Friday, July 21- Businee meeting, Election of Officers from 9 a.m. until noon. Shopping on the mall for the women. Dinner dance from 7 'til.

To give the sponsors an idea of who will attend everyone planning to be there should drop a line to Eastern Division Secretary R.E. Gerste-meier, 930 Woodlawn Drive, Lansdale, Pa. 19446.

Reservation and registration information regarding cost will be available soon and sent to members.

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

'Classy Chassy' Features 91st Planes

An unusual and attractive new book on American Aircraft Girl Art 1942-1953 by two British writers includes eight examples of 91st nose art.

Authors Henry Neild and Ian Logan, in "Classy Chassy," have made a study of the sources of the girl art (mainly Varga pin-ups from Esquire) and illustrate examples of the same basic pictures on aircraft of all types and in all theaters of war.

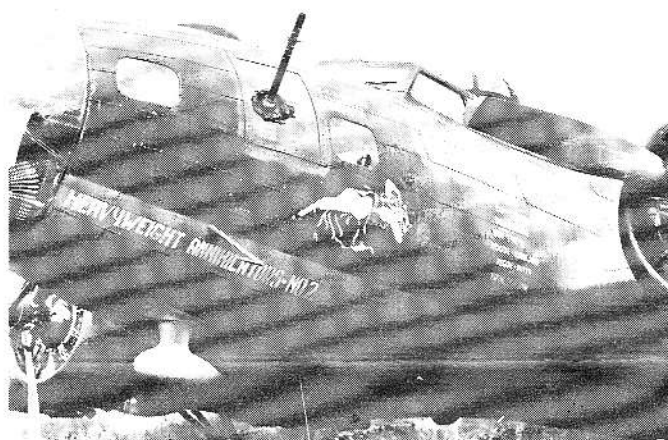
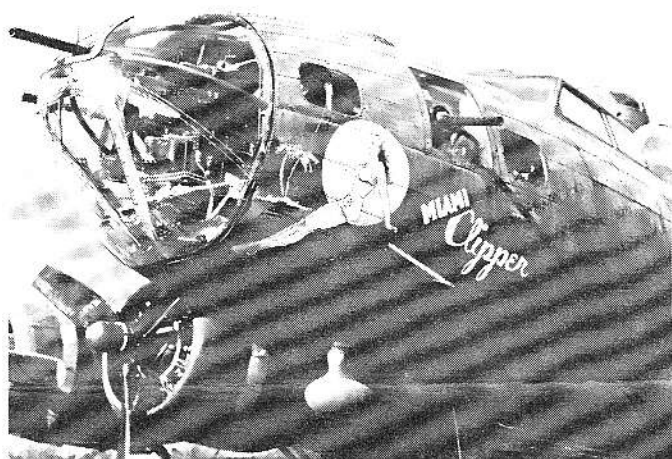
The authors made an extensive study of the varied nose art, including visits to U.S. Air Force archives in Washington, the Smithsonian Institution, the Air Force Museum, and the Confederate Air Force in Harlingen, Texas. They spent two days in Auburn selecting 91st material.

91st planes included are: Little Miss Mischief, Anxious Angel, Lady Helen of Wimpole, Miami Clipper, Madame Shoo Shoo, Hikin' for Home, Heavyweight Annihilators No.2, and General Ike. Two shots show 91st artist Tony Starcer at work.

A number of the photos are in full color, many from the collection of nose art on display at the Confederate Air Force.

The book is available in most well-stocked book stores. It is distributed by A&W Visual Library of New York. The Library of Congress card number is 77-73933.

Recent word from the authors is that the sale of the book has been so great that a second and much expanded edition is on tap, which will include additional 91st material.



Dig Deep - Let's Pay for the 'Prop'

The latest accounting of donations by 91sters for the Prop Memorial to be dedicated May 23 at Bassingbourn show that funds are coming in steadily, but only about half the \$4,931 pledged in the initial survey has been received.

At the end of the first week in January a total of \$2370 had been given by 118 members out of 385 who had made pledges.

The funds break down this way: Three national officers, \$250; 48 Eastern Division members, \$700; 67 Western Division members, \$1420.

If you have overlooked your pledge, please send it in as soon as possible so we can meet the cost of the project as soon as bills are due.

Contributions should be made payable to the 91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Assn., Inc. and mailed to Col. Tom Gunn, 1024 Woodland Drive, Arlington, Texas 76012. Gifts are tax deductible for income tax purposes and acknowledgement will be made immediately by Col. Gunn.

Members who have made contributions are: F.C. Annis, H.W. Aycock, J.H. Backsman, D. Beal, J.O. Bedwell, C.T. Bell, G. Blaisure, H.R. Bonnel, C.H. Bonner, G.V. Boyce, A.W. Brown, K.M. Burman, P.C. Burnett, C.F. Busa, R. Cahill, C.E. Cantrell, O.T. Carter, R.C. Christman, V. Clabaugh.

L. Clem, C.A. Cluck, V.I. Cole, J.C. Conway, B.F. Cox, J.F. Daley, N.A. Daniels, P.F. DeBoy, J. Dobranski, R.H. Deuterman, R.L. Dorcy, P.R. Dorn, G.E. Dowell, T. Dugan, R.J. Ellis, J.C. Flinn, Jr., R.S. Gerald, T.H. Gunn, J.P. Guros, C.R. Hackstock, C.F. Hadd, Sr., H. Hall, E. Haller, J.T. Hardin.

J. Harlick, F.A. Hartman, J.B. Haus, M.H. Havelaar, J. Hensley, D.L. Hohler, Jr., H.E. Hovermill, F.G. Huddleston, H.C. Huffman, G. Jacobs, P.D. Jessop, S. Jones, B.J. Kajewski, W. Kaltenbach, F.S. Kamykowski, G.A. Kemnitz, F.T. Keneley, J.R. Knaub, E.O. Kretchmer.

J. Kurylo, A.J. Lanfear, E.J. Letalien, J. Longaker, H.B. Loper, P.G. Mack, H.I. Mannon, L.C. Marra, R.C.

Marseilles, R.A. Mattson, D.J. McBey, J.R. McCombs, W.F. Meier, D. Miksell, J. Mikesell, W.R. Miller, J. Moeller, T.E. Moody, L.H. Mummert, C.E. Newlin, R.C. Opp, B.D. Pardue.

G.W. Parks, J.R. Parsons, Jr., L. Petersen, C.O. Pierce, A.H. Preble, R.E. Pullen, R.S. Puls, C. Pyrah, H.R. Raihl, E.J. Remmell, W.A. Reynolds, D.A. Rogers, L. Romano, A.E. Roper, C.W. Sanzenbacker, R.D. Smith, W.T. Smith, E.M. Smoley, B.T. Stogner, G.N. Sturtz, P. Taylor, J.A. Totusek, E. Vincent, H.E. Walker, H.S. Walker.

M.M. Walshe, R.E. Walter, S. Waslaski, J.L. Waymire, J. Webb, J.R. Westwood, E.R. White, R. Wilson, S.T. Wray.



Pacific States Rally Round March 3-4

The annual Pacific States Rally Round has been set for Friday and Saturday, March 3-4, at the Jolly Roger Inn in Anaheim, Ca.

In addition to area members from California, Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Arizona, 91sters from as far away as Illinois, Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado have indicated that they will be on hand for the event.

"Pene's Pub" for briefing and sign-in will open in Hospitality Room 140-A at 1800 hrs. Friday, March 3. The group combat films will be shown that night.

On Saturday a no-host cocktail hour will begin at 1800 hrs. Dinner will follow at 1900 hrs. After dinner the group combat films will

be shown again, and at 2100 hrs. live dance music by the Wayne Bennett Trio will begin and continue until 1 a.m.

The dinner fee is \$9 per person. Overnight accommodations at the Jolly Roger Inn are \$20 for single and \$22 for double. Room reservations should be made not later than February 4 (notify them that you are a 91ster). The address is: Jolly Roger Inn, 640 West Katella, Anaheim, Ca. 92802. Phone (714) 772-7020 or 772-2722.

Dinner reservations should be made not later than March 1 with Western Division Secretary-Treasurer George Parks, 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, Ca. 94590. Telephone (707) 642-6392.



The office section of Air Corps Supply of the 441st Sub Depot is pictured here. Seated, l to r, Sgt. Maurice L. Kasrel, RAF Sgt. Leslie Godfrey, M/Sgt. Carl Ginsbach, T/Sgt Wayne C. Reams, W/O

Edward Ableman, and M/Sgt. J.D. Pearson.

Standing, Sgt. Estel Thornburg, Sgt. Benjamin Weiss, T/Sgt. Alvin J. Dreiling.

Texas Rally Round Held

Despite a last-minute change in location, the first-ever Texas Rally Round held in Dalls October 28-29 was thoroughly enjoyed by by 17 attendees.

"We deeply regret the frustration caused any who travelled to Dallas and were unable to find the rendezvous point. More advanced planning and notification next year will prevent a similar situation developing, we are sure," the hosts stated.

Attending were General and Mrs. S. T. Wray, Colonel and Mrs Tom Gunn, Jim and Betty Bedwell (441st Sub-Depot) with Chris and William Bedwell and Mr. and Mrs. James Harris, Mr and Mrs. Herbert H. Roberts (324th), William C. Butler (323rd), Arnold and Charley Brown (322nd), and hosts Ken and Lee Jones (401).

For the member travelling the greatest distance to attend Arnold Brown nosed out Herbert Roberts by three miles to win a handsome mug.



Here is Bill Clancy's crew of The Careful Virgin in 1943.

Kneeling, Sgt. J.J. Conley, gunner; T/Sgt. A. Taliercio, radio op.; S/Sgt. H.J. Streets, tail gunner; T/Sgt. B.J. Wheeler, engineer.

Standing, S/Sgt. R. Gilliam, asst. engineer; S/Sgt. M. Olexa, asst. radio; Lt. H. Ackerman, navigator; Capt. W.E. Clancy, pilot; Lt. J.T. Gladstone, co-pilot; Lt. J.C. Fisher, bombardier.

From The Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett Box 909 Auburn, AL 36830

Latest Western Division Life Member is Lt. Col. (Ret) Haley Aycock. Haley had a ranch in Alberta, Canada, for many years, and then moved to Grand Cayman Island in the Caribbean. He has just moved again to Texas, where his address is Horseshoe Bay, Box 7814, Marble Falls, Texas 78654.

Former 91ster Mike Duran (322nd) is seeking help in locating POW's who were with him in Stalag IV at Nuremberg, Germany. Mike injured his back as a POW and for claim purposes needs to locate Raphael Czepkiewicz, Roy Hammer, Oliver K. Birch or anyone knowing of his back injury while a POW at Stalag IV.

A British military historian is currently preparing a book on the Battle of Hamburg-- the four RAF night raids and the two U.S. AAF raids on the city of Hamburg in July and early August, 1943--and would very much like to contact any 91sters who took part. These were on July 25 and July 26, 1943. Also he would like to hear from any ground personnel who helped plan or prepare for the raids.

He is particularly interested in contacting crew members from the 3 91st planes that went down on the raids-- the aircraft of Lt. Marshall L. Pilert, who survived with 8 of his crew, that of Lt. James W. Rendall, Jr., who survived with 5 of his crew, and of ship 42-3119.

If you can help please contact
Martin Middlebrook
48 Linden Way
Boston, Lincs. PE 21 9DS
England

A German writer doing a book on the bombing of Frankfurt in WWII has asked help of 91st members. He has most of the official data in hand, but he is looking in particular for personal recollections of participants in missions against Frankfurt. His address is:
G.K. Lerch, Melemstrasse 20,
6 Frankfurt/Main 1, West Germany.

THE 91st BOMB GROUP (H) MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION, INC., seeks to keep alive the memory of those persons who served at Station 121 Bassingbourn, England 1942-1945.

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR is issued quarterly as a newsletter for current information about the association and to carry articles and pictures of historic interest about the 91st Bomb Group (H).

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE

PRESIDENT M/Gen Stanley T. Wray (Ret.)

VICE-PRESIDENT Col. Thomas H. Gunn (Ret.)

EDITOR...HISTORIAN Paul C. Burnett

EASTERN DIVISION OFFICERS

LTC Paul Chryst (Ret.)...chairman

Joseph A. Camelleri...co-chairman

Robert E. Gerstemeier...secretary

Joseph M. Giambrone...treasurer

WESTERN DIVISION OFFICERS

LTC John R. McCombs (Ret.)...chairman

M/Sgt Eugene Letalien (Ret.)...co-chairman

M/Sgt George W. Parks (Ret.)...secretary-treasurer

Many of you members have great stories and anecdotes of our days at Station 121 and share them only with a few buddies at reunions and rally rounds. Please, send them along to the editor so all the members may share them.

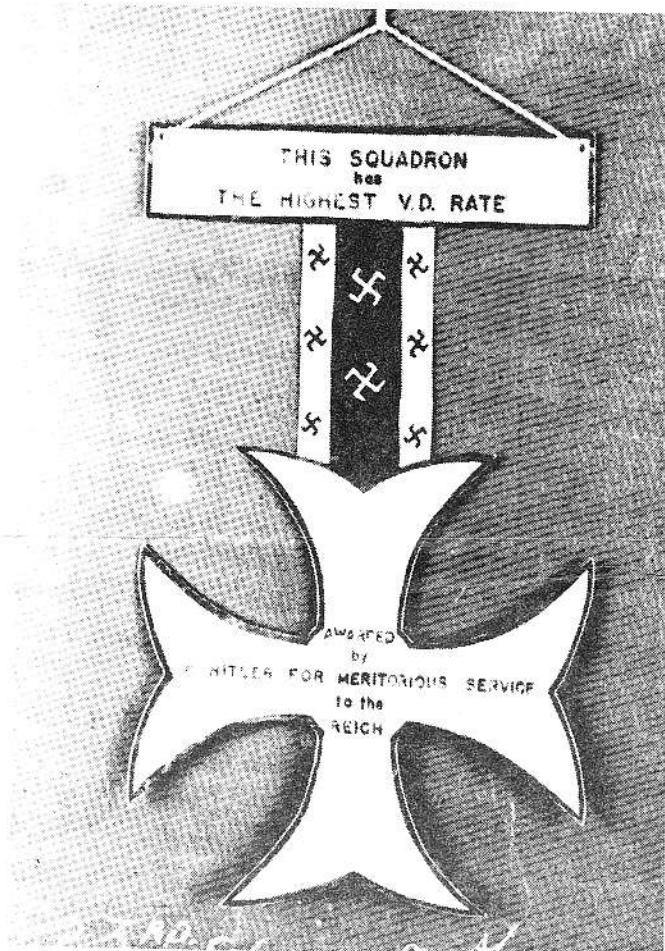
Any pictures of you activities would be most welcome to these columns. But please send along identification.

Any current information you have about members would be a big help in making the R/I more interesting.



The newest Life Member for the Eastern Division is Col. Whitmal W. Hill, Jr., of 4002 Braddock Rd., Alexandria, Va. 22312.

Dutch writer Ab A. Jansen, who has published several books on the air war over Holland during WW II is working on a third on the USAAF. He is particularly interested in getting information on the 11 Jan. '44 raid on Oschersleben. Jansen wants the serial number and name of the lead plane and the pilot who led the 91st on this mission, as well as the names and crews of other ships that flew the mission or were lost. If you can help him his address is: Ab A. Jansen, Populierenweg 34, Oudorp, N.H., Holland.



This award was presented by Col. Wray each month to the squadron with the highest V.D. rate. When this shot was made the 323rd had that honor.