



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 17

No. 1

April, 1984

'84 Reunion - It'll Be A Blast



Dear Fellow 91ster:

The early interest in and response to our '84 Reunion in Colorado Springs 5-9 September has been great, and we confidently expect that it will surpass all previous turnouts.

It has been some forty years since our memorable days at Bassingbourn and much water has passed under the bridge. However, as with us, most of you in reflection would agree that those days, though only a small part of our lives, were something special - experiences and comrades we shall always treasure.

We trust that all of you will make an extra effort to be on hand. Call your old buddies and plan to get together. We are looking forward to seeing all of you.

Sincerely, your hosts,

Paul Jessop, Glenn Boyce, Jim Fletcher

The Four Seasons motor hotel has been acquired by The Clarion Collection of hotels and renamed the Clarion Hotel. Among the outstanding hotels included in the group are The Brown Palace in Denver, the Mariner's Inn in Hilton Head, the Maxwell House in Nashville, and Stouffer's Cincinnati Towers in Cincinnati. The hotel and facilities are now even better than when we met there in '76.

As announced by the Reunion Committee, the schedule includes: Wednesday, Sept. 5, registration, main lobby, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Hospitality Room, 9 a.m.- 6 p.m. No Host Social Hour, Garden Room, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 6, Flying W Guest Ranch, western barbecue dinner. Tour of Old West Town. Golf at the Air Force Academy's Eisenhower golf course. North American Aerospace Defense Command, Consolidated Space Operations Center, and Combat Operations Center briefings.

Friday, Sept. 7, tour of Air Force Academy. Movie night, hotel. Hospitality room. Saturday, Sept. 8, Business Meeting, 9-12. Ladies brunch and style show. Air Force Academy - Colorado State U. football game Saturday afternoon. Social hour, 6-7:30 p.m. Western Theme Dinner, dance following, entertainment. Sunday, no schedule, stand down.

Requests for Reunion information and reservation material to date indicate that the 1984 affair will be by all odds our biggest one yet. Especially impressive is the considerable number of members who have never before attended a Group Reunion that expect to be on hand.

Of course, those who already know what a 91st reunion really means can hardly wait to meet old friends again.

Registration rates for the four-day event will be \$30 per person.

Room rates at the Clarion Hotel for 91st members will be \$50 for single rooms, \$60 for 2 persons, and \$70 for 3. Poolside rates are \$10 more.

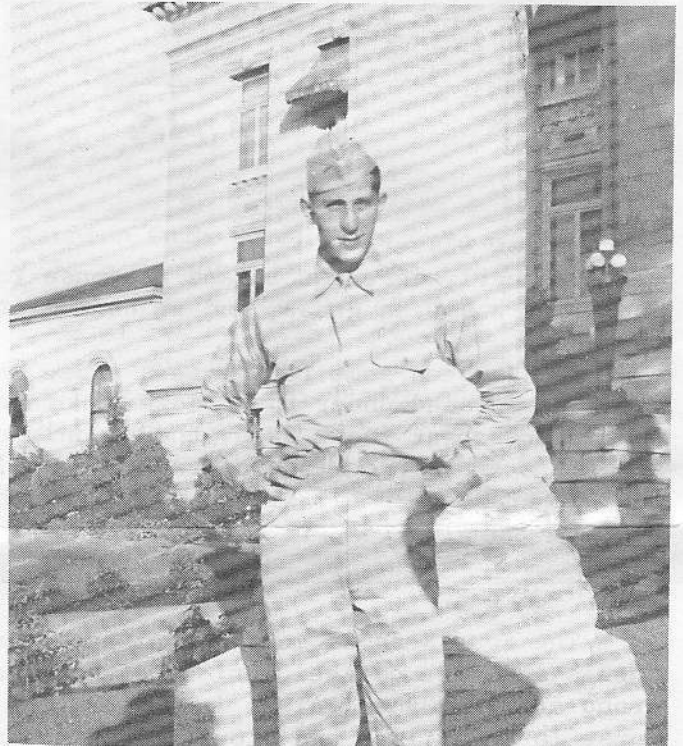
Reunion committee members, who have been working diligently in anonymity are Col. Paul Jessop and LTC Jim Fletcher of Colorado Springs, and 2nd vice-president Glenn Boyce, Lakewood, CO. They have put together a program you shouldn't miss!



Jim Fletcher



Paul Jessop



Glenn Boyce



IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND THE 1984 NATIONAL REUNION IN COLORADO SPRINGS PLEASE DROP A NOTE TO SEC.-TREAS. GEORGE W. PARKS, 109 WILSHIRE AVE., VALLEJO, CA. 94591 FOR ALL REUNION INFORMATION, PROGRAM, AND ROOM RESERVATION CARDS NOT LATER THAN MAY 15. WE NEED THE INFORMATION TO COMPLETE PLANS FOR YOUR REUNION. THE HOTEL WILL NOT ACCEPT PHONE CALLS OR PERSONAL LETTERS FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS. YOU MUST SEND THEM YOUR ROOM RESERVATION CARD THAT WILL HAVE 91st BOMB GROUP PRINTED ON IT.

How Old Ironsides Fooled Boeing

Rule One in the Combat Survival Book for daylight missions against German cities was to get in quick, unload, and get out fast! Sometimes, though, things didn't work that way. Sometimes it took all the skill, luck, and grace of God you could muster to get home half-fast!

Consider the case of Capt. Dick Weitzenfeld's crew of the 324th sqdn., flying to Bremen on June 11, 1943, in "Old Ironsides."

The crew consisted of Capt. Richard W. Weitzenfeld, pilot; Lt. M.A. (Ma) Berg, co-pilot; Lt. J.D. (Doug) Worley, navigator; Lt. J. B. (Vic) Vickory, bombardier; T/Sgt. C.L. (Pappy) Hughes, engineer; T/Sgt. Harry F. Smith, radio operator; S/Sgt. Frank Vidar, Jr., ball turret; S/Sgt. H.M. Greeno, waist gunner; Sgt. E.J. Bayer, waist gunner, and S/Sgt. O.B. Price, tail gunner. The crew joined the 91st during its training period at Walla Walla, and became a crew during the training stay at Redmond and Pendleton, Ore.

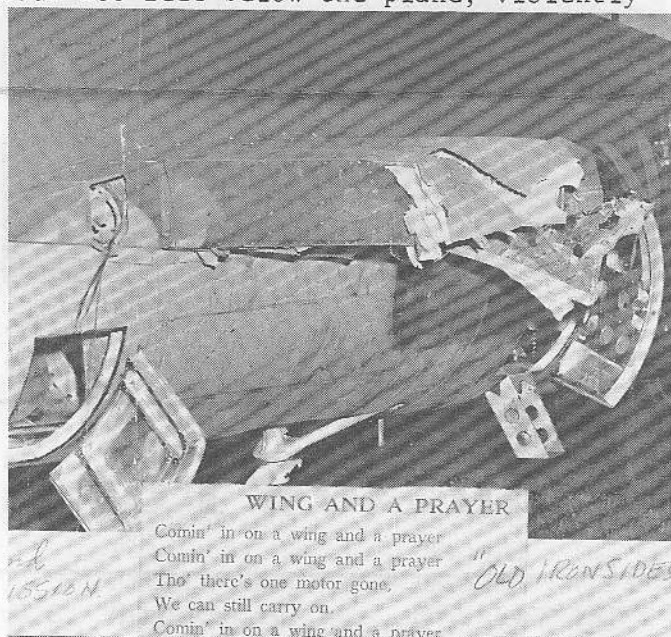
Just before the 91st left Walla Walla for Bangor, Maine, and overseas, the crew was designated an instructor crew and stayed behind. Later, in January, 1943, there was a hurry-up call for replacements and the crew and 30 other crews found themselves in West Palm Beach, headed for Africa. However, engine changes (swapping the Studebakers for better engines) kept them stateside till April, when they took the southern route to North Africa. Once there, their orders were changed and they were sent on to England, again joining the 91st. The Bremen mission June 11 was the crew's second combat mission. Lt. Col. Clyde Gillespie was group leader that day.

The flight to target was typical of that early period, with swarms of German fighters picking you up at the coast and escorting you to the target, and flak thick enough to walk on! But "Old Ironsides" was in no particular trouble.

The primary target was socked in, and a switch to the secondary target was initiated, causing some confusion among the groups from the I.P. on. Radio operator Harry Smith recalls looking upward from his post at the radio room gun and seeing a higher group immediately overhead, their bomb bay doors open! Fearful they would catch a load of 500-pounders scheduled for German delivery, he notified Weitzenfeld of the situation, and got the reply, "Keep an eye on 'em, Smitty." Just after "Old Ironsides" dropped her load and closed the bomb bay doors, two bombs dropped from the plane above, the first hitting the outer portion of the right horizontal stabilizer, the second chopping it completely off about two feet from the tail section, and, according to the ball turret gunner Frank Vidar, exploding about 200 feet below the plane, violently



Kneeling, 1 to r, posed before "Lady Luck": Lt. Doug Worley, Capt. Richard W. Weitzenfeld, Lt. Fred Dribble, Lt. Vic Vickory. Standing, T/Sgt. C. L. Hughes, S/Sgt. H.M. Greeno, S/Sgt. O.B. Price, Sgt. E.J. Bayer, T/Sgt. H.F. Smith.



Nothing but a stub!

rocking the plane.

Loss of the stabilizer threw the plane completely out of control, causing it to plunge earthward, and, as Weitzenfeld says, "gyrating like a jack rabbit, 3 or 400 feet at a time. Miraculously we didn't hit anyone as we fell out of formation, but the Me 109s were on us like a swarm of bees. I finally got the aircraft under some sort of control and cautiously slid over the middle of a lower group for fighter protection. Clyde Gillespie brought the 91st down over us and the fighters left us alone then."

Trying to fly formation with the damaged ship, sandwiched between the two groups, was an almost impossible job. "I was flying with locked elbows, afraid to change trim tabs for fear of changing control capabilities." Both Weitzenfeld's and Berg's hands were a mass of blisters from the pounding they took.

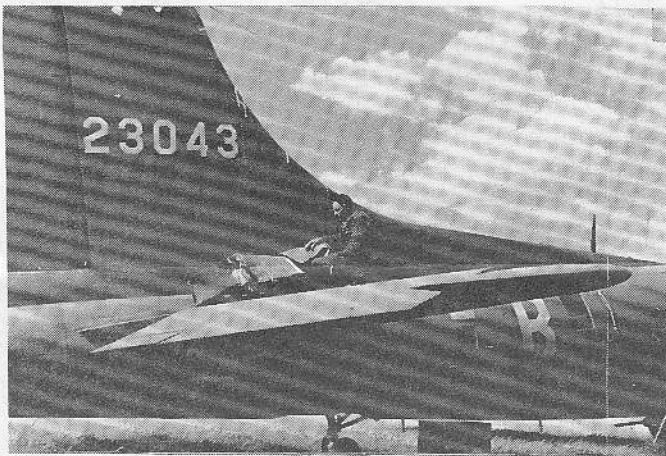
Over the North Sea they left both groups for more maneuvering space, and headed for Bassingbourn.

As they approached base Weitzenfeld called for field clearance and straight-in landing, but from their position the tower could see nothing wrong with the plane and ignored the call. He circled at 300 feet for a second approach, made a wheel landing, and taxied to the hangar (which was a strict no-no unless you had "significant" damage). From the tower it was still not possible to see the missing stabilizer, and Col. Claude Putnam came charging to the aircraft to stop such high jinks. When Dick took him around to the other side, he was appalled at the sight. "If I had known, I would have had you bail out the crew before landing!"

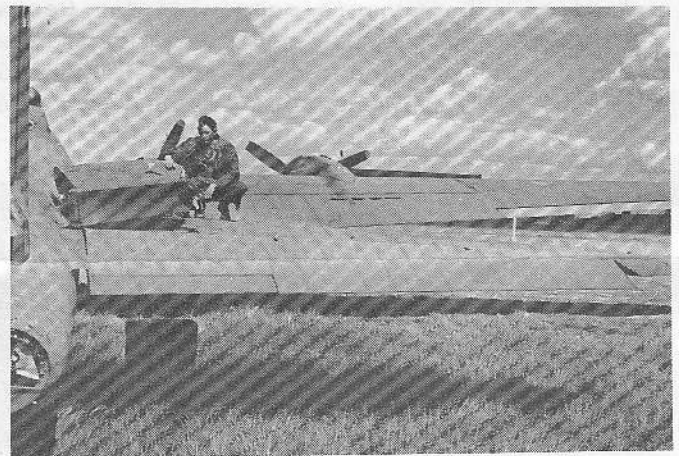
According to Boeing experts a B-17 could not fly in that condition. But "Old Ironsides" did, and the crew finished their 25 missions: 1 in "Old Ironsides," 1 in "Bomb Boogie," 8 in "Oklahoma Oakie," 6 in "Black Swan," 1 in "Local Girl," 3 in "Jack the Ripper," 2 in "Hitler's Gremlin," 2 in "Lady Luck" and 1 in "Sad Sack."

Dick Weitzenfeld was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for a particularly distinguished bit of flying on that trip to Bremen.

The Germans tried some air-to-air bombing of their own later on in the war, but with nothing like the success of a U.S. bombardier who toggled out a couple of "didn't drop" bombs without looking down when he popped "Old Ironsides."



Comparing the fragment of horizontal stabilizer left on "Old Ironsides" with an undamaged section.



Despite the loss suffered when two 500-lb. bombs struck the ship the crew was able to make it back to Bassingbourn.

Plan Now For Colorado Springs

New Members - Address Changes

AHTYE, Edward	2211 Fernvale Dr.	Stockton,	CA. 95207 (N)
AKERS, James O.	6357 Delmonico Dr.	Colorado Springs.	CO. 80919 (C)
ALFORD, David G. COL.(Ret)	4801 Big Bend Dr.	Wichita Falls.	TX. 76310 (N)
ANTHONY, Joseph J. MAJ.(RET)	843 Brook Forest Rd.	Derby.	KS. 67037 (N)
ASKINS, John.	807 La Crosse Crt.	Sunnyvale.	CA. 94087 (N)
ATTER, Warren.	Rt. 1, Box 105.	Buffalo.	WY. 82834 (N)
BACON, Verdner E.TSGT.(RET)	RT. 4, Meadows 3,# 21.	Woodward.	OK. 73801 (N)
BAIRD, James D. LTC.(RET)	8001 E. Broadway.1300.	Mesa.	AZ. 85208 (C)
BARTUSH, J. Allison.	287 Lake Shore Rd.	Grosse Pt.Farms.	MI. 48236 (N)
BENTZEL, Joseph E.	1254 Forest Rd.	West Chester.	PA. 19380 (N)
BERRY, J.D.	Berry Farms.	West Bangor.	NY. 12991 (N)
BOSSERT, Harlyn L.	7310 Endicott Ave.	Greendale.	WI. 53129 (N)
BOTTOMLEY, T.A. Jr.	130 Timber Dr.	Berkeley Hgts.	NJ. 07922 (N)
BOUCHARD, Wilfred A.	4109 Rocky Mt. Dr.	Temple Hills.	MD. 20748 (C)
BOUVIA, Robert C.	P.O. Box 2535.	Hesperia.	CA. 92345 (C)
BOYLE, Peter.	Radio Station KNUS.	Denver.	CO. 80219 (N-A)
	4450 Morrison Rd.		
BRANCH, James L.	P.O. Box 061047.	Ft. Myers.	FL. 33906 (C)
BREIDENBACH, Francis J.	1802 Harding St.	Enumclaw.	WA. 98022 (C)
LT.(RET).			
BROWN, Ray M.	455 Perriwinkle Way.	Sanibel Island.	FL. 33957 (C)
BULL, Edward B.	5376 Holly Ridge Rd.	Camarillo.	CA. 93010 (N)
BUTZLER, Jack.	Rt. 4, 2470 Sunset Dr.	Fond Du Lac.	WI. 54935 (C)
CAMPBELL, William F.LTC(Ret)	153 Georgette Dr.	Grafton.	OH. 44044 (N)
CANNON, Ronald F.	7587 Ceramic Rd.N.E.	Roseville.	OH. 43777 (N)
CARDWELL, Joe.	1424 W. Beauregard.	San Angelo.	TX. 76901 (N)
CARSTENS, Uwe.	Klaus-Groth-Str. 30.	2255 Langenhorn.	W.Germany (N-A)
CHATFIELD, William A.	90 Long Ave.	Roselle.	IL. 60172 (N)
CLIFFORD, Victor.	441 Park Ave.	Bloomfield.	CT. 06002 (N)
COCHRANE, Fred C.	2378 Grafton St.	El Cajon.	CA. 92020 (N)
COLLINS, Phil L. D.C.	1318 W. Linn St.	Marshaltown.	IA. 50158 (N)
COX, Norman C.	1305 Victoria Dr.	Nacogdoches.	TX. 75961 (N)
DASZEWSKI, Edmund D.	352 S. Vernon Ave.	Azusa.	CA. 91702 (C-A)
MAJ. USAF.			
DAVIS, Jack.	1. North Woodford Rd.	Worcester.	MA. 01604 (C)
DEAL, Billy M.	605 Markus.	Lufkin.	TX. 75901 (N)
DEAN, John A. CAPT.(RET)	1503 Kathy.	Alexandria.	LA. 71301 (C)
DEPEDER, Angelo.	9529 S. St.Louis Ave.	Evergreen Park.	IL. 60642 (N)
DINO, Oscar.	1322 SE. 20th Ave.	Ocala.	FL. 32671 (C)
DUNCAN, Merrel L.	1212 South Oak St.	Lake City.	MN. 55041 (N)
DYNAN, David.	303 Goode St.	Burnt Hills.	NY. 12027 (N-A)
EBERLY, William E.	1753 Linwood Ave.	Lancaster.	PA. 17603 (N)
EVERS, Hilary Jr.	21 Barony Lane.	Hilton Head.	SC. 29928 (C)
EVERSTON, Bryce S.COL.(RET)	3971 Ebenezer Rd.	Marietta.	GA. 30066 (C)
FALCK, Gilbert M.	2315 Indian Ave. N.	Belleaire Bluffs.	FL. 33540 (N)
FISHER, Thomas J.	607 West Center.	Medina.	NY. 14103 (C)
FLOURNOY, Paul W. Jr.	5623 Gulf Dr.	Panama City Beach.	FL. 32407 (N)
FOSTER, George E.	720 - 2nd St.	Towanda.	PA. 18848 (C)
FRIEDMAN, Robert H.	6015 Valkeith.	Houston.	TX. 77096 (N)
FRIEND, John C. Jr.	2161 Horizon Dr.	Pocatello.	ID. 83201 (C-A)
GATEWOOD, Joel W."JOE"	343 Waterloo Ave.	Waterloo.	NB. 68069 (N)
GELINSKY, Charles C.	P.O. Box 5034.	Portland.	OR. 97208 (C)
GOYNES, Philip R. COL.(RET)	9758 W. Tams Dr.	Baton Rouge.	LA. 70815 (C)
GRILL, Leonard J.	4652 Columbus Ave.S.	Minneapolis.	MN. 55407 (N)
(AKA-GRYLEWICZ)			
GUM, Howard W.	1960 E.32nd St.SP-1115.	Yuma.	AZ. 85365 (N)

			The Ragged	Irregular
HAZIRJIAN, Dikran "HerK"	485 Beberly Rd.	Teaneck.	NJ. 07666	(C)
HELLER, R.W.	2200 N. Vermillion. Apt # 604.	Danville.	IL. 61832	(N)
HILGERT, Merle O.	249 Terry Lane.	New Lenox.	IL. 60451	(C)
HUFFMAN, Roy S. MAJ.(RET)	2220 Cedar Pl.	Longview.	WA. 98632	(N)
JENSEN, Earl L.	126 - 12th. N.W.	Mason City.	IA. 50401	(N)
JOHNS, James L.TSGT.(RET)	18501 Hewlett Rd.	Orlando.	FL. 32820	(C)
JOHNSON, H.R. "Johnny"	55 Church St.	Los Gatos.	CA. 95030	(N)
BRIG.GEN. (RET)	Apt # 1205.			
KENELEY, Frank T. Jr.	31582 Coast Hwy.	South Laguna.	CA. 92677	(C)
KNUTELSKY, E. Richard.	Box 372.	Westport.	NY. 12993	(C)
KRAMMES, Ira L.	Riverwood Estates. 139 Rookery Rd.	Naples.	FL. 33962	(C)
KRUEGER, Robert.	113 South Depot St.	Juneau.	WI. 53039	(N-A)
LALLI, Michael DR.	1405 Bluebell Pen Pike.	Blue Bell.	PA. 19422	(C)
LIEBERMAN, David.	1928 E. Inwood Rd.	South Bend.	IN. 46616	(C)
MANTIA, A.J.	6. Chestnut St.	Winchester.	MA. 01890	(N)
MATHIS, Otto D.	3690 S. Fox St.#304.	Englewood.	CO. 80110	(C)
MATRANGA, Frank C.	8201 Eston.	Houston.	TX. 77017	(N)
MATTHEWS, Joseph R.	208 Willow Brook Dr.	Clinton.	MS. 39056	(C)
MILLER, James A. D.D.S.	129 Madison Ave.	Mt. Holly.	NJ. 08060	(C)
MILLER, William R.	5 Crystal Creek Dr.	Sheridan.	WY. 82801	(C)
MILLIS, Harold C. MSGT(RET)	4313 Carnation Lane.	Las Vegas.	NV. 89108	(N)
MINER, Paul F. MD.	4820 Hillcrest Dr.	Boise.	ID. 83702	(C)
MC CONNELL, Cecil G.	1617 W. "A" St.	N. Platt.	NB. 69101	(N)
MC DANIEL, Edward P. TSGT.(RET)	1614 N. Lee.	Valdosta.	GA. 31601	(N)
MC FARLAND, Kenneth T.Jr.	442 Mount View Dr.	Paris.	KY. 40361	(N)
MC GARA, Clemens B. CMSGT.(RET)	454 Nut Tree Rd.	Vacaville.	CA. 95688	(C)
NAUGHTON, James T.	5525 South Nottingham.	Chicago.	IL. 60638	(N)
NICHOLS, Alfas E. "Nick"	Rt. 1, Box 52-1.	Oleta.	OK. 74751	(N)
NICHOLS, Marvin E.	877 Tulip St.	Deltone.	FL. 32724	(N)
OHLSEN, William H.	5220 Maryland Ave.	La Mesa.	CA. 92041	(N)
ONDROVIC, John J.	3906 Briarwood St.	Napa.	CA. 94559	(C)
PATRICK, Jerry C.TSGT.USAF.	48th EMS. Box 6158.	APO.	NY. 09179	(N-A)
PHILEN, Alex.	Rt. 1, Box 650.	Lowndesbora.	AL. 36752	(C)
PLESA, Thomas J.	6870 Laurel Ave.	Portage.	IN. 46368	(N)
PORADA, Francis A.	602 Calvin Ave.	Lehigh Acres.	FL. 33936	(N)
RIDGEWAY, Charles E.	3425 Lemon Creek Rd.	Bridgeman.	MI. 49106	(N)
RILEY, Earl F. Judge.	1245 W. Coenega # 1.	San Dimas.	CA. 91773	(C)
ROACH, Earl R.	20819 Apache Trails.	Crosby.	TX. 77532	(N)
RUMPH, John P. MSGT.(RET)	13960 NE. 12th.# 102.	Bellevue.	WA. 98005	(C)
SABINS, Wayne F.	Rt. # 1, Box 930.	Cody.	WY. 82414	(N)
SALO, Walter.	Hwy. 519. Box N11579.	Wakefield.	MI. 49968	(C)
SCHUSTER, Robert E.	955 Olympic Hills Pl.	Owatonna.	MN. 55060	(C)
SCOTT, Cecil H.	130 Leh Blvd.	Tuckerton.	NJ. 08087	(C)
SHACKLETON, Joseph R. LTC. (RET)	East 8511 Sharp.	Spokane.	WA. 99212	(N)
SHARPE, Omer E.	3506 - 23rd St.	Lubbock.	TX. 79410	(C)
SHEARER, Herb.	4875 S. Alkire St.	Morrison.	CO. 80465	(N-A)
SHERMAN, Howard W.	121 Harding Ave.	Hicksville.	NY. 11801	(N)
SHOPE, Berchel L.	25433 South Ave.	Corning.	CA. 96021	(C)
SNIPES, William R.LTC(RET)	8272 W. Granite Dr.	Roseville.	CA. 95678	(N)
STANTON, Bernie E.	4460 Almira Dr.	Bremerton.	WA. 98310	(N)
STOCCO, James C.	2727 Univ. Ave East. SP-124.	Tempe.	AZ. 85281	(C)
SULLI, Joseph.	RFD # 1, Box 2454.	Schuylerville.	NY. 12871	(C)

THOMPSON, Leslie S.LTC.(RET)	P.O. Box 6102.	Montgomery.	AL. 36106 (C)
WEDDLE, John S.	141 Van Voast Ave.	Bellevue.	KY. 41073 (N)
WELBES, Charles V.	210 Leatherwood Dr.	Mountain Home.	AR. 72653 (C)
WILKS, Arah J. Dr.	2103 Shady Circle.	Malverne.	AR. 72104 (C)
WILLIAMS, Harry B.	1631 Crystal Lake Rd.	Lakeland.	FL. 33801 (N)
YOUNG, Theodore W.	729 Uniontown Rd.	Westminster.	MD. 21157 (N-A)

From the Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett

Box 909 Auburn, Al. 36830

New Life Members

Last year was our best year yet for new Life Members, but if 1984 continues the pace set in the first quarter the 1983 record will surely be far surpassed by the end of this year. Members sending in \$100 for their Gold Cards since January include:

LTC Melvin Dart, USAF(Ret) 322nd sqdn; Dale J. Darling, 324th sqdn.; Harold R. DeBolt, 401st sqdn; Bruce Pardue, 324th sqdn; Col. Walter M. Pickard, USAF(Ret), 323rd sqdn.; Dr. Milton Lazarus, 323rd sqdn.; Donald S. Murray, 323rd sqdn.; Arlon A. Nessa, 322nd sqdn.; Phillip G. Mack, 323rd sqdn.; John W. Emerson, associate; Paul D. Kahl, 322nd sqdn.; Herbert M. Weinberger, 401st sqdn.; Clifford O. Pierce, 401st sqdn.; B/Gen. H.R. "Johnny" Johnson, USAF (Ret), 324th sqdn.

A hint to 91st wives: Gold cards make great birthday and anniversary presents, especially if "he has everything else." And there is always a special recognition at the Reunion banquet!

Shoo Shoo Baby Update

Mike Leister, curator for the 512th Antique Aircraft Restoration Group working on Shoo Shoo Baby, has a couple of requests for 91st members:

"Can any 91ster explain to us why some missions were counted as sorties when a crew aborted over occupied territory and some were counted as not sortie. It appears that crews did not get credit either way and the plane did not add a bomb symbol. We have found several (six so far) missions that were counted as sorties for Shoo Shoo Baby and two that were not."

The wood shop and a local craftsman at Dover AFB are donating a handmade glass-front display case for our uniform display at the Shoo Shoo Baby hangar. The following items are needed to fill out the displays:

4 pairs of brown low quarters

1 enlisted man's blouse with insignia
2 pair of "pinks" pants for officers
1 officer's summer uniform
Shirts and ties

The folks at the 512th AARG have obtained a limited number of straightwing 8th AF patch reproductions. They are available for \$2 each plus 50¢ postage while they last.

If you can help, contact Mike Leister at 512th MA/AARG, Dover AFB, DE 19902

Tower Museum Report

Vince Hemmings, curator of the Tower Museum at Bassingbourn, has passed along a summary of the Museum's activities for 1983 and the start of 1984. Vince writes:

"We have had our best year yet for visitors to the 91st BG museum, with a steady stream throughout the summer. A large contingent came from America. This has made our efforts worth while. There were so many members from the 91st it would take far too much space to mention them all.

"Mike Leister and Rodney Moore from the Shoo Shoo Baby restoration team gave a marvelous lecture on the magnificent work being done at Dover AFB. We were able to pass on a 91st ammo box we found in one of the nearby farms...

"Exhibits still continue to arrive. Fred Gardiner has donated his framed patch from Outhouse Mouse. Elwyn Bloodgood brought some pictures, and also a flag used when the 91st flew to Russia. The Order of the Rigid Digit has been greatly admired.

"The Museum was on tour last September. Letchworth Museum was our host, and very successful it was, too. We have already received two further inquiries for this year, from the Manchester Air & Space Museum, and from the Royston Museum.

"Col. Bud Laedtke was our first 91ster for 1984. We had a marvelous day even though the Museum was not in its normal state. We remove all the exhibits during the winter months because of the condensation.

"I would like to again remind all 91st members who plan to visit the museum to

contact me first. It is kept locked to prevent another breakin such as happened several years ago."

A new edition of ex-91ster Bert Stiles' powerful book of his days with the group, "Serenade To The Big Bird," is the Bantam War Book of the Month for April. If there is any 91ster who hasn't yet read the book he should rush out right now and get a copy. It is truly a great and realistic book. If you already have a copy you'd better get another in case the original disappears.

Bantam published the book first in 1952, and again in 1968.

Bert was co-pilot on Sam Newton's crew in Cool Papa and Times A-Wastin'. Other crew members were Lt. Donald M. Bird, bombardier; Lt. Grant H. Benson, navigator; T/Sgt. William F. Lewis, engineer; T/Sgt. Edwin C. Ross, radio operator; S/Sgt. Gilbert D. Spaugh, toggler; S/Sgt. Gordon E. Beach, ball turret; S/Sgt. Basil J. Crone, waist gunner, and S/Sgt. Edward L. Sharpe, tail gunner. Bert was killed flying a P-51 after he completed his tour with the 91st.

Cost of the new paperback edition is \$2.95. If you cannot find a copy at your local bookstore it may be ordered directly from the publisher. It is Bantam book # 23985, "Serenade To The Big Bird," by Bert Stiles. \$2.95 plus \$1.25 postage and handling (check or M.O.). Bantam Books, Inc., Dept. WW2, 414 East Golf Road, Des Plaines, Ill. 60016. Allow four to six weeks for delivery.

NBC-TV will present a one-hour special recalling the second Schweinfurt mission in October, 1943, and the first Berlin mission March 6, 1944, sometime in June. Though the date has not been firmly set, it will most likely be June 6, the network has announced.

It is being produced by Darold Murray, who produced the NBC Special on the Bataan Death March, and Karen Rutledge, associate producer.

The NBC team has recently been filming in England, with Roger Freeman as their historical advisor. The 91st's Otto Meikus and wife Gladys, who live in Cambridge, were interviewed there. From the U.S. the film will show footage of 91sters Clyde Mason and Elmer Diethorn.

Clarence Cluck, who lost all his medals and ribbons in a house fire in 1969, has just had them replaced. It took several letters and some time to track down the newest address and agency handling this, so he has passed along the info to speed up the process for other 91sters who didn't get their decorations, or have lost them. Write to:

General Services Administration
National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO. 63132

The 91st Bomb Group Memorial Association made another \$500 donation toward the restoration of Shoo Shoo Baby in January.

With the beginning of the new year and hearing from so many members with notes and letters included in their dues payments, we have learned of the passing of a number of former members in 1983 that we have not previously reported:

Jack R. Grosh, ex-323rd sqdn., who flew in "909," died January 1, 1984. Jack, of Columbus, OH., was a member of the 1982 Reunion Committee.

Life member J.C. Bull, Jasper, AL., ex-322nd sqdn. waist gunner on Bob Campbell's crew of "Dame Satan," died on May 7, 1983.

Life member Ralph J. Tomek, South Gate, CA., ex-401st sqdn. radio operator on "Hairless Joe," died December 13, 1983. One of the original members of the 91st, Ralph was vice-commander of the American Ex-POWs and a founder-member of B-17 Crewmen and Wingmen.

LTC. Wesley T. Leeper (Ret), Shreveport, LA., 91st and 39th Service Group, died January 5, 1983.

Kenneth Cochran, Inglewood, CA. HQ & HQ Sqdn., died January 10, 1984.

Bob Waddell, Portsmouth, OH., ex-323rd sqdn., died December 19, 1983.

Daniel H. Gitler, Endwell, N.Y., died April 30, 1983.

Life member Bruce D. Moore, Fresno, CA., ex-401st sqdn., died June, 1981.

Robert M. Millwee, ex-322nd sqdn. co-pilot, Houston, Texas, died summer of 1983.

Paul H. Schauffert, Pequot Lakes, MN., 206th Finance Det., died 1983.