



The Ragged Irregular

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Vol. 18 No. 4

January, 1986

IT'II Really Be Terrific In Tampa!

Plans for the 1986 National Reunion at Tampa September 10-14 (Wednesday to Sunday) continue to develop smoothly, and everything points to the greatest get-together yet!

Headquarters will be the 800-room Tampa International Airport Holiday Inn, a deluxe hostelry equipped with all amenities, large enough to accommodate the entire reunion at one location, and at a most moderate cost.

When the choice of the reunion site was announced in the July Ragged Irregular the co-hosts and sponsors were Paul McDuffee and Howell Loper, who had previously sponsored an outstanding Super Rally Round in Tampa in 1970. In recent weeks Col. McDuffee, who is confined to a wheelchair and has been seriously ill for several years, has stepped down from his post. Loper has taken over as chairman. Fortunately for Hal, the Tampa area is well-supplied with ex-91sters who were willing to help with the manifold tasks involved in getting a National Reunion flying.

He has named a working committee of John C. Friend, who will serve as treasurer; Peter J. Hirth, Dana E. Morse, Ken McLaren, Robert Foster, James W. Lemly, chaplain, and James Van Pelt. Other nearby 91sters are also expected to volunteer their services.

McDill Field at Tampa was the site where the initial organization of the 91st Bomb Group took place, and many members of the Memorial Association joined the Group there, and remember it as "home base" for the 91st.

Tampa is also ideally suited for those wishing a Florida vacation in addition to the get-together with old buddies. It is the heart of the fastest-growing area in Florida, and within a few hours drive of most of the major Florida tourist attractions. Disney World and Epcot are about an hour and a half away. The beautiful Gulf coast beaches from Clearwater south are within half an hour. Tampa itself is the home of many outstanding attractions.

McDill Field is still a major Air Force operation, with numerous units headquartered there, and the Reunion committee is working with base officials on an "Operations Return" for Reunion guests.

Tampa is also one of the easiest Reunion sites to reach that the Group has yet chosen. The Tampa International Airport is served directly by nearly every major airline, and two major interstate highways, 75 and 4, and 4-lane divided highway 19 (for those coming in from the west) make auto access easy.

Response to the announcement of the 1986 Reunion has been great already, and one of the most outstanding facets has been the large number of individual crew and unit reunions planned within the framework of the larger affair. Why don't you get busy on that if haven't already done so?

Details of registration procedure, programs, costs, etc. will be carried in the April issue of the R/I, since the Reunion committee is still in the process of completing the arrangements.

Only members who have paid their Memorial Association dues for 1986 (\$5) are eligible for registration at the reunion.

Don't Forget Your '86 Dues...

Only those persons who pay their annual dues (\$5) will receive the quarterly copies of The Ragged Irregular, the Group directories, and be eligible to attend Reunions and Rally Rounds. Send your check for \$5 made out to 91st Bomb Group Memorial Assn. to Sec.-Treas. George W. Parks, 109 Wilshire Ave., Vallejo, CA. 94591.

"Wee Willie" Crew's 1st Reunion

By Maurice D. Sherk

Editor's note: In the January, 1970 Ragged Irregular we printed for the first time ever a four-picture series of the death of "Wee Willie," the 322nd squadron's famous plane that went down on April 8, 1945, over Stendal, Germany, on her 128th mission. Willie was the last 91st plane lost to enemy action. A B-17G, serial No. 231333, Willie joined the Group in the summer of 1943. The most famous and widely reprinted shot of Wee Willie going down (reprinted in a recent issue of the 8th AF Historical Society Newsletter) shows the plane with the left wing blown completely off, with the wing and two engines floating free. Six seconds later the plane exploded and the final shot shows the bits and pieces floating to earth. Amazingly enough, the co-pilot and the tail gunner survived the explosion. Sherk and his crew finished their tour several months earlier.

Coming in from five different states, the pilot and four crew members who flew "Wee Willie" on 35 missions between July 31, 1944 and December 29, 1944, met in Memphis on August 23, 1985 for three days, together with their wives. This was our first reunion, forty years after completing our thirty-five missions with the 322nd squadron.

Pilot Bill Trent and his wife Betty came in from Winston-Salem, N.C.; toggleir Berney Kajewski and his wife Esther from Waterloo, Iowa; engineer-gunner Lee Schofield and wife Ginny from Belleville, IL; armorer-gunner A.J. "Moose" Baummer and wife Betty from Cambridge, MD., and radio-gunner Maurice Sherk and wife Phyllis from Birmingham, AL.

It was a great experience for all of us, reliving war-time experiences and being brought up-to-date on what had happened to each of us since that time. Our wives probably found out some things about us for the first time that they didn't already know.

In addition to sight-seeing in Memphis, a boat trip on the Mississippi River, breakfast at the elegant Peabody Hotel, we capped it off with an excellent dinner at the "91st Bomb Group Headquarters Restaurant" located on the edge of the Memphis airport.

We arrived at the 91st Bomb Group Headquarters Restaurant early enough to give us ample time to thoroughly check out the considerable memorabilia throughout the restaurant and its premises and take pictures. Reflecting that it could have been us, we spent extra time standing before the framed composite picture of four stages of "Wee Willie" breaking up in a ball of fire over Stendal, Germany, after being hit by flak. This last flight was Wee Willie's 128th mission. We had completed our missions three or four months earlier. All in all, a great time was had by all!

We have lost contact with the remaining members of our crew and would surely like to hear from them, or about them. They are co-pilot Fink, navigator Joseph G. Daigle, ball turret gunner Tom Lakos, and tail gunner Denny Moore. We believe we flew the best in veteran "Wee Willie" and we believe we had the best in our ground crew and crew chief Nicholas Terefenko. We would like to thank Terefenko and his crew once again for keeping us flying and would like to hear from him and his crew.



Bernard J. Kajewski & wife Esther; Bill Trent & wife Betty, Phyllis & Maurice D. Sherk, Lee R. Schofield & wife Ginny, Pearl & Anthony Baummer.



Looking at Wee Willie going down over Stendal: Anthony J. Baummer, W.H. Bill Trent and Bernard J. Kajewski.

Notes From The President ...

Col. Paul McDuffee, who was instrumental in promoting Tampa as the site of our '86 reunion, has expended a great deal of time and effort, plus out-of-pocket expenses, in making the necessary arrangements for the Tampa blast. He fortunately has had very able assistance from Hal Loper, the co-chairman. For those of us who saw Mac in Seattle and heard his story of the logistical problems one encounters when bound to a wheelchair, we gain an even greater appreciation for his efforts. To ensure that all proper planning is done on schedule, Mac notified me he should step down as chairman of the reunion committee. (You may recall that Chuck Marrah had to transfer his responsibilities at the Dayton Reunion for reasons of health.) Hal Loper has agreed to fly the rest of the mission and has assembled a full crew from the Tampa area to see that it's a perfect strike. On behalf of all 91sters, Mac, thanks again and again.

At the Seattle Super Rally Round in July the perennial question of "friction within the organization" was raised again, though the vast majority of members seem happy with the way the Association operates now. I appointed Col. Manny Klette chairman of an ad hoc committee to study the present by-laws and submit suggested changes to the entire association membership for their views. His committee consists of Matthew J. Templeton, Whitmal W. Hill, Jr., and Henry L. "Hank" Lilley.

By now you should have received a questionnaire concerning the suggestions for changes. Some of the points suggested to be changed, for example the proxy vote provision, were added to the by-laws in the first place at the insistence of the same group now opposing them. Item 2 would effectively disallow any nominations from the floor. Separating the offices of Secretary and Treasurer complicates immeasurably the task of keeping up with both membership and receipts and expenditures. Section 1, Article VII of the by-laws now states that any officer may hold two jobs -- he could be Editor-Historian and Secretary-Treasurer, for example, if he were man enough, had eight hands, and never needed sleep.

A number of WW II organizations have sought our help and used our by-laws as a model. We must be doing something right! Our membership is at a peak and treasury is in great shape, even though we have not increased dues in more than 15 years.

In preparation for our 1986 Reunion business meeting I am seeking volunteers to serve on the nominations/elections committee. If you are willing to take part contact me at 1024 Woodland Drive, Arlington, Texas 76012. Thanks!

Tom Gunn

New Members - Address Changes

ABBOTT, George	5700 Verna Way.	Clayton.	CA. 94517 (N)
AKERS, James O.	1303 Fosdick Cir.	Colo Springs.	CO. 80909 (C)
ALLEN, William D. (A-L)	7039 Alondra Blvd. # 9.	Paramount.	CA. 90723 (C-A)
ARTHUR, William H.	4335 Freeman.	Orchard Park.	NY. 14127 (C)
AUGSBURGER, Delbert.	207 N. Jackson.	Flanagan.	IL. 61740 (N)
BADER, Don C. LTC.(Ret)	1746 Greenway.	Marion.	OH. 43302 (C)
BAKER, Robert B.	2922 Henry St.	Augusta.	GA. 30909 (N)
BAUMMER, Anthony J.	Rt. 1, Box 319.	Cambridge.	MD. 21613 (N)
BENNETT, Vestel.	.409 High St. West.	Leesburg.	FL. 32748 (N)
BONNER, Charles H. Maj. (Ret)	921 Norgate Dr.	Augusta.	GA. 30909 (C)
BORCHERT, Charles M.	4241 Redbud Ave.	Odessa.	TX. 79762 (N)
BUCK, Robert E.	RFD # 1. Box 965.	Bar Harbor.	ME. 04609 (C)
BURCHARD, John F.	63-14 Orton Crt.	Cleveland.	OH. 44103 (N)
BURNSIDE, Robert D.	P.O. Box 153.	Spring Lake.	MI. 49456 (N)
BYRD, B.Z. Dr.	Rt. 1. Box 806.	Laurel.	MS. 39441 (C)
CALDWELL, Donald E. L)	9801 S. Aia. Lot 46-2.	Jensen Beach.	FL. 33457 (C)
CAMPBELL, William F.LTC.(Ret)	210 Raven Hills Rd.	Colo Springs.	CO. 80919 (C)

CARRINGTON, Hubert G.	P.O. Box 43.	Morehouse.	MO. 63868 (C)
CHILES, William.	1723 Shorewood Dr.	Bremerton.	WA. 98312 (N)
COHEN, Myron "Mike"	2257 Main St.	Brewster.	MA. 02631 (C)
CORMAN, Edward M. (L)	14606 Killarney Cir.	Wichita.	KS. 67230 (N)
CRUMBLISS, Glen.	1265 Circle Dr.	Neosho.	MO. 64850 (N)
DART, Melvin. LTC.(Ret) (L)	7718 N. Berkeley.	Portland.	OR. 97203 (C)
DeBONO, Daniel.	1679 Downing St.	Simi Valley.	CA. 93065 (N-A)
DeCOSTER, Edward J.	35055 Concord Crt.	Mt. Clements.	MI. 48043 (N)
DRYJA, Norbert P.	8928 Krakow Ra.	krakow.	WI. 54137 (C)
ENSIGN, Lewis P. Col.(Ret)	8000 Donore Pl. Villa 33.	San Antonio.	TX. 78229 (C)
FAHNER, Byron C.	2868 Marshall S.E. Apt.C4	Grand Rapids.	MI. 49508 (C)
FEERICK, James P.	1403 unbar St.	Far Rockaway.	NY. 11691 (N)
FREER, Donald R.	1310 Niles-Cortland Rd.NE.	Warren.	OH. 44484 (N)
GAGE, Avery O.	6121 Garrett Ln. # 3.	Rockford.	IL. 61107 (C)
GILL, John.	6801 - 83rd Ave. South.	Brooklyn Park.	MN. 55445 (N)
GLADITSCH, William E.	914 Riggs St.	Bloomer.	WI. 54724 (N)
GOLDFARB, Harold.	73-38 255th St.	Glen Oaks.Qn.	NY. 11004 (N)
GRABOWSKI, Robert J.	Rt. # 1. Box 318.	Ozark.	AR. 72949 (N)
HAAS, Harrison J.	Rt. 1, Box 115.	Denton.	NC. 27239 (N)
HADLEY, Roy R.	61 High St. Sidmouth.	Devon.EX10-8LE.	England (C-A)
HALPERT, Samuel W.	P.O. Box 432384.	Miami.	FL. 33243 (N)
HAMILTON, Richard H.	RFD 4. Box 312.	W.Brattleboro.	VT. 05301 (N)
HARRIS, Robert W. Col.(Ret)	3005 W. 24th Ave. West.	Seattle.	WA. 98199 (C)
HARPSTER, Wallace J. Maj.(Ret)	170 N. Halifax Dr.	Ormond Beach.	FL. 32704 (N)
HAVELAAR, Marion H.LTC.(Ret)(L)	R.R. # 8. Box 1930.	Rapid City.	SD. 57702 (C)
HAWKINS, John G.	7575 Katy Fwy. # 87.	Houston.	TX. 77024 (C)
HEBB, Howard D.	P.O. Box 107.	E. Flat Rock.	NC. 28726 (N)
HOFFERBER, Edward Jr.	30107 - 77th Ave. South.	Roy.	WA. 98580 (C)
HOHING, Conrad Jr.	51 Carriage Pl.Brick, Landing Plantion.	Shallotte.	NC. 28459 (C)
HOUSE, Harry S. Lt.(Ret) (L)	6200 Meadowood Mall Cir.#	303. Reno.	NV. 89502 (C)
HOWLAND, John W.	191 Parker Lane.	Carthage.	TX. 75633 (N)
INGRAM, Norman W.	P.O. Box 2167.	Grove.	OK. 74344 (C)
JOHNSON, Arvid J.	Rt. 1. Box 294-A.	Deer Run.	MN. 56636 (N)
JOHNSON, H.R."Johnny. (L) Brig.Gen.(Ret)	Telebit Corp. 10440 Bubb Rd.	Cupertino.	CA. 95014 (C)
JONES, James W.	Box 57.	Pine Level.	NC. 27568 (N)
JONES, Roy L.	P.O. Box 727.	Ruidoso.	NM. 88345 (N)
KARLAC, John S. LTC.(Ret)	1616 North St.	Pittsfield.	MA. 01201 (N)
KEIRSEY, Walter H.	P.O. Box 626.C/O CTSC.	Amherst.	VA. 24521 (C)
KELLEY, E. Robert.	4756 Vallecito St.	Central Valley.	CA. 96019 (C)
KENNEDY, Paul O.	8415 Fredericksburg Rd. Unit # 202.	San Antonio.	TX. 78229 (C)
KIRKHAM, Dorothy Mrs. (A-L)	P.O. Box 1159.	Tuscaloosa.	AL. 35403 (C-A)
KLINE, Harold S.	17 E. 3rd St.	Boyertown.	PA. 19512 (C)
LARKIN, Harry F. Jr.	2448 Edgebrook Ave.	Pittsburgh.	PA. 15226 (C)
LEISTER, Michael D.III.MSGT.	30 Orchard Acres R.D. 3.	Felton.	DE. 19943 (C-A)
LIEBERMAN, A. Roke.	2309 Wynnwood Rd.	Wilmington.	DE. 19810 (N)
LISCOMB, Warren W.	Rt. 2.	St. George. W.	VA. 26290 (N)
LUKE, H. John.	607 NW. 80th St.	Vancouver.	WA. 98665 (N)
MALVIK, Arvid A.	8008 Bay Terrace.	Harvey Cedars.	NJ. 08008 (C)
MARTINEZ, Vincent O.Jr.	5501 W. Wolf.	Phoenix.	AZ. 85031 (C)
MILLER, Irving.	P.O. Box 165.	Mt. Angel.	OR. 97362 (N)
MORGAN, Robert G. Dr.	3152 Orchard Trail Dr.	Toledo.	OH. 43606 (N)
MORTON, Clifford E. Sr.	P.O. Box 1100.	Palm Coast.	FL. 32037 (N)
MC FARLAND, Kenneth T. Jr.	3450 Snaffle Rd.	Lexington.	KY. 40513 (C)
MC LAREN, Ken F. MSGT.(Ret)	4108 Oklahoma Ave.	Tampa.	FL. 33616 (N)
MC PARTLIN, James H. Brig.Gen.(Ret)	611 Towne House Ln.	Richardson.	TX. 75083 (C)

NELSON, Frank J.	P.O. Box 271.	Marysville.	CA. 95901 (N)
NICOLL, Wilbur W. Maj.(Ret)(L)	3806 Pelzer Ave.	Montgomery.	AL. 36109 (N)
OATS, Jack.	23 Nicole Lane.	Chico.	CA. 95926 (N)
OFFLEY, Bernard D.	13505 - 245th Ave.K.P.N.	Gig Harbor.	WA. 98335 (N)
PETERMAN, Mary S. Mrs.	5460 Rowley Rd.# 2005.	San Antonio.	TX. 78240 (C-A)
PRIEUR, Roland B.	Cambridge American	Coton, Cambridge.	CB3-7PH(N-A)
(Superintendent)	Military Cemetary	England.	
PULLEN, Robert E. Jr.	P.O. Box 680.	Tahlequah.	OK. 74464 (C)
RASMUSSEN, William E.	2843 N. Thomas Place.	Traverse City.	MI. 49684 (C)
ROACH, Robert W. LTC.(Ret)	P.O. Box 725.	Kemp.	TX. 75143 (C)
RYAN, Tom P.	P.O. Box 25.	Shrewsbury.	NJ. 07701 (C)
SATEWICZ, Walter M.	11620 Sheffield Rd.	Spring Hill.	FL. 33526 (C)
SEVERSON, Leo R.	374-18-9622		
	Soldiers & Airmans Home.	Wash. D.C.	20317.(N)
SKAWIENSKI, Ted L.Col.(Ret)(L)	P.O. Box 397.	Running Springs.	CA. 92382 (C)
SOELLER, Richard.	24 S.E. 144th Ave.	Beaverton.	OR. 97006 (N)
SOWERS, Leonard E.	1025 Derry Lane # 5.	Macomb.	IL. 61455 (C)
STAFFORD, Jack B.	922 North 12th St.	Arkansas City.	KS. 67005 (N)
STEVENS, Robert M.LTC.(Ret)	470 Hillcrest Dr.# 1.	Friday Harbor.	WA. 98250 (C-A)
STEVENSON, William.	1420 Sherman St.	Danville.	IL. 61832 (N)
STROKLUND, Dale.	11419 Roseberg Ave. So.	Seattle.	WA. 98168 (N-A)
STUART, Jackie. Mrs.	52 Silverwood Close.	Cambridge.	(N-A)
		CB1-3HA.	England.
SUPPO. Andrew.	18 - 3rd Ave.	Denville.	NJ. 07834 (N)
TAYLOR, Phillip R. (L)	131/ Trinity Way.	Turlock.	CA. 95380 (C)
THOMPSON, William O. Col.(Ret)	P.O. Box 8036.		
	Wakiki Beach.	Honolulu.	HI. 96815 (C)
TOMEK, Maria N. Mrs. (A-L)	5950 E. Imperial Hwy.73.	South Gate.	CA. 90280 (C-A)
TRACY, David.	12 Wichay Rd.	Hucknall.	
		Nottinghamshire.	England.(C-A)
TRENT, William H.	1329 Drumcliffe Rd.	Winston-Salem.	NC. 27103 (N)
VAUGHN, Robert.	11821 E. 16th.	Spokane.	WA. 99206 (N)
VENRILL, E. Richard.	7023 Midbury St.	Dallas.	TX. 75230 (N)
WALSHAW, Leslie R. Maj.(Ret)(L)	P.O. Box 687.	Citrus Hgts.	CA. 95611 (C)
WATERS, Edward.	4850 - 156th Ave.N.E.#352.	Redmond.	WA. 98052 (C)
WEINSTOCK, Joseph G.	Winston Towers 600 Bldg.	Miami Beach.	FL. 33160 (C)
	210 - 174th St. Apt.805.		
WELLINGS, Donald J. Col.(Ret)	1920 H. Roche Harbor Rd.	Friday Harbor.	WA. 98250 (C)
WELSH, James H. Jr. LTC.(Ret)	3402 Paxton Ave.	Tampa.	FL. 33611 (N)
WHITTLE, Ben W. (L)	P.O. Box 407.	Arsarokfe.	MT. 59001 (C)
WILSON, William P.D. Jr.	231 North Dellrose.	Wichita.	KS. 67208 (N)
WURZBACK, Clem K. Col.(Ret)9L)	15223 Silverman.	Webster.	TX. 77590 (C)
ZAJAC, John Jr.	13258 South Ave "M".	Chicago.	IL. 60633 (N)

From The Editor's Desk...

Paul C. Burnett Box 909 Auburn, Al. 36830

The number of members who donate \$100 to become Life Members of the Memorial Association continues to grow rapidly, with 8 new "Lifers" since the October R/I was issued. New Life Members include:

Gilmer R. Headrick, engineer, 322nd, R.D. #1, Box 90, Smithfield, PA. 15478. Nov. 5, 1985.

Robert B. Compton, C.O. 322nd., Box 16, Levelland, Texas 79336. Nov. 19, 1985, a

Christmas gift from wife Beth.

Jimmie D. Mills, Jr. (w/O USAF Ret), 3330 Cleveland, Paris, Texas 75460. Gunner 322nd. Nov. 25, 1985, a Christmas gift from wife Sandra L.

Walter Salo, ex-324th, Rt. 1, Box 455, Wakefield, MI. 49968. Dec. 2, 1985.

Clyde R. Williams, ex-323rd, 121 West Third Ave., El Dorado, KS. 67042. Dec. 23, 1985.

A. Dale Maginness, ex-322nd., 2514 Ellison Way, Independence, MO. 64055, Jan.1, 1986.

Harry W. Clifford, ex-401st, 260 East Main St., Newark, DE. 19711. Jan. 1, 1986.

Mrs. Elizabeth Chamberlain, assoc. member, Basingbourn Officers Mess, "Endora," 39 Town Green Rd., Orwell, Nr. Royston, Herts, England. Jan. 1, 1986.

Hey! This Is Important!

A bill was passed in Congress recently which will give all WW II veterans a dividend of 65 cents per \$1000 of their GI insurance for each month of service. This refund is due regardless of whether or not the insurance is still carried. The dividend cannot be received unless it is requested.

The Veterans Administration is urging all WW II veterans to apply, regardless of whether any insurance was held. The VA will check for eligibility. The refunds will not make anyone rich, but a couple of hundred dollars is always nice. For example: a veteran who had \$10,000 in insurance would be entitled to dividends as follows: 12 months, \$78; 24 months, \$156; 36 months, \$234; and 48 months \$312.

This bill has hardly been publicized, so spread the word.

Please send your name, social security number, address, service serial number, date of entry into the service and your date of discharge from the service to:

WW II Insurance Eligibility
V. A. Processor
Veterans Center
P.O. Box 8079
Philadelphia, PA. 10101

The March issue of Reader's Digest will present the "Song of Shoo Shoo Baby" as their feature condensation of the month. The saga of the famous 401st sqdn. plane, from its "birth" through its exciting days with the 91st B.G., its various travels as a Swedish and Danish airliner, Danish Air Force ship, French National Geographic photo plane, and finally its rescue from the discard heap and the subsequent restoration for the Air Force Museum, is to be a tribute to fifty years of the B-17.

The story was put together by Nathan M. Adams, a senior editor with the Washington Bureau of the Reader's Digest. Adams not only travelled far and wide in the United States tracking down facts about the plane, but spent much time in Europe getting the details of the Shoo Shoo Baby story, and talking first-hand with those

who had a part in the story. He took part in the Boeing celebration of the 50th anniversary of the B-17 in Seattle, where he met with Paul McDuffee, first pilot of the ship, and others of the 91st who knew the old bird.

In Germany he interviewed Walter Dahl, the famous German fighter pilot, about his experiences fighting Forts, and persuaded McDuffee to call him on the telephone so they could exchange memories. Unfortunately Dahl was hospitalized and died during the week McDuffee spent trying to get in touch.

Progress on the restoration of Shoo Shoo Baby is steady but slow. Completion date for reaching a flyable condition is now very late in 1986 or early 1987. The plane will become a permanent exhibit at the Air Force Museum at Dayton.

Coincidentally, the Memphis Belle, the other 91st plane in the process of complete restoration, by the Memphis Belle Memorial Association, has until the first week in March to begin a building to house the ship from the ravages of weather or it will be repossessed by the Air Force, according to Col. Richard Uppstrom, director of the Air Force Museum.

The restoration is 90 per cent complete, but efforts to raise \$110,000 to build a shelter for it have been unsuccessful. The Air Force has retained ownership since it was first brought to Memphis in 1946.



Faber Cripps, 401 sheetmetal crew chief; Bobby Cattan, 441 SD machinist, and W.W. Hill, 323 sheetmetal crew chief, all members of the 441st Sub Depot, held a mini-rally in September at the S. Andover Blue Lobster Inn where they discussed battle damage and warm beer times.

Vince Hemmings, curator of the 91st Tower Museum, has sent information about some of the manifold activities the East Anglian Aviation Society and the Tower Museum have participated in recently. In addition to the heavy load of maintaining and up-grading the museum, and escorting visiting 91sters, the Museum crew has been busy taking their displays of 91st memorabilia to other sites.

Vince writes: "About two weeks before the annual Air Show at RAF Mildenhall (now a U.S. Air Force Base) they called to ask if the Tower Museum was able to present a display to celebrate 50 years of the B-17. We set it up about 9 p.m. the night before the show, and the public next day kept us so busy answering questions about the B-17 and the 91st B.G. we could not take any time off to watch the show. It must have created the right impression as we were asked to take the display to RAF Alconbury, another American Air Base.

"We do no advertising but seem to be well known. 104 squadron RAF are holding their reunion at Bassingbourn in 1986. They had heard of the Museum and have now made arrangements with the Army for next April. They were the first occupants of the airfield. The squadron has long since disbanded.

"In the summer the Museum was visited by another group of aviation enthusiasts to give them ideas on the one they are going to restore. That now makes 4 in the country, with the Tower Museum being the first."

The Society has to pay for maintenance, repairs, and general upkeep of the Tower, and insurance coverage for the exhibits and personal injury coverage (\$500,000 per person) for the members and public who visit the Museum. Many 91sters who have visited the Tower have made personal donations to their operating fund, and the Memorial Association has donated \$200 to support the Museum.

Members planning to visit Bassingbourn and the Museum should contact Vince in advance so proper arrangements with the Army can be made, and the Museum opened. His address is: V.A. Hemmings, 48 Meadow Way, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 3HX, England. Phone: Letchworth 73340.

Vestel Bennett, ex-323 ordinance crew from '42-'45, is seeking witnesses to an

unusual accident at Bassingbourn to assist him in applying for VA benefits. In 1944 Vestel was driving a truck pulling two trailers of bombs across the runway when a B-17 taking off collided with him. He was taken to the field hospital with back and head pains. One eye-witness he recalls was Ray Harris.

If you can help him establish the event please contact: Vestel Bennett, %Esther B. Lightfoot, 1409 High St., Leesburg, FL. 32748.

Visiting Bassingbourn and the Tower Museum has been the highlight of trips to England for many Memorial Association members in the past year. While we have heard from only a portion of them directly, we have gotten pictures or letters from a number, including Harvey Burkholder, Aldo Viarengo, Horace Knight & John Irak, Herb Weinberger, and Wayne "Tex" Frye. All found it a delightful experience. Tex Frye's letter was typical, and is carried below:

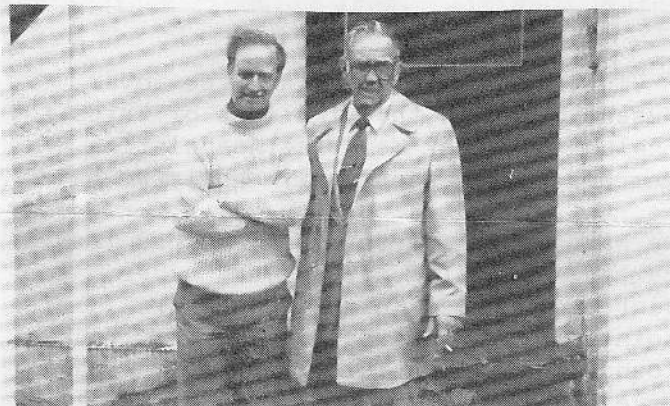
"My wife and daughter and I were in England in October, and of course we went to Bassingbourn. I had made arrangements with Vince Hemmings and he picked us up at the Royston train station. We are so fortunate having a fine fellow like Vince as an Associate member. He is a true gentleman. He picked us up and drove us out to the base. The memories really came flooding in.

"Of course we started taking pictures from the front gate to the 91st memorial, the old Quonset hut that was used for briefing, the headquarters, the Control Tower museum, the barracks where I was quartered, even to where the dispersal area used to be. What really got to me was driving on to the main runway (it is still about half there). I could visualize myself in the nose of the "Wicked Witch" waiting for the light for take-off. This was really one of the greatest highlights of my life...I made a donation to the East Anglian Aviation Society.

Vince took us back to the train station and we went to Cambridge, where we visited the American Military Cemetery. I was so filled with pride, the way our country has fixed up the cemetery, the monument, and the Wall of the Missing. Everything there is in perfect condition. There are just too many guys from the 91st buried there..."

P.S. We ate at the "Hard Rock Cafe" in

London. After we were seated the waitress told us if we wanted anything at the bar we'd better order as it was going to close down. She brought the beer and took our order. When she brought some good American style hamburgers I asked for another beer. She said "No, the bar is closed." I told her "You all didn't treat me this way in '44. She asked me "Were you a G.I.?" I said "Yes, I was in the Air Force." She answered "Me Mum's been looking for you!"



L to r: Vince Hemmings & Tex Frye before the Tower Museum entrance.



L to r: Mary & Horace Knight, Vince Hemming, Evelyn & John Irak, Tower Museum.



L to r: Inside the museum, Vince Hemmings, Aldo Vairengo & wife Aurora.

We have received word of the deaths of six Memorial Association members since the October R/I. They are:

Joseph Rose, 156 Clark Place, Memphis, TN., ex-401st pilot, died of cardiac arrest in Memphis Veterans Medical Center. Joe was shot down over Munster, Germany, Oct. 10, 1943. He was a member of the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Escape and Evasion Society.

LeRoy Russell, 550 E. George St., Marion, OH. 43302, died of a heart attack Oct. 13, 1985. He served with the 441st Sub Depot.

Cyril J. Fischer, ex-322nd sqdn., Cannelburg, IN. 47519. Cyril died Oct. 9, 1985.

Lester H. Schlaich, engineer-gunner in the 322nd sqdn., Rt. 2, Box 250, Cass Lake, MN. 56633.

Col. Vernon W. Bryant (U.S. Army, Ret.), 5692 Crieewood, Memphis, TN. 38134. He was with the 91st as a S/Sgt. in the 441st Sub Depot, and transferred to the Army after the war.

Assoc. Life Member CMS Charles W. Yaroshak (USAF Ret.), 1844 Kidder Ave., Fairfield, CA. 94533. He was a combat crew member with the 96th B.G. in England in W.W. II. Died at Travis AFB hospital Jan. 3.

91st members who attended the 8th Air Force Historical Society's National Reunion in Wichita, KS in October included: Roy & Barbara Van Dyke, Jefferson, IA.; William J. Zauner, Brookfield, WI.; Edward & Dorothy Jackman, Terre Haute, IN.; George W. & Sue Shook, Wichita, KS.; Edward M. Corman, Wichita, KS.; Wayne Wallin, Moorhead, MN.; John & Catherine Hamner, Baldwin, N.Y.; Orlo G. Natvig, Charles City, IA, and Milton "Tex" Verla, Andale, KS.

Any 91sters who worked in, and/or around any flying control tower are asked by Lou Dubnow (ex-446 BG) to get in touch with him. Lou is trying to start a Flying Control Memorial Group "for all those controllers who helped get them off and helped them get back down again in all kinds of weather." Contact: Lou Dubnow, 1189 Galesmoore Court, Westlake, CA. 91361

Don't Forget Your '86 Dues!