

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



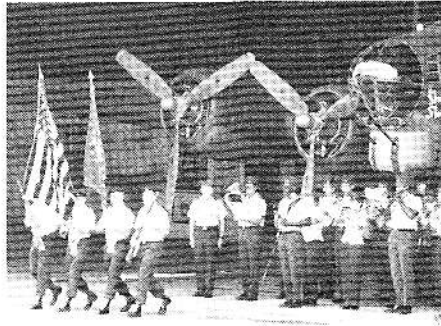
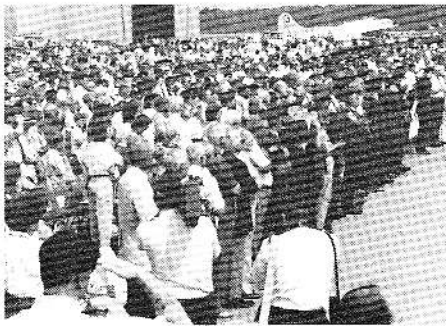
401st SQDN

Vol. 21, No. 4

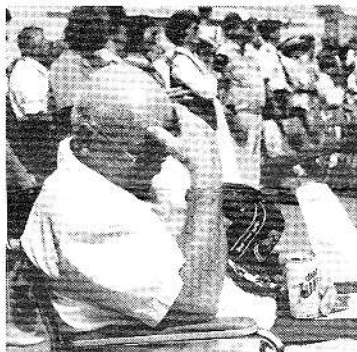
91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

October 1988

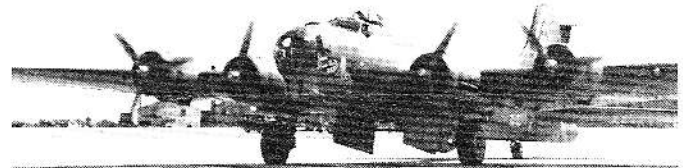
"SHOO SHOO BABY" AN 8th AIR FORCE CENOTAPH



Above (L-R): a portion of the 5,000 who witnessed "Shoo Shoo Baby's" "Roll-Out." In the background is the National Warplane Museum's "Fuddy Duddy," another restored B17. "Shoo Shoo Baby" is escorted from her hangar following Presentation of Colors and The National Anthem. She stands proud before her admirers.



Right (L-R): Col. Paul G. McDuffee, "Shoo Shoo Baby's" original pilot, wrestles with the "emotional affair" of seeing his plane restored. A photo of his



plane taken earlier prior to a test flight before the "Roll-Out" Ceremonies at Dover AFB, DE. (Note: Alert SMTG Unice "Ben" Hawkins, 436 Security Police

Sq, Dover AFB, took the "Big Picture" of McDuffee's response upon seeing his plane restored for posterity.)

THE DISMANTLED SKELETAL REMAINS OF THE 401ST SQ, 91st BG(H)'s "Shoo Shoo Baby" arrived at the Dover AFB, DE ten years ago. The 512th Military Aircraft Wing stationed there had offered to restore her while she sat in disrepair at the Air Force Museum at Wright Patterson AFB, OH.

On Sept 10, 1988, before 5,000 people, "Roll-Out Ceremonies" at the Dover AF Base revealed a miraculous restoration.

"It's almost like it came out of the factory!" said Dr. William Hospers, a retired Army Colonel and owner of "Chuckie," another restored and operational B17-G based in Fort Worth, TX. Hospers, designated to be "Shoo Shoo Baby's" Commander on her final flight to the AF Museum, wasn't the only one who expressed amazement over the restoration work done by MSGT Raymond McCloskey, TSST Dan Vasey, MSGT Tom Corbeil and MSGT Vic Rosica and many, many others.

All who witnessed "Shoo Shoo Baby" roll-out from her hangar and then stand, majestically poised, like a true Queen awaiting deserved adulation, responded emotionally. The long, hushed pause when the plane first appeared followed by enthusiastic applause indicated that.

"It (the 'Roll-Out Ceremony') was a 'tear-jerker,'" one of the throng at the historic event wrote the R/I. He did not exaggerate.

Continued on page 2

ATTENTION!

"Shoo Shoo Baby" successfully arrived at the Wright Patterson AFB, Ohio on Oct. 15, 1988 where "welcome Home" ceremonies awaited her. The Jan. 1989 R/I will contain coverage.

ARBITRATION TO CONCLUDE CONVENTION BUSINESS

THE BUSINESS OF THE AUG. 31-SEPT. 4, 1988 91st BGMA Chicago Convention, attended by some 300 members and guests, is not complete. Unforeseen difficulty involving the Absentee Ballots has clouded some of the election results.

The Convention Business, presided over by outgoing Pres. Paul Chryst, certainly pleased the overwhelming majority of those attending. Anticipated afternoon activities arranged by Chicago Convention Chairman Sam Cipolla were not infringed upon.

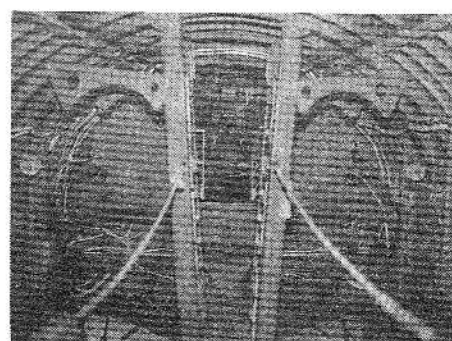
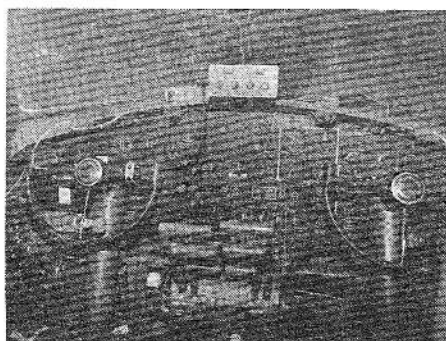
The applause concluding the Business Meeting was an award for all the outgoing officers and a welcome for the newly elected.

Col. Tony Montalvo (Ret.), President-Elect, and the other 91st BGMA elected officials will take office Jan. 1, 1989. This is because the Convention voted henceforth time be provided for outgoing officials to transfer records to the newly elected officials before saddling them with responsibility.

Col. Montalvo (401st/324th), of California, in a statement to BGMA members said, "I invite all of you to join us in making the the 91st BGMA the best in the land...similarly to the manner in which we were the best in fighting our enemies. I, and all those elected and those who have already accepted appointed posts, thank you for this opportunity to serve you."

Among the exciting projects Col. Montalvo plans for his term is the publication of a historical record of 91st BG(H) activities through Aug. 1945. Former BGMA 1st VP Hiliary "Bud" Evers has been designated the Action Officer of this endeavor.

Continued on page 3



(L-R): "Shoo Shoo Baby" Crew members accommodate photographers. The perfectly restored pilot and co-pilot positions in "Shoo Shoo Baby." - A view of

the bombay from the Radio Room - in case anyone is lost!"

CENOTAPH

Continued from page 1

The writer was Col Paul G. McDuffee, "Shoo Shoo Baby's" original pilot.

Some 20 years earlier in July 1968 Steve Birdsall roused him from sleep in his Tampa, FL home with a long distance call from Sydney, Australia. Birdsall, whose hobby was locating surviving B17's, told McDuffee, over the imperfect connection, "I've found your airplane."

McDuffee's reply was a shouted, "You what?"

From that moment on McDuffee's involvement in the return and restoration of the 401st plane he selected on Mar. 5, 1944 for his "own" because of its inherent stability has become legend. Included in the legend is his opinions regarding affairs related to her since Birdsall's discovery were rarely couched in dulcet tones.

Now confined to a wheel chair, McDuffee was probably the only one who remained seated when "Shoo Shoo Baby" emerged. While others stood and applauded her and the ten year dedicated diligence of the 512th MAW, the highest tribute to her and the 512th was witnessed by only a few.

McDuffee had removed his 512th MAW cap and lowered his head soon after his plane began its roll-out. When his hands rose to shield his face the extent of the emotion welling up within him was apparent.

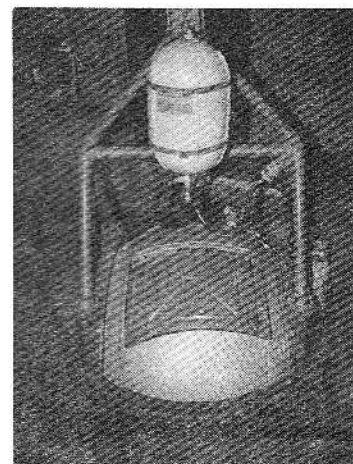
His response, it has since been determined, was not entirely unique. Many others struggled with emotion.

It is certain the 512th MAW and all others who contributed to "Shoo Shoo Baby's" restoration will cherish the memory of the many momentarily overcome when she emerged from her Dover AFB hangar in 1988 - as proud and beautiful as she was in 1944 when then 2Lt. Paul G. McDuffee claimed her.

In reply to a request from the R/I for a statement on the ceremonies, McDuffee wrote:

"It was indeed an emotional affair...particularly for the crew members who were in attendance. I have had reports from all of them and there was not one who did not shed tears as that Fortress was rolled out of that hangar. For myself, it was especially emotional..."

This view of the Ball Turret restoration supports the R/I's statement that "Shoo Shoo Baby's" interior is "whistle clean." Because of the generous supply of photos supplied by 91st BGMAers utter confusion reigns regarding the source of many photos. However, it is known that Balto., MD photographer John Hohman, AM, took the interior shots. More "Shoo Shoo Baby" photos will appear in the next R/I and effort will be made to credit those responsible. For now, thank you all!



"This aircraft and the crew members who flew it during the Air War in Europe is reflective of no one individual nor one individual crew. Contrariwise it represents a lasting tribute to all those gallant young men who gave their lives in defense of principle and morality. Enshrined in the Air Force Museum, this great aircraft will be a permanent cenotaph to all 8th AF WWII personnel."

Ten other "Shoo Shoo Baby" Crew members, along with McDuffee, were the particularly Honored Guests of the affair. They were: Robert Langford, Co-pilot; Larry Sylvester and John Landermeth, Navigators; Harry "Red" Soderberg and Charles Shusmith, Top Turret Gunners; Charles Brahman, Radioman; George Bogert, Ball Gunner; Gerald Borchert, Waist Gunner and Edward Gallagher, Tail Gunner. (The presence of two Navigators and Top Turret Gunners is due to the fact that more than one crew flew "Shoo Shoo Baby.")

The program prepared by the Dover AFB authorities and the 512th MAW Reserve for the Sept. 10 ceremonies was impressive. Brig. Gen. Carey Deckord was the Master of Ceremonies; Delaware Congressman Tom Carper participated and personally congratulated everyone of the many who received an award for contributing to the restoration project and the East Coast Air Force Band and a Delaware National Guard Band performed. Other contributors to the formalities were: Col. Fred R. Endrikat and CMSGT John Collins, Chairman and Co-Chairman, respectively, of the "Salute to 'Shoo Shoo Baby' Committee" and Col. Emmett Venett, Jr., Chairman of the 512th Antique Aircraft Restoration Group, Inc.

Pres. Paul Chryst was presented a 512th MAW Certificate of Appreciation recognizing the contributions of the 91st BGMA. Sec. W.W. Hill received an award for his contributions.

Reliable sources report Pres. Chryst did not sit idly awaiting the 91st BGMA's award. Armed with a "Cam-Corder," he busily took VCR tapes of the entire event - except for the time he had to jog to the stage when called.

Dr. Hospers test flew "Shoo Shoo Baby" again the following day in preparation for her scheduled final flight to the AF Museum at Wright Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH on Oct. 13, 1988.

Regarding that flight, McDuffee says, "I will sweat out the trip from Dover to Dayton, and once it gets on the Museum side of Wright



CENOTAPH

Continued from page 2

Patterson, I will at long last rest very easy."

On Oct. 6th the editor and a photographer went back to Dover for another look at "Shoo Shoo Baby." MSGT McCloskey generously permitted them to climb aboard to take interior photos. Once aboard the editor regretted his choice of light tan, expensive trousers because in some areas, where he had walked before, he had to crawl. (Age.) The perfection of the plane's restoration was confirmed forever when he emerged much later without the slightest smudge upon his trousers' knees. To Dr. Hospers "nearly new" description of the restored "Shoo Shoo Baby," the R/I adds, "She's clean as a whistle!"

"SHOO SHOO BABY'S" WAR RECORD

1. March 24, 1944 - Frankfurt
2. March 26, 1944 - Marquis-Mimbyecque
3. March 27, 1944 - St. Jean D'Angeley
4. March 28, 1944 - Reims-Champagne
5. April 8, 1944 - Oldenburg
6. April 9, 1944 - Marienburg
7. April 11, 1944 - Stettin
8. April 18, 1944 - Oranienburg
9. April 20, 1944 - Croisette-Beauvoir-Airdroms
10. April 22, 1944 - Hamm
11. April 26, 1944 - Brunswick
12. April 28, 1944 - Avord
13. April 29, 1944 - Berlin
14. May 1, 1944 - Tryes
15. May 7, 1944 - Berlin
16. May 11, 1944 - Kons-Karthaus
17. May 13, 1944 - Stralsund
18. May 19, 1944 - Berlin
19. May 22, 1944 - Kiel
20. May 24, 1944 - Berlin
21. May 27, 1944 - Ludwigshaven
22. May 29, 1944 - Posen



Pictured are civilian volunteers and members of the Aircraft Restoration Group who made major contributions in the restoration of "Shoo Shoo Baby." L-R (Standing) are: Milo Clark, Joe Greigg, MSgt Raymond McCloskey, SMSgt. Vic Rosica, Al Shank, John Hite and Col. Emmett Venett, Jr. L-R (Kneeling) are: Jan Sibbald, MSgt Tom Corbeil, SMSgt Dan Vasey and James Reed.

LOST AND FOUND

A "Sologor" camera lense cap was found after the "Father Ragan Ceemonies" at the Convention. The R/I editor will return same to owner upon request. The editor's address appears in the small print at the bottom of page 8.

The editor is missing a "note-filled" pocket-sized notebook containing important Convention notes. If it was found, please return. An 8 x 10 enlargement of "Shoo Shoo Baby's" Dover AFB "Take-Off" and "Thanks" is reward!

ARBITRATION

Continued from page 1

Another is the laying of the groundwork for publication of a 91st BG(H) Pictorial History. This project, headed by Action Chairman B/Gen. Earl C. Pate, Jr. (324th), entails identification of places, people and activities depicted on war-time 91st BG(H) photos.

The Jan. 1989 R/I will contain further details on these and other projects along with information on how members can contribute.

Elsewhere in this issue is a published partial list of the 1989-91 officials of the 91st BGMA. At this writing the election results pertaining to a few posts have yet to be determined. It should be noted that both potential occupants of those posts have offered to withdraw their candidacy for the good of the Association. The Chicago Convention was a congenial one.

Harold Lieberman (401st), the 1986-88 BGMA 2nd VP who was elected 1st VP for the 1989-91 term, has been requested to resolve the confusion because of his credentials as an Attorney and a Judge. The complexity of the problem presented him has precluded a decision prior to the Oct. 1988 R/I delayed press-time.

Regarding the above issue Pres. Chryst recently released the following statement to the R/I:

"It was determined on Saturday, Sept. 3rd, during the Business Meeting, that Col. Louis Montalvo was elected President; Harold Lieberman, 1st Vice President; James Bacon, 2nd Vice President; Hiliary "Bud" Evers, Historian and Rudy Malkin, Editor for the 1989-1991 Term of Office.

"Confusion regarding the interpretation of the By-Laws on the subject of absentee voting vs. voting by members present at the scheduled Business Meeting has not yet been resolved legally at press-time for the R/I. The appointments to the Office of Secretary and Treasurer for the next Term of Office will be announced by the Arbitrator (Lieberman) in the January issue of the R/I."

During the Business Meeting Pres. Chryst announced with pride the completion of the project to replace the original 91st BGMA silver bowl which was stolen from the Chapel of the American Military Cemetery at Madingley, England in 1986.

A beautifully engraved, cast brass bowl, purchased with funds contributed to the 91st BGMA Memorial Account, has been officially approved and will be personally presented to the Superintendent at Madingley Cemetery by Chryst this October. Formal dedication of the sacred gift is planned for next year.

Historian Hiliary "Bud" Evers provided further documentation of the strides made during the past two years in 91st BGMA projects. He fulfilled the stern admonishment of the By-Laws which says, "The Historian...will make every attempt to list the names of those men who gave their lives while serving with the 91st BG(H) during World War II."

Three preliminary studies compiled by him were available at the Convention for perusal by the membership. They were: 1) A Statistical Study of 91st Aircraft Losses; 2) A Roll of Honor, an alphabetical listing of those Missing in Action, ditched or crashed on a combat mission and 3) A Roll of Honor, listing the Planes and Crews Missing in Action, ditched or crashed while on a combat mission.

Ever's thick documents were available at Duffy's Tavern, the Convention Hospitality Room. In his introduction he acknowledged the help of many members in assembling the data and also the assistance of Historian Paul M. Andrews, "...without whose assistance this study would not have flown."

All members are encouraged to submit to him the names of anyone who died while at Basingbourn - including ground accidents or any other cause for inclusion in his data.

Another legacy left by the 1986-88 BGMA term was as much a product of the membership as any official of that time. The Annual Dues were raised from the increasingly inadequate \$5.00 a year to \$10.00 by a unanimous vote.

The new 91st BGMA Directory, produced by Sec. W.W. Hill, must also be numbered among the notable Association achievements of the past two years.

Chicago Convention Chairman Sam Cipolla and his Committee-men Arthur Rowe, Marv Goldberg, Clarence Winchell, Robert Krusen and Armando Sinabaldo provided a "flapless" background for the Convention which was appreciated by all. Congratulatory comments from members after their return home attest to that.

Continued on page 4

ARBITRATION

Continued from page 3

One letter, from a California member, itemized the things that pleased him and his wife so well that the R/I takes the liberty of using his comments to compliment Cipolla and his Committee:

"We noticed the subtle things, that only a person who professionally handled large groups before, would have considered. Some were: the quality of the 91st BGMA caps given us; the new squadron patches available; the inviting of the British Consul, a Naval Captain, the ANG Colonel and their wives to our dinner - and their presence there; the "Posting the Colors" ceremony; the first appearance of the 91st BGMA flag conceived by and provided by Sam Cipolla; the appearance of the AF Color Guard at the dinner and the excellent group rate negotiated for our Convention's stay at a 5 Star hotel.

"The delicious choices on the dinner menu, the beautiful silver service coffee/tea setting at the Business Meeting, the planned tours that went off without a hitch - on time - must also be mentioned. No doubt, the whole program was well thought out. The souvenir booklets, containing congratulations from President Reagan; the Mayor of Chicago and the local Congressman welcoming us, were outstanding, to say the least. You all worked together well, fellas. The Father Ragan Memorial Service was a fitting, ending tribute on Sunday morning and helped solidify the lasting memory we'll cherish forever."

No doubt about it, the Chicago Convention Committee members must have done something good!

1989-1991 91st BGMA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Louis A (Tony) Montalvo
4154 Clubhouse Rd.
Lompoc, CA 93436
Phone: (805) 733-4272

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Harold Lieberman
13 Michnel Ct.
Hudson, NY 12534
Phone: (518) 828-3040

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

James M. Bacon
26725 W. Warren St.
Dearborn Heights, MI 48172
Phone: (313) 563-1972

HISTORIAN

Hiliary (Bud) Evers
21 Barony Lane
Hilton Head, SC 29928
Phone: (803) 681-5304

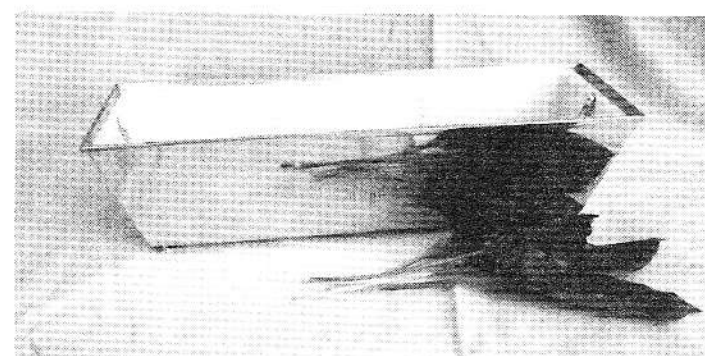
EDITOR

Rudolph (Rudy) Malkin
1643 Thetford Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21204
Phone: (301) 337-0782

Editor's Note: Unforeseen BY-LAW complications made it impossible to determine the 1989-1991 incumbents of the SECRETARY and TREASURER Offices sought by Charles R. Hackstock of Kent, WA and Charles V. Welbes of Mountain Home, ARK. The Jan. 1989 R/I will publish the arbitrated conclusion along with the names and addresses of the numerous Committee Chairmen already appointed by Pres-Elect Montalvo.



Convention ceremonies included the presentation of numerous awards. L-R are: Convention Chairman Sam Cipolla and his wife are presented framed 91st BG(H) cloth insignia patches by Pres. Paul Chryst (right) for their untiring efforts as the Reunion Hosts. - Retired MSGT Otto E. Meikus receives an engraved 91st BGMA plaque for travelling the furthest to attend the



The replacement for the original, stolen silver bowl, donated by the 91st BGMA in 1963 to the Chapel on the American Military Cemetery at Madingly, England, has been approved by Wash. DC. officialdom. Pictured above, the replacement will be personally delivered to the Madingly Cemetery Superintendent by Pres. Chryst sometime in Oct. 1988. Formal dedication ceremonies are planned for sometime in 1989.

BY-LAW CHANGES PASSED

THE FOLLOWING BY-LAW AMENDMENTS WERE approved by majority vote of the membership at the Chicago Reunion Business Meeting and the hand count of the Absentee Ballots returned:

ARTICLE VII. OFFICERS

Section 1. The following sentence to be added after the first sentence:

"The term of office for the principal officers, with the exception of the President Emeritus, shall be for a period of two years beginning the 1st day of January following the elections."

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

Section 1. The first sentence changed to read:

"The moneys of the Association shall be deposited into two accounts - Operational and Memorial - in the name of the Association in such bank or banks as the President (in conjunction with the Treasurer) shall designate."

Section 2. The second sentence changed to read:

"Operational expenditures will be made for those expenses normally associated with an Association of this type, and shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following purposes."

After paragraph (g) add new paragraph (h) to read:

"(h) Funds from the Memorial Account will be used for the purchase and maintenance (including appropriate memorial wreaths) of approved memorials."

Change old paragraph (h) to "(i)."

ARTICLE VIII. FINANCES

Section 3. The first sentence to read:

"The members of the Association shall pay annual dues to the Association of ten dollars (\$10) on a calendar year basis, one dollar (\$1) of which will be deposited into the Memorial Account. Life membership shall remain at \$100, however, ten dollars (\$10) of each new life membership fee will also be deposited into the Memorial Account."

A suggestion to favor a "musical chair" policy whereby the next President would normally have served a lesser officer position before being eligible to become President was not resolved. It was "tabled" for future discussion and/or action.



Convention from Pres. Chryst (left). Meikus and his wife came from Cambridge, England. - Jim Dumouchel was surprised by his wife and family's gift of a 91st BGMA Life Membership and plaque which were presented to him by Pres. Chryst (far left). Faber Cripps' (far right) new Life Membership was also presented to him during the ceremony.

324th SQ's OTTO E. MEIKUS CAMBRIDGE RESIDENT

CONTROL TOWER MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEMBER AND Member of the Friends of the Eighth Air Force Otto E. Meikus traveled the furthest to attend the recent 91st BGMA Chicago Convention.

One of the volunteers who helps Vince Hemmings maintain the Bassingbourn museum with "cleaning, painting and maintenance just about every Tuesday," Meikus is a former 324th Sq crew-chief who now resides in Cambridge, England. The 91st BGMA plaque presented to him by Pres. Paul Chryst for travelling the furthest is "immensely appreciated," he said.

Originally from Wisconsin, Meikus was among the original 91sters. One of the planes he and his crew maintained was "Jack the Ripper" which he recalls never aborted while compiling 55 to 60 missions. Once it was so shot up it took months to repair it.

Because of the many elapsed years Meikus is cautious about remembering somethings emphatically. An example is his recollecting that "Jack the Ripper's" first crew painted mission bombs on the plane's left side - later crews painted the bombs on the right side and added a pin-up picture.

"You better check on that," he cautioned listeners during a long convention chat.

Accompanying him on his State-side trip which included visiting relatives, was his English bride, Gladys. The two met at the Rex Ballroom in Cambridge during the war and Mrs. Meikus says her initial interest in him was augmented by the fact that she found him "not too bad a dancer." They married in 1945 and she followed him to the States a year later as a War Bride.

Another early "plus" he possessed during their courtship surfaced in 1985, the Meikus' laughingly recalled. She was interviewed "a bit" for an NBC documentary on English War Brides and during the interview she blurted out another reason she originally liked going out with him. "With Otto I ate steak," she says, "whereas when I went out with an Englishman it was usually Fish and Chips!"

They never saw the documentary but an American friend wrote and said she saw it, recognized Gladys and heard her say it.

The pleasantness of the Meikus' first 91st BGMA Convention was considerably enhanced by meeting again the former crew-chief of "Pandora's Box" and "Great Speckled Bird," Russel Chamberlain. Chamberlain was the Best Man at the Meikus' wedding in England 43 years ago. His English War Bride died some years ago.

Familial responsibilities dictated the Meikus' English residency. The illness of Mrs. Meikus' mother required them to first return to England in 1953 for a year. Susequent necessary returns constantly required Otto to seek new employment on both sides of the Atlantic. In 1962 they decided to remain in England.

Now retired from his last position as Garage Manager of a Cambridge Volvo firm, Otto, though still an American citizen, has acquired many English traits.

He doesn't say "garage" the way we do. Offered an American cigarette, he said it would kill him. He prefers his own "so mild" English brand. And, though he and his wife say tea is no longer the dominant English drink, they both departed after one afternoon chat for "a bit of tea."

In addition to the subtle characteristics that now differentiate him from his old friends, he looks like an Englishman. This conclusion was silently arrived upon when the R/I first met and spoke to him at the convention. Higher authorities than the R/I are of the same opinion regarding the 324th's former crew-chief Otto E. Meikus. The producers of a sequel to the film "Winds of War" selected him to portray a Member of Parliament in a bit part of their yet to be released new miniseries, "War and Remembrance." The ABC film is a 30 hour production. The first 18 hours will be aired in November.

If English residency has changed him over the years, the years have also changed England, he says. Visiting 91sters will note the famous fog has been greatly diminished by modern heating systems; the center of old Cambridge is now a shopping center; pubs now serve food; Kohlsberg beer is popular; London seems to be becoming "cluttered" (he remembers it "clean") and living is more expensive than in the States.

"The good news," he says, "is Bassingbourn basically looks the same."

CHICAGO CONVENTION DELEGATES LISTED

A-I

EDWARD AND BLANCHE AHTYE, ROGER AND GLORIA Armstrong and John and Jackie Askins.

James and Rene Bacon, Nicholas and Mary Bankovsky, J. Addison and Mary Bartush, Donald Beal, Betty Bedwell, Donald and Marie Bird, George and Eileen Birdsong, Jr., Arnold and Charis Brown, Norman and Ellen Bryant, James and Clarice Bullock, John Bunch and Ray Bursey.

Joseph Camelleri, Bennett Carey, Manual Carter, Dale and Inez Cass, Andrew Caswell, Paul and Nancy Chryst, Sam and Mary Cipolla, Robert and Roma Cleveland, Phillip and Nadine Collins, John Conway, Owen Cooper, John Coyne, Faber and Mary Cripps, Robert and Margaret Crist, Eugene Cruse, James Cullen and Ronald Current.

W. Burl Dalton, Robert and Jeanne Dean, Harold DeBolt, Peter and Thelma DeBoy, William and Ruth Dietrich, Edward Dobrinski, Frank Donofrio, George and Margaret Dowell and James and Evelyn Dumouchel.

William and Alma Eblen, Charles Eichert, Gerald and Dody Engstad and Hillary (Bud) Evers.

Clayton and Frederica Ferree, Frank and Mary Fornaca and Joseph and Alberta Franke.

Avery and Jean Gage, Vincent and Louise Garafalo, Elon and Bettie Gaston, Edward, Joan and Ted Gates, Elmer and Ruth Gettis, Joseph Giambrone.

Harry, Shirley and Rich Glen, Marvin and Betty Goldberg, George and Ellen Grashoff, Charles and Augusta Hackstock, John and Catherine Hamner, Rollie and Mary Hill, W.W. Hill, Edward and Margaret Hoevet, Robert and Caroline Hoffman, Marion and Bernita Hoffman, Harry E. Hovermill and Charles Hudson.

John and Evelyn Irak

J-Q

Ed and Dorothy Jackman, Asay and Gloria Johnson, Harold and Phyllis Johnson, Raymond and Mimi Jones, Edward and Ruth Kaiserski, Bernard and Esther Kajewski, John Karlac, E. Robert Kelley, Jerold Kethley, Robert Kleyia, Sr., William and Evelyn Koch, William Koranda, Otto Krause, Robert and Ruth Krusen, John and Madeline Kuryio, and William and Lorraine Kuschell.

Eldon R. Lapp, W.C. "Bill" and Mrs. Leasure, Tom Lennon, Harold and Harriet Lieberman, Hank Lilley, Paul, Jeanie and Helen Limm, Howell and Irene Loper, Albert Lucia, Gerald and Sara Ludwig.

Allea and Betty Maginness, Rudy Malkin, Andrew and Lorraine Manzano, Charles and Phillis Marrah, Russell Mattson, Richard and Margaret McCoy, George and Joan McEwen, William and Celinda McGavern, William McNicol, Otto and Gladys Meikus, Fred and Betty Mellon, Jimmie and Sandra Mills, Harold and Mae Mitchamore, Louis (Tony) Montalvo, Donald and Betty Moucha, Lauren and Dorothy Mummert, Julian and Mary Murdock, Richard and Lorraine Murphy.

Marvin and Demetra Nichols and William and Susan Nocitra.

Spencer Osterberg and Lawrence Ott.

John R. and Chung Oak Parson, Jr., Earl Pate, John and Mary Peluse, Steve and Nancy Perri, Robert Powers, John and Naomi Pulen and William and Rayeina Pulliam.

R-Z

Arthur W. and Jane K. Rowe, and David I and Polly Ryan.

Robert and June Schuck, Clifford Schultz, Max and Sylvia Shambaugh, James and Lou Shoesmith, Grant Siddoway, Seymour and Bertha Simpson, Lewis and Maldarine Simpson, Armando and Norma Sinabaldo, Robert D. Smith, Kenneth and Virginia Smith, Dick Smith, Loryc and Annie Sonnier and Herman and Hilda Steiner.

Nicholas Terefenko and John and Shirley Townsend.

John and Florence Unger.

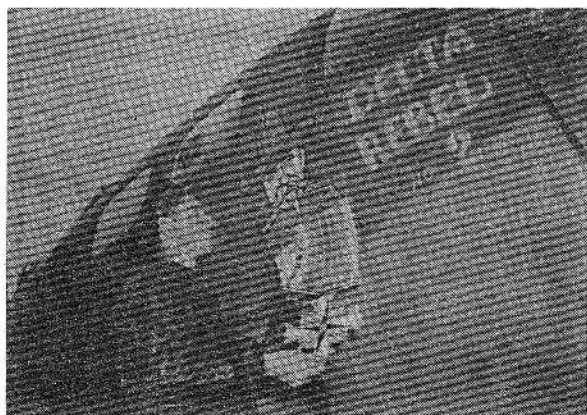
R. Clifford Vrooman.

Charles and Mary Walker, Jr., John and Sandra Wallace, John Wallin, Herbert and Ilse Weinberger, Carlisle (Bud) Wells, James and Eloise Wiley, Jr., Howard Wilson, Bill and Laura Winchell, Hugh and Ruby Winfree and James and Bernic Witter.

Troy Young and Rufus and Peggy Youngblood.

William Zauner.

A KIND OF BOOK REVIEW

BASSINGBOURN'S "BILLY"
IN BIRDSONG'S BOOK

Then-Capt. George P. Birdsong (323rd) awards his plane a DFC after it completed 25 missions during the difficult, early operations of the 91st BG(H). "Delta Rebel No. 2" (25077-ORT) was among the four 91st planes later lost during the Gelsenkirchen raid on Aug. 12, 1943 while being flown by 1Lt. Thompson. This is one of the many historical photos included in Birdsong's recently released book.

MEMBER CHARLES "CHUCK" GALIAN'S HUMOROUS article in the July 1988 R/I regarding the belligerent "Billy" charging about the 91st's Bassingbourn Base closed with questions.

Two books on 91st BG(H) history answer all but, "What happened to him?"

The first book, unpublished, by Lt. Charles Carlton Brechler, the 91st's war-time Public Relations Officer, first shed more light on the "Billy" goat affair. (91st BGMA Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers had sent a xeroxed copy of Brechler's, "Wray's Ragged Irregulars" manuscript earlier to the editor for persual.)

In Brechler's excellent account of early 91st operations mention is made of Base mascots. "Red Line" was not alone. The existence of a goat on the Base is confirmed by Brechler who closed his mascot paragraph with the phrase "...and one squadron kept a goat named 'Amitol.'"

Soon after discovering that bit of evidence that a goat was a regular resident at Bassingbourn the editor was ensnared by the other absorbing book.

The "other" is the recently released book, "Stormy Weather, a B-17," by Col. George P. Birdsong (he prefers to be called "George"), which coincidentally appeared on the market about a month after Galian's article in the R/I. It answers Galian's other questions. They were: "Who owned him? How did he get on the base?"

It's a great book and, once begun, is difficult to set aside.

His book is a trilogy - packed with action and humor. His account of "The Royal Air Force Affair" and surviving Col. Stanley T. Wray's wrath vies with the best of the combat text which is superb. (Birdsong's bombardier's contribution to the "affair" prompted the infuriated Wray to ask Birdsong if his bombardier was "...some kind of sadistic Anarchist?!!")

The account of Birdsong's disruption of the departure ceremonies for the War Bond Tour bound "Memphis Belle" is another gem.

After reading so many delightful anecdotes it wasn't surprising to learn, near the book's end, that Birdsong and his "errant" bombardier, Robert G. Abb, were the original owners of "Amitol," the goat that probably assailed Galian.

Writing about his last days at Bassingbourn, Birdsong says, "...That goat had grown from a small kid to almost full size, had a good set of horns, and liked to butt anything..."

"Amitol loved to eat cigarettes, but strangely, would not touch a Camel. Luckies, Old Golds, Chesterfields and Ralieghs he chomped, but he would turn up his nose at the smell of a Camel. Strange. Didn't know whether that was good or bad.

"Guess we'll just leave old Amitol with the new lads..."

Though Brechler's unpublished book identifies the Bassingbourn goat as "Amitol" while Birdsong calls him "Amotol," it is certain Galian's assailant has been identified. He was mascot of the 323rd Sq.

Now the R/I awaits the answer to Galian's last question, "What happened to him?" Anyone out there know?

Birdsong and his wife, Eileen, report that more than half of the first edition of "Stormy Weather, a B-17" has been sold with little or no advertisement. (All the books they brought to Chicago were gobbled up by 91st history hungry Conventionaires.)

Copies of his generously illustrated (including excellent diagrams clarifying the Combat Box Formation for all) hard cover book may be obtained from the Hambleden Publishing Co., P.O. Box 2681, Dublin, CA. 94568 which is presently the exclusive sales source. The price is \$17.95 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling. Californians ordering a book must add \$1.26 for sales tax.

It must be added that the editor is studiously avoiding the copy of "The Memphis Belle, Home at Last" book by Menno Duerksen sent him by Frank Donofrio of the Memphis Belle Memorial Assn. Having read into it a bit there is no doubt that it is such an attention grabber that 91st BGMAers would find the next R/I irksomely delayed if the editor now succumbed to its lure.

"The Memphis Belle, Home at Last" book may be obtained by writing: The Memphis Belle Memorial Assn., Attn: Frank Donofrio, P.O. Box 1942, Memphis, TN. 38101. Hardcover copies are \$15.95. Soft cover copies are \$9.95. A \$1.00 fee for postage and handling is required on all orders.

These books are two great chapters of 91st BG(H) history. Any 91ster wishing to treat himself or anyone wishing to treat a 91ster this coming Christmas should consider one or both as a gift which will be truly treasured.

(Birdsong invited comments from the R/I editor regarding his book. The only criticism worth noting is "George" failed to include at least one paragraph on how many "Rigid Digit Medals" the frustrated 91st BG(H) CO. Col. Wray probably thrust, with mixed emotions, upon the Excellent Problem-Pilot of the 323rd's "Delta Rebel II?")

ANXIOUS ANGEL CREWMEN AT BIG AND MINI REUNIONS

Two members of the 401st Sq's "Anxious Angel," Albert L. Lucia and Robert Powers, had a busy reunion schedule this past summer. They attended a crew reunion in Fredonia, NY late in June and the 91st BGMA Chicago Convention in early Sept.

Six of the crew and their wives held their second reunion in 42 years following the first one in Sacramento, CA last year. The big event was a Sunday Italian dinner at the Fredonia home of former Lt. Lucia, the crew's navigator. The reunion continued for a week while they toured area attractions.

One of the "Anxious Angel's" memorable times recalled was when Robert Powers, the engineer, had to kick out their bombs over the Zuider Sea after they failed to drop over Berlin. Radio Operator Joseph J. Mazaika held Powers by his parachute harness to keep him from accompanying the bombs.

Powers, while kicking the bombs, was in good hands. Mazaika became a priest after the war.



Displaying the welcome sign prepared by Lucia for the "Anxious Angel" reunion are, L-R: Chester Bolocinch, Tail Gunner; Col. Dick F. Gibson (Ret), Pilot; Lucia; Robert Powers, Engineer; Don E. Richter, Waist Gunner and the Rev. Joseph J. Mazaika, Radio Operator. They were unable to locate three remaining crew members.



Fawn Hall (left), former secretary to LTC Oliver North, perhaps first made news when she modeled the picture "Shoo Shoo Baby" T-Shirt. Such T-Shirt sales raised considerable funds for the plane's restoration. Also they may have stimulated interest in other 91st BG(H) Theme T-Shirt sales. In the center photo Spencer K. Osterberg (323rd), pilot of the Feb. 22, 1944 downed "Miss Ouachita," displays a T-Shirt with a photo of his plane being serviced at Basingbourn before her fall. The T-Shirt is being sold commercially on the West Coast, he says, and a friend sent him one. That's all he knows about his

recently acquired heirloom. In the right photo Richard Murphy (323rd) and his wife flank two pretty Chicago Convention guests who purchased "909" T-Shirts and caps from the murphys. Murphy, a former "909" Tail Gunner, is selling such memorabilia to raise funds for the restoration of the recently crash-damaged replica owned by the Collings Foundation of Stowe, MASS. Those interested in obtaining colorful "909" T-Shirts to help restore the plane can find Murphy's address in the 91st BGMA Directory.

OOPS! WE'RE NOT PERFECT!



"So, what's new?!"

● Recently the over 2,000 names on the R/I mailing list were processed by Sec. W.W. Hill in an effort to identify former 91st BGMAers and those so identified were sent "Reaching Out" letters. The purpose was to locate and urge them to again become active in the 91st BGMA.

The results of the mailing have been gratifying, saddening and embarrassing.

The good news is many former members rejoined. The sad news is many responses were belated death notices and others have been returned, stamped, "Address Unknown."

The embarrassment arose when, inadvertently, some of the "Reaching Out!" letters were mailed to active members. Sec. Hill wishes to personally apologize for any inconvenience caused Active Members who received "Reaching Out" letters.

● The new, June 1988 Directory for the 91st BGMA, like all prodigious projects, contains a few errors. Members are advised that the following page numbers should be changed as follows:

Page 21 to read 22
Page 22 to read 21

Page 23 to read 24
Page 24 to read 23

The R/I is pleased to announce that the Directory also contains at least four more errors! The following members are inadvertently listed in the Folded Wings section of the Directory. Computer data used to compile the Directory greatly exaggerated their demise. Members are requested to strike their names from the Directory's stricken list. Their addresses are included in the following list for those who may wish to write them and congratulate them on their recovery.

Roger W. Armstrong LM
9641 Skylark Blvd.
Garden Grove, CA 92641
William J. Nocitra FM
203D E Gleneagles Rd.
Ocala, FL 32907

Robert L. Schuck FM
15632 SE 288th St.
Kent, WA 98042
Rufus W. Youngblood FM
38 Clarendon Rd.
Savannah, GA 31410

Members are requested to submit other noted errors or required Directory changes to Sec. W.W. Hill, 4002 Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22312, A.S.A.P.

● The July 1988 R/I announced that "Sally B," a splendidly restored B17 owned by the Imperial War Museum would possibly attend the Aug. Genesco, NY "Wings of Eagles" Air Show. The article also stated donations to "The Sally B Fund" address at Genesco, NY would help defray the cost of the plane's Trans-Atlantic flight

Oops again! Linda E. Crook, Administrative Director of the National Warplane Museum of Genesco, called the R/I when

contributions from 91st BGMAers began arriving soon after the July R/I mailing. She said "Sally B" had not been scheduled to appear at the Upper NY State Air Show but graciously denied that an R/I apology was necessary. (The erroneous data was submitted in good faith to the R/I which had no reason to question its authenticity.) Ms. Crook assuaged the editor's embarrassment by stating "only a good paper" could elicit such prompt and generous response from its readers. (Eight 91st BGMAers sent a total of \$185.00. The contributions came from Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Florida, Indiana and California!)

All donations to "The Sally B Fund" were returned by the National Warplane Museum of Genesco, NY which also strove to fulfill all the commitments pledged in the R/I story.

Some 85,000 people attended the Aug. 13-21 Air Show. Ms. Crook believes the R/I blunder gained some new friends for her organization.

SECRETARY'S PRODUCTIVE ACTIVISM COSTLY

The 91st BGMA's activist Sec. W.W. Hill mailed a mass of First Class postal card sized announcements pertaining to the departure of "Shoo Shoo Baby" from the Dover, AFB, DE on Oct. 13, 1988 to Wright Patterson AFB, OH. The expense of the special notice to the membership was borne by Hill. No Association funds were used.

Hill's postcard announcement prompted the editor and photographer John Hohman, AM, to attend and take "Take-Off" photos. Reports from Hohman indicate the Jan. 1989 R/I will have "Shoo Shoo Baby" "Take-Off" pictures! Photos of her arrival at Wright Patterson AFB taken by 91st BGMAers are solicited to complete the coverage of her possibly final flight.

Members wishing to help Sec. Hill defray the cost of his mailing should send their donations to: W.W. Hill, 4002 Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA, 22312.

The R/I takes this opportunity to thank Sec. Hill for the "Take-Off" photos which will appear in the next issue.

Folded Wings

- BROWN, PHILLIP L., 401st, RR 6, Saint Stephen, NB E3L 2A3 Canada.
- KNOWLES, HARRY L., LM, 322nd, 74 Oakcroft Dr., Madison Heights, VA 24572.
- TAYLOR, JOHN S., AM, 407 Mills Dr., Benicia, CA 94510. Reported by his wife, Mary.
- VAN DYKE, ROY, LM, 324th, (POW), 504 N Elm, Jefferson, IA 50129.

PHOTO BLOW-UP REVEALS WAR-TIME "SHOO SHOO BABY"

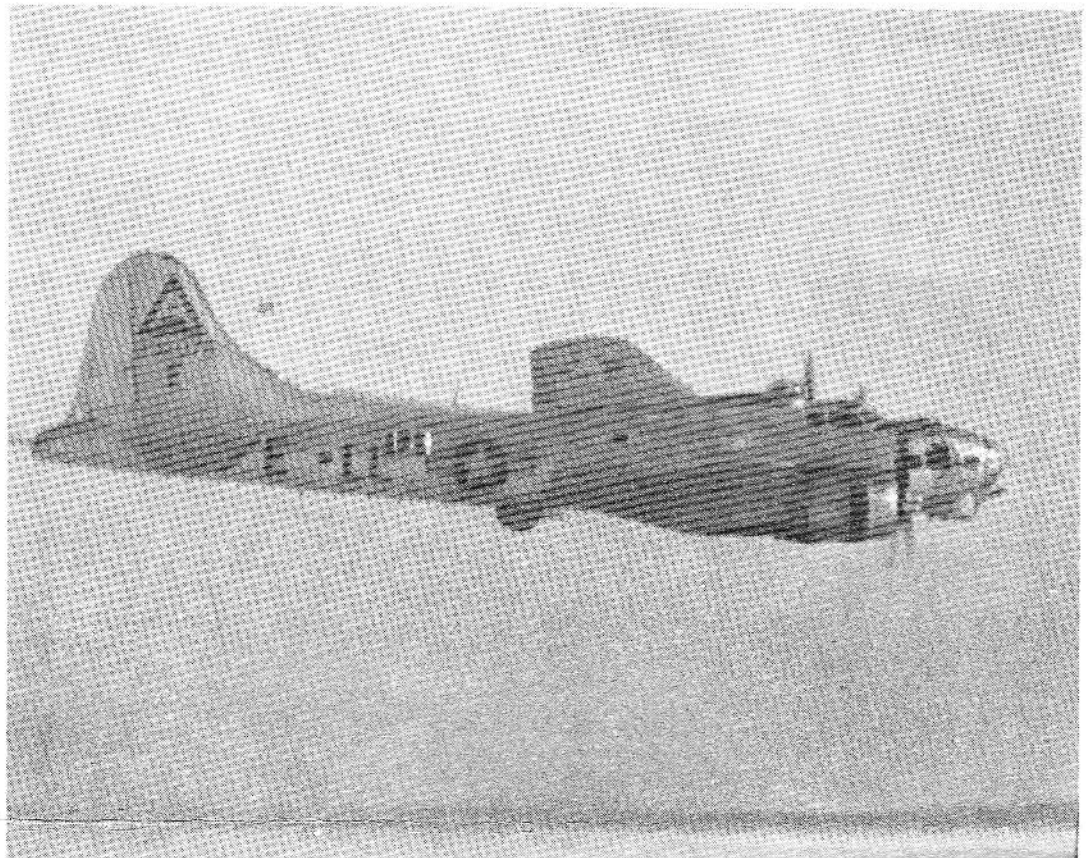
Originally, the article below bore the head-line, "WWII 401st FORMATION PHOTOS SLATED FOR SCOTTISH MUSEUM." Though no illustration was intended to accompany it, the 401st formation photo that had been used in the Jan. 1988 R/I was scrutinized with a magnifying glass.

The scrutiny produced the suspicion that one of the pictured planes was "Shoo Shoo Baby" doing her thing.

An enlargement confirmed the suspicion!

The original bare metal finish of "Shoo Shoo Baby" (232078, E-LL) is apparent in the photo. Because 16 years of neglect outdoors caused deterioration of the alacalade skin coating, the 512th MAW of Dover, DE AFB, included painting her in the proper colors for Forts before the bare metal finish came into use.

This photo was taken by then-Lt Allan N. Morey while a Co-Pilot with the 401st Sq. More "Shoo Shoo Baby" restoration news is included in this issue.



THE JAN. 1988 R/I FEATURED AN ARTICLE ON FORMER Maj. John D. Davis' 401st crew which was accompanied by a never before published war-time photo of a 401st formation. The photo was taken by former 1Lt. Allan Morey while he was co-pilot on the crew.

Some years ago Morey entrusted his re-discovered negatives to the present R/I editor "for possible use." Later, Photographer John Hohman, AM generously made a few enlargements from the negatives. A copy of each of the excellent enlargements was sent to Morey.

John Fleming, of Scotland, is deeply involved in obtaining historical exhibits for the three "General Eisenhower Rooms," in the Culzean Maybole Ayrshire Castle, donated by the people of the "West" of Scotland.

The growing display of historical items in the "General Eisenhower Rooms" is an expression of "the Local gratitude felt for what US Service Men did for the 'Scotts' in WWII," Fleming says.

After seeing Morey's formation shot in the R/I Fleming wrote him. His request for a copy of the photo for hanging in the "Eisenhower Rooms" included apologies for "intruding" upon Morey's "privacy" and any inconvenience caused him.

Morey, who remembers Scotland fondly, responded by sending all of his enlargements to Fleming. It is certain that all 91st BGMAers join the R/I in thanking Fleming, Morey and Hohman for their combined interest, generosity and skill which has made this particular preservation of 91st BG(H) memorabilia possible.

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR

These newsletters are published quarterly. October, January, April and July are the scheduled publication months. The R/I's purpose is to keep alive the spirit of the 91st Bombardment Group (H) and to maintain the fellowship of all those who fought together in World War II from AF Station 121 in Basingstoun, England from 1942 to 1945.

Material for publication should be sent to the Editor, Rudy Malkin, 1643 Thetford Rd., Balto., Md. 21204. "Time-Value" items must be received three weeks before the first day of the month of publication to permit necessary priority consideration for inclusion in that issue. Every effort will be made to utilize other submitted material in the scheduled or later R/I issues.

91st BG Memorial Assn.
Charles Hackstock
14224 SE 288th ST.
Kent, WA 98042

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED.

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BALTIMORE, MD
PERMIT NO. 1324

LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU MOVE!