

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



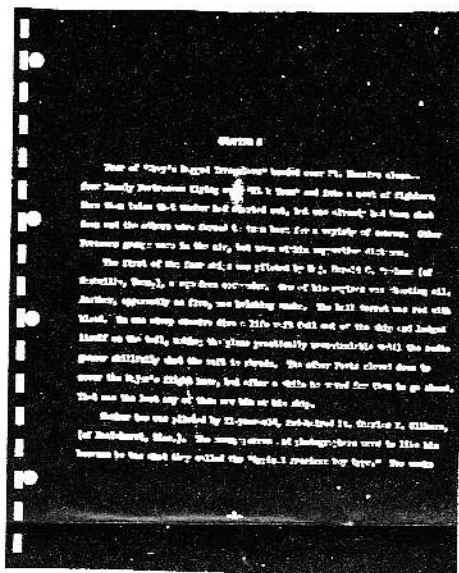
401st SQDN

Vol. 23 No. 2

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

April, 1990

FIRST 91ST HISTORY "BOOK" AVAILABLE!



ONE BARELY DECIPHERABLE MICROFILMED PAGE OF LT C Carlton's book, "WRAY'S RAGGED IRREGULARS," appears on the left, above. In the center is a reproduction of the same page after Michael C

WRAY'S RAGGED IRREGULARS, 1942-1943; BY LT C Carlton Brechler; 131 pages. \$15.00.

DIGNITARIES, OFFICIALS and the newsworthy were drawn to Bassingbourn, the Country Club-like base of the 91st BG(H), during the early days of America's participation in WWII. King George and Queen Elizabeth, Sir Stafford Cripps, Robert A Lovett, US Assistant Secretary of War for Air and Actor Clark Gable are but a few of those who came for first hand knowledge of the 8th AF's experiment with daylight precision bombing during the winter and spring of 1942-43.

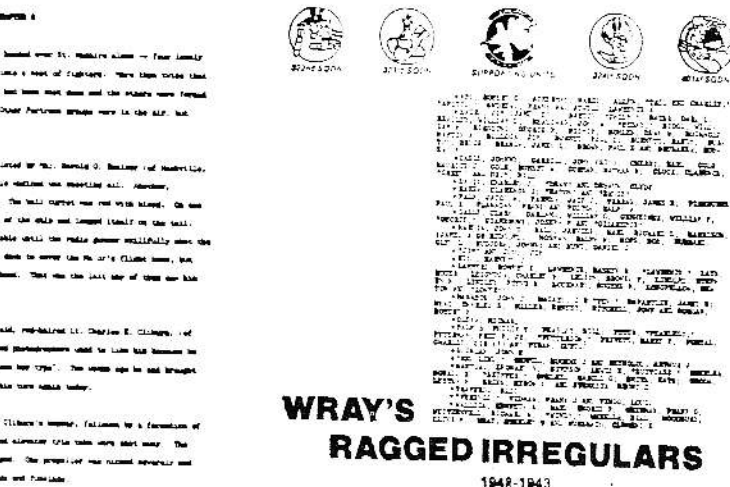
Maxwell Anderson, the American Playwright, also visited Bassingbourn during those early days. His sensitivity as a dramatist inspired him to exceed the usual response impressed visitors mustered when, congratulating 91st crews, they could only lamely wish them well on coming missions.

Anderson, "amazed at the wealth of human and exciting stories" permeating the early operations, suggested to the

(Continued on Page 2)



MICHAEL C RHEAM - HISTORY helper



WRAY'S RAGGED IRREGULARS

1942-1943

BY LT C CARLTON BRECHLER

Rheam's dedicated re-typing. The "cover-copy" provided with purchases of the 8 1/2 x 11 "manuscript-book" is on the right.

"MEMPHIS BELLE" INSPIRATION, MARGARET POLK, DIES AT 67

MARGARET POLK, whose WWII relationship with then Capt Robert K Morgan, 323rd, generated international head-lines, died early in April of cancer. She was 67.

Morgan named his plane the "Memphis Belle" after her and the War Department publicized the relationship to help sell War Bonds after Morgan and his crew returned to the States early in 1943.

Publicity pressures upon her and Morgan, however, led to a mutual agreement to end their war-time romance. Remaining friends, they often appeared together at functions honoring the restored "Memphis Belle" in the Belle Pavillion on Mud Island in Memphis, TN.

After the war Ms Polk returned to college, served as an airline flight attendant and, for a number of years was

MARGARET POLK (1943)



(Continued on Page 3)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY TONY MONTALVO

COOPERATION

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE R/I, WHICH WAS BASICALLY a Ballot for voting in the August 1990 BGMA election, was mailed to the membership prior to this regular April issue.

As you know, the last election was somewhat disorganized and as a result we could not really feel comfortable with the results. It took a little time before the results of the election could be defined and certified. I would consider it a personal favor if you voted by executing the Ballot provided and mailing the executed Ballot to the address indicated before you left for the Seattle Reunion. If this is not possible, wait and cast your vote at the Reunion but be aware that the By-Laws, as interpreted by the Elections Committee and with whose interpretation I concur, do not allow for nominations from the floor at the Reunion. Mailing your executed Ballot to the address indicated will simplify considerably the task of certifying and counting the Ballots and assure that we can announce the results with certainty, at the Reunion's Business Meeting. Write-ins are allowed. If you have a favorite candidate whose name does not appear on the Ballot, please write his name in.

Time really flies! It seems like only yesterday that, upon taking over the reins of the Association, I asked the Lord to guide me in setting a course that would result in ameliorating any wounds from which we may have suffered and, thereby, strengthening our Association. Only you, the members, can say whether or not I may have achieved any modicum of success! I only know that many have helped and very few have hindered the attainment of my self assigned goal.

I hope all of you are planning to attend the Seattle Reunion and ... God willing ... I'll see you there. Since my term of office does not expire until December, I may still be able to further some of my goals. And, I can use all the help I can get! So if you have any ideas or suggestions, contact me and let's see what we can put together. I'm sure our new leader will appreciate any help we can give him.

God Bless ...

91ST HISTORY

(Continued from Page 1)

91st's PIO, Lt C Carlton Brechler, that a collection of the stories in book form be made.

Anderson believed the "stories in book form not only would be of interest to the public but, perhaps, would do Americans a lot of good." It is not unlikely the dramatist in him also saw such a book as a means of providing a small, permanent niche in literature for those spear-heading one of history's great crusades.

Anderson's suggestion challenged Brechler, a 1938 U of Wisconsin journalism graduate with a few years of UP work behind him.

Though he'd never written anything longer than "an article," Brechler began writing his book in June 1943. Like a newspaperman, he went to base personnel for direct quotations and "personally written accounts..." In Nov 1943 he wrote Capt William Crum, 324th, whose crew and he had

been returned to the States to help War Bond sales, "I finally got around to doing it... it is not a completed story. As I am typing this (letter) the Forts are roaring overhead. ...Judy and Cherry of the 'Three Men on a Fort' story (Chap 14) were lost about a month ago."

BGen Frederick L Anderson, Commanding General, 8th Bomber Command, subsequently wrote an "Introduction" to Brechler's "incompleted story." Anderson called it "the story of all 8th Bomber Command Groups...in the United Kingdom during the winter and spring of 1942-43."

"...America owes a debt of gratitude. For through their magnificent courage...they laid the foundation for a mounting offensive against the enemy," he said.

Brechler's Book, in manuscript form, was widely distributed and applauded during the War. It is not difficult to imagine that more pressing war-time matters precluded the time consuming efforts required for its publication.

After the war the manuscript became but a bit of the 91st's microfilmed historical records stored at Maxwell Field, AL.

Subsequently, after declassification, former R/I Editor and 91st BGMA Historian Paul Burnett obtained a microfilmed copy of Brechler's book. The microfilming process provided less than readily readable copy. Deciphering it is a formidable task - even for someone with no demands upon his time.

Upon succeeding Burnett after his lengthy, dedicated service to the 91st BGMA, present Historian Hiliary "Bud" Evers' attention was drawn to the microfilm manuscript. He obtained "Film #BO-172, Materials Declassified By AFFHRC in accordance with DOD, DIR. 5200.9" from the 91st BG(H) Historical Records. Apparent improvements in document reproduction provided a more workable source.

(Rather than slight anyone, the R/I must record that a former member of Crum's crew first undertook the chore of having Brechler's manuscript retyped. Garbled notes from phone communications with Evers and Crum's original Radio Operator, Pete DeBoy, MD, suggest he was Crum's Navigator, W C Leasure, PA. That initial contribution advanced the salvaging of the book immensely.)

Later, Michael C Rheam, PA, received bundles of loose leaf papers from Evers. Rheam (who flew as a "Mickey" Operator with the 324th, Squadron Navigator with the 401st and Group "Mickey" Operator during his 91st BG(H) service) and his wife and secretary organized the paper bundles.

The bundles were papers pertaining to Brechler's manuscript.

Organizing and subsequent retyping required hundreds of hours.

The end product Rheam produced is 131 pages of double spaced type-written copy containing "You-Are-There" accounts of the 91st's earliest history divided into 14 chapters.

The R/I has methodically re-read the manuscript and recorded references to identified individuals. Brechler was a newspaperman. Names and hometowns were important parts of his data. Consequently some 136 names appear.

The Editor, like most R/I readers, did not participate in 91st pioneer operations. Here and there familiar names in the book strike him. A few are: Stanley T Wray, George Birdsong, Paul C Burnet, Robert W Cole, Robert G Abb,

(Continued on Page 3)

91ST HISTORY

(Continued from Page 2)

Robert K Morgan, Joseph M Giambrone and "Red Line." The names are only familiar because the Editor has access to unpublished writings, letters, documents and the fact that some survived - making personal contact possible.

It has been a distinct honor to work with, and, to varying degrees, get to know some of the individuals mentioned in Brechler's book. Among those readily recalled are: Morgan, Birdsong, and Giambrone. The others, whose names appear, are people of the past who shaped the future.

The contents of Brechler's book range from an explanation of the origin of "Ragged Irregulars;" the first losses incurred over St Nazaire when only four Forts reached the target (two majors, four captains and 14 others failed to return and the first wounded were among the few returning); the fact that most pressure for more publicity for Groundcrews came from Aircrews who depended upon and trusted them explicitly and numerous first and second hand accounts of the first ordeals many later 91sters would also endure before the war's end.

In his 1988 "Report to Members" 91st BGMA Historian Hiliary "Bud" Evers said the "R/I was the only chronicle of our record" when he volunteered for his post. (Three preliminary studies by Paul Andrews and David Kuklok provided invaluable data.) Evers also reported he had at that time obtained 12 rolls of microfilm containing over 10,000 91st records from Maxwell Field, AL and Suitland, MD. The completion of the retyping of Brechler's Manuscript and its consequent availability to all 91st BGMAers is but the surfaced tip of the mountain of historical data his and others' "behind-the-scenes" labor has produced.

(Evers' 1988 report also records that 91st BGMAer William G. Potter, NB, is another dedicated member who responded to his persuasiveness in enlisting membership involvement. Potter, 324th, "Little Jean's" Navigator when she was shot down during the Jan 11, 1944 Oschersleben, Germany raid, is working on an account of that day when the 91st earned a Presidential Unit Citation.)

Brechler's book reads fast. Former 401st Lead Navigator Frank I Varva, PA praised the terse style which records deeds that need no embellishment.

Readers will have to forgive a few "Ooopses." As indicated earlier the microfilm reproductions of Brechler's manuscript required tedious and patient study by all who worked with them. And those who survived those early days and find themselves recorded in the manuscript will have to forgive Brechler. He sometimes calls them "boys" while recording their manly deeds.

Those who impatiently await a "91st BG(H) History" will do themselves a dis-service by not obtaining this big chapter of our proud past.

NOTICE!

PLEASE NOTE THAT LT CARLTON BRECHLER'S "Book," "Wray's Ragged Irregulars," being offered for sale by the 91st BGMA, is *not* a bound book. Purchasers will receive *unbound*, retyped Xeroxed copies of the manuscript prepared by Life Member Michael C Rheam. Purchasers may have the pages bound at local print shops at their own expense or hole the pages for insertion in readily

available ringed notebooks. Front and back thicker paper covers are provided with each purchase. Four dollars and seventy five cents of the total \$15.00 price will be deposited in the 91st BGMA General Fund. The remainder of the cost covers reproduction and mailing.

To order your manuscript send a \$15.00 check to: 91st BGMA, Charles V Welbes, Treas; 210 Leatherwood Dr, Mountain Home, AR 72653.

MARGARET POLK

(Continued from Page 1)

married.

Her last years, she was quoted recently in a lengthy article, became the "happiest time of my life."

A dozen roses from Morgan greeted her in the hospital after a serious heart operation a few years ago. Morgan and his wife were often house guests at her Memphis home. The walls of the den in her home are still lined with photos of B17's.

When her illness progressed a Margaret Polk Medical Fund was established in Memphis. F Donofrio, Pres, Memphis Belle Memorial Asso, was one of the founders of the fund.

In addition to her inescapable involvement in activities pertaining to the restored "Memphis Belle" she contributed immensely to a self-help group and other local civic and charitable organizations. She depreciated her contributions by saying such activities helped her prepare for her own death.

In summarizing the past, she said, "Even if it was a bumpy ride, it's all right if you land on your feet."

Ms Polk's newsworthiness persisted to her death. An AP story in a Pottstown, PA paper pertaining to that appeared on the front page. The story contained the following quote from Col Robert K Morgan, Ret, of Asheville, NC:

"She was a courageous lady, and I'd like for her to be remembered as an upbeat person who never had a bad word for anybody."

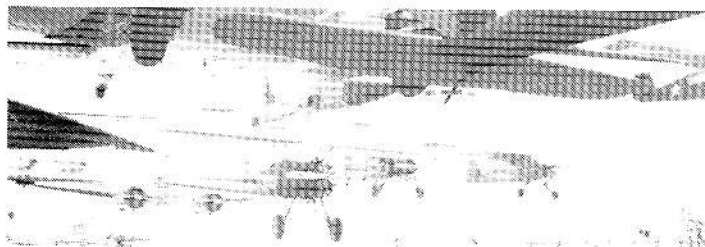
REUNION PLANNING URGED

THE 1992 91ST BGMA NATIONAL CONVENTION REUNION will be held in the eastern area of the USA, in a city to be chosen by a Reunion Site Selection Committee. Although this committee is still being formed, all 91sters living in the eastern US who are interested in hosting the 1992 Reunion, are urged to begin planning by outlining the advantages of holding the Reunion in their respective cities.

Members at the Seattle Reunion may present preliminary plans to the current and new administrations, and all other Reunion attendees, either at the General Business Meeting or at a later scheduled time. This procedure's purpose is to identify the level of area interest in hosting the 1992 Reunion.

When the Reunion Site Selection Committee is activated, information will be provided for the interested parties. All groups seeking to host a Reunion must then send proposals to the Committee Chairman for consideration and evaluation. The Reunion Site Selection Committee will then choose the top three plans and submit them to a membership vote.

PRE-REGISTRATION URGED FOR SEATTLE DELEGATES



**THE MUSEUM OF FLIGHT, A SEATTLE, WA ATTRACTION, AWAITS
91st BGMA Aug 1990 Convention Delegates.**

THE AUG 22-26, 1990 91ST BGMA SEATTLE, WA 15TH National Biennial Convention, based upon early membership response, could be "A BIG ONE." That is the opinion of one cautious Convention Official who requests anonymity because, despite his jubilation, he believes delegates should not be counted before registered.

The RED LION Inn SEATAC (850 deluxe rooms), site of the Convention, is located one mile from Seattle's airport. Free transportation is provided between it and the airport.

The 91st BGMA Secretary, Charles R Hackstock, is the Convention Contact for reservation information.

"Pre-registration is a must to avoid a surcharge for the inconvenience of obtaining additional transportation, catering and other arrangements required for participation in Convention activities," he says.

He and his Committee have compiled an eight page brochure covering all material pertaining to registration, reservations and participation in Convention site related activities.

The bulk of the comprehensive, all-questions-answered brochure precluded its insertion in this issue of the R/I to the full membership.

Any member, however, may obtain a brochure by writing (postcards will do) or calling Hackstock and requesting a "Seattle Convention Brochure" and including a legible return address. Brochures are ready for mailing now.

Written requests for brochures should be sent to: CHARLES R HACKSTOCK, 14224 SE 288th St, KENT, WA 98042. Those wishing to phone their request may reach him at: (206) 631-3978.

The site of the forthcoming 91st BGMA Convention is known as the "Gateway to America's Newest West Coast Playground." Seattle-King County was also voted America's No. 1 Recreational City for four consecutive years.

Spectacular views await visitors. The Pacific's combers crashing upon the coast line, mountains, rolling wheat fields, vast fruit orchards, gleaming cities, the mighty turbulence of the Columbia River, deserts, rain forests, Puget Sound, Grand Coulee Dam, etc offer unforgettable diversity for those able to linger and savor it all. Of particular interest to all Delegates should be The Museum of Flight and the Boeing Aircraft Co. Shoo Shoo Baby's birthplace.

The RED LION Inn/SEATAC, The Convention site, consists of seven three story wings and a 17 story tower in which, it is anticipated, 91st BGMA activity will be centered. Material supplied the R/I indicates the Hospitality Room will have ready access to the Roof Terrace. A wind-protected swimming pool is available.

Details of Convention Tour plans are included in the

Brochures mailed to members requesting them. Golfing, fishing, hiking and camping are possible within 45 minutes of downtown Seattle; the delights of Pacific Northwest seafood and cuisine abound; the charming Pike Street Public Market invites casual browsing and shopping for designer clothing, traditional crafts and weavings all await to make the Seattle Convention a memorable one.

CONTACT HACKSTOCK NOW FOR YOUR BROCHURE!

ENGLAND PLANS TO CELEBRATE 8th

(Continued from Page 8)

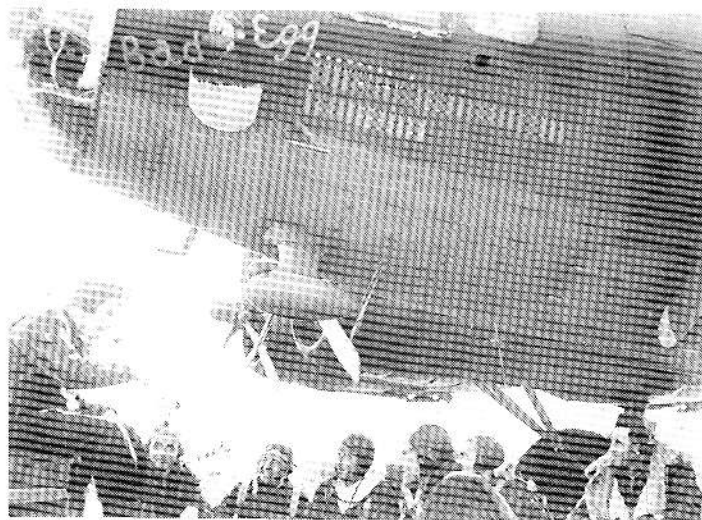
The EATB's mailings will contain details of special events, special heritage trails, flying displays, Glen Miller-type concerts and dances, film shows, exhibitions, street parties and memorial services being arranged.

Jane Sullivan, project co-ordinator, points out that throughout the seven months celebration there will be continuing, organized festivities. So, no matter when American AF veterans return during that period the celebration will be in full fling.

"Whenever you return," she informed the R/I, "there will be something for you to see and do."

Family members of USAAF veterans are included in EATB's invitation to "...return to East Anglia, revisit old haunts in happier times and see what is happening at your old airfield now."

Those wishing further information pertaining to USAAF Reunion 1992 should write: Jane Sullivan, East Anglia Tourist Board, Toppesfield Hall, Hadleigh, Suffolk, England IP7 5BS.

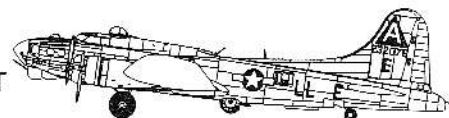


**THIS 1943 PHOTO OF THE 401ST'S "BAD EGG" BEGS INCLUSION
in the 91st BG(H) Group Pictorial History being prepared by G/Gen Earl C Pate. At the time the photo the plane, LL-C, 41-24484, had completed 37 missions.**

Data supplied by out-going Historian Hillary "Bud" Evers says "Bad Egg" crashed while landing on Dec 12, 1943 when it struck a jeep crossing the runway. Unfortunately those appearing on the photo are not identified. The second squatter from the left looks very much like Allan N Morey, NY, a former 401st pilot who arrived at Bassingbourn in Oct 1943.

R/I readers are invited to assist in the identification of those on the photo.

**PRESERVE
OUR PROUD PAST**



ENGLISH DIGNITARIES PROUD TO WEAR "ROYSTON CAPS"



ROYSTON CAP

91ST COMMEMORATIVE CAPS, honoring the July 15, 1989 Royston Priory Gardens Memorial dedication, were publicized for sale in the April 1989 R/I. Basically "Golf Caps," bearing an imprinted 91st BG(H) logo, the sale of the attractive caps did not exhaust the PX supply.

Alerted to the residue remaining, Pres Tony Montalvo decided to award some to 91st BGMA English friends who helped make last year's Royston Priory Gardens Memorial Ceremonies memorable for the many former 91sters attending the overseas affair.

The appropriateness of his decision needs no justifying wordage.

The response from some of the recipients, however, requires recording.

Royston Town Mayor Councillor C F Lander acknowledged his cap's receipt in a Mar 14, 1990 letter. A portion of his thanks follows:

"Your very thoughtful gift has been received and I thank you and your Memorial Association of the 91st BG(H) for this very kind token of your appreciation for our most willingly given but modest effort in rededicating the Memorial erected in our Priory Memorial Gardens.

"The huge sacrifice given by your airmen during those awful dark days of WWII must never be forgotten and their Memorial Column in Royston will always keep them in our hearts.

"I will be happy and proud to wear the 91st BGMA Commemorative Cap when the sun threatens my sparsely covered scalp."

LTC M J Boocock, C/O the Depot, the Queen's Division, Basingbourn Barracks, wrote Pres Montalvo a Mar 26, 1990 letter. Extracts follow:

"I thought I would wait until I had worn the hat before I said how good it was! Well, it is OK! I wore it yesterday, and it stayed on in quite a stiff North Westerly when many others failed!

"Thank you very much for your kind thought! It was good to see Warren..., he seemed to be enjoying his time here.

"I took some friends to see the Memorial this weekend and they thought it was both fitting and nice.

"Regards to y'all, and thanks for the bonnet."

Roger A Freeman, noted English historian of the 8th AF, responded to the receipt of his cap in a Mar 11, 1990 letter. He said:

"Thank you for your kindness in sending me one of the 91st BG caps. I will wear it with pride. My part in arranging for the B17 flyover was merely as an in-between but I am delighted that we were able to give your members such a thrill."

Peter Worthy, a member of the Friends of the 91st who was the Master of Ceremonies at the Royston Return Luncheon, wrote: a:

"Thank you very much for your letter and the Commemorative Cap. I shall wear it with honour and happy memories of a very happy occasion last July during the Rededication Ceremonies."

Any member who may now feel he missed "the bus" on an attractive 91st BGMA memento may still be able to

obtain one from Sec Welbes. His address appears on the back page of the R/I. The price is \$20.00. Sizes are adjustable.

LOCATION HELP AVAILABLE FOR LOST WWII FRIENDS

MEMBERS SEEKING TO LOCATE "LOST" comrades may find the following approach helpful.

1) On one envelope, in the address area, write the name and rank/grade of the individual sought. In the upper left corner write your return address. Place a stamp in the upper right corner of this envelope and include your message in it.

2) Insert the above envelope in another larger envelope and address the larger envelope to one of the three following "locator" addresses listed below. The larger envelope should also contain your return address on the upper left corner. Similar mailings to all the "locator" addresses will, of course, increase the success probability of your effort.

Because many individuals share identical names, enclose in the larger envelope a letter containing as much data as possible concerning the individual sought. Such information should include his middle initials, whatever is known about his background, duty stations, schooling and Social Security Number, if possible.

An example: Name: Joseph M Kruppa, Rank: 1LT, Navigator; Serial Number: 0.....; Service Background: 322nd Sq, 91st BG(H); Duty Station: Basingbourn, Eng, Oct 1943 - Oct 1944; Schooling: Syracuse U, Syracuse, NY; Social Security Number

In many cases "locator" sources will be able to tell if the individual is alive or deceased and will forward the letter enclosed in the smaller envelope to his last known address.

"Locator" addresses to write are:

- 1) Your local VA office,
- 2) VA Records Center, C/O Alice I Hunter, Chief Field Servicing Division, Records Processing Center, PO Box 5020, St Louis, MO 63115, or
- 3) Air Force, HQ AFMPC/DMPDOO3, 9504 IH35N, San Antonio, TX 78233-6636.

The above procedures for locating war-time friends has been used by 8th AFHS member George A Lawson with "fair success," according to Sec Hackstock. The bulk of the copy describing the procedure is from an article on the topic in News, Notes and Comments, a newsletter edited by 1Lt Nora J Tuggle, USMC (ret), which was forwarded to the R/I by John R Parsons, Wash, D.C.

STATISTICS

MEMBERS SKILLED IN INTERPRETING STATISTICS are invited to submit interpretations of the following 91st BGMA data compiled by Trea Charles V Welbes.

Since Aug 1988 R/I mailings indicate:

- 1) 91st BGMA Life Memberships increased by 50;
- 2) Full Memberships decreased by 29;
- 3) Associate Life Memberships increased by 2;
- 4) Associate Memberships increased by 33; and
- 5) "Never Joined" and Public Relations Roster listings increased by 9.

NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS

JOHN W. ALLEN. Bremerton, WA
 JOHN ASKINS. Sunnyvale, CA
 FRANK H. BANNON. Ganges B.C., Canada
 DONALD L. BEAL. Shelby, OH
 BURTON W. BLOW. Carbondale, IL
 MRS. DORIS G. BONNEL. Bricktown, NJ
 WELDON L. BRUBAKER. San Clemente, CA
 JOHN L. BUNCH. JR New York, NY
 JAMES C. CATER. Poughkeepsie, NY
 LEONARD FIGIE. Central Square, NY
 JOHN D. HAMNER. Baldwin, NY
 MARION C. HOFFMAN. Dayton, OH
 MYRON E. KIRSCHBAUM. Minneapolis, MN
 C. W. KOELLER, JR. St. Louis, MO
 ALBERT R. KUEHL. Riesel, TX
 HAROLD LIEBERMAN. Hudson, NY
 ROBERT LOVELY. Springboro, OH
 GEORGE M. PARMENTER. Holiday, FL
 JOHN O. RENSKERS. Crystal Lake, IL
 ARTHUR G. SMITH. Jamul, CA
 SEBASTIAN P. TABACCO. Ft. Myers, FL

POTPOURRI

U.S.A.

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY A BIT OF AMBIGUITY IN THE Special Election Edition of the R/I mailed to all members in April, Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman Paul J Limm has announced *there will not be a separate election at the Seattle Convention Business Meeting.*

"It is unnecessary," he says.

Those attending the Convention may either mail in their ballots or personally deposit them in a ballot box at the registration desk. Such hand carried ballots will be *incorporated with the mailed in ballots* for the general count of ballots on Friday, Aug 24, 1990

The results of the election will then be announced at the Business Meeting the following day by Pres Montalvo.

The ambiguous statement in the R/I Election Edition said, "...the ballot may either be mailed as an 'Absentee Ballot' (deadline July 31, 1990) or hand carried to the Seattle Convention by members attending."

Absentee Ballots and personally delivered ballots will be *combined* before the general count because all are equally valid. Therefore, again, no Convention voting will be required.

FORMER 323RD SQ MEMBERS MAY BE SETTING THE pace for participation in the 15th National Biennial Convention of the 91st BGMA. Five 323rds comprised the Nominations Committee chaired by A J Sinibaldi.

Now, Bob "Dusty" Hoffman, and his 323rd crew will serve as the Elections Committee. Hoffman, NC; Hank Lilley, TX and Harry Raihl, NM will be counting and tallying the votes. Reports are the three are pressuring the rest of their crew to attend the Reunion - or ELSE!

"Our association is fortunate to have such dedicated members so willing to serve," Paul J Limm, Nominations and Elections Committee Chairman says.

"Hopefully, other squadrons and other crews are con-

sidering using Seattle for personalized reunions. If, hopefully, Hoffman's Crew's enthusiasm and dedication proves contagious, we'll have a 'Maximum Effort' that will vie with those the 91st BG(H) had during the war years," Limm says.

"PHILLIPS' FALL" OBITUARY ADDS TO 91ST HISTORY

LTC CHARLES R PHILLIPS' (Ret) JAN 1990 R/I OBITUARY stirred response from a former 323rd Sq pilot.

Philip G Mack, Bellevue, WA, while expressing his regrets, wrote he remembered Phillips from "training days" and recalls meeting him again at Wright-Patterson AFB, where Phillips was stationed after WWII.

Reading the account of the Mar 22, 1944 fall of Phillips' plane, THE BUCCANEER, over Berlin, stirred memories for Mack who flew the same mission.

A friend of his, Joe Wellman, a bombardier in the 401st "on Jewett's crew," was on a 401st plane lost on that raid.

Regarding that loss, Mack wrote the "circumstances of Phillips' departure from the formation (as described in his obituary) sounds very much like those of Wellman. Is it possible Wellman flew with Phillips that day?"

Mack recalls Wellman's plane's departure from the formation as follows:

"We were on the bombing run. Flak was intense and accurate. I was flying right wing on the low flight leader which put me in close proximity to the second element of the 401st lead flight. When Wellman's plane was hit it came out of formation in my direction - and out of control. I had to pull up sharply and drop back to avoid mid-air collision.

"That put me above the second element of my own flight - still on the bombing run with bomb-bay doors open. That, justifiably, disturbed the crews below. Our tail gunner later reported Wellman's crippled plane heading North and, we hoped, the safety of Sweden."

After the war Mack made written contact with Wellman. Regarding his March 22, '44 fall Wellman replied:

"No use re-hashing the war because you probably had as much of it as I did and can really only get voluble on the subject after a few drinks. All that happened to me after you last saw us 'heading for Sweden' was to spend 15 months as a POW, lose 40 pounds, get bombed for a month and a half straight and get strafed by P-51's.

"Incidentally that flak you spoke of managed to bury part of itself in my frame but the Krauts dug most of it out. Also when I bailed out I managed to hit the open bomb-bay doors and half tear my arm off. If it had not been for that I know I could have walked out of Germany because we were only on the outskirts of Berlin."

Mack says Wellman later told him he would have lost his severely injured arm had it not been for the German surgeon who tended him after his capture.

Mack has since lost contact with Wellman.

A re-check of the 91st BG(H) MACR 3412 pertaining to THE BUCCANEER'S fall answered Mack's question if Wellman flew with Phillip's crew on Mar 22, 1944. The answer is, Yes.

The 91st BG(H) MACR of Mar 22, 1944 lists 1Lt Joseph C Wellman, 0732340, as the bombardier on THE BUCCANEER when Phillip wrestled it down to 500 ft before bailing out.

• **BROWN, ALBERT G, SR**, 322nd, 6 Ocean Av, Ballmore, LI, NY 11710; Apr 27, 1990. Brown, who served at Bassingbourn from 1942 to 1945, was buried in the Calverton National Cemetery, Calverton, LI, NY.

He is survived by his wife, Emma; two sons, Albert G, Jr, a Vietnam Vet, and David J, a Balto, MD Homicide Detective; two granddaughters and a sister, Veronica. Reported by his widow who requested to remain on the R/I's mailing list.

• **CAREY, JOSEPH L**, 324th, 3001 Brentwood, Tyler, TX 75701; July 4, 1989. He was the Radar Maintenance Chief in the Group Radar Shop. Reported by his daughter, Joann C Adair of TX and John O Renskers, IL.

• **GORBY, CECIL G**, 323rd, 6649 Shawbutte, Poland, OH 44514; Dec 1, 1989. His widow, Lois, proudly recalls her husband, a pilot, received the DFC, the A/M with six OLCs and the 91st BG(H)'s Presidential Citation. She requested to remain on the R/I mailing list and is "happy to pay the yearly dues."

• **HALL, RALPH B**, 401st, 406 Brown Av, Crossville, TN 38555; Sept 13, 1989. Reported by Jim Bacon, MI.

• **HUFFMAN, HOWARD C**, 401st, 281 Edgehill Dr, Youngstown, OH 44515; Dec 18, 1986. Reported by his wife, Helen.

• **LOVE, ALFRED E**, 323rd, 7714 Manderlay Dr, Florence, KY 41042; Oct 1989. He was a waist gunner on Walt Wilkinson's "Hi-Ho Silver," receiving the DFC and the A/M with three OLCs. He also flew on "Chenault's Pappy," "Sugar Blues," "Duke of Padaka," "Blue Dreams," "Bunky," "Wee Willie," "Dame Satan II," and "Just Plain Lonesome." Earl G Williamson, Jr, a fellow crew member, reports Love's widow, Allie Mae, resides at the above address.

• **MARLATT, LORNE R**, Maj, (Ret), CMR Box 1932, APO NY 09009; June 2, 1989. His widow, Joyce, reports he died of a massive heart attack.

• **MARRAH, CHARLES H**, MSgt (Ret), 401st, 2613-61st St, W Bradenton, FL 34209; Feb 3, 1990. Was stricken and died instantly while on business. Reported by his wife, Phyllis, who added, "His wings are folded but memories of him fly on."

• **RENTZ, GEORGE**, PO Box 336, Ft Meade, FL 33841. Reported by USPS.

• **SCHLEYER, RUSSELL**, 323rd, 78 Illona Dr, Cincinnati 18, OH 45218; Feb 1989. The radio operator on Walt Wilkinson's crew, he was shot down on the Mar 8, 1944 Berlin raid while flying with Claude M William's crew. Wounded before bailing out, he was a POW for about 14 months. Reported by Earl G Williamson, Jr, LA, a fellow crew member.

• **SCHWAB, DONALD E**, 1457 Turner St, Clearwater, FL 34616. Schwab's widow, Catherine, an Associate Member since at least 1985, did not give the date of his death. Directories available do not identify her late husband's unit. Her communication with Jim Bacon also contained a pledge to the 91st BGMA Scholarship program proposed by 2nd VP Bacon, MI.

• **STELLHORN, BERNARD A**, 322nd and 863rd, 493rd BG(H), 2842 Walker Av, Indianapolis, IN 46203; Nov 12, 1989. Stelhorn, after completing 25 missions with the 91st flew 19 more with the 493rd BG(H). Also a member of the 8th AFHS, he enjoyed that organization's newsletter as well

as the R/I, particularly during his last five years of disabling illness.

"The B17s were a special part of his life. Thank you for the special enjoyment he got from 'The Ragged Irregular,'" his widow, Vivian, wrote.

• **SOPATO, ANTHONY J**, 323rd, 7204 W Cortland #106, Elmwood Pk, IL 60635; Nov 29, 1989. Reported by his wife, Genevieve.

• **WAISS, FREDRIK S**, 322nd, 7 Oak Dr, Orinda, CA 94563; Mar 7, 1990. His service decorations included the DFC and A/M with three OLCs. His death, reported by George W Parks, Jr, CA, concluded a distinguished 50 year career as an attorney. His survivors include his wife, Vadja, son Vincent and daughter Susan. Memorial contributions may be made to Bellarmine College Preparatory School, 850 Elm St, San Jose, CA 95126-1899.

• **WAMSLEY, LEONARD L**, 401st 260 Washakie, Lander, WY 82520; Apr 19, 1990. Reported by his widow, Eileen, and Jim Bacon, MI.

MARCH 31, 1990 FINANCIAL REPORT RELEASED BY TREAS WELBES

91ST BGMA TREASURER CHARLES V WELBES' Financial statement for the period ending Mar 31, 1990 is published below.

91st BGMA FINANCIAL STATUS - March 31, 1990

GENERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE - Dec 31, 1989 ... \$ 14143.27

INCOME - January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1990:

Dues	\$ 9440.00
Interest	118.82
Donations	989.50
PX Sales	1375.00
Misc.	303.25
TOTAL INCOME	\$12226.57

EXPENDITURES - January 1, 1990 to March 31, 1990:

BGMA Administration	\$ 418.83
Petty Cash Fund	266.29
Other (R/I, etc.)	2292.05
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$2977.17

GENERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE MARCH 26, 1990 - \$ 23392.67

MEMORIAL FUND (Incorporated with Gen. Fund)

INCOME - January 1, 1989 to March 26, 1990:

Donations	\$ 2228.50
10% of Dues Paid	2031.30
TOTAL INCOME	\$4259.80

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$3070.61

TOTAL MEMORIAL FUNDS AVAILABLE MARCH 26,

1990 \$1189.19

PX INVENTORY - January 1, 1989 to March 26, 1990

Stock on hand - January 1, 1989	\$7251.50
Sales - January 1989 to March 26, 1990*	3495.00
Stock on Hand - March 26, 1990	\$3756.00

* \$112.00 worth of merchandise ordered and paid for to be shipped upon receipt from shipper.

91ST BGMAers INVOLVED IN NEW WWII MEMORIALS

TRAVEL ROUTE NATIONALE, a few miles northwest of Nancy, France after June 29, 1990 and you'll be near the site of a new, uniquely personal memorial. The new memorial, to be unveiled in nearby Mercy Le Bas by former French Underground veterans and citizens of the area, will honor the 8th AF and the 91st BG(H). Singled out for particular honors is a 322nd plane and its' crew.



KELLY DISPLAYS DURABLE insignia donations,

The 322nd plane, "My Baby," L - LG- D, crashed between Bazailles and Mercy Le Bas in Muerthe Moselle on Sept 5, 1944. Its' Tail Gunner, S/Sgt Richard E Doyle, was KIA before the crash. Special honors have been prepared for him by the people of Bazailles whose elders recovered his body from the wreckage and buried him.

Bob Kelly, CA, one of Doyle's surviving crewmates, is returning to the site for the fourth time to attend the ceremonies in response to another invitation from the French Underground members who hid him in 1944.

Kelly recalls previous returns as "very emotional get-togethers." He now possesses an extensive collection of "bits and pieces" of his former plane which were salvaged and presented to him since by his benefactors.

Presently Kelley does not know if the new Memorial is scheduled for outside or indoor placement. He has provided for either eventuality by having large metal replicas made, at his expense, of the 323rd Sq and 91st BG(H) insignias to augment the Memorial.

The 91st BG(H) MACR 8595 describes "My Baby's" fall on the Ludwigshafen, Germany raid as follows:

"Observed by F D Ellis, 0522799. Last heard over VHF at 10:45 prior to IP. He advised losing one engine and was losing second engine. He attempted to contact group leader but had no success. Pilot Kelly reported bailed out from 6,000 ft, 12 o'clock, near Pierpont, France. All reached ground with the exception of tail gunner who had been KIA.

• STALAG 17B FORMER PRISONERS OF WAR, A Memorial Group for American POWs held in that Stalag during WWII, recently organized a drive to erect a Memorial. Former 324th RO/Gunner Orlo G Natvio, a survivor of the downing of "Local Girl" on the Emden, Germany raid on Sept 27, 1943, writes the project is completed.

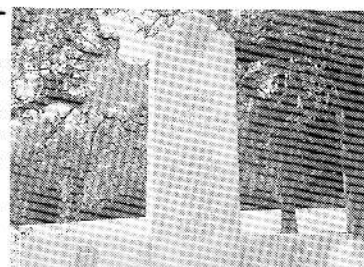
Natvio, Past National Commander of the American POWs of War and former Commander of Stalag 17B Former POWs of War, says the monument was erected in 1989. It is located in the former Civil War Prison Camp at Andersonville, GA.

The site, a national park and cemetery, is one that all veterans should visit if possible. The new monument is dedicated to the memory of Stalag 17B Ex-POWs and all former European Theatre POWs.

"The majority of all POWs in Stalag 17B were combat crew members of the 8th AF," Natvio says.

ENGRAVED UPON THE ANDERSONVILLE, GA Monument is:

"American Former Prisoners of War Stalag XVII-B; Erected by and in Honor of All Americans Held Prisoners of War in a German Prison Camp Known as Stalag XVII-B in Krems, Austria 1943-1945; And in Memory of All Americans held as POWs in European Theatre in WWII."



ENGLAND PLANS TO CELEBRATE 8th AF ARRIVAL ANNIVERSARY



EAST ANGLIA 1942-1992

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL in East Anglia of the USA Air Forces will be celebrated in 1992.

Special events are scheduled to take place in England between May and Thanksgiving of that year.

The EAST ANGLIA TOURIST BOARD which is co-ordinating the USAAAF Reunion 1992, is soliciting the names and addresses of the USAAAF veterans so that it can place them on its mailing list. Those responding will receive EATB's newsletters and a publicity brochure free.

(Continued on Page 4)

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 Basingbourn, England from 1942 to 1945.

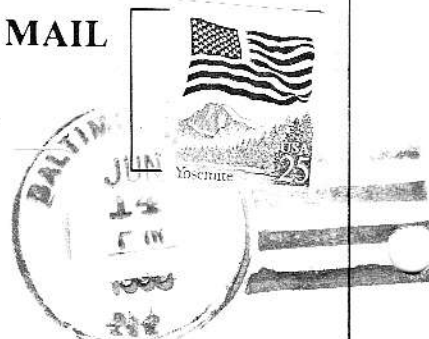
Material for publication should be sent to the Editor, Rudy Malkin, 1643 Thutford Rd., Balto., Md. 21204. "Time Value" items must be received three weeks before the first day of the month of publication to permit necessary priority consideration for inclusion in that issue. Every effort will be made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

91st BG Memorial Assn.

210 Leatherwood Dr.
Mountain Home, AR 72653

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU MOVE!