

The Ragged Irregular

ATTENTION!
1992
DUES
DUE!



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



401st SQDN

Vol. 25 No 1

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

January, 1992

Insert Page A

BIG 1992 EVENTS NEED MEMBERSHIPS' ATTENTION

ROYSTON RALLY ROUND

TWO BIG 1992 EVENTS VIE FOR the attention of 91st BGMAers. Each, equally alluring, requires pre-planning by those wishing to participate.

Requiring immediate attention is the May 5-13, 1992 "ROYSTON RALLY ROUND" tour, a thoroughly planned group travel itinerary for former 91sters who wish to return to England to participate in many of the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the wartime arrival of the 8th AF there in 1942.



EAST ANGLIA
1942-1992

The Berkshire Travel Agency, Reading, PA, with the approval of 91st BGMA officials, has released the full details of the itinerary it evolved after consultation with the East Anglia Tourist Board of England which, years earlier, began promoting this "Second Friendly Invasion Celebration."

Full details pertaining to this event are contained on one of the Insert Pages of this R/I. It must be emphasized that members wishing to avail themselves of the reduced rates and the pleasure of the company of numerous, former 91st BG(H) members must act now on the information provided in this issue. No further notice is planned for inclusion in the April 1992 R/I since the closely following May 5, 1992 English arrival date will probably preclude "last minute" arrangements.

Asay B Johnson, 91st BGMA Secretary, AZ, whose earlier solicitation of the names of members interested in

(Continued on Page 6)

MEMPHIS CONVENTION

FINAL DETAILS OF THE SEPT 2-5 1992 91ST BGMA National Convention in Memphis, TN will be submitted for publication in the April, 1992 R/I according to 91st BGMA Historian B/Gen Earl C Pate, ANG, Ret.

A Dec 13, 1991 Convention Committee meeting precludes inclusion of finalized details at this time, Pate, a Convention Committee member, says.

Since added to the lures listed in the Oct 1991 R/I, Pate added in a recent phone call, is NW Airline's provision of one free round trip ticket within CONUS for every 40 bookings by 91st BGMAers attending the Convention. The free round trip tickets to and from Memphis will be raffled off at the Convention during Fund Raising activities.

NW Airlines will also sponsor a Continental Breakfast
(Continued on Page 2)

THESE LADIES appeared in the Apr '91 R/I and were only identified as one of the lures of one of the two potential 91st 1992 Convention sites: Memphis, TN or Valley Forge, Pa.

The membership voted Memphis our 1992 Convention site. It is certain there will be no regrets. But, for the record, the ladies are chorus girls, one of the lures of the Valley Forge, Pa area.



FLORIDA RALLY REPORT

Story - Page 2.
Montage - Page 4.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY CHARLES R HACKSTOCK

NOW, BAD NEWS?

THIS R/I ISSUE RIGHTLY EMPHASIZES THAT TWO big 1992 91st BGMA activities require the attention of members interested in attending them. They are the "Royston Rally Round" and the Memphis, TN National Reunion.

However, the April 1992 R/I will confront us all with another important decision making situation.

Our By-Laws state: "No elected officer shall serve more than 2 (two) consecutive terms in any office with the exception of the Editor and the Historian."

I trust this does not make me the "bearer of bad news." But now, after expressing sincere hopes that the recent Holiday Season was a time of joy and health for all, I must point out it is time for thought regarding the nominations for office required for the coming elections scheduled for the 1992 National Reunion.

A nomination flyer will be included in the Apr 1992 R/I. Those wishing to be candidates should plan now.

The seemingly crowded 1992 schedule of events and the real prospect that our association's preparations for them will make 1992 a truly memorable and emotional year for all should impress upon everyone that 91st BGMA posts are important and rewarding.

Having attended numerous 91st BGMA events, it seems obvious the one thought shared by all is, "Better than getting together is getting-together-more-often!"

Those wishing to nurture future good times for all 91st BGMAers and our association's future, are again urged to consider candidacy for a 91st BGMA elected office.

That's the only way I can think of saying, "Help us 'Preserve Our Proud Past.'"

FLORIDA RALLY ROUND REVIVED COMRADERIE

ROBERT E GERSTEMEIR AND HIS WIFE, TRUDIE, revived the practice and purpose of 91st BGMA Rally Rounds on Oct 24-26, 1991 at Jensen Beach, FL. 91st BGMA Pres Charles R Hackstock, while addressing the near 70 association members, family members and friends, opined that people attending "little meetings" like the Gerstemeir affair, "generally meet again at Nation Conventions."

Gerstemeir, 401st, an active 91st BGMA official in the past, provided a locale and program that renewed, revived and created new bonds of comraderie between those attending. Association business was held to a minimum. Those attending were rewarded with pre-publication data of the "Royston Rally Round" tour, the May 5-13, 1992 itinerary being organized for 91st BGMAers wishing to return to England and participate in the 50th Anniversary Celebrations of the 8th AF's arrival there. (Details appear elsewhere in this R/I.

Three new members seized the Jensen Beach Rally Round opportunity to attend their first 91st BGMA function. R/I contact with them and others developed invaluable sources for future R/I copy.

Former 323rd Marion C Hoffman's new book, A VIEW FROM THE TAIL, was a surprise offering of additional 91st BG(H) memorabilia. Despite Hoffman's low-key promotion of his book brisk FL sales should guarantee its availability at the Memphis, TN National Convention.

Nicholas Bankovsky, 401st, LM, covered considerable portions of the affair with a CamCorder for personal pleasure. A tape sent to the editor prompts the inclusion of his address: 1906 Live Oak St, NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905. Others interested in his excellent live coverage may be able to obtain copies. He also plans showing earlier 91st BGMA tapes at Memphis. It's fun to see the guys when they were younger," he says.

Floral arrangements provided by Trudie Gerstemeir for all the ladies; nearly too-beautiful-to-cut ornate cakes by another Gerstemeir family member and now exhausting, live Glenn Miller dance music also spiced the affair.

Talk of a future Rally Round was heard at the end.

Participating

B-H

Bankovsky, Nicholas and Mary; Bullock, James and Clarice, Cawley, Richard and Isabel; Chryst, Paul and Nancy; Currie, Vernon and Mary; Cusick, Charles and Mrs Cusick.

Davis, Walter and Marjorie.

Frantz, George and Lillian; Fratz, Roy and Lois; Fuchs, Madeline.

Gerstemeir, Robert and Trudie; Giambrone, Joseph; Groombridge, Howard and Kay.

Hackstock, Charles; Hill, Whitmal and "Jackie;" Hoffman, Marion and Bernita; Hovermill, Harry.

K-P

Kool, Harry and Paula; Kurylo and Madeline.

Malkin, Rudolph; Manzano, Andrew and Lorraine;

Martin, Lloyd and Opal; Mattson, Russell; McGavern, William and Virginia.

Nichols, Marvin and Demetra.

Parmenter, George and Veda; Perri, Steven and Nancy.

Q-W

Quayle, Keith and Lee.

Rongey, Charles and Mrs Rongey.

Simpson, Seymour and Bertha; Srsen, Myron and Mildred.

Tabacco, Sebastian and Josephine; Thompson, Norman and Karen.

Uphoff, William.

Weinstock, Joseph and Mrs. Weinstock; Welbes, Charles and Henrietta; Whitten, Edwin and Helma.

MEMPHIS CONVENTION

(Continued from Page 1)

and a "Pack-and-Go" program for the ladies. Planned also is a two-hour New Orleans style musical, possibly on Beale St. The price is yet to be determined.

The Peabody Hotel, Convention headquarters, has available 190 rooms and three suites. Room rates are \$85.00 a night, including tax. Other hotels, adjacent to the Peabody, offer lodging at approximately \$75.00 a night.

HIKIN' FOR HOME, BLOODY BUCKET - SAME PLANE!

A 1987 REUNION OF SEVEN CREW MEMBERS OF the 324th Sq's the BLOODY BUCKET was their first since the war. Paul W McElroy, Jr, NC, the crew's navigator, has since reported on subsequent reunions by submitting copies of his own, chatty "The Bloody Bucket Newsletter" which is disseminated among his former crew members. A type-written recapitulation of war and recent reunion shared experiences, his "Issue #14, 1989," should encourage other 91st BG(H) crew reunions. Labelled the "Lively Bunch," their reminiscences confirm again the importance of membership participation in the recording of 91st BG(H) history.

McElroy referred to the July 1989 R/I article on HIKIN FOR HOME. He wrote, "The article was mailed in before he (David Hanst, 322nd, CA) knew of any connection between THE BLOODY BUCKET and his plane, HIKIN FOR HOME. Future references will recognize they were one and the same aircraft." McElroy, in later correspondence, indicates subsequent contact with Hanst should revise this bit of 91st history.

According to McElroy B17-G-42-107027 was assigned to Joseph P Billotta's 324th Sq crew on Apr 10, 1944.

"We named her THE BLOODY BUCKET and had her nose art applied. She was brand new from the Douglas Aircraft plant in Santa Monica, CA," he says.

After eight or nine missions the plane and crew were transferred to the 322nd Sq. M/Sgt Thomas R Elliott was their GCC.

On their 30th mission, June 5, 1944, they lost a super-charger during assembly over England and then the engine over the water. Since they had never aborted a mission they continued.

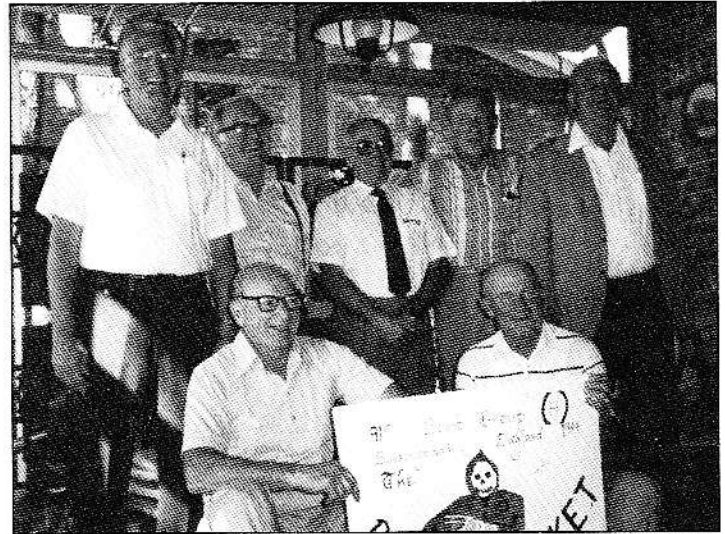
Unable to keep up with the formation, an alternative target was requested by Billotta. McElroy chose "an airfield." In retrospect he believes it was some sort of a missile launching site.

"They really let us have it with intensive flak. We lost two more engines," he says.

With one remaining engine Billotta managed to limp back to Tangmere on the south coast of England and make a dead-stick landing when the last engine failed at the edge of an RAF airfield there.

During their return Billotta had told his crew to jettison everything possible. His resourceful Tail Gunner decided to shoot all of his ammo up--rather than laboriously throw out some 10,000 rounds. His gun barrels melted in the process.

It took MSgt Elliott and his crew about 10 days to change THE BLOODY BUCKET's engines and make other necessary repairs. When Billotta and his crew went to fly her back to Basingbourn they were stunned. THE BLOODY BUCKET looked like new. All jettisoned gear had been replaced--and her nose art, mission bombs and the Swastikas (crediting the plane with the foes felled)--everything recording her previous 20-plus missions--was gone. Only her serial number, 42-107027, remained--like an erad-



A RECENT REUNION OF THE 324th's BLOODY BUCKET CREW was attended by: Kneeling, L-R: Joseph P Billotta, pilot and Paul W McElroy, Jr, navigator. Standing, L-R: Trallor (?), Armond M "Foxie" Lehman, Ken Larson, Walter Salo and Evans (?). (The R/I regrets the caption data supplied and the editor's now-less-than 20-20 vision does not guarantee the accuracy of the identifications. It's embarrassment is heightened by the fact that during the war the turncoat Englishman, Lord Haw-Haw, identified them all by name and rank during one of his Berlin Broadcasts!).

icable birthmark, to assure her old crew that she, too, had survived.

(Concluded next Issue)

REUNION

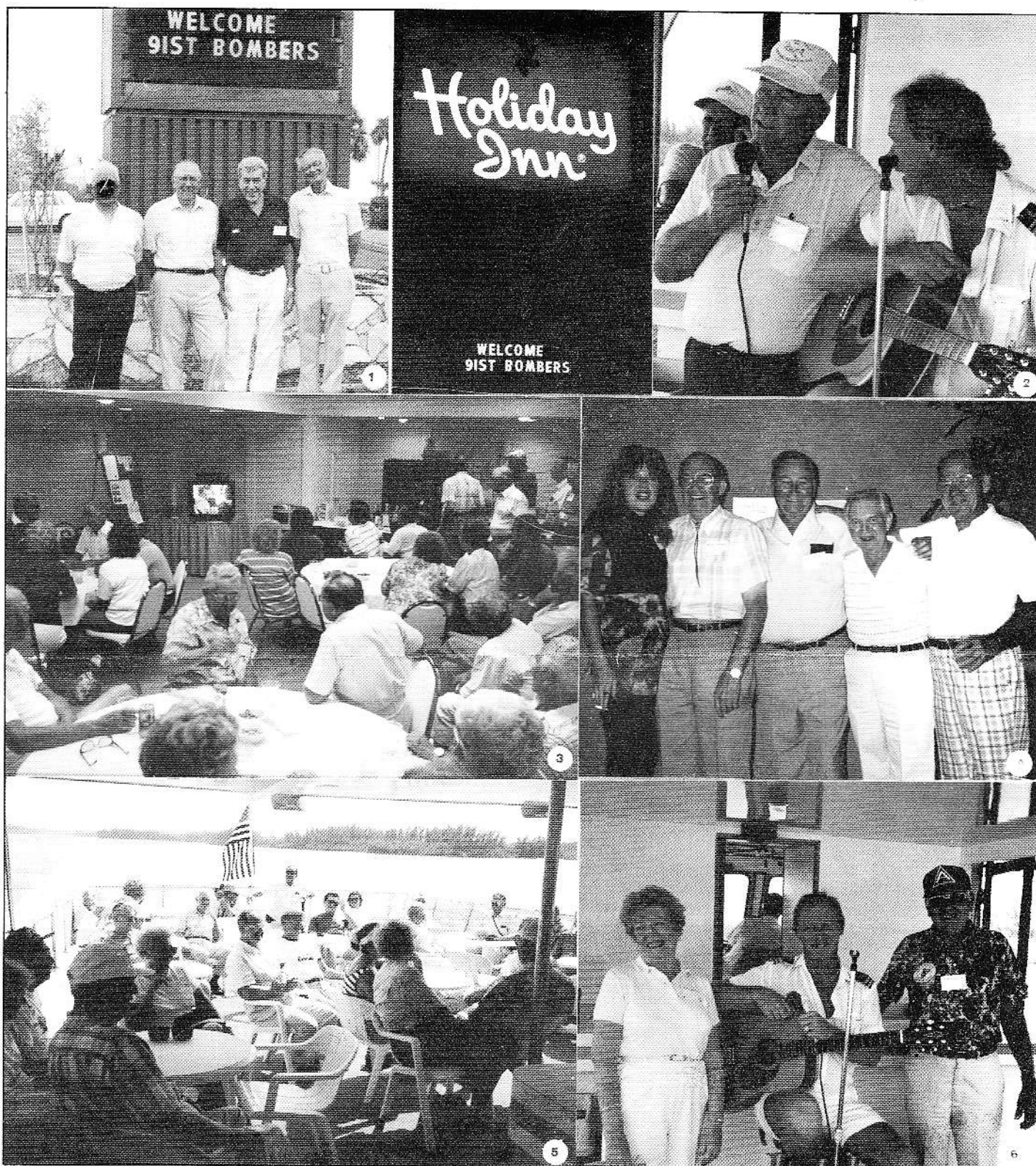
MEMBERS OF THE 401ST Sq's ANXIOUS ANGEL crew probably held their Fifth Annual Reunion in Eaton, OH earlier this year with former WG Don E Richter hosting the affair. The R/I regrets if it reduced attendance by inadvertently failing to announce the affair.

The crew's 1990 Reunion, held near Chicago, IL, was hosted by TG Chester Bolociuch. In addition to the former pilot, Col Dick Gibson, USAF (Ret) and Bolociuch, Robert J Powers, TT, Urbana, IL; FR Joseph J Mazaika, R, Pawhuska, OK; Don E Richter, WG; Eaton, OH; Edward E Pinkowski, GCC, Fox Lake, IL and Mathias G Pettera, AGCC, Wanzeka, WI attended.

A Memorial Mass was held for Albert L Lucia, the crew's former navigator who died on Oct 8, 1989 shortly after enthusiastically reporting his crew's initial reunions. FR Mazaika, the crew's WWII radio operator, conducted the Mass. Former ANXIOUS ANGEL Ground Crewman Pettera was the reader at the service.

The R/I hopes this belated publication of Col Gibson's request for information on four "lost" former crew members will swell the attendance at their next reunion. Contact has been lost with the following: Navigator Robert N Bennyhoff, Bombardier John J Clark, Co-Pilot L M Clymen and Ball Turret Gunner Rudolph Filipovski. Anyone with information on them is requested to contact, Col Dick Gibson, USAF (Ret) 128 Clune Drive, Sacramento, CA 95864.

MONTAGED MEMORIES OF JENSEN BEACH, FL



MONTAGE PHOTOS ABOVE: 1) L-R, 91st BGMA PRESIDENT Charles R Hackstock, 323rd; Marion C Hoffman, 323rd, new 91st BGMA author of A VIEW FROM THE TAIL; Joseph M Giambrone, 324th, MEMPHIS BELLE Groundcrew Chief and 91st BGMA Trea Charles V Welbes, 401st, before the Jensen Beach, FL Holiday Inn Oceanside's announcement of the Oct 24-26, 1991 91st BGMA RALLY ROUND. 2) L-R, foreground, Robert E Gerstemeir, 401st, sponsor of the successful affair, assists an ISLAND QUEEN crew

member in the entertainment of 91st BGMAers aboard. Listening is an unidentified RALLY ROUND in the rear. 3) A view of the Hospitality Room at the RALLY ROUND. Note the TV which was utilized to show a "production tape" of THE MEMPHIS BELLE film. 4) Pardon a Possible Oops! Robert E Gerstemeir (center) welcomes three new 91st BGMAers. L-R, Karen Thompson Webb, daughter of new member Norman L Thompson, Macon, GA, former 401st Flight

(Continued on Page 7)

EAST-WEST COAST HISTORICAL MARKERS ERECTED

RESEARCH BY 91ST BGMA MEMORIALS Committee chairman W W Hill determined 11 known 91st BG(H) Memorials, of various types, are scattered throughout the nation, England and Holland. With the help of many other 91st BGMAers Hill upped the total to "12A" in 1991.

Sept 28, 1991 a Historical Marker, denoting the 91st BG(H)'s training site at the old Walla Walla, WA AAF Base, was dedicated. A similar Historical Marker was unveiled on Oct. 27, 1991 outside the MacDill AF Base in Tampa, FL, site of the 91st BG(H)'s WWII activation.

Both ceremonies, well attended, proved the 91st BGMA a viable Memorial Association.

At Walla Walla a letter from President George Bush to all 8th AF personnel was read by 91st BGMA Pres Charles A. Hackstock (who attended both dedications). Walla Walla Deputy Mayor B Loyal Smith read Walla Walla Mayor Fred Mitchell's proclamation designating Sept 28, 1991, "Salute to 91st BG(H) Day."

Participating prominently in the ceremonies were 91st BGMAers Ralph H Danekas, whose Invocation began the ceremonies, Hubert F Donohue, the Master of Ceremonies

and Hill who, during his speech, recalled the war-time hospitality of Walla Walla's citizens and the difficult to express feelings of ground crewmen regarding the losses among flying personnel. Richard W McCoy shared the honor with Hill of unveiling the new marker.

Among the near 50 attending the affair were the following 91st BGMAers and family members: Frank and Vivian Bannon, Dolph D Boyer, Ralph and Dorothy Danekas, Hubert and Evelyn Donohue and son Randall, Edward and Joan Gates, Charles and Augusta Hackstock, W W Hill, Richard and Margaret McCoy, Harold Moose, John R Parsons and John and Mrs Yates.

The WALLA WALLA UNION BULLETIN featured a photo and caption of the event in its Sunday, Sept 29, 1991 edition.

An estimated audience of 70-80 people witnessed the unveiling of the Historical Marker before the Visitor's Center at MacDill AF Base, Tampa, FL on Oct 27, 1991.

Commemorating the activation of the 91st BG(H) in April 1942, the ceremonies, hosted by Howell B Loper, featured two poignant surprises. Loper produced one. Col Stig Egede-Nissen, C/O 56th Combat Support Gp, USAAF,

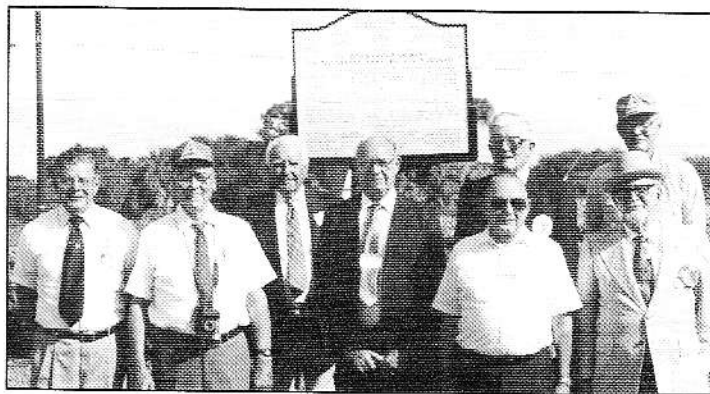
(Continued on Page 6)



FORMER 91ST BG(H) MEMBERS AND FRIEND WHO TRAINED AND served at Walla Walla, WA AAF Base attending the Historical Marker unveiling are: L-R, Donna Jean Coleman (former Officer's Club accountant), Frank Bannon, John Yates, John Parsons, Harold Moose, Richard McCoy and W W Hill.



TOO SOON OR TOO LATE? THOUGH A SOLEMN OCCASION, this group of Walla Walla, WA AAF Base 91st BG(H) Historical Marker unveiling participants was snapped while happily engaged in either before-or-after activity relating to a formal, group photo. Those in the foreground are identified as, L-R: "Bohannon, Yates, Danekas and Hackstock." Those standing are, L-R: "Hill, McCoy, Donna Jean Coleman, Parsons, Donahue and Moose."



ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE 91st BG(H) PRESENT AT THE MacDill AAF Base in 1942 received special applause during the recent erection of a Historical Marker there. Reading L-R, foreground, are: W W Hill, Rufus Youngblood, Robert Foster, Thomas Simons, Henry Kundig, Peter Hirth. Rear, right, L-R, are: Hal Loper and Marvin Nichols.



FORMER 91ST BG(H) MEMBERS ATTENDING THE ERECTION OF the 91ST BG(H) Historical Marker outside MacDill USAF Base in Tampa, FL are shown above.

HISTORICAL MARKERS ERECTED

(Continued from Page 5)

stationed at MacDill, provided the other.

Loper's request for a show of hands of those present who were part of the 91st BG(H)'s original complement revealed seven in addition to himself. Col Egede-Nissen's unannounced arrangement for "a fly-by" by one of MacDill's big planes was the other. Its roar helped restore auditory memories of a distant past.

Subsequent probing by Loper revealed about 25 former 91sters in the audience.

The Invocation was given by USAAF Chaplain Mike Jones. Tampa City Councilman Ronnie Mason welcomed the gathering in behalf of the Mayor while Col Egede-Nissen welcomed all to MacDill and arranged an on-base luncheon.

The 91st BGMA's Pres Charles A Hackstock and Historian B/Gen Earl Pate reviewed MacDill AFB and 91st BG(H) history respectively. W W Hill, Memorial Committee Chairman, who sparked the affair and began his 91st service at MacDill, recalled early MacDill anecdotes in his speech.

Among the attentive listeners was the late Col Paul G McDuffy's widow, Mary, and their son, William.

The eight attendees who began their 91st BG(H) service at MacDill were: Robert Foster, W W Hill, Peter Hirth, Henry Kundig, Hal Lopper, Marvin Nichols and Rufus Youngblood.

Members of Loper's large family not only swelled the attendance, they literally staffed the program - from erection of the marker post, program printing, visitor registration, kitchen "policing" after the luncheon, etc. Since even Loper's grandchildren participated in the smoothly run affair individual recognition is precluded. On behalf of all who attended, The R/I awards the Loper Family a sincere, heartfelt and emotional vote of "Thanks!"

A list composed by Loper's grandchildren, of the 91st BGMAers, family members and friends attending the MacDill USAAF Historical Marker services for the 91st BG(H) on Oct 27, 1991 follows:

C-H

Corbin, Bill and Cusick, Charles.
Damand, John and Joan.
Falck, Gil and Edna; Fitton, George G; Foster, Robert A;
Friend, Kay and Amy and Fuchs, Madeline,
Hackstock, Charles; W W Hill and Jaqueline; Hirth, Peter J and
Hudson, Albert and Bonnie.

K-N

Kundig, Henry M.
Loper, Burton, Susan, Eric and Diana; Loper, Byron; Loper,
Howell and Irene; Loper, James, Lorraine, Norman, Katrina and
Kriss; Loper, Kellie and Loper, Stan Adam and Andrew.
Malkin, Rudy; Mason, Betty Sue; McDuffy, Mary; McDuffy,
William; and Morse, Dana, Laura and Bradley.
Nichols, Marvin and Demetra.

P-Y

Parrish, George A; Parmenter, George M and Veda F and

Pate, Earl.

Rutter, Vernon and Wylere.

Simmons,

Theis, Anthony W.

Welbes, Charles and Henrietta and Welsh, James H.

Youngblood, Rufus and Peggy.

BIG 1992 EVENTS NEED

(Continued from Page 1)

joining this "RRR" proved its feasibility, announces close to 100 91st BGMAers have responded. (FLASH! Responses are now over a 100!)

Johnson's compilation of the names of those interested is published in hopes that others, seeing old friends among them, will be encouraged to swell the attendance even more.

A travel article in the Sunday, Nov 10, 1991 edition of The Washington Times, submitted by Charles Bell, 322nd, MD, suggests East Anglia, the 91st BGMA "RRR" target, could now be haunted by sounds of the past. "...if a person remains quiet long enough and stands on any number of gone-but-not-forgotten airfields," the article says, "he might possibly hear a faint ghost of a B17 landing somewhere in the distance."

Johnson's list of those presently most likely to be able to report on that phenomenon follows:

322nd

James E Black, Robert Burnside, Edward M Damron; Jack Gibson, Dan Goldstein, Charles Hackstock, Frank Haddick, George D Harris, James Hensley, Ed Hofferber, Joseph R Kerr, George A Kemnitz, E C Laedita, Wm G. J McCrea, Jimmie D Mills, Jr, Benedict Musick, Raymond W Paul, Bob Schuck, William H Turcotte and George Wood.

323rd

Frank Banon, Dean W Bohlen, Charles Brewick, Phil N Darby, Manuel Fischer, Wayne B Frye, Charles Giauque, D R Hettema, John Karlac, J R Knaub, Robert A Krusen, Gordon Lenaz, L L Lyons, Lawrence Ott, Bert Mullins, George Odenwater, Edward S Reppel, Carl Rizer, F W Sheriff, Willis C Stinson, Deanne Turner and Edward Whitten.

324th

Edward Ah Tye, William Arthur, Domenic Baccari, Andrew Caswell, Charles E. Cliburn, Carl Gunderson, Raymond Howard, William D Head, Arnold Hughes, Asay B Johnson, Jack Marlow, E Scott Miller, John R Morris, Bruce D Pardue, William G Potter, Clifford Schultz, A M Schumacher, G H Spicer, John Westwood and C E Winchell.

401st

John Askins, William F Campbell, O Glenn Cooper, Faber H Cripps, Neil A Daniels, Roy H Fratz, Ed Gallagher, John Green, Edward Haller, H R Harding, Samuel Harris, H E Hal Johnson, Frank Kennedy, Conrad Lohoefer, J H McPartlin, John Parsons, Charles P Peck, C W Sanzenbaker, Charles Walker, Hubert Weinberger, Ben W Whittle, James M Veres and Troy C Young.

OTHERS

Michael Banta, Marty Beinz, Betty Figie, James Harlow, Al Meyers, G M Parmeter, Charles Pretti, H Stebleton and Herb Victor.

Folded Wings

• **BRACK, VERNON O**, 324th, POW, Stalag Luft III, 201 East Broadway, Ponca City, OK. Former 323rd Cecil E Williams, Ponca City, reports Brack's Sept 20, 1991 death at age 74. Williams, who visited Brack during the past years, says failing memory prevented Brack from identifying his crew which was downed on July 26, 1943 on his third mission. A Co-Pilot, Brack was a POW for 22 months. Honorably discharged with the rank of 1/Lt on Nov 26, 1945, he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. His brief mission tour certainly contributed to his inability to remember anyone from his 91st BG(H) service.

Active in numerous fraternal and veterans associations, Brack was also listed in Who's Who of the Republican Party. Survivors include his wife, India Mae, his father, William and a sister. Memorial contributions may be made in his name to the Local VFW, PO Box 1836, Ponca City, OK 74602.

• **FRIEND, JOHN C**, 322nd, 4705 Wisconsin Ave, Tampa, FL 33616, Sept 24, 1991. Friend was the Radio Gunner on Charles T Bell's crew. After his retirement from the AF as a C/MS after more than 20 years service he received extensive recognition and numerous commendations for teaching physically and mentally disadvantaged in the Tampa area. He was also a key 1986 91st BGMA Tampa Reunion Committee member.

Reported by his former pilot, Charles T Bell, Potomac, MD, who notes condolences sent to the above address will reach Friend's wife, Kay.

• **LUSSIER, EARL E, "PETE"**, 79, RFD 1, Box 850, Hartland Hill, Woodstock, VT 05091, Oct 26, 1991. Lussier served as a 91st BG(H) WGer. He served on the vestry of St James Episcopal Church, was past master of Woodstock Lodge No. 31, F&AM and was a well known Vermont douser. He was still employed at the time of his death. His survivors include his wife, Martha, a son and a daughter and three grandchildren. Reported by William D Wilson, Council Bluffs, IA.

• **MCCARTER, CLAUDE A, "MAC"**, 323rd, LM, Rt 3, Box 924, Kimberling City, MO 65686. McCarter, the BT Gunner on the WICKED WITCH, died Oct 25, 1991. Reported by Wayne "Tex" Frye, Zapata, TX.

• **DR ROSS, WELDON T**, 323rd, LM, 450 W 7th St, PO Box 393, McMinnville, OR 97128, Aug 11, 1991. Dr Ross' approximately five years of flight surgeon service in AAF included service with the 323rd Sq. A prominent resident of McMinnville, he contributed to the vitality of his area. He founded the area's Physicians Medical Center in 1946; owned and managed the General Hospital from 1947 to 1972 when it was purchased by the Hospital Corp of America. In addition to continuing his medical involvements, including service on the board of trustees for the Oregon Physicians Service, he was president of the McMinnville Chamber of Commerce, co-founded McMinnville Industrial Promotions and was a past chairman of the McMinnville Airport Committee, among other activities that earned him the title of "McMinnville's First Citizen" in 1978.

Dr. Ross, during his Bassingbourn service was awarded the Legion of Merit for his contribution toward reducing frostbite among bomber crews. Dismayed by the frostbite casualty rate, he researched the problem by flying combat missions, one of which was Schweinfurt. Open radio room hatches, he determined, produced a wind velocity of nearly 60 mph in the rear of early model B-17s. He subsequently contributed to the design and construction of a hatch incorporating a .50 calibre machine gun to eliminate "the vortex effect." Former 91st BG(H) C/O Gen Stanley W Wray presented Dr Ross with the Legion of Merit.

Dr. Ross, mentioned at least four times in Col George P Birdsong's book, STORMY WEATHER, a B-17, is credited in it with saving Birdsong's flak injured eye.

He is survived by a son, a daughter and two grandchildren. His family suggests "remembrances be contributions to the Evergreen Doc Society or the American Heart Association." Reported by Joseph P. Zimmerman, 322nd, LM, Clackamas, OR.

• **STAFFA, JOSEPH S**, 322nd, 698 Walnut St, Fall River, MA 02720, Aug 4, 1991 following a stroke. Staffa, a WG on Pilot Charles T Bell's 1944 crew, retired from the Postal Service in 1985. He is survived by his wife, Frances, and a daughter. Reported by his wife and Bell, Potomac, MD.

• **PARSONS, EDWARD A. JR**, 401st, 310 York Ave, Towanda, PA 18848, Apr 19, 1991. Parsons is survived by his wife of 45 years, a son, who served in Korea, and daughter among other survivors. Reported by his wife, Anne C, who requested to remain on the R/I mailing list.

NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS

CHARLES E BREWICK, LM, Pittsburg, PA
BERNARD H SWINEBURNE, LM, Albuquerque, NM
EDWARD J WESTWOOD, AL, Yakima, WA

MONTAGE PHOTOS

(Continued from Page 4)

Engineer and Stalag 17 POW after his Apr 17, 1943 downing; Gerstemeir; Keith D Quayle, Hudson, FL, former 323rd Bombardier, Oct '44-June '45 and William E "Bill" Uphoff, Jupiter, FL, former 324th Co-Pilot. Uphoff, completing 34 missions shortly before the end of ETO hostilities while a Flight Officer, recalls the late Col Emanuel J "Many" Klette would not permit him to fly more missions without a promotion. Uphoff joined after another member, seeing him comment on "bombing techniques" on a local FL TV station, during the recent Desert Storm Operations, alerted him to the 91st BGMA's existence. 5) 91st BGMAers, family members and friends enjoy the ISLAND QUEEN's sunny, top-side deck while cruising FL's waterways. 6) An ISLAND QUEEN crew member is flanked by Mr and Mrs William A McGavern. McGavern and his wife, married June 21, 1941, received special applause for being "the longest married" of those attending. He was the Radio Operator of Robert M Hoffman's 323rd HI-HO SILVER crew.

STORMY WEATHER, a B-17 A TRILOGY *

(Continued from Page 8)

NOTE: This book is a reprint of Col George P Birdsong, Jr.'s 6-1/4 x 9-1/4 255 page first edition released in 1988. A reprint means the first edition sold out! It was reviewed in the Oct 1988 R/I.

R/I BIBLIOGRAPHY PROJECT FALLS SHORT OF GOAL

THE COMPILATION OF A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE increasing number of published and unpublished lengthy articles and books pertaining to the 91st BG(H) planned for this issue has been delayed. Rather than disappoint those whose interest was aroused, a partial list follows.

Not included are three popular 91st BGMA unbound manuscript books listed at the bottom of the P-X items on the Membership Renewal Insert Page. They may be ordered directly from 91st BGMA Trea Charles V Welbes along with other P-X items.

One asterisk (*) after book title indicates a review of the book has appeared in the R/I. Two asterisks (**) indicate a review is planned.

EYEWITNESS TO WORLD WAR II **

Edited by Stephen W Sears
American Heritage
Magazine Anthology
60 Fifth Av, NY, NY 10011

NOTE: This forthcoming book from one of America's prestigious publications will include the 401st's Col Lester F Rentmeester's lengthy Oct-Nov 1983 article of the 91st BG(H)'s participation in the 8th AF's first successful daylight raid on Berlin on Mar 6, 1944.

A VIEW FROM THE TAIL,
THE LAST MISSION **
Marlon C Hoffman
5950 Cindy Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45449-3207
146 pages, 8 1/4 x 10 3/4
Paper Back, Bound - \$14.95

SHOO SHOO BABY
WELCOME HOME!
Col Joseph C Winsett, Editor
2750th ABW/DAR
16 pages, 8 1/2 x 11
Souvenir Pamphlet - \$3.00

NOTE: The late Col Paul G McDuffee's widow, Mary, generously donated these official mementoes of SSB's Oct 1988 arrival at the USAF Museum, Wright-Patterson AF Base, OH to the 91st BGMA. Varied info and photos on SSB's history, restoration, crews, B-17 specifications, etc. are included. May be obtained from 91st BGMA Trea Charles V Welbes, 210 Leatherwood Dr, Mountain Home, AK 72653-3740. All funds are deposited in the 91st BGMA Treasury. Overseas - \$4.00.

STORMY WEATHER, a B-17
A TRILOGY *
George P Birdsong, Jr
Hamblenden Publishing Company
PO Box 10441
Pleasanton, CA 94588-0441
Harbound - \$19.95 + \$2.00 H&P

(Continued on Page 7)

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 Bassingbourn, 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.
210 Leatherwood Dr.
Mountain Home, AR 72653

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TREASURE'S OWNER SOUGHT

ONE OF THE "BEST KEPT PERSONAL, HISTORICAL" photo albums of the 91st BG(H) was forgotten at the close of the 1974 Memphis, TN Reunion. Individual efforts by a thoughtful member, who wisely retrieved it to find it's owner, have been unsuccessful. He has now turned it over to the 91st BGMA for final disposition.

Pres Hackstock announces the album will be returned to

its owner if a full description is provided. If there is no claimant by the 1992 Memphis, TN National Reunion the album will become 91st BGMA property and turned over to the 91st BGMA historian.

Hopefully the owner of the invaluable album will contact Pres Charles R Hackstock, 14224 SE 288th St, Kent, WA 98042-3935.