

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



401st SQDN

Vol 25 No 3

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

October 1992

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK "OK'D" FOR 1994 REUNION

THE 1994 REUNION OF THE 91st BGMA WILL BE held in Oklahoma City, OK. OKC's selection was not arbitrary. No other competitive bids were submitted in time for the required Memphis Reunion-time decision.

Former 401ster, Col Tom Ashinhurst, Ret, OKC, OK, heads the Convention Committee. Had there been other formidable competitive bids, his locale would have provided a dilemma for membership votes.

For the present, data supplied by Ashinhurst points out getting to OKC's central location via I-35, I-40, and

I-44 and air service from all major carriers is "a snap."

Of special interest to 91st BGMAers will be the Air Space Museum in OKC's Kirkpatrick Center where military and civilian flight history is preserved.

Don Jaeger, OKC Convention & Visitors Bureau Director of Marketing, says, "We are looking forward to welcoming the 91st BGMA to Oklahoma City."

Details pertaining to the 1994 OKC Reunion will appear in subsequent R/Is.

MEMPHIS REUNION MEMORABLE ONE

APPROXIMATELY 450 91ST BGMAers, WIVES, FAMILY members, AMers, and friends attended the Sept 1992 Reunion in Memphis, TN.

The Commercial Appeal, Memphis' dominant newspaper, warned its readers the appearance of former 91st BG(H) air and ground crew members at The Peabody Hotel would "bomb" the area with war stories and cautioned them to "look out for flying yak."

Among the Reunion highlights was the long overdue emphasis placed upon the contribution ground crewmen made to 91st BH(H) operations. During the first seven months of action, while the 91st suffered 82 percent casualties, ground crewmen struggled to keep its returning, damaged and dwindling aircraft operable.

Though their workload did not diminish appreciably during the remainder of the war, the fact that only four of the 91st's original planes were left after the first seven months is an indication of the continuing, relentless pressure upon those ultimately responsible for keeping the group combat ready.

Unable to attend because of medical problems, former 401st C/O John D Davis, Hudson, FL, was elated to hear ground crewmen had been honored. Visited by the R/I editor after the Reunion, he recalled ground crew dedication. As an example, he points out, one ground crew, headed by Sgt McDaniels one night removed a bullet-proof windshield glass from a Fort undergoing repairs and installed it in Davis's plane for one day only on their own initiative.

"I had only wished for bullet-proof windshield glass," Davis emphasizes. "When we returned from the next day's

PARTICIPANTS PRAISE MAY 1992 RRR TOUR

THOUGH SOAKING WET WEATHER PREVAILED during the early May, 1992 91st BGMA RRR, it did not dampen the spirits of those attending.

"Fantastic... we're so glad we came." "Indescribable." "Waited a lot of years for a great trip... the little courtesies and extra attention added so much." "Such a wonderful and congenial group... First Class all the way!"

The above are a few written compliments by participants after their return from the early May 1992 tour arranged by the Berkshire Travel Agency of Reading, PA.

"Nostalgia and reminiscence were the order of the day during the action packed days in the Bassingbourn area. Approximately 135 former 91sters and wives, family members, friends and Associate members attended. It was an emotional time for all - whether they recalled or were introduced to 50-year old events that are part of the 91st BG(H)'s proud past," Assay (Ace) B Johnson, 91st BGMA Sec, writes.

The RRR group consisted of 108 participants, the remainder traveled independently. The enthusiasm for the nostalgic return was evinced by the fact that about 30 91st BGMAer's applications for inclusion in the conducted tour could not be accommodated.

Two things contributing to their disappointment were: applications to attend mounted after the original flood of responses and other AF memorial groups competed for available tourist facilities. The fact that so many members were eventually accommodated in one London and two Cambridge hotels was an achievement.

Among the English officials contributing to the activities

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY CHARLES R HACKSTOCK

TWO GOOD YEARS

PERHAPS THE PAST TWO YEARS OF 91st BGMA activity including the 50th Anniversary of the activation and beginning of the 91st BG(H)'s outstanding history will not soon again be matched. I credit the membership with that possibility.

Numerous individuals participated in such notable events as the erection of historical markers at Walla Walla, WA, Tampa, FL, Memphis, TN and Bassingbourn, England; the Support Unit Honoring Memphis, TN Reunion and a Jenkins Beach, FL Rally Round.

Impressive attendance at the gatherings, I'm certain, reinforced the dedication of association officials and all the rarely recognized individuals working behind-the-scenes. The Memphis Reunion attendance, following the May RRR Tour, I confess, seemed to be jeopardized. TF (Travel Fatigue) was expected to limit attendance there.

Not so. Some 450 attended. Association Historian Earl C Pate, Jr and Frank Donofrio, who seemed to orchestrate early preparations alone, were rewarded with the response. Pate visibly involved himself in the most minute details. They ranged from administrative assistance, posting posters, bartending, etc to personally wrestling a 75 pound metal helium gas container to the Peabody Hotel – despite an aging, ailing back. Possibly, to the discomfiture of some, the 91st BGMA Hospitality Room was redesignated from a "Non-Smoking" to a "Smoking" area by one smoking addict helper who confides Peabody management's concession came only after "Gen" Pate's name, without authorization, was mentioned!

I must add that late, unannounced arrivals of numerous members, though sincerely welcomed, contributed to most of the vexations some of them experienced while registering.

Pate, and those assisting him, also sacrificed time resolving the resulting problems. Though willing, Registration Desk staffers should not be expected to donate needless chunks of their time. I can only request that in the future members use available Pre-Registration Forms so that Committee members and helpers can enjoy more of the socializing we all seek.

With apologies to those missed, from a supplied "roster," I list alphabetically those who "volunteered" or were "inducted" into unrecognized behind-the-scenes Memphis Reunion activity. A vote of "Thanks" is due them. They are:

Nick Bankovsky, Augusta Hackstock, "Jackie" Hill and brother Steve, Harry Hovermill, Bill and Dorothy Leasure, Madeline Malkin, Tony Montalvo, Mary Elizabeth Pate, Aubin Pene, Mike Riley and Chuck and Sunny Welbes.

Other items requiring note are:

The proposed change in our By-Laws, Article VII, Officers, permitting elected officers to serve more than two (2) consecutive terms was approved by membership vote.

Orlo G Natvig, Nisswa, MN, whose interest in the open 2nd VP position arrived too late for inclusion in an official ballot, has been appointed to that post. He will also serve as the 91st BGMA Chaplin. Trea Charles V Welbes, ineligible to serve a third consecutive term under the old By-Laws, has been appointed Folded Wings Chairman. His former post has been combined with Sec Assay B Johnson's position.

In closing, it must be noted that your 91st BGMA officials have been honored by membership support of their efforts to preserve our Proud Past. It is hoped our official efforts, possible only because of favorable membership response, will stimulate future generations to respect, honor and remember those special 91st BG(H) personnel who died while serving with us.

For their surviving 91st BGMA comrades and families, in behalf of all your association officers, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

MEMPHIS REUNION

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mission McDaniels and his crew had to remove and return it to the other Fort whose repairs were completed while we flew."

"That was a lot of voluntary work for only one 'safer mission' for us," he says, "but it illustrates how far those guys went to get us to come back."

The Commercial Appeal, in extensive Reunion coverage, noted that Joseph M Giambrone, known as the MEMPHIS BELLE's "Flight Surgeon," died in January. Ground Crew chief Giambrone, the paper said, "was credited with keeping the BELLE flying."

Paul Limm, 401st, San Clemente, CA, delivered the "Ground Crew Recognition Speech" at the dinner-dance. He coped with his difficult assignment of explaining belated official recognition humorously. Lkening 91st BG(H) operations to the faith people place in autos, he said we rarely think about the parts involved when they work.

Support group personnel, like functioning auto parts, by keeping things running smoothly also, unfortunately, attracted little attention, he explained.

"Only," he said, "when we get in our cars and the carburetor doesn't 'carb,' or the generator doesn't 'gen' – or the piston doesn't... well, doesn't do what it's supposed to do, do we pay attention to them!"

Spicing his speech with Henny Youngman and Victor Borges-like quips, he drew such applause that the impression was left that the 91st BGMA was a more cohesive association afterward.

Flight crew members arose after his speech and saluted the many ground crew members present.

Another Reunion highlight was the unveiling of a 91st BG(H) historical plaque at the Mud Island site of the enshrined MEMPHIS BELLE. A mutual endeavor of 91st BGMA Memorials Chairman W W Hill and Reunion Co-Chairman B/G Earl G Pate, Ret, and Frank G Donofrio, the ceremonies were attended by a throng including Memphis'

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MEMPHIS REUNION

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mayor and TV coverage.

Of the numerous sight-seeing tours the local Coors Brewery buffet-dinner will remain most indelibly stamped upon the memories of the participants. In addition to providing Air Force bus transportation, 91st BGMA Historian Pate arranged an escort by the Shelby County, TN police.

While the buses raced non-stop from the Peabody Hotel to the distant destination at speeds sometimes estimated to be 75 mph, Shelby County Police cars passed them like fighter escorts, lights flashing, sirens wailing and burning rubber while they cleared the highway ahead and blocked traffic seeking access to the main artery being traveled.

No one aboard the buses could help but be impressed that 91st BGMAers are VIPs.

Registering a day before scheduled activities, the recently married editor and his wife, Madeline, received an education regarding Reunion "behind-the-scenes" activities. Promptly immersed in helping with last minute preparations, they witnessed the problems stemming from unanticipated arrivals. (Pres Hackstock estimates approximately 100 registrants fell in that category.)

Though Historian Pate and 91st BGMA wives staffing

the Registration desk coped with the deluge of dilemmas, the R/I suggests pre-registration would have eliminated the vexing details encountered by unexpected registrants.

Only one other "irritation" was noted by the R/I.

Late, during the dinner-dance the band leader announced, "We have a celebrity among us! Clarence Winchell, MEMPHIS BELLE crew member!" Winchell, after clenching and raising a "threatening fist" at the source of the unsought attention, happily continued dancing contentedly with his wife.

Despite real effort by the R/I, arrangements for a group photo of four other association celebrities failed. The Memphis Reunion was the first since the editor's 1986 "activation" that four 91st BGMA presidents, including the incumbent, attended. Present Pres Hackstock and Past-Pres Louis (Tony) Montalvo, officiating over many activities, were readily recognized. Former 91st BGMA presidents Thomas H Gunn and Paul Chryst, enjoying unofficial status, renewed and made new friendships in the background.

Richard W McCoy, Lynden, WA traveled the furthest to attend.

Those Attending

322nd

Compton, Robert & Mary Beth; Cressman, Arthur & Lorraine and Crist.

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MEMPHIS, TN SNAPS: 1) FRANK DONOFRIO, CONVENTION CO-CHAIRMAN and Pres Charles R Hackstock (L-R) are interviewed during TV coverage of the MEMPHIS BELLE site 91st BG(H) historical marker unveiling. 2) A Shelby County, TN Police escort, arranged by Convention Co-Chairman Earl G Pate, rushed Reunion revelers non-stop to the Coors Brewery Buffet like escorting fighters. 3) Mrs Hugh Brooks personally thanks the Shelby County, TN police for the VIP treatment provided 91st BGMAers while Historian Pate, extreme left, observes. 4) L-R: Convention Helpers Harry Hovermill and Nick Bankovsky manned an important

Hospitality Room post - the bar. Being served are Aubin Pene and Paul Limm. 5) New member William Duffy and his wife, Emily Ann, Whippany, NJ, are welcomed by Bob Schuck and Pres Hackstock (L-R, rear). Duffy, former 323rd WICKED WITCH Co-Pilot, wears 322nd Pilot Schuck's war-time hat. 6) One of the numerous Ground Crew displays was prepared by former Electronic Officer John Renskers, seated. Former members of the unit present for the photo were, L-R: (?), Howell Loper, Lauren Mummert, Russell Mattson, Robert J Cayer, Marvin Nichols, John Beety and Sebastiano F Ripa.

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Damro, Edward & Ione; Dawson, Thomas & Frank Dixon and Duemler, Wilbur & Lu.

Flourney, Paul & Margaret.

Geiger, Bruce & Mary and Gerald, Robert & Helen.

Hackstock, Charles & Augusta; Hadd, Charles, Sr; Harlow, James & Mary Lou; Henryson, Gaylord & Colleen and Hillock, Nelson, Jr & Louise.

Kelly, E R (Bob); Kennedy, Patrick & Del; Koranda, William and Kurylo, John & Madeline.

Lammers, Robert & Stella; Liebig, John, Jr & Jo Ann and Lovely, Robert.

McCrea, William G J (John); Megehelsen, Robert & Lila and Mills, Jimmie & Sandra.

Peacock, Edward & Lenora.

Schuck, Robert & June; Steele, Erwin & Esther and Srsen, Myron & Mildred.

Terefenko, Nicholas and Turcotte, William & Dorothy.

Willey, James Jr. & Eloise.

323rd

Blackburn, Kenneth & Anna; Bowen, Chasten & Loretta and Burkhart, Gerald.

Cayer, Robert & Mary; Christman, Robert & Pamela and Collins, Charles & Dolly.

Darby, Phil & Doris; DeQuardo, Emil & Mary Ann; Doeell, George and Margaret; Duffy, William & Emily and Dumouchel, James & Evelyn.

Ferree, Clayton; Franke, Joe & Bert; Frankie, Joseph & Sharleen and Frye, Wayne (Tex).

Garafalo, Vincent and Gates, Ed & Joan.

Hettema, David & Norma; Hill, Whitmal & Jacquelyn and Hoffman, Robert & Caroline.

Kaiserski, Edward & Ruth; Knaub, James & Catherine; Kool, Harry & Paula and Krusen, Robert & Ruth.

Lilley, Hank and Loper, Howell & Irene.

Mahan, Lloyd & Florence; Mattie, Mario & Mary; McCoy, Richard & Margaret, McGavern, William & Celinda; Mitchamore, Harold & Mae and Murray, Donald & Jo.

Ott, Lawrence & Vivian.

Perri, Steve & Nancy.

Reed, Quilla & Elizabeth; Ripa, Frank & Ruth and Rutter, Vernon Jr. & Wylene.

Simpson, Seymore & Bertha; Simpson, Lewis & Maldarine; Sinabalto, Armando, Norma & A J and St George, Henry & Mrs.

Thompson, Leslie.

Wilson, Howard.

Yezdimir, Emil & Millie.

324th

Adams, Harry & Molly; Adkins, Eugene & Irene; Ah Tye, Edward & Blanche; Augsburg, Delbert & Betty and Auth, William.

Boreillis, William & Eileen; Busa, Charles & Mrs.

Carpenter, Walter & Addine; Carpenter, Hubert, Patsy & Grace; Cass, Dale & Inez; Caswell, Andrew; Cleveland, Robert & Roma and Collins, Phillip.

Dealey, Robert & Nancy; Dean, Robert; DeBoy, Peter & Thelma and Donahue, Howard & Katie.

Eichert, Charles and Engstad, Gerry & Dody.

Fornaca, Frank & Mary.

Gold, Seymore & Elaine; Goldber, Marvin & Betty; Gunderso Carl; Gunn, Tom & Bettye and Guzek, Lloyd & Mildred.

Hindmab, Fred & Antoniette; Hoevet, Edward; Hohing, Conrad, Jr & Virginia and Holman, Charles & Carolyn.

Johnson, Assay & Gloria.

Keirse, Walter & Ann and Kleyla, Robert, Sr.

Leasure, Bill & Dorothy; Loch, Harold & Exie and Ludwig, Gerald & Sara.

Mattson, Russell; McDermott, Roger & Joseph; Meirer, William & Elaine; Mellon, Fred & Betty; Meyers, Al & Janviere; Montalvo, Tony; Moretti, Rudy & Alice and Mummert, Lauren & Dorothy.

Natvig, Orlo; Nichols, Marvin & Demetra and Nichols, E Lee, Jr & Betty.

Offley, Bernard & Jessie.

Pate, Earl & Mary Elizabeth; Potter, G William & Marjorie and Pyrah, Curtis & Bonnie.

Quinn, James & Liboria.

Rappaport, Ralph.

Shultz, Clifford & Barbara; Smith, Robert; Smith, Kenneth & Virginia; Spicer, Garland, Jr & Doris and Steiner, Herman & Hilda. Vincent, Emile & Anna Mae.

Webb, Jack & Ellen; Westwood, John (Westy); Wilhelm, Leo & Stella; Winchell, Bill & Laura; Wolf, Willard and Woods, Laverne & Onie.

Youngblood, Rufus & Peggy.

401st

Allen, John & Rosemary; Armstrong, Roger & Gloria; Ashinhurst, Tom & June and Askins, John & Jackie.

Bacon, James & Mary; Bamber, Joseph; Bankovsky, Nicholas & Mary; Bird, Donald & Marie and Brooks, Hugh & Daphne.

Chryst, Paul.

Daniels, Neil; Davies, Richard & Margorie and DeBolt, Harold & Dorothy.

Fletcher, James & Ruth and Fodroci, Michael & Pauline.

Galfney, Jack & Jan; Gallagher, Ed & Jeanne; Gaston, Zezlou & Bettie; Gauthier, Donald & Roberta; Gawley, John & Mabel and Goldsmith, Richard & Peggy.

Hart, Bernard; Havelaar, Marion; Herman, Maurice & Betty; Hovermill, Harry and Hughes, Eldon & Lucille.

Ingram, Bill & Billie and Irak, John, Jr & Evelyn.

Johnson, Harold & Phyllis.

Kase, Bernard & Verne; Koch, William & Evelyn and Koeller, C W (Bud).

Lieberman, Harold & Harriet and Limm, Paul.

Malkin, Rudy & Madeline.

Ondrovic, John & Martha.

Parmenter, George & Veda; Parsons, John, Jr; Pene, Aubin & Jacqueline and Pulliam, William & Rayeina.

Quarles, H Y & Myrow.

Ratz, Roy & Lois; Rheam, Michael & Ardella and Rogers, Bernard & Ruth.

Simons, Thomas & Mary; Simons, George & Wanda and Sylvester, Larry.

Tobacco, Ned & Josephine and Thompson, Norman & Karen.

Vrooman, Clifford.

Walker, Charles & Mary; Welbes, Charles & Sunny and Winfree, Hugh & Ruby.

441st

Zellars, Edwin & Nita.

HDQs

Renskers, John & Violet.

LMs & AMs

Bedwell, Betty; Bienz, Marty & Dan; Braman, Ann; Clapp, Audrey, Giambone, Dean & Mrs; Holman, Scott & Vicki; Mullins, Sarah and Van Dyke, Barbara & Marcia.

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PARTICIPANTS PRAISE

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and ceremonies were: LTC Jerome Church, C/O Bassingbourn Barracks; Peter Burt, Royston Town Lord Mayor; Col Peter Worthy, Ret; The Rev Keith Johnson of Royston; Vince Hemmings, Tower Museum Curator; David Crowe and former 91ster Otto Meikus.

English military units contributing to the various affairs were The Queens Division of Her Majesty's Army; the Royston Royal British Legion; The Queen's Division, Bassingbourn Barracks and the Bassingbourn Royal British Legion.

LTC Charles R Hackstock (Ret), 91st BGMA Pres, addressed the assembled during a wreath laying ceremony before the Prop Memorial. WW Hill, 91st BGMA Memorials Chairman, instrumental in arranging for a Historical Road Marker's erection near the Prop Memorial, provided an appropriate Biblical reading during the services.

LTC Church, Pres Hackstock reports, seems so proud of the road-side marker recording the 91st BG(H)'s presence that he'll probably periodically scrub its surface clean himself!

"A vote of thanks is extended to Hill for his persistence in creating the marker and locating it in such a convenient

spot," Sec Johnson says.

"Highlights" and cherished memories of those attending the recent RRR cannot, of course, all be recorded – despite the fact that they underlie the groundswell of approval following it.

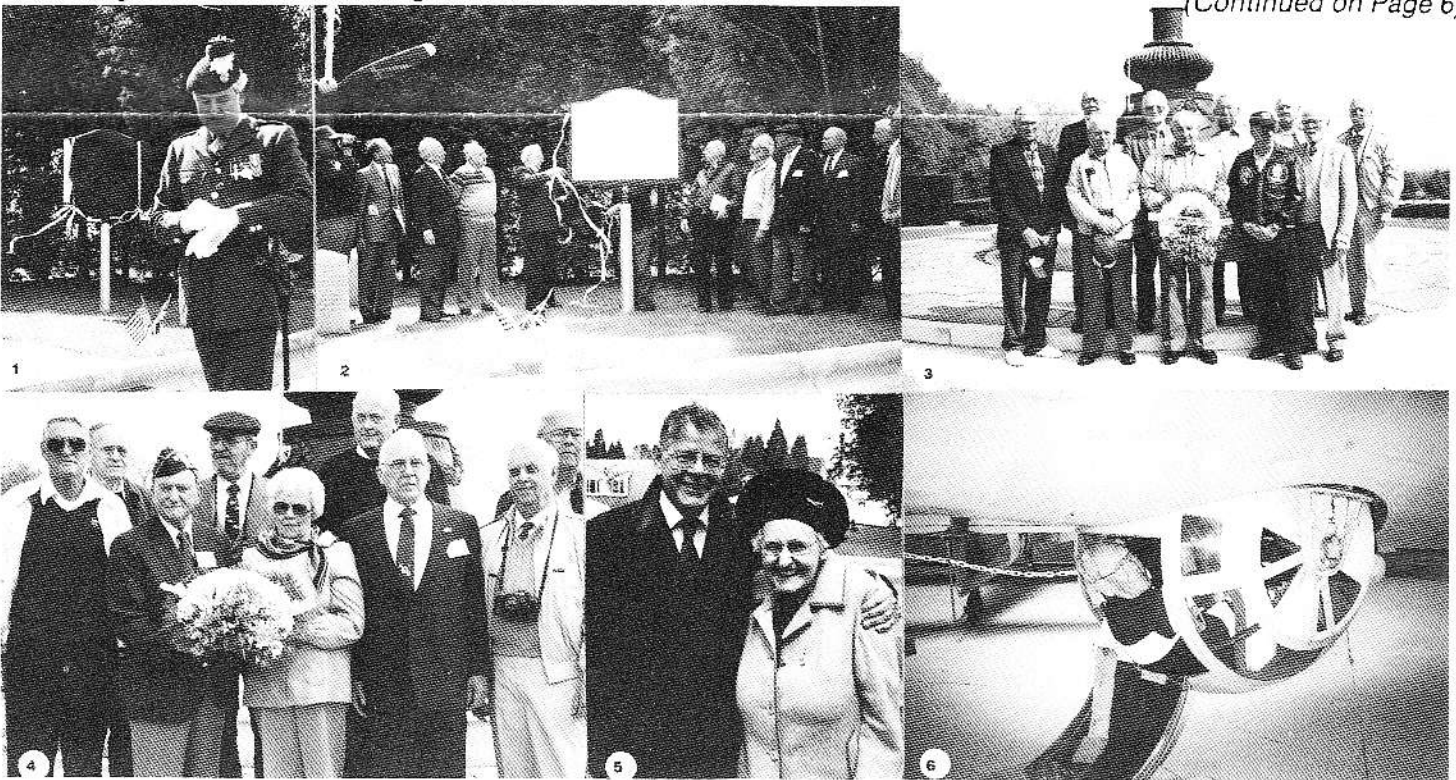
"The tour (RRR) we were on was the greatest I have been on. Vince Hemmings and his helpers... drove us all over what is left of the air strip. He is a great guy," writes Wayne (Tex) B Frye, 323rd, Zapata, TX.

"Tex," in the past, has admitted enjoying hearing and telling "a few tall tales" with 91st BGMAers. Though there was no need, in a post-RRR communication with the R/I, he submitted proof that one of his cherished RRR experiences is not "a tall tale."

"Tex" sent a copy of a letter from Englishman Russel Ives who is, apparently, a crew member of a still operative B17 in England. In his letter Ives says, "I bet the other guys didn't believe you when you said you had just met a FW 190 pilot. Well, here's the proof!"

Enclosed was a photo of "Tex" talking to "Walter," a former JG26 "Richtofen" Geschwader pilot who operated in the Italian area. The former Luftwaffe pilot, credited with 12 victories, did not survive the war unscathed, however. Ives writes "Walter" was shot down nine times and wounded

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RRR SNAPS: 1) LTC JEROME CHURCH, BASSINGBOURN BASE C/O, checks time prior to the unveiling of the 91st BG(H) Memorial Marker. 2) 91st BGMA Pres Charles R Hackstock unveils the Memorial Marker under the watchful eyes of RRR Tour members who served at Bassingbourn throughout the 91st's 1942-45 presence. 3) Original 91st BG(H) members participated at the Madingly Military Cemetery wreath laying ceremony. Front row, L-R, are: Harry Glenn, Bill Leasure, John Irak, Robert Kleya and Robert Caldwell. Rear, L-R, are: Rufus Youngblood, Red Cliburn, Nick Bankovsky, James Black and James Haddick. 4) 91st BGMA Ex-

POWs assisted in wreath laying ceremonies at Madingly. Front row, L-R, are: Assay B Johnson, Abe Homer, Betty Figie (the late Leonard Figie's widow), Charles R Hackstock and Frank Haddick. Rear, L-R, are: Jime Veres, Harold R Harding, Frank Kenely and Roger Armstrong. 5) Doris Foster, former owner of the Royston Angel Pub wore her memorable hat while attending RRR Tour ceremonies. WW Hill, to her left, reports Doris, now 90 years old, told him, "My pub never ran out of beer after the 91st departed!" 6) ONE MORE TIME! Andy Shumaker, former 324th Ball Turret Gunner, tests his war-time "accommodations" during the Duxford War Museum Tour.

PARTICIPANTS PRAISE

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five times. He still has a bullet in his forehead, two in his backside and a chest full of shrapnel.

"Tex's" English friends plan to get "Walter" aboard their Fort or at least give him a guided tour through MARY ALICE at Duxford.

It was always an experience to encounter a FW 190 50 years ago. The R/I believes "Tex" that it was another unforgettable experience to meet a former FW 190 pilot 50 years later.

William H Arthur, 324th, Orchard Park, NY, another 91st BGMA tour member, was surprised in May '91 to receive a request from Jane Sullivan, Project Coordinator of the East Anglia Tourist Board, to use a war-time photo of him on one of her quarterly newsletters promoting the 1992 50th USAAF Reunion.

Seeing his photo in one of Roger A Freeman's books, she immediately knew it was "exactly" what she sought for the front of one of her brochures. "...and," she wrote him, "I often wondered whether the handsome young man with the wonderful smile was still alive!"

Arthur, a pilot, completed his tour Oct 15, 1944. Encountering heavy flak over Cologne, France, his plane, LADY LOIS, despite 20 hits, happily returned him and his crew safely. It is certain Arthur's "wonderful smile" survived his 47 year marriage to his wife Lois, after whom his plane was named, and perhaps, brightened the wet English weather encountered by the 91st BGMA RRR tour group. (The "typical" English weather prevented a scheduled fly-by of available, surviving Forts.)

Arthur's war-time photo appeared on the front page of one of Sullivan's widely distributed newsletters.

LM Robert Langford, 401st SHOO SHOO BABY and PEACEMAKER pilot died June 23, 1992 shortly after attending the RRR Tour.

Following is a list of 108 91st BGMAers, wives, family members, friends and Associate Members included in the Berkshire Travel Agency's RRR Tour. It does not include those who traveled independently and may not include all those belatedly accommodated by Berkshire.

A-H

Ahtye, Edward & Blanche; Armstrong, Roger and Gloria.
Baccari, Domenic & Yolando; Bankovsky, Nick & Mary; Banta, Michael & Yvonne; Bienz, Daniel & Martha; Black, James & Viola; Boyer, Dolph & Patricia and Brewick, Charles & Alice.
Cameron, Walter & Jean; Chryst, Paul & Nancy; Cliburn, Charles & Mary Jane.
Daniels, Neil & Jan; Donohue, Hubert & Evelyn; Dotter, John & Margaret.
Figie, Betty and Fodroci, Michael, Pauline & Mike, Jr.
Gallagher, Edward & Jeanne; Gerald, Robert & Helen; Gerber, Barbara; Glen, Harry & Shirley and Gundersen, Carl.
Hackstock, Charles & Augusta; Haddick, Frank & Helen; Harding, Ray; Harlow, James & Mary Lou; Harris, Sam & Doris; Hensley, James & Marguerite; Hettema, David & Norma and Homar, Abe & Judy.

I-P

Johnson, Assay & Gloria; Johnson, Harold & Phyllis and

Johnson, Jeri.

Keneley, Frank & Hilde; Kleyla, Robert; Kerwath and Koranda, William.

Langford, Robert & Sallie; Leasure, William & Dorothy; Levine, Jack and Lilley, Henry.

Miller, Scott and Louise; Mills, James & Sandra and Morris, John & Marian.

Parmenter, George & Veda; Peck, Charles & Carolyn and Purdy, Lillian.

Q-Z

Richardson, Nelson & Maxine; Ristow, Edward & Patricia; Schilly, Willis & Ann; Schuck, Robert & June; Schultz, Clifford; Schumaker, Andrew & Clarice; Spicer, Garland & Doris and Sykes, Joseph.

Veres, James.

Walker, Charles & Mary; Westwood, John & Ted; Wolf, Willard and Wood, George & Fran.

Youngblood, Rufus and Peggy.

BUSA, STARCER ASSISTANT,

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They seemed to be neater, easier to read and positioned better," he says.

The next project, the application of the triangle "A" upon the planes' rudders, required working from a platform. Then the painting of the "A" upon the top side of the right wing followed, he believes. The addition of red tail surfaces and wing tips probably completed the official transition from the initial olive drab and grey coloring.

Starcer and Busa generally chalked in "A"s with string in a few minutes. Following their layouts S/Sgt Ralph Cowles, NB and Sgt Edward Kelly, NJ did the paint fill-in with steady hands.

"I never heard from them again," he says, "but they were good people to work with. I've never seen an outfit get along so well in my 3-1/2 years with the 91st. It was really something."

Starcer's reputation within the 91st rested, ultimately, upon his unofficial artwork – the Nose Art, leather jacket decoration and squadron patches he painted on leather from an off-base source. The leather patches were in such demand at about 10 shillings each that Busa, after the two made stencils for them, assisted Starcer.

Working late many nights to keep up with flight crew orders, Starcer still found time to help Busa paint a mural for the 324th Sq's Crew Room.

After the war Starcer prodded Busa to come to California – probably so the two could continue their collaborative efforts in the civilian world.

"But I was already married, and since housing was in tough shape in 1945, I stayed in Boston," he says.

At the Memphis Reunion he was intrigued by several new oil paintings of 91st planes. The artists' duplication of Starcer's nose art particularly pleased him.

Though time seems to have mellowed the "complainer" in him he still indulges in "noise making." After leaving Memphis he still noisily acclaims, "It was the best reunion ever!"

- BAILEY, JOHN L, 401ST 305 Sycamore Dr, Greenville, SC 29607 on Aug 5, 1992. Reported by his wife Frances.
- GADDIS, LAWRENCE E, 324th, 852 Holly Hills Dr, Auburn, CA 95603 on Apr 19, 1992.
- GLENN, FRANK, 401st, 5318 Grant Ct, Fremont, CA 94538 on Aug 17, 1992. Reported by Chester A Hallberg.
- JACKSON, FRANK H, 1506 62nd St, Downers Grove, IL 60516-1706 in Feb 1992.
- KNIGHT, HORACE JIM, 401st, 5319 Linda Rd, Louisville, KY 40219 on Apr 30, 1992. Reported by John Irak.
- LANGFORD, W ROBERT, 401st, LM, Rt 1, Box 90A, Dozier, AL 36028 on June 23, 1992. Langford piloted SHOO SHOO BABY and PEACEMAKER and attended the RRR Tour last May. Reported by his wife Sallie.
- SZYMANOWSKI, ALOIS J, 323rd, 1312 Parade St, Erie, PA on Sept 15, 1992. Original 91st member and electrical specialist, he was discharged at Drew Field. After retirement in 1981 he busied himself with free-lance masonry while enjoying photography and electronics hobbies. Survivors include three sons and five grandchildren.

Bob Christman, Erie, PA, who served with him and reports his death, lost contact with him because Szymanowski, for sometime, had no address or phone listing. Since old friends asked about Szymanowski at the Memphis, TN Reunion Christman forwarded his death notice and finally found address to the R/I.

- WEINBERGER, HERBERT M, 401st, LM, 88 Bishops Dr, Aston, PA 19014 on Aug 16, 1992. Weinberger was the navigator on Elon M Gaston's crew. Outgoing 2nd VP Jim Bacon, of the same crew, recalls Weinberger's war-time nickname "Jr" was appropriate because at 29, he was the oldest on the crew. Crew members often sought his counsel and were apprehensive when "Lead Ship" duties, at times, took him off Gaston's crew. In addition to Bacon, Weinberger's wife, Ilse, also reported his death. She is now on ALM.

POTPOURRI

U.S.A.

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Information sources on the May '93 tour are: Berkshire Travel Agency, 812 Penn St, Reading, PA 19602 - Phone 800-223-3884 or Paul Chryst, 1494 N Adams St, Pottstown, PA 19464 - Phone 215-323-1877.

- JOE McDERMOTT, 14040 ELTIN, OAK PARK, MI 40237, seeks information on "Lt Kohl" who, he believes, was downed between May 14 and July 15, 1943. Historian Earl G Pate's research has revealed nothing identifying "Kohl" or his crew.

Former association Historian Evers' latest "Roll of Honor" compilation also does not list a "Lt Kohl." (A 1LT Norbert D Koll, Ser No 0726258, pilot of A/C 423053, is listed as KIA on May 21, 1943, however.)

Anyone with recollections of "Lt Kohl" is requested to contact McDermott at his above listed address.

- GREAT NEWS! COL GEORGE P BIRDSONG, JR (Ret), 323rd Pleasanton, CA apologizes for his Memphis, TN absence. Fulfilling his promise to be there, he checked in Aug 30th. On Monday, Sept 1st, chest pains dictated a return home where, a few days later, he underwent an eight-way bypass emergency operation. Recovering, he hopes 1994 OKC Reunion attendance will be possible.

Robert E Gerstemeir, 401st, Port St Lucie, FL, who sparked the recent Jenkins Beach, FL Rally Round, is hopefully recovering from a recent hip operation.

- THE TWO HISTORICALLY CORRECTLY UNIFORMED crewmen flanking former 401st pilot Allan N Morey in the July 1992 R/I are Dave Berry and Tom Kosick. They belong to the Association of Living History. Based in Dayton, OH, its members attend airshows throughout the nation which feature WWII aircraft, to increase public interest and stimulate fund-raising and souvenir sales at such events.

FINANCIAL REPORT BY TREAS WELBES

91st BGMA TREASURER CHARLES V WELBES' financial statement for the period ending June 30, 1992 is published below.

FINANCIAL BALANCES - 31 Dec 91

GENERAL FUND	\$21,194.08
MEMORIAL FUND	111.90
HISTORY FUND	466.34
"R.I." FUND	248.58

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$22,020.90

PX INVENTORY \$6,114.60

INCOME - 1 Jan 92 - 30 Jun 92

DUES	\$9,698.08
INTEREST	432.12
DONATIONS	1,171.40
PX SALES	4,707.00
*** MISC	1,233.05

TOTAL INCOME \$17,241.65

EXPENDITURES - 1 Jan 92 - 30 Jun 92

BGMA ADMINISTRATION	\$873.99
* MEMORIAL FUND	2,978.74
PETTY CASH	543.94
"R.I." FUND	5,408.27
PX INVENTORY	6,750.00
1992 MEMPHIS REUNION: (ADVANCE)	1,033.05

TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$17,587.99

FINANCIAL BALANCES - 30 Jun 92

GENERAL FUND	\$21,124.12
MEMORIAL FUND	-1,074.93
HISTORY FUND	466.34
"R.I." FUND	84.10

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE \$21,674.56

PX INVENTORY \$10,902.30
** ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE 300.00

* MEMORIALS AND DEDICATIONS.
BASSINGBOURN AND MEMPHIS.

** DEP. CAPS & VISORS. MEMPHIS REUNION.

*** REIMBURSEMENT OF MEMPHIS REUNION ADVANCE

BUSA, STARCER ASSISTANT, RECALLS CONGENIAL JOB

CHARLIE BUSA, LEWISVILLE, NC, A LINE MECHANIC with the 324th Sq for some six months, still does not know why he and Tony Starcer of the 322nd were transferred to the 441st Service Sq's paint shop. The promise of eventual promotion to S/Sgt probably was the reason for their initial enthusiasm.

Though that promise was never fulfilled their enthusiasm for their jobs never wavered.

"Tony and I seemed to take over the paint shop and nobody seemed to mind at all," he says.

He recalls Starcer as an easy going, easy to work with non-complainer. His personality contrasted sharply with Busa's inclination to "make noise." Busa complained enough for both of them, he recalls.

Once his constant clamor resulted in him being placed on MP duty. Continuing carping resulted in him being returned to paint shop duties with Starcer.

At war's end, the two were discharged as Corporals. He doesn't know if Starcer was properly rewarded for his efforts with a Good Conduct Medal at least but he is philosophical about his failure to receive one.



A PORTION OF THE 324th SQ MURAL PAINTED BY BUSA WITH the assistance of Starcer. (Photo: Marvin Nichols collection.)

"They did give me a Certificate of Merit the day the war ended," he says matter-of-factly.

The first project in which the two were involved was the painting of the blue bordered white bars on the star insignia. The next was the application of call letters on fuselage sides.

He remains particularly proud of that effort, saying Starcer and he expedited the work with stencils.

"I think our call letters were the best of all the groups.

(Continued on Page 6)

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 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.

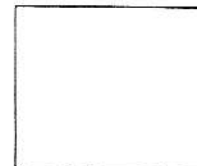
91st BG Memorial Assn.

590 Aloha Dr.

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

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POTPOURRI

U.S.A.

• COL ROBERT MORGAN, RET, 324th, RECENTLY married Linda Dickerson, a general aviation buff and air show promoter.

Ms Dickerson's interest in the MEMPHIS BELLE arose after she saw the movie "Memphis Belle" in Oct 1990. She met Morgan, the famed BELLE's war-time pilot, later through air show promotional work.

They were married in the huge open-sided dome shielding the 324th's legendary plane a week before the 16th National Reunion of the 91st BGMA in early Sept 1992.

• OUTGOING 91st BGMA TREAS CHARLES V WELBES requests that "Folded Wings" items continue to be sent to his 210 Leatherwood Dr, Mountain Home, AK 72653 address.

Welbes' continued participation in association affairs will assist Sec Assay (Ace) B Johnson absorb the responsibilities of the 91st BGMA Trea's post which will be combined with his office after Jan 1993. Welbes' continued participation is a generous gesture.

• FLASH! A MAY 3-12, 1993 "BASSINGBOURN-ROYSTON Part II Tour" is planned to accommodate 91sters and friends unable to travel the 1992 RRR.

(Continued on Page 7)