

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



401st SQDN

Vol 27 No. 4

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

November 1994

OKC, OK REUNION ATTENDANCE NUDGED RECORD!

WIVES, FAMILY MEMBERS and friends, including more than a few foreign friends, bolstered the 91st BGMA OKC, OK Reunion attendance to 450, Col Thomas E Ashinhurst, Ret, Reunion Committee Chairman, reports.

Several 91st BGMA authorities, relying upon recalled data from past R/Is, believe the OKC, OK Reunion attendance total the "2nd Highest" of all 91st Reunions. (The most heavily attended is believed to have been the 1986 Tampa, FL Reunion.)

One of out-going President Charles R Hackstock's persistently sought goals was increasing membership interest and participation in association activity planning. Happily, before his By-Laws dictated retirement, after two two-year terms, his efforts stirred visible response.

Three 91st BGMAers, who had never sought an elected post, sought election. Their candidacies for two high 91st BGMA posts confronted the membership with an "unusual big election decision." The somewhat surprising contest



"SOMEPLACE SPECIAL!"

indicated "...increased membership interest and participation...", Hackstock agenda items.

The "somewhat surprising contest" was resolved in "a somewhat surprising way."

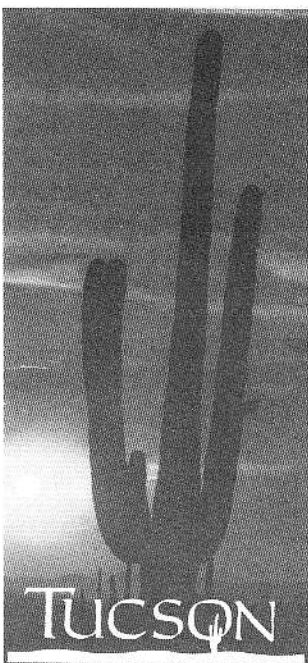
Orlo Natvig, 324th, 1992-94 2nd VP, and Bill Leasure, 324th, who had cast their hats-in-the-ring for the 1st Vice Presidency, both withdrew their candidacies after the publication of the 1994 Official 91st BGMA Ballot. Natvig and Leasure regretfully withdrew after serious re-consideration determined other commitments prevented them from devoting the time and energy that post requires. Consequently votes cast for the 1st VP post were discarded before counting. That left the post vacant, for a little while.

Voting for the 2nd VP post also proved unnecessary when Paul Limm, 401st, veteran of a long string of appointed 91st BGMA Committee Chairmanships, withdrew his candidacy. Having accepted the assignment of re-writing the By-Laws as required by the recent voting, he withdrew his bid for an elected post because he already had a demanding appointed task.

Robert H Friedman, 323rd, the other candidate for the 2nd VP post, subsequently became the uncontested winner. His success in winning his first 91st BGMA election bid may have surprised him.

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TUCSON, AZ '96 REUNION SITE IN SURPRISE VOTE



TUCSON, AZ, THE OLDEST continually inhabited settlement in the United States and the site of the 1996 91st BGMA Reunion, is a fast growing city of nearly 700,000 congenial people.

The area's first inhabitants, Indian farmers, inexplicably disappeared two thousand years ago. Pima and Tohono O'odham tribes later re-settled the area and were there when Italian missionary of the Spanish church, Father Ensebio Francisco Kino, made his initial visit in 1694. On Aug 20, 1775 an Irishman, Hugh O'Connor, an explorer in Spain's employ, founded the city of Tucson.

The 1821 Mexican revolution ended Spain's presence; the 1853 Gasden Purchase made it part of the United States since - with the exception of a brief period during the Civil War when Confederates occupied it.

Today Tucsoners are proud of their community's rich cultural diversity and heritage. Visitors are movingly impressed by the beauty of its unique, fragile desert locale. The warm, all embracing Indian, Spanish, Mexican frontier and contemporary culture that has evolved there can be felt like the warmth of a hearth.

The 91st BGMA 1996 Reunion planning will be fully explained in future R/Is.

For the present, those now considering attendance may appreciate the following general information: 1) Casual clothing is acceptable most everywhere - but "more formal attire" is suggested for attending a cultural event or dining at the "finer restaurants;" 2) Summer tourists are advised to utilize wide-brim hats, sunglasses and sunscreen (to protect skin); 3) Winter visitors are advised to pack "a light coat or jacket." (Normal Sept weather ranges - 94 to 67 Fahrenheit.)

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY HAROLD E JOHNSON
REUNION WENT WELL

THE OKC, OK 91st BGMA REUNION WAS FILLED WITH temptations. I felt the basic tug that draws most of us to these bi-annual events. The "tug" is the opportunity to continue or renew old friendships, nurture newer ones and, hopefully continue widening personal circles of 91st BGMAer friends.

As the new 91st BGMA President, I must say I felt attending members contributed responsibly to the tedious official business portion of our recent reunion. Unfortunately "business" is a necessary part of all reunions. I trust everyone noted that the most urgent issue confronted during outgoing President Charles R Hackstock's term of office was successfully resolved. Bids were made for the 1996 91st BGMA Reunion site and one was selected.

Official 91st BGMA interest in continued independent 91st BGMA Reunions was apparent in past R/l's. Considerable behind-the scenes activity was certainly required to resolve that problem, one of the first big, basic issues to face our association in a long time.

Another positive impression the business meeting left upon me was that out-going President Hackstock kept the business moving efficiently - with the obvious consenting co-operation of the attending members. It seems apparent to me that the policies and programs pursued during Hackstock's By-Laws permitted two terms had served the memberships' wishes well.

Thomas E Ashinhurst, OKC OK Reunion Chairman and his Committee also deserve applause. (Word has it OKC drew one of our highest reunion attendances!)

Elsewhere this R/I lists the new association officers. I'm happy to report that a number of them are already involved in projects planned for our group's future.

Despite our statistically excellent bi-annual reunion turn-outs we are aware of our absentees. They are missed. To stimulate the involvement of more of our absentees in 91st BGMA activity, I believe increased efforts to support local Rally Rounds is now the name of the game. If we can get members to attend local Rally Rounds, I believe we'll increase the likelihood they'll attend our next Bi-Annual Reunion. (Believe, many "Good Byes" I heard at OKC consisted of, "See you in Tucson!")

I, and your association officials, will assist any member in any way possible to put a Rally Round together. Likely official support includes an association loan, R/I publicity and other accompanying perks.

The past has provided us with a fine organization of which we can be proud. If you have suggestions or comments concerning it, your present officials continue to be receptive.

My address is: Hal Johnson, 2021 Porter Way, Stockton, CA 95207-4035. Phone: (209) 477-0071.

91st BGMA OFFICERS 1995-1997

PRESIDENT

Harold E Johnson
2021 Porter Way
Stockton, CA 95207-4035
Tel: (209) 477-0071

1st VICE PRESIDENT

Robert H Friedman
6015 Valkeith
Houston, TX 77096-3832
Tel: (713) 729-2225

2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Asay B Johnson
590 Aloha Dr
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406-4559
Tel: (602) 453-3114

HISTORIAN

Earl Pate, Jr
104 Skyview Dr
Hendersonville, TN 37075
Tel: (615) 824-7909

EDITOR

Rudy Malkin
2438 Woodcroft Rd
Baltimore, MD 21234-2836
Tel: (410) 668-3406

REUNION ATTENDANCE

(Continued from Page 1)

What happened after the official verification of his election must have startled him.

Since the withdrawal of the 1st VP candidates left that post open, 91st BGMA By-Laws provisions automatically provided for Friedman's advancement to the vacant 1st VP slot.

Limm, commenting on the resulting vacant 2nd VP post left by Friedman's prompt promotion, sees a message there for members.

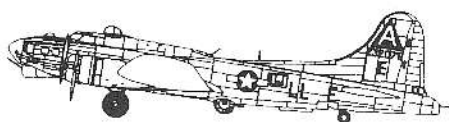
"Our organization's policy of encouraging new blood and talent to join and contribute to its administration should be well known to all. It should now be apparent to future office seekers that rapid promotion "within can be expected - whenever possible," he wrote the R/I in a recent letter to help clarify the above reunion business.

The R/I possibly inadvertently influenced Limm's withdrawal of his election bid. Appointed the OKC, OK Election Committee Chairman, he was early on dismayed when the R/I, through oversight, repeatedly failed to announce his need for committee members. His natural good humor stood him in good stead when he arrived at OKC and faced counting mounds of Official Ballots - alone.

Though the unplanned and unanticipated withdrawal of all but one candidate made only the counting of the By-Law Change Proposals necessary, he says the volume of response was heartening.

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PRESERVE
OUR PROUD PAST



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"The membership had candidates and issues to vote upon and they responded responsibly," Limm says.

All the By-Laws Change Proposals passed except Article III, Membership, Section 1 which would have extended membership rights to interested personnel whose organizations "... can trace their military lineage to the 91st BG(H)."

The By-Laws containing the vote approved changes will appear in the next 91st BGMA Directory. It was agreed upon during the OKC Business Meeting of 91st BGMA officers that By-Law Change Proposals will be required in 1996 to resolve new, unintended conflict in some By-Law language.

Former 401st Bombardier Marion Havelaar, SD, reported the most ambitious history of the 91st BG(H) is in the hands of the printer and should be available in the spring of '95.

The book, "THE RAGGED IRREGULARS OF BASSINGBOURN," contains 500 black/white and 35 color photos. Havelaar, who personally seeded the project, says \$47.95 is the anticipated price per book.

Havelaar began his project back in 1991. The emerging 300 plus page book "... was quite a job but it was worth it," he says. Detailed ordering instructions will appear in future R/Is.

Another indicator of 91st BGMA health surfacing during the official OKC meeting was the surprising emergence of four Western sector bids for the 1996 Bi-Annual Reunion.

The four competing sites and those representing them were: Tacoma, WA, Edward C Gates, 323rd; Reno, NV, Aubin R Pene, 401st; Lompac, CA, Jim Cullen, 323rd and Tucson, AZ, Asay B Johnson, 324th. As indicated elsewhere, Tucson, AZ won the site election.

A full accounting of what made OKC, OK "Someplace Special" would require extensive written testimony from all those attending. Understandably such a report is impossible.

Col Ashinhurst, in a post-reunion note to the R/I, said, "I'm sorry we were not able to spend sometime together - but we were both busy. Maybe we can correct that in Tucson."

Former 401st C/O James H McPartlin's OKC Reunion experience was similar to Ashinhurst's. Now a Retired B/Gen, McPartlin says his last reunion attendance was in 1980 at San Diego. One of the original 91st BG(H) complement, he admits to some surprise when he was notified he has since been missed and his OKC presence was "encouraged." Ashinhurst, an original 91st BG(H) bombardier, was only one of those whose phone calls prodded his attendance.

Gen McPartlin, during an R/I phone probe, described the reunion as "great." Questioning revealed his "great" grading was based upon meeting old friends and acquaintances - some of whom he'd not seen since the war.

Among them, in addition to Ashinhurst, were: Neil A Daniels, CA; Harold R DeBolt, CA; Don Bird, NY; Charlie Hudson, CA; Ray Jones, TX; John Irak, IN; Jim Fletcher, CO and Hershel Quarles, MS.

Former 324th Sq pilot Mike T Banta, CA, and YANKEE GAL's crew insured the reunion would be great for them. Six of the crew attended - making theirs the biggest crew turnout. Banta was joined by Raymond W Darling (CP), AZ; John H Dotter, (N) CA; Everett M Montgomery (R) NE; Jack Marlowe (BT) NC and Fred A Hindman (WG) AR.

Jack J "Joe" Paxton, 322nd, of Edmond, WA, traveling the greatest distance to attend, was recognized and rewarded.

Ineligible for a tangible reward were three 91st English friends who contributed their bit to the satisfying attendance. Recently retired Peter Worthy, who, while the recent Bassingbourn C/O thoroughly enjoyed welcoming returning "Yanks," attended with his wife. Ms Olewyne Wilkens, another English friend of the 91st BGMA, along with the Worthys was officially recognized and enthusiastically applauded.

Unstinted credit and thanks must be awarded to Ashinhurst's Reunion Committee which coordinated the activities. Those serving were: Peter B Adams, Charles Cliburn, Norval Covington, Thomas "Dub" Johnson, Wanda Selter, Cecil Williams and Harry Hovermill.

THOSE ATTENDING

322nd SQ

A-E

*BECK, Theron & Fay; *BOGGS, Keith; BULLOCK, James R; *BURDICK, Clyde & Isabelle; COMPTON, Robert B & Mary Beth; CAMPBELL, John E G & Daisy; COVINGTON, Noral L; CRAIGHEAD, Jessie J; CRESSMAN, Arthur R & Lorraine; CRIST, Robert L & Margaret; DAMRO, Edward W; *DAVIS, Elsie; DUEMLER, Wilbur C; DUGAN, Jr, Lester W Barbara.

F-J

FREER, Donald R & Mrs; GERALD, Robert S & Helen; GLASS, Homer A & Audrey; HACKSTOCK, Charles R & Augusta; *HARRISON, Mary Ellen; HARRISON, James A; HENRYSON, Gaylord & Colleen; *HENSLEY, Jim & Smitty; HILLOCK, Nelson A & Louise; *JOHNSON, Jeri.

K-O

KELLY, Bob E; KENNEDY, Patrick N & Delores; KURYLO, John & Madeline; LAMMERS, Robert S & Stella; LENNON, Thomas P; LINDLEY, Jr, Steve & Gwenda; LOVELY, Robert & Leota Tenny; *McCREA, John & Audrey; MEGCHELSEN, Robert R & Lila; MILLS, Jr, Jimmie & Sandra; *McDANIEL, Doyle; *MORRIS, Martha; MOUCKA, Dan N & Betty; MURDOCH, Julian A & Mary; MUSICH, Benedict A & Clarice; OSTWALD, Arnold J & Dolores.

P-T

PAXSON, Jack J & Helen; PEACOCK, Edward A & Lenora; *SCHUCK, Robert & June; STARK, Wallace & Opal; *SMITH, Dalton; *SMITH, Herman; STEELE, Erwin P & Esther; *TURCUTTE, William & Dorothy.

U-Z

WARD, Ray R & Lalla; WATERS, Edward; WITTER, James H & Evelyn; WOOD, George L & Fran, ZAS-
TENCHIK, Joseph F.

323rd SQ

A-E

BIRDSONG, Jr, George P & Eileen; BREWICK, Charles & Alice; BIRKE, John E; BURKHART, Gerald M; BUTLER, William C & Trixie; CANTRELL, Claude E; CARTER, Charles C; CHRISTMAN, Robert C & Dorothy; *COOPER, Bev; *COX, Ennis & Lucille; CULLEN, James J & Carol; DARNELL, Marion J & Marjorie; DOWELL, George E & Margaret; DUMOUCHEL, James E & Evelyn.

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THOSE ATTENDING

(Continued from Page 3)

F-J

FRANKE, Joe & Alberta; FERREE, Clayton & Frederica; FISHER, Manuel & Donna; FRANKIE, Jr, Joe & Sharleen; FRIEDMAN, Robert H & Joy; GAROFALO, Vincent J & Louise; GATES, Ed C; GIAUQUE, Charles R & Ann; HILL, Whitmal W & Jacquelyn; HOFFMAN, Marion C & Bernita; HOFFMAN, Robert M; HOOTS, William L & Mildred.

K-O

KETHLEY, Jerold & Billie; KIVIMAKI, Lauri & Kerttu; KOOL, Harry & Paula; LILLEY, Hank L; LOPER, Howell B & Irene; LYONS, Leo L & Catherine; MACK, Phil G; MAHAN, Lloyd J & Florence; MATTIE, Mario G & Mary; McCOY, Richard W & Margaret; MITCHAMORE, Harold N & Mae; *MULLER, Eli & Maureen; MURRAY, Donald S & Jo Anne.

P-T

PERRIE, Steve & Nancy; PITTS, Edwin D & Ruth; PULLEN, John C & Naomi; QUAYLE, Keith & Lee; RUTTER, Jr, Vernon & Wylene; STAMBAUGH, Max P & Sylvia; SHEPHERD, Jim G & Suzi; SILVERNAIL, Charles H & Katherine; SIMPSON, Lewis & Maldarine; SIMPSON, Seymour & Bertha; SINIBALDO, A J & Norma; STURTZ, George N & Enid.

U-Z

*WALKER, Lila; *WALKER, Ralph; WILLIAMS, Cecil E; WILLIAMSON, Jr, Earl S; WILSON, Howard L; YEZDIMIR, Emil & Millie.

324th SQ

A-E

ADAMS, Peter P; AHTYE, Edward & Blanche; ANNIS, Mr & Mrs Frank C; AUGSBURGER, Delbert & Betty Jo; BANTA, Mike T & Yvonne; BARTUSH, Addison J & Marion; *BAYER, Earl & Marcella; CAMERON, Walt R & Jean; CARPENTER, Walter S & Addine; CLIBURN, Charles E & Mary Jane; COLLINS, Phillip L & Nadine; DARLING, Dale J; DARLING, Raymond W & Barbara; DAVIS, Joe E; DEBOY, Mr & Mrs Pete; DONAHUE, Howard & Katie; *DONER, Cale & Esther; DOTTER, John H & Toni; EICHERT, Charles M; ENGSTAD, Gerry R.

F-J

FALKENMAYER, Charles W & Francis; *GARRISON, Clyde & Lanelle; GETTIS, Elmer; GOLDBERG, Marvin M & Betty; GUNDERSEN, Carl A; GUNN, Thomas H; HALEY, Daniel & Claire; HARLICK, Joseph; HILL, Rollie C & Mary; HINDMAN, Fred A & Antionette; HOHING, Conrad & Virginia; HOLMAN, Charles & Carolyn; HOLMAN, Scott & Vicki; JOHNSON, Asay B & Gloria.

K-O

KLEYLA, Robert L; KORANDA, William T; KRAUSE, Otto & Geraldine; LEASURE, Bill W C & Dorothy; LUDWIG, Gerald L & Sara; MALVIK, Arvid A; MAPLESDEN, Hooper R & June; MARLOWE, Jack R; MATTSOON, Russell A; MEL-LON, Fred & Betty; MONTALVO, Tony A; *MONTGOMERY, Everett; MUMMERT, Lauren H & Dorothy; MUNDING, Jr, Matt & Mary; NATVIG, Orlo G; NICHOLS, Jr, Lee E.

P-T

PALMER, Philip T, PATE, Earl C; POTTER, William G &

Marjorie; SCHULTZ, Clifford M & Barbara; *PURDY, Linda; SCHUMACHER, A M & Clarice; SINGER, Bruce & Kay; SMITH, Kenneth S & Virginia.

U-Z

*UIHLEIN, George; VAN DYKE, Barbara; *VAN DYKE, Marcia; *VINGO, L M; WALLACE, John A; WALLACE, Jack G V & Ann; WESTWOOD, John R & Eve; WILHELM, Leo & Stella; WOLF, Jr, Willard W & Florence; WOOLARD, Gordon A & Irene.

401st SQ

A-E

ANDERSON, S B; ARMSTRONG, Roger W & Gloria; ASHINHURST, Thomas E & June; ASKINS, John & Jacquelyn; BACON, James M & Mary; BANKOVSKY, Nicholass & Mary; BARRETT, Ralph A; BEAL, Donald L; BIENZ, Dan & Marty; BIRD, Donald R & Marie; BORGE-SON, Menford M; BURMAN, Kermit M & Thelma; CHRYST, Paul & Nancy; COX, Burdette F; CRIPPS, Faber & Mary; DANIELS, Neil A; *DE BOLT, Harold & Dorothy; DION, Vernon; EVERS, Hiliary (Bud).

F-J

FODROCI, Michael P & Pauline; FRATZ, Roy H & Lois; GALLAGHER, Jr, Edward J & Jeanne; *GASS, Doris; GAS-TON, Elon M & Bettie; GERSTEMEIER, Robert E & Trudie; GREEN, John W; GRIESBACH, Roy J; HANNA, William T; HART, B P; HAVELAAR, Marion M; HOLLAND, Louis R; HOVERMILL, Harry E; HUDSON, Mr & Mrs Charles S; IRAK, Jr, John & Evelyn; JOHNSON, Eugene L & Rose Marie; JOHNSON, Harold E & Phyllis; JOHNSON, Thomas D & JoAnn; JONES, Raymond E & Lucille.

K-O

KASE, Bernard P & Verne; KENNEDY, Paul O & Frances; KOELLER, Jr, "Bud" C; LECHNER, Richard A & Ardyce; LEVIN, Harold & Carol; LIMM, Paul & Jeanie; LOHOEFER, Conrad L & Stephanie; LOVELESS, Royce; MALKIN, Rudy & Madeline; *MASTERS, Brandon; MELCH-ER, Richard P & Dorothy; McPARTLIN, James H & Virginia; *MORSE, Mary; MOTT, Virgil I; ONDROVIC, John J & Alice.

P-T

PAINTER, Marian E & Florence; PARMENTER, George M & Veda; PARSONS, John R; PECK, Charles R & Carolyn; PENE, Aubin R & Jacquelin; QUARLES, Hy & Myron; RHEAM, Michael C & Ardella; RICHARDSON, Nelson & Maxine; *RUBENFELD, Mr & Mrs Jack; SANDERS, James K; SELTER, Wanda K; SIMMONS, Thomas B; SIMONS, George R & Wanda; SMITH, Donald R; SWIERZ, Mr & Mrs Norbert; THOMPSON, Norman L.

U-Z

VERES, Sr, James M; VROOMAN, Clifford R; *WAGNER, Sherwood & Jean; WALKER, Charles E & Mary; WEBB, Jr, Robert N & Joy; WEINBERGER, Isle; WELBES, Henrietta.

FRIENDS

A-Z

DONOFRIO, Frank G, Al; MANNON, Harold I & Jean, 441st Sub Depot; RAY, Walter L & Jean, 441st Sub Depot; WILKINS, Olwynne, England; WORTHY, Peter & Ann, England.

PRESERVE OUR PROUD PAST

324th's RHAPSODY IN RED'S SUBSTITUTE SET RECORD



CRASH SITE OF 324th's DF-H, 338946 ON DEC 24, 1944.

ARRIVING AT BASSINGBOURN A FEW DAYS BEFORE Christmas Eve 1944, she looked like a present to 324th pilot Frank Adams' crew whose assigned plane, RHAPSODY IN RED, A/C 959 DF Y, was undergoing repairs.

Clifford M Schultz, Chicago, Ill, Adams' radio-gunner, remembered her, A/C 946 DF H, on his long ago submitted 91st BGMA "Membership Data Form."

She didn't need the cosmetics Tony Starcer, Charlie Busa and other artists applied to 91st BG(H) planes, Schultz wrote. Her complexion was unblemished - no dents, scratches or even oil smudges anywhere on her lustrous, silver skin. Inside her sleek exterior the absolute absence of dust or litter suggested butlers and chambermaids had worked with the ground crew to prepare her for her first mission.

When Adams and his crew boarded her for the Dec 24, '44 Kirch-Gons-Merzhausen Airfield mission, Schultz felt they were introducing "a Regal Lady" to combat.

It is possible Schultz imagined, while Adams began their take-off run, the new, factory fresh Fort would add something of her own to the 91st BG(H)'s already formidable laurels.

In a way A/C 946 DF H did.

After a little longer than normal take-off time the prim plane reached an altitude of about 20 ft. Then, wheels still up, she "settled" to the ground, ploughed through trees, a hedgerow and, finally, fatally broken, lay in a newly plowed field.

Her earlier, immaculate interior, Schultz recalls, was mud spattered; 50 calibre ammo, 100 lb fragmentation bombs and fellow crew members were scattered within it. Miraculously no one was killed and 21 days later Adams' crew resumed their mission tour on their repaired RHAPSODY IN RED.

Schultz says his initial appraisal of the factory fresh plane as a potential record setting 91st BG(H) plane proved prophetic.

"She was officially credited with 10 minutes combat time. I think that is a record," he wrote long ago when he joined the 91st BGMA and Maj Gen Stanley T Wray (Ret) or Col Tom Gunn (Ret) was the association president.

A chance encounter between Schultz and the R/I editor during the OKC, OK Reunion added more to Schultz's decades old initial report on the 324th's A/C 946 DF H.

His initial, somewhat whimsical recollections suggested perhaps the beautiful plane temporarily assigned his crew "was not temperamentally" suited for combat. That blemish should be removed from her career, he now says.

Whether it was since acquired info or simply not included in his first article, Schultz added during the OKC conversation that pilot error and/or ground crew negligence was promptly discounted when nine other 8th AF planes crashed during the Dec 24, '44 Kirch-Gons-Merzhausen Airfield mission take-off.

The 91st BG(H) crash was the only one of the 10 in which fatalities did not occur.

"It had to be sabotage. Whatever was done to her she let us down easy. She was a 'Queen,'" Schultz says now.

Four of his surviving crewmates are listed in the 1993 Directory. They are: Elmer Gettis, (N) VA; V R Chowning (TTG) VA; Roy Bertrand, (BT) LA and Seymour Gold (TG) FL.

Editor's Note: Since writing the above article additional data pertaining to this incident has been sent to the R/I by Clifford and Barbara Schultz. It will appear in the next R/I.

ENGLISH FRIENDS GIVEN HISTORICAL NEGATIVES

A LARGE NUGGET OF VALUABLE 91st BG(H) HISTORY has been transferred to England.

The original benefactor of the transfer of 650 war-time 91st BG(H) negatives is Vincent A Hemmings, Curator of the 91st BG(H) Control Tower Museum at Bassingbourn.

The collection of negatives consists of photos taken by former 91st BGMA President Paul Chryst, PA, while flying a WWII mission tour as a Bombardier with the 401st Sq, and a portion of a private collection owned by the late Maj Gen Stanley T Wray, the 91st's original C/O and the founder of the 91st BGMA.

A copy of the April 23, 1994 affidavit sworn to and subscribed before a Commonwealth of PA Notary Public sent to the R/I by Chryst, records Gen Wray earlier entrusted negatives to him. Declaring them duplicates, Wray instructed Chryst to, "... keep these and release them to a museum, at your discretion; so that others can use them in the future, after we're gone."

Chryst's personal negatives (484) comprise the bulk of the donation. The value of his negatives (all officially "cleared for private use" back in 1945) is enhanced by accompanying captions supplied by him. His war-time photo subjects included: Aerial Views, Air Men, Base Activities, Crew Shots, Ground Views, Miscellaneous, Nose Art and Target Strikes.

The affidavit confirms Chryst received no recompense for the donation, no copyrights exist and photo credits are permitted by the donor (Chryst).

The affidavit copy received by the R/I also stipulates that after the demise of Vincent Hemmings the ownership of the negatives shall be transferred, in sequence - to The Royston Museum, Friends of the Royston Museum, the Royston & District Historical Society, the East Anglia Film Archives and, finally - the RAF Museum at Hendon for perpetuity.

TUCSON REUNION SITE

(Continued from Page 1)

The Holiday Inn will be the 91st BGMA Reunion headquarters. The initial Tucson Reunion Committee consists of Walter Carpenter and Asay and Gloria Johnson.

RALLY ROUNDS PLANNED

Three 91st BGMA Rally Rounds are being planned while another's preparations are so far advanced that complete details and registration forms are available. Those interested in the Mar 1-2, 1995 Laughlin, NV Spring Rally Round should contact Sec/Trea Asay B Johnson, 590 Aloha Dr, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406-4559.

That Rally Round site is in the Arizona Republic hotel, rated the best on the Colorado River. Mild weather, \$12.00/nite room rates and a free buffet are listed as lures by Johnson.

A VE Day Celebration tour to Bassingbourn has been tentatively put together by Paul Chryst. Planning has been coordinated with English friends Peter Worthy, Vince Hemmings and Pate Rule. Those interested should contact Sec/Trea Johnson at the above address.

Two other Rally Rounds are planned for the East and West Coasts. Jensen Beach, FL is the site of the fall East Coast Rally Round; a 1996 Spring Rally Round is being planned for Anaheim, CA at the Jolly Roger Inn. Details on those affairs will be available later.

Coming 8th AFHS activity includes the April 1995 dedication of a Tower Museum replica at Wright-Patterson Air Field and the Society's Annual Reunion in St Louis, MO in Sept. Prior planning among 91st BGMAers could spur the attendance of enough other members to create impromptu Mini-Rally Rounds.

STAMPS FOR VETERANS

(Continued from Page 8)

Elmore, 72, served with Patton's 4th Armored Div. Impressively active in VFW and DAV and varied charitable groups, he continues his good work despite five heart bypass operations.

USED STAMPS NEEDED

DAVer BERNIE ELMORE AND THE SENIOR Citizens Volunteers of the Buffalo, NY Chapter American Lung Association collect and donate cancelled postage stamps to the VA Hospitals in Buffalo, Washington, DC and over the nation. At present, 90% of the stamps go to the Veterans Stamp and Coin Club in Tucson, AZ.

Individuals are asked to send stamps to: Stamp for Veterans, C/O Bernie Elmore, PO Box 398, Depew, NY, 14043-0398. THANK YOU!

HELP HOSPITALIZED VETERANS

Johnson wishes other 91st BGMAers would save and send Elmore stamps from their incoming mail. Small and large collections are welcome. The R/I, in accordance with Johnson's wish, has begun salvaging stamps from incoming mail for "Stamps for Veterans."

(Continued from Page 8)

● CHRISTIANSEN, CHRIS H, 322nd, 1100 E 13th St, Upland, CA 91786, May 2, 1992. Reported by USPS.

● CORBIN, WILLIAM, STN, 2485 Baywood E, Dunedin, FL 34698, Apr 20, 1992, suddenly. Corbin's widow wrote a lengthy letter explaining her late report. Her family was still coping with shock of Corbin's death (he was preparing for work) when a "No Name" storm struck. Flood insurance helped. Her daughter's home was rendered inhabitable, however and she and her family and pets have temporarily returned to the "old homestead." Other obligations upon Corbin's widow are daily visits to an invalid sister and caring for a four year old of a working mother.

"That's why I'm busy," she said in her upbeat letter before closing with "a bet" that if her husband had lived he'd have returned to England for the recent "D-Day" activities. "I can send dues if you wish," concluding her letter to Sec Johnson, suggests the pressures upon her do not exclude a willingness to support the 91st BGMA.

● DALTON, W BURL, 323rd, 2244 Glenview Rd, Glenview, IL 60025, Sept 1991. Reported by family members.

● DEBAUN, CLYDE E, LTC (RET) 324th, RT 2, Box 33-B Plantation Pt, Lincolnnton, GA 30817-9501, June 23, 1994 at age 77 after lengthy illness. DeBaun was the original CP of Charles E "Red" Cliburn's QUITCHERBITCHIN and THE BAND PENNY's crews. After recovering from Nov 23, 1942 St Nazaire raid wounds he returned to duty and completed his tour as a First Pilot. Reported by his former pilot, Cliburn, Ada, OK and former crew mate Curtis Pyrah, Boise, ID. Both of them recall DeBaun, one of the early 91st BGMAers, attended many of its' reunions.

● DUNLAP, JOHN V, 401st, 40th Postal Co, 21329 Box R 160, APO AE 09039, Sept 4, 1992. Reported by Sec Johnson.

● EARL, EDWARD A, 401st, 14592 Deerfield Av, Tustin, CA 92680, Apr 17, 1993. Reported by his widow, Carol.

● ERLINGHEUSER, FRANK, 323rd, 6 Belleview Terrace, Ansonia Ct, OH 06401. Reported by his son, John.

● GIBBON, SAMUEL Y, MRS, AL, 641 Roundtree Dr, Longboat, FL 33548-9998.

● GUM, HOWARD W, 322nd, 1960 E 13th St, SP 1115, Yuma, AZ 85365, Jan 1, 1990. Reported by Sec Johnson.

● HOLTMAN, JEROME A "RUSTY", 323rd Sq, 215 McConnell Dr, New Albany, IN 47150-2049, May 12, 1944, suddenly at age 73. Reported by his daughter, Jean Kreidler, Broken Arrow, OK and 91st BG(H) fellow Ground Crewman Bob Christman, Erie, PA.

Christman, writing the R/I after returning from a "D-Day" tour, says Holtman was his Best Man when he married in 1944. The two of them worked on M/Sgt McGara's crew in 1943 and 1944, servicing PAPER DOLL, BUNKY and PRIORITY GAL.

Before leaving for "D-Day" tour Christman had phoned Holtman regarding mutual attendance at the OKC, OK Reunion. Recovering from a slight stroke at the time, Holtman made no promises. "Our OKC, OK Reunion was not meant to be," Christman says.

Holtman is survived by his wife, Mary (Jean), two sons,

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three daughters and seven grandchildren. A retired employee of Smith Transfer Co in Louisville and a member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, Holtman died at his home.

● KAROLI, ALTON R, 322nd, 112 Esplanade, Middletown, RI 02840-5278, July 28, 1992. Reported by Sec Johnson.

● KLEIN, JOSEPH G, 322nd, 7915 Main St, Balto, MD 21226, June 27, 1993. Reported by his widow, Mary.

● NELSON, TOM A, 322nd, PO Box 86, Cottonwood, AZ 86326, Sept 10, 1993, after a lengthy illness. Reported by his widow, Marjorie, who says he was a self employed lapidarian after his WWII and Coast Guard service. He is also survived by a daughter, three step-children and two grandchildren.

● PRY, ERNEST V, 401st, 15 Simpson St, Mena, AZ 71953-1203, Oct 16, 1993. His widow, Alvid, reports he was buried in the National Cemetery in Fort Smith, ARK.

● ROCK, JOHN W, 323rd, 4205 James Dr, Metairia, LA 70003, July 1993. Reported by his widow, Deloris.

● SIKORSKI, EUGENE C, 323rd, 505 Crown Av, Scranton, PA 18505, Sept 5, '92. Reported by his sons, David and Clyde. They say he enjoyed his 91st BGMA membership and his family enjoyed his war-time tales.

"Please keep those memories going for other generations, It's a heritage that should not soon be forgotten," they wrote.

● SMITH, BASCOM PERLE, JR, LTC (RET), 323rd, 9509 Baird Rd, Shreveport, LA 71118, July 18, 1994 at age 70 after a lengthy illness. He was 19 when assigned to Walter M Pickard's MY DESIRE crew. Compelled to ditch after the Mar 3, 1944 Wilhelmshaven raid, Bascom and Pickard were two of the five crew members to survive exposure to the fridity of the North Sea. The ditching survivors returned to Bassingbourn, named their new plane RABLIN REBEL, and continued their tours.

Smith flew 31 missions. Downed by Flak in '44, he was rescued by the British. A Shreveport, LA newspaper obituary records he was decorated 25 times during WWII and was "also a highly decorated Flying Veteran of the Berlin Airlift, Korean War and Vietnam War."

After 28 years of AF service he taught in public schools before entering the electronics business. An honor graduate of the U of Nebraska at Omaha, his wide ranging interests included Phi Kappa, Daedallion and Lowe-McFarland American Legion Post membership. A 32nd degree Mason, he was also a volunteer worker for Centenary College and the Shreveport Symphony.

He is survived by his widow, Aileen, three children, ten grandchildren, four great grandchildren and numerous siblings and nieces and nephews. His family suggested memorials be made to the American Cancer Society.

Ironically, Col Pickard while reporting the death of Wayne C "Stormy" Wrightsman, another of his crewmen, in the July '94 R/I, wondered if he was the last survivor of his crew. He hoped, since Smith (with whom he'd lost contact) was younger than he, he was not yet "alone."

The mailing of the July '94 R/I added coincidence to the irony of Pickard's hope that at least one of his crew still survived with him.

Col Robert M Shane (Ret), Shreveport, LA, reading his mail delivered July '94 R/I and home delivered local newspaper one day, sensed Pickard's subtle request for news concerning Smith. Ironically, coincidentally, weirdly - whatever you wish, when Shane turned to his local paper's obituary page, Smith's obituary dominated the page. Shane dutifully sent Pickard a copy.

In a July 26, '94 note to the R/I Pickard wrote, "Now I'm all that is left of that crew that formed-up in July 1943 in Moses Lake, Washington."

Editor's Note: The Apr 1994 R/I contains a book review of English author Ray Bowden's "Plane Names & Fancy Noses." More than a page of copy is devoted to Pickard's Crew's MY DESIRE. The editor continues to recommend Bowden's book to those interested in reading about and contributing to 91st BG(H) history.

● SMITH, WILLIAM T, LTC, (RET), 323rd, LM, 15225 Metropol Dr, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745, Oct 30, 1993. Reported by his widow, Irene. A son, two grandchildren and three great grandchildren also survive him.

● SOWERS, LEONARD E, 324th, 711 Bobby Av, Macomb, IL 61455, Apr 2, 1992. Reported by his son, Chuck, who made a Memorial Fund Donation and requested Sec Johnson to, "Please stay in touch."

● THOMSON, ARTHUR E, 401st, 929 E Foothill Blvd, #187, Upland, CA 91786-4043, Nov '93. Thomson, an Instrument Technician, is survived by his widow, Phyllis, two sons and their families. Reported by Faber Cripps, LM, CA.

● WEBB, JACK M, 324th, 61 Warwood Ter, Wheeling, WV 26003-7132, Feb 1993. Reported by his widow.

● WINCHELL, CLARENCE E "BILL", 324th, 145 W Station St, Barrington, IL 60010, July 16, 1994 at age 77 after a series of strokes.

Winchell was one of THE MEMPHIS BELLE's waist gunners. His death reduces the number of BELLE surviving crew members to six.

A retired chemist and salesman, he appeared in William Wyler's original MEMPHIS BELLE war documentary; in last year's documentary, A Flight in Time: The Memphis Belle Story and over the years participated in many fund raising promotions for the 324th Sq plane. Last year, in Memphis, he helped celebrate the 50th Anniversary of THE BELLE's completion of 25 missions with other crew mates and his wife, Laura.

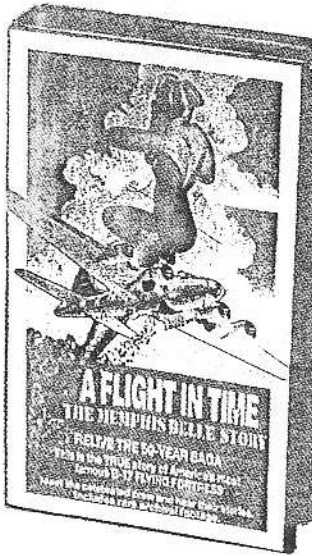
Despite an astigmatic left eye which gave him about 20-50 eye sight rather than the required 20-20, he was credited with downing two E/A. (He passed the eye exam by memorizing eye charts secretly made available to him.)

Menn Duerksen, the author of THE MEMPHIS BELLE, a book available through The Memphis Belle Memorial Asso, says Winchell "was one of my favorite members of the crew."

Reported by Frank G Donofrio.

● WINFREE, HUGH E, 324th, POW, 612 Riverside Dr, Carthage, TN 37030, Jan 30, '94. Reported by Ken Jones, 401st, Piano, TX.

MEMPHIS BELLE'S SAGA PRESERVED ON VIDEO



A FLIGHT IN TIME, THE MEMPHIS BELLE STORY, a newly released video, successfully preserves 50 years of a part of 91st BG(H) history. It is a moving visual and voice recording of the survival of WWII's most famous plane.

In about 56 minutes this 10 years in the making documentary tells the story of THE MEMPHIS BELLE's combat missions over war-torn Europe to her three month war bond tour across the United States, through 40 years of neglect, and finally to a deserved place of honor on Mud Island Park in Memphis, TN.

Numerous "Early Birds", in addition to the Belle crew appear and are readily recognizable - along with memory refreshing snips of the war-time Bassingbourn 91st BG(H) personnel knew.

The tape also records the imaginative planning of the

B17 by the pioneering Boeing Company before the war to its production and ultimate test in an enemy's hostile skies.

Numerous sequences are war-time movie news releases. The 50 year old depicted "happenings" are enhanced by using surviving Belle crew members as narrators.

C E "Bill" Winchell, BELLE WG, ironically is the one to note the passing of fellow crewmates on the tape with, "It's a real blow to see other members of the crew die." His recent death, recorded in this R/I, reduces BELLE survivors to six.

VHS tapes, A FLIGHT IN TIME, may be obtained by writing WKNO/Memphis Belle, PO Box 241880, Memphis, TN 38124-1880. The total cost, including S/H, is \$33.45 each. Convenient credit card orders may be made by calling 1-800-B17-BELLE or (1-800-217-2355).

STAMPS FOR VETERANS HELP HOSPITALIZED

SEC/TREA ASAY B JOHNSON RECENTLY RECEIVED profuse thanks after responding to the accompanying ad. He sent "Stamps for Veterans" his accumulated stamps from incoming 91st BGMA mail.

Bernie Elmore, who heads "Stamps for Veterans," says salvaged stamps help keep hospitalized Vets busy. Some diligently add to collections, other use them in art projects while the assortment of incoming stamps breaks up the boredom of extended hospitalization for many more.

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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 21286-8131. "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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FIRST CLASS MAIL



LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU MOVE!

folded Wings

● BARA, PAUL C, 401st, 14 Vital Oak Lane, Levittown, PA 19054, Sept 29, 1994 of heart failure.

John F Coyne, 322nd, New Castle, PA, while reporting Bara's death, records he and Bara were New Castle "kid" acquaintances through common friends "and the local ball park." One of Coyne's pleasant memories is Bara (already flying missions) learning of Coyne's assignment to the 322nd, greeted him upon his arrival at Bassingbourn. Their relationship which began when they were "10 or 12 years old" lasted until Bara's recent death.

The New Castle News obituary for Bara credits him with

receiving "a Purple Heart and the DFC." Coyne, during phone contact with the R/I, reports both he and Bara completed their mission tours.

Bara retired in 1988 after a 31 year career as a US Steel, Fairless Works electrician. A member of Fallsington All Saints Episcopal Church, he also belonged to the DAV Post 117 of Lower Buck County, AM Legion Post 834, the Civil Air Patrol of Fallsington and United Steel Workers of America Local 4889.

His survivors include his wife of 48 years, Elizabeth; one son, three daughters, six grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

● BURNSIDE, ROBERT D, 322nd, 16160 Highland Dr, Spring Lake, MI 49456, Jan 21, 1994. Reported by his widow.

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