

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



401st SQDN

Vol 28 No. 3

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

July 1995

POSTHUMOUS AIR MEDAL AWARDED 322nd's TOMER

AN AIR MEDAL AWAITED 2/LT EDWARD H TOMER, 322nd Sq CP, upon his completion of his first five missions. Unfortunately, Tomer's fifth mission was the Oct 9, 1943 Anklam, Germany raid.

Because Tomer, a member of one of the five 91st planes downed that day, did not complete his fifth mission, the Air Medal awaiting him was never awarded.

Before his son, Edward, now an Associate Member of the 91st BGMA, was born, Tomer's widow, his bride two months earlier, received a Purple Heart along with notification that her husband and her son's father had been KIA.

Subsequent marriages by Tomer's widow resulted in adoption and change of his son's familial name from Tomer to Kerrin. Only when he was well into maturity did Kerrin become aware his biological father, Tomer, was KIA in WWII before he, Kerrin, was born.

Once no longer shielded from the wounds of war endured by family survivors, Kerrin determined to learn as much about his KIA father as possible. Armed with his sur-name Tomer, Kerrin located his father's grave in California. A modest military tombstone listed him as a member of the "322nd Bomb Sq."

Kerrin, by then a competent private investigator, contacted the 8th AF Association which identified the "322nd Bomb Sq" as part of the 91st BG(H).

After obtaining that invaluable information, Kerrin, after influential political interest proved unproductive, contacted the 91st BGMA.

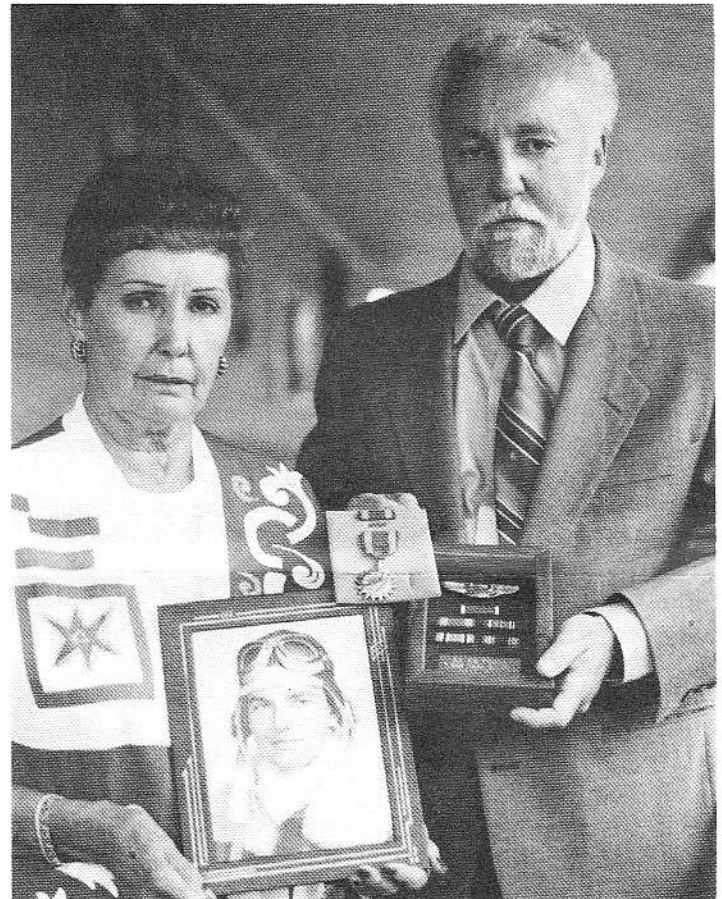
Contact with former 91st BGMA Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers, and present Historian Earl Pate, B/Gen (Ret) ensued. Requested, Evers' monumental "Documentary on the 91st Bomb Group (H), 8th Air Force" confirmed Tomer's 91st BG(H) service and Oct 9, '43 death. Early on in his research Kerrin questioned his father's ineligibility for an Air Medal and posed the question to 91st BGMA Historian Pate.

Wise in the ways of military bureaucracy, Pate wrote to Gen Merrill A McPeak, USAF Chief of Staff.

One subsequent response from Laura C Counts, LTC USAF, Randolph Air Force Base, TX, announced "new information concerning the Army Air Force's WWII awards policy." Authorization of 2/Lt Edward H Tomer's posthumous citation and an Air Medal were soon sent to Pate for presentation by the 91st BGMA.

Since McClellan AFB, CA is the nearest base to Kerrin's home, arrangements were made there. Inclement weather thwarted a scheduled parade, review and a reception at the base Aviation Museum.

Over fifty years after his father's death and years after Kerrin learned the identity of his biological father, Kerrin was presented with his father's posthumous Air Medal award by



EDWARD J KERRIN DISPLAYS THE MEDALS AWARDED HIS FATHER, Edward H Tomer, who was KIA in 1943. Kerrin's mother, Audrey Banks, holds a cherished photo of her first husband.

91st BGMA Historian Earl Pate on April 28, 1995. Association President Harold E Johnson, present at the ceremonies, designated Pate to make the award because of his extensive participation in the work preceding it.

Before making the award Pate thanked the McClellan AFB officials and personnel for hosting the ceremonies. Tomer's citation, read by Pate, follows:

CITATION

For meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over Germany and German occupied countries. The courage, coolness and skill displayed by Lt Edward H Tomer upon these occasions reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of the United States.

After receiving his father's Air Medal from Pate, Kerrin sincerely thanked Col Christopher F Russo, the officers and men of McClellan AFB and the 91st BGMA for participating in and contributing to the honor bestowed upon his father.

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY HAROLD E JOHNSON

BELATED AWARDS

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT MANY OF OUR MEMBERS are due a never awarded medal. And, I'm sure, all our members share the satisfaction I feel that our association played such a big part in the award of a posthumous Air Medal to KIA 322nder Edward H Tomer.

The mere announcement of Tomer's pending award in the Jan '95 R/I stirred significant response. Immediately available to me are reports of two members who, since the war, have been awarded DFCs. Richard Hallberg, Sr. 323rd, N Muskegan, MI, recently received his DFC from the "Dept of the AF, Randolph AFB, TX." Quilla D Reed, 323rd, Decatur, AL, received his on Nov 17, 1989. Also Louis L Brown, 401st, Lakewood, CA, downed on his fourth mission, seeks belated award information.

I must point out that Tomer's award was not a relaxation of qualifications. Tomer was downed just five days before Oct 14, 1943, "Black Thursday." The loss of 30 percent of 8th AF planes over Schweinfurt cancelled flights deep into Germany for six months until fighter escort was possible. Therefore present AF award thinking takes into account "Early Birders" like Tomer flew in more deadly times.

An official Dept of the AF letter authorizing Tomer's award says, "...We learned that it was the AAF's policy to make an appropriate award to AAF personnel who had been killed, shot down in action or taken prisoner before receiving a decoration in recognition of acts performed in aerial flight *regardless of the number of missions flown...*"

Unfortunately the 91st BGMA is not able to directly intervene in every quest for overdue decorations. The efforts that former association Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers and present Historian Earl G Pate, Jr put into procuring Tomer's posthumous award were prodigious. (Pate, rightfully honored to be part of the Tomer ceremonies, still persists in protesting Evers' contribution eclipsed his.)

For the present I can only say past Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers' 310 page DOCUMENTARY ON THE 91st BOMB GROUP (H), 8th AIR FORCE, 1942-45 is a fountain of information for those who need to dig into 91st BG(H) past. His book is available through our PX.

As for those who have proper documentation, Medal Award requests should be sent to:

HQ AFMPC/DPMAS

Attn: Ch, Recog & Spcl Prgms Div

550 C Street West Ste 12

Randolph AFB TX 78150-4714

As always, things can become complicated. It is hoped other 91st BGMAers who were successful in their individual post-war medal awards will willingly share their approach with the rest of us - either by replying to personally received requests from other members or info supplied to The R/I.

In the meantime, remember my phone number is: 209-477-0071. Every effort will be made to resolve the 91st BGMA inquiry or problem received.

AIR MEDAL AWARDED

(Continued from Page 1)



BGEN EARL G PATE (RET), THE 91st BGMA'S HISTORIAN, WAS given the honor of presenting KIA 322nd CP Edward H Tomer's son, Edward J Kerrin, with his father's posthumous Air Medal award. Pate flew from Hendersonville, TN to California to make the award before an audience of McClellan Air Force Base personnel.

Col Russo, representing Maj Gen John F Philips, Sacramento Air Logistics Center C/O, opened the ceremonies in the auditorium of the Officers Club with praise for the 91st BGMA.

His opening comments also included highlights of the 91st BG(H)'s history. His audience, most of whom were born after WWII, learned that 2/Lt Edward H Tomer was part of the 8th AF Group which sustained the highest casualties; the first 8th AF Group to fly 100 missions and the 8th AF Group which had to assume the mission lead in the Oct '43 Schweinfurt mission, one of the greatest aerial battles in history.

While reviewing the 91st BG(H)'s proud past, Col Russo pointedly praised Pres Johnson, Historian Pate and all 91st BGMAers for their patriotism, support of the USAF and past service to their country. Before turning the stage over to Pate, Russo made certain his predominantly post-WWII born audience was enlightened about the MEMPHIS BELLE and NINE-O-NINE.

Paul Limm, among the 91st BGMAers attending the ceremonies, said Russo's speech would have heightened the pride of any listener who served in the 91st BG(H) - and is a 91st BGMA member.

"Actually," Limm says, "anymore and it would have been embarrassing."

At a luncheon following the award ceremonies Past Pres Tony Montalvo, representing Pres Johnson, made a formal presentation of the Purple Heart and the accompanying citation to the former Mrs Tomer. (Now Mrs Banks, she had received a Purple Heart and Citation pertaining to Tomer's death through the mail in 1943. Since WWII conditions compelled curtailment of honors and ceremonies, the 91st BGMA was pleased to be able to make a more sensitive presentation.)

Members of the 91st BGMA attending the ceremonies included Pres Harold E Johnson and wife, Phyllis; Historian Pate; Past Pres Montalvo; Ed and Blanche Ah-Tye and Paul and Jeanie Limm.

DAYTON, OH CONTROL TOWER OPEN TO PUBLIC MAY 26

July 1995

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DAYTON, OH RESIDENTS, MARVIN C HOFFMAN, FORMER 323rd SQ TG and POW, and former 401st Sq CP and POW Dick Dempsey represented the 91st BG(H) at the Apr 22, 1995 dedication of the Dayton, OH Air Force Museum Control Tower. Attendance by other 91st BGMAers was curtailed by the presence of an unseasonably low wind chill factor.

ALERTED BY PAUL LIMM, THE 91st BGMA's BIG NEWS source, that three 91st BG(H) veterans planned to attend The Air Force Museum Control Tower Dedication ceremony at Dayton, Ohio on April 22, 1995, association Sec/Trea Asay B Johnson took prompt action to ensure the 91st would be "appropriately recognized as part of the 8th AF Program."

Johnson contacted Marvin C Hoffman, former 323rd Sq TG, one of the three 91st BGMAers Limm said planned attendance, and asked him to cover the event for the association. Hoffman's Dayton, OH residency and his writing and publishing of a should-be-read (and will be reviewed) account of his war memories of the enlisted segment of McConnell's crew made him a natural choice for Johnson's requested coverage.

Encouraging Hoffman's acceptance of the assignment was an accompanying mailing of three '92 Memphis, TN Reunion 91st BGMA caps and name tags. Johnson sent them for wear to help "single out" Hoffman and other 91st BGMAers at the ceremonies.

Though Johnson's request for coverage provided little time for preparation, Hoffman contacted and obtained six more attendance commitments from other members.

Feeling a contingent of at least nine former 91st BG(H) veterans was sufficient for recognition "as part of the 8th AF program," he prepared a "91st BOMB GROUP" banner and erected it near the to be dedicated 8th AF Tower before the formal ceremonies.

Unfortunately, weather, which often disrupted war-time planning, also wrecked Hoffman's. Only one other 91st BGMAer, former 401st Sq CP and POW Dick Dempsey of Dayton, OH joined him at the Air Force Museum Control Tower Dedication. (A 45 degree temperature and 20 degree chill factor deterred many potential attendees who anticipated smiling spring weather.)

Hoffman admits that the 91st BG(H) contingent wasn't an impressive turnout considering some 350 former AF veterans, their wives, families and friends braved the unseasonable temperature during the outdoor ceremony.

Authorities in charge of the ceremonies, not wishing to leave the impression that the 91st BGMA was the sole sponsor of the WWII control tower replica, arranged for the removal of Hoffman's banner. When removal activity threatened to destroy his handicraft Hoffman protested. He was subsequently allowed to personally dismantle and preserve it for potential future association use.

The Dayton Daily News, Apr 23, 1995 edition carried a lengthy column on the ceremonies which Hoffman submitted to the R/I.

The tower replica is a gift from the 8th AF Museum Memorial Foundation.

One hundred similar towers were built by the RAF and 60 of them still stand in England, Earl Bowen, the USAF Museum's chief of operations, says.

A special display of bricks from the remaining towers is built into an interior wall in the museum's replica located near the USAF Museum entrance.

"The two-story tower, which is topped by a glass observation 'greenhouse,' is now being furnished with electronic and meteorological equipment, maps, ammunition, flare guns, furniture and other circa World War II items.

"Visitors will be able to tour the inside beginning May 26, when interior renovations are complete," the Dayton Daily News article concluded.

Participating prominently at the dedication ceremonies were: Pres John Green Wood, 8th AF MMF; Vice Pres Fred Dundas, 8th AF MMF; Dr Richard Hallion, the AF Historian; Richard L Uppstrom, Dir, USAF Museum; LTC David Broyles, 88 ABW Chaplain; and Bob Bobbitt, Master of Ceremonies and members of the VFW Post 3283.



EXPECTING A LARGER TURNOUT OF 91st BGMAers AT THE Dayton, OH Control Tower Dedication, Hoffman created and erected this appropriate prop for the anticipated ensuing photography. Authorities in-charge of the ceremonies requested its removal because its presence may have suggested to the general public that the 91st BGMA contributed a disproportionate share to the memorial.

NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS

HARRY GERON, Anchorage, AK
JOHN HOWLAND, 324th, Carthage, TX
GEORGE L WOOD, 322nd, Ocala, FL

LAUGHLIN RALLY ROUND PHOTOS LATE BUT GREAT

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING LAUGHLIN, NV 91st BGMA RALLY ROUND neared ninety. After the Apr 1995 R/I was published photos taken by Jim and Suzi Sheppard, Yorba Linda, CA Associate Members who attended the affair, arrived.

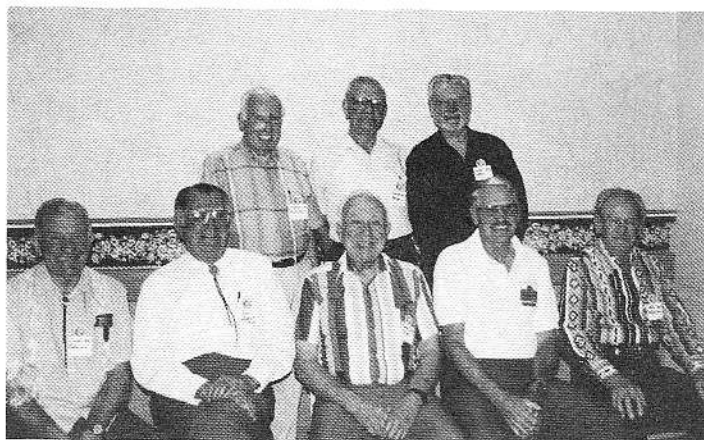
The eight page R/I format severely limits the incoming copy and photos that can be included in each edition. (Believe: Worthy OKC, OK photos have been scheduled for appearance since the Nov 1994 edition but somehow, expediency, more than anything else, had decided the use of other copy thus far.)

The following four photos of former 91st BG(H) Sq members attending the Laughlin, NV Rally Round received publication preference in this issue because the co-operation between the photographer and subjects is apparent. (Often it is not easy to get a group to pose for a picture.)

Another nicety pertaining to the Sheppard's submitted photos was the accompanying typed captions identifying those pictured.

Clear, readily read copy is real editorial assistance to any publication.

The R/I trusts the Florida Oct 1995 91st BGMA RALLY ROUND, announced elsewhere in this issue, will experience equally satisfying attendance - and provide equally welcome photo coverage of old comrades and friends attending.



324th SQ - FRONT ROW, R-L: ANDY SCHUMACHER, ASAY JOHN-SON, Bob Gould, Jim Patton and Clyde Garrison. Back Row, L-R: Charlie Falkenmayer, Linez Folven and John Dean.



401st SQ - FRONT ROW, R-L: ROGER ARMSTRONG, ANDY ANDOLSHEK, Bell Thissell, Hal Johnson and Phil Lunt. Back Row, L-R: Al Marcus, Faber Cripps, Lester Grove, Frank Keneley and Paul Limm. (All photos by Jim and Suzi Sheppard.)

THE MAY 1995 VE DAY ROYSTON RETURNEES

THE FOLLOWING 91ST BGMAers ACCOMPANIED THE May 1995 VE Day Royston Rally Round led by Paul Chryst, former 401st bombardier and past 91st BGMA president. Comprehensive coverage of the possibly last group sponsored tour back to England will appear in the Oct '95 R/I.

322nd

Vern and Mildred Currie; Daniel and Henrietta Goldstein; Nelson and Louise Hillock and Bernard Lopez.

323rd

Quentin and Hazel Eathorne; Robert and Caroline Hoffman; Lester and Mildred Hoots; Clifford and Mary Morton; Steve and Nancy Perri; Charles and Katherine Silvernail and Mr and Mrs Earl Williamson.

324th

Gordon and Irene Woolard; Henry and Pauline Jensen and Otto and Gladys Meikus.

(Continued on Page 6)



322nd SQ - FRONT ROW, R-L: MEL DART, BOB LOVELY, J D Mills and Louis Smith. Back Row, L-R: Herb Mannon, Bernard Lopes, Tom Fitzgerald and Don Sheeler.



323rd SQ - FRONT ROW, R-L: BOB GOULD, LEWIS SIMPSON, Hank Lilley, Aulden Dunn and Bill Koranda. Back Row, L-R: Jim Hoffman, Bill Hollenbough, Bill Schilly, Marion Darnell and Bill Stripling.

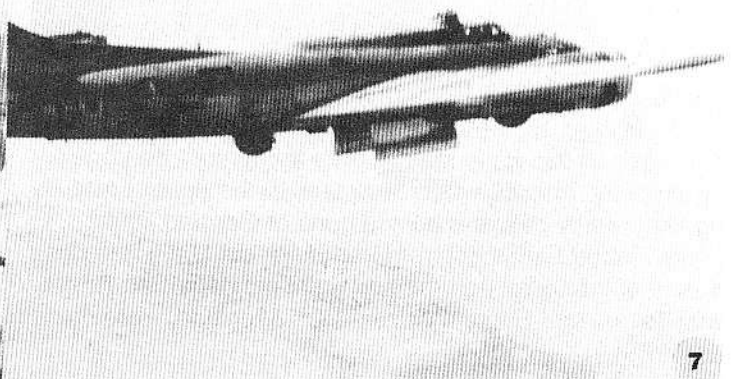
91st BG(H) FINAL MISSION RETURN RECORDED

VERN CURRIE, THE NAVIGATOR ON 1/LT JOE TROCCOLLI'S 322nd Sq crew, enlivened pages 4 and 5 of the Jan 1995 R/I with his story of RUSTY DUSTY, a near 91st BG(H) catastrophe. Accompanying his account and formerly unpublished photos of the near catastrophe were numerous other photos.

Among them are many "Nose Art" and great (in action) photos of: "DF-J", "LG-Y", and "LG-E".

Currie, who flew with the 322nd from Dec '44 until the War's end, attended a recent "Return to Royston" tour celebrating VE Day, also included in his earlier mailing a series of snaps which he says were made after the 91st BG(H)'s last mission before VE Day. The target was Pilsen and it concluded the 91st's WWII operations.

Notes from anyone who can identify himself or others are welcomed. A Currie photo of "LG-E" on an Apr '45 Bordeaux, France raid is included among the pictures on this page.



"TWICE-TOLD" TALES WELCOMED BY R/I

EXCELLENT R/I COPY OFTEN APPEARS FIRST IN other publications. A May 12, 1993 article in the Arizona PRESS ARGUS-COURIER's column, "The People Speak," reached the R/I sometime in 1994. Entitled, "Remembering," it was written by former NINE-O-NINE pilot George M Kesselring, Maj USAF (Ret), regarding his reaction to an appearance of two WWII Bombers at "Fort Smith" (presumably near his Van Buren, AR home).

The R/I welcomes "twice-told" tales and suggests Kesselring's approach to help preserve our proud past be considered by other members. Timely recollections like his may be submitted first to local papers and then, published or not, sent to the R/I.

Kesselring's article, "Remembering," follows:

REMEMBERING

To the editor: Recently two WWII Bombers came to Fort Smith to be viewed by the public. One of those planes was a replica of a plane called "Nine-O-Nine."

Having flown Nine-O-Nine one time, while my B17 was in maintenance for repairs, the showing caught my interest.

My wife had never seen or been inside a B17 Bomber. I felt that she should be interested, so we went to see these relics of the past.

The exterior of the plane was as I remembered, and I realized that it was a long way from Bassingbourn, England, and a long time between then and now.

This twenty year old Iowa farm boy matured very rapidly as a pilot of such Flying Fortresses while making thirty-five missions over Germany with the 91st Bomb Group.

As I went through this B17 I could see my crewmen, each one at his combat station.

The inside of the aircraft was smaller than I remembered, or maybe fifty years had made me larger, but there was room in my mind for memories.

Lt John Flynn and I were the pilots. We flew for fifteen minutes each so that we would not become "fixated" and not able to hold our distance from the other planes in our tight formations. Those formations were our protection against the German fighter planes.

There was a lot of contrast between the personalities of the kid from Boston and a midwestern farm boy; but we were a fine flying team.

The faces of Lt McPhie and Lt Curtis, the bombardier and navigator, were seen in the nose section, taking care of the business at hand.

Sgt Harley Russell, the Arkansas and flight engineer stood behind the pilots making sure the aircraft was operating properly. That is, when he wasn't in the upper turret firing his two fifty caliber machine guns at German fighters.

Sgt Robert Langston, from Kentucky, sat at his little desk in front of the radio; and the two waist gunners, Earl Roach, from Texas, and Eugene Cruise, from Michigan, were doing their thing.

I couldn't get back to the tail gunner's position as this crew has stowed gear in the passage way, but I know our Texan, Richard Pridemore, was there protecting us from a rear attack.

Our ball turret gunner, Sgt Donald Pubentz from Chicago, was remembered. I can still see his face and I remember he was flying his thirty-third mission when a 20mm shell exploded inside his turret. He only had two more missions to fly before going home. Sgt Roach, one of our waist gunners, named his son "Donald" in Pubentz's memory.

In my mind there are thirty-five chapters of a book; one for each of our thirty-five missions. Of course, there is a prologue and an epilogue to tell of the preparation and the consequences of everything that took place, but on this day I think only of those young warriors.

Yes, I saw all their faces, as they were then; young men in their teens and early twenties. I wouldn't know them now, they are old men - like me. However, as I grow older they will remain forever young, forever brave and forever in my memory.

George Kesselring
Van Buren

ROYSTON RETURNEES

(Continued from Page 4)

401st

John and Rosemary Allen; John and Jackie Askins; Paul and Nancy Chryst; Edward and Ione Damro; Jack and Jennette Gaffney; Paul and Frances Kennedy.

AND

Jay and Phyllis Patton; Keith and Lee Quayle; Carol Tracey and Susan Vannier.

POTPOURRI

MOST URGENT!!! ONE OF THE MANY ORDERED COPIES of former 91st BGMA Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers' DOCUMENTARY ON THE 91st BOMB GROUP (H) 1942-45, has not been dutifully delivered by the USPS. The identity of the non-recipient is urgently sought by Sec/Trea Johnson so that another delivery attempt can be made.

The 310 page spiral bound volume, sold through the 91st BGMA P-X for \$50.00 (\$60.00 Overseas), was returned to Johnson more than kinda-sorta shredded.

An accompanying note in the sealed "body-bag" containing the remains of the mailing probably explained mechanization required to deal with increasing mail volume dealt with by the USPS (still striving for increasing efficiency) "sometimes" is responsible for the destruction of some mailings.

(Having received a few such explanations in his time, the editor must add he kinda-sorta recalls the odds of experiencing such destruction of formally sanctimonious US mailings was compared to winning a fat state lottery. What with the recent increase in postage rates the R/I hopes increasing postal efficiency not only assures reasonable delivery times but also preservation of the product mailed.)

PRESERVE OUR PROUD PAST

(Continued from Page 8)

Medal and numerous campaign ribbons, citations, and certificates.

Described as an example of the term, "an Officer and a Gentleman," his love of books and resultant ability to cordially and eloquently express his thoughts routinely convinced his listeners he was a philosopher. Proud of his Nebraska ranch upbringing, he always maintained a man's handshake was his word of honor.

Everston credited his wife, Betty Maxine, for all his successes during their 49 year marriage. In addition to his widow, he is survived by children and grandchildren who arranged to fulfill his wish to "lie peacefully among his fellow military comrades - his friends" in the Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA and submitted this report.

● FLEMMING, THOMAS F, 323rd, 1700 Pine Valley Dr, Apt 223, Ft Meyers, FL 33907.

Raymond G Barnes, Framington, MA, who like Flemming, was an original crew member of 1/Lt John R Stevens' SEATTLE SLEEPER, says "luck" spared Flemming and him from going down with Stevens' crew on the 26 Nov '44 Altenbeken mission. Flemming, their CP, had been displaced by trainee CP 2/Lt Stanley F Johnson that day while Barnes had earlier been re-assigned to another crew after flight crews were reduced to nine. Though all of Stevens' survived, Barnes says the description of SEATTLE SLEEPERS' fall in the Mar 1944 National Geographic article, The Wings of War, justifies his enduring memory of sharing war-time luck with Flemming.

Reported by Barnes, whose phoned contact with Flemming's widow provided this report.

● GINTER, JOHN "JACK", 323rd, 18227 137th Dr, Sun City W, AZ 85375, deceased "three or four years ago." Charles R Giauge, Pinehurst, NC, reported Ginter's death after finding him listed in the newly released '95 Directory.

Giauge says he and Ginter were the two most junior 323rd pilots at Walla Walla. Ginter's piano proficiency prompted Giauge to locate, buy and install a piano in the 323rd's Officers' House. Ginter concluded his overseas service as Aide to Gen Armstrong and Gen Williams. He returned to the States and the 2nd AF with Gen Williams.

Discharged shortly after the war, Ginter completed a civilian career with Marsh-McLennon insurance. He is survived by his widow, Mary; a daughter and two sons.

● HOWARD, WILLIAM E, 323rd, 614 Riverbank, Lincoln Park, MI 48148, Mar 17, 1995. Howard was the TGer on the 323rd's TEXAS BRONCO. Downed on the Feb 4, 1943 Emden, Germany raid, the plane was landed on the Terschelling Island, Holland and destroyed by the eight surviving crew members. Howard, wounded, spent six months in a hospital before being sent to Stalag XVII B. Reported by his widow, Virginia M.

● LASKER, FRANCIS, 323rd, 21 Calais Rd, Randolph, NJ 07869. Reported by Ed Kaiserski, Canoga Park, CA.

● MILLER, E SCOTT, 324th, 104 Fortney Av, Kingwood, WV 26537, May 12, 1995, suddenly. Reported by his wife who says after all the years of no interest in the Memorial Association "he really did a turn-around." (During

the past years he read and saved most of the 91st material he received.)

● MOONEY, EDWARD L, 322nd, 212 Beach-Street, Grafton, WV 26354-1834, Apr 2, 1995, after a long illness. Mooney and his crew's first mission was to Berlin on Apr 29, '44. They completed their missions in ten weeks on July 11, '44, according to John F Coyne, the crew's TG.

Coyne, New Castle, PA says Mooney "offered our services for every available fill-in" because his wife, Eileen, was pregnant and he wanted "to be home for the grand occasion."

Mooney retired from the AF Reserve in the 1960s with the rank of major. His civilian career included working as an agent for the National Life and Accident Ins Co and as a carpenter with construction firms before his retirement in the mid-1980s.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Eileen, and a daughter, Linda. A second marriage swelled the ranks of his survivors. His second wife and widow, Winifred Garow Mooney, requested Coyne to inform the R/I of his death while Coyne and John Kurylo, Ringoes, NJ, their crew's former N, attended Mooney's funeral services.

Grafton, WV VFW members performed Mooney's Military burial rites prior to his Grafton National Cemetery interment.

Coyne's report to the R/I included most of Mooney's crew's missions were flown in WEE WILLIE - but they flew MISS SLIP STREAM, BACHELOR'S BRIDE and LASSIE COME HOME on occasion - and Bobby B Baker, Augusta, GA, is the only other surviving member of Mooney's crew besides himself and Kurylo.

● PADGETT, LONZELL, PO Box 295, Clayton, IL 62324, May 12, 1993. Reported by his widow, Lorene.

● QUACKENBUSH, DORT R, 401st, 7303 Lady Bug St, Austin, TX 78744. Reported by his widow, Martha.

● VINCENT, EMILE, LM, 324th, Rt 3 Box 279-A, Lafayette, LA 70505, Sept 25, 1994, suddenly. Reported by Pyrah Curtis, Boise, ID, who remembers Vincent was one of the original members of the 91st BG(H). He was one of the group's ground station radio operators upon whom flight crews depended. A good friend of Vincent, Curtis recalls calling him "Tute Suite", a nick-name which may have been associated with his "Cajun/French" accent. Curtis also seems to recall Vincent boasted he talked better "with the 'Key'" - the Morse Code.

● WALKER, HENRY A, 401st, 173 High Rd, Newbury, MA 01950, Jan 17, 1995. Reported by a family member.

● YURRI, JOSEPH A, 323rd, 1807 1/2 S Sheppard - Rear, Houston, TX 77019, Apr 6, 1995, after a brief illness. One of the 91st BG(H)'s early Birds, Yurri, then a Capt, was wounded on a 1942 mission. In addition to the Purple Heart he was awarded the Air Medal.

A 1940 Fordham U graduate, he was a star halfback on the Fordham Rams football team and subsequently received a master's degree in sociology from his Alma Mater.

While working for Catholic Family Charities for the past 35 years he was a member of the St Vincent de Paul Society, the St Paul of the Cross Club and the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include two nephews and a niece. Reported by an unidentified source who submitted Yurri's lengthy, published obituary from a Houston, TX newspaper.

OCT 25-28 RALLY ROUND SITE CHANGE CUTS COST

THE FORMAT FOR THE OCT 25-28, 1995 91st BGMA Rally Round has been drastically changed to encourage maximum attendance.

The sponsors of the affair, the 401st's Robert E Gerstemeir and his wife, Trudie, after the Apr 1995 R/I announcement designating Jupiter, FL as the Rally Round site, found the Ramada Resort Maingate in nearby Kissimmee, FL far more suited price-wise.

Arrangements with the Kissimmee Ramada Resort Maingate, in the middle of such Florida vacation spots as Disney, Sea World, Universal Studios, etc make available \$48.00 (plus \$5.28 State and Local taxes) motel room rates - nearly half the \$95.00 earlier Jupiter Resort scheduled rates.

The Gerstemeir's add that arrangements made with the Ramada Resort also make the \$48.00 motel room rate available to 91st BGMAers arriving three days before or remaining three days after the Rally Round.

The Gerstemeirs have assembled mailings consisting of six colorful tourist pamphlets describing nearby attractions as well as a reservation form and the scheduled activities for the Rally Round. Those interested in attending may obtain the mailing by writing Robert E Gerstemeir, 124 NE Twylite Terrace, Port St Lucie, FL 34983-1247.

A completed Schedule of Events form, indicating those

activities selected, along with payment, should be returned to Gerstemeir at the above address before Sept 1, 1995.

IMPORTANT!

An included Room Reservation form must be sent to the Ramada Plaza Resort Maingate at the Parkway, Attn: Reservations Department, 2900 Parkway Boulevard, Kissimmee, FL 34747, phone: 800-634-4774. Reservation applications must be received by Sept 1, 1995.



"THE RAMADA PLAZA RESORT MAINGATE AT THE PARKWAY is Orlando-Kissimmee's all-inclusive resort. The 20 acre complex is beautifully designed and offers the utmost in luxury, comfort and value. This award winning resort is convenient to I-4, the Orlando International Airport and is just 1.5 miles from the entrance to WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort, including The Magic Kingdom, EPCOT Center and Disney-MGM Studios Theme Park. Free Scheduled Transportation to WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort Theme Parks, Universal Studios & Sea World make the attractions even more attractive," a brochure available from the Gerstemeirs declares.

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 (1D) 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 scheduled or later R/I issues. 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.
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Folded Wings

● ANAYA, ANTONIO E, 401st, 18819 Sabrina Av, Cerritos, CA 91325. Reported by Fred H Barrington, FL, by phone to Sec/Trea Johnson.

● BACA, CRISTOBAL V, 401st, 3001 Montclair Dr, NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110, Apr 21, 1994. Reported by his family.

● CORL, HUBERT E, 323rd, 3717 W College Av, State College, PA 16801. Corl was the RO on THE EAGLES WRATH which was one of the original 91st BG(H) planes. Corl and THE EAGLES WRATH crew completed 25 missions shortly after the MEMPHIS BELLE completed hers and was returned to the States. He is survived by his widow, "Jo." Reported by an unidentified former THE EAGLES

WRATH crewman who wrote only four of its crew now survive Corl who is remembered as "...fun-loving, friendly and popular with the 323rd's aircrew members."

● EVERSTON, BRYCE S, Col, USAF (Ret) 322nd, 4834 Windgate Trail, Acworth, GA 30101, Feb 2, 1995. A printed eulogy for Col Everston received by the R/I states he participated in the 8th AF's first Berlin daylight raid on Mar 6, 1944. Downed on that mission, he survived 14 mos at Stalag I before fighting his way to freedom with American forces. His military career spanned 28 years. His last assignment was Chief of the Munitions Branch, Dir for Logistics, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Pentagon, Wash, DC.

His decorations included The Legion of Merit, Air Medal, The Purple Heart, Air Force Commendation Medal, POW

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