

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQDN



323rd SQDN



SUPPORTING UNITS



324th SQDN



401st SQDN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
ATTENTION!



**Use
Enclosed
Reunion
Ballot!**

Vol 29 No. 4

91st Bombardment Group (H) Newsletter

Nov 1996

'98 REUNION SITE MAY HINGE ON BY-LAW VOTE

THE 91st BGMA'S BANNER, which has been a proud part of Reunion activities for many years, is displayed by Sec/Trea Asay B Johnson and Pres Hal E Johnson (L-R) for the benefit of members who have never seen it unfurled.

In the accompanying photo to the right, imaginative 91st BGMA Historian Earl Pate, Jr directed, posed and participated in this tableau on a lonely, barren Arizona highway to "dramatize" possible difficulties facing ageing groups determined to participate in the future.

Flanking the irrepressible Pate are: (L-R) Ed Peacock, 322nd and Ed Kerrin, AM, son of the 322nd's KIA 2/Lt Edward H Tomer whose recent posthumous Air Medal award was facilitated by Pate.

Pate's "fun-photo" acquired unexpected symbolic significance when an anticipated Reunion site bid for 1998 failed to materialize at the 91st BGMA's Business meeting days later.



THE SITE OF THE 1998 91st BGMA BIENNIAL REUNION remains undecided. A proposed By-Laws change (included in this issue) offers an opportunity to continue the 91st BGMA's 28 year tradition of individual unit reunions.

The above and the fact that Paula Kool, while attending with her husband, Harry, fell and broke her hip, are the few "bad news" items regarding the recent 91st BGMA Biennial Reunion held in Tucson, AZ. News dis-semination of the lacking reunion site is required to provide a lengthened opportunity for potential 91st BGMA Reunion sites within the US to submit bids for the association's 1998 reunion.

All members are urged to vote by returning the accompanying ballot before Jan 15, 1997 to: Paul J Limm, 91st BGMA Advisor, 601 Calle DeSoto, San Clemente, CA 92672-2252.

Also demanding dis-semination is the fact that the Tucson, AZ Reunion's success depended upon two people. Sec/Trea Asay B Johnson and his wife, Gloria, did all the work alone until, days before registration, last minute assistance arrived.

They deserved a long, standing ovation and applause from the 352 registrants sometime during the varied activities. Hopefully, among those attending the next 91st BGMA Biennial Reunion someone will remember the debt due them and arrange official acknowledgement of it.

Tucson attendance would have been even higher were it not for the increasing seniority of 91sters and the likelihood of such a group to experience emergencies. The total attendance loss due to the 170-plus new "Folded Wingers" since the OKC, OK Reunion, though not readily calculated, must be added to the 12 emergency cancellations (totaling 24 people) reported by Sec/Trea Johnson. The addition of unrecorded references to

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LIMM ALARMED BY "ELECTION" HEAD

ARTICLE VI, SECTION 5 OF THE 91st BGMA BY-LAWS states: "Candidates for Association Office shall be considered elected if they receive a plurality of the votes cast at the election, for each office."

PAUL LIMM, SAN CLEMENTE, CA, WHO HAS LONG contributed extensively to the efficiency of 91st BGMA operations, did a double-take when he noted the Election Ballot in the July, 1996 R/I contained the head, "NO ELECTION REQUIRED FOR 1997-1998 OFFICIALS."

At first it seemed reasonable no election was necessary because all the candidates were unopposed. But, he wondered, if no association member voted for the unopposed candidates how could they be considered elected by "...a plurality of the votes" when they received no votes?

The situation reminded Limm, somewhat, of former Soviet Union elections when sometimes results were published before elections - with no regard for democratic niceties. Also, during the Tucson Reunion business meeting, Limm opined in America a "Philadelphia lawyer" could have a field day contesting an election won by a "Zero Plurality!"

In order to nullify the R/I editorial error Limm personally voted for every candidate with a bold "YES" beside their names to insure all received at least a plurality of "ONE!"

Six other alert 91st BGMAers also returned their ballots with either a written "Yes" or check marks beside the names of the unopposed 91st BGMA candidates for office.

That meant, Limm declared triumphantly in his humorous explanation of the near fiasco, that all 1997-1998 Association

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY HAROLD E JOHNSON

ALL R/I OFFICES FILLED!

DESPITE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE 91st BGMA reported elsewhere in this issue, there is good news. The 91st BGMA again has a full complement of officials!

The newcomer among the 1997-1998 Officers is Philip (Phil) G Mack who is our new Ragged Irregular Editor. Mack flew a 323rd tour from Sept '43 to Mar '44. After flying as Co-Pilot with Capt David A Bramble's VILLAGE FLIRT crew he completed his tour as a Pilot-in-Command with new crews.

Somehow, beginning in high school and continuing in college he was always involved in writing, editing and photography.

A Bachelor of Science degree in Air Transportation from Purdue eventually led to employment in the Boeing Company after the war where he worked as a Senior Project Engineer providing technical support to the Sales organization. Descriptive literature and direct presentations to prospective buyers, requiring precise writing, was part of the Boeing position he held that necessitated extensive travel to all the continents.

Now "retired", he is the President of a consulting company, Mack Aviation Company. Phil, a long-time member, will begin producing the R/I with the Jan 1997 issue.

In the meantime members are urged to note the R/I's new Editor's address. Mailing all editorial matter to Phil Mack, 17521 155th Av SE, Renton, WA 98058-9087 will expedite our newsletter's production.

Rudy Malkin, the R/I Editor for the past 10 years, for sometime has quietly made known he would appreciate a replacement for his post. When Mack expressed an interest in the R/I post Rudy promised full cooperation in transferring the bulky accumulation of R/I files and correspondence to the new editor. As our new 2nd VP, Rudy says after definite progress has been achieved in that undertaking he hopes to be able to continue contributing to the good of our group.

We know he will.



PHIL MACK (L), 323rd, 91st BG(H), CELEBRATED CHRISTMAS OF 1943 with his brother Art Mack who flew with the 306th BG(H). Phil, the R/I's new editor, completed his tour on Mar 23, '44. Brother Art completed his tour in June, '44.

91st BGMA OFFICERS

1997-1998

PRESIDENT

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104 Skyview Dr
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'98 REUNION SITE

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planned attendance by members, who subsequently failed to appear after writing the editor, would have boosted the total attendance above the "Extremely Gratifying" rating given the Tucson, AZ Reunion.

The deepest disappointment of the affair was the inability of Vince Hemmings, long time Tower Museum Curator at Basingbourn Barracks, to attend because of illness. A lengthy letter of regret from him was read by Paul Limm who also showed a series of color slides sent by Hemmings. The slides depicted many of the items displayed in The Tower and recorded some of the work of the Museum volunteer staff members over a twenty year period.

Hemmings' typed notes accompanying the slides, while expressing his appreciation of the supreme sacrifice made by those 91sters interred at Madingley Cemetery, were so moving that Limm welcomed a replacement reader to complete that portion of Hemmings' planned lecture-slide presentation.

"You fought for peace and you achieved it - but at a cost.

"Margaret (his wife) and I will be perpetually grateful. We have the greatest admiration for the uniform you wore. We shall never forget you," Hemmings wrote at the end of his notes.

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'98 REUNION SITE

(Continued from Page 2)

Also compelled to cancel reservations were: 322nd - William and Dorothe Turestta; 323rd - Vernon and Wylene Ritter; 324th Charles and Francis Falkenmyer, Cliff and Barbara Schultz, Andy and Clarice Shumaker and Rufus and Peggy Youngblood; 401st - Kermit and Thelma Burman, Roy and Lois Fratz, Donald and Roberta Gauthier, Jack and Ann Rubenfeld.

With some reservation Asay and Gloria Johnson compiled a list of those who contributed to Reunion functions in various, sometimes unnoticed ways. Sincere apologies are extended to those who may be inadvertently omitted.

Listed alphabetically are: John Askins, Bob and Joy Friedman, Jeane Gallagher, Art Horning, Harry Hovermill, Paul and Jeanne Limm, Rudy and Madeline Malkin, Tony Montalvo, Alice Ondrovic, Earl Pate and Norman Thompson.

Reunion business included an extensive discussion of the use of a \$1,000.00 donation from the "Association Du Memorial American" of Saint-Nazaire, France to honor the 91st BG(H)'s participation in the initial 8th AF raids. Numerous proposals were made and duly recorded. Since other new memorial sites were also proposed during the discussions Pres Hal Johnson responded to the diversified proposals on memorial disposition and location by announcing a committee would be formed to deal with the proposals.

At the subsequent Officers' Meeting Pres Johnson directed Sec/Trea Johnson to draft a letter appointing former 91st BGMA Pres Tony Montalvo Chairman of the Memorials Committee.

As the new Memorials Committee Chairman, Montalvo has appointed W W Hill, VA; Dale J Darling, OH; Earl C Pate, Jr, TN and Paul J Limm, CA Committee members. An evaluation of proposals for funding memorials is scheduled Memorials Committee business.

Henceforth all material concerning memorials should be forwarded to: 91st BGMA Memorials Committee, Chairman Louis A Montalvo, 4154 Clubhouse Rd, Lompac, CA 93436-1334.

Also, when it was apparent there would be no 1998 91st BGMA Reunion site proposal coming from the floor of the General Meeting, it was Keith D Quayle who suggested a By-Laws change that would permit Reunions to be held anywhere in the country.

His suggestion was acted upon at the Sept 28, 1996 Officers' Meeting. The required By-Law, as stated at the beginning of this article, appears elsewhere in this R/I. If approved by the vote of the membership the entire country will be opened for 1998 Reunion Site bids.

THOSE ATTENDING

322nd Sq

ANDERSON, MARVIN & LOIS; ANDERSON, ANDREW; Bullock, James; Burdick, Clyde & Isabelle; Burton, Arnold; Cox, William; Crist, Robert & Margaret; Damro, Edward & Ione; Egender, Herb & Cathy; Freer, Donald, Mary & Thomas; Hadd Sr, Chuck & Guests; Harris, George; Hillcock, Nelson & Louise; Kelly, Bob; Kerrin, Ed; Lennon, Thomas and Lindley, Steve & Gwenda.

McCrea, W G John & Audrey; McQuain, Willis & Doris; Mills Jr, Jimmie; Mills, Sandra; Moucha, Don & Betty; Niemeyer, Donald & Ann; Paxson, Jack and Helen; Peacock, Lenora & Edward; Smith, Lou; Steele, Edwin-Rudy and Esther; Ward, Ray & Lalla; Witt, George & Laverne; Witter, James & Evelyn "Pat" and Wood, George & Fran.

323rd Sq

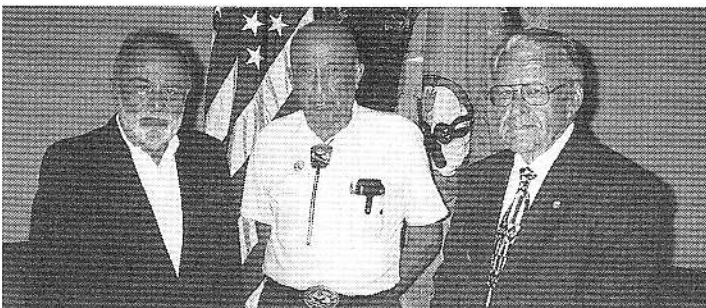
BANNON, FRANK & VIVIAN; BEAMAN, VERNON & Dorothy; Birdsong, George; Bowen, Chaster & Lorreta; Brewick, Chuck & Alice; Burkart, Gerald; Burke, John; Butler, William & Trixie; Christman, Robert & Dorothy; Cooper, Bev; Cox, Ennis & Anne; Cullen, Jim; Dowell, George & Margaret; Farwell, O W & Rachel; Franke, Joe & Alberta; Friedman, Robert & Joy; Giaucque, Charles & Anne; Hoffman, Marion (Dusty) & Peter; Hoots, William & Mildred; Jackman, ED & Dorothy; Kethley, Jerold; Kool, Harry & Paula; LaLonde, Paul & Georgette; Leonard, Alvin & Jean and Lilley, Henry.

Mack, Phil & Randi-Carol; Mahan, Lloyd & Florence; Mattie, Mario & Mary; McCarty, Bill & Carol; McCoy, Richard & Margaret; Murphy, Richard & Lorraine; Murray, Don & Jo; Ott, Lawrence & Vivian; Perri, Steve & Nancy; Pitts, Edwin & Ruth; Pullen, John & Naomi; Quayle, Keith & Lee; Reed, Quilla & Elizabeth; Roten, John & Jeane; Silvernail, Chuck & Kathy; Simpson, Lewis & Modarine; Sinabaldo, A J & Norma; Walker, Lila; Wallin, John; Williams, Cecil; Williamson, Earl & Alice; Wilson, Howard; Yezdimir, Emil & Millie and Zauner, William.

324th Sq

AHTYE, EDWARD & BLANCHE; ANNIS, FRANK & Barbara; Augsburg, Delbert & Betty Jo; Auth, William; Banta, T Michael & Yvonne; Bartush, J Addison & Marion; Camerin, Walt & Jean; Carpenter, Hubert & Pat; Carpenter, Walter & Addine; Caswell, Andrew; Cater, James & Francis; Cleveland, Robert & Roma; Collins, Phillip & Nadine; Darling, Dale; Darling, Raymond & Lorraine; Dean, Robert; DeBoy, Peter & Thelma; Donahue, Howard & Katie; Donofrio, Frank; Dowler, Clement; Dowler, Betty Jo; Eichert, Charles; Engstad, Jerry &

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THE RECOGNITION AWARDED THE 324th's SQ's YANKEE GAL CREW FOR HAVING THE MOST MEMBERS ATTEND THE TUCSON REUNION stirred protests when only three of the five claimed were present at closing ceremonies. The virtual horde of former 91st BG(H) crews with four members in attendance who protested the YANKEE GAL's crew's claim were satisfied when its' former pilot Hooper R Maplesden explained two of his crew members had left early.

In the left photo (L-R) are the three YANKEE GALers who stayed for dinner: Robert Margolis (N), Hooper R Maplesden (P) and Daniel Haley (B). Thayne Johnson (E) and Lyle McCollough (R) who attended the Reunion and also flew 19 missions on YANKEE GAL, unfortunately left before photo taking time.

The right photo depicts only a portion of the members of crews with four members in attendance. Numerous others, not captured by the camera's lens, to the left and right of those pictured, impressively swelled the total of "Four Member Crews" at Tucson.

LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE DETAILS STILL SOUGHT

WWII PHOTO OF LT HELEN E Pierson, ANC, 163rd General Hospital at Wimpole, whose portrait was painted upon a 401st Fort.



THE OFFICIAL DEADLINE, OCT 1, 1993, OF THE only known R/I "contest" was permitted to pass without mention. For the inevitable few who forget such things, the purpose of the "contest" was to obtain information concerning an Apr '87 R/I photo of WWII christening ceremonies of LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE, a B17.

Paul Chryst, former 91st BGMA President, originally hoped the publication of the christening photo would stir some background data on the plane. The photo included the back of a bouquet bearing officer and a more arresting distant image of the "christening officer" whose uniform included silk stockings.

Eventually the plane was identified as a 401st Sq 91st BG(H) Fort and the pictured officers were identified shortly after the 1992 Memphis, TN Reunion.

That came about when former 401st Sq C/O John D Davis and his wife, Helen, of Hudson, FL, while showing the visiting editor and his wife an English book, CLASSY CHASSY, which contained an uncaptioned photo of them, were surprised to hear the photo had appeared earlier in an '87 R/I and their identity had long been sought.

Mrs Davis is the officer on the photo whose uniform included silk stockings. At the time she was Lt Helen Pierson, ANC, 163rd General Hospital, Wimpole, England. She and then-Major Davis, the pictured "bouquet bearing officer," were married after the war.

The Davis' supplied as much info as they could on the plane for an article in the Jan 1994 R/I. The R/I's subsequently announced contest with rewards for any and all data pertaining to LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE stirred a surprising response - and winner.

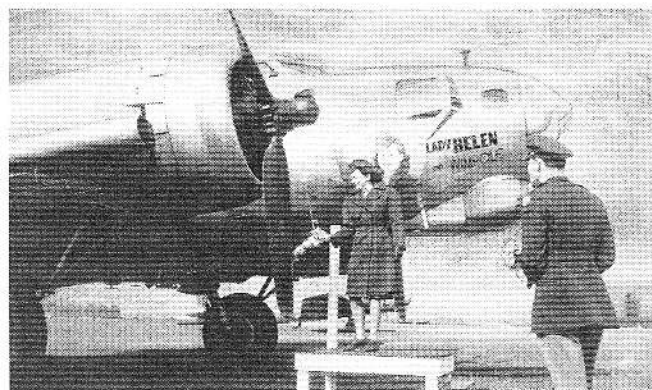
Since only one 91st BGMAer responded, he won.

He was French Associate Member Leon Croulebois of 41 Rue Brancion, 75015 Paris, France.

Croulebois correctly identified Major John D Davis and Nurse Helen Pierson; noted they were married and supplied their present Hudson, FL address. He obtained his information from the "Secretary of Wimpole Park Reunion Assoc Rowland J Garser," an obvious English source.

Though no further details regarding the plane's career are available to Croulebois he was awarded the promised supply of unstamped "GENERAL IKE" envelopes donated by Dr Joseph P Connally and a 91st BGMA Reunion cap - along with a request that he return a photo of himself wearing the cap before the Eiffel Tower.

A youngster during the war, he possibly saw more air war trauma than some flight crews. As a 12 year old, watching the air activity above Paris, he saw a "...B17 receive (a) direct hit in the bomb bay." He remembers the explosion - and the absence of parachutes. Another time he witnessed a B24 become "a red



THIS PHOTO OF LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE'S CHRISTENING IS believed to have been taken in Apr '44. Former 401st C/O John D Davis says the plane flew missions with the 401st Sq afterward but has no further information regarding it.

fireball" - and the bailout efforts of the doomed crew. Probably splashed with high octane fuel, the clothing of the crew members flamed while they descended helplessly in their chutes.

Anyone who has sought to master a foreign language will understand his comment on the preceding. His comment, "Terrific remember," the R/I translates to, "A terrible childhood memory."

In a letter to Mrs Davis, dated after the 1993 R/I contest's close, he tells of bicycling to a wooded area, into which he had seen parachuting Allied airmen descend, in an attempt to help them evade. Unfortunately he could not find them.

Though Germans were in the area he "burglared a little part" of the B17 that also crashed there. Twenty three years later, with the help of an American correspondent, the part was identified by the Boeing factory as belonging to the 418th Sq, 100 BG(H)'s ROYAL FLUSH which was downed on its 75th mission while over Villacoublay Airport near Paris.

The 100th BGMA, appreciating his contributions to its history, has made him an official French Representative. Subsequent attendance at a 1973 Milwaukee, MN and a 1990 Tampa, FL 100th BGMA Reunion has, if possible, increased the gratitude he constantly expresses regarding the contribution American airmen made to France's liberation.

English author Ray Bowden (PLANE NAMES & FANCY NOSES), though devoting considerable copy to the mystery surrounding LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE, unfortunately was not in possession of information identifying either Davis or his bride-to-be, Lt Helen Pierson, ANC - much less the plane's serial number or Sq call numbers while writing his book.

Bowden presumes "the title" (of the plane) is a reference to Crimean War Nurse Florence Nightingale, known as "The Lady with the Lamp."

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LT HELEN E PIERSON, ANC, 163rd GENERAL HOSPITAL, IS PICTURED in the left photo with some patients in the Wimpole, England medical facility during the war. Former 401st Sq C/O John D Davis, who named a Fort LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE to honor the 163rd's staff and surprise Pierson, is shown in the right photo on leave in war-time London.

LADY HELEN OF WIMPOLE

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"Publicity photographs of the christening of the Fortress indicate a carefully staged managed event and it is indeed curious that so little has been established about the person it was intended to honour," Bowden's excellent book records.

That part of LADY HELEN WIMPOLE's mystery has been resolved by the Davis'. The plane was named to honor all the 163rd General Hospital personnel located at Wimpole, near Bassingbourn, for the devoted care they gave 91st BG(H) and other wounded.

Mrs Davis, who was completely surprised when Davis personalized the tribute to the 163rd by placing her portrait and name upon it, remembers "the courage and spirit of those boys (patients), never complaining and always thankful for the care they received.

"Also vivid in my memory was the sound of the B-17s starting ... early in the morning. Our thoughts and prayers went with them," she says.

She concluded a recent letter to the R/I with, "I would appreciate any information as to what happened to this very special airplane to me."



FRENCH ASSOCIATE MEMBER LEON CROULEBOIS OF PARIS received his prize for winning the R/I's LADY OF WIMPOLE contest at 9 AM, Aug 22, 1994. A French postman delivered it. Accompanying the promised "General Ike" envelopes was a 91st BGMA Reunion baseball cap - and a note requesting he return a photo of himself wearing it before the Eiffel Tower.

Soon after a letter of thanks arrived again expressing his gratitude for the war-time contributions and sacrifices of 8th AF aircrews and untiring appreciation of the untiring dedication of nurses like the "Lady Helen of Wimpole" (now Mrs John D Davis) - and promising a photo of himself and the Eiffel Tower.

Unfortunately language difficulties intervened. Croulebois' submitted picture was supposed to emphasize his head, shoulders and 91st cap and a bit of the Eiffel Tower. The photo he returned is still the R/I's best photo of a long-time, undeniably dedicated 91st BGMA Associate Member.

THOSE ATTENDING

(Continued from Page 3)

Dody; Fornaca, Frank & Mary; Garrison, Clyde & Lanelle; Gettis, Elmer & Ruth; Gilman, Mark & Dorothy; Gold, Seymour; Goldberg, Marvin & Betty; Haley, Daniel & Claire; Hanson, Bob & Irene; Hohing Jr, Conrad; Hohing, Virginia; Holman, Charles & Carolyn; Holman, Scott & Vicki; Jensen, Thorkil & Lorraine; Johnson, Thayne & Mary; Johnson, Asay & Gloria; Kleyla, Robert and Leasure, Bill & Dorothy.

Maplesden, Hooper & June; Margolis, Robert & Barbara; Marlowe, Jack & Bubbles; McCullough, Lyle & Betty; Montalvo, Louis; Morgan, Robert & Linda; Morgan, Robert; Mummert, Lauren & Dorothy; Myers, Al & Janviere; Pate, Earl & Mary; Potter, G William & Majorie; Rappaport, Ralph; Smith, Kenneth & Virginia; Tayson, David & Isabella; Unger, John & Lois; Vernis, Jim; Wilhelm, Leo & Stella; Wilson, Russell; Wolf, Willard & Florence and Zilmer, Evan.

401st Sq

ALLEN, JOHN & ROSEMARY; ARMSTRONG, ROGER & Lois; Askins, John & Jackie; Bankovsky, Nicholas & Mary; Barrett, Ralph; Beal, Donald; Borgenson, Menford & Donna; Boyce, Glenn & Lois; Collier, Paul; Daniels, Neil; DeBolt, Hal & Dottie; Dion, Vernon; Fletcher, Jim; Gaffney, Jack & Jan; Gallagher, Edward & Jeane; Hadley, William & Adele; Hanna, William; Havelear, Marion & Patsy; Hicks, Chauncey & Wife; Hovermill, Harry; Irak, John & Evelyn; Johnson, Hal & Phyllis; Kenely, Frank & Hilde; Koeller, Clarence-Bud; Lechner, Richard & Ardyce; Letalien, Gene & Dot; Limm, Paul & Jeanie; Loftin, Ernest and Lohoefer, Conrad & Stefanie.

Malkin, Rudy & Madeline; McPartlin, Jim & Winnie & Guest; Ondrovic, John & Alice; Paget, John & Norma; Parsons Jr, John; Pene, Aubin & Jacqueline; Rheam, Michael & Andella; Ripa, Frank & Ruth; Simons, George & Wanda; Smith, Donald & Margaret; Thompson, Harvey; Thompson, Norman; Wagner, Sherwood & Jean; Walker, Charles & Mary and Weinberger, Ilise.

441st Sq

CRIPPS, FABER & MARY; HILL, W W; MANNON, HAROLD & Jean and Zellars, Edwin, Lynne & Nita.

Associate Members

BAYES, BARIE (ENGLAND); BECK, THERON & WIFE; Crumm, Tenney & Son; Frank, Don & Wife; Hudson, John; Lursen, Alfred (and Claudia?); Smith, Steve & Marge; Stevens, Clive & Neil (England); Terry, Hazel; Wells, Ken and Zwaschko, Phyllis.

Others

BOTOFF, PHYLLIS; BYNUM, TONY & PAT; DOTTER, Margaret; Knott, Martha and Purdy, Lillian.

LIMM ALARMED

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candidates were elected by a "resounding margin of at least seven votes!" (Sec/Trea Asay Johnson was elected by a margin of eight votes because one member placed a "X" only beside his name and added a note saying Asay has been doing a "terrific job."

The other election news is the proposed By-Laws change to combine the offices of Secretary and Treasurer was approved by 256 votes For, 13 Against and 39 Abstentions.

Editor's Note: The Editor has no explanation for the gross "typographical error" corrected by Limm's alertness. It has always been, and certainly will continue to be, R/I policy to strive for *perfection*.

TUCSON VIDEO ADDS TO CHRISTMAS LIST

TWO ENGLISHMEN, KEN WELLS AND BARRIS BAYES, of Aviacam Productions, an English video firm, filmed five and a half hours of activity and interviews for their video, MEMORIES OF THE 91st BOMB GROUP AT BASSINGBOURN, in Tucson, AZ.

Their 18 month long project, including archive film and recent contemporary footage of memory stirring, still surviving WWII base facilities, will include interviews of 91st BGMAers at Tucson. Some fifty of the 350-plus 91st BGMAers (including some widows) attending were interviewed with "splendid success" Bayes says.

Aviacam Productions plans release of its hour long video in time for Christmas. There is no doubt it will be a unique and lasting memorial for all 91st BGMAers - whether they re-newed relationships in Tucson or not.

Those wishing to treat themselves or others to a Christmas treasure may obtain the video by writing: AVIACAM PRODUCTIONS, AMBLESIDE, BOURNE END RD, CRANFIELD, BEDS., MK43 0BD, U.K.

When writing request the "MEMORIES OF THE 91st BOMB GROUP AT BASSINGBOURN" and enclose \$24.00 per video plus \$6.00 postage payment to Aviacam Productions. Purchases may be charged to VISA or MASTERCARDS. If that is the chosen mode of payment, identify your charge card, supply its complete number and include expiration date.

Please use "BLOCK CAPITAL" letters for your name and address in your correspondence.

Other possible 91st BG(H) personal Christmas gifts available include Marion Havelaar's recently released THE RAGGED IRREGULARS OF BASSINGBOURN, which sold well at Tucson. To obtain the 320 page 11 1/4" x 8 3/4" hard cover book crammed with 400 b/w & color photos send check for \$45.00 plus \$2.95 for shipping to M H Havelaar, 5421 Cavalry Post Dr, Arlington, TX 76017-4514.

Equally praised and prized are two books by English writer Ray Bowden, now available through Sec/Trea Johnson at reduced prices.

1) A limited number of Bowden's PLANE NAMES AND FANCY NOSES, 288 pages, hard cover, 11 3/4" x 8 1/4", 400 photos, are available for \$43.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

2) Bowden's TALE TO NOSES OVER BERLIN, THE 8th AIR FORCE MISSIONS, 128 pages, profusely illustrated, soft bound, 11 1/2" x 8 1/2", is also available at \$32.00 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

When ordering from Johnson specify book title, write check for amount payable to "The 91st BGMA" and mail to Sec/Trea Asay B. Johnson, 590 Aloha Dr, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86406-4559.

323rd's "BILLIE K's" PILOT

(Continued from Page 8)

Kethley's early '60s discussions with another nearby hospital. Those discussions resulted in the merging of the two hospitals into the Shawnee Hospital Authority.

Dr Kethley was a general surgeon at Shawnee Regional Hospital until his retirement in 1988. He continues to serve as the current Chairman of the Board of Directors of the facility.

James J Cullen, Paso Robles, CA, Kethley's bombardier, reporting the above, added he was in the parachute next to

Kethley when they were downed on the Aug 12, '43 Gelsenkirchen, Germany raid while flying BILLIE K. (The MACR 262 in former 91st BGMA Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers' "Documentary on the 91st BG(H) ... records their plane's name as being, "BILLIE KAY.")

Called to Cullen's attention, he indicated the wartime clerical error isn't a problem for him.

Folded Wings

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considerably to the successful completion of the BELLE's missions, according to the Johnson City Press Chronicle article.

A shell hole in the BELLE'S stabilizer, big enough to walk through, luckily did not sever crucial control cables; another time damage sent the BELLE into an uncontrolled 5,000 ft dive before Morgan, somehow, regained control.

"Our bomb wing went to Europe with 40 crews. Three crews completed (their tours).

"I lost a lot of good friends. (The War) cost me lots of them. You'd go out on a mission and when you'd come back, you'd be the only one in the barracks. Everybody else was dead and gone," Adkins told his local paper interviewer.

He received the DFC, the Air Medal with three OLCs, AF Commendation Medal, AF Longevity Award, AF Outstanding Unit Award, ETO Theatre ribbon with two Bronze Stars; National Defense Service Medal and the United Citation Award in addition to the Royal Air Force Medal of Honor.

He was a member of the Johnson City Civitan Club; an honorary member of the POW and the 82nd Airborne Division Asso and an active member of the First Christian Church and the East Tennessee Christian Men's Fellowship.

Survivors include his wife, Irene, who wrote he looked forward to the write-ups in the R/I. A sister and nieces and nephews also survive him. Those wishing may make memorials to the Christian Church building fund, 2011 Sherwood Drive, Johnson City, TN 37601.

● BEASLEY, FREEMAN C, 75, 324th, 1122 N 15th St, Apt 209, Cannon City, CO 81212, July 25, 1996.

Beasley, a pilot during his 27 mission tour, was awarded the Silver Star, the DFC and a Purple Heart. E Robert Kelley, Central Valley, CA, included a note with a copy of Beasley's obituary. His note cryptically explained two of Beasley's decorations - the Silver Star and the Purple Heart. Kelley wrote:

"Freeman...was wounded badly on the Sept 8th ('44) Ludwigshafen, Germany mission but was able to bring his plane back to Basingbourn with only one arm."

Beasley, before his retirement, was the general manager for Jeppesen and Co of Colorado Springs. He is survived by his widow, Becky; his son, retired AF B/G Dennis Beasley of Colorado Springs; three brothers, two sisters, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pikes Peak Hospice, 3630 Sinton Rd, Suite 302, Colorado Springs, Co 80907 or to The Air Force Aid Society, C/O Mountain View Mortuary, 2350 Montebello Square Dr, Colorado Springs, Co 80918.

Reported by former 322ndr Kelley of Central Valley, CA.

● BLOODGOOD, ELWYN L, 401st, 77, 170 Carter Grove Lane, Malvern, PA 19355, Jan 12, 1996. A pilot during the war, Bloodgood entered the carpet business afterward and later changed to insurance, retiring in 1989 after rising to the Philadelphia Agency Manager post of the Phoenix Ins Co. After his retirement he attended West Chester U and obtained a degree in philosophy shortly before his 74th birthday. He

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continued taking geography and Portuguese language courses after graduation.

He served on the Malvern Borough Council, the Chester County Life Under Writers and was a volunteer at the Paoli Memorial Hosp.

He is survived by his widow, Joan; four children from an earlier marriage, seven grandchildren and a sister.

Memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Asso, 980 Harvest Dr, Suite 105, Blue Bell, PA 19422.

● BROWN, WALTER S, 323rd(?), 74, 626 South 3rd St #101, Salina, KS 67401-4105, Jan 3, 1996.

His service with 91st BG concluded with 22 months as a POW in Stalag Luft III in Sagan, Germany.

A former farmer and postmaster from 1955-1976, he was awarded a Carnegie Foundation bronze medal in recognition of his heroic attempt to save a farm worker from a fire on his family's farm. He was 21 years old at the time.

Among his extensive civic interests and activities were: 4-H and teenage rodeo activities; the Pine Bluffs Roping Club; Order of the Eastern Star; Wyoming Quarter Horse Asso; Wyoming Wheat-growers and membership in the Pine Bluffs First United Methodist Church and the Jaycees.

He is survived by his widow, Lura; six children, one brother and two sisters. His widow, Lura, while reporting his death, continued contact with the 91st BGMA by becoming an Associate Member.

● CONLON, WILFRED P, 401st, 76, LM, 384 Springfield St, Chicopee Falls, MA 01013, May 19, 1996.

Conlon, the original bombardier of former 91st BGMA Historian Hilary "Bud" Evers' crew, was flying with 1/Lt William F Gibbons' LIGHTNING STRIKES' crew when it was downed by E/A on the Feb 21, '44 Gutersloh, Germany raid. All of Gibbons' crew became POWs. Conlon was a POW at Stalag Luft 1 for 15 months.

Conlon, obtaining his law degree from Boston U in 1948, was the founder and senior partner of the law firm of Conlon & Philips when he died shortly after being diagnosed as having stomach cancer.

Admitted to the bar in 1949, he was in the State, Hampden County, Chicopee American Bar Association and the American Arbitration Association. He received the State Bar Association Community Service Award in 1989 and was the parade marshal at the 1990 St Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke, MA. He was also a life member of the Springfield John Boyle O'Reilly Club and a VFW Post 625 member.

He and his wife, Dorothy, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 15, 1996 - hour days before his death.

Survivors include his widow, two daughters, three sisters and two grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the Willie Ross School for the Deaf, 32 Norway St, Long Meadow, 01106.

Reported by his widow and former 401st pilot Evers who remembers him as, "A real nice guy."

● FORCUM, CHARLES D, 323rd, 73, 19660 Ridge Rd, Red Bluff, CA 96080, Apr 14, 1996. He was the co-owner of Foothill Bulk Transportation Co in San Jose, CA. Side interests included Red Bluff Trap Club membership and outdoor activities such as fishing.

He is survived by his widow, Kathryn, three children, two sisters, one brother and six grandchildren. Contributions may be made to St Elizabeth Hospice, 3550 Sr Mary Columbia Dr, Red Bluff, CA 96080.

● GLENN, FREDERICK M, 322nd, 7411 Haledon Av,

Downey, CA 90241-2707, Feb 27, 1995. Reported by his widow, Louise.

● GUNDERSON, CARL A, II, 76, 324th, 115 Olcott Dr, Manchester, CT 06040, July 23, 1996. Born in the USA, Gunderson, raised and educated in Norway, claimed his US citizenship before WWII. While enlisted in the US peacetime army he responded to the invasion and occupation of Norway by joining the Norwegian Air Force. He served with it in England until America's entry in the war allowed his transfer to the USAF. After completing 25 missions as a bombardier and waste gunner with the 91st he volunteered for Pacific Theatre duty and served in Okinawa until WWII's end.

His civilian career included sales, primarily in tool steel and, later, insurance - which included District Manager with The Equitable of West Hartford. Before his retirement he was employed by the State of Connecticut in the Department of Transportation.

A senior Rotary Club membership, long time Sunday School teaching and being a Boy Scout father part of his life-long volunteerism.

He is survived by his wife, Lee Ann, a son, Carl Axel III and a sister. Reported by Jack Levine who served with him in the 324th. The two, after 43 years, only recently discovered they lived about 25 miles from each other. They planned to attend the Tucson Reunion together.

● HOLLENBAUGH, WILLIAM (BILL) N, 323rd, Box 954, Meeker, CO 81641, May 25, 1996.

He completed 32 missions as a TG. His civilian career included managerial posts with auto dealerships and the Chevron Oil Co until his retirement in 1984. He is survived by his widow, Jeanne, a son, two granddaughters, two sisters and numerous nieces and nephews. Reported by his widow who said he died shortly after being diagnosed as having acute leukemia. They were planning a Tucson Reunion attendance. Memorials may be made to the St James Episcopal Church, 4th and Park, Meeker, CO 81641.

● KIRBY, HAROLD E, 401st, 102 High St, Berea, KY 40403-1521, May 1, 1996. Reported by Duerson and Duerson, Attorneys-at-Law in charge of Kirby's estate.

● MASTERS, WILLIAM H, 322ND, 28923 W Willowick Dr, Willowick, OH 44095. Reported by G R Masters.

● MEENACH, WENDELL O, 324th, 75, 506 E South St, Lebanon, IN 46052, July 9, 1996.

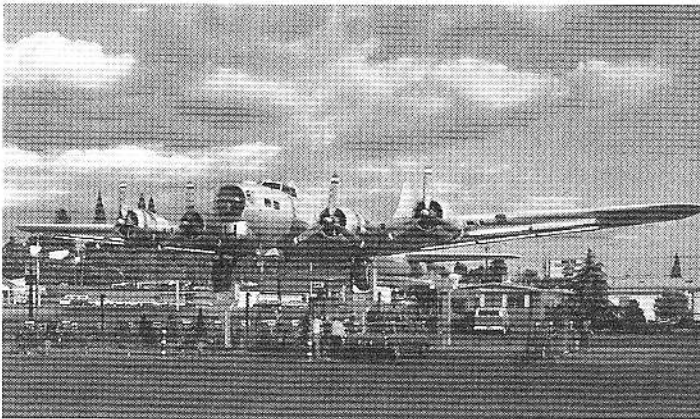
A former POW and recipient of the Purple Heart, he and his widow, Jeanie, had celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary a few months prior to his death. Other survivors include a daughter, two granddaughters and two great granddaughters.

● OTTE, REID B, 323rd, 71, 735 University Dr, Pocatello, ID 83201-3434, Mar 16, 1996. He flew 37 missions as a TTG; his decorations include the Purple Heart.

A driver salesman for the Wonder Bread Co, his 1979 retirement permitted satisfying pursuit of his intense interest in virtually all sports. In addition to being an avid sports fan he was a member of the Princeton Ward, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; a member of the Pocatello BPOE No 674, American Legion Post 4, the Highland Men's Asso and Idaho State U Bengals Foundation.

Survivors include Frances, his widow; a son, two daughters, a brother and sister, a grandson and other extended family members. Reported by his widow, it is suggested any memorials be made to the Idaho Youth Ranch, Rt 3, Box 256, Rupert, Idaho 83350.

OREGON B17 RESTORATION INFO ADDED BY MEMBERS



TWO OREGON STATE BASED 91st BGMA MEMBERS confirmed for the R/I that there is only one B17 in their state being readied for restoration.

Richard T Pressey, 401st, Lake Oswego, OR, sent a picture postcard of the Fort as it appeared for over 50 years while "pedestaled" above The Bomber Complex in Milwaukee, OR. (A July R/I photo showed it's initial dismantling prior to planned restoration work.)

The caption on the postcard, a popular tourist item, in addition to providing basic specifications regarding B17s, states the plane was placed at its Milwaukee, OR site "...in memory

of the men and women who served so valiantly during WWII and to the passing era of the propeller-driven plane."

James H Downes, Jr, 322nd, LM, Milwaukee, OR, supplied additional data regarding The Bomber Complex in his neighborhood. The purchase price of the plane was \$13,750 (FOB Oklahoma with 26 hrs flying time).

According to Downes, the first B17 scheduled to be delivered to Art Lacey, owner-operator of The Bomber Complex, also known as "Lacey's Bomber Inn," crashed on take-off. The B17 presently scheduled for restoration has been named "LACEY'S LADY" after its proud owner.

Some 10 years ago, Downes adds, The Confederate Air Force, in one of its continuing B17 restoration projects, was fortunate to obtain LACEY'S LADY's ball turret from businessman Lacey.

UNIQUE HONOR AWARDED 323rd's "BILLIE K" PILOT

FORMER 323rd Sq PILOT JEROLD D KETHLEY received a unique award July 22, 1996. A Shawnee, OK street was renamed in his honor. Shawnee's former Gambrell St is now "J D Kethley Blvd."

A leader of the Shawnee community since his arrival in 1954, Kethley, a doctor, was honored by the Shawnee City Council for his commitment to Shawnee and his continued community service.

The impact of government regulations upon small physician-owned hospitals prompted

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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 (11) 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.

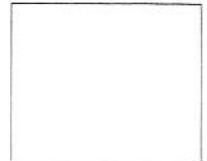
91st BG Memorial Assn.

590 Aloha Dr.

Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

FORWARDING AND ADDRESS
CORRECTION REQUESTED.

FIRST CLASS MAIL



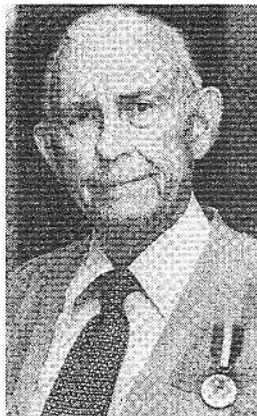
LET US KNOW BEFORE YOU MOVE!

Folded Wings

● ADKINS, EUGENE, Major (Ret), 324th, 76, 1513 Ocoala St, Johnson City, TN 37604, Nov 3, 1995 at the Johnson City Medical Center after an apparent heart attack.

Adkins, the MEMPHIS BELLE crew's TTG, and fellow surviving crewmen had dinner at the White House with President Clinton in May 1995 shortly after he received a Medal of Honor from the British Royal Air Force.

Described as "An unassuming man..." in a Johnson City Press



Eugene Adkins

Chronicle May 4, 1995 article pertaining to the 50th Anniversary of VE Day White House dinner, Adkins was quoted as intending to urge the President not to "...cut our Social Security and our Medicare. He better keep that going, because if he doesn't we'll be in bad shape." Otherwise, he was intolerant of criticism of the President.

Telling war-stories only when asked, he admitted he could not resist bragging about one service related experience - the excellent care given at the Veterans Affairs, Medical Center in Mountain Home. (His retirement from the AF after 20 years service was followed by nearly another 20 years service with that VA Medical Center.)

Despite the professionalism of their crew, headed by pilot Robert K Morgan, "almost miraculous misses" contributed

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