

The Ragged Irregular



322nd SQUADRON



323rd SQUADRON



Supporting Units



324th SQUADRON



401st SQUADRON

Vol 35 No. 1

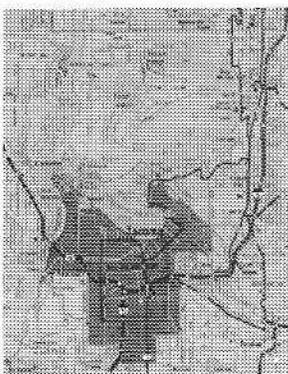
91st Bombardment Group (H)

January 2002

Toot Toot Tacoma in 2002!!!

Ed Gates Report #2

Tacoma, WA. While the terrorist attack of 11 Sep 01 had delayed confirmation of some of our planning for the 2002 Reunion, everything is pretty much as laid out in the October "Ragged Irregular." Transportation is always a bit of a bear to get ones arms around—as always—especially since we hope to offer some multiple tour for you. We are planning to resume the unit photos that we formerly have had; they will be taken on Saturday afternoon for the four flying squadrons, the 441st, other base personnel and one including anyone who was there for the 2 Nov 44 Merseburg raid including aircrews and ground personnel.



Tacoma

We are considering on trying to obtain as much support from others as possible. The Tacoma/Pierce County Visitors' Bureau will arrange for volunteers to staff our registration desk. They will provide a locator record as our people register to which we can add fairly easily the location of the reunion buddies (and buddy-esses) who register elsewhere; if you feel uncomfortable having your room number disclosed we will try to have a means of allowing you to request exclusion of your name from a list. We are working with McChord AFB recreation "Adventures Unlimited" to try to have them arrange all of our trips, it so the work will all be done by them while we eat, drink and be merry.

Now, we need some **input from you!**

The Great Northwest is so beautiful and so far for many of you that we would like to offer the possibility of arriving early or extending your stay; The La Quinta (official reunion hotel) has agreed to provide the same rate for two days before and three days after the Reunion and to provide free baggage storage while you are gone. We can arrange trips to Victoria, Canada (2 days, \$50 each plus hotel of your choice) or a cruise to Alaska (we will have a tour rate if enough of you are interested in and early September cruise). We could arrange a two day or day-trip - say on Tuesday, 27 Aug - to the San Juan Islands along the Canadian border for a little whale watching, or one to Vancouver, Canada (\$40 each if done by McChord AFB). **But we must know how many of you would be interested; send a postcard stating if any of these four trips would interest you no later than March 1st 2002, to: Ed Gates, 13311 16th Ave. Court So., Tacoma, WA 98444.**

Continued on Page 3.....

91st Banner Proudly Hangs at the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum



The President's Corner

People are fond of saying, "History Repeats," an aphorism which is true—sort of. The new event is usually a rough analogue of the original. The differences are often pretty big. Four months ago, we suffered this generations' Pearl Harbor" and were plunged into a new war. Inevitably, we compare "our" war with what our successors are experiencing, just as survivors of the 1917-1918 war probably compared their war with ours.

We may have seemed to our predecessors as having a rather cushy war. Instead of being in muddy trenches, exposed to bugs, poison gas and constant exposure to danger, we got to fly in nice clean airplanes. If we made it through the trauma of the day, we returned to a relatively safe, very civilized society. For our part, we remember the discomfort and hard work of getting our formation to the Initial Point, and then the slow, flak-filled gauntlet from IP to target. This trip was so hazardous that enduring it the assigned number of times unscathed was possible for less than one of four of those who endured it.

We are inclined to look at what the new generation is experiencing, and thinking, "Boy, do these guys have it easy! We have control of the air and the enemy are, compared to what we knew, primitives." We should note, however, that these primitives have hit us closer to home than did the impressive war machine of WW2. We had our challenge and the present generation is having theirs. History only repeats—sort of.

Bob Friedman.....

Treasurer's Report

Profit and Loss January through December 2001

Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Membership Dues		7347.00	
Memorial Fund			
Savannah Banner	6610.00		
Memorial fund-Other	1680.00		
Total Memorial Fund		8290.00	
PX Sales		8106.69	
Total Income			23743.69
Expense			
2001 Dues	543.56		
Bank Service Chgs.	163.50		
Chino Rally Round	900.00		
Computer Repairs	160.00		
Memorial Fund Expense			
Savannah Banner	5000.00		
Wellings Painting	900.00		
Other Memorial	672.90		
Total Memorial Fund Expense		6572.90	
Office Supplies	635.39		
Postage and delivery	527.25		
PX Inventory	1915.48		
Ragged Irregular	5700.00		
Repairs			
Computer	299.12		
Total Repairs		299.12	
Telephone	666.26		
Uncategorized Expense	0.00		
Total Expense			18083.43
Net Ordinary Income			5660.26
Other Income/expense			
Other Income			
Interest Income	789.44		
Total Other Income	789.44		
Net Other Income			789.44
Net Income			<u>6449.70</u>

91ST BGMA OFFICERS 2001-2002

PRESIDENT
Robert H. Friedman
6015 Valkeith
Houston TX 77096-3832
Tel: (713) 729-2255
FAX: (713) 729-7380
<bobnjov@iape.net>

1st VICE PRESIDENT
Edward C. Gates
13311 16th Ave. Ct. S.
Tacoma WA 98444
Tel/FAX: (253) 535-4246

2nd VICE PRESIDENT
Harold E. Johnson
2021 Porter Way
Stockton CA 95207-4035
Tel: (209) 477-0071
FAX: (209) 472-9569

HISTORIAN
Earl Pate, Jr.
104 Skyview Dr
Hendersonville TN 37075
Tel: (615) 824-7909
<ep91bg@mindspring.com>

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Asay B. Johnson
590 Aloha Dr
Lake Havasu City AZ 86406-4559
Tel: (928) 453-3114
FAX: (928) 453-6370
<ace91bgma@rraz.net>

R/I EDITOR
Phil Mack
17521 155th Ave SE
Renton WA 98058-9087
Tel: (425) 271-5277
FAX: (425) 227-8190
<mackavco@worldnet.att.net>

Toot Toot Tacoma

Continued from Page 1

Southwest Airlines has offered us **10% discount** on most of its already low fares for 91st BG reunion attendees any time between August 29 and September 8 which could cover those of you who might wish to come early or stay late in the beautiful Great Northwest. For Southwest Airline Reservations call 1-800-433-5368 Monday-Friday 0700-2000 CST or Sat-Sun 0830-a730 and give a reference I.D. Code: R9495. You or your travel agent can make reservations 4-6 months (Feb-Apr) ahead but must make reservations five or more days prior to travel to take advantage of this offer.

The 91st will receive a free round trip ticket for every 40 attendees who use this offer, we propose to award the first freebie we win as a door prize at Saturday morning's business meeting. Southwest will provide an "Arrival and Departure Report" for those of you who use their service, and we will try to arrange transport from the airport to the La Quinta at a reduced charge. We have contacted American Airlines and will try some of the other airlines who fly the northern routes that Southwest does not.

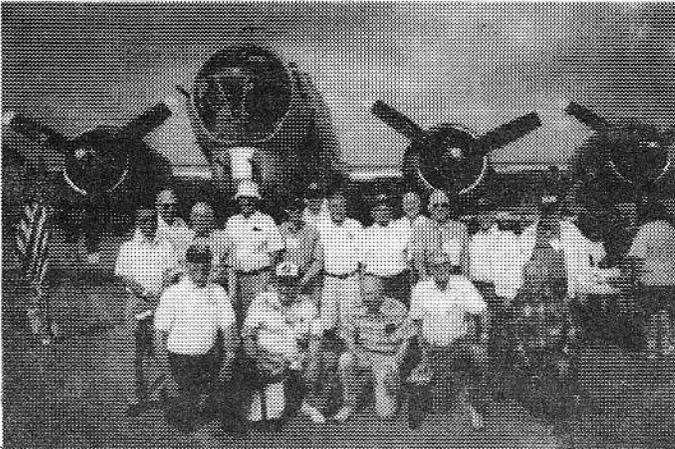
We are also working with interested organizations and companies to make it a special event. We have contacted the schools and two colleges to see if they would be interested in living history visits with any of you who might be interested. We have contacted the three museums - Washington State, McChord and Fort Lewis - about selling our books and/or putting up 91st BG Displays. We are working with the Boeing Museum of Flight and their unions. We have contacted some Washington vintners about coming to our hospitality room for wine tasting events. Let us know if you have any other ideas.

P. S. If you are thinking of hosting the 2004 Reunion, you should be planning soon. If I can be of any help with our Time Table 2002, please let me know. I'm sure any of our other previous reunion organizers would be equally happy to help. Of course, the Tacoma/Pierce County Visitors' Bureau would be happy to host all of the 91st Bomb Group reunions in the future if nobody else loves the 91st BG like we do.

/Signed/ Ed Gates, 1st V-P, Reunion Committee Chairman

Chino Rally-Round a Big Success

Chino California, October 5-7, 2001. Organized by Jim and Suzi Shepherd, the event took place at the "Planes of Fame Air Museum at Chino. Mike Banta, well-known as "keeper of the 'Ring'" (91sters with email addresses) submitted the following report that is well written and rather complete. [Parenthetic remarks are by the RI Editor. Photos are from several sources.]



L-R Front Row: Mel Dart, Hal Johnson, Dave Hanst, Ace Johnston, and Edward Kaiserski. Second Row: Paul Limm, Bob Friedman, Mike Banta, Bob Dickson, Whit Hill, Faber Cripps, Bert Humphries, and Christen Bowen. Third Row: Ray Darling, David Hettema, Jack Gaffney

"The Chino rally-round was a wonderful success due to the hard work of the keeper of our web page, Jim Shepherd [ably assisted by his wife, Suzi]. The air show was fantastic and Jim, Suzi, their son, Jim Jr., and his wife, had set up a tent for the 91st Bomb Group displaying the art work of Tony Starcer thanks to Jackie Starcer. The art work will be on loan to the Chino Air Museum. Jim also presented the Air Museum with a beautiful bronze plaque honoring the 91st Bomb Group which will be displayed permanently.



Suzi and Jim Shepherd, Hosts at Chino Rallyround

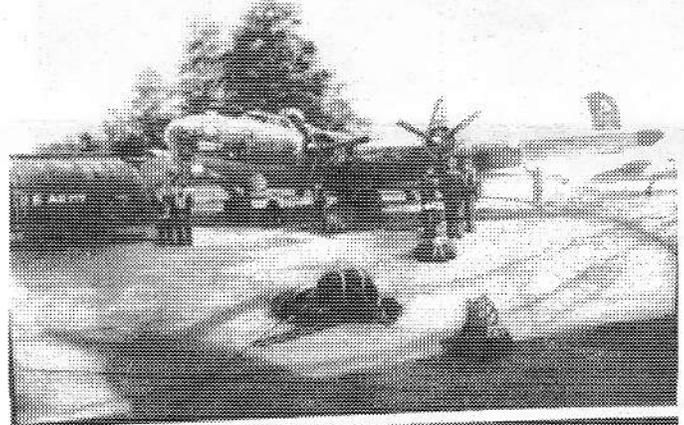
Jim had made arrangements for us all to stay at the Double Tree Inn and also had transportation arranged to the Chino Airport. He even drove an extended van to and from the airport and the Double Tree Inn. He made three trips back and forth so that those who were unable to stay for the entire air show could get back to the Inn.

He had also reserved a "91st Bomb Group Hospitality Suite 1207," so that we would have a place to meet. The main room had a conference table which we surrounded from 3:00 to 5:00 and 7:00 to 9:00 PM Friday and 7:00 to 9:00 PM, Saturday where we relived our experiences at Bassingbourn. Saturday at 5:30 PM we all met for a delicious prime rib dinner at Porter's Steak House in the Double Tree Inn.

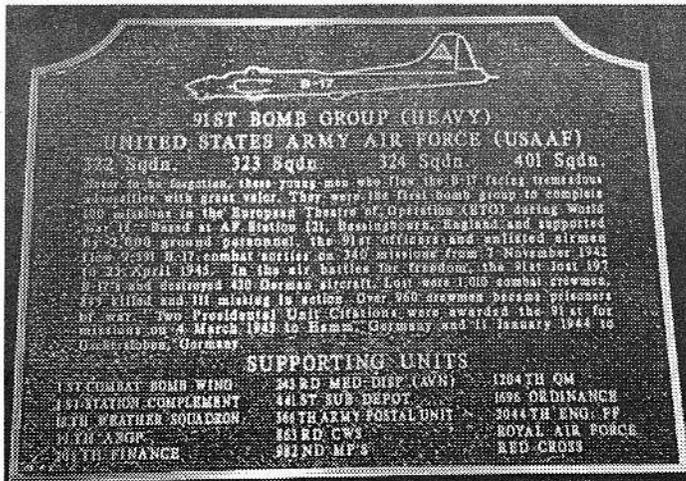
Ray Darling, my co-pilot, and his wife, Loraine, had the room right next to mine and we had a wonderful visit which by itself would have made the trip to Chino a winner. Ray is recovering from a major operation. I never had a brother but if I did, I'd want him to be just like Ray. That's how much I love that old buddy.

A magnificent time was had by all. For me, the very best part of all was to see what those with whom I had been corresponding by Ring E-mail for the last two years looked like. Left is a picture we took in front of the Palm Springs Museum, B-17, "Miss Angela," which was on display along with many WWII Army Air Force and Navy aircraft.

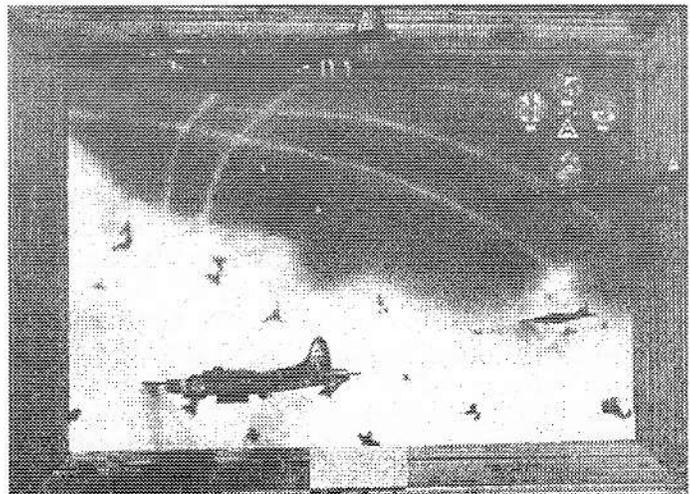
Also present but not in the photo were Tony Montalvo, Jack Paget, Jackie Starcer, Jim Shepherd and Andy Anderson. I hope I didn't inadvertently forget anyone. Many of our wives were also present and enjoyed meeting each other while we swapped war stories.



Original Painting by Don Wellings, Commissioned by 91st BGMA, Dedicated and Displayed at the Chino Air Museum



91st BG Plaque dedicated at Chino Air Museum



91st B-17 Model Display -Three Dimensional at Chino Air Museum

91st Vets Return to Bassingbourn

Bassingbourn, England, Oct. 2-11, 2001. Paul Chryst, Past President, 91st BGMA, and tour impresario through his company, Berkshire Travel Agency, completed successfully another tour "2001— Back To Bassingbourn." For Paul this was one of several such "Returns" and for many we hope it will not be the last.

In his report to 91st BGMA President, Bob Friedman, Chryst writes: "The above tour was a complete success with 35 Members and Associates in attendance. Three fresh floral wreaths were placed at 91st BGMA sites. Chryst himself placed one wreath at the Prop Memorial opposite Hqs at the Bassingbourn Barracks on Friday, Oct. 5.



Paul Chryst, 92nd BGMA, and Peter Roberts, Chairman, East Anglian Aviation Society, place Memorial wreaths at the 91st Prop Memorial at Bassingbourn Barracks.

"After a formal greeting by Mayor Rod Kennedy in the Town Hall of Royston, a Rededication Service was held at the 91st BGMA Stone Plinth Memorial in Priory Gardens. Former Lt. Robert Heller, former POW for 21 months, placed his wreath at the Base of the Stone Plinth on Saturday, Oct. 6.



Heller Placing Wreath

"During the next day visit to the American Military Cemetery at Madingley, former Navigator and POW, Lt. Donald Freer, placed his Wreath at the base of the Altar, containing the Brass Floral Bowl, in the memorial Chapel. Both American and British flags were previously placed at the Markers of the (96) interred members of our 91st BG (H).

"At the end of a Mission Briefing by LTC Giles Brand, OIC, a question was asked for his reply: 'What is the future status of the Barracks and the Prop Memorial?' His direct answer was: 'The military operation of this Station is guaranteed for another six years. Other Units are already in the queue to become new tenants here. The Prop Memorial will be looked after, nursed and live ever more'

/Signed/ Paul Chryst, Lt. Col. USAF (Ret)“

Return to Bassingbourn

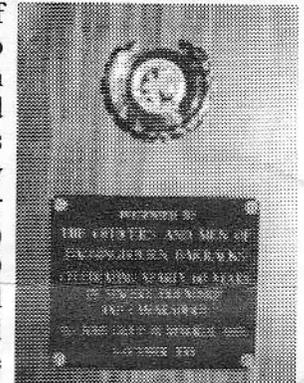
Continued.....

Despite the tragedy in New York on Sept. 11, scarcely a month earlier, Thirty-seven (37) persons flew into London safely with added security noted at all major airports. Ten members of the party were actually vets of the 91st; The others were wives, sons and daughters of the "originals."

The remainder of the tour included a visit to the American Air Museum at Duxford, and a trip to Coventry, famous for its bombing in the early days of the war in Britain and where a new Cathedral has sprung along side the ruins of the old Cathedral that was sacrificed to preserve the integrity of the knowledge obtained beforehand of the German code machine "Enigma."

Then the grand tour went on to Wimpole Hall, Ely, Bedford, Bath, Stonehenge and London to return to the U.S.A. As the coach left Bassingbourn, a voice was heard to say, "only two things have changed: the trees grew taller and the grass is greener."

As a departing gesture of appreciation by the 91st BGMA to the Men of the Bassingbourn Barracks stationed there now and in the future, a plaque was presented to be hung permanently in the Headquarters building (or such other place as may be fitting) in commemoration of "Nearly 60 Years of Sincere Friendship and Camaraderie." Bassingbourn will always find a warm place in the hearts of all who served there during the Second World War.



91st Plaque Donated to RTC-Bassingbourn

Bassingbourn Attendees

ALTON, Gordon	NORWOOD, Gregory
ALTON, James	NORWOOD, Chris
BAIRD, Vernon	O'QUINN, Mary Beth
BAIRD, Joy	OBA, Roger
CHRYST, Paul	SELJE, Dean
CHRYST, Nancy	SELJE, Bonnie
CLEMONS, Clark, 78th FG	SINIBALDO, A.J.
CLOTHIER, Robert	SINIBALDO, Norma
COHEN, Myron	STAMNES, Deanna
COHEN, Bernice	STRIEGEL, SMSGT Robert
CUMMINS, James	STRIEGEL, Sheila
CUMMINS, Ruth	WILLIAMS, Edward
DARLING, Dale	WILLIAMS, Judy
FREER, Donald	
FREER, Mary	<u>Partial Participants</u>
HARLICK, Joseph	FRANKE, Joseph
HARLICK, Jenny	FRANKE, Bert*
HELLER, Robert	MEIKUS, Otto
McCOY, James	MEIKUS, Gladys
McCOY, Beth	McCOY, Yova

The 91st Bomb Group (H) Memorial Association expresses its appreciation to the Royal Army Training Barracks at Bassingbourn, the East Anglian Aviation Society, the City of Royston and all others who made this tour successful.

Closure at Bassingbourn

A frequent visitor to the e-mail "Ring" operated by Mike Banta, FM 324th, is an American living in Canada, Gordon Alton, or "Gordy" more familiarly. He is an Associate Member. His home is on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. This is not too far from Seattle, Washington, where this Editor resides and who has driven to Vancouver Island many times en route to the famous salmon waters of Campbell River. Having never heard of Salt Spring Island, this Editor called Gordy one time and had a most interesting conversation and a dedicated American patriot who signs his e-mails: "Tailgunner," and concludes with the words: "Our freedom is not free. Please remember those who gave so much to keep it for the rest of us."

Gordy's father, Donald M. Alton was Tail gunner on Lt. Shaper's crew flying an unnamed B-17F, 423274, "OR U." The target was Frankfurt, Germany. In Havelaar's book, "The Ragged Irregulars of Bassingbourn," the mission was described as being under heavy attack from fighters. Badly shot up, the airplane crashed in the vicinity of Limburg, Belgium. One man was KIA and the nine others, including Gordy's father, became POWs.

It was Gordy's father's wish that his ashes be buried at Bassingbourn airfield. This was performed as Gordy visited Bassingbourn with the tour group in October 2001, assisted by a Chaplain from the British Army unit stationed at Bassingbourn, the Rt. Reverend Ashley Mitchell.

At Paul Chryst's suggestion, Gordy Alton's letter of appreciation addressed to Rev. Mitchell is reproduced here.

"Dear Ashley,

I just want to convey my and my son's gratitude to you and the other members of your British Army Training group stationed at Bassingbourn. We will be forever thankful for the kind assistance you gave to us on our visit to your base at Bassingbourn Oct. 5, 2001. The Church of England cremation ceremony you performed for my father, S/Sgt. Donald Merle Alton, 323rd BS/91BG, was done with warmth and caring and I feel my father finally returned home to rest to a piece of ground he adored, Station 121. He was not able to get back there during the war, after getting shot down over Germany, October 4, 1943. He was then imprisoned by the Germans for the duration of WWII, in Stalag XVII-B, Krems, Austria. He never set foot on English soil again because he was shipped directly back to the USA after his liberation in May, 1945.

With your assistance we all fulfilled his personal wish to have his ashes returned to Bassingbourn and brought to a close the final chapter in the life of a man who was a credit to his outfit and a hero to us all, especially his family.

Please also convey out thanks to the other officers and men (especially your fine young bugler) who assisted us to make this all possible.

With warmest regards,
Gordon and James Alton, British Columbia, Canada



L-R James and Gordy Alton



Chaplain Ashley Mitchell

"Our freedom is not free. Please remember those who gave so much to keep it for the rest of us."

.....Gordy Alton

McPartlin, Former Commander, 401st Squadron —Carries on tradition of Service

James H. McPartlin ("Mac"), now Retired as a Brigadier General, has continued to take active roles in various voluntary duties. He was known to this Editor when he was the Squadron Commander for the 401st at Bassingbourn in 1943. In more recent times he was active in fund-raising for the B-17 Memorial at the Air Force Academy and also at Honolulu this past year. But what do we know about this man? Few among the combat crews knew anyone else except their own Squadron Commander and the Group Commander. Here is his story.



James H. McPartlin
Brigadier General, (Ret)

McPartlin attended the University of Detroit and the University of Houston. He is a graduate of the Command and Staff School at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Air War College short course at Montgomery Alabama. In July 1941 He enlisted as an Aviation Cadet, taking his training at Parks Air College, St. Louis, MO, and U. S. Air Corps flying school at Randolph Field and Foster Field Victoria, TX.

Upon receiving his Commission and Wings in Feb. 1942, he was assigned to the 20th Pursuit Group and later joined the 91st Bomb Group as a pilot, with the movement of the 91st Bomb Group to England in Sept. 1942. General McPartlin was named Operations Officer for his squadron. In September of the following year, while still stationed at Bassingbourn, England, he was named Commander of the 401st Squadron, a position he retained until returning to the U.S.A. in Sept. 1944.

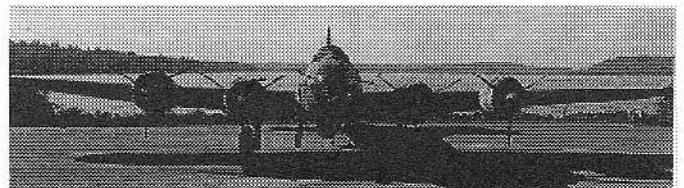
During the two year period in Europe, General McPartlin flew 27 combat missions, there were two "firsts" in these Missions. The first allied air raid on Berlin and the first low level Mission against the German Submarine pens at St. Nazaire, France. He also led his squadron on raids to Schweinfurt and Posnan, Poland. He also flew a special mission on "D" day, June 6, 1944: the landing on the Normandy Beaches.

General McPartlin later was squadron commander of the 439th Fighter-Bomber Wing at Selfridge AF Base. In 1956 he was named Wing Commander of the 403rd Troop Carrier Wing and later assigned Wing Commander of the 442nd Troop Carrier Wing at Richard's Gebaur AF Base, MO. McPartlin is a command pilot with more than 4,000 hours flying time including 300 hours in jet fighters. He was promoted to his current grade in Feb. 1963.

Awards and Decorations include: Distinguished Flying Cross, and Cluster, Air Medal and four clusters, The Distinguished Unit Citation and Cluster and RAF Battle for Britain Medal.

General McPartlin retired in 1970 and joined the Executive staff of Pearle Vision Center in Dallas, TX. He retired a second time and now spends his time caring for his wife, Ginnie, who is in a nursing Home in Plano, TX. He also finds time to volunteer as an Ombudsman in the Plano area. In his spare time, he is still active in his military clubs and on the tennis court.

The McPartlins are the proud parents of five children, four sons, one daughter and seven grandchildren.



November 11, 2001 Memorial Services

As reported by Vince Hemmings.....

I thought you may like to know about the events that took place here in England this weekend when the nation paid homage to all those that have fallen during two World Wars and in subsequent conflicts.

Each year on the Saturday evening before the country's Annual Memorial Service The Royal British Legion honor those who have fallen by holding a ceremony in the Royal Albert Hall in London. Our Royal Family attends along with many British Legion members, our armed forces and civil organisations. This year two young Army Cadets lead those entering the arena, one holding a lighted candle. He had lost his sight and a hand when he picked up an explosive torch which had been left outside an Army Territorial Barracks in London earlier this year by terrorists.

When the London Police and Fire Brigade entered the arena it was announced by the show's "comper" that a single member from the New York Police Department and Fire Department was in their party, namely Lt. Frank Dwyer from the NYPD and Joe Callan (I do not know his rank) from the FDNY. They were easily recognisable by their distinctive white hats. It is seldom that we in this country give anyone a standing ovation but the audience rose to do just that. I must admit, I had a lump in my throat and I am quite sure, from the 6.7 million viewers who were watching on their television sets, many shed a tear. [Ed note: just as I did while typing this.]

It was so moving and marvelous tribute to very brave people.

The following day, 11th November (which this year fell on a Sunday for the first time for many years) Margaret [Mrs. Hemmings] and I were invited to a Memorial Service at the American Cemetery at Madingley. We have been going for a few years now and it has always been low key. In fact in previous years we have all been able to squeeze into the Memorial Chapel.

The Words of Remembrance were given by Lt. Col. Michael J. Kuesera, the Medical Flight Commander, 423rd Air Base Squadron.

Captain Tony Cothron, Commander, EUCOM Joint Analysis Centre read the Presidential Proclamation.

Prayers were given by VFW Chaplain Dick Goode.

The Officiating Chaplain from RAF Brampton, Group Captain The Rev Glen Bowie (Ret'd), also took part in the Service.

Jennifer and Kalani Snyder from the Alconbury High School Band played Taps.

Unvocation was given by Chaplain Gary Snyder.

The Honor Guard was from the EUCOM Joint Analysis Centre. Continued next column.....

Among the congregation was Major Liecence, Royal Engineers, representing the Army Training Regiment Basingbourn at Basingbourn Barracks. Representatives from Cambridge City Council, Cambridgeshire County & District Council also attended.

The Alconbury High/Middle School band was excellent. Their rendition of both our National Anthems was first class. The only person I knew was Mrs Channing, a charming lady of 85 who lost her first husband in the RAF during WWII. She subsequently married an American airman from the 355th FG based at RAF Steeple Morden. He so enjoyed this country that he retired here and his grave is in Steeple Morden church yard.

In President Bush's letter, we were told that from the 11th through to 17th November would be known as Veterans' Remembrance Week in your country. A wonderful idea.

The Service which lasted about 45 minutes (my poor old legs were becoming numb standing in one place for so long) was so filling for the occasion. I was told that between 250 and 300 people attended.

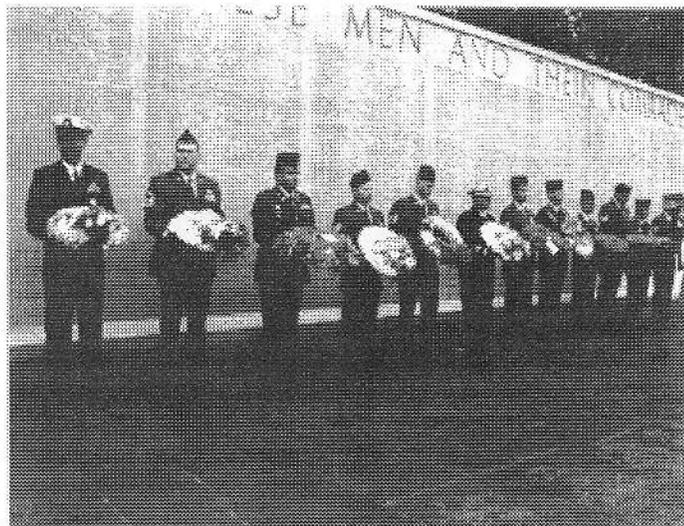
Your Ambassador to this country along with his wife accepted an invitation to watch the service at the Cenotaph in Whitehall, London on Sunday morning. I believe I am correct in saying that this was possibly the first time this has happened.

A party of 18 from the congregation retired to a local pub for Sunday lunch. This was all arranged by Jim Schoenecker, the Superintendent at the cemetery. We had a wonderful lunch and then returned through the country lanes to Diss [Vince's home village]. The leaves are now beginning to get their autumnal colours which are quite splendid and I thought of the words spoken by Group Captain Bowie:

"We live to remember those who gave their lives."

Kind Regards,
Vince Hemmings.

[Ed Note: I have attempted to retain the text of Mr. Hemmings with one or two minor exceptions. I think I can speak for the entire 91st BGMA in thanking Vince and Margaret Hemmings for their devotion over the years to the memory of those of us who served at Basingbourn during World War II.]



The American Military Cemetery at Madingley, 11 Nov 01 Veterans Day.

Letters to the Editor and Other Short Bursts

Clarette Hook, who, along with Jean Rinehart, was the subject of an article in the July 2001 *Ragged Irregular*, "A Tale of Two Daughters," sent in a comment about the article that arrived too late to make the October 2001 edition. We are pleased to publish it at this time.

"Thank you for the *Ragged Irregular*. The information from you and Lowell Getz has been a wonderful chapter in my life. It brought tears to my mother after all these years—some closure to what really happened. I wish you all the best for the person you are. All my gratitude, Clarette Hook." [Ed. Note: Thank you for the kind remarks, Clarette, but the lion's share of the thanks should go to Lowell Getz for the exhaustive research he did.]

George Jacobs, former 324th Radar Navigator (Feb-June 1945) sent a letter to Asay Johnson, July 17, 2001 (too late to make the October issue of the RI):

"Dear Asay:

There are four stories in the latest issue of "The Ragged Irregular" which at first glance seemed unrelated, but melded together, I found a powerful relationship.

The four stories are the (91st Banner Fund on Page 1; the Memorial Day visit of Eric and Inge Dominicus on page 3; "A Tale of two Daughters" by Lowell Getz on Page 7; and the note about Gordon Alton on Page 9.

Yes, as the foremost Bomb Group in the 8th Air Force, it is an absolute must that the 91st Banner be represented in the Great Hall of the 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah. We not only owe it to ourselves as survivors, and to those of our colleagues who did not make it, but also to the generations that have and those that will follow us. I am enclosing my check in the amount of \$1,000 towards making this happen."

I would like my contribution to also honor the generation, first and second, that are carrying the torch so well for us. Specifically, to pay tribute to Eric and Inge Dominicus, who demonstrate such heartfelt feelings in remembering our fallen 91st BG comrades in the Ardennes National Cemetery each Memorial Day.

Also to honor Lowell L. Getz for his tenacity and depth of research into the history of the 91st BG and for the uncountable hours he has devoted during the past six years in conducting nearly a thousand searches that have brought together families of the generations that have followed us with circumstances of lost loved ones who flew with us in the 91s BG. There are a lot of children and grandchildren who now know what heros their lost relatives were.

Finally, I would like my contribution to pay tribute to Gordon Alton, the son of a 91st BG tail gunner. Gordon, unselfishly, devotes a great deal of time to participating in the 91st BG e-mail Ring providing a wide spectrum of useful Webb site and other data.

Asa, that's how I connect the four stories. With best personal regards, George Jacobs, P.E.

Charlie Bell, referring to an article printed in the October 2001 *Ragged Irregular*, page 6, by Charles Sturgeon, who in turn, was responding to a lady whose father was Capt. Richard W. Burch shot down on a mission to Hamburg, June 20, 1944 as reported on the 91st Web Site, added these remarks.

"I helped to indoctrinate Capt. Burch upon his assignment to the 322nd Squadron. He was supposed to be a "spare" on the mission but somehow wound up tagged on to the lead squadron behind the lead echelon.

"I was leading the low squadron and thus was occupying the right hand seat. Continued top of next Column.....

As we approached on the bomb run, we encountered extremely heavy flak. I saw a shell explode in the middle of Burch's plane, cutting the plane in half. I saw Burch pulling frantically back on the stick (apparently not knowing the truth). I did not see any chutes.

We are no longer traveling but regret not being able to join you all in Tacoma next year. Very truly yours, Charlie Bell.

91st BG Web Site. Mike Banta, keeper of the 91st e-mail "Ring" sent a message from Jim and Suzi Shepherd, who created the 91st BG web site, giving us some history of the development of the site and its growth. For those members of the 91st BGMA who don't have access to the Internet, find someone you know who does and ask them to call up the web site: <91BombGroup.com> You'll be glad you did. Here's the story as written by Jim and Suzi:

"The planning for the web page started in November 1998 after visiting with A. J. Sinibaldo (LM 323rd) at his home in Lisle, IL. The information and direction he gave us seemed trivial to him at the time, but it made a big difference when we started building the web page.

"The web page went on line January 17, 1999. We began to acquire more photos, stories and information about the 91st and then we found the 91st Ring of veterans. Together we have made so many people happy with the help from everyone involved.

"After almost two years of operation, January 5, 2001, the web page counted 50,000 visitors to the site. Today, December 16, 2001, the counter will show an additional 50,000 visitors in one year for a total of 100,000 in less than 3 years!

"You might say the web page is great or that the Ring of Veterans is great but the truth is the "HISTORY OF THE 91st" made the difference." Signed Jim and Suzi Shepherd.

Charles "Chuck" Giaque Well known early member of the 91st and pilot of "Eagle's Wrath," makes a correction to information published in the October 2001 issue of the *Ragged Irregular*. The correct date for the foundation of the 91st Bomb Group is in the year 1942, not 1943. It was formed on paper in Savannah, GA initially and shortly after moved to MacDill Field where it transitioned from "paper" to reality. From there it moved to Walla Walla, WA.

Chuck joined the Group 31 May 42 at MacDill. "The mission there was pilot transition to B-17Es. Joe Yuravich was my Instructor Pilot. Walla Walla followed MacDill. I have a very faded copy of 'HEADQUARTERS, NINETY-FIRST BOMB GROUP (H) SPECIAL ORDERS NUMBER 22' issued at MacDill Field, June 18, 1942,' directing a PCS [permanent change of station] to Walla Walla.

"These orders listed officers and enlisted men then in the Group by Squadron: HQ & Hq: 12 O's, 26 EM; 322nd: 18 O's, 12 EM; 323rd: 15 O's, 16 EM; 324th: 17 O's, 8 EM; and 401st 21 O's, 16 EM.

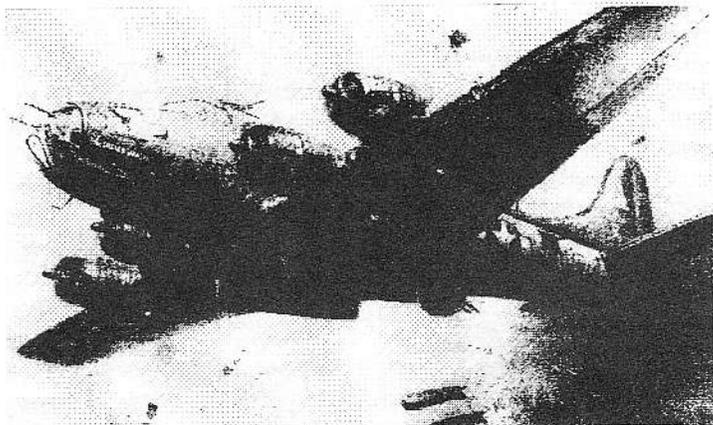
"The next official document I have is an official listing of officers by rank, issued at Walla Walla on July 15, 1942. It was at Walla Walla that crews began to be organized—navigators, bombardiers and I don't recall which others. Then from Walla Walla to Boise, ID, and I think—not sure—that's where we were joined by co-pilots. Then, I have Special Orders No. 240 issued at Gowen Field, Boise on August 28, 1942, transferring the Group to Dow Field, Bangor. I would think our historian or someone had these documents and many more, but if not, I'll be happy to furnish photocopies.

"Though not one of the originals, I was close. It would be interesting to know if our roles include any living member(s) at the Group's Formation and from there what living members joined the Group. Cont. Page 8.....

Letters to the Editor

Continued from Page 7

Charles R. Giaque (Continued)joined the Group when and where. We oldies were few, we didn't make deep penetrations, and we had minimal fighter escort. But we kept on going—I remember some visiting high-up General telling us in a pilots' meeting that our mission was becoming two-fold: bombing targets, but also knocking down German fighters (who doesn't remembers the "Yellow-nosed Boys?").



"The Eagles Wrath"— Chuck Giaque, Pilot in Command. An artist's rendering showing the Flying Fortress in its multiple roles: dropping bombs on strategic targets, while flying through flak filled-skies and blasting away at enemy fighters.

Maybe our early 8th 's most significant contribution was to tip the scales in the debate about whether or not daylight bombing was feasible. RAF brass, and some of ours, said it couldn't be done. Our big force of six Groups—4 B-17s, and two B-24s, proved otherwise.

Vernon Rutter reported that the October 2001 issue of the *Ragged Irregular* did not contain a photo of Jack Boyce's crew as reported in the *Folded Wings* section. Sorry we missed that, Vernon, but here is another try at it.



John J. Boyce and crew, 322nd Sq. Completed thirty missions.

Edward B. and Judith A. Williams, a young couple and neighbor of Harold E. Garner, former 401st Sq. learned that Garner has recently written up his memoirs re WWII and they have been accepted for eventual publication by WWII Magazine. Continued top of next column.....

Mr. Williams was sufficiently impressed by the writing that he signed up for the most recent "Return to Basingbourn" tour led by Paul Chryst. "It was an experience of a lifetime and one we will never forget. Nor will we ever forget the exploits of the 91st BG during WWII and those of its sister groups in the ETO.

Bill Uphoff reports that nine members of the 91st BGMA attended a recent meeting of the Florida Chapter of the 8th AF Historical Society. "For the fifth year in a row, the 91st had had the largest representation at the semi-annual meetings."



L-R Standing: Steve Perri, Harry Kool, Nelson Hillock, Jr., Bill Ingham, Bill Uphoff, Addison Bartush, George Harris. Kneeling: Bill Morrison.

From the looks on every face, it is evident that everyone had a good time. For the latest information, contact Bill Uphoff at (561) 747-4295 or B17BillU@hotmail.com.

John Howland who provided the information on American Military Cemeteries in Europe in the October issue of the RI, received some comments about missing names and other questions on the subject. He explains, "the Netherlands-American Cemetery in Holland is the Margraten Cemetery. The names were provided to me by the Director of the cemetery in the form of a computer printout. **If there is a name missing I would like to have the details so that I may set our records straight.** Two days ago, I received a call from Ed Kerrin in El Verano, CA who informed me that a name was absent from the wall of the Missing for the Madingley Cemetery in England. S/Sgt Rudy L. Olague is inscribed on the WOM but he was not included on the computer printout I received from the Director.

"I have corrected my master copy and will also make any necessary additions to the Margraten Cemetery if you can provide details including name, rank, squadron and date of any missing person. Further, if you will send me your street address, I will send you a copy of the report (in color) that is as up to date as I can make it. With best regards, Jake Howland."

Walt Pickard sent a "position report" on November 13, 2001. He wrote, "My long-in-work memoir has been completed and is scheduled to come off the press on November, 16th. This is a hardback with custom designed, four-color dust jacket. There are 490 pages of text plus many photos. I'll not describe it further since you will get one of the first copies and can judge for yourself. But with all due modesty I think it is well written and illustrated. Interesting and even amusing in spots.

[Ed. Note] Walt asked me not to write this, but without going into detail, I know his many friends would want to know that his health is not very good. We wish him well.

Letters to the Editor, etc.

The City of Barth, Germany, sponsored a reunion of former Prisoners of War who spent time at Stalag Luft 1. This notice was published in the January 2001 issue of the *Ragged Irregular*. We are pleased to publish a report on the event sent to us by Helga Rau, City Archivist for Barth as written by Alfred Jenner, a participant in the event representing Great Britain, along with Helga Rau and an American representative, Irwin Stovroff. Following is the report written by Jenner.

A time for Reconciliation.

The small north German town of Barth up on the Baltic coast would seem an unlikely place in which to experience a remarkable manifestation of reconciliation between old enemies. Yet that was true of the occasion last September when men who were hating, hurting, and killing sixty years ago were now greeting one another in the spirit of true friendship, warm hand shakes for the men, hugs and kisses for the women and children.

This extraordinary transformation has been brought about by a small group of German men and women belonging to the Association for Documentation and Dialogue at Barth who, above all seek the unvarnished truth about man's inhumanity to man during the 1939-45 war. They aim to initiate and support research and educational work into the local history of National Socialism (Nazism), the Second World War and consequent injustice between 1945 and 1989.

One focus of that quest is the site just outside the town of the memorial to Stalag Luft 1, the first of the prisoner of war camps for allied airmen shot down over German and the Continent.

Although those attending from outside Germany were largely American and British veterans, the occasion was in no sense just another reunion. On the contrary, all the delegates had been invited to a "conference" at which the lessons of the past would be discussed not only the old warriors, but also by their wives, children, grandchildren and civilians and their children, a former Russian Army Sergeant who was involved in the fighting in the area at the end of the war, and his interpreter grandson.

The conference was just as concerned about the hardships endured by German civilians and the inmates of the concentration camp set up outside Barth later in the war as with the inmates of Stalag Luft 1.

In fact, the all pervading spirit of reconciliation was probably best epitomised by the attendance of a German woman whose father, "Henry the butcher," a member of the camp intelligence staff, was shot dead at the end of the war by a newly-liberated, but enraged American.

She was in tears at the conference banquet, mystified about how such a tragic loss for her could have happened, yet her very presence bore eloquent witness to her lack of animosity for the rest of the Americans. (Her father derived his nickname from his civilian occupation and not from any activity in the camp.)

The banquet was in honor of Helga Rau who worked so hard to make the conference a success and whose work for the association deserves wider understanding.

Such a unique gathering had to have a deeper significance than merely to afford old airmen the chance to exchange memories of wartime exploits and consequential hardships. Equally involved was that Russian soldier, the German survivors of the last battle in which he fought, and, most importantly, children from the local school. Time may

well prove their participation to be the most significant outcome of all the effort being put into this unique quest for international understanding. Few who were there will easily forget the session at the school at which groups of 12 to 13 year-olds eagerly questioned the veterans who had fought against their grandfathers

The conference agenda was equally international. After a welcome by the burgomeister there were in depth talks by:

Helga Rau (Germany): "Behind Barbed Wire at Barth."
Alfred Jenner (Britain): "Tribute to Dixie Deans of Stalag Luft 1"

Irwin Stovroff (USA). "The separation of the Jewish POWs at Stalag Luft 1 in 1945"

Vasily Bezugly (Russia): "My Deployment at Barth in May 1945."

Stephan Scherer (Germany): "My father was the Commandant of Stalag Luft 1."

Mary Smith (USA): "Why my sister and I created a web site for our father and other kriegies."

The conference found time to pay respect at three memorials—Stalag Luft 1, a memorial for the victims of the concentration camp and that for the dead of the Red Army, the youngest of whom was nineteen and the oldest fifty.

Later, basking in the glow of goodwill, the delegates said their farewells—totally unaware that within 48 hours international would again be sorely tested by the deadly attack on the World Trade Center in New York [and the Pentagon].

Walt Cameron, 324th, sent a clipping from the Stockton Record dated Dec. 2, 2001, featuring a veteran of the 91st Bomb Group, Edward Ah Tye, former Top Turret Gunner on "The Wild Hare." The point of the article is that he is of Chinese descent, is now 87, and one of 20,000 Chinese-Americans who fought for the United States in WWII. The accompanying article says he can "instantly bark out his serial number" One, Nine, One, Two, Two, Zero, Two, Four."

Cameron says Ah Tye has attended our reunions for many years and is looking forward to our reunion in Tacoma, WA this year. [Ed Gates: Take notice.]



Top Turret Gunner Edward Ah Tye is second from the left, top row.

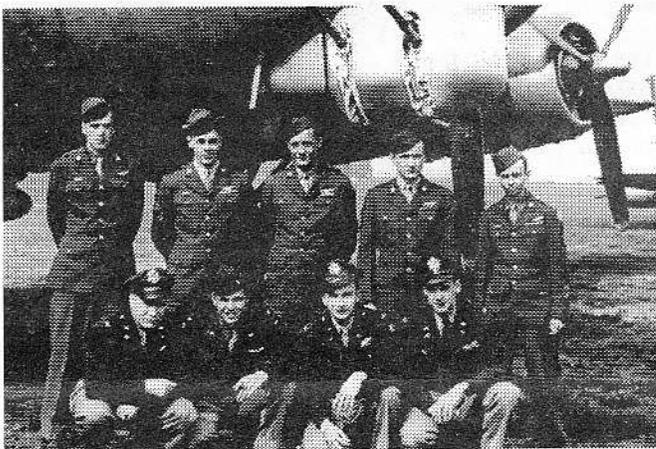
Letters to the Editor

Continued.....

Lowell Getz Premium researcher for the 91st BG, announces that he has his own Web Page: : http://www.geocities.com/b17_mary_ruth/index.html. Try it. Remember, as Lowell tells us, the space between B17 and mary and between mary and ruth is not a space, it is an "underscore" symbol.

Mystery Photos Identified

Joe Harlick, eminent photographer of the 91st BGMA, received the following information with each "mystery" photo published in the October Issue of the *Ragged Irregular*, page 5. The photos are reproduced here with crew members captioned.



Mystery Crew A1_01

L-R Standing TG Russell Wilson, RO J. Atkerson, WG A. Haws, TG P Walsh, BT DonRoper.
L-R Kneeling N A. Aracas, ? Smith (?), ?? Unknown, Pilot Walter Carpenter.



L-R Standing: RO ? Berry, TG Kit Hays, BT ? Barry, TT Elmer Evan Cillmer, CP Capt. Dibble.
L-R Kneeling Togglier ? Smith, RW Gene Niebalsky, LW Carl Gunderson, N Unidentified, P Lt. John Westwood.
Mystery Crew B1_01

January 02 Mystery Photo

The "Wild Hare" was flown by several crews we are told and sometimes loaned to another squadron. It was also used by Col. Klette when leading the Group or Wing.

If you can identify this crew, please let this Editor have your guess, or if you prefer, send it to Joe Harlick who would be very pleased to know who they are to complete his records.



Mystery Crew A_1.02

Building the Ground Crew Roster

Mike Banta with the assistance of W. W. Hill and Jack Gaffney already have a roster of the 323rd and 401st Squadron Ground Personnel and would like some more help. These rosters are being published on the 91st BG web site. They need some more help putting together the rosters for all Squadrons, and other supporting units such as the 441st Sub-Depot.

Many of our members do not have e-mail capability or access to the internet, but you also count with us. If you can add any names, please send that information by mail if you wish to either of these three people: **Mike Banta**, **Jack Gaffney** or **W. W. Hill** whose street addresses are given below. They can forward the information to **Jim and Suzi Shepherd**, who founded and maintain the 91st web site. When the roster is reasonably complete, it can be published in the *Ragged Irregular*.

Michael T. Banta
30558 Ganado Dr
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Jack P. Gaffney
2820 Ironwood Ave SP123
Moreno Valley CA 92557-8117

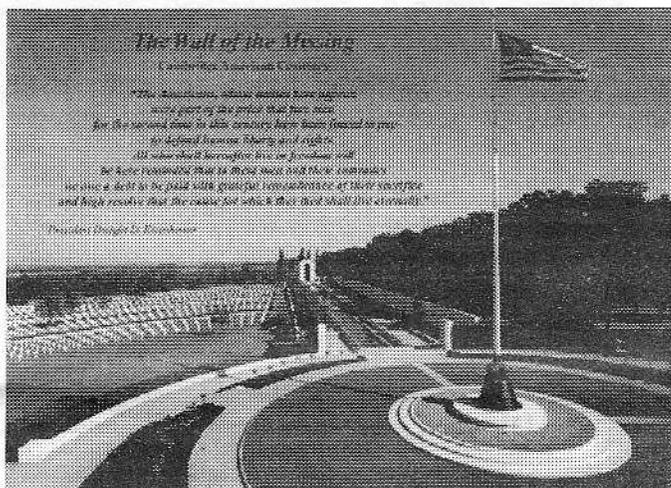
W. W. Hill
4002 Braddock Rd.
Alexandria, VA 22312-1014

Late Folded Wings Report

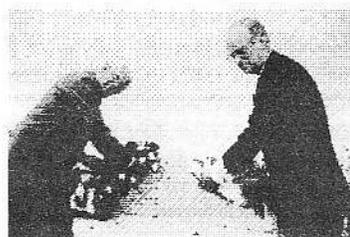
● **Joseph P. Bilotta, FM 322nd**, Charleston, SC, April 4, 2001, Age 82. He retired from the USAF after a career that took him through World War II, the Berlin Airlift, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. He was Commander of IGY Station Alpha, a scientific expedition at the North Pole, and was highly decorated. Survivors are his wife, Marie Gelso Bilotta, son Joseph Paul Bilotta, Jr. of Fayetteville, SC, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild.

Paul McElroy, Jr., submitted the report with the comment: "Joe was pilot of the crew of "The Bleedy Bucket," and completed 35 missions during Spring and Summer 1944. The crew, including McElroy who served as Navigator, was first assigned to the 322nd and then transferred to the 324th Sq.

Pictures to Remember



The American Military Cemetery at Madingley—V. Hemmings



Peter Roberts, EAAS and Vince Hemmings Laying Wreaths Honoring the 91st BG.



David Crow—Spiffing up the 91st Prop Memorial



Royston Mayor Fiona & Dale Darling



Joe Davis Revisits the Bar at the Bull Hotel. (O'Reilly's Bar?)

Golded Wings

Continued from Page 12.....

● **Paul A. Lalonde** (Continued). After the war, Paul worked as a supervisor for an electronics company in New York and enjoyed golfing, bowling and poker. He is survived by his loving wife of seven years, Georgette, daughter Denise, two sons: Richard and his wife, and Robert and his wife, sister Grace Canova and three grandchildren. A Memorial Mass was held for him at the Prince of Peace Catholic Church. He was interred with full military honors.

● **Eldon R. Lapp, FM 401st**, Fort Wayne, IN, October 2, 2001, Age 81. His wife, Evelyn, reported that he had been on dialysis for five years. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps Dec. 8, 1941, and served as waist gunner on "Invasion II." He and his crew were shot down on his 23rd mission, over Bremen, April 17, 1943. The whole crew bailed out and became POWs. Eldon was in various camps but mostly in Stalag 17.

After the war, Eldon returned to the optical business and was very active in Little League baseball, serving 35 years as City Treasurer. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Evelyn, two daughters, three sons, 13 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Evelyn adds, "He really did enjoy reading the "Ragged Irregular."

● **Edward F. Linneweh, FM 323rd**, Glen Ellyn, IL, Oct. 12, 2001. His wife, Camille, writes that they were married July 7, 1945. His pilot, Bill Auth, was Best Man.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by daughters Barbara and Diane, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

● **Charles F. Murray, FM 324th**, Covina CA, October 30, 2001, Age 79. Charles was waist gunner on "Nitemare." He was shot down over Hamburg, Germany on July 26, 1943, taken prisoner and interned in Stalag 17-B in Krems, Austria, where he remained for 22 months when the war ended. He is survived by his wife, Ameil, and two daughters, Eileen and Cathy.

● **Carl Proctor, FM 323 and 401st**, Blakesburg, IA, Sept. 25, 2001, Age 84. Born in Unionville, Iowa, he married Donna Sinnott June 14, 1952 in Georgetown. In civilian life, Carl was retired from his own company, Carl Proctor Excavation. He was a member of the VFW Post 08190, American Legion Post 0136 and Knights of Columbus, all of Albia, IA. Also he was a member of St. Patrick's Church, Ottumwa.



L-R Dave Bramble, Carl Proctor, Walter Reich, Ray Ridings, Phil Mack, Crew of the Village Flirt.

Surviving are his wife, Donna, son, Dwight, two daughters, Beverly Sheffler of LaPorte City and Rhonda Proctor of Blakesburg, a grandchild and a sister, Doris Nelson of Charles City. He was preceded in death by a son, Carl, Jr., two sisters, Tillie and Agnes Proctor, and a brother, Richard. Carl is well remembered as Crew Chief on the "Village Flirt" flown by Dave Bramble, his Co-Pilot Phil Mack, and crew, on most of their missions.

● **Walter C. Wawrzynek, 323rd**, Shelby Twp., Utica, NY, May 6, 2001, Age 79. Mario Matte, Crew Chief on Eagle's Wrath, reports that Walter filled in with another crew and was shot down, May 1, 1942. He became a POW. He was preceded by his wife Mary and son Carl; survived by bother Stanley Wawrzynek, Mary Ochab, grandchildren Jennifer and Else, and great grandfather of Jade.

Golded Wings

● **Robert F. Brubaker**, FM 324th, Redwood City, CA, Aug. 24, 2001, Age 81, of complications following heart surgery three months earlier at the VA Hospital, Palo Alto CA. Born in Wabash, IN. Robert served as a Major in the 91st Group as a Bombardier. He was a decorated war hero having been shot down twice, and an ex-prisoner of war having spent two years as a POW in Moosberg, Germany. Robert was an active Mason and a member of the Shriners. [See article, "Hamm Revisited," in the October 1999 issue of the *Ragged Irregular*.]

Robert is survived by his wife, Jean Brubaker of Redwood City, CA/Windsor, England, his sister Rhea Jean Frisbee of Dallas, TX, his son James of San Marcos, CA, his daughters Candis Hurst of Rollinsville, CO, and Deborah Broughton Kehring of Woodside, CA, and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife Rhea Walz Brubaker, sister Betty Hindel and brother 1st Lt. James E. Brubaker. He will be missed by his family and friends. A memorial service was held on Aug. 31, 2001 at the VA Palo Alto Hospital Chapel. Submitted by George P. Birdsong.

● **Claude E. Cantrell**, FM 323rd, Lampasa, TX, Nov. 16, 2001, reported by his grandson, Kevin Alan Cantrell. Claude served as ground line inspector. Kevin would like to hear from anyone who knew his grandfather. He can be reached by email at <DECANTRELL@aol.com>.

● **Arthur G. Foster**, Lt. Col., Ret. Passed away Oct. 1, 2001 following heart surgery. No other information was provided.

● **Elon "Lon" M. Gaston**, LM 401st, Atlanta, GA, Oct. 28, 2001, age 79, after a long illness. John Ondrovic, fellow pilot in the 401st who flew missions at the same time period as Lon, delivered the eulogy at the memorial service attended by family, friends, and military associates. Lon Gaston retired from the USAF as a Lt. Colonel after 26 years of active duty, and served an additional 20 years with the civil service in the U.S. Army's communication service. He flew 36 missions as a pilot while with the 91st BG, and was awarded the DFC and the Air Medal with silver leaf cluster. During the Korean and Vietnam Wars Gaston was in the Air Force Communications Command, serving in the Pacific and in Europe. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Betty, daughter Debbie, son Scott and grandson Luc. Another son, Rick, who served in the U. S. Navy, died in 1976. Other survivors include a sister, a brother and several nieces and nephews. [Submitted by Paul Limm.]

Lon's son, adds that his father earned a masters degree in education at Troy State University. "My father enjoyed many hours reading the emails of the "Ring. He was one of the pilots who flew the B-17 named "General Ike."

● **Homer A. Glass**, (Lt. Col USAFR Ret) FM 322nd, Bella Vista, AR, Oct. 1, 2001, Age 81. Homer was Navigator on B-17 "Lassie Come Home." He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Audrey, two daughters, Dale and Carol, two sons Kenneth and David, and six grandchildren.

● **Maurice J. Herman**, FM 401st, Silver Spring, MD, Dec. 7, 2001, Heart attack. "Maury" was Navigator on "Royal Flush" shot down June 22, 1943 on a mission to Huls, Germany. He remained a POW for 22 months. Maury is survived by his son, Robert, who would like to hear from anyone who knew his father. Robert's address is 657 Cambridge Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95051.



NOW BEFORE YOU MOVE!

THE RAGGED IRREGULAR

These Newsletters are published quarterly: January, April, July and October. The R/I's purpose is to keep alive the spirit of the 91st Bombardment Group (H) and to maintain the fellowship of all of those who fought together in World War II from AF Station 121 in Bassingbourn, England from 1942-1945.

Material for publication should be sent to the Editor, Phil Mack, 17521 155th Ave. SE. Renton, WA 98058-9087. "Time-value" items must be received on or before the fifteenth day preceding 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.

● **Maynard Frey**, 322nd Sq., Aug. 16, 2001, following a lengthy illness in Palm Harbor, FL. As reported by Charles Bell, former pilot in the 322nd Sq. Frey was co-pilot with Bell on "Superstitious Aloysuis" for several missions. Upon Bell's recommendation, Frey took over "Chowhound" after Jerry Newquist finished his tour. Bell continues, "After completing his B-17 missions Frey volunteered to fly the P-51 in the experimental Scouting unit created to scout targets in advance of the bombers in late summer of 1944." [See Letters to the Editor for unrelated story by Bell.]

● **Paul A. Lalonde**, FM 323rd, Ormond Beach, FL, Sept. 29th, 2001, Age 81. Born in Flushing, NY, his parents were French Canadians. He and his wife, Georgette, moved to Florida in 1990. Paul, a Staff Sergeant, served in the 91st as a Bombardier on "909" flying 18 missions. Fellow crew member and Ball Turret gunner, Ed Jackman, reported that Paul had flown 24 missions with Lt. Blanchard's crew. The first mission on Feb. 24, 1945 was on "Outhouse Mouse." The 24th mission was on "909" to Pilzen, Czechoslovakia on April 25, 1945.

Continued on Page 11.....