



# Greetings

## NEWSLETTER 86-4

December 1986

Once again it is that time of year when "nostalgia" takes over and again we reflect on days long past. Old times, childhood memories, old friends, places we have been, the things we did, our families together, my how the days of our past come crowding back. Remember the little red truck, or maybe a sled, what about the erector set, a train, and what of the doll all dressed in blue that you snooped and found hidden in Mama's closet --- then came Christmas morning and you had to pretend surprise!! How many of you have been caught in that little act? What of the books given with little writings of wisdom from our parents. Each gift given with such love and hopes for a wonderful life for each of us. The days of our youth, my how the times have changed. The little red truck has now become a space vehicle, and have you looked at the dolls? I wouldn't want one of my grandchildren to look like that. What about the monsters. How do you like them? It is a different world we live in now and wasn't it nice we lived our youth in the old one.

As 1986 comes to a close what happy memories we share of our reunion in Milwaukee. With anticipation we look forward to the coming years and even better times for the "Men of the 307th."

To each and everyone of you, the Staff of the 307th wishes a "VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HEALTHFUL, PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!"



## QUOTES OF NOTE:

A man's real possession is his memory. In nothing else is he rich, in nothing else is he poor.

-- Alexander Smith

After you have sought over the wide world, you learn that happiness is to be found only in your own home.

-- Voltaire

I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do, I ought to do. And what I ought to do, by God's grace I will do.

-- Anonymous

There are two days in the week about which and upon which I never worry. Two carefree days, kept sacredly free from fear and apprehension. One of these days is "Yesterday: and the other is "Tomorrow."

-- Robert Jones Burdette

The man who cannot forgive any mortal thing is life is a green hand at living.

-- Robert Louis Stevenson

Watch your thoughts, they become your words. Watch your words, they become your actions. Watch your actions, they become your habits. Watch your habits, they become your character.

-- Herb True

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## FROM THE HISTORIAN

It is hard to believe that more than six months have passed since the very successful and satisfying Milwaukee Long Ranger Reunion. There is something to be said about adding a comment in the by-laws to the effect that the reunion host should supply suitable weather during the weekend of the meeting. However, the wet and cold failed to dampen the enthusiasm of those who were there and all left with a warm feeling in spite of the thermometer. In addition, your Historians left with a three foot stack of wartime photos and documents to be copied for the files, a task which, along with the Reunion Book, will keep us going far into the winter. Our thanks to all who contributed, and our apologies to all of you who wanted to show us your material but could not get to us for

the crowd. We had great plans for spreading ourselves thinner this time but it seems that it is not to be. Maybe next time.

Seldom a day passes without one or more letters from Ass'n members arriving in our mailboxes. The rest of our column will be a sampling of the requests, information and memories from our mail since May.

### Requests

Dick Roth (424th) has a request in regard to an eventful trip to Noumea, New Caledonia, in December of 1944. After completing his missions and awaiting transfer to the U.S.A., Dick was asked by "Group" to fly radio operator on a

pickup crew which was to go to Auckland, New Zealand, on a "food and drink" run for the coming New Year's Day celebration. Dick continues: "We flew down to Noumea (Tontouta Field) and unfortunately on Christmas Day crashed on takeoff to Auckland. The plane was a total loss and we never saw Auckland. Essentially all we got out of the experience was an interrogation, bumps and bruises, Noumea and flying time. As I remember it, we had a heck of a time trying to borrow an airplane or hitch a ride back. About two weeks later on the trip back in a C-47 we lost an engine over New Guinea and had to emergency land for repairs. An interesting journey after Truk, Yap, Palau, et al. I hope that ... through the newsletter ... I can find out who the other crew members were. They may have been from the 371st. Any help would be appreciated."

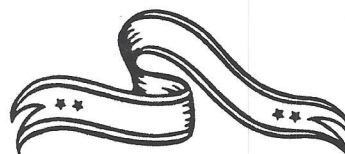
Larry Simonson, not an Ass'n member, writes for assistance on a project he is conducting; "I am attempting to find out if units of the 307th Bomb Group ever had nicknames or mottoes such as the 307th "Long Rangers." Do you know if the 370th, 371st, 372nd, or 424th Bomb Squadrons had such names?" We drew a blank on that one. Neither historian, with knowledge of early and later periods in the life of the Group, had ever heard any nickname for any of the four squadrons. If any of you are aware of any such nicknames, please let us know so that we may answer Larry.

Here is a question from Bob King (370th) regarding the two DUC medal missions flown by the 307th -- Truk on 3-29-44 and Balikpapan on 10-2-44. Bob reports that he flew on both DUC missions and wonders if there are any other members who did the same. It seems to me that John Hepfer mentioned to me one time that his crew was on both missions, but I may be wrong about that. So come on everybody, let us know about this -- can anyone else (or how many of you can) -- say that you were on both DUC missions.

## Information

A couple of Newsletters back, your Historian was wondering where the extra set of framed emblems went at the Orlando reunion. A note from Peggy Johnston sets the record straight. "We were quite amused by your dilemma concerning the emblems as reported in the last newsletter. Maybe this will help clear it up. After Orvin (424th) won and then gave back the emblems in Reno, I fussed at him a lot -- so he promised he'd try and get them back when we went to Orlando. His offer to buy them back was accepted and they now hang in his office -- much to the pleasure of both of us." I was probably the only one in the Ass'n. who missed that one! Thanks, Peggy.

Recently received a letter from Clyde Osborne, the artist who painted the collection of 307th insignias which was raffled off at the Orlando reunion. You'll remember that I mistakenly gave credit to someone other than Clyde in the last Reunion Book. The correction was printed in the newsletter about the time the books were sent out. Clyde's comments on the whole fiasco: "After reading the story concerned ... sat back and had a good grin and felt pretty good about the whole thing ... after all you put me in some pretty illustrious shoes ... I just wish that I was half as good an artist-cartoonist as the one you mistook me for. No hard feelings or anyone hurt on this end ... don't know how the other guy would feel if he knew ... anyway no harm done here. We can all have a bit of a laugh about it ... after all those things do happen occasionally." Clyde is a WWII AAF Vet and is a serious collector and historian of Air Corps, AAF, Air Force and C.A.P. insignia. It is an honor to be able to correspond with such people.





Another goof from the Orlando Reunion Book was my failure to identify the two members kneeling in front of the front row in the group photo of the 372nd men. If you will run and get your book, you can write in the names of these two -- Harry Wilbur and to his left Tony Walter. Next question -- What is Tony doing there? He should have been in the 370th Squadron picture ... according to the roster.

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### LITERARY ITEMS OF INTEREST

Bob King (370th) recently sent us the March, 1986 issue of GUADALCANAL ECHOES, a 16 page tabloid sized newspaper (or newsletter) which is published quarterly by the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans. Editor: Ted Blahnik, P.O. Box 181, Coloma, Michigan 49038-0181. This issue was full of interesting information about the Solomons campaign from men who fought on both sides. The paper would be of interest especially to the original members of the 307th who flew combat from Guadalcanal. Applications for membership (\$15.00 per year) are available from Gene Keller, National Secretary, 4043 Standish, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008.

Bruce Liljedahl (372nd) and Marty Sporn (370th) have both written to call attention to a three part series of articles in the May 12, 19, and 26th issues of the NEW YORKER magazine. Entitled "A Missing Plane", the articles cover in detail the story of a 5th Air Force B-24 which crashed into Mt. Thumb in the Owen Stanley mountains while on a ferry flight from Port Moresby to Nadzab. While it was not a 307th plane, the situation was familiar enough to us all that the entire series of articles is sure to make very interesting reading. Try your local library for copies of the NEW YORKER. Bruce reports that a hard cover book will be published soon, but we have seen nothing about that at this writing.

Speaking of books -- Ray Galloway (424th) writes that a recent catalog from Q.M. Dabney & Co., Box 42036, Washington, D.C. 20015 (301) 881-1470 lists a copy of the 307th history "WE'LL SAY GOODBY: STORY OF THE 307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) (In WWII) Syndey, Johnston, 1945. Illust. \$125.00 only. WOW! as Ray says "Since we only paid \$5.00 for it." Should you be interested it is catalog #635.

### FROM OUR ENGLISH FRIEND

Those of us who were at the Milwaukee reunion will remember the carved wooden plaque sent to the 307th by William F. Adams, Bill Adams, of London, England, to commemorate our 1986 meeting. Bill must be very busy with his wood carving, judging by the following article which recently appeared in the Quarterly Newsletter of the Strategic Air Command Museum:

"The SAC Museum has received a very special donation, a wooden plaque of the Strategic Air Command Emblem, hand carved by William F. Adams of London, England.

What makes the plaque special is that Bill did not take up wood carving until he went into a therapy program after suffering the effects of a brain tumor in 1978.

Bill and the Museum became acquainted in 1984 when Michael Michlo of Florida -- in cooperation with the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association -- gave the Museum eight wooden plaques Bill had made depicting the 13th Air Force emblem and 307th squadron patches from World War II. The 307th plaques were made in 1982 and 1983 from hard Beechwood salvaged from old school desks in England.

In a letter to the Museum Bill said he became interested in American Military patches as a small boy during World War II. He was in an air raid shelter one night with German bombs exploding overhead



when an American airman gave him some shoulder patches to take his attention away from the attack."

In appreciation for the SAC carving, we will be sending Bill a number of present-day patches such as the B-1, SR-71, etc.

We of the 307th Association are fortunate to have our own close personal association with Bill Adams. During their vacation trip to England this past summer, Cena and Walt Marsh were able to spend some time visiting with Bill and his wife Joyce and to thank Bill personally for the plaques that he has sent to the 307th. Cena and Walt found Bill and Joyce to be "wonderful people". I'm sure the feeling was mutual. And another thanks to Bill for remembering us with the "Milwaukee plaque".

### HOW HIGH OUR CHILDREN FLY!

Maj. Gen. Clifford Rees, Jr., became commander of the Air Defense Weapons Center at Tyndall Air Force Base last August according to a clipping from the July 15, 1986 issue of Florida Today sent along by Marty Sporn. Rees has been director of the Legislative Liaison Office of the Secretary of the Air Force in Washington, D.C. He is a command pilot with more than 3000 hours of flight time including 135 combat missions in Southeast Asia. We have a special interest in his progress because he is the son of "Click" Rees, 307th commanding officer back in 1944 and '45.

### VIDEO TAPES - WWII

We have received advertising brochures from two companies that market VCR video tapes covering World II AAF subjects. Many of these films look very interesting. Since we have not previewed any of them we can't comment on the quality of either the subject matter or the conversion from film to tape. However, we feel that your Association should keep you apprised of the material that is available covering our mutual wartime experiences. Copies of the brochures from the two companies are reproduced in this Newsletter.

We have other stories that we can run in future Newsletters, so we'll let this be it for this time.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO YOU ALL!!

Jim Kendall  
Harry Sterkel  
(Historians)



Since I had received several letters from Men of the 307th that had already been reproduced for this newsletter, I am holding some interesting reading submitted by Jim Kendall for our next issue. Be looking for it. I do appreciate their, and everyone's contributions that are sent for use in this newsletter. Cena



### MEMBERSHIP DUES

It is now that time of year when we must remind the Membership of their yearly dues of \$15.00. Please make the checks payable to: "307th Bombardment Group Ass'n," Mail to the Secretary/Treasurer, 307th Bombardment Group Association, 1923 Atkin Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106.

At the present time we have over 800 names on our roster. There are the names of 269 people on the roster who have not joined the 307th Association or responded to our requests on receiving copies of the Newsletters. There are also 64 members who, although they have joined the Association, have not paid their dues since 1984.

Of course we would like everyone to join the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association, but many times circumstances are such that it is impossible. If you still want to receive copies of the newsletters, mailers, whether you join the association or not, please fill out the form we have enclosed. If we have not received your reply by 1 April 1986, your name WILL BE REMOVED from the mailing list.



(The form enclosed in the newsletter is for non-members and members who have not paid their dues since 1984 only.)



I would also like to take the time to thank the many members of the 307th who have already sent in their 1987 dues. So many of you never forget and we really appreciate it.

We are printing our FINANCIAL STATEMENT in this Newsletter. As you can see we are in the best of health. There will be some large expenditures coming up with the printing charges on the 1986 Reunion Book and any advance payment toward the 1988 reunion in Nashville. We may also have to start paying (at least more than I do now) for the printing of the newsletters. I will keep you apprised on that possibility. Our President, Vice-President, or Advertizing Officer have never drawn on their budget. I have reimbursed any long distance telephone calls or mailings when asked but that is all. Those charges are already included in the fees.

307TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION  
FINANCIAL STATEMENT  
JANUARY 20, 1984 THRU DECEMBER 31, 1986

MONEY RECEIVED FROM:

Dues, Donations, Sales of Reunion Books and Bumper Stickers.....	\$15,100.69
Orlando Reunion Refund.....	2,826.84
Milwaukee Reunion Refund.....	5,396.45
George Jaffe (Retiring Treasurer)	5,213.21
Checking Account Interest	1,078.62
TOTAL MONEY RECEIVED.....	<u>29,615.81</u>

MONEY SPENT ON:

Printing.....	\$ 6,806.89
Certificate of Deposit.....	5,000.00
Orlando and Milwaukee Reunions.....	4,516.44
Historian's Budget.....	2,000.00
Stamps.....	1,430.20
Computer.....	1,035.00
Typewriter.....	989.50
Mailing Fees.....	306.28
Telephone Charges.....	67.47
Brief Case.....	42.13
Flowers.....	36.23
Bank Charges.....	19.84
TOTAL MONEY SPENT.....	<u>22,249.98</u>
CHECKING ACCOUNT BALANCE.....	7,365.83
CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT BALANCE.....	<u>5,867.01</u>
TOTAL MONEY IN BANK.....	<u>\$13,232.84</u>



## LETTERS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

### REMEMBER WHEN

It is always a pleasure receiving letters from "Men of the 307th." Jack Ralph, Danny Macdonald, Russ Doyland are just a few of the names that come to mind for sending us a thankyou for our efforts. There have been many, many more. If we should only receive one letter such as the following one by Russ Ratliff, our efforts have been worthwhile.

Jake Shoifet also sent a letter that Jack Morrison had sent to him so many years ago -- the date is shown on the letter. The article furnished by Ira Anderson brought tears to my eyes. I think as you read it you will feel as Ira said he feels each time he reads the article. "It has pumped me up and still does each time I read it." Ira has carried the article for over 10 years, Note: the date is Wednesday, November 21, 1976.

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Dear Cena,

Because you asked for stories I thought that you could perhaps use the following as a filler, or to start a fire.

I learned of the 307th Ass'n just in time to attend the reunion in Milwaukee and it was a high-light of my life, a thrill that compared to some of the events that took place back in the summer of '43. So many familiar names -- the faces have changed a little.

Danny Macdonald hasn't changed that much. If you were in Milwaukee during the reunion you saw or heard of the Pink Dinner Jacket that Mac was wearing to the banquet. Well, because he cut me down once in Kapapa for not wearing my gas mask I felt that I had a perfect right to tell him that since he started wearing that jacket, more of them had been sold, Jack Ralph sold his, Ira Anderson sold his, I sold mine -----.

Same thing happened on Guadalcanal. When he intertained the troops with his soft shoe dance, those of us that could find buyers sold our moccasins.

Thanks Mac for making Guadalcanal seem like only yesterday.

Russ Ratliff

◆◆◆◆◆

April 16, 1944

Dear Jake --!

Hi Doc -- rec'd your Jan 22nd letter about a week ago. Was awfully glad to hear from you -- you must think otherwise since I haven't answered sooner. My mail went to N.Z. and then back here to me.

Life is about the same but it's surely rough at times. Guess you've noticed the papers. I am permitted to tell you that the 13th A.F. heavies made the initial daylight attack on Truk. The raid was highly praised by high officials. That's all I can say -- but you can imagine the deal. The 8th Air Force can't say a damn thing now.

Since I wrote last I've had a merry time. In Jan. we made a water landing. Byrd did a beautiful job -- no one was killed and only a few injured. I would be home now if we had flown right away. We got a trip to N.Z. out of it but they wouldn't send us home. Since the landing I've made a crash landing and bailed out once. Guess I've just about filled the book. What next! I hope to make the April list. With a miracle, I could make March -- only it hasn't come out yet. Oh Well! We are Squadron leader now -- Byrd still is the best pilot in the Group. However, the Dogs haven't made him Capt. yet. Just because he does what he thinks is right and doesn't risk our necks any more than usual, they probably think he doesn't deserve it. Every Dog has his day.

Letters from other boys that have gone home prove that the setup is OK. They are getting good deals. Bullard is at my home town -- he's either a cadet or working on the line. Haven't heard from or about Sellers or Pat. All the old guys are home now. We are the oldest crew in our sqdn.

I've received my Air Medal and 3 clusters and I have papers on another cluster and my DFC. Sure was glad to know I'd get the latter. I really wanted it. They only give it now if you had 25 before Nov. 12th. I just made it. Sorry to hear you haven't gotten yours. I'm sure you will get it -- maybe in 44.





With all my experiences, I should be able to get a recommendation for a sick leave -- I'm going to try anyway.

Philpot quit flying -- I think I told you before. He's on the switchboard now. Thanks for the info in regard to clothes & such. I'll do my best. I took your advice and mailed my scrapbook home -- almost all of my pictures passed.

If I find about any of the old gang, I'll drop you a line. Oh yes! go to the tower there and ask to see Bill Mathis. I went thru radio school with him & he went to Sioux Falls as a tower man. Also, there was a ground station operator by the name of Lee Hawkins that was in my class. If they are still there, tell 'em H'lo for me. Mathis and I were real buddies -- we were together for about 5 months. Good ole St. Louis days.

Any time you find time to write let me hear from you. I'll drop you a line when and if I get home.

As ever,  
Jack



# Curran's Corner

"LAND IS MY LAND ---  
WILL ALWAYS STAND TALL"

By Bob Curren

To all Western New Yorkers  
From Curran's Corner

Subject: A Reminder for Thanksgiving

The other day I got a pleasant jolt when I noted that an American Legion publication had quoted a line I have used at many of their organization's gatherings: "Service in the Armed Forces is the rent you pay for living in the greatest country in the world."

Whenever I write that, I draw flak from readers who consider patriotism some sort of local vice and revel in the chance to say, "I am ashamed to be an American."

Today I am going to do something I seldom do and have a stranger talk for me in this corner. When you read his words, you'll understand.

I MADE the decision to repeat this stranger's words after seeing the West Point Glee Club on the Mike Douglas Show Monday and hearing a cadet captain, whose ribbons showed he has already paid his rent, read a touching piece called, "I Am the Nation."

I know a few of you have heard the words before because you have told me about them. I also know that you will agree that this is a good time of year to share them with our neighbors.

They come from a Canadian radio commentator named Gordon Sinclair who one day said:

"As long as 60 years ago, when I first started to read newspapers, I read of floods on the Yellow River and the Yangtze. Who rushed in with men and money to help. The Americans did."

"They have helped control floods on the Nile, the Amazon, the Ganges and the Niger."

"GERMANY, JAPAN, and to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts."

"None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States."

"When the franc was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris."

"I was there, I saw it."

"The Marshall Plan, the Truman Policy, all pumped billions upon billions into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent war-mongering Americans."

"I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplanes."

"Come on, let's hear it."

"DOES ANY other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed TriStar or the Douglas-10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all international lines except Russia fly American planes?"



"Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon?"

"You talk about Japanese technocracy and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy and you find men on the moon, not once, but several times ... and safely home again."

"You talk about scandals and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at."

"Even their draft dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, most of them ... unless they are breaking Canadian laws, and are getting American dollars from Ma and Pa at home to spend here."

"WHEN THE railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke."

"I can name you 5000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble."

"Can you name me even one time someone else raced to the Americans in trouble?"

"I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake."

"Our neighbors have faced it alone and I'm one Canadian who is damned tired of hearing them kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles."

"WHO COULD blame them if they said, 'The hell with the rest of the world. Let someone else buy the Israeli bonds. Let someone else build or repair the foreign dams or design foreign buildings that won't shake apart in earthquakes.'"

Anyone who knows our history knows we won't do that. Instead we'll react to the next earthquake or plague in another land as we always have -- in a way that befits "the greatest country in the world."

In the way that has caused many among us to use the term Uncle Sucker. No matter whether you call him that or Uncle Sam, mark me down as a real proud nephew who is thankful for him every day.

Hang tough,  
Bob Curren



## CLEARINGHOUSE IS FORMED FOR LIBERATOR ANNIVERSARY

Col. Robert E. Vickers, USAF (Ret.) B-24 50th Anniversary Reunion Project Director, has announced the formation of a B-24 Clearinghouse.

This clearinghouse has been inaugurated for several purposes:

1. To bring people connected with the famous World War II plane into contact with their unit organizations.
2. To help units that are not organized to form associations.
3. To announce the 1989 celebration of the 50th anniversary of the B-24 Liberator.

People who are looking for their Liberator unit are asked to write the B-24 Unit Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 4738, Hollywood, Fla. 33083. At the same time, the clearinghouse needs to make contact with the secretary of each B-24 unit organization.

The Liberator was produced in greater numbers and in more versions than any other American airplane in WWII -- 19,256 of these four-engined, bomber aircraft were produced. They were produced by Consolidated-Vultee (now General Dynamics) in San Diego, Calif., and Fort Worth, Texas. The Ford Motor Co. constructed three aircraft at Willow Run (in the Detroit area). Douglas Aircraft built these bombers in Tulsa, Okla. North American Aircraft produced B-24s in their plant in Ft. Worth, Texas.

The Liberator (the Navy version was called the Privateer) served in every theater in WWII, in most services and in nine numbered Air Forces (U.S.). Of those produced, 15,070 were assigned to the U.S. Army Air Force, 1,741 were used by the U.S. Navy, and 2,445 were operated by the British and Commonwealth Air Forces.

There is no doubt that more American aviators and ground support people in WWII were associated with the B-24 than any other aircraft. It is for this reason that we are anxious to get in touch with as many B-24 veterans as possible so they may enjoy the great reunion that is planned for Fort Worth, Texas. The honorary sponsor for this event is the International B-24 Liberator Club of San Diego. All who write will be sent tentative information on the reunion plans. In addition they will also be advised of the address of their unit secretary, if known.



Per a recent letter from Robert Jones, 307th President, his recommendation is to have a back to back reunion and participate in the 50th Anniversary of the B-24's. We could have a special off-year and still go to Dayton in 1990 for the dedication.

We would like some volunteers to work toward getting the 307th involved with the B-24 reunion. I have sent a letter to the clearinghouse with the necessary particulars covered and requesting all the necessary information. In the meantime, do contact either Bob Jones, Jim Kendall, or myself with your ideas, information, etc.

Thanks - Cena



## IN MEMORIAM

Word has been received from Tennie Grace Beck on the death of her husband, Elmer Beck, on June 12, 1986. Elmer Beck is buried at the National Cemetery at Barrancas, Florida now known as part of Pensacola U.S. Navy Base. (Air Station)

Our sympathy, though late is coming, to Mrs. Beck and her family.



## REUNION UPDATE

Plans are going ahead as scheduled for the 1988 307th Reunion in Nashville. As the year goes on, more information will be forthcoming. In the meantime, Ken Meyers is still waiting for more the 1988 REUNION INFORMATION sheet (inclosed in the 1986-3 Newsletter to be sent to him with the members inputs. Just what they would like to do, see, etc. in Nashville. Please get those sheets sent on to Ken. (I have included another copy in this newsletter.)

## LATE MAILING

The roster is in the process of being put on the computer. The minutes of the 1986 Meeting are also being finalized. As soon as the roster is ready it will be mailed to the paid up members only along with the Minutes.

I hope the Membership will forgive the delay in getting the 1986-4 Newsletter mailed. Sometimes crises arise that make it almost impossible to meet the timetable I have set for myself. This just happened to be one of those times. So again, please forgive the delay.

Cena

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Bob Jones - President  
Charles Dowdy - Vice-President  
Cena Marsh - Secretary-Treasurer  
Jim Kendall - Historian  
Harry Sterkel - Historian





## 1988 REUNION INFORMATION

Mark your calenders for May 20, 21, and 22, 1988 as those are the dates of the best Reunion yet and will be held at the Executive Inn in Nashville, Tennessee. We have room rates set at \$46 plus tax for single or double. They also have six spaces with hookups for motorhomes on first come first serve basis. That room rate can also be extended to cover a period before or after the Reunion if you wish to make a vacation out of your trip to Nashville. The executive Inn is located in Southeast Nashville just off I-24 and I-40 and has complimentary transportation to and from the airport. Please complete the SURVEY SHEET below and return to address shown on the back. This sheet can be folded, stapled, stamped and mailed without an envelope. We want this next Reunion to be one you will really enjoy.

Our next Reunion in 1988 will be held at the Excutive Inn in Nashville, Tenn. We would like your opinion on the following items so we can plan the best ever for you to enjoy. Please complete while you are thinking about it and fold so the address is shown and mail.

1. Meals: Brunch (on Sat & Sun)  
          would like -----  
          don't like -----  
          don't care -----

2. Banquet: Would like  
          Prim Rib -----  
          Chicken -----  
          Fish -----  
          Buffet style w/ 3 choices -----

3 For the ladies we would like:  
          more activities -----  
          less activities -----  
          about the same -----

3 Other activities  
Please indicate tours you might be interested in.

Johnny Cash & Conway Twitty	----	Belle Carol River Boat	-----
Country Music Stars homes	----	Gen Jackson River Boat	-----
Grand Ole Opry tour	----	Walking Horse Country	-----
Historic Nashville	----	Historic Mansions	-----
Jack Daniels Distillery	----	Franklin & Historic Williamson county	-----
Historic Stones River Battlefield	----	Nissan Manufacturing Plant	-----

KEN MEYERS  
314 GRANDVIEW DRIVE  
MURFREESBORO, TN 37130



NOW for a limited time, all of my RARE VIDEO TAPES AT A SPECIAL PRICE to all of you B-24 fellows of the 307th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION. Several members of your group have purchased tapes from me and it is at the suggestion of PAUL J. STEPP of CINCINNATI, OHIO a member of your group that I am making this mailing to you. PAUL told me that he found 6 of his missions on tape # 100 "THE PACIFIC AIR WAR". And he was very happy with tape # 110 "THE B-24 IN ACTION. You Ex-Pilots will enjoy # 117 "HOW TO FLY THE B-24" Since this is a limited offer to you neglected B-24 fellows of the 307th BG Association, I will accept your personal check.....

BUY 1 FOR JUST \$35.00 PLUS \$1.50 UPS

BUY 2 FOR JUST \$67.00 Plus \$2.00 UPS

BUY 3 FOR JUST \$90.00 Plus \$3.00 UPS

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"132 "THE STILLWELL ROAD" BSW, SOUND, 50min. THIS IS AN EXCELLENT ACCOUNT OF THE BURMA ROAD, & FLYING TIGERS. NARRATED BY NON OTHER THAN RONALD REAGAN.

#133 " FROM "D" DAY TO "VE" DAY" BSW, SOUND, 1hr & 27min. 1945 WINNER OF ACADEMY AWARD FOR "BEST DOCUMENTARY" THIS EXCELLENT FILM FOLLOWS THE ALLIES AS THEY CRUSH THE NAZIS. ALL ACTUAL COMBAT FILM. A MUST.

#134 "VIETNAM" COLOR, SOUND, 1hr & 30min.

1 "BATTLE OF KHE SANH"

2 "U.S. AIR FORCE IN VIETNAM"

3 "SCREAMING EAGLES IN VIETNAM"

THESE THREE FILMS ARE A REAL TRIBUTE TO OUR BRAVE MEN WHO FOUGHT THIS BLOODY WAR.



\*\*\*\*\* A WORD ABOUT FILM TRANSFER \*\*\*\*\*

DUE TO THE FACT THAT FOR THE MOST PART THESE FILMS ARE OVER 40 YEARS OLD IT BECOMES IMPERATIVE THAT THEY BE TRANSFERRED PROPERLY, FIRST YOU MUST HAVE A "FILM CHAIN" PROJECTOR WHICH IS MADE FOR THIS PURPOSE. USING A HIGH QUALITY VIDEO CAMERA THE IMAGE IS RECORDED ON 3/4 INCH, OR 1 INCH VIDEO TAPE. THIS MASTER IS THEN USED TO MAKE THE 1/2 INCH CASSETTES. THIS ASSURES THAT EACH TAPE WILL BE THE BEST QUALITY POSSIBLE, WHICH IN SOME CASES STILL LEAVES SOME TO BE DESIRED.

# NOW

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\*\*\*\*\*

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NOTE= #115 THE AIR FORCE STORY,COUNTS AS 4 TAPES.  
FOR SUPER FAST SHIPMENT PLEASE SEND U.S POSTAL  
MONEY ORDER OR CASHIERS CHECK. YOUR PERSONAL  
CHECK IS OK BUT MAY DELAY SHIPMENT.....

\*\*\*\*\* SPECIFY VHS or BETA \*\*\*\*\*

#100 "PACIFIC AIR WAR" 6 FILMS, 1hr & 20min.

BLACK & WHITE, SOUND. 8-24 & 8-25s. 7th & 13th

AIR FORCE. ISLAND RAIDS, LOTS OF COMBAT ACTION.

#101

"AVIATION CADET" 3 FILMS, 1hr & 15min, BSW, SOUND  
1 "WINNING YOUR WINGS" JAMES STEWART

2 "BEYOND THE LINE OF DUTY" RONALD REAGAN

3 "CADET CLASSIFICATION" RONALD REAGAN

#102

"THE SECRET LIFE OF ADOLF HITLER" BSW, SOUND  
53min. CONTAINS HITLERS PERSONAL HOME MOVIES.

#103

"AFTER MEIN KAMPF" 43MIN, BSW, SOUND. 1940  
BRITISH MADE PROPAGANDA FILM. VERY INTERESTING.

#104

"TARGET FOR TODAY" 59min, BSW, SOUND. A COMPLETE  
8th AIR FORCE BOMBING MISSION, LOTS OF ACTION....  
"INSPECTION OF THE B-47" 50min,BSW, SOUND.

TOTAL TIME THIS CASSETTE 1hr & 49min. EXCELLENT.

#105

"THE BLACK FOX" BSW, SOUND, 1hr & 29min. AN  
EXCELLENT ACCOUNT OF THE LIFE OF ADOLF HITLER.....



- #106 "NAVAL AVIATION" BSW, SOUND, 1hr & 40min.  
THIS CASSETTE CONTAINS 9 FILMS. ROOSEVELT, BEL  
BOTTOM TROUSERS, KAMAKAZI, AND EVERY MAJOR AIR  
BATTLE OF OUR W2 NAVY. LOTS OF CARRIER & AIRCRAFT  
ACTION. SOME SPECTACULAR PLANE CRASHES. EXCELENT.
- #107 "BATTLE OF BRITAIN" BSW, SOUND, 60min.  
"TARGET FOR TONIGHT" BSW, SOUND, 50min.  
THIS IS AN EXCELLENT ACCOUNT OF OUR BRITISH FRIENDS  
IN W2. LOTS OF ACTION, TWO GREAT FILMS.
- #108 "THE MEMPHIS BELLE" COLOR, 45min, SOUND.  
THIS IS ACTUAL COMBAT FOOTAGE OF THE FIRST B-17  
TO COMPLETE ITS TOUR OF COMBAT. VERY GOOD.
- #109 "HOW TO FLY THE P-47" BSW, SOUND, 69min.  
"HOW TO FLY THE P-40" COLOR, SOUND, 36min.  
THESE ARE THE FILMS OUR PILOTS WATCHED.
- #110 "THE B-24 IN ACTION" 1hr & 30min. 4 FILMS.  
1 "THE MISSION" 44th BOMB GROUP 8th AIR FORCE.  
2 "FLOESTI" THE FIRST LOW LEVEL RAID.  
3 "THE WILLOW RUN STORY" SEE THE B-24 BEING BUILT.  
4 "INSPECTION OF THE B-24" [the Crew Chief]  
NUMBERS 1 & 2 ARE SILENT WITH W2 PERIOD MUSIC.  
THESE 4 FILMS ARE ABOUT THE ONLY FOOTAGE SHOT OF  
THE B-24 AND IS A MUST FOR THE LIB MAN. RARE FILMS.
- #111 "THE FIGHT FOR THE SKY" BSW, SOUND, 1hr.  
THIS CONTAINS BOTH THE ORIGINAL MADE IN 1944 AND  
THE RE-MAKE MADE IN 1945 WITH LT RONALD REAGAN.  
MADE BY THE 8th AF FIGHTER COMMAND AND SHOWS B-24  
AND B-17 BOMBERS AND P-38, P-47 & P-51 FIGHTERS  
IN COMBAT. LOTS OF GUN CAMERA FOOTAGE. THE BEST  
ACTION FILM MADE AND MY BEST SELLER, EXCELENT.
- #112 "THE FIGHTING LADY" COLOR, SOUND, 62min.  
AN EXCELLENT ACCOUNT OF THE CARRIER AND IT'S  
PART IN WINNING W2. VERY GOOD.....
- #113 "COMBAT AMERICA" COLOR, SOUND, 60min.  
CLARK GABLE WITH THE 351st BOMB GROUP ON ACTUAL  
COMBAT MISSION. VERY GOOD BUT COLOR IS POOR.
- #114 "THERE IS A WAY" COLOR, SOUND, 58min.  
AN ACCOUNT OF THE VIETNAM AIR WAR.

REMEMBER SPECIFY VHS OR BETA

- #115 "THE AIR FORCE STORY" BSW, SOUND, 3 FULL HOURS  
THIS IS THE ULTIMATE AIR FORCE FILM. EVERYTHING  
OF SIGNIFICANCE FROM THE WRIGHT FLIGHT TO THE EARLY  
KOREAN WAR IS COVERED. 4 2 HOUR CASSETTES FOR A FULL  
8 HOURS OF ENJOYMENT. ALL 32 CHAPTERS. THIS SERIES  
COUNTS AS 4 CASSETTES AND SELLS FOR \$ 160.00  
WE HAVE SEEN THIS SERIES ADVERTISED FOR AS MUCH AS  
\$400.00. EXCELLENT, VERY INFORMATIVE.
- #116 "NORMANDY AIRBORNE" BSW, SOUND, 1hr & 20min.  
AN EXCELLENT FILM DEPICTING THE PARA-TROOPER AND THE  
GLIDER IN THE D-DAY INVASION,
- #117 "HOW TO FLY THE B-24" COLOR, SOUND, 55min.  
MADE BY CONSOLIDATED AND WAS SEEN BY EVERY  
LIBERATOR PILOT. A MUST FOR THE EX-LIB MAN.
- #118 "REPORT FROM THE ALEUTIANS" COLOR, SOUND, 45min.  
"HOW STRONG IS THE ENEMY" BSW, SOUND, 45min.  
THE ALEUTIANS FILM HAS POOR COLOR, OTHERWISE OK.
- #119 "WINGS OF THE ARMY" BSW, SOUND, 45min.  
THIS IS AN EXCELLENT AND RARE HISTORY OF  
THE ARMY AIR FORCE.
- #120 "THE REAR GUNNER" BSW, SOUND, 20min.  
THIS FILM IS SHORT BUT IS THE ONLY FILM THAT WE  
KNOW OF PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE GUNNER. IT FOLLOWS  
A YOUNG BURGESS MEREDITH THROUGH GUNNERY SCHOOLS  
AND IS ASSIGNED TO A B-24 PILOTED BY RONALD REAGAN.
- #123 "DEC THE 7th" PEARL HARBOR. BSW, SOUND, 34min.  
"BATTLE OF MIDWAY" COLOR, SOUND, 18min.  
LOTS OF ACTION, A REAL CLASSIC VIDEO.....
- #124 "TARGET TOKYO" RONALD REAGAN. BSW, SOUND, 22min.  
"THUNDERBOLT" P-47s, COLOR, SOUND, 43min. EXCELLENT.
- #125 "THE RED ARROWS" COLOR, SOUND, 60min.  
A MODERN FILM SHOWING THE ARROWS DOING  
THEIR STUFF. THE RED ARROWS ARE ENGLANDS  
COUNTER PART TO OUR OWN BLUE ANGELS.
- #126 "NUREMBERG TRIALS" BSW, SOUND, 67min.  
"NAZI DEATH CAMP HORRORS" BSW, SOUND 32min.  
THE "TRIALS" FILM IS IN ENGLISH. THE "DEATH CAMP"  
FILM IS FRENCH WITH ENGLISH SUB-TITLES. IF YOU  
HAVE A WEAK STOMACH DON'T BUY THIS VIDEO. EXCELLENT.