



307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION

"THE LONG RANGERS"



NEWSLETTER 1999-1

MAY 25, 1999



QUOTES OF NOTE

"The most valuable antiques are old friends."

- E.B. Birkenbeuel

"What is a weed? A plant whose virtues have not yet been discovered".

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



"To renew ties with the past need not always be daydreaming; it may be tapping old sources of strength for new tasks."

- Simeon Strunsky



"In certain parts of the world people still pray in the streets. In this country they're called pedestrians."

- Gloria Pitzer



"Now that I'm a senior citizen and in my second childhood, they once again allow me to ride on the bus for half fare."

- Eugene Jaeger



"The human mouth is a wonderful thing: It starts working the moment you are born and never stops until you stand up to speak in public."

- Quote

"Middle age is when you want to know how long the car will last before you ask how fast it will go."

- Dr. James Blakely

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have firm dates and a location for our year 2000 reunion. Even by starting 20 months ahead of the placement window for the reunion, we had to juggle, adjust and compromise to get even close to what we wanted and expected. First we'll comment on what we have and then on some of the concerns.

The hotel is the 4-Points Sheraton with facilities adequate to supply the space and amenities that we need. The dates are: Wednesday 27 Sept. 2000 through Sunday 1 Oct. 2000. The hotel is located 8-9 blocks from the Alamo and is on the river. The rates are \$85 (double or single) plus a 15% room tax, (higher than we are used to). This is better by far than we could do at the other hotels which started at \$120 and up (way up!). This was also the only week available unless we moved a month earlier, or 3 weeks later at a much higher rate.

We learned that San Antonio is a high priced area at this particular time of the year because of the start of the peak in the convention season. We even considered a change of venue, but the airfare is very reasonable in comparison to some possible alternatives that we investigated. San Antonio also offers a big choice of activities that are of interest to military people, and we did select it by popular vote.

The week turned out to be the only one available at a reasonable price and anywhere near to the downtown area, (unless we are willing to spread the Group out into several locations, which would then not provide us with our activities facilities at no extra cost). A major concern arose when we discovered that Saturday the 30th is the start of the Jewish High Holidays. We then investigated moving the reunion ahead a few days and found that causes a big boost in airfares and in event scheduling. We appear to be locked in by circumstances beyond our control at this time with no viable options. I know that this will make it difficult if not impossible for some of our members and I can only extend my sincere regrets. We had to sign up for this date or lose it and start completely over at some other time and place without time for membership approval.

There are plans in the works for some special activities for the 2002 reunion, but they are still too preliminary to put forth at this time.

I would like to hear from anyone with solid ideas for the 2002 reunion site. In selecting a site, we must consider that we will be older by then and we may look upon activities and facilities in a different light. We need at least 3 serious proposals. I have one volunteered by Spokane which is not too far from Ephrata. Any ideas?

You all stay healthy, kicking and complaining now. I want to see you all in 2000.

John T. Reeves

Subject: PALAU & THE 307th BG(Heavy)

The following is an excerpt or update of the presentation Pat Scannon made at the Hampton reunion regarding his research to document U.S. Military Aircraft lost in the South Pacific during WWII.

SUMMARY OF PALAU EXPEDITION,
Patrick Scannon, MD, PhD

ABSTRACT: A team of historian/scuba divers are planning an expedition to the Palau Islands 8-21 June 1999 to continue research begun in 1993 to systematically lo-

cate and document U.S. Military aircraft (Army Air Corps, Marine and Navy) lost in action between March 1944 and August 1945. During the past three years, extensive research, based on archival documents and interviews with surviving veterans and Palauans, has been conducted to determine potential sites of aircraft (and possibly crew members) that have never been found. The results of this research suggests that in the waters around the islands of Koror and Babelthup, there may be up to four aircraft (2 B24 Liberators, 1 TBF Avenger (flown by ex-president Bush's wingman), and 1 F4U Corsair) that are both accessible by conventional scuba diving technology and sufficiently documented to have working search fields. Other Potential land based aircraft wreck sites have also been found. A request for the loan of a portable scanning sonar is enclosed.

1. Brief Historical Background:

During 1944-45, US forces (Navy, Army Air Corps and Marines) made repeated air raids over the Palau Islands. The first series of attacks occurred in the spring of 1944 in the form of aircraft carrier task force strikes (operation DESECRATE ONE) to prevent the Japanese Army and Navy in Palau from providing flanking air support against MacArthur's invasion of Hollandia/Northern New Guinea. The second series, during the summer of 1944, occurred in the form of both carrier task force strikes (operation SNAPSHOT, in which former President George Bush participated) and Army Air Corps raids (13th AAF and 5th AAF). The 13th AAF began with a series of very long distance night bombing missions against Japanese Imperial forces in Palau in August from Los Negros Island in the Admiralties. Using then brand new techniques incorporated into B-24 bombers, the 868th Bomb Squadron flew its special radar-equipped SB-24 Snoopers nightly from 8 to 27 August on 1900 mile round trips to bomb Palau. Causing moderate damage, the bombers suffered no casualties. By 23 August, Wadke Island was operational and the 5th and 307th Bomb Groups started the daylight runs in B-24's over Palau, now able to carry twice the payload due to the shorter distance. Between 25 August and 4 September, nine missions drop-

ped over 600 tons of bombs. Minor damage occurred to above ground installations through Palau. Japanese antiaircraft fire was once again intense: seven B-24's did not return. One was shot down by an enemy fighter and at least three others were shot down by AA over Babelthuap and adjacent Koror, these four were reported to have crashed within sight of the islands. Parachutes from two B-24's were seen by wingmen and at least two crewmembers were apparently captured. The remaining B-24's fell into deep water outside the Palau Islands. No U.S. Army Air Force crewmember shot down over Palau survived the war.

The purpose of all these air raids were twofold: a) to prevent Japanese aircraft from flanking MacArthur's invasion of the Philippines and b) to soften up Peleliu Island (in southern Palau), scheduled for invasion by 1st Marine Division on September 15, 1944 (Operation STALEMATE). Finally, after the invasion of Peleliu, both the US Marines (VMF 114,122,121) and the Army Air Corps (7th AAF) provided air support over the Palaus essentially till the war ended.

Palau, because of its strategic location (between the Mariana Islands and the Philippines) and because of its deep water harbors was a regional headquarters for the occupying Japanese military. Accordingly, it was heavily defended, both in numbers of troops (~35,000), airfields (3) and antiaircraft sites (many). With the large number of US strikes, it was inevitable that many US planes were bound to get shot down and they were. Because the Palaus have a barrier reef around the islands, many of the planes fell into waters that are approachable by conventional scuba diving techniques; however, many of these planes and some with their crews, were never found, in spite of an intense effort by Graves Registration Units after the war ended.

The campaigns in Palau Islands are generally treated as a historical footnote of little interest, compared to the many great battles fought throughout the Pacific during WWII. But the numbers of Americans (with their planes) that were lost in the

Palau area are not insignificant. At least two books have been published, describing the Japanese ships sunk by U.S. Naval air actions in the Palaus. However, beyond the attempts by Graves Registration Units to locate remains of American military after end of the war, no one has systematically looked for these aircraft, which were written off, with their crews, one year and one day after they were lost.

II. TRIP INFORMATION

Projected Date: 8-21 June 1999

Personnel (confirmed): Patrick Scannon, Lewis Lambert, Pam Lambert

Location: Palau Islands, Micronesia, specifically in the Babelthuap/Koror area

Goals: (See also Historical Background)

- 1) Search for and locate 13th AAF (307th BG) B-24 Liberator bomber (Pilot Arnett, A/C 42-73453) and crew (up to eight) lost 28 Aug. 44 between Babelthuap and Koror, during a bombing mission over Koror due to antiaircraft fire. Up to three crew members were seen to be captured. The search has been greatly facilitated by the help of Col. Bill Selzer, (Ret) (Atwater, CA) of the 307th BG who saw this B-24 hit the water and remembers the approximate location.
- 2) Search for and locate Navy TBF Avenger (aviator Houle and wingman of Ensign George Bush) and crew (up to two) lost 26 July 44 during carrier attack (Operation Snapshot, Carrier San Jacinto) over Malakai harbor due to antiaircraft fire. One crewman was seen to be captured.
- 3) Search for, and if possible, locate 13th AAF (5th BG) B-24 liberator bomber (Pilot Rea, A/C 44-40596), and crew (up to ten) lost 28 Aug. 44 between Babelthuap and Koror, during bombing mission over Koror due to enemy fighter attack.
- 4) Search for and locate VMF 114 Marine F4U Corsair (aviator Stout, Bu No 14183) lost 4 Mar. 45 over Koror (probably in mangrove swamp), during bombing mission over Battery Hill, Koror, to antiaircraft fire.
- 5) Search for and locate VMF 122 F4U Corsair (aviator, Nelson, Bu No unknown) lost 16 Apr. 45 over Aurapushekaru (probably on land), during bombing mission over same island to antiaircraft fire.

6) Search for and locate VMF 114 FG1 Corsair (aviator, Wallace, BU No 141241) lost 3 Mar 45 over Babelthuap, during strafing mission to anti-aircraft and small arms fire.

7) Time permitting, search for and locate unknown aircraft, said by local Palauans to be located at a). in water between Koror and Arakabesan or b). on Walt's ridge on Peleliu.

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Note: Minutes of Membership Meeting
Hampton, Va

At the 307th Membership meeting held in Hampton, VA members voted to donate \$500.00 to Dr. Scannon for his research. The motion was also to encourage 307th members to support Dr. Scannon's research program.

Dr Scannon has not requested our help but since his efforts will benefit the 307th in their efforts to gather information on any of the men lost in the war, why not offer to help a bit.

Dr. Scannon has offered to present his research updates at the San Antonio reunion in the year 2000.

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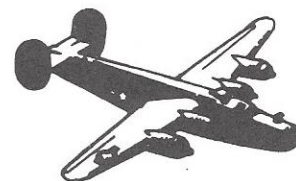
DELINQUENT DUES

Just a friendly reminder. We have over 140 members who have not paid their 1999 dues. The association has carried some of these members for a number of years but effective this newsletter, any person (not including widows of 307th members), who has not paid dues since 1996 will be dropped from the roster and the mailing list.

Dues form enclosed.

Thanks,

Taps



THE LAST FLIGHT

The following is a list of names of 307th Members who have taken their "Last Flight". Quite a number of these men have been members of the 307th Association for nearly twenty years. These are old friends and we will miss them.

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Sqdn.</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|----------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Allen, James E. | 424th | 08-28-98 |
| Brooks, Walter H. | 371st | -70 |
| Buchanan, George A. | 370th | 12-20-98 |
| Caputo, Angelo B. | 372nd | 11-28-98 |
| Clemens, Stanley F. | 371st | 07-26-98 |
| Davies, Frederick W. | 372nd | 12-24-98 |
| Hjerpe, Frederick A. | 424th | 11-11-98 |
| Lanning, Florian E. | 370th | 01-29-99 |
| Metzger, William H. | 372nd | -97 |
| Novak, Albert J. | | -59 |
| Saunders, Edward C. | 371st | 01-07-98 |
| Sloan, Jack D. | 372nd | 01-26-99 |
| Spangle, Samuel | 370th | 02-05-97 |
| Taylor, Bob D. | 370th | 10-09-97 |
| Vangorder, Robert C. | 372nd | 01-12-99 |

Our sincere sympathy goes out to all the families of these 307th members.

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LETTERS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP

In recent weeks we have received a number of letters from individuals requesting information either of a relative or friend.

"Sergio Hernandez would like any information someone might have on his uncle S/Sgt Eliseo "Pete" Villalobos." According to his separation papers he flew with the 307th BG, 13th AAF. Operated a motion camera to determine the effects of bombing missions, and used an aerial machine gun in combat. Nearest that it can be determined he was in the SW Pacific in '44 and '45. Under battles and campaigns it shows the Bismarck Archipelago, Southern Philippines, New Guinea, Luzon, AirCombat Borneo."

Please send any information you might have to:

Sergio Hernandez
31317 Indian Oak Rd.
Acton, CA 93510

Allen Novak got our name off the internet and wrote for information on the 307th. Seems his Father, Albert J. Novak served with the 371st. Allen was sent one of our packets and has now joined the Association. Does anyone have any information on Albert J. Novak?

Send to: Allen Novak
P.O. Box 1667
Tallevast, FL 34270

Howard S. Brooks requested any information we could give him on his Father, Walter H. Brooks who served with the 371st. Another packet was sent off and not only did Howard join the 307th Association, so did his brother Richard.

Send any information you might have to: Howard Brooks
4759 Mountain Valley Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89121

A.J. Evans sent a letter he had received from Ron Bowhay, Japan.

The letter is as follows:

"For a number of years I have been looking for a member of Long Rangers, your 424th BSq outfit. He went back to the states on the S.S. General Colins sometime after mid-Sept '45. His name is T.C. Findley and I think he was maybe an engineer-gunner or radio operator waist gunner. Would like to contact him."

If anyone has any information on T.C. Findley, please contact:

Ron Bowhay
1-15-7 Shimoshakuji
Nerima-Ku
Tokyo-TO, 177 Japan
03-3904-1982

Tel/Fax: 011-81-33904-1982

Dennis J. Reigel contacted us about the next scheduled reunion. He and his wife are very much interested in attending, meeting and talking with those who served with his Father in the South Pacific.

"My Dad was an aerial photographer and took many photos of the Pacific Theater. You will find a drawing of my Dad on the first pages of "We'll Say Goodbye", he was the photographer for most of the photos of that publication, William H. Reigel.

Beth and I have a need to sit down with a group of guys who can identify photos from my Father's personal collection and take an oral history of the places and events.

When my Father passed on it was decided to send him off the best possibly way. I chartered a B-25 ("Heavenly Body" with 13th AAF markings) out of Van Nuys, CA Airport. This plane has an operational bomb bay, so the whole family joined him on his Last Mission. We were given a 20 sec. count-down by the pilot approximately ten miles off shore. Then the bays were opened. We flew onto Santa Barbara where family and crew had lunch and toasted my Dad's life.

Thanks for letting me bend your ear.

Dennis J. Reigel
P.O. Box 1665
Eastsound, WA 98245
(360) 376-6509 (home)

The last few months have brought a number of letters from sons/nephews, of 307th members. Many of them have joined the Association. It is great that so many young people are now starting to show interest in the accomplishments of those young men who, so many years ago fought for this nation.

NEW PUBLICATION

Osprey Publications has printed:

"B-24 Liberator Units of the Pacific War" by Dorr

Price from Zenith Books is \$16.95.
To order phone: 1-800-826-6600

Irving Berlin: The Sergeant Who Wrote "God Bless America"

By Cdr Art Coe

Author's Note: Meetings of the Thursday Morning Breakfast Club open with an invocation by one of our member chaplains. When it is the turn of Chaplain Paul Allen, he often asks the group to sing "God Bless America." This has caused me and other members to wonder about the background of this American patriotic favorite. The information contained in the following article was provided by Army Archives, the West Point Librarian, and the Army War College.

For over 80 years Americans have sung, loved, danced and fought their wars to the tunes of the most productive songwriter in the United States. From "Alexander's Ragtime Band" to the never to be forgotten "God Bless America" the songs of Irving Berlin have mirrored the temper, the sentiment, and the historical events of the twentieth century. This distinguished American songwriter wrote over 900 songs and the scores for 19 Broadway musicals and films. Born in eastern Russia one of eight children, he and his family left Czarist Russia due to religious persecution and entered the United States in 1893. In 1911 he wrote "Alexander's Ragtime Band" which made him an international celebrity. During these same years he became an outstanding performer in vaudeville along with lifelong friends such as Jimmy Durante and George M. Cohan. But he was really more interested in writing songs than in performing them.

Joining the United States Army as the U.S. entered WWI in 1917, he was sent to Camp Upton on Long Island, NY. Assigned to an infantry training unit as a private, he shortly became a rifle marksman and soon was awaiting orders to go overseas with his regiment. The Army had a different assignment for him. Just prior to his boarding a troop transport for France word came down for him to proceed with his company commander to the office of the commanding general of the post. Puzzled and certainly concerned, he proceeded to the headquarters. During his basic training no special dispensation had been made for the celebrated songwriter, even though his name and his songs were known everywhere. The general asked Berlin if he would help him and the Army by producing a soldier show recruiting the necessary talent from men stationed at Camp Upton. The General stated that it was not an order Berlin was receiving but a request



"Oh, How I Hate To Get Up In The Morning"

for assistance in raising funds for the troops' welfare. Berlin eagerly accepted the assignment.

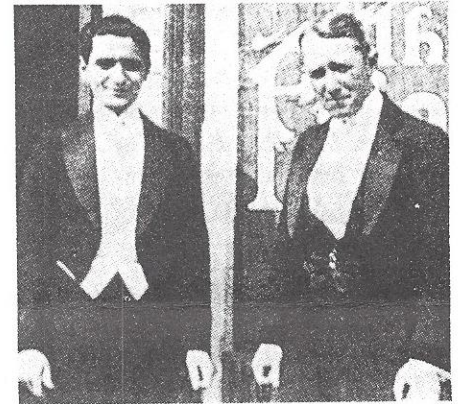
Drawing ideas from his own experiences as a soldier, he wrote the entire show by himself - not only the music and lyrics, but also the skits and ensemble numbers. After selecting his cast there followed endless grueling rehearsals to train his soldier amateurs up to professional standards. On 26 July 1918 "Yip Yip Yaphank" opened at the Century Theatre in New York. Just prior to the opening curtain Sergeant Berlin appeared on the stage and requested that the curtain be raised. There stood in uniform and formation the entire cast of soldiers. Their sergeant yelled out to them that there was a seasoned enemy across the footlights. He pointed to the audience and said, "There they are - attack the enemy with everything you've got tonight." Cheers, stamping of feet, delighted laughter and applause greeted every new song, dance and routine as the "enemy" fell a willing victim. The "show-stopper" of the night was "Oh, How I Hate to Get Up In The Morning" performed by Irving Berlin.

The following morning Berlin proudly gave the post commander \$80,000 the proceeds of "opening night." After the war the song, "Oh, How I Hate To Get Up In The Morning" grossed over \$2,000,000 which Berlin donated to Army welfare.

As the menace and evil of fascism became evident in the 1930s, Americans became more appreciative of their freedoms. In early 1938 Berlin was asked by Kate Smith to write a patriotic song for her. She wanted the lyrics to express this growing awareness. Berlin had always felt a profound debt to the country of his adoption. He had many times stated publicly that he was grateful to the United States that his

ancestry and origins had never been questioned, that he had always been accepted for what he was. He now saw an opportunity to repay his debt in some small measure with a song. After many attempts he felt that he might not be up to the challenge. He finally called another patriotic song writer, his friend, George M. Cohan to discuss the matter with him. Cohan remembered a song that Berlin had written for his show "Yip, Yip, Yaphank" in 1917. It was a melody with words honoring the "Fighting 69th Infantry," part of the "Rainbow Division" in which Berlin had served.

He wrote new words for this old WWI tune and thus was born "God



Irving Berlin and George M. Cohan

Bless America." Kate Smith received the song with enthusiasm and prophetic thanks - "It's like a second 'Star Spangled Banner'."

To this day the Berlin family has never accepted one cent of the money the song has made. The proceeds, which to date total over \$20,000,000, continue to be contributed to the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of America, the Cape Fire Girls and the USO.

During WWII Berlin repeated his WWI success with another hit show, "This Is The Army." The show ran for three and a half years on Broadway and was shown to military personnel all over the world. Proceeds of the hit song from the show, "This Is The Army, Mr. Jones" amounted to \$10 million dollars which was donated to Army Emergency Relief.

Berlin was decorated with a Medal of Merit by the Army for his contribution to the war effort and with a gold medal by President Eisenhower in 1955 for composing "God Bless America."

FROM YOUR HISTORIANS

Guadalcanal Air Terminal Update

Newsletter 98-3 reported on the flap over the possibility that there were no plans to move American war memorials from the old Henderson Field air terminal to the new terminal being built by the Japanese. This possibility came to us in an article in the February-March, 1998, edition of *Guadalcanal Echoes*, newsletter of the Guadalcanal Campaign Veterans Association.

Blair Rumble, son of D.B. Rumble, 370th Intelligence Officer, recently received the following from Robert Waldrop, Consular Officer of the U.S. Embassy at Port Moresby.

U.S Embassy
Port Moresby
July 23, 1998

Dear Mr. Rumble:

Thank you for your recent letter to the Embassy expressing your concern that the plaques from U.S. military units hanging in the old Henderson Airport on Guadalcanal have been abandoned.

I am happy to tell you that these plaques have been removed from the old to the new Henderson Airport Terminal in Honiara, Guadalcanal. The plaques were rededicated as part of a "History Wall" in the new terminal building.

We hope this final outcome was so planned from the start. If not, then we owe a debt of gratitude to the many who, like Blair, wrote the Embassy to express their concern.

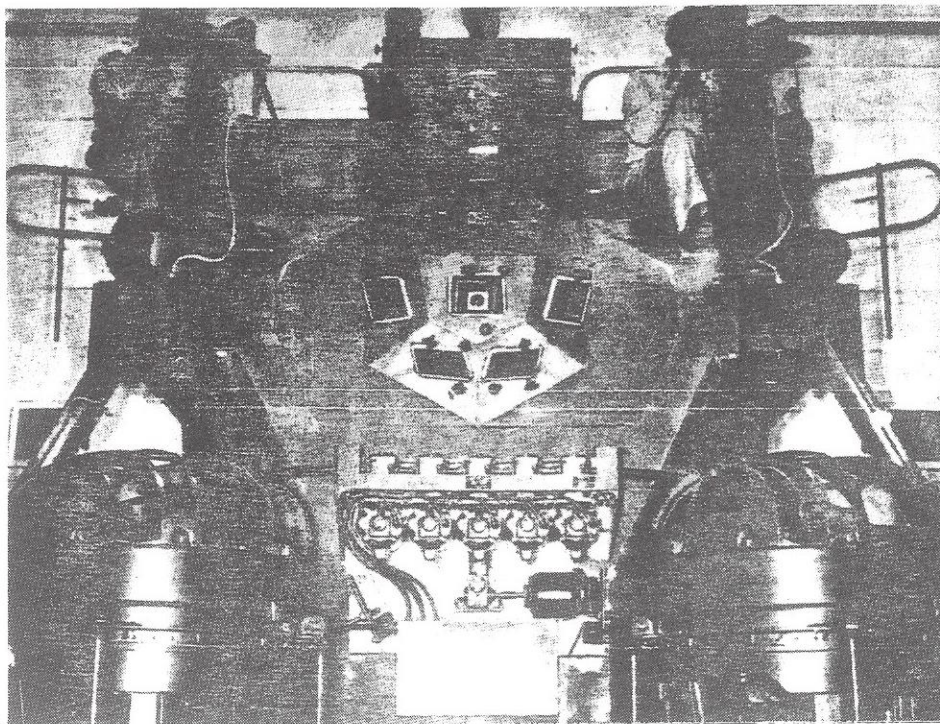
The following two pages of our Newsletter contribution for this month have to do with AAF equipment which may not be too familiar to everyone.

Waller Gunnery Trainer

Not everyone remembers the *Cinerama* movies of the 1950s. Investment in this technology was considerable and few films were made which could only be shown only in specially equipped theaters. It is not generally known that Cinerama was a direct descendant of a Gunnery trainer used by the AAF, at least in the Harlingen, Texas, Gunnery School and probably at other such schools. The "civilian" version used of a very wide curved screen on which three separate projectors each projected one third of the entire picture. The earlier gunner trainer version had five projectors, each covering its own portion of the inner surface of a quarter of a sphere. Though the "lines" between the areas covered by different cameras was, in both versions, a bit distracting, the overall effect was remarkable. "Civilian" movies were generally thinly disguised travelogues while the "gunnery" version featured actual attacks on the camera plane as seen from various gun positions on the plane.

"Gibson Girl" Emergency Radio

Only those in deep trouble learned much about this second item of unfamiliar AAF equipment. Except for radio operators most crew members were probably unaware of the "Gibson Girl" radio until it was needed. Those forced to use it while sitting in a bouncing life raft know more about it than they ever wanted to know.

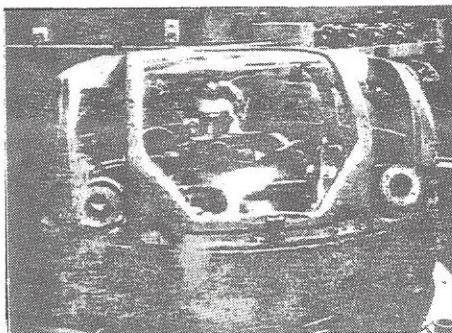


Front view shows instructor's position in upper center, two hand-held gun positions and two turret positions. In the center are the projection ports of the five projectors.

Waller Gunnery Trainer

Utilizing all the latest Hollywood technical features, the AAF has developed a dome-shaped gunnery trainer that simulates most actual combat conditions to be met in aerial warfare.

Dummy guns, mounted and weighted as .50-caliber machine guns, fire bursts of "light rays" at planes projected on a dome-shaped movie screen forty feet in diameter. Hits, bursts and rounds fired are recorded on electrical counters visible to the instructor. A bell rings in the students' earphones when his point of aim is on the nose.



A student (above) sights through the reflector sight of the Sperry upper turret. The aim-light projector is to be seen at the left of the sight. Note .50-caliber gun sleeves.

The unit is known as the Waller gunnery trainer for its inventor who also constructed the inner workings of the perisphere at the New York World's Fair.

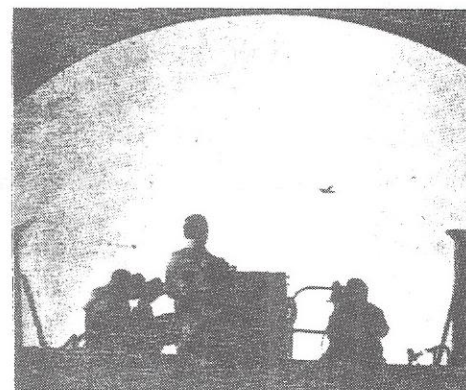
Although intricate in design and construction, the trainer's operation is almost

as realistic as actual aerial combat. Five 35 mm film projectors with sound tracks throw a composite picture of attacking combat planes on the screen. The sound tracks lend realism as the gunner hears the chatter of gunfire when he depresses the gun triggers.

Spots of colored light reveal where the guns are being aimed, photo-electric circuits control the angle of the "burst" and compensate for the lag from the time the gunner squeezes the trigger until the shells reach the target. Vibrators simulate actual conditions in firing.

Earphones keep the instructor constantly in contact with his four trainees, enabling him to coach them in their firing. When he wants to point out an error or illustrate a new point, he can freeze all action, stopping film, sound and firing but leaving the images clearly projected on the screen.

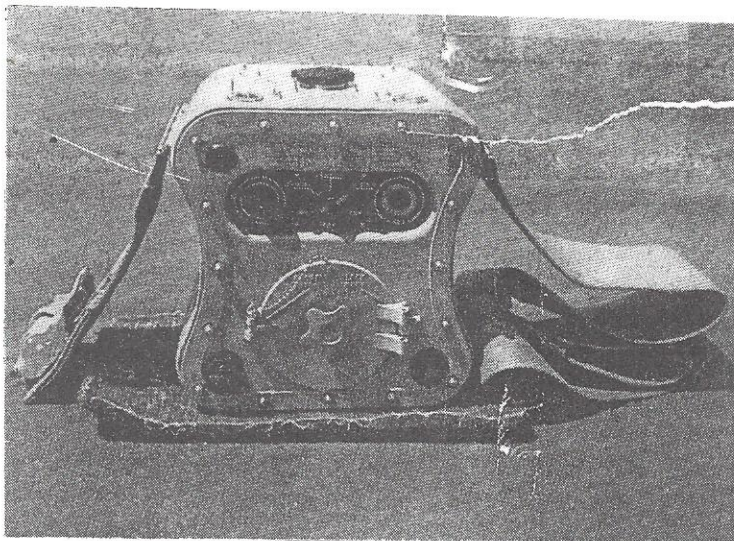
Power turrets are installed in two of the four gun positions.



This photo of the Waller gunnery trainer taken toward the spherical screen shows an instructor at the console and two upper gunners. An attacking plane appears on the screen. The circles superimposed on the plane show the correct position of the gunsight at that instant of the attack. In training, these aim circles appear intermittently to instruct the gunner in the correct point of aim. When the attacking plane appears on screen without the aim circles the gunners fire and their score is recorded.

AIR FORCE, November, 1943

Fred Waller's gunnery trainer, archaic by the computerized standards of today, fifty-five years ago effectively taught fledgling gunners to shoot down enemy fighters as they attacked on a pursuit curve. With nothing but portions of your own plane, sky, clouds and the attacking plane on the screen within your field of view it was a very realistic aerial combat experience. So realistic, in fact, that some students were known to have left the trainer more than a little airsick.



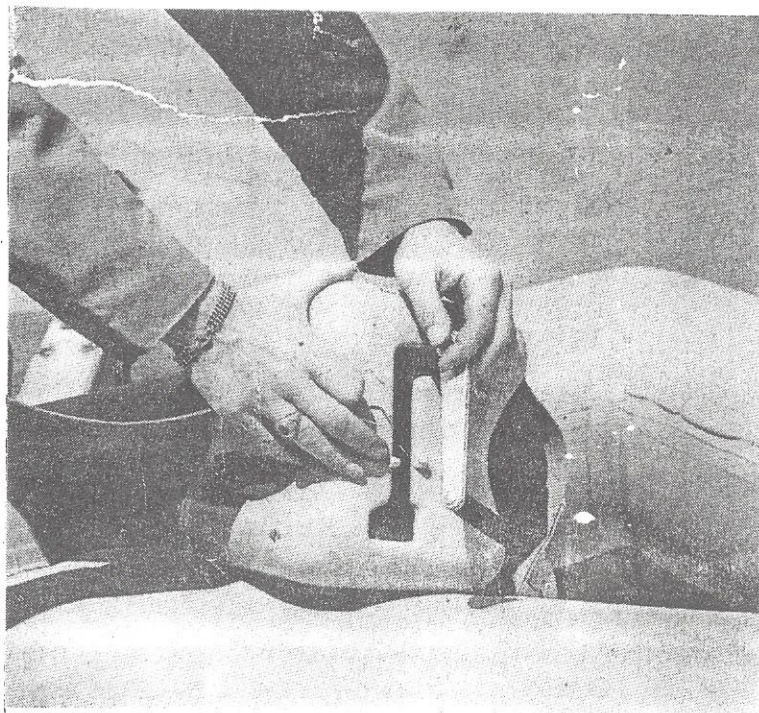
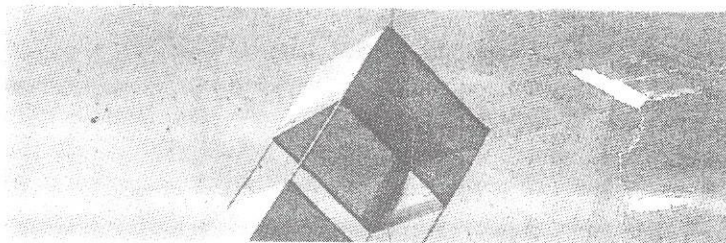
Hourglass shape gives Gibson Girl radio transmitter its name. Set is strapped and held snugly between operator's knees while he turns the generator crank.

GIBSON GIRL

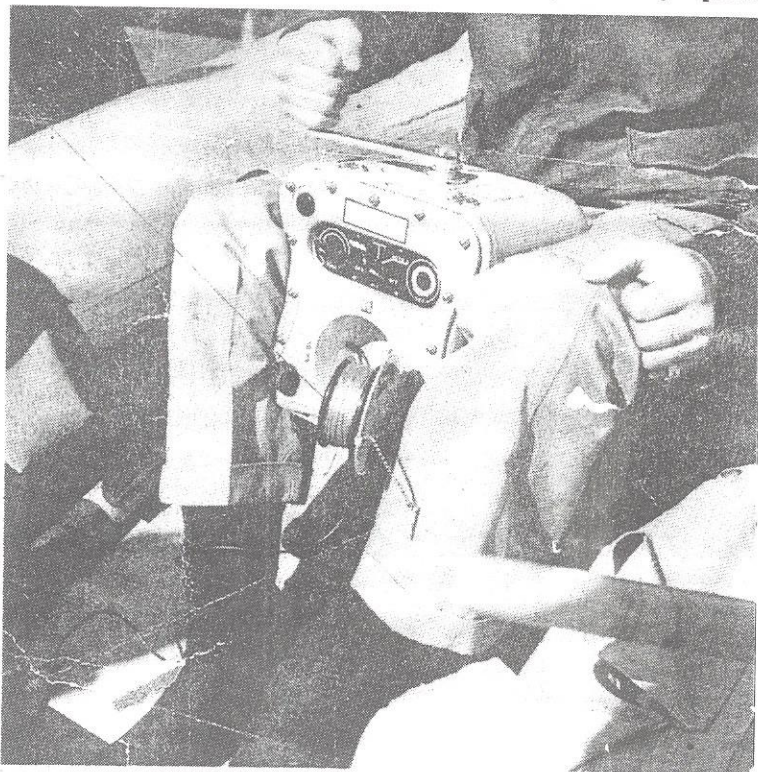
Life-raft radio automatically transmits
SOS signal and leads rescuers to scene

An hourglass-figured radio transmitter, inevitably named the "Gibson Girl," is the latest achievement in the U. S. Army Air Forces' life-raft technology. It is easily the castaway's best chance to be rescued. On the turn of its generator crank, the Gibson Girl sends out an SOS on the 500-kilocycle international distress frequency which can be heard anywhere in a 150,000-square-mile circle around the raft.

As shown here, the Gibson Girl is equipped with a balloon to fly its aerial in calm weather and a box kite to fly it in a high wind. The balloon is inflated with hydrogen produced by immersion of a simple chemical generator in the sea. The set is in other respects designed against chance and hazard. It is, of course, water and shock proof and unsinkable. For the few Air Corps men who do not know Morse it is equipped to send the SOS automatically. At night, when rescuers are approaching, its generator can be switched on to a blinking light.



Generator crank is stowed in watertight recess in side of Gibson Girl case. The set is tuned to international distress frequency, which is constantly watched by ships at sea.



Antenna unwinds from spool which also swings into recess in the case. Switch in top panel permits choice of automatic SOS or button for transmitting other messages.

Many 307th crews had the opportunity to use the "Gibson Girl" to save their lives. Can any of you who made emergency use of the radio write up the details of the story, how it worked and the results of its use. Send us your story so that we may use it in a future Newsletter or Reunion Book.

307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) REUNION HEADQUARTERS
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

10 October 1998

MINUTES

On Saturday, October 10, 1998 at 8:30 a.m., Members of the 307th Bombardment Group (HV) Association convened at the Holiday Inn, Hampton, Virginia for the 12th Annual Meeting of the Membership.

Meeting called to order by Dave Owens, President presiding.

First Order of Business - Introduction of Board Members

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| Dave Owens | - President |
| John Reeves | - Vice-President |
| Jim Kendall | - Historian |
| Harry Sterkel | - Asst-Historian |
| Anita Sporn | - Parliamentarian |
| Cena Marsh | - Secretary/Treasurer |

Second Order of Business - Approval of 1996 Annual Meeting Minutes

Dave Owens, President requested a motion from the Membership to accept the 1996 Annual Meeting Minutes as printed in the 307th Reunion Book Number eleven.

Motion by Ralph Daniel to accept the 1996 Annual Meeting Minutes as printed in the 1996 Reunion book.

Seconded - Edward Cosgrove

Motion carried

Third Order of Business - Treasurer's Report

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance on hand 9-30-96 | \$12,159.19 |
| plus T-Bill | 20,000.00 |
| Deposits (dues, donations, PX items) | <u>31,276.69</u> |
| Total | \$63,435.87 |

1996-1997-1998 Operating Expenses

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Newsletter printing | \$ 2,348.48 |
| Postage (does not include Reunion book mailing) | 1,879.45 |
| Memorials | 427.27 |
| Dues returned | 72.50 |
| Typesetting (roster, labels) | 398.20 |
| Printing/Xerox (outside) | 269.87 |
| Operating supplies (typewriter ribbons, mailing envelopes, gas, phone, etc.) | 909.64 |
| Donation (Plaque) | 500.00 |
| Gifts (Reunion) | 306.78 |
| 1996 Reunion (Florian Lanning, Final charges) | 155.82 |
| 1998 Reunion (C.E. Jordan) | 2,000.00 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| J. Kendall - Operating Expenses (Jim's report will reflect Historian's expenses) | \$ 1,300.00 |
| 1996 #11 Reunion book (includes mailing) | <u>9,812.03</u> |

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Total expenses | \$20,380.04 |
|----------------|-------------|

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Balance on hand 10-1-98 (Bank) | \$23,055.83 |
| T-Bill | <u>20,000.00</u> |

| | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Total on Hand | \$43,055.83 |
|---------------|-------------|

Motion by Jake Shoifet to accept Financial Report
 Seconded - Ralph Daniel
 Motion carried

Fourth Order of Business - 9/96-9/98 Historians Financial Report

Historian's financial statement includes photo and production costs of Reunion book 11 (excluding printing and mailing).

INCOME

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Beginning balance (9/19/96) | \$ 734.64 |
| Deposits | 800.00 |
| Interest on Account | <u>23.23</u> |

| | |
|-------|------------|
| Total | \$1,557.87 |
|-------|------------|

| | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Less Bank Charges | 48.00 |
|-------------------|-------|

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Total Income | \$1,509.87 |
|--------------|------------|

EXPENSES

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Photo/Art | \$ 430.36 |
| Photocopies | 76.15 |
| Postage | 211.30 |
| Office supplies | 199.27 |
| Telephone | 95.78 |
| Annual Report Filing Fees (non-profit) | 20.00 |
| Miscellaneous | <u>16.91</u> |

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Total Expenses | \$1,049.77 |
|----------------|------------|

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Balance on Hand | \$ 460.10 |
|-----------------|-----------|

*Note: The Historians Financial Report does not reflect a \$500. check he received from the Secretary/Treasurer after he had prepared his report.

Motion by Jake Shoifet to accept Historians financial Report
 Seconded - Florian Lanning
 Motion carried

Fifth Order of Business - 1998-1999-2000 Proposed Budget

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Reunion Book | \$12,000.00 |
| Reunion | 2,000.00 |
| Newsletters | 3,000.00 |
| Postage | 3,000.00 |
| President | 200.00 |
| Vice-President | 200.00 |
| Historian | 3,000.00 |
| Misc (operating supplies) | 3,000.00 |

1998-1999-2000 Proposed Budget - continued

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Site Committee | \$ 200.00 |
| Nominating Committee | <u>200.00</u> |
| Total Proposed Budget | \$26,000.00 |

Motion by J. Wells to accept Proposed Budget
Seconded - Bill Wettengel
Motion carried

Sixth Order of Business - Year 2000 Site Selection

The sites selected by the membership for the year 2000 reunion are as follows: They are listed in the order of the number of votes each city received.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1). San Antonio, TX | 6). Dayton, OH |
| 2). New Orleans, LA | 7). Dallas, TX |
| 3). Seattle, WA | 8). Orlando, FL |
| 4). Asheville, NC | 9). Knoxville, TN |
| 5). Minneapolis, MN | 10). LA or San Francisco |

San Antonio has been selected as the site for the year 2000 reunion. A site coordinator and the exact date of the reunion will be selected as soon as possible and the membership notified of the choice.

Seventh Order of Business - Election of Officers

Nominations requested from the floor for the position of President of the 307th Bombardment Group Association.

Jake Shoifet nominated Dan Cauffiel - Dan Cauffiel declined

Tex Williams nominated John Reeves

Seconded - A.J. Evans

Rex Lewis recommended the nominations cease and John Reeves be elected by acclamation.

Carried

John Reeves elected as President by acclamation

Nominations requested from the floor for the position of Vice-President of the 307th Bombardment Group Association.

Marty Sporn nominated Lynch Christian

Seconded - Sam Britt

Bob Bonham nominated Charles Dowdy

Seconded - Julian Moss

Eighth Order of Business - Reunion Report

A "Big Vote of Thanks" from Dave Owens to C.E. Jordan for a job well done in handling the Hampton, VA reunion. Dave also stated that C.E.'s daughter, Kathy deserved credit for her efforts in helping her Dad with the reunion.

C.E. gave thanks to his family for their help. Kathy for handling the logistics of the reunion, his granddaughter for help on the front desk, his son for tending the bar, and his son-in-law for doing any old task he was asked to do. C.E.'s words were: "I feel honored to have all of you people here. It makes me feel good that you all came."

Ninth Order of Business - New Business

1). By-Laws - Update. As a non-profit organization, our Association By-Laws need to be updated periodically. The By-Laws are in the process of now being updated. Copies of the By-Laws will be sent to all 307th Association members prior to the scheduled reunion in San Antonio for review. The updated/corrected By-Laws will be acted upon at the reunion.

2). Donations - Dave Owens recommended the 307th contribute to the research Dr. Patrick Scannon is doing in locating lost B-24's in the South Pacific.

Motion by Lynch Christian that the President be allowed to make a contribution in the amount of \$500.00 and that help be solicited from the membership in supporting Dr. Scannon's efforts.

Seconded - Bill Richardson

Carried

3). New Computer and Printer

Motion by John Reeves that \$1500.00 be allocated for a new computer and that additional dollars be allocated for a printer for the Secretary/Treasurer, Cena Marsh.

Seconded - Ray Pruitt

Carried

4). Thanks to our Historian - Jim Frazier

Thanks to Jim Kendall for his work in preparing the reunion books and to Dottie for her support. Jim Frazier has shown our books to the VFW and other organizations and they have nothing to compare with the books the 307th members receive. Many thanks to Jim for his work.

No further business.

Motion by Julian Moss to adjourn

Seconded - Jake Shoifet

Carried

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