



307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION

"THE LONG RANGERS"

Newsletter . . 1998-1



May 25, 1998

QUOTES OF NOTE:



"We can retrace our steps in space, but never in time; we can move quickly, or slowly, or not at all in space as we choose, but no one can regulate the flow of time - it rolls on at the same even, uncontrollable rate for all of us."

- Sir James Jeans



"Gullibility is the key to all adventures. The greenhorn is the ultimate victor in everything; it is he that gets the most out of life."

- G.K. Chesterton



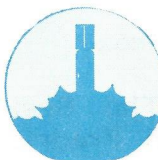
"To err is human, but it takes a better excuse the second time."

- D.A. Bartlett



"Most of us spend half our time wishing for things we could have if we didn't spend half our time wishing."

- Alexander Woolcott



"I desire to so conduct the affairs of this administration that if, at the end, when I come to lay down the reins of power, I have lost every friend on earth, I shall at least have one friend left and that friend shall be down inside of me."

- Abraham Lincoln

"In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life. 'It goes on.'"

- Robert Frost

NOTES FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

I've asked for volunteers to serve as a nominating committee so we may have a slate of candidates for election at the Hampton Reunion. One member suggested the name of another for one of the offices but declined to serve on the committee. If we can't get a committee to call people who may be willing to serve as officers then we may find ourselves in the position of open nominations from the floor of the business meeting, and that is not a very efficient way to elect officers. Please, someone volunteer as committee members, and soon.

We need to also have tentative sites for the year 2000 reunion identified and a possible consensus of membership preferences. For example, in the voting Flo Lanning conducted before the San Diego reunion, he kept a tally of votes cast for several cities that lost out to Hampton. The balloting was rather light, but these cities were voted on by over 100 members at the voting that selected Hampton.

Ashville, NC
Dallas, TX
Dayton, OH
Knoxville, TN
Minn/St. Paul, MN

New Orleans, LA
Orlando, FL
San Antonio, TX
Seattle, WA

It seems reasonable to me that a membership vote on these same cities might be the easiest way to determine

where our 13th Bi-Annual reunion should be held, and I hope the city winning the vote will also produce a volunteer site coordinator.

The ballot is at the end of this newsletter. Please follow the instructions on the ballot and return to me by July 1st.

Dave Owens
President

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NOTES FROM THE MEMBERSHIP:

I received the following letter from John Vanderpoel some time ago. Since I am always asking for short stories from the membership thought you might follow his lead.

"Dear Cena,

I think you know my position on "War Stories" in the 307th newsletters. In order to reduce the number of war stories, I should like to encourage the writing of short vignettes concerning the truly outstanding people we had in the 307th Bomb Group. To this end I submit the following:

I was blessed to be the Commander of the 424th Bomb Squadron. One of the blessings that came with the job was Raymond MacDowell. Ray was my baker, and a remarkable person. To start with, Ray was by twenty years the oldest man in the squadron. He was so old that he had served with General Pershing on the Mexican Border in 1913. Ray would have nothing to do with the bakery products of the 'island bakery'. He drew flour, yeast, sugar and the other necessities from the island bakery to create his own brand of desserts and breads. He had the mechanics on the flying line make him huge ovens from sheet metal mostly scrounged from the Navy. The ovens were powered by GI stoves and covered with tons of coral sand. I tried my best to get Ray some sort of decoration for recognition of his tremendous contribution to the morale of the 424th. I shot for the Legion of Merit, but it was just out of reach for a Technical Sergeant.

One night on Morotai, a humorous thing happened. Ray was working, as usual about two in the morning preparing the breads for breakfast. A 'bed-check Charlie' happened by and Ray continued to tend his ovens until a bomb hit fairly nearby. In his haste to get to his foxhole, he stepped on the lid of the grease-trap outside the mess. The cover wasn't on quite properly, and Ray went into grease almost up to his waist. Without a further thought of Charlie or the Anophilies mosquitoes, Ray headed for the showers, shedding clothes on the way. Shower completed, he went to the supply tent, woke Tommy Ring and got himself outfitted again. Sadly now, both of these sterling soldiers are deceased.

Another vignette:

Fred Benevento was my First Sergeant. The original First Sergeant of the squadron had gone home, and Pat Rickard appointed Fred with the approval of some previous CO. Fred was a former Golden Gloves boxing champion at his weight. This was a hell of an advantage to a First Sergeant in the days when a non-com could 'lay-hands' on one of his men. Nobody messed with Fred. In the course of time, Fred did a number of great things for me totally unbidden, because he was a thoughtful soul. One of the most useful was a totally screened in shower connected to my tent, with a slatted wooden raised floor and a porcelain sink outside. The water supply was a canvas covered barrel (to keep the mosquitoes from breeding on it) fastened up 20 feet on a palm tree.

After the war Fred left his native Connecticut and moved to Arlington, Virginia where he owned a large package shop. When I was with the Pentagon, we saw each other with some frequency. I owe him a lot and think of him on occasion, even twenty-five years after his death.

- John Vanderpoel"

* * * * *

Here's a little tidbit from Forrest Wilcox.

"I was watching the movie "The Best Years of Our Lives" on TV (with Fredric March and Myrna Loy) and in the opening

scene three air crew are in the nose of a B-17 returning home from overseas. They are talking, preparing to land and looking out the nose compartment at the scene below. And, What Ho! They are flying over a field packed with shiny parked B-24's that extends as far as the eye can see.

If the scene was filmed over Sacramento, California, my "Sentimental Journey" was down there."

Forrest

* * * * *

Periodically I receive copies of short histories or diaries kept by the men of the 307th. The following was sent to me by Bob Bonham with the statement that it had been sent to his Dad while he was overseas.

"LONG RANGER'S COMBAT HISTORY"

Two years ago today -- six B-24's raided Shortland Harbor. Fifty percent of our planes did not return to Henderson Field from this, the first mission in the South Pacific area. A month and a half before, on December 23rd, we had raided Wake Island and Midway. The longest mission a formation of bombers had ever flown to that time.

Every plane returned. A medal mission. Our first missions flown with the Thirteenth Air Force were rough.

Two days later we lost two more ships. One crew hit the silk. One crew made a water landing. We had received our rebuke, tactics were changed. We flew at night. Night after night.

The Japs flew at night, too. Night after night. "Washing Machine Charlie", we called the Jap raiders. We don't know what the Japs up the slot called us --- but we bombed the hell out of them.

For six months, we kept up these harassing raids. We hit em' during the day, too. Munda, Kahili, Buka, Ballale, Shortland Harbor. Soon we were specializing in daylight missions.

The Japs outnumbered us at first. Our gunners shot them down. Hundreds of them. Soon there were few left, and few fields still serviceable.

We got orders to knock out Rabaul. Day after day we hit airdromes on the Bismark Archipelago --- pulverized the town of Rabaul -- its business section -- and Red Light District. Ack Ack batteries were wicked. Barrages holed plane after plane. Then came Truk. The unknown, unhit Japanese Pearl Harbor. The first attempt at Truk we dropped our eggs on some island. S-2 couldn't find that island. It wasn't on the map.

The next raid we found Truk. Every bomb hit the target. We destroyed 49 planes on the ground. 31 were shot down in the hottest air battle of its kind in the Pacific. Truk was hit, day after day. Truk, the mightiest fortress of the Pacific was reduced to a "Wewak." We didn't finish off Truk. Turned it over to the Seventh Air Force. Bombers of the Seventh are still hitting Truk. What had become another "Milk-Run" to us -- was "rugged", a primary, for the Seventh.

Then came Yap. Palau, too.

With the "Bomber Barons," the Long Rangers made the Thirteenth Air Force the Longest Range Air Force in the world. 2400 miles round trip. 16-hour over water missions, with one tiny elusive landmark, Sorol Island.

From the Navy came this message -- To General Streett from Admiral Carney, Chief of Staff, Third Fleet --

Quote: Damned Thirteenth Air Force has just about spoiled the war for our carriers, particularly at Yap. And he adds ---- Admiral Davison's Task Group has left Yap in disgust after the first day because our old Thirteenth Air Force had left no decent targets.

While knocking out Yap and Palau, we neutralized Biak and Noemfoor spearheads for the beach-heads there. Then we moved to the treeless island of Wakde. From this "Devils Island" we knocked on everything in range.

The Fifth Air Force got the credit.

"Jolly Rogers"!! Best damn outfit in the world."

Moving to Noemfoor, we got rough targets. The roughest in the Southwest Pacific area, Balikpapan!! Borneo was the "Ploesti" of the Pacific. Fires were started. 20- 30-thousand feet soared the black oil smoke.

We went after that Jap Task Force in the Sulu Sea. And hit it. The Navy claimed we did more damage than we took credit for.

We saved the day for our new landings on the Philippines. For the first time, B-24's turned back a task force, unaided. We hit the Philippines. Are still hitting them. We were the first over Corregidor, and blew the hell out of it.

Today is our 460th mission in the South and Southwest Pacific. After two years flying for the Thirteenth Air Force we have --- as General Arnold stated --- "Been whipping the Japs anytime and any place. Shows the courage of the Thirteenth Air Force to wade into the enemy." We have flown 460 missions, 6,200 sorties. We have hit over one hundred different targets. Hit 'em everywhere.

From Munda -- Kahili -- Shortland Harbor -- to the Philippines. We started with Wake. We've circled the Pacific, Tarawa -- Nauru -- Ellice Islands --- Bougainville. Rabaul -- Truk -- Yap -- Palau. Biak -- Noemfoor -- Woleai --- Halmaheras -- Celebes. Borneo and the Philippines. And now Luzon.

We've shot down 482 enemy aircraft -- 34 sures, 86 probables, and damaged 51 more. On the ground we have destroyed 169 Jap planes. We have gone after everything from a barge to a task force. Sunk 17,275 tons, damaged 106,615 tons of shipping.

In two years we have dropped 13,300 tons of bombs over targets. Eight Campaigns and the Philippine Liberation.

The 307th and the 5th Groups are the longest flying, hardest hitting bomb outfits in the world. (This is Bob's Group) Rough as a cob, that's us -- Most travelled "Heavies" in any theater.

Glory for the Seventh Air Force.

Communiques for MacArthur:

We've given the Japs Hell -- and made Tokyo Rose's radio program. We call the Thirteenth, the Jungle Air Force -- Our-selves the "Bastard Outfit."

We have no idea who wrote the above "Combat History of the 307th." Thought you might enjoy one individuals writings of just how great the 307th was.

* * * * *

Two letters have been received requesting information on former members of the 307th Bomb Group. I am sure any information would be greatly appreciated by the requester.

The first request is from Frank W. Carter.

"My Brother-in-laws brother left Clark field 11 Oct. 1945 for Guam. The plane never arrived. His family received a few official notices but very little information.

1st Lt. Byron G. Butler
(14 March 46) 072027
ASN 02061871

Byron's brother and wife are in poor health and so I would like additional information before trying to get them to a reunion."

Frank W. Carter
408 W School
Lake Charles, LA 70605-2771

I have talked with Frank Carter and he is sure Byron was with the 370th BS when he left for Guam. He would very much appreciate any response on this request.

Cena

The second request is from Mrs. Joanne Emerick. She is trying to find out any information she can on her uncle FLISEO VILLALOBOS.

Fliseo's discharge papers list him as an "Aerial Photographer Gunner." Was a photographer-gunner with a Bomber Crew in the Southwest Pacific Campaign. Operated a motion picture camera to determine the effect of bombing missions, and used an aerial machine gun in combat. He is listed as a member of the 307th Bomb Group and campaigns listed are Bismarck Archipelago, New Guinea, Southern Philippines, Luzon, air combat Borneo. His serial number is: 39 716 580. The dates listed in the Pacific Theater are 21 Jan. 45 arrival - return to US 23 December 45.

Please contact: Mrs. Joanne Emerick
P.O. Box 354
Hoxie, KS 67740-0254

BRONZE B-24 LIBERATOR MEMORIAL COLORADO, SPRINGS

John Reeves, 307th Vice-President has been in contact with Neal Sorensen of the B-24 Groups Memorial Inc., of the Army Air Forces: regarding our participation in fund raising to build a B-24 replica to be installed at the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Copies of the correspondence are included in this newsletter for review. This is a project that the 307th might like to review, consider, and discuss at the Annual Membership Meeting in Hampton.

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SAN DIEGO REUNION BOOK

To all of you who have written and asked the status of the San Diego Reunion book - it is now at the printer. You will have the book in your hands before the Hampton reunion.

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REUNION UPDATE

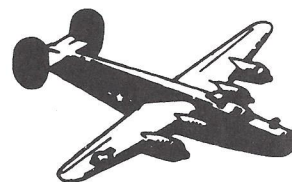
Included in this newsletter is all the material covering the Hampton, VA reunion. C.E. Jordan has included all the necessary reservation material in this packet. We have also included a self-addressed envelope for you to mail your reservations to Jordan.

You are to make your own reservations at the hotel. The hotel reservation form is also inclosed in this newsletter. **DO NOT SEND THE HOTEL RESERVATION TO C.E. JORDAN.**

If you have any questions regarding the reunion, do not hesitate to call either C.E. Jordan, Site Coordinator or Cena Marsh, Secretary/Treasurer. We will do our best to help you in any way we can.

* * * * *

Taps



THE LAST FLIGHT

*To everything there is an appointed season.
And a time for everything under heaven --
A time for sharing, a time for caring;
A time for loving, and a time for remembering.*

The following is a list of names of 307th Members who have taken their "Last Flight."

Ballou, Paul H.	03-15-95
Carson, Charles J.	06-15-97
Cornelius, Paul L.	02- -97
Cox, A.M. "Pete"	07-25-97
Edwards, William G.	03-08-98
Eggers, Earl B.	02-23-98
Faucett, Homer W.	04-27-97
Gentry, Ralph P.	11-06-97
Godfirnon, Charles A.	-97
Knutson, Charles I.	08-09-97
MacMenigal, Roy W.	10-30-97
McCulloch, Ben	unknown
McGill, George B.	12-15-97
Nichols, John D. Jr.	12-26-97
Preimesberger, Alfred	12-15-97
Raymond, Harold L.	05-02-98
Redich, Arthur E.	12-09-97
Smith, Robert J.	02-97-98

Ratti, Regina E., widow
of Emilio Ratti 12-14-97

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

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

* * * * *



Something's Missing at the Air Force Academy

A Bronze B-24 is missing in the Honor Court of the U. S. Air Force Academy! WHAT WILL YOU DO ABOUT IT?

Yes, there are bronze models of World War II fighter planes and a 3 ton bronze model of a B-17 proudly displayed in the Honor Court of the Air Force Academy,

But no B-24!

Six million people visit Colorado Springs each year, most head for the Air Force Academy. The 4,000 cadets are required to memorize the AF Handbook, in which all the monuments are described. Each new cadet must be able to recite its content to an upperclassman upon request. It is up to you and me to make sure that all future Air Force Leaders know what the B-24 was, and did.

We need to complete the picture and memorialize the contribution of the B-24 in World War II. Some 100,000 crewmembers and 350,000 ground personnel were involved in making the 18,842 B-24s fly! They cannot be forgotten.

The estimated cost of the project to place a bronze B-24 with a wingspan of 18 feet, 4 inches is \$175,000.00. Your contribution of \$450 or more will allow you to have your name, or the name of your choice, on a bronze plaque at the base of the model.

BRONZE B-24 PROJECT DIRECTORS

Neal Sorensen, 489th Bomb Group Jay Jeffries, 453rd Bomb Group Albert Asch, 93rd Bomb Group
Ray Pytel, 445th Bomb Group

Send Tax Deductible Contributions to: B-24 Groups Memorial Inc., of the Army Air Forces
Neal Sorensen, Treasurer
132 Peninsula Road
Minneapolis, MN 55441-4112

Make checks payable to: "B-24 Groups Memorial"

A receipt will be mailed for every contribution of \$250 or more as required by the Internal Revenue Service to make you eligible for an itemized deduction under Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Federal Tax Code.

Cut here and send the form below

List name the way you want it recorded:

Name _____ Group or Organization _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____ Amount of contribution _____

_____ \$450 or more – name to be on bronze plaque at base of bronze B-24.

_____ \$100 or more – name listed on the Honor Roll in the Book of Remembrance.

_____ I just can't afford to be a big contributor but I would like to get in on the action. Put me on the donors' list in the Book of Remembrance





SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

8th Air Force



NEAL E. SORENSEN

President

132 Peninsula Road * Minneapolis, MN 55441-4112 * 612-545-2698

Rt. 1, Box 341-B, Deer River, MN. 56636

Telephone (218) 246-9427

8-6-97

Dear John,

You were in the middle of a giant project some weeks ago when we visited briefly by telephone. I hope all went well and that you are now able to help me.

As we talked about, John, a 1/6th scale model of the B-17 is being installed in the Honor Court of the Air Force Academy on August 22nd. It will join the 1/4 size P-38, P-40, P-47, and the P-51 in being memorialized in bronze.

My objective is to create the interest and support so a B-24 can be sculpted by Robert Henderson, to join his other five creations. Many members of the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force are also enthused about this project.

The B-24, being a world-wide combat plane, merits world-wide support. I hope that you can supply a mailing list (or, mail to) your 13th Air Force veterans.

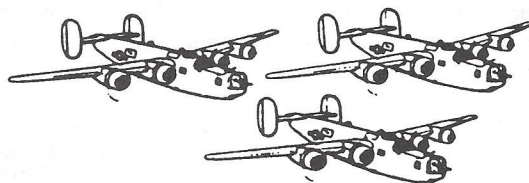
Enclosed is an advertisement Mr. Henderson provided to me. We will be able to supply this type of support from Mr. Henderson for the mailings that go out.

Please review the material, John, and give me a call or drop a note.

Thanks for listening!

Sincerely,


Neal E. Sorensen



HEADQUARTERS 2nd AIR DIVISION

-8-

BOMB GROUP

44th	445th	458th	491st
93rd	446th	466th	492nd
389th	448th	467th	
392nd	453rd	489th	

FIGHTER GROUP

4th	56th	355th
SCOUTING FORCE - FIGHTER GROUP		
361st	479th	
OTHER GPS AND ATTACHED UNITS		



SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

8th Air Force



NEAL E. SORENSEN

President

132 Peninsula Road * Minneapolis, MN 55441-4112 * 612-545-2698

11-8-97

We have made good progress on our fund drive with pledges of \$116,800.- toward our goal of \$175,000.-. We formed a Dear John, corporation separate from the 2nd Air Division to take in all who flew or serviced the Liberator. OUR GOAL IS NOW IN SIGHT!!!

Will your 13th A.F. Veterans pitch in?

A non-profit 501 (c) 3 corporation entitled "B-24 Groups Memorial Inc., of the Army Air Forces" has been registered in the State of Wisconsin by Mr. Ray Pytel (445th B.G.). Directors are Mr. Al Asch (93rd B.G.), Mr. Jay H. Jeffries, Jr. (453rd B.G.) and Neal E. Sorensen, (489th B. G.).

Regards
Neal

That clears the way so you are now asked to fulfill your generous pledge. Be assured that your contribution will be tax deductible under Sec. 501 (c) 3 of the Federal Tax Code.

Please make your checks payable to: "B-24 Groups Memorial" and send to Neal E. Sorensen, Treasurer, at 132 Peninsula Road, Medicine Lake, MN 55441-4112. A receipt will be mailed to every contributor who donates \$250.- or more, in accordance with I.R.S. requirements.

The wooden pattern model of the B-24 is almost complete, so your early response will enable us to fund the quarrying of the granite which will form the pedestal on which our Liberator will fly in the Honor Court of the U. S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

A stock account # 673-04K02 has been set up at Merrill Lynch in Minneapolis. Those who wish to donate appreciated stock may do so with their broker's help, or necessary papers for the transfer can be sent to you.

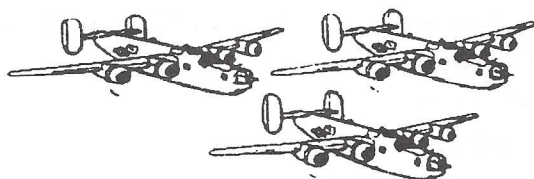
Thank you for your prompt donation!

Sincerely,

Neal E. Sorensen

Neal E. Sorensen
Treasurer

c.c. Al Asch, Jay Jeffries, Ray Pytel and Robert Henderson



HEADQUARTERS 2nd AIR DIVISION

	BOMB GROUP			
44th	445th	458th	491st	
93rd	446th	466th	492nd	
389th	448th	467th		
392nd	453rd	469th		

	FIGHTER GROUP		
	4th	56th	355th
SCOUTING FORCE - FIGHTER GROUP			
	361st	479th	
OTHER GPS AND ATTACHED UNITS			

We are behind schedule, but hope to get a green light by October! Neal

Second Air Division Association USAFA B24 "Liberator" Memorial PLAN OF ACTION

1. Executive Committee decision to endorse project.
2. Announcement to general membership.
3. Contract/Letter of Agreement with Sculptor.
4. Submission of "Offer of Gift" to United States Air Force Academy (USAFA).
5. Begin publicity and fundraising / newsletter notification

Cost	\$175,000
389 Donors @ \$450	
14 BG's @ 12.5k/ea	
(28 Donors per BG)	

Monumental Bronze B24 "Liberator" Memorial Specifications

1/6th Scale 18.3' Wingspan 11' Long

Weight:

1,520 lbs. plus 400 lbs. Stainless Infrastructure	1,920
Polished Granite Base	<u>5,300</u>
TOTAL Pounds:	7,220

CALENDAR

1997 MAY	Begin Project: Offer to Gift - Begin Fundraising
JUNE	Sculpt Desktop Model
SEPT	Begin Construction of Wood/Composite 1/6 Scale Model
1998 Spring	Continue Fundraising - Finish Wood/Composite
Summer	Mold Taking - Quarry Out Granite
Fall	Cast Bronze Panels
Winter	Begin Bronze Assembly - Refinish Wood/Composite
1999 Spring	Complete Bronze - Polish Granite Base
	Cast Bronze Plaques
APRIL	Installation
MAY	Dedication with Reunion



307th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (HV) ASSOCIATION

"THE LONG RANGERS"



NEWSLETTER 1998-1 - CORRECTION

REFERENCE: Page 4, Request for information:

Second request - information on FLISEO VILLALOBOS

I have listed the incorrect name and address for you to contact should any of you have any information on Fliseo Villalobos.

The name of the individual trying to locate Fliseo is Serg Hernandez. We have no address listed for him but do know how to contact him. If any of you 307th Men have information on Fliseo, please send it to:

Jim Kendall
2350 Derby
Birmingham, MI 48009

or to

Cena Marsh
262 East Valley View Drive
Preston, Idaho 83263

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

