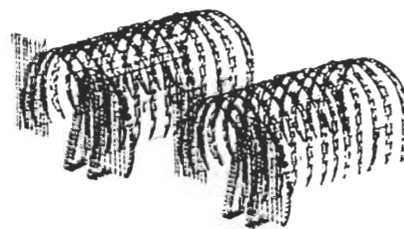




449th "FLYING HORSEMEN"



"Late Pass!"



"LATE PASS" WAS THE CALL SIGN FOR GROTTAGLIE TOWER —

NOVEMBER '93 ISSUE

449th BOMB GROUP

ANNIVERSARY IN SPOKANE

7th Reunion Anniversary 50th

SPOKANE

You'll Love it Here!

...50 years since the first combat mission (8 Jan 44)...51 since the origin of the 449th Bomb Group (1 May 1943)
...to celebrate with "A National Tribute Salute" commemorating 50 years...

VISIT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST!

Take in the "City of Lilacs" also known as "the Capital City of the Inland Empire."

This is our **ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, the 50th and 51st!** The Bomb Group was organized in May 43 and flew its first combat in Jan. 44. Thus we celebrate two anniversaries at one time!

Travel into this metropolis can be by AIR, AMTRAK, or by your own AUTO. If you are coming by car, you can take in many historic and additional beautiful sights en route, coming and going...what an opportunity to see some of the U.S. you may have missed!

SPECIAL TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS have been arranged through the J. MARTIN TRAVEL AGENCY, 1-800-888-1551 for you to take advantage of. Ask to speak to "Jeanette," our contact person. She will not only answer all your questions about the pre-Reunion tour and post-Reunion cruise, but will help with Amtrak, Air, and en route motel arrangements.

Your host Committeeman, Jack Cunningham, has been working long and hard in planning your Reunion since mid-1992 and preparing a thorough schedule that will include times for resting, visiting, exploring. Your host hotel is the SHERATON, located in near mid-city and on the banks of the Spokane River and its Riverfront Park.

This "Late Pass" is an announcement newsletter — you will receive all of your Reunion registration information, your hotel reservation form, Reunion event costs and times in a **SPECIAL JANUARY REUNION PACKET** — to be mailed separately in **JANUARY 1994!**

IMPORTANT — READ YOUR INSERTS CAREFULLY. These contain ALL of your information about the **PRE-REUNION CANADIAN ROCKIES TOUR** and the **POST-REUNION ALASKAN CRUISE**. **BOOK THESE TOURS NOW.** Space is limited and **prices for the Alaskan Cruise increase on 17 Feb. 94!** Make your pre-Reunion and post-Reunion tours ASAP and use the contained information.

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

The Anniversary Reunion, Spokane, with its Alaskan and Canadian Rocky Mtn. tour inserts...Two letters to the Assn., one from the Smithsonian and one from our Assn. Pres., Frank Elliott...several pages of Air Crew Photos...a photo of the 718th Comm. Section...a near distant shot of the old Dirigible Hangars...the "setting up" of the 449th Radar Tech. Shop...a color insert and article about the 449th painting from the Wilkes, titled "Maximum Effort" ...an Update from the 15th A.F. Museum...more New Members...recent deaths including article on Assn. Vice Pres., Tony Polink and his wife Goldie...the passing of Princess Caradja...and the loss of former 718th Sq. C.O. Chas. Jordan...a full page of "new B-24 Combat Books"...a crew report on Waines' crew, into the 719th SQ from the 8th A.F. and more!

1994 REUNION

(continued from page 1)

Remember, contact "Jeanette" at the J. Martin Travel Agency, and get on the "loading lists"!

READ THE ACCOMPANYING INSERTS, which contain your Reunion dates and detailed information on the pre-Reunion Canadian Rockies Tour and the Alaskan Cruise. **BOOK THESE ASAP** — note March 1, 1994 closes out the pre-Reunion tour and February 17, 1994 is the date the Alaskan Cruise prices increase, so take advantage of early booking. If you have **tour, travel or cruise questions, contact Jeanette at 1-800-888-1551**, J. Martin Travel. And remember, a full Reunion packet for May 24-27, with all the details of the pre-Reunion tour, the Reunion, and the post-Reunion cruise will be mailed to you in JANUARY 94!

OVERALL DATES:

PRE-REUNION CANADIAN TOUR May 19 – 24

449th ANNIVERSARY REUNION May 24 – 27

POST-REUNION CRUISE May 28 – June 4, 94!

General Spokane area

information...Population: City, 180,800, County, 374,600. Downtown elevation: 1,898 ft. Nickname: "The Lilac City." The word "Spokane" is a Native American word that translates to "Children of the Sun."

Climate: Avg. May and June temp. is 55.6 to 62.4° F, with precipitation averaging 1.37 to 1.28".

Jack T. Cunningham,
Spokane Reunion



Chairman,
716th
Crew
Pilot.

Frank W. Elliott, Jr. (Maj./Gen.
USAF Ret.) 449th B.G. Assn.



Pres. and
former Comdr.
of the 92nd
Bomb Wing,
Fairchild AFB,
Spokane, WA in
1969.

What to wear? Sweaters are good for all...and comfortable walking shoes are a must for our reunions! *Ladies:* dress attire is up to you, comfortable and warm, and suits fit in fine! *Men:* similarly, but we do ask our members to wear a suit and tie or a sport coat and tie for the main banquet Friday night.

What to wear on the two tours? Call and ask Jeanette, our contact person with J. Martin Travel!

What is this Reunion's "Give-Away" with attending registration? We gave away 449th caps at two of the reunions...Tucson was the first, bumper stickers and Group patches at another...449th coffee cups at the Houston Reunion...Squadron pins and bumper stickers at the Orlando Reunion...Group lapel pins at another...**BUT WHAT AT SPOKANE?** All attendees (one per registration couple or single person) will receive theirs, and only if any are left over will we offer them for sale. No, they are not any of the above items. Wait and see!

THOSE ON THE CANADIAN ROCKIES TOUR

Arrange to be present early a.m. on the 20th of May at the Sheraton Hotel for the Tour departure (note times on the Tour insert). A special gathering will be held the evening of the 19th. Not all your Reunion luggage will be necessary to carry on your Tour. Additional arrangements have been made with the hotel to store your excess baggage until your return on the 24th. Also, be sure to register for the Reunion dates of the 24th through the 27th of May, in advance. This can be done on the afternoon and evening of the 19th, thereby offering you the ease of no registration hurry when you arrive from your Tour. This makes it much more comfortable on you and the registration committee. The meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the 18th will be at the hotel, with a Wine and Cheese Get-Together! Call Jeanette if you have any questions.

THOSE TAKING THE ALASKAN CRUISE

Be sure to register for your Cruise right away. You will have no problems registering for the Reunion unless you are also on the Canadian Rockies Tour...then register as above. Additional details on transportation from Spokane to Vancouver, Canada, to embark will be forthcoming in the January Registration Packet. Similar luggage storing arrangements can be made for those returning to Spokane from the Alaskan Cruise

(To all 449th Bomb Group Members)

May 25, 1993

Gentlemen, and those of our Honor Squadron:

It is a pleasure to serve the membership of the 449th Bomb Group Association. As Association President, I will take this opportunity to briefly review with you some of what we are doing and how we need your help.

Of all the elected positions, mine as president is the least time consuming. Those of Secretary, Treasurer and Historian require many, and I do mean many, hours of incumbents' time. Fund accounts are subject to audit and must be meticulously maintained in order to retain our tax-exempt status and keep our treasurer out of any kind of legal problems. This is a nail biting exercise at any time but particularly just before and immediately after a reunion. Jim Miller has done an admirable job in this capacity since the beginning of this association.

Another mind blowing job is that of secretary. Maintaining records of the association, addresses of all members, publishing our newsletters and getting out information for our reunions is time consuming and mind boggling. Taking care of history book orders is also thrown in. After each reunion we get comments about wrong addresses, etc. Please notify our secretary of any changes in address, deaths or other status changes of members. This will greatly help in insuring timely receipt of all mailings and accuracy of rosters. Dick Downey has been our secretary from the beginning and is one of the founders of our association. He has done a great job and has much thicker skin now than ten years ago, or at least I hope it is. This is also a very demanding job and at times perhaps makes one chew on barbed wire.

The job of historian may seem easy when compared to the others but the more time that lapses between 1944 and "now" the more memories change. Don Lapham did an absolutely superior job as our original historian and almost single handedly put together Books I and II of our history. His tremendous dedication to our association can certainly be characterized as "above and beyond." His sudden departure from our midst was a severe blow in view of his great work, dedication and the fact that he was a truly great human being and gentleman. Dick Asbury was selected to become our new historian and has striven to collect all data and pick up where Don left off. He hit the ground running and is doing well. Again, much personal time is involved in this position. Fortunately, Dick has been very much involved in association activities previously so it is not entirely new.

The planning and organizing of each reunion requires much work for the local person selected, and volunteered, for the job. Coordination with our elected officers throughout the planning process is mandatory to insure we remain within our financial resources and other constraints. Early submission of reservations will greatly assist in reunion preparations. Until you have been behind the counter assisting in the registration of attendees at our reunion you cannot imagine the pressure on these people. We ask that reunion attendees register as soon as possible upon arrival and please be patient if the lines are long. We want everyone to enjoy each and every reunion.

My sincere appreciation goes to Dee Miller, Harriett Downey and Rikke Asbury for all their direct efforts to our cause and for their "understanding and accommodating" the many hours Jim, Dick D. and Dick A. have put in over the years.

In view of her tremendous efforts and assistance to Don from the very beginning of our association, we have asked Mary Lapham to assist us males in advising us on matters pertaining to our wives' activities, particularly at reunions. She was of great help at Orlando and we are very pleased with her continued interest in the 449 BG Association.

I look forward to seeing you in Spokane in '94.

(signed) Frank

Frank W. Elliott, Jr.
Maj. Gen. USAF Ret.
President, 449th Bomb Gp. Assn.

COMMENTS BY THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE

...on the 449th History Books...

- "These books are probably the largest, most handsome and best illustrated record we have of the WWII heavy bomb groups."
- "They are a treasure trove of 'I was there' information."
- "A story of WWII bomber combat operations that doesn't exist in any other form."

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM
FAX (202) 786-2262 TELEX 264729



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20560

June 6, 1990

Colonel Jack L. Randolph
449th Bomb Group Association
6220 Geneva Street
Ventura, CA 93003

Dear Colonel Randolph:

Thank you for this latest volume of the 449th's World War II combat history. Like the 449th's earlier book, this will have an honored place on the shelves of the National Air and Space Museum.

Together, these books are probably the largest, most handsome, and best illustrated record we have of the World War II heavy bomb groups. To you and the other veterans of the 449th they are a fine record of your work together and your achievements. But for the two generations of historians, researchers, and enthusiasts who have grown up since then, they are a treasure trove of "I was there" information. The tail markings, the nose art, the nicknames, the target and mission lists, the formation flimsys, the tables of plane losses, the photographs, and the personal narratives all bring together a story of World War II heavy bomber combat operations that don't exist in any other form.

Please tell the members of the 449th how valuable these books are and how much the National Air and Space Museum appreciates having them.

Sincerely,

Donald S. Lopez
Deputy Director



FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION

POST OFFICE BOX 6325
MARCH AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA 92518

October 29, 1993

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4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128-2848

Dear Dick:

Nothing has really changed here at March except the 15th Hqs. is now at Travis AFB.

We will have to make some adjustments because of their departure, but basically, our day-to-day operations will be unaffected. We will probably move our office and P.O. Box, but even that is not necessary. Since most of our members are from our WWII and Korean days, we expect little impact upon the Association.

The March Field Museum has moved to a new site – still on March AFB, but more visible from the nearby freeway and with a freeway ramp which gives direct access – an improvement over the previous setup which required visitors to go through the base. We expect that the Air Force will deed the present site to the Museum Foundation thereby assuring a permanent location.

The new Museum site will eventually have more space and better facilities than the old one. At present, the first of several WWII type hangar exhibit buildings is completed and open to the public. Since the present space is not sufficient to display all memorabilia, some has been preserved and stored until the other buildings are completed. All the 45 plus vintage aircraft are presently on display.

While the tile program is administered by the Museum Foundation, it is on-going and is very much in their plans and will be an important part of the completed new museum – as will our 15th Air Force Memorial. I understand that the response to the tile program has been very good. In fact, I am told that some Groups have arranged to have their member tiles grouped around their group emblem.

We will dedicate the first phase of the 15th Air Force Memorial on 30 Oct. 93 at a banquet observing the 50th Anniversary of the 15th Air Force. This first phase includes a large bronze casting of the 15th Air Force WWII insignia, a bronze memorial plaque, and a bronze bust of Gen. Doolittle. The memorial will serve as a centerpiece of the new March Field Museum. As contributions permit, plans call for the construction of a 180 ft. long memorial wall to include a representation of the 15th's Combat History. The inscription on the Memorial Plaque is:

“Dedicated on October 30, 1993

In honor and in memory of our comrades who died in defense of our country;

In tribute to all who have served during our fifty year history to keep our country free;

In recognition of those who serve today in the same great traditions of duty, honor, and country, and;

In trust as our legacy for those who will follow in our footsteps – guarding a heritage – defending tomorrow.”

Our plans for a 1995 15th AF Assn. Reunion should be available soon and to plan for 1997 when the Air Force Association provides some details.

Thank you for your thoughtfulness. We appreciate your support and look forward to many years of friendship and fellowship.

Best regards,

(signed) Ben

C.E. Ben Franklin, Executive Director

Congratulations!

“MAXIMUM EFFORT” TAKES “BEST IN SHOW”

The painting project approved by the Assn. in Houston and then cancelled at Orlando due to financial and other risks has now been completed. One of our members, H. A. Wilkes, Group Hq. Aircraft Maintenance/Inspection, Staff Flight Engineer, and later Wing Maint. Officer, assumed financial, technical and historical responsibilities for its completion. It is described and illustrated in the enclosed flyer. The original painting with an image size of 48" x 32", oil on canvas, has drawn rave reviews where displayed.

On 6 Nov. 93 "Maximum Effort" *won grand prize* in the first annual art show sponsored by SimuFlite Training International and *Flying Magazine* at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Hq. of SimuFlite. Approximately 100 entries were reduced to 35 finalists for judging by a prominent art expert from the Dallas/Ft. Worth art community. Mr. and Mrs. Wilkes and the artist, James Dietz, were special guests at the awards ceremony.

Limited edition prints in a quantity of 1000 are now available as described in the flyer. The sponsor and artist assumed the costs and management of print production to keep cost/price to a reasonable level, instead of the \$250-300 range that would have been

necessary. Prints are available first to members of the 449th BG Assn., then later to the public. You may request specific print numbers to commemorate a tail number, birthdate, anniversary, etc. on a first-come basis. Some are already reserved.

The original painting will be available for viewing at the Spokane reunion.

Credits will be given for the total of each individual's prior contributions to this project, if they wish to buy a limited edition print(s). These records are available at/from the trust account. Early prints should be retained.

SPECIAL OFFER EXPIRES 1 JULY 1994
\$125.00 each

To order prints, send check or money order to:

Wilkes Trust
424 Cove Drive
Biloxi, MS 39531
(601) 388-8729

Miniature artist's personalizations (remarks) can be added by the artist upon request, contact Hollie Wilkes, in writing or by telephone.



L to R: Mrs. Hollie (Exie) Wilkes, James Dietz, Hollie Wilkes. Photo taken the night of 6 Nov. 93 upon the awarding of "Best in Show," Horizons of Flight Aviation Art Exhibition, Dallas-Ft. Worth, TX Airport. The oil painting of "Maximum Effort" is seen, framed, in the background. Artist James Dietz has been the recipient of many aviation art awards within the recent 10 years...his painting of the famous "Silver Wings," which is on the jacket cover of the 449th Bomb Group Assn. history book, "Grottaglie and Home" won a similar price and was used as the cover on the Air Force Magazine Sept. 85 issue.



GROUND CREW
"Mickey"
"PATHFINDERS"

RADAR: WHAT IS THAT? WHEN WAS IT INTRODUCED INTO THE 449TH?

Radio Detection and Ranging...that is the derivation of the "new term in WWII" from the English Armed Forces shortened to "RADAR." What a difference Radar made with the airborne forces of the USAAF!

The 449th records, to date, do not reveal the exact date(s) that our first ships came equipped with radar sets. At that time and thru the War the term used was "MICKEY," a radar bombardier was the "Mickey Operator" and flew in every lead ship from mid-May 44 through the War!

But what about the need for equipment installation, repair, maintenance, another new set of instrumented equipment — that of IFF (Identification Friend or Foe), and also the beginnings of ECM (Electronic Communications Jamming)? Where did we come up with such men?

Sources of both ground maintenance and airborne operation of WWII "Mickey Radar" equipment came primarily from two U.S. Air Training bases...Langley Fld., VA and Boca Raton, FL. The air crew operators

449th RADAR "PATHFINDER" SECTION: Their "office" was located adjacent to the Gp. Hqs. and in one of a partially destroyed building of the former Luftwaffe and Italian AF flight line buildings. Those in the photo are: Lts. R. Jaslow, E. Osborne, and D. Greenberg; Tech. men: W. Welliver, T. Mahoney, L. Pritchard, M. Polchepek, G. Becknell, R. Vail, B. Hendershot, I. Kirksey, H. Hartman, B. Ison, J. Juverik, Nick Colucci, D. Lumnsden, J. Davis, Bill Lay, Brewer and Bailey. Bill Lay, present-day 449th Assn. computer right-hand man, was the Section NCOIC and can be seen 6th man from the right in the top row (w/cap). Notice the two insignia, both unique. The one on the left reveals Bugs Bunny holding his ears as the astride radar tube blows up. The one on the right shows the Radar Tube repaired and "showing the way." Today, those patches (if they were ever made into a patch) would be worth a couple hundred dollars!)

were selected from various assignment of qualified bombardiers and navigators and then given ground school and air flights before being assigned to the combat theaters. The Technicians were also from air crew assignments and, later on, from educated backgrounds for those positions. There were Radio Operators, gunners, electronic men, each spending weeks to months in various civilian colleges retraining in radio operations, electrical systems and particularly in electronics...and then assigned to the Langley and Boca Raton schools for their final training in the new "Mickey" equipment.

We do know that the first radar-equipped ships were transferred into the 449th from the 8th Air Force and that the first Radar Operators (Mickey men) also came from Langley...Gordon Mulvey, for one, in May 44. As Bill Lay reports, "In June 44 we left Langley in a B-24, via Gander, Azores, Morocco and Marrakech; collapsing the rt. gear at Tunis...C-47 from there to Bari, truck to the 376th BG, 515th SQ with C. Durham and Welliver...we set up a tech. support section for that Group and in July went to the 450th Group, Manduria, and set up their tech. support shop with Lt. D. Bonelli, Lt. Jaslow, and Welliver.

On Aug. 11 we arrived into the 449th where we stayed thru May 45. We returned with the 449th on the USS America, to Boston, 25 May 45...I was reassigned to the Alamogordo 231st AAF Unit and separated from service at Ft. Geo. Meade, MD 26 Sept. 45."

Our 449th History Book, *Grottaglie and Home* (Bk #3), shows a "young" Col. Randolph reviewing the men of the 449th Pathfinder Section, page 321, with Ron Vail, 2nd from right, Bill Lay, 4th from right, and Tim Mahoney on his right. In the same book #3, page 353, a great photo shows the installation and in-use of the "Mickey" Radar Antenna in place, for each

(continued on page 8)



RADAR

(continued from page 7)

Mickey Ship had the Ball Turret removed and the radar equipment installed in its place.

The "Pathfinder" emblem is representative of that day's "spoof" to "aid men in their flying"...a very unique emblem also. Designers of these emblems were Jaslow, Bruce Hendershot, Isaac Kriksey, Bill Lay, Becky Becknell and "Stretch" Welliver. Any other printed copies of such, please contact Bill Lay...our 449th files do not have any other than these reproduced replicas.

Working hours...when and how many?...who knows, there were plenty...and each 449er, of air and ground crew, support functions of all types, can testify that "it was a 24 hr. duty, in all kinds of weather, and each job was needed to be completed 'now,' some 'as of yesterday!'" And perhaps the use of Bugs Bunny as their emblem figure was intended, for some of our glitches at that time were called "bugs in the system." Remember those unidentifiables? Well, the men of the Pathfinder Section, screwdrivers and **all**, traced them out, and the ships of the 449th made their place in the annals of the history of the 15th Air Force!

TAPS

Our members' names continue to be received by the News Editor for addition to the growing list of those deceased since the origin of the 449th Bomb Group Assn. in March 1983.



Asbury, John E. - 718th; Bomb on Rasbach crew, 9 Oct. 92
 Ballenger, H. Grady - 717th; Armament section, 26 Mar. 93
 Besier, Robert F. - 719th; Welder, orig cadre, 13 Mar. 92
 Blanchard, Keller J. - 717th; CP on Bontley crew, Oct. 92
 Boyles, George B. - 719th; Nav on Polink crew, Mar. 93
 Carney, John - 716th; Ordnance section, early '93
 Cline, Robert E. - 719th; Sq. Ops Tech, 30 Nov. 92
 Crain, Frederick N. - 719th; Gun on Grimmer crew, May 93
 Douglas, John S. - 717th; Nav on Sies crew, 19 Feb. 93
 Elser, Frank H. - 716th; Bomb on Engel crew, 2 Oct. 92

BEN YEDLIN, 449TH MEMBER, PRODUCES VIDEO

Ben, former Sperry Ball Turret gunner on Norm Rogers' crew, is the President and Executive Producer of a forthcoming video. His organization, Liberator Crew Productions, combined with the majority of the work being done by DCP Communications Group, in New Jersey. The video will have a running time of approximately one hour, with an opening interview and comments by Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, former 717th Crew pilot and 716th Bomb Sq. C.O. The story line of the video is a human interest story of the crew members' interviews and experiences; of their aircraft, "Buzzer," of the 719th Bomb Sq.; and of many 449th Bomb Group episodes. The price of this video had not been determined at publication of this *Late Pass* but will be made available for ordering by mid-January 1994. Contact Mr. Don Connors of the DCP Comm. Group at (609) 921-3700 to place an order, or write to Ben Yedlin, 1000 Herrontown Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540. Mr. Connors also reports that it has taken 12-14 months of interviews, writing and compiling to put the video together.

Flowers, Clyde F. - 718th; F/E on Staley crew, 30 July 93
 Greene, Lawrence L. - 719th; F/E on Garrison crew, Dec. 92
 Gusky, Michael W. - 717th; Gun on sev. crews, "in '90"
 Hake, Glen B. - 716th; orig cadre Ordnance, 14 Jan. 93
 Henderson, Frank G. - 717th; orig cadre Cook, 10 May 93
 Hoffman, Dale W. - 717th; Armament, orig cadre, "in 89"
 Jordan, Charles E. - 718th, Sq. C.O. 8/44 to 5/45, 23 June 93
 Lazenby, Louis S. - 719th; R/Op on McGlasson crew, 16 Jan. 93
 Leete, Robert E. - 719th; N. Gun on Aldrich crew, 6 Jan. 93
 Leroy, James B. - 719th; N. Gun on Hall crew, "in '92"
 Martin, William W. - 716th; N. Gun on Johnson crew, 23 May 93
 Munkholm, Harold N. - 718th; F/E on Niccolet crew, 13 Dec. 92
 Peterson, Lawrence A. - 716th; N. Gun on Stout crew, 16 Mar. 93
 Polink, Anthony - 719th; Crew Pilot & Sq. Ops. O., 11 June 93
 Ringle, F. Del - 719th; CP on Polink crew, 23 May 93
 Rothenberg, George F. - 719th; F/E on Polink crew, 14 Aug. 93
 Seifert, Donald E. - 716th; Bomb on Ellis crew, date unknown
 Sullwold, Myron J. - 719th; Crew Pilot, 5 Nov. 92
 Thomas, Camp L. - 719th; W. Gun on Ketring crew, 23 Jan. 93
 Williams, James C. - 718th; R/Op on Ellis crew, "mid '93"
 Zeiders, Paul E. - 717th; Nav on Ivers crew, 6 Apr. 93

"HONOR POINTS THE HALLOWED SPOT WHERE VALOR PROUDLY SLEEPS"...

Amvets Natl. Svc. Foundation, Washington, D.C.

449TH B.G. VICE PRES. KILLED IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT

Anthony D. Polink, 74, of Uniontown, PA and his wife Goldie V. Neff Polink, 72, died Friday, June 11, 1993 as a result of an automobile accident.

The Polinks were returning home from a Florida visit with the McCormicks, also of the 449th Bomb Group Association, in celebration of their mutual wedding anniversaries. Their car had been halted on a two-way highway at an underpass where a truck partially blocked the highway and another truck, carrying a heavy load, ran into them and spilled a 14 ft. steel tank onto the Polink's 1988 Oldsmobile (from *The Herald-Standard*, Uniontown newspaper). Both were killed instantly. The truck failed to clear the underpass and also injured five other people.

In addition to serving the 449th Assn. as its elected Vice President since the first reunion at Tucson, 1983, Tony had held many positions since his leadership as the 719th Bomb Sq. original Operations Officer. On the Presidential Citation mission of the 449th, Capt. A. Polink and six other crews were downed and taken prisoner in the origin of the Romanian POW camp. He became the ranking officer in that POW camp and, in later years, the President of that post-War Romanian ex-POW Assn.

Polink was a retired principal in the Gallatin School District and a basketball and football coach for Point Marion High School. He was also past president of the Fayette County Teachers Assn.

Polink is remembered as an outstanding athlete, formerly involved with the Pittsburgh Pirates organi-

zation, a member of the Big Ten Hall of Fame, and a letterman of distinction at St. Vincent College, LaTrobe, PA.

He received his master's degree from West Virginia University in Morgantown, VA and was also an assistant registrar there.

He held the rank of Lt. Col. USAF, earned in the post-War USAF Reserves; he was awarded the DFC and Purple Heart with several overseas Campaign Battle Stars.

Tony was a member of VFW Post 47, the Uniontown Elks, and past president of Old Trails Lions Club. He was also an excellent golfer and a member of the Fayette Senior Golf Assn. Board of Directors.

A joint funeral service was held with entombment in the Sylvan Heights Mausoleum. Members of the 449th Assn. in attendance were: Frank and Lucy Shoaf, Dick and Stella Greco, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Jenny, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tassone, and Charles and Marion Gran. Flowers were sent and sympathies expressed by the 449th Assn. on behalf of all our members.



718TH SQ. COMMANDER

Charles E. Jordan, 74 of Longwood, FL died 23 June 93 apparently after a heart attack. He had served as the Squadron Commander of the 718th Bomb Sq., 449th Bomb Gp., 15th A.F. from Aug. 44 to May 45. During the Korean War he flew 67 more combat missions and retired from the Air Force in 1963 with 22 years of service at the rank of colonel.

In that same year he became manager of Logistics for the Hercules, Co. in Wilmington, NC, retiring from that company in 1978 and moving to Florida in 1980. He earned an aeronautical engineering degree from the University of Florida.

His wife, Loreta, preceded him in death in 1992. He was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery (VA).

PRINCESS CARADJA EXPIRES

We received news of the death of Princess Caradja, honorary member of our 449th Bomb Gp. Assn., from the Romanian POW Secy., John McCormick, also of our own 449th Assn.

Princess Catherine had spent the last few months of her life at her beloved St. Catherine's Crib, an orphanage which she founded and sponsored during the majority of her lifetime. She was 101 years when her death came on 26 May 93 in Bucharest, Romania.

She had been presented the Freedom Foundation Medal in 1977 at Valley Forge, PA from the President of the United States. Many of the WWII bomb and fighter groups, plus the British Royal Air Force, had paid tribute to her for her heroics on behalf of downed airmen in the battle-scarred skies of Romania. Her award medal is on display at the Liberal, KS B-24 Museum. Her statement for all of us was written in her book... "Hold onto your freedom."

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES

NEEDED: Help Disabled Veterans collect your cancelled stamps in VA hospitals...send your foreign and unusual-type stamps to: "For Veterans," c/o B. Elmore, P.O. Box 398, DePew, NY 14043-0398. Your Assn. Secy. has sent him a package of stamps received after a phone call confirmation that the stamps would be given to various VA hospital patients throughout the U.S., not to just one collector. Add yours!

FOR PURCHASE: Here is how you might "beef up" your reunion expense moneys. A color flier and notice have been received by your Secy. and Treas. with an offer that sounds pretty good...an enthusiast of WWII memorabilia is offering cash for articles of that era...clothing, helmets, A-2 Jackets, WWII patches and silver wings, WWII pins and emblems...and many more items...jackets up to \$2,000 for instance. Call "Jeff," 1-800-666-9553, or write: JS, Box 5178, Santa Monica, CA 90409. I mentioned we had reproduced squadron and group pins, recent history books, etc. but he emphasized originals, so if you have an item or more, check him out!

HISTORY BOOK PRESENTATIONS: What a way to get your name into your school library history and also a way to commemorate the 449th! Many of our members have indicated their presentations...and we do have a good supply of Books 1-2 for you...still \$35.00 each. Write your Assn. Treas. with check.

Our original 449th Group Operations Officer, Bill Tope, made two presentations for the 449th a couple of years ago...previously unannounced. One was made to the Air Force Academy, Col. Sprgs., CO and the other to the Pueblo, CO B-24 International Museum. Bill Feder of that Museum stated, "It's absolutely the finest thing of its kind I've ever seen." B/Gen. Bill Tope, USAF Ret., reports that the Pueblo Museum impressed him with their large number of hanging Bomb Group banners, "I have never realized so many B-24 Groups existed!" He also reports that the Air Academy sends their grateful thanks to all of the 449th members and "will cherish each of the 449th books within their much-used library."

FINAL FLIGHT OF THE AERIAL GUNNER! Effective October 1991 the Air Force eliminated the position of Aerial Gunner. The last aerial gunnery bomber mission took place 30 Sept. 91 at Castle AFB, CA with a B-52G of the 93rd Bomb Wing; fireout was 100%. The last .50 cal machine guns used were placed in the Castle AFB Air Museum. (Gunnery continues to be performed by individuals

from helicopters and armed transports but not from bombers).

AIR FORCE GUNNERS ASSOCIATION: To commemorate the memory of the group of Air Force Gunnery Assn. (AFGA) has formed a veterans organization, a non-profit organization composed of Enlisted Gunnery who served in the USAAF or USAF in any type of bomber as gunner, radio operator or flight engineer. Former officers, who served or enlisted as gunners are eligible to join also. For information to join, contact Jay E. Ingle, 35460 Collossians Way, Shingletown, CA 96088 or write to AFGA, P.O. Box 844, Denair, CA 95316-0844. (No, we could not obtain a phone number and did try.) We thank the 376th Newsletter, *Intelligencer*, for their AFGA notices and their anonymous authored poem, "The Aerial Gunner's Vow."

The Aerial Gunner's Vow

I wished to be a pilot too,
To fly my own airplane,
As you did along with me.
But if we were all pilots,
Where would the Air Force be?
It takes GUTS to be a Gunner,
To sit in the waist, the ball, the tail,
When the Messerschmidts are coming,
And the slugs begin to wail.
The pilot's just a chauffeur,
It's his job to fly the plane.
But it's WE who do the real fighting,
Though we may not get the fame.
If we all must be Gunnery
Then let us make this bet:
We'll be the best damn Gunnery
That have joined the Air Force yet.

449TH ITEMS AVAILABLE

Hist. Book 1-2	\$35.00
Hist. Book #3 (limited supply)	35.00
Group Jacket Patch	5.00
Group Lapel Pin	3.00
Sq. Pins (indicate Sq.)	3.00
449th Caps (one size fits all)	7.00
449th Sport Shirts (limited number of small sizes left)	15.00
449th Golf Bag Tag (limited quantity)	2.00

For all orders, make checks payable to 449th B.G. Assn. and mail to J. Miller, Treas., 125 Forest Lake Dr., Simpsonville, SC 29681-5459. (History books will take 2-4 weeks, other items slightly less.)

EXPERIENCED CREW JOINS 449th

When 15th Air Force was given the notice that there would be an exchange of bomb crews with the 8th Air Force, all kinds of rumors were spread around. The 25 sortie total in the 8th A.F. was the rotation figure for bomb crews, while the 50 missions within the 15th A.F. was the figure for many months. Not until the overall exchange study was made was the 15th figure adjusted, and then it still took much more than 25 trips across the target for our 15th A.F. bomber crews to complete a combat tour! The decision to award "double mission credit" became the balancer, but it didn't settle the personal argument of the combat crew men. Most decided that "We are better off where we are, rather than change"; it appeared that the grass just seemed greener on the other side. For both the 8th and the 15th had met with some difficult targets, and the numbers of fighters did not begin to diminish until late in the fall of 1944.

Waines' crew was such a crew as this. They had begun with a part of that crew flying together on submarine patrol with the 5th Antisubmarine Squadron, Westover Fld., Mass. in March of '43 and in July of '43 with the 18th Antisub. Sq., Langley, VA to the 19th Antisub. Patrol Unit in the 479th Gp., 1st Bomber Command of the 8th A.F. Lt. Norman Purdy became the crew pilot when the men were transferred to the 44th Bomb Gp., 506th Sq., 8th A.F. Between Nov. 13, 1943 and Jan. 29, 1944, the crew flew 14 sorties with the 44th Bomb Gp., with Lt. Waine becoming the crew first pilot on Jan. 21, 1944. In Feb. 1944, Waines' crew transferred into the 15th A.F., to the 449th Bomb Group, 719th Sq. with accredited 12-14 trips over the target (for double credits had not been determined at that time). Between their arrival and mid-April 1944, they flew 18 more trips over the target, and a compilation of their missions was made with 50 missions credited to their crew. It was believed that both Lt. Martin, crew bombardier, and tail gunner Sgt. Archie Solatka (both members of today's 449th Assn.) thus became the first members of the 449th to rotate under the 50-mission policy. Others that flew a credit of 50 missions entirely with the 449th can still make their claim as flying all of their missions in the 449th. In the 449th History Book 1-2, "Tucson to Grottaglie" and "And This Is Our Story," pages 136 thru 139, Lt. Waines' crew is referred to as "a new crew." This is a misnomer and implies that they were a new crew to the 449th, not to combat! Also note that only two of the 719th crews returned from that 4/4/44 Presidential Unit Citation mission. The crew debriefing notes indicated that Waines' crew was credited with

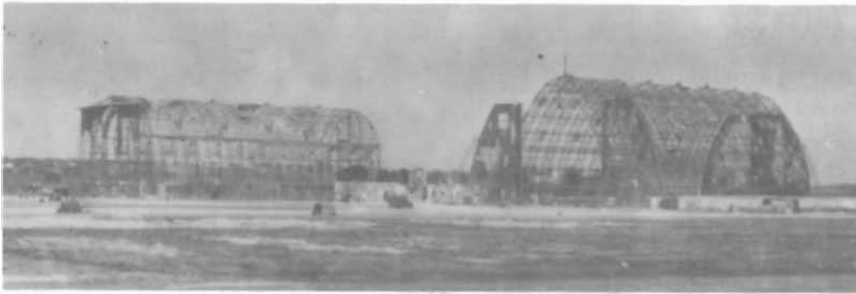


WAINE CREW: 719TH SQ. This experienced crew was one of the 8th Air Force and 15th Air Force crew exchanges...a program instigated within the ETO for each Air Force to provide information to their personnel regarding the experiences of "that other Air Force." Crews from our own 449th, as well as several crews from various B-24 bomb groups of the 8th A.F. were reassigned during the months of Feb. and March 1944. Not all fared well...both in the 8th and in the 15th Air Force. What the exchange accomplished has never been reported...just ask those crews that served in both of these WWII Air Forces. The German fighters and targets were just as hard for one as the other. Living conditions were the only marked point, for the 15th had bare essentials but minus those V-1 and V-2 attacks. The 8th crews did not have to fly over the Alps both ways...a few of those damaged aircraft made it home because they could fly lower with a damaged aircraft rather than bail out! The photo was sent in by Al Martin. Idents. are, from L to R in both rows: standing, Edw. Kelley (R/O), John Rowland (N), Leonard Waine (P), Albert Martin (B). Lower Row: David Williams (G), Thurman Roebuck (F/E), Archie Solatka (G), Anson Daniels (G), and Robert Rosengren (Ball). Photo taken in Feb. '44.

6 1/2 downed aircraft, with Flt. Eng. Thurman Roebuck credited with two; one wonders whatever happened to all of our debriefing notes that the various Intelligence Officers so carefully recorded? Also it is noted that the other crew returning from the mission was Lt. Olsens' crew, another crew that had transferred from the 8th A.F., but their ship was forced to pull out of formation at the beginning of the air battle.

John McCormick, present Secy. of the Romanian POW Organization and committeeman for the 449th reunion in Orlando Sept. 1992, reports that meeting Waine while in the 449th was remembered. He called him and they talked over those events of that day when the 449th downed a total of 40 fighters, damaged 6 more and was credited with an additional 13 "probables." It was the first time that these two men talked since that date. Waine, Martin and Solatka are present-day members of our 449th Assn....the search for the others has been difficult, but goes on!

Mussolini's Former Dirigible Hangars: Grottaglie Air Base, Italy 43-45



Once the pride of the Italian Navy and the home of the famed "ROMA" dirigibles, these were damaged by our sister Bomb Groups, 376th and 98th, from North Africa. The 449th Bomb Group occupied this base from Dec. 43 into June 45. They were razed sometime prior to 1970.

The associated buildings can be seen at their bases, testifying to the size of these structures...which became a

sighting check point for all aircraft flying in the area, especially for our own bombers upon return. The "Late Pass" uses them with an "artist sketch" as a reminder symbol of our stay at this WWII airfield, also previously occupied by the Luftwaffe. One of our own P-51's crashed after making a low pass over the airbase on a demonstration flight for aircraft identification purposes. Some say he tried to fly through one of the hangars...some say he clipped his wing making too close of a pass. In either instance the pilot was killed, his ship in pieces, with part of his plane scattering into a few of our B-24 dispersed aircraft causing minor damage to our ships.

Two Important Men to Our 449th Association!

L to R: Sylvan (Tiny) Florsheim and Earl (Junior) Rhine. Rhine was the NCOIC of the Group & Base Photo Lab. Tiny Florsheim was the Group Public Relations Photographer. Practically every photo taken during WWII, at Group level at Grottaglie was either seen or taken by these two men and their cohorts. We owe a great deal of gratitude to each of them. Each donated their full collection of photos to the Assn. at its origin, back in 1983. Both became members of the Assn. but were unable to attend the first reunion, Florsheim because of a heart attack and Rhine because of an illness. Their gifts to the Assn. fill our history books with memories.



Snyder Crew, 717thSq:

Photo taken at Pueblo AAF. Crew arrived in 449th Dec. 44 and flew 29 missions by May 45. Standing L to R: Lynn Kinnamon (B), Victor Kirsch (N), Robert Land (CP), Harry Snyder (P). The two men in lower front are Robert Kaley (NG) and Jack Wilson (BG). Middle Row, L to R: Douglas Flodstrom (WG), L. Edgar Gott (RIO), Robert Spillman (TG) and Thomas Campbell (FIE).

NEW B-24 COMBAT BOOKS

In our Winter '92 *Late Pass* we listed three fine books available, *50 Mission Crush*, *The Cottontails Battle for Oil*, and *Attack...* these continue to sell and we do recommend them.

Here are recent additions of the B-24 combat participation:

Ploesti Raiders, by our own Myles O'Neill, a 719th Radio Operator-Gunner. He relates his three crashes and that crash in #15 as detailed in our history book, *Grottaglie and Home* (Bk. 3, pp. 76-77). Cost: \$9.75; of which \$2 is donated to the 449th Assn.; write to him at 5127 Grand Concourse, Sebring, FL 33872. This book has 449th photos!

Cuckoo Over Vienna, a 459th BG story by a crew pilot. Cost: \$22.95; available through Military Memories, 1100 Woodwind, #224, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304.

Mia-World War II, written by a 376th BG crewman. Cost: \$14.95; available from Austin Press, 95 Elizabeth St., Delaware, OH 43015.

Missions of Shehasta, Over 300 pages and 60 photos of B-24 combat in the So. Pacific theater. Cost: \$21.90; available through L. Clark, P.O. Box 1064, Fairmont, WV 26555-1064.

The Other Capri, a work of fiction, based on the experiences of the 450th BG crew pilot author. Cost: \$11.25; available through Tennessee Valley Pub. Co., P.O. Box 52527, Knoxville, TN 37950.

Ploesti: Graveyard of Bombers, another book by Leroy Newby, author of *Target Ploesti*. Cost: \$18.95; available from the author at 346 Pineview Dr., Venice FL 34293.

Flight to Black Hammer, by a 465th crew pilot...to a target we can remember (Blechhammer-Moosbierbaum, Germany...449th msn #154, 158, 177, 178, 195, 196, 198, 200, 216 and 223...jet fuel refineries hidden amidst forestation). Cost: \$14.50; available from Biddle Pubs., P.O. Box 1305, Brunswick ME 04011.

SOLDIERS AND GOD...

The following inscription can be found on a tombstone in a military cemetery on Gibraltar. I believe every member of Congress should have it reprinted in bold print and placed on their desk. (copied by *Late Pass* Editor)

God and Soldier, all men adore,
In time of war, and nevermore,
In time of peace, when all is righted,
God is forgotten, and the soldier slighted.

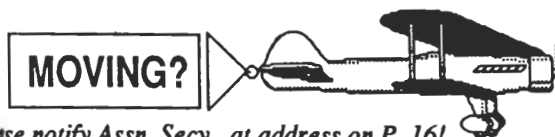
— David P. Boges, Gladstone, MI

RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONS

The following two organizations are well received throughout the U.S. If you do not subscribe and are not a member at the present time, do consider it.

The Stars and Stripes: The only national veterans' weekly! The newspaper is expanding its subscriber list. Each subscription is \$19.00 per year or \$35.00 for two years. It is the same old *Stars and Stripes*, delivered weekly ever since 1877! Write *Stars and Stripes*, 6856 Eastern Ave. N.W., Suite 212, Washington, D.C. 20012.

The International B-24 Liberator Club: It was through this publication that the beginning names for our 449th B.G. Assn. were compiled! They are operating with a fresh bit of energy (the originators just became worn out but are on hand for referrals). They publish their *Briefing* newsletter twice per year. New members can join for \$10.00...membership renewals are just \$6.00 per year. Their publications are 32 pages each, loaded with B-24 information. Renewal dues are requested between January 1 and April 1, 1994. Write: Editor George Welch, Skyword Press, 15817 Bernardo Ctr. Dr., Suite 102, B1-24, San Diego, CA 92127



Please notify Assn. Secy., at address on P. 16!

LOST?

Previous mailings of 449th were all returned and marked, "Address unknown, left no forwarding address." Anyone knowing their whereabouts please notify Assn. Secy.

Alkire, Mrs. Darr Hon. Sq. (Col. Alkire's wife)
Branuskas, Stanley 717th, Gunner on Lugar crew
Burks, Paul 718th, W. Gun on DeFoe crew
Clifford, James E. 717th, Ordnance chief
Daywalt, Mrs. Beth Hon. Sq. (ex-Ode crew, 716th)
Lape, Joseph 719th, N. Gun on Todd crew
Little, Graham 716th, Nav on Brady crew
McCullough, Jessie O. Hqs. Ops. section
Silvestri, Thomas 719th, N. Gun on Weaver crew

These members may have died, been in hospital or nursing home, or just "moved and have not notified anyone."...we are concerned.



Neville Crew, 717th Sq:

Photo taken at Topeka AAF, summer 44. They flew a new B-24J to the Gioia depot, got in 29 sorties over the targets between Oct. 44 and May 45. Neville is pictured among the 717th men in Book #3, page 134. Standing L to R: Harry Neville (P), Charles Mercer (CP), Lester Reimsnyder (B), William Hirsch (N). Lower row, L to R: Carl Hudgins (F/E), Robert Offield (WG), who sent in the photo, Jack Pizzitola (NG), Leonard Peerless (TG), Kenneth LeBlanc (BG), Joe Chmielniak (R/O WG).

Some 716 Sq. Ordnance Loaders...

The bomb loading truck is similar to the one in the foreground of the Dietz/Wilkes painting, "Maximum Effort." These men are, L to R, bottom row: Douglas Rudd, Claude Milan, Edwin Remally, Lester Harris, John Hart. Top row: Melvin Larson, Tully Andrews, and Lloyd Criden. Photo taken on one of those dry and clear days...most likely summer of 44.



Lessig Crew, 718th Sq:



Photo taken at Pueblo AAF in Dec. 44. Crew flew a new A/C via No. rte thru the Azores to the Gioia Depot arriving Jan. 45. Standing L to R: Don Lessig (P), Glen Cline (CP), John Manecke (N), and unknown (B), left in U.S. Their mission of 8 Apr. 45 is told on page 107 in 449th History Book #3. Lower row, L to R: Teed (TT), Ryba (NG), unknown (BG), Eveard (WG), Enyart (TG), Eng (F/E-WG). The mission of 4/8/45 had Ryba, Eveard and Enyart flying with Ellis crew, they bailed out over Switzerland (per damaged ship in Book 3 story); Lessig crew limped home, #4 would not feather, nose wheel flat, ship full of holes, and hydraulics low...crew chief met us and remarked, "I just spent 2 weeks getting this thing in shape and you guys take it up there in that G-D shooting gallery and now look at it!" He never inquired if any of us got hit or injured. By end of War the crew got in a maximum of 10 missions, some less.



Brzychoy Crew, 717th Bomb Sq.

Photo taken prior to overseas, either at Wendover AAF or March AAF in early 44. Crew flew full combat tour between Apr. 44 and Sept. 44. Lower row, L to R: Roy McAllister (N), John Brzychoy (P), Jack Rosenzweig (B) and Alfred Berg (CP). Top row, L to R: Andy Simko (RIO), Harry Padgitt (TG), Louis Wagman (BG), George Golden (NG), William Land (WG), Eli Bird (F/E).

718th Bomb Sq. Communications Section 449TH Bomb Group



Photo taken in late 44, at Grottaglie Afd., home base of the 449th, Italy. Names supplied by E. P. Hopkins and Dan McDonald, Sept. 91, from submitted photo by George Papadopoulos, 718th Medic, 9/91. Lower row, L to R: Marcello Lee, Ira Wilson, Earl Smith, Levy, Britton, E. P. Hopkins. First standing row: Capt. Valdez, OIC; Bill Dyer, McLaughlin, John O'Toole, Wallace Leonard, Daniel McDonald, Frank Kocher, M/Sgt. Back row: Robert Raymond, unknown, Dickens, Cecil Simmons, unknown, Howard Haight.

Todd Crew, 719th Sq.

Informal photo taken in the 719th Bomb Sq. area between missions. Crew arrived in Dec. 44 and completed 37 missions by the end of the War in Europe. Front row, kneeling, L to R: Don Lang (N), Ralph Todd (P), Glenn Heinz (CP), Ed Kloplic (B). Standing, L to R: Jim Saling (RIO), Gordon Esslinger (WG), Jim Evans (BG), John Belcher (WG), Joe Lape (NG). Note open door tent and the crew mascot...not to mention the variety of uniforms we had in those days!



NEW NAMES...ADDED TO OUR ROSTER SINCE THE LAST REUNION!!!

We are sincerely pleased to report these added names for it reveals the efforts of many within our Assn. We continue to encourage all members to keep up the search for former section mates and aircrew members. Send names to the Secy.

Anderson, LewisCP on Debnam crew, 719th
 Bates, P. JamesCP on Lewis crew, 719th
 Bowman, ClydeN. Gun on Copley crew, 716th
 Cleary, Patrick J.In honor of his brother, KIA
 Nav on Fetting crew
 Crickenberger, JohnNav on Wehling crew, 716th
 Danylak, NicholasIn memory of his brother
 W. Gun on Bell crew, 718th
 Fowler, Wm. H.Gunner on Copley crew, 716th
 Gott, L. EdgarR/Op on Snyder crew, 717th
 Howard, George M.orig. sq. Nav., 716th
 Howard, Willis J.Spare Gun, 716th & 717th
 Huerta, MarcelinoIn memory of his father
 CP on Sullwold crew, 719th
 Hughes, ErnestTop Gun on Campbell crew, 719th
 Johnson, S. FrankStat. Tech orig. cadre, Hqs.
 Kaley, Robert L.N. Gun on Snyder crew, 717th
 Kanze, Albert J.Nav on M. Carter crew, 718th
 Kelly, Edward K.Nav on Lewis crew, 719th

Kinnamon, Lynn R.Bomb on Snyder crew, 717th
 Lang, Robert E.CP on Snyder crew, 717th
 Lindley, James F.Gun on Kury orig. cadre crew, 717th
 McAllister, Roy J.Nav on Brzychoy crew, 717th
 Mellor, Ernest, P.Crew Pilot, Sq. Ops. O., 719th
 Miller, Charles E.W. Gun on K. Johnson crew, 716th
 Offield, Robert M.W. Gun on Neville crew, 717th
 Osborne, Wallace S.CP on Morrison crew, 716th
 Padgitt, HaroldT. Gun on Brzychoy crew, 717th
 Palmi, JosephB. Gun on H. Allen crew, 716th
 Radford, Hubert F.Bomb on Rezek crew, 719th
 Ruple, Miles D.Trans. Mtr. Pool, orig. cadre, 717th
 Snyder, Harry C.Crew Pilot, 717th
 Spillman, Robert O.Tail Gun on Snyder crew, 717th
 Thompson, Elliott A.Crew Pilot, orig. cadre, 717th
 Topal, Albert H.F/E on Marrone crew, 716th
 Wagman, LouisB. Gun on Brzychoy crew, 717th
 Zartman, William C.Armament, 719th
 Zielinski, EdwardNav on Hochendel crew, 716th

Color Albums:

We have but 18 color albums remaining from the 1992 Reunion for those who did not receive theirs. The full membership of the 449th Assn. is listed within the last pages...the back cover makes a fine framed color picture of the 449th Memorial Monument for your den or desk. Sold first-come, first-serve for cost plus mailing at \$10.00 ea. Write to Treas., with check made payable to 449th Assn.

The 449th BGA Newsletter

Compiled; written by
R. F. Downey, Secy.
 4859 Stanhope Drive
 St. Louis, MO 63128
 (314) 892-4597



Send your items for newsletters, photos and info. to Secy.; call him regarding your items.



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Mail all checks to 449th B.G.A. for donations and merchandise purchases (books, caps, etc.) to: **Assoc. Treas., James B. Miller**, 125 Forest Lake Dr., Simpsonville, SC 29681-5459 (803) 297-5208.

Merry Christmas to all the 449th families!