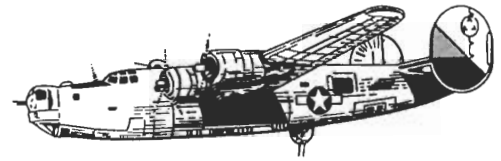


"Late Pass!"



THE CALL SIGN FOR GROTTAGLIE TOWER

449th "FLYING HORSEMEN"

FEBRUARY 2004 ISSUE

449TH BOMB GROUP ASSN.

PRE-14th REUNION

OUR 2004 REUNION IS IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

The dates are confirmed --- October 10th (Sun.) thru 13th (Wed.)

Our host hotel --- Holiday Inn, 1400 Market Street

Chattanooga - Choo-Choo Hotel!

HOTEL PHONES:

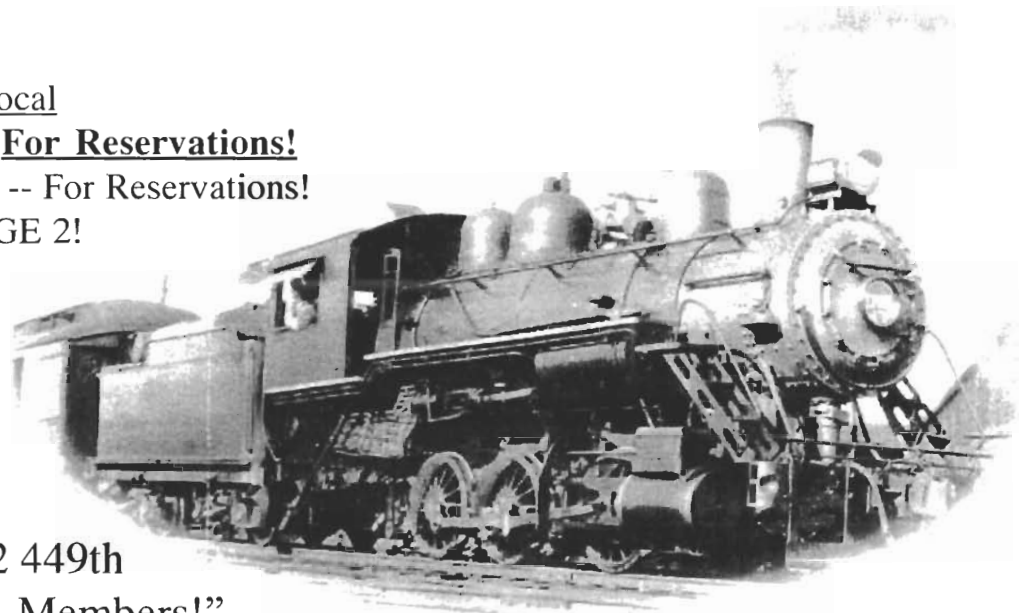
(423) 266-5000 -- Local

1-800-872-2529 -- For Reservations!

1-800-(TRACK 29) -- For Reservations!

WEB SITE ON PAGE 2!

**“COMING IN
ON
TRACK 29!”**



Tell ‘em “we are WW2 449th
Bomb Group Reunion Members!”

IMPORTANT NOTICE!!

FULL SCHEDULE AND DETAILS WILL ACCOMPANY AN ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM FOR ALL ATTENDEES IN OUR PRE-REUNION FINAL LATE PASS ISSUE IN A FORTHCOMING MAY 2004 ISSUE. OUR HOTEL, THE REUNION DATES AND THE ROOM FACILITIES AND COSTS ARE AGREED UPON. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR REGISTRATIONS NOW. THE RATES ARE GOOD FROM OCT. 7TH THRU OCT. 16TH, (3 days before and 3 days after).

OUR ROOM DISCOUNT RATE IS \$69.00 per room plus 16.25 Tax (which is approx. \$11.22). This rate provides a King Size or two double beds. There are a few Train Car Rooms (moderned Pullman rooms, have Queen size beds but are not handicapped accessible). These run at \$99.00. For 3rd member in ea. room add \$10.00. SEE PAGE 2 FOR MORE.

Remember: YOU MUST MAKE YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATION.

....and to order events in the schedule you are to fill out an ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM which will be in the coming MAY 2004 LATE PASS mailing! Page 2 has a rundown on some of the events we are still arranging and will be detailed in the MAY 2004 Issue.

FACILITIES OF THE HOST AREA

Free Shuttle to/from Hotel/Airport.

Free car parking, Hotel front.

Free **Electric Express Shuttle** around the many attractions, shops, restaurants, (2 blocks from 25 unique stores in Warehouse Row).

And within the Choo-Choo Hotel complex:

the world's largest exhibit of HO Gauge

R.R. layout; 174 ft. long, 33 ft. wide;

many engines, track, switches, and cars!

"Dinner in the Diner", The Station House, with singing waiters, "The Garden, breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

THERE ARE MANY AREA ATTRACTIONS:

"Southern Belle" 500 passenger riverboat. A large Tenn. Aquarium and I-Max Theater. An Incline Railway to the top of Lookout Mountain. Amphibious WW2 "Ducks" tours. National Military Park-Chickamauga-Chattanooga Battlefield. Regional History Museum. Mountain "Opry". ft. stompin', Natl. Medal of Honor Museum. Electric Battlefield Map-Civil War. An Amusement Park ... ride the Cannonball!

Tentative plans are: SUNDAY Oct. 10th: Sign in to **register at 449th Control Tables.** **A Golf Tourney ...** and a reception meeting buffet.

(FOR THOSE ATTENDING THE GOLF TOURNEY, BEST TO ARRIVE AT Hotel Saturday)

MONDAY, October 11th: Luncheon on the "SOUTHERN BELLE" and our **SQUADRON (eve) Dinners!**

TUESDAY, October 12th: **FREE DAY** but we will schedule one or 2 Tours (to be announced in May 2004 Late Pass). We will have **some free discounted tickets** for many of the above facilities.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 13th: **Memorial 449th Breakfast** in the A.M. ... the men's business session, and the **Reunion Banquet** and cash bar **in the evening.** **The Banquet** will have a special speaker, dress is business suit or shirt, tie and jacket for men; ladies, come as sweet as you are ... in dress or ladies suit. **The Chaplain's benediction request closes our 14th 449th Bomb Group Association Reunion.**

PHOTO & MEMBERSHIP ALBUM THIS '04 REUNION!

We do Reunion ALBUMS Every-other reunion!! Thus this Oct. 14th Reunion we have re-scheduled **the Sentell Photog. Studios** be our Album photographers again (they have done all of the others beginning in 1983!).

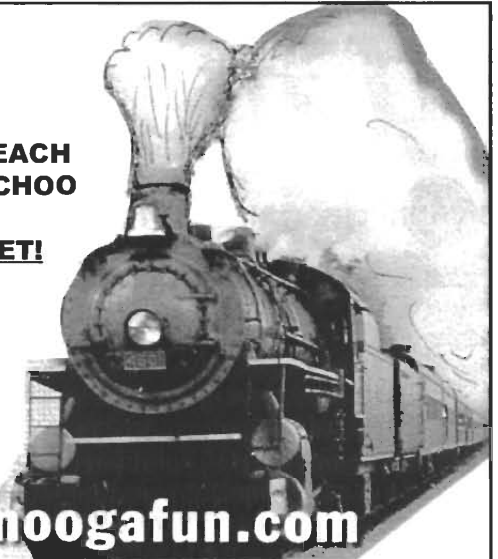
Photo's will be posed by couples, singles, by crews, and/or any grouping you request when you come to the Reunion. There is **no charge** for having **these photos run in the final Reunion Album.** And the Albums will be mailed about 6 weeks after the Reunion!

All photos will be **in color**, candid photos, the full address and name listing of our membership. Sentell will also run any photo of the ones you take candidly or posed at the Reunion! Each album usually costs each member about \$10.00, collectible when you receive your album ... (the cost is decided on the total photo, company's cost divided by our number to be mailed ... we keep these prices minimal always.

**YOU CAN REACH
THE CHOO-CHOO
HOTEL
VIA INTERNET!**

**WEB
SITE**

chattanoogaofun.com



MISC. NEWS & INFO.

“**Bud**” **Rosch**, 716th Radio/Op. on Wildings crew writes that he had been thinking about the great 4th Reunion our 449th Assoc. had in Ft. Mitchell/Cincinnati in Nov. ‘89 at The Drawbridge Inn. This was our largest attendance of 775! A friend had remarked to him that the Drawbridge Inn had to declare Chapter 11 and wasn’t doing well. And then he followed that with a newspaper clipping telling that the Drawbridge has a new owner, the Deters family and that a brother was running it with a new corporation that put up \$1.5 million. It now operates again for Reunions, special family packages and business travelers. Good news for the Drawbridge!!

Matthew Reichlin, Nav. on Crossley crew in the 719th, was a member of our Assoc. and passed away in 1997, without sharing much of his experiences with his family. Crossley, his co-pilot Dean and three crew members were killed on a test flight July 16, 1944 and Reichlin flew out his full tour after making two bail outs and surviving a Vis crash landing. Today **his son, Dr. Robert Reichlin** writes for anyone remembering his father to please contact him. Squadron C.O. had written a letter in 1944 explaining that the flight Surgeon had marked him down as “tour complete with combat exhaustion”. His son’s address is: Robert Reichlin, 537 Chelsea, Bellaire, TX 77401, phone (713) 666-6898 and (713) 666-5571 FAX. Our History Bk. #3, page 312 lists the 5 men on Crossley’s crew killed.

Pres. Jim Miller had broken his leg with a fall in his bathroom and is recuperating well ... his wife Dee Miller, balloonist from our New Mexico reunion had a hip replacement and states that her offer with the New York City “Rockettes” will have to be turned down, but she too is now doing great. Two others of our 449th Assoc. “family”, Jim Shanahan, one of our Chaplains and Harry Snyder’s wife, Fay, also are recuperating from hip replacements. Harry is the other Chaplain of our Association ... each has a Report/Message in this “Late Pass” issue.

Note that our “**exchange**” items are in good supply for squadron pins and squadron patches, but that the other items are really limited in number. Do place your orders ASAP ... see the listing of items in this issue. The Aulner’s, John and Jean, are taking good care of all the articles. And our listing of our hardbound 449th History Books are listed as well.

To date we have heard of only **one family having** been **burned out** in the tree and areas in the hills of San Diego last Nov. 2003. **Mrs. Virginia Rodefer**, wife of Clint, ex-Flt./Eng. on Fabian’s crew in the 718th squadron reports that **her son’s home** was totally demolished taking her 449th History Books in that fire. She had lent them for them to read and has since re-ordered replacements plus the new Book #4 that she had never seen. We do wish her well, glad that her property wasn’t damaged but sorry to hear of the house and property loss rejoicing that none of her family was injured.

A **kindergarten teacher** was observing her classroom of children while they drew, walking around to see each child’s work. She saw one of her girls and asked “what she was drawing?” The child remarked, “I’m drawing God”. The teacher replied, “but no one knows what God looks like”. And **the child answered**, “they will in a minute.”



**449th BOMB
GROUP (B-24)
WORLD WAR II
GROTTAGLIE, ITALY
15th AIRFORCE
(1943-1945)**

"THE FLYING HORSEMEN"

*Behold this Messenger of polished brass extolling the exploits of a group of men
Who rode the wind together in crimson skies of a world ravaged by war
With purpose and precision to perform heroic acts of cool valor with unqualified
trust in each other,*

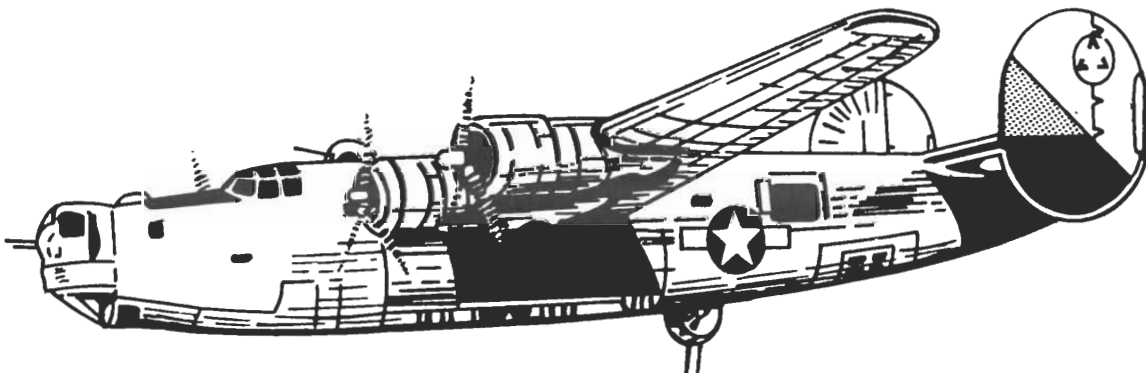
*Let this Messenger proclaim through all eternity in mute, but eloquent language,
That once there were Flying Horsemen...some ride the wind no more...whose
deeds etched here*

Forever, in this timeless memorial, will let the Future know the Past.

(From a poem by R. Pat Gentry, B-24 Pilot, 449th)

DEDICATED TO ALL THE AIRCREW AND SUPPORT PERSONNEL OF THE WORLD WAR II 449th BOMB GROUP (H) WHOSE COMBINED EFFORTS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE SWIFT ALLIED VICTORY IN WORLD WAR II. THEY VALIANTLY CARRIED THE BATTLE TO THE ENEMY IN THE AIR WAR OVER EUROPE, DISTINGUISHING THEMSELVES BY SETTING RECORDS FOR COMBAT READINESS, THE NUMBER OF CONSECUTIVE DAILY MISSIONS, FIGHTER KILLS AND BOMBING ACCURACY.

Bombardment Squadrons - 716th 717th 718th 719th



Displayed on Page 4 is the Plaque of the 449th Bomb Group Association to be mounted on the Memorial Wall of the 15th Air Force Museum Foundation, Riverside, CA

THE MARCH FIELD MUSEUM FOUNDATION

It's design was made by Pres. Jim Miller and presented to the Assoc. Cabinet for approval, additions, deletions, and overall acceptance. Particularly for the total cost for its casting per the Foundation Specifications and its mounting. The foundation asked for us to submit a copy and measurements for compliance, and they agreed by giving us three contractors to obtain the best cost. Since the Foundation is located in Calif. we knew **we needed a Project Chairman** to coordinate the paperwork with both the foundation and the contractor. **Joe Geisel**, an original cadre crew pilot in the 719th Sq. agreed to pursue that responsibility. The costs to the 15th Foundation was set, per pre-specifications, but the contractor was not. Joe succeeded in working a contract with The Patrician Group in Riverside, CA., who are makers of various memorials and he accepted their bid. Treas. Floyd Trogdon and the Cabinet were excited, and this was in Nov. 2003. We had to certify per the following **specifications**;

“All plaques will be 12” wide by 18” long, and 1/2” thick including lettering.

“All plaques must have a beveled border 1/2” wide.

“The color will be Walnut Brown.

“The lettering style (selected) must be “News Gothic Bold” and will be 1/8th” from the surface.

“The **Bronze Plaque** consists of Copper, Tin, Lead & Zinc to form the Bronze cast.

Finally all was set in place, Geisel made sure that the foundation and the Contractor had received their checks forwarded by Treas. Trogdon. The **total cost** was \$1733.00. 883 to the contractor and 850 to the 15th March Foundation. (yes, mounting and life time care costs, as per our fine Marble and Granite 8-1/2' Monument at the A.F. Museum!). One small hitch had been corrected per the original layout Jim Miller had sent in. Circulated and smaller copies of the plaque had the words “The Flying Horseman” and we scrambled phone calls to determine that the correct spelling was “**Horsemen**” ... a call back by the Contractor said that they had already made that correction and wanted to add their admiration to the writer of the poem. The Assoc. Secy. gave him the story how **Pat Gentry** had sat on his balcony at the A.F. Village, San Antonio, TX, watching the sunset and wondering just how and what to say ... after several hours he had written two poems and submitted them both. His first poem (now mounted on our monument and this plaque) has received many plaudits of his prose! Our Assoc. Cabinet has publicly given the membership their thanks and praise for raising the \$18,500.00 cost of our 8-1/2 ft. Monument and now another plaque. Our first plaque was mounted on the A.F. Academy Memorial Wall in Col. Springs, CO. Our thanks to Joe Geisel and his wife, Chris, for their dedication.

No membership wide attendance is planned for the dedication of this plaque. The **dedication ceremony is to be brief and headed by our WW2 Commander, Col. Jack Randolph**. He will contact several members in nearby areas to Riverside, CA, when the mounting has been completed. At Jan. 31st, the casting is being worked and to be finished within 2 weeks. (a follow up report of this dedication will be in the May 2004 “Late Pass” newsletter.

OUR CHAPLAIN REPORTS & MESSAGES:

Fellow 449ers: There is a concern which I have for our Group and the World as a whole. We are seeing a heart-breaking in the moral and spiritual values of our nation. We may have been successful in preserving our freedom but seem to be losing our fight for the eternal security of the souls of our fellow mankind.

I want to encourage our members to read the 26th Chapter of the book of Acts, verses 14 to 19. The Apostle Paul tells of his confrontation with Jesus who "told me that my life had a purpose rather than persecuting Him." and I changed completely! My new life and goal was to share my knowledge learned at that moment with the lives of all the World.

This is His message to each of us, too!

Rev. Jim Shanahan,
717th Flt. Eng.

To our 449th "family":

The English Historian Arnold Toynbee wrote: "All the great historic philosophies and religions have been concerned first and foremost with the overcoming of egocentricity."

I ask: "what is the antidote to self-centeredness? and also to the one sided way of life, unilateralism?"

In response to God's acts of love for His global family God gave us commissions, principally, "Love the Lord your God with all your being and love thy neighbor as yourself."

May we act with God for the well-being and peace of every child who walks upon the earth.

Rev. Harry Snyder,
ex-pilot 717th Sq.

OUR 449th "EXCHANGE" ITEMS

John and Jean Aulner, Co-Chairmen of our memorabilia items (see photo on page 4 of the Late Pass issue for SEPT. '03) list these **on hand!**

Group and Squadron clutch pin emblems: \$2.50 ea. per sqdn., and \$3.00 GP! (specify which Sqdn.)

Group and Sqdn. patches: \$2.50 ea. Sqdn. and \$3.00 GP patch (21).

Auto License Frames, with 449th info.: \$5.00 ea. (47 avail.).

449th color Bumper Stickers: \$2.00 ea.

449th Embroidered CAPs (one size fits all); \$15.00 ea. (19 avail.).

449th T-Shirts (limited supply): med. size (4), large size (14), X-large (6), and XX-Large (8); ea. \$10.00.

449th Booklet of our aircraft and their histories (photo's); \$9.00 ea. but only 12 left.

NOTE: All of the above ordered thru 449th Treas., F.Trogdon, 1596 Pioneer Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940. Check or money order, make out to: 449th BGA. (See the hardbound History Book info. for our History Books 1-2 under one cover, Bk #3, and Bk #4 on separate page). Costs above include S&H.

DECEASED: Names received after the print date of the SEPT. '03 Issue.

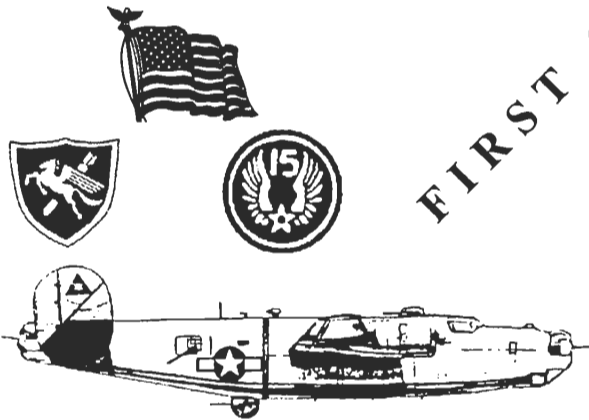
Aaron, William B.	717th	WG on Samuelson orig. crew. 9/19/03.
Bivens, Wm. O., Jr.	716th	Crew Pilot. 9/27/03.
Esposito, Salvatore	GP HQS	Orig. Cadre 716th cook. Became Hqs. Mess. Sgt. 1-28-04
Friedman, Arthur	716th	Crew Chief, orig. cadre. In '03.
Goldbeck, Emil	716th	Nav. on Parkins crew. In '03.
Hoar, John M.	717th	Mechanic in orig. cadre. Early '03.
Langdon, Wm. W.	716th	G on M. Anderson crew. 7/29/03.
Lattanzia, Ray M.	717th	TG on Ruse crew.
Manning, Deane C.	716th	Bomb on Birds orig. cadre crew. <u>11/93!</u>
McGraw, Eugene T.	Hon. Sq.	Nephew of T. McGraw. 6/29/03.
Niceley, Lewis M.	717th	F/Eng. on Asbury crew. 1/04.
Nolan, Mrs. Dorothy	Hon. Sq.	for husband John, 718th photog. 2/16/03.
Osborne, Wallace S.	716th	Co-P on Morrison/Copley crews. 12/25/03.
Tripaldi, Nunzio	717th	WG on Bontley orig. cadre crew. 8/02/03.
Underwood, Robert e.	719th	Crew Pilot. 7/03/03.
Weisse, Edward	716th	WG on Parkins crew. 3/03/03.
Williams, George E.	716th	TG on Allen/Brunger/hanley crews. 12/23/03.
Zdyb. Joseph	716th	TG on Wehling crew. 10/4/03.



“NEW NAMES FOUND AND/OR TURNED IN TO THE CABINET, INTERNET HAS HELPED.

Aaron, Steve	Hon. Sq. son of Wm., WG on Samuelson crew. 3543 Liberty Ridge Trail, Marietta, GA 30062.
Brewer, Scott R.	GP. HQS. Radar Technician. 415 Russell Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877. Edit on G.A.B. Newsletter, last few issues.
Caplan, Laura	Hon. Sq. Daughter of Maj. Caplan, “Death March Medic”. 350 E. 76th. Apt. 4-B, NY, NY 10021.
Chipper, Jim	718th CoP on H. Johnson crew. 10701 E. 34th St., Independence, MO 64052.
Herbert, Mrs. Fran	Hon. Sq. for 1st husband John Allen, KIA 8/15/44 415 Highland Hills Dr., N.W., Knoxville, TN 37919-4211.
Johnson, Robert D., Jr.	Hon. Sq. son, 716th Sq. C.O. 3/45-5/45. 13806 Coal Town Rd., Willis, TX 77378.
Mann, Wm. H., Jr. & Viola	718th Gunner, full tour w/Martin & Tompkins. 29 Oceanview Rd., Hampton Bays, Long Island, NY 11946.
McGraw, James T.	Hon. Sq. nephew of Tom McGraw, G on Hanson crew. 308 Twkingham Place, Manhattan, KS 66503.
Molnar, John	717th Sq. Crew Pilot. 606 Lincoln Terrace, Moorestown, PA 08057.
Rosen, Lloyd S.	Hon. Sq. son of Jerome, 719th R/Op Carter crew. 6256 Dark Forest Dr., McKinney, TX 75070.
Ullman, Mrs. Sue	Hon. Sq. for husband, Don, 718th Bomb/Gp Bomb, 47th Wing OPS Officer. 7408 W. Willowbrook Ct., Thiensville, WI 53092.
Welch, David M.	Hon. Sq. nephew of Geo. Welch, R/Op Mealey crew. 3437 Skyview Terrace, Falls Church, VA 22042-4001.
Williams, Mrs. Doris	Hon. Sq. for husband, George, 716th TG. 8551 W. Medlock Dr., Glendale, AZ 85305.
Gill, Brent	Hon. Sq. nephew of A. Allenbaugh (“anonymouse Poet”). 33979 Globe Dr., Springdale, CA 93265-9714.

449th Bomb Group Assoc.
R.F. Downey, Secy/Editor
4859 Stanhope Drive
St. Louis, MO 63128-2848
(314) 892-4597



FIRST CLASS

FEBRUARY '04 NEWSLETTER

449th Bomb Group Assn.
716th-717th-718th-719th Bomb Squadrons

SHEPHERD, BILL
2805 Woodmere
Panama City, FL, 32405

THE WORLD WAR II REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES



Our Sept. '03 "Late Pass" had an insert that was sent with every one of our members last Oct. If you have not registered already you may register your name & info. on the Memorial Web www.wwiimemorial.com. There is no fee for registering, you can also call 1-800-639-4992. The registry contains more than 1.3 million records. The Dedication of the WW2 Memorial will be done on the weekend of May 29, 2004. Washington, D.C. The city will be full of VIP's and unknown numbers of families and visitors. The Registry itself

will be available and accessible on the national Mall when the Memorial is opened to the public. It's location, you ask? Right on the mall, between the National Capitol and just west of the Washington Monument.

449th HISTORY BOOKS:

For those who still plan to order!

Book 1-2 (under one hardbound cover), send \$35.00 check or money order to: F. Trogdon, Treas., 1596 Pioneer Dr., Melbourne, FL 32940, (only 35 left).

Book 3 "Grottaglie & Home, order from the Turner Pub. Co., cost is \$57.50 includes S&H. Call 1-800-788-3350 or write; Turner Pub. Co., Box 3101, Paducah, KY 42002. Color jacket, 8-1/2x11, tell them it is a 449th Bomb Gp. book.

Book 4 released April 2000. All new info. from our History Committee. Cost is \$35.00 (write or call F. Trogdon, same as with Book 1-2 above). "Maximum Effort" color jacket, by J. Dietz.

HISTORY BOOK: (449th)

OF MEN AND WINGS, the first 100 missions of the 449th. Order from the Norfield Pub. Co., P.O. Box 16672, Panama City, FL 32406. Cost is \$30.00 for the 400 pages, plus shipping (FL residents add \$1.95 sales tax).