



CERIGNOLA CONNECTION

455th Bomb Group Association Newsletter

FALL 1990 - SPECIAL HISTORY EDITION

FROM OUR PRESIDENT - Yes, we are going to have a 455th Bomb Group history. Hugh Graff our historian, is making good progress, and Tom Ramey is assisting in the format and layout for printing and publication. He has offered to manage its publication as well. Printing the history will take money. I will soon be contacting our Board of Directors for their approval for this expenditure from Association funds just as soon as we have a cost estimate. You can help by payment of your annual dues, when due, especially those of you who have not done so. A form is printed on the back page of this issue of the Cerignola Connection for your convenience in sending dues on the Louie Hansen.

Your Board of Directors has approved having the next reunion of the 455th Bomb Group Association around October 4, 1991, at Colorado Springs. Louie Hansen and I will be at Colorado Springs, October 22 - 24 of this year, to make final arrangements and to set a firm date. Put early October on your calendars. Let's make this reunion a good one! None of us are growing any younger.

Tom Ramey published an item in the Summer 1990 issue of the Cerignola Connection on "How to Find Lost Friends". I have found friends I have lost track of through this system and can verify that it works. If you will send me the information asked for, I will try to find them for you. Let's find everyone we can before our next reunion.

My congratulations to Tom for the outstanding newsletters and to all of you who have contributed articles and pictures. I thoroughly enjoy each issue of the Cerignola Connection and look forward to the next publication.

I have appointed Tom Ramey a member of the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy of the late Jack Abbott. This was with full concurrence of the other Board members. Jack will be missed by all of us and our sympathy goes out to his family and friends. AL ASCH

FINAL FLIGHT - It is with deep regret that we learned of the last flight of Lt. Col. James E. Moeller. Jim was the Group Navigator and would accept nothing less than excellence in his work and contribution to the 455th Bomb Group. He was lead Navigator on the Moosbierbaum Oil Refiner, Mossbierbaum, Austria Mission and the Daimler-Puch Aircraft Factory at Styr, Austria mission, for which the 455th received Distinguished Unit Citations. We will all miss Jim and extend our sympathy to the Moeller family.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS VERY IMPORTANT DATE - 1991 455th Bomb Group (H) reunion, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. First week in October. Exact Dates to follow in subsequent issues of the Cerignola Connection.

DUES NEWS FROM ED....Many have asked "How do we pay our dues?" Simple! Just use the handy form on the last page of this issue of the Cerignola Connection. If you want a life membership, and pay before November 1, it's \$85. Otherwise it's \$100. Annual dues are \$15 and these are due November 1, covering the year November 1, 1990 through October 31, 1991. Send your check to Lou Hansen, address on the last page of this issue.

AN APPEAL FROM YOUR GROUP HISTORIAN: Members of the 455th Bomb Group Association, this is my final request for crew pictures (with names and positions, please). With the advent of printing in the spring, we must cut off the submission of pictures by January 1, 1991. If we don't, we'll never get the history into print. As of now we plan on 276 pages & 240 photos. We would like to publish as many crew pictures as we can, so please, last request, send in the photos. (Include your address label on the back of the picture.) We'll make copies and then return the original to you. If your picture appeared in one of the issues of the Cerignola Connection, and the listing for the crew is correct, there is no reason to resubmit the photo as we have negatives. We would like correction of the crew listing, however. (By the way, George McGovern hasn't submitted his crew photo yet.) Hugh Graff, Group Historian. ED; All history information and photos should be mailed to Hugh Graff Sr., 12515 Sheldon Road, Mantua, Ohio 44255.

Where did that Vulture come from? With the passing of time one tends to forget some of the small details that were quite vivid a few years ago. How did the Vulgar Vulture come about? Your Editor recalls that it was started by Tom Mitchell, Intelligence officer of the 743rd Squadron and then later adopted by the group. If memory serves me correct, the art was done by Walt Disney Studios, gratis, and it depicted a vulture riding downward on a bomb. Red designated the bomb color for the 743rd squadron, other colors were assigned to the other squadrons. How group tied in, or had a separate color, your editor does not know. Membership cards were issued to all members of the 455th Bomb Group, these signed by Tom Mitchell. The symbol was used on printed material, jacket patches, scarves for the ladies, etc. If you can further enlighten your editor on any further details, let your editor know. He'll put the complete story in a future issue of the Cerignola Connection plus also see that it becomes a part of your group history.



Here's a Ford built B-24L, #625, "Moon Beam Mc Swine, STRAIGHT FROM Lil Abner's comics. It is a 455th Bomb, replacement crew. Standing L to R: Sgt. C. Quigley, Tail Gunner; Lt. G.W. Frayne III, Co-Pilot; Lt. G.W. Rohler, Navigator; Lt. T.B. Gorman, Bombardier; T/Sgt. G.W. Oliver, Engineer. Kneeling L to R: S/Sgt. M. Theriot, Ball Gunner; Sgt. J. C. Hughes, Waist Gunner; T/Sgt. H.D. Hall, Radio Operator; Sgt. K. Metz, Nose Gunner. This was Captain Leon G. Stath's Crew. Capt. Stath was killed in action, Dec. 1944, flying with a lead crew.

ADVANCED HISTORY INFORMATION - We haven't tied down the exact price of the 455th Bomb Group History, but we do know it will be less than your annual dues, 276 pgs., 244 photos, hard-bound. If possible we would like to have some advance knowledge of how many to print. I'm sure each member will want one - and you'll want extra copies for your children and grandchildren. We won't hold you to a commitment now, but to help plan:

 ADVANCE HISTORY RESERVATION

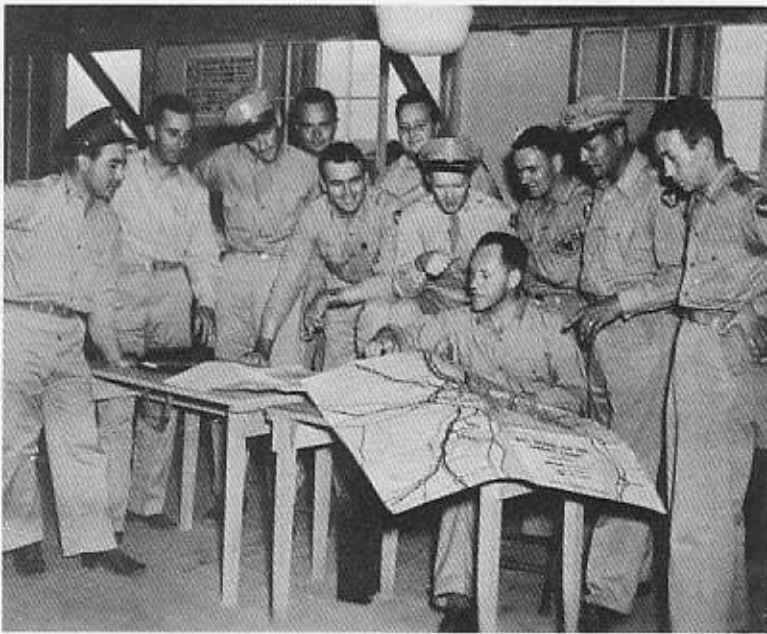
Hugh Graff
 1255 Sheldon Road
 Mantua, OH 44255

Please reserve _____ copies of the 455th Bomb Group History for me.

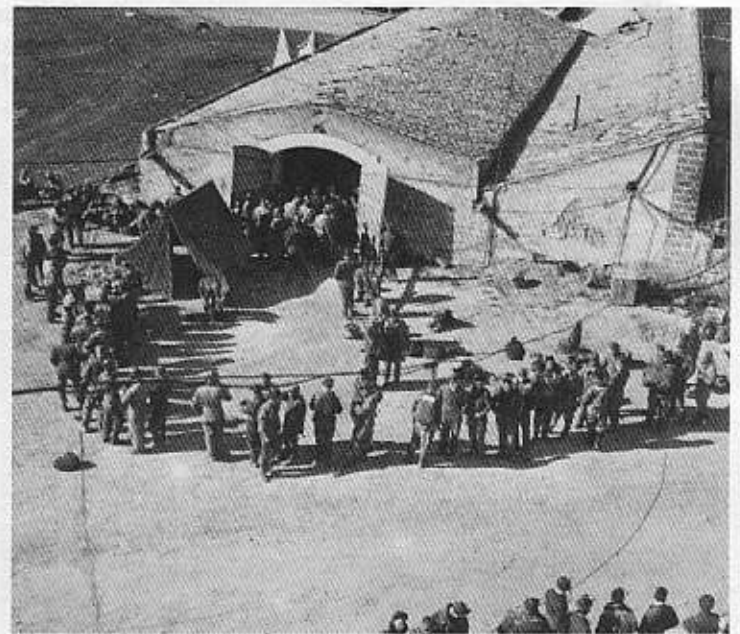
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A 2 STAFF BACK AT ALAMAGOO!



2 OUNCES, HOT COFFEE, AND TELL THEM YOUR WAR STORIES! MAGGIE PRESIDING.



GROUP PARTY

THE REUNION

I sat 'midst aging warriors
 Shining golden in the after-glow of youth,
 And my heart over -flowed.
 Neither those who stood at Thermopylae,
 Nor those who charged at Balaclava,
 Nor those who fell at Gallipoli
 Were braver than these.
 For, truly they walked "thru the valley
 of the "shadow of death" and brought
 the gift of freedom to me.

ANON

CHAPLINS CORNER - A sunday school teacher asked a young pupil to define Prayer. "Prayer", the child said, "is a message sent up to God at night and on Sundays, when the rates are lower."

A FAMILY AFFAIR - It's about an Air Force Captain and his army son, a young man who just finished basic training. The father, in his dress blues, picked up his son, wearing his dress greens. They were heading home on leave. They stopped at a roadside diner in New Jersey for lunch. As the waitress brought their orders, she stared at them with a puzzled expression. "Is there something wrong, ma'am?" the son asked. "It's just unusual to see men in different services, especially an officer and an enlisted man, traveling together," she said. The father winked at her and grinned. "Heck that's nothing," he said. "This young man is taking me home to sleep with his mother."

FINAL FLIGHT - It is with deep regret that we learn of the last flight of Louis J. Barbieri. He served as the Armorer Gunner - Ball Turret on A. R. Winter's crew, 740th Squadron. Lou died September 8, 1990 after a short illness. He leaves his wife, Bonnie, two children and several grandchildren. He died at South Dennis, New Jersey and was a Lt.Col., retired in the reserves. Lou enjoyed the 15th Air Force reunions at Riverside, Seattle, and Colorado Springs and was looking forward to the next one. He was a great friend to everyone and will be truly missed.

IF YOU'RE GETTING OLD

When a fellow starts to grow up -
and finally finds he's old,
His memories start to haunt him,
and he's plagued by drafts and cold.
He knows that youth has left him,
Yet nothing can he do;
His minds cries out, "It cannot be!"
His body says, "It's true."

What is the age when men grow old?
The doctors sure don't know.
It's just the way a fellow feels
Or when his gait gets slow.

Don't feel too bad, old Buddy
'Cause you've lost that youthful spark,
We can't all stay young forever,
We've all known that from the start.

If you've had a rude awakening -
If you finally found you're old,
Take heart in past, found memories
When your heart was young and bold.

S-Sgt. Herbert Frost
Stars and Stripes, Mediterranean
March 31, 1944

MISSING ITALIAN ART - When Franken the Italian artist took pen in hand to do caricatures of the officers of the 743rd Squadron, for the officers club wall, he came pretty close to realism, as we looked then. The club wall was covered with caricatures of all the squadron officers. I'm sure at wars end, those officers still at the squadron took theirs home. But what ever happened to those belonging to POW's and MIA's. Your editor received his in the mail at the end of the war but he doesn't remember from whom. Bruce C. Fredrickson called the other day and posed this question to your editor If you know where Bruce's would be, let him know at 23559 Burbank Blvd., Woodland Hills, California 91367. (As a result of the call, and an interesting note, Bruce and your editor were in the same POW compound at Stalg Luft III).

HELP YOUR GROUP HISTORIAN!



Hugh Graff, Group Historian, and Al Asch Association President, are coming down to the wire with a group history you'll be proud of and want to own. Covers the 455th with 276 pages, start to finish, complete with 204 photos. Needed are crew photos, original and replacement crews, complete with names, rank, position, and squadron. On the following pages of the Cerignola Connection are photos of unidentified crews. If you can fill in the missing information let Hugh Graff know. He's at 12515 Sheldon Rd., Mantua, OH 44255. Also in previous issues of the Cerignola Connection we asked for the above information on the following: MISS-FIT, William Jackson's crew; George Tanner's crew, 742nd; SKY WOLF, Billy Breed's crew, 740th.

HELP YOUR GROUP HISTORIAN - IDENTIFY THESE CREWS!



