



# CERIGNOLA CONNECTION

*455th Bomb Group Association Newsletter*

SUMMER, 1993

## REUNION '93

Lou Hansen and his dear wife, Frances, are literally swamped with reservation returns for the 1993 Vulgar Vulture reunion. This promises to be the biggest, best-ever reunion that the 455th Bomb Group has ever had. And to make it even more special...it's the 50th anniversary of the group.

This year when you return to Langley Field you'll be back with a few grey hairs and probably you have put on a little more weight, but you'll return with a lot of enthusiasm as you see familiar sights, meet old buddies, and recall pleasant memories.

So, get your flight plan in today. Sit down right away and fill out the reservation blanks that you have received. If you've misplaced them, give Lou Hansen a call at 712-262-7237 or write: P.O. Box 6125, Spencer, Iowa, 51301. Lou will get a reunion packet into the mail that very same day.

Briefly, here are some vital facts:

**Place:** Norfolk Airport Hilton Hotel, Norfolk, Virginia

**Date:** Wednesday, 29 September through Saturday, October 2, 1993

**Special Room Rate:** \$58 single/double/triple/quad occupancy, plus 9.5% tax.

Highlight of the reunion will be a special 50th anniversary memorial plaque dedication at Langley Air Force Base plus a tour of the base and lunch at the NCO Club.

Thursday night will feature the 455th Bomb Group reception, and the Katz & Jammers Band. And for your social convenience the group hospitality room will be open for business during most reasonable hours.

Many special tours have been arranged including the Virginia Air & Space Museum, NASA, Langley Research Center, historic Fort Monroe, Norfolk Naval Base, Colonial Williamsburg and Yorktown.

That's it in a nutshell! If you miss this reunion, you'll miss a great event that's just waiting for your reservation.

## Lou Hansen, Your Executive Director is Trying to Locate:

...anyone who knew 1st Lt. Rodney B. Teel (deceased) or was a member of his crew in the 741st Bomb Squadron. Also, needs a set of orders listing his crew. He may have been a co-pilot when he left for Italy from Florida on 21 May 44. His daughter, Lauren, has joined as an associate member and plans to attend the '93 reunion. She has no crew list.

...anyone who knew 1st Lt. Edwin F. Zdunkczyk or was a member of his crew in the 742 Bomb Squadron. Also need a set of orders listing his crew. He served as ass't ops officer, 742nd.

...anyone who knew a Lt. Owen D. Blankinship in the 743rd Bomb Sq. William O. Blankenship was also a pilot in the 743rd Bomb Sq. Need orders listing either or both crews.

...copies of the 455th Group Newsletter that was apparently published monthly by the Public Relations shop. I have, Vol. 2, Dec. 44. It is a real treasure chest of tidbits from each squadron and group and I've picked up several new names of fellows who did not show up on orders I received.

If you can help, send letters and items to Lou Hansen, Box 6125, Spencer IA 51301. Thanks!

## - Chaplain's Corner - POW Prayer

O God, we were in a strange land  
And among strange men,  
And we wondered just when  
Hostilities would end.  
We lived with it, woke with it  
And would we die?  
No one at home understood this  
And why.

Alone—always, lonely, and  
Filled with harm  
Understood only by a  
Comrade-in-arms.  
Love of your God, your country,  
And your own.  
We never lost faith in our  
Loved ones at home.

Our faith in God was our  
Strongest might;  
And each of us would say to Him  
In our prayers every night—  
Help us, o Lord, to live for Thee,  
Because of our faith  
Someday we'll be free.

Amen.

(Ex-POW Bulletin, October 1992)

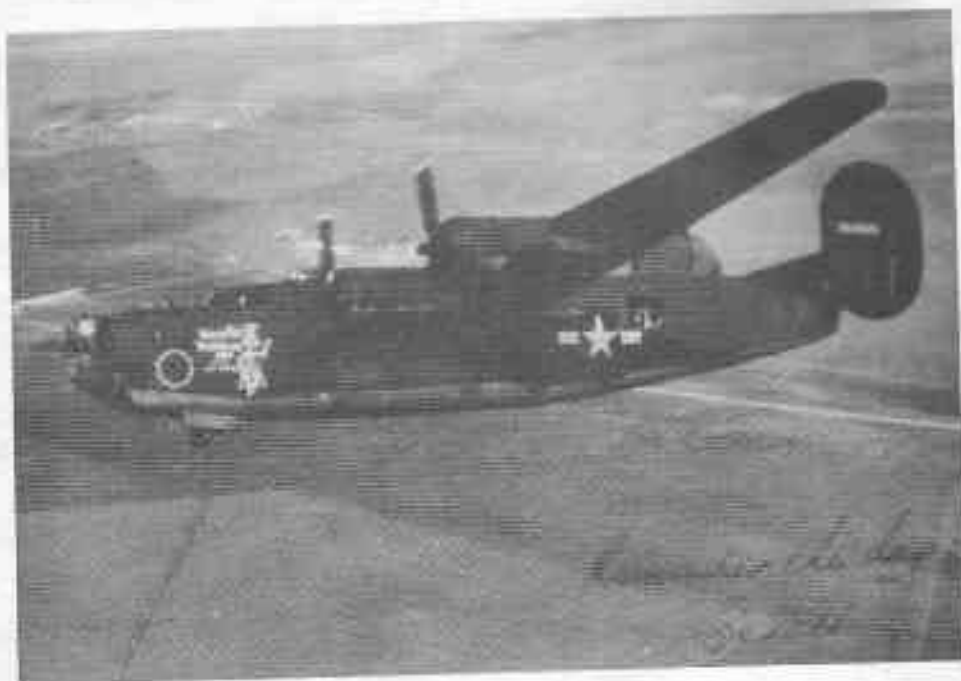
## On The - Lighter Side

Milton Berle finds comedy material in his visits with seniors. He tells this story:

"I went to a rest home, and most of the folks greeted me with 'Yea, Uncle Miltie!' I saw one little old lady who was 92, dozing in a wheelchair. I put my arm around her and said, 'Don't you know who I am?' She looked at me and said, 'No, but if you ask at the front desk, they'll tell you!'"

### Gem of the Day:

The following is a note that Junior wrote to his mother when he handed her a so-so report card: "Dear Mom: English is easy. Math are hard."



Schott's crew and the DAZZLIN DUTCHESS

Somewhere in Italy

20 February, 1945

Dear Bellemere, Corbett, & Defenbaugh:

You will pardon me for this carbon-copy style of correspondence but the hour is late and I have pictures I want to enclose and get along the way to the three of you.

No doubt you are almost up to date on news here so there is little I can say along that line. Thayer and Keefer are both finished. McCauley and Baltzell have already done some more fine work together - particularly on a different type target, for a change, on the 16th. Success that day, of course, is probably partially due to the fact that I "briefed"! Haley, with cooperation of all, is coming along fine in Operations. Sgt. Abe Aziz had his one-man shack burn down with everything he owned - he just left his fire going long enough to check his mail. Oven is on orders for his 7th Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal, is promoting a barber shop quartet for competition in the theater (I'm Special Service Officer now, too).

Some good USO shows are beginning to come this way, finally. Seats can be had if one starts out here about three hours ahead of time - there's no standing room an hour before show time for such as a girlie variety "Art Thou Cooking" and "D'Artaga and his all-girl orchestra." A couple of others are on their way. I hop you fellows will be able to see some of these shows when they get back to the U.S.

Last night we celebrated Texas-Thayer night at the club in true Vulgar Vulture style. How we managed to make all preparations and yet completely surprise Thayer, I'll never know. Only guest was Keefer who saw to it that Rock showed up a little after 8. All lights were doused and then flashed in his face with the assembled throng singing "Eyes of Texas." Frayne had some good cowboy murals done in crayon. Plenty of purple passion was on hand. A skit on Thayer was a riot. Despite my "emceeing," Zane and Shumard brought down the house as seamen on the USS Texas, listening to Thayer up-chuck off-stage. Buck Marple played Thayer and had big tin leaves and ribbons and medals. Capt. Jones stole the show as "Connie" - greeted Thayer in a two-piece bathing suit (grapefruit for effect) and was lovely in lipstick, G.I. shoes, and red mop wig. Melton played Connie's father, the General, with shotgun to remind Thayer of promises allegedly made at Langley. "Hey, Rube," "bleeding the eel," "scraping the dial," etc were all worked in the lines. Later we had five girlie "strips" in spite of drunks at the ringside—also a darn good cold plate of beef, ham, french fries, etc.

Best of luck to you. Be sure to remember it is Meridian, Miss. if down that way. My name is in the telephone directory.

Sincerely  
Tom Syk

# Bits and Pieces

## Rub a Dub Dub - We Found Out Whose in the Tub

I was pleasantly surprised to open the Winter 1992 Cerignola Connection and find my picture on page two. The three unidentified bathers were all from the 740th Squadron, not the 742nd. Front to rear are Brian Dawson, Warren Miller and Lawrence Behrens.

*Warren C. Miller*

## An Appeal From Italy

"I have just returned from a tour of Italy and to the areas that my group inhabited during WWII.

"Upon our arrival in Cerignola I was approached by Cannone Savino, Via Bradano, 2, F1042, Cerignola (86), phone 0885/423415, requesting help in locating the man that saved his life on or about January 12, 1945. From the newspaper clip it would appear that five young men were lost when a bridge scaffolding on a bridge across the Ofanta River (just south of Cerignola) collapsed. One of these men was Cannone's brother. Thru an interpreter, I was told that Cannone was also thrown into the river, but was saved by an American, believed to be a Major and a Bombardier. Mr. Savino would like to find this man to thank him for saving his life.

"It would be appreciated if you would publish this story in your newsletter in hopes that we can help Cannone Savino find his man."

*/s/ Frank C. O'Bannon,*

*Lt Col. USAF Ret.*

*President 461st Bomb Group Association*

## Letters From Stateside

"I'm so glad you were shot down before flying became so dangerous."

From a fiancé: "Dear John; I just married your father - Love, Mother."

"I wonder if you as sick of the war as we are?"

"When your brother heard you were a POW, he rushed right out and joined the Home Guard."

"It must be frightfully hard to be locked up all the time. However, it should be easier under such pleasant surroundings."

"You must have heard about Pete and Johnny being MIA. Don't worry, I'll avenge them." (from a war department employee)

"Keep your chin up. It won't be long now." (to a British POW - 1940)

"Joe's in Stalag Luft III. Pop in and see him sometime."

## An Old Timer Loved Golf

An old timer loved golf and could still hit the ball, but couldn't see where it went. One day the pro told him, "Charlie, I've got the right partner for you. Tom's about your age and he's got eyes like a hawk."

When the two old fellows went out, Charlie wondered why Tom would want to play with him. On the first tee, Charlie hit a long drive, then said to him: "Did you see where it went?"

"Yes," replied Tom, "but I forgot."

## Regulations

Operation of aircraft as set forth by the UNITED STATES AIR SERVICE.

1. Don't take the machine into the air unless you are satisfied it will fly.
2. Never leave the ground with the motor leaking
3. Don't turn sharply when taxiing. Instead of turning short, have someone lift the tail around.
4. Never get out of a machine with the motor running until the pilot relieving you can reach the engine controls.
5. Pilots should carry hankies in a handy position to wipe off goggles.
6. Riding on the steps, wings or tail of a machine is prohibited.
7. In case the engine fails on takeoff, land straight ahead, regardless of obstacles.
8. No machine must taxi faster than a man can walk.
9. Do not trust the altitude instruments.
10. If you see another machine near you, get out of its way.
11. Before you begin a landing glide, see that no machines are under you.
12. Hedge-hopping will not be tolerated.
13. No spins on back or tail slides will be indulged in as they unnecessarily strain the machine.
14. Pilots will not wear spurs while flying.
15. If emergency occurs while flying, land as soon as you can.

(Published January, 1920.)

## Sweatin' It Out

Jim Bates writes that Ol' Sweatin' It Out just never seems to get published. He says that "Bud" Schoene is one hell of a good pilot. The pictures show their crash landing at the little British air field at Senello, Italy. It was the end of good old Sweatin' It Out (and Jim's missions, too, as he was wounded pretty bad.)

Front row, left to right, Waldo Cushing, waist gunner; Floyd Palmer, ball turret gunner; Lendon Lumpkin, Engineer; Harold Berg, tail turret gunner; Jim Bates, waist gunner. Back row, left to right, Ralph Davis, bombardier; Orris Colman, co-pilot; Bud Schoene, pilot; Renord Haywood, navigator.



*Sweatin' It Out" Shot up very bad, wounded crew, two engines feathered, making a forced landing at Sinello, Italy, May 25, 1944.*

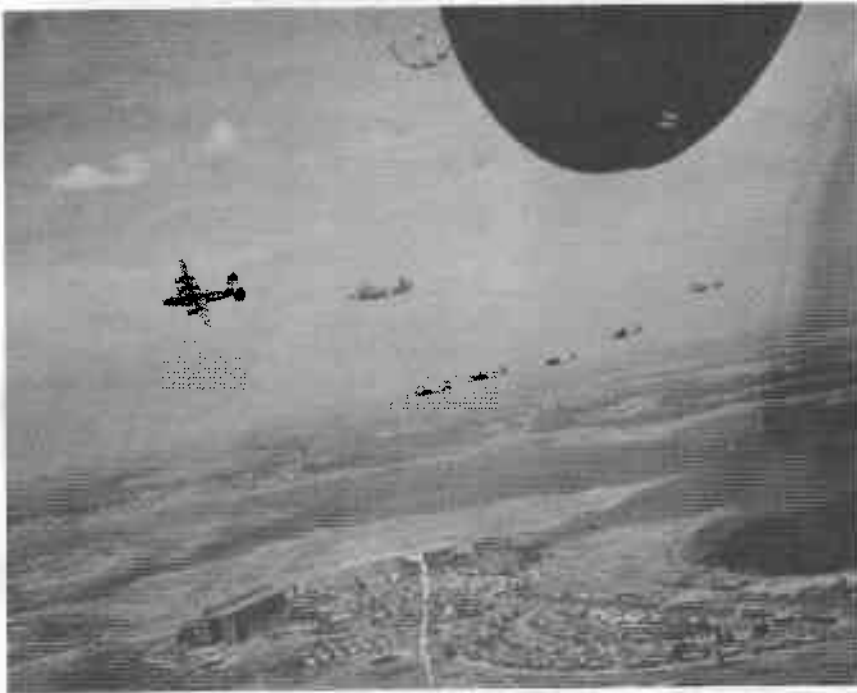


*The end of a grand old warrior, back from her 40th mission.*



## Helmet liners off to the 740th Armament Section

*Back row, S/SGT. W. Ziobra, PFC K. Miller, PFC C. Gregory, SGT J. Wade, PFC J. Clark, CPL D. Bachmann, CPL J. Bouska, Lt T. Shimrock, PVT J. Thomas, PFC J. Macario, PFC J. Eby, T/SGT W. Hays, M/SGT W. Hays, M/SGT A. Riewe, Third row, CPL H. Speer, PFC A. Turner, S/SGT R. Pacey, CPL H. Isenstien, CPL C. Kirchgessner, SGT W. Haggadone, CPL L. Seum, S/SGT G. Cassiedy, SGT R. Bradley, S/SGT R. Kelly, Second row, Sgt M. Wiles, PFC D. Dyer, CPL J. MacAvoy, CPL C. Murphree, SGT H. Ray, CPL J. Merkle, PFC K. Jones, PVT D. Buckmaster, S/SGT T. Smith, Front Row, CPL H. Boerum, S/SGT B. Rice, SGT H. Guilton, PVT J. Thomas, S/SGT J. Hunt, CPL W. Mislik.*



*455th BG, 743 BS, Langley Field, VA, peeling off for a landing.*



*A waist gun view of a waist gunner - Jim Bates!*

## Putting a few pegs on those holes on the golf course.

Hugh Graff has solved the mystery of bad putts. It involves golf shoes and the usual eight little peg spikes on each shoe. Hugh says that with eight pegs a shoe, that makes 16 pegs a pair. So, when someone lines up a putt on the green, they punch 16 holes in the turf. What's more, golf is usually played in a foursome. This means 16 pegs times four players, or 64 holes in the turf. Now, if there are 80 foursomes on a course in any given day, you have 51,200 holes in the green. In 30 days, the total jumps to 153,600 holes punched in the green. If you add the holes punched by golfers simply walking across the green, you're probably talking about millions of holes. "Now then, is it any wonder you can't make a putt" Hugh asks.



# 455th Bomb Group Has Roots!

We recently published excerpts from Tom Lyle Mitchell's 455th Bomb Group newsletters. Original letters were found dating up through December 15, 1950. Since then we have received several additional letters and have extracted items of interest for you.

## *From the March 22, 1951 newsletter*

Al Coons is making arrangements for "Dog" Reunion to be held in Columbus, Ohio, August, 1951. Howard "Rip" Miller arranged a mini reunion party at the Diamond Horseshoe in New York this past January. In addition to Rip and Edith, Marie and myself (Mitchell), Max Weine, Dr. Walt Frankel, Bob and Dot Archibald, Rube and Vivian Bellemere, the Tom Ebingers, Jim Campbells, Joe Cedars and Isidore Horenstein attended. Saw Russ Felzer of Milwaukee at The Plaza where Holeproof Hosiery were in attendance at a hosiery show. Bellemere is on active duty with the reserve program at Mitchel Field. Archibald is a special sales representative for Bigelow Sanford Carpet Company. Campbell has his own printing business. Miller is merchandising, specializing in sales to post exchanges. Frankel is practicing dentistry in New York and Peekskill. Horenstein is teaching in high school and reports a growing family. Max Weine's book is in the hands of a publisher and we wish him success. Bill Berg is with Continental Air Command at Mitchell and Pete Guerrero has his own commercial photo shop. It's good to hear from Chigger Brown, ex-flight chief in the 740th and now Manager of the Chamber of Commerce at Paragould, Arkansas. Also glad to hear from Trigger Dawson, ex-gunnery officer and now back with Ashland Oil at Williamsburg, Ohio. Jack Lockitt is in advertising with Rock Products of New York City. W. O. Barnard wrote asking for pictures or negatives, on loan. Ernie Withers is with NuGrape. Chili Williams is back in uniform. Bob

Horton writes of his pleasure at the Milwaukee reunion. Kenneth Brady is connected with Girard L. McEntee and Son Insurance. Jim Gould is back on active duty with the Brunswick, Georgia, National Guard. Joe and Edna Craighead visited Birmingham recently and we enjoyed lunch and two evenings together. Howard Helfer writes from Clarence, New York. Jane Livingston from Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. Paul is now manager of the "Field Tavern" there. It is now Captain R. N. Sterling, Hq. Second Air Force, Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. Vivian and Michael Armando are in Chicago, Illinois. Thanks to Everette Crumpler for the name and address of the former 740th Operations Sergeant, Giles Crowell, now Cities Service Oil Distributor at Raleigh, North Carolina. Leo Stopa is in Detroit, Michigan.

## *From the July 20, 1951 newsletter*

Daniel Bell is an attorney in Newark, New Jersey. Dan was headquarters PX Sergeant. Maggie Curtis, (Red Cross coffee and donut girl) is now living in Buffalo, New York. Earl Greaver is in Baltimore, Maryland. Rocco Chiletti is in Montrose, Pennsylvania. W. O. Barnard is still looking for pictures or negatives. PFC Bolester J. Wojciechowicz is now connected with the Pennsylvania State Police at Doylestown, Pennsylvania.

*January 1951 Diamond Horseshoe Mini Reunion. On the left (standing) Isidore Horenstein, Mrs. and Mrs. Joe Cedars (seated) Rip Miller, Mitchell, Dave Bellemere and Tom Ebinger. On the right (standing Mrs. Ebinger, Mrs. and Mr Bob Archibald, (seated) Max Weine, Vivian Bellemere, Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Miller. Also present were Dr. Walt Frankel, and the Jim Campbells.*



# More Roots Newsletters Keep Showing Up!

## From the June 1949 Newsletter

Newsletter Twin girls greeted Mary and Willie Wilkes. The Leland Youngs are settled in Cleveland, Ohio. David Brothers is now a Junior in the Pennsylvania State College of Optometry. Dave was a bombardier in the 742nd and was "knocked down" over Vienna June 26, 1944. Bill Richard has graduated from W & L Law School. Earl Howsam is now working in the U.S. Senate as Administrative Ass't to Senator Ed Johnson. Captain Taylor is back in the service as Base Military Training Officer at Lowry Field in Denver. Ed Harris reports that John Van Lear is now married and in the insulating business at Muscatine, Iowa. George Trbovich is in the Phillipines, Adj. of the 5th Photo Group. Don't forget to send me 200 Lier if you'd like to help cover newsletter postage and promotion for the reunion.

## Christmas Eve, 1947

Two surprise visitors in recent weeks were a real pleasure. First, who should turn up in my office but Jeff Davis (Bombardier of Sweatin' It Out) of Tie Plant, Miss. Jeff had his lovely wife with him and Marie and I were happy to be able to share an evening with them while they were here. A few days later, Jack Reeder walked in. Jack is with Coca Cola in Dayton, Ohio. He takes pride in his 110 acres outside of Dayton where he raises chickens, ducks and palominos. Captain James Shumard became a husband last June 14 and can be addressed at Wright Field, Ohio. Jim has seen John Brown in New York. He also reports having dinner with Charles Ziegler who is now in the clothing business in Medina, Ohio. Captain Graham, 741st, is also at Wright Field. Robert Ferris is teaching and coaching at Sheldahl, Iowa. Joanne and David Woodlock announce a new baby boy. Ted Crews writes that these letters bring back fond memories of the best bunch of fellows ever gathered in one spot. John Nash has announced his marriage to Arline Mower. Glenn Garber also to Betty May Brook. Saw Jim Gould in the hotel lobby the other day. He was at a Ford convention. Dick Himes is now in Dayton. Bechtold is back in the U.S. at Ft. Worth Army Air Field. The Wilkes stopped by the other day - and I missed them. Most of us will recall most favorably our Wilkes of Transportation days in Italy. On two occasions I saw our old a/c inspectors Joe Craighead and Earnest Williams. Joe is with the Plant Food Division of Swift and Co. Ran into Bill Berg, who is in uniform and is stationed near Columbus Georgia. P. Bailey is in the general insurance business in Oklahoma. Fuller Harrington reports that all is well in Jackson, Miss.

## St. Patrick's Day, 1947 Newsletter

Met Leroy Crum, 740th SE in an Atlanta restaurant the other day. Crum is at Keesler Field. Jim Gould has joined his father's Ford agency in Brunswick, GA. Tom Scheeren is in law school. The Alex Armstrongs have a new baby. Larry Young is studying mechanical engineering at Carnegie Tech. Ex-Armament "Coke" Coconower is an engineer with the Western Company. Coke was with George Defenbaugh, D.A. Smith and Bill Hulen at U.O. last year and enjoyed visits by Crandall Jones, 742nd engineer & Henderliter. Rudy Krueger's letter was returned from Anchorage, Alaska. Paul Livingston has been in the hospital. Baltzell had lunch with J. F. Brown in New York recently. Ramey's Christmas greetings were signed "Tom and Pearl and Jeanne Marie" and the return address noted at Fitzsimons General Hospital, Denver, Colorado. Ed Johnson writes from Mather AAF, Sacramento, California. Warren Slaughter is fulfilling a life's ambition to become a minister. He is attending Wheaton College. Sol Courtman is studying medicine at Tulane. He had a nice visit with Joe Dreher, who is with an accounting firm. Howie Helfer is now married. Gene and Wayne Mertil have announced the addition of a baby boy. Rock Thayer writes to me "get on the ball!" Coconower said he saw you somewhere in the Oklahoma (or Texas) oil fields. Ruth piper sends the good word that "Pipe," original executive of the 743rd, has conquered an old physical impairment. Full colonel Hugh Graff is back and expects to be in civies soon. Don meadows has his own insurance business. Hamilton Frost is with General Shoe in Nashville, Tennessee. Carl Barr is at Drake University. Tim and Mary Swearingen welcomed a ten-pound baby boy last September. Jimmy Goostree is in Chicago with a new restaurant, The Minute Grill. Don Kahley is the Captain in charge of reserve training at Offutt Field, Fort Crook, Nebraska. Bob Newberg is at Drake. John Jureka wasn't on my mailing list but Haney showed him our last letter in the Officers Club of ATC in Washington. Jeff Hovie is in St. Paul. Jureka was in Dallas when Snooks got married - Melton, Haley, Johns, Lanford and Durkee were there at the time and Pappy Crews and Jim Brown a bit earlier.



## From the August 14, 1946 Newsletter

Pappalardo went to work with an accounting firm in Conn. Dr. Bill Lazarus treated Marie and yours truly to a swank New York supper club recently. David Earl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Beverly Brookshire at Pueblo, Colorado on December 28, 1945. Got quite a kick out of seeing Tom Ramey (former MIA) in San Antonio. Dave Brothers was with him and neither had then recovered completely from injuries. Coincidence caused me to meet Ramey again in June at a railroad ticket office in Milwaukee and he told me it would be necessary to be hospitalized again for six months or so. Bellemere was recruiting at Prescott, Arizona in January when he advised me that a daughter, Jeaneene Kaye, had arrived 31 December 1945. Jean Baltzell is with Milbank, Tweed, Hope, Hadley and McCloy in New York City. Al Coons was at the University of Chicago. Pederson is in school in Ames, Iowa. He has seen Otto Tinzman and Doc Schuknecht in Chicago. Said E. B. Morrison is Supt. of Schools at Granger, Texas and "Rip" Miller is in Ladies Underwear in New York. Sol Felzer is in Chicago. Jack Thomas is in California; Don Rawls, Lake Charles, La. John Smith is in Houston; Frank Paige, San Bernardino, California. He wrote that he was glad to see Gendron safely back after bailing out and spending months as a POW. Enjoyed receiving Christmas cards from Ray Perry, the Bellemers, Glenn Garber, and that old mail man friend, J. E. Fash. Jim Gould had his picture in a Ford magazine showing his dented helmet. I happened across this in a dentist's office, wrote Jim, and now hear that he is in school at Emory University, Georgia. "Rock" Thayer sent me a Christmas card from somewhere in Mexico, where he was honeymooning with his Hollywood bride. Jeff Davis is back at Tie Plant, Mississippi. Jack Horner of Montgomery stopped in to see us here in Meridian. He is selling building material and burning up golf courses. Today's paper said that a Jack Horner has won the Alabama state meet. Had a nice letter from Duffy Horan. Rod Clarke writes from Rochester, N.Y. and is contemplating Yale. A card from Harold Linnewah of Calumeth, Iowa reminds us of the exploit when he and Cust Mazoros came back through the Italian lines. George Defenbaugh wrote that he was in school in Norman, Oklahoma - had seen Conconower and reported with weather a 5 below last winter. Fuller Gus Harrington is back in the bond business in the Lamar Life Building in Jackson, Mississippi. It was good to see Philip Bock the other day. Saw Dreher in the St. Charles bar with a pretty airline stewardess in September and saw someone from Gill's crew in Jackson, but couldn't place his name. Saw Dahland Chartrier in San Antonio and ran into Sol Courtman on the South-erner. Talked with Alex Armstrong's wife in New York - he was away on an Export Airline flight. Heard that Rex Grozner is flying in South America for an oil outfit.

Remember "Twin-Tails?" In the Lamar Hotel Coffee Shop here in Meridiana familiar looking fellow greeted me recently—none other than Elmer W. Taylor, 742nd, of Belle Fountain, Ohio. He's flying about the country for the Knowlton interests here and elsewhere.

## December 18, 1946

Ex-bombardier Jeff Davis got married last April. Orrin Colman is in radio engineering and expects to go to Cucamanga Peak next spring for television work - asks to hear from any of you, particularly any of the "Sweatin' It Out" crew. Major Alvin Coons is now Doctor Coons! He's Ass't Prof of Economics at Ohio State University. Corrigan and Joe Havris now live in nearby Cleveland. S-2 Smitty is taking architecture at Oklahoma and was one of the 5 Beaux Arts winners in the U.S. last year in his class. Bernie Bloom is married and back to work for Lockheed, then into business for himself. he writes that Snook and Reddy have married and Ham Frost of Nashville has also announced his intentions. Rube Bellemere is at Williams Field, Chandler, Arizona. Bechtold is in Germany and the Bechtold's are expecting. Cook is married and the Keefers now have a daughter. Gordon Learned graduates this month from Colorado. He expects to go after an M.A. at Berkeley. Frank Fay is farming at Harris, Kansas. The "Old Adj." P.W. Neff is now M/S Neff, regular army and is stationed in Maryland. J. F. Brown is with the U.S. Aviation Underwriters in New York City. He reports that Doc Kollar is doing nicely in Jersey and the sad news that Tom Delaney was killed in Michigan when bailing out of a burning plane. Shumard is in for three years...was last known with ATC in Memphis. Sorrenson is at the University of Wisconsin. The Browns now have a fine son. Photo-gunner Jim Gould is at Emory. Ernie Withers, S-2 in the 454th is in Red Rock at the Red Rock Bottling Co. Tom Mitchell writes; Christmas of 1943 saw many of us either on the high seas or enroute by air to "destination unknown." Those of you who flew will recall the pleasant days at Mitchell Field and the hospitality of Morrison Field. Christmas of 1944 saw most of us in Italy.

### Editor:

This issue features the last of Tom Mitchell's newsletters that are available. If others can be found, your editor would appreciate copies so that these can be reprinted in part in forthcoming issues of the Cerignola Connection. Tom, who has made his last flight, is to be recognized for establishing the original 455th Bomb Group Association and then doing so much to try to hold it together.

## Colonel Lanford Writes an Open Letter to Former Members of the 741st Squadron

Tel: (813)455-5412

5840 Cloudstone Court  
Naples FL 33999

Some years ago now, perhaps 3 or even 4, the officers of the 455th Bomb Group Association asked me--as the original 741 Squadron Commander--to contribute a history of the 741st to the Group History. I was very slow in responding. Finally the Group gave me a deadline--after 9 months or perhaps a year--and I finally began the 741 history.

I had pictures of 17 of the original 18 crews. I got a photo of the 18th crew from Gene Hudson. I had a number of pictures of the ground personnel. Dr. Hal Schuknecht--our Squadron Flight Surgeon--let me borrow a large number of his photos. I had some old orders and collected more. Gene Hudson provided a copy of "The First 100 Missions." Al Asch provided copies of the 741 "War Diary" copied from microfilm at the Historical Center at Bolling AFB. (Seven months are missing.) A number of other people provided experiences, etc. Anyway, the "history" grew and grew--like Topsy. I provided all information I gathered to the Group Historian. Much of the material was used in the Group History, although not necessarily in the 741 Squadron Chapter. So, a 741 Squadron "Partial History" (Volume I and Volume II) was reproduced and copyrighted--about 650 pages, if I recall correctly.

Then comes the Group Reunion of October 1991. Here I found a large number of replacement crews I had never even heard about. My inherent fairness and other good qualities told me that surely these people deserved to be remembered. I put notices in "Cerignola Connection" asking for crew pictures and experiences. I made an impassioned plea for pictures and experiences to the Group at the Group dinner at the October 91 reunion. Well, maybe not the dinner, but to an assembly of all members present at the Reunion. Copies of Vols. I & II were available at the Reunion.

I discovered that something like 55 replacement crews had come through the squadron. I probably have pictures of less than half. I have rosters of some crews with no photo. Some crews are identified by the last name of the pilot only. I have read the microfilm copy of the 455 Group and 741 Squadron from Maxwell Historical Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama. I have sent questionnaires to a number of people a number of times seeking additional information. Due to the missing 7 months of the 741 "War Diary" I'm sure there are entire crews still unidentified. Some may be mis-identified. But, considering the difficulty of communication, the fact that advancing age blurs the memory, lack of interest of some, lack of time by others, etc., etc., I am satisfied that I have done as well as I can--all things considered. I am not ashamed of the effort.

There were some very nice compliments concerning Vol. I and Vol. II by some very qualified people. Volume III has not been reproduced and circulated so there has been no evaluation as yet by others.

The volumes are not printed. They are reproduced by reproduction machines and paper bound. The photos in Vols. I & II came out very well. I will have Vol. III reproduced in Naples. The photos, about 280, will be half-toned for reproduction. The pages approximate 525-530. They change frequently due to old photos received or other information received. I have received a large number of photos from a large number of people. The work does not end with the reproduction of the volumes. The manuscript must be dis-assembled and the photos returned to their rightful owners.

I will attempt to include an estimate of the postage for the return of the photos to their owners. I have included in the price the cost of half-toning the photos, the reproduction of the pages, the binding, the cost of postage, the cost of reproducing some photos, enlarging others, etc., etc. My cost or loss on Vols. I and II was about \$1,000.00. I hope my cost procedures on Vol. III will enable me to break even or at least nearly so.

I am presently waiting on a document from the Library of Congress, some photos from the Group Historian, and a photo from an individual. I will reproduce and mail the Vol. III as soon as possible after receipt of these items. If you want a copy, remit soon. My efforts on the 741 History are just about history!

Best personal regards,

*Horace*

The Binnacle  
P. O. Box 206  
Brooksville, Maine 04617  
February 5, 1993

Dear 455th Bomb Group --

It's good of you to include me in though I never got to know any of you and Mark's stories were few but memorable! I would not any longer remember names -- only Dēsa, the young Yugoslav girl who fell in love but would not come to America -- but wrote some years later and said she would! -- after we were married. I wonder what has happened to her now?

He told me about Spare Parts and some expeditions made aboard -- and the castle and his office in the turret and writing to families when The Birds came home with sad news and running his Jeep off the road but he landed on his head and since his head was his strongest point he was all right.

I ran through your letter but not expecting to find anything that I know about. However, this time the caption "Waiting for the Birds to come home" caught my eye and there he was! on page 8 in the center of the picture.

I have been walking around smiling ever since!

His eyes barred him from service but he memorized the eye chart!

He died four years ago -- a very special man!

Thank you for including me and best of luck to all of you.

Most sincerely --



(Mrs. Mark Allison Smith)

P.S. You might be amused to know that I met him at Dow Field in Bangor, Maine where I was secretaring in the hangar and wrote to him after he left as part of my "war work". When he came home he did not bring me the little Italian burro I asked for. I was at the bottom of his list of war correspondents to check out as a suitable minister's wife.

This has nothing to do with anything but I have always wondered what happened to The Homesick Angel which was in the hangar for repairs. You all were such bright and beautiful young men -- so very young! I was at breakfast with some of the couples when the men were leaving to go overseas and one of the young wives came down for breakfast bringing her teddy bear!

# 455th BOMB GROUP CHARTER LIFE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	1ST N. MI	RANK	LAST NAME	1ST N. MI	RANK
SCHUKNECHT	HAROLD F.	CAPT	GUERRERO	PEDRO E.	CAPT
ARMSTRONG	ROBERT H.	S/SGT	WENDT	GUS H.	LT COL
HUDSON	EUGENE L.	MAJ GEN	GAYNES	SEYMOUR J.	COL
HANSEN	LOUIE D.	COL	PECK	REID BYRON	S/SGT
CRUMPLER, JR.	EVERETTE B.	CMSGT	HOSMER	HUMPHREY B.	MAJ
JONES	EDWARD C.	CAPT	LOFFER	BILL	CAPT
MCWILLIAMS	VICTOR	CAPT	* ARMBRUSTER	EDWARD J.	MAJ
BOWERS, JR.	WINFIELD S.	LT COL	BLACK	ROBERT V.	T/SGT
* BRADLEY	FRANCIS T.	COL	JOHNSTON	GEORGE R.	CAPT
UNDERWOOD	GEORGE W.	CAPT	WEST, JR.	GROVER C.	1ST SGT
* BECKNER	ROBERT L.	MAJ	CONROY	THOMAS P.	S/SGT
* OZENSHAR	HOMER H.	MAJ	BLACKMUN	ROBERT L.	MAJ
* ABBOTT	JACK E.	S/SGT	SCHOENE	HORST R.	LT COL
WILSON	CLARENCE F.	LT COL	BEMIS	STUART A.	T/SGT
HETZER, JR.	EMMETT	M/SGT	ASCH	ALFRED	COL
FRANCESCHINI	DINO Z.	T/SGT	LOHNES	RAYMOND W.	S/SGT
SMITH	JAMES H.	CAPT	DEFENBAUGH	GEORGE E.	1ST LT
BATES	JAMES E.	T/SGT	LASHINSKY	FRANCIS J.	S/SGT
LANFORD, JR.	HORACE W.	COL	LEPLEY	ROBERT K.	M/SGT
OLIVER	GERALD W.	M/SGT	LONERGAN	DONALD F.	S/SGT
GASSER, SR.	GERALD E.	S/SGT	APPLE	HENRY W.	CPL
CASTEEL	JACK L.	S/SGT	CRAWFORD	WILLIAM B.	MAJ
STRODE	ROSS D.	LT CO	* CHADWICK	RALPH M.	LT COL
FRAWLEY	DAVID J.	S/SGT	FULLBRIGHT	WAYNE H.	T/SGT
MURRAY	VICTOR E.	T/SGT	SODERSTROM	ED C.	1ST LT
* MCKELVEY	ROBERT C.	S/SGT	* MURRAY	JOHN C.	T/SGT
WINTER	A. R. "PETE"	1ST LT	HOLLROCK	RICHARD H.	1ST LT
RIGGS	CLARENCE E.	LT COL	HATCHER	WILLIAM O.	CMSGT
GROSSMAN	CLEO S.	S/SGT	FRAMPTON	ROBERT E.	2ND LT
AMBROSEN	EDWIN C.	COL	BAILEY	JABE E.	LT COL
RUSHMORE, JR.	RICHARD F.	S/SGT	BURKLE	HENRY J.	LT COL
VEST	ROBERT F.	SGT	* HOFER	GEORGE C.	S/SGT
KELLEY	JAMES A.	1ST LT	BARR	CARL A.	MAJ
SPECHT	ELDRED J.	S/SGT	LOGE	MERLIN A.	T/SGT
MCGOVERN	GEORGE S.	1ST LT	* METZ	MAYNARD G.	S/SGT
WALROD	DON COIN	1ST LT	SMITH	WYLIE A.	MAJ
MILLER	HOWARD I.	CAPT	WEEKS	JAMES E.	T/SGT
WILSON	NEAL E.	S/SGT	MANZITTO	SEBASTIANO	T/SGT
ARNOLD	WILLIAM A.	1ST LT	WOLF	DAVID W.	LT COL
SHUMARD, JR.	JAMES W.	COL	GROOMS	RAY M.	LT COL
ROGERS	WILLIAM L.	LT COL	NASH	JOHN W.	MAJ
MCARTHUR	CHARLES J.	TSGT	BECKMANN	LEONARD M.	1ST LT
STEINHAUER	NORMAN M.	T/SGT	MERFELD	JOHN E.	T/SGT
SYNODIS	ANGELO P.	T/SGT	BOSTER	RICHARD R.	T/SGT
OWEN	BEN G.	T/SGT	MARCOTRIGIANO	ANGELO	T/SGT
GOULD III	JAMES D.	MAJ	MALEY	WILLIAM B.	1ST LT
BENNETT	REGINALD D.	S/SGT	BUSH	DUANE D.	T/SGT
EVENSON	MELVIN	1ST LT	DUNSCOMB	RICHARD E.	LT COL
MAGNUSON	DALE F.	S/SGT	BRIMAGE	RICHARD L.	LT COL
DRESSSEL	GEORGE R.	T/SGT	* MITCHELL	TOM LYLE	CAPT
TAYLOR	VERNON R.	M/SGT	LIBERTY	LAWRENCE F.	LT COL
BEARD	WILLIAM R.	T/SGT	BEAUCHEMIN	ALBERT E.	S/SGT
CULVER	MARION F.	MAJ			
VON SCHRILTZ	RICHARD J.	CAPT			



# 455th BOMB GROUP LIFE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	1ST N. MI	RANK
GETTINGS, SR.	LEWIS M.	LT COL
TANK	ROBERT M.	LT COL
PAINTER, JR.	CHARLES W.	COL
IVERSON	STANLEY M.	1ST LT
DOMINEY	JOHN R.	S/SGT
GLASE	WILLIAM F.	1ST LT
DOTE	DOMINICK L.	T/SGT
HOSTERMAN	KENNETH F.	1ST LT
KRUSE	MELVIN F.	S/SGT
SHOUP	FOREST C.	LT COL
LOIOCANO	CARL R.	T/SGT
JOHNSON	RALPH H.	SGT
KNOTT	CLIFTON J.	SGT
PEARCE	JOHN W.	S/SGT
HESS	WILLIAM A.	T/SGT
PHELPS	JACK	S/SGT
GRAHAM	GERALD F.	MAJ
* NANGERONI	LOUIS L.	LT COL
KENT	EARL B.	1ST LT
MACAULAY	THOMAS J.	CAPT
COUNSILMAN	JAMES E.	1ST LT
HETMANEK	JOSEPH G.	S/SGT
CORSELLO	ANTHONY M.	1ST LT
* CAHILL	ROBERT T.	LT COL
GRIESSEL	ROBERT	T/SGT
WILSON	C.W.	S/SGT
CIULLA	FRANK B.	S/SGT
WILLIS	LORNE H.	SGT
HARDING	ROBERT H.	S/SGT
DALTON	VICTOR L.	SGT
SPENDER	EDWARD G.	SGT
CATT	JAMES L.	M/SGT
DICKINSON	WILLIAM J.	S/SGT
SHERRICK	EDGAR S.	S/SGT
OHLMEYER	HAROLD Z.	COL
HUTTON	BILL J.	1ST LT
SKAGENBERG	RICHARD C.	S/SGT
SCHOENE	WARREN F.	T/SGT
AVERILL	ROBERT L.	T/SGT
METZDORFF	GERARD S.	T/SGT
SANTIAGO	OCTAVIO	S/SGT
WICHSER, JR.	JOHN H.	CAPT
SANDEFER	DEXTER L.	S/SGT
CHLAN	RAYMOND P.	T/SGT
LISENA	ANTHONY	PFC
LITTLETON	ROBERT F.	M/SGT
HOSAC	CHESTER W.	T/SGT
RAWLS	DON M.	COL
DESELMS	RALPH L.	T/SGT
O'NEILL	THOMAS D.	S/SGT
KAPLAN	MILTON	SGT
ADAMS	GERALD W.	S/SGT
ZANE	WILLIAM R.	MAJ
KLOPCHIN	ANDREW G.	S/SGT

\* Indicates the member is deceased

# 455th BOMB GROUP LIFE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	1ST N. MI	RANK
EVERHART	HENRY B.	S/SGT
HOLDSWORTH	RALPH R.	T/SGT
JORDAN	HARRY L.	1ST LT
* WOLTER	ROBERT T.	1ST LT
MATTSON	ARTHUR W.	T/SGT
PARTON	HOWARD G.	LT COL
EFFLANDT	HERBERT R.	CPL
EMICK	ROBERT F.	1ST LT
GLEFKE	PIERCE E.	M/SGT
* GOBLE	DAVID J.	S/SGT
HOSIMER	FRANCIS G.	1ST LT
GRIFFIN	LLOYD M.	LT COL
PARIS	HENRY C.	S/SGT
STOPA	LEO A.	1ST LT
DOYLE	WILLIAM M.	LT COL
RANDALL	FRANK B.	LT COL
MC GEARY	W. DAN	CAPT
BESSELL	ROHLAND F.	T/SGT
DRAGICH	WALTER	S/SGT
LANE	HURLEY W.	1ST LT
* LIVINGSTON	PAUL E.	MAJ
LUNDT	H. PAUL	CPL
TRONOFF	THEODORE V.	CAPT
LEE	WALTER P.	LT COL
MASON	DANIEL B.	LT COL
BOSLER	ERWIN M.	1ST LT
GREEN	WILLIAM P.	T/SGT
PICARDI	ANTHONY J.	CPL
VREATT	HUBERT J.	M/SGT
CUSHING	WALDO L.	M/SGT
MIDDLESWARTH	JAMES H.	S/SGT
STARNES	DAYTON A.	LT COL
TOWNSEND	LINCOLN H.	LT COL
FLEMING	TILDEN	CPL
CONLIN	WILLIAM C.	S/SGT
KNAPP	STEWART S.	CAPT
JONES	CRANDALL D.	CAPT
DENTON	ROBERT L.	M/SGT
BUTLER	RAYMOND C.	2ND LT
PYLE	MELVIN O.	T/SGT
MCPARTLAN	FRANCIS W.	S/SGT

## ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBERS

LAST NAME	1ST N. MI	RANK
BELDING	MARTAUN M.	
FUCHS	WANDA L.	

## Wanted:

During its time overseas the 455th Bomb Group published a Group Newsletter, this on a fairly regular basis. Lou Hansen, and your Editor are looking for copies so that material may not only be preserved as a part of the group history but also that excerpts can be published in the Cerignola Connection. If you have copies of this publication, please send them to Tom Ramey, 1211 Montclair Ct., Appleton, Wisconsin 54915. We'll copy them and return your originals to you, promptly.

## Time Out!

Let's take a minute and talk about dues. We cover this subject in about every issue of the Cerignola Connection but with only modest results. We don't send out a dues notice at year's end, this in order to save on postage. We rely entirely on your memory for payment.

Dues are due November 1 of each year for the following year. As you read this issue, ask yourself, "Did I send in my dues check?" And if you didn't, stop for just a moment and do so today!

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### 455<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Membership

Name _____		Date _____
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State _____	Zip _____	Telephone _____
Annual Dues	\$15.00	\$ _____
Life Membership	\$100.00	\$ _____
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	Total Submitted	\$ _____

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Mail to: Louis Hansen, P.O. Box 6125, Spencer, Iowa 51301

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