



CERIGNOLA CONNECTION

455th Bomb Group Association Newsletter

Spring 1992

From the President

Since the "History" was printed there have been two or three pictures of crews that were not part of the book, that have been brought to my attention. This has posed the problem of what to do with these photos. Both Al Asch and Tom Ramey agree that we should add a supplement with these additions, as well as any corrections that should be made in the history of the Group. In that regard, we would correct those pictures that were misidentified as well as make additions to the list of members. I would urge all members that have corrections to add to the book, to contact Al Asch at his home in Maryland. His address is 6205 Meadow Court, Rockville, MD. 20852. Also, any crew members that have photos that were not included in the book, please send them to Al too.

I spoke about a finders service in the last issue of the CC in an effort to find new members. Dave Frawley will be the clearing house for such requests. Al Asch is giving Dave all his information on how to find lost buddies and crew members and Dave will assist members in finding them. Dave's address is David J. Frawley,

2073 Skinner Ct. Apt., Clearwater, FL 34622. Send as much information as possible with your requests. Full name, last known address, serial number if possible. These will help Dave in running them down. As Al Asch said, this is a great Association and we all want to make it better so help by paying your dues and help us find new members from our old gang.

Hugh Graff, President

THANK YOU!!

Many thanks from Frances and me for the watch and ceramic flowers (no water needed) you presented to us at the reunion banquet. In addition to being useful, they will always remind us of all of you and the great time we had at the reunion.

Thanks also for your help in making the reunion and memorial dedication a real success. And, this includes having your registration in on time so we could be ready for you when you arrived.

A special thanks from Frances to the

ladies who helped with the ladies' continental breakfast as well as all the others of you who also volunteered to help. A big "thank you" to Robert Boldt of Colorado Springs, who provided a lot of assistance with the breakfast.

Another big "thank you" to Al and Naomi Asch. We really enjoyed working with them on this reunion. Also thanks to Ross and Beverly Strode for the "souvenir shop," caps and all; to George Defenbaugh for the display towers; to Dave Frawley, Bill Green and others who worked the hospitality room; to Frank and Norma Randall for helping with registration; to Horace Lanford and the 741st members and to everyone else who played a role in making this a very successful reunion.

We're looking forward to seeing you all in '93.

Lou Hansen
Executive Director/Treasurer

The Personnel Roster is being revised and should be mailed late in February or early in March, 1992.



Presenting the colors!



Chaplin Almond gives the benediction.



A welcome from Col. Caine of the Academy.



Col Asch presents the unit history.



Col Hansen and S/Sgt Armstrong unveil the memorial plaque.



Col Caine accepts the 455th history from Col Asch for the Academy Library.



Waiting for the memorial service to begin.



It must be almost time.



Luncheon at the Academy Officers Club.



This is delicious.



We were well fed!



I don't care what you say, for the banquet I ordered prime rib, you're the chicken.

Bits and Pieces

Attention

455th Bomb Group Association membership and subscription to the Cerignola Connection is based on the year starting November 1. To maintain current status, renewal dues are requested before November 1. This is how you will receive your Spring Cerignola Connection on time after publication. Your attention to the before November 1 payment is appreciated.

Asch Named Project Officer for Museum Affairs

At the last Association Board meeting held during our October reunion, I was appointed Project Officer for Museum Affairs. This means developing a program for our Association for placing items in selected museums representing the wartime experiences of the 455th Bomb Group. Our history book and selected pictures come to mind as examples. Your views on the items to place on display and the museums we should work with will be appreciated. Following development of a program, the Association will make contact with appropriate museums to determine if they would be willing to give us space for our displays. It may be a donation would be needed to get space. Let me hear from you: 6205 Meadow Court, Rockville, MD 20852. Alfred Asch, Col. USAF (Ret)

Plaudits!

Thank you for the time, effort and work that everyone put in to make the

455th book a success. I was pleased to see that many of the pictures I sent could be used. Sorry to have missed the reunion. Al Riewe, 740th Armament.

From the Air Force Historical Society

Thank you for sending us a copy of *Flight of the Vulgar Vultures*. It's an impressive volume, obviously carefully researched and beautifully put together. We are pleased to add it to our collection where it will be available to researchers for generations to come. Again, thanks for remembering us with this valuable addition to the written record of Air Force operations in World War II. Elliott Converse, Col. Commander, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

From the Academy Library

Thank you for the copy of the 455th Bomb Group History which you donated to the library during the memorial plaque dedication. The book will be an interesting resource for our cadets and faculty who are always interested in histories of combat operational units. A commemorative bookplate will be placed in the volume to acknowledge the Association's generosity to future users. We truly appreciate your interest in making the volume available to the library. Reiner H. Schaeffer, Lt Col, USAF
Director of Academy Libraries

The All American B-24 Pilot Writes

Please accept my sincere thanks for your letter regarding the memorable dedication fly over. People from all points and walks of life ask me to describe the thrill of flying the "All American." I answer with the obvious as a professional pilot. Buy more meaningful is my response to the honor of recognizing those who made history, their contribution to America, their valor, and their truly unique story. As I've explained to my dad, your exploits are only beginning to have the impact on the intrigue of society. In the years to come, your story will impact the interests and emotional fascinations of generations upon generations. I feel extremely honored to come into your ranks, listen to your tales, and share a portion of all your lives. Hopefully, I will carry this experience to further generations. The flyers of WWII are among the most respected citizens of the entire world and my hat is off to all you guys. The 455th reunion was special to me and it is obvious that the 455th was comprised of very talented men. My entire family had a wonderful time with you all. As a representative of the Collings Foundation, I am proud to carry the spirit of B-24 flyers throughout our great land. Thanks to your help and support. Isn't it great that a B-24 was restored as truly the greatest restoration in history! You can bet I'll take great care of this special airplane. I thank you for the marvelous history book on the 455th. It is excellent reading and has joined my prized possessions.

Ned C. Bowers, Pilot
All American B-24

Typesetter Error

In the last issue of the Cerignola Connection we ran a notice to former 741 Squadron members from Horace Lanford. Unfortunately the typesetter cropped the article to fit, taking the message out of context. Here is Horace's letter in full text.

Thanks to all "apron-wearers" and their ladies for making the 741st reception a success. Thanks to the 455th Group Association for their support.

Re: Squadron History. If you had an unusual experience in WWII (POW, evadee, ditcher, etc.) and have not submitted a write-up of it for inclusion in the history, please consider submitting it, along with any pictures you would like to see included. We are considering a volume III - assuming sufficient interest.

We will duplicate more copies of Vols. I and II in quantities of 10 or more — if there are sufficient orders. Cost: \$50.00 per copy (includes both Vols. I & II), plus postage. If desired, send money to Gene Hudson or Horace Lanford.

It was good to see you all at the reunion!

Sincerely, Horace Lanford

Chaplain's Corner

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of His hand.

Lest We Forget:

At the end of World War I, in a lonely sentry outpost in Gibraltar, this saying was found, carved in the rock by an unknown soldier.

God and the soldier men adore
In time of trouble - and no more
When war is over
And the wrong is righted
God is forgotten
The soldier slighted.

The Forgotten B-24

The B-24 is the most forgotten plane of WWII. But let us look at some statistics. The cruising speed of a B-17 was 160 mph; B-25, 242 mph; B-26, 260 mph; B-29, 220 mph; - but the B-24 cruised at 290 mph. The range of the B-17 was only 2000 miles while that of the B-24 was 3300 miles. The heavier B-17 weighed 65,500 lbs. while the B-24 weighed 56,000 lbs. The B-24 was shorter than the B-17 but had a greater wing span. And the B-24 was more maneuverable than the B-17. Let's put the age-old argument to rest! Source: Pictorial History of American Aircraft.

When Dues are Due!

Dues for 1992 were due November 1, 1991. If you haven't already done so, get your check for annual dues, \$15, to Louis Hansen, P.O. Box 6135, Spencer, Iowa 51301. Many are receiving the Cerignola Connection who are not regular dues paying members - join today. It's well worth the \$15.

Cerignola Connection Contributions Welcomed!

If your crew picture missed the history, if you have a favorite photograph taken during your stay overseas, or unusual war stories, send them to : Editor, Cerignola Connection, 1211 Montclair Ct., Appleton,

Wisconsin, 54915. When sending photographs, place an address label on the reverse side for identification. All photographs will be returned after printing.

If you still want a copy of the official 455th BG History!

A few copies are left of the 455th Bomb Group History. If you need copies, or haven't ordered one for yourself, then be sure to get your check for \$21.45 in to Louis Hansen, 455th Bomb Group Association, Inc., P.O. Box 6135, Spencer, Iowa 51301. All orders at this point will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. We will not be reprinting the book. Initial comments on the book were "outstanding." 400 photographs of your bomb group in action - 300 pages - 4 pounds of nostalgic memories complete with a recap of every mission flown, individual group and squadron histories, crew pictures, nose art, Cerignola scenes, and a roster of all members of the group from activation to deactivation. If you want a copy for your loved ones you have to act today.

FINAL FLIGHT

Staff Sergeant Donald C. Atkins passed away in March, 1991. He was a fine electrical maintenance engineer with the 742nd Squadron for maintaining our B-24s during WWII. Following the war, Donald farmed for awhile and then became a carpenter and cabinet maker. He is survived by his wife, Roberta, who is very grateful for all the support she and her family received from members of our Association in their hour of sadness. Donald will be sorely missed by all.

430 Attend 455th Bomb Group Reunion, Colorado Springs, October 2 - 6, 1992

Here is a listing of all members of the 455th Bomb Group who attended the '92 reunion. The listing is by squadron, making it easy to see who you missed if you didn't attend. 1 indicates Group. There was good representation from all squadrons with the 743rd leading the pack with 75 members in attendance. Add the spouses and you can see that it was a reunion we can all be proud of.

LAST NAME	1ST N, MI	UNIT
APPLE	HENRY W.	
FRANKEL	DR. WALTER P.	
GRAFF SR	HUGH R.	
JOHNSON	RALPH H.	
MOSELEY	GILBERT A.	
VEST	ROBERT F.	
WOLF	DAVID W.	
ASCH	ALFRED	740
BARKER	JAMES E.	740
BEAUCHEMIN	ALBERT E.	740
BREED	BILLY A.	740
BROOKMAN	CHARLES	740
BRYANT, SR	STERLING A.	740
BURKHOLDER	ROBERT E.	740
BUTLER	RAYMOND C.	740
CLEVELAND	ROBERT W.	740
CONLIN	WILLIAM C.	740
CRAWFORD	MILTON N.	740
CRAWFORD	WILLIAM B.	740
CRUMPLER, JR	EVERETT B.	740
DAVIS	JOHN F.	740/1
DESELMS	RALPH L.	740
DILES JR	CURTIS	740
DRAGICH	WALTER	740
ENNIS	RICHARD J.	740
FRANTZ, JR.	FRANCIS J.	740
GAISSER	FREDERICK D.	740
GROSS, JR.	FRED A.	740
HATCHER	WILLIAM O.	740
HOLDSWORTH	RALPH R.	740
HUMPHREY	RICHARD C.	740
IVERSON	STANLEY M.	740
JOHNSTON	GEORGE R.	740
KAPLANEK	DONALD	740
KELLEY	JAMES A.	740
LANE	HURLEY W.	740
LASHINSKY	FRANCIS J.	740
MCINTURFF	BEN B.	740
MCKNIGHT	GEORGE E.	740
MILLER	HOWARD I.	740

LAST NAME	1ST N, MI	UNIT
PHELPS	JACK	740
RIGGS	CLARENCE E.	740
ROLAK	MICHAEL J.	740
RUSHMORE JR	RICHARD F.	740
SCERBO	EUGENE B.	740
SCHWIEGER	LLOYD E.	740
SPENCER	EDWARD G.	740
STARK	CHARLES E.	740
TANK	ROBERT M.	740
USSERY	VERN H.	740
WALLICK	WILMER S.	740
WEAVER	HERBERT F.	740
WILES	MAURICE	740
ZOOK	ROBERT B.	740
ADAIR	ARJA P.	741
ALFORD	J. W.	741
ARMELLINO, SR	RICHARD A.	741
ARMSTRONG	ROBERT H.	741
BEARD	WILLIAM R.	741
BEAUVAIS	RAYMOND R.	741
BEEHLER	VICTOR E.	741
BLUM	JACK F.	741
BOWERS JR	WINFIELD S.	741
BRASHEAR	CAROLYN L.	741
BURKLE	HENRY J.	741
CORSELLO	ANTHONY M.	741
CRIM	WILLIAM R.	741
CULVER	MARION F.	741
CUMMING	GORDON B.	741
DISBROW	BILL L.	741
EARL	ADRIAN	741
EMICK	ROBERT F.	741
ENGLISH	JOSEPH T.	741
FOGEL	ANTHONY	741
HEWETT, JR	BURTON E.	741
HOSIMER	FRANCIS G.	741
HOSMER	HUMPHREY B.	741
HUDSON	EUGENE L.	741
HUTTON	BILL J.	741
JOHNSON	ARTHUR R.	741
KENT	EARL B.	741
LANFORD JR.	HORACE W.	741
LOIOCANO	CARL R.	741
LONERGAN	DONALD F.	741
MAGNUSON	DALE F.	741
MCCORD	GEORGE E.	741/1
MCGOVERN	GEORGE S.	741
MCLAUGHLIN	THERESA WITTMAN	741
MCPARTLAN	FRANCIS W.	741
MCWILLIAMS	VICTOR	741
MEHEGAN JR.	JAMES D.	741
MERFELD	JOHN E.	741
MILLER	CHARLES M.	741
NANGERONI	CARRIE L.	741

LAST NAME	1ST N, MI	UNIT	LAST NAME	1ST N, MI	UNIT
PAINTER, JR	CHARLES W.	741	CAREY	JOHN J.	743
SANDEFER	DEXTER L.	741	CATT	JAMES L.	743
SCHUKNECHT	HAROLD F.	741	CHLAN	RAYMOND P.	743
SMITH	JAMES H.	741	DEFENBAUGH	GEORGE E.	743
SODERSTROM	ED C.	741	DUNSCOMB	RICHARD E.	743
STRAW	JOHN S.	741	EVERHART	HENRY B.	743
SUMWALT	KENNETH L.	741	FEDEWA	JAMES A.	743
VOGELFANG	STANLEY	741	FREDRICKSON	C. BRUCE	743
WEEKS	JAMES E.	741	GENDRON	HAROLD E.	743
WENDT	GUS H.	741	GLEFKE	PIERCE E.	743
AMBROSEN	EDWIN C.	742	GREEN	WILLIAM P.	743
ANDERSON	GLENN D.	742	HANEY	RICHARD J.	743
ANDERSON	KARL D.	742	HANSEN	LOUIE O.	743
BENNETT	REGINALD D.	742	HARDING	ROBERT H.	743
BOLDT	ROBERT G.	742	HARPER	MAX D.	743
BROCK	CHARLES F.	742	HAWKINS	JOHN	743
CONTRATTO	W.R. "DYE"	742	HEIDMOUS	WALTER N.	743
CROCKER	RUSSELL A.	742	HILLIARD	ROYCE M.	743
DALTON	VICTOR L.	742	HOWLETT	EWING A.	743
DOYLE	WILLIAM G.	742	HOWSAM	EARL R.	743
DOYLE	WILLIAM M.	742	HUMBURG	ROLLA	743
EFFLANDT	HERBERT R.	742	JACOBUS	RALPH W.	743
FITTER	JEAN M.	742	KRIDER	CARL G	743
FLEMING	TILDEN	742	KUHNZ	RICHARD H	743
FRAWLEY	DAVID J.	742	LEPLEY	ROBERT K.	743
FUCHS	WANDA L.	742	LIVINGSTON	PAUL E.	743
GERBER	FRANZ C.	742	LOFFER	BILL	743
GRAHAM	ANDREW D.	742	LOHNES	RAYMOND W.	743
GROSS	WILLIAM J.	742	MANNING	HENRY	743
HANLEY	OWEN Q.	742	MANZITTO	SEBASTIANO	743
HEALY	MRS. JOHN F.	742	McHUGH	CHARLES S.	743
HETZER, JR	EMMETT	742	MCLENDON, JR	WILLIAM D.	743
HUGGINS	JOHN E.	742	MELTON	DON	743
KINDEM	ERLING	742	METZDORFF	GERARD S.	743
KOTZ	WILLIAM T.	742	MORELAND	JAMES H.	743
KRAUSS	HERBERT H.	742	MURRAY	VICTOR E.	743
LATUS	ARNOLD C.	742	OWEN	BEN G.	743
LUNDT	H. PAUL	742	PARIS	HENRY C.	743
MARTIN	CYRIL V.	742	PARTON	HOWARD G.	743
MYLES	THOMAS E.	742	PETERSON	DONALD E.	743
NASH	JOHN W.	742	RAMEY	THOMAS A.	743
O'NEILL	THOMAS D.	742	RANDALL	FRANK B.	743
PEARCE	JOHN W.	742	RASMUSSEN	RICHARD E.	743
REIN	CHARLES A.	742	REGAN	MARK	743
SANTIAGO	WILLIAM F.	742	ROEGNER	KENNETH O.	743
SHOUP	FOREST C.	742	SCAVARDA	MICHAEL P.	743
STRODE	ROSS D.	742	SCHOENE	HORST R.	743
TRONOFF	THEODORE V.	742	SHAW	ALAN B.	743
UNDERWOOD	GEORGE W.	742	SHUMARD JR	JAMES W.	743
WILLIS	LORNE H.	742	SICILIAN	LEONARD J.	743
BARR	CARL A.	743	SKAGENBERG	RICHARD C.	743
BASSETT	MARGARET E.	743	SMIDL	JOHN M.	743
BELLEMERE	DAVID G.	743	SMITH	JOHN H.	743
BEMIS	STUART A.	743	SMITH	LEE T.	743
BUSH	DUANE D.	743	SMITH	WYLIE A.	743

LAST NAME	1ST N, MI	UNIT
SORENSEN	CARROLL E.	743
SPECHT	ELDRED J.	743
SPICER	CHARLES B.	743
STEWART	FRANK J.	743
STOPA	LEO A.	743
SWEARINGEN	TIMOTHY M.	743
TAYLOR	VERNON R.	743
THIEL	JAMES J.	743
VANCE	DUANE S.	743
WERFEL	MICHEAL	743
WILSON	C.W.	743
WILSON	NEAL E.	743
WOLTER	ROBERT T.	743
ZANE	WILLIAM R.	743
ZIMMERMAN	WILLIAM H.	743



You got to know when to hold them - know when to fold them!



Chaff being readied for a mission.



All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy!



A special salute to the hard workers that kept the planes airborne.



HATS OFF...to the ground crew that kept Robert Robard's crew flying. 743 Squadron.



Whatever Became of the B-24's?

In the last issue of the Cerignola Connection we featured the crew of Balls O' Fire and the story of eight of their original crew meeting at the '91 reunion in Colorado Springs for the first time since WWII. But whatever happened to their plane...BALLS O' FIRE?

Front (L-R) Carl R. Reed, Radio Operator; Richard Skagenberg, Ball Gunner; William D. McLendon, Tail Gunner; Royce M. Hilliard, Nose Gunner; Gerald S. Metzdorff, Engineer; Meyer Werfel, Top Gunner. Back: Lee T. Smith, Navigator; William H. Zimmerman, Pilot; Charles S. McHugh, Co-Pilot; Eugene M. Basset, Bombardier.

After the end of WWII many of our B-24's were declared no longer sky-worthy. More obsolete were B-17's and some fighters.

Not so much because 60 to 80 missions totaling 800 to 1,200 miles each go around added up to a lot of wear and tear on those mighty engines. Or because there had to be some limit to the number of times any one place could be put back into fighting trim after it got ripped to pieces in runs of several hundred miles through anti-aircraft fire. Rather, it was because our bombers had just run out of time.

B'24's still able to fly back across the Atlantic were towed into storage on the open desert at Sandia Air Force Base near Albuquerque, New Mexico. With the coming of jets, propeller-driven bombers would soon be obsolete.

A few of the rejected bombers were wanted here and there for outdoor museums or display on a college campus. Such deviations from destiny were the exception.

At the graveyard for B-24's at Sandia Air Force Base it leaves a feeling of deep awe looking at the numerous patches riveted over holes made by enemy bullets, flak and light cannon anti-aircraft projectiles.

It was revealing to look at rows of bomber symbols painted on the sides of nearly every B-24, one for each mission it had completed over enemy targets. The bomber named by its crew as Flying Patches because it had so many holes patched, had 52 missions proclaimed on its ribs. BALLS O' FIRE (455th BG) had made 61 runs. Henry beat that one by one, he had survived 62 trips over Europe. Gambling Lady had gambled her life 95 times over and back. The two swastikas say that her gunners had brought down two German fighters.

But 95 missions still didn't mean the top record of runs made by any of these B-24's waiting on Sandia Base for the end. Toggle Annie proclaimed 90 daylight missions and 17 night runs. 107! Annie must have logged 100,000 miles, fully half of that distance under almost incessant fire.

After the fighting stopped in Europe, B-24's based there were ferried right on to Sandia without any more repairs than necessary to get them across the Atlantic. One ferry pilot said that he was barely able to reach a landing field in Massachusetts.

On the floor of one B-24, as she stood waiting for final call, the empty 50mm cartridges lay two or three inches deep, just where they had been kicked

out by the machine guns in spurts of self-defense. In another B-24 hung a belt of live ammunition, but not in the feedway.

What was to become of these hundreds of outmoded leviathans at Sandia? Only an inconsequential number had gone out to museums. Those once mighty birds were just too big and unwieldy to be wanted in many communities over the country. There was only one feasible solution to the urgent problem of their disposition. Scrap them. The valuable metals reclaimed would be in pressing need for the "new jets."

In retrospect it seems too bad that Albuquerque or the whole country for that matter, didn't give these old heavy bombers, every ship that flew for us in those perilous days, an hour of recognition before they went to the crematory. They were more than metal engineered to perfection. They were more than old machines worn out in the sky. Each metal creature was a tremendous thing of inspired creation, conceived not in the spirit of destruction, but for the preservation of the United States. Every one of them was loved by its combat crew.

(a condensation)

From a Kriegie's Notebook!

179 members of the 455th Bomb Group were taken prisoners of war as a result of enemy action. They brought back with them many memories. Some of suffering and hardship. But some on the lighter side, too. We like to remember the lighter side. Like what you envisioned your first meal to be when you got home.

Breakfast: Stack of buckwheat cakes covered with three eggs sunny side up with hot maple syrup; grapefruit juice; slices of home sugar-cured ham and small pork sausages, bacon; hot biscuits, homemade butter, jelly, cooked cereal; peaches and cream; coffee.

Dinner: Vegetable salad; vegetable soup; rump steak with American fried potatoes covered with milk gravy; hot corn bread; corn on the cob; milk.

Supper: Cream of tomato soup; shrimp cocktail; rye bread and spread; candied yams; potato salad; pickles, olives (stuffed); celery; and lettuce; home butter-fried chicken; baked potatoes with melted butter; creamed peas; corn on the cob; strawberry shortcake; homemade ice cream with wafers; coffee and mints.

Midnight snack: Cold roast beef sandwiches; cold meat loaf; apple pie with ice cream; milk.

Ed's note: The Kriegie that dreamt this - never received this in its entirety.

SAGAN

This haven of peace 'neath Schlesian Pines,
A permanent source of extravagant lines
Cool evening walks without tobacco and briar
Past brown sentry boxes and rusty barbed wire;

Cooking and stooging with Klim Tins, no Spam,
Brown bread sinkers, no jam;
Grim snooping Ferret with revolver and torch;
The pride of the Luftwaffe, the Feisler Storch.
Appell & searches, Foodacco & rackets.
Hauptmann & Major in "Bum-Freezer" jackets
Luftlage Meldung & Kampf in dem oster,
Limited movement in panicky postem;
Eichen Laubtrager and Heldenrod Finder,
Cheers the sad heart of perpetual binder.
Tunnels to freedom - a pleasant diversion
The Pommerche Zietung brings all nachuichten
Of Terrorangriffe und Wehrmacht der-ichten
Boiled barley and black bread keep body and soul
And so our time flies in perpetual boredom
With dreams of the past & eventual freedom.

W.C. Hawke RAAF

The Civilian

I met him in the local inn
Quaffing beer and talking loud
About the war and what to do."Mass
daylight raids I advocate,
losses you say! Well of course!
But men are cheap." I turned away.
I'd like to take him on a raid
And see if he would be afraid.
When search lights start to play around
And flak shells hurtle from the ground.
To burst with sickening groups close by
A noise well known to those who fly.
I wonder if he would like to be
Plunging swiftly to the sea
And feel the lunge, the endless rush
As waters through the cabins gush.
Frenzied scrambling to evade
A watery death a price oft paid.
I think that he'd appreciate,
The men to whom I dedicate

To be read I pray
By such as he, some future day.

Anon.

Per Ardua

Like migratory birds they soared aloft
Making geometric plan in flight,
And tho the flesh within was warm & soft
The eyes that searched the sky was hard
and bright.
But hate with hellish speed and guns that reek,
Can feel the quickest eye, and burning steels
Soften the hardest heart and make it weak
When flesh alone can know the pain it feels.

The eager youth curling beneath the lash,
Of hailing lead borne on the breath of hell.
Watched his bright dream become a
blinding flash
And lifted up his head to say farewell.
Granted one glance before a flaming death
He traced the brilliant outline of a cloud,
And knew then as he vainly fought for
breath
The darkening pall of right would be his
shroud.

Anon.

Summer Afternoon

We lay and were bathed in the golden sun
Some smoked, or read, or slept.
Time hovered and the air was still.
The faint drone of a distant plane,
The jingle of harness on a plow,
...drifts softly in harmony.
No one spoke, and peace held sway
But deep in our hearts
Despair mocked the day.

Anon.

From a Kriegie's Scratchboard



Kriegie Contributions Accepted

Kriegie contributions to the Cerignola Connection for this continuing series will be most welcome. If you have a favorite incident or story about having been a prisoner of war, let us know. Original material will be returned. Send to Editor, Cerignola Connection, 1211 Montclair Ct., Appleton, Wisconsin 54915.

President Bush Commendation Letter to the 455th B.G. is Available for Framing

An authentic reproduction of President Bush's letter commending the 455th Bomb Group, and read at the '91 reunion in Colorado Springs, Colorado, is available for framing. Reproduced on special paper suitable for framing, the reproduction will make an excellent addition to your den or study. For your copy send \$1.00, cash or check, to Louis Hansen, 917 W. 11th St., P.O. Box 6135, Spencer, Iowa 51301. Allow ample time for processing and mailing.

Ed's Briefs:

Order additional copies of the authentic 455th BG History while they still are available. 1992 dues were due November 1, 1991. If you haven't paid your dues, do so today. If you haven't joined, and many of you haven't, do so now. It's only \$15 a year. Send contributions to the Cerignola Connection to the Editor, 1211 Montclair Ct., Appleton, Wisconsin 54915. Especially you Kriegies, so we can perpetuate the series. If you don't have a membership roster, they are great. Contains names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all members. Have a happy new year!

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