



# 99BG NEWSLETTER

May '81

## MISSION REPORT

April- Albuquerque Reunion

There were 40 members in attendance as follows:		
Bernice Barr	Vince Bell	Lyle Beucler
Don Blankenship	Richard Bradfute	Lou Boatwright
Joe Chance	George Coen	Ivan Custard
Bob Duffy	Max Dunn	Sam Dunn
Tom Gamm	Richard George	Rex Greathouse
Michael Heffran	Sid Hines	Paul Hoover
J.B. McKennon	John E. Mahan	Joe Kenney
Hank Parks	Henry Pedersen	Oscar Peltzer
George Romontio	Bill Schnee	Raymond V. Schwanbeck
Chester Sieczynski	O.W. Shelnutt	Donald Thorrsen
Mike Yarina		Chas. H. Bilharz
		R.K. Campbell
		Eldon Dahl
		Frank English
		Duanne Hansen
		Bob Imrie
		C.E. Miller
		Tom Read
		L.B. Warner

These members were accompanied by about 25 wives who contributed both charm and common sense while the 99th were analyzing the African and Italian campaigns. I don't know what the reunion would have done without Martha's suggestions.

The Group began gathering on Thursday, so I shut up shop and went on down to the Inn to meet the early arrivals. We spent a quiet afternoon, after which seven of us opened the package which we had received earlier from General Upthegrove. It contained press releases, pictures, an autographed picture for the Society, and a comic book featuring Ben Warner. We were all quite touched; it made the 38 years seem like last year.

Thank you, General Upthegrove.

On Friday Kirtland Air Force Base provided a large bus in charge of Senior Airman Charlene Shearer. Captain Ferguson guided the Group through the non-magnetic Trestle and answered all of our questions. Airman Shearer then took the Group to the National Atomic Museum, after which we were returned to 99th Operations at the Dollar Inn. The Group is very grateful to the Air Force and to Senior Airman Shearer and Captain Ferguson for the pleasant and informative tour.

On Saturday the 99th convened in a business meeting. The writer was elected President, Mike Yarina was elected Vice-President, and Joe Kenney was elected Secretary. Dues for 1982 were set at \$10. The proposed constitution was slightly amended and was then approved as amended. The officers were directed to explore the possibilities of a joint 5th Wing reunion with the 301st and the 97th.

About this time Eldon Dahl of the 416th walked in. Eldon had been shot down over Foggia on August 25, 1943. Bob Imrie had located him by telephone only three days before the reunion. Eldon's entrance was the high point of the whole reunion.

We displayed memorabilia and letters throughout the reunion. Robert Whyte's sister had sent his photograph album as a gift to the society, Carl Mitchell had sent pictures, Phil Sweeney had sent a copy of the 99th 300-mission newspaper, and Virgil Taylor had sent some fine pictures. There was even a 50-mission hat and a throat-mike in evidence. Thanks to all.

Our supper at the Hilton was organized by Joe Chance. Sure do thank you, Joe.

Sunday was Farewell Day for most of us, but with our quarterly reunion schedule there is no longer the feeling that it is probably a last goodbye.

See you all in South Dakota.

Progress Report  
202 Members as of April 23rd.

\$521.85 in the bank on Apr. 18

\* \* \*

REUNION SCHEDULE

Rapid City, South Dakota July 17, 18, & 19.

Chairman, Mike Yarina, Fairburn S.D. 605-255-4238  
Harlingen, Texas October

Chairman, Mike Yarina, Fairburn, S.D, 605-255-4238

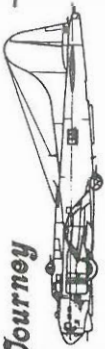
A reunion is planned for somewhere in the South during the winter, details to be furnished as they develop.

Albuquerque, N.M. April, 1982. Annual Business Meeting & Reunion.

We are receiving pictures, orders news clippings and other priceless memorabilia from live-wires such as Virgil Taylor and Carl Mitchell as well as from next of kin of less fortunate 99ers. We will give all items the respect which they deserve and will make them available some day to that unknown 99er, whoever he is, who is going to write our history. Our thanks to all the Group.

We are maintaining a list of plane names. If you fellows weren't so reticent about your planes the list would be longer.

And for you flak-dodging reprobates who want an up-to-date roster, there is no such animal. By the time we can get a roster to you about 30 more persons have checked in. So we'll just plug along and do our best. Many thanks for the names you are sending in. We have a large sheaf of names to process at the Public Library for later address and will Press On Smartly. Now in the Early Times we could type in a name at once upon receipt of a letter and then mail a copy of that roster right back to the individual, but that is just not possible any more.



Sentimental Journey

Year of manufacture: 1944  
Accepted by U. S. Army: 27 March 1945  
Air Force: 44-83514  
Serial No.: Four Wright Cyclone R1820-97 of 1200 horsepower each.  
Engines:  
Dimensions: Span: 103 feet  
Length: 75 feet  
Height: 15 feet  
Ceiling: 30,000 feet  
Performance: Maximum speed: 325 MPH  
Maximum bomb load: 8,000 lbs.  
Weight: Maximum gross: 60,000 lbs.

Much of the early history of this B-17G was lost with its paperwork when released from military service with the U. S. Air Force (formerly U.S. Army Air Force) in 1947. But, as a 'G' model, it is almost certain that this airplane was attached to the 8th Air Force in the European Theater of Operation and flew bombing missions over Germany during the closing months of World War II.

After being declared surplus, this airplane was purchased by Aero Union Corp. of Chico, California, in the early 1950's where its 'bombing' missions were slurry runs against forest fires throughout the western United States.

It was Aero Union which ultimately reversed its own modifications to the aircraft, replacing the bomb bays, turret mountings, and restored her to near original configuration including the 'warbird bare aluminum' instead of camouflage paint worn by earlier models.

The Arizona Wing of the Confederate Air Force purchased this B-17 from Aero Union Corp. in late January of 1978. With her acquisition, the Confederate Air Force now owns two models of the famed 'Flying Fortress'. A statewide 'name-the-plane' contest sponsored by the Arizona Republic newspaper generated the name of Sentimental Journey which was selected from over 800 entries. Painted beside her new name is a reproduction of the famous WW II pin-up picture of Betty Grable, with permission for its use personally obtained from trumpeter Harry James, widowed husband of the actress.

The Colonels of the Arizona Wing are constantly seeking parts in their restoration to actual wartime configuration of Sentimental Journey - parts which are extremely rare and hard to come by. As word of their project spreads, letters and phone calls originate from across the country from interested and concerned individuals who offer assistance in running down valuable parts.

Although work on the restoration is continually in progress, Sentimental Journey is quite airworthy, and has made numerous appearances at air shows and aviation events throughout the western United States, and will continue to do so even as work continues.

CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE  
Arizona Wing

James S. Peters  
9409 East Corrine Dr.  
Scottsdale, Arizona  
85254



684 East Main Street  
Bradford Pa 16701  
10 March 1981

Dear Trigger;

Received the March letter the other day and two things happened I got a letter from Stoughton Pa from Richard Dappsey and Sat eve my crew Radio Man Vincent Schauler called from St Louis to reminisce a bit. They both had read my letter to you. It was like a breath of spring and got me to start searching thru my trucks for some items that might interest you and the historial society.

There was a survivor from Frank hunters plane. In November 45 he returned to the group with a wonderful story of capture, escape and evasion. He was T Sgt Kenneth E Titus, Engineer & Top Turret gunner. I have his account as related to Capt Fairbanks and have made a copy for you as the original is getting pretty frail. Its a wonderful story and gives abetter clue to what happened. Also if you recall a short time before Frank Hunter was lost he brought his crippled plane back and bellylanded at Tumis. The story was released in the U S and his mother wrote a wonderful letter to Frank. Fairbanks gave me a copy ~~and I'm sending a copy~~ of her letter and I'm sending a copy also. After Frenks plane went down I wrote a letter to Mrs Hunter and received a V-Mail from her which I copied for you. Also after Gerbini S Sgt Hucksbee and T Sgt David Fleming, Waist gunner and R0 ~~where~~ wounded, (aptured, hospitalized, Released by Americans and eventually returned to Gp two weeks later on 19 July. Also an interesting story.

I also had copies made of Releases On 50th and 100th Mission completion. Iam also sending some other clippings, bomb strike Photos etc which ought to be of interest ~~to me~~. I have included a well worn Comic book with the story of Ben Warner and 'Lucky Seven', the number of planes he was credited with at Gerbini. I would like that returned unless the Historial Society would really want it for their files. Incidentally that was about the only time Radio silence was broken when Elliot called me in a tearful voice saying he had lost the whole second element. I told him to keep coming as there was nothing we could do to help anybody right then.

I have a great many pictures that the photo section gave me and a lot of Bomb damage pictures That George Doyle and I took on a trip to Rome right after the Germans pulled out, of Monte Cassino Abbey & ~~down~~ Rome and Frascati and other Towns in between. These plus a series of photos of the Milo Trapani airdrome bombing with frags which destroyed 87 airplanes and unknown numbers in hangars and ends our reputation. These are all pasted in albums and difficult to remove. If areul history of the 99th evolves and is preserved By the Society I might consider donating what I have. Of course I was transferred to the newly formed 304th Wing the day after I returned from R & R in January 44 and Col Leuer and others commanded for the next 200 or so missions But I always considered it my baby and was present for the 300th mission celebration.

I THINK THIS IS ENOUGH FOR NOW, BUT IF I CAN CLEAR UP ANY POINTS REGARDING REFUGES OR OTHER ESCAPES OR EVADERS OR INTERANGES IN SWITZ WHO WERE REPARTRIATED BY EXCHANGE I'LL BE GLAD TO FURNISH WHAT I KNOW.

I don't see get to Albuquerque but send my best wishes to Schauler and he shed some ~~then~~ after reading my letter to you and I might add I've shed a few myself. Regards, Lippie

*I have the pictures about ready to mail I will probably send it by UPS as soon as I can get it to the post office. Another from Tom DeWitt from here.*

Dear General Upthegrove

Thank you again for the parcel. We will return the comic book after it has been reproduced in color. We expect to have some sort of small volume for the members in a year or so. We are going to encourage each escapee, for a starter, to send in an account of his escape. Kenneth Titus will head the list.

Thanks again for all the Group  
George

January 22, 1981

99th BOMB GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2908 ALISO DR. N.E.  
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO, 87110

Dear Sirs:

Please send me information regarding the reunion. I was a member of the 348 th Bomb Squadron from December 3, 1944 until sometime in May, 1945, when I was released early (Aircraft and Engine training...to be reassigned to a P-51 Training Group before discharge)

For your information: I am a member of the Confederate Air Force, Arizona Wing, where there are also two other members of the 99th B.G. (also members of the Arizona Wing).

We are the proud operators of the B-17G "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" and wish to advise you of the possible availability of the aircraft for the reunion. We would require to be notified as far as possible in advance if the Society would be interested in having "SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY" attend, as we must clear such matters through not only our own Wing, but through C.A.F. HQ.

There would be a matter of funding the gasoline and oil required both directions (Phoenix to Albuquerque and return). We can discuss this matter, if an interest is shown to be positive, in further detail, at a later date.

Whether the aircraft comes or not, the three of us in the Phoenix area are interested in attending. You will probably get letters from the two other Col's concerned (CAF Col's).

Please feel free to call me either at home or at work, if an interest is developed in having the aircraft available for the reunion.

The Arizona Wing has restored a portion of the aircraft in that the ball turret is back in and is capable of operating, along with the chin turret. We are still looking for a top turret, and hope to have one as soon as we locate one. The nose section is about 90% restored and the rest of the work will be accomplished as time and articles permit.

My home telephone number is 602-996-6903 and my office number is 602-2739451, or 273-9452. I am busy weekends at the aircraft, as I am wearing three hats: ie: Wing Purchasing Officer, A & P mechanic, and Flight Engineer. (the flight engineer is part time...as required.



ARIZONA WING (602) 996-6903  
CONFEDERATE AIR FORCE

602-273-9451  
602-9454

"HOME OF SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY"  
BOEING B-17G FLYING FORTRESS

Sincerely,

*J. S. Peters*  
JAMES S. PETERS  
5450 EAST CORRINE DR.  
SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA, 85254

COL. JAMES S. PETERS  
PROCUREMENT/LOGISTICS

5450 E. CORRINE DR.  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85254

Dear James;

I thank the Confederate Air Force, Phoenix Wing, and especially you and Dave Steffens for a wonderful and informative visit to your meeting. We will work with you to get your B-17G, "Sentimental Journey" to a 99th (or 5th Wing ) reunion at a time and place convenient to you. Do you know that there are Americans who have never been in a B -17.

Best wishes

George

Dear George;

Our son, who is in the Air Force at Omaha sends the following instructions for locating Air Force Personnel;

1. Write him a letter with only his name and your return address on it.

2. Place it in an envelope and send it to:

AFMPC at tn. AF Locator, Randolph AFB:Tx 68148

3. Also place an informal note in the outside envelope explaining the situation. They will forward the letter the same day.

Rex Greathouse

The following was forwarded to the 99th by our contact in 97BG

1-27-81

Dear Mr. Stumpf

It is with deep respect and high regard that I write you this letter. It is about my father, S/Sgt. Arthur W. DePew 35330286 - waist gunner. I came across your letter in the Fort Wayne paper and decided to check into a few details.

Dad died of a heart attack ( no prior history ) in Nov. 1979. He left behind a wooden suitcase full of his Army Air Force souvenirs. It has been quite a few years since I last looked through it.

After he died I remembered it was up in the attic at the home place. I thought one of these days I am going to go through it again only this time with more understanding of what I would be looking at. Well, your letter was an inspiration to go through it again.

I had no idea what group of squadron Dad was in. I thought by chance it could have been your outfit. Well, it turns out he was not in the 97th. But I did turn up some information that you might possibly be interested in.

June 42 left Garrett Ind. for Camp Perry OH.

July 42 left Perry for Sheppard Field Tex. and volunteered for aerial gunnery school in Las Vegas.

From Vegas he went to Boise, Idaho to the 411th. While at Boise the 99th bomb group was being activated. He was assigned to crew 31 - 416th Sqdn. Left Boise and went to Walla Walla Wash., was there a while and trans. to Sioux City Iowa. After training there he went to Salina Kansas. They were outfitted for overseas with new equipment and plane (B-17F).

They left Salina to go to DeRidder La. for water navigation tests. They then went to W. Palm Beach Fla..

They left Fla. for Africa Feb. 3 -1943. They got to Oran around March. Their field was somewhere in the area of Oran and Telergma. They flew their first mission in April 43.

He flew missions to Bizerte- Tunis -Marshalling yards - Brenner Pass, etc.

Dad writes

"the 99th relieved the 97th and they went home to reorganize. We of the 99th found out in a hurry it was too big a job for 36 bombers and asked for help. Reinforcements came in the form of the 301st Bomb Group- 36 Forts. 2nd bomb group- 36 Forts- and a month later a new 97th with 36 Forts. They sure wanted Italy tore apart and that is exactly what happened. But not without heavy loss to us. Out of 81 original man of the 416th 25 came back, perhaps more. I never heard from the other outfits."

Dad's fifth mission May 3-43 had to turn back because of fog. Coming back they got too low and hit a mountain top. Lighting system and a horizontal stabilizer were torn off. They circled and spotted two large fires. The fires were set by nomads, giving them enough light to come in on their belly. They hit hard and caught fire. Everybody was injured but got out shortly before their bomb load went off. The nomads found them and gave them food and shelter. They also sent a runner and two days later the French Army showed up and took them back.

His last raid was Oct. 1 43. He left Africa and arrived in New York in Nov. 43 aboard a hospital ship. Went from there to Avon Park Fla. and was assigned to gunnery school. He was in Florida until Mar. 45. He was sent then to Laredo Texas to get his instructor's MOS 938. Left Laredo for McDill Field to teach B-29 gunnery. Dad was discharged in Aug. 1945.

I just wish he were here to be writing you himself. He seldom talked about his experiences around the family, but would ramble on with someone familiar with the subject.

Once again I am very proud of men like yourself and my father. He shared the common bond, the special fraternity; brothers of the Fort - the B-17.

I personally wanted to tell you that your letter to the Fort Wayne area was read and appreciated and did not fall on deaf ears.

Larry A. DePew

Dear Larry;

Thank you for sharing your father's letter with us. Back at the base at Navarin we of the 416th who got back ( in jeeps ) that night of May 3rd only knew that your father's plane had exploded. So it was quite a treat when the crew returned.

Incidentally, there are more than 25 of us around, and we will locate them.

Thanks again,  
George

Ped Magness, 97BG

Dear Ped;

Yes, we know that the 97th didn't go home, but picked up reinforcements and pressed on. The 99th got a good view of your sinking of the Trieste as we went on into the shore area.

Thank you again for your cooperation, Ped. You have sent us two lost 99ers already.

George

\* \* \*  
Ped Magness is Secretary-Treasurer of the 97th Bomb Group Reunion Association. The Association is holding their second reunion on the 10th and 11th of July, 1981 at Little Rock, Arkansas and Ped says that 99ers are welcome. And, Ped, the 97th will always be welcomed at our gatherings.

Dear George,

Sincerely

Thanks for your rapid response. My Wife and I plan to be in ABQ for the April reunion. I was with the 348th from May to September 1944 at Foggia. Was shot down on the Vienna mission July 16, 1944; escaped thru Yugoslavia and completed the tour. I am sending addresses of Dick George, Don Hackenberry and Jim Crowe. If such exists, please send name and address of other crew members of the "Dick George" crew. I heard Bob Hayes, Radio Operator is deceased. I am sending your January-21 Newsletter and membership application to the three crew members above. In 1948 I flew across Foggia-Couldn't determine where the old PSP strip was located. Best Regards, Sid Hines

Dear Sid;

Welcome back to the Group. We will carry Bob Haycs name on our published lists for one year.

We would like all you escapees to give us an account for the files. Some day an author is going to turn up among us, and it won't hurt to have the truth available.

George

\* \* \*

Dear George;

Enjoyed last newsletter and by coincidence just finished reading "Nazi Interrogator", Raymond F. Tolliver. Recommend it highly for any World War II flyers. The story of Hans Scharff, Luftwaffe's Master Interrogator is really intriguing. The Germans had a helluva file system on the Americans and the British as well.

Your efforts on behalf of the 99th are really appreciated. As a possible project, wouldn't it be great to accumulate and reproduce photos taken overseas with the 99th. I would pay any price, as I was one who did not have access to a camera or film while overseas. I'm sure my two sons would enjoy a pictorial account of their father's role in the Army Air Force in Italy.

Best Regards

Andy Kalapach

Dear Andy;

Right on! You Said it right.

We'll do our damndest here. I would like my three sons and six grandsons to have access to the truth someday.

Maybe that feeling accounts for the rapid growth of our Society.

GFC

\* \* \*

Dear George:

Guess we have run the same course but in different squadrons. Was at Gowen Field at Boise and also came home on the Empress of Scotland.

I flew Missions 10 and 11 with Mike Yarina on the Flack Dodger while we were getting the Wonder Bird II after losing I on the ninth mission.

I married a Sioux City girl after I got back from overseas. We lived in Sioux City 10 years after I got out of the service and within an hour's drive ever since.

Urban renewal has bombed out most of the old haunts of our Group. The West Hotel is now a parking lot. The Capitol Theatre and Rathskeller have fallen. The old Base is now the municipal Airport. The barracks our crew was in is still standing. The old PX is a warehouse for Tupperware. The combination bridge to South Sioux City is going into the river as they opened the new bridge today.

Sioux City is still a friendly City and I'm sure many of the original Group would enjoy seeing it again sometime.

Kirk Phillips, 348th

# #

Dear Kirk;

There is considerable sentiment for a Sioux City Reunion. We will cooperate fully here.

GFC

\* \* \*

Dear George;

For the first time in all these Years, I read the American Legion Magazine notification of a 99BG(H) reunion in the January 1981 issue.

As one who served in the 347th squadron as a navigator-radar operator-bombardier from Nov. 1944 through May 1945, I am very much interested in the Proposed reunions.

Am anxious to hear of other diamondbacks and what happened to them.

About myself: After service I went back to college and graduated as a Mechanical Engineer from MIT. Have since worked for the Elliot Co. in Jeanette on all kinds of projects. Mostly designing high speed, high and low

pressure, high and low temperature, big and very small turbines and compressors. Nearly all my interest has been in rotating machinery.

Now Senior staff engineer with prime responsibility for technology transfer to licensees in Japan and Holland. Same with a subsidiary on the Isle of Wight in England. Travel there whenever necessary.

Three children, two sons, one daughter.

Best regards

Dick (Mickey) Miaskiewicz  
1102 Linden Dr.  
Jeanette PA 15644

# # #

Dear Richard;

Glad to hear from you. Like you, I used the G.I. Bill to get some book-learning (at Univ. of N. Mex.) and have not had to return to the life of a migrant worker.

You know that we are eager to set up a reunion in the Northeast and will provide back-up for any 99er who wishes to host a quarterly gathering.

Sincerely

George

Hi! Buddy! I see your notice in Dec. DAV mag. which I got today. It is the FIRST mention I EVER heard about the 99th Bomb, 15th AF, Foggia, Italy

Are you talking about the same outfit? I hope so! I was with the 348 Squadron, 99th Bomb. during April June, July 1944. 50 missions in 3 mo, 7 days. and then home. Have any others contacted you? I have NO addresses. for SANCELLI(sp)? FLO, WESTPHAL others. Hope some of them write you. Please let me know.

Thanks again,

*Ray W Murray*  
8865 Brewerton Road

Brewerton, N.Y. 13029

Dear Ray;

Best wishes to you. New rosters will accompany this newsletter, and the search for lost 99ers goes on. But the best way is to call up your old buddies on your own, just as Imrie found Seldom-seen Dahl in time for the reunion.  
Salud y pesetas

George

BOOK REVIEWS

Air Spy by Constance Babington-Smith. Ballantine Books. 1957

This is an oldie which describes the process of target selection as it was supposed to have happened. It isn't true, but I, for one, believed it for about a decade.

A Spy in Rome. By Peter Tompkins.

Another topical book which describes the collection of intelligence, and by implication target selection. My interest was kindled when the 99th led the raid on Smiling Albert's HQ on one invasion morning in Sep. 1943. And for a decade I believed that this book explained how Albert was fingered.

The Ultra Secret, by Winterbotham.

The definitive work by the man who was in charge. This book explains to my present satisfaction how the Intelligence was gathered.

\* \* \*

TAPS

Ralph J. Birsic

\* \* \*

Next Newsletter July 1st



Dear George,

Would you please send me available details of the 99th Heavy Bomb Group Reunion. I was in squadron 416 from June through October of 1944, completing 50 missions as a radio-gunner.

Is this the first reunion or have there been previous ones?

Will you be able to furnish a list later of those attending?

Do you wish names and addresses of other members if I can find them?

Thank you

J.N.Bailey Jr.

# #

Dear J.N.

I shall answer your questions in reverse order.

Thirdly, thank you for the names and postage which you have sent in the meantime. And, yes, we want all the current addresses we can get.

Secondly, yes, we expect to publish lists of attendees, and the current list is one page 1 of this newsletter.

So now for Number 1. The First Reunion was held in Sioux City in 1957. Reunion No. 2 was held in Chicago in 1959. Reunion No. 3 was held in Chicago in August, 1961, and I was there. It was a wonderful meeting, thanks to Ed Zawila, Chairman; and to his fellow members of the reunion committee. We scheduled a reunion for 1963 in Cleveland. I never heard any more about it and do not know what happened. General Upthegrove has mentioned a squadron reunion, and there have been crew reunions also.

So we do not consider ourselves as pioneers, but we are reviving the outfit and working with Ed Zawila and with any others of the Group as needed. It really seems to be an idea whose time has come. We are mostly grandfathers now, with a little more leisure than we had in 1961, and some of us are even retired. It is our present intention to have FOUR Reunions per year and to scatter them all over these United States. That should keep us from losing touch. The Newsletter and the rosters which we plan to circulate to all will further keep the Group going. And the mini-reunions should allow the fellows to have a regional get-together without having to do all of the mailing of notices.

We missed you at this reunion and hope to see you at the next. One of your crew was here and asked about you. I told him that you had indeed given us a large number of current addresses.

So, for all of us, Thank you

GFC

\* \* \*

Hi George

Enclosed is a clipping from the Idaho Register. I am sure it must have come from the National News Service in Washington D.C.

If they would do the same for us it seems like a good idea. It would sure reach a lot of people in all fifty states.

I enjoyed the Jan. Newsletter. Looking forward to Mar. 1

As ever

Harvey R. McAtee

Dear Harvey;

Your idea is a good one, but I have not had the time yet to do many of the things that would speed up locating the lost 99ers. However, since Eldon Dahl is a cousin of an Editor on the Albuquerque Tribune, and since his story is plenty interesting, we are about to get some publicity which we will use to locate the rest of the Group.

Thanks

George

\* \* \*

Dear George:

Holidays now past, I am at the desk playing catch up, accordingly, my application for membership in the 99TH BOMB GROUP Historical Society is enclosed.

I enjoyed the newsletter additions and would mention as a matter of interest that Ray Toliver, author of NAZI Interrogator, was my Wing Commander in 1958. (20TH TFW) He is a fellow Q.B., lives in California and our paths cross on occasion. Also note you have added Faye Upthegrove to the roster, happy to see that worked out.

I have been in touch with the other officer members of my crew on the "AXIS ASS ACHE" and hope we can make your Albuquerque affair. Press on smartly, and, best wishes for 81.

Sincerely, Bill Holt

99th BGHS

I noticed a reunion notice in the latest Air Force Times for this Group to be held Apr. 11 1980. I'm sure you meant 1981.

I was in the 99th from June of 1954 to Dec. of 1955. I was the first one on the carpet because of a B36 rudder falling on the grounds of the A. F. Academy.

If I am qualified to attend Please send more information.

Respectfully,

Howard Dunaway

Dear Howard;

Well, you are eminently qualified for membership in the Group. When our wings are gone / we carry on / nothing can stop the Army Air Corps ---/ except the check ride. Welcome to the Group

George

H 1,

Saw by AF Times info on 99th reunion and am interested.

Was ops officer & lead pilot Oct. 44- Apr. 45, 67 missions. My crew included Don Blankenship, tail gunner - wounded Aug. 44 at Blechhammer, Norris Domanque, navigator; Hen Ladd, co-pilot, Lu Setek, bombardier. If you have any history please send to me and bill me.

Sincerely

John A. Plummer

Dear John

It must have been Don who was looking for this letter from you at the reunion. Anyhow, we missed you. See you at the next one. And when we have anything worth publishing, we will sound off.

Best wishes,

George

To 99th B.G. Historical Society

I joined the 99th BG in 1944. Flew B-17s out of Foggia. I was a captain and had done a tour in Australia & New Guinea, 5th AF, 5th Bomber Command (B-17s) & 19th BG. Brought a Group of B-17s & B-24s over- Based at Tortorella and then my squadron was 46. All of my papers and orders were destroyed by fire and it's hard to remember, but remember my C.O. was a Lt. Col. Weiper (Wiper)? I flew 58 missions giving me a total of 135, all B-17 except one in a B-24 which was enough for me. I was check-out pilot for new pilots coming in. Each was to fly 4 missions before being allowed to be on his own. I do have some pictures of Bomb Raids on N.Y., etc. I

had a nice pamphlet on the 99th Bomb Group with pictures of raids, etc. Same burned, and I'm sure would like one if you can find such. My wife is from Hobbs N. Mex. We are both retired from the AF. We live on two 40-acre lakes 40 miles SW of Jackson, Miss. Both in good health. Perhaps someone will remember me & clue me in on things. We attended a 19th reunion at Robins AFB Ga. in July 80- ran into several that flew out of Townsville Australia (Garbutt Field) & Port Moresby, New Guinea. Had a great time.

Clue me in on the 99th BG, its squadrons, etc. Perhaps seeing more names some of my tour in Italy will be remembered-

Why is the forming of the 99th BG so late getting started?  
Keep the Newsletters coming.

Jack C. McIntyre Sr.

# #

Dear Jack;

We certainly look forward to meeting you at one of the reunions.

The squadrons of the 99th were the 346th, 347th, 348th, and the 416th. The insignia are on page 1.

The Confederate Air Force has introduced me to several books which refer to the 99th, and we are going to have information on them in the next (July) Newsletter.

We guarantee to stimulate the memory at the reunions.  
Welcome to the Group

George

\* \* \*

Dear Sir:

Some issues past in the national DAV monthly publication, I noted that you apparently were in charge of a reunion of the 99th Bomb Group.

I served in the 348th Sqdn. of the 99th at Foggia Italy during 1944. I was a flight engineer and top gunner. The majority of my missions were flown with Major W.A. Lawrence, who had also served with the old 19th Bombardment, which had at one time been headquartered at Clark Field.

We flew a number of our missions in two B-17s, one named Tout Suite and the other named Glittering Gal. Tout Suite was so badly damaged by flak that we took over Glittering Gal as our regular plane. Since we were already old-timers when we came into the 99th, and were living, in a sense on borrowed time, we didn't, or at least in my case, get too close to any of the other bomber crews. Consequently, I can't recall a single name of anyone on the other crews. If you have the addresses of any of the men, I would appreciate having them.

Thank you

Edward C. Gaumer Sr.

# #

Dear Edward;

While stationed at Dalhart in 44, I roomed with Bill Bostwick of the old 19th and soaked up some of your history. Wow!

We will get rosters to you as fast as we can type, assemble, and print. There is a 2-month lag at present, but we are trying to improve and with our going to computers for this mailing we may be able to speed the rest of the work up.

Best wishes

George

\* \* \*

Dear Sirs:

I have noticed that you are planning a reunion and would like more information.

I am a former member of the 346th Squadron and am currently living in Arizona. I am a member of the Confederate Air Force and we have a B-17G assigned to us. I am a pilot and we are in process of restoring the big bird. It is in good flying condition and we fly it to various air shows throughout the year.

The crowds are very enthusiastic when we fly in. I imagine there are a lot of 99ers who would be the same.

Thanks for any info you can send.

Wayne W. Snyder

Dear Wayne;

I was greatly impressed by the dedicated CAF personnel, and you know that we are planning on getting the bird to one of our reunions, the sooner, the better.

Sincerely

George

Hi Gang!

Our crew was assigned to the 99th Bomb Group 416th Squadron from August 1943 to March 1944. At that time we were transferred to the 8th Air Force in England. This is the first that any of our crew has heard of any 99th Bomb Group reunion and so forth. I must say we are all elated to know the 99th finally has an organization. I have been quite active with the 8th Air Force and the 94th Bomb Group. After talking to Joe Lesch yesterday I think he put it as it should be when he said the 99th Bomb Group was our home.

Several years ago I ran into Sandy Plautz. His home is in Madison, Wisconsin. I do not know his address or phone number. Perhaps we have someone in the area who could locate him as he was in the phone book at that time. Sandy was on Jerry Lombard's crew. I'm sure these fellows would appreciate all the information you could give them. I don't know for sure whether I can attend this reunion in Albuquerque, but I'm certainly planning on coming to one in the near future.

Sincerely,

*C.E. Miller*  
C.E. Miller

Dear Skeeter

It was good to see you at the reunion.

We found Sandy in South Texas, which is par for the course, and no problem at all.

GFC

\* \* \* \*

Dear George

It is good to know that someone is trying to get the old 99th together again. I was a pilot in the original Group at Boise, then to Sioux City, Ia. and other places. Flew over with the group in "Flack Dodger". I heard that my plane came back to the states and is being flown. I would like to know if ---. I was in the 348th. After 50 missions I flew mail for a while, then came back to B-29s. Mike Yarina was my engineer.

Edgar H. Roberts

# #

Dear Edgar

If the "Flack Dodger" is around somebody will let us know. But from reading the 8AFIS News I know that most of our combat planes were chopped up for scrap. I have watched a few of them used for targets.

Mike is still the life of the party, the new vice president, and the chairman of two reunions. See you at Sioux City.

George

Dear Mr. Coen

\* \* \*

VFW Magazine announced a reunion for 99BG. I was a member of 416th Sqd. of a 99th BG serving in North Africa & Italy. Is this the same outfit? If so send more information.

Sincerely

LeRoy J. Garvis

# #

Dear LeRoy

Thank you for identifying the man on our Reunion notice as Lionel Chase. It isn't every time that somebody asks "Is this the real 99th?" that I happen to send him a picture of his own plane. Welcome to the Group.

George

So long until July 1st.\* \* \* \*

membership directory has been removed for privacy.



Courtesy  
of  
Virgil Taylor

99th Bomb Group Historical Society  
Chairman pro tem; George F. Coen Secretary; Joe Kenney  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE Jan. 1, 1981

1. Our primary purpose is to act as a Clearinghouse to put former members of the 99th Bombardment Group in touch with one another.
2. Our secondary purpose is to sponsor rallies or reunions for the members of the 99th BGHS.

Dues for 1981 are \$5.00

The Society is a non-profit organization. All dues are to be used to locate 99er's and to publish the Newsletter.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP \* - - 1981

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Squadron \_\_\_\_\_

99th BOMB GP. HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
2908 Aliso Drive., N.E.  
Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87110

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2908 Aliso Dr. NE  
Albuquerque, N. Mex. 87110



J.O.Grizell

15 Mohican Cove

Sardinia OH 45174