



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE 99th Bomb Group Historical Society

Nov. 1, 1981

Published bi-monthly. Editors, George F. Coen and Frank English
Society Officers: President, George F. Coen
Vice-president Michael Yarina
Secretary, Joe Kinney

REUNION NOTES

April 24-25, Albuquerque, NM.

Contact Thomas J. Gamm, 12225 Victoria Falls NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112,
Phone 505-296-7075

Fall, 1982, Muskegon, Michigan.

Contact Earl Silvis, 7540 Old Channel Trail, Montague, Michigan, 49437,
Phone 616-394-4501

Amigos;

Comes a call from Leroy Gonder who claims to have been our own Leroy Gushroske of the 416th. Leroy claims that none of our published rosters show the whereabouts of Terrible Terry Barton. What's more, Leroy is right.

So--- we admit error, go back to Square One, and set up a new system. In this issue we furnish the first four pages of the roster, which with Page 5 (published in the Sep. 1 issue) will give a roster of the first 250 members. In addition we will furnish a list of new members in each issue of the Newsletter. An alphabetical roster will be published some time during 1982. We are steadily locating 99ers, and it isn't too easy to keep track of everybody.

Welcome back to the Group, Leroy.

Sincerely
George

PROGRESS REPORT

Membership as of 15 Oct. 1981 263

Finance Report

Balance Aug. 27	\$ 54.65
supplies & misc.	-24.53
Newsletter printing	-169.88
Newsletter postage	-29.05
Dues & donations	202.50
Balance 15 Oct.	32.39

Thanks to those of you who sent in 1982 dues (\$10).

And thanks to the rest, who presumably are about to send in dues for 1982.

NEWS

We learn that Mike Yarina was seriously injured in an automobile accident in August. He has been confined to bed ever since then and is not sure when he will be up and around. Best wishes, Mike, and you too, Lettie.

J. H. DOOLITTLE
MUTUAL OF OMAHA INSURANCE CO.
1015 CASS ST. - SUITE 3
MONTEREY, CALIF. 93940

(408) 373-3292

28 September 1981

Mr. George F. Coen
99th Bombardment Group Historical Society
2908 Aliso Drive, N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

Dear Mr. Coen:

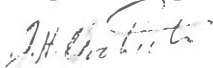
Thanks for your fine letter of September 20 and for the excellent 99BG Newsletters. They revive many memories.

Also want to thank you and, through you, the rest of the gang for the honorary membership in the 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society. I appreciate very much your kindness in including me.

Congratulations on the great job the group is doing and every good wish to all of you for an early 5th Wing Reunion - and 12/15 Air Force organization.

Best to you and to your family.

Very sincerely,



J. H. Doolittle

Thank YOU Sir,

for the 99th

GFC

215 Stratton Ridge
 Lot #138
 Clute, Texas 77531

I recently noted in the Air Force Times your announcement of a reunion of the 99th B. Gp. Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend, but would appreciate being informed of any future meetings. I served with the 347th Sq. from 7 April, 1944, to 15 July, 1944, having been transferred from the 376th B. Gp. after completing 25 missions. My last mission was flown as Sq. Navigator on 11 June, 1944, returning from Poltova, Russia.

Warren H. Little
 Lt. Col. USAFR Retired

Dear Warren,
 Thank you for your letter. Thank the dear Lord for all our diversified service publications, as far as information is concerned! We trust that you have 'upped' again in the good old 99th. I am curious, however, when you mentioned the "376th"? What type of outfit was this? It is Greek to me. Was it a medium B. Gp., or maybe a B-24 outfit? Anyhow, it is good to have you aboard, and I am assuming that you have 'rejoined' the 99th. Hope to see you at our next reunion!

fhe (347th, Hdqtra Tech Supply)

Dear George,
 I was happy to receive the Newsletter and information about the 99th. I attended the 3 reunions- the one here in Sioux City- also the 2 in Chicago & often wondered what happened after that. The picture of the Bad Penny was interesting to me. I made 46 of 50 missions on that aircraft. He was our copilot. (*Lionel Chase was*). I am enclosing a check for membership-also a couple of addresses, and a list of the deceased members of our crew, that I am aware of. I would be interested in attending a reunion in Rapid City. Our crew was one of the original crews. For clarification purposes, I was the only Barber in the Gp. when we first arrived overseas. I retired in 1979 after cutting hair 45 years. The mailing list you enclosed had many familiar names. Keep the news coming.

Sincerely,
 LeRoy J. Garvis

Dear LeRoy,
 As they say--'Hair today, and gone tomorrow'! I must say, in regard to the reunions, you sure are more than one up on most of us! I missed Rapid City, but made my first, along with many others, to good old Albuquerque. Wish you could have been there! We had one heck of a time. However, the main point is that you are 'among us again',-even if you were in the 416th! (Being in the 347th, I'm prejudiced, of course!) Seriously, on behalf of George, and all the rest of us 99er's, it is a real pleasure to have you back. The more, the merrier! I will now mention the names you supplied, including those deceased. (As the saying goes, only the good die young!) God bless them all!

Paul Peterson	Paul Spears	Earl Schultz-Mich.
1862 Palm Springs	1813 Bonanza Way	(Deceased)
Sarasota, Florida 33580	Modesto, Calif. 95350	

Mason L. Rhodes-Mich. (Deceased) Ted Gutz-Montana (Deceased)
 (LeRoy, I assume all these fellows were with you in the 416th?)--Have you, or could you contact them to join our 'illustrious' 99th, please? Thanks! As with all you fine 'gentlemen', and I use the word in it's loosest sense, the 99th will be a lot richer with your presence! See you soon, with all the others. In the meantime, the best of everything to you, and yours.

fhe

George F. Coen, President
99th Bomb Group Historical Society
2908 Aliso Drive, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87110
#10 for 1982 membership*

15 Mohican Cove East
Sardinia, Ohio 45171

Dear George,
Found these orders of crews en route to No. Africa. We arrived day before
99th 100th mission party while south of Tunisia. Most of us flew only 5-10
missions from No. Africa and had to take the transfer to Foggia via boat,
since we lacked seniority.
We had a crew reunion in 1973 in Philadelphia, which we got together in less
than 3 weeks. Only one did not make it. Second one in 1974 was per attached
individualized invitation. Again only one (same one) missed. Few pictures
to go along with invitation, for your use.

Here is a list of surviving members and their addresses.
John Osorio was in 99th, 347th Sq. Lives in Austin, Texas. Wonder about Maj.
(then) Shaffer (Sq. C.O.) who I have heard made General.
Also, Doc (Capt.) Newman was our flight surgeon. Lived in L.A., Calif. Brother
to Idonel Newman whose names gets bylines for film and TV music. Should be easy
to find him.

Again, thanks.
J.O. Grizzell

P.S.-For first reunion of crew-we had lost touch with a couple of them-and in one
case after about 8 calls to various places, by pure luck, found him. I made
the call to Joe Miller. I said (after finding out it was the right Joe Miller),
this is J.O. Grizzell. He said, 'WHO!' 28 years can really make a lapse in one's
memory. J.O.G.

P.S.-Next crew reunion Summer '82 at my place. J.O.G.

Here is a list of the names James Grizzell enclosed, besides his own.
Jesse P. Wheeler C.K. Jankousky Kenneth L. Bradt
4210 Deepwoods Dr. 702 Sheridan Dr. 1450 Harbor Island Dr.
Austin, TX 78731 Benton, Ill. 62812 San Diego, Calif. 92101
Paul Raser LeRoy Gardner Marvin Jacobi
5006 Germantown Ave. 8091 Phiras Rd. 361 So. Hollybrook Dr.
Philadelphia, PA 19144 Glen Burnie, MD 21061 Apt. 105, Bldg. 40
Pembroke Pines, Fla. 33025

Harry P. Niehaus, 3938 State Rd. 730, Wilmington, Ohio 45177

Dear J.O. (James),
Your letter, along with your copy of the reunion 'individual invitation', plus
all the names, and addresses was a real gem. I notice that quite a few crews
like yours, manage to get together frequently. That's great! J.O., your re-
marks about making the move to Foggia by boat sure brought back some fond(?)
memories. Among others, I spent days trucking Hdqtrs, and 347th Tech Supplies
to the port at Bizerte. Then, I spent 5 miserable days, and nights, on an IST
before arriving at Taranto, Italy. From there, we travelled on the old '40 & 8's
to Foggia (another 5 days)! Some time J.O., I would like to tell you about our
boat trip to Mers el Kebir (Oran), Algeria, not to mention the once again
40 & 8's trip to our 1st base at Navarin, Algeria. It definitely was not 1st
class, as the rest of the ground crew can tell you!

As regards your mention of our 100th mission, don't know if you heard that we
flew 425 missions at the war's end, out of Foggia (Tortorella). Not bad, huh!
I remember Major Shaffer (then), also. Did not know he made General. Do not
know what happened to him, but some of our other members might. In reference to
Dr. Irving Newman, I knew him well, also. In fact, I just got off the phone,
trying to track him down. He is still in Internal Medicine, I just found out
thru his answering service. For your information J.O., his address is 2080
Century Park East, Los Angeles, CA 90067. His phone # is (213)553-3222. How's
that for service! This being Wednesday, he's not in his office, but will
probably call me tomorrow. Dr. Newman is a great guy.
Will close for now. Thanks for everything, and hope that you and all the other
boys will join up, if you haven't already. With George and myself being so far
apart, it's hard trying to keep up to date. However, we muddle thru! Hope to see
you all at our next 'Donnybrook. Best regards!

the (Frank E. English)

Frank was in 347th and
Hq. Tech supply

Wrote the letter last
in fall of 1982.
99BG reunion in Muskegon, Mich
99BG Newsletter. Wrote the letter last
Nov 1981. 99BG reunion in Muskegon, Mich
There will be a 99BG reunion in Muskegon, Mich
in spring.

1600 W. Quincy St.
Garrett, IN 46738

Mr. Coen,
George, I hope this finds you in good health and happiness. When Mr. Stumpf first wrote me he asked about combat photos Dad might have had. I dug around and came up with this one. If you can use it for anything you are welcome to it. I just sent Mr. Magness of the 97th a copy for their collection. Your copy of January's newsletter was most impressive. I see where you returned on the Empress of Scotland. Dad came back on the Louis Pasteur. I was wondering if it is possible to become an associate member in order to receive the newsletter? Letters from men like Frank English reveal very interesting stories about unsung heroes. Please let me know if this is possible.

Thank you.
Your friend
Larry

Dear Larry,

Thank you once again for your most welcome letter, and picture. I will send it back to George to go into our ever growing collection of data pertaining to our good old 99th. That is a splendid photo of a waist gunner at his position, and one a lot of us are very familiar with. In front of me I have my copy of the Sept. 1 newsletter. I note with pride that your question has been answered, namely, that you are now an Honorary Associate Member. Welcome to the club, Larry! You deserve it--it's people like you who help give our morale a big boost. In regard to the remarks about me--I'm glad you enjoyed my 'novel', Larry, and I'm flattered, but by no means was I a hero. I was, as they say, in the right place at the right time, when we bailed out. All I have to say is that I did my darndest to do my job, both on the ground, and in the air, to the best of my ability. The real heroes are the boys who were killed, wounded, or became POW's.

Anyhow, welcome aboard Larry. It sounds redundant, but it would be nice if we could all get together at a reunion, and soon. Hold that thought! Our best to you, and yours, also.

Kindest regards,
From all in the 99th (fhe)

3229 Homestead Rd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46804

Hi George,
You don't know me but I go to P.T. when your sister does. One day while she and I were talking, I said my husband was in the Air Force during WWII. She then said you were and we just thought that maybe you were part of the same group--57th Bomb Wing. They have had reunions and are still trying to find men who may have been in the Group. (Unsigned-but the return address label says-Kenneth E. Burgo-so I'm assuming the writer is Mrs. Burgo-fhe)

Dear Mrs. Burgo,
Thank you for your letter. I'm sure George Coen might add something to this. However, to my knowledge, and I looked in my 'History of the 15th AF', but found no record of the 57th Bomb Wing. It is my uneducated guess that said Wing was in the 8th AF in England, or the south Pacific, and could have been B-24's, or medium bombers. Maybe some of our members would know. The closest I can come is knowledge of the 57th Tactical Fighter Wing, which is at Nellis Air Force Base, Las Vegas, Nevada. I was there in May of this year. It wouldn't hurt to drop them a line--you never know! Anyhow, it was good to hear from you.
fhe (Frank H. English)

yes, Frank does the work, as you can see! fhe.

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George---these are answers to 4 letters I Xeroxed.
(1)--Bruno

Dear Jim,
Thanks for your letter. Sorry to hear about your mother-in-law, and do hope she is well on the way to recovery at this time. These things happen, as we all know.
We had a great time at the Albuquerque bash. Wish you could have made it. However, maybe you got to Rapid City, I hope? Don't have a list of those present, and couldn't make it myself, but George said it turned out real nice.
I see that you are on the roster, Jim, and that you were also in the 347th. I'm not good at remembering too many names anymore. Did you fly combat--or?
So long for this time.
With all good wishes,
Sincerely,
Frank H. English (fhe)

(2)--Jackson

Dear Eddie,
Likewise, it was great hearing from you. George will be in possession of the brochures you mentioned. As for the grey hair, you are lucky! What I have left is pure white. Glad to hear you are back in the fold, also. Our ranks are swelling, thanks to people like yourself. I am a DAV 'lifer', as well as belonging to other service organizations. The monthly magazines have a wealth of information--thank goodness for them.
You sure are one of the oldtimers, I see. I came in at Sioux City (Operations) to the 347th, and went all the way. Sure would like to see and meet you at our next gathering, as would all the others. In the meantime, take care, and all our best to you.
Best regards,
Yours truly---fhe

(3)--Bolt

Dear Bill,
I trust you don't mind me being 'unmilitary', not to mention 'forward', in addressing you as 'Bill'. You signed your letter that way, so am assuming it's OK. I see that you also qualify as one of the 1st in the 99th. On top of which you were in a high class Sq., the 347th. I was proud to be in it, too. (They were all good though, weren't they?) I had to say that, or expect a broken jaw! Again, Bill, sorry that you and your dear better half couldn't attend the Albuquerque meeting. How about Rapid City? Were you folks able to make that? Suffice to say, I was unable to go. However, the good Lord willing, I'm primed for New Mexico in '82.
You, and I, aren't too far apart, miles-wise, Bill. I live in Whittier, and that's not too far from San Diego. Come to think of it, there are several other 99er's around this area. Maybe we could plan a mini-reunion of our own, one of these days! I'll cut this short for now. Many thanks for writing, and including all those names. Sure hope we could get them on our roster, also.
All the best--
Very truly yours,
Frank H. English (fhe)

(4)--Plummer

Dear John,
Your very informative letter says it all! You wouldn't remember me, I'm sure, but I, and a lot of other 347th members know you. You were one of the best--talented, and well liked. It's great hearing from you after all these years. Sure do hope you made it to Rapid City. I wish I could have been there. At least my 1st reunion at Albuquerque brought me into contact with a lot of fellows I had last seen at Tortorella in 1945. You mentioned Norris Domangue. He was Navigator on the crew I bailed out with over Yugoslavia, on Aug. 23, 1944. That was when Capt. Christianson brought old #282 home, alone. We corresponded recently. He is Personnel Mgr. of Lukens Steel in Pittsburgh, PA. I'll close for now John, but hope to see you soon. All the best to you. fhe

60 Robin Circle
Stoughton, Mass. 02072

Dear George,
Received your notice on the 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society of November 1980 and would be very much interested in joining the group. Please forward an application and the fee due and I shall be glad to forward you a check for such amount.
Since WWII I have kept in constant touch with a close buddy of mine from Iron River, Michigan and we visit (families) each other every so often. Allan is a retired Postmaster (U.S.P.O.) in Iron River. If you wish to contact him you can address his mail as follows:

Allan J. Dahl
P.O. Box 208
Iron River, Mi 49935

We were both in the 347th Bomb Sq. in N. Africa and Foggia Air Base in Foggia, Italy. (B-17) group. Allan was a gunner-engineer and I was a Control Tower Operator. Allan is retired and I am a Hearings Officer for the Common of Mass.- expect to retire in October 1982.

Another operator in the control tower with me was (last address known to me).
Bernard Oppenheim John R. Repka, 1st Sgt-347th Sq.
2401 Valmont St. Donora, PA
New Orleans, La 70115 (He left the Sq. and went to Hdqtrs.)

For now, I will close but I do have a diary of some of the men I served with and they gave their addresses as of the time they were stationed with me. If it will help you please let me know and I will be glad to forward same.
Good Luck in your Search.

Richard H. "Dick" Dempsey

Stationed with us were 346-347-348 & 416th Sqdns.

Dear Dick,

How come you didn't mention good old Sioux City in your letter? Not to mention our 'stop' in Watertown, South Dakota, also, Tinker Field, and last but by no means least, Camp Kilmer! How soon we forget!

Seriously, it sure is a treat for me to finally answer your letter. As you can well imagine, good old George Coen has been up to his ears with 99th stuff for several years now. When we had the reunion in Albuquerque, this past April, it was 'suggested' that I help out by answering some of the letters. This is only my 2nd attempt, so bear with me. In case you don't remember me, Dick, I joined the 347th in Nov. '42, at Si-ox City, and was in Operations with Bob Davis, Carl Bullock, Nathan Brown, and Joe Germano. When we got to Navarin, I was in Tech Supply with Harry Goose, Victor Bobco, Victor Crawford, John Biotti, Lynn States, and Joe Brodie. Then, after about a month, I went down on the line into Hdqtrs Tech Supply, where I stayed until I flew combat out of Tortorella as a Photographer/Gunner. You may remember Capt. Warren Christianson bringing old #282 home alone on Aug. 23, 1944? Well, I was one of the crew who bailed out over Yugoslavia. On my 33rd mission (and my last), to Munich, both my heated gloves shorted, and burned my hands. Dr. Irving Newman treated me. I then went back into the 347th Tech Supply until the end of the war. (They disbanded Hdqtrs Tech Supply shortly after I started flying.)

Anyway, Dick, it's good to know you have done alright, and that you will be retiring next year. In regard to the names you have, we sure could use them, and any other information you might come across. We can't locate John Repka, nor Joe B. Redd, Joe Celline, Victor Bobco, and a lot of others. Harry Goose and I correspond; have also talked to Steve Molnar, Victor Crawford, Lynn States, and John Biotti--also the copilot, and navigator I bailed out with.
By the way, I sure remember good old Bernie O., but would I have known Allan? I'll knock this off for now. I don't see your name on my roster, Dick. Are you now a member, and some of the others you mentioned? If not, how about writing to George Coen again? Also, we old folks would love to see you at our next 'open house'! So long for now, Dick. It has been a real pleasure, bending your ear! Our best to you, and yours.

Best of everything, as ever,
Frank H. English (fhe)

5247 Oxford Drive (348th)
Columbus, GA 31904

Dear George,

Sure was glad to receive the newsletters and name and address list from you. Sounds great that the 99th B.G. is having a reunion. Would like to make it to Albuquerque in April, but just can not make it this time. I was stationed at Kirkland AFB in 1959 and 60.

I was with the 99th B.G. in May 1944 thru Sept. '44 with the 348th Sq. I believe it was Ernest Gentit that sent you my name. He was our bombardier. My crew got together after about 35 years in Oct. '79, at my place here in Columbus, GA, and had a reunion. Sure was good to see all of the fellows again.

We are planning another get-together for this Sept.

I got out of the AF at the end of WWII. Was in the reserves; was called back for the Korean conflict and stayed in after that.

I retired from the AF in Dec. of 1970 with a total of 25 yrs. I am sending my membership application along with a check. Hope to be able to attend one of your reunions soon. It was sure good to hear from you and the 99th.

Sincerely yours
John W. Elben

Dear John,

It was good to hear from you--especially now that you have reenlisted! I note that quite a few '99er's' have made a career out of the service. More power to you! Hope to see you soon at one of our coming 'functions.' Best Wishes!
fhe

11160 Dicky St.
Whittier, CA 90606
Oct. 8, 1981

Dear George,
Thank you for your 'scribbles', and all the kind words. Hope you, and Martha are fine. Have tried to struggle thru these letters, as can be seen. Some are long-winded because I knew some of the boys so well.

Like I always tell you--use what you can.

It seemed funny to me to get the Sept. 1 newsletter with the answers to some of my letters in same.

Thanks again for your letters, the newsletter, and the latest update, with the by-laws included.

I will mail 6 pp. tomorrow, George. (This note included, of course.)

Incidentally, I am also, in a separate envelope, going to send back to you, all of the letters you have sent me.

Please check every one as there are pictures, applications, and various data that you may want to save to reproduce in the future.

By the way George, that 17th B. Gp. letter was one of the finest I have ever read! That Editor really puts it on the line. I wish everyone could read it!

So long for now. Will hear from you soon, no doubt.

With all best wishes--
Your obedient servant--
Throckmorton B. ...

gentle ... the interesting newsletters of recent date. As if read the list of members ... familiar names appeared and refreshed my memory of the months we spent together in W. Africa and at Poggia, Italy.

I worked with the 347th Engineering section and remember some of the actions written about in the newsletter, but most of all I remember how difficult it was to keep the planes flying with the limited amount of spare parts during the first few months. Enclosed is check for \$5, dues for 1981.
respectfully yours
Stephen Molnar

Yes, Stephen, it was one muddy, dusty, sweaty grind. I'll always remember winching 1000-pounders into the bomb bay when we had to load our own bombs.
Geo.

August 5, 1981

George Coen
2702 Aliso Dr.
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Coen

Your Newsletter arrived here July 10 1981 addressed to my husband, Alfred Marcouillier who died last year, 1980. This Newsletter would have made him very happy as he talked a lot about seeing the gang of the 347th Squadron, 99th Bomb Group once again and if there would ever be a reunion somewhere, anywhere, he would go. He was called "Frenchie" because he was the only Frenchman in the Group. At one time he was best man to one of the men who married an Italian girl. His C.O.'s name was Seacord (he died a few years ago). He often talked about what a great guy he was.

I guess he saw a lot of bad things but he never talked about it; only the fun things. He did end up with the 301st Bomb Group and was sent home from that outfit.

The first place he was sent to was Africa, then Italy. He arrived there May, 1943 and was sent home in 1945.

I am sending some pictures of his group. Maybe at a reunion some of the men would remember the time it was taken.

Best wishes

Mrs. Alfred Marcouillier
96 Gold St.
Manchester NH 03103

Dear Mrs. Marcouillier;

Thank you for the letter and the photographs. The photographs will be marked and indexed and will eventually be given to an Air Force Museum. In the meantime they will be carefully treated.

Your letter makes me wish we had started the Society earlier. We are not yet one year old and already have about 400 names and 260 members.

It took several months to locate your address, which we finally got from a New Hampshire telephone directory after our first mailing had been returned.

Spanish Loss Lakes
8 Dec. 1980

To: Gee, F. Coen
Subj. 99th B.Gr. (H)
Dear Geo;

I was a pilot, B-17 in the 99th BG, Tortorella Farm (Poggia, Italy) 1944-1945. A Col. Niefer was C. O.

Please drop me a line giving the Squadrons that made up 99th BG.

I made my last 2 raids on Floesti and ran 53 missions before being sent home.

I ran 77 missions out of Australia & New Guinea with the 19th BG, 5thAF and 5th Bomber Command- was sent to the US in late 43.

Got out of AF in Dec. 45. Stayed in Reserve and retired at age 60 in 1974. Made the 1980 Assoc. reunion at Warner-Robbins in July 80.

Married a Hobbs, N. Mexico gal in 44 while instructing 4 engine (B-17's) and Nav. Was married in Jackson, MS. Was training a B-17 Crew at GPAFB, Gulfport MS when I was sent to Savannah, Ga. Picked up a new B-17 & took a B-17-B-24 Group to Italy.

I had a book on Bombings of the 99th but have lost same; she would like to have one.

I will join Group if you send me all the poop. We go west to visit so could make reunion in Apr. 81.

Retired from ice business in 76, giving same to our 3 sons. Live on two 40-acre lakes 39 mi. SW of Jackson. Come visit us. Lots of good fishing.

My co-pilot was Lt. Joseph C. Corley (N.C.), Eng. Kerschel Jooch (Ala.),

Can not find either. Henry Howell, my bombardier was stationed at Keesler in '70, retired and lives in Waco Texas the last I have heard. Had twin waist-guns named Lenz. They were split and one went to E-24s. Lost all orders on European tour. Was ops officer 46?? Sqdn.

Write me @ Merry Xmas

Jack C. McIntyre, Sr.

Dear Jack;

Related salute to you. The squadrons were 346, 347, 348, and 416.

We have located histories of the 12AF and the 15AF and had copies available at the Rapid City reunion. They are available from Historical Aviation Album, P.O. Box 33, Fossil City, CA 91780 for \$7.50 and are well worth it. We expect to have a bundle of them at the April reunion too.

We do not have any information on your crew yet, but if you could give us the city where they were last, we might be able to track one or two of them down. Meanwhile I will run Howell thru our search system again. We are finding about 15 per month at present, mostly through the efforts of fellows like yourself.

Sure hope to meet you at the next Bomber's Bash.

Sincerely

George

7100 Murphy Court
Camp Springs MD 20031
17 May 1991

Dear George;

You got me--Looked many times in various publications for notices of 99th reunion but never found one. I was one of the ground echelon. Was the Communications Officer of the 346th. Some guys may remember "Rick's Monstrosity", the big generator that lighted the 346th area like daylight & all other squadrons (at Foggia) were in the dark! That was Sgt. Ed Hardin & my dream-child. When I find my pictures I'll send some to you. Sam B. Hess, 5265 Wayne Rd., Rt. 5, Chambersburg PA, 17201 was the Group Communications Officer. John A. Lewis at 6205 Judson, Lincoln, Nebraska 68507 was in our squadron. Last I knew about 4 years ago he was a school teacher. Louis S. Libutti (now deceased) became a religious brother, C.S.T. in St. Joseph's seminary, Albuquerque, in S.U.S.A. His was the friendly tower operator's voice you heard on return from missions. Russell R. Leksell, Box 131, Kenton Michigan 49943 was the Supply Officer of the 346th. He became a school teacher & is now retired. Charles Leonard (now deceased) from Linden NJ also was a tower operator. More when I find my records in NY.

bye

Rick

P.S. Joe Chance still owes me a jeep, #30115613

Dear Rick;

Thanks for the names, most of which we located. However I forgot to remind Joe about the jeep. Sure beats all how those jeeps used to hide themselves under Arab haystacks.

To Tom Gamm- 99EGHS Reunion Chairman- 122 5 Victoria Falls NE, Albuquerque,
Dear Tom; RR 57112
I plan to attend the April 1982 Reunion

Name Sqdn. Nov. 1981

Comrades; in order to make plans for the Big Shindig Tom needs your input right now. You may mail this with your dues if you wish, and it will be transmitted to Tom at once. But please respond now if you plan to attend so that we can be in a position to bargain and plan.

Thanks
George.

Application for Membership. \$15 gets you 1981 and 1982 Newsletters.
\$10 for 1982 Membership

Name _____ Squadron _____ Renewal _____
Address _____ New _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Book Reviews

Operation Bismark Sea, Lawrence Cortesi, Major Books.

An excellent account of the skip-bombing of the Rip Armada sent to complete the conquest of New Guinea. With pictures yet. The 38thEG, under the command of Colonel Fay Upthegarde figures prominently. Won't that give historians fits a century or two in the future?

Carrier Combat, Frederick Mears, Ballantine.

An account of the beginnings back in December, 1941. A good book that has nothing to do with B-17s. And for you striplings of 50 years, those were rough days indeed back when the Rips were streaming down to Java.

TAPS

No bad news this time. But it is later than you think. Join now.

So long for now. Next Newsletter Jan. 1, 1982
George

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