



VOLUME 2, NO. 3 of the Newsletter of the 99TH Bomb Group Historical Society
May 1, 1982
Published Bi-monthly. Editors: Frank English and George F. Coen

This Month's Feature, courtesy of Jim Flex (of Flex & Flo) is a 1944
Comic (1) Book which is not too inaccurate.



SERGEANT BEN WARNER, OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE HE
WANTED TO DO THAT DAY, BUT IT HAD TO WAIT! FIRST HE HAD A JOB TO DO... AND WHAT A JOB!

AT A U.S. AIR BASE IN NORTH AFRICA RECENTLY...

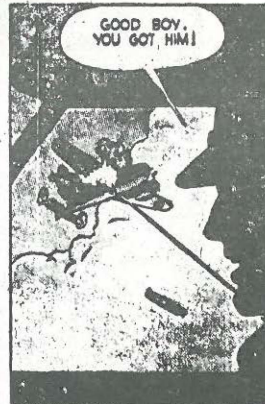
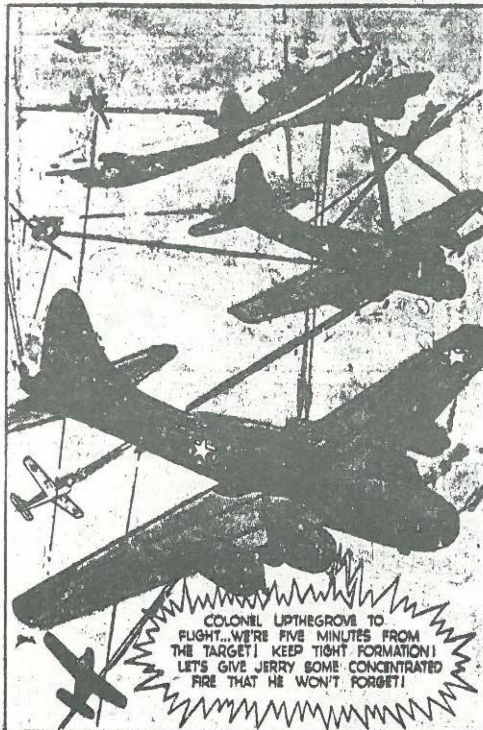
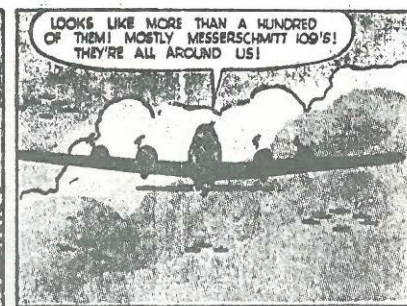
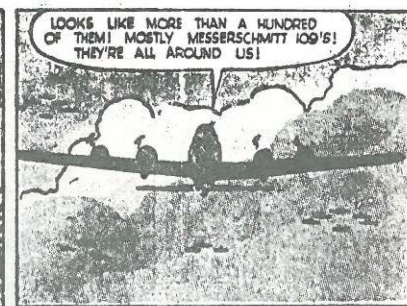
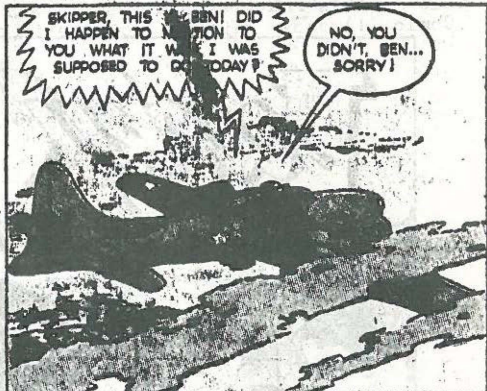
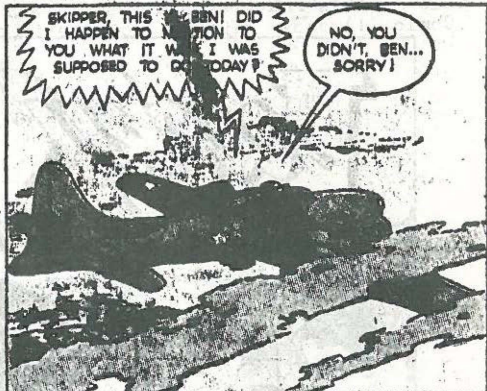


LET'S GO, BEN! WE'VE GOT
A BOMBING DATE! CAN'T
KEEP OUR FASCIST FRIENDS
WAITING! SAY, WHAT'S
TROUBLING YOU?

I WISH
I KNEW



THERE'S SOMETHING I WANTED
TO DO TODAY. I KNEW IT BEFORE
I TURNED IN LAST NIGHT... BUT...
I JUST CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT
IT IS NOW!



COLONEL UPTGROVE TO FLIGHT...WE'RE FIVE MINUTES FROM THE TARGET! KEEP TIGHT FORMATION! LET'S GIVE JERRY SOME CONCENTRATED FIRE THAT HE WON'T FORGET!

Thanks to Norm Kaufman, Bob Braungart, Carl Miciak, and all the other fellows who have sent in photographs for the files. We plan to hold all photos for possible return to the owners. Meanwhile we are planning a short illustrated history of the Group. We will also compile a list of the available pictures (after the rush is over). We have pictures of various planes in action and of Vicki, Robert E. Lee, and Rambling Raider on fire over their respective targets. The Air Force Museum advises us that a soft pencil should be used to place information on the back of the prints.

We expect to make the Albert F. Simpson Aerospace Museum our legal beneficiary and heir of the 99BGHS, a matter that will probably have been ratified by the time you read this. This will allow us to claim exemption from local sales taxes.

Again, thanks for the photos, orders, papers, news items and old addresses.

Bob Braungart and Mrs. Braungart dropped by for a little visit. He is retired now, and they live at Syracuse, Indiana. We had a pleasant time reminiscing about some of the unprintable capers in which we were both involved.

Perhaps we should assemble a fifty-year file (Not To Be Published For 50 Years). All about how Lt. Censored censored the censored at a censored time and place. Some of these stories are almost worth embalming for posterity.

REUNION		NOTES	
Ex-POW's,	July 1982	Colorado	Springs, CO
451 BG	Aug. 7, 82	Colorado	Springs, CO
2nd BG	Sep. 17, 82	Hampton,	VA
99TH BG	Oct., 1982	Muskegon MI	
Contact		Earl Silvis, 7540 Old Channel Trail	
		Montague, MI 49437; Phone (616) 894-4601	
97th BG	Sep. 16, 1982	St. Louis MO	
		Boeing 50th Anniversary of B-17; 1985	



PROGRESS REPORT

Membership, April 13th
313 Members
200 Prospects

Many of these are 1945 addresses, but we are finding them as we get around to the search. So send them in.

Thanks to the 191 members who have sent in their \$10 dues for 1982. Receipt will be acknowledged by the number 1982 in the upper right-hand corner of your address label.

Special thanks to Dave Steffens, Alfred Wertz, Lloyd Davis, Alessandro Gafarelli, Jim Flex, and to Agnew, Bilharz, Greathouse, Morowitz and Blu for donations in addition to dues.

Finances	
Balance 1 Feb 82	\$ 785.80
Misc. Supplies	-209.03
Newsletter	-245.63
Dues & Donations	790.00
Balance 1Apr82	1121.14

Does anybody remember when the man fell from a low-flying B-17 over the 116th area at Navarin? He was pushing out parachutes in some sort of test at about 150 feet of altitude when he leaned a little too far forward just as the plane came over the writer. The soldier pulled the ripcord of his personal parachute as he fell through the hatchway, but even then he barely made it. He landed about 25 feet from me. Does anybody remember?

Route #2, Box 5 (416th)
Coleman, Wis. 54112
Feb. 6, 1981

Hi George,

A line to let you know all is well, herein Wisconsin. I received one of your 99th B.G. Historical Society Bulletins & noticed a dues for Membership. So will enclose my \$5.00. I noticed the names of a few 416th members that I knew & never had the addresses; will drop them a line. Lots of fellows out of the 416th I don't recall. It sure would be good to see the ones I knew tho. That reunion schedule for Rapid City, S.D. in July '81, sounds good to me. I retired the 1st of Feb., this month, so I'll be as free as a bird. It'll be fun, I'm sure.

It's sure good to hear of some of the crews that made it back after their misfortunes on some of those raids, after we served the 50 missions. I still think think the one on July 5, 1943, was the most (worst?) I ever was in. Oh yes, the first, and the last one were also bad ones; one doesn't know what they were all about; and the last one, a person wondered if he'd make it back or not--I'll close for now.

As Ever
Walter Klukas

Dear Walter,

Even though your letter is a few months old, we trust all is still well in Wisconsin. We all appreciate your coming on another tour with us. I'm sure, by now, you have seen that there are quite a few 416ers in our midst, so trust you have corresponded with some, and vice versa. I heard through the grapevine (George Coen, to be precise), that the Rapid City uprising was enjoyed by all, so hope you could make it. (I'll bet 'R.C.' will never be the same!) Congrats on your retirement, by the way!

Walter, in regard to your remarks about your missions, as well as those of our other comrades, truer words were never spoken! As one who was on the 'terra firma' most of the time, and also up in the air, I would like to put in my 2 cents and say there were occasions when it was a toss up for all of us--one way, or another, due to various incidents. Amen.

At this juncture, I believe discretion is the better part of valor, so I will close my big bazoo for this time. Take care, and thanks again.

Sincerely
Frank English

Dear Dick,
Thank you for your interest in becoming a member, not to mention seeing David's name on our Roster, also. Quite frankly, I'm not sure of the last name you mentioned (spelling-wise, I mean), but hope you can get Charles to join. We appreciate all the help we can get, in this regard.

Your letter was very interesting, as to detail, and I might add that the pictures you mention, if you could procure some, would add to our archives. Thanks for bringing that subject up. George has plans in the offing, I know, to make something permanent out of all our 'stuff,' when the time, and opportunity presents itself.

As for a future Northeastern reunion, did you take a good look at George's 'Reunion Notes' on the front page of the Nov. Newsletter, Dick? --(Fall, 1982, Muskegon, Mich., etc.) That wouldn't be too far for you, and a lot of other members to travel, would it? Think about it, you all--Now! It's a shame you couldn't make it to Albuquerque, this coming April tho! We all realize of course that we do what we can do--that's the way the ball bounces (Most of the time).

Without further ado, Dick, I'll sign off for this period in time, anyhow. It was good hearing from you, and getting the additional names, etc. Our best to you, and the whole kit, and kaboodle. See you all soon.

Best wishes
Frank English

6 Springdale Ave. (347th)
Saugus, Mass. 01906
May 16, 1981

Dear George,

Received the very welcome May 1981 society's newsletter and I am enclosing my check for \$5.00 for this year's membership.

David Steffens, and I, were in the same crew together. We were with the 347th at Foggia from Jan. 1945, until the war ended.

I was the radio operator, and David and I and the rest of the crew flew all our missions together.

I sent some pictures to Dave that I had taken during the war; maybe the society could reproduce them for their use.

If ever there will be a Northeast reunion, I expect to attend it. Maybe I could interest Charles Gorsuch(?), another member of our crew who lives in Brattleboro, Vermont, to come along to. Best wishes for the society.

Very truly
Richard Livolsi

(As amended April 24, 1982)

ARTICLE I -- ORGANIZATION

The name of this organization shall be: The 99th Bombardment Group Historical Society. The organization may at its pleasure, by a majority vote of the membership present at the annual Membership Meeting, change its name.

ARTICLE II -- PURPOSES

To perpetuate the history of the 99th Bombardment Group and the memory of lost comrades.

To arrange for reunions and periodic tours to provide social and recreational activities for the members.

ARTICLE III -- MEMBERSHIP

Membership in this organization shall be open to all who were members of or attached to the U. S. 99th Bombardment Group during wartime. Spouses, widows, or widowers of those who served in the 99th Bombardment Group are also eligible for membership.

Members may become Life Members upon payment of Life Membership dues as established by the Board of Directors.

Air Historians and others interested in the goals of this organization may become Associates. Associates may attend meetings and other 99BGHS activities and will receive the bi-monthly journal and other publications. Associates may not vote.

ARTICLE IV -- MEETINGS

A Membership Meeting of this organization shall be held during the regular annual reunion each Spring. A notice shall be mailed to every member in good standing at his address as it appears in the membership list of this organization. Such notices shall be placed in the 99BGHS Newsletter telling the time and place of the Members Meeting.

Not less than a majority of members in good standing present at a Members Meeting shall constitute a quorum and shall be necessary to conduct the business of this organization. Members who have not paid dues for the current year may not vote. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors providing members in good standing are notified two weeks in advance of the date.

ARTICLE V -- VOTING

At all meetings, all votes shall be viva voce.

At any Membership Meeting, if a majority so requires, any question may be voted. Only the question(s) stated in the call may be voted in Special Meetings.

ARTICLE VI -- ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1 - Call to order
- 2 - Reading of the minutes of the preceding Meeting
- 3 - Report of Officers
- 4 - Committee Reports
- 5 - Unfinished Business
- 6 - New business
- 7 - Adjournment

ARTICLE VII -- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The business of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of at least three (3) members, plus the elected Officers of this organization. At least one of the Directors elected shall be a resident of the State of New Mexico and a citizen of the United States.

To be eligible for office, nominees for the Board of Directors must have been a member of the 99BGHS for at least one year before the election.

The Directors to be chosen for the ensuing years shall be chosen at the annual Membership Meeting of this organization, and they shall serve for a term of four years. Directors elected for the first time must be present at the Membership Meeting.

The Board of Directors shall have control and management of the affairs of this organization. The Board of Directors shall commission an independent audit to be conducted each year.

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors who are present shall constitute a quorum. Each Director shall have one vote and such voting may be done by proxy. The President may call for a vote by mail, providing each Director is polled.

The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering its meetings as it may, in its discretion, determine necessary.

ARTICLE VIII -- OFFICERS

The officers of the organization shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Any one officer may serve in more than one office at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

These Officers shall be members of the Board of Directors, and shall be elected by new Board of Directors after the annual Membership Meeting.

An Officer shall preside at all Membership Meetings.

The President shall be the titular head of the organization and, subject to the control of the Board of Directors, exercise general supervision over the affairs of the organization.

The Vice-President shall exercise the office of the President, in his absence or upon the inability of the President to act, with rights and responsibilities as if he had been duly elected President.

The Secretary shall keep the minutes and records, file certificates required by law, federal or state, and will give and serve all notices to members of this organization. The Secretary will be the official custodian of the records and seal of this organization. The Secretary will also attend to regular correspondence of the organization and will execute duties incident to the office of Secretary.

The Treasurer shall have the care and custody of all monies belonging to the organization and shall be solely responsible for such monies or securities of the organization; shall render at stated periods, as the Board of Directors shall determine, a written account of the finances of the organization and such report shall be physically affixed to the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting; and shall exercise all duties incidental to the office of the Treasurer.

Vice-President for Newsletter shall be elected to the Board by the Board of Directors for an indeterminate length of time at the pleasure of the Board. This non-voting member of the Board shall normally be the Editor of the 99BGHS News. This Officer will also be responsible for promotion of 99BGHS activities, and will provide advice and counsel to the Board.

No Officer shall for reason of the office be entitled to receive any salary or compensation, but nothing herein shall be construed to prevent an Officer or Director from receiving compensation from the organization for services other than as Director or Officer.

ARTICLE IX -- SALARIES

The Board of Directors shall hire and fix compensation of any and all employees which they in their discretion may determine to be necessary in the conduct of the business of the organization.

ARTICLE X -- COMMITTEES

Regular Committees of this organization shall be established by the President. Committee members shall be appointed by the President for terms of office for a period of one (1) year or less if sooner terminated.

Standing Committees shall be established by the Board of Directors as required. The President shall appoint members to Standing Committees for indefinite terms.

ARTICLE XI -- DUES

The dues of this organization shall be \$10.00 per annum and shall be payable on the first day of January of each year. Dues may be changed by a majority vote of the members in good standing at the annual Members Meeting.

ARTICLE XII -- CHAPTERS

99 BG Historical Society members may form chapters (State or local area) for social purposes provided 1) a prerequisite for Chapter Membership is current membership in the 99BGHS and 2) program and activities are not in conflict with the 99BGHS spirit and purpose.

Local committees formed for the purpose of creating 99BGHS Chapters must draft proposed Charter or Articles of Incorporation and proposed by-laws. These drafts must be submitted to the 99th BGHS Board of Directors for approval before further organizational actions are undertaken.

Upon inactivation, the residual effects of a chapter (funds, property, historical documents and artifacts, etc.) must become the property of the 99BGHS.

ARTICLE XIII -- AMENDMENTS

These By-laws may be altered, amended, repealed or added to by an affirmative vote of not less than two thirds of members in good standing present at an annual Members Meeting or at a called Special Meeting.

Article XIV - - Dissolution

The 99 BGHS shall make no distribution of gains or profits upon dissolution, but shall upon dissolution distribute such gains or profits, together with all Society pictures, diaries, orders, letters and files to the Albert S. Simpson Historical Research Center, Maxwell AFB, Alabama.

T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE THE MISSION

Courtesy of R.J. Heffren, 347BS

'Twas the night before the mission and all through the Group
The wheels and the wigwags were grinding out poop.
The bombers were parked on their hardstands with care
Waiting for armament soon to be there
The flyers were nestled all snug in their beds
While visions of milk-runs danced in their heads
When out of the darkness their came such a knock
We cursed the O.D. and looked at the clock
"Briefing will be in two hours the caller then said"
Well, that meant that we'd have forty more winks in our bed
Five marches on, and then gaping and sighing
We leap from the sack to make with the flying
We rush to the messhall quick as a flash
We eat powdered eggs and hideous hash
Then the long bumpy ride to the Group briefing room
Where the Bigwigs preside and dish out our doom
The target is told, the first six rows faint
For Lo and Behold! VIENNA IT AINT!
The Brain has slipped up, my poor aching back
Were bombing a place that throws up no flak
So it's back in the truck and off to the line
The road is now smooth and the weather is fine
The crew is at station, the check list is run
The engines run smoothly as we give 'em the gun
Then suddenly the pilot calls in despair
"Look at the tower, they just shot a flare"
We dashed to the window with heart full of dread
The pilot was right, the darn thing was red
So it's back to the sack and we sweat out our fate
For there's a practice formation at a quarter past eight.

BOOK REVIEWS

DISASTER AT BARI - Glenn Infield - 1971

An account of the German air-raid of 2 Dec 43 on The harbor at Bari. The sinking of 17 ships and the damaging on 8 more made it a very successful raid, and the release of 100 tons of mustard gas caused numerous casualties. Much of the gas dissolved in the floating oil and was not identified as mustard for several days. The raid resulted in a serious disruption of the 15AF bomber offensive, which is what Smiling Albert had in mind all along.

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315 W. 7th St. (416th)
Hays, Kansas 67601
July 5, 1981

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find dues for 1981. I thoroughly enjoyed the newsletters, and wish to continue receiving them.

I was in the 416th Sq. from the early formation in Walla Walla, in 1942, to May, of 1945, in Foggia. Obviously, I had many friends both in the Air crew, and ground maintenance, and I was happy to see that some of them are members of the society. Also, sorry to read that some of them had passed away. One of these I corresponded with until his death in an auto accident, was William (Bill) Trau, of Peoria, Illinois (April 2, 1971).

Presently, I am an Associate Professor of Zoology at Ft. Hays State University, Hays, KS, and would enjoy renewing any old acquaintances.

Sincerely yours
Elton K. Schroder

Dear Elton,

I've always maintained that not only were we the best B. Gp., but also, that we had some 'top of the line' people in same. Your letter, as well as a number of others, proves my point! Glad to receive your welcome letter; sorry about the time element involved in regard to this answer.

Thanks for the remarks about the newsletters. Good old George Coen has put his heart and soul into same, as you know. (Now, as you can see, all his good work is going down the drain--with my assistance!) Oh well, I try!

Elton, I see you were one of the originals, and I go back almost as far. I'm sure, going by our Rosters, that you have discovered old friends by now...and have gotten in touch with some, I hope, after all these years. Sorry to hear about Bill Trau. Like you, we have gotten the word on quite a few old 99ers, who because of one reason, or another, have left us.

Glad to hear that you are doing so well. Zoology was one of my favorite subjects in high school. I love to watch documentaries on TV, regarding all forms of animals, birds, reptiles, etc. (If you ever find out what I am, please let me know--OK?--no help from the audience, please!) For this time, 'Haeta la Vieta,' or whatever comes first. Take care, and hope to see you one of these fine days.

Our combined best to you--
Frank English

4215 Summitview Rd. (347th)
Dublin, Ohio 43017
April 5, 1981

Hallo George,

Just a note (letter to come) to let you and others that have helped get the 99th Historical Society off and running, know that myself, and many others, appreciate this so very much.

I've contacted several other 'groupers' and hope they also will come in and enjoy our future. I am enclosing \$10.00, \$5.00 for dues, and the other for whatever it is needed to get rolling. I retired from the Ohio Air Guard with 7 yrs active duty, and 22 Guard, in 1971. I was Group Bombardier in late 1944, and left Foggia in Feb. 1945. Recalled in May 1950, and flew B-50's at Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz. Hope to visit soon at one of our reunions.

Sincerely
Dean C. Kuhn

Dear Dean,

Again, Notice how prompt I am in answering your missive! Go ahead, throw rocks at me--I can take it, but just remember, the Pony Express from New Mexico, to California, is sometimes late--due to flat hooves! (Boy, did I ever weasel out of that one.)

Glad to hear from you, especially the part about the ten bucks (not to be mercenary, Of course.) Thanks, sincerely tho Dean, as same is much appreciated. Not to rub salt into the wounds, but 1982 is almost upon us, so I'll use your note as a platform to inform all 99ers, it's \$10 time, not \$5, again.

On behalf of George, and the original members who did all the work, I wish to thank you for your kind words about the founding of our Historical Society. As you see in the Newsletters, we are getting stronger every day. It's people like you, who are contributing to this strength, Dean.

You sure did put in your time, as regards the Military, we see; like a lot of our other members, as I'm sure you are aware, by this time. Your name sounds familiar, Dean, in reference to your 99th Hdqtra flying service, I mean. If ending this tale, I sure hope you were one of those who made it to the Rapid City get together. If not, hope to see you, if possible, in April, in Albuquerque.

Kindeest Regards
Frank English

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P.O. Box #1 (416th)
Roscoe, N.Y. 12776
Jan. 22, 1981

Dear George:

Sorry about the paper but I am at work and it is all I have available. I received another letter from you today. It is very good of you to keep in touch so often.

I saw 'Sweater Girl' mentioned in a previous letter; she was a B-17 E, or possibly an F, I am not quite sure. You see, I have a very good memory but it is rather short. Also, 'Lady-B-Good' I think, is the aircraft that replaced 'Sweater Girl' when she was retired with well over a 100 missions, 139 is the number that comes to mind at this point in time, with only 3 early returns because of mechanical malfunction. It did come back early a couple of times when 'Sorty Line (somebody flew it):' Again, I can't remember the name. This is all in the 416th Sq.

I'm sorry I can't help you out with any addresses. I just didn't keep up with correspondence that much, probably because I am the world's worst letter writer. I don't think there will be too many of the gang who will remember me anyway, because I was more or less, an outsider.

I came into the 416th Sq. from a replacement center after being hospitalized for a couple of months with stomach ulcers. My 1st outfit was the 439th Signal Const. Bt. (heavy) AVN, originally attached to the 8th AAF, in England. We were transferred to the 12th AAF, and sent to Africa DU NORD. We were in on the invasion at Arzu Docke, a few miles east of Oran. The 1st few days we were there, I began to think we were in the Infantry, but things quieted down then and we went to work setting up communications on airfields, and between airfields.

I caught up with the 99th Gp., 416th Sq., near Tunis, only a few months before before we were sent to Foggia with the 15th AAF. Of course, some of the guys resented the fact that I was taken into the Sq. with a Corp. Rating. I guess they figured I was taking a rating away from them, or whatever. I finally made a few friends however, in the tent we were in, and the refueling unit and with Chief Robertson's crew. I worked with them for a few months before I was sent home. As a matter of fact, I was working with them on 'Sweater Girl' when I got hurt, and stayed with them as long as I was there. I was sent home in Sept. of 1945.

As I told you, I don't have any addresses but I can give you a few names if it will help any; ? Cashman (Conn.), Lewis Klineman--the only foreigner in the outfit, from Brooklyn, Troy Dow, from Pueblo, Col. There was also my best friend, Benny Moore, who died of a heart attack by our shower bldg. on his way to the medical tent only a short time after I left. RIP.

The Postmaster just came back from lunch and told me to get the hall out of her office. I told her to go out on the street & chase cars, but she wouldn't do it. So, I had to get out of her office. These modern women are getting in too many places(?) where they don't belong. Give me the good old fashioned 'daze' when women acted like it, and left business matters up to us men, with a few exceptions, of course.

I am enclosing a coil (100) postage stamps & a handy dispenser which you can reuse and can be purchased at your local, friendly Post Office for a nickel-5¢. The only bargain in the U.S.P.S. If there is any other way I can help, please let me know.

I am enclosing a clipping from my local County newspaper. Maybe this will make some of those old jokers from the 416th Sq. realize that I ain't quite as ignorant a country boy as they seemed to think I was.

Hope to see you at the reunion. If not at Albuquerque, then more likely at Rapid City, S.D. Keep up the good work.

Regards

Dear Jake,

J.W. (Jake) Merritt (CRIP)

Your letter is one of the classics of all time, to me, and I'm sure, will be to all the other 99ers, when they see this in print. You mentioned other letters to George, which were before my time, evidently, Jake, but I'll bet they were corkers! In passing, I'd like to say, on behalf of us all, that we had experiences of our own, and spent a lot of time in the 99th, but I'm sure everyone agrees, Jake, you have us all beat! Your's a good man, McGee, as Molly used to say.

I am not going to go through your letter, point by point, as you have recorded your own history in same, and to me, it is self-explanatory. There is one thing that I am curious about, however, Jake, and that is about the year you came home. With the time you had in, didn't you mean '1944,' not '45? I was overseas with the Gp. 28 mo., so with the pts. you had built up--am I right, or wrong?

(Fellow members, in regard to Jake, I would call your attention to Page 12 of the Sept. 1, 1981, Newsletter.) It will more than give you a better insight as to the man, and his character, etc. You are really something, Jake! The end is now in sight, as they say, when the 'trap door' falls down on your 'jammies.' I'm calling it '30' for this time. Thank you, for the stampe, and your offer to help. All are much appreciated. Take care, and hope you made it to Rapid City! If not, Albuquerque in April is our next conquest! CHE

2434 Melville Way
San Jose, CA 95130
Sept. 17, 1981 (416th)

George,
Am'ending a check for '82.
I see quite a number of names of men that were with me in the 416th.
I was with the 416th when it was formed. Carmen Reese was the line chief
and Pete Bezek and I were crew chiefs. After some time in Italy, Reese, and
Bezek went back to the states. I was line chief for the rest of the war, ex-
cept for some time off in the hospital, having my hand cut off by a prop. How-
ever, I still enjoy good health in spite of being 73 years of age. Expect to
make 100.
I hope to make one of the Reunions; keep up the good work.

Lester Hamann

Hi Les, you handsome devil!

It was sure nice being able to meet, and visit with you at your home a couple
of years ago. Came by your way last year but didn't have time to stop, sorry
to say. Hope all goes well at this writing.
Your letter was a pleasure to receive, including the 'renewal', naturally.
Those of us who knew you 'when' will never forget what you went thru, re-
your few remarks about being in the hospital, especially those in the 416th!
As I remember, and you showed me some pictures of the Jeep you were sitting
in (mangled), you were almost cut in half when that B-17 'lost' its brake
on one side and ran over you--in it's hardstand. I, among many others were
amazed that you survived, let alone returning to duty, which you sure did!
Another thing, you sure don't look your age, and was really surprised when
you told me before!

I'll cut this off Les, for this time, but hope to see you in April. That
goes for all of us in the good old 99th. It was nice talking to you.

With kindest regards,
Old man English

2314 Charles
Pampa, Texas 79065
Nov. 20, 1981

Dear George, & Martha,

Here are my dues, finally, and a little over for the kitty. Seema to me we
may need to increase the 'annual ante.'
We are both doing quite well now and expect to continue to do so for a long
time.

I appreciate your efforts very much and enjoy the letters immensely. It looks
as if a couple of my crew members have joined.

We are looking forward to seeing both of you again, in April.

Sincerely,
Hank

Hello, Hank,

Why is it that I get the dirty job of having to answer your letter to George,
& Martha (nothing personal, Martha!). You really are a nice guy Hank, and it
was dandy being with you last year in N.M. Anyone who was in the 347th can't
be all bad!

Seriously, sorry to hear that you folks had been under the weather and that all
is going fine now. It seems it is always something. Sure am glad the rest of
us are only 39, including Gen. Upthegrove. He is really amazing. Always working
on some project at home! He tolerates my writing to him but in his last letter,
told me to slow down as I was wearing him out trying to answer all the stuff
I was asking him! (I can take a hint.)

As you can tell from George's latest Roster, we are really 'climbing the hill,'
name-wise, Hank. Maybe we won't have to increase the 'ante' as you mentioned.
However, that remains to be seen, as everything else is going up, so will
'argue' about this with you, and the boys when we see each other in April.
It was almost a pleasure answering your epistle, and I can hardly wait to see
you, again. I always lied a lot! See you soon, pal. Sincerely, the

4770 American River Dr.
Carmichael, CA 95608
January 22, 1981 (346th)

Dear George,

Thank you for your prompt reply on my inquiry concerning the 99th B. Gp.
Historical Society. I have enclosed my check, and application for membership
in this great organization.

I am also enclosing a copy of my orders returning me to the states after
flying the required tour out of Italy. It contains a long list of 99th B. Gp.
personnel.

Your mailing list brought back fond memories when I saw my old boss (346th
Sq. Commander) Allen W. Schroeder, and an old friend, Bernard Raftery,
among the members.

Sincerely,
Tom O'Reilly

Dear Tom,
As I have mentioned in other letters, sorry for this late answer to you.
When the letters come to George, he picks up a pile, goes outside, then
throws them up in the air. Those that aren't blown away by the wind he sends
on to me to answer now! You are on the Roster, and that's what counts.
It is good to hear from you, and we trust that you are still with us ('82,
also, I mean). Our names are being computerized, George tells me, so am
sure the names you mentioned in your letter are already on our Rosters, or
will be included when we see the new list.
Your letter speaks for itself, per se, but I think I should add that you are
a retired Col., for the benefit of our 'flock.' We have quite a few 99ers
who made a career out of the service, and who are now retired. I just an-
swered Al Schroeder's letter and was delighted to read he was an airline
pilot with Braniff International for 33 years. Quite a span, eh?
In closing, hope to see you also, in Albuquerque in April. I might also add
that when my dear wife was alive we used to go to Carmichael to see her
sister, and family, when they lived there. Come to think of it Tom, my late
father-in-law had a house, and walnut grove along the American River in
Fair Oaks? Was up there just after said river flooded one year. The water
was at least $\frac{1}{2}$ way up the house. What a disaster! All's better now, I hear.
Many thanks again, and our best to you. Let's get together soon.

Best wishes,
Frank H. English

3444 Old Prunthorn Rd.
Goldboro, N.C., 27530
Nov. 14, 1981

Dear George;

These documents may be retained and used as the society decides.
Author of poems unknown to me.

The 347th patch was painted on the pocket of my flight pants by a fe-
male artist in Fogria.

Sincerely

Jesse W. Hobbs

Dear Jesse;

Thank you for all the goodies. We have been hoping for two years for the
P-38 poem, which we share with all in this issue. Thanks!

We are especially grateful for the orders which have home addresses on
them. True, most of us have moved since 1945, but still we have a surpris-
ing success rate in locating men from old orders. So I'll give you the
secret of our success.

We first check the List of Phone Directories at the Public Library to see
is they have the current phone directory for the man's home. If they have
the directory, we first check for the man's name and current address. If
we do not find the name, there is still another possibility; he may have
kin in the area, and so we send postcards to people of the same last name
in the area.

It works. Nieces, sisters, nephews, brothers and cousins will vector
us to the man, and there is one more 99er found.

Sincerely

George
November 2, 1981

Hi George-

- 1- I've enclosed my dues.
- 2- Do you have a list or roster of the members of the original 416th Squad-
ron? Both flight and ground crews?
- 3- In the near future, I will send you folks some large photos of the 99th
sent me by Washington some years past. Including the raid in which our
Flying Raider went down, the Fogria mission on Aug. 25, 1943. Who can
forget?
- 4- Does Eldon Dahl (our copilot) know whether Claude Seila, navigator;
Wm. Kidwiler, bombardier; Clarence Walker, 1st engineer survived POW and
are they OK now?

Thanks always

Carl Miciak

Dear Carl-

In answer to your November letter, yes, we now have complete rosters of
the original complement of the whole 99th, thanks to various members.
The flight crew list is complete, and so far as I can see, the ground crew
roster is complete too. We have just completed putting the whole list on-
to a word-processor, and we plan to make the various lists available at
cost, but further work is necessary. The May newsletter should have all
the scoop.

We also expect to index the pictures, but right now we are fully occu-
pied with tax exemptions, by-laws, and the April Business Meeting and Re-
union. We appreciate your offer of pictures, for I do not think we have
any pictures of the well-remembered Aug. 25th raid.

During our current postcard search for 99ers we found Claude Seila's
mother, and we are searching for the rest of your crew. It is our hope
and plan to locate every one of the fellows. Meanwhile, Mrs. Seila's let-
ter is included elsewhere in this issue. And the search goes on!

Best wishes,
Lester

The Seventh Reunion of the 99th Bomb Group was signaled by the welcome presence of our genial Commander of 1942 and 1943, Major General Fay R. Upthegrove, (Retired).

General Upthegrove told us a few tales of events at the upper echelons and listened to a few horror stories from the shavetail and Sergeant levels, such as how Henderson & Crew had to stay up in the wild grey yonder until the runway quit wiggling one hung-over January day at Sioux City.

Tom Gamm, the Reunion Chairman, assisted by his wife Gloria and by Bernie Barr, provided a most memorable series of delightful events. It was a Day To Count Time From. Our thanks to all, and especially to Tom Gamm for an enormous amount of well-planned work.

We opened the reunion on Friday at the Hospitality Room at the Winrock Inn. Supper was informal. Wally's Seafood House was so busy with the 99th that we didn't get to kid Wally about his time in Lancasters.

Saturday morning we went in Air Force busses to the Kirtland AFB Officers' Club West for the annual Society Meeting, followed by lunch.

General Upthegrove was our Distinguished Guest. The General received an enthusiastic standing ovation at the conclusion of his brief address. Art Knipp video-taped the proceedings and later showed the film at the Hospitality Room.

After lunch the busses took us to the National Atomic Museum, where the energy exhibits seemed to be as popular as the weapons exhibits. We then returned to the Winrock Inn.

At 5 p.m. we took the Tramway to Snadia Summit, 10,000 feet above sea level, where we had a delicious supper and drinks. We were mixed up with a High School Prom group, but somehow the waitresses were able to tell us apart. Tom and Bernie really picked a winner on that one; everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. We even enjoyed the two inches of snow at the Summit. You may estimate the attendance at the Reunion from the Tramway party. Although not everybody went to the Summit, there were still 74 persons in the Tramway party. There must have been 60 99ers or more, plus spouses. We can't furnish names because we don't even have a count at this writing.

Dave Steffens and Carl Mitchell both were able to muster four of their respective crews, and there were three of the original crew of the B.T.O. I am a little hazy as to when the kilted RCAF-type bagpiper joined us, and perhaps some other details are a bit foggy, but I do remember sitting on the bench outside and listening to General Upthegrove's reminiscences about flying on the Border in the early Thirties and flying in Hawaii in the late Thirties.

After a Mexican lunch the Group began to disperse. One 99er drove away to the tune, played on his automobile horn, of "Off we go, into the Wild Grey Yonder".

Some individuals disappeared into the Air Force Sergeants Association Hospitality Room next door. We had been visiting back and forth with them for two days by now, and it must have been about then that they kidnapped Frank English for further festivities.

A small group, General Upthegrove, Mike Kazu, Bob Imrie and myself, had a quiet Sunday supper at Oldtown's La Hacienda, with mariachis and Mexican beer, and then, Lo, it was all over for another five months.

And so, - back to the drafting board.

Thanks, Tom and Gloria and Bernie; thank you, General Upthegrove; thanks to all who participated.

george

New Officers, to serve until Spring 1983.

President, Bernice Barr Vice President, Mike Yarina
 Secretary, Joe Kenney Treasurer George Coen
 Newsletter Editors, Frank English and George Coen

DIRECTORS

for 4 years- 1982-1986

Bernice Barr
 Tom Gamm
 Joe Chance

for 3 years or less, 1981-

Richard Bradfute
 George Coen
 Rex Greathouse
 Joe Kenney
 Hank Parks
 Mike Yarina

The membership approved an Article XIV, an addition to the by-laws which will allow the 99BGHS to qualify with the IRS as a non-profit Organization. Amended by-laws are included in this newsletter.

NAME _____ Squadron _____ New _____
 ADDRESS _____ Renewal _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

The question has arisen, "What are the qualifications for membership in the 99BGHS?"

Now that's a good question. There are considerations which would bar one from membership, but they are too horrible to put into print in this family publication. Nobody has been blackballed yet.

George

The... flew... Italy... World... 24-25... spons... soci... Albu... Gamm... VI fac... chair... gator... event... He recently formed his own firm... Marble.

NOW HEAR THIS

Fellows, we would like to get any old addresses of 99ers which you may have. No matter that they are from 1942 or 1943; we have a secret pipeline into which we pour them, and the current addresses come out the other end about eight months later. We then bombard them with Newsletters, and Lo, they appear at reunions.

So send the old addresses, you hear?

LOST AND FOUND
 LOST Jack Strasberg Auburn CA 1950

FOUND	FOUND	FOUND	FOUND
288 Charles R. Gorsuch	Rt. 2, Orchard St.	W. Brattleboro	VT 05301 347
304 Paul Spears	1813 Bonanza Way	Modesto	CA 95350 416
305 Alfred M. Wertz	P.O.Box 313	Trenton	MI 48183 346
305 J.B. Fowler	1663 Yurok	Orange	CA 92667 348
307 Richard C. Vaughan	Gen. Delivery	Kimitz	WV 25978 346
308 W.J. Drawka	712 Payne Ave.	Brie	PA 16503 347
309 Ing. Alessandro Gafarelli	Viale Mantegazza 51- Rimini (Italy)		47037 Assoc
310 Steve Birdsall	31 Parkland Rd., Mona Vale 2103, Sydney,		Australia Ass.
311 Richard J. McGee	1908 11th St. S.W.	Great Falls	MT 59404 346
312 Louis Steffensmeier	Box 397	Dodge	NE 68633 348
313 Paul N. Grider	2527 Letterkenny Rd.	Chambersburg	PA 17201 346

TAPS
 Tom Read - Dec. 31 1981 Genevieve Read informs us that Tom was fatally gored by the bull at their dairy farm in Michigan on New Year's Eve.
 Tom will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was a good friend.
 The Reads have one son and one daughter.
 * - *
 Joe Reiter - Jan 15, 1982
 Dear Mr. Coen
 I wanted to inform you that my husband Joe Reiter died on Jan. 15 1982 of a heart attack. He was with the 416th - 99th Bomber Group. So many times I have listened to the things that happened to him while he was in the service.
 He was dedicated to his country and his family. Joe leaves his wife, a daughter, two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
 Sincerely
 Mrs. Joe Reiter
 * *
 Col. W. Hampton -
 Dear George
 Colonel W. Hampton of the 416th died recently in Orlando, Florida. He was a former Memwhian.
 Sincerely Yours
 Adrian P. Wilson

THE 99th BOMBARDMENT GROUP
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2908 Aliso Drive NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87110



J. O. Grizzell
15 Mohican Cove East
Lake Weyhoka
Sardinia OH 45171