

99th Bomb Group



B-17 FLYING FORTRESS

395 COMBAT MISSIONS

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★ ★ ★ ★ THE 99th BOMBARDMENT GROUP HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ★ ★ ★ ★

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CHAPLAIN - JOE KENNEY



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings 99'ers:

I write this with tears in my eyes and a lump in my throat, for I must tell all 99'ers that our first Group Commander has died. General Fay R. Upthegrove died in his home town of Bradford, Pennsylvania, on January 8, 1992 and was buried January 13, 1992. He was 86 years old.

General Upthegrove was a graduate of West Point, Class of 1927. After graduation he held many jobs in the Army Air Corp (later the United States Air Force), but none more important than being the first Commander of the 99th Bomb Group. His two prides in life were the Class of '27 and the 99th Bomb Group.

General Upthegrove would want all of us to go on with our lives and to keep the Bomb Group Historical Society together. General, you will be missed by all. The time has come when we must say good-bye. As the sun turns toward afternoon and the birds are singing, the Honor Squad has fired the last volley and it echoes through the hills, the Bugler has sounded his last note - as it ripples through the breeze, we give you our last salute and bid you Farewell and So Long. May you rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Harvey Jennings
Harvey Jennings



Major General Fay R. Upthegrove

from Jim Bruno's files

THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GREETINGS:

We remember and mourn the passing of our first Commanding Officer with whom we were all so very well acquainted. His was a very special and unique type of Leadership with everything being designed around the men who served within his Command. He was a man who had the ability to see through a problem and come back with a solution, always with the safety and well being of his men being first.

When I joined the 346th Bomb Squadron of the 99th as a replacement radio operator/gunner, some of the first things we heard were about the then Colonel Fay Upthegrove, all of it favorable. He was loved and respected by all of the flight crews. And his growing list of successes made him one of the finest Air Force Commanders in the Army Air Force. I recall clearly his insistence on flying close formation and, although I was just a radio operator, those wings tucked in tight like that were mighty impressive. Looking back through my diary a number of entries relate to times when German fighters began an attack on us only to break off and press their attacks on other bomber groups flying a looser formation. Here is clear evidence where Col. Upthegrove's discipline imposed on our pilots unquestionably helped considerably to reduce our casualties. At this late date it's my thought that this same discipline filtered down from pilots to all crew members making us a very elite group of efficient Flight Crews.

I was also told that General Upthegrove was the actual Author of the Box Formation along with the impressive Company Front maneuvers. Both of these served us very well and I believe a substantial number of us owe our very lives to the foresightedness of our splendid leader.

It has certainly been to my benefit to have known him in a personal way these past ten years. My first introduction being when "good old George" and I drove to the air port to pick him up in April of 1982. This was in Albuquerque at our Reunion there. His first words related to our close formations and I'm happy I was able to tell him how even a radio operator could see just how effective it was. I note here that General Upthegrove had the ability to speak easily with any person under his Command all the way down to the greenest of aerial gunners, he had that special interest in everybody. Our very best Leaders are always like that!

We extend our sincere sympathies to his wife, Betty and their family. Their loss is ours as well. We look to the Book of 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 3 and 4 where we read; "Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Mercies, and the God of all comfort. Who comforteth us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort them which are in trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." Each of us might reflect seriously on these verses. They really do have that unusual depth of meaning for us.

In His name;

Joe
Joe C. Kenney, Chaplain

In April 1942, he was appointed commander of the 99th Bombardment Group, and in February 1943, he took the group to North Africa. During this period, he flew more than 340 hours in the B17 Flying Fortress, participating in 58 combat missions over North Africa, Italy and Southern Europe.

He was chosen to command the lead plane in the first Army/Air Force Hundred Bomber Attack on enemy territory, and he led his bombing wing in the first bombing of Rome.

A year later, he became commanding general of the 304th Bombing Wing of the 15th Air Force in Italy. Assignments after World War II included command of Chanute Air Force Base, Ill., in May 1946; commanding general of the U.S. Air Force in Europe at Wiesbaden, Germany; deputy commander of the Second Air Force of Barksdale, La.; commander Fourth Air Division in October 1952; commander of the 20th Air Force Okinawa in March 1955; and commander of the 313th Air Division in March 1955.

On March 1, 1955, he assumed command of the Keesler Technical Training Center in Biloxi, Miss., a position from which he retired after a 30-year career on July 27, 1957.

Among Gen. Upthegrove's numerous awards and decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal; the Silver Star; the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster; and the Air Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters.

He was a rated command pilot, command observer, and senior aircraft observer.

Surviving in addition to his wife are two daughters, Mary Jane Scott of Xenia, Ohio, and Sue Kinch of Gales Ferry, Conn.; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by one sister and one brother.

Friends will be received after 3 p.m. Sunday at the Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Homes, East Main Street, where a funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday. Committal services and full military honors will be accorded at St. Bonaventure Cemetery, Allegany, N.Y.

Obituaries



Maj. Gen. Upthegrove

Retired Air Force Gen. Upthegrove dies at age 86

Maj. Gen. Fay R. Upthegrove, U.S. Air Force Retired, 86, of 684 E. Main St. died Wednesday afternoon in the Bradford Hospital.

He was born Jan. 28, 1905, in Port Allegany, a son of Frank Ellis and Cora Jane Goff Upthegrove. On Sept. 6, 1930, he married Marcella Driscoll, who died June 27, 1970. In Bradford, on Oct. 1, 1974, he married J. Elizabeth "Betty" Staley, who survives.

Mr. Upthegrove attended Bradford schools and graduated from Bradford High School in 1923. In June 1927, he graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was appointed second lieutenant of infantry.

He won his wings in San Antonio, Texas, in 1928. His service career spanned three decades and much of the globe, with duty assignments from the Far East to the North African and European Theaters of operation during World War II.

UPTHEGROVE; Maj. Gen. Fay R., U.S. Air Force Retired, 86, of 684 E. Main St., Bradford, Pa., died Wednesday afternoon, Jan. 8, 1992, in the Bradford Hospital. Friends will be received 3-5 and 7-9 p.m. Sunday at the Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Homes, East Main Street, where a funeral service will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday. Committal services and full military honors will be accorded at St. Bonaventure Cemetery, Allegany, N.Y. Memorials may be made to the Port Allegany Memorial Fund, Box 444, Port Allegany, Pa. 16743. Arrangements are under the direction of Hollenbeck-Cahill's.

*The daughters of
Maj. Gen. Fay R. Upthegrove
wish to notify you of the death of their father
on January 8, 1992 in the Bradford, PA Hospital*

*We want to thank you
for the letters and Christmas card
you sent him recently - he so enjoyed them*

Mary J. Scott and Sue Kinch



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"ALOE FLEX PRODUCTS"

P.O. BOX 1185, DICKINSON, TEXAS 77539
PHONE 713 337-2240

January 25, 1992

Hi George,

I met Gen. Uppie on Sept. 10, 1942 at Boise, Idaho. Three days before I crewed up with Dean Shields and the Yankee Doodle crew.

We went overseas in Feb. 1943 and I gradually worked my way up from a navigator to the lead Navigator in Sept. 1943.

My crew had finished their missions before me as I had spent 6 weeks in the Hospital in June & July. I became lead ~~NAVIGATOR~~ under Harry Burrell, CO of the 347th. I was asked to stay over when I finished my missions under the 12th Air Force.

I joined the 15th Air Force as Air Force Navigator and was with the 15th At Bari, Italy. Gen Upthegrove came back with a B-24 Wing in Feb. 1943 and asked me to be his wing Navigator in Cerignola. Harry Burrell and George Doyle went with us.

Of course as Wing Navigator I became better acquainted with Uppie, you can bet we did not call him that in Italy. Only since we have been having our 99th reunions.

He promoted me to 1st Lt. & Captain. Then in July 1944 he again promoted me to Major. I came back to the States in October 1944.

I guess that you could call us the four horsemen. Uppie, Burrell, Doyle and myself. They are all deceased. We made up a hell-^{WING}ova ~~Wing~~ operations staff.

General Upthegrove was always a ^{CITAMP} ~~champ~~ and a gentleman. The smartest General in the Air Force as far as I was concerned. I served under Ge. Doolittle and Gen. Nathan Twining. They were also the finest. With men like them, that is why we won the Second World War.

Enclosed is the brochure that we gave out at the 1984 reunion in Houston. There is more info in that.

Take care and keep well. Expect to see you in Rapid City. Mary & I were married there on Ap 17, 1945. 47 yrs ago.

*Jim Fly
THANKS FOR ASKING.
P.S. ALTHOUGH HE WAS ABOUT 36
WE USED TO CALL HIM "THE OLD MAN"*

OBITUARIES

Fay R. Upthegrove dies; WWII Air Force general

BRADFORD, Pa. — A funeral service for U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Fay R. Upthegrove, who flew combat missions in North Africa and Italy in World War II, will be conducted at 10 a.m. Monday in the Hollenbeck-Cahill Funeral Homes, 372 East Main St. here.

Committal services with full military honors will follow at St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Allegheny.

Upthegrove, whose military service spanned three decades, died Wednesday (Jan. 8, 1992) in Bradford Hospital following a long illness. He was 86.

He was a graduate of Bradford High School and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where he was appointed second lieutenant of infantry.

In 1942, he was appointed commander of the 99th Bombardment Group and in 1943 he led that group to North Africa. During this period he flew more than 340 combat hours in the B17 Flying Fortress. He participated in 58 combat missions over North Africa, Italy and Southern Europe.

In 1943, he was appointed commanding general of the 304th Bombing Wing of the 15th Air Force in Italy.

In 1946, he was made commanding general of the U.S. Air Force in Europe at Wiesbaden, Germany.

Among his later assignments, he served as deputy commander of the 2nd Air Force at Barksdale, La., and commander of the 20th Air Force, Okinawa.

In 1955, he assumed command of the Keesler Technical Training Center in Biloxi, Miss., retiring in 1957.

Upthegrove received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with one oak leaf cluster and the Air Medal with 10 oak leaf clusters.

He was a rated command pilot, command observer and senior aircraft observer.

He is survived by his wife, J. Elizabeth Staley of Bradford; two daughters, Mary Jane Scott of Xenia, Ohio, and Sue Kinch of Gales Ferry, Conn.; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

JAMES F. BRUNC.

George Coen, Editor and Historian
99th Bomb Group Historical Society

Dear George,

By now Walter Butler may have told you that I would not make the Albuquerque Reunion. I really had planned on it. A wedding in Florida on that date came up and missing it would put me in the dog house with the family.

So glad to read that you are feeling very well again. Missed you at Huntsville. I will plan on Washington, D.C. in '92.

Enclosing my recollection of the Messina Mission of May 25, 1943. It is double spaced for manuscript that I am working on. I noted in our March 1, Newsletter that our Tail Gunner, Jack Pollitzer passed away. He was one great fellow. Saw him at the Dallas Reunion. He brought his ex-wife, new girlfriend and several grandchildren and a son who lives in Texas.

You can edit this narrative down as it is quite lengthy. Bud Bankhead was one great pilot. It was my pleasure to be his Co-pilot. I flew my last mission with Capt. Bill Clark. He was one swell guy. The news clipping I sent to Walter shows me in front of his B-17. The newspaper wanted a picture of me and the plane in my younger days. "Those were the days."

I know you will have a great Reunion in your city.

Best Regards,

Jim Bruno

1-25-92

Dear George:

This is a followup to an inquiry that I made to Bernie Barr in January and he said he was passing my inquiry on to you.

I am doing research and writing a book about the 2nd B.G. and in their history of the 24th of February 1944, tell of their mission to Regensburg, Germany. They were only able to put up nine, long range, planes that day and found that there were two elements from the 99th flying in the same formation with our nine. Our Group Commander was leading the Wing that day. I later saw a flight mission plan that indicated that four of your planes in one element and three in another had been shot down. I am interested in knowing more about that event so that I could include that information in my story.

Should you want our Groups old history of that mission, I would be happy to supply you a copy--or you may already have that info. This info was written by one of the Intelligence Officers in our Group and who was the Group Historian. It goes into details of the raid, lists missing crews and info as to what happened to them, etc.

Hoping you can enlighten me on your Group's part of the mission.

Sincerely

CHARLES W. RICHARDS
2156 Prestwich Place
Eugene, OR 97401
1-503-342-6624

A while back Bernie Barr talked about a mission in the Brenner Pass December 26, 1944. as I remember it, Col Glassford led the Group. The lead navigator was either wounded or killed. Col Glassford went down in the nose to navigate. On the first pass over the target, the Bombardiers could not use the bomb sight because of a 100 mph headwind. The bomb sight would not compute that much wind. After the second and third pass over the target in heavy flak, one squadron was sent down low and the rest of us went to secondary or third targets. The 348th dropped their bombs on Castle Franco, Italy. There was no flak. A month or so later, we hit the same marshaling yards against heavy flak. WE heard in the last day or two that col glassford had been transferred to another 15th AF group. I often think of you, George, and we wish you the very best.

Sincerely
Clyde B. Tuttle

2103 Sandalwood St.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

June 22, 1991

Dear George:

At a wedding reception last week in Medford, Oregon I happened to mention Italy. The Grandmother of the bride suddenly said "Italy, were you in Italy?" I said "Yes in 1944 & 1945."

She was a nurse in Africa and Foggia at 61st Station Hospital where I was a patient for several weeks. She married a fighter pilot and she seemed to remember some of the names I mentioned, including John Bullock and Doc Lamb and Ray Shwanfeck. Anyway she would very much like to join the 99th Bomb Gp Historical Society as an Associate member. She said that she always looked for reunions and never found any that she would be eligible for, including medical reunions.

Lucille Reynolds
155 Blanchard Lk. Rd.
Whitefish, Montana 59937

She was known as "Smitty" and was Charge Nurse of a ward.

Nov 2, 1991

Dear Walter:

We had our fifth crew reunion in mid June at Oklahoma City. Saw a terrific air show at Will Rodgers Field. We had six of our original crew there. Not bad after 46 years; especially since one of our waist gunners got killed. The crew chief, the oldest crew member at 79. I'm the youngest at 66. Glad I'm not flying now.

Regards
Jim Berger

NOTE: Bill Walker now resides in a care center. He had a brain operation and is quite confused. He still enjoys reading parts of your publication and appreciates mail from previous acquaintances.

His wife.

To: The Board of Directors,
99th Bomb Group Historical Society

3 February 1992

Subject: Audit of the Treasurer's Records

At the request of the Society President, I have conducted an audit of the Society's financial records for the period January - December 1991.

The ledgers, check register, bank statements and voucher file were examined using procedures consistent with previous audits. It is my opinion the records support, in all material respects, the results of financial transactions during the above stated period.

Lew Boatwright
Lew Boatwright
Past President

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 416th Bomb Sq APO 520

Month of November, 1943. Prepared by E.F. Baldwin Jr., 1st Lt.



DAY	EVENTS
1.	Nonoperational day and very quiet in camp, with usual duties.
2.	5 planes left for the 96th Squadron mission with the Messerschmidt factory at Weiner Neustadt, Austria as the target. The Combat Crews did not return to the base, but landed in Italy to spend the night while having the planes serviced.
3.	Combat crews returned from mission and reported that the mission was highly successful. Major Macdonald, our C.O., returned from the hospital muchly improved. Capt Henderson was acting C.O. in the absence of Major "Mac".
4.	Today the Group celebrated the completion of its one hundredth mission. Highlighting the day's activities was the appearance of Lt. Gen. Spaatz, Maj. Gen. Doolittle, Brig. Gen Partridge, Brig. Gen. Timberlake, and other high ranking guests. During the afternoon, musical entertainment was furnished by an orchestra from the 301st Bomb Group. Barbecue, beer, salads, coffee, and doughnuts were served throughout the afternoon. After the movie, in the evening, the day's festivities were brought to a close with a dance at the Officer's Club and open house at the "Club Sirroggo."
5.	Another rainy, nonoperational day; movie was postponed due to the rain.
6.	Rain! Non-op! This is getting monotonous.
7.	That rainy season that we heard about all summer is definitely here. The mission scheduled for today was "scrubbed" due to the weather.
8.	The Squadron celebrated one year in North Africa by participating in their 97th mission. Today's target was a ball bearing factory that, up until today, stood at Turin, Italy; but "it ain't there no more."
9.	Nonoperational. The Squadron pitched a dance at the Oriental Palace in Tunis. Music was furnished by the 99th Bomb Group orchestra, under the direction of S/Sgt Irwin Porges; the band plays tunes that are now popular back in the States and are new to us. Sandwiches, cake, beer and wine was plentiful. There were quite a few French girls present for dancing partners; but, we didn't get very many telephone numbers as most of them brought their boy friends and families with them.
10.	98th Squadron Mission to Bolzano, Italy. 9 of the 416th's planes participated on the raid and all returned safely, two of them having to refuel and spend the night in Sardinia (Lt. Osborne, Lt. Borman and their crews). The raid was very successful, and the marshaling yards were severely damaged. 1st Lt Burnham E. Shaw has been named to fill the vacancy created by Capt Henderson's departure, as Squadron Operations Officer.
11.	Nonoperational day. Gravel walks are being built through the area, especially around the mess hall and the administrative tents.

- 12. Today's mission was called off due to bad weather. Quite a few of the men are getting Christmas packages and candy and cookies are rather plentiful for once.
- 13. A cold, rainy day with the only activity being a practice mission for the new crews. Everyone seems to be happy, though; we had fresh meat for chow today, and besides that, there was "beaucoup" mail. We hear rumors that we will be drinking American-style beer soon--What, no Coca-Colas!

SHEET NO. 2

- 14. Today's mission was canceled due to bad weather over target. The day here was clear and cool and the only activity was a practice mission for the new crews.
- 15. A group of RAF Wellingtons arrived today to operate from this base, and the field is now packed with heavy bombers. There was a bit of excitement when one of the Wellingtons crashed while landing; luckily no one was hurt. We traded with some of the other Bomb Groups and now all of our planes are without Tokio tanks. The day was nonoperational.
- 16. 99th Squadron mission to Istres LeTube Airdrome near Marseilles, France. 7 of the Squadrons's planes participated and all returned safely after a very successful raid. 15 enemy fighters were encountered on the raid. It was a beautiful day, clear and cold. The place is beginning to look much better with the grass getting green all around. We are all getting set up for winter by putting doors on our tents and setting up our stoves. Lt Bauer has gone into the poultry business and is raising chickens around his tent; Lt Koerting is devoting his time towards raising rabbits--that should be easy.
- 17. The weather again caused the day's mission to be "scrubbed." In the evening, we saw the movie version of Irving Berlin's "This Is The Army."
- 18. Eleusis Airdrome at Athens, Greece was the target for the Squadron's 100th mission today. 6 planes from the 416th took part in today's raid and all returned safely. Lt Eldon Dahl visited the squadron today. Lt Dahl was co-pilot on the crew that was shot down over Foggia, Italy on August 25. Other than a broken wrist, Lt DAhl was in good health, and he expects to leave for the States soon.
- 19. A very quiet, nonoperational day. Had a movie in the evening.
- 20. The only operation today was a practice mission. Our operation officer received a promotion, and it's now Captain Shaw. We saw a couple of hogs butchered over at the mess hall this afternoon--looks like we will be having pork chops soon.
- 21. We are still waiting for Capt Shaw to come across with the cigars. The day was nonoperational with the usual camp duties.
- 22. The squadron departed on a mission today, but had to turn back on account of bad weather. No credit was given for the sortie. "Lucky Jordan" was the movie tonight.
- 23. Today was nonoperational, and we spent most of the day trying to hold the tent down to keep the wind from blowing it away.

- 24. 101st Squadron Mission to the submarine base at Toulon, France. The bombing results were very good as the entire target area was well covered. 9 of the Squadron's planes participated; we lost one. Lt Adams and his crew on #502 were forced to bail out in the sea after the plane developed serious engine trouble. Lt Trentadue went back and tried to locate the spot where #502 went down, but was without success. The enlisted men's dance, scheduled for the evening, was canceled, and instead we had a beer party at the mess hall.
- 25. The mission scheduled for today was canceled, so we all took a holiday and celebrated Thanksgiving in a big way. The boys in the kitchen rate a vote of thanks for the superb chow they turned out today; roast turkey and all the trimmings, including chocolate cake. The day's big football game was a touch affair between the officers and enlisted men; we still don't know which side won. There were lots of packages at mail call today, which is quite all right with us, even though some were slightly water soaked.

SHEET NO. 3

- 26. The day was nonoperational, and we spent most of the day in the "sack," recuperating from Thanksgiving. But, we did crawl out long enough to "sweat out" the PX line and grab out cigarettes and candy bar for the week.
- 27. 102nd Squadron Mission. 9 of the Squadron's planes participated in today's mission, and all returned safely. The primary target for today was obscured by clouds, and the bombs were dropped on the RR near Viareggio, Italy. Results of today's raid were not so good, due to poor visibility over the target.
- 28. Everyone is packing and getting ready to leave. Rumors are flying around thick and fast as to where our destination will be. The day was nonoperational.
- 29. Today's mission was aimed at an airdrome at Rome, but due to bad weather over the target, no bombs were dropped. In the evening, we saw the movie "Air Force."
- Nov 30. A beautiful day, and preparations for our impending move are gong ahead at full speed. 1943 Our planes took off this morning on an operational mission, but were recalled before reaching the target. Today was pay day and for the first time in many a long month, we were paid in real American money (the yellow seal issue). The officer's mess hall has been torn down, and they are now "sweating out" the chow line with the enlisted men. There is an ugly rumor going around that we will live in pup tents and eat "C" rations for a while; we hope that it's for a very short while.

Sheet No. 1 War Diary, 416th Bomb Sqdn APO 520 (Station)

Month of December, 1943. Prepared by E.F. Baldwin Jr., Capt, 416th Bomb Sqdn.

DAY

EVENTS

- 1. 103rd Squadron Mission. Today's target was Turin, Italy; 7 of our planes participated, with 4 returning to the base, the other 3 landing in Corsica for fuel. From interrogation, we gathered that the raid was a very successful one. Today, the men wore the new flak suits for the first time, and it was quite a good thing that they did, because the enemy was throwing lots of the stuff up there today. Lt Lesney was hit in the chest by a piece of flak, but luckily, he was wearing the flak suit and was uninjured. Everyone is busy preparing for the forthcoming move to our new base.

2. The day was nonoperational; and everything is ready for the move which is scheduled for tomorrow morning.
3. The mission which was scheduled for today was canceled. The advance convoy of squadron vehicles and equipment departed at 1030 for Bizerte. The rest of the squadron is now messing with the 346th Squadron. Another convoy, composed mostly of ground personnel, departed from the squadron area at 1230, with full field equipment. Both of these convoys proceeded to a staging area at a point near the Bizerte docks, where we pitched pup tents. The chow "ain't " so good here; we are eating "C" rations.
4. It was a rather quiet day at Oudna, and was nonoperational. The camp is now practically deserted. At Bizerte, we spent the day around the area awaiting orders. All day long, we have been watching British troops marching down to the docks to embark. The kitchen personnel set up a couple of stoves and we had a good, hot meal in the afternoon, and also soup in the evening; it was quite an improvement over the "C" rations. We spend another night on the ground in pup tents.
5. The day was quiet and nonoperational at Oudna. Bizerte" We were rolled out at 0630 this morning and told to get our equipment packed and be ready to leave on short notice. We enjoyed a delicious breakfast of cold "C" rations and oranges that we purchased from the Arabs. Chaplain Whitlock held church services in the area this morning. The Group was divided into smaller groups of men, some of whom were scheduled to depart at 0330, with the others remaining behind for a few days. However, only a small number of the men "made" the boat and the rest returned to the area. In the late afternoon, we broke camp and marched about a mile where we bivouacked in an olive grove--it's a very beautiful spot, but we'd rather be on the boat. However, we are now near a "C" ration kitchen and we get our hash hot, which is some improvement. The weather is very nice; fair and warm.
6. 8 planes departed for Grizzano, Italy on the Squadron's 104th mission. Soon after the take off, Lt McGee's plane caught fire; Lt Wright and Sgt Obhin bailed out over the field. Lt McGee managed to land the plane safely with its full load of bombs. The other planes continued on the mission, but did not drop their bombs; they landed and spent the night in Sardinia. Bizerte: The day was spent lounging around the camp area; some of the men went on hikes and exploring trips to the docks. A number of the men went to the movie in a hanger at the docks. No news yet as to when we embark.
7. The planes returned today from the unsuccessful mission of the 6th. A bit of mail came in today, which will be the last until we reach our new base. Bizerte: We broke camp this morning, and it looks as if we are really off this time. We marched to the docks and were loaded on LST boats, along with a bunch of men from the RAF. The Navy furnished us with canvas and ropes, but we had to rig up our own bunks. Our cooks are using the boat's galley to prepare our food--British rations; it's a bit better than "C" rations, but it's the same old Army "chow."
8. Today the squadron participated in a low-level bombing mission on shipping at Porto San Stefano. It was the 105th mission for the Squadron, and was highly successful. With the Ground Echelon: We spent the day on board the boat, mostly in the "sack." In the late afternoon, we left the docks and pulled out into the harbor, where we dropped anchor and spent the night.

9. Major Macdonald flew up to our new base this morning. It's very quiet back here at Oudna; the day was nonoperational. With the Ground Echelon: We hoisted anchor at 0900 this morning and headed out to sea--we're off again! Our course is evidently along the African coast line, as we were in sight of land all day. The sea was a bit rough and these flat-bottom boats really pitch and roll, as a result of the rough sea; lots of the fellows were sea sick, including 1st Sgt Hurey, who for once was very quiet.
10. All is quiet at Oudna, and the Flight Echelon is ready to leave. With the Ground Echelon; It was rather a quiet day aboard ship; the old "tub" is rocking worse than before. The "chow hounds" start "sweating out" the line about two hours before "chow" time; the first few men in line get what the Navy has left over, which is much better than British field rations.
11. The Flight Echelon flew up to our new base at Foggia (#2), Italy today. It's a beautiful place--level and green, but very muddy as we arrived. A small part of the advance echelon has arrived and we are very short handed. The advance echelon that arrived went by boat from Bizerte to Naples and then across country to Foggia. With the Ground Echelon: As we came up on deck this morning, we could see Mt. Etna, Sicily, in the distance; it was covered with snow and was a very beautiful sight. We traveled all day along the coast of Sicily and the toe of Italy. The ships showers were opened to troops today, so all the men took a shower.
12. At Foggia: We spend the day setting up our camp; we use Italian labor, both soldiers and civilians, and pay them fifty cents a day. It rained last night and the place is very muddy today. We had an air raid alert in the early evening, but nothing occurred. With the Ground Echelon: This morning we traveled along the Italian coast, and could see towns all along the way. In the afternoon, we pulled into the harbor at Taranto, where we dropped anchor and spent the night. Italians came out in rowboats, with oranges, tangerines, figs, and almonds to sell to us.
13. Foggia: Today's mission was canceled, so we have been busy working to set up the camp. The sun is shining now and the place isn't quite as muddy. With the Ground Echelon; We passed through the draw-bridge, separating the old part of town from the new, and docked in Old Taranto. We unloaded and spent most of the day around the dock, talking with the natives and buying souvenirs. In the late afternoon, we boarded a train and departed for Foggia. We spent the night riding on the train.
14. 7 planes participated in the squadron's 106th mission today to Athens, Greece. Major Macdonald led the Group on today's mission. All of our planes returned safely; #409 landed at Bari with engine trouble. With the Ground Echelon: We traveled most of the day along the "instep" of Italy and reached Foggia in the afternoon. Coming into the marshaling yards at Foggia, we could see the damage done by our bombers there--the place was just a mass of wreckage. The train was switched onto a siding and carried us right out to the base.
15. 107th Squadron Mission to the marshaling yards at Bolzano, Italy. The raid was very successful and all of our planes returned safely. Everyone is busy getting the camp set up. The weather is very cold and damp.
16. 108th Squadron Mission to Padua, Italy, with 6 of our planes participating. The mission was highly successful and all of our planes returned safely. We are still working hard to get our camp in good shape, and each day we have been sending trucks into town to get lumber and other materials from wrecked buildings.

- 17. The day was nonoperational and rather a quiet and damp day in camp. There are plenty of fresh oranges, apples, and almonds around for us to buy, and the prices here are much cheaper than they were back in Africa. We had a movie at Group Headquarters tonight, in an old barn.
- 18. The mission scheduled for today was canceled due to bad weather. Work is going ahead on getting the camp set up; a mess hall is being built, S-2 and the Orderly Room are putting in tile floors, and the men are busy making their living quarters more comfortable.
- 19. 109th Squadron Mission to the marshaling yards at Innsbruck, Germany with 4 squadron planes participating. The Group encountered stiff opposition over the target from both fighters and flak. S/Sgt Howard P. Carter, engineer and top turret gunner on Major Macdonald's crew, destroyed an ME 109 fighter on today's mission. #765, piloted by Lt Scott, was attacked at the target by an enemy fighter and severely damaged; Lts Jones, Conner, and Hinson were seriously injured and are in the hospital. Lt Jones, bombardier, and badly wounded himself, plotted the course to the field after the navigator, Lt Conner, was disabled. Lt Scott, pilot, flew and landed the plane alone, after the co-pilot, Lt Hinson, was wounded.

SHEET NO. 4

- 20. 110th Squadron Mission to Athens, Greece. Only three of our planes completed the raid, but all returned safely. Rapid progress is being made on the new mess hall that we are building; S/Sgt Leo Anderson is in charge of construction.
- 21. Today was nonoperational and was rather quiet around camp. A movie was shown for the Squadron at Group briefing room in the evening.
- 22. The mission scheduled for today was canceled due to bad weather. The camp area is very muddy after an all-night rain, and there is very little to do today. We have several Italians who pick up laundry from the fellows that speak very good English, having lived in the States for several years. We also have a Squadron barber now; prices being 10 cents for a haircut and five cents for a shave.
- 23. Nonoperational and very quiet around the camp; work is still going on at the mess hall and it should be ready for use soon.
- 24. Today was a rather quiet Christmas Eve; some of the fellows are doing a bit of celebrating, but not much. The day was nonoperational.
- 25. Christmas Day and the Squadron's 111th mission. The target was completely covered with clouds and no bombs were dropped; no opposition was met. After the man returned from the mission, we had our Christmas dinner of roast turkey and all the trimmings. There was lots of mail today, mostly Xmas packages, which doesn't make us mad at all. The day was cold and dismal, and we'd rather not spend any more Christmases in Italy.
- 26. It has been raining steadily since last evening and it's also very cold; consequently, today's mission was canceled. Only routine work is going on and everyone else is staying beside a fire.

- 27. No mission today on account of bad weather; we've had a terrific wind all day and it's been very cold. The camp is infested with numerous small Italian boys selling almonds, oranges, and soliciting laundry.
- 28. 112th Squadron Mission to the marshaling yards at Rimini, Italy. Our rear echelon arrived from Africa today, and everyone is now in camp. Lieut. Chamberlain and crew arrived today and brought with them a new B 17G.
- 29. 113th Squadron Mission, target: Ferrara, Italy, marshaling yards. The target was well covered and all planes participating returned safely. Last evening there was a terrific explosion and fire when a Wellington, loaded with 500# bombs, crashed into another aircraft while taking off. M/Sgt Tapia, Cpl Vandrea, and Cpl McIlvain, who were working loading bombs on our planes, rushed into the flames and rescued three crew members of the burning Wellington. These men are being recommended for citation.
- 30. The day was nonoperational with only routine camp duties to keep us busy. Our C.O., Major Macdonald, returned today after a siege of illness at a hospital in Naples.

Dec 31. The day was nonoperational. And, so we complete another year.

1943



FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS AFTER JAN. 1, 1992

HOWARD JOHNSON
 P.O. Box 1795
 Rapid City, So. Dak. 57709
 (605) 343-8550

I-90 at Exit 59

Name _____ Phone# _____

Address _____

City & State _____

Arrival date _____ For _____ nights 99th Bomb Group Reunion

1 double bed \$44.00 per night

2 double beds \$52.00 per night

#of Adults _____ # of Extras _____

Credit Card # _____

Send reservations directly to Howard Johnsons
 Rooms will be held until 6 p.m. unless paid in advance

Do not use the 800 number for calling Howard Johnson's for
 reservations concerning this event

Airport Limo 343-5358 (Courtesy of Howard Johnson's)

16
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NAME _____
 SPOUSE _____
 ADDRESS _____
 PHONE _____
 SQUADRON _____

<u>Events</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Before July 15</u>	<u>After July 15</u>	<u>Total</u>
Sept. 1- Tuesday REGISTRATION	X	\$15.00	\$18.00	=
Sept. 2 -Wednesday 2:00 P.M. Deadwood, tour of open pit gold mine. Dinner; Circle B Chuck Wagon Supper and Show	X	\$20.00	\$23.00	=
Sept. 3 -Thursday 2:00 P.M. Tour Crazy Horse Mountain and Mt. Rushmore, dinner at Mt. Rushmore not incl. in this price	X	\$14.00	\$18.00	=
Sept. 4-Friday 9:30 A.M. Tour Ellsworth Air Force Base Lunch at the Officers Club	X	\$15.00	\$17.00	=
Sept. 5-Saturday Banquet and dance Cash Bar -----	X	\$20.00	\$20.00	=
Sept. 6-Sunday Continental Breakfast FREE	YES _____ NO _____		Number = _____	

[MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO:]

99th Bomb Group Reunion
 c/o M.J. Larkin
 3827 Clifton St.
 Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

 (605) 343-1070

George;



JAS L SMITH
 9801 RICHMOND DR.
 KANSAS CITY MO 64134

The name of the motel we are
 using for the Reunion has been
 changed to the HALL MARK INN.
 Same owners, same address &
 phone number. Any further cor-
 respondence you have with them,
 use the new name,

Jim

KANSAS CITY REUNION

Paul Kelly has arranged to block rooms at the Hilton Plaza Inn as follows:

35 Rooms for Wednesday, September 2, 1992
 75 Rooms for Thursday, Friday and Saturday
 September 3rd, 4th and 5th

RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE MADE TO:

HILTON PLAZA INN
 ONE EAST 45th STREET
 KANSAS CITY, MO 64111
 (816) 753-7400

RATE: \$49.00 plus tax (Single or Double Occupancy)
 Reservations Service: 1-800-HILTONS

The HILTON PLAZA INN overlooks the famed Country Club Plaza, with
 more than 150 fine shops, restaurants and night spots! Paul will be mailing
 out reservation forms after February 1st.

**PRESS
RELEASE**

**Bomber Crew
Leaps to Safety**

Sioux City, Ia.—(AP)—Five men, the entire crew of a B-17 Flying Fortress, parachuted to safety Tuesday afternoon when their plane, based at the Sioux City Army Air Base, developed engine trouble, according to Lt. Col. George A. Blakey, base commandant.

The plane crashed into a hillside and burned three miles northwest of Emerson, Neb.

18

Quick thinking on the part of the pilot, Second Lt. William M. Salmons, who ordered the crew to bail-out, saved the lives of his men, Colonel Blakey said. Medical aid and fire-fighting equipment from the base were rushed to the scene, but all the men were safe and were brought back to the base. The plane was on a combat training mission.

*from the
Dubuque
Telegraph-Herald
but it was not
the 99th*

NEWS, DUES & VIEWS

We like to think that the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society may have extended General Upthegrove's life just a little. If so it was a fitting return for the counsel and commonsense with which "Uppie" preserved us in some of those remembered battles with the Third Reich. May he Rest in Peace.
george

We have been shocked and saddened here in Albuquerque by the sudden and unexpected death of our friend "Liz" Gilbert. Liz walked out of Hungary in 1945 rather than await the Red Army and traversed many miles with the Hungarian Army. When we spoke for the silent in those grim days, Liz was one of the silent.
end

The 19th Bomb Group's Reunion in August is planned to commemorate the 50th birthday of the B-29. Our best to them!

REUNIONS

April 1 1992 99th Bomb Group Mini-Reunion Overland Park KS

- Jim Smith, 9801 Richmond Dr., Kansas City MO 64134, phone 816-761-0588
- May 1992 American Former POWs, Stalag XVII-B Knoxville TN
- Lester N. Levy, 4047 Division, Metairie LA 70002 Ph. (504) 888-8850
- 19 May 1992 Bombardiers, Inc. Albuquerque NM
- Bob Lory, 398 Antelope Circle, SE, Albuquerque NM 87123-3518 tel. (505) 298-3896
- 10 Aug 1992 19th Bomb Group, Seattle WA
- James P. Kiracofe, 274 Quinn Rd., West Alexandria OH 45381 (513) 839-4441.

Sep 1992 99th Bomb Group Rapid City SD

- Marion J. Larkin, 3827 Clifton, Rapid City SD
- 23 Oct 1992 461 BG Dayton OH
- Frank C. O'Bannon, P.O.Box 36600, Tucson AZ 85740, or Ed Chan, P.O.Box 117 New Hyde Park, NY 11040.
- 30 Oct 1993 15AF March Air Force Base, CA
- 26 Oct. 1993, 99BG, Ontario CA

end
4

19

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - 1992 dues - \$15

NEWSLETTERS 1981-1991 \$10/yr. 81_82_83_84_85_86_87_88_89_90_91_Total _____

NAME _____ SQUADRON (or Assoc) _____

ADDRESS _____ NEW _____ RENEWAL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

Mail to Walter Butler, Treasurer, 8608 Bellehaven Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112. Make check payable to 99BGHS. The upper left corner of your address label shows the date to which you are paid up.

We continue the subscriptions of deceased members for an additional year, but please remember to send us any change of address.

* * * * *

TAPS

MAJOR GENERAL FAY R. UPTHEGROVE *****

Robert J. Roberts We are informed by Craig B. Roberts, 7651 S. Bemis St., Littleton, CO 80120, that his father died recently.

Francis K. Hanft, Bombardier, 416th BS, died in 1988.

from Dick Drain

Don B. Wilson, waist gunner, 416th BS, died Sept. 1991

from Dick Drain.

Leo F. Poirier Leo F. Poirier passed away January 19, 1992 in the hospital in Taunton MA. Lola M. Poirier (his wife).

Lloyd H. Brown Lloyd Heightston Brown died January 16, 1992. He was a member of the 347th Squadron and his home was Anderson, South Carolina. He was retired from the U.S. Postal Service. Leon Bohls

Viggo J. Hermansen We lost our navigator, Viggo J. Hermansen of the 416th, last October 29th, 1991.

His widow is Geraldine Hermansen, 2114 Lakeville Dr., Kingwood TX 77339 (713/358-9338.) Frank H. Pearce *****

GILBERT—Alice Von Slawik (Liz) Gilbert, 68, a resident of Albuquerque since 1961, passed away Monday, February 3, 1992. Liz was well known and loved by the art and music community. She was a retired APS teacher in art, music, and German and also taught at UNM. She was an avid golfer, belonged to the Four Hills Country Club, and was an associate member of the Juan Thomas Hunt Club. She loved animals and spent many hours on animal portraits for friends and family. She was active in and supported the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society. She traveled all over the world and had a great love of life. She was a talented,

caring and giving person. She served on the UNM Cancer Board and worked towards the opening of Casa Esperanza, a half-way house for cancer patients. Survivors include her two daughters, Barbara Gilbert and Terry Barber and husband, Craig; and two grandsons, all of Albuquerque. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the UNM Cancer Center, 900 Camino de Salud NE, Albuquerque, NM 87131-5636. Memorial services will be held Friday, 2:00 p.m., at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 431 Richmond Drive NE. Cremation by Vista Verde Memorial Park Crematory by Sunrise Society.

99th Bomb Gp Historical Society
Walter H. Butler - Treasurer
8608 Bellehaven Pl. N.E.
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112

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Mar. 1992

Change of Address

Clarence Hammes,	94 Warbler Way,	Watertown	WI 53094
Mike Mazu,	3000 Woodlake Dr.NE, Apt. 101,	Palm Bay	FL 32905
Raymond L. Nestor	4724B Obannon Dr.	Las Vegas	NV 89102-3506
Robert Whitcombe	17117 Gulf Blvd #533	St. Petersburg	FL 33708-1481
Bill Redding	<u>2010</u> Clearview Dr.	Midlothian	TX 76065

FOUND

987 Hazel Atkinson	7355 Maddock Rd.	North Ridgeville	OH 44039	Assoc.
988 Agnes T. Barnes	7355 Maddock Rd.	North Ridgeville	OH 44039	Assoc.
989 Sam Walker	8401 Peck Ave.,	Anchorage	AK 99504	
990 Craig B. Roberts	7651 Bemis St.,	Littleton	CO 80120	Assoc.
991 Earl S. Buffenmeyer	1270 Quentin Rd.	Lebanon	PA 17042	
992 Curtis Grodzicki	225 Robert St,	Nanticoke	PA 18634	
993 Francis W. Purdy	2525 Deborah Dr.	Beachwood	OH 44122	
994 Satiris Fasoulis	20 Waterside Plaza	New York	NY 10010	