



**THE**  
**99th Bomb Group Historical Society**  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 12 No. 4

Jul 1992



SOCIETY OFFICERS, 1991-1992

PRESIDENT - LEN HOPEN'	HISTORIAN - GEORGE F. COEN
TREASURER - WALTER BUTLER	EDITOR - GEORGE F. Coen
SECRETARY - H.E. CHRISTIANSEN	CO-EDITOR - BERNICE BARR
CHAPLAIN - JOE KENNEY	



**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

To: George F. Coen, Historian  
 99th Bomb Group Historical Society

Dear George:

In the 99th Bomb Group Newsletter of March, 1992, President Harvey Jennings wrote a very stirring message regarding the passing of General Upthegrove. This same message now can be reread with the beautiful thoughts shared by both he and the General for whom it was originally intended. Harvey, a veteran of three wars and a POW, passed away on May 2, 1992 at Rancho Cordova, CA. He was buried with graveside honors at Terre Haute IN. on May 8, 1992. Harvey was born in Dana, IN. He was 69 years of age. We salute a 99er who has contributed more than his share to our freedoms and our way of life. It would be a wonderful thought that his message to the General can now be shared again. Our condolences go out to Pauline Jennings with the message that we share her loss.

As Vice President, it now becomes my duty to assume the office of President until the forthcoming elections at Rapid City. At this time, I would only request that you share in furthering the interests of the Society and that I will be in contact with those who share responsibility for the various functions. I enlist the help of those who have experienced the office particularly with the reunion approaching.

Harvey Jennings appointed a Site Selection Committee consisting of Bob Bacher, Len Smith and myself. It has been a very active committee; evaluating to varying degrees, eight separate locations for the 1994 reunion.

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The current lineup of reunion sites is as follows:

1992  
RAPID CITY, SD.  
HOSTS: MARION LARKIN AND MIKE YARIMA

1993  
ONTARIO, CA.  
HOST: BERNIE BARR

1994  
HAMPTON, VA.  
HOST: BOB BACHER

The Hampton VA site was visited by the committee and easily met the criteria that been set. You will be updated on this selection with a presentation at the Rapid City Board of Directors meeting. The Board will be requested to approve this site for 1994.

Greetings 99'ers:

In the March, 1992 Newsletter, The President's Message was a stirring tribute to our first group Commander, General Faye Upthegrove, who died on January 8, 1992. President Harvey Jennings gave a final salute which should now be re-read with our President in our thoughts. Harvey, a veteran of three wars and a POW, passed away on May 2, 1992 at Rancho Cordova, CA. He was buried with graveside honors at Terre Haute, IN on May 8. Harvey was born in Dana, IN and was 69 years of age. We salute a 99'er who has contributed more than his share to our freedoms and our way of life. Our condolences go out to Pauline Jennings with the message that we all share her loss.

Time for all of us is a fleeting asset and the things we should have done become more urgent. If you include in this list a yen to see your old friends (and some new ones), Marion Larkin and his cohorts have just the thing for you. Plan to join with them at Rapid City, SD from Sept. 1 thru Sept. 6 for the 1992 reunion of the 99th BGHS. The sign-up information and forms are on Page 15 and 16 of the March 1992 Newsletter. The reward for their effort is just seeing you there.

Len Hopen, Acting President

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

GREETINGS:

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Time has a way of rolling by much faster than any of us realize. For this reason we need to be making our reservations and filling out and mailing our registrations into M.J. Larkin in Rapid City for our next Reunion being held in that City September 1 - 6. Ought to take advantage of the early registration discount if possible. This particular reunion celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the 99th Bomb Group with some of those younger men who are with the old 99th stationed there at Ellsworth Air Force Base just out of Rapid. In fact, the whole region is full of interesting places to visit, quite a beautiful forested area. We look forward to seeing you all there.

We need a few more men who have the interest to work within the 99th Bomb Group's Board of Directors. If you should have that desire to serve or know an individual who would do well in that capacity, and be willing to serve, please submit to me at 950 McDougall, Lander, Wyoming 82520. This will be of great help to the Nominations Committee. We presently have four Board positions to fill.

Leonard Hopen has taken over the leadership of this organization with the passing of Harvey Jennings. It's always difficult regardless of how well your predecessor has maintained that position. We recognize this and the fact that your Board of Directors' choice was Leonard, a completely competent successor. We need to give Leonard our full support as he conducts the Office of President of the 99th.

Harvey Jennings passing was a turn of events most of us had not anticipated. Harvey, always faithful in his attendance of each Reunion with his faithful wife, Pauline. He was always helpful, always working for the good of this organization, he was your friend and mine. I miss him as I'm certain we all do. Let's remember that Harvey served this Nation well and that his was never an easy lot through that loyal service and the serious problems he survived as a P.O.W. during WWII. From the Book of Romans, Chapter 5, verses 3 through 5: "--WE ALSO EXULT IN OUR TRIBULATIONS, KNOWING THAT TRIBULATION BRINGS ABOUT PERSEVERANCE; AND PERSEVERANCE, PROVEN CHARACTER; AND PROVEN CHARACTER, HOPE; AND HOPE DOES NOT DISAPPOINT, BECAUSE THE LOVE OF GOD HAS BEEN POURED OUT WITHIN OUR HEARTS THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO WAS GIVEN TO US."

Joe C. Kenney, Chaplain.

\* Letters

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from Pauline Jennings

May 23, 1992

Bernie and Doris - Thanks for your card - I've received a huge stack of "get well" and sympathy cards. Some are reactions from your note in the Newsletter and some from people who had found out that Harvey had passed away. Those, plus numerous phone calls.

The obituary enclosed was written by his sister Pauline and appeared in the Daily Clintonian, Clinton, Indiana.

Since coming back, I've re-read his message on the General's death and have felt like it was written for himself. Maybe he knew something that he was trying to tell the rest of us. For him too - the guns echoed through the hills and the notes of the bugler rippled through the breeze. As I sat there, I was reminded of his message in the March letter. I am so glad I was able to take him back to Indiana and to have the military rites. Plus Jerry Jennings spoke, not preached, he spoke of his own personal relationship with his uncle. Harvey's grave site is about 30 ft from where his brother is buried. Capt. Howard Jennings, Army. (Jerry's father).

Haven't made up my mind about Rapid City yet - but I'll be thinking about it. ~~My sister~~

My sister is coming out here next Tuesday. I'll be glad as I'm tired of talking to myself (and not getting any good answers).

Take care -

Sincerely,

I'm bundling up a bit of the correspondence and shipping it to Hopen just in case he runs into something that might be answered in the papers HTJ has here. PJ

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 1 person

2 double beds \$52.00 per night. 2 persons

# 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)

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL WILL GIVE SPECIAL BARGAIN RENTAL RATES

NATIONAL CAR RENTAL will rent a MIDSIZE car to 99th Bomb Group members in RAPID CITY for \$2.30 per day or 193.80 per week. CALL 1-605-393-2644 for your reservation, not the 800 number.. Identify that you are a 99th member.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 SPOUSE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 SQUADRON \_\_\_\_\_

Events	Number	Before July 15	After July 15	Total
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



Ing. Alessandro Gaffarelli  
 Viale Mantegazza 51  
 RIMINI (Italy) 47037

Rimini 10 April 1992

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

Dear Sir

First of all I must apologize for the delay with wich I have sent my annual due; the delay was caused by my absence from Rimini in the past months. However I hope that my international money order has now reached your address.

On the occasion I should like to let your Association know my wish to get recollections referring to the war flights of the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 over Northern Italy.

The reason of my notice is the following: approaching the fiftieth anniversary of the air actions carried out by the Bomber Groups of the 15th Air Force over the targets of Northern Italy I am writing the history of the mentioned air-raids regarding only a few towns and particularly Rimini (I saw and still remember the details of all the air raids over this town).

From the Archives of Washington and of Maxwell I received a remarkable documentation (mission reports, etc.) and air photographs taken from the aircrafts during the war flights.

By the reading of specialized books I have known the characteristics and the performances of B-17 and B-24 aircrafts.

I should like now to know, if possible, some particulars that are part of the news inherent to the above-mentioned flights. They are:

- a) When (how long before the flight) the first pilot received the orders for the flight and knew the target?
- b) The shape of the flying formations during the flights towards the target and over the target.
- c) The instructions to follow in case of the enemy fighters attacks.
- d) The variations of the air course and the change of target because of prohibitive weather's conditions.
- e) Primary and secondary targets.
- f) Other arguments inherent to the war-flights.

I think that the above-mentioned my questions can find a reply in the recollections of veteran pilots and air crew members of your Association that during the years 1943 and 1944 served in Italy with the 15th Air Force.

I should be very grateful to you if you would kindly let me have a reply about my questions. Of course I will pay the expenses for probable photocopying and postage.

Thanking you in anticipation for your kind reply, I am

Yours faithfully

*Gaffarelli Alessandro*

# Squadron War Diary



Sheet No. 1

War Diary, 416th Bombardment Squadron

APO 520

Month of September, 1943

Prepared by 1st Lt. Ernest F. Baldwin, Jr.



WAR DIARY OF THE 416TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON (H)  
MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1944

DAY	EVENTS
1	Today was nonoperational and was spent in usual camp duties. Wind blowing and the dust is a damned nuisance. Combat crews off on pass. The ground crews worked on the planes.
2	The Squadron went on a mission to Bologna, Italy and had a very successful mission. All planes returned safely with no damage. Today was PX day and cigarettes were not to be had. Everyone smoking cigarettes from K rations. Had hotcakes for breakfast as usual, that makes 9 days in a row.
3	Nonoperational and nothing happened other than usual camp duties. Nice weather for once but the flies are as bad as ever.
4	Another day nonoperational. Good rest for the air echelon, but there are too many close to finishing for them to appreciate the rest.
5	Raid on Viterbo, Italy, and the airdrome was successfully bombed. All planes returned safely after an uneventful raid. Fresh meat again for dinner. The MBS and EBS must be tired of fresh meat.
6	Pomigliano D'Arco Airdrome at Naples was today's target and we did a good job of bombing and all planes returned safely. This dust is getting monotonous and we are all praying for a good rainstorm. Officers had a party at the Officer's Club on the base and there were 50 Officers and 10 nurses present. The beer and cake were good anyway.
7	Back to Foggia for today's raid. This has been our jinx target, but all returned safely even though enemy fighters attacked and the flak was intense. Everyone is sitting around wondering when we will invade Italy, and the military strategists in the Squadron are waxing hot in their discussions.
8	Today the Squadron participated in a raid on Frascati, Italy. Our luck is still holding out and we suffered no mishaps.
9	Squadron mission today was to Capua, Italy and we had a good mission. The boys were not satisfied with their results though and they are all tired after 5 raids on 5 successive days.
10	The air echelon is getting no rest and went on another mission today to Isneria, Italy. Had a successful raid and all returned safely. Weather is a little cooler and the dust isn't quite so bad. The whole camp is excited about the war and the rumors that Italy is getting ready to quit.
11	Nonoperational today and the air echelon is getting a good rest. usual camp duties and many of the boys went to town on pass.
12	Raid on Frosinone Airdrome, Italy, and Major Orance led the Squadron on his 50th raid. Had a good raid and all returned safely. Major received news when he returned home that he had been awarded the Silver Star.

Dec 1&2	Nothing of interest to report.
Dec 3	Today was operational for the squadron - the rest of the group turned back, and the 416th was the only squadron to get over the target, going in with the 2nd and 97th Bomb Groups. In the evening, Lt. Blum conducted an orientation meeting in the EM mess hall.
Dec 9	Tw was just a year ago today that the advance echelon arrived at this base to get things set up and start operations from Italy. We've come a long way in that year, but here's hoping that there will be no second anniversary of the occasion. At a presentation of awards formation, today, O.F.Cs were promoted to Maj Wayne J. Seward, Capt Burt McKnight, Capt George R. Sadie, Capt Richard W. Phelps, Lt Morris S. <u>Wood</u> , Lt Cecil H. Buffalo and Lt Jack T. Pophas. With Col Barr piloting, and with a 416th plane and crew, one of our B-17s made a trip to Greece today to carry ammunition to the British. The crew spent the night in Greece, returning the next day.
Dec 12	The 8th Air Force men, who have been with us for the past month, left today to return to their bases in England. Some more of our boys left here tonight on their way back to the U.S.
Dec 15	The enlisted men <u>held</u> a party in the newly decorated day room this evening, celebrating the completion of the 300th mission by the group. Fine American whiskey was dispensed, along with the regular varieties of Foggie firewater. Also on the refreshment roster were Coca-Cola, sandwiches and cake. Entertainment came in the form of a <u>dance</u> orchestra and a couple of Eytie girls - one a gorgeous little singer, the other, a dancer, who displayed the body beautiful in a rather torrid dance; in other words, a strip tease down to the bare facts. The "flak" was heavy and there were too many "man-traps" in the form of foxholes in the area, but everyone survived.
Dec 16	There's a bumper crop of hangovers among the EM today, and quite a number of new converts for the W.C.T.U. - that is, until the next time! Tomato juice was a popular item on the breakfast menu. Lt Blum returned from Rome today, and brought with him the newspapers. "300 Mission Log," which extols the feats of the "Fighting 99th" through 3 continents and 300 combat missions. The papers were distributed to all personnel and were received with such enthusiasm. The officers held their 300 mission party this evening at the Service Squadron's Officers Club - dancing provided the feature entertainment for some, other seemed quite happy to spend an evening indulging the various mixtures of alcoholic beverages.
Dec. 13	<i>Cpl. Benjamin Moore, Tech-supply clerk, was found dead in the area this evening, apparently having died of a heart attack.</i>

UNIT HISTORY OF THE 416TH BOMBARDMENT SQUADRON, 99TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)

MONTH OF JANUARY, 1944

A. ADMINISTRATION.

No changes in organization or station.

Strength:	January 1, 1944	Officers	79		
		Enlisted men	372	Total	451
	January 31, 1944	Officers	79		
		Enlisted men	372	Total	451

No increase or decrease for the month.

On January 24, 1944, Captain Burnham E. Shaw succeeded Major Daniel V. Macdonald as the Squadron Commander. Captain George E. Andrews succeeded Captain Shaw as Operations Officer on Jan 24, 1944. On Jan 24, 1944, 1st Lt. Orville Eiden succeeded Capt George E. Andrews as Flight Leader of Flight A. Lt Kirtland A. Wilson succeeded Lt Eiden as Flight Leader of Flight B. Lt J.P. each succeeded Lt Wilson as Flight Leader of Flight C. Lt Willard Kietzer completed his tour of combat duty and relinquished his post as Flight Leader of Flight D, but no one was appointed to take his place.

1st Lt. Edward T. Allard Jr., succeeded 1st Lt D.T. Hemmingsen as Squadron Bombardier on Jan 6, 1944.

B. BATTLES.

This month the Squadron was operational 24 days. This is the highest number of operational days for the Squadron since it has been engaged in the Mediterranean Theater of Operations. Targets for the month included Airdromes, Marshaling Yards and Harbor Installations, and Industrial Installations.

**Jan 3, 1944**, was the 115th Squadron raid and the target was the ball bearing works at Villar Perosa, Italy. 7 of our planes made the raid. Six enemy fighters were encountered and heavy flak was encountered over the target. The raid was very successful and the pictures of the bombing show the target demolished.

**Jan 4, 1944**. 116 Squadron raid and target was city of Sofia, Bulgaria. Eight of our planes participated in the raid, but no bombs were dropped because of clouds that obscured the target. 3 of our planes landed at Bari, Italy to refuel on the way home.

**Jan 6, 1944**, 117th Squadron raid and target was Reggio Emilia, Italy. 9 of our planes participated in the raid and the results were very good. No flak or fighters were encountered.

**Jan 7, 1944**, 118th Squadron raid to Weiner-Neustad, Austria. 6 planes participated in the raid, but no bombs were dropped because of weather conditions.

**Jan 9, 1944**, 119th Squadron mission. Target was Pola Harbor, Italy. Was a very successful raid and 7 of our aircraft participated. Raid was uneventful and no flak or fighters were encountered.

**Jan 10, 1944**, 120th raid and target was Sofia, Bulgaria. 8 of our planes participated in the raid. The formation encountered 35 enemy aircraft over the target and the flak was very heavy and accurate. Lt C.E. Miller, S/Sgt P.J. Wojack, S/Sgt X.R. Rynier and S/Sgt E.P. Goldstein destroyed enemy fighters during the aerial battle, as did T/Sgt H.P. Carter, who received credit for his 3rd enemy fighter. 7 of our aircraft were damaged by flak or the enemy fighters, but all planes and personnel returned safely from the raid.

**Jan 11, 1944**. 121st Squadron raid, and target was Piraeus Harbor, Greece. 7 of our aircraft participated in the raid. Over the target, 20 to 30 enemy fighters were encountered. S/Sgt C.L. McGorry and S/Sgt E. Monclovic each destroyed one enemy ME 109.

**Jan 13, 1944**. 122nd Squadron raid, and target was Guidonia AD, in Italy. Six of our planes participated in the raid and results were very good. Heavy flak and 15 to 20 enemy aircraft were encountered over the target. S/Sgt J.J. Simoncelli and T/Sgt D.O. Modestitt were each credited with destroying an enemy fighter in the aerial encounter.

**Jan 14, 1944**. 123rd raid for the Squadron, and the target was Mostar a/D in Yugoslavia. 8 of our planes participated in a very successful raid. No enemy fighters were encountered but intense heavy flak was experienced over the target.

**Jan 15, 1944**. 124th Squadron raid, and target was Arezzo, Italy marshaling yards. 7 of our planes participated and was a successful mission. No enemy fighters nor flak encountered.

**Jan 16, 1944**. 125th Squadron raid to Villaorba, Italy. 9 of our aircraft participated in the raid. Results of the bombing were very good. 3 to 5 E/Ac were encountered over the target. All our planes returned safely.

**Jan 17, 1944**. 126th Squadron raid, and target was Prato, Italy, marshaling yards. 8 planes participated in a very successful raid. No fighters or flak were encountered.

**Jan 18, 1944**. 127th Squadron raid and target was Poggibonsi, Italy marshaling yards. Raid was very successful and no E/Ac or flak were encountered.

**Jan 19, 1944**. 128th raid, and target was Centocella A/D near Rome, Italy. 8 of our planes participated and all returned safely. No fighters, no flak.

**Jan 20, 1944**. 129th raid, and target was Rome Ciampino A/D. Good raid and no fighters or flak encountered. 8 of our aircraft participated.

**Jan 21, 1944**. 130th raid, and target was Rimini, Italy marshaling yards. 8 of our planes participated and bombing was very good. No fighters or flak encountered.

**Jan 22, 1944**. 131rd raid and target was Pontedera, Italy marshaling yards. 9 of our planes participated in the raid. No fighters or flak encountered.

**Jan 23, 1944**. 132nd Squadron raid, and target was Poggibonsi, Italy. 8 of our planes participated. Results could not be observed due to weather. No flak or fighters encountered.

**Jan 24, 1944.** 133rd Squadron raid, and target was Sofia, Bulgaria. No bombs dropped. Target obscured by clouds. Lt M.E. Kistzer was the squadron leader for the raid. Three a/c landed at Bari, Italy to refuel. #409 had to ditch all equipment over the Adriatic sea, as it was low on gas and just barely made the field at Bari.

**Jan 27, 1944.** 134th Squadron raid and target was Salon De Provence A/d, France. 8 of our aircraft completed the raid. Target was well covered and results were very good. 10 enemy fighters engaged the formation. S/Sgt V.L. Poling destroyed two of the attacking fighters, and S/Sgt F.L. Laxson destroyed one enemy fighter. Six of our A/C were damaged by fighters and heavy, intense flak. 5 planes landed at Naples to refuel and returned to base in the evening. #509 was left at Naples to have battle damage repaired.

**Jan 28, 1944.** 135th Squadron raid, and target was Aviana A/D, Italy. 7 of our planes participated in the raid. 6-8 enemy fighters were encountered just off the target and four of our aircraft were damaged. S/Sgt J.A. Ganisio was killed when hit by a 20mm shell, and S/Sgt Jack C. Shipley was wounded by the same shell. The squadron destroyed four of the attacking aircraft.

Claimants were: S/Sgt J.W. Wingfield, S/Sgt W.M. Simon, S/Sgt J.D. Kirpatrick, and S/Sgt R.V. Wheately.

**Jan 29, 1944.** 136th Squadron raid, target for 9 of our planes was the Certaldo marshaling yards, in Italy. No bombs dropped because of clouds covering the target.

**Jan 30, 1944.** 137th Squadron raid and target was Maniago A/D in Italy. Capt Andrews led the Squadron and the Group on today's raid. 9 of our planes participated in the raid and the results were very good. 10 enemy fighters were encountered. S/Sgt J.J. Simoncelli, S/Sgt D. Phillips, and S/Sgt S.D. Lyle destroyed enemy fighters.

**Jan 31, 1944.** 138th Squadron raid and target was the Airdrome at Udine, Italy. 9 of our planes participated in the raid, and the squadron was led by our C.O., Captain B.E. Shaw. Results of bombing were very good. 10-15 enemy fighters were encountered. Sgt J.F. Bear, T/Sgt R.F. Graffius, and S/Sgt J.A. Snell, and S/Sgt F.L. Laxson destroyed enemy fighters. 2nd Lt J.E. Russel was injured when hit in the knee by a piece of flak. Four of our aircraft were damaged by the very accurate flak and by the fighters.

C. CASUALTIES.  
No men are missing in action.

S/Sgt J.A. Genisio was killed in action on his 50th combat mission. ASN 37218987. Waist Gunner on Lt W.E. Kietzer's Crew. Sgt Genisio was killed January 28, 1944, on a raid over Aviano, Italy.

Lt J.E. Russel, O-749453, was injured by flak on Jan 31, 1944, while on a raid over Udine-Campofrodina A/D, Italy.

S/Sgt Jack C. Shipley, 19099068, was injured slightly by flak while on a raid over Aviano, Italy, Jan 28, 1944.

C. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS.

Major Daniel V. Macdonald received the Distinguished Flying Cross Jan 6, 1944. The D.F.C. was received for participation in a secret mission the night preceding the invasion of Sicily by the Allied Forces.



REPORT ON THE KANSAS CITY MINI REUNION

54 members and 6 guests attended. We all had a good time and got better acquainted with each other. (list enclosed).

Wednesday evening we had a supper in the Hospitality Room which was enjoyed by all.

Thursday a few went to Hallmark with Art Knipp. His son, Randall, took them on a nice tour of the plant. Others went to the NCAA Headquarters, Malls, Shawnee Indian Mission, V.F.W. Headquarters, etc.

Thursday night we had a piano player (a man who used to work for Jim at Bendix) and a guitar player in the Hospitality Room and they were fun. We also had 6 local guests from other B17 Groups plus Art Knipp's lovely family.

33 went on our bus trip Friday morning. All enjoyed Truman Library and other Independence sights. Our Hunt Midwest Underground was a pleasant surprise to all. There is nothing like it in the rest of the country. The Liberty Memorial was also enjoyed by all. It is the only WW1 Museum in the country.

52 attended our Banquet, a luau. The hotel decorated the room beautifully, the waitresses wore mumus, the food was good and the Banjo Band was fun. One of the players is from our church and we have heard them several times.

Several left on Saturday and others scattered.....shopping, the Agricultural Hall of Fame, the K.C. Trolley and the Country Club Plaza and Hall's Crown Center at the Hallmark Complex. The lobby of the Crown Center Hotel is spectacular with a hillside garden and waterfall.

Sunday more left and several went to church. 8 went to Joe's Barn for a farewell lunch together. A few forgot to change their clocks for Daylight Savings time!

The last four left on Monday.

Our thanks go to Art Knipp, Paul Hoover and Harold Henke for their airport trips, to the bartenders who kept everyone happy, to all who helped us load and unload, to those who helped keep the Hospitality Room neat, those who helped with the continental breakfasts and coffee and all who cooperated with us. Art Knipp had 2 doz. T shirts made and all sold. He also brought his own home grown popcorn which was great. Hallmark Inn was a good place and the food was excellent, but too much.

We are basking in the kind words and good will that have been expressed. Thank you! It was fun.

*Marge and Jim*



## QUOTES

From PACIFIC INTERLUDE by Sloan Wilson

Oh, now that the battles are over,  
I'll tell you what we won:  
A chance to fight more in some other war,  
And our pride in a job well done.

The heroes who died aren't remembered.  
The wounded we try to forget.  
And we poor damned sinners who came out winners  
Are blamed for the national debt.

The Krauts soon got richer than we are,  
The Japs found gold in their sun,  
But this we can say till our last dying day:  
They sent us to war and we won.

So bless 'em all, bless 'em all, bless 'em all,  
The long, the short and the tall,  
There will be no promotion this side of the ocean,  
I still say my lads, bless them all!

## NEWS, DUES & VIEWS \*\*\*\*\*

This publication is going to have to reserve a section for Uppie stories. Everybody has at least one good one.

I remember a time in March 1943 at Oran when we flyboys were all waiting for the skies to clear around Kasserine Pass. We shared a chow line (British rations) with a B-26 outfit, and one day one of the B-26 men said "We know your Colonel."

"Oh."

"Yes, he was C.O. of our outfit at one time."

The story came out that Uppie had testified before Congress as to the airworthiness of the old B-26. Uppie was reported to have said that the Flying Prostitute would be a good plane if it had a wing. The Air Force was reported by our informant to have transferred Uppie, held up a promotion for him, and increased the length of the B-26 wing. george



## REUNIONS

Reunions for the July Newsletter

10 Aug 1992 19th Bomb Group, Seattle WA  
James P. Kiracofe, 274 Quinn Rd., West Alexandria OH 45381  
(513) 839-4441.

1 Sep 1992 99th Bomb Group Rapid City SD  
Marion J. Larkin, 3827 Clifton, Rapid City SD PHONE 605-343-1070

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

1994 99th BG Hampton VA  
Host Bob Bacher 692 N. Abbie Rd., Elyria OH 44035 end

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.

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## TAPS \*\*\*\*\*

### Harvey Jennings Rancho Cordova, Calif.

Harvey T. Jennings, 69, of Rancho Cordova, Calif., and formerly of Dana, died Saturday.

Born August 31, 1922, in Dana, he was the son of William and Nellie Jennings.

He was preceded in death by four sisters and two brothers.

He was retired and detached from the US Air Force in 1965. He served in World War II, Korea and in the start of the war in Vietnam. On November 7, 1944, while on a combat mission to

Maribor, Yugoslavia, his craft, B-17 flying fortress on which he was the tail gunner, received a direct hit while it was over the target. All of the crewmen were seen bailing out before the stricken plane fell to the earth. He was a prisoner of war until the war's end. He was awarded the Air Medal and the Oak Leaf Cluster. Since his retirement, he had been active in the 99th Bomb Group Historical Society and served as chaplain a few years and was elected president of the society a year ago. Also, he was a life member of the 15th Air Force. He was a sports enthusiast. His favorite sport was baseball. He played football in

high school and he was a good bowler. Survivors include his wife, Pauline Jennings; two sisters, Pauline Hinton of Annapolis, Md., and Mary Parker of Port Richey, Fla.; three nephews; and four nieces.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Friday at Roselawn Funeral Home with Rev. Jerry Jennings officiating. Burial will be in Roselawn Memorial Park. Visitation is 1 p.m. until services Friday. Military graveside rites will be conducted by VFW Post No. 972.

### Col. Robert C. Klotz

Col. Robert C. Klotz passed away on Feb 17, 1992 and was buried with military honors Feb 24 1992. Col. Klotz was a micky operator in the 416th and was the original old soldier. Col. Klotz stayed on active duty after the WW II conflict and had a variety of interesting and challenging assignments. He served as a B-45 navigator, in the Inspector General's Office, Commander of a navigator training Squadron at Mather AFB and his last assignment was as Commander of Chanute AFB. His passing was sudden and unexpected and he was looking forward to attending the reunion at Rapid City

Oscar E. Collings -

### DICK VAN BUREN

Feb. 21, 1991 Sorry to tell you Dick Van Buren died

Anne Budnick

Forrest L. Messel It is my sad duty to report that Forrest L. Messel of 6750 Plateau, St. Louis, Mo. 63139, died of a massive heart attack April 15th in the Washington, Mo. hospital. Forrest's initial attack happened on the 13th while on a fishing trip tp Washington. Forrest flew 50 missions as our waist gunner out of Tunisia and Italy from November 1943 to May 1944. Surviving is his wife Wilma, and three children, Sharon, Robert, and Scott, six brothers and sisters and 9 grandchildren. Forrest had his 70th Birthday on April 14, 1992.

sincerely



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

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