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498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

August, 1983

345th Enters Pages Of History

Warpath Across The Pacific

The monumental history of the 345th Bomb Group in WW II, "Warpath Across The Pacific", will be ready for shipping this fall. Lawrence J. Hickey announced that publishing delays were caused by an intensive seven month research that provided so much new and important data that the book has been extensively revised, and the decision to expand the artwork for the book required additional production time.

Larry began work on "Warpath Across The Pacific" nineteen years ago while completing a degree in History at Rockhurst College in Kansas City and continued during his Master's Degree work at Georgetown University.

Research was interrupted during his tour in Vietnam as a Historian with the Department of the Air Force, but resumed during a five year career as a key intelligence analyst in the SE Asia Branch of the Defense Intelligence Agency. Larry has pursued a business career in Colorado since 1972 and is currently President of Vimar Corporation of Boulder.

The author devoted exactly half of his lifetime to the research and publication of this work. It is believed that this monumental book is the finest to be ever produced on an air unit anywhere and a classic in its field. Only about 1500 copies will be printed on the initial run, and it is uncertain whether it will be reprinted when this is sold out. Direct production expenses for this excellent history book will probably exceed \$50,000.

Members of the 345th BG may order a copy at \$54.95, plus \$2.00 shipping. By special arrangement with the 345th BG Reunion Association, \$5.00 of this will be a donation to the Association directly by the publisher. After publication date, the

book will sell for \$64.95 plus \$2.00 shipping and handling.

Larry reports that the text is approximately 400 pages. Material was gathered from 300 interviews plus government and military records in the USA and New Guinea. The book has fifty color photos from ten collections, plus about 300 black

and white photos. This incredible collection will be by far the most spectacular ever published on a WW II air unit. There are even blow-ups of many belly-camera photos showing Japanese installations, aircraft and shipping never before presented.

Continued on page 2

WARPATH ACROSS THE PACIFIC



Lawrence J. Hickey

WARPATH:

Continued from page 1

One of the most talented aviation artists in the U.S. has rendered with incredible detail 48 full color nose-to-tail profiles of individual 345th BG aircraft. Painstaking efforts have been made to verify exact colors and details through photography and with former crew members and crew chiefs.

Full color paintings representing the most spectacular and interesting combat missions of each squadron include: TONDELAYO (500th) fighting for her life over Blanche Bay on 18 October 1943, and 498th attacking Rabaul on 2 November 1943, the 499th sinking a Jap

destroyer-escort off Amoy, China on 6 April 1945 and the 501st bombing a Jap ship in the Saigon River on 28 April 1945.

An appendix contains the full name, rank and crew position of every fatality while on service with the 345th. Eyewitness accounts and interviews tell the full story of MIA's and POW's, and War Crimes trials documentation provide further information. Every aircraft which served with the 345th is listed, including personnel, dates of service and circumstances of loss where appropriate.

A lavishly illustrated appendix gives a full history of the markings and insignia used by the 345th during the war. A forward by Maurice J. Eppstein, former Ad-

jutant of the 345th BG, and special text by Maury telling the story of the 345th Leave House in Manila is also included.

Every 345th member should be proud to own a copy of this fine book. To be sure of getting your copy reserved, and of saving \$10, (plus earning \$5 for the Reunion Association), send your order today, with check or money order to: International Research and Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 3334, Hi-Mar Station, Boulder, Colorado 80307. (Colorado residents should add 3% sales tax). Expected shipping date is early October, 1983.

Business Meeting

Association Reports Reunion Plans & New Officers

On Sept. 11, 1982, the 345th Reunion Association convened at the Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

In the opening session, Col. Clint True announced that the new president should be someone other than himself. Ben Fridge was nominated for president, Maury Eppstein as secretary and Ken McClure as treasurer. The three new officers were unanimously elected.

Vice Presidents elected for the coming term were:

- 498th - Harold Ponder
- 499th - Aaron Croop
- 500th - Claude Burnett
- 501st - Al Bosworth

President Ben Fridge conducted the meeting from this point and led a resounding standing ovation for Col. True. The outgoing VP's were introduced, thanked for their splendid work and also given an ovation.

New business items included the following:

- Treasurer Ken McClure to develop a financial statement and status report.
- Reunions will be held every two years.
- Columbus, Ohio was selected for the 1984 reunion, and Ken McClure was elected General Chairman of the event.
- Larry Hickey, author of "Warpath Across the Pacific" which depicts the 345th's exploits, made a short presentation and announced the book would be published in 1983.
- Noted that Col. True and the outgoing VP's have been very helpful in locating and recruiting ex-345th personnel.
- Harvey McKay, acting secretary, also reported that budget and other items were also discussed, and put in the hands of the new officers.

HEADQUARTERS, STOUFFERS DUBLIN INN 345th BOMB GROUP REUNION COLUMBUS, OHIO

February 8, 1983

OPERATIONS ORDER 9-6-84

1. Under the authority contained in the minutes of meeting, dated September 11, 1982, Colorado Springs, all former Officers, enlisted men, wives and/or others of the 345th Bomb Group are to report to **STOUFFERS DUBLIN INN, Columbus, Ohio** on or before **September 6, 1984** reporting to the Commanding President, Ben Fridge and, more importantly, to fellow Squadron Mates.

2. While on Temporary duty you will perform such duties as inspection of the Air Force Museum, Football Games, (Ohio State vs Oregon State), Golf at Muirfield, North American Plant (B-1), telling war stories with friends and such other tours or visits as you desire.

3. In view of the fact that no funds have been transferred by the former treasurer we are lacking funds to prepare for this mission. Accordingly it is requested that you send your check in the amount of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) **made out to the 345th Bomb Group Reunion Assn.** to provide for postage, printing of a new and complete roster, and mailing costs plus the costs of locating more personnel. This can not be done with an empty bomb bay! If \$15.00 is too much, send what you can.

4. Billeting: Stouffers Inn ... Guaranteed rate is \$50.00 per room whether single, double or triple. Includes free parking, coffee, newspaper with wake up service, transportation from Airport, shoe shine, motor home hook up close by, three rooms equipped for handicapped, party and banquet rooms. Rental car service available at Inn also.

5. Friday 9/7 Sqdn. Parties: Sat. 9/8 Group Party with Outstanding Program.

6. Sorely needed for future newsletters are: Stories from all of you on anything that suits your fancy relative to anyone in the 345th. May be war stories from the Big One or something that happened at the 1982 reunion, or whatever. Also black and white glossy prints (not color) of the 1982 reunion. Those of you who are scribes please take your pen in hand and send a story to your Sqdn. V.P. or to Ben Fridge, Pres. 13905 Rancho Verde Dr., Reno, NV 89511 or Maury Eppstein, Sec. 800 Mountain Home Rd., Woodside, CA 94062.

CLSPS, GULFSHORES

OFFICIAL:

BEN FRIDGE
PRESIDENT

KEN McCLURE
TREASURER 345th BOMB GR.
REUNION CHAIRMAN

DISTRIBUTION:

Harold H. Ponder, 498th V.P.
Aaron B. Croop, 499th V.P.
Claude V. Burnett, 500th V.P.
Elbert Bosworth, 501st V.P.
Maury Eppstein, HQ. V.P.

SEND CHECK TO:
KEN McCLURE
2770 East Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43209

Squadron Reports

The Bats Outa Hell Fly Once More

The Colorado Springs reunion was the most exhilarating yet for the 499th. The Squadron organization was further formed and plans made for the future.

The Squadron dinner and program on Friday evening opened with an invocation by Ed Karnis (still on active duty in Germany), and was celebrated by 112 members, wives and guests. Ed Egan presented a slide/talk show which brought back fantastic memories of 40 years ago.

It was most enjoyable listening to two of our Squadron Commanders. Julian Baird spoke on parts of our history that we tend to forget, and Dick Reinbold commented on present world realities.

We were glad to see Mrs. Gaylord Brown, (widow of one of our early crew chiefs who passed away in 1982) attend with their 2 sons. They surely will be included in all future Squadron activities.

Vic Tatelman, Assistant Secretary, 499th Bomb Sqd. Association is caretaker of the Squadron Master Roster. Anyone needing a copy should contact the 345th Reunion Association, c/o Ken McClure, 2770 East Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43209.

Rough Raiders Meet Again

The fourth reunion of the 345 Bomb Group Association last September was a resounding success. The 500th was well represented by 39 members, plus wives and guests. The turnout was exceptional, considering that our squadron's 1981 Las Vegas reunion had just recently been held, plus our planned October 1983 reunion is coming up soon.

Highlights of our 40th anniversary during this reunion were tours of NORAD Headquarters, Pikes Peak, Air Force Academy, and the Air Force Academy football team trouncing of San Diego State.

Inasmuch as each squadron had their own get-togethers, the 500th had their own dinner at The House of Prime Rib, enjoying the great food and service in the Colorado Springs suburb. After dinner, each Rough Raider got up and told us what he did when he was in the squadron, as well as what he is doing now. The dinner was one of the highlights of the reunion.

501st Recalls Last Reunion

"Bob and Nelle Fain sent in a report on the 345th Reunion, explaining that there was no "one" highlight—it was all great.

The reunions seem to be getting bigger and better each year as more men are located and attend. Every minute was busy in visiting and participating in wonderfully planned activities such as hospitality rooms, golf, etc.

The 501st party at the Air Force Academy Country Club was loaded with sentiment, fellowship, laughs and just plain good times. Thanks to Henry and Mary Ann Kortemeyer for making the arrangements.

The 345th Group overflowed the Officer's Club at Peterson AFB for the group banquet. The food was great, Maury Eppstein's program was outstanding, and I laughed so much at memories brought back that I could hardly breathe."

Bob reports that the men of the 501st are looking forward to the 1984 Reunion in Columbus, Ohio.

Air Force Museum To Highlight Memorial During Reunion

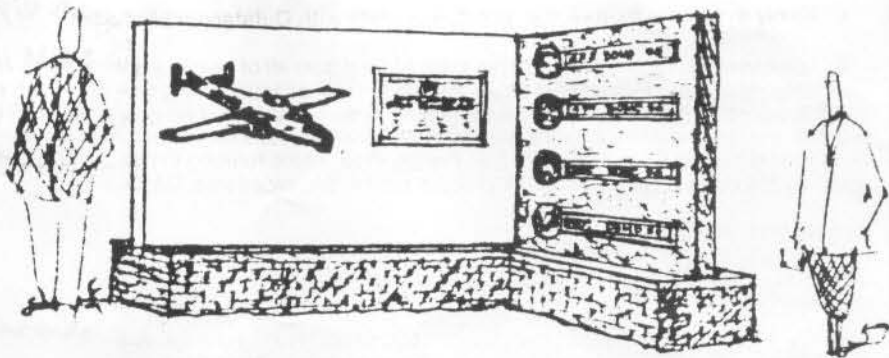
The 1984 Reunion includes a tour and a dedication of a 345th Memorial at the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio.

The museum has more than 130 aircraft on display plus thousands of aeronautical items and photos which cover the history of flight from Kittyhawk to the present. It's quite possible that some of our personnel are in photos on display.

The ceremony, a highlight of the Columbus reunion, includes the dedication of a Memorial to those who served the 345th Bomb Group, a "fly-over" salute, and a tour of the museum.

A committee headed by Ed Bina (501st) is working on the design, cost and location of the Memorial for this event. All costs of the 345th Memorial are expected to be covered by individual donations.

We want the 345th Memorial to be the best, because we were the best.



Rough sketch of artists' preliminary design of the 345th B. G. Memorial to be dedicated September, 1984.

Response to 9/6/82 Operations Order

As of July 1st, 310 members have answered the orders with donations to take care of mailing, printing and other expenses necessary for the September 1984 reunion.

The 499th leads the group with 96 checks to date, followed by the 501st with 81, the 498th with 66, the 500th with 40 and Headquarters with 27.

Larry Hickey donated \$310.00 from the pre-sale proceeds of his book.

To make the event an outstanding success, we need to communicate with all members quarterly.

The committee would like to hear from more of our members. Please make your check payable to the 345th Reunion Association, c/o Ken McClure, Treasurer, 2770 East Main St., Columbus, Ohio 43209.



In Memoriam

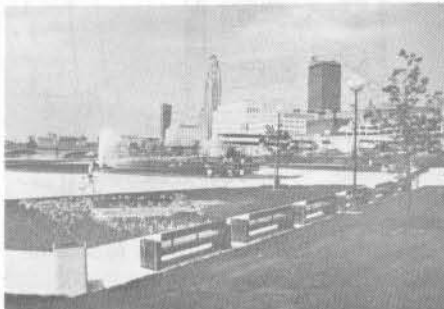
Reports have been received of the death of the following members of the 345th Bomb Group:

- Calvin A. Sullivan - Jan. 27, 1983
- S/Sgt. Joseph R. Fezio - March 9, 1983
- Russell Barber - Sept. 16, 1982
- Larry Sova - Dec. 1977
- John R. Tunze - Jan. 31, 1983
- Thomas Midlan
- Fred J. Fay
- Jack Dewey - 1980
- John McAdams - Sept. 10, 1982
- Russ Thomas - Feb. 1983

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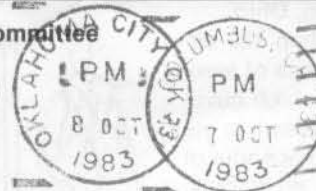
Committee members (top to bottom) Ken McClure (499th), Ed Bina (501st), and Jay Moore (501st), tell us they're flying in goodies for the 1984 reunion. "Off we go into the wild blue yonder" for Columbus, Ohio and the best reunion you'll ever attend.

345th Bomber Group 1984 Reunion



September 6-7-8, 1984
Columbus, Ohio

345th B. G. Reunion Committee
2770 E. Main St.
Columbus, Ohio 43209



Kenneth Gastgeb
1730 W Robinson
Norman Okla
73069

Address Change Requested