

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

499th SQUADRON

500th SQUADRON

501st SQUADRON

345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

May, 1984

Memorial Fund Update

by Ed Bina

Your response for donations to the Memorial Fund was great. We now have over \$9,000, thanks to 225 members. Space does not allow for publishing names of the contributors in *The Strafer* at this time. However, listed by unit, are the **\$100 PLUS Club Members**.

HQ: Clinton V. True, W. L. Darwin, and Ken Gastgeb.

498th: Adolph J. Luhta, Gordon Evans, Floyd Jenson, Nathan Goldman, Phyliss Ann Dewey and Calvin M. Bowen.

499th: Ken McClure, William Hardke, John E. Joseph and Herbert G. Summers.

500th: William A. Baker, Jr.

501st: Edward L. Bina, Guy H. Anderson, Robert S. Fain, Joseph L. Seale, Anne M. Wronka, Niel F. Fiorello, Julius B. Fisher, Theodore A. Kagels, Jay W. Moore, Wilford D. Helvey Herbert M. Friedman, Cicero J. Ellen, James J. Gallagher, Ralph M. Knowles and Steve J. Marty.

One welcome surprise was a \$50 donation to the fund by my long-time friend Mr. Robert Theis, Beverly Hills, CA. Bub was a pilot with the 38th Bomb Group in the Pacific which was well known to our group. Thank you, Bub.

I would like to tell you a little about our Jeff Blackmon, who is constructing and erecting the Memorial. Jeff is the son of an Irish stone carver and served his apprenticeship prior to enlisting in the Army Air Force on Oct. 23, 1941.

With his previous National Guard experience, he rapidly advanced to First Class Airplane Mechanic with the 309 Bomb Wing, South Carolina. After other schools and line experience as crew chief, line chief, gunner and radio operator, he was assigned to the 501st Squadron-345th Bomb Group on Nov. 11, 1942. He received additional training in Townsville, then

was off to Port Moresby, Nadzab and Biak.

On the move to the Philippines, Jeff was burned and wounded in the suicide attack on the Morrison R. Waite. After a long recuperation, he rejoined the Group in time to move to Ie-Shima. It was there that he was associated in building the Ernie Pyle Memorial.

Discharged in 1945, he chose to remain in the Active Reserve and was called to active duty in 1950 for one year. Jeff married his wife Glenna in 1946. They had 2 sons & 3 daughters, and now have 5 grandchildren.

He started a monument manufacturing plant in 1947, becoming the fourth generation of his family in the stone business. Many of you probably have already seen his work which includes historical plaques, memorials and other granite decorations. His most recognized project was erecting a bust of Orville and Wilbur Wright at Kitty Hawk. He also completed the art work at Brook Green Gardens near Georgetown, SC. His most recent project, which received a lot of press, was a large fountain (over 500 tons of granite) and waterfall for the Winston-Salem, NC Arts Council Park Plaza. He also



Jeff Blackman

built War Memorials in several states, including Alaska and Puerto Rico.

You can see that our Group is indeed fortunate to have Jeff use his outstanding talents to build and erect our Memorial. It will be a Memorial of which we all can be proud, and will stand in tribute to all those who served.

NOTE: As of May 1st, we have about 80% of the needed \$12,500 for the Memorial. If you haven't mailed your check yet, we'd appreciate it if you would mail your contribution today.

Reunion plans finalized

by Ken McClure

Enclosed is your registration form for our September Reunion in Columbus. **IT IS URGENT THAT YOU RETURN THIS FORM IMMEDIATELY!** Please use the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

Some of the events have a limited capacity, and reservations for them will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

To date, the response from you has been great. We expect a huge turnout, and have made additional room space at another nearby motel.

In addition to "Stouffer's Dublin Hotel", we have reserved space at the "Cross-Country Inn" in Dublin. This affordable option is within walking distance of our Reunion headquarters, and offers rates as low as \$23.95 for a single up to \$30.95 for a family.

IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY MADE RESERVATIONS, CALL THE Cross-Country Inn directly for your reservation. Their toll-free reservations number for OHIO ONLY is 1-800-621-1429. Outside of Ohio, phone (614) 764-4545.

by Maury Eppstein

September is coming up fast, so I hope you are getting things together to be at the pow-wow right after Labor Day!

Headquarters had more people present at Reunion IV in Colorado Springs than at any of the previous three, and it is hoped that we will see the numbers increase even more in Columbus this year.

With the great line-up of events, it is going to be impossible not to have another terrific time.

This Reunion will also have Headquarters Squadron as a unit celebrating its own Friday night party. Not only will we share Pacific experiences, but we can bring things up-to-date on who is doing what these days.

Also on Friday is the 345th Memorial Dedication Ceremony. If you have not already sent in your contribution to the Memorial Fund, you are urged to do so. Your committee deserves your help and you will derive both pride and pleasure from being part of this unusual Group project.

Headquarters personnel already registered for the 1984 Reunion include: Haskell Adams, Don Bishop, George Card, Bill Darwin, Maury Eppstein, Ken Gastgeb, Larry Hickey, Charles Metzler, Dan O'Brien, Jack Pauli, August Oulette, Delbert Reddington and Clint True. I understand that more names have recently come in, and I hope that your name is among this group.

See you there.

B-25 Model on display

by Bob Judd

The "Red Wrath" 0024 from the 498th Squadron has been built to scale (1.05" to 1') by Del McGehe of Urbana, Illinois. He planned and constructed the model which has a wing span of 6 feet, retractable landing gear, operational flaps, cockpit to scale, and is a radio-controlled flying model.

Over 600 hours have been invested in the development. McGehe consulted with the ground and flying crews assigned to "Red Wrath" before he fashioned the parts and assembled them.

Original crew members Casselman, Judd, Lauer and Treece plan to attend the convention in Columbus. Crew members Bowen and Wardle will make

an official inspection to determine their advice and instructions were faithfully followed. The model will be on display during the Reunion.

The addresses of Alfred Hawkes, radio, from Modesto, California, and "Knobby" Malcolm, gunner, from somewhere in Pennsylvania, are not known. If anyone knows the location of these former original crew members of the 498th "Red Wrath", please get in touch with any of the other crew members.

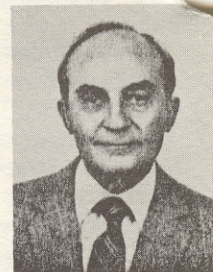
NOTE: Del's "Red Wrath" recently took 1st place in Toledo in the Military Scale class. This is the biggest show in the U.S.



Del McGehe with award winning model of B-25 "Red Wrath".



Harold H. Ponder
498th V. P.



Dick Feucht
Dinner Chairman



Reunion Committee Meets In Columbus

A recent planning session was held at Stouffer's Dublin Hotel. Present were:

(Seated l. to r.) Frank Dugan, Mickey Pavkovich, Stew Malquist, Jay Moore and Ed Bina.

(Standing l. to r.) Ken McClure, Jerry Murphy, Aaron Croop, Wilford Helms, Dick Feucht and Rico Pallato.

499th

by Aaron B. Croop

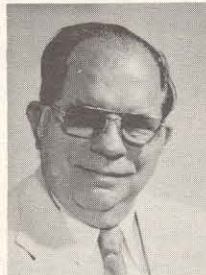
I hope you are making plans to attend our 1984 Reunion in Columbus on September 5th. This is the fifth reunion for many of us.

The committee has put forth a lot of effort and the program is outstanding. The fellowship of meeting with "old friends" is something you don't want to miss.

Some of the newly found squadron members include: Ike McShane, Bill Arnest, John Lipp, Jerry Shannon, Tom Mingello, Lawrence Melander, F. A. Williams, Irving Mosser, and Milton Opie.

New names keep coming in, and that is why a 499th Roster has not been printed and sent to you as some have requested. A lot of you have put forth a great effort in finding these former 499th Squadron members and it is not too late to continue to find others.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Columbus, Ohio in September!



Aaron B. Croop

Fred Moore
500th V. P.

500th

by William J. Cavoli

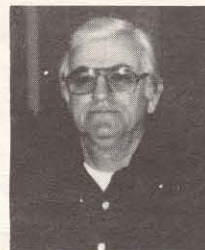
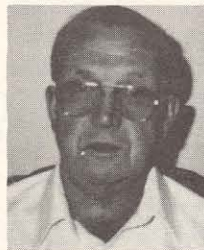
Ranks dwindling

We recently have lost 15 members of the group.

Vernon L. Eichten	11/21/82
Jack George	2/12/84
Charles M. Hagest	4/18/82
Frederick C. Hofbauer	4/6/82
Chester Kuta	10/18/77
Domenick Mansueto	1/10/83
Gordon V. McLain	7/2/81
James E. Neely	4/16/74
Robert O'Skea	6/4/82
Marvin B. Pallister	several yrs ago
John Plage	5/4/82
Robert Rice	2/28/84
Neal Ryan	4/23/82
Ross Williams, Jr.	8/31/83
Stephen Wronka	Sept/83

It is hard to believe that close friends and comrades are no longer with us. Fortunately, those of us meeting in Columbus in September will still be able to visit with their surviving friends, but the numbers are dwindling. If you haven't made up your mind about coming to this Reunion - the biggest that we've ever had - you better give it a second thought. There won't be as many attending the next one . . . not at our average age level.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in September.



Mickey D. Pavkovich
Dinner Chairman

501st

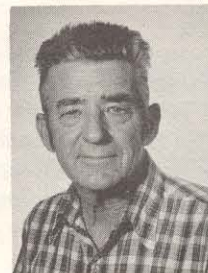
Finding addresses takes time

by Al Bosworth

It has been suggested that we ask Jerry Murphy to tell us just how he tracked down the current addresses for 250 men from the 345th Bomb Group. The only thing he has said so far is that he gave up television and other hobbies for three years to make time for this accomplishment. If we had 8 more men in the Group with that kind of dedication, we would know the whereabouts of a lot more of the almost 3,000 men unaccounted for.

How many people on the list have **YOU** encouraged to be in Columbus at Reunion time? The 501st always plans to have the most people there - just a little rivalry among the Squadrons. Rumor has it we already have 53 men registered at the hotel.

We have attempted to keep a list of the Known Deceased, and if you know of any names to be added to this list, please let Al Bosworth know. It would be very helpful if you would also let him know how you learned about it.



Al Bosworth

Warpath across the Pacific update

by Larry Hickey

As many of you know, publication of the book is taking longer than planned. The book has been expanded to about 475 pages (32 color), 200,000 words of text, over 700 photos and 12 maps.

Special thanks to the approximately 100 of you who have been general readers or fact checkers on specific sections. Your comments indicate the book is extremely thorough and accurate.

Postal cards with revised shipping date are being sent to all who have ordered. Orders received after April 15, 1984 will be at the full price (\$66.95 including shipping). The \$5

donation to the Reunion Association is still included.

WANTED

Memorabilia of the 345th, such as collections of photos, scrapbooks, diaries, log books, medals, flight jackets, uniforms, insignia, maps, "blood chits," Japanese souvenirs, etc. are wanted for display at future reunions. Items will be catalogued and identified, and ultimately will be donated to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum collection.

INFORMATION NEEDED

Urgently need names, ranks and crew positions of three 499th enlisted

men killed in B-25 crash near San Marcelino on June 6, 1945 while returning from training mission. Pilot was Lt. Howard, CP was Lt. Wood. Also need duty assignment for Sgt. Hans N. Wright of 498th, killed on S.S. Thomas Nelson and 2/Lt. David S. Kahn of HQ, killed on S.S. Morrison Waite at Leyte on Nov. 12, 1944. Need circumstance of death (non-combat) of Pvt. Morris C. Carmichel of 498th, an armorer, on Feb. 18, 1945, probably at San Marcelino.

If you can be of help in the above requests, write or call Larry Hickey, 2447 Briarwood Drive, Boulder, CO 80303, (303) 499-0530 immediately.

NEWS NOTES

WILLIAM'S FIELD, ARIZ.-Dec. 3, 1942
- Approximately 40 pilots joined the 345th Bomb Group as it was being formed in South Carolina. Let's get together again at the Reunion - let yourself be known!

FOOTBALL TICKETS - Tickets for OSU games are at a premium. We have been able to obtain a limited amount of tickets, but they *must be paid for before July 25th*. Send your application in early.

TOUR - Because of the demand for the North American Rockwell (B-51) tour, we will run three tours on Thursday, Sept. 6th. We can not guarantee everyone can go, so spaces will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be an alternate tour of interest planned for any overflow of tour registrants.

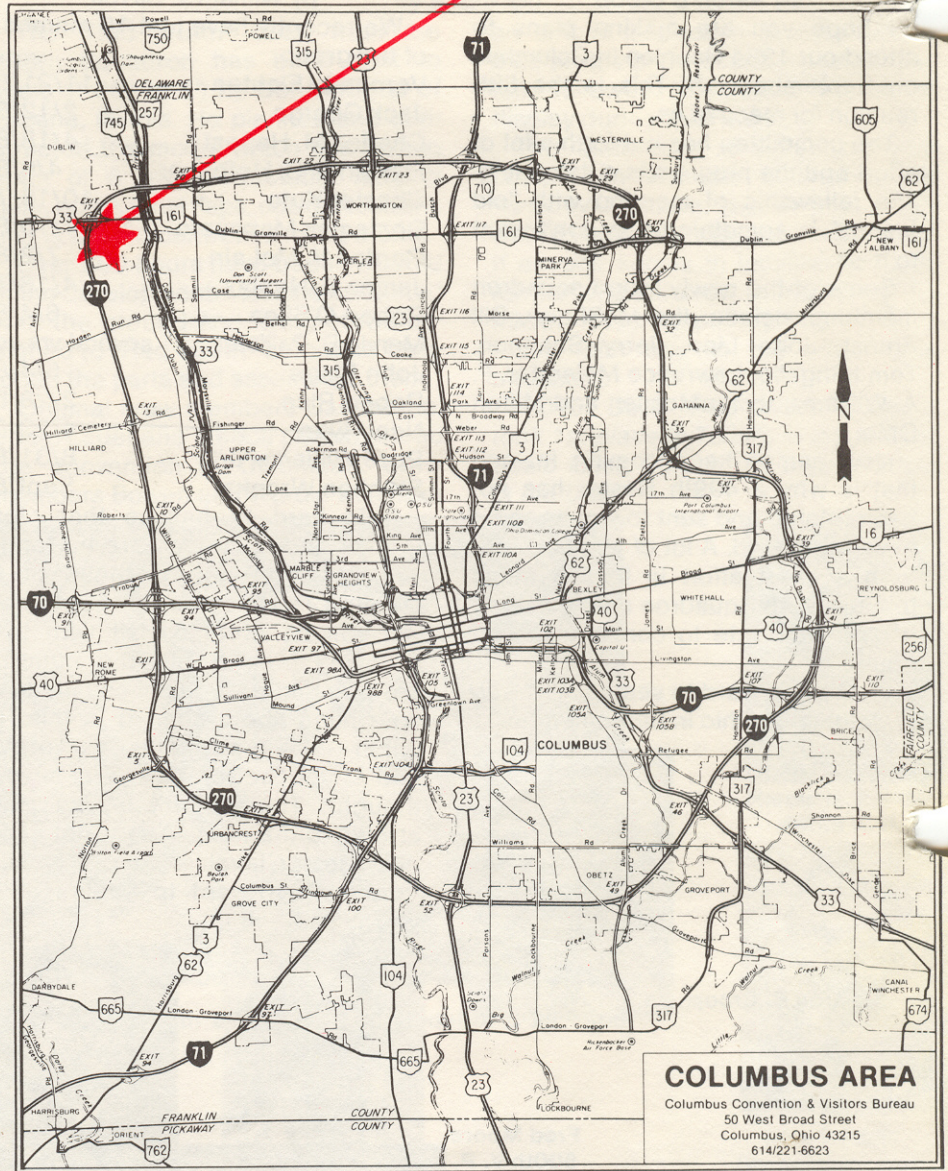
FLYING IN? - If you are flying in, report to the U.S.O. in the Port Columbus airport where you will be met and transported to your motel.

ARRIVING BY MOTOR HOME? - Let us know if you plan to travel in your motor home so that we can send you local maps for your choice of camps in which to park.

OUR APOLOGIES - In the 1st issue of *The Strafer* we listed all who had contributed to the Group fund as of that date. We left out Sandy Cortesio, 501st; George Clemens, 498th; and Ed Burns, 499th. Many have since contributed, and we will list them in our next issue.

IT'S NOT A STAG AFFAIR! - As of May 1st, we have more than 268 wives registered to attend the Reunion.

345th Bomber Group Reunion Headquarters Stauffer's Dublin Hotel



345th Bomb Group 1984 Reunion

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL



September 6-7-8, 1984
Columbus, Ohio

Reunion Questionnaire

This questionnaire is not for a commitment on your part, but a survey questionnaire only. Your cooperation in returning the survey **TODAY** will enable us to finalize our plans for the 345th B. G. September, 1984 Reunion.

At that point, we will mail you the Registration Forms with the final plans and prices. In the meantime, I suggest that you send your reservations directly to Stouffer's Dublin Hotel for your room. An envelope for this purpose is enclosed with this mailing.

Thanks,
Ken McClure, Chairman

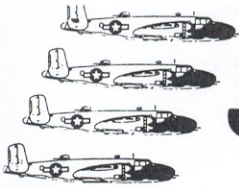
1. I plan to attend the Reunion, arriving on Wed. Thurs. Fri.
2. I plan to leave the Reunion on Sat. Sun.
3. Number of people with me: Husband Wife (Others) _____
4. I will be Driving Flying Bus Motor Home
(Call UTC Travel for flight reservations and all other information except hotel accommodations. FREE Wats lines: For Continental U.S. (except Ohio) phone 1-800-848-0123; in Ohio phone 1-800-282-0295).
5. I will need a rental car Yes No
6. I am interested in a golf outing Yes No
7. I wish to attend the OSU-Oregon State football game Saturday Yes No Number of tickets needed _____
8. I wish to take the chartered bus to the Saturday night banquet (\$5.00 per passenger estimated) Yes No
Number of passengers in my party _____
9. I plan to attend the Air Force Museum & Memorial Dedication Friday (no admission charge) Yes No
Number in my party attending _____ Will drive Wish chartered bus (\$9 per passenger)
10. Interested in city tour (3 hours) \$8 per passenger Yes No How many? _____
11. Interested in shopping tour (4 hours) \$9 per passenger Yes No How many? _____
12. Interest in Ladies Luncheon (\$11 each) Yes No How many? _____
13. Interested in North American Rockwell plant tour (B-1 bomber) \$3 per passenger chartered bus, no admission charge.
 Yes No Chartered bus Will drive

NAME TAG INFORMATION

Name _____
Squadron _____
Address _____
Phone _____

NAME TAG INFORMATION

Name _____
Squadron _____
Address _____
Phone _____



STRAFER



345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

498th SQUADRON

499th SQUADRON

500th SQUADRON

501st SQUADRON

RESERVATION FORM

This reservation form is provided for your convenience in pre-registering activities for the 345th Bomb Group Reunion. This form is **NOT** for your hotel reservation! Please complete this form and send it with your check **made payable to 345th Bomb Group** and mail to UCT Travel Service in the envelope provided. No tickets will be mailed; your cancelled check will be your receipt. You will pick up your tickets at the 345th registration desk at the Stouffer's Dublin Hotel. All tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first served basis. To avoid disappointment, we suggest you reserve your activities by August 1st. For reservations after August 1st, call UCT Travel Service toll-free (1-800-848-0123 in Continental U.S.) and (1-800-282-0295 in Ohio).

Name: _____ Wife/Guest: _____
(PRINT each name as it should appear on the name tags)

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone Number: (_____) _____ Squadron _____

Will you be arriving in a motorhome or similar and need camping facilities? _____

NOTES

Please note all prices are per person and include roundtrip transportation except where option given.

FOOTBALL GAME - tickets are limited and **MUST** be reserved and paid for by **JULY 25**. Due to the expected attendance of 85,000 OSU fans, we must pay for our tickets by July 25.

RANQUET PROGRAM: 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Transportation from Stouffer's to Aladdin Temple.
6:30 pm - 7:30 pm *Attitude Adjustment Hour*
7:30 pm - 8:30 pm Dinner
8:30 pm - 10:30 pm **OUTSTANDING PROGRAM**
10:30 pm - 11:00 pm Transportation from Aladdin Temple to Stouffer's.

SOUTH PACIFIC: Please indicate if you are interested in re-tracing your steps in the South Pacific on a group tour in the next year or two? YES NO

REGISTRATION FORM

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
		Registration Fee: 15.00 per couple (family) 8.00 single	15.00 8.00		
Wed. Sept. 5	12:00 noon 8:00 pm	Registration Desk Opens Welcome Reception for today's arrivals	-- --	-- --	-- --
Thurs Sept. 6		Golf - green fees to be advised Tee Time: _____ Number in your party golfing: _____			TBA
	9:15-12:00 n 10:43 am-1:30 pm 12:15 pm-3:00 pm 1:45-4:30 pm	North American Rockwell Tours-Very limited-only day available TOUR A Indicate your choice by letter: TOUR B FIRST: _____ TOUR C SECOND: _____ TOUR D THIRD: _____ (Ladies not wishing to tour Rockwell may wish to browse downtown Dublin via the Hotel's complimentary limo service)	3.00		
	2:00 pm-5:00 pm	City Tour of Columbus	8.00		
	8:00 pm	Welcome Reception for today's arrivals	--	--	--
	9:00 am-10:30 am	Bus transportation from Stouffer's Dublin Hotel to Wright Patterson Air Force Museum for the unveiling and dedication of the Memorial. Time for tour of the Museum and lunch on your own. Admission to Museum is free.	9.00		
	3:00 pm-4:30 pm	Return from Museum to Stouffer's Dublin Hotel.			
	Evening	Squadron and Headquarter's dinners (Handled by squadrons).	--	--	--
Sat. Sept. 8		Golf-green fees to be advised Tee Time: _____ Number in your party golfing: _____			TBA
	9:00 am-10:45 am	Men's Reunion Meeting-Stouffer's Dublin Hotel	--	--	--
	9:00 am-10:45 am	Ladies' Breakfast-Full breakfast plus program.	9.00		
	11:30 am-4:30 pm	Shopping Tour-time allotted for lunch on own	6.00		
	12:00 n - 5:00 pm	OSU FOOTBALL GAME-OSU vs Oregon State University Football ticket only	16.00		
		Transportation and football ticket	22.00		
	1:00 pm-4:00 pm	City Tour of Columbus	8.00		
	6:00-11:00 pm	BANQUET - Aladdin Temple Dinner only Transportation and dinner	16.00 22.00		
Sun. Sept 9	10:00 am	FAREWELL BRUNCH - Stouffer's Dublin Hotel <i>We need reservations, but you will pay at the door.</i> \$9.95 per person			

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO 345th Bomb Group:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Ken McClure, Chairman
345th B.G. Reunion Committee
2770 E. Main Street
Columbus, Ohio 43209

PLACE
20¢
STAMP
HERE

Thank
Ken McClure, Chairman

NAME TAG INFORMATION

NAME TAG INFORMATION

1. Fold this flap **IN** on dotted line.
2. Fold on other dotted line (so that addressed panel is on the outside).
3. Tape or staple closed
4. Affix 20¢ stamp and mail **TODAY!**