

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

November 1987

The B-25 and the Space Shuttle

An Unusual Mix of Histories

The National Air and Space Museum of the Smithsonian Institution gained a long-overdue member of aviation history: the B-25.

The Carol Jean, donated by Dr. John Marshall of Ocala, FL, is housed next to the Space Shuttle Enterprise, the first shuttle ever built. Bill Cavoli, original operations officer for the 500th, launched the search in 1981 for a B-25 to add to NASM's collection, which was a greatly bereft of such an important part of aviation history.

Through many letters in the 500th Association newsletter, Cavoli managed to get help in his quest. John Dinges, intelligence officer for the 500th, sent press releases to several aviation magazines.

An unusual coincidence came with one of the first responders. A relative of flight leader Max Mortensen called to report an inactive B-25 at a small airport near Chicago. This was not the Carol Jean, alas.

Responses came from all over: Australia, France, Spain, but no donation. Of the 9,000 B-25s built, only about 110 remained. Dinges's final press effort was a seven page story with 17 photos in the May 1984 issue of Air Classics, a magazine published for military aircraft nostalgia buffs, ending with the message, "We are still looking."

Dr. Marshall donated the Carol Jean directly to NASM, surprising everyone. Dinges had photographed the plane and other B-25s at an air show in South Bend, IN, two years previously.

Dinges wrote to Dr. Marshall, thanking him on behalf of the 500th. The happy ending to this story: Dr. Marshall and his wife, Carol Jean, were the

(Continued on page 4)



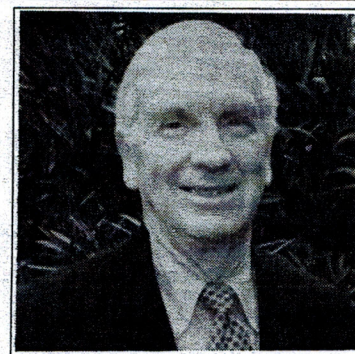
B-25 Carol Jean and the Space Shuttle Enterprise at Washington-Dulles International Airport

President's Message

The committee continues working on the many plans and arrangements for the Norfolk reunion and all are excited about the program being put together for your enjoyment. Complete details will be outlined in our next issue and we hope you are planning to attend.

I've been asked by some how long we plan to continue our gatherings. Certainly as long as there are some of us around who wish to continue them. Father Time is still a ways down the road so we look forward to enjoying several more. We'll take them one at a time and continue carrying on our proud tradition.

This issue is scheduled for distribution in November and November 11th marks the 45th anniversary of the activation of the 345th. I don't know about you, but on November 11th, I always think of Armistice Day - and of the birthday of the 345th - and of that day,



Maury Eppstein
President

in 1944, when the Kamikazes hit us in Leyte Gulf, sufficient reasons to make it a day for reflection.

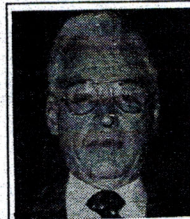
We are approaching Thanksgiving Day, with Christmas and New Years soon to follow. May this wonderful season bring you and yours peace of mind, pleasant enjoyment and God's blessings.

Maury Eppstein

IN MEMORIAM

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|
| Rocco C. Cosaluzzo | (2/26/86) | Ridgewood, NY | (499) |
| Lott J. Doherty | | Syracuse, NY | (500) |
| Gilbert G. Halvorson | | Boise City, OK | (498) |
| James Manners | (7/25/87) | Longview, WA | (498) |
| Bart Minicozzi | (1/4/87) | Glen Head, Long Island | (500) |
| W.E. Rushworth | | La Quinta, CA | (499) |

498th Squadron Report



Henry J. Reyns
Vice President

As of this writing summer has gone. We hope all of you had a pleasant one. The time of our next reunion is approaching with the speed of lightning, so start making your preparations

now. According to the letters we have received, the 498th will be well represented at Norfolk in '88.

Jim Manners passed away on July 25, 1987. He was very pleased with our phone call to him from San Antonio when many of us spoke to him during his recovery of his leg amputation.

We need clarification regarding the following address:

Richard J. Acree
239 East Grayson Street
Martinsville, IN 46151.
Ferdinand E. Hasselbauer,
1527 West Summit,
San Antonio, TX 78201.
James F. Rodgers
1526 West Ashby Place,
San Antonio, TX 78201.

Please contact us at Box 281 Beattie Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575, if you have information regarding the above.

In the meantime, keep the letters coming and stay well.

Henry J. Reyns
498th VP

Combat Video Films

If you are interested in obtaining your own video films of the 345th and other 5AF units in action, or films of other Air Force, Navy, Army or Marine actions in WWII, there is an excellent source for them.

One tape features the 345th, called "Warpath/Lae-Salamaua" and runs 54 minutes. Another is "Missions to Rabaul", featuring the 345th with other 5AF units. It runs 56 minutes.

There are dozens to choose from and they cover all aspects of air warfare in all theaters of operation in WWII. Also available are Hollywood films such as "From Here to Eternity", "Naked and the Dead", "The C Mutiny", etc.

For catalog and information, write to: **Boomerang Publications, 6164 West 83rd Way, Arvada, CO 80003. Mention 345th Bomb Group.**

✈ ✈ ✈ ✈ Lost Souls ✈ ✈ ✈ ✈

Can you help us? Listed below are lost members of the 345th and the last known addresses. If you have any updates on these members, please send to: **Sheila Batt, 1906 Fontenay Court, Columbus, OH 43220. Thank you.**

Lenley Humphreys (498)
VRA Ventura
Monteray, CA 93940
(Insufficient Address)

Marian Vosevich (498)
3401 Gandy Boulevard North #688
Panellas Park, FL 34665
(Temporarily Away)

Martin Phillips (499)
Route 4 Box 304J,
Hidden Cove Drive
Ashland City, TN 37015
(No Forwarding Order On File)

Emery L. Fitts (501)
3515 Baker Street
San Diego, CA 92117
(Attempted Not Known)

Dean C. Beedy (499)
50 Wilson Road
West Yarmouth, MA 02673
(Moved, Not Forwardable)

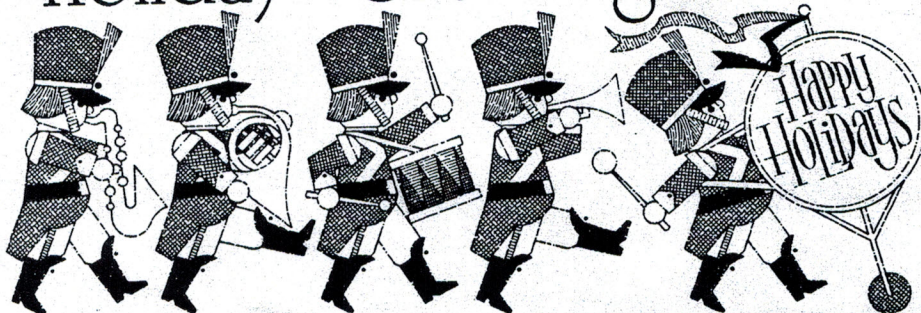
Dues, Dues And More Dues

For those uncertain whether you've paid 1987 or 1988 dues, they are \$15, but we can always use the extra funds! Lifetime membership is \$100. Send to: **Ken McClure, 2770 East Main Street, Columbus, OH 43209.**

Also, thank you for all the responses

concerning address changes. FLORIDA RESIDENTS: Please send me your correct zip code. The state recently underwent a change in their zip code system and some members with old zips will receive their *Strafer* quite late. Your help in this area would be most appreciated.

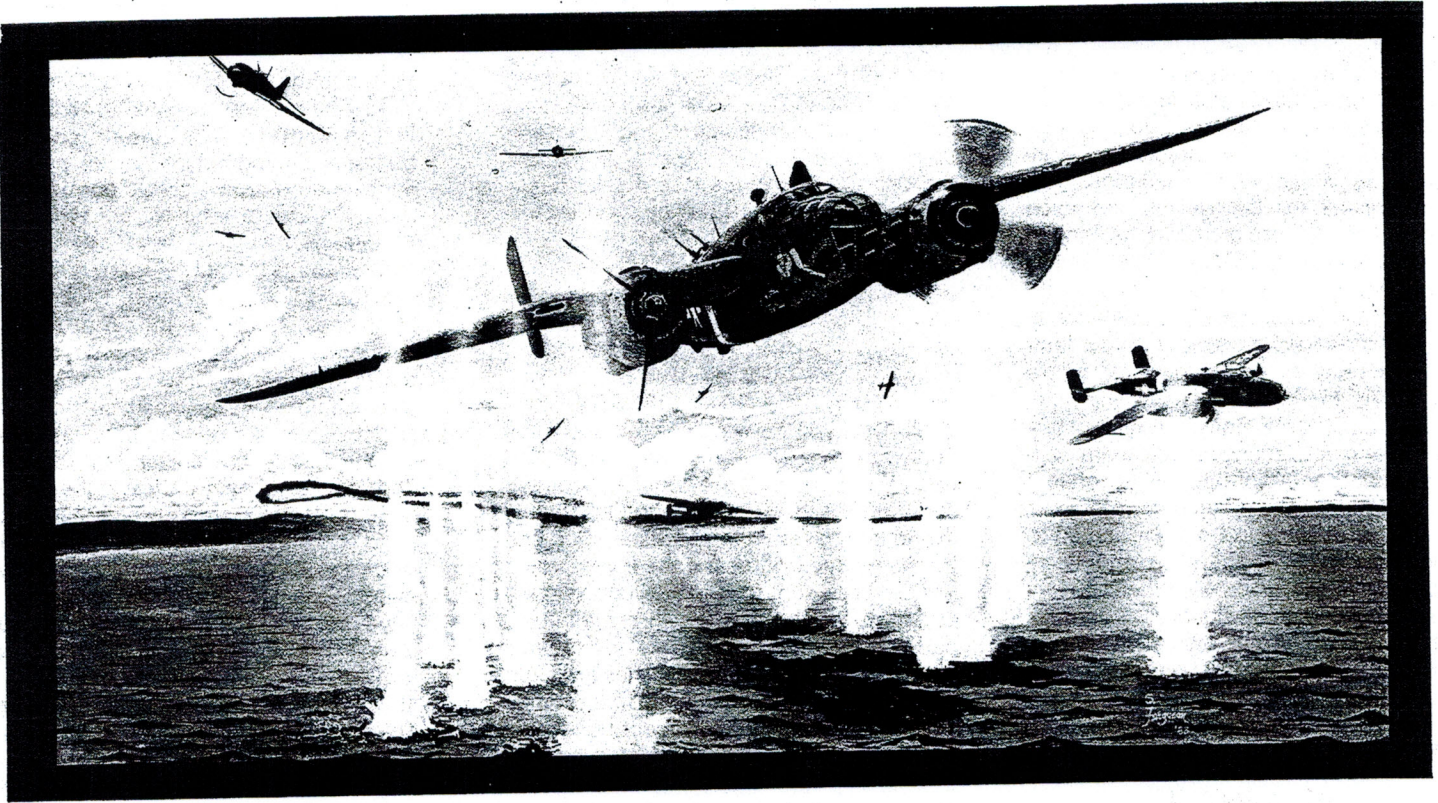
Holiday Greetings!



The officers of the 345th Reunion Association and the staff of *The Strafer* would like to wish you and your families the warmest and safest of holidays. *Keep well and enjoy!*

WARPATH ACROSS THE PACIFIC

By Lawrence J. Hickey



COMING AT YOU!

ONE OF THE GREAT CLASSIC BOOKS OF AIR WARFARE!!

Warpath Across the Pacific, the finest history of an air unit ever published! Twenty years in research and preparation, this encyclopedic history of the **345th Bomb Group** during World War II contains 448 (8½" × 11½") pages, nearly a quarter million words of text, 627 b/w photos (reproduced on laser scanners), a 32 page color section including 48 profiles and 4 combat scenes of **345th Bomb Group B-25 Mitchell** aircraft, plus 13 maps and extensive appendices with details of all crews, casualties and aircraft serving in the unit.

"Only once in many decades does a book of this quality and impact appear . . . I don't see how Hickey did it for a sale price this low."
 Jeff Ethell in *Warbirds Magazine*

" . . . one of the most exhaustively researched, brilliantly illustrated and trenchantly told accounts we have ever read . . . *Warpath Across the Pacific* is as near to an epic as most of us will ever come. It is by far the best in aviation history and one of the best aeronautical books we have read in years."
 Joseph Mizrahi in *Airpower Magazine*

"One of the best books ever covering the air war against the Japanese in the South Pacific . . . This one gets our highest recommendation."
 Zenith Aviation Books

" . . . a bargain . . . *Warpath* stands as the finest aviation unit history ever compiled."
 American Fighter Aces Bulletin

" . . . monumental . . . a feast . . . This large volume will surely find its way to anyone interested in World War Two aviation."
 Air Classics Magazine

" . . . (translation from French) it is THE American military book of the year!"
 Air Fan Magazine (France)

DON'T MISS IT!!!

FOLD AND TEAR HERE

ORDER FORM

Please send all orders and inquiries to
 INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH
 & PUBLISHING CORP.
 P.O. Box 3334 High Mar Station,
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ORDER YOUR BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS NOW

With Christmas coming it is an excellent time for those of you who haven't ordered your copy of *Warpath Across the Pacific* to do so. The book makes a perfect Christmas gift for you, your children, your grandchildren, or someone you know who is interested in World War II aviation. The reviews speak for themselves, but even more important, these books will be handed down through generations of your families as important parts of the family history. So don't put it off until the book goes out of print. Make sure each member of your family has a copy to hand down for future generations. Moreover, everyone will enjoy learning about the important contributions that you and your friends made to the outstanding war record of the "Air Apaches." Use the form on the reverse to order your copies now. If you'd like it autographed to someone special, indicate so and Larry Hickey will do so personally. When you buy a copy of the book, the publisher donates \$5.00 to your reunion association. This is the last time this offer will be made, so act now.

THE LEGACY OF WARPATH ACROSS THE PACIFIC

As a result of the success of the 345th Bomb Group history, published by Larry Hickey in 1984, he is now working on histories of the two other major B-25 units in the 5th Air Force, the 3rd and 38th Bomb Groups. The former is due out in late-1988. He is also editing a series of 5th Air Force unit histories by a team of international authors to be published by his company, International Research and Publishing. Over the next three years, histories of the 8th, 49th, 348th and 475th Fighter Groups and 22nd, 43rd, 90th, 312th and 380th Bomb Groups, plus a history of Japanese Army Heavy Bomber Units (in English translation) are planned. If you have any material to contribute to these books, please contact him.

NEW BOOK ON RABAUL RAIDS

Larry has recently obtained a supply of an excellent new book covering, in great detail, both sides of the 5th Air Force raids on Rabaul during October-November, 1943. Called *Into the Dragon's Jaws*, it was written by noted Australian historian and author Lex McAulay, and utilizes much new information from communications intercepts and captured documents and prisoner-of-war interrogations. Also available are a few copies of *A Missing Plane*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Susan Sheehan. This fascinating story documents the recent discovery of a missing 5th Air Force B-24 in the wilds

of New Guinea and the recovery and identification of the remains of its crew, including two members of the 345th. Prices: *Into the Dragon's Jaws*—\$15.00; *A Missing Plane*—\$19.00. Please add \$2.00 shipping and handling to your order for these books from International Research and Publishing Corp., P.O. Box 3334, High Mar Station, Boulder, CO 80307. Enclose money order, check or charge card number and expiration date.

DONATE WARPATH TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Many of you have purchased additional copies of *Warpath Across the Pacific* and donated them to your local or college libraries. For those who haven't and would like to do so, send the purchase price and the name and address of the library you'd like the book sent to, and it will be shipped directly to the library with a letter stating the particulars of the donation. You will receive a copy of this letter. Local libraries are often unable to order special interest books at this price, but will gladly accept donations. Reports on books already donated indicate that it has been extremely popular, with long waiting lists for reservations to check it out.

INFORMATION PLEASE

If you find any errors in *Warpath Across the Pacific* (now in second revised edition) or have additional information or photos which you think should be in the book, please send them to the author via the publishing company and he will endeavor to include them in future editions of the book. He is still trying to identify the serial numbers and particulars such as pilots and crew chiefs of the following B-25 aircraft. Can you help? 498th: BUZZIN BUZZARD, RED WRATH II (B-25D); CHEROKEE PRINCESS (B-25H); NIP'S NIGHTMARE, TWIN INJUN WARRIORS, MABLE'S STABLE (B-25J). 499th: LITTLE KNOTHEAD (B-25J). 500th: JACK RABBIT EXPRESS (B-25D); TWENTY GRAND, WHIRLAWAY (B-25J). 501st: LOVE-BLE-LOU (B-25G). He would also appreciate photos of any plane nicknames or nose art not included in *Warpath Across the Pacific* or the above listing.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PHOTO IDENTIFICATIONS

As with any history, the publication of a book usually brings out new and additional information on the subject. *WAP* is no exception. The photo of the Japanese OSCAR

fighter on page 48 depicts an aircraft of the 248th *Sentai* (Air Regiment), instead of the 77th *Sentai*. The famous photo of the 5C Sq. strafers flying down the runway Boram (page 49) was taken on October 16, 1943, and not September 27th as indicated in the caption. The Japanese BETTY bombers photographed on the ground at Vunakanau (Rabaul) on October 12th and 24th, 1943, were actually from two different Air Groups. All planes with white horizontal stripes above the tail numbers belonged to the 702nd Naval Air Group. Those without tail stripes were from the 751st Naval Air Group. Those without tail stripes were from the 751st Naval Air Group as indicated. The ship identified as a Japanese "corvette" sunk by Lt. Hecox off Vunapope on October 18, 1943, was *Subchaser #23* (page 68). The Japanese heavy cruiser in the photo on page 89 is the *Haguro*, which has just arrived in Simpson Harbor from the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay off Bougainville Island. The LILY bombers illustrated on page 66 and 152 were from the 208th *Sentai*. The Japanese warship depicted in the famous photo on page 130 (Feb. 16, 1944) was *Special Submarine Chaser #16*. The tanker sank in the same action was the 5461-ton tanker *Sanko Maru*, vice *Mie Maru* in the photo caption on page 132. The sub-chaser sunk on Feb. 19, 1944 (page 10) was *Special Submarine Chaser #34*. A data in the next newsletter.

HELP LOCATE FAMILIES OF MISSING OR DECEASED VETERANS

Many families of 345th veterans who either died during the war or since would appreciate the opportunity to obtain a copy of *WAP* if they knew about it. If you know the family of anyone who fits the above description, please send their name and address to Larry Hickey and he will contact them about the book.

FIFTH AIR FORCE MEMORABILIA COLLECTION

Larry Hickey is assembling a major collection of wartime 5th A.F. memorabilia for donation to the Air Force Museum. He is particularly trying to obtain leather flying jackets (A-2) and/or loose patches from each squadron. If you have such a jacket or a patch and would like to donate it to this collection where it will be fully documented and catalogued, please contact through International Research and Publishing. Particularly needed are jackets with patches from the 498th and 500th Squadrons and loose patches (original WWII only) from any of the four squadrons.

It All Came Out In The Wash



Rough Raiders Laundry Facility: R to L are James Hiner, Artur Rodecker, Lester Lanning (at controls), Orsak and Herbert Burton.

When you think *Rough Raiders*, do you also think *laundry*? The name *Rough Raiders* conjures up images of mean, rowdy, rough'n'tumble, sweaty men, not a group concerned with clean clothes.

Like they say, nothing is as it seems! This ingenious group of fighters developed an easier method of laundry detail. No wash by hand stuff for this group, no sirree. The Assistant Intelligence Officer, **Clyde Carter**, decided here was a better way to do laundry

and rallied a bunch of the *Rough Raiders* together. Using discarded oil drums and other tidbits they scrounged up; they erected a 1080 foot, rustproof wire clothesline, (complete with concrete floor, no less) and began on the washer.

Space prohibits a detailed analysis of this washer, but it was not a forerunner to the *Maytag*. Worked better; it could handle nearly **100 barracks bags full of dirty laundry DAILY!** Can you imagine? The truly incredible thing

(of which there's plenty in this story) was **NO WAIT**. Each officer and man had a specific day for his laundry. Beats the coin-operated facilities of today, hands down! Sources of the day say, though, the only thing the *Rough Raiders Laundry* couldn't clean was *Army jokes*. Oh, well. You can't have everything.

A truly incredible story of American ingenuity and resiliency.

Mark Your Calendar • September 8-11, 1988 • Norfolk Reunion

Reunion Updates

Brenna Weimann of Security Travel would once again like to thank you all for the response to the questionnaire. However, there is one thing needing clarification. The reservations are made through Security Travel **Through the Registration form to be included in the May 1988 Issue of the Strafer**. Please, at this time, don't call the agency to book reservations. All reservations will be made through Security Travel through registration forms received.

The travel agency is negotiating a special group rate with US Air for members of the 345th, but the exact discount is unknown at this time. For those of you in cities not serviced by US Air, call Security Travel collect at (614) 461-8962 and identify yourself as a member of the 345th, or write the agency at **24 North High St, Columbus, OH 43215**. The agency will arrange reservations for you with another airline with the cheapest fare.

WILLIAMSBURG INTERESTS:

Security Travel negotiated a special group rate with the Comfort Inn, **AFTER** the reunion, for those of you wanting to extend your vacation. A block of rooms are being held, but you must make your own reservations for the Williamsburg trip. The discount rate applies regardless of how long you stay. Group Rate: \$38/night, single; \$40/night, double. ADDRESS: Comfort Inn, 5611 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185, (804) 565-1100.

An Unusual Mix

(Continued from page 1)

guests of honor at the 500th reunion in Orlando, October 7-9, 1987. His gift will be a copy of Larry Hickey's *Warpath Across the Pacific*.

Happy Thanksgiving



Newly Elected Officers

Association Officers:

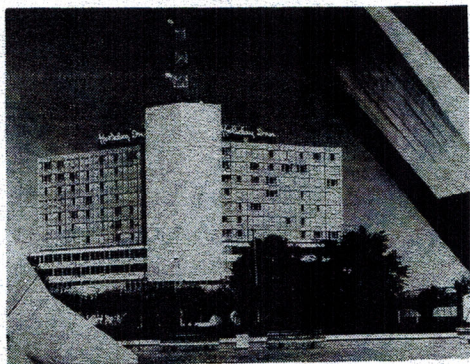
PRES – Maury Eppstein, 800 Mountain Home Rd, Woodside, CA 94062
VP – Shuler Gamble, 2011 Stebbins Drive, Houston, TX 77043
TREAS – Ken McClure, 5581 Chowning Way, Columbus, OH 43213
SEC – Elbert Bosworth, 839 W 21st St, San Bernardino, CA 92405

Reunion Committee Vice Presidents:

498th – Henry Reynolds, Box 281 Beattie Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575
499th – Dale Rapp, Route 1 Box 552R, Pottsboro, TX 75076
500th – Fred Moore, 4952 Vivaldi Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89102
501st – Ed Bina, 628 North Deresch, Antigo, WI 54409
HDQ – Charles Metzler, 1019 8-Mile Road, Cincinnati, OH 45230

REUNION

Sept. 8-11, 1988



**Holiday Inn Waterside
Norfolk, Virginia**

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

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