

# STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

March 1988

## Win a FREE ROOM for the Reunion at Norfolk!

In order to facilitate registration, we are asking you to have your forms returned to Security Travel as soon as possible. The planned events have a limited number of seating for each tour, so it's a first come, first served basis. Every form postmarked by **July 15, 1988**, will be eligible for the drawing for a FREE hotel room Wednesday through Saturday! Send the completed forms with fees and one night's deposit (which will be returned to the lucky winner).

As the forms are received, they will be numbered and the drawing will take place after the **July 15th deadline**. Only Security Travel personnel will have the numbered registration forms. **President Maury Eppstein** will pick five numbers, one of which **Phil Rack**, *Strafer* publisher, will choose. Announcement of the lucky winner will appear in the August issue of the *Strafer*.

Send registration forms to: **Security Travel, 24 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215.**

Good Luck!



Committee Members standing next to a Japanese WWII 2-man submarine at Mariner's Museum, Newport News, VA. L to R: Buck Banz, Ken McClure, Lou Higgins, Maury Eppstein.

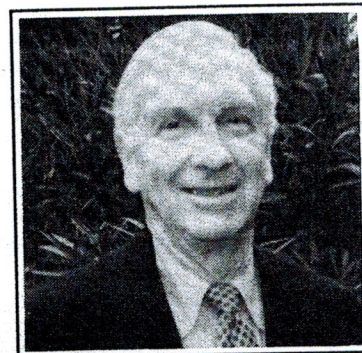
## President's Message

There are three happenings coming up for Air Apaches to consider. With the sand sifting down in the hourglass, we should, whenever possible, take advantage of those opportunities that come along only once. Here are the stars in our future:

**First - September 1988:** Our reunion at Norfolk. You all know about that and, hopefully, will be there to enjoy it.

**Second - October 1988:** "The Return of The Eagles-Down Under" — a choice of three tours to Australia with options to New Guinea and New Zealand. As part of Australia's Bicentenary celebration, the RAAF has planned a huge Air Show, other events and has invited all former 5AF personnel to join with them in the activities. In addition, there will be a World's Fair going on and side trips and celebrations all over Australia. For additional information, contact **NET Tours, Inc., 150 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.** Phone in California (800) 792-0747; all other states (800) 227-5464.

**Third - October 1990:** All units part of the 5AF in WWII that desire to do so will



**Maury Eppstein**  
President

hold their reunions simultaneously in Las Vegas. Each unit will hold its own individual reunion, but will also join one huge 5AF party of all units while there. We have already indicated the intention of the 345th to be there, subject to approval of the membership at Norfolk. More on this in future issues.

Meantime, make your reservations for the great time coming up at Norfolk this September. See you there!

## South Pacific Trip

Members of the 345th Bomb Group attending "The Return of the Eagles-Down Under" trip as of this printing:  
**Victor Tatelman/Ann Bareham**, Miami, FL (499)  
**Charles Banz/Shirley Banz**, Annapolis, MD (499)  
**William L. Carter/Doris Carter**, Rochester, NY (499)  
**Aaron Croop/Barbara Croop**, Rossford, OH (499)

**Kenneth McClure/Patricia McClure**, Columbus, OH (499)  
**Glenn W. Taylor/Evelyn Taylor**, Ft. Myers, FL (499)  
**Stanley Roberts/Jean Roberts**, Elmhurst, IL (501)  
**Jerry Chealander/Ramona Chealander**, Merced, CA (501)  
**Maurice Eppstein**, Woodside, CA, Group Adjutant

## NEW ROSTERS PLANNED

A side note: rosters are being updated and many listings don't contain phone numbers. Please write us with any changes and updates.

## ATTENTION: NEW ZIP, PHONE

AutoPublish has a new zip! It's 43235 and our National Toll Free Number is 1-800-233-6214 for anyone wanting to speak with me directly.

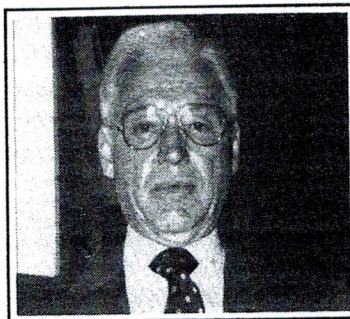


# 498th Squadron Report

If you haven't noticed, I must inform you time is passing quickly. Quite an observation, no? By the time you read this, 1988 will be here and then only 9 months until the Reunion in Norfolk.

We received several letters during the year from you inquiring about other members that haven't been seen or heard from. Some of you have also passed along some interesting anecdotes about events which took place in the good old South Pacific.

Richard Fezatte wrote us a while ago stating at the last reunion in San Antonio.



Henry J. Reynolds  
498th Vice President

He made a statement and its veracity was challenged by those in the group who overheard it. The statement was, "I was on D.S. to the 69th Air Evacuation Unit on April 6, 1944, and was the one and only gunner on a B17 that flew to Momate Air Strip to remove 8 stretcher cases. I was credited with a mission." Anyone want to challenge that? Fuel for conversation at the next Reunion!

We hope you will all make every effort to come to Norfolk. It will be a great time. Pauline and I wish all of you the best of everything for the coming year.

## In Memoriam

All will be sorely missed.

- Balonier, Harry E. - Killed in action, WWII (501)
- Butz, Harold C. - Killed in action, WWII (501)
- Doggett, Glenn - Ottuma, IA (498)
- Kagels, Theodore A. (2/5/88) - Wakefield, RI (501)
- Kluender, Stewart K. (3/17/87) - Kansas City, MO (499)
- Lewis, Robert J. - Iowa City, IA (499)
- Lucenti, Vincent (10/24/87) - Albertson, NY (501)
- McEwen, Donald D. (10/25/79) - Cicero, IL (498)
- McKenny, J.E. - Baltimore, MD (501)
- Shrebnik, Samuel B. (5/26/87) - Margate, FL (499)
- Williamson, Kenneth J. (10/17/87) - Norristown, PA (500)



Virginia Bosworth

Virginia Bosworth, wife of Elbert Bosworth, died suddenly in January 21, 1988. She and Elbert worked diligently for over 10 years advertising and writing articles in many newspapers in search of members of the 501st, and the 345th.

The 501st Squadron elected Virginia Secretary of the squadron and she was responsible for Joan Leslie's appearance at the last reunion of the 345th.

Virginia put her organizational skills and friendly attitude to good work through her involvement with different charities. She was active in her church and in a scholarship foundation for needy children seeking college educations. She also helped in keeping the Bomb Group Roster up-to-date through all the correspondence she and Elbert initiated over the years in search of lost members.

### Walter F. Rainford

Walter Rainford died 11/21/87 at St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL. He was born in Joliet and served his country in the 499th Bomb Squadron. Employed by Caterpillar Co. for 24 years, he retired in 1975. Rainford is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and one son, James, of California.

### Captain William R. Witherell

Bill Witherell, Group Photographic Officer, 67, died 1/5/88 at his home in Fort Pierce, FL, following a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Phylis, a son, two daughters and one grandson.

Witherell was co-editor of "Warpath", the original 345th history, which he wrote and co-produced with Cliff Hanna and Vic Tatelman. He also wrote and co-produced the spectacular multimedia show for the 1979 Colorado Springs Reunion.



# 499th New Addition!



**Dale Rapp**  
499th V.P.

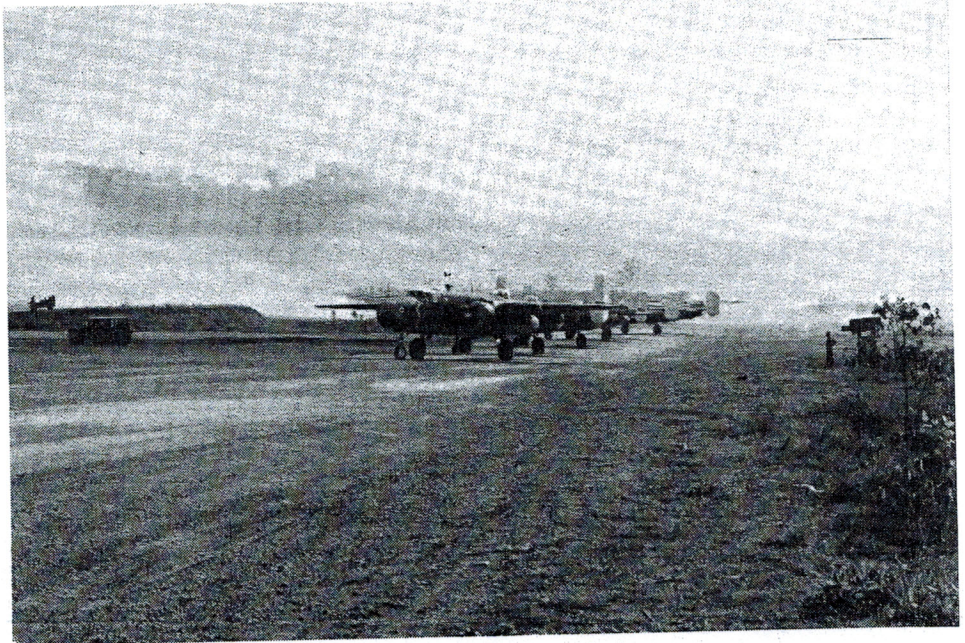
Welcome aboard to **Dwight Marlatt** of Rt. 4, Kearney, NE 68847, a 'new' member for the 345th.

Dwight was assigned to the 499th motor pool. After returning to the United States, he farmed near Ft. Kearney in South Central Nebraska. He retired near a small lake a short distance from his farm.

A short while back, Dwight had a stroke and is recovering at home with his wife, Marcella. He would appreciate a note from any of his old comrades.

## Information Request

Lynn A. Lee (501) is searching for someone: **Robert H. Johnson**, Box 14, Landisville, PA. He's written every Johnson in the Landisville phone book and has come up with nothing. Johnson was married in Wichita Falls to Doris Hoffman in 1943, but divorced soon after the war. Anyone with information on Johnson's whereabouts, please contact Lynn Lee: Box 145-F, Route 4, Abilene, TX 79601, (915) 672-7584. Thank you.



New Guinea, 1943: B25s ready for take off on a mission.

# 500th Squadron Reports

The 500th Bomb Squadron Association held its 4th biannual reunion in Orlando, FL, October 7-10. The near-hurricane waited for us to finish. Approximately eighty members took advantage of the occasion to thoroughly explore central Florida. As a group, they toured Cape Canaveral and Cape Kennedy, dined, wine, reminisced and spent many extra hours at Epcot and Disneyworld. This thoroughly enjoyable event was co-chaired by **Tom Seery** and **Ed Madeo**.

New officers were elected: President-**Tom Seery**; Vice-President **Bob Bynum**; Secretary-**Gerald Paquette**; Treasurer-**George Sprowles**.

Revisions to our constitution were discussed and a committee will work on this project. It was voted our next reunion in

1989 will be a cruise. We also plan to be represented at the dedication of the 5th AF Memorial in Dayton in June. Of course, after that, many of us will participate in the 345th Bomb Group Association meeting in

September in Norfolk. **Fred Moore** is working with the 5th Air Force Memorial Association for the great get-together planned for Las Vegas in 1990.



## It's that time again!

**1988 Dues: \$15.00**  
(Other donations most welcomed!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Squadron: \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **Ken McClure**  
2770 East Main Street  
Columbus, OH 43209



# This n' That

Here's an update on the B-25 at Dulles International Airport in Washington D.C. Robert Mikesch, Senior Curator, Aeronautics Department at the Smithsonian Institution wrote Bill Cavoli about the progress on restoring the *Carol Jean*. Presently, it is in storage at Dulles and the windows and engines protectively covered. Construction for a temporary building to house the *Enterprise* and the *Carol Jean* plus three smaller airplanes will begin soon. The

Incidentally, for those of you who think Maury Eppstein and Bud McGowan (501) have been telling tall tales about their fishing trip, look at this!



Maury Eppstein and Bud McGowan at Hotleskiwa Lake, Spatsizi Wilderness Area, British Columbia-8/12/87. Bud has a 10 lb. Dolly Varden, with 3 to 5 lb. Rainbow and Dolly Vardens on the ground.

marking scheme for the airplane will carry 500th Bomb Squadron markings. Congressional approval is needed for construction of an exhibit building complex to house the large aircraft at the National Air and Space Museum at the Smithsonian. It's in the works.

## 498th Gunner Miffed!

The story goes something like this. It seems when our flight crews trained for combat at Columbia and Walterboro, they had among them a pilot who hailed from Texas by the name of Melvin Best. Through a very selective inquiry process for gunners, Best ended up with a radio gunner named Don Stout.

All went well until the crew was overseas and Stout suddenly became aware, quite by accident, that they were going to use 'live' ammunition in the guns when they strafed the Japs. Stout, being a wide awake 498th gunner, deduced quickly that

if they were going to use live ammunition on the enemy, the enemy would probably get hopping mad and probably follow their home, shooting at the rear of the B-25.

Stout noticed there was no protection of guns in the rear of the plane for him to protect himself! He asked pilot Best for permission to build himself an area in the rear of the aircraft to house himself and a couple of 30 caliber guns. With help from some line personnel, a plexiglass dome was constructed. It was a first for a B-25, a first in the 498th and Stout is upset because it was never recognized as such. He wants to sue someone or anyone for patent rights - or maybe he will settle for a drink.

Now, how about that?

## OOPS...

There was a misprint in the last Photo Quiz. Photo E is of the 498th Club, not the 501st, as indicated. Sorry!

## Officers Listing

### Association Officers:

PRES Maury Eppstein, 800 Mountain Home Rd, Woodside, CA 94602  
 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 Reysn, Box 281 Beattie Road, Rock Tavern, NY 12575  
 499th Dale Rapp, Route 1 Box 552R, Pottsboro, TX 75076  
 500th Gerald Paquette, 129 Hermitage Dr, Springfield, MA 01129  
 501st Ed Bina, 628 North Deresch, Antigo, WI 54409  
 HDQ Charles Metzel, 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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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

\*\*\*\*\*ALL FOR STATE  
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Antigo WI 54409