

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

March 1991

Reunion IX site chosen. Planning starts

50th Anniversary Celebration aims to be the biggest and best

The Marriott North in Columbus, OH has been chosen by the reunion committee as the location for 1992 reunion activities. The dates will be Friday, September 11 through Sunday, September 13 with the final banquet on Sunday night. The Marriott was chosen for the wide range of facilities it offers, convenience to freeway transportation, price and services offered.

The dates were chosen because hotel use fees and room rates are excellent when Sunday night is included in the schedule. Also, air travel rates will be very good. People who take advantage of week-end rates by departing on Monday, September 14. The committee felt this change from previous years would not be inconvenient, since most members are retired and don't need to meet a strict weekly schedule.

Las Vegas refund, financial statement for organization

The 345th Bomb Group fund has received money refunded from Las Vegas bus trips. This is in accordance with a decision made at the reunion business meeting. The refunds were made through the negotiations conducted by Harry Zarfes. Details on the refunds are included in the financial statement by Ken McClure.

Financial Statement as of 2/5/91
1990 Reunion, Las Vegas

EXPENSES

Travel International (474x5)	2,370.00
Misc. (Pre-reunion expenses, postage, extra Strafer, Expenses of Tatelman, Eppstein, Baeta, Zarfes)	2,906.47
Straub of California Handouts	3,891.61
Hospitality Room	896.50
Expenses	20,064.58
ALL BILLS PAID	

INCOME

Registrations (474x15)	7,110.00
Misc.	886.64

(Cards & hats 270.59, Bus Refund 416.05, Splash Refund 200.00)	
Hospitality Room	2,010.50
Total Income	10,007.14
Profit (Loss)	(57.44)
Funds in Certificates of Deposit as of 1/31/91	11,846.59

345th Decks

Playing card decks remaining from Reunion VIII in Las Vegas are available. They are white with red insignia and printing and are available for \$4.50, including postage. Make check to 345th Reunion Assoc. and mail to Maury Eppstein, 800 Mountain Home Rd., Woodside, CA 94062.

Reunion Committee

The Reunion IX committee contains members from four squadrons, who live in Columbus, OH. Dick Feucht (498), Bill Ogden (498), Ken McClure (499), Steward Malquist (500), Jay Moore (501). Planning includes possible trips to: Standard Bred Harness Racing at Scioto Downs

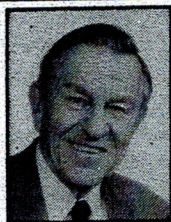
Race Track, the Central Ohio Center of Science and Industry, The 345th BG Memorial at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum near Dayton, OH. Also in planning are a Ladies' Breakfast and options for entertainment.

Anyone who would like to make suggestions for Reunion IX should contact their squadron representative on the committee or their squadron vice president.

Business matters for Reunion IX are being handled by Brenna Terrill of Travel Agents International, 614/891-4800.

Support Our Troops

There's little doubt that all members of the 345th would be willing to serve in Iraq at a moment's notice. Since we have not yet been reactivated, though, we'll have to settle for supporting the troops who are there. The U.S. Air Force has high tech "Smart Bombs." All we had in the 345th was a bunch of "Smart Alecks." Saddam Hussein doesn't know how lucky he is.



Air Arena

by Ed Bina
President

I am sure you will remember Col. Edward J. Karnis from the July 1986 Strafer, which outlined his many talents and accomplishments. My wife and I had the pleasure of his company from Columbus, OH to the dedication of the 345th Memorial at Dayton, OH.

During the drive we talked of many things. I told Ed about the time a Sgt. Albert, who flew with me occasionally, came to my tent and asked me, a twenty year old, if he should continue flying or return to the states. I recommended that he return to

the states. However, he chose to fly again. He went down on his next mission. I had given him up as lost, when he came to my tent later and said, "I should have taken your advice." I never saw him again.

However, Ed Karnis did. Our Sgt. Albert became the head of the Communist Party in Philadelphia. Ed became an FBI agent and he and other agents monitored Albert's activities on a twenty-four-hour schedule.

Ed was later assigned to Escanaba, MI for a period of time as an FBI agent. I asked, "What would the FBI want in Escanaba?" He said that the area had the largest population of Communists in the United States.

Ed now resides in Philadelphia.

Now you know the rest of the story.

Squadron Reports

498th Squadron

Merl G. Wooden
V.P.-498th Sqd.

On the 11th day of November 1942, the 345 Bombardment Group was formed in Columbia, S.C. The month of November brought back many memories to most of us. Some finished our schooling at the North American Aviation Co. school at Englewood, CA, studying the B-25 bomber.

Most of you guys struggled with two barracks bags from Englewood to Columbia, S.C. George Womble (my friend throughout the war) struggled with four bags, mine and his. I had a delay en route furlough to Oklahoma and no bags to carry. George never let me forget that little favor he did for me. That's one of my memories during the month of November 1942. I'm sure most of you of the 498th Sqd. have many memories to share of that month and throughout the war. Please write and tell me of them; we can share some laughs and tears together in Strafer.

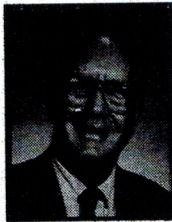
Adrian Pushatanequa called during the holidays and wanted to hear about his dad, Charles. Everyone remembers Charles, who did a lot of the artwork including the Apache on the tail of our plane. I want to visit with him and tell about the great times we had with his dad. Anyone with special memories of Charlie (who died a couple of years ago) please write and I will pass them along to Adrian.

Thanks for all the Christmas cards and notes. They were really appreciated. Elbert Wardle says Katherine is showing improvement. Keep it up Katherine. We want to see you in Columbus.

499th Squadron

Benjamin F. Miller
V.P. 499th Sqd.

A happy New Year to one and all. Thank you for renewing the bond and warmth that grows with every reunion. Also, thank you for your confidence by electing me your V.P. of the 499th. My greatest surprise come in the lobby. A small man wearing a 5th Air Force hat looked at, walked around me and asked if I wasn't the fellow he used to see going into the jungle with lineman's gear and a machete near the 17 mile strip. He was a fighter pilot and said he felt much safer in his plane and would not have gone into the jungle alone. We were young.



It will be quite a chore to equal the minireunion of 1989 by Pax Baker, so let's have suggestions and ideas. Send any 499th items to me, Benjamin F. Miller, not to Benjamin J. Miller of Dallas.

Join Jim and Evelyn Mortland in planning to attend the next and best-ever reunion in Columbus.

500th Squadron

Robert P. Bynum
V.P. - 500th Sqd.

Men of the 500th and their families are reminded of days, weeks and months of nearly five decades ago as events of the Persian Gulf unfold. Our prayers and best wishes go with the men and women of our armed forces along with our fervent hope for a speedy solution to this war and for achievement of the goals our nation and those of the United Nations as well.

From the big, big Las Vegas event, which was very special in many ways, our plans these days are focused on the first week in September, 1991 and the smaller, but oh so meaningful biennial reunion of the 500th Squadron. Bill Cavoli has just about wrapped up the plans for our "family" week in San Antonio, where we'll stay at the Hyatt Regency in the city's beautiful RIVERWALK area. There is much to see and do in this warm and historic city. The best of it all, however, is the opportunity these events provide for renewing the ties that bind. Since it has been two years since the Rough Raiders Seattle Reunion, there will be much to catch up on. Joy!

501st Squadron

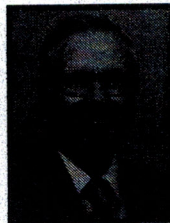
Jerry Murphy
V.P. 501st Sqd.

A special belated Happy New Year to all of you from my wife, Jeanne, and myself.

First some sad news. I received a call from Virgil Gross, Telling me that our good friend, Intelligence Officer Ike Baker, passed away. He's been in failing health for some time and will be missed by all of us in the 501st. He was unable to attend the reunion in Las Vegas, but was with us at the minireunion in Branson, MO in 1989.

Lynn Lee has been appointed to chair the proposed minireunion this September, again in Branson, MO. Lynn should have some information soon and I will keep you posted.

Henry Kortemeyer reminded me that the last update of our roster was in 1988 and



that we should attempt to bring it up to date. A good idea, Kort! Whatever happened to: Bob Casty (CA), Glenn A. (New Albany, IN), Elmer Kovatch (Cincinnati, OH), Troy Lloyd (Johnston, Clarence Beard (Little Rock, AR).

AND FINALLY, when will Jane Fonda be going to IRAQ to entertain "Saddam Hussein's" troops?

Looking forward to Columbus in 1992.

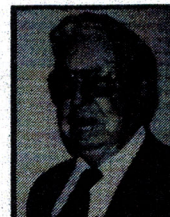
Headquarters Group

Ken Gastgeb
V.P. HQ Group

Another year has passed along with a great reunion at Las Vegas and another reunion is in our sights. This next one at COLUMBUS, OH will be the 50th Anniversary, within a couple weeks, of the origination of the 345th Bomb Group at Columbia, SC, November 11, 1942. I remember it well. I was assigned to the 498th BS on that date. My first assignment was as a Clerk in the Orderly Room. One incident that stands out in my memory took place a few weeks later. Captain Bert Rosenb 498th C.O., came into the Orderly Room that morning in a smile that stretched ear to ear. After attention and at ease said, "Our first plane will be in today!" He was really happy about the arrival of this first plane. It meant he could get started putting crews together for the final phase of training.

Wilton Pittman heard that there was a B-25 in Hattisburg, MS. When time became available he went to check it out. He found a B-25 chained to a big tree. The number is N3453G. The plane may be for sale soon as the man who owned it passed away and his son took it over. If any one is interested, contact Wilton. He may be able to help you locate the plane. During the war Wilton was the assistant to the Group Dentist, Dr. Hoffman.

May GOD be with those that are sick or injured and comfort those who have lost a loved one. May we have PEACE ON EARTH.

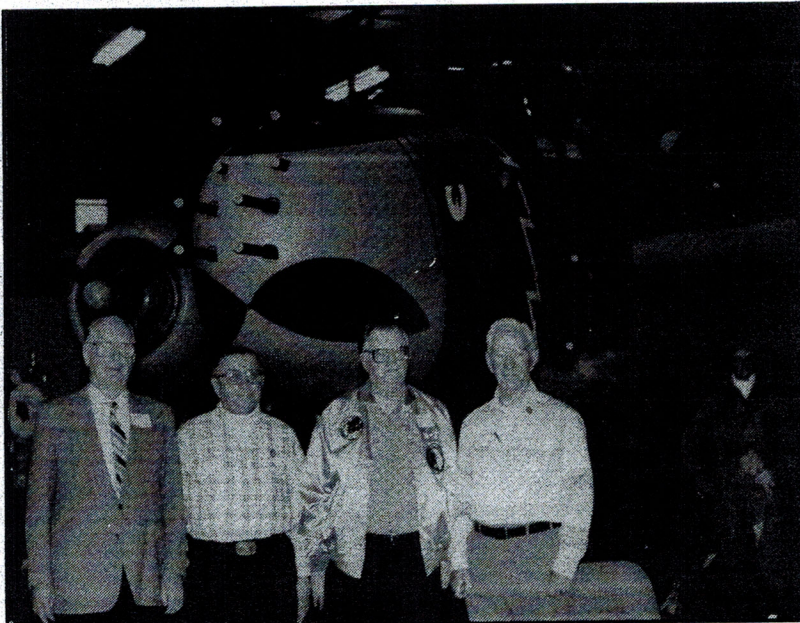


Air Researcher

A Madison, WI man is working listing of aircraft from all wars. Glenn Olson, 4306 Hegg Ave., Madison, WI 53705 wants information from 345th members. type, name of aircraft, AF/WNG/BG/SQD, AC#, area served and a picture of the plane if possible.

Surrender Escort Plane Dedicated

The Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum says its restored R-25 J Mitchell is among the best looking in any museum where. It's also the plane that intercepted the Japanese Surrender Envoys and escorted them on their mission. The plane, now on display at the Kalamazoo, MI museum, sports Falcon nose and Apache tail, .50 cal. side packs, top turret and the individual exhaust stacks of the J model. This particular plane had been modified for commercial work and was essentially a cargo carrier. It had originally been an H model and served with the 498th from July to September 1944. Over 10,000 man-hours were put into the restoration by volunteers and the museum says detail of the work is far beyond what the typical museum visitor would notice. The grand unveiling of the plane included attendance by four of the surrender flight crew members of the #115 Betty Bomber. Herb Garland (he missed a 345th B.G. reunion for the first time in Vegas), John Polansky (radio/gunner), Bob Cornwell (copilot) and Merl Wooden (crew chief). "It was great seeing all of the young people interested in the flight, the B-25 and in our war memories," Wooden said. The dedication was held on Veterans Day, with the unveiling activities spanning November 9-11, 1990.

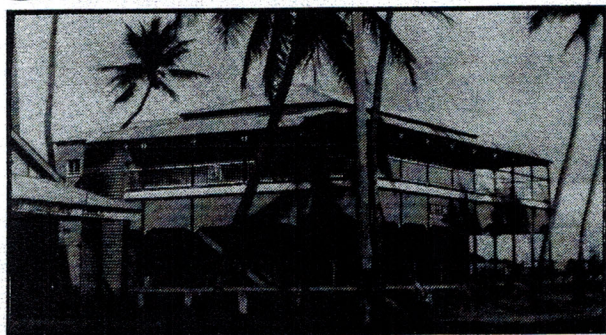


Crew of the Surrender escort flight (L to R): Merl Wooden, John Palansky, Herb Garland, Bob Cornwell at the "business end" of the Falcon nose Mitchell in its new indoor lodging at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo.

Ten day pass

by Ben F. Miller

During our tour of the tropics many of the ground personnel were given 10 day leaves to Mackay, a town south of Townsville. The Red Cross had a meal with real milk and ice cream. A chicken or steak dinner in a restaurant cost two shillings, about 10 cents American.



The hotel in the picture was just across the river from the town, about a quarter of a mile and our transportation was by rented bikes. It cost almost a pound note, \$3.40 American, to stay for a week. It was painted pink with white trim and every room had French doors on the balcony side. The hotel pub was open for two short periods every day and served warm beer from a large copper pitcher. My roommate was one of our parachute riggers, George Stacy, a schoolteacher from the South. I would sure like to hear from him or about him.

On our return to the islands we ran into a huge tropical storm. The pilot said we did not have enough fuel to go back and couldn't fly around the storm. We were told to fasten seat belts, put on Mae Wests and valuables inside our shirts. We climbed to 10,000 feet and headed into the black sky. We pitched and bounced something fierce; came out skimming the whitecaps. C-47s do fly by flapping their wings.

If you would like to contribute to *Strafer* please send your submissions to your squadron vice president or to: Strafer, 2707 Sawbury Blvd., Columbus, OH 43235. Deadline for the next issue is May 1, 1991.

IN MEMORY OF

Ike Baker	501	Jan 15, 91	Charlotte, MI
John Boyd	499	Jan 21, 91	Asbury Park, NJ
Crim Calvin	HQ		Topeka, KS
Joe Kasper	501		Northfield, OH
Clyde Qualls	499	Dec 23, 90	Lubbock, TX
Grant Ross	500	Oct 23, 90	Palo Alto, CA
Michael Talbot	498	Oct 1, 89	Mamaronek, NY
Quentin Yeckley	501	Nov 8, 90	Pittsburgh, PA
Avery York	498	Sep 10, 89	Redding, CA

Association Officers

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Co-chairman -- Jay Moore
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Strafer Father

Carl Cessna (499) is a new, proud father at age 71. He says that although his baby son sleeps through most nights he wouldn't recommend fatherhood to other people his age. "Of course a new baby is a tremendous blessing and he's very welcome," Carl says, "but this wasn't planned." Carl's wife, Karen Marie, is doing fine and is already back at work as a physical therapist for handicapped people. The baby is doing fine too and Carl has already had him up in a plane. Theodore Benton Cessna got his middle name from Carl's grandfather, Thomas Benton Cessna. Theodore was 8 lbs, 5 oz. and 21 in. when he was born on November 19, 1990. He was Carl's fourth child. Carl's first three children came during his previous marriage to Helen Francis Cessna. Carl says he's up to the task of being a new father. He just passed his FAA physical and plans to take Theodore up in a home built plane that's almost finished.

A Prayer for Those Growing Older

Lord, Thou knowest that I am growing older. Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that I must express myself on every subject. Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs. Keep me from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains, they are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them grows sweeter as time goes by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong. Make me thoughtful, but not nosey, helpful, but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem a pity not to use it all, But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end.



Feed and Water it and walk it twice a day. This B-25 was found chained to a tree in a yard in Mississippi by Wilton Pittman (HQ). The chain goes to the left from one of the rear wheels. Apparently the neighbors were afraid the plane would bite. Details in Ken Gastgeb's column on page 2.



Nice Hat George

George Harding (499) at San Marcellino in May of 1945.

1991 DUES PAYABLE

Please send \$15 annual payment to
345th BG Assn.
c/o
Ken McClure, treasurer
2770 E. Main St.
Columbus, OH 43209



Reunion IX, Sept. 11-13, 1992
Columbus, OH

345 B.G. Reunion Committee
2707 Sawbury Blvd.
Columbus, OH 43235

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