

STRAFER



498th SQUADRON

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345th Bomb Group Reunion Association

June 1992

Reunion Activities Being Finalized

Ken McClure hosted a Planning & Organization meeting for the September event on May 30 at the Columbus North Marriott Hotel.

Items of interest to members attending the Reunion are as follows:

AIRPORT ARRIVALS: On arrival, go directly to the USO Hospitality Room. Wait there for your bus transportation to your hotel. The coordination of the transportation has been handled by Brenna Terrill of Travel Agents International. If you have made your own flight reservations without scheduling thru Brenna, please advise her of the name of your airline, flight number, and time of arrival if you wish transportation from the airport to the hotel.

DIRECTIONAL MAP: See page 4 adjacent to your address label on this Strafer for a directional map to guide you to the Marriott North and Envoy Inn. Space restricts the map area to the far north region of Columbus. I-270 can be accessed

from all highways to Columbus. Head north on I-270 which will take you to I-71 and I-270. Go south on I-71 to the next exchange which is Rt. 161. You will see the Marriott North along I-71, but you must exit on Rt. 161 as shown on the map to access the location. (Please do not be confused with the Marriott Suites which can be seen from I-270 and Rt. 23).

If you get lost or confused, call Travel Agents International. Toll-free number is 1-800-788-4801, and the local phone is 891-4800.

HOTEL SIGNS: There will be signs outside the hotel directing cars and RV's to the rear parking lot and hotel entrance. (There are no hookups for RV's). Registration desk and the hospitality room will be directly inside.

HOTEL MEAL DISCOUNTS: Individual name tags will be issued and will also be used by the hotel dining room to grant reduced food prices to the Group membership.

ACTIVITY SCHEDULES: All daily Group activity schedules will be shown on channel 3 closed circuit TV in the Marriott hotel rooms. Those staying at the Envoy Inn can get information at the registration desk at the Marriott North.

SCHEDULED EVENTS: Information on the events that you have chosen will be placed in your Registration Packet.

HOSPITALITY ROOM: Boomerang Publications and Video will present film shows during open hours of the hospitality room. Wartime footage of the 345th Group will be offered for sale to those interested. A corner of the room will have a "theater" setting for your comfort in viewing these movies.

MOST ASKED QUESTION: The Marriott North room rate of \$60 plus tax per night is a flat rate for up to 4 (four) occupants, not per person.

GROUP BANQUET: Each squadron will have it's own set of tables which will be identified by the specific color assigned to that squadron.

LAST MINUTE RESERVATIONS: July 15, 1992 was the deadline for reservations. Cancellation deadline is August 15, 1992. If you decide to attend the Reunion after the July 15 deadline, it will be subject to space available and events available. Hotel prices not guaranteed to us after July 15, 1992. Please call for information to verify last minute accommodations.

PHONES: Travel Agents International, Brenna Terrill can be reached toll-free at 1-800-788-4801. Columbus local phone 1-614-891-4800.

Shuler Gamble Honored By Many

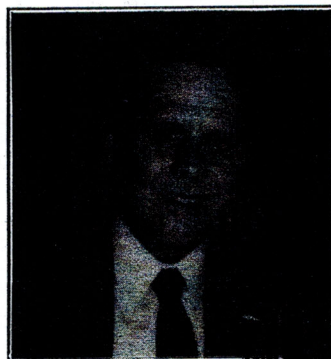
Phone calls and cards poured in to both Mary Elizabeth Gamble and the 345th B. G. Reunion Committee lamenting the loss of past president Shuler S. Gamble. Shuler contributed a lot to the success of our Group during his tenure as president. He was a tireless and dedicated worker.

Shuler was born in Stigler, OK on April 25, 1922 and passed away on Feb. 7, 1992 in Houston, TX. He completed high school and began his college education prior to enlisting in the U.S. Army Air Corps in World War II. He served with distinction as a pilot of a B-25 in the South Pacific with the 499th squadron of the 345th Bomb Group and was awarded the air medal for with four oak-leaf clusters.

He earned his BS degree in commerce from Oklahoma State University in 1948, and was a CPA in Oklahoma and Texas.

Mary Elizabeth wrote "We were so blessed

to have three men of the 499th Squadron with us (at the funeral). Perle and Julian Baird came to Stigler from Dallas. They picked up Dale Rapp on the way and O. L. (Bill) Daigle came from Oklahoma City. He was the navigator who went overseas on Shuler's crew.



Shuler M. Gamble
1922-1992

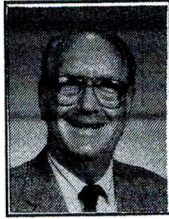
LUCKY WINNER ANNOUNCED

The drawing for the FREE ROOM from the Early Bird Reservations received by June 1 was lucky for LAWRENCE BANNISTER (499), Lake Ozark, MO, who will really enjoy Reunion IX this September.

Squadron Reports

498th Squadron

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



Our Columbus reunion is only a couple of months away. Hope a lot of you guys and gals are planning to attend. I'm sure you will enjoy every minute of it. All arrangements have been completed.

The 498th roster is almost done. It will have a lot of information in it, including a deceased list, as we know it, to June 1, 1992. A letter will be sent to all members before too long explaining how you can get the roster. Sorry it is taking a long time but wanted it to be as complete and accurate as possible.

Hal Cope sends information for Don Stout. Hal said, "His crew, Ward, Fisher, Kemp, Jones and Cohen installed the first 30 caliber twins in the tail of their aircraft #034. Ed Purser, the Crew Chief, helped with the installation. Hal said how Harold Kemp turned Port Morsby looking for suitable armor protection for a baseplate on which to mount the twin 30 caliber guns. They finally found a P39 pilot seat back armor plate. Dale Ware supervised the installation. That's what we called American ingenuity.

John Bronson writes that he's 73 years old, (like the rest of us) and has taken up R.C. flying (model aircraft) which he says is a great hobby.

Bert Rosenbaum wrote about another little incident. It concerns Johnson Craig. Johnson made the remark that he would never get a chance to kill a Jap. Remembering our camp on Biak where the Japs were hollering from the cliffs above us, and they would come into our camp looking for food, clothing, and try to give themselves up. One day a very little Jap came into camp pointing his finger at himself saying "Bang". As a joke I suggested the Jap be taken to Johnson and tell him he could kill the little guy. This was done. Johnson was eating a candy bar when he was told he could kill the little Jap. He looked at the Jap and said, "Kill that little thing". and to the Jap he said, "Here, have a candy bar."

I hear from Red and Dolly Garland quite often. Red's eyes are failing him more and more, but they do plan to attend the reunion. The Garlands are very active in the Missouri Wing of the Confederate Air Force. His group has a flying B25.

Hope you widows of deceased members of the 498th Squadron can make the reunion. It has been the ladies that have kept the 345th Bomb Group so active.

Another member of the 498th has found us. Bob Ferris 4000 Seminole Rd, Fort Pierce, FL 34951.

By chance he spotted the 345th Bomb Group Air Apache emblem on a parked car in Vero Beach, FL. It belonged to Tom Seery of the 500th Squadron. It was his first contact with anyone from the 345th in almost 50 years. Bob was a navigator in our outfit. He was with us from Manila to le Shima and flew 34 missions. Anyone knowing Bob, please drop him a line. I know he would like to hear from you.

Remember the date, September 11 through 13 in Columbus, Ohio for our gala 345th Bomb Group Reunion #IX at the Marriott North. And don't forget to send the separate check for the 498th banquet that Saturday night. If you need any other information, call Brenna Terrill of Travel Agents International at 1-800-788-4801. See you in September.

499th Squadron

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



The year is half over, and it seems like we are barely done attending to the holiday bills. From the amount of correspondence and calls the past few months, more people of the unit seem to be planning on coming to the big reunion in September.

People coming for the first time will be greatly surprised by the ease of recognizing people from so many years ago. There is a feeling that goes with every reunion that compares to no other feeling we may experience in everyday life. Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think, is the only realistic way to look at it. I happen to be vice commander of our American Legion post in Decatur, and we have done military honors for 54 veterans the past two years, and in the first five months of this year we have already done 17 funerals. The average age of our group is right around 70, so bring up some of the younger veterans.

A year ago during Desert Storm, we had a community rally at the peace monument in our town, and the support was indeed gratifying, with small children and all waving flags and singing patriotic songs. Last

Saturday we had our annual flag disposal, and if it had not been for sidewalk sales... would have done the impressive ceremony with our wives, and very few others... serving. The card games in the Post directly behind us didn't break up. How soon we forget. Today there are around 50 skirmishes or revolutions going on in the world, and we are once again hurrying to disarm. Remember when General Reinbold cautioned us about this is his rousing speech at a past reunion? We complain about politics and to the degree of true representation we the people are getting from Washington, and of all the cuts in veterans benefits, when less than 40% of veterans are registered to vote, and not all of them go to the polls. It is no longer a time to sit back and let George do it, George is getting tired of it too.

The group at the helm of this reunion have been working hard to line up events everyone can enjoy. Many of the people from here have been to Ameri-Flora and enjoyed it much. COSI is also very interesting and if you haven't been to see our monument in Dayton, complete with benches, you will get a great feeling of pride to be called a member of the 3... the greatest unit to swat skeeters and fight jungle rot.

Keep up the good work, stay healthy, and don't hesitate to call or write. Keep us all in your prayers, and confirm reservations for Columbus.

500th Squadron

*Fred Moore
V.P. - 500th Sqd.*



Sick call seems to be the order of the day. Strassheim has had serious heart surgery; Burke suffered a sudden stroke; Seery is getting around with the aid of a walker and many others have joined me using hearing aides canes, glasses, etc. Stacked against us are all the kids - such as Daker who on May 25 competed in a 10K race in Boulder Colorado, coming in fourth in his age bracket. Lynn Daker also found the navigator of his crew: Irving Horwitz, 172 W. Pearl Street, Burlington NJ 08016, wife is... Telephone # 609-386-0628.

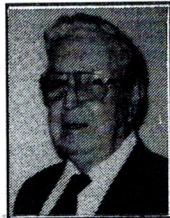
From what phone conversations that I've been having, appears that we'll have a good turnout at Columbus. See you there. Sandy Cortesio forwarded some corre

spondence that he'd received from SMS (Ret) Norman Chatigny, PO Box 104, Roaring Spring PA 16673-0104. Norman's brother S/Sgt. Desire (Sweets) Chatigny, was a member of the 500th and went down 21 January 1945. Norman would be most appreciative of any information any of you might have about his brother.

Received a communication from Hertha Schultz that Carl passed away January 19, 1992. We missed Carl and Hertha at the last several reunions.

501st Squadron

Jerry Murphy
V.P. - 501st Sqd.



Greetings from the Host State for the IX Reunion!

I spoke with George Mordecai last week and he is beginning to receive reservations for our squadron dinner. As of the 15th of June George had 49 confirmed reservations for our Saturday night banquet. George has put a lot of time and effort into making this the best turnout yet for our reunion. he deserves a tremendous round of appreciation for his work. I advise anyone who has not sent advance reservations in to notify George as soon as possible. His address is George Mordecai, 14 Fredrick St., North Branford, CT 06477. Tel. 203-488-8177.

Rico Pallotta called me a few weeks ago in regard to supplying me with travel orders having army service numbers. Like a lot of us, he discarded or misplaced anything concerning the army. Rico will be in Columbus and we hope he will bring his accordion. He entertained many of the men in the Phillipines with his squeeze box.

There is a well-founded rumor that Lynn Lee is bringing to Columbus the Air Apache's version of a Greyhound Bus. He will use it to shuttle members from the Airport to our Reunion Headquarters. Those of you who were unable to attend the last reunion in Las Vegas will be in for a treat when you ride our bus. It might be a good idea to take out extra insurance on your sacroiliac. At Vegas Lynn's bus was the high point of the reunion.

Jay Moore has left Columbus and is now living in N. Carolina. Ohio has lost a good transplanted Buckeye. We all wish Jay and Billie a happy life in the Tar Heel state. I have spent quite some time tracking down the "Lost Sheep" from the Air Apaches. One of the names I found was deceased Bob Casty. Bob will be remembered for having flown over 100 missions. I knew Bob personally and I thought he was quite

a character. I don't think he had a nerve in his body. Bob passed away Sept. 28, 1978.

If anyone has some old Air Force Registers, I would appreciate it if they would bring them to Columbus. Quite a few of our men stayed in the service after the war and their names and ASN would appear in the Air Force Register. Even after the Reunion is history I intend to keep on trying to find our "Lost Sheep". For our 501st Bomb Squadron (as of the middle of June) I have 17 possibly alive, 29 deceased and 17 with no record. I still need about 375 service numbers from our squadron alone.

And finally -- the death penalty might not stop crime but it certainly does cut down on repeaters.

See you in Columbus!

Headquarters Group

Ken Gastgeb
V.P. - HQ Group



Sometime ago I asked Major Darwin, as he was known to us during the war, to write me an article about his responsibilities with the 345th. At the time he said that his duties

were to keep the troops happy. That is quite a chore. It really meant to see to it that the troops, which were us, needed a fairly decent place to stay, be fed, clothed, and those sort of things. In addition his responsibilities were to set up the camp sites, take charge of all moves (and there were many of those), have a camp site available when we arrived, etc. Quotes from a letter I received from him in Feb. 1992 I want to share with you all. "I am now past my mid 80's. I sometimes wonder why I am still here when so many good men passed on. A day never goes by without me thinking of the many men I shared experiences with as the senior Ground Commander on the train from Walterboro to the West Coast. The ship, to Australia, New Guinea then by air movement of ground personnel to such places as Dobadura, Nadzab, Biak, etc. These moves usually called for an advance echelon to open the way and gradually build up for full operation. Once set up the time has come for the next move. Then came the move to Leyte Gulf and you were there. The personnel of Headquarters and two squadrons were on the USS Nelson and

"H.Q. Group" cont'd on page 4

IN MEMORY OF

Andrew Andrejewski	499th	May 19, '91	Carl D. Schultz	500th	Jan. 19, '92
John J. Back	500th	Jun. 4, '91	James E. Slaughter, Jr.	499th	Jan. 31, '92
Stafford C. Bates	500th	Sep. 22, '91	Jesse L. Stowe	499th	Jul. 13, '91
William T. Bradley	HQ	Mar. 24, '91	Claude C. Summers	500th	Jul. 2, '91
Wm. D. Council, Jr.	498th	Apr. 8, '92	James O. Young	498th	Apr. 18, '91
Walter G. Miller	499th	Sep. 14, '91	Charles T. Ziegler	501st	Jan. 5, '91
John S. Muth	498th	Dec. 18, '91			

The above names include only those that have died between the dates of 1/1/91 thru 6/30/92. Names are published as sent in to the Strafer. There may be other current deaths that we are unaware of at this time.

A large number of names have been coming in from members and from the records of the Veterans Administration. These are all prior to 1991, and will be published in future issues of the Strafer. We wish to thank all of you for your help in keeping us notified of roster address changes and deaths.

The Staff

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702/871-4405
501 - Jerry Murphy
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216/442-7273

"H.Q. Group" cont'd from page 3
 the other two squadrons on the USS Waite. I was on land trying to arrange for a location for our group. The location designated on the maps was still occupied by the Japs. The marines were kind enough to share their cleared area with us. At least we were on the same side of the barbed wire they used, although we were between the wire and the artillery. In December of this year, 1944, General J. V. Crabb moved me to Bomber Command.

The first two years of the 345th experiences was spent getting back to the Philippines from where U.S. forces had been driven. The third year was spent driving the Japs back to their homeland. The Atomic Bomb kept the 345th, and others, from invasion of Japan. Also the 345th escaped the occupation forces immediately after the war. My last contact with the 345th was at Okinawa where I had prepared for staging and processing of all 5th Bomber Command personnel for return to the U.S.A. I made it my business to be on hand when the men went through the process line. I knew most of the men, either by sight or name, from the four squadrons as well as Headquarters.

I went on to Tokyo, Japan. The decision had been made to deactivate the 345th on November 11, 1945. I remained with the Bomber Command until November 17 when we had replacements for those eligible for return to the U.S. I left Japan by ship via Hawaii, Panama Canal, then to New Orleans and arrived home on December 15th by rail. I would like to see the 345th men put together letters, stories, experiences, etc."

Many of us certainly agree with that last

sentence. The book "Warpath Across the Pacific" is a fine book and very detailed on the aircraft and personnel that flew them. However, there is not very much on experiences of the ground forces. Perhaps someone would like to take up that assignment before it gets too late. We certainly appreciate the nice letter from Major Darwin and the fine job he did for us. Our thanks to you Bill Darwin and we wish you the best in everything. Hope to see you at Columbus.

I'll Never Forget

In January of 1944, I had almost finished my 50 missions. Capt. Manders was missing his radio man who had spent a few days in the hospital. Since I was free that day had asked me to fill in Sgt. Brown's position. As we were loading for a bombing sweep of Hansa Bay, Capt. Manders came to me and said that Brown was out and since I had most of my missions, would I please let him go instead. One of the stipulations flying with Capt. Manders was that we would never be taken prisoner, this we all had to agree on.

The first report of the strike was that Manders was down. A most loved commander, the squadron was in mourning. Seven months later I was in aviation cadet training at San Antonio, Texas. The finance officer of the base called me on a pay matter. He asked if I knew Sgt. Brown of the 501st. I said I did, and that he was killed on a mission. He said that Sgt. Brown was listed as missing in action.

Brown's wife was his secretary, they were in love, and as long as he (Brown) was listed as missing, she would be faithful. I had to tell her the whole story. I did, and this memory will stay in my mind forever.

(Contributed by William A. Miller (501st Miami, FL)

HOT COLUMN!

SEND IN 345TH REUNION DUES
 \$15 FOR 1992 TO:
 KEN McCLURE,
 5581 CHOWNING WAY,
 COLUMBUS, OH 46213

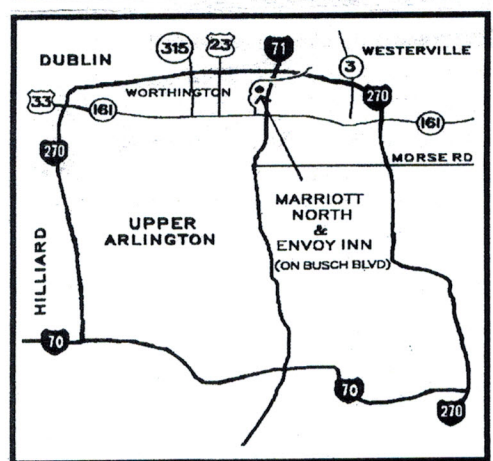
JOIN 5AFMF \$5 PER YEAR DUES

MAKE CONTRIBUTION TO
 5AFMF TO HELP FINANCE 5AF
 MEMORIAL AT AF ACADEMY

HELP LOCATE "LOST SHEEP"
 FROM 345TH

ATTENTION BOMBARDIERS

Vic Tatelman has a number of back issues of *CROSSHAIRS*, the official publication of Bombardiers, Inc. Anyone who has had training with the Norden Bombsight would be particularly interested. Contact Vic if you'd like to have them.



345 B.G. Reunion Committee
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Reunion IX, Sept. 11-13, 1992
Columbus, Ohio

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