



The WOLF HOWL-L-L

December, 2015

### GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

Hello everyone, our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion (2015) in St. Louis, Missouri was absolutely fantastic. This year once again we enjoyed the company of the 344<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group (494<sup>th</sup>, 495<sup>th</sup>, 496, and 497<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadrons) members.

Most of our members arrived on Wednesday at our Hotel (The Holiday Inn Express Riverport) where once again we started up our conversations just like we had left each others company yesterday.

Our Hotel staff were an absolute dream to work with from the very moment we arrived to the end when everyone was going back home, they took care of everyone's needs. All the staff from the sales department, catering department and set-up crews went above and beyond for all of us. There were many compliments passed to us about the staff as well. We were very glad to hear that everyone had a great time too.

***We have confirmed the dates for our 41<sup>st</sup> Reunion in Tulsa, OK and they are Sep 21-24. We will have all the information in the May 2016 Newsletter.***

As a reminder, all updates to our directory will reflect only the page locations in our new directory (Sep.2014). So, once again, please look at the Directory Updates Section here in our newsletter to receive the latest information on new addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, and new members who have recently contacted us. All new emails addresses that we receive will be shared with our Historian (Roy Bozych). This is very important because this will allow us to provide you with instant information. Once again, we were very pleased to hear that everyone who attended our St. Louis Reunion had a great time and arrived home safely.

**On Wednesday (September 9<sup>th</sup>)** at 2:00pm we kicked off the reunion with our registration table set-up in the lobby area and the Hospitality Room opened. As the day continued all our members came in as scheduled. Again this year, our Hospitality Room opened on time fully stocked and ready to see old friends, listen to stories and share laughs with each other since our last reunion. We went to a unique restaurant in St. Charles (across the river about 5 miles away) on Main Street named Hendricks Bar-B-Que. They were shocked when we came in because we kind of took them by surprise. The food and service were second to none. When they found out what the organization was they discounted our bills by 20%. This was very nice of them and they said this was their way of saying thank you to our veterans for their sacrifices and keeping us a nation that still enjoys our freedoms set forth by our fore fathers. An interested fact about this restaurant is that it used to be the Water works utilities building for the city that was shut down and just sitting there. They came in refurbished it and now Hendricks Bar-B-Que restaurant is going strong. If you happen to be in the area a restaurant we recommend you stop by and enjoy. Once we finally finished up a great meal we went back to the hotel and into the hospitality room.

**On Thursday (September 10<sup>th</sup>)** we met in the lobby at 10:30a.m. ready to board our bus to go and see the city of St. Louis. Our bus arrived early so we boarded up and we began our tour. It started in downtown St. Louis where we began in the LacCledde Landing Area. We were very fortunate because we had about an hour and half to have lunch, shop, and see the sites on our on time. Some took advantage and visited many different sites in the near-by area. The 3 main sites were the Old Court House and it had the famous Gateway Arch in the background as you viewed the Old Courthouse from the west side looking east. The Gateway Arch is the tallest man-made National Monument in the United States. Some of us went inside the Old Court House and the most amazing thing was, if you were in the middle of the main floor your voice amplified and sounded as though you were using a public address system. Also, we found out there were over 30 court rooms in the court house and the higher the prestige and importance of the judges the higher in (floor wise) their court room was located. Court rooms were on four different floors. From here we walked over to Busch Stadium home of the St. Louis Cardinals. Wow, what a beautiful baseball stadium/park. There were also plenty of eateries and shops just across the street for those who wanted something to eat or wanted to get some shopping in as well. From here we boarded the bus and we continued our tour. We saw the Anheiser-Busch Brewery, Historical Souldard District, Lafayette Park Neirghborhood with its Victorian Houses where many of the prominent and very influential people lived in the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. We also went by the old Union Railroad Station building and it's yard. During WW II with the movement of military personnel there were over a million people going through this rail station on a monthly basis. From here we went out and toured the grounds of the 1904 World's Fair (Forest Park) where we took lots

of photos. This is a very beautiful and pristine park with lots of activity. Our last stop was at the absolutely beautiful Cathedral Basilica which is much more beautiful on the inside than you could imagine. Wow, what a day, from here we went back to our hotel and started making arrangements for dinner. We convoyed over to Hollywood Eat Up Buffet which was part of a huge Casino sitting near the St. Charles River. One of the finest buffet's we have ever encountered. Everyone left with smiles and very happy. Some of the members decided to enjoy some time at the Casino before they returned to the hotel, while most of us went back to the hospitality room until the last person left.

**On Friday (September 11<sup>th</sup>)** we departed the hotel today around 10:45a.m. with our first stop at Grant's Farm. This was the farm of our 18<sup>th</sup> President, President Ulysses S. Grant. A very interesting fact is at the entrance, the fence was made with the barrels of rifles used during the Civil War. Once inside we toured the grounds which was like a combination of a zoo and stables and running area for the Clydesdales. We went to the Pavilion Area and most of us enjoyed a couple of beers courtesy of Anheiser-Busch and saw some more of the park. Our final stop in the park was the stable area where we saw a few of the Clydesdales. From here we went over to St. Charles Visitor Center and had a couple of hours to walk around the shops get some lunch and do some shopping. Most of us stopped by and got an ice cream before we boarded the bus. We took a short ride back to the hotel enjoyed the hospitality room, freshen-up and went to dinner. We had another really nice meal provided at the hotel again this reunion. Except this year they catered in our meals and they were great. Once again, after dinner we opened the hospitality room until the last person left for the night.

**On Saturday (September 12<sup>th</sup>)** at 10:00am, our Annual Meeting was called to order by our 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice -President Mr. Bob Johnson, and we started the day with the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon completion, we then proceeded by the reading of our friends/family members we had lost since our last meeting followed by a moment of silence and the playing of Taps. Next, we recognized our members who could not attend (listed below in the Letters and Phone Calls Section). Then, we asked about new attendees, there were none attending.

President's Report – Frank had no information to report this year.

Secretary/Treasurer Report - discussed was our financial report which will be seen later in our Newsletter.

Historian's Report - (Roy Bozych) reported that the documentary of the 323<sup>rd</sup> / 454<sup>th</sup> coming along well and maybe completed by the end of 2015. Once completed we will be notified and the cost for the 2 disc set will probably be \$30.00. These will be ordered directly from the person putting the project together. Roy also stated that the first 10 minutes of the presentation will be narrated by Mr. Tom Hanks. He is not

pushing the project due to the fact that the person producing the documentary is also, funding the project. Second, Roy also informed us that our web site is still getting over 380 hits per day and viewed by an average of 88 people. Wow, that's really incredible for us and once again another reflection of the great work Roy has done for the 454<sup>th</sup>.

**OLD Business** – *First Item*, we discussed our reunion set for Myrtle Beach, SC and the opposition from the veterans due to the difficulty to get to the location. This further discussed in New Business.

*Second item* – Our committee for the history / challenge coins (Roy Bozych and Scott McEachin) followed-up and stated the coins we are looking at having completed by the end of 2015. Exact price was not set but probably looking between \$10.00 - \$15.00 per coin. This coin will be a 323<sup>rd</sup> / 454<sup>th</sup> coin and we are very eager to have the opportunity to purchase them too! The coin will be 1 ¾ inches and B-26 on the coin will be the Lucky Crackie within the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG. It flew the most missions (197) within the Group. It will also have all the Squadrons listed on the coin too. We will have all the information and pictures in our May 2016 newsletter. If you access to our web site I am certain that Roy will have this posted there prior to our May 2016 newsletter.

**NEW Business** - OK, now onto our new business.

*First item*, we had our selection for our 2016 reunion which was scheduled for Myrtle Beach, SC. There was a motion to reconsider and move our 2016 reunion to Tulsa, OK as this would greatly reduce cost and easier for our veterans to arrive at directly. This motion was second with no other proposed sites. We then voted and it was unanimously passed.

*Second Item*, now that we had our 2016 reunion resolved it was time to identify our 2017 reunion sit. There was a proposal that since our numbers were getting smaller and smaller that we wait until Tulsa before considering the 2017 reunion site. We had a second from the floor. We put it up for vote and it was passed by a large majority.

*Third Item*, Since our number of attendees are getting smaller and smaller there was also a proposal that everyone with an email address be removed from the mailing list for a paper newsletter and receive them electronically. So please insure Roy has your current email address so he can insure you will receive your newsletter. You can email Roy at [historian@323bg.org](mailto:historian@323bg.org) or you may contact me (George) at [kville93@centurylink.net](mailto:kville93@centurylink.net)

**Drawing** - next, we had our annual door prize drawings that Roy conducts numbers were pulled by our youngest attending member (3<sup>rd</sup> generation) Tess Garvin and as always we had some very nice prizes again this year. Thanks Roy for all the hard work and prizes you acquire for us.

In closing, Bob also stated that if anyone wanted to make a donation to the 454<sup>th</sup> BSA that our Secretary/Treasurer will be available to accept your donations immediately after the completion of our meeting. Then made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and officially opened the Hospitality Room until 4:00pm.

Once again this year there were some members who did a lot of work to make our reunion make it a great success. Either setting-up & maintaining, or working in the hospitality room. They were – Scott & Debbie McEachin, Merlin McDonald, David Garvin and Mary Cornett; we would like to take a moment to say thank you for your dedication which is greatly appreciated. Thanks again for making this another great reunion for everyone to meet and reminisce with each other.

### **Letters and Phone Calls**

Lisa Izdepski – Unable to attend Reunion, tell everyone hello, thanks for newsletter

Olga Amber – Unable to attend Reunion, health issues and no travel partner

George Boyer – Unable to attend Reunion, health issues

Mary Evans – Just moved and was settling into new home

Ann Southard – Unable to attend Reunion, health issues and couldn't travel

### **Attendees at our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion**

This year the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG 454<sup>th</sup> BS had 1 veteran, the 344<sup>th</sup> BG had 6 veterans attend they are identified in photo below:



*In photo above left to right back row Santo Endrizzi (344<sup>th</sup> BG / 494<sup>th</sup> BS), Harold Akin (344<sup>th</sup> BG / 495<sup>th</sup> BS,) and George Eldridge (344<sup>th</sup> BG / 494<sup>th</sup> BS) and front row left to right are Ed Horn (344<sup>th</sup> BG / 497<sup>th</sup> BS), Don Korkowski (344<sup>th</sup> BG / 494<sup>th</sup> BS), Otto Kirkpatrick (344<sup>th</sup> BG Pathfinder) and Frank Johnson (323<sup>rd</sup> BG / 454<sup>th</sup> BS).*

We had a total of 34 attendees this year; what a great turnout and wow some of the stories once again shared! Of our 34 attendees we had 7 veterans (in bold print) and 27 family members / guests. The list below identifies all attendees:

**454<sup>th</sup> Attendees were:**

**Frank and Bob Johnson**  
Judy Pisczczek (Frank Johnson's Daughter)  
Charlene "Sherry" Johnson (Frank's Daughter)  
Merlin McDonald  
Frank Mancuso  
Roy Bozych  
David and Tess Garvin  
Scott & Debbie McEachin  
George & Mary Cornett

**344<sup>th</sup> Attendees were:**

**Ed Horn** and son Chris  
**Don Korkowski** and Patricia  
Riggenback (Guest)  
**Santo Endrizzi**  
Hap & Marion Whelpley  
(Santo's daughter & Son-In-Law)  
**Harold Aiken**  
**Otto Kirkpatrick**, and son Rick  
**George Eldridge** and daughter  
Eileen Turk  
Shirley and Carol Fowler  
Mary Ellen Gregorich  
Jack & Linda Shilt  
Mary Lou Crawford  
Tricia Wendt  
Connie Owen  
Joan Gunnels (Guest of C. Owen)

## Directory Updates

We received the following changes since our May 2015 Newsletter. Please update your directory as follows:

Section 1 page 9 – Replace old address

Old

Sellier, Betty  
4212 Darlington Court  
Palo Alto, CA. 84306-4129

New

Contact George Cornett or  
Roy Bozych for updated addresses

Section 1 page 9 – Replace Old Address

Old

Weisbach, Edna  
4234 Dorney Park Road  
Allentown, PA. 18104-5723

Section 2 page 5- Replace old address

Old

Cottingham, John & Kelly  
2065 Maple Leaf Crescent  
Suffolk, VA. 23434-2018

Section 2 page 3 - Update new email address

Old

McDonald, Merlin  
[Rxb2@hotmail.com](mailto:Rxb2@hotmail.com)

Section 2 page 4- Replace old address

Old

Peck, Megan  
4572 N. Glenn # 211  
Fresno, CA. 93704-3912

## Missing Members

Here is our latest list of newsletters mail out and returned. If you know someone on this list please contact me with an updated address or have them contact me direct if they wish. Their name will only appear in one newsletter after that if they have not been updated then they will be removed from our mailing list.

Mr. Luther Miller  
13840 Desert Harbor Drive N. # 136  
Peoria, AZ. 85381-3621  
6-4-15

Mr. Marcella Morgan  
153 Elm Tree Lane  
Elmhurst, IL. 60126-3616  
6-8-15

Ms. Edith. Goodwin  
501 E. Grand Ave. # 1312  
Rainbow City, AL. 35406-6271  
6-17-15

Mr. James Bergh  
14627 Highway 1804  
Williston, N.D. 5880-8642  
6-15-15

## Final Flights”

It is always a sad time when we lose loved ones. These are some of our finest that we have the disappointing news to pass along to you. They will not be with us at our future reunions physically, but will be with us in spirit and will be discussed about their special stories they have shared with all of us. **GOD BLESS all of them.**

### **Thomas E. Knee (May 4, 1923 - November 8, 2014)**



Tom passed away peacefully at home from age-related illnesses due to natural causes on the morning of November 8, 2014, at the age of 91.

Born to Thomas E. Knee (Tucker) and Cecelia Pilarz in Gallitzin, Pennsylvania, and growing up during the depths of the Depression, Tom nevertheless had a wonderful childhood in this Allegheny mountain coal mining town surrounded by a very large extended family.

Drafted into service in World War II, Tom served with distinction as a radio operator/gunner on a B-26 Marauder medium bomber in the European Theater.

Initially stationed in England, he took part in the breakout from Saint-Lô after the Normandy invasion and went on to fly more than 50

missions from air bases in France for the final drive into Germany. The Ninth Air Force 323rd bombardment group 454 Squadron (the "Howlin' Wolves") was instrumental in taking out enemy-held bridges and railroad marshaling yards as they supported ground troops on the allied offensive.

For his service, Tom was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with one Silver and three Bronze Stars.

Afterward, moving to Detroit, Michigan, in search of work, Tom met his future wife, Marge, at one of the many dance ballrooms that flourished in the city following the war. They were married shortly thereafter and would remain so for the next 63 years.

As his career as the national sales manager for a gear manufacturing firm took off, a job promotion allowed the family to move to the idyllic town of Traverse City, Michigan, on the shores of Lake Michigan.

During his frequent jaunts around the country on business, Tom always kept an eye out for the ideal place to retire, which he found in the remote northwest corner of the country in Sequim. This was to become his true home and a place that he never wanted to leave. Here, Tom discovered his artistic side with wood carving, winning several awards, and developed his green thumb as a Master Gardener. He always seemed happiest with his hands in the dirt working on another gardening project.

Tom was also very involved with the local chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

Tom had a playful personality and would often chat up strangers in supermarkets and in public, leaving them with a smile. He had genuine warmth that really touched those lucky enough to come in contact with him.

In later years, he was rarely seen without his beloved Pomeranian pal, Abby, at his side as they enjoyed long walks at Carrie Blake Park.

Tom was preceded in death by his wife, Marge.

He is survived by his son, Tom Knee of Seattle, Washington; and daughters Linda Tandler of San Diego, California, and Donna Knee of Traverse City.

**Notified of Additional Members without obits:**

Natto, Mary Lou (5-21-15)	Notified May 21, 2015
Marks, Joseph D. (1-14-15)	Notified June 3, 2015
Newcomb, Alfred E.	Notified June 12, 2015
Mode, Leslie N. (3-4-11)	Notified Dec. 04, 2015

**Financial Report**

Here is our financial report to December 30, 2015. We would like to thank everyone for their past contributions because that's what keeps our organization going strong.

**Contributions May 16 – December 30, 2015**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Harwell, Robert and Helen	\$25.00
Tycott, David	\$25.00
Izdepski, Lisa (Jan)	\$100.00
Graham, Michael (Dad - Harold)	\$200.00
Moench, Mary	\$100.00
Laudie, Bob & Judith Pfohl	\$50.00
Havrilla, Karen	\$40.00
Mancuso, Frankie	\$40.00
McEachin, Scott & Debbie	\$100.00
Garvin, David	\$25.00
McEachin, Scott & Debbie	\$200.00
Urey, Dottie	\$100.00
Cornett, George & Mary	\$100.00
McDonald, Merlin	\$100.00
Simmerly, Dale	\$35.00
	\$5.00

**Total      \$1,245.00**

## Expenses

<b>Debit</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Addl. Comments</b>
Americopy Printing	\$106.05	5/26/15	May Newsletter 160 copies
US Postal Service (USPS)	\$224.00	5/26/15	Postage for newsletters
Office Max	\$13.02	9/5/15	Name Badge Clips 2 pkgs of 10
Costco	\$283.87	9/8/15	Refreshments and Snacks for Hospitality Room
Walmart	\$179.63	9/8/15	Refreshments and Snacks for Hospitality Room
Office Max	\$7.99	9/8/15	Clear Name Badge Holders
Roy Bozych	\$313.93	9/9/15	2014 Expenses (Postage \$34.30 and Website Svc \$179.63) and 2015 Reunion Door Prizes \$107.06 (CK # 544)
Walmart	\$41.89	9/10/15	Additional Wine for hospitality Room
Walmart	\$39.63	9/11/15	Additional Wine for hospitality Room
Grants Farm Tour	\$40.00	9/11/15	Group Photo packages (2 packages)
SCCS	\$3,246.00	9/11/15	City Tour, Grants Farm Tour and Friday Dinner (CK # 545)
Walmart	\$59.63	9/12/15	Additional wine and beer for hospitality room
Holiday Inn Express	\$884.00	9/14/15	Banquet Dinner (34 meals)
Urey, Dottie	\$452.00	9/15/15	Refund for Reunion minus \$100.00 for donation (CK # 546)
<b>Expenses</b>	\$5,891.64		

The above information does include printing and postage for December 2015 printing of Newsletters and postage for mailings.

<b>Balance as of Jan. 1, 2015</b>	<b>\$11,095.37</b>
<b>Contributions</b>	<b>\$1,245.00</b>
<b>Reunion Monies Rcvd.</b>	<b>\$5,671.00</b>
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$6,916.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,891.64</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$12,119.73</b>

If there were contributions from May 16, 2015 to December 30, 2015 that are not posted please contact me (George Cornett) at email [kville93@centurylink.net](mailto:kville93@centurylink.net) ,or call me at 480-984-3676 or write me at address below.

If you wish to make a contribution to the 454<sup>th</sup> Bomb Squadron Association please send to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA c/o George Cornett 8250 E. Obispo Ave. Mesa AZ 85212-1618.

Please make all checks out to 454<sup>th</sup> BSA.

### Our Elected Board Members

#### Current Board Members:

President \_\_\_\_\_ Frank Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Howard Cross  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Frankie Mancuso  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Robert “Bob” Johnson  
Secretay/Treasurer \_\_\_ George Cornett  
Historian \_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_ Merlin McDonald

#### Previous Board Members:

President \_\_\_\_\_ Brad Urey  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Dan Richey  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Howard Cross  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President \_\_\_ Rick Bragg  
Secretary/Treasurer \_\_\_ George Cornett  
Historian \_\_\_\_\_ Roy Bozych  
Sergeant-at-Arms \_\_\_ David Garvin

**We hope everyone had a Merry  
Christmas and also have a Happy and  
Prosperous New Year!**

*George and Mary*

C.

## 454<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Squadron Association Reunion Dates and Locations

1 <sup>st</sup> - July, 1976	Myrtle Beach, SC
2 <sup>nd</sup> - July, 22 <sup>nd</sup> to 24 <sup>th</sup> 1977	Fairborn/Dayton, OH
3 <sup>rd</sup> - July 20 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1978	Cocoa Beach, FL
4 <sup>th</sup> - July 19 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1979	Tampa, FL
5 <sup>th</sup> -July 17 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> 1980	Hampton, VA
6 <sup>th</sup> -July 15 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> 1981	Colorado Springs, CO
7 <sup>th</sup> -July 8 <sup>th</sup> to 11 <sup>th</sup> 1982	Gettysburg, PA
8 <sup>th</sup> -July 13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> 1983	San Francisco, CA
9 <sup>th</sup> -April, 10 <sup>th</sup> to 15 <sup>th</sup> 1984	Charleston, SC
10 <sup>th</sup> -May 15 <sup>th</sup> to 18 <sup>th</sup> 1985	San Antonio, TX
11 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> 1986	Oshkosh, WI
12 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup> to 6 <sup>th</sup> 1987	Arlington, VA /Washington D.C.
13 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 31 <sup>st</sup> to Sept 4 <sup>th</sup> 1988	Dayton, OH
14 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 6 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> 1989	Las Vegas, NV
15 <sup>th</sup> -Aug 29 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1990	Bellevue/Seattle, WA
16 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1991	New Orleans, LA
17 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> 1992	Scottsdale, AZ
18 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 15 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 19 <sup>th</sup> 1993	Orlando, FL
19 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 7 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 11 <sup>th</sup> 1994	Natick /Boston, MA
20 <sup>th</sup> -Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> to Nov 5 <sup>th</sup> 1995	Nashville, TN
21 <sup>st</sup> -Sept 18 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> 1996	Omaha, NE
22 <sup>nd</sup> -Sept 24 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> 1997	San Diego, CA
23 <sup>rd</sup> -Aug 26 <sup>th</sup> to Aug 30 <sup>th</sup> 1998	New Orleans, LA
24 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sept 25 <sup>th</sup> 1999	Savannah, GA
25 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 4 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> 2000	Tucson AZ
26 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 17 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> 2001	Houston, TX
27 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> 2002	Myrtle Beach, SC
28 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 8 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> 2003	Tampa, FL
29 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sept 26 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Branson, MO
30 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> to Sept 5 <sup>th</sup> 2005	Baltimore/MD-Washington DC
31 <sup>st</sup> -Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> to Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> 2006	Las Vegas, NV
32 <sup>nd</sup> -Oct 3 <sup>rd</sup> to Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> 2007	Dayton, OH
33 <sup>rd</sup> -Sept 10 <sup>th</sup> to Sept 13 <sup>th</sup> 2008	San Antonio, TX
34 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 7 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 12 <sup>th</sup> 2009	Colorado Springs, CO
35 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup> to Sept 25 <sup>th</sup> 2010	Norfolk, VA
36 <sup>th</sup> -Sept 28 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> 2011	Minneapolis, MN
37 <sup>th</sup> -Oct 24 <sup>th</sup> to Oct 28 <sup>th</sup> 2012	Tucson, AZ
38 <sup>th</sup> -Sep 25 <sup>th</sup> to Sep 28 <sup>th</sup> 2013	Charleston, SC
39 <sup>th</sup> -Sep 17 <sup>th</sup> to Sep 20 <sup>th</sup> 2014	New Orleans, LA
40 <sup>th</sup> -Sep 9 <sup>th</sup> to Sep 12 <sup>th</sup> 2015	St. Louis, MO



# HISTORIAN'S HANGER

Roy Bozych - Squadron Historian



*Fall 2015*

## Holiday Greetings and E-mails



Tempus fugit – another year has come and gone by already. As I sit at my desk writing this newsletter the Holiday season is already upon us. For those of you who do not use or get our e-mails I usually send out Holiday greetings to



everyone who is on our e-mail list. The greetings go out all over the world. One e-mail card goes out just before Christmas and another just before New Year using the WWII the cards shown here. The response back with good wishes from the recipients for all of you is overwhelming! There is a great appreciation for the information and research we provide through our website. Your continued donations make it possible for us to provide this service to all generations of the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG family plus all those who have a historic interest in the 323<sup>rd</sup> BG, not to mention those with a keen interest in the Martin B-26 Marauder. Just thought all of you, who don't get the e-mail greetings, would like to see what the cards look like.

For those of you, who would like to get on our e-mail list, or if you know of someone who would, just sent your name and e-mail address to [historian@323bg.org](mailto:historian@323bg.org). If you haven't heard from us in a while, has your e-mail address changed? If so, I need the new one to add you back into the list. Our e-mail list is not given out to anyone. It is only used for 323<sup>rd</sup> BG business or for notifying you on topics that may be of interest.

Speaking of support, I have a couple of big thanks to send out to two of our 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron family members. The first one goes out to Olga Amber. Our website attracted the interest one of our British friends, Alan Baker. One of Alan's family members knew Myrle McKenzie during the war and was wondering if he had survived the war and what happened to him. Myrle was the tail gunner on Olga's husband's

crew. John Amber was the radioman on the crew and the pilot was Thomas Steenson was the pilot. Rounding out the rest of the crew were Ira Baisden, the Flight Engineer and Thomas Shirley the Bombardier/ Navigator.

Myrle survived the war. Having completed 57 combat missions Myrle returned to the United States in July of 1944. One of the missions his crew flew was the infamous December 13, 1943 mission to the Amsterdam-Schipol Airdrome. Their plane had an engine shot out by FLAK. This mission was covered by Stars and Stripes newspaper in the January 13<sup>th</sup> 1944 issue. Unfortunately Myrle is no longer with us having passed in 1969.

Olga was able to supply me with a crew picture that John had in his scrapbook collection which I forwarded on to Alan Baker. John regrettably is no longer with us either, like a large majority of our WWII Veterans. Alan was most appreciative. John's crew picture which Olga provided me also helped me to identify some crew pictures without names that I scanned a couple of years back while I was at the Marauder Archives at the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson, Arizona. Thanks Olga.

This past fall I had the opportunity to drive out to Iowa City, Iowa and visit with Bob Laudie and his daughter Judy for the day. Bob lives in the Oaknoll Retirement Community. Nice place! Bob treated me to lunch and dinner. Nothing like free food ha-ha! We all had a great day. I exchange e-mails with Bob and often call him when I need some specific information about what it was like during WWII. Bob was the Bombardier on Francis Noyes's crew. Bob has some great stories. You can check them out on You Tube. Do a search for "War Stories featuring Bob Laudie" or try this link; [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4YUk\\_zOjil](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4YUk_zOjil)  
Thanks for everything Bob!

### **Past Summers Happenings**

As you already know this past summer marked the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ending of WWII. Several of our family members returned to England and France either for visits or to help in celebrations remembering our Veterans and marking the end of the war.

Michael Graham son of Harold Graham returned to Earl's Colne England to see the airfield from which his father flew. His plane was "Funny Bunny" serial number 41-34715 coded RJ-F. "Funny Bunny" was one of the original B-26s of the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Harold flew the plane over to England from the United States via the Southern route. His first combat mission was on July 26, 1943 to the St. Omer/Ft. Rouse Airfield. Harold stayed in the Air Force after the war retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. After the war he had a career flying for Pan American Airlines.

While in England, Michael took the opportunity to visit with John Camp and our friends over at the Boxted Air Museum. They were delighted to show him around the museum plus the tail section on one of the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron's aircraft, 41-35253 "Mr. Shorty/Black Magic IV" coded RJ-S.



Carleton Rehr wife of Louis Rehr returned to France to help in the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of the ending of WWII. Louis was a pilot

with and the 456<sup>th</sup> Squadron and also one of its COs, that is commanding officers. Pictured above is Carleton at the V-E ceremonies with the mayor of Samoussy, Roland Soyeux. Samoussy is where the Laon-Athies airbase was located. Louis, Carleton and the Franco American Association l'Aisne were fundamental in raising funds for the monument pictured above. It is dedicated to all the men of the 323<sup>rd</sup> Bomb Group who died for the liberation of France. Carleton spoke a few brief words during the ceremonies along with Roland Soyeux.



WWII Battlefield Tour



Nate Kline in conjunction with Specialty Tours of Pennsylvania did the European WWII Battle field tour. Nate was a Togglier with the 454<sup>th</sup> Squadron having completed 65 combat missions. Starting with the "Flying Legends Air Show" Duxford, England, they also hit Ike's Map room near Portsmouth. From there the tour went to Normandy, France, Holland, Belgium for the Battle of the Bulge and finally Germany for Dachau and the Eagles Nest. In the above Pictures above Nate can be seem paying his respects at the Netherlands American Cemetery in Margraten Netherlands.

## 323<sup>rd</sup> BG Combat Mission Covered in New Book



The 323<sup>rd</sup> BG mission to Lage, Germany on February 22, 1945 is the subject of a new book by Konrad Soppa titled “Luftangriffe auf Lage im Frühjahr 1945”. However as you can tell by the title unless you can read German, you are probably not going to run down to the nearest book store to get a copy. While the book is in German there is a nice two page English summary at the back of the book. Pictured on the cover is 43-34408 coded WT-D “I’ll Be Seeing You” from the 456<sup>th</sup> Squadron.

In March of 2014 I was contacted by Konrad asking me to help him do research for a book about the WWII bombing missions to Lage, Germany that he wanted to write. The book was released this past fall. Because Lage was

an important rail center it was placed on the 9<sup>th</sup> Air Forces target list for February 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> 1945 with the railroad station, a nearby road and bridge scheduled to be hit. However the mission was not very successful due to bad weather and equipment problems.

That’s about it for now.

Until next Time...

*Keep ‘em Flying*



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