

April 2011

GREETINGS TO EVERYONE

Wow, here we are preparing for our upcoming reunion already; this will be our 36th Annual Reunion which will be held in the twin city area of Minneapolis, Minnesota. We have received some great news - 455th BS and the 344th BG will be joining us this year. We are looking forward to seeing everyone once again as we have created some special friendships. Once again, our Directory already has some changes and additions, thank you to everyone with your input; with your assistance we can keep our directory current. We will continue to pass them along in our newsletters any and all up-dates for our directory. So, if you know of anything in our current directory that is incorrect please contact me preferably by email at kville93@cox.net or you can call me at 480-984-3676 and leave a voice message and I can return your call as soon as possible. Your email addresses are very important to us because it will enable us to provide you with instant information and reduce our operating costs too. All changes provided will be listed in our next Newsletter. Members, who do not have a 2010 directory and would like to have one please contact me at the email or phone number listed above.

Our Mail Bag News

Tom & Beth Blasé Tom underwent open heart surgery in August 2010 and retired from the Air Force on December 1, 2010. He is going to be participating in the AF

Academy Graduation Ceremony this summer. Their youngest son (Kyle), will be graduating Auburn University in May and reports to Sheppard AFB for Pilot Training. Our best wishes go out to Kyle with his training and Tom at the AF Academy Graduation Ceremonies. Oh, and their 9th grandchild is due to arrive in May.

Olga Amber – Wrote to us and sends us her love, she's doing OK and misses everyone. She has her grandchildren that help her out around the house and take her where she needs to go. She will not attend our reunion because she doesn't have a traveling companion, but she hopes we have a good time.

Frank & Delores Johnson – Sent a note thanking us for the card and letting us know that they can no longer drive to the reunions but, they are hoping their daughter will accompany (drive) them to Norfolk.

Lisa Izdepski – Sent us her regrets for not attending the Colorado Springs reunion but she is looking forward to seeing everyone in Norfolk.

George Spradling – Sends us his regrets, he will not attend Minneapolis due to distance and just can't get around very well anymore.

454th B.S. 36th Annual Reunion at Minneapolis, Minnesota

Here is the information and facts about our Reunion location, our Hotel we will be staying at this year is the Crown Plaza Hotel & Suites (formerly Holiday Inn Select & Suites). It is located just over a mile from Minneapolis International Airport with one floor designated for those who want a smoking room and the remainder of the Hotel is a non-smoking facility. They will provide free shuttle service from/to airport, Mall of America and if available other destinations within 1 mile of Hotel. Along with free parking for those who maybe driving or renting a vehicle during your visit. There is also a light rail system available just behind the Hotel. We also have major shopping and restaurants within 1 mile (Super Wal-Mart, Walgreen's and many others).

Schedule of Events

Minneapolis, MN Reunion - Tours, Events
(Register for the tours in advance – Tour Reservation Form)

St. Paul/Minneapolis Highlights Tour – Thurs, Sept 29th 11:30 – 4:30 \$37p

This tour includes a great sampling of both St Paul and Minneapolis. We'll visit sites such as Summit Avenue, its Victorian mansion including Governors Mansion, the Capitol building and Minnesota War Memorial on its front lawn, St Paul Cathedral, downtown Guthrie, and Landmark Center. In Minneapolis see Foshay tower, St Anthony locks, and Minnehaha Falls. This will be mostly a driving tour, narrated and with a few stops (bring an apple or a snack with you). A snack bar is at the Falls (Includes: Motor Coach, Driver, Professional Guide, Fees, Light Walking).

Minnetonka Lake Area Tour - Friday, Sept 30th 11:30-4:30p \$35p

On the tour, we will go to one of Minnesota's beautiful lake areas. For years, first the Minnetonka Indians, present days locals, and visitors go to the lake for its scenic marvels and get away activities. We'll first visit lake town of Excelsior, have time to get some lunch and walk some of it's downtown sites. When we get to the other side of the lake, the quaint town of Wazata will be our other stop, time for you to explore its' main streets and perhaps get an ice cream cone. (Includes: Motor coach, Driver, Tour Leader, Moderate Walking)

Special Dinner/Entertainment Evening - Friday, Sept 30th 5:30 – 8:30p \$39p

Tonight you will be attending a special dinner / entertainment event right in our hotel. You will enjoy a nice 3 course dinner followed by our special musical entertainment. It's convenient, and it's sure to be a good time for all. (Dinner, Entertainment, in the Hotel)

Saturday Oct 1st

9:30am Executive Board Meeting
10:00am Business Meeting
5:00pm Cocktail Hour / Cash Bar
6:00pm Farewell Dinner/Entertainment

Banquet / Farewell Dinner - Saturday, Oct 1st 5:00 – 9:00pm \$38p

After a relaxing day around our hotel, we have our grand finale event. Tonight we will have our traditional farewell for this reunion. The cocktail hour will start at 5:00pm (cocktails purchased at cash bar separately), and a nice (3 course meal, duet entrée meal) dinner will be a 6:00pm. A wonderful time to see all your friends, take some pictures, and say farewell till next year, it's sure to be a night to remember, see you there in your dress ups (Dinner event in Hotel).

9:00pm Banquet Room Closes
9:00pm – 12:00a.m. Hospitality Room Open

**The tours require minimum of 30 participants, fully refundable if minimum number not achieved; within 30 days only refundable if medical emergency; operators not responsible for delay, injury and/or cancel due to mechanical problems and/or "Acts of God" incidents and conditions.*

Registration Mail In Deadline Aug 25, 2011

**Mail to: 454th BSA C/O George Cornett 8250 E. Obispo Avenue Mesa, AZ 85212
Inquiries, George Cornett (480)-984-3676**

Name _____ Group _____ Unit _____
 Address _____ Name Tag Names _____
 Phone _____
 Wife's Name _____ Guest Name(s) _____
 Your arrival Date _____ Your departure Date _____

Your 2011 Minneapolis Program

\$10 Unit Registration Fee			\$10 x ____ = \$ ____
Minneapolis Highlights Tour*	Sept 29 rd	Thur	\$37 x ____ = \$ ____
Lake District Tour *	Sept 30 th	Fri	\$35 x ____ = \$ ____
Special Group Dinner	Sept 30 th	Fri	\$39 x ____ = \$ ____
Farwell Dinner Event	Oct 1st	Sat	\$38 x ____ = \$ ____

*See The Tour Description Details

Total _____ = _____

-OR-

All the above \$159 x ____ = _____

Your Total \$ _____

Note- No Registration Fee for members or guests who only attend the Banquet.

“Complimentary Hospitality Room For All”

Person Contact, Emergency

Name _____
 Phone _____

Your total amount enclosed \$ _____
 Make Checks to 454th BSA
 (Full Refunds, if cancel prior to reunion)

Free Airport Shuttle Service (Go to airport hotel call board #14, request pick up)
 You can call hotel direct at (952) 854-9000

Please complete attachment 2 and return.

**Hotel Accommodation Reservation – Minneapolis, MN 2011
(Crown Plaza – you can mail it in or call the hotel direct)**

**Main Dates, Sept 28 Wed -Oct 1 Sat (4 nights)
454th/455th/344th Air Force Reunion
Room Rate Avail, Sept 26 – Oct 3**

**Crown Plaza Hotel **
Attn: Nancy Solinger
3 Appletree Square
Minneapolis, MN 55425**

The following information needed to make a reservation - up to 4 in room same rate

Name _____
Address _____ # of persons in Room __ # beds, Rooms __
Phone _____ Check in, at 3pm Check Out, Noon
Name, if shared room _____ Rate \$89 per room + 14.28% taxes
Arrival Date _____ Depart Date _____ A First Night's Deposit Is Required
Credit Card # _____ Exp _____
** Signature _____
Parking at Hotel Free of Charge ** (if mail reservation in to hotel)
with convenient access to hotel lobby
(Complimentary Shuttle to Mall of America)

*** Hotel Reservation Cut Off Date (to secure \$89 Rate) is Sept 12, 2011
(If book by phone, call the hotel direct (952) 854-9000, ask for reservations)
(Be sure to mention Code AIR: 454th / 455th / 344th Air Force Reunion – Available Dates of Sept 26 to Oct3)**

If mailing, please complete attachment 1

Final Flights & Obituaries

It is always a sad time when we lose loved ones. These are some more 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 to all of them**

Roy F. Calabrese – of Newtown, formerly Tamaqua, died Friday, July 10, 2009 at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, he was 89. Roy was the husband of Irene (Hrubovcak) Calabrese and he was born in Calabria, Italy. He was the son of the late Joseph and Mary Calabrese. Roy was a World War II veteran, serving in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force. He worked as a postal employee in Newtown from 1962 to 1990, when he retired. Roy was a member of St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church in Newtown, and was affiliated with St. Katherine Drexel Roman Catholic Church in Lansford. In addition to his wife, he is survived by one son, Roy and his wife, Leslie, of Newtown: one brother, Francis and his wife, Mary, of Tamaqua; and three

sisters, Mary Durso of Hazelton, Theresa Dunkelberger of Tamaqua; and Josephine Hinkle and her husband, Francis, also of Tamaqua, and several nieces and nephews.

Steve Moore - Noah Stephen "Steve" Moore was born September 5, 1923 in Birmingham, Alabama. He passed away on October 21, 2010 at the age of 87. Steve entered the Army Air Corps at the age of 18, serving during World War II. He was a navigator/tail gunner on a B-26 and attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was truly proud to be an American and to serve his country. In 1949, he married Marilyn Jo Prince. He attended Samford University of Birmingham, Alabama graduating in 1949. He began work for Amoco Oil Company in 1950, and was employed there for 35 years, retiring in 1985. Steve enjoyed playing golf with his many friends at the Oaks Country Club. One of his most cherished partners was his son, Steve, Jr. He became president of the Oaks in 1999. He enjoyed woodworking, often making mementos for friends and family. His characteristic signature, "LBI" (Love Built In), appeared on all his pieces. Steve followed local, state, and national politics. Steve was also an avid gardener, supplying many with his homegrown vegetables. He was an active member of the Tulsa Men's Club and a loyal volunteer at Jenks Southeast Elementary School. Thursday's found Steve in the school cafeteria greeting the children and making sure they all had what they needed for lunch. He loved the children, and they loved him. He is survived in death by his beloved wife, Jo; his two children: his son, Noah Stephen Moore, Jr., of Houston, Texas and his wife Lorna; his daughter Marilyn Moore Livingston, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, and her husband Jamie. He had 4 grandchildren that were his pride and joy! Ann Livingston Hyncecek, Lee Stephen Livingston, Preston Moore, and Keely Moore. We will miss your quick wit, your sense of humor, your generosity, and your love of life.

Florence M. Lutz Feb. 25, 1919 – April 1, 2011 Florence M. Lutz, 92, of Bradenton, formerly of Boston, Mass. Passed away April 1, 2011. Survivors include her husband of 65 years, Robert, daughters, Patricia Blackman of Mansfield, MA, Virginia Peiler of Millis, MA; son, William of Cape Cod, MA and a host of grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Directory Updates:

We received the following changes since our November 2010 Newsletter. Please update your directory as follows:

Section 1 page 1 Replace old address and phone number

Old

Buffaloe, Kenneth
15972 Kensington Place
Dunfries, VA 22026
(703) 897-6189

New

Buffaloe, Kenneth
3109 Rocky Meadow Road SE
Owen Cross Roads, AL 35763-8803
(256) 533- 5027

bbuffaloe@bellsouth.net

Section 1 page 3- Replace old address

Old

Gerlach, Allen
1300 Beyer Drive
International Falls, MN. 56649-2559

New

Gerlach, Allen
309 Shorewood Drive
International Falls, MN. 56649-2144

Section 1 page 6- Replace old address

Old

McEwen, Thomas G.
855 Oxford Court
Dudelin, FL. 34698-6114

New

McEwen, Thomas G.
2848 Oaklawn Avenue Apt. B
Largo, FL. 33771-2586

Section 2 page 1- Add new

Old

NONE

New

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

jcandtheboys@charter.net
(Paul F. & Ruth) Cottingham

Section 2 page 3 – Revise email address

Old

Nance, J. Scott
scott@abjccpa.com (typo from last newsletter)

New

Nance, J. Scott
scott@abjcpa.com

Section 2 page 4- Replace old address

Old

Salazar, Rod
9392 Westumks Terrace
Seminole, FL. 33777

New

Salazar, Rod
9892 111th Street
Seminole, FL. 33772-2424

Section 1 page 7 – Replace old Address and phone number

Moore, N. Steve & Jo
9357 S. College Court
Tulsa, OK. 74137-3661
(918) 298-5551

Moore, Jo (+Steve)
3800 W 71st Street Apt 2210
Tulsa, OK. 74132-2117
(918) 388-3118

Missing Members

This is a section where we will list the names and addresses for newsletters mailed 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.

Ms. Geraldine Hawker
568 Glenwood Avenue
Ypsilanti, MI. 48198-6157

Ms. Marie Cary
3017 Madrid Ave. E.
Jacksonville, FL. 32217-2730

If you can assist with updated information it will be greatly appreciated.

Financial Report

Here is our financial report to date for 2010. We would like to thank everyone for their past contributions because that's what keeps us going strong with our organization. I'm sure our next report will be much longer because as the year continues so will our contributions and expenses.

Contributions Nov 15, 2010 – April 30, 2011

Name	Amount	Rcvd	Comments
Blasé, Tom & Beth	\$50.00	12/2/10	
Radlein, Robert M.	\$100.00	12/18/10	
Solon, John	\$110.00	12/13/10	For B-26 Plane from E-Bay
Garvin, David	\$110.00	12/13/10	For B-26 Plane from E-Bay
Izdepski, Lisa	\$100.00	2/1/11	
Johnson, Frank & Delores	\$50.00	3/8/11	
Argast, Joyce	\$35.00	3/21/11	323 BG CD

If there were contributions from last reunion to May 1, 2010 sent that are not posted please contact me (George Cornett) at below address or call me at 480-984-3676.

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

The below balance does not include postage, printing or envelopes for the April 2011 Newsletter mailing.

Balance as of Jan. 1, 2011	\$7,938.98
Contributions	\$185.00
Reunion Monies Rcvd.	\$0.00
Total Received	\$185.00
Expenses	\$0.00
Balance (As of April 30th)	\$8,123.98

Our Elected Officials

President _____ Brad Urey
1st Vice-President _____ Dan Richey
2nd Vice-President _____ Howard Cross
3rd Vice-President _____ Scott McEachin
Secretary/Treasurer _____ George Cornett
Historian _____ Roy Bozych
Sergeant-at-Arms _____ Michael "Buzz" Thompson
Previous President _____ Leo G. Fehlman

Notes Area



HISTORIAN'S HANGER

Roy Bozych - Squadron Historian



Spring 2011

The Return of RJ-S 41-35253 Mr. Shorty/Black Magic IV



Some of you will remember in your visits to England after the war that there was a museum on Earls Colne Airfield called the Rebel Air Museum. The centerpiece of this museum was the tail section of a B-26 Martin Marauder from the 323rd BG 454th Squadron. The serial number was 41-35253 called Mr. Shorty/Black

Magic IV its radio call sign was RJ-S. Also displayed was an incredibly detailed model of a 454th Squadron hardstand at Earls Colne airfield created by Steven Siviter.

The museum was originally started at Andrewsfield by Stan Brett in 1978 and run by volunteers to honor the memory of the men from the 322nd and 323rd Bomb Groups. When Stan passed in 1978 the museum was then moved from Andrewsfield to Earls Colne by his son David.



RJ-S first came to the 454th Squadron in the spring of 1944. On her first mission, June 12, 1944, she was flown by Lt. Howard Jenks to Cherisy, France. The target was a railroad bridge. By the end of WWII 41-35253 had completed 96 missions. Her last being to take out the German Me-262 air base located at Erding, Germany on April 25, 1945. The pilot for that mission was Lt. Dick Gray. This was

also the last WWII mission flown by the 323rd Bomb Group.

At wars end Mr. Shorty's fate was similar to that all of the other B-26 Marauders. On June 1, 1945 she was declared scrap and then flown off to the scrap yard, a sad ending for a very proud bird. However instead of being ferried to Landsberg, Germany to be cut up for scrap as most B-26s were, 41-35253 and other 323rd BG Marauders were flown to the 9th Air Force Service depot at Burtonwood, England.



There she lay for some years until finally being hauled off to the Warrington scrap yard. Mason Hise of the RAF Burtonwood Association was kind enough to supply us with the picture of RJ-S at the left cut up on the ground at Burtonwood.

Her remains were discovered at the scrap yard in Warrington England in 1974 by the Duxford Aviation Society. Duxford passed them on the Rebel Air Museum for display in the early 80's. Unfortunately by then, time, weather and the elements had taken their toll on RJ-S and the tail fuselage was the only salvageable section. She remained on display at the Rebel air Museum until the 90's when, unfortunately the museum ran into financial difficulties and had to close. At this point the aircraft vanishes until now.

This past February I had an e-mail forwarded to me from Andrew Boehley of the Marauder Historical Society. John Camp from the Boxted Airfield Historical Group had contacted him inquiring about 41-35253 RJ-S. The Boxted Historical Group is in the process of building a small museum at Boxted airfield and RJ-S is going to be on display there. Boxted airfield was home to the 386th Bomb Group from June 10, 1943 until September 24, 1943.

John and I started exchanging e-mails and I found out that when The Rebel Air Museum failed, ownership of RJ-S past on to the trustees of Marks Hall. The trustees then placed the tail section into storage. Marks Hall was an Elizabethan Manor house on the edge of Earls Colne airfield that was used as a headquarters building by both the 8th and the 9th Air Forces. It is now a beautiful gardens and arboretum. Sadly they were unable to save the manor house itself. It fell into disrepair after the war and was torn down in the 60's.

At the end of last year the Trustees of Marks Hall Estate agreed to loan RJ-S to the Boxted Historical Group for display at their museum. So on January 16th of this year the group traveled to Earls Colne and moved 41-35253 the 18 or so miles to Boxted Airfield. For those of you with computers, you can go to the website "YouTube" and see a video of them moving RJ-S. Do a search on "Marauder film by Richard". Here is the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gc84420LDjM>

I have been working with John Camp providing him with pictures and information about RJ-S that they are going to incorporate at part of their exhibit. If any of you have additional pictures or information about 41-35253 RJ-S Mr. Shorty/Black Magic IV

that you would like to share with them, please contact me and I will forward in on to John and the museum.

The Boxted Airfield Museum is going to have its grand opening this coming May the 29th at 11 am. Additional video and slide shows of them building the Boxted Museum can be found on the “YouTube” website. Just do a search on “Boxted Airfield Museum” You can also learn more about them by going to their website home page: www.boxted-airfield.com

Since Boxted Airfield was once home to a B-26 Marauder Bomb group the museum is very excited to be able to show this very unique piece of Marauder history. Other than the B-26 that is now on display at the Paris Air and Space Museum, 41-35253 RJ-S is believed to be the largest surviving piece of a B-26 Marauder in all of Europe. This is a very distinctive honor for not only the 454th Bomb Squadron but also the 323rd Bomb Group.

There is also a bit of irony in all of this. During WWII the 323rd BG was identified by a white bar on the top of its B-26 tails. The 386th BG was identified by a yellow bar on the top of its B-26 tails. Since most film and pictures taken during WWII were shot in black and white, the 386th BG was often misidentified as the 323rd BG because in the black and white pictures the yellow identifying bar came out looking white. So we got some photo credit for pictures that were shot of their missions. Now, over 65 years later where does the last surviving 323rd BG B-26 Marauder which ends up being displayed at, a 386th BG airbase! Who says fate doesn't have a sense of humor.

Earls Colne Train Station



I recently received another e-mail from the United Kingdom. This one was from Nick Ellis. Nick is with the Colne Valley Railway Preservation society. They were formed to preserve the section of the Colne Valley Railway that ran between Chappel and Wakes in Essex and Haverhill in Suffolk. They are now also in the process of establishing a museum. Their website is: www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk

They are keen to represent the part that the Colne Valley railroads and rail stations played in the war. They are looking for any pictures, recollections or information regarding the roles of the railroads and stations in moving men or war supplies into and

out of the Earls Colne area whether it was just for leave or part of the war effort. If you have anything you would like to share with the museum, please let me know.

WASP Gold Medal Revisited



Many of you are aware of a group of women who served as pilots during WWII. They were called The Women Airforce Service Pilots or their better known name of the WASPs. Formed in August of 1943, 1074 of them served in WWII. 38 of them made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed while serving their country. These were all ground breaking pioneers paving the way for future generations of women in aviation.

On July 1, 2009 President Obama signed into law Senate Bill 614 awarding all WWII WASP pilots the Congressional Gold Medal. This was a long overdue and highly deserved recognition for their service to our country during the time of war.

One of this countries highest awards, The Congressional Gold Medal is only awarded by two thirds vote of the House and Senate. On March 10, 2010 at an event attended by over 200 WWII WASP the medal was awarded to the group by Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Rep. John Boehner, Sen. Harry Reid and Sen. Mitch McConnell. It is a beautiful gold medal showing the WASPs and a T-45 on the front and a B-26, P-39 and T-45 plus a set of pilot's wings on the back.

What many of you are probably not aware of is a growing controversy that is currently brewing over one of the findings that was listed in Senate Bill 614.

One of the greatest problems any historian faces is revisionist history. Errors, some small some great start to creep into the historical record as time goes by. This is especially true in today's multimedia fast paced communications world of the internet and personal blogs. Anybody can post whatever they want to a website or blob and the facts are not always verified or contested.

This is what happened in the case of Senate Bill 614 that was signed into law on July 1, 2009. Section 1 of the bill lists 33 findings or accomplishments of the WASPs during the war. These are major facts and achievements accomplished by the group on which the gold medal is based. All of these facts are correct except for one, Finding #17. It reads and I quote: ***“(17) in October 1943, male pilots were refusing to fly the B-26 Martin Marauder (known as the ‘Widowmaker’) because of its fatality records,***

and General Arnold ordered WASP Director, Jacqueline Cochran, to select 25 WASP to be trained to fly the B-26 to prove to the male pilots that it was safe to fly;”

We know from history that by October 1943, B-26 Marauder units had already served with great distinction in the Pacific theaters of operations, providing a stop gap against Japanese forces in that area. In addition by October 1943 the Martin B-26 Marauder and her crews had proved and were proving to be very successful in the Mediterranean and European theatres of operation. If pilots were refusing to fly the B-26 then how by October 1943 had it acquired such an outstanding combat record? As I said earlier this is revisionist history. In this incident the revision was used to bolster the case for a gold medal. A totally unfounded assertion added to an already outstanding list of WASP accomplishments that spoke for itself many times over!

There is a movement afoot to have that finding removed from the record. Not to have the medal revoked mind you, everyone concurs that award is highly deserved and was long overdue in its coming, but just to have the historical record corrected. To some of you Veterans I'm sure the language of Finding # 17 is not that big a deal. It was just an overstatement in the exuberance of the moment. To some it will be. However I do not believe any group should have to promote themselves by denigrating another and when all is said and done it is after all still revisionist history.

Letters to the WASP Association have been written asking their help in correcting this matter but to date all have gone unanswered. Further information about what is being done or what you can do to correct it can be found on the B-26 website B26.COM. Here is the link to the information: <http://tinyurl.com/65sez5u>

French Legion of Honor Medal



Some time ago I wrote an article about the French government's decision to award the French Legion of Honor Medal to WWII Veterans. This medal is still available to any living U.S. WWII Veterans who helped to liberate France. Only 100 of these medals are given out each year in the U.S. The National Order of the Legion of Honor was started in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte in recognition of service to France.

Applications for the award are taken by one of the ten French Consulates that cover the area where you live; Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Houston, Los Angeles, Miami, New Orleans, New York, San

Francisco, or Washington D.C.. If you go to their website <http://ambafrance-us.org> there is a map that shows the states each consulate covers plus contact information. Applicants will need to submit written documentation which shows a campaign combat record in France during their war years. This would normally be a copy of your form 53-55 which is on the back of your discharge papers. They will also want copies of any awards or medals you received during the war. When submitting your paper work **DO NOT** send any original records, just copies. The whole process will probably take more then a year. During this time the records and paperwork are all sent back to France for review and approval. Some records have been lost while this process was ongoing. Also, keep in mind that just submitting the application doesn't necessarily mean you will be awarded the medal. There have been some Marauder Men who submitted applications and for whatever reason didn't receive the medal.

The Legion of Honor is always presented at a ceremony either at the regional French Consulate office or in France with the honoree and their family present. To date only four Marauder Men have received the medal. They were Even Cook – 397th BG 599th Sq, Phil Henderson – 323rd BG 454th Sq, Nathan Kline – 323rd BG 454th Sq and finally Ralph Waldrop – 320th BG 444th Sq. If any other Marauder Men have received this medal please advise me. The MHS is keeping a record of all who receive it.

We in the 323rd Bomb Group have reason to be very proud because two of those recipients are from the 454th Squadron, Phil Henderson and Nathan Kline.



Phil on the right in this picture received his medal this past summer on July 20th with his family present during a very nice ceremony that was held for him by his local VFW chapter in Michigan. Shown on the left in this picture with Phil is Even Cook from the 397th BG 599th Squadron. The picture was taken at MHS headquarters in Tucson Arizona where Phil spends his winters helping Andrew Boehley, the MHS Historian catalog the memorabilia, pictures and records that Marauder Men have sent into the MHS archives.

Born in Georgetown, Illinois Phil earned his pilots license in July of 1941. He enlisted in the Army Aviation Cadet program in the fall of 1942 and graduated in 1943 as a brand new 2nd Lieutenant. Next it was onto B-

26 Marauder training at Dodge City, Kansas. From there he picked up a new crew plus a shiny new B-26 Martin Marauder and headed for England and the war via the Northern Route. There he was assigned to our group and squadron. Phil completed 40 forty combat missions during the war before returning to the US in the summer of 1945. After the war Phil stayed active as a pilot in the US Air Force Reserve flying as a C-46 pilot flying out of O'Hare Airport. He retired from the Air Force in 1968 as a Lt. Colonel.

This was a richly deserved award for Phil, not only because of his outstanding war and Air Force record but also for all the hard work he has provided in organizing the 323rd BG records at the MHS archives!



Our second recipient of the National Order of the Legion of Honor is Nathan Kline. Raised in Allentown, Pennsylvania Nathan was attending Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania in 1942 when he felt the call of his country during wartime. Enlisting he was assigned to the Quartermaster Corps attached to the Army Air Corp as a clerk and sent off to England. This was due to the fact that his vision was only 20/40. However Nathan wanted to fly!

Undaunted, he started to bum rides out at the airfield on training missions with any pilot that would take him. Eventually due to the shortage of aircrew personnel Nathan was able to transfer into the 323rd BG 454th Squadron as a Toggler/Bombardier completing 65 combat missions and receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross in the process. After the war he stayed in the Air Force Reserve retiring as a Major.

Nathan, pictured above, was very lucky and received his medal on June 6, 2009 in Paris, France during the 65th anniversary commemorations for D-Day. The ceremony took place at Omaha Beach, present were President Obama, President Sarkozy of France, Prime Minister Brown of England, Prime Minister Harper of Canada, Prince Charles of England, Senator Dole and actor Tom Hanks. Needless to say, it was quite an impressive ceremony!

Once again, a hearty congratulation to both of our recipients! We are very proud of you as you should be of your accomplishments! Also special thanks go out to Diana Fowler and the MHS for providing us with the pictures of Phil Henderson and the National Order of the Legion of Honor

323rd BG Victory Film Project

Work continues on the 323rd BG documentary movie with Victory Film Productions. I have been working very closely with Lars Andersen and am every excited about what I have seen so far. We are hoping to have the project completed by the end of the year. Lars found some color film footage in the National Archives that I have never seen before. It was taken during the March 26, 1944 Revenge mission to Ijmuiden, Holland against the E-Boat pens. There are great color shots of 323rd BG aircraft in the air during the mission and on the ground afterwards. I am going to need some help in identifying some people and places in the film. I have attached some pictures to the end of the newsletter. If you can identify any of them please let me know.

Until next Time...

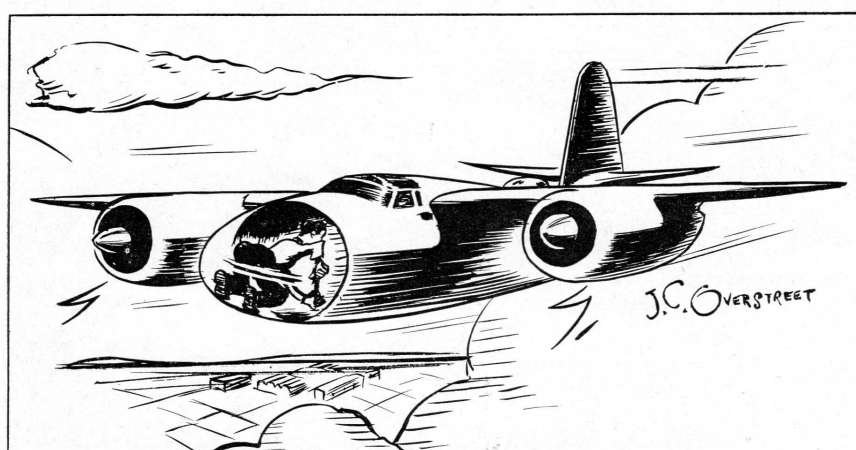
Keep 'em Flying



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"Wonder if the boss really meant this ship has to go today."

323rd Bomb Group Need To Know Pictures



These were taken all at the same airfield. Does anyone recognize it? Was this Earls Colne or another airfield in France?

We are unsure of the date they were taken.



Does anyone recognize this pilot? This picture was believed to have been taken on March 26, 1944 returning from the mission to Ijmuiden, Holland

Does anyone remember where on Earls Colne airfield this sign was located?

