

COTTONTALES

continued



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www.450thbg.com

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

EDITOR:

Brian Romano
wwii450thbg@yahoo.com

CO-EDITOR:

Mark Worthington
email4ufrom-cottontales@yahoo.ca

PRESIDENT:

Bill Conklin

VICE-PRESIDENT:

John Shlapak

SECRETARY-TREASURER:

Courtney Shanken

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A letter from the BRATS President

Hello everyone, I'm Nancy Rellihan, the fifth daughter of Arthur Myers, co-pilot of the Dave Weichman crew, 721st Squadron. My interest with the 450th began in 2003 when I found my Dad's letters home, and then found the 450th website. I attended the reunion in Oklahoma City and have been a member of the Association ever since. What started out as researching my Father's military history, turned out to be a passion to find out everything I could for every man that served so proudly with the Bomb Group. Each man has a story, each doing his part in history to ensure our freedom, and I've made it my "mission" to gather as much of their information can and preserve it for generations to come. I never would have imagined that this "mission" would be so rewarding and gratifying. Helping out anyone with research, finding buddies, posting pictures and information on the web is the best "job" I ever had. Please feel free to contact me and help me out on my mission, I promise it will be a "milk run" – PO Box 857 Liberty, MO 64068 email - nanzjean@aol.com I can not thank the veterans enough for their unselfish service to our country, and all the contributions and stories they have shared with us all. God bless you all, and keep em flying! Nancy Rellihan – BRATS President

Major William A. Miller - 723rd - Update

I would like to thank the following people for responding to our request about Major William A. Miller & "The Buelah" Crew.

- William Conklin - Sent a story & a picture of Major Miller.
- Robert Gernand - Called me & wants to write a story.
- Fred Uphoff - Sent a picture of Major Miller.
- Jim Vaughn - Sent us a story about Major Miller.

Thank you all so much. We will now be able to post these on the 450th website so this brave warrior will never be forgotten. Please contact us if you have anything additional.



William A. Miller

To The Family of Richard F. Kava – 722nd

I would like to say hello to Russell & Bea Barager. Bea is the sister of 2nd Lt. Richard F. Kava and Milwaukee was their 1st reunion. It was a pleasure to meet you both. Thanks for sharing your stories about your brother Richard.

A great big Thank You to Barbara Williams – CEO of Careington International and niece of Richard F. Kava. Barbara has decided to publish the next two issues of the Cottontales as a tribute to the 450th Bomb Group through Careington International.



Richard F. Kava

Please Remember that Donations to the 450th Bombardment Group (H) which is a Non-Profit 501 (c) Organization are Tax Deductible (see page 7)



Thanks for Responding to Our Requests

We received a great response for the last issue of the Cottontales.

John Stockton chatted with Nancy Jean for a good hour on his participation with the 885th Bomb Squadron Special. He was grateful for the article, since it was the first time he had ever seen anything ever mentioned in the Cottontales about the great service many of the 450th men provided by flying on these secret missions.

As soon as we posted the Cottontales on the website – we received an email all the way from Hungary on the identity of the crew of #34. Sandor Sarkady Jr, identified the men as the Irwing Weilert crew – Robert Smith, Dale Dobbs, Richard Lewis, Joseph Rizzo, Robert Herway, John Gardner, Victor Lumovich, Donald Grossman and Lorach Crapps.

Thanks so much to everyone who responded, your help & information is appreciated.

Crew/Plane #34 Has Been Identified



Irwing Weilert, Robert Smith, Dale Dobbs, Richard Lewis, Joseph Rizzo
Robert Herway, John Gardner, Victor Lumovich, Donald Grossman, Lorach Crapps

65th Anniversary - 450th Bomb Group Calendars for 2009 are Still Available

There is still a small amount of Calendars available. They will be sold first come, first serve.

In honor of the 65th year of the formation of the 450th Bomb Group we have put together a 2009 calendar. It features the nose art of 48 B-24's with the missions recorded on the day they were flown.

All proceeds will be donated to the 450th Bomb Group Memorial Association.

Please mail the following information along with your check made payable to **450th BG Memorial Association** and mail to: 450th BG Memorial Association, P.O. Box 857, Liberty, MO 64068.

2009 Calendar Quantity _____ @ 15.00 ea Name:
Address:



"Goin' to Kansas City, Kansas City here I come _____"

2009 450th BG Reunion – October 7-11, 2009
Kansas City, Missouri





Looking For Please Help Us

This section is for those who are looking for more information on a Veteran, Plane, Mission, Crash, Crew and anything else that you may be searching for.



I am a daughter of Lester F. Griner and wanted to know if anybody knew him at this time I could converse with.

Name: Sheri Swanson Email: srs1962@hotmail.com

I am looking for any pictures or descriptions of the nose art of "Marty, the Rubble Maker" My grandfather was Tsgt Gilbert W. Hatfield, flight engineer on this plane that was lost on May 12, 1944. This was the J. C. Word crew, 722nd squadron. I am building a new race bike for the Bonneville Salt Flats and I would like to dedicate it to my grandfather and crew of "Marty, the Rubble maker". My grandfather was stationed in Wendover Air Base (where the Salt Flats are located) when he met my grandmother. Any help would be appreciated.

Name: Randy Smith Email: randy@frsengineering.com

Greetings to all. My name is Gordon Reade. I am the son of S/Sgt. Rodman Z. Reade. My father (who passed away in 1994) was a Cottontail and a member of the 722nd. He was a Radio Operator and Waist Gunner on a B-24 & survived 51 missions. I'm trying to find out as much as I can about the 450th B-24 "Stinky's Siren" S/N 42-52085. I found something called an MACR report but the quality of the copy was too poor for me to read. What does "MACR stand for anyway? I also came across the reference to the aircraft, "52085 (450th BG) lost Jul 13, 1944 Giurgiu mission. MACR 6764. 1 KIA, 3 POW, 5 unknown." Is that to say that it was shot down? It was my father aircraft but dad returned to the States in June 1944, one month before it was apparently lost. Any help you could give me would be much appreciated.

Name: Gordon Reade Email: reade@stanford.edu



We would like to thank the
128th Air Refueling Wing – Milwaukee
Wisconsin Air National Guard
for attending our Memorial Service at
our 65th Anniversary 450th BG Reunion
In Milwaukee, WI on 09/27/08



60th Anniversary 450th BG (H) Plate – Found in Crystal Beach, Texas

The 450th BG Website received the following e-mail on October 09, 2008.

Hello,
I was recently down at Crystal Beach Texas trying to help my friend find what was left of her beach cabin after Hurricane Ike. I found a beautiful blue 60th Anniversary plate of the 450th Bombardment Group (H) buried in the sand next to the road. I was in a dilemma about what to do because if someone wanted to try to find it, I wanted it to be there for them. However, with all of the heavy machinery, utility trucks, etc down there for cleanup, I was afraid it would get broken so I brought it home. Is there any way you could send a note to your members in the hopes to try to find the owner of this plate? I know it means something to someone.

Thanks,
Marian

If anyone knows who the owner of the Anniversary Plate is, please contact us at email4ufrom-cottontales@yahoo.ca or write us at 450th BG Memorial Association c/o Nancy Rellihan, P.O. Box 857, Liberty, MO 64068

In Memory of Floyd P. Perkins (1922 – 2008)

Floyd P. Perkins, 450th Association Membership Director for many years who was a sheet metal worker on the B-24's of the 721st Squadron of Milford, MI, passed away Sunday, November 23, 2008, at South Lyon Gardens Nursing Home. He was born August 20, 1922, in Detroit, the son of Floyd S. and Ada Van Ostrand Perkins. He is survived by his wife Janet, son Geoff, daughter Mary Lou, daughter-in-law JoAnn, five grandchildren: Kristin, Angie, Eric, Lesley and Dale and seven great grandchildren: Maxwell, Natalie Madeline, Ryan, Dylan, Floyd, and Cole. He is also survived by his sister Lois, brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and eldest son, Floyd. Please go to the link below and read a full obituary.

<http://obit.cremationmichigan.com/obitdisplay.html?id=606988&listing=Found>



“They Gave Their Lives To Save Our Village – Maiden America”

I received the following story about the 450th BG - “Maiden America” through an e-mail

Dear members and friends of the 450th Bombardment Group Association,



“They gave their life to save our village” says the inscription on that simple stone standing alone under a small tree just outside the town of Wuerenlingen, Switzerland.

That's where the B-24G "Maiden America" (42-78356) of the 723rd Squadron crashed on December 25, 1944. After a raid against a supply depot in Innsbruck, Austria, "Maiden America" was on its way back, severely damaged after being hit by flak over the target. With two engines on fire pilot 1st Lt Vincent F. Fagan tried to reach the airport in Basel, Switzerland. Due to fog the crew headed for the airfield in Duebendorf, a town near Zurich. In the Wuerenlingen area Swiss flak – for unknown reasons - opened fire against the crippled bomber. The crew was unable to lower the landing gear and was afraid of shooting flares because gasoline was leaking out of the damaged tanks. After the B-24 got a direct hit, pilot Fagan ordered the crew to bail out. Then he increased the power of the two remaining engines. Doing so, he avoided that the aircraft crashed right into the village.

After leaving the bomber, navigator 2nd Lt Martin A. Homistek's chute got caught by one of the horizontal stabilizers. Left waist gunner Sgt Ralph L. Coulson didn't leave his position. Both crew members were killed when the aircraft hit the ground. Co-pilot 2nd Lt Nicholas MacKoul came down on the nearby "Aare" river and drowned in the ice cold water. The rest of the crew landed safely.

Today, only this small memorial reminds us of this war tragedy from 64 years ago. On the internet I've noticed that the 450th BG celebrates its 65th anniversary and its reunion. That's why I visited the memorial recently, placed a small American flag and took a few pictures for you.

Though I don't know if 1st Lt Fagan and his fellow crew members of "Maiden America" are still alive today, I'd like to give them or their families an impression of how the site (built in 1965) looks today. But above all I'd like to express my deep respect for the brave crew. Trying desperately to find a safe place to land, they were shot down by flak in neutral Switzerland! I really wonder what made those Swiss soldiers shoot at a heavily damaged US-bomber.....



Unfortunately only few people know about that site and the sad story behind it. In these days, the U.S. government is criticized often around here, especially due to the military engagement in Iraq and elsewhere. No matter which opinion people have about this issue, they should never forget one thing: Whether in the skies over Europe or on the beaches of Normandy, there were hundreds of thousands of brave young Americans like 1st Lt Fagan and his crew fighting to liberate Europe.

And memorial sites like the one in peaceful Wuerenlingen should remind further generations like mine that so many of those young guys gave their lives in those days – for the peace that we're living in to this day and for our freedom.

This, dear members of the 450th BG Association, is my small and very personal part of saying thank you. May god bless you.

Seon/Switzerland, August 12, 2008.
Bernhard Graser





“They Gave Their Lives To Save Our Village – Maiden America” (contd)



The Monument as it exists today



The former crash site, looking from North to South



A view over the landscape around the former crash site. Notice the Black Forest mountains (Germany) at the horizon.



The crash site on December 25, 1944,

Thank You For Remembering The 450th BG On Their 65th Anniversary

Dear Bernhard,

Wow! I am so thrilled that you have written me. It is an honor and privilege to read your story. It is nice to know that people like yourself are still interested in keeping these stories alive and honoring those men who made sacrifices. I would be honored to publish this story and pictures in our newsletter The Cottontales.

I would also like to invite any veterans, family members or anyone else to contact me if they have more information. If anyone does contact me, I will definitely let you know and pass all information on to you.

In closing, again I want to Thank You so much for being interested in this and being so thoughtful about the fact that there are families here in the US that may want to know about this. I personally had no idea that there was a Memorial there in Switzerland at the crashsite for “Maiden America”. I am sure that there are many more of these Memorials scattered throughout Switzerland and Europe.

Best Regards,

Brian Romano – Editor Cottontales

wwii450thbg@yahoo.com



450th BG Association Board of Directors Meeting – September 26, 2008

**Board of Directors Meeting
September 26, 2008**

**450th Bomb Group Association
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, WI**

Meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by our Vice President John Shlapak as James Strickland could not attend our reunion.

Present at the meeting were John Shlapak, Courtney Shanken, Bill Conklin, Norman Kanel, Al Goodman, Paul Versch, Howie Ehrenman, and Leroy Hardman. Guests were Nancy Jean Rellihan, Mike Moramarco and son.

Motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they appeared in the newsletter was passed. Treasury report was passed out so the Board could see what is happening (see attachment).

Reunion report-Al Goodman let us know that 46 veterans were here and approximately 100 guests. Last minute cancellations were causing a problem as he had to guarantee certain amounts. He was not sure if we could make refunds. Al presented a breakdown of all the costs underwriting the reunion. It added up to \$16,000 which was about on target. Next year he was planning on Kansas City-9/23-9/27.

Floyd Perkins said he would send in a report, but Nancy Rellihan said we had 664 members compared to last year's 684. Here is the breakdown-

Membership Report: Annual Members 278, Life Members 136, Annual Patrons 167, Life Patrons 83

Motions passed - Howie Ehrenman's motion to put in our dues notice a fund raising request as donations to our association are tax deductible was unanimously passed. Courtney Shanken's motion to amend our constitution was accepted. When our association dissolves our funds in the treasury will be turned over to the BRATS with the understanding that when they dissolve the funds go to an Air Museum.

Nominating chairman - John Shlapak presented the following state of affairs:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| President - Bill Conklin | Vice President - John Shlapak |
| Membership Treasurer - Floyd Perkins | Secretary/Treasurer - Courtney Shanken |
| Reunion director - Al Goodman | Membership - Sam Stein |
| Historian - Jim Strickland | Director - Norm Kanel |
| Director - Howie Ehenman | Alternate directors - Leroy Hardman & Paul Versch |

The last 2 motions have to be ratified by our members at their business meeting. Final discussion was about if ill health prevents us from doing our job should we resign and let someone else take over. However, it is up to the individual to decide. Meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Treasury Report - 8/31/07 balance \$27348.93

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| <u>Income:</u> | | <u>Expenses:</u> | |
| Dues | \$5,470.00 | Donations | \$ 500.00 |
| Interest | \$ 403.36 | Reunion | \$11,397.64 |
| | Total Income \$5,873.36 | Insurance | \$ 150.00 |
| | | Newsletters | \$ 1,224.57 |
| | | Administration | \$ 1,417.51 |
| | | Total Expenses | \$14,489.72 |
| Balance | \$18,531.57 | | |

Banking statement as of August 31st-no activity in August
Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Shanken



450th BG Association Business Meeting – September 27, 2008

**Business Meeting
September 27, 2008**

**450th Bomb Group Association
Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, WI**

Once again Al Goodman arranged a memorial service before the business meeting. The 128th Air Refueling Wing served as color guard.

In the absence of Jim Strickland, John Shlapak called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

Reading of the minutes was dispensed with as they appeared in the newsletter.

First order of business was the election of the new Board for the next 2 years. Unanimously elected. Motion to amend our constitution was ratified. See minutes of the Board.

Bill Conklin let us know he was honored to become our president and would do his best. Courtney Shanken reported that our treasury had dropped from \$21,000 down to \$18,000 and with preliminary Costs of this reunion we would no longer be able to underwrite our reunions. See Board minutes for a detailed Treasury and membership reports.

Al Goodman let us know that next year we will be meeting in Kansas City (10/07-10/11). Registration for Veterans will be raised to \$20 and guests \$10. He also said he had a letter from the General at the Air Force Academy. His daughter eloquently read the letter at dinner that night.

The good news because donations to our group are tax deductible, we are getting checks from our members. In fact when the dues notices go out we are going to ask for contributions.

Norm Kanel entertained us with some songs. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Brian Romano and Nancy Rellihan were introduced as the backbone of the BRATS and thanked for their hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
Courtney Shanken

Please Remember that Donations to the 450th Bombardment Group(H)
which is a Non-Profit 501(c) Organization are Tax Deductible

Checks can be mailed to : 450th Bombardment Group(H)
c/o Courtney Shanken
331 Aspen Lane
Highland Park, IL 60035



www.450thbg.com – The BRATS Continue As A Presence on the Web

If you have a story and/or photograph that you would like published in a future issue of the Cottontales, please let us know. We are new at this newsletter game, so we will gladly accept all the help we can get from you Cottontails! This is your newsletter. By contributing your stories; you help us to deliver what it is you want. Any family or friends of veterans may also contribute.

***Mail your stories, suggestions, photos, etc. to
450th BG Memorial Association c/o Nancy Rellihan, P.O. Box 857, Liberty, MO 64068***

Below are some compliments we have received about the 450th BG Website www.450thbg.com

- ◆ This is an outstanding source of information. Please continue your endeavor.
- ◆ I flew with Walter Skuby on numerous Aeroflot aircraft as his navigator. We were a safety of flight escort crew as in that era (late 50's and 60's) the Russian aircraft did not have equipment compatible with our systems (VOR, IFF). Walter is a terrific person and your site introduced me to his background during WW II. Thanks.
- ◆ Thank you all for this wonderful site. I never knew much about my biological grandfather's time in WWII (Bernard Gourlay, died on the Margie, 4-12-44). This site has been invaluable in learning more. This stands as a fitting tribute to some of the brave men and women who brought us through our darkest hour.
- ◆ I just stumbled on this site and found my Dad's photo. What a delight! I can't wait to show him this website. Thanks to all who contributed to make it possible.
- ◆ Good site. Interesting to someone who was in 15th Photo Squadron in Bari working directly with 15th Air Force with our lab in the basement of the building.

◆ These can all be found in the Guestbook on www.450thbg.com

Who Completed The Most Tours of Duty ? Who Completed The Most Missions In A Heavy Bomber ?

Good Evening,

We are the children of Captain Albert Kahan who served as both pilot and co pilot of the Toni Gayle (722nd) during his time in Manduria. Although we have always known of some of the details of his career it is only recently that we have learned of the true extent of his heroism and accomplishments. We and our family are extremely proud of our father and would like to honor him in some way by updating his information on this site.

Briefly, Captain Kahan completed 50 missions in the European Theater during his first tour of duty. After the death of his brother Captain Moe Kahan (723rd), Albert returned to active duty and completed an additional 33 missions during his second tour. He was honorably discharged at the end of the war after having received a full commission in the Army Air Corps in 1946. Additionally, his commendations include the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 8 OLCS, Victory Medal, European Theater of Operations Medal with 8 battle stars, Presidential Unit Citation and American Theater Ribbon.

Could you please advise as to the best way to proceed with updating his information.

Thank you for your attention. Sincerely - Jack Accardi Jr.

Many of the 450th members and other AAF vets who have spoken to him at group meetings have suggested that they knew of no one that may have completed two full tours of 83 missions in a heavy bomber. Would you know how we might be able to verify that information and would it be significant?

Please contact the Cottontales Newsletter if you would like more information about this story above.

Please Tell Us Your Story, Who You Flew With, What Squadron You Were In, What Medals, Commendations, Citations, Ribbons etc. That You Received. We Also Would Like Copies Of Pictures



Continuing Search For “No No Nannette” – Crashed on Isle of Vis in OCT-44

We are currently seeking missing records or any information on two B-24 planes:

| S/N | Plane | Pilot | Co-Pilot | Crash Date | Sqd | Crash Site |
|-----|----------------|---|----------------------|------------|-------------------|--|
| ??? | No No Nannette | Cpt. John Paul Jones Jr. 1 st Lt. Roger A. Kent | Lt. Andy J. Benedict | Oct -44 | 723 rd | Island of Vis (Off the Dalmatian Coast) |
| ??? | Unknown | Cpt. John Paul Jones Jr. 1 st Lt. Roger A. Kent | Lt. Andy J. Benedict | Aug-44 | 723 rd | Capodichino, Italy |

1st Lt. James W. Salisbury Jr. – Navigator

2nd Lt. Andy J. Benedict – Co-Pilot

Sgt. Robert F. Tracy – Tail Gunner

Sgt. James T. Broucher – Ball Gunner

T/Sgt. Sylvester N. Burgoon – Radio Operator

Cpt. John Paul Jones Jr. – Pilot

1st Lt. George J. Caselli – Bombardier

Sgt. William R. Swayze – Waist Gunner

S/Sgt. Ernest J. Pellington – Engineer/Top Turret

Unidentified Crewman

I have a request for the readers of this newsletter/website. I'm in search of Missing Records . . . I flew as the co-pilot on the Capt. John Paul Jones, Jr. crew. After he was wounded, the crew was taken over by 1st Lt. Roger A. Kent.

We were with the 723rd Sqd. During our time in Manduria, we suffered two crashes. One happened at Capodichino, Italy (8-44) and the other on the Island of Vis, off the Dalmatian Coast (10-44). There is NO official record of the disposition of the two incidents. I am hoping that some member of the maintenance crew or a ground crew chief of the 723rd kept a log of the B-24s in his charge, and noticed the absence of two planes upon mission return. I don't know the S/Ns of either plane, but the name of the Vis B-24 was “No,No Nanette”. Any information of the planes and/or crew would be genuinely welcomed.

Respectfully,

Andy J. Benedict. E-mail: ajbdad11@aol.com

Searching For Information on Lt. Inglett – 720th Squadron

On August 29, 1944 my father, T/Sgt John Ciborski (flight engineer/gunner, 720th Bomb Squadron) had to bail out when his plane took heavy flak damage. I am trying to find out more details about this plane and crew.

The last three digits of the plane's serial number were 378 but I don't know the full number. I would also like to know if the plane had a nickname and nose art. The pilot was Lt. Inglett, but I don't know any other crew names. This was not my father's original crew (he was part of Lt. Homer Smith's “Babe in Arms” crew).

When the plane was hit they were on a mission against the Po River railroad bridge in northern Italy. After being hit the crew threw as much out as possible but they were losing altitude and ordered to bail out. All but two bailed out, including my father. He hurt his back badly when he hit the ground and several others suffered sprained ankles. Meanwhile, Lt. Inglett somehow crash-landed the plane with one other crewmember aboard. Fortunately, everybody survived.

As my father was floating earthward, he could see ground forces but didn't know if they were friend or foe. Fortunately, he landed 100-yards from Polish Army headquarters with the Allied forces. The Allies had just captured this area within the previous 24-hours! The Polish troops picked up the crew and my father put his ability to speak Polish to good use so they were well taken care of and transported back to Manduria.

My father finished his 50 missions and rotated back to the States. I don't know what happened to the rest of the crew on this plane. Can anybody provide any more information?

Thank you.

Jim Ciborski E-mail: email4ufrom-cottontales@yahoo.ca

KEEP 'EM FLYING





The City Tour in Milwaukee To Remember – A Story by Jim Vaughn

So many interesting and unusual things occur on our annual 450th BG Reunions. This one, our 65th Anniversary, is one that merits the telling of unusual things on our City Tour of Milwaukee. Suffice to say it was a tour we will long remember.

So here is the rest of my story. But first I must sort of tell you something well known to many of you 450th guys (and gals).

I'm Jim Vaughn of the 723rd Squadron, engineer – top turret gunner of Leland Henderson's crew and aircraft "Judy Lee". Somehow, Bobby Hahn & myself were awakened February 22nd, 1944 and informed that we were volunteers on Sigurd Nilsson's crew – "Gremlin Gus". I tried to ignore the person trying to wake me up. I told him I was no volunteer and scheduled for rest camp on the Isle of Capri. He ignored my plea and told me in no uncertain terms to get my a** up and prep for the days mission.

That turned out to be our first mission into Germany, target Regensburg. The rest of the story can be found on our website titled "My Story".

Now to our reunion and the City Tour of Milwaukee. By the time about 1:00 P.M. we were treated to a visit to a great restaurant named "Old Town" serving Serbian Specialties. Soon we were seated and were offered choices of Serbian food. I chose Goulash since it sounded like I could handle it (it was great – delicious). ☺

While there I asked one of the great waitresses if I could speak to the owner as I had a story for him. Soon, I was introduced to the owner, Alexander Redmilla. We shook hands and I briefly told him of my story of escaping in Yugoslavia with the aid of Tito's Partisans. He then recounted his story of being one of the people helping rescue downed airmen. He told me that he helped three airmen to be rescued by him and his group of young people helping downed aircrews.

Further, he told me he was captured by the Germans and spent several years in their prison camps, being mistreated for helping rescue of downed airmen. He bared his arm and showed me a scar reaching from his wrist to his face and to his nose ripped open. Yet today the scar was very visible. At wars end, he spent time in England and finally coming to the U.S. and to Milwaukee. Evidently there is much more to his story but that will have to be researched by someone if he chooses to tell his life story, someone conversant with the Slavic language. He does speak English (in a somewhat limited way).

We talked animatedly till the time to leave. I then asked him to take a picture with me. So we stood in front of a history display he had developed over the years. My son Bob then took a couple of pictures and we bid each other goodbye. There is more to this amazing story! When taking the picture, son Bob noticed a large picture of Alexander Radmila and a full face photo of and AF Academy graduate.

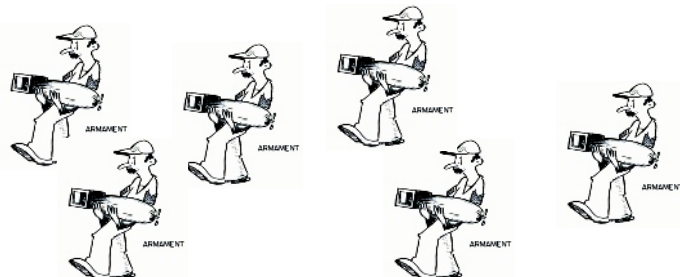
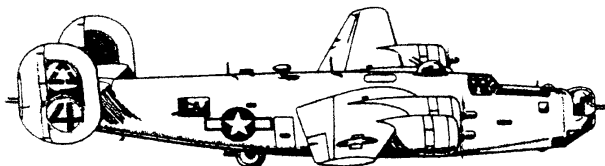
Bob got excited saying "Dad, I know about the guy in the photo. He was an F-4 Phantom pilot in South East Asia during the Vietnam conflict. He was shot down on a trip "up north" (Hanoi) and, bailing out, was captured by the North Vietnamese. He was wounded, still managed to escape and was later again captured and, still wounded, managed to escape again. Badly wounded, he was again captured dying in prison.

That pilot, name not known to me was one of two Air Force people awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam debacle.

Bob, an AF Academy graduate, class of 1976, attending his 25th graduation reunion was present when one of the Academy buildings was named for that distinguished graduate. I will get with Bob and try to get the story of that great pilot.

Note: Bob was at our 65th anniversary reunion here in Milwaukee and had to leave early Friday morning for a wedding in the Atlanta Georgia area. Fortunately, our daughter Sherry flew in from Georgia that same Friday and will be with us till Sunday brunch and tearful hugs and good-byes. Enough for now - - - - - Jim Vaughn

Here is the restaurant name : Old Town Serbian Gourmet House
522 Lincoln Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53207





TAPS

Slowly



| | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Samuel E. Alexander - 720 | Neal F. Coulter - 720 | Richard C. Hogan Jr. - 720 | Robert S. Ogozalek - 720 |
| Delmar B. Baker - 720 | William C. Dudley - 720 | Raleigh King Jr. - 723 | Floyd P. Perkins Jr. - 721 |
| Paul W. Boettcher - 722 | Russell Durham - 721 | Harry W. Kirkwood - 720 | Ralph L. Poffinberger - 722 |
| Edmund D. Boles - 722 | Charles Findeisen - 720 | Donald J. Kishman - 720 | John E Rindosh - 721 |
| Earl E. Boren Jr. - 720 | Sgt. Fueger | Harry T Knapp - 721 | Irving Smirnoff - 721 |
| Wade L. Brewster - 720 | Roger W. Goodson - 721 | Fred H. Koster - 721 | Jerome E. Stewart - 723 |
| Joseph R. Bury - 721 | George D. Harrison Jr. - 722 | Arthur E. LeBlanc - 721 | Dana V. Varvil - 720 |
| Grant C. Caywood - 720 | Allen C. Hart - 722 | Francis M. LenHart - 723 | Winston C. Watson - 720 |
| William P. Correia - 720 | John H. Hitzel - 721 | Matthew C. Nachajko - 723 | |

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED WITH THE
 450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 ITALY 1943-1945-WORLD WAR II



SQUADRONS
 720TH-721ST-722ND-723RD
 "THE COTTONTAILS"

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS
 REGENSBURG-FEB 25TH 1944 PLOESTI-APRIL 5TH 1944

1505 MEN OF THE 450TH BOMB GROUP WERE
 KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION



TARGETS OF THE 450TH BOMB GROUP

- MOSTAR . ZARA . SKOPOLE . PERUGIA . PRATO
- OSSOPO . AREZZO . PISA . PERUGIA . GUIDONIA
- PRATO . AREZZO . ROME . SOFIA . FERRARA .
- ISTRES . SIENA . UDINE . AVIANO . TOULON .
- CONTASSIEVE . VITERBO . ANZIO BEACHEAD .
- PONTASSIE . VALMONTONE . VERONA . STYER .
- CAROCETO . REGENSBURG . CERTALDO .
- VITERO . SCHWECHAT . LAVARIANO . GRATZ .
- MESTRA . BOLZANO . BUDAPEST . PLOESTI .
- BUCHAREST . MESTRA . WEINER-NEUSTADT .
- VARESE . ORBETELLO . ALLESANDRIA . BROSOV
- ... SAM STEPHANO . PIACENZA . VICENZA . PORT
- SAN STEFANO . SPEZIA . LATISANO . POROTO
- MARGHERE . GRATAFERRATA . MARSEILLE .
- NICE . EBREICHSORF . SIMERIA . CASTLE-MA
- GIOREOBERPFENNENHOFEN . TRIESTE . GENOA
- ... CONSTANATO . MUNICH . OSUCK . ZAGREB .
- BRATISLAVA . GIURGIN . PITESTI . CASARCA .
- MARKERSDORF . NEUAUBING . HORSCHING .
- BRESCIA . BERATIKUCOVE . MARESRSORF .
- TARGOVISTE . ORA . ALIBUNAR . SOUTHERN
- FRANCE . SAVONIA . VIENNA/LOBAU . TRENTO .
- VOSENDORF . VINKOVCI . GIURGIN . MISKOLC .
- KRAJEVO . LESKOVAC . NIS . LORISSA . NOVI
- SAD . MALACKY . LARISSA . ATHENS . PEDUA .
- BRENNER PASS . BOLOGNA . BANHIDA . KLAGE
- NFURT . ST. VALENTIN . PODGORICA . NOVI
- PAZAR . BLACHHAMMER . ISSNBUCK . SIENICA .
- AVAINO . DOBOJ . BROD/SAVA . STRASZHOFF .
- LINZ . SPRON . ROSENHEIM . WELS . SALSBURG .
- ADIGE/ORA . BRONZOLO . BRENNERO . ISARCO /
- ALBES . OPERATION BUCKLAND . MAIRHOF .
- SAN AMBROGIA . CHEB . ST POLTEN . CASARSA .



720th 721st 722nd 723rd



450TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 857
Liberty, MO 64068



Address Correction Requested



TO:

450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
15TH ARMY AIR FORCE
MANDURIA, ITALY
1943 - 1945



“THE COTTONTAILS”

