



# CERIGNOLA CONNECTION

*455th Bomb Group Association Newsletter*

Winter 1992

*Season's Greeting's*

## **REUNION '93!**

Mark your calendar for October, 1993 and plan to attend the 455th Bomb Group reunion to be held at Norfolk and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia. This will commemorate our 50th anniversary where we came together as a Group at Langley for assignment of personnel, training and equipping prior to embarking on the long trip to Italy to fly combat. It is where the character of our Group started to form, especially with the ground support personnel. Our programs at the reunion will feature the ground support personnel, especially the enlisted men who did so much to make up an outstanding Group for flying combat. The Air Force at Langley has agreed to support us during a memorial service there where we will install a plaque to commemorate our 50th anniversary and as a memorial to those who paid the ultimate price for victory with their lives. The enlisted men will be featured at our banquet as well as at the services at Langley.

Those of us who flew the airplanes greatly admire the ground support personnel. You made the long journey overseas in crowded liberty ships during very rough seas and the submarine menace. You remained overseas under difficult living and working conditions throughout the war while the combat crews could return home after completing their combat missions. You became a close-knit organization dedicated to excellence in keeping airplanes ready for combat and performing the supporting functions of organization and administration, medical, ground transportation, facility maintenance, food and special services, intelli-

gence and operations.

The planning for our reunion is well underway. Louie Hansen, Al Asch and I visited Norfolk and Langley to make preparations for supporting our reunion. In addition to the dedication services at Langley, our banquet and maintaining a hospitality room, planning is going forward for trips to Colonial Williamsburg/Overview of Yorktown; Langley Air Force Base, including lunch, Air and Space Museum and a ride through Fort Monroe; and Naval Base tour (the largest naval base in the world), lunch at the base and ship's tour. There are other things of interest such as General MacArthur Center, unique shopping bazaar, historic buildings and the water front where one can walk in a park-like setting and enjoy seeing the ships in the harbor, cruise ships and other activities, all within walking distance of each other. Virginia Beach is a relatively short distance from Norfolk. These activities will be at your own choosing.

Louie Hansen, our fine Executive Director, will be sending you a packet of more detailed information and forms for attending the reunion. Let's make this a good one, everybody attend to see old friends and buddies from WWII to commemorate our 50th anniversary.

*Hugh Graff, President*

# War Stories

Our Association is planning a publication we choose to call "War Stories" to be submitted by our members. As you know, we have published a hard bound history book of the war activities of the 455th Bomb Group. Many of you provided information for its publication. Since then, we have received letters from our members expressing concern that their experiences were not included. Now is our chance to correct this.

The "War Stories" book will be paper back and rather inexpensive to publish. It will contain the stories you send us with little or no changes except for some editing. We want stories from the ground (combat support) personnel as well as from the flight crews. We encourage stories about the boat trip; loading the aircraft with bombs, ammunition and fuel; maintaining the airplanes in inclement weather with very little group support equipment; tent life; scrounging spare parts and creature comfort items; unique happenings in administration, special services and medical care; preparation of mission briefings; funny stories about rest camps and going to town; and other stories you consider appropriate. In doing this, we will have a more complete history of our Group and it will be something we can leave that touches the personal lives of our members who served in Italy. In addition, the wives are encouraged to submit articles about their experiences during the war years trying to be with their husbands, keeping the family together while their husbands were overseas, and putting up with rationing and shortages of housing and transportation.

Stories from air crews are included in our history book and we expect many will be republished in their original form for the "War Stories." However, additional crew stories are encouraged.

The authors' names will be included in the final publication as the contributor and we encourage you to include names of those within the text who helped make the stories. Please send your stories to Al Asch, 6205 Meadow Court, Rockville, Md 20852. Tele: 301 881 1376.

*Al Asch, Historian*

## Tie a string around your finger to remember to send in your dues!

Dues are due November 1, 1992 for the year 1993. We do not send out a reminder billing, saving the expense of a mailing and thus use the Cerignola Connection as the medium to get this message out to you. It's only \$15. For this you get not only an honored membership, but all informational mailings, reunion information and attendance, plus all copies of the Cerignola Connection. If you didn't send your check to Louie Hansen, P. P. Box 6125, Spencer, Iowa, 51301,— do so today.



### Rub-A-Dub-Dub!

Three unidentified members of the 742nd Bombardment Squadron clean up in an "open air aqueduct spa" in southern Italy. (Picture submitted by Joe Hachey.)

# Bits and Pieces

## Midair

I would like to take a minute to tell you about a strange thing which occurred seconds after the collision between the Lundwall and Pidcock aircraft 3/19/44. We were flying some distance behind the two aircraft and I did not see the actual collision, only the debris seconds later. After I had done my best to avoid the debris and leveled out again, the wing of one of the aircraft appeared off our left wing tip, as I recall about 3-4 spans out. The entire fuselage was completely gone but the engines appeared to be running normally and the wing was staying abreast of us. After what I recall as several seconds, the wing peeled off to the left and down and disappeared from view.

Aerodynamically and otherwise, I guess this couldn't happen but it did. Later, back at the base, I was surprised that none of my crew, nor apparently anyone else, had seen this.

*(Submitted by Bill Arnold)*

## Did You Know?

Cerignola was the site of the first battle in the Western World with firearms. (guns and cannons) (1500-1510) This was between the French and the Spanish. The first battle at Cassino between the French and the Spanish (1506) ended in the same result as 1944. General Senger of the German XIV Corp and later the German X Army is the source of this item.

*Submitted by Frank Pappalardo,  
743rd Squadron S2*

## Chaplain's Corner

Lord of the Nations, guide our people to go forward in justice and freedom, that our nation may bring glory to your name and blessings to all people. Amen.

*"If I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
Even there Your hand shall lead me,  
And Your right hand shall hold me."  
Ps. 139-9-10*

## \*Arnold Lundwall Writes...

The amount of work that went into the 455th Book obviously was substantial. It provides a detailed and significant record of the history of the Group, the experiences had, and brings home to anyone who reads it the emotional stresses that every member of the Group underwent on a daily basis. On the other hand it also sets forth the dedication and commitment of those who served. Finally I was struck in reading the book at how young the men who served as pilots and crewmen were during this critical time for our country and for the world.

I would hope that if you have a chance you will indicate to the authors and those who put the book together what a terrific and meaningful work they did - particularly for someone such as myself.

NOTE: Son of Lt. Albert Arnold Lundwall who was killed in action with the 455th Bomb Group, 740th Sqdn 3/19/44.

## Contributions to the

## Cerignola Connection

Contributions to the Cerignola Connection are always welcome. Dig into that dusty footlocker or album and send fotos, stories, anything of interest to your membership. We'll print, with credit, in forthcoming issues. When sending materials you want returned, affix an address label to the material. All contributions should be sent to Tom Ramey, Editor, *Cerignola Connection*, 1211 Montclair Ct., Appleton, Wisconsin, 54915.

## Letter to 741 Personnel

May I attempt to clarify possible misunderstanding on the Volume III of the "Partial History of the 741 Squadron."

This is not a commercial venture nor a profit-seeking undertaking. On Vol. I and Vol. II, I personally underwrote much of the expense. We sold the 2 volumes at reproduction cost plus postage.

On Volume III, I am keeping some record of the expenses incurred: postage, reproduction of pictures, reproduction of some things to include in the Volume III. Incidentally, Vol. III is an attempt to cover as many of the replacement crews as is possible from the information available. I am short a large number of crew photographs. I am short a large number of crew rosters. I am short any information at all on a number of crews. Maybe over time more people will become aware of and join the 455 Gp Association, attend reunions, see the 741 Squadron History, and fill in the blanks.

So, the final cost of the Vol. III will be the reproduction costs per copy, plus postage, plus the other expenses, divided by the number of orders for the Vol. III. Reproduction of the volume should be in December 1992 or

# Bits and Pieces

## The Old and the New

Let this New Year be the beginning of a new life in each of us wherein "old things are passed away." Not the old thoughts, of course, which are still true: but those that remain to nurse and encourage our prejudices. Not the old emotions that are filled with kindness: but all anger and bitter feeling and railing. Not the old reverence for the authority of God: but all fears born of our unworthy service apart from Him.

Not the old gracious ministries that blessed mankind: but the harsh words, the suspicious looks, the clenched hands and unwilling feet. Not the old habits that keep us in the straight way: but the new fashions that make us unmindful of those things which hold life together in the unity of good manners. Not the old friends who grow more beloved each year because their worth is better appreciated: but the new associations made from mercenary motives.

Let all blessed old things stay, but let the clutter of our heads and hearts be removed, that new inspirations and new affections may come in to gladden our lives.

*Chester Burge Emerson*

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

ED:

Your Cerignola Connection Editor, Tom Ramey, would like to extend to you and yours most hearty best wishes for the new year. Working with you on the publication has been special to me and I appreciate the opportunity of renewing our friendships.

## All Work and No Play



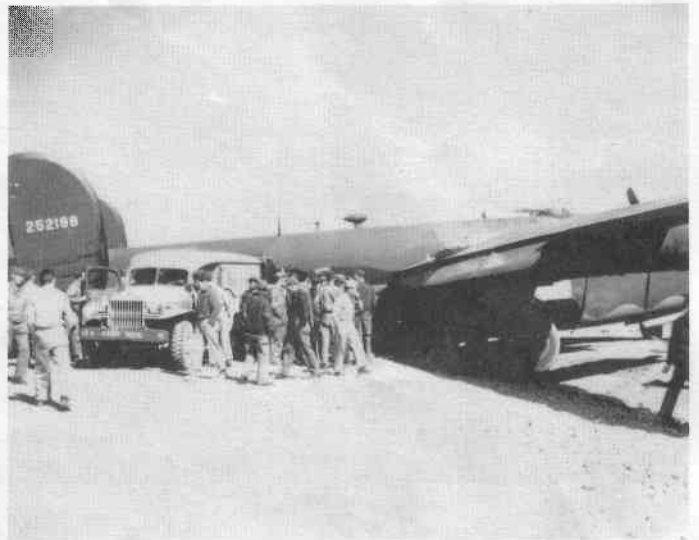
# *From the Picture Albums*



*Coffee while we waited*



*Waiting our turn*



*Lest we forget!*



*After mission briefing*



*Maggie - the "Coffee Girl"*



*It was either snow, dust or mud!*



*This sure beats combat!*



*I thought my ration would be more*



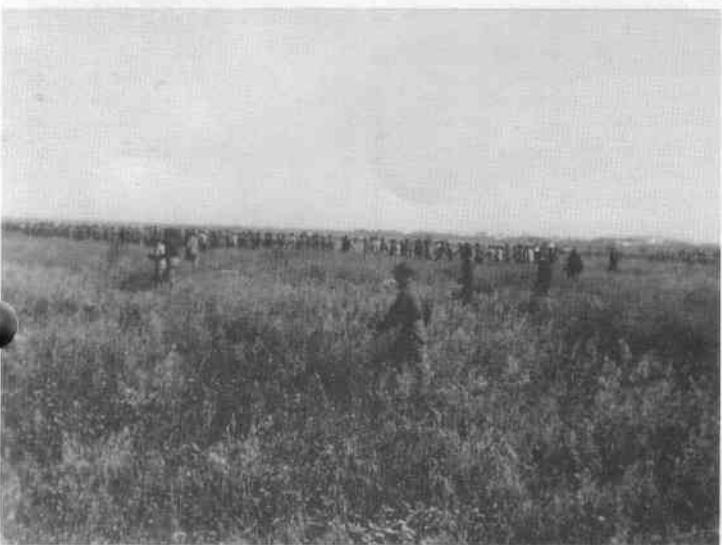
*Carewicz and Kaminski on leave*



*Going!*



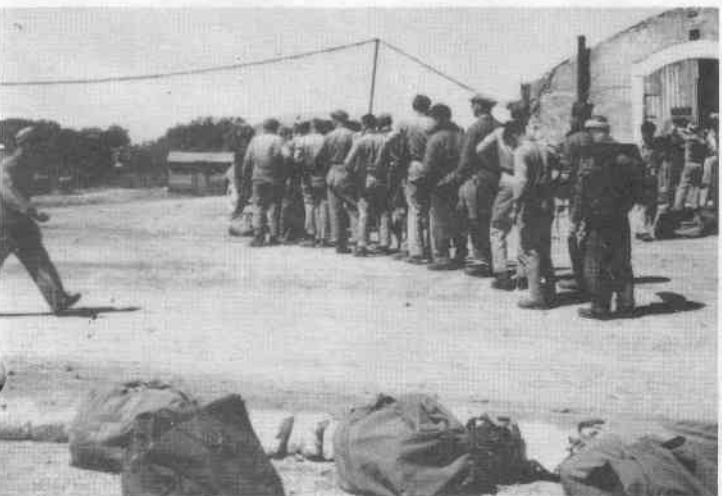
*Bombs away!*



*Can you identify this foto?*



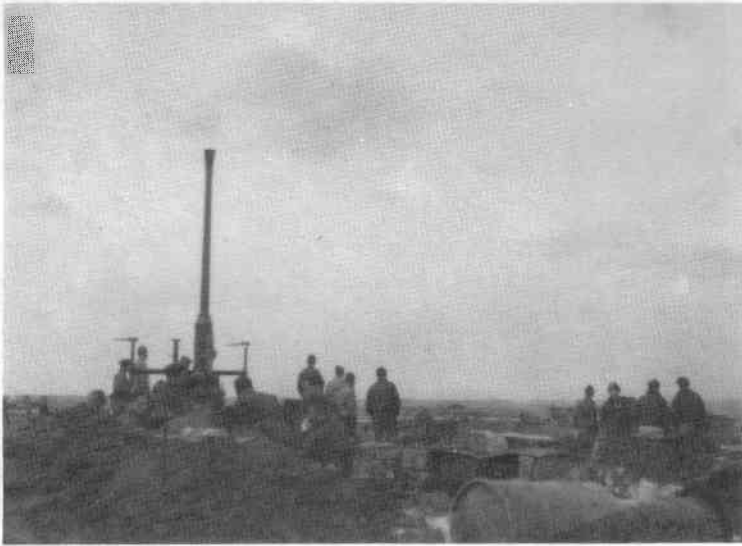
*The winters were cold!*



*It's good to be back!*



*Roll call!*



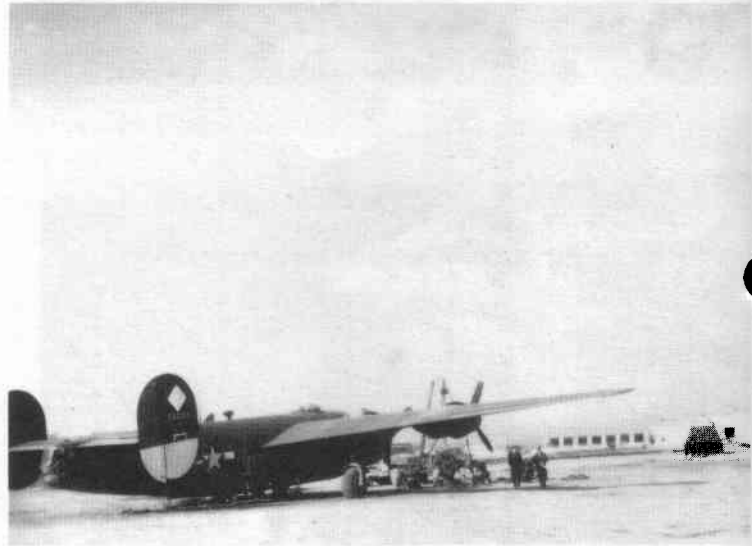
*Our defense*



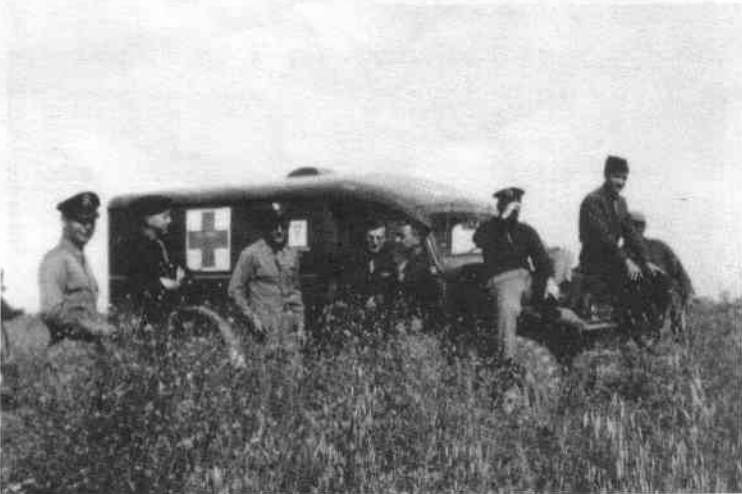
*Ready to go*



*On the line*



*Lunch break*



*Waiting for the birds to come home*