



CERIGNOLA CONNECTION

455th Bomb Group Association Newsletter

SPRING 1990

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is my first opportunity to discuss 455th activities with you since I became President of our Association on 1 November, 1989. I am an organization oriented person and have always maintained that strength comes from the membership. I will be working closely with the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for developing new programs and implementing those started under past Presidents and Executive Secretaries.

I am emphasizing a program to find new members and those of you who have not joined the Association to do so. Bob Armstrong has agreed to continue to find new members and help bring them into our Association. For those of you who do not have a 455th roster of members, I am asking you to order one from Louie Hansen, our Executive Secretary. The roster has over 500 names now, arranged alphabetically by squadron with addresses and telephone numbers. It costs \$7.50, including future updates as new members are added or members lost. Review your roster and send Bob the names of those you remember but not included. He will take it from there to find them but give him all the information you have, e.g., full name, last known or induction address and squadron. I have found the roster very useful and have started searching for old friends of the 740th Squadron I remember but not now members of our association. Bob's address is: 2600 Littell Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50321. You will find a form included for your use in paying your dues. If you have not already done so, send your check to Louie Hansen, his address is shown on the form.

Our bylaws emphasize perpetuating the history of the 455th to honor the members who were wounded, killed or missing in action; to educate for posterity, both the public and airman's loved ones, of the great sacrifices made by the flight crews, administrative and operational staffs, aircraft maintenance and armament/ordnance support, medical, supply and other personnel. Further, its purpose is to establish edifices and/or monuments to honor the members of the 455th Bomb Group. I will be emphasizing these areas.

Louie Hansen has been in official contact with the Air Force Academy about the installation and dedication of our 455th memorial, announced in our last newsletter. We have received acceptance and a schedule of 10:00 AM on October 4, 1991 for the dedication. We will be working with Ross Strode for the manufacture of the plaque. You will be kept informed.

The writing of the history by Hugh Graff is a monumental task, but worth doing. He is making good progress but will need help from all of us. Tom Ramey has agreed to lend his expertise in formatting, layout and methods of publication. Hugh is calling for information from the membership, especially for pictures--see other parts of this newsletter. I know you will respond.

By the time you receive this, you will have received a brochure for a trip to Italy next spring. I know I can represent our membership in thanking Louie for making all the trip arrangements; it was a lot of work. Naomi and I look forward to seeing many of you on this excursion.

A big thanks is extended to Tom Ramey for publishing a most interesting newsletter, the Cerignola Connection. It was particularly imaginative to include pictures of early 455th Bomb Group reunions in our first publication. Some of you have questioned why it took so long to find you and bring you into our Association. These early reunions were organized in the post World War II years. The reunions were discontinued in 1951 after a small group meeting in New York City because the busy lives and family responsibilities made it difficult for people to attend. Things remained dormant until at a 1983 reunion by the 15th Air Force where 11 members of the 455th attended. Bob Armstrong was one and he took the names and addresses of the others. By the 1985 reunion of the 15th, Bob had some 75 names and addresses of 455th members. On 11 November 1986, we became incorporated in Iowa as a non-profit Association, principally through Bob's efforts. James E. Bates and John J. Van Lent met with Bob in Iowa to sign the incorporation papers. Following this, Louie Hansen and John Davis developed our bylaws which were approved by the membership at our Association reunion held in Colorado Springs during October 1987, the first one since 1951. We all owe these members a vote of thanks for their early pioneering efforts to make us a viable organization.

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR
ALFRED ASCH, President

FROM STARS AND STRIPES - Second Citation for 455th:

With the 15th AAF, April 18 - The 455th Bombardment Group, commanded by Col. William L. Snowden, Denver, Colo., received its second Distinguished Unit Citation this week when Brig. Gen. William E. Hall, Deputy Commanding General of the 15th AAF, pinned the blue battle streamer to the group's standard. The ceremonies took place at the 455th's base in Italy. The veteram Liberator group was cited "for outstanding performance of duty in armed conflict with the enemy" while leading its wing on a mission against the Moosebierbaum oil refinery, Austria, last June. While enroute to the target, the formation was attacked by more than 80 twin-engine fighters and approximately 60 single-engine fighters. Despite great odds, the group stubbornly held formation and battled its way across the target for a successful bombing run. Several planes exploded in midair after dropping their bombs. During the air battle, one of the fiercest in 15th AAF history, the 455th's gunners destroyed 34 of the attacking fighters while holding their own losses to 10 Liberators. The group received its first citation for its successful attack on the Steyr Walzlagerwerke, vital enemy ball bearing plant in Austria, last April. It destroyed 27 Luftwaffe fighters. To date, the group has flown 235 bombing missions during more than 14 months of combat operations.

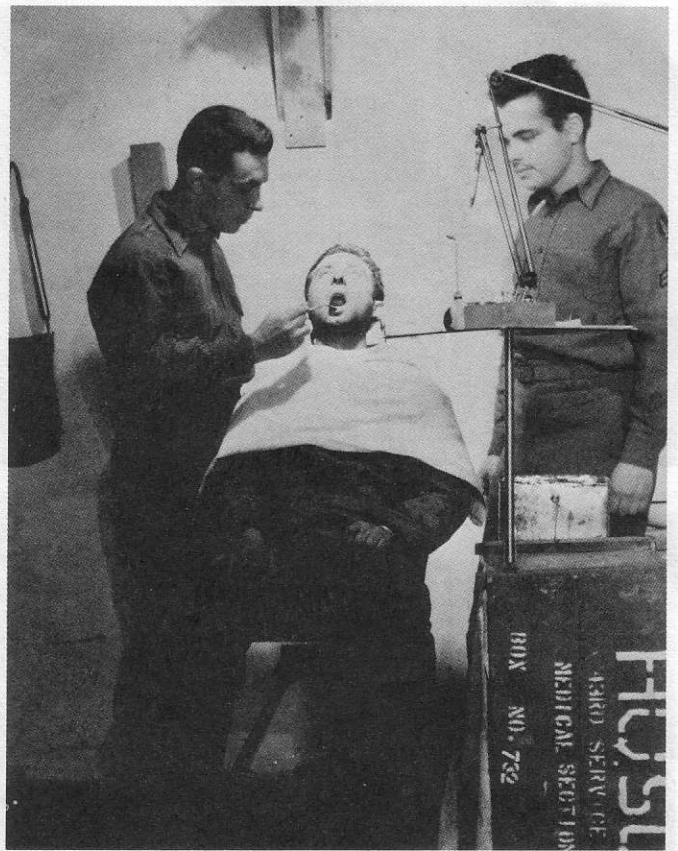
None of Our Aircraft is Missing

Somewhere in an Italian valley,
Somewhere in mud, wind and rain,
Somewhere the sun has forgotten,
Somewhere the master is pain.

The sun breaks forth in its radiance,
It's a day for which we have yearned,
The stand-downs bow in reverence,
All Baker-Box has just returned.

Out from the gray ceiling
Seven - yes, seven ships appear.
And gone are the meterological trumpets,
And vanished are worry and fear.

FO Paul Silverman, AG



Dr. Walter Frankel, Group Dentist, went to his album to share the pictures above.

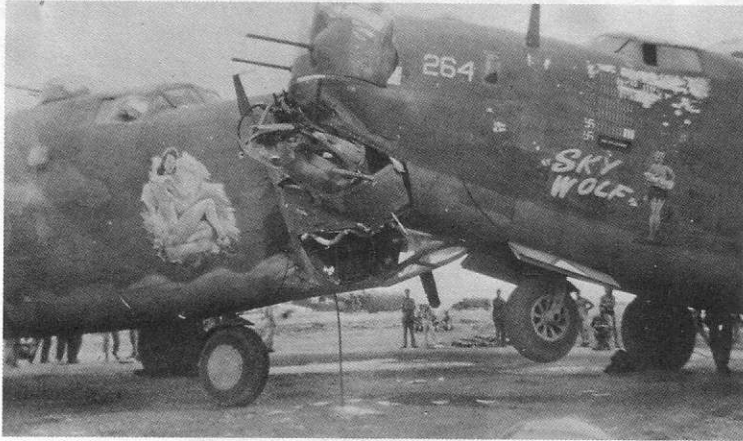
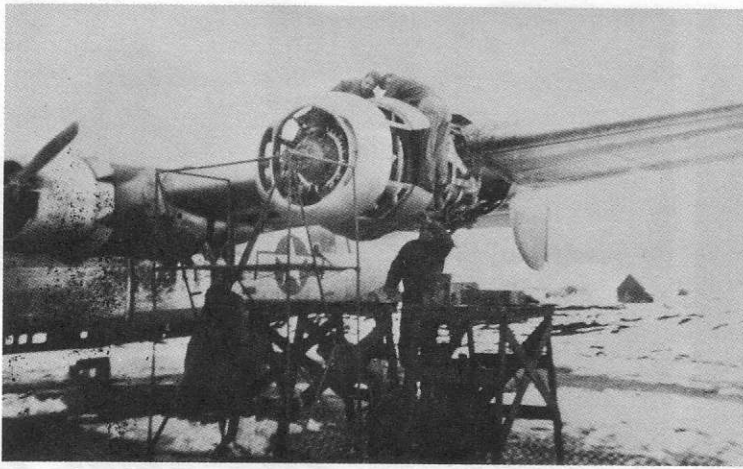
Upper left: Come on, fess up! What squadron and whose plane?

Upper right: Open wide - how's that for modern dental facilities?

Center: A familiar sight - waiting for the planes to return.

Lower left: All dressed up and no place to go.

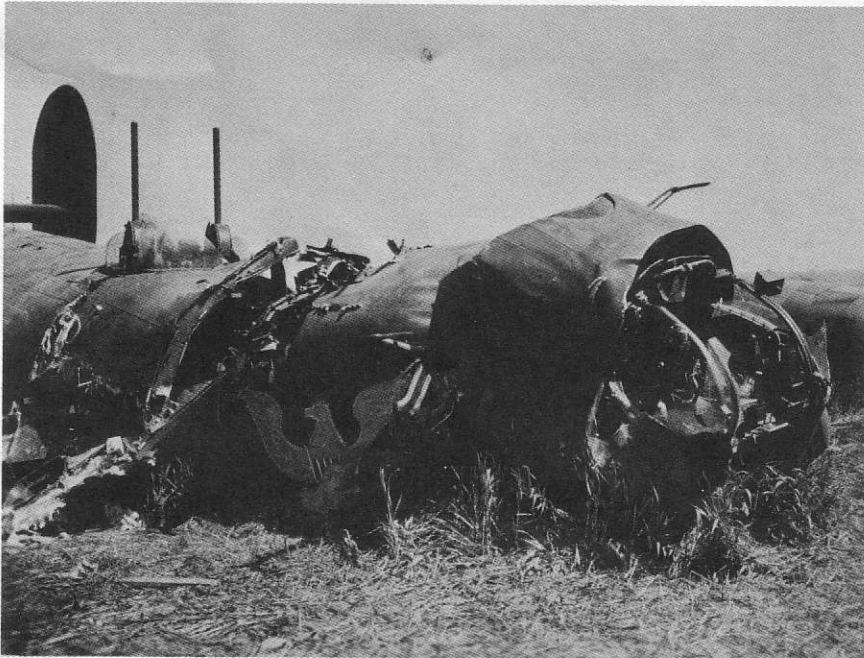
Lower right: Flak hole in returning plane. Squadron and crew unknown.



FROM THE 740th

Billy Breen of Kent, WA sends these shots from the 740th Squadron. Upper left: "Engine change - we did this often." Upper right: "This was home for two years." Looks familiar doesn't it. Left: "Real neat!" Come on Sky Wolf, if you're out there, tell us how it happened?

If any of you from the 740th have similar pictures you would like to share with our readers, send them in. We'll return the originals to you right after printing.



Left: LEST WE FORGET! Squadron unknown.

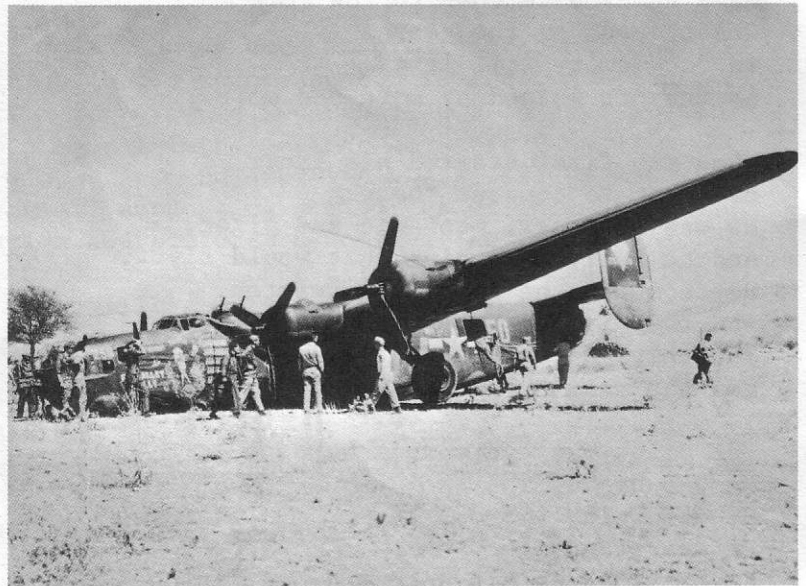
Right: Remember all those times when they said the the weather would be clear all the way to the target, and it wasn't. Or there would be a break in the clouds just over the target and we wouldn't have to drop in the soup. Or we wouldn't have to worry about flying a front dispersal because group weather told us it would hang clear until we get home. Well here's the guy responsible. Good ole Dave Stormy Wolf, the Group Weatherman. - Seriously though - working with practically nothing, they called the shots pretty close.



"MORNING IN BARI"

Here's your second in a series of familiar Italian landmarks. Bari and the Mirimar Hotel. Where else could you sit down in a hotel restaurant with linentablecloths and be served a sit down breakfast of Spam, powdered eggs, canned grapefruit juice, toast and coffee.

RETURN TO CERIGNOLA Suddenly the 455th Bomb Group's Italian Adventure/1990 is about to happen! Remember these dates: May 8-24, 1990 16 delightful days, old haunts: Rome, Foggia, Florence, Venice, Genoa, Siena, and best of all, CERIGNOLA. You'll return to the old bases. The castle is still there. And the wine cellar where mission briefings take place. It is imperative that you get your reservations in as soon as possible. All reservations are to be made through the Van Duling Travel, Inc. A promotional brochure with complete details of the trip, plus costs, has been mailed to you and you should have it before you receive the newsletter. If you did not receive the brochure, drop a note to Lou Hansen, Box 6125, Spencer, Iowa 51301. Or telephone: 712/262-7237.



Lower left: BESTWEDU - leaving on a mission. L-R: Col. Ken Cool, Group Commander; Horace Lanford, Squadron Commander, 741st; Jack Horner, Group Bombardier; James Moeller, Group Navigator; balance of crew not identified. Come on guys, step forward and tell us who you are. Squadrons, too.

Lower right: JUST RESTING! FLAK ALLEY SALLY - crew and squadron unknown.

HELP - Lou Hansen, P. O. Box 6125, Spencer, Iowa 51301, Executive Director of the 455th Bomb Group Association, and Treasurer, is trying to locate a pilot who was shot down over Hungary on 29 August 1944, cut down from a tree by a 15 year-old girl named Alice. She visited this pilot every day while he was in the hospital and served as the underground contact that saw him secretly flown out of Hungary. Alice, now feels secure enough to risk making "Western" contacts and would like a reunion with "Jackie", as he was known to those who rescued him. If you know this pilot, and his whereabouts, let Lou know.

Walter Heidmous, 743rd, writes that he would like to locate three individuals or a family member, Eugene M. Bassett, James Norell Brown and Russ Pederson. He has their original caricature drawings that graced the officer's club wall. He is also seeking any information on Anthony Costa and Martin J. Schwab.

HELP YOUR ASSOCIATION GROW...there are a lot of 455th former members that we've lost track of or who are not aware of your organization. You may know some of these former crew members, squadron or group friends. Let us know who they are and we'll contact them. Better still, write or give them a call. Invite them to join.

ONE FATHER TO ANOTHER FATHER: "How is your son doing in college?" First father: "Oh, very well." Second father; "What's he studying?" First father: "Aeronautics." Second father: "Is that right?" First father: "Yes, I called the college last week to inquire how my son was doing and they said he was taking up space."

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER - "Please Lord teach us to laugh again but, God don't ever let us forget that we cried."

FROM THE STARS AND STRIPES...Veteran Plane Flies 100th. Completing her 100th combat as a part of her group's 200th mission, "Teepee Time Gal", Fifteenth Air Force Liberator, came home on three engines Sunday after an attack on the Linz, Austrian railyards. During her 1000 flying hours, four air crews have completed their combat tour with her, and "Teepee Time Gal's crew chief, Technical Sergeant Henry M. Jennings says, "Despite her 100 missions, "Teepee Time" can still compete with any plane on the line. (Ed's note: On May 9, 1945, "Teepee Time" had completed 120 missions and was still in good flying condition.)

REMEMBERING THE FORGOTTEN MECHANIC

Through the history of world aviation
Many names have come to the fore
Great deeds of the past
in our memory will last,
As they're joined by more and more...

When man first started his labor
of quest to conquer the sky
He was designer, mechanic and pilot,
And he built a machine that would fly...
But somehow the order got twisted,
And then in the public's eye
The only man that could be seen
Was the man who knew how to fly...

The pilot was everyone's hero,
He was brave,
He was bold,
He was grand,
As he stood by his battered old biplane
With his goggles and helmet in hand...
To be sure, these pilots all earned it,
To fly you have to have guts...
And they blazed their names
In the hall of fame
On wings with bailing wire struts...

But for each of these flying heros
There were thousands of little reknown,
And these were the men;
Who worked on the planes
But kept their feet on the ground...
We all know the name of Lindbergh,
And we've read of his flight of fame...
But think, if you can,
Of his maintenance man,
Can you remember his name?

And think of our wartime heros,
Gabreski, Jabara, and Scott...
Can you tell me of the names
Of their crew chiefs?
A thousand to one you cannot...
Now pilots are highly trained people,
And wings are not easily won...
But without the work of the maintenance man
Our pilots would march with a gun...
So when you see mighty aircraft
As they mark their ways through the air,
The grease-stained man with the
wrench in his hand,
is the man who put them there.

Anonymous

Fellow Association Members,

This is a call for pictures and other material for writing the history of the 455th Bomb Group. The research and building of the information base is coming to an end and writing has started. Al Asch is assisting in the research as he lives in the Washington, DC area where raw historical information is available. However, we do not have pictures to help the text. We would like to have pictures of each crew, with names (list left to right) of each crew member. The following is a list of the Group's original pilots who made the trip from Langley to Italy. This will help identify each crew. We are asking any member of these crews to send us pictures. We could not find any information in the Air Force historical records about the replacement crews so you members must provide this along with pictures, with squadron identification.

LUNDWALL, ALBERT A.	BUCKLEY, JOHN N.	BARBOUR, DAVID A.
PROSSER, HARRY J.	COOK, ROBERT L.	CALABRETTA, LOUIS
SLATER, JEROME E.	HOWSAM, EARL R.	CURTIS, JOHN F.
RIGGS, CLARENCE E.	SMITH, HENRY J. JR.	DEEBLE, RICHARD J.
BRASHEAR, JOHN R.	SCHOENE, HORST R.	JORDON, LEON D.
CALLEN, MICHAEL C.	KEARY, GEORGE C.	CONDRA, PAUL T.
HAWLEY, DAVID R.	WURST, NELSON A.	HINTON, WALTER R.
SAMPSON, WILLARD H.	HUDSON, EUGENE L.	ANDERSON, LAURENS
JONES, MERRIWETHER	WALTER, MYLES L.	CHRISTINSON, ROBERT
SALEEN, ARTHUR E.	NANGERONI, LOUIS L.	BRUNSON, CLYDE
SENSENBRENNER, RALPH D.	GORECKI, HAROLD S.	ROBARDS, ROBERT A.
ARCHIBALD, SAMUEL A.	TANNER, GEORGE A.	RAMEY, THOMAS A.
KAMINSKY, JOHN	LOCATELLI, JULIO C.	GOSLINE, RICHARD A.
NELSON, HERBERT O.	SAINE, JACK D.	BECK, WILLIAM A. JR.
KING, WILLIAM K.	PIDCOCK, JAMES F.	NASH, JOHN W.
KNIGHT, JAMES W.	WALLICK, WILLIAM S.	HANSEN, CARLETON
ARNOLD, WILLIAM A	MOORE WILLIAM W.	HOUSE, HENRY F.
RAWLS, DON M.	BETHUNE, JOHN L. JR.	SMITH, WAYNE
NEUMAN, DAVID J.	HYNSON, PHILLIP E.	FISHER, ALFIN L.
SCHOTT, ROY H.	BECKNER, ROBERT L.	CLEVELAND, JAMES P.
LEE, ORVILLE I.	BOWERS, WINFIELD S., JR.	
THOMAS, JACK H.	McWILLIAMS, VICTOR	

The history will only be as good as we all make it. We need information about your experiences and pictures about all activities, e.g., maintenance, ordnance, armament, communications, administration and leisure. For example, we received a 35 page letter from Richard Humphrey about his experiences as a maintenance man on Harry Prosser's crew. We have also received two picture albums from Ed Ambrosen which will be used to cover the 742nd Squadron. We want to cover all supporting activities as well as the operational aspects so get us the information and pictures of activities from our various training and enroute bases, e.g., Orlando, Salt Lake City, Langley and flight and boat trips. All pictures, articles, etc. will be returned to you if you so designate. Mail all materials and pictures to me. My address is:

H. R. Graff
12515 Sheldon Rd.
Mantua, Ohio 44255 Phone: 216/274-8323

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR Hugh Graff, Historian

FROM THE FILES - During 15 months of operations, from February 1944 through April 1945, approximately 74,540 personnel sorties were flown with a rate of 5.5 men per 1000 personnel sorties either killed in action or missing. There were 243 prior returns; 18,443.37 tons of bombs carried; 1013 bomb tonnage jettisoned; bombing was 74,71 percent effective; 118 planes lost in combat; 12 lost in non-combat.

THE AMERICAN FLAG - Display it proudly. It's permissible to fly it continuously so long as it is illuminated during hours of darkness; or take it down at dusk. There are all weather flags for inclement weather. The preferred way to dispose of unserviceable flags is by burning. And when you hear the National Anthem played during a flag ceremony, stop and face the music with your right hand (with hat if worn) over your heart. If you're driving, stop the car and remain behind the wheel until the music stops.

CONTRIBUTIONS to the Cherignola Connection should be sent to Tom Ramey, Editor, 1211 Montclair Ct., Appleton, WI 54915. We need your crew photographs, photographs of general interest to the membership, squadron and group happenings, anything that you want to share with other members of the group. When sending photographs or any other material that you want returned, be sure to identify the contents and affix your address label on the back of the material submitted. Everything will be returned to you promptly after the newsletter is published.

455TH BOMB GROUP MEMBERSHIP

Date _____

Name _____

Squadron _____

Street, P.O. Box, R.R. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Tele _____

(x)

() Annual dues \$15.00 \$ _____

*() Life membership \$100.00 \$ _____

() Membership roster \$7.50 \$ _____

Total Submitted \$ _____

Make check payable to 455th Bomb Group Association

Mail to Louis Hansen, P. O. Box 6125, Spencer, Iowa 51301

* You may apply your paid annual membership dues of \$15.00 to a life membership if done prior to October 31, 1990.

455th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 6125

Spencer, Iowa 51301

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