

REPORT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Just prior to the 1986 reunion in San Antonio, Chris Donaldson, 765 Sq, of the Scholarship committee, and his wife, Jean, travelled to Italy and met with Professor Umberto Albanese and Professor Riccardo Sgramella, both of Cerignola, who have worked together and expended their efforts on behalf of the Association to provide the names of the successful candidates for the 1986 scholarship awards. Prof

Sgramella also works at the same Technico Institute as Prof Albanese, where he teaches business English. His translations of correspondence between the Committee and the Italians has eased the flow of communications. Prof. Sgramella's paternal grandfather Pasquale Tufariello, now deceased, who also spoke English, worked at the Red Cross Club in Cerignola where one of his duties was that of an interpreter during the war years.

The Donaldsons also met the 1986 recipients, Ripalta Scalzo and Luisa Marinelli, and the parents of Lucia Nigro, who was away at law

school in Trieste at the time of the Donaldsons visit. The girls were absolutely charming, and well poi-



This photograph was taken in Cerignola, Italy last year during Chris Donaldson's visit. Standing center: Professor Riccardo Sgramella. Bottom From left: Professor Umberto Albanese, Ripalta Scalzo, Luisa Marinelli, and Chris Donaldson

sed. Mr. and Mrs. Nigro, were also delightful although they spoke no English. They all went to a great deal of effort and trouble to meet the Donaldsons. From what they saw and heard at the meeting, the Association may be assured that the girls are certainly most worthy candidates.

From the observations made during his visit, Chris reported that our organization is held in the highest esteem, not only by the students and their families, who received the 1986 awards, but also by the entire community in the Cerignola area and the surrounding region, who

have been made aware of the 461st and 484th Bomb Groups Association efforts in this project of memorializing and honoring our members.

Chris emphasized in his report that all incidental administrative costs are absorbed by the Association and the efforts and expenses of the committee are entirely donated, so that every dollar contributed is placed in a special account to be eventually paid out in awards. The Scholarship

Committee invites Association members to join the Committee in this worthwhile effort. Please contact either Chris Donaldson 765 Sq or Ed Goree 764 Sq.

In the United States, the story of the first scholarship awards appeared in the St. Paul Dispatch Pioneer Press recently. St. Paul, Minnesota is the hometown of Chris and Jean Donaldson. Chris received many calls from other 15th Air Force units expressing interest and admiration for the manner in which our scholarship program is being implemented.