

THE PASSING OF TIME. BUT IF YOU LISTEN WITH YOUR MIND'S EAR AND A BIT OF IMAGINATION YOU CAN HEAR FAINTLY ACROSS THE YEARS: THE ROAR OF A HUNDRED ENGINES, THE VOICES OF MEN BORNE ALOFT INTO HOSTILE SKIES AND THE SOUNDS OF ALL THE OTHER ENGINES OF THEIR CRAFT. LISTEN, AND YOU CAN HEAR AND REMEMBER OTHER TIMES, OTHER PLACES AND THE FACES OF FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES ONCE YOUNG, SOME FOREVER YOUNG, AND OTHERS WHO TARRIED WITH US FOR A TIME.

GRATEFUL MEMORY FOR THEIR LIVES AND THEIR DEDICATION TO COUNTRY AND CAUSE PROFOUNDLY PERVADES OUR THOUGHTS ON OCCASIONS LIKE THIS, AND WE AND THEIR LOVED ONES SEEK COMFORT AND HOPE AS IN THE PROPHETIC BIBLICAL WORDS -"AND GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THEIR EYES; AND THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH, NEITHER SORROW NOR CRYING; NEITHER SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN; FOR THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY."

UNTIL THEN, LET US ALWAYS REMEMBER THOSE WHO WERE AMONG US THERE- AND WHO HAVE NOW GONE FROM OUR PRESENCE - AS WE NOW STAND TO LIFT THIS TOAST IN THEIR HONOR.

<><><>

A complete prime rib dinner was served which concluded with a dessert presentation of trays of individual French Pastries.

Our guest speaker Ary Hobbel, a United Airlines pilot, was introduced by Frank Valdez (826 Sq).

Ary Hobbel, who as a boy grew up in occupied Holland, told us what it was like to live under Nazi oppression. After serving with the Royal Netherlands Air Force, he came to the United States and eventually joined United Airlines. He told us of what it was like to fly a modern jet liner as compared to our primitive B-24's. He told us that the major job of today's pilot is to monitor the aircraft's systems. While modern aircraft are still hand flown, the INS (Internal Navigation System) for example, can navigate an aircraft to any pin point on the face of the earth. The key element to the function of the INS is a very precise gyro that does not precess. Pilots will remember having to reset the directional gyro at regular intervals because the card would precess (move away from the true heading) due to friction of the gyro bearings. He closed his speech by thanking the audience for its part in shortening the war and allowing him to regain his freedom from German occupation. There was a lingering pause after the speech, before the first sound of applause was heard.

He had been speaking from the heart and for that long moment everyone was trying to control the emotional outpouring that was triggered by his presentation. Then quite suddenly guests were on their feet giving Ary a standing ovation. It was the right speech for the right time, given by the right person.

The speech was followed by music of the Al Cunningham band. Their music was appreciated by the crowd as the dance floor filled up time and time again. It was another successful evening.

On Sunday morning a memorial service was given by Chaplain Terrell H Hamilton. He read the names of those who passed away since the last reunion. The memorial booklet distributed at the opening of the service listed all of the known deceased since the last publication of the Torretta Flyer. The buffet breakfast followed the service.

Post Reunion Tour to Hawaii

A seven day post reunion tour to Hawaii was the last event of the 1988 reunion. All had a good time. See the next page for a photograph of the tour group.

Included in this year's registration packet handed out to members on registering was a set of 4 coasters with the original 461st and 484th Bomb Group Association logo imprinted in gold on each coaster. We do have additional sets. Members wishing to order these coaster sets, should use the tear slip included in this Flyer.

For those of you who could not make this year's reunion for whatever reason, don't put up off joining us at the coming 8th reunion in New Orleans, Louisiana, the fun city of Jazz with a year round Mardi Gras spirit. **Dates are August 31 through September 3, 1989. Place: New Orleans Marriott Hotel, 555 Canal St New Orleans, LA 70140. Phone (504) 581-1000.** Time is passing much too quickly for most of us, and now is the opportunity to once again meet comrades and friends from that bygone era.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REPORT

At the business meeting, on Saturday morning, after the minutes of the last meeting and financial report were approved, and the Scholarship Committee's report was given, the election of directors for the coming year took place. The directors are: Bud Markel, Bea Markel, Frank Valdez, Tom Javaruski, and Chris Donaldson.

The Scholarship Committee's report was given by Ed Goree, and after some discussion on the suggestion of awards being given to other entities in addition to the awards presently being offered, members voted unanimously to continue the Scholarship Memorial Award program in substantially the same manner as has been practiced in the past.

Some other matters of importance to all of our members were dealt with at the annual meeting.

1) Members voted overwhelmingly to maintain the organization as the two groups Association has been and presently is constituted.

2) The Association's policy of holding annual reunions was upheld when the question of the site of the 1989 reunion was brought up. The sites that were listed in Torretta Bulletin No #14 were named as possibilities for 1989. Of the seven cities named, there was no doubt that New Orleans is where the members wish to go next year. The 1989 reunion of the 461st & 484th Bomb Groups Association will take place August 31, 1989 through September 3, 1989 in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.