

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

In a recent Wall Street Journal piece, it was revealed that the World War II series television productions, such as Victory at Sea, and The World at War, draw huge audiences whenever they are shown. Even with repeated showings, the audience does not diminish. It is apparent that viewers of all ages are fascinated with the awesome mystery of World War II. There must be something to it, as books and publications about World War II also continue to sell well. To this end, we devote this issue, as the stories are varied and come from different sources. With this broadening of scope we are moving toward more universal coverage of the War in the Air during WW II. We are appealing to writers to send in stories reflective of all aspects of the air war. Members are urged to advise us when related stories appear in other publications. If its interest value is high, we will ask for reprint permission. Of course, we still want the personal war stories from members that have made the previous editions of the Flyer so popular. Your comments are always welcome.

Speaking of World War II books, your editor has just finished the three volume trilogy on German Generals and Adolph Hitler, by David Irving. They are all in print and available in paperback editions. He has based his work on tireless research of archive documents, letters, speeches, diaries, and interviews, some of which have just been revealed. I highly recommend them to any student or readers of WWII history. They are Hitler's War, Trail of the Fox (Biography of Irwin Rommel), and Goring (Biography of Herman Goring).

MY MISSION LIST. By Felix Rameder. Mr Rameder an Austrian citizen, lives in Ebergassing, Austria. As a 13 year old boy, he witnessed the bombing attacks of the United States Army Air Forces during World War II in the vicinity of his home and as a result has taken great interest in the wartime exploits of the 15th Air Force. "The air war I saw in the Vienna area was such an enormous event in the lives of all of us that one man can hardly describe it exactly and report about it correctly. Along with my impressions I will endeavor to report what others have told me soon after the air attacks. The former bomber crews who flew some 25,000 feet above us may find this report interesting." *Page 5*

THE FLAK CANNON 88MM, by Bud Markel 827 sq. This story was added as a companion piece to the story My Mission List, by Felix Rameder. I have gone into a little detail about the weapon that wrought so much destruction on the air fleets of the RAF and the Army Air Corps. It earned its reputation in North Africa during the early part of the war when it was used primarily as an anti tank weapon. *Page 10*

STANLEY HUTCHINS 824 Sq has written a book review that is featured in this issue. The Book, "Ad Lib; Flying the B-24 Liberator in World War II," may be purchased from Historic Aviation 1401 Kings Wood Road, Eagan, MN 55122. *Page 14*

A POW'S MEMORY OF SURVIVAL, Herman J White 824 Sq. Herman J White was 18 years old when he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps in July of 1944. He was a tail gunner assigned to the 484th Bomb Group. *Page 14*

THE LIFE OF A POW (Continuation of the Last Flight of Crew 14), by Trefry A Ross 765 Sq. "The Russian soldiers were in a

compound next to us. We were separated by a chain link fence about eight feet high. I never heard any Russian speak English or any American speak Russian. Our method of barter was to hold up a pack of name brand American cigarettes, not necessarily a full pack, but to just show what we had." *Page 15*

DOWN IN FLAMES by Arlo Matney 826 Sq. "After 17 combat missions over northern Italy, southern France, and into Rumania with no serious damage to our plane, I was getting a false sense of security. I had seen some planes go down in flames, blow up from direct flak hits . . ." *Page 20*

USAAF AIRCRAFT IN SWITZERLAND, By Bob Fosse. We thank Bob Fosse of Columbus, Ohio, for the photo-essay on aircraft interned in Switzerland. We have always been intrigued with those aircraft "lost" in neutral countries, and we hope you will find the article of interest. We're sure it will "ring a bell with the Swiss Internees Association and if any of its members would care to contact our author, he can be reached at: 5141 Pebble Lane, Columbus, OH 43220. *Page 23*

DETAILS OF GLENN MILLER'S DEATH by Thomas E O'Connel. The story first appeared in September 1988 issue of "Crosshairs" the official publication of the Bombardiers, Inc. and is reprinted with permission of the Founder and Executive Director, E C "Ned" Humphreys. The author Thomas E O'Connel was a Bombardier with the 338th Bomb Squadron, 96th Bomb Group, 8th Air Force. He lives in Bellevue, Washington, where he teaches Spanish at Bellevue Community College. He welcomes any additional information on the untimely death of Glenn Miller. Contribution by Thomas E O'Connel. *Page 26*

MOONLIGHT REQUISITION. By Fred E Bamberger. Getting the job done, one way or another, has always been an American trait, called "Yankee Ingenuity" by some. In the military, there are many stories of the successful "scrounger" saving the day. Fred Bamberger from Tamarac, Florida, shares with us one of the thousands of neat "scrounge" stories to come out of WW II. We're sure this one will recall similar events to many of our readers. The article appeared in the Winter 1990 edition of "Friends Bulletin," The United States Air Force Museum Foundation publication, and is re-published in the Flyer by permission of the author. *Page 27*

HOW I GOT TO TENT 39 AND BACK By Arthur C Barkley 827 sq. "The Gideon Wells weighed anchor on March 23, and it was goodbye to the good old USA. We joined a convoy where our speed was reduced to the slowest ship, about 7 knots. After crossing the Atlantic and entering the Mediterranean off the coast of Algiers, one moonlit night the German Air Force gave us a welcoming visit." *Page 29*

RADAR BOMBING By Thomas C Carroll 484th BG. The new crew position of radar operator combined some of the duties of the navigator and of the bombardier with that of the radar operator. *Page 31*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *Page 32*

THE LAST MISSION *Page 38*