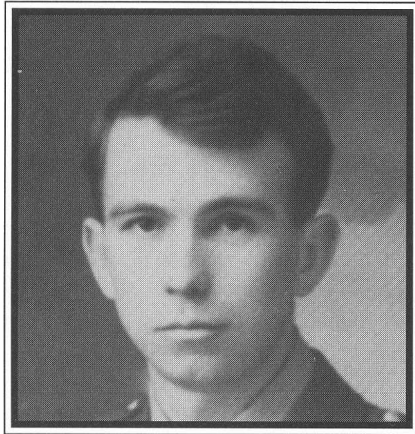

The Last Mission

Wilfred J Avery 766 Sq.

Wilfred J Avery a crew chief and aircraft inspector passed away February 22, 1995. He was a member of the association since 1983. He was awarded the Bronze star as a crew chief. He is survived by six children. (Photo)



Wilfred J Avery

Harold E. Bailey 825 Sq.

Sgt Harold E. Bailey, gunner, was born January 26, 1924 and died September 1994. Harold enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1940. After his three year hitch he re-enlisted in 1943 and was assigned to Chanute Field later assigned to the 484th B G at Harvard, Nebraska moving with the group when they were transferred to Cerignola Italy in the spring of 1944.

After service with the 484th B G at the close of hostilities, he remained in the service until 1967, during this period he was active in the Berlin Airlift.

Carl Couch Jr 824 Sq.



1/Lt Carl Couch Jr (photo at left) the Navigator on Dick Calkins crew died September 15, 1994 of complications from surgery.

His crew:

Cpl Henry R Ronson	824	T/G
2/Lt Richard L Calkins	824	P
2/Lt E Harold Fischbein	824	C/P
1/Lt Carl Couch Jr	824	N
Cpl Bruce G Crabbe	824	G
Cpl Harry S Foster	824	G
Cpl Michael Opalenik	824	R/O
Cpl Owen E Parmele	824	E
Cpl Dominic Pettinari	824	G

Tracy Denninger Jr 825 Sq.

2/Lt Tracy Denninger Jr the navigator on Reed Sprinkel's crew passed away February 13, 1995. Tracy had been lead instructor in navigation at the crew training center at Mt. Home, Idaho before joining the crew so he was more experienced than other navigators coming out of school. He with Morris Hatfield (Bombardier) used a team approach to locate the IP and target which resulted in many successful bomb runs.

The crew often flew Able One, which is the lead aircraft for the wing when in formation to and from the target area. The crew flew this position for at least ten missions along with Col Keese, and Maj. Moe. Tracy received the DFC for his many successes in solving navigational problems. In 1990 Reed Sprinkel and Tracy Denninger flew together once again in the "All American" B-24 on a trip from Ft. Lauderdale, to Kissimmee, Florida.

The crew is closely identified with the ship "Pot Luck 42-51851." Old "Pot Luck" was shot up pretty bad on her 33rd mission in an all out attack on the German army in Northern Italy, limping back with one engine. Her crew chief Stanley Laque of New Orleans took the plane back to its hard stand and proceeded to replace the engine overnight. At daylight the engine was running and ready for flight. Tracy also completed 33 Missions. A few days later on 21 February, 1945 the ship was shot down by flak when flown by pilot Lt. Chad E. Ikerd.



Ship #40 "Pot Luck." with Crew Chief (unknown)