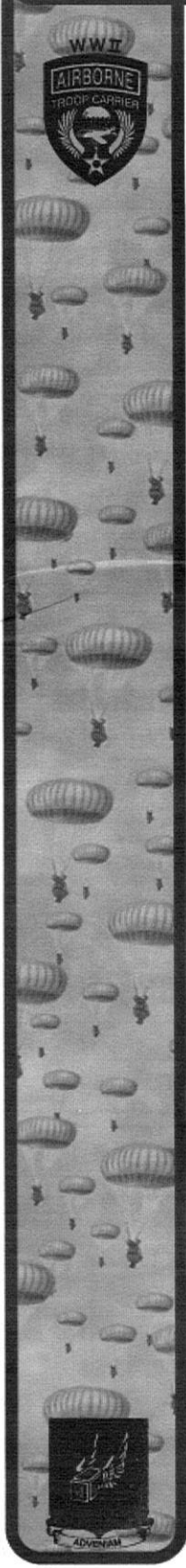


Done



December, 2004 Edition

REUNION AFTERGLOW

Louisville, Ky., proved itself to be a great reunion city with a southern flavor. Since people are what make an event like ours a success and we all were a real cut above average, success was guaranteed! Of special note was the attendance of Dave Benefield of England as well as Meg Fox, a Louisville widow of the 444th TCG, the program put on by Col. Gary L. Cook, and the energizing presence of several second generation young people. This latter group did, indeed, step up to bat when given the opportunity by the important change in our Articles of Association, allowing them to be voting members and eligible for offices and board positions.

Our tours were very interesting and well attended. After Bowman Field (where WW2 nurses and glider pilots were trained) and Stanford Field where Col. Ken Dale gave a rundown on the C-130, we were treated to an actual tour of that airplane. We then boarded the riverboat for a grand luncheon cruise on the Ohio River. On the Ft. Knox tour we were disappointed not to have received a sample, however, we did get to spend time in the museum honoring Gen. Patton. While we men met in our general meeting, the women spent time going through an ante-bellum southern mansion.

Col. Gary L. Cook, Commander of the 315th Airlift Wing from Charleston Air Force Base, South Carolina, honored us at our banquet as he presented a program of their activities and responsibilities regarding the C-17 aircraft.

I want to thank each person on our board for the support I've had these past two years and to all our members for the privilege of being your president. The arrangements for our next reunion are in the capable hands of our new president, Len Thomas and the new board.

Bernie Brown
Past President

2

315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASSOCIATION

Olmsted, Florence, Aldermaston, Blida, Spanhoe, Amiens

OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD



Message from the President:

First, I would like to thank all of you for your supporting letters, cards, phone calls and e-mail during my recent hospitalization and recovery. I don't think I could have made it without the combined efforts and prayers of my family and friends.

I must admit that with the holidays and my current slow pace, plans for our future have not had first priority, but this will soon change. We are entering a new phase of our lives and the only way to continue is through our next generation.

With Jamie Zartman as our Vice President it opens the door to a whole other group excited about the 315th. You can count on me to pick his brain for ideas that will entice the youngsters to come and see what Grandpa did in the Big One. I am open to all suggestions!

Happy Holidays to all and much happiness in the New Year!

Your president,
Leonard Thomas



*The WW II 315th Troop Carrier Group Association publishes this newsletter irregularly
1318 N. 126th St., Omaha, Nebraska 68154*

*Leonard Thomas
President*

*Leonard Thomas
Vice-President*

*Mary Lynn Schwietz
Editor*

*Cathy Beck
Assistant Editor*

Taps

**With deep regret we record the
loss of these comrades.**

**(If you were close friends a letter to
their family would be truly welcome.)**

John F. Cipolla	309 th	24 Dec 2003
Norman A. Greene	310 th	11 June 2004
Louie V. Hansen	34 th	13 July 2003
Felix F. Moran	310 th	25 July 2004
Dr. Roy N. Peach	309 th	12 Mar 2004
Joel J. Tyson	34 th	3 May 2003
Richard Kenton Honorary Member		29 June 2004

Donations

Donations are gratefully accepted
whether in memory of former comrades
or in support of the Association.
Families are notified when appropriate.

From	In Memory Of
Dee Pleasant	Bernie Pleasant
Dee Pleasant	Stan Smith

**Roland Pence donated in honor of:
Mark Grosinger, Bernie Pleasant,
James Smith, Michael O'Rourke,
Lawrence St. John, and Thad Knight.**

Donations given in honor of the
315th Organization

**Russ Lane
George Doll
Sam Warshaw**

In support of the Association, and in
remembrance of those for whom Taps
were sounded.

Tribute to the Kentons

For many, many years, our
Honorary Member, Richard Kenton,
provided a great service to the old 315th.
Richard was a business partner of Ed Papp
and during all of those long years that Ed
wrote and published our newsletters,
Richard printed and kept the labels up to
date. After Ed died, out of respect for Ed
and the 315th, Richard continued to send
the labels to Stan Smith each time he
published the newsletter.

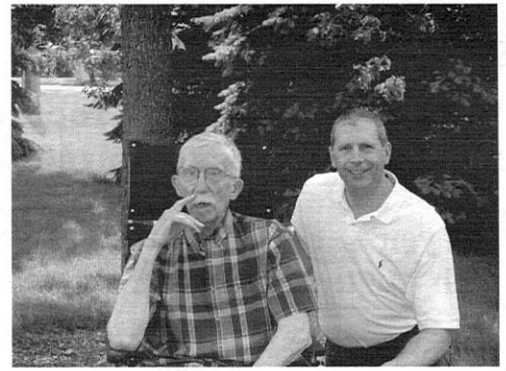
This service lasted until about three
years ago when Richard's health reached
the point where he was having problems
doing his computer work. At that time his
son, James Kenton volunteered to take
over the service. Since then, Jim has bar-
coded all of our label addresses so the
newsletters are delivered faster and at less
postage. Each time that Mary Lynn is
ready to publish the newsletter, she asks
Jim for the latest, up-to-date labels and he
electronically sends them to the printer in
Omaha.

Over the many years that the
Kenton's have served the 315th, we have
never received a bill for any of the
material or hours provided. That real sad
part for me is: Richard Kenton passed
away on the 29th of June 2004 and we did
not know about it in time to even send
flowers to the funeral. While I continue to
send all of the address changes to Jim, and
he continues to provide this service, I am
sure that he would like someone from the
315th to take over his job. We are trying to
get one of our younger members who is
sharp with computers to take over.

On the next page and you will find
a picture of Jim and Richard Kenton.

Doc Cloer, Secretary

U
"Richard Kenton and his son James Kenton – Refer to
Tribute to the Kentons" on page 2



PHOTOS NEEDED

Hans den Brok, a Holland researcher who has documented and provided considerable information about our role and losses in Market Garden is seeking photos of the planes and flights involving the 315th regarding this mission as a published record. Anyone with photos of possible interest can contact Hans directly by e-mail at sietse.hans@12move.nl.

Herman Sherrod's daughter, Annette Dickinson, would like to know more about her father's service in World War II. He is no longer around to answer her questions. She would like to know:

- ❖ When did he leave Bowman Field in Kentucky to go to England and when did he join the 310th in England?
- ❖ Was he in the U.S. or in England on D-Day? If he was in England, what did he do on D-Day?
- ❖ What did he do in the way of flying or of other services, while he was serving as mess officer for the 310th?
- ❖ Did he stay with the 310th after December 1944? What were his assignments after that date until his discharge in September, 1945?

If you can be of any help in obtaining this information write to Annette Dickinson at 6527 Carrie Lynn Court, Mount Airy, MD 21771. Her phone number at home is: 301-829-0736. Work number is: 202-776-7951. E-mail address is: annette6527@msn.net

Bill, a 70 year old extremely wealthy widower, shows up at the Country Club with a breathtakingly beautiful and very sexy 25 year-old blonde who knocks everyone's socks off with her youthful appeal and outright charm while hanging over Bills arm and listening intently to his every word.

His buddies at the club are all aghast. They corner him and ask, "Bill how did you get the trophy girlfriend?"

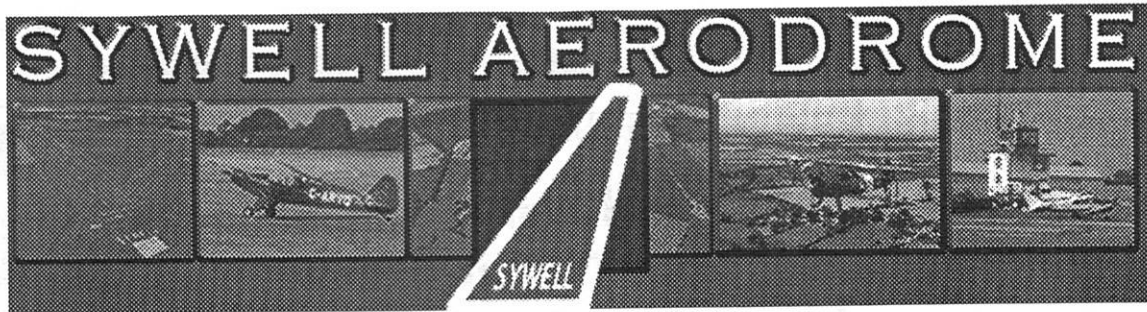
Bill replies, "Girlfriend? She's my wife!"

They're knocked over, but continue to ask. "So, how did you persuade her to marry you?"

Bill says, "I lied about my age."

His friends respond, "What do you mean? Did you tell her you were only 50?"

Bill smiles and says, "No, I told her I was 90."



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Sywell Aviation Museum

Sywell Aviation Museum is a voluntary, non-profit making organization which aims to preserve the history of Sywell Aerodrome and Northamptonshire's rich aviation heritage from the early days of aviation to the Second World War and beyond.

At the museum there is a selection of USAAF uniforms, insignia, Escape and Survival Equipment. Also prominently displayed are two cabinets dedicated to the 315th Troop Carrier Group operations during the D-Day landings in June of 1944. Sywellt would be a great place to tour if you are planning to go to England for "Operation Spanhoe" the weekend of May 7, 2005.

The summer issue of the magazine, Flypast, mentioned the 315th display at Sywell. They also included an article on the 315th unit.

The Sywell Aviation Museum website is: www.sywellaerodrome.co.uk/aviation (History-SAM)

"COME JOIN THE GROUP"

As a step to insure the future and keep alive the wartime memories of the 315th TCG Association has opened its membership to family members and our descendants. Our Association's action in opening membership to family members and descendants also is particularly meaningful as a long-range solution to a sustaining source of income.

If you're now eligible to join our group, we not only need your active involvement, but also your dues support as well. The 315th quarterly Newsletter has always been mailed to the entire membership roster and, under a waiver authorized in the revised Articles of Association, this practice will continue to all WWII members regardless of dues payment (\$20/year).

The newsletter provides the communications link among our members. The addition of the website provides an excellent second source of information but not everyone has "on-line" access.

For more information, contact any of the officers or board members. For dues payments, please make checks payable to "WWII 315th TCG Assn." and mail it to treasurer Dick Ford at P.O. Box 4399, Sunriver, OR 97707.

Treasury Report

Transferred from Treasurer Friedman	\$7061.44
Income from dues, reunion refund & lapel pins	272.87
Interest	1.07
	<u>\$7335.38</u>
Secretary expenses in 2004	\$338.26
Delayed clearing of reunion expense advance	300.00
Registration with Oregon Secretary of State	55.00
Bank checks supply	13.80
Coil 100 37cent stamps for treasurer use	37.00
	<u>\$743.86</u>

Bank balance as of Nov. 30, 2004 \$6591.52

Dick Ford, Treasurer



World War II 315th Troop Carrier Group Association - U.S.A.A.C.

NM



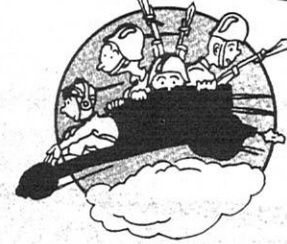
UA



M6



4A



34th Sqdn.
43rd Sqdn.
309th Sqdn.
310th Sqdn.

Synopsis of the Board of Directors meetings held on the 23rd and 24th of September 2004 and the General Membership meeting held on the 25th of September 2004: (All of the Board meetings were held in the English Board Room of the Holiday Inn Downtown Louisville and the General Membership meeting was held in the Bienville Room)

The Board of Directors Meeting of 23 Sept. was called to order by President Bernie Brown at 2:40PM. He noted that our long time Treasurer, Sanford Friedman has asked to be replaced because of health problems as has Board Member Russell Lane. Board Members J.W. Way and Larry Ison have served their six year term and want to be replaced. Long time Secretary Robert Cloer needs someone to start taking over that job. All of the item on the agenda were well discussed and the meeting lasted for one hour and thirty three minute - - but as there was not a quorum of Board Members present - no action could be taken and the meeting was to be rescheduled for 4:00 PM tomorrow.

The Board of Directors meeting of Sept.24th was called to order by President Bernie Brown at 4:20 PM, with a quorum of Board members present. Financial Report - At this time there is \$6522.50 in the checking account. The most important item now is the approval of the changes to our Articles of Association. This will allow our second generation members to become regular members and hold office. All changes were gone over, each section by section. The six Board Members present voted unanimously to accept the recommended changes to the Articles of Association. This now opened it up for the nomination of Officers and Board Members. It was suggested that we fill the three vacant Board members first, utilizing second generation member. Three present volunteered as follows: Mike Knight will fill the 4 year term - Brian Reading and Gary Ertel will each fill the 6 years term. Dick Ford was nominated to take on the Treasurers job. Robert Cloer will fill the Secretary position for two more years, with back up from Mike Knight. The nominating committee must come up with a Vice President and Assistant Treasurer candidates before presenting the slate to the Membership meeting tomorrow. They will contact members tonight in the Hospitality Room. The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 PM.

The Membership Meeting was called to order by President Bernie Brown at 9:35 AM on Sept. 25. Guests and first timer was ask to stand and were welcomed. Reading of the minutes of the last meeting was suspended as they had been posted in the Hospitality Room for the past two days. Treasurer Report - Approximately \$6500 and will be collecting dues after the meeting. Changes in the Articles of Association were covered. Report by the Nominating Committee : Leonard Thomas - - President Jamie Zartman - - Vice Pres. Robert Cloer - - Secretary Richard Ford - -Treasurer Cathy Scott - - Assistant Treasurer Board Members and term of Office: Brian Reading - 2010 Gary Ertel - 2010 Michael Knight - 2008 Roland Pence - 2008 Evelyne Kowalchuk - 2006 Doug Watkins - 2006. Newman Riechman - Alternate Board Member. Mary Lynn Schwietz - Newsletter Editor Miles Hamby - Web Master. Nominations were open from the floor - - there being none - the membership approved the Officers for the next two years. Washingto D.C - - Omaha NE - - Reno NV - - Branson MO - - Charleston SC - - were all suggested as locations for the next reunion. As the incoming President will probably have to host the next reunion, it was decided that he would select the location. It was also suggested that we consider having it in the Spring time. The meeting adjourned at approximatly 10:40 AM. Respectfully Submitted, 4 Oct. 2004. Robert L. Cloer, Secretary

THE WORLD WAR II REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES



Anyone who helped win the war, either a veteran or an American on the home front, is eligible for the Registry of Remembrances. You may enter your own name, or the name of someone you wish to honor for their service during the war. The Registry of Remembrances will be accessible on site at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. You may register a name via the internet or by mail. Registration is free.

HOW TO ENTER A NAME IN THE REGISTRY VIA THE WWII MEMORIAL WEBSITE

1. Go to *www.wwiimemorial.com*. Click on the "WWII Registry" button at left.
2. Follow the online instructions to enter the name you wish to honor.
3. Please include all information that applies, if available. Some fields are required information.
4. You will be given the opportunity to enter more than one name if you wish.

You will receive an e-mail confirming registration of the name you enter. When the name is available for viewing on the website (please allow two to three weeks), you will receive a second e-mail telling you how to add a photograph to the Registry record of the name you entered.

HOW TO ENTER A NAME IN THE REGISTRY BY MAIL

1. Complete the form below. Please note required fields (marked by *).
2. Mail this page to: WWII Memorial Processing Center
P.O. Box 186
Calverton, NY 11933-0186
3. If you wish to add more than one name, please copy this form and complete it for each honoree.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ REGISTRY OF REMEMBRANCES ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Title/Rank: _____

*Honoree Name: _____

*Honoree Status: (check one) World War II Veteran Civilian on the Home Front Killed in World War II

*Hometown: _____ *State: _____

Branch of Service: (check one) Air Force Army Marine Corps
 Navy Coast Guard Merchant Marine

Honoree's Wartime Activity: _____

Your relationship to Honoree _____

*Your Name _____

*Your Address _____

*City _____ *State _____ *Zip Code _____

There is no fee to add a name to the Registry. There is a fee, however, to add a photo or receive a certificate. See other side to add a photograph to the record of the person you are honoring or to purchase a certificate listing the name of the person you are honoring.

Questions? Please call the World War II Memorial Processing Center at 1-800-639-4992.

5

How to Add a Photograph to The World War II Memorial Registry of Remembrances

When you enter a name in the Registry of Remembrances, you may include a photograph as part of the entry. There is a processing fee of \$10 per photo. Please complete the form below to submit a photo by mail.

Note: If you are entering a name in the Registry via the World War II Memorial website, you will receive e-mail instructions for adding a photo via the website.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAILING A PHOTOGRAPH

1. You may add one photograph per honoree. You may submit a photo from the WWII era or a more recent photo. Black-and-white or color is acceptable.
2. Portrait format (vertical) is recommended. Landscape format (horizontal) is acceptable, but the image may appear smaller on-screen.
3. Have a print copy of the original photo made. *Please do not send original photos, only copies. We cannot return prints, CDs or diskettes.*
4. Complete the form below and mail it with the print copy to:
 WWII Memorial Photo Processing Center
 P.O. Box 186
 Calverton, NY 11933



Be sure to include a check made payable to "WWII Memorial" for \$10 for each photo you are adding, or credit card information as appropriate.

How to Purchase a Certificate from The World War II Memorial Registry of Remembrances

When you enter a name in the Registry of Remembrances, you may purchase an official Registry Certificate, suitable for framing, that lists the name of the person you have entered.

There is a processing fee of \$5 per Certificate ordered. Please complete the form below and return with your payment.



 <div style="display: inline-block; text-align: center;"> <p>N A T I O N A L</p> <p>WORLD WAR II</p> <p>M E M O R I A L</p> </div> 
Photo Processing Center • P.O. Box 186 • Calverton, NY 11933
<input type="checkbox"/> YES , I'm sending a copy of a photograph to include with the name I've entered in the Registry of Remembrances. I am enclosing a processing fee of \$10.
<input type="checkbox"/> YES , I would like to receive an official Registry of Remembrances Certificate listing the name of the person I am honoring. I am enclosing a processing fee of \$5 for each Certificate ordered.
Total amount due: \$ _____. Please make check payable to: World War II Memorial
Charge my credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> VISA <input type="checkbox"/> American Express
Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____
Please mail my Certificate to (if other than address shown on back):
Mr./Mrs./Family of: _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____

● The scene today just off the main Tinwell road. Tom Chambers landed in the mud by the stream in the background. The wreckage of the two Dakotas was scattered in the mid-distance. Photo: RUT841/5/39.



Polish paras and US airmen remembered

Brian **Martin**
REPORTING



It was a night like any other for young Tom Chambers. The date was July 8 1944. The time 10pm. Three American C47a Dakotas were taking off from Spanhoe airfield, bound for Wittering.

One of them was 43-115341 piloted by Flt Lieut James G Leonard. A second Dakota (42-108873) was piloted by 2nd Lieut Leo L Byrne. With the third Dakota alongside, they were flying in V-formation on a routine flight.

Tom Chambers was radio operator on 43-115341. Seasoned operator Sgt Harry Black, also of the USAF, was to have taken the flight but he had been given furlough at short notice and Tom had taken his place. He was a rookie, only in his early 20s, and the 13 hardened Polish paratroopers on board the plane were teasing him unmercifully about wearing a parachute.

"Gee, it's only a few miles to Wittering," protested Tom. "I've never parachuted in my life." The Poles joshed him: "Put it on; you never know what might happen." So he did. It helped save his life.

From the third Dakota, crew chief Ray Baker watched as the planes soared skyward. Everything appeared normal as the Dakotas took close formation. The weather was good as was the flight routine – but Baker was horrified by what happened next.

They had reached 800ft when, like a slow motion nightmare played out against a quiet summer sky, one of the huge people carriers flew into another. Its wing thrust deep into its fellow Dakota's fuselage – and, without warning, both planes fell out of the sky.

The speed of the accident left Baker traumatised. It was an unbelievable sight as the two mighty Dakotas plunged, wrapped inexorably together, into an inky blackness. Men who had risked their lives over Germany and North Africa were suddenly confronted with instant death – in the heart of the peaceful Rutland countryside.



● Tom Chambers (back row, far left) holding a pet rabbit in 1944. He is flanked by other USAF radio operators.

The tough Polish paras were being thrown about the planes as pilots Leonard and Byrne fought for control. It was a losing battle. The Dakotas plummeted to the ground in a field near Tinwell.

Twenty-six Poles and eight Americans lost their lives on that fateful night. The only one to survive the double catastrophe was young Thomas Chambers. He had been wearing an Air Force parachute and had his own ripcord, which he pulled as 43-113541 nosedived to disaster.

Plumes of smoke

As the two doomed planes crashed into an obscene and tangled mess of engine parts, wings and bodies, Chambers landed on the muddy bank of a nearby stream. The soft ground also helped to save his life. It was his lucky night alright. But even then there were dangers.

He struggled to his feet and studied the carnage around him. Plumes of smoke wreathed lazily into the air. The smell was of death on a huge scale. He shook his head in dumb amazement and, after entangling himself from his chute, pulled a crumpled packet of cigarettes from his pocket. Boy, did he need a smoke. It could have been his last smoke on Earth.

Chambers was about to light up when a Polish para from Easton-on-the-

Hill, who had seen the disaster from afar, ran up to him and shouted to the shaken youngster: "Stop! Stop! There is engine oil all around you! You will blow us all up!" Chambers slowly put his cigarette back in its packet and together they stood in exhausted contemplation of the mounds of debris and the sight of crumpled corpses which, just minutes before, had been living, breathing, relaxed, joking heroes willing to take the war to Germany.

It was hard to imagine the devastation. Peaceful pasture had been transformed into a killing ground and when the news of the tragedy spread the impact was incisive. When Polish parachute commander General Stainslaw Sorabowski visited the crash site shortly afterwards the tears welled in his eyes and he said angrily: "It's taken three years to train them and now they're all dead."

Sixty years later, and aviation historian David Benfield from Stamford is standing in that same field near Tinwell. It was David's suggestion that we write the above story to commemorate the sad anniversary of the tragedy – and we owe him an enormous debt of gratitude for his detailed help and advice.

Now, on this quiet evening of July 8, he lowers his head in remembrance and thinks of all those who died. He also thinks of young Tom Chambers. It was Tom's miraculous luck to survive the carnage – only to die the following year while learning to pilot a plane. Such are the fortunes – and misfortunes – of war.

● Polish paras gather round in a jeep in France.



Louisville Reunion, September, 2004



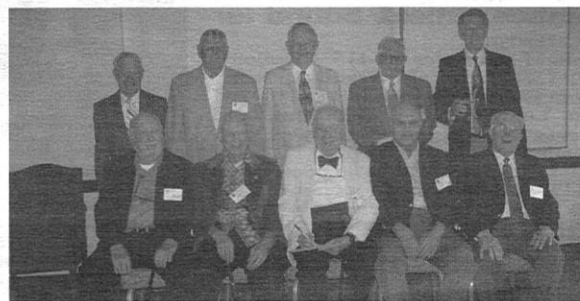
309th Squadron: Jake Sternoff, Doug Watkins, John Reading, Pete Teresi. (Not pictured: Jack Geist)



2nd Second Generation: (Back) Jamie Zartman, Gary Ertel, Michael Knight, Peter Kowalchuk. (Front) Ray McManus, Jr., Nita (McManus) Sheets, Cathy Scott, Mary Lynn Schwietz, Joanne Edney



34th Squadron: (Back) Doc Riechman, Bud Pence, Ford Blaney (Front) John Andrachek, Bill Perkins, Art Ertel, Bob Cloer, Rav McManus



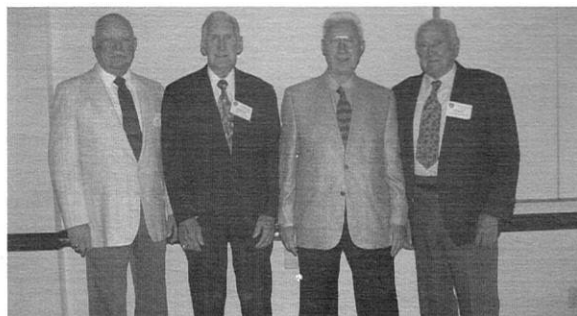
310th Squadron: (Back) Dick Ford, Ken Kranz, Garland Morgan, Don Secor, John Edney (Front) Ted Stewart, Monroe Zartman, Henry Hamby, Len Thomas, Harold



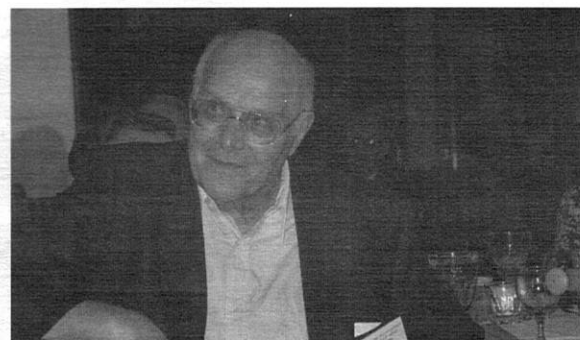
HQ, 818th, Honorary: (Back) Dave Benefield (Hon.), Miles Hamby, George Cholewczyski (Front) Evelyn Kowalchuk (818th), Sanford Friedman (Hqtrs.)



2nd Generation: (Back) Kit Collins, Brian Reading, Ken Slack, Rick Slack (Front) Cathy Thomas, Valerie Smith, Linda Slack, Cathy Slack



43rd Squadron: Bob Lutes, Bernie Brown, George Hoffman, Bob Schwarz, (Not Pictured: Ben Reynolds)



Our new president, Len Thomas

315th Reunites



President Bernie Brown presents a poster in appreciation to Col. Gary L. Cook, Commander of the 315th Airlift Wing from Charleston Air Force Base in South Carolina.



Jake Sternoff amazes us with his rendition of "Danny Boy" at the Saturday night banquet.



The automobile in which General George S. Patton had his fatal accident. This limo is on display at the Patton Museum at Fort Knox in Kentucky.



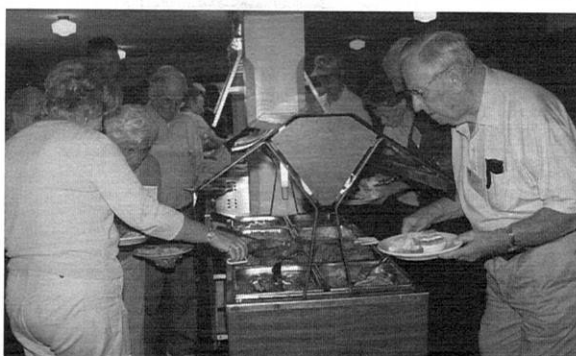
Dancing the night away at Saturday's banquet.



Evelyn Kowalchuk and Doc Cloer sharing some laughs.



The 315th reliving memories of being in the *wild blue yonder* at Bowman Airfield.



Lunch at Farmington, a 19th century estate.

ML Schwietz
WW II 315th Troop Carrier Group Assoc.
1318 N. 126th St.
Omaha, NE 68154

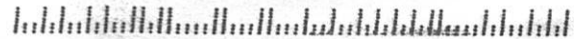
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Miles M. Hamby
6505 Hillside Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

22306%4425 C002



Where do you send information?

Everyone who received this newsletter is encouraged to **submit material**. Don't be afraid to jump in and contribute! Suggestions are welcome! Please send all submissions to: Mary Lynn Schwietz, 1318 North 126th St., Omaha, NE 68154 or send via e-mail to mlschwietz@aol.com.

Change of address, deaths, new members, etc. should be sent to Doc Cloer. His address is Robert Cloer, 1417 Valley View Drive, Yuba City, CA 95993. E-mail address is: rlcloer@syix.com

Annual dues of \$20, donations and requests for caps should be sent to: Dick Ford, P.O. Box 4399, Sunriver, OR 97707. Check out our own 315th Website at www.315group.org compliments of Miles Hanby!

Article from the Kettering Telegraph in England

HELP US FIND OUR MASCOT MOYRA

AMERICAN troops stationed at an airbase in the Second World War are looking for their mascot.

During their time at the Spanhoe airfield in Laxton, near Oundle, the 315 Troop Carrier Group of the 9th Army Airforce adopted a local eight-year-old girl called Moyra as their mascot. The troop named one of its planes Lady Moyra in her honour and invited the youngster to parties they held on the airfield. Now the veterans want to find her before the VE Day 60th anniversary being held at Spanhoe next May. The appeal comes after Maurice Woolmer, of Howe Crescent in Corby, went to America to see his sister Gwen, who married one of the Americans stationed in the area, John Reading. Maurice attended the reunion of the 315 Troop in Kentucky and was talking to the troops about the mascot. He said: "they said they would like to find her and discover what has become of her over the years. Because of the name and the kilt I am assuming she was a Corby girl."



Mystery Moyra