



315TH NEWSLETTER

Published by
WORLD WAR II 315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASS'N.

November 2008

The 315th Troop Carrier Group Association veterans, friends, and family members gathered in Omaha in May for a bi-annual reunion. Thanks to the many people who traveled to Omaha to spend time together and share plenty of stories and laughter.

It was exciting to have Alvin Tietgen and his wife, Valerie, attend their first 315th Reunion! Alvin Tietgen was fresh out of high school at age 17 when he enlisted in the Army Air Corps in May 1942, and was assigned to the 34th Squadron of the newly constituted 315th Air Transport Group in Louisville, Kentucky.

Al served as a crew chief and remained in the 34th Squadron throughout the war as the renamed 315th Troop carrier Group moved to Savannah, Aldermaston, Blida, Welford and finally Spanhoe and Amiens. Now living in Norfolk, Nebraska, the Tietgens were warmly welcomed to the Reunion in Omaha.

A Big Thank You to so many people who chipped in to make the Omaha event special. Mary Lynn Schwietz and her family graciously invited everyone out to their home for dinner and evening boat rides. Bud Pence became the official tour guide, and set up an enjoyable tour of Boys Town Hall of History and the Air & Space Museum. Bud even took care of all the travel arrangements for us. Thanks, Bud!

Dick Ford kindly helped set up the Hospitality Room, bringing a much-appreciated assortment of photographs and memorabilia.

Stephen Barker of the 315 Historial Society in the UK attended and talked about Operation Market Garden, which was held on September 13 & 14 at Spanhoe Airfield. Nr. Corby. There is more about this amazing event in this newsletter.

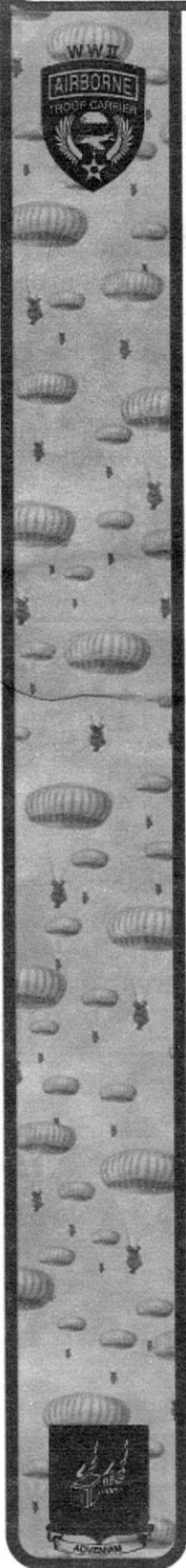
George and Marie Chowlewczynski attended, which is always a treat.

It was wonderful to see Ziggy Zartman and his family members, traveling all the way from Colorado.

In planning ahead, the next Reunion is tentatively scheduled in Charleston, S.C. in May 2010. See inside for more details in the Letter from the 315th President.

Sincerely,

Valerie J. Smith
Newsletter Editor



315th TROOP CARRIER GROUP ASSOCIATION
Olmsted, Florence, Aldermaston, Blida, Spanhoe, Amiens

OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

Message from the President:

We had a very successful reunion in Omaha, Nebraska May 15-18th. The tours and renewing of old friendships was great. Thank you to all those who attended!

I personally have been very fortunate as my son, Jim Ertel, has been able to attend the last two reunions with us. It was especially fortunate that my father was still alive for the Branson reunion and my Dad, Jim, my mother and I were all able to attend together. Due to my father's passing away in December of 2007 he was not able to be at the 2008 reunion in Omaha but I know he was glad Jim and I were there. I appreciate the opportunity Jim has had to meet all of you.

I know there are a number of individuals who traveled to Spanhoe in September for the celebration over there on the 13th and 14th of this year. The Spanhoe celebration has become a major event in the UK. The people in UK continue to remember all of you and the sacrifices and bravery that each of you exhibited in your efforts to defend their country and liberate the rest of Europe. I hope everyone who was able to travel to Spanhoe had a wonderful time and appreciate what I know will be a distinguished and honorable representation by you of the 315th at this great endeavor. Some day I too want to visit Spanhoe.

As is usual we elected a new Board of Directors at the reunion in Omaha and you will see the information on the new Board elsewhere in this newsletter. This Board is working diligently to put together the specifics of the next 315 TCG reunion. **We have set Charleston, South Carolina as the location and the dates will be the 20 through the 23rd of May 2010.** Charleston is the Headquarters of the active 315th Airlift Wing, and they will be acting as hosts for the 2010 reunion. We will be developing further specifics such as hotel, tours, and expenses. As this information becomes available we will communicate it out to you as early as possible.

Finally, Colonel Timothy Wrighton the commander of the 315th Airlift Wing has invited everyone from the 315th TCG to the 40th anniversary celebration of the 315th Airlift Wing. Should you wish to attend you can get further information from myself or Captain Wayne Capps the public affairs officer for the 315 Airlift Wing.

The Web site for the 315h TCG is <http://www.315group.org>.

Sincerely,

Gary Ertel
President

Photos from the 315th May 2008 Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska



Proud Veterans included (front row) Dick Ford, Ted Stewart and Ziggy Zartman and (back row) Bud Pence, Alvin Tietgen, Martin Henzel, Bernie Brown, Bob Cloer and Chappie Kowalchuk



Ahoy! A boat cruise at Mary Lynn Schweitz's house on Friday night



The group toured the Air & Space Museum



A group of handsome gentleman before the Saturday night banquet



Several of the ladies got together for a photo before the banquet



Col. Timothy Wrighton and Capt. Wayne Capps from the 315th Airlift Wing

315th Troop Carrier Group
Minutes of the Business Meeting
Omaha, NE
17 May 2008

The meeting was called to order by President Jamie Zartman in the hospitality room of the Doubletree Hotel at 1534 hrs. A quorum was present.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were delivered by Michael Knight & Dick Ford respectively covering their parts of the minutes of yesterday's Board of Directors meeting. As those were covered in detail in the overall minutes of the meeting published 21 May 2008, they will not be repeated here except to re-state that the treasury has a \$6916.83 balance and has gained revenue steadily since 2005. The reports were approved as delivered.

Doc Cloer passed along convention propaganda from Denver, CO. They had solicited to be our next reunion site. The literature, called by Doc, "The damnedest bunch of stuff you ever saw", is now in the secretary's library for anyone to read. Doc also said that we have all been invited to the final glider pilot's reunion, 25-27 Sept 2008, at the Holiday Inn in Dayton(Fairfield), OH. This is where we held our 2000 reunion.

Treasurer Ford said there is a WW II Pilots Assn., reunion every year and it will be held in Norfolk, VA, 17-21 Sept 2008, with billeting in Virginia Beach, VA.

Treasurer Ford moved to resolve that Steve Barker and, whomever they may be at the time, both the Commanding Officer and the Public Affairs Officer of the 315th Airlift Wing be made honorary members of the 315th TCGA. The motion was carried unanimously.

Bud Pence took this time to introduce Al & Val Tietgen of Norfolk, NE. Al was in the 34th Squadron from 1942 on and, though he and Val have been on the mailing list for years, this was their first reunion.

Miles Hamby and Dick Ford questioned the rules and qualifications as to who could travel to the Spanhoe event via 315th AW C-17 aircraft. If you are a military retiree or a 315th TCG veteran of WW II or were associated with the 315 TCG in WW II, you qualify. However, there have been exceptions. Therefore, it was urged by both to put your name(s) on Capt Capps' list ASAP, if not tonight, in order to be considered for one of those exceptions. Steve Barker stated there was a possibility that a commercial tour package can be arranged and he would keep us informed.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted into record to accept the slate of officers and board members as recommended by the Board of Directors.

Marc Sandall said he had the ability and the will to provide to the members a customized version of the 315th TCG cap he had commissioned and was wearing. Any members interested were to see him after the meeting.

Valerie Smith & Treasurer Ford went over the evening's schedule of cocktails, pictures, and entertainment.

President Zartman adjourned the meeting at 1606 hrs.

Michael Gordon Knight,
Secretary

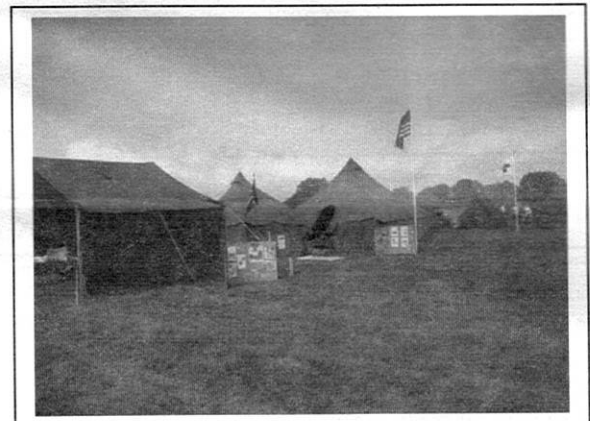
Operation Market Garden

September 13 & 14, 2008

Spanhoe Airfield, Nr. Corby

Photos by Dick Ford

**Welcome to
Spanhoe!
The guests
received a warm
welcome.**



Operation Market Garden

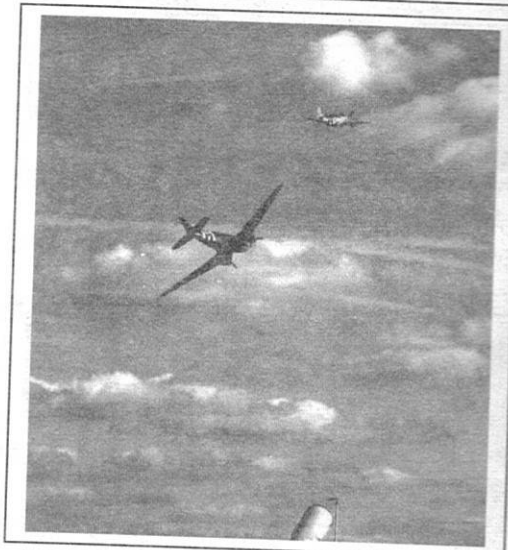
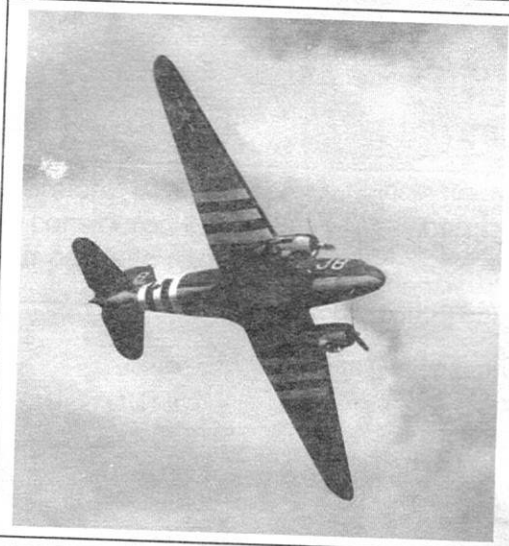
September 13 & 14, 2008

Spanhoe Airfield, Nr. Corby

Photos by Dick Ford



Capt. Wayne Capps, Bernie Brown, Bud Pence, Stephen Barker,
Evelyn Kowalchuk, Dick Ford and a member of the 315th Airlift Wing



Taps

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

Ray Bauman
34th Squadron
August 2008

Ray was most recently living in Sparks, Nevada

Treasurer's Report Sept. 1, 2008

Bank Balance January 1, 2008	\$6,251.70
Income	\$2,277.05
Expenses	\$4,597.70
Bank Balance Sept. 1, 2008	\$3,831.05
Supplies in stock	
7 Caps @ \$15.00	\$105.00
0 315 th Cap Insignias @ \$3.50	-----
13 Lapel Pins @ \$7.50	\$97.50
Inventory Value	\$202.50

BOARD MEMBERS

- Gary Ertel- President
Gertel@wi.rr.com
- Peter Kowalchuk – Vice President
Peter56@verizon.net
- Michael Knight - Secretary
mknight@bellsouth.net
- Valerie Smith – Newsletter Editor
and Board Member
vjsmithcolorado@hotmail.com
- Richard Ford - Treasurer
dickfordfire@aol.com
- Cathy Scott – Asst Treasurer
rcscott@charter.net
- Jamie Zertman – Past President
jamiieeez@gmail.com
- Miles Hamby – Board Member
milesamby@cox.net
- Marc Sandall – Board Member
mrsandall@hotmail.com
- Bud Pence – Board Member
rmapence@hamilton.net
- Doc Cloer – Board Member
rlcloer@syix.com
- Gayle Barnard – Board Alternate
bandgbarnard@yahoo.com
- Brian Reading – Board Member

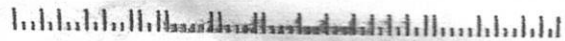
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Dues

Just a reminder, if you haven't paid your \$20 dues yet this year you can send them to: Dick Ford,

WWII 315th TCG Treasurer, P.O. Box 4399, Sunriver, OR 97707.

E-mail: dickfordfire@aol.com.

Are you on our E-mail List?

If you would like to receive e-mail updates as well as this newsletter, please send your e-mail address to: vjsmithcolorado@hotmail.com

*Wishing everyone a Healthy and
Happy Thanksgiving!*



World War II 315th Troop Carrier Group Association

2008 Reunion Information

Dates of Event:

Thursday - Sunday, May 15-18, 2008

(Activities begin on Friday, May 16. You may want to arrive on Thursday.)

Location:

Omaha, Nebraska

Hotel:

Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center - Omaha Downtown

1616 Dodge Street

Omaha, NE 68102

Phone: 402-346-7600

Fax: 402-636-4910

Toll Free: 1-800-766-1164 (Main Doubletree toll-free number. They will have info on the 315th Special Rate.)

Website: <http://doubletree1.hilton.com> (Doubletree home page - type in Omaha, Nebraska for this hotel.)

Room Rates: \$99.00/night plus taxes and fees for single, double, triple, or quad (Special Rate. Mention the "315th Troop Carrier Group Reunion." Contact Leah Kucks if any problems. Direct line 402-636-4912.) Check-in time is 3:00 p.m. Check-out time is 12:00 noon.

RESERVATION DEADLINE: April 23, 2008

Hotel Amenities Include: On-site restaurant serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, room service, lounge, special needs "Accessible" rooms, fitness room, pool, laundry/valet, gift shop, in-room coffee, high-speed internet, non-smoking or smoking rooms. No pets.

Hotel Shuttle Service: Complimentary hotel shuttle service available from the airport. Look for courtesy phone in Airport baggage claim area.

Airport: Eppley Airfield (OMA), located four miles from downtown.

Schedule of Events:

Thursday, May 15: Dinner on your own.

Friday, May 16: Hospitality Room (the "Wyoming Room" at the Doubletree) will be open morning and evening. Group tour, the Strategic Air and Space Museum. (Details to follow.) Dinner on your own.

Saturday, May 17: Hospitality Room open morning and evening. Board meeting Saturday morning.

Tour of Offutt Air Force Base with lunch at the Officer's Club. Details to follow.

• Cocktails in the Hospitality Room ("Wyoming Room") at 4:30 p.m.

Photos in the Banquet Room (the "Dakota Room") at 5:30 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. followed by entertainment by the USO Show "The AVISORS." Enjoy the sounds from the 30s and 40s. Put on your dancing shoes!

Sunday, May 18: Goodbyes and Departure

A newsletter with full details on the 315th Reunion in Omaha will be mailed later in March.

Meantime, please make your hotel reservations and flight arrangements now if you plan to attend.

For more information, contact:

Jamie Zartman, Board President. E-mail: jamiezeez@gmail.com. Home number: 970-424-0233

Valerie Smith, Board Member. E-mail: vjsmithcolorado@hotmail.com. Cell number: 970-985-9023

Michael Knight, Board Member. E-mail: mknight@bellsouth.net. Home: 615-896-1304. Cell: 615-904-4208.

Peter Kowalchuk, Board Member. E-mail: peterk56@verizon.net. Home: 973-992-7887. Work: 973-740-2455.