



315th Newsletter

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

Volume 23 Issue 3

October 2002

SAN DIEGO REUNION SUCCESS; PLANNING STARTED FOR 2004

The San Diego reunion was an unqualified success with some 120 plus attendees, including many daughters, sons, siblings and friends of members. The 315th's Association Board of Directors agreed that planning should get promptly underway for the 2004 gathering. New President Bernie Brown will, in consultation with the Board, select the site.

The bustling city of San Diego provided great weather in which to enjoy the city tour, bay cruise and Zoo visit. The Hospitality Room, overlooking the hotel pool, welcomed all with an unusually large memorabilia display (much thanks to Past president Dick Ford) along with computers displaying "Chip" Hamby's 315th internet web site; plus, of course, an always friendly bar.

A highlight of the Saturday banquet were remarks from Dr. Wm Olson, who heads Florida State University Institute on WWII and the Human Experience. The Institute recently received author Tom Brokaw's extensive document collection which served as a basis for his WW II books. Dr. Olson, noting that today's college students are generations removed from that war, emphasized the importance to future scholars and historians the need to preserve both written and oral histories of the those who were a part of that war. He urged the veterans present to contribute whatever documents they may have by forwarding them to the Institute. (see NOTAMS for address information).

To recognize the significant contributions made by members sons and daughters, the Board agreed to offer them Honorary Memberships (*an application form is included in this Newsletter*). They will join the Association's membership list, receive the *Newsletter* and other general information. No dues.

Jake Sternoff once again entertained with his singing, now a reunion tradition. To modify a TV ad: "This guy is good." A disc jockey provided after dinner dance music.

Plaques were presented by President Ford to "Doc" Cloer and Stan Smith for their contributions to the Association.

CONTENTS

- > President's Message
- > Reunion Photos
- > Board and Business Reports
- > The 82nd Says Thanks
- > Revised *Three-One-Five-Group*
- > Achtung Minen
- > Airline Pilots
- > NOTAMS
- > Off the Grapevine
- > Taps & Donations

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

OFFICIAL NOTICE BOARD

Message from the President:

As your newly elected president for 2002-2004 I am both humbled and excited. I thank you for the privilege, and promise to promote our cause as forcefully as possible. I particularly want to express the thanks of our entire membership to Dick Ford for the many fine accomplishments under his recent leadership. Newman Richman will serve admirably as our new VP, also Leonard Thomas will be fine in the Assistant Treasurer slot and we welcome Bud Pence and Russell Lane as new members on the board. With Bob Cloer continuing as Secretary and Sandy Friedman still on as Treasurer, we have a very strong line-up to guide us.

Our most major goal is communication and I challenge every one of you to not only continue, but to extend yourselves in encouraging members, prospective members and families to become more active in our group. The *Newsletter* is of utmost importance and it exists only as we members contribute to it. With Stan Smith retiring as editor, we are still looking for a replacement - perhaps a family member interested in up-dating our group's information and getting it out.

Let us thank the following individuals for their dedication:

- Bob Cloer for his unending efforts as secretary.
- George Cholewczynski, a real asset to our group, who so ably undated Bill Brinson's 315th book.
- Chip Hamby for establishing the web page and who is always looking for more input.
- Dave Benfield, our historian from England.
- Len Zurakov who traveled all the way from Israel.
- Members of the 316th TCG who honored us by attending our banquet.
- Dr. William Oldson, our banquet speaker and Director of Florida State University's Institute on WW II and the Human Experience in their Department of History.

I look forward to serving the 315th with enthusiasm and welcome any and all suggestions.
Bernie Brown, President

*American Theater *Naples-Foggia *Sicily *Normandy *Northern France *Central Europe *Rhineland

*This Newsletter is published irregularly by the 315th Troop Carrier Group Association, 1967 Iowa Ave NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33703
Bernard C. Brown, president Dr. Newman L. Riechman, vice president*

WHERE TO SEND STUFF

Address Information

(changes, deaths, new members, drop from mailings, etc.)
Robert L. Cloer
1417 Valley View Dr.
Yuba City, CA 95993
530 674-3681
E-mail: rlcloer@syix.com

Newsletter Articles

(to be announced)

Dues and Donations

(Annual dues: \$20)
Sanford Friedman
2425 Buckhurst Dr.
Cleveland, OH 44122
216 464-1529

3

Following are condensed versions of Recording Secretary Bob Cloer's official reports on the Association's Board of Directors and Business meetings held in conjunction with the San Diego reunion. The complete written reports can be obtained through written request to the Recording Secretary. Tapes are also on file and available for review by any member.

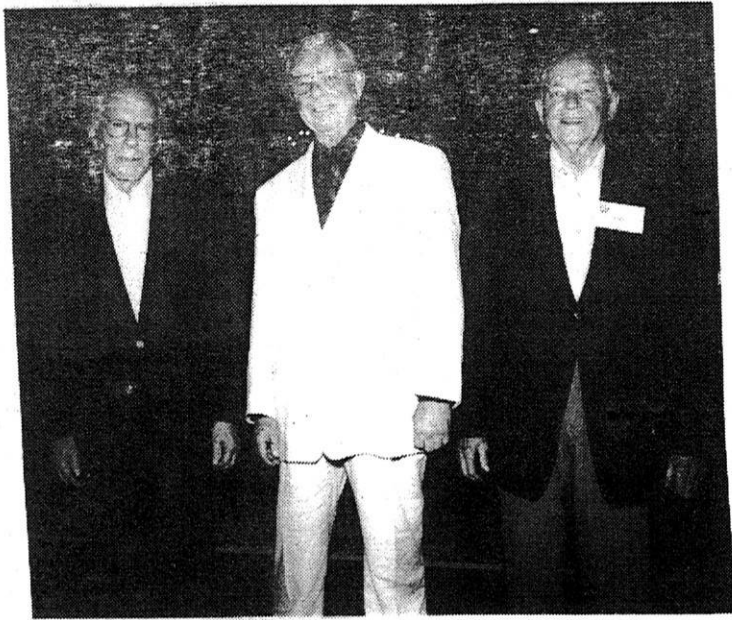
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Ford at 1630 hrs September 20, 2002. It was agreed to dispense with reading the previous meeting minutes. Discussion was held on the future of the Association. This included remaining as is, expanding to include sons/daughters of wartime 315th members, expanding to include 315th units of the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, disbanding, etc. It was agreed to retain the current status, that sufficient participation exists for a reunion in 2004 and any decision on the organization's future is deferred to that gathering. It was agreed that sons/daughters of wartime 315th members are to be offered honorary membership; further, that consideration continue to be given to modifying the Articles of Incorporation to include such sons/daughters as active members eligible to vote and hold office. Discussions were held on the location and management of the 2004 reunion. Inquires will be made as to whether Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. will continue to service the Association. As for location, it was decided to leave open until AFR participation was determined. The incoming President is to discuss at the Business Meeting and will make a selection later. An important factor is a site easy to get to, preferable near the center of the country. It was agreed to leave vacant the position of Corresponding Secretary, previously held by Bill Brinson. The position of Newsletter editor is open and efforts to find a replacement are underway. A brief Treasure's report was submitted. Chip Hamby explained the functioning of the 315th Web Page and the goal of it becoming a memorial and a history of what the 315th accomplished during WW II. Discussion was held as to content. It was decided that only material with a direct relationship to the 315th be included. It was agreed that the Webmaster would submit yearly costs association with the Web Page.

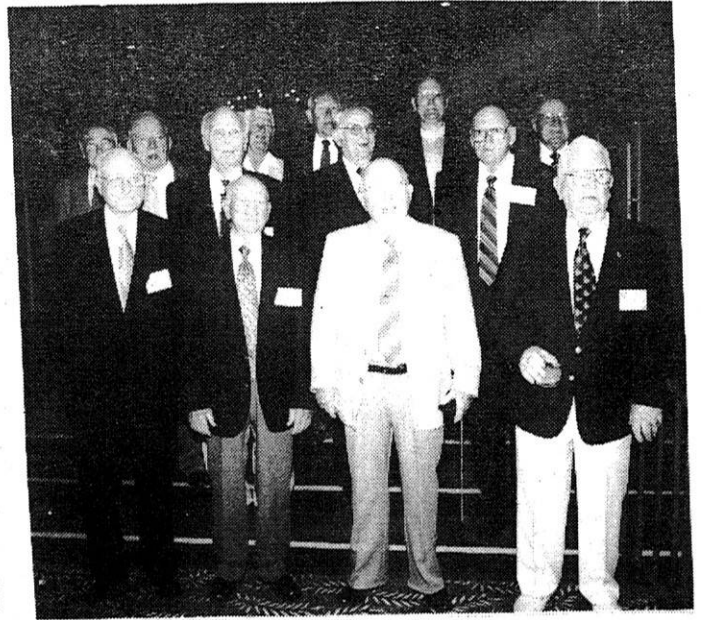
The meeting adjourned at approximately 1815 hrs

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Ford at 0840 hrs, 21 September 2002. Introduced were three members attending for the first time. Also introduced were representatives from the 316th TCG as well as George Cholewencynski, author of the revised *Three One Five Group*. Approval of the minutes of the last Business Meeting was agreed to. A motion was made to include the minutes in the 315th Web Page. This was agreed. Treasure Sandy Friedman reported the Association has both an interest bearing account and a checking account. As of 31 August '02 the total was \$7,116.99. The report was agreed to. The Recording Secretary reported the Board recommendation that, at this time, no change be made in Association membership criteria; further that sons/daughters of wartime members be granted Honorary membership upon their request; further that serious consideration be given at the next reunion to change membership criteria to permit sons/daughters to become full members. Location of the 2004 reunion was discussed with a number of sites suggested. However, lacking assurance of Armed Forces Reunions management, it was agreed to leave site selection with the incoming President and Board concurrence. A central US location with direct airline connections is desirable. The need to fill the position of Newsletter editor was discussed and volunteers called for. The position of Corresponding Secretary, previously held by Bill Brinson is to remain vacant. Miles "Chip" Hamby was named as Webmaster of the 315th Web Site. Expenditures of \$300 per year were approved. As for site content, it is to be limited to items relevant to the 315th TCG. Questionable input is to be referred to the President for decision. Candidates for Officer positions and Board membership were announced (see NOTAMS). All were approved. Meeting adjourned at 1009 hrs.



HDqs



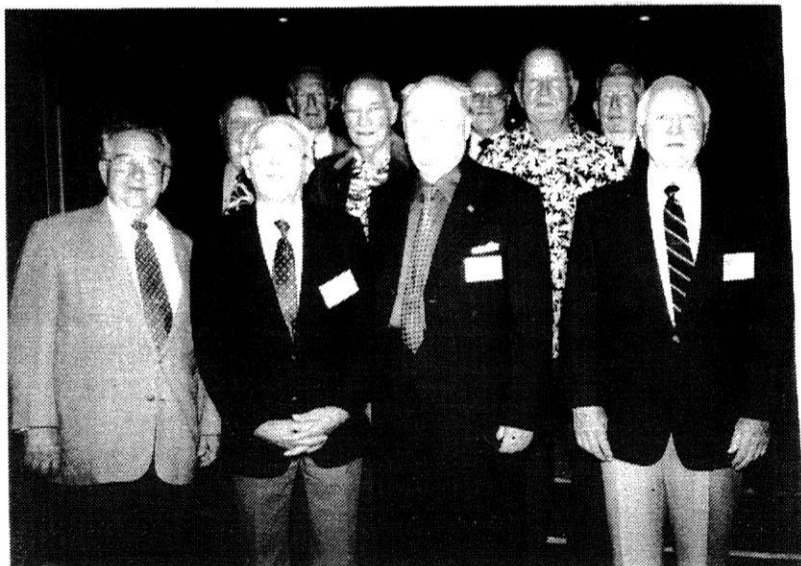
34th



43rd

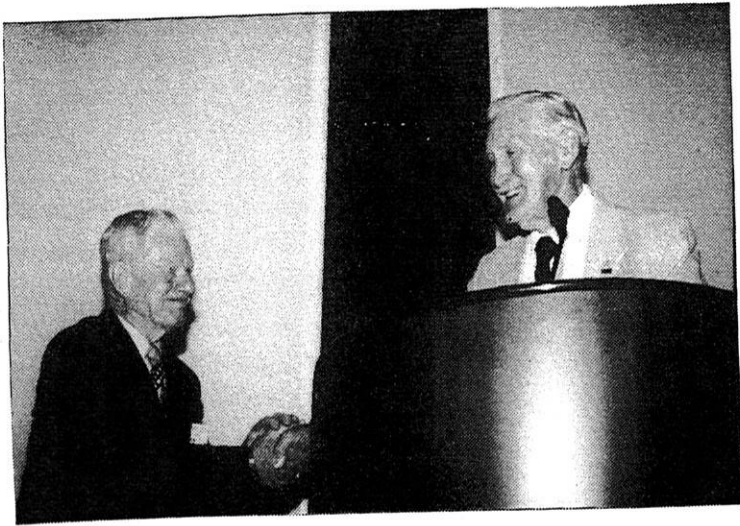


309th



310th





"Great job," new President Bernie Brown (rt) says to Past President Dick Ford (left)



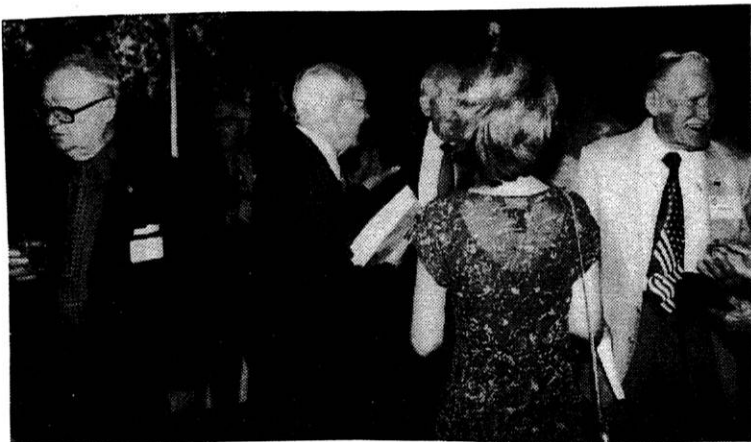
.....and we conducted business



.....and we partied



.....and we partied



.....and we partied



*...and the second generation was there.
Chip Hamby (left), Marc Sandall (rt)*

Other extracts from George Doll's diary along with his sketches have been included in previous Newsletters. A pre-war musician he was initially assigned to the 315th Medical section and then later transferred to a C.I. entertainment unit called the "Sky Blazers."

"ACHTUNG MINEN"

by George Doll

Today, we took our liberated German bus up a country road a mile or so from Lion-Sur-Mere and there found a series of bunkers and pill boxes facing away from us, guns still pointing toward the channel.

We left our bus by the roadside and crossed a field to get to the Jerry fortifications. When we got there, we were astounded by the deep trenches connecting gun emplacements to living quarters.



"Please observe all signs!"

They were positively the greatest in building the most complete communities underground. However, broken ground and deep shell holes from the Navy's 16 pounders pocked the ground completely.

We cautiously walked single file through the underground fortress. Everything has been air-conditioned, tailor shops with Nazi insignia scattered around. Sleeping quarters complete with bidets,

clothing still hanging in closets, pictures of girls, X-marked buddies and graves, all of which ceased to function or even exist after June 6, 1944.

Around noon we stopped wherever we happened to be and opened our K-rations. Lunch over, we saw the bus waiting patiently for us, turned our back to the channel and German fortifications and started toward our transportation. A field enclosed with a wire fence took is but a moment to climb over. We walked across the field, took a moment to climb the fence again and found ourselves a few feet from our bus.

I walked toward it only to be stopped by one of the guys asking me what a German sign hung from the wire outside the field meant. I opened my German/English book and that "Achtung Minen" was a warning not to cross the field. It meant "Attention Mines!" Suddenly very weak, we sat down in the middle of the road.

(remember this one ?..."we'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when but I know we'll meet again some sunny day.....")

WHERE IN 2-0-0-4?

President Bernie Brown, assisted by the Board of Directors, has been tasked with selecting a location for the Association's next reunion in 2004. As a part of the process he is soliciting suggestions from you, the members. There is no set criteria but easy accessibility via air and ground is valued. Locations which can be reached via flights with limited intermediate stops are preferable.

You can pass your suggestions to President Brown at: 10501 Lagrima de Oro, NE #280, Albuquerque, NM 8711; ph: 505.291.3280; e-mail bbar3@yahoo.com. Or get in touch with your nearest Officer or Board member. For a current list see NOTAMS, p. 8.

Not exactly about the 315th but DC-3s are mentioned and it is all about flying and at one time that was our thing.

AIRLINE PILOTS

(from Fall 2002 Daedalus Flyer)

You see them at airport terminals around the world. You see them in the morning early, sometimes at night. They come neatly uniformed and hatted, sleeves striped; they show up looking fresh. There's a brisk, young-old look of efficiency about them.

They arrive fresh from home, from hotels, carrying suitcases, battered briefcases, bulging with a wealth of technical information, data, filled with regulations, rules.

They know the new, harsh sheen of Chicago's O'Hare. They know the cluttered approaches to Newark, they know the tricky shuttle that is Rio, they know, but do not relish, threading the needle into Hong Kong. They respect foggy San Francisco. They know the up-and-down walk to the gates at Dallas, the Texas sparseness of Abilene, the Berlin Corridor, New Orleans' sparkling terminal, the milling crowds at Washington. They know Butte, Boston and Beirut. They appreciate Miami's perfect weather; they recognize the danger of an ice-slick runway at JFK.

They understand about short runways, antiquated fire equipment, inadequate approach lighting, but there is one thing they will never comprehend; complacency.

They remember the workhorse efficiency of the DC-3s, the reliability of the DC-4s and DC-6s, the trouble with the DC-7s. They discuss the beauty of an old gal named Connie. They recognize the high shrill whine of a Viscount, the rumbling thrust of a DC-8 or 707. And a Convair

They speak a language unknown to Webster. They discuss ALPA, EPR's, fins, mach and bogie swivels. And, strangely, such things as bugs, thumpers, crickets and CAT's, but they are inclined to change the subject when the uninitiated approaches.

They have tested the characteristic loneliness of the sky, and occasionally the adrenaline of danger.

They respect the unseen thing called turbulence, they know what it means to fight for self-control to discipline one's senses.

They buy life insurance but make no concession to the possibility of complete disaster, for they have uncommon faith in themselves and what they are doing. They concede that the glamour is gone from flying. They deny that a man is through at sixty. They know that tomorrow or the following night, something will come along that they have never met before, they know that flying requires perseverance. They know that they must practice lest they retrograde. They realize why some wit once quipped: "Flying is year after year of monotony punctuated by seconds of start terror." As a group they defy mortality tables, yet approach semi-annual physical examinations with trepidation. They are individualistic, yet bonded together. They are family men, yet rated poor marriage bets. They are reputedly overpaid, yet entrusted with equipment worth millions. And entrusted with lives, countless lives.

At times they are reverent: They have watched the pacific sky turn purple at dusk. They know the twinkling, jeweled beauty of Los Angeles at night; they have seen snow up on the Rockies. They remember the vast unending mat of green Amazon jungle, the twisting silver road that is the Father of Waters, an ice cream cone call Fujiyama. And the hump of Africa.

They have watched a satellite streak across a starry sky, seen the clear, deep blue of the stratosphere, felt the incalculable force of the heavens.

They have marveled at sun-streaked evenings, dappled earth, velvet night, spun silver clouds, sculptured cumulus: God's weather. They have viewed the Northern Lights, a wilderness of sky, a pilot's halo, a bomber's moon, horizontal rain, contrails and St. Elmo's Fire.

They have learned to accept these challenges everyday, they have realized a complete removal from earthy attachments, and they have reveled in a sense of high suspension.

Only a pilot experiences all these. It is their world. (Author unknown)

NOTAMS

(Notices to Airmen)

DON'T THROW OUT THOSE OLD FILES: Your indefatigable Recording Secretary, Doc Cloer, says instead of destroying records you may have from your WW II experience package them up and send to Dr. William O. Oldson, Institute on WW II and the Human Experience, department of History, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306-2200. To have them become a part of similar 315th material use control number 00.0229.

MORE GOOD STUFF FROM DOC: Available from Doc are 9th Troop Carrier Command decals for the back window of your car (or the windshield of your Harley). Send him a note with your correct address, squadron, and phone number AND a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Please print or type and include your e-mail address. You'll get a free decal plus help in keeping the roster up dated.

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NEEDED: Family circumstances are such that the current editor (who agreed to put out this post-reunion issue) needs to be replaced. Anyone interested should contact either President Bernie Brown or Recording Secretary Doc Cloer.

FINANCIAL STATUS: At the Business Meeting Treasurer Sandy Friedman reported the Association's assets as of 1-1-02 were \$8,279.08. Income up to 8-31-02 was \$1,353.42 and expenditures \$2,515.51. Expenses included Newsletter and Roster publication, and other miscellaneous items leaving an 8-31-02 balance of \$7,116.99. Association dues are \$20 per year.

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS: The following will serve the Association for the next two years:

- Richard T. Ford	Past President
- Bernard C. Brown	President
- Dr. Newman L. Riechman	Vice President
- (Temporarily vacant	Corresponding Secretary)
- Robert L. Cloer	Recording Secretary
- Sanford Friedman	Treasurer
- Leonard S. Thomas	Assistant Treasurer
- Russell S. Lane	Term expires 2008
- Roland M. Pence	Term expires 2008
- Evelyn Kowalchuk	Term expires 2006
- Douglas Watkins	Term expires 2006
- J. W. Way	Term expires 2004
- Lawrence Ison	Term expires 2004

(All except Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer serve on the Board)

82nd AIRBORNE DIVISION HONORS 315TH GROUP

(Marc Sandall read the following letter to the attendees at the San Diego reunion during Saturday evening ceremonies. For more on Marc see the end of this article)

"To the men of the 315th Troop Carrier Group. The veterans of the 82nd Airborne Division during World War II are deeply grateful for your skills and sheer determination to fulfill our mission in dropping us behind enemy lines during numerous operations in Europe.

Our hearts are saddened by the fact that some of our troopers, your planes and crew were lost accomplishing these missions. We will never forget them.

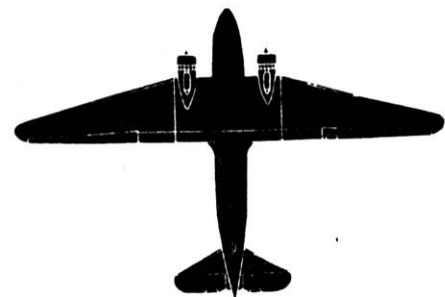
You are the true heroes of the war and, again, we are so grateful that we had the 315th as our pilots and crews.

As we troopers from the 505th, 504th, 507th, and other regiments and also the glidermen of the 325th Glider Infantry Regiment - we thank you for your daring deeds from the first drop until the last one. Have a tremendous time reminiscing during your reunion and let us not forget those who have gone before us.

Sincerely,

*The 82nd Airborne Division
"The All American Division"*

(Marc Sandall, son of deceased 34th TCSq member Walter D. Sandall, is a member of the 82nd Airborne Division WW II Living History Association, 82nd Airborne Division San Joaquin Valley Chapter Association, and lifetime member of the 82nd AA Division's Museum at Ft. Bragg, NC. Marc appeared in full WW II uniform.)



OFF THE GRAPEVINE

(AND OTHER QUESTIONABLE SOURCES)

A SENIOR MOMENT

An elderly Floridian called 911 on her cell phone to report that her car had been broken into. She is hysterical as she explains her situation to the dispatcher: "They've stolen the stereo the steering wheel, the brake pedal and even the accelerator."

The dispatcher said, "Stay calm. An officer is on the way." A few minutes later, the officer radios in. "Disregard," he says, "She got in the back seat by mistake."

IN FLIGHT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- "There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane."

- As the plane landed and was coming to a stop at Washington National, a lone voice came over the loudspeaker: "Whoa, big fella. WHOA!"

- "In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descent from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child....pick your favorite."

- "Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and keep them with our compliments."

- After a real crusher of a landing, the Flight Attendant came on with, "Ladies and Gentleman, please remain in you seats until Capt Crash and the Crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced we'll open the door and you can pick your way thorough the wreckage to the terminal."

ANDY ROONEY'S COLLOQUIUMS

I've learned that:

- when your in love, it shows.
- being kind is more important than being right.
- you should never say no to a gift from a child.
- I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.
- no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.
- we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.
- money doesn't buy class
- to ignore the facts does not change the facts.
- love, not time, heals all wounds
- when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.
- everyone wants to live on the top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

GLIDER PILOTS LAMENT

(tune: Red River Valley)

Come sit by my side you young lovers,
and I'll tell you a story that is true
of a boy who's a brave Glider Pilot
and the job he is going to do.

When the rope is taunt we are ready
and the white flag is waving us off,
when the tow rope is cut, we are steady,
as we soar down to earth one by one

as we glide down to earth for a landing
just remember old Maxton's advice,
keep your slip and your spoilers together,
and you will hit your dispersal alright.

Come and stand by the bar you young eagles,
drink a toast to the men of the sky,
drink a toast to the men dead already,
free Scotch for next man to die.

THOUGHTS

(thanks to Leonard Zurakov)

- If the secret sorrows of everyone could be read on their forehead, how many who now cause envy would suddenly become the objects of pity - Italian proverb

- You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of discussions. - Plato, philosopher

- Reading is seeing by proxy. Herbert Spencer, philosopher

EXCUSES, EXCUSES

An older guy bought a Mercedes convertible 2000 and took off down the road, flooring it up to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little hair he had left.

"This is great," he thought and floored it some more. In the rearview mirror he saw a State Patrol, blue lights flashing, siren blasting. "No problem, I can get away from him," he thought and pushed it some more, flew down the road over 100 mph. Then he said, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this kind of thing" and pulled over and waited for the State Patrol to catch up.

The officer pulled in behind, walked up, glanced at his watch and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes and today is Friday the 13th. If you can give me a reason why you were speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go."

The man looked at the officer and said, "Last week my wife ran off with a State Patrol officer. I thought you were bringing her back!":

The officer said, "Have a nice day."

IMPRESSIVE NEW EDITION OF THREE- ONE-FIVE-GROUP

In a 300 page, soft cover book George F. Cholewczynski, author, has supplemented Bill Brinson's original publication of *Three One Five Group* by adding the "voices" of those who were there. Readers will find a remarkable combination of humor, pathos, sadness, and a sense of how it felt to face enemy fire and watch comrades in crippled ships fall from the sky. The 315th journey begins with the early days in Florence, SC, on to England, then to North Africa, the return to England, D-Day, to the war's end in Europe and the final chapter in Trinidad. For 315th Association members the book offers a nostalgic trip into the past. For descendants and others a glimpse of a wartime world as lived by their predecessors.

Extracts of Voices

p.219... "*..when the shell hit us, it shot off the throttle quadrant along with part of his hand..*"
 p.28... "*..Greenland was, as you could imagine, bleak as hell.*"
 p.113... "*..some of the nurses slept in the ambulances but I was offered a foxhole by one of the British soldiers..*"
 p.127... "*..we finally saw our new home, RAF Station Aldermaston, and oh, so much mud..*"
 p.135... "*..looking over HB's shoulder, I saw two planes lock wings and go to the ground. It was odd, but I did not hear a sound..*"
 p.77... "*..I nearly starved to death. Brussel sprouts, powdered eggs and rutabagas..*"
 p.167... "*..the flak jacket stopped the bullet and splinters from the instrument panel had gone through his lips and into his mouth..*"
 p.180... "*..the crew chief and radio operator was laying back there with the Tommy Gun having a ball..*"
 p.191... "*..I got along fine with the girls in Brussels. I spoke to them in Yiddish, and they spoke back in Flemish, and we understood each other fine..*"
 p.234... "*..it seemed every Goddamned German had a machine gun or a 20mm, so it got hot and heavy..*"

HOW TO ORDER

Write to:
 George F. Cholewczynski
 P.O. Box 56307
 New Orleans, LA 70156-6307

Cost:
 \$20 per book for active members of the 315th Association, their family and friends.
 \$2 postage for the first book, \$1 for each of the next three.
 \$5 total postage for orders of five or more books.

Include your name and address and phone #

Expect delivery within two weeks.

George can also be reached at:
 ph: 504.948.9979
 e-mail: walka44@msn.com

(The 315th Association receives no benefit.)

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

A significant action taken by the Board of Directors was to offer Honorary Membership to members' sons and daughters in recognition of their contributions to the Association. The enrollment form below can be completed either by a member or a son or daughter.

To: Robert L. Cloer, Secretary, WW II 3115th TCG Association
 1417 Valley View Dr., Yuba City CA 95993
 Ph: 530.674.3681 e-mail: rlcloer@syix.com

As an eligible daughter/son of a member of the wartime 315th Troop Carrier Group request enrollment as an Honorary Member.

Full name: (daughter/son) _____
 street _____ city _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone: _____ e-Mail address: _____

Submitted by: Father Daughter Son (circle one)
 Unit:: Hdqs 34th TCS 43rd TCS 309th TCS 310th TCS (circle one)

signed: _____

(for multiple submissions make additional copies)

TAPS

**WITH DEEP REGRET THE ASSOCIATION RECORDS
THE LOSS OF THESE COMRADES
AND EXTENDS OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY TO THEIR
LOVED ONES**

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

Sigmund L. Granacki	34th Sq	Apr 2002
Frank Klucsarits	34th Sq	Sep 2002
Lowell D. Winterrowd	34th Sq	Nov 2001
Glen Hawkins	310th Sq	June 2000
Richard M. Payson	310th Sq	Dec 2001

DONATIONS

The Association gratefully accepts donations whether in memory of former comrades or in support of the Association. Families are notified when appropriate. Donations have been received (since the June 2002 Newsletter) from:

- Mrs. Charles Jukey Ennis
- Mrs. Bernie Dee Pleasant
- Dr. William Olson

Given in memory of: Charles Ennis, all those for whom taps have sounded and for general use.

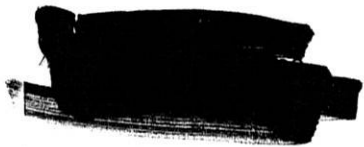
ROBERT J. GIBBONS

Retired Major General Robert J. Gibbons, former wartime commander of the 315th Troop Carrier Group, died at his San Antonio home on August 13, 2002 at age 86. Extracts from the obituary carried in the local newspapers follow: His life was defined by his love and respect for his family and his country. Attending the University of Alabama on a track scholarship, he graduated with a BS in 1939, trained with the Army Air corps at Kelly and Randolph AFB and received his pilot wings in 1940. The same year, he married the former Helen Frances Draper of San Angelo, a graduate of the University of Texas, Austin. For almost five years he was an active participant in WWII operations, including flying behind enemy lines to pick up downed pilots and leading the 315th Troop Carrier Group in the Normandy landings, Arnhem troop carrier operations, and the Rhine river crossing. His post-war career included assignments at Air Command and Staff School, Maxwell AFB; Keesler AFB; Army War College; Bolling AFB; Directorate of Plans (J5), Headquarters Pacific Command, Hawaii, where he was Director of the CIA in the Pacific; Foreign Technology Division, AF Systems Command, Wright-Patterson AFB. He was Deputy Chief of Staff of Intelligence at US Air Forces Headquarters, Europe, Wiesbaden; Director of Intelligence, USS Strike Command, MacDill AFB; Director of Intelligence, Headquarters US European Command, Stuttgart, Germany and retired in 1972, after almost 33 years of distinguished service. His military decorations include the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, Army Commendation Medal, Distinguished Unit Citation Emblem and various campaign medals for the European and African theaters. Preceded in death by his beloved wife, he is survived by his daughter and her husband, Candace and Mike Bumgarner; grandson Kevin Bumgarner, his wife Melanie and their two children; granddaughter Brandace Hope and her two children and niece Kathy Bodeep, her husband George and their children.

J. S. Smith, editor
WW II 315th Troop Carrier Group Assoc.
1967 Iowa Ave NE
St. Petersburg, FL 33703

Non profit organization
U. S. Postage Paid
St. Petersburg, FL
Permit # 1814

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

FROM THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

(and the editor)