



PANTANELLA NEWS

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#96 June 2009

81st Gears Up For Tour of The BIG ONE's 781st Bomb Squadron Lives Again

FULL STORY PAGE 4



The Northrop Grumman B-2 Spirit (also known as the "Stealth Bomber") is a multirole heavy bomber with "low observable" stealth technology capable of penetrating dense anti-aircraft defenses to deploy both conventional and nuclear weapons.

21 B-2s have been delivered to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, the first in December 1993. In the first three years of service, the operational B-2s achieved a sortie reliability rate of 90%.

An assessment published by the USAF showed that two B-2s armed with precision weaponry can do the job of 75 conventional aircraft.

MEMBERS KEEP IN TOUCH

Notify or contact any or all of the individuals listed below for any FW's---Address Changes--News Or Whatever

PANTANELLA NEWS

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PANTANELLA NEWS

Editor: Frank Ambrose

781st BOMB SQUADRON (H)

Part of the 465th Bomb Gp. 15th AF
Italy 1944-1945

Flew 191 Missions

over Southern Europe

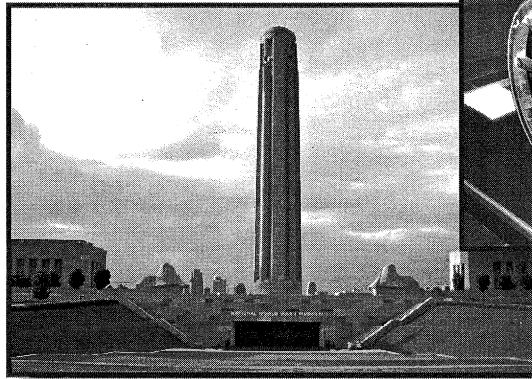
dropping thousands of tons of death
and destruction to the enemy.

Shot down 25 enemy aircraft

Received Two

Presidential Unit Citations

What to Do In Kansas City



The Liberty Memorial, located in Kansas City, Missouri, houses the The National World War I Museum, America's official museum dedicated to WW I as designated by the United States Congress, opened December 2006.

The National World War One Museum tells the story of the war and related global events from their origins before 1914 through the 1918 Armistice and 1919 Paris Peace Conference.

Visitors enter the facility across a glass bridge above a field of 9,000 poppies, each one representing 1,000 war combattant deaths.

The museum holds two theaters, exhibitions with period artifacts (including a tank, uniforms, guns, maps, and photographs of major forces) in state-of-the-art interactive displays, a 20,000 sq. ft. research center and library, multi-purpose conference room, and museum store.

The last group of museum galleries focuses on the United States' military and civilian involvement in the war and President Woodrow Wilson's efforts for peace.

The Hilton Garden Inn Independence

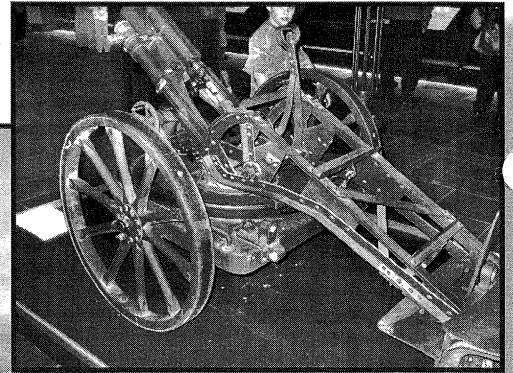
The hotel's breathtaking landscaping with fountain and beautifully decorated lobby with hand-picked artwork, fireplace and Brazilian slate flooring is located by the Bass Pro Shop, Independence Center Shopping Mall.

Close to museums, historic landmarks, casinos, and Worlds of Fun/Oceans of Fun.

Downtown Independence and Kansas City is just minutes away in close proximity to retail, restaurants, the Harry S. Truman Library/Museum, casinos and other nearby attractions.

Each guest room has a hospitality center with in-room microwave and refrigerator, complimentary high-speed internet and a large work space.

Within the hotel the Great American Grill® serves freshly prepared breakfasts and the award winning Hereford House Restaurant is available for lunch and dinner. The Pavilion Pantry has a selection of refrigerated, frozen



The design of the building is typical of the federal-type buildings of the era and is designed in the classical Egyptian Revival style of architecture with a limestone exterior.

The foundation was constructed using sawed granite, and the exterior ground level walls are made of Bedford stone.

The main doors at the top of a large set of stairs are made from ornamental bronze, and the walls of the first floor lobby are finished in Kasota stone, which was quarried in Kasota, Minnesota.

The first floor corridor and the grand stairway are finished in travertine that was imported from Italy. The floors of the corridors and tread of stairway are made from terrazzo and Kasota marble, and the balusters and railing are made from Italian travertine and Italian tavernelle claremarble.

At night, the top of the memorial tower emits steam illuminated by bright orange lights. This effect creates the illusion of a burning pyre and can be seen for some distance. However, due to budget cuts in the city, the "Eternal Flame" has been shutdown. It will be used during specific holiday weekends such as Memorial Day weekend when the "flame" will function from Friday through Monday.



and microwaveable packaged items perfect for in-room preparation.

Within a one mile radius of the hotel are over 200 shops, restaurants and a large movie theatre complex.

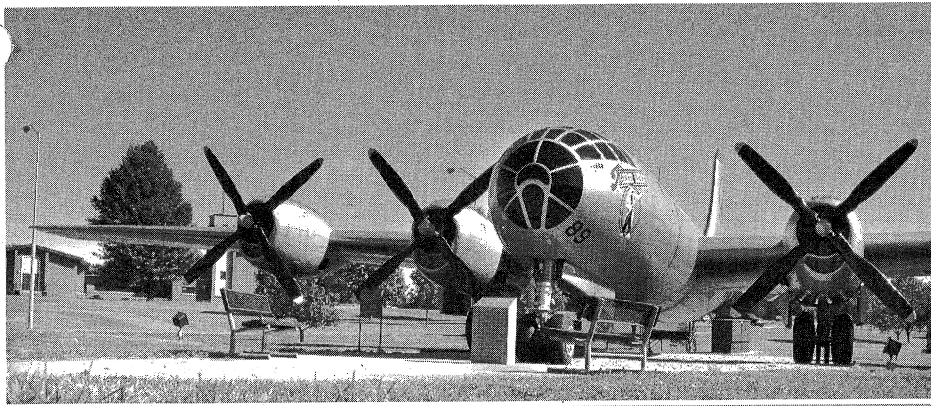
The Kansas City International Airport is located a 30 minute 25 mile drive away. Transportation to and from the Airport is available by Taxi.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY
Hilton Garden Inn Independence

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TOURING THE WHITEMAN AFB..

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. -- Nose art on the B-29 Superfortress on static display at the Spirit Gate represents "The Great Artist" of World War II fame. The



original plane carrying the name was used as an observation aircraft for the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The original "Great Artist" was destroyed during a crash landing at Goose Bay Air Base, Labrador, in September 1949. The B-29 on static display was brought from Pease AFB, N.H., following its closure. Also planned is a tour of the "Apache AH-64" The Apache was first used in combat in 1989, during Operation Just Cause, the invasion

of Panama. The AH-64A Apache and the AH-64D Apache Longbow have played important roles in several Middle Eastern wars, including Operation Desert Storm in Iraq, Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, and the invasion of Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003. The Apaches proved to be excellent tank hunters, during their deployments, and consequently destroyed hundreds of armored vehicles (mainly of the Iraqi army)..



Another photo out of my scrapbook without a discription. I suppose I should have made notations at the time.

I can't for the life of me remember anything about this photo. I can only say that it was taken while I was roaming around Pantanella in 1944. If you can enlighten me, please do.

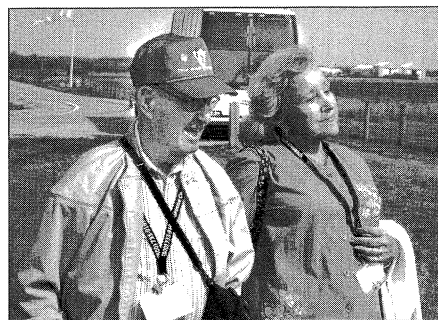
**CALL NOW
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Independence**
19677 East Jackson Drive,
Independence, Missouri, 64057
Tel: +1-816-350-3000

Catholic Dog

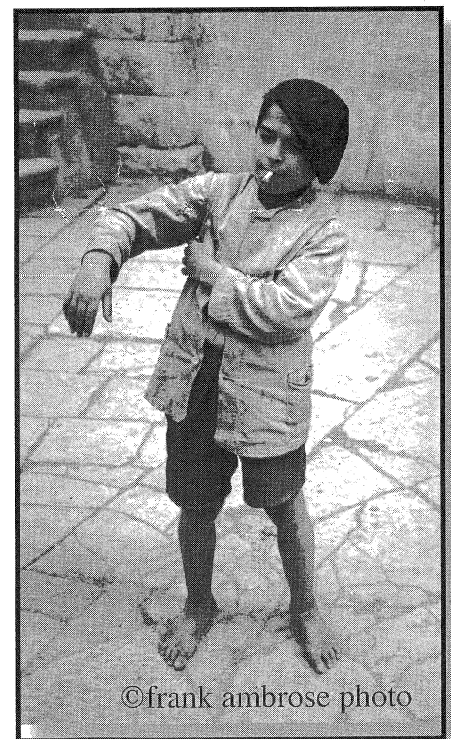
Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, 'Father, my dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?' Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we can not have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, 'I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?'

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why didn't ya tell me the dog was Catholic?"



Tom Kyle and Rena Parker at the last reunion in Dayton.



©frank ambrose photo

"Hey, Joe, You gotta-atta the cigarette, you wanjia my sista?"

News From Other Squadrons:-

According to the latest issue of the '783rd. Latrine O Gram', the 783rd Group will be meeting in Washington, DC, October 16th to the 19th.

The newsletter also noted that our very good friend in the 83rd., Charles Payne, fell out of his Pear Tree while pruning. I pray he didn't hurt his hand, I enjoy receiving his letters.

781st BS Lives Again... and Again... and Again...

World War II Re-enactors Emulate 781st Squadron's War Time's Day to Day Activities

Editors note...

When I became aware of what this organization was doing I immediately sent an email requesting photos and information on this dedicated group of individuals.

This is the reply:..

We "living historians", who are devoted to the accurate and authentic portrayal of the **781st Bomb Squadron**, are members of an enthusiastic and dedicated umbrella organization known as the **Airmen's Preservation Society**.

The 781st membership is based almost entirely out of the Northeast, from the Washington DC area North into Eastern New York and stretching West into Ohio.

Formed in 1985, the **WWII Airmen's Preservation Society** has grown from

a small group of dedicated individuals in the Pittsburgh area to seven chapters "wings" stretching from New England to the Mississippi River. Members, both male and female, range in age from young adult to WWII veteran.

At air-shows or military history events, the Society sets up a complete US Army Air Corps encampment of the type common with tactical

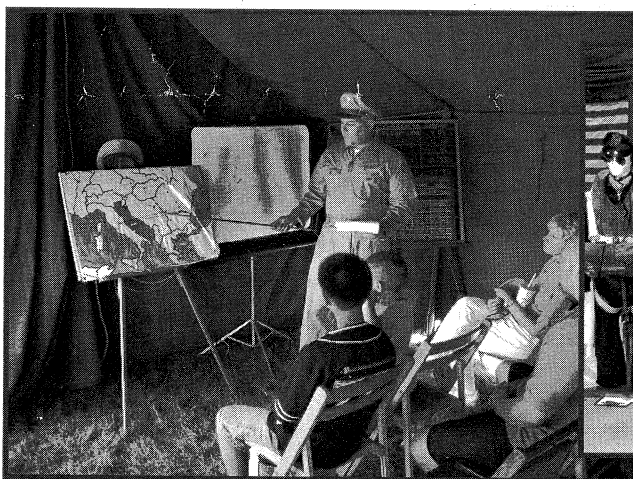
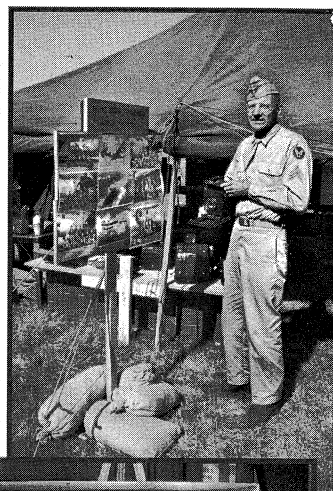
(mobile) air units of the European or Pacific Theaters of combat in WWII.

The visitor will find historically authentic mess facilities, operations tent, mission briefing tent, communications facilities, living quarters, medical/Red Cross facilities, weather station, and even an operational photo lab and darkroom. Society members "staff" the various locations in WWII period uniforms and strive to re-enact the daily lives of the men and women who lived and fought in these same settings during the war, including re-creating the aircrew mission briefings - using actual Air Force Historical Archives data for the mission details.



At a Geneseo, NY airshow in 2008, 781st Reenactors pose in front of 465th Group Headquarters.

Kneeling L to R: Chris Moore, Chris Petronis, Richard Holliday Standing: Nick Serikstad, Brian Neri, Bill Pettigrew, Pat Chaison, Sean Gavin, and Zach Mateja



Re-enactor Chris Moore conducts a Pre-Mission Briefing for Air Show visitors using enlarged copies of actual 781st flimsys describing the day's Mission, Target and Route.



Bill Pettigrew, re-enacts a role posing as 781st Squadron Photographer Sgt. Frank Ambrose amid a display of authentic WW II attire, paraphernalia, cameras and photographic gear.



Original
'Orderly Room
Tent'
as it appeared
the 2nd day
(March 29, 1944)
after arriving at
our new base in
Pantanella, Italy,
1944

We who tailor our representation to that of the 781st B.S. try so stay true the spirit of the men who flew the B-24's out of Italy from 1943 through 1945.

We attempt to offer the visitor a "tangible" sense of World War Two history; when you are able to see and touch the artifacts, hear broadcasts of aerial communications and the sounds of vintage aircraft warming up, and smell that distinct aroma of old, wet army canvas from our tents, it offers those of our youngest generation a glimpse into the Second World War that cannot be obtained in History books.



At an Air Show in Binghamton, NY, 781st Re-enactors pose in front of the 781st. Squadron Orderly Room Tent. Left to right in the photo are Re-enactors, Chris Petronis, Chris Moore, Pat Chaison and Bill Pettigrew

The motto of the group is "To Honor, Preserve, and Remember". Our primary goal is to HONOR those men and women who gave of themselves during the war. Had it not been for their sacrifices, we wouldn't be able to enjoy the freedoms that we do today, and will for generations to come.

Our second goal is to PRESERVE both the memorabilia of the WWII era and the memories of those who lived it. Besides being avid collectors of the uniforms and equipment of the WWII airmen, our members attempt to learn all they can from the veterans about their experiences during the war. We then display the memorabilia, and strive to pass on what we have learned from the veterans to those viewing the displays.

Our third and final goal is to REMEMBER.

It is said that history repeats itself. The reason it does so is that mankind tends to forget the unpleasant lessons it learns. We must not allow the lessons learned in 1939-1945 to be forgotten.

Please feel free to direct any questions to:

Richard Holliday
384 Ironwood Dr
Waldorf, MD 20601
(240)-723-0058



Wow, Look at all those B-13's! How many of you can recall learning to fly in one of those? I'd love to go for another ride in one if I could only get into the cockpit. Just close your eyes and dream, that's what I do.

ATTENTION MEMBERS WISHING TO TOUR THE B-2 BOMBER

Base Security requires that all guests visiting Whiteman AFB must provide the full names of all guests attending including their Social Security numbers in advance of the tour date.

**PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL IN
THAT INFO IN THE SPACE
PROVIDED ON YOUR
REGISTRATION FORM.**

Social Security numbers will remain Confidential and Destroyed after being submitted to Air Force Security

A Note From Carole.....

For those flying to KC International... Frank and I have done some research and found the shuttle to the hotel to be expensive. Most shuttles charge per person and run \$42.00 or more one way.

I found that the **KCI Airport Taxi** 1-816-863-0635 charges \$59.00 plus gratuity total for up to four people if you make a reservation ahead of time.

The Super Shuttle 1-800-258-3826 is 42.00 per person, but if you go on line to **supershuttle.com** and make a reservation with **Exclusive Van Service** the charge will be \$96.00 plus gratuity and can

include up to 10 people.

You do the math! We have listed the airlines on the registration form and will help to coordinate so you can share a ride. If you check that you will be flying even if you have not made your reservation, we will put you in touch with other members who plan to fly.

*Reunion Committee Chair,
Carole Lee*

THINGS TO DO RIGHT NOW!

First...

Finish reading and enjoying this issue of the Newsletter..

Next..

Fill in and mail the Registration Form to Patty Kill..

Next..

Call and make your reservations Directly with the:

**Hilton Garden Inn
Independence**

19677 East Jackson Drive,
Independence, Missouri, 64057

Tel: +1-816-350-3000
(MENTION 781st REUNION)



The Army Nurse Corps in World War II



More than 59,000 American nurses served in the Army Nurse Corps during World War II. Nurses worked closer to the front lines than they ever had before.

Within the "chain of evacuation" established by the Army Medical Department during the war, nurses served under fire in field hospitals and evacuation hospitals, on hospital trains and hospital ships, and as flight nurses on medical transport planes.

The skill and dedication of these nurses contributed to the extremely low post-injury mortality rate among American military forces in every theater of the war.

Overall, fewer than 4 percent of the American soldiers who received medical care in the field or underwent evacuation died from wounds or disease.

Military service took men and women from small towns and large cities across America and transported them around the world. Their wartime experiences broadened their lives as well as their expectations.



The Nurses at Anzio...

To speed up the slow pace of the Allied northward advance through Italy against the fierce German defenses at Cassino and the Gustav Line, Allied strategists planned a landing behind the German lines.

On 22 January the British and American troops launched a successful surprise attack and landing on the Anzio beachhead. Because surprise was complete, the



Nurses Are Needed Now!



FOR SERVICE IN THE
ARMY NURSE CORPS
IF YOU ARE A REGISTERED NURSE AND NOT YET 45 YEARS OF AGE
APPLY TO THE WASHINGTON GENERAL, UNITED STATES ARMY,
WASHINGTON 25, D. C. 25 TO GET THE CHANCE TO SERVE



projected 12 percent casualty rate was held to less than 1 percent throughout the initial landing.

The Germans, however, quickly regrouped for a stubborn defense that pinned the Allied forces in the beachhead for four months and stalled hopes for a rapid advance. Within the congested invasion perimeter, casualties mounted as the Allies repulsed persistent Luftwaffe and ground attacks.

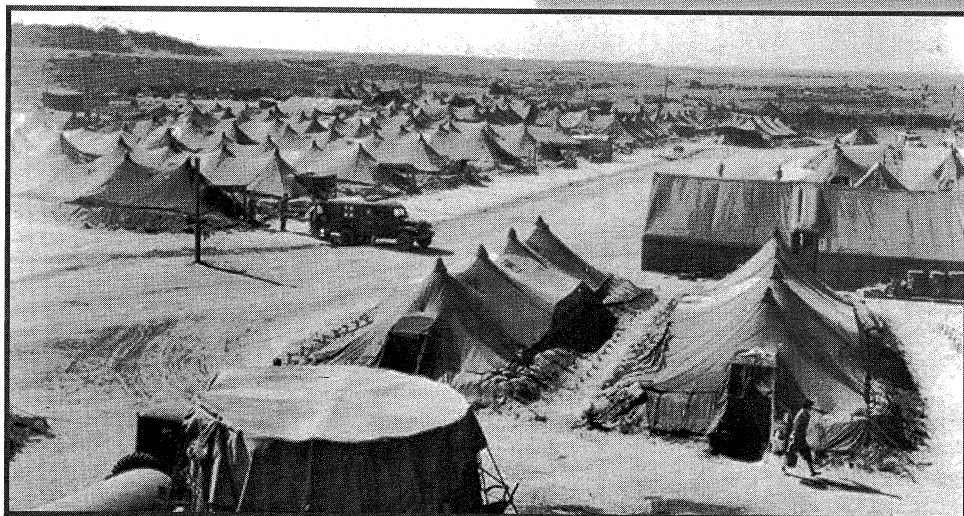
The 33d Field Hospital and the 95th and 96th Evacuation Hospitals landed with the Anzio beachhead assault force and quickly set up operations.

Approximately two hundred nurses were assigned to these units. On 24 January 1944, two days after the landing, the first bombs fell near the medical facilities.

That night three British hospital ships, H.M.S. St. David, H.M.S. St. Andrew, and H.M.S. Leinster, were attacked by Luftwaffe aircraft while evacuating casualties from the beachhead. As in the case of the Newfoundland, the ships were well lighted and clearly marked with the red cross. The St. David, with 226 medical staff and patients aboard, received a direct hit and sank. The two Army nurses on board were among 130 survivors rescued by the damaged Leinster. One of these nurses, 2d Lt. Ruth Hindman, had survived the earlier bombing of the Newfoundland.

On 7 February a German plane attempting to bomb the port at Anzio was intercepted by a British Spitfire. While trying to gain altitude, the German pilot jettisoned his antipersonnel bombs on the 95th Evacuation Hospital. The direct hit on the surgical section killed 26 staff and patients, including 3 nurses; 64 others were wounded.

The day before, several news correspon-



Partial view of the tented Hospital facilities on Anzio Beachhead. Note how the Ward Tents have been dug into the ground in an effort to provide enhanced protection against enemy shelling. Combat troops and medical personnel shared all the discomfort, the inconvenience, and personal hazards of the Beachhead, and yet carried on with daily routine

dents had decided among themselves that the constant shelling had rendered one nurse too nervous to carry on much longer. Yet after the bombing, this nurse calmly took charge, rallied the surviving staff (nurses and corpsmen), and guided their treatment of the wounded.

Nevertheless the commander of the medical installations in the Mediterranean theater decided that the 95th Evacuation Hospital had lost too many key personnel to function effectively.

He replaced the unit with the 15th Evacuation Hospital, formerly stationed at Cassino. The 15th arrived at Anzio on 10 February, just in time to witness the bombing of the 33d Field Hospital.

Long-range enemy artillery fire killed 2 nurses and 1 enlisted man and wounded 4 medical officers and 7 enlisted men. Both nurses were off duty at the time of the attack. One nurse had stopped at the tent of the other to borrow a book when a shell hit the tent, killing them instantly. Meanwhile, another shell smashed the generator of the operating tent, which caught fire. Medical personnel evacuated the forty-two patients by flashlight without incident, and for their bravery four nurses—1st Lt. Mary Roberts, 2d Lt. Elaine Roe, 2d Lt. Virginia Rourke, and 2d Lt. Ellen Ainsworth—received the first Silver Star medals awarded to women in the U.S. Army. Ainsworth, who was killed during the attack, was awarded the medal posthumously.

Throughout February and March, medical installations on the beachhead continued to receive direct hits. On 29 March the 56th Evacuation Hospital was shelled, leaving 3 officers, 1 nurse, 14 enlisted men, and 19 patients wounded and 4 patients killed. Whenever the air raid sirens at Anzio sounded, those patients who could put on their steel helmets and crawled under their cots to avoid flying shrapnel. Nurses and corpsmen lifted others to the ground. Patients whose condition rendered them immovable became very nervous, and nurses ignored the danger to stay with them.

In April the 36th Engineer Regiment excavated 3 1/2-foot foundations for the hospital tents and reinforced these protective earthworks with sandbag walls. Patients and medical personnel inside the hospitals were finally protected from flying shrapnel although not from direct hits.

A later observer explained that the medical detachment at Anzio was "part of a front that had no back. The beachhead was 15 miles wide and 7 miles deep and allowed no retreat from enemy fire." The large, impassable Pontine Marsh forced the invaders to locate their antiaircraft batteries, airstrips, maintenance shops, food, gasoline, and ammunition dumps (all lucrative targets) on the edge of the medical area. Enemy bombers often

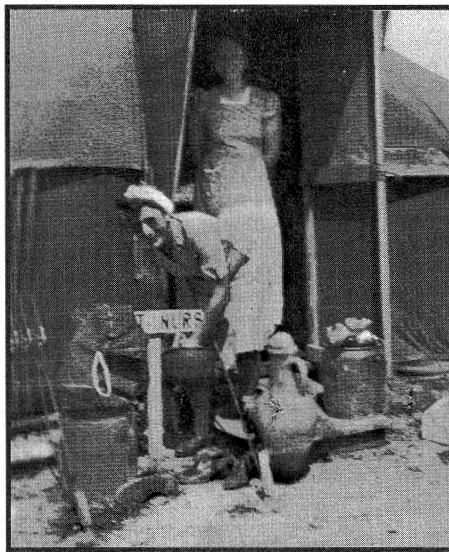
missed their targets and hit the hospitals. The frequent enemy hits on the congested corner occupied by the main medical installations earned it the nickname "Hell's Half Acre." Many soldiers believed that they were safer in their frontline foxholes than they would be in the hospitals.

The Fifth Army command allowed the nurses to remain at Anzio regardless of the danger and the mounting casualties because they were desperately needed.

Between January and June the Anzio field and evacuation hospitals admitted 25,809 battle casualties, 4,245 accidental injuries, and 18,074 medical casualties (disease). These soldiers were stabilized and evacuated rapidly and efficiently. The

performance of Army nurses at Anzio reinforced the fact that women could function effectively under fire on the front lines.

Nurses received 1,619 medals, citations, and commendations during the war, reflecting the courage and dedication of all who served. Sixteen medals were awarded posthumously to nurses who died as a result of enemy fire. These included the 6 nurses who died at Anzio, 6 who died when the Hospital Ship Comfort was attacked by a Japanese suicide plane, and 4 flight nurses. Thirteen other flight nurses died in weather-related crashes while on duty. Overall, 201 nurses died while serving in the Army during the war.



In Africa, Lt. Sally Clemente is shown using a helmet to wash her clothes as her tent mate looks on. The fancy pot at her feet was purchased from the Arabs and used as a urinal during the night.

Sally Clemente of Gloversville, New York was a staff nurse at Albany General Hospital, Albany New York.

As the War progressed the complete Medical Staff, Doctors and Nurses, all went overseas as a complete unit designated as the '33rd. General Hospital, Albany, New York'.



At an embarkation point in Africa, the nurses of the 33rd. General Hospital, Albany, New York, are engaged in the famous 'Hurry Up and Wait' game, waiting to ship to their new assignment in Italy.

And Letters...

This letter was received in response to the 'Uncle I Never Knew' story printed in the last issue of the Newsletter.

Pierre Kennedy was a Tail-Gunner on the Althoff Crew and their crew was scheduled to go on 'R&R'.

However due to the 'Fickle Finger of Fate', both his and another member of the Althoff's Crew's 'R&R' was cancelled and both were assigned as fill-ins on the Lovey Crew.

The Reply...

To: frank@frankambrose.com
From: kittydandee@sbcglobal.net
Date: March 21, 2009
Subject: Jon Tallman's article in Pantanella News, No. 95

Hi Frank,

Jon Tallman's story in the Pantanella News, No. 95, was very interesting and well researched.

I was a "Fill-in" sergeant tail gunner on Lt. Alexander Lovey's B-24 that fateful day, Oct. 13, 1944, Friday the 13th.

We were shot down at 11:18 AM, right after leaving the Initial Point ("I.P.") as we started the bomb run, and our bombs had not been dropped. Target time was 11:20AM.

Sergeant Leonard Goldstein, radio operator, and I were in LT. James Althoff's original crew, and our crew had orders to travel to a rest camp at the Isle of Capri that day, but 15th Air Force Headquarters ordered a maximum bombing effort against the Blechhammer South Oil Refinery.

Instead of traveling to Capri, Leonard and I were ordered to fill in on Lt. Lovey's crew and fly to Blechhammer. I felt, even before we left the ground, that it would be a bad day. Many of us were superstitious.

Unfortunately, I never met Mr. Tillman's cousin, LT. Raymond Morse, Co-Pilot.

While a P.O.W. in Germany at Stalag Luft 4, I talked to Charles Hudson, top gunner. He told me that the two pilots, Lovey and Morse, were getting out of their seats and told him to jump out the bomb bay. Hudson told me that he remembered little else, and found himself walking around in some woods in Germany. I don't know what happened to the aircraft.

I was the last man out of the waist section. It was really hard to get out of the tail turret as my left foot got jammed, and I thought I would go down with the ship. I had no idea what was happening up front. I crawled forward to the camera hatch to jump out. Flames from the right wing came back nearly to the waist window, and the inside was smoking up. The plane was shaking and vibrating like crazy. I had "quick released" my flak suit, snapped on

my small chest chute, and grabbed my GI shoes which had been laced together. I had jammed the shoes and chute beside the cat walk as we had been told to do in anticipation of a bail out. That was some of the best advice the U.S. Army ever gave us. The jolt of a parachute opening would sometimes knock off

an airman's boots. Later, I learned that prisoners of war do a lot of walking.

Flying a mission from near Foggia, Italy to Blechhammer, Germany took a long time. We got up around 5AM, and had breakfast and went to a briefing session.

When the intelligence officer announced Blechhammer as our target that day, there was dead silence. Take off time was

7AM. The bombers had to rendezvous and be in line by 8:01AM at 7,000 feet. The target

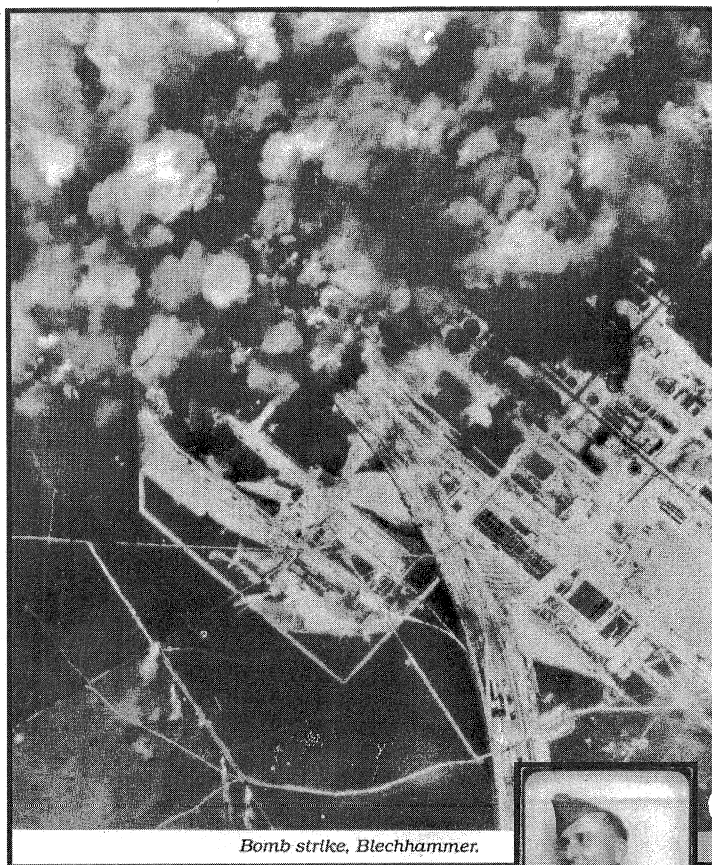
was just beyond the extremity of the 600 mile radius arc from Foggia.

With a full load of bombs, we had to climb all the way, over the Adriatic and to clear the Alps. I could look back from my tail turret and see our bombers filling the sky. And the drone from the bombers' engines was unimaginable. We had no protection for our ears. And the cold was frightening. At 30 to 40 degrees below zero (the plane and turrets had no heat, although we did wear electric suits under our heavy flying gear). I could see drops of breath from my oxygen mask turn to pellets before they fell to the floor. Even in that cold, when the enemy started to shoot up anti-aircraft shells at us, the sweat would run down my back.

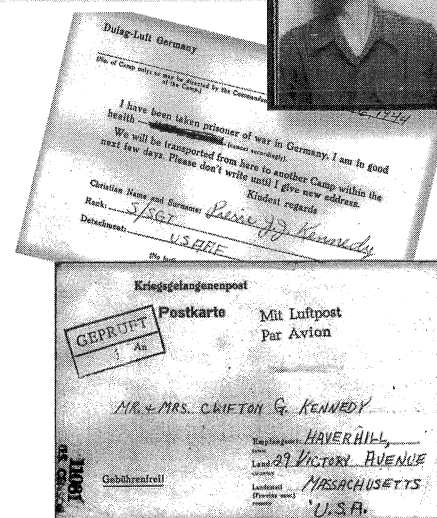
Both, Lieutenant Lovey and Morse, are listed as "KIA" (killed in action) on Missing Air Crew Report 9059 from the National Archives. The rest of the crew is listed as "RTD", returned to duty. I was liberated at Buchen, Germany, near Hamburg by the 94th Armoured Division, 2nd Royal Army (British tanks). The photo of me "looking away", was originally very small, 1 1/2" X 2", taken in Namur, Belgium in a small booth, with a seat, where some of us POW's sat (for a fee), and a camera took 3 or 4 snap shots on a strip of film, like at an amusement park".

Frank, Can you give me Jon Tallman's E-Mail address or his home address? I would like to get in touch with him. The Pantanella News is great. Thanks for all your efforts for the 781st Squadron.

Pierre Kennedy



Bomb strike, Blechhammer.



Pre-Printed Postcard given to prisoners by the Germans to be sent to their folks back home. The Postcard reads, "I have been taken prisoner of war in Germany. I am in good health. We will be transported from here to another Camp within the next few days. Please don't write until I give new address. Kindest regards" The prisoners were only allowed to address the cards and sign their name and rank.

AND MORE LETTERS...

From: fquagan@cox.net
 Subject: New source for publicity
 Date: April 7, 2009
 To: frank@frankambrose.com

Frank -- Unknown to me, a friend of Dave Bowman, our navigator, sent an issue of our Pantanella Newsletter to the WWII museum and the letter I am attaching below is their answer.

That issue had the story I wrote about our experiences when we were MIA. I thought you might see an advantage in sending them copies of past issues. You may find some family who has all the past issues and doesn't want them anymore If their member has passed away. Just a thought. What do you think?

Also I am attaching another photo for your collection... We flew in 'Easy Maid' several times.....

Frank Quagan,
 Top turret gunner, French crew



'Easy Maid' photo submitted by Frank Quagan, Top turret gunner, French crew

The National WWII Museum

February 18, 2009

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gould
 4302 E. Cortez St
 Phoenix, AZ 85028-2226

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Gould,

On behalf of the National World War II Museum, I want to thank you for your recent contribution of documentary information. This Museum is designated by Congress as America's official World War II Museum. As such, it interprets the American Experience during the World War II years and celebrates the American Spirit, the teamwork, optimism, courage and sacrifice of the men and women who won World War II and promotes the exploration and expression of these values by future generations.

Your donation will be added to the growing collection of research material that is used by staff, visitors, and researchers alike to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the American Experience in one of the most critical periods in our nation's history. Specific items you have donated include:

- Photocopied article. *Pantanella News*, 781st Bomb Squadron Association.

"Our Lucky Thirteenth"

by Frank Quagan. July 2000

Sincerely,

Samuel J. Wegner

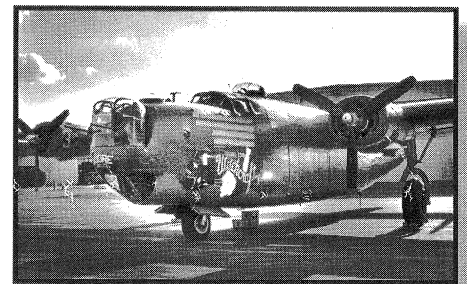
VP of Education & Strategic Planning

Scuttlebutt...

Patty Kill was treated as a VIP on a tour of the Collins Foundation's B-24 recently. The aircraft was on display at the Dayton-Wright Brothers Airport in Dayton Ohio for a three-day event a few months back.

Notifying the Crew Chief that she was associated with the 781st and that her father flew on a B-24 as a bombardier in the 781st Bomb Squadron, the chief then took her on a extensive personal tour of

the aircraft. She will be describing her experience in the next issue.



More Things to SEE

The Harry S. Truman Library

The Harry S. Truman Library and Museum is a library and museum dedicated to preserving papers, books, and other historical materials relating to former President Harry S. Truman.

It is located on a small hill facing U.S. Highway 24 in Independence, Missouri, Truman's hometown.

It was the first presidential library to be created under the provisions of the 1955 Presidential Libraries Act, and is one of twelve presidential libraries administered

by the National Archives and Records Administration.

The Truman Library was dedicated on July 6, 1957 in a ceremony which included the Masonic Rites of Dedication; those attending the ceremony included Herbert Hoover, Earl Warren, Eleanor Roosevelt, and William F. Knowland.

The president and his wife, Bess Truman, are buried in the courtyard of the Library. Their daughter, Margaret Truman Daniel, was a longtime member of the Truman Library Institute's board of directors. After her death in January 2008, Margaret Truman Daniel's ashes and those of her late husband, Clifton Daniel (who had died in 2000), were also interred in the Library's courtyard.

The museum offers an introductory film on the life of President Truman. The two floors of exhibits feature photographs, artifacts, film clips, documents, and memorabilia covering Truman's life and career. The mural Independence and the Opening of The West by Thomas Hart Benton adorns the walls of the lobby entrance.



**781st BS
 2009 Reunion
 October 4-5-6-7, 2009
 Hilton Garden Inn
 Independence, MO
 SEND IN YOUR
 RESERVATION TODAY**

Reunion Committee Report...

Plans and events for the up-coming reunion are gradually and systematically being synchronized.

Carole Lee, with the aid of her competent staff, have been diligently organizing a reunion to be long remembered.

The venue for this years gathering will be held in the beautiful five star Holiday Garden Inn in Independence, Missouri. With Kansas City only a stones throw away, attendees will find

a bevy of other things to see and do while there.

Formal arrangements have been made for a tour of the Truman Presidential Museum as well as a 'touch and feel' tour of the of the United States Air Force's pride and joy, the 'B-2 Spirit Bomber'.

While touring Whiteman's AFB, Carole as also arranged for the group to have lunch at the all ranks service club, 'The Mission's End', located on the base. And while touring 'Truman', Carole has also made arrangements

to use the 'Whistle Stop Room ' for a 'brown bag' lunch break catered by Independence's renowned 'Dave's Deli'.

Amidst all of his medical problems, Earl Leinart, Carole's cohort, has also been busy corresponding with various individuals in an attempt to secure an interesting keynote speaker for the banquet. Although no one has yet been selected, the committee promises the speaker will be inspiring.

All in all this years affair promises to be a winner.

781st BS Assoc 2009 Reunion

October 4-5-6-7, 2009

Hilton Garden Inn, Independence, MO

Tel: 1-816-350-3000

Reunion Agenda

Sunday, October 4, 2009

3:00 PM to 9:00 PM Registration/Hospitality

Monday, October 5, 2009

9:00AM- 5:00 PM Registration/Hospitality

7:00 PM Board of Director's Meeting

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

8:00 AM Bus to Whiteman AFB

10:00 AM-11:00 AM Memorial Service

11:00 AM-12:00 Noon Lunch – Mission End

12:00 – 13:30 Tour B-2, A-10, Apache

5:00 PM Business Mtg - Hospitality

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

10:00 to 3:00 AM Truman Library and Museum

6:00 to 7:00 PM Open Bar

7:00 to 8:30 PM Banquet - Hotel

8:30 to 9:30 PM Program

FOLDED WINGS**John B. Kennedy: Pilot**

From: lou90301@yahoo.com
 Subject: obit
 Date: March 23, 2009
 To: frank@frankambrose.com

My father, **1st Lt John B. Kennedy** (first pilot or captain of his B24) passed away Mar 9, 2009.

He was shot down on his first mission, saved by the partisans in Yugoslavia, and he went on to complete 50 more missions. John worked in the missile division of Martin-Marietta. He was Project Manager of the installation of 18 Intercontinental Ballistic Missile silos. In 1962 he was transferred to Baltimore, MD where he headed the Gemini Space Program for Martin-Marietta. He spent much of his time at Cape Canaveral working with John Glenn.

John left Martin and go into private business in the field of cryogenics in Los Angeles. In 1964 his company was bought out by Hughes Aircraft. He then worked for Hughes Aircraft as Procurement Manager until his retirement in 1989.

Please discontinue his Pantanella News.

Thank you,

Lou Ann Kennedy

Kay Thompson:

Byron W. Thompson Widow

March 16, 2009

Dear Mr Ambrose,

I am writing to you to let you know that my mother, **Kay Thompson**, died unexpectedly after surgery on January 29, 2009. She was the widow of Byron W. Thompson, who was an intelligence officer with the 781st Bomb Squadron.

Although she never attended reunions after his death, she definitely enjoyed them while he was alive.

I certainly enjoyed the articles in the Pantanella News.

Really the war was fought very differently in the air than it was fought in the history departments in the USA.

I hope your next reunion goes as well as all the others have gone.

Sincerely,

Kathryn S. Thompson "Kitty"

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Abraham Dubinski:

Gunner: Prince Crew

Abraham Dubinski

21015 23rd Ave Apt 5C

Bayside, NY 11360

781st Bomb Squadron

Dear Mr. kill.

This 781st BS is to notify you that Abraham, one of your 781st. Bomb Squadron World War II has passed away as of February 18, 2009.

I know he would have enjoyed this issue very much.

He looked forward to all your issues over the past 28 years of illness.

They made him happy and alive reading every issue.

Sincerely,

Iris Dubinsky (wife)

Shirley Smith:

Harry M. Smith Widow

Harry M. Smith, a WWII vet and member of the 781st Bomb Squadron Prince's Crew, lost his wife, **Shirley**, on Jan. 7, 2009. She was 83 years old.



Harry and Shirley were married 65 years. They had 4 daughters, 1 son, 15 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren.

Shirley was known locally for her sincere hospitality and wonderfully delicious home cooked meals. She was a devoted, loving wife, mother and Granny. She was a true Proverbs 31 woman.

Harry lives at 55 Ehrhardt Rd, Smoaks, SC 29481,

Marty Santigian:

Navigator Ellison Crew

From: Hayglen@comcast.net

Subject: Ellison Crew

Date: April 28, 2009

To: frank@frankambrose.com

I regret to inform you of the death of our Navigator, **Marty Santigian**.

He and his wife Marge were living in an assisted living facility in Fresno, California.

We have stayed close these many years and I was fortunate to have visited them just a month before his death. Marty spent many years in the Fresno city school system, and teaching at Fresno State University.

Glen Haywood, Co-pilot

President's Corner

781st Friends –

The Registration Forms for the 2009 781st Reunion are enclosed.

Get the dates on your calendar and send in your registration. I hope you are excited as I am as you look forward to another reunion.

Carole and I are going to register for a Military Reunion Planners Conference in Branson, Missouri in August.

At this time, Carole is threatening to never plan another reunion.

That means we need someone to step up.

I am looking for someone (a member or an associate member) to come to the reunion with an idea for 2010 and volunteer to be the reunion planner.

For individuals that might want to get ahold of Carole and I after we are gone from home, our cell phone numbers are, mine is **605-321-3875**, and Carole's is **605-321-3874**.

The summer is upon us, **'have a good one!'**

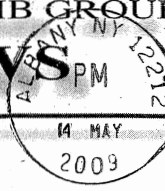
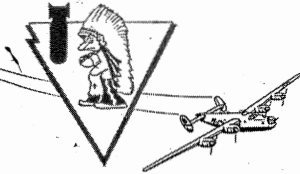
Orren Lee



Our thoughts and
 prayers
 are with all our fallen
 comrades
 who have found
 everlasting peace
 You have served
 your country well.
 We will remember you
 forever

PANTANELLA NEWS June 2009

781st "PANTANELLA NEWS"
c/o Frank Ambrose, Editor
44 East Blvd.
Gloversville, NY 12078



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2010
ORREN J. LEE
2312 BRAEMAR DR.
SIOUX FALLS, SD 57105



Frank Ambrose Collection

The WAR... The Beautiful and The Ugly...

The expression "War is Ugly",
is at times, not always true.

Take for example, this WW II
aerial photo of a Liberator.

This serenely beautiful photo-
graph of a 465th Bomb Group's
B-24 on a Bombing Mission to
the Oil Fields of Germany gives
the viewer little reason to fore-
bode the impending devastation
this aircraft will soon unleash as
it drops it's awesome cargo.

The sleekness of the Aircraft
lends an accent to the majestic
white capped Alps resulting in a
view to behold.

At that moment in time, at least,
the War was not Ugly!