339th FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION
STATION F378 — FOWLMERE, ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 17, NO. 2 JUNE 1997 EDITOR: JIM STARNES

Enclosed are the 1997 Milwaukee reunion reservation forms which many of you are very anxious to receive. Reunion Chairman Slick Penrose has a great program lined up for us. Each fighter squadron representative on our Board of Directors has arranged a unit dinner for Thursday, 4 Sep 97. To save space I have printed the 503rd and 505th dinner reservation forms back to back, since no one will attend both dinners. Sal Carollo's form reflects his computer capability with a bit of help from the Mader Restaurant menu. Be sure to add your name to Sal's reservation form to assist with his records.

The Ordnance attendees usually have their own unit dinner. The few headquarters personnel attending are welcome to join any of the unit dinners. Just send the form to the unit representative of your choice and join them for that dinner. Our best liked dinner speaker, Dr. Fred Scroggin, has agreed to say a few words at the 505th squadron dinner.

Engineering clerk Slip Kass (503) has provided the article he promised during our Seattle reunion concerning the time early in 1945 that our group deputy commander was denied a flight for which he was scheduled. I ran the article past squadron operations officer Bill Bryan (503), and we feel it best to drop the item. Former bomber pilot Carl Goldenberg has probably been bashed enough already in a previous issue. I apologize to Slip and Clayre Kass for leaving their names off the Seattle reunion attendance listing in the December issue. That is one of the many errors such as can be found in each issue. Although I am not printing the Kass article, I will compensate for the listing oversight by printing this photo of "Serious Sidney" on the front page of this issue. Thanks, Slip!

Sidney "SLIP" Kass

A recent seven page letter was received from our Czech friend, Jaromir Kohout. It also contained a number of photos and a schedule for a ceremony of opening for a "Museum of Air Battle over Krisnohori on September 11, 1944." This museum is dedicated to the airmen of the 100th Bomb Gp (8AF) and Luftwaffe JG-4 who were lost on that large air battle.

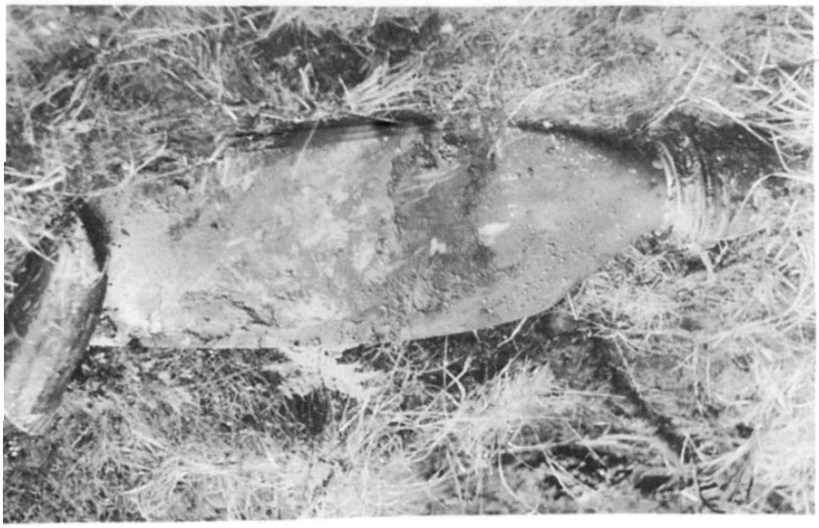
The 11 Sep 44 air battle is also a significant part of our 339th history. We received a Distinguished Unit Citation for the missions of 10-11 Sep 44, particularly because of the large number of enemy aircraft destroyed in the air (14) by the 503rd Fighter Squadron and on the ground (24) by the 505th on 11 Sep 44. This was

Frank Gerard's big mission on which he scored four aerial kills to become an ace. John Aitken (503) led his squadron on this one and scored one kill to run his score to 4½ in the air. Joe Thury (505) led his squadron to the autobahn south of Munich where Flak Tower (505) had located so many German aircraft parked the day before.

This was a sad day for the "Bloody 100th" Bomb Gp which lost 12 B-17s in that air battle near the German-Czech border. According to Jaromir Kohout, the Luftwaffe's JG-4 also lost badly -- a total of 31 ME-109 and FW-190 aircraft. He sent the two photos at right showing recently unearthed parts of German fighters from that air battle. The first photo shows Jaromir Kohout of Air Historical Assn SLET of Pilsen and Jan Zdiarsky, leader of Air Historical Society Kovarska. The parts include a 20 mm barrel and parts from a 30 mm cannon from FW-190 flown by Gunther Strauss (KIA).

Jaromir Kohout and Jan Zdiarsky with FW-190 parts

The second photo shows parts from the propeller of ME-109G flown by H. Schier of JG-4. The prop blade has two holes made by .50 cal. slugs from a P-51. It was located in Oct 96 52 years after the air battle.



Prop blade from ME-109G downed on 11 Sep 44

Where was the 504th when this large air battle was going on? No one can say for certain. Bruce Gravette (504) was leading the group as "Armstrong" on this mission, and Slick Penrose was his wingman who monitored the bomber radio frequency (standard practice.) The bomber formation they were escorting was not involved in the fight. Slick says that he heard on bomber frequency many calls for help as the 100th was being attacked. He heard reports of burning bombers going down but could not see any evidence in the sky of any air battle in progress. It may sound like they were escorting the wrong formation, but it is also possible that the 339th was responsible for this box of bombers as well.

The Czech air historians have been making a documentary reconstruction of this big air battle. They also unveiled a monument for perished airmen on 11 Sep 94 for the 50th anniversary of the battle. They have located the crash site for 20 German fighters lost on both sides of the German-Czech border and many B-17 wrecks as well. It is quite a tribute to the skill of our pilots that the 503rd lost no aircraft in this battle. Only William Stockton's P-51 was damaged by excess speed during a dive and pullout, but he returned safely to base. Stockton was KIA five weeks later.

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A museum on the 11 Sep 44 air battle will be opened by a ceremony on 13 Sep 97. Teh exposition will have a 503rd emblem and several P-51 models, including one of Frank Gerard's D7 U "Yi Yi". They are making several pencil drawing post-cards of aircraft involved in the battle, including Gerard's P-51.

The Czechs are hosting survivors and relatives of the U.S. and German aircrews who participated in the 11 Sep 44 air battle. Tamarac Travel is arranging travel for 100 Bomb Gp personnel who will attend. The Czechs have set up a program for visitors reflecting arrival on 10 Sep 97 plus a full four day activity scheduly for 11-14 Sep 97. I have a copy of the program if anyone is interested in attending. It would be nice if the 339th was represented at the ceremonies by some of our pilots. They will be treated like visiting royalty.

Jaromir Kohout also sent the photo at right of a portion of an air exposition at historical Pilsen City Hall during May 1995. The arrow shows the photo of ace Bob Ammon (503) who destroyed 9 German aircraft on the Kbely Airfield near Prague on 16 April 1945. Other photos on display include Capt Ray Reuter and Lt Bill Preddy, gun camera photos from Capt Kirke Everson's strafing of airfield Klattau/Klatovy. Jaromir Kohout would also welcome recollections and photos from 503rd and 505th pilots who participated in the 11 Sep 44 mission, including those who strafed south of Munich. His address is Tesinska 3, 312 00 Plzen, Czech Republic. I have sent him some of the photos he requested after having seen them in our newsletter, which he receives each quarter. You can see that they are grateful for our role in helping to free their country during World War II.

Attending the annual American Fighter Aces banquet in early May were Jim Starnes and Ollie and Bill Bryan. It was the first time I had seen Bill in his dress uniform wearing miniature replicas of his Distinguished Service Cross, three Distinguished Service Medals, Legion of Merit, five Distinguished Flying Crosses, Bronze Star and 25 Air Medals. They reflect his special achievements in combat and peacetime positions of great responsibility.

Jim Starnes Ollie and Bill Bryan

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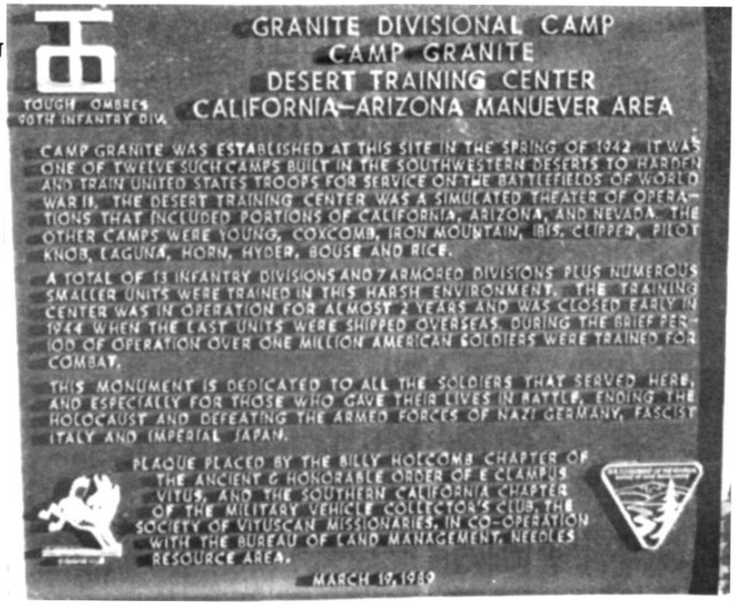
In a Christmas letter received last December, Hal & Iveane Scruggs (HQ) enclosed a lengthy newspaper clipping entitled "PATTONLY HARSH". It describes how troops had learned to train, live and die in the California & Arizona desert during World War II. Too long to be reprinted here, let me extract a few of the more interesting parts of the article. "There aren't many signs of life around here. It'd be different if beer bottles and bottle caps took root, because there is a multitude of them strewn over the sand. The desert has a peculiar quiet, the sound of nothing. Once there were thousands of men here, as many as 40,000. The romantics say they can still here them, shouting and cursing whatever fate sent them to this godforsaken place. About all that is left is silence and stone monuments. They stand as silent guardians at the portals of time, paying tribute to a generation, here during World War II.

France had been defeated, the British had lost the Balkans and Greece, and Gen Erwin Rommel had joined his Italian allies in Egypt. In this country Gen. George S. Patton declared "The war in Europe is over for us. It is going to be a long war. Our first chance to get at the enemy will be North Africa. We cannot train troops to fight in the deserts of North Africa in the swamps of Georgia." He requested and was granted permission to establish desert training facilities in the California desert near Indio. By early 43 the area had been expanded to include parts of western Arizona.

Patton wanted to develop lean and hard troops by making the training as rigorous and realistic as possible. He limited the troops to one canteen of water (a quart) per day. It was a disaster. The men sweat 2½ gallons per day, and the deficits sent hundreds to base hospitals. One trainee wrote home "The horrors of hell no longer frighten me." The men of the 77th Division served as guinea pigs in a series of tests to evaluate food, clothing and water requirements in the desert. The tests resulted in drastic makeovers. Water rations were increased.

There is little left to mark the troops' presence in the desert A stone pyramid 15 feet high bears the names of seven soldiers who lost their lives at Camp Horn. Two stone gateposts denote the entrance of what used to be Camp Hyder. A few rocks line what used to be roadways. Not much else remains. And, eventually, they'll also succumb to the desert. It's how things are." Thanks, Hal & Iveane Scruggs.

Early this spring Dr. Wes Stricker spent a week's vacation in Palm Springs with the intent of locating and exploring the remnants of Rice Field. He sent a number of photos, incuding the one at right. If it reproduces well enough you may be able to read some of it, including the name "Rice" at the end of the first paragraph listing desert sites of training during the war. Other than that, Dr Wes Stricker was appalled that not one word in any monuments or historical markers mentions the famous 339th Fighter Group. Wes wrote that after two days of search with a friend he discovered the base. Even though it was less than 500 yards from the highway, there was absolutely no way that one could tell where it was just driving by. Anyway, he was amazed at the good condition of the field. The white paint on the runway thresholds was even still visible. He says that with just one afternoon on a road grader, we could (and will) have a fly-in with P-51 Mustangs some day. He hopes some of our personnel who were at Rice can help identify some of the small



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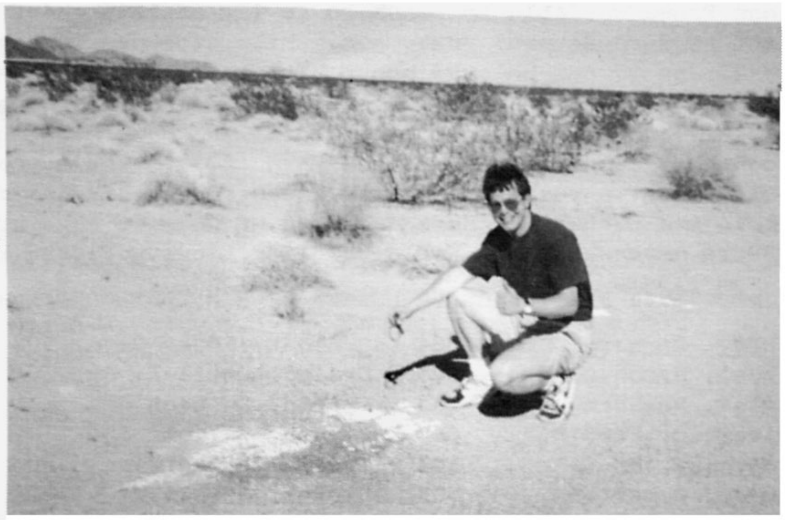
structures they found. Wes is shown at right pointing to white paint at the end of a Rice runway He would like to see any photos we may have of Rice Field as it was during 1943-44. An aerial photo would be most helpful to him. Two more of his photos are reproduced below. The one on the left shows his friend by a large circular slab supporting a small rectangular one with a pipe in the center. It appears to have been able to support a very big tent or a large flag pole. The photo at right below shows two items on the big square concrete ramp on the north central area of the field. The upper pyramid almost looks like it contains an electrical junction box. The lower circled item looks like a tie down ring for aircraft or a tent support ring. If anyone can help with identities, let me know.



Dr. Wes Stricker at white runway marker

Wes wrote "After spending a day exploring the area, my plan is to erect a monument to the 339th along Highway 62, affectionately called the "Old Rice Road." It is heavily traveled, especially in the summer by the L.A. crowd as they drive several hours to spend the weekend at Lake Havasu and the Colorado River Recreational Area. We're also working with Bureau of Land Management to obtain a long-term lease for the area, with plans to preserve the base and create a tourist "stop" to highlight the 339th's time there in training activities related to General Patton's Army. Mom (Paula Stricker) sends her greetings and we hope to see you in Milwaukee this fall!"

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IN MEMORIAM

John Franz was able to reach an in-law of line chief Milo Briggs (505) to determine taht he died several years ago. Milo attended two reunions when health permitted. On 25 Jan 97 our beloved group history editor, G.P. Harry (504) had a severe stroke and passed away on 3 Apr 97. He was a long-time member of FL Aviation Historical Society and one of our most faithful, hard-working supporters. On 19 Apr 97 we lost food service supervisor Benton Kern (503) after a year's illness. Ben was an avid golfer -- two years ago he was inducted into the Reading Country Club's "Hall of Fame." There are probably others deceased of whom we have no record. A listing of all known 339ers deceased since World War II follows. Please report errors or omissions.

339th FIGHTER GROUP ROSTER OF PERSONNEL DECEASED SINCE WORLD WAR II

Abbey, Richard H.	504	Craiger, Edgar D.	503	Gurtner, Edwin H.	503
Abeel, Myron C.	505	Craigo, Cecil E. Jr.	504	Hamilton, George	HQ
Adler, Abraham	503	Corbin, L. Leon	504	Hammerle, Charles F.	505
Alvorsen, Fred B.	ORD	Craven, E. Tom	504	Harkey, Fred M.	505
Amerman, Roy W.	503	Crecilius, Morris	504	Harnack, Kenneth G.	503
Ammon, Robert H.	503	Croker, Robert C.	504	Harry, G.P.	504
Balbeck, Walter	503	Crowley, Thomas N.	HQ	Hart, Leslie W.	503
Ball, Melville R.	504	Culverwell, John A.	504	Harte, Alan S. Jr.	503
Ballard, Jerome J.	504	Daniell, J.S.	505	Haslam, Frederick C.	504
Ballard, Roy	HQ	Daniel, Sidney F.	505	Hathorn, Vernon B.	HQ
Barnes, Walter J.	503	Dardel, S.P.	505	Haugh, Herbert	505
Barto, Vernon R.	504	Davies, J. Clarence	HQ	Hauss, Howard J.	HQ
Bates, Arthur	504	Dearey, Ralph H.	503	Hayden, James J.	504
Bears, Alfred L.	HQ	Deleon, George	HQ	Healy, James	504
Behner, Norman J.	ORD	De Palma, Al	504	Heaphy, Russell	505
Behrend, William H.	503	Dobrenz, Ottobert	504	Heinbaugh, Donald	503
Beishl, Frank	503	Dodge, Don	504	Hernandez, Alex. A	503
Bell, William H.	504	Dodson, Trancey C.	505	Hild, Jack	ORD
Bennett, Samuel L.	505	Doherty, Harry	HQ	Hilton, Frank F.	503
Bewley, Jesse E.	504	Duck, Alvin K.	503	Hines, Elwood	505
Biggs, Oscar Kenneth	505	Duncan, William G.	ORD	Hoar, Robert P.	504
Blackford, Charles S.	504	Durrett, Earl J. Jr.	505	Hodgens, Ralph	504
Briggs, Milo E.	505	Ebersole, Ira R.	505	Hoefler, Victor	503
Brundage, Harvey	504	Edens, Malcolm B.	503	Hoermann, LeRoy F.	HQ
Bryant, J.B.	503	Emert, Gerald F.	HQ	Hoffman, Woodrow	504
Bush, Jerry P.	503	Everett, Harold M.	505	Horton, Al	ORD
Byrd, Jesse C.	505	Fernberg, Louis P.	505	Howard, William	505
Caldwell, Ben M.	504	Filley, Everett R.	HQ	Huddleston, Ralph L.	503
Camarda, Louis	503	Fiorito, leonard J.	503	Hunerwadel, Hugh P.	504
Carlson, Robert L.	505	Fogel, Robert	503	Huppert, Leonard	505
Carr, Clarence M.	505	Fountain, Albert	504	Hunt, Harlan	504
Carter, Lyle M.	504	Freeman, Hartwell	505	Hurley, William T.	504
Chetneky, Steve J.	503	Fulton, Bain E.	HQ	Hutchinson Sylvester	503
Clark, Neil C.	503	Gelpke, Robert E.	505	Hutsell, William L.	504
Clark, William C.	HQ	Generoso, Evie F.	ORD	Hrico, George	505
Clement, Floyd	505	Genshimer, Ted R.	503	Jaaskelainen, William	505
Cobb, J.C.	504	Gleason, Hope Bootie	504	Jacobs, Lewis E.	ORD
Cobb, Noble E.	503	Gokey, John	503	Jackson, John D.	505
Coe, Charles S.	503	Goldenberg, Carl T.	HQ	Janosik, Joe	504
Coffin, Ed	505	Golin, Al J.	503	Jennings, Carroll	505
Colburn, Raymond J.	HQ	Gooch, William D.	504	Johnson, Robert	504
Collins, Thomas	505	Gravette, E. Bruce	504	Jolly, Thomas	503
Conklin, Richard Jr.	503	Greer, Nile C.	504	Johns, Gaylord	504
Cook, George M.	505	Griffith, Walter B.	504	Jones, George D.	505
Cooper, Donald	505	Grove, Irving A.	504	Jones, William E.	505
Crabtree, Garland	HQ	Guelker, Raymond J.	HQ	Johnson, Evan M. V	505

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Johnson, William C.	503	Muller, James B.	505	Sulima, Ted M.	505
Jones, W.A.	504	Murray, John F.	505	Suter, Joseph	503
Jozefczyk, Rudolph	504	Muto, Alphonse	503	Szech, Edward M.	ORD
Kappner, Omar	HQ	Myers, Roy A.	505	Taylor, James W.	503
Keim, Paul T.	504	Nay, Martin N.	505	Tews, Norman A.	505
Keller, James F.	505	Nessler, Fred A.	505	Thury, Joseph L.	505
Kelly, George P.	503	Nethaway, Charles D.	HQ	Todd, Keith A.	505
Kern, Benton W.	503	Ojanen, Kaino	505	Tomascik, Steve	504
Kernan, William W.	505	Opperman, Chap. Henry	HQ	Tomlinson, Hubert	503
Kiesz, Reuben S.	504	Opitz, William R.	505	Tower, Archie A.	505
Kimsey, Arnold E.	505	Orcutt, Leon M. Jr.	504	Trester, John R.	504
King, John B.	503	Page, Donald W.	503	Tucker, Harry St. G	HQ
Klein, Homer L.	503	Parks, Steve. C.	HQ	Van Auken, Lansing	505
Kloupnik, Max	HQ	Parodi, Henry	504	Vaughan, William T.	505
Kollar, Earl W.	505	Peasley, Russell	505	Wagner, Paul M.	HQ
Kosmella, Robert B.	503	Per, Joseph J.	505	Waite, William H.	505
Kovar, Robert J.	505	Peters, Glenn	503	Ward, Herbert C.	505
Lambert, Cecil L.	505	Petrino, William G.	505	Warren, William R.	503
Lancia, James	503	Pinkerton, Sproul	504	Watley, James	503
Langois, Edward J.	505	Pinkos, Frank	504	Watson, Clyde	ORD
Langtry, Charles	505	Pirosa, Alfred A.	505	Watt, Marvel	504
La Rose, Pete J.	505	Plant, Robert O.	505	Waymire, Harvey R.	504
Lingle, Woodrow J.	505	Potts, Edwin W.	ORD	Weber, Clyde E.	503
Linsley, Robert F	505	Powell, Charles E.	503	Webster, George W. Jr	505
Litecky, Paul A.	504	Price, David E.	503	Wells, Arlen W.	504
Lockwood, Donald B.	ORD	Propst, John R.	HQ	Whisman, Norman R.	503
Long, Robert D.	HQ	Regan, Kenneth M.	HQ	Whiteing, Richard F.	505
Lubert, Robert M.	505	Rice, John J.	504	Whitney, Olan	505
Lukehart, Forrest W.	505	Roberts, Carl E.	ORD	Whitten, William T.	ORD
Mallow, Lloyd W.	503	Robinson, Clayton B.	505	Wyatt, Valdee	503
Mammoser, George	505	Rodenbach, Paul R.	505	Young, Jack S.	505
Marshall, Hugh S.	503	Roth, John	504	Yousko, John	505
Martin, Woodrow W.	ORD	Rountree, James O.	505	Zido, Charles	503
Marvel, Thomas W.	505	Routt, Bill C.	504		
Mason, Clair M.	504	Sabine, John W.	503		
Mccarthy, William D.	504	Sahl, Herman J.	503		
McGowan, Hubert	504	Sanford, Issac S.	505		
McGillivray, John R.	504	Savu, August	504		
Maksymik, Metro	504	Schlortt, Quinn	505		
McHugh, Chap. George	HQ	Scruggs, Amos Lee	503		
McLachlen, Thomas P.	HQ	Selle, David S.	503		
McKinney, James P.	505	Segar, John	HQ		
McLure, James M.	504	Senger, Frank M.	505		
McNamara, James H.	HQ	Schmeichel, William	HQ		
Menart, Rudolph	HQ	Sahke, Charles E.	503		
Messina, Mario M.	503	Shoker, Fred S.	504		
Metzlaar, Charles P.	503	Shook, Rex W.	504		
Milla, Joseph A.	505	Signet, Wilfred E.	503		
Mirenburg, Archie	ORD	Sims, Hal	505		
Mintline, Claire D.	ORD	Smelzer, Homer	505		
Modjeska, Henry J.	503	Snowden William L.	ORD		
Mondl, Evan	504	Staszek, Joseph C.	503		
Moore, Cecil W.	505	Steen, Warren R.	505		
Moots, William P.	505	Stevens, James M.	503		
Muchisco, Mike	503	Stewart, Carl R.	505		
Mroz, Leon	504	Stricker, Eamil A.	HQ		
Mudge, William P.	505	Strong Roland W.	505		
Muir, William E.	504	Stuhlman, Byron C.	503		

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Some time ago Sterling Conley (ORD) gave me some photos which he had submitted for inclusion in the 339th history book. Since they were not printed, he thought that I might use them in newsletters when space permitted. The one at right shows some of M/Sgt Joe Hawley's men working on two jeeps in the Automotive Shop -- the largest section of the 1786 Ordnance Supply & Maintenance Company (Avn). Not only did they maintain Colonel Henry's staff car, they even worked on vehicles which most of us used at Fowlmere -- bicycles!

The other photo at right below shows T/Sgt Clyde Watson and his hard-working Ammunition Section. Boy, did we fighter pilots keep those guys busy linking .50 cal. ammunition. Around D-Day 6 Jun 44 they had to be augmented with help to meet our P-51 ordnance needs for bombs and ammunition. They worked shifts around the clock linking ammunition like that long belt draped across the men squatting in the photo. Some ammunition had to be linked with a tracer every fifth round, whereas for other gun positions only armor-piercing incendiary (API) rounds were used. At no time were the fighter squadrons unable to obtain the required quantity of ammunition for combat. Members of the Ammunition Section shown squatting are (L-R) Bill Tassie, Cleo Collins, Francis Fillmore and Ray Cappucci. Standing (L-R) are Walt Glessner, Clyde Watson, Ken Hayes, Wm. Polich, Joe Zelno and Jerry Luongo.

Several years ago someone in the 504th Fighter Squadron Armament Section gave me the photo shown at right. It was taken at Drew Field, FL (now Tampa International Airport) in 1943 before the group moved to Walterboro, SC. Standing next to an old tarpaper covered building are four armament personnel of the 483rd Bomb Squadron (Dive) which was later redesignated the 504th Fighter Bomber Squadron and then the 504th Fighter Squadron. They are identified as (L-R) S/Sgt Sproul Pinkerton, Cpl George M. Solley, S/Sgt Walter V. Crooks and Pvt Rex W. Shook. Only George Solley in known to be alive today. Pinkerton and Shook died as members of our association, and Crooks was never located.

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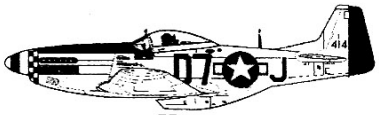

503RD FS

504TH FS

505TH FS

339TH FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION
Reunion - September 3 - 7, 1997
MILWAUKEE/OSHKOSH, WI[1]

Dates : Wednesday, September 3, 1997 to Sunday, September 7, 1997

Details:

Hotel : Milwaukee Hilton (down town), 24 stories, 500 guest rooms and suites,
509 West Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53203 (414) 271-7250
Room rates: $69 single/double, $84 triple/quad
15 minutes from the airport by airport limousine.
Auto parking: $3.00 per day
RV parking: room for a few, daytime only, at the hotel. Additional RV parking at a private lot across the street.

Hotel Locale : Down town, adjacent to the Wisconsin Center, and a short walk (*hotel statement*) to the lakefront and festival ground, MECCA Convention Center, Bradley Sports Complex, the theatre district, arts and attractions. One block to the covered skywalk for downtown shopping at The Grand Avenue Retail Center.

Airport : General Mitchell International Airport. Airport shuttle service to hotels is by Limousine Services ($8.50/person, one-way, $16 round trip). Catch at the airport. The airport is seven miles from down town.

Information : Greater Milwaukee Convention & Visitors Bureau
510 West Kilbourn Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(800) 231-0903

Bus System : Milwaukee County Transit System operates 22 hours per day, fare is $1.25 (exact amount).

Oshkosh : The Reunion Chairman does not recommend anyone take the Oshkosh trip just for shopping at the Outlet Stores. Shopping should be more interesting in Milwaukee.

Neill Goltz of EAA Aviation Foundation provided the following information on the Oshkosh trip. We will tour the Fly-in and Convention grounds, museum and other facilities. We will then lunch on-site at the Barry Goldwater Conference Center. During lunch, EAA's Greg Anderson will make a brief presentation about the history of EAA and its plans for the future. After lunch we will have a more extended tour of EAA's exhibits or time for those wishing to visit the nearby Outlet Store Mall. Departure will be by bus in mid-afternoon for return to Milwaukee.

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Milwaukee.Schedule.2

339th FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION
Hilton Hotel Downtown
Schedule of Events
Dates: Wednesday, September 3 to
Sunday, September 7, 1997

WEDNESDAY, 9/3/1997		Hospitality Suite and registration desk, **505th**
	05:00PM	Welcome meeting
THURSDAY, 9/4/1997	**09:00AM**	Load buses for city orientation tour (4:30 hours) to view lakefront, parks, Miller brewery (1 hour), Mitchell Park Horticultural Park (½ hour), ethnic areas, entertainment centers, etc. Bus will stop at selected place for lunch on your own. Buses may not be together during the tour.
	01:30PM	Back at the hotel.
		Hospitality Suite, **504th**
FRIDAY, 9/5/1997	**09:00AM**	Load buses for Oshkosh EAA Museum tour
	10:30AM	Arrive at EAA Museum
	12:00N	Catered lunch at the Museum (Goldwater Plaza)
	1:00PM±	Resume Museum viewing
	02:30PM	Load buses for return to Milwaukee
	04:30PM	Arrive at hotel
		Hospitality Suite, **503rd**
SATURDAY, 9/6/1997	**08:00AM**	Officers and BOD & wives breakfast/meeting
	09:30AM	General business meeting for all members
	10:30AM	On your own
	06:00PM	Banquet cash bar
	06:30PM	Banquet seating
	07:00PM	Banquet served, planned program
		Hospitality Suite, **HQ & ORD**
SUNDAY, 9/7/1997	**07:00AM To 09:00AM**	Farewell Breakfast
		Departure

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JUN 97 ADDENDUM TO 339th FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION PERSONNEL ROSTER dated SEP 97

Change Steve Ananian to 4 North Orchard Farms Ave., Simpsonville, SC 29681
Change Mrs. G.P. Harry to 21 Arbor Club Dr. #107, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082
Change Mrs. Wm. E. Jones to 11165 Squanan River Ct., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Change Mrs. Sproul Pinkerton to 1486 Glen Willow Rd., Avondale, PA 19311
Change Lowell Sederberg to 2049 Pottery Ave. #19, Port Orchard, WA 98366
Change Mrs. Marion Stevens to 227 Pleasant St. #330, Concord, NH 03301
Change Bob Sugg to Grandview Condos, 1889 Grandview Place, Mongtomery, IL 60538
Change Mrs. Mary Williams to HSC, 6200½ Oregon Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20015
Change John Wilson's Zip code to 62226

SHORT BURSTS. . . Mary Williams' son Jeff sent a beautiful 4 X 8 inch color photo of Bob Frisch's P-51 "WORRY BIRD" which he copied with his computer off the U.S. Air Force's 50th anniversary Web page under historical aircraft/pursuit. It is the only P-51 and we are pleased that it has 339th markings of D7 J (503). Mary indicated she hopes her health will permit her to attend the Milwaukee reunion with assistance from a son. . . Chris Gravette sent a contribution to the 339th and wrote that she reluctantly will be unable to make it to Milwaukee due to extensive travel plans elsewhere. She wrote "I keep thinking that one of these years I'll make a reunion. Please greet my friends for me!" . . Bill Bryan (503) sent an item on the inglorious demise of one illustrious 339th History Book as follows: "The young veterinarian Ollie & I use for our dogs is a real aviation buff. Everytime I wear a 339th cap into his clinic, we end up talking airplanes. One time I took a copy of our history book and asked if he would like to browse through it at his leisure. He was delighted. Two weeks later I asked him if he had a chance to look at it. He said "I read it from cover to cover and thoroughly enjoyed it. Let me get it for you. On return he said that the book he had was not the copy I lent him for this reason: Our book was lying on a desk in the lab not too far from his examination table. One day a "patient" -- a large German Shepherd -- had a serious bowel problem. He concluded an enema would be the best remedial action. The enema was successful beyond the vet's wildest hopes. The problem? The line of fire was zeroed in on the nearby desk and a direct hit was scored on our history book. His nurse broke into tears but put on surgical gloves and dug out the publisher's name and phone number. UPS delivered them a fresh copy. I hope none of you were eating lunch while reading this tid-bit of Mississippi trivia." . . Thanks, Bill, but your vet paid twice what we are charging for a history book, and Zenith Books is still asking $49.95 plus shipping for a copy while we sell for $25 postpaid and still have a few left. . . Slick Penrose sent the following item: "Jim Sterling of Anchorage, AK, has a web site on photographs of warbirds -- hundreds of them. He wishes to set up "pages" that are WW II unit specific (Air Corps). Since I am online, we were able to get going quickly. The 339th will be the first unit site and is online and still developing. Members who are online or have access to someone who is, can use the following address for the 339th specific site: http://www.web-birds/com/ww2/8th/339/339.html If anyone wishes to view his general warbird site, use the following address: http://www.akache.com/akscan/warbird.html Dr. Wes Stricker wrote that official AF records indicate that his P-51 was assigned to 8th AF but show no specific Group or Squadron information. The aircraft serial number is 44-64122. It is a photo version of the P-51, and our records do not show any P-51with that number. If anyone knows who could help with the unit, please let him know. Most likely it would have been assigned to the 7th Photo Group. . . Anyone who wishes to contact Slick Penrose on the internet can reach him at cockshy6@bendnet.com If there is enough interest in e-mail addresses, I could print a listing of 339th e-mailers in a future newsletter. . . British friend John Harris is considering preparing a small book entitled "339th Fighter Group Thoroughbreds." Itwill be a listing of as many of our P-51s assigned during the war and as many photos of them as can be obtained. He would like our help with photos and as many aircraft identified by crew as possible. His address is 8 Walnut Walk, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 7PJ England. . . Death has claimed two prominent air historians who received our newsletters for years. Lorenz Rasse attended our Seattle reunion and worked on an article for us on our encounters with ME-262s prior to his death in Apr 97. Jeff Ethell died in a P-38 crash on 6 Jun 97. He had the largest collection of color WW II photos and authored many books.

© 339th FGA

Sterling Conley provided this photo of the four officers in 1786th Ord. Supply & Maintenance Co. (Avn.) at Fowlmere. It reflects the variety of uniforms which could be worn at any given time. Sterling described Wm. L. Snowden tactfully as not very sharp mentally. This was confirmed when he became armament officer for the 505th Fighter Squadron in Apr 45. The squadron history scrapbook notes that his main concern as armament officer was insuring that ash trays were emptied promptly in the armament section. Jack Hild was an outstanding commander and supporter of the 339th Association until his death. Richard Luck was described as an outstanding officer in charge of company armament section. The same was true of Wm. T. Whitten as officer in charge of the company ammunition section. Richard Luck has never been located, whereas the other three are known to be deceased. Ordnance personnel remain among the most enthusiastic supporters of the 339th Fighter Group Association.

Lt William L. Snowden | Capt John F. Hild | Lt Richard J. Luck | Lt William T. Whitten

339th FIGHTER GROUP ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 251 • Lutz, FL 33549

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ATTENTION: MEMBERS OF THE 505th FIGHTER SQUADRON

SUBJECT: 505th Squadron Dinner
Thursday, 4 September 97, 6:30 P.M.

LOCATION: MADER'S OLD WORLD RESTURANT
1037 North Third Street - Milwaukee
"The Baron's Rhine Stube" Party Room

MENU CHOICES: SAUERBRATEN - Choice roast beef, potato dumpling, Bavarian red cabbage, ginger snap gravy.

ROAST YOUNG DUCKLING - One-half of a four pound duckling stuffed with a savory dressing. Served with applesauce and Bavarian red cabbage.

ROAST LOIN OF PORK - with apple raisin dressing, peach half and applesauce.

STEAK RICHTHOFEN - The Baron's favorite, a 10 oz. sirloin steak served with onion rings.

PRICE: $26.00 each - includes Viennese strudel dessert, coffee, tax and tip

RESERVATIONS & REMITTANCE DUE: By 1 August 1997

RESERVATION AND CHECK PAYABLE TO: Richard G. Thieme, 2732 S. 7th Street
Sheboygan, WI 53081-6802

(Please return the lower portion with your remittance)

- -

NAME: _____

Qty	Entree		Amount
____	Sauerbraten	@26.00	_____
____	Duckling	@26.00	_____
____	Pork Loin	@26.00	_____
____	Steak	@26.00	_____
	TOTAL REMITTANCE ENCLOSED		$ _____

(Remember what you ordered!)

RESERVATION FORM FOR

503rd Fighter Squadron Dinner

BURG HALLE, ~ MADER'S INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS CASTLE RESTAURANT
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

DATE: THURS SEPT 4, 1997~~ TIME: 6:00 PM CASH BAR
7:00 PM DINNER

DRESS: REQUEST MEN WEAR COAT & TIE .

DINNER SELECTIONS
(CHOICE OF ONE)

NAME _____

Indicate choice & No.

Roast Pork Shank,Bavarian Style~Mader's world-famous specialty.
Favorite dish of Southern Bavaria~served with boiled potato
and barrel cured sauerkraut. _____

Rock Cornish Hen,Stubenkuchen Style~stuffed with apple
raisin dressing,garnished with fresh pineapple & cherry and carrots _____

Pan Seared Salmon~served on a bed of diced tomatoes,leek and basil;
available with or without Bearnaise Sauce _____

Dinners include choice of homemade soup du jour or salad, dinner rolls, coffee,tea or milk
AND ***DESSERT: VIENNESE APPLE STRUDEL***

PRICE PER PERSON $25.00 *(INCLUDES TAXES AND TIP)*
PLEASE ENTER YOUR SELECTION(S) ON THE ABOVE LIST. MAIL
COMPLETED LIST AND CHECK PAYABLE TO SAL CAROLLO
2100 NW 17TH STREET, DELRAY BEACH, FL. 33445

ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN AUGUST 22, 1997

Milwaukee.Fees.5.1.97

18th Annual 339th Fighter Group Association Reunion
Milwaukee, WI, September 3 to 7, 1997

EVENTS APPLICATION FORM

RETURN BY AUGUST 3, 1997

Wednesday	September 3	Registration Fee Number Attending _____ @ $5 each =	$_____
Thursday	September 4	Milwaukee Orientation Bus Tour (4:30 hours) Number Attending ___ @ $13 each =	$_____
Friday	September 5	Oshkosh EAA Museum Bus Tour and Lunch (7:30 hours) Number Attending ___ @ $24 each = Seniors_____ Non-Seniors_____ ***Number wanting guided tour of EAA Museum_____*** **Number wanting to visit Outlet Stores after lunch _____**	$_____
Saturday	September 6	Banquet ____Sliced Roast Beef @ $25 each = ____Filet of Sole @ $25 each = The hotel does not desire to provide three entrees but will provide an entrée for vegetarians Vegetarian (Pasta Primavera) @ $25 each =	$_____ $_____ $_____
Sunday	September 7	Farewell Breakfast Number Attending ___ @ $10 =	$_____
		TOTAL **Fees include tax, tips, and transportation**	$_____

Prior to **August 3, 1997**, mail selections and payment to Treasurer **Bill Guyton** at:
1272 Lakeside Woods Drive
Venice, FL 34292

NAME _____ UNIT _____

Make checks payable to **"339th FGA"**

The 504th Fighter Squadron will hold their squadron dinner Thursday Sept 4 at the Milwaukee Hilton. This will consist of Social Hour at the Bombay Bicycle Club Bar from 6 to 7 P.M. followed by dinner choices as follows: Roast Beef @ $26
Filet of Sole @ $26
Boneless Breast of Chicken @ $26

Remove the bottom portion of this form and return to Dutch Eisenhart with check payable to him NOT LATER THAN 15 August 1997. RR 1, Box 501, Lake Ariel, PA 18436

NAME _____

Food Selection: Roast Beef #_____
Filet of Sole_____
Chicken _____

339th Fighter Group Association

September 3-7, 1997

Reservation Deadline: August 3, 1997

Rates:

_____ 1 Guest $69.00 _____ 2 Guests: $69.00

_____ 3 Guests: $84.00 _____ 4 Guests: $84.00

Please check desired accommodation. Tax and Parking Applicable.

Name: _____ Share With: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____ Special Request: _____

Credit Card Type: _____ # _____ exp. _____

Authorized Signature: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____

Please mail or fax back this form.
Fax Number: 414-271-1039

Or, call to confirm your reservation: 1-800-HILTONS ♦ 414-271-7250

Please note that a block of rooms has been set aside for your convenience in making a guest room reservation. These rooms are being assigned on a first-come, first-service basis. However, any rooms remaining unassigned as the above list "deadline for reservations date" will be sold to the general public. It is therefore important that you make your reservation as soon as possible. The special group rate will be available two days before and two days after the conference, based on availability. One night's deposit or a credit card guarantee is required with all reservation requests.

The Milwaukee Hilton is pleased that it participates is the American Disabilities Act. To make your stay with us more comfortable, please note on your reservation if you will require a handicapped room. Thank you

✣ 500 Luxurious Guest Rooms & Suites ✣ 16 Meeting and Banquet Rooms
✣ Indoor Pool, Sauna, Sundeck & Exercise Room
✣ Outstanding Restaurants & Lounges
✣ Just Two Blocks from Convention Center ✣ One Block From Shopping Mall.

509 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203