

December 1, 2002

339th



Fighter Group Association

Station F378 – Fowlmere, England

NEWSLETTER

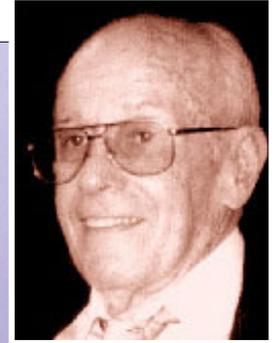
“The Lads from Fowlmere”



Volume 22, Issue 4

Editor: Stephen C. Ananian

Rain, Rain, Go Away . . .



Between downpours, members of the 339th Fighter Group inspect naval aircraft on the deck of the Carrier 'Yorktown'. Note where a member of the group had climbed the superstructure to change number from CV ten to three thirty-nine! SCA

By Jim Starnes, *Permanent Columnist*

Neither the Thunder, Lightning, 'Tornado Alerts' nor the 'Remnants of Hurricane Kyle' could put a damper on our October reunion in Charleston, SC. What a great turnout! Over 160 people! Members came with children, grandchildren and friends. Some of them had not attended a reunion previously. A few veterans returned after a number of years of absence from 339th affairs. Carroll Bennett (504) was recently relocated and came all the way from Oregon, attending with his daughter Carolyn.

There was concern about the members of the active military that attended. We feared they might have to cancel due to the world situation, but

Continued on the next page

luck was with us and all were there. Dorothy Clark's son-in-law Larry Eiswald, Apache pilot in the 101st Airborne was one of them. Navigator and Air Force Captain Jeffrey Smith, grandson of 504th pilot Roland E. Smith was the other.

We had two 'the Thirds' attending! John B. Henry the Third, son of our Commanding Officer came with wife Janice. Bill and Ollie Bryan were not to be outdone so they showed up with their son William E. Bryan the Third and wife Karen.

Some of us became worried when Fowlmere weather officer, Herman "Stormy" Mondschein registered. "Stormy" arrived with that 'little black cloud' following him around, and sure enough, tropical storm "Kyle" changed course so as to pass across Charleston on Friday morning with heavy rain and some wind. However, it did not interrupt our trip to the carrier Yorktown that morning. Higher than normal tides and flooding prevented us from continuing a boat trip to the Ft. Sumter National Monument afterwards. Nothing could dampen our spirits, and a memorable time was had by all.



Keynote Speaker Harry Howard and his lovely Maria.

503rd aces Bill Bryan and Frank Gerard are showing the effects of back surgery, which impairs their mobility. These ailments are more common as we pay the price for old age.

Nowhere else but at a three thirty ninth reunion could you have someone in his 90s drive alone from Texas to South Carolina. First Sergeant Fred Cox (91) did just that, and he was rewarded by seeing fellow ordnance men Warren Olsen and Lacey Vincent who also drove from Florida and Virginia respectively.

Once again our British friends were in attendance. Nick and Phyllis King and their sons, Phillip and Stuart, came to vacation with old friends and enjoy the sights. John and Laurina Harris also returned again with cameras, photos and memorabilia. Joe Noah, cousin of 503rd pilot Bill Preddy, and wife Betty flew their own aircraft down from Virginia. Bill was our last casualty of the war and is buried alongside his more famous brother George Preddy in France. Joe is founder and treasurer of the Preddy Foundation, which recognizes the sacrifice of these two during the war. Joe brought some literature about the foundation and a stack of postal cards with a photo of George Preddy's P-51, "Cripes A'Mighty 3rd".

I counted 18 families! Among the larger family groups in attendance were Chet Malarz family (10), Dorothy Clark (7), Jerry Graham (6) and Roland Smith (6). We were honored by the attendance of 505th pilot Thomas W. Marvel's daughter Nancy Roach, her husband John and son Kanning. Tommy was one of our top strafers, destroying nine aircraft on the ground during March and April of 1945. He and his wife died before our association was formed.

Health problems forced Anna Tower and Eileen Weber to cancel, but we had other 339th widows there, including Irene Chetneky, Dorothy Clark, Claire

'Rain' next page

Griffith and Betty O'Sullivan. Widows and children of veterans make up an important part of our membership. Bill Jaskelainen, Jr. came with his wife, his brother John and his spouse. He also brought his Video Tape Copier and copied and showed combat videos from several 339ers in our Hospitality Room. Our Web Master Tim Ferrell was there as always with family and Camcorder, preserving the events for posterity. Thanks, to you both!

Unit Director, Tom Sams arranged for the 503rd to eat at Hyman's Seafood Restaurant and 504th Director 'Gil' Cohen at the 'Tbonz Gil and Grill'. Our CO, HQ and Ordnance Units were invited to join the 504th this year. All reported great dining and accommodations.

I can only describe the exceptional 505th dinner held at our hotel's private dining room. Director Bob Burns had arranged a super menu including an item or two I had not seen before. It included tossed green salad, combo beef medallions and half a dozen shrimp broiled on a wooden skewer, oven roasted potatoes and snow peas topped off with a fantastic dessert. Bob had also arranged for us to enjoy a case of Chardonnay wine - a beautiful layout and excellent food. Thanks, Bob - Thanks Tom - Thanks Gil!

As usual the Saturday night banquet was the highlight of this reunion. The evening began with posting the colors by a color guard from the nearby Citadel Military Academy. Then the two young grandchildren of President Jerry Graham placed their own small flag next to the regular one, and we remained standing while the six-year-old Rachel Tarling led us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Upon completion of the dinner, Reunion Coordinator Larry Powell became Master of Ceremonies for the special program. Banquet speaker Harry Howard gave us a memorable account of his incredible experience of being shot down on March 2nd, 1945 about the same time his flight leader and best friend, Bert Conner was downed. This guy has been living on borrowed time for 57 years. We were convinced that no one could survive a crash into the trees at strafing speed and we reported he was probably Killed In Action. Since every 339th member deserves to hear this story, Steve Ananian has arranged to print it in a future newsletter. It is indeed an inspiring tale of courage under the most difficult circumstances.

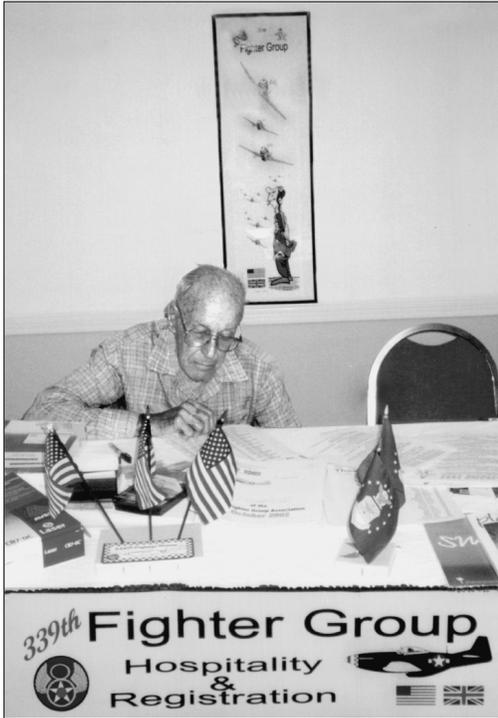
After Harry's speech, General John B. Henry presented him with our usual 339th Mustang Plate, the 'Blue Skies Award'. President Jerry Graham then presented a 339th Plate to our 'Treasurer Emeritus' Bill Guyton in recognition of his fourteen years of dedicated service as our treasurer. A third Mustang Plate was presented that evening to our association Secretary and Newsletter Editor Steve Ananian for all his hard work to keep us in business. His computer expertise makes our newsletters very special -

'Rain Rain' next page



Color Guard from the Citadel.

who else could show P-51s of the 339th, including his own bird, landing on the aircraft carrier Yorktown in Charleston harbor?



Jim Starnes neglects to mention his work and efforts that contributed to the success of the reunion.

his belly had been grafted to his cheek!

Both John Harris and Nick King were made "Honorary Members of the 339th Fighter Group" and were presented with a certificate to that effect. John and Nick have done so much to preserve our History.

Members Tim Ferrell and Bill Jaaskelainen Jr. were thanked for their efforts on behalf of the 339th and were given a 'Certificate of Gratitude'.

Kudos to our President Jerry Graham, Larry Powell, Chet Malarz, Treasurer Dick Thieme, Jim Woolery and our Unit Directors Tom Sams, Gil Cohen, Bob Burns and Steve A. - for an outstanding job!

(And to you too Jim! EDITOR)

It will be hard to top that reunion!

Two weeks after the reunion Steve phoned me that Larry Powell was still in the hospital with pneumonia after returning to California.

Larry was asking his nurses to kiss him on the belly. Naturally they refused but kissed him on the cheek instead. Larry responded by saying, "You just kissed my belly."

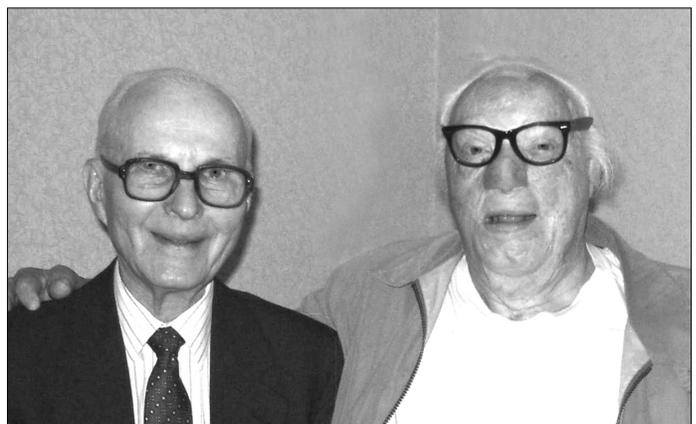
The Nurses walked away smiling realizing skin from

Jim Starnes

When I heard this I knew Larry was back to normal.



To the right - our CO John B. Henry, Jr. and Reunion Coordinator Larry Powell at our 'Farewell Breakfast' on Sunday morning. Two days later Larry was taken ill and hospitalized with pneumonia upon his return home. I am pleased to report he is home and recovering at present. His daughter Kitty reports Larry gave them quite a scare but all is well in the Powell household!



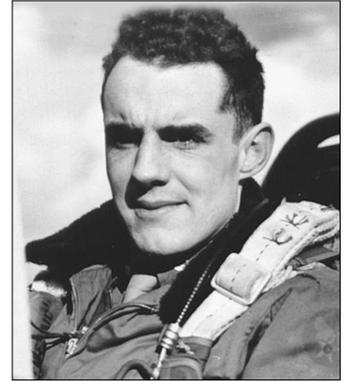
HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES THIS YEAR?

Remember only veterans of the group need pay the tax deductible \$10 dues.

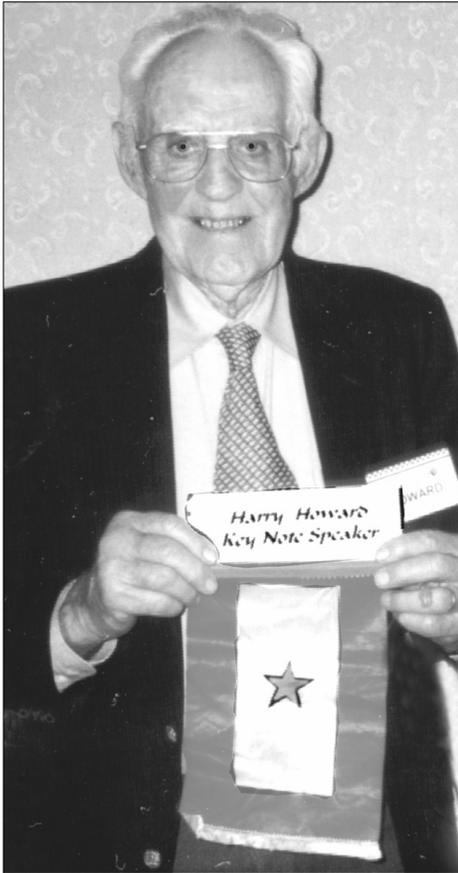
The "New Kid on the Block"

Harry Howard, ex POW By Jim Starnes

Our Keynote Speaker Harry F. Howard was born in the month of October 1923 in Colorado Springs, CO. In November of 1942 while in college, Harry enlisted as an aviation cadet. He completed the rigorous 'Cadet Training' program and graduated as a Second Lieutenant, 'Single Engine Pilot' in the Class of 44 'B' from Advanced Flying School, at Victoria, Texas.



2nd Lt. Harry Howard



Harry shows "Gold Star Flag" mother hung in window of their home

Howard volunteered to go to Iceland for operational training, flying the fighters of the famous "Flying Tigers," the P-40 'Warhawk'. He was assigned to the 33rd Fighter Squadron. In May 1944 his Squadron received 'brand new' P-47 'Thunderbolt' fighters. Their duties included flying 'anti-submarine' patrols and escorting B-17, 'Flying Fortresses' that were landing in Iceland en route to England.

In December of 1944 a request came for two replacement pilots to transfer to England. Harry, anxious for combat, volunteered with Capt. Brooks Blaine and was flown to England on Christmas Day 1944. The following week, they were assigned to the 505th Fighter Squadron at Fowlmere. Both were pleased to be flying the now famous, P-51 'Mustangs'.

Despite his desire for combat, Harry's 'combat tour' was short lived, two months! He was shot down and severely wounded - along with his flight leader, Bert Conner, while strafing an airfield on the second of March 1945. Those of us that witnessed the event were certain that Harry had been killed and reported that he was "Killed In Action". Fortunately, we were mistaken and he survived. Harry and Bert ended up in the same German POW hospital until

liberated by Patton's troops on May sixth 1945. Bert and Harry were returned to U.S. Hospitals for two years of corrective surgery before being retired as disabled.

Harry then attended the University of California in Berkeley, where he met and married Maria. They are the proud parents of six children, who, like their parents are college graduates. The 339th Fighter Group is very proud of Harry Howard; our last surviving "Disability Retired" EX-POW. **JIM STARNES**



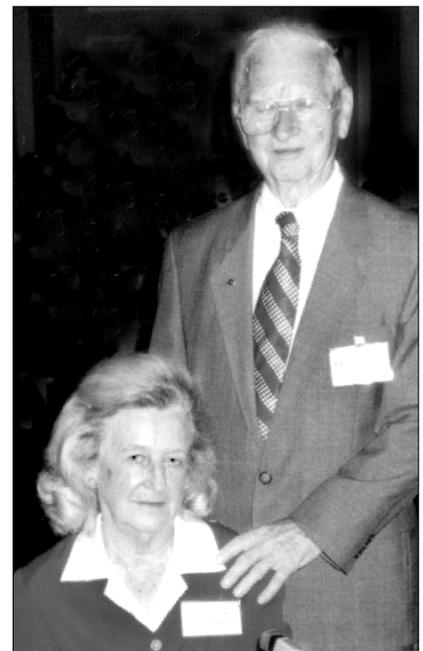
Reunion photos!



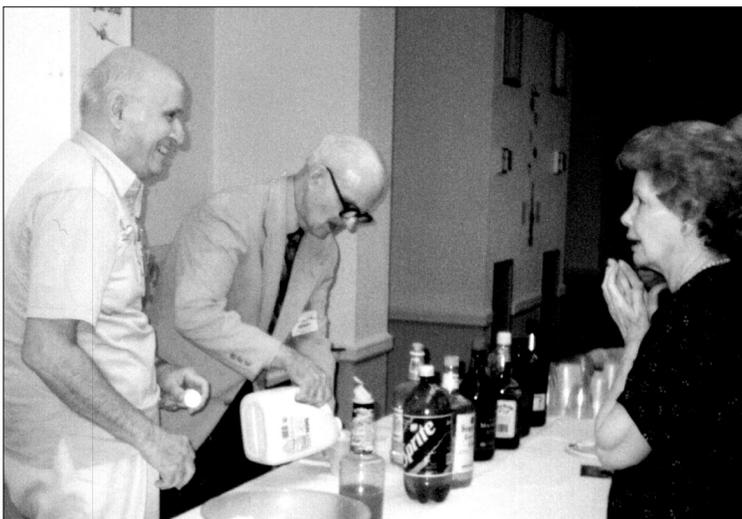
L to R, Fred Cox, Larry Powell, Isabel Ananian, Pepper Woolery with husband Jim behind her, then me (Steve), Mary Malarz, John Henry and Chet Malarz.



Frank Gerard, Adrianna's brother Aldo Petri and Adrianna. Frank is recovering back surgery and says he navigates the golf course using his driver as a cane.



Proud Grandparents, President Jerry Graham and his lovely wife Mary enjoy the company of their family.



Left - Jim Woolery and John Henry show Mary Malarz the finer points of tending bar.

Jim is our 'Hospitality Room' coordinator and was responsible for setting it all up. Thanks you did a great job Jim, your hospitality kept everyone welcome, friendly and happy!



Honor!

Veteran's Day 2002

An Editorial By Stephen C. Ananian

Again this year I was asked to speak to the students of the Sevier Middle School in Greenville, South Carolina at their Veteran's Day program. The editorial that follows is from that speech.

Aloha is the greeting of Natives on the Island of Hawaii. It means, "Hello, How are you!" It also means, "Farewell, or Till we meet again."

When Marines greet one another they say, "Semper Fi!" It is a contraction of the Latin phrase, "Semper Fidelis," meaning "Always Faithful." It is the motto of the Marine Corps.



John Harris Places flowers on the grave of Lt. Arthur Lowery 503rd on 'D' Day, 2002.

"Semper Fi!" is more than a mere greeting to a Marine. It is a pledge. It's an oath that means, "I am there when you need me, I will never leave you on the field of battle. I will never desert you! You can depend on me!"

We Americans pledge allegiance to the flag. It is an Oath that we take to our country. It is not a prayer, as some would have us believe. Doctors upon completing their course of studies take the centuries old, Hippocratic Oath. They pledge to save lives, never to take them! When lawmakers are elected to office, they are sworn in, they take an oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to perform their duties with honor!

I am a 'First Generation American'. That means I am the first generation in my family to be born in this, "the Land of the Free!" Both my parents were born in a little village in the mountains of Eastern Europe. Mom and Dad immigrated to this great land of ours to escape religious persecution.

They were so proud of this, "Land of Sweet Liberty."

How proud, how elated, how overjoyed, they were to become American Citizens.

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, I was an engineering student at New York University. Upon hearing the news of the attack, I rushed home to inform my family that I intended to enlist in the Army and fight against our country's enemies.

My father, seeing that I was having difficulty getting the words out, said to me, "Son, your country needs you! What are you going to do about it?"

The following morning I enlisted and a few weeks later, my parents were bidding their son farewell as he went off to war.

Honor next page

Mother hugged me with tears in her eyes and said, "Do not dishonor your father's name."

I will never forget it! Honor meant so much to our parents!

I enlisted in the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet and attended the 'West Point of the Air' at Maxwell field in Montgomery Alabama. In the Army, a student in a Military Academy is called a Cadet! Upon completion of the courses, the Cadet graduates and receives a Second Lieutenant's Commission from the President of the United States. He then takes an "Oath of Allegiance" and becomes an "Officer and a Gentleman."

"A Gentleman", a person of honor! How very important that is!

The motto of the military academy at West Point is, "Honor, Country, Duty." Three words! Note the order of that oath. First **Honor**, then **Country** and finally **Duty**, in that order.

What does it mean? HONOR! Your personal honor comes first! This is what makes the American military so unique. You, an officer, will not Murder, Rape, Pillage nor will you permit it to happen! COUNTRY! You will fight and die if necessary for your country and what it stands for. DUTY! You will perform the task that you were trained to do to the best of your ability.

Honor, Country, Duty! That's what it is all about.

Today is Veterans Day. We honor those great patriots that pledged to make the ultimate sacrifice if necessary, for their country. We, the fortunate veterans, are here to honor our comrades who **did** make that sacrifice and are no longer with us.

Those of us that saw combat, cannot forget the young faces of our fellow servicemen that gave their lives. They gave their lives so that you and I can live in freedom in this "Sweet Land of Liberty". There is not a day that goes by that we veterans do not ask why **we** were **spared** and why **we** were given this great gift of freedom. Two out of three of my fellow airmen never returned. Do not take their gift to you lightly! They paid dearly for that gift. They paid for it with their lives. Cherish it! Deserve it! Earn it!

Earn it by dedicating **your** life to the propagation of that great dream of mankind!

FREEDOM ! Freedom to be the best that we can be!

Please, do not let them down!



Editor's Corner

Season's Greetings to All!

Unfortunately, again this year American servicemen and women are away from home defending us from those who wish an end to our way of life. We wish to thank them all for their sacrifices on our behalf. We wish you and them as well as the families, the season's greetings and long, healthy and happy lives!

None of us will ever forget that cold winter of 1944-45 and what the historians call the 'Greatest Battle of them all,' the 'Battle of the Bulge'.

It will always lend a somber note in our minds in this season of joy.

The greeting, whatever your faith or belief, is now more significant than ever before.

Peace on Earth Good Will to Men!

December 25th is my birthday (80 years! Can you believe it?)



by Ron Miller

THE AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM



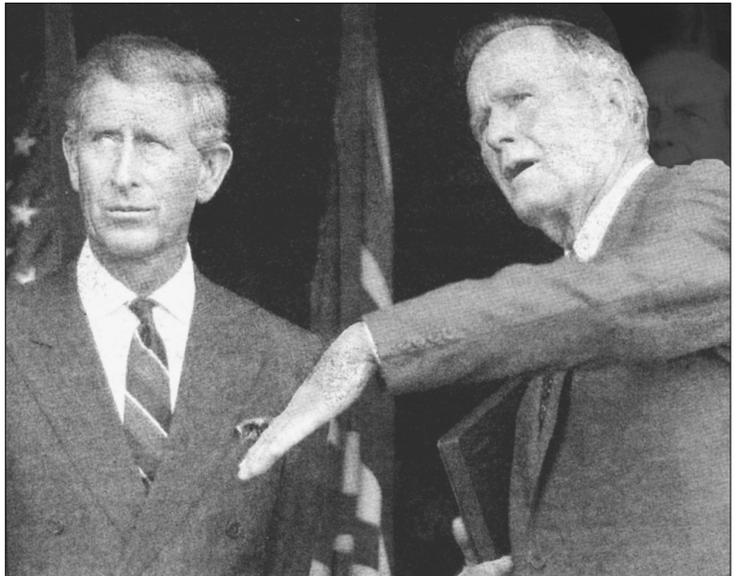
Rededication of Imperial War Museum at Duxford

Our thanks to John Rushton in Fowlmere. [SCA](#)

From the Cambridge Evening News dated 9/28/02: - The Prince of Wales, former U.S. president George Bush and around 2,000 American air force veterans were at the Imperial War Museum at Duxford for a special rededication of the American Air Museum. The occasion coincided with the 60th anniversary of the arrival of U.S. air force squadrons in East Anglia after America entered the Second World War in December 1941. The museum was opened by the Queen in 1997 and is said to house the finest collection of American military aircraft outside the U.S.. Designed by Norman Foster, it is intended to act as a memorial to the 30,000 U.S. airmen who died flying from British air bases such as Duxford during the Second World War. The rededication ceremony followed building work to accommodate yet more historic aircraft.

The 78-year-old former president, father of the president George W Bush, said: "Today marks the culmination of the efforts of so many. It was a joy to see the pride they took in their work. This is clearly a place where history still lives and breathes, and the atmosphere gives a real sense of stepping back in time."

After the rededication there was a fly past by RAF and USAF aircraft. American planes such as the B-17 Flying Fortress, the P-51 Mustang, the P-47 Thunderbolt and the Grumman Avenger roared overhead.



Crown Prince Charles with WW II Naval Bomber Pilot, the former president George Bush. The President explains the finer points of dive-bombing.

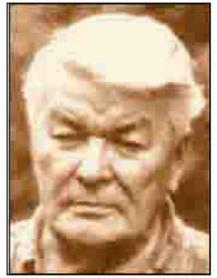


'Punting on the Cam'

A 'Doll' Named Diane

By Ronald Edker Miller, *Armorer 505th*

A punt is a flat-bottomed boat, which does not have a keel. Propelled and steered with a long pole. S.C.A.



Martin Sheldrick recently sent me a copy of the preview edition of the new magazine titled "Cambridgeshire Life." In it, an article dealt with punting on the River



Math Bridge over the Cam, assembled without nails.

Cam, which brought to mind how back there in the days of Fowlmere it was my pleasure to watch those punting boats as well as admiring the skill of the rowing crews from the local colleges.

One day while enjoying that pastime I met a pretty little doll name Diane Wagstaff. She was witty and intelligent and bursting with youthful impatience to save the world from all its unpleasanties. She was also very candid and had no qualms about her more immediate goal of marrying a Yank, thereby making herself eligible for U.S. citizenship.

Even on the first day of our meeting she took me home to meet her parents. Opening the front door she said, "You go first. **Dirt before the broom y'know!**" From that moment on, I have cherished that among my favorite expressions.

As to her parents - - but that's another story!

I don't remember their first names but I do remember them as being good people. They had originally migrated from the Highlands of Scotland to live in Cambridge. Her dad was a member of the Cambridge Auxiliary Police where, in the normal course of duty, he encountered many of the American GIs.

At our first meeting he said, "I'll give it to you straight, Ronald - - I don't like you Yanks! You are too boisterous, too cocky, and too egotistical but if you behave yourself you will be welcome in my house."

I found them to be typical British, enduring severe rationing due to the war effort. They had no heat in the house beyond the meager fireplace, which also was a means of warming whatever little food they acquired. (Tea and crumpets often became their evening time dinner.) It almost goes without saying they appreciated and welcomed whatever food I could scrounge out of our mess hall.

Even after the war and for quite some time thereafter, Diane and I corresponded, eventually to become out of touch; but I do not recall her ever mentioning getting married to a Yank. But, of course, I've always hoped she did - - being that it was one of her goals. Aloha, **RON**



This photo tells it all!



Gilbert "Gil" Cohen is our 504th Unit Director. He and the other Directors are what made our convention such a success!

Prior to the reunion he and Carol wrote personal letters to the members soliciting their attendance to the unit dinners. They made the arrangements for the dinners as well as the transportation to the restaurants from afar, this in spite of their personal health problems. When I suggested assistance or that I replace them in their duties, they refused saying it was no problem.

This photo of Gil by Maxine Henry shows a relaxed, contented, veteran of the 339th, pleased with the past few days of events. He'll spend the rest of the year thinking of his friends and looking forward to next year. He is patiently waiting for the limo to catch his flight home!



On the right - Gladys and Warren Olsen ORD, socialize with Edward Purzycki HQ, seated behind. Warren is ORD Unit Director!



More snapshots - - -

First Time Attendees !



Left - Nancy 'Marvel' Roach with her husband John and their son Kanning. Seen here with the threesome is our Jim Starnes. John is reading a book presented him by Jim.

Nancy is the daughter of Tom Marvel, pilot 505th. Tom passed away shortly before our organization was formed and until a few months ago Nancy was unaware of our groups existence.

Bill Guyton seen on the left, recounts a strafing mission they were on. Bill spotted enemy aircraft hidden under the trees. This meant they had to come in very low to get a clear shot at the planes.

Tom scraped his "Wing Tip," knocking out his remote compass and Bill had to bring him home.

When I asked him about the accident, Tom said he was merely obeying his mother.

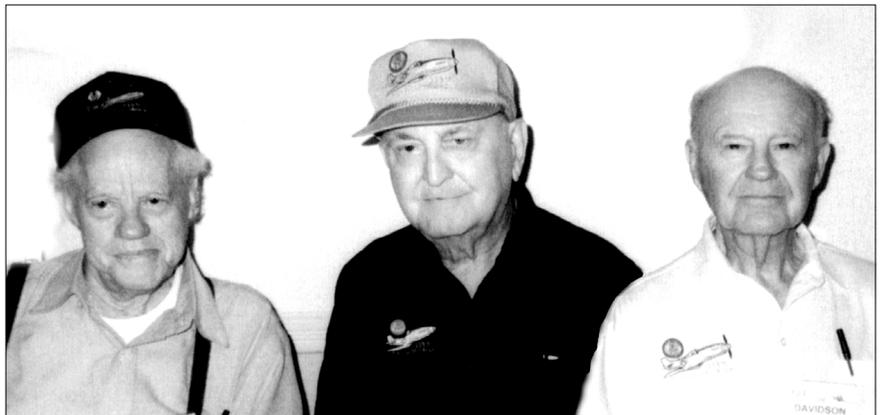
She always said, "Now Tom don't get hurt! Make sure you always fly low and slow,"

I always listen to my Mama!



Above - Bill and Margie Guyton 505th, and Irene Chetneky 503rd.

On the left Weldon 'Red' Miller 503rd, John Murray 505th and Jim Davidson 503rd exchange thoughts and stories at the Hospitality room. If they were lucky 'Red' gave them one of his two-dollar bills!





Above – 505th Crew Chief Gabe and his lovely wife Neva Cutri. Jim Starnes is Gabe’s pilot!

Their Bird “Tarheel” is seen below.



Below - L to R - Rear Luther Francis 503rd, Ken Sylvester 503rd, and Betsy Francis. Front - Thomas and Gloria Sams 503rd and last but not least we have Lee ‘Dutch’ Eisenhart 504th.



For Whom the Bells Toll . . .

DECEASED

GROGAN, STEPHEN J., 504 - Crew chief, passed away on 7 July 02 after a painful yearlong battle with skin melanoma and two surgeries.

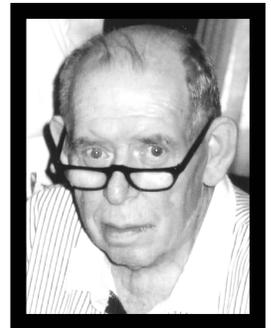
FRENCH, LLOYD JEFF, 503 – Pilot passed away on 2 Sept 02 in Portland.

HILL, RALPH S., 503 – Pilot. Ralph passed away on Monday night 19 Aug 02. He suffered a fall in his home and then was taken to the hospital where he had a seizure and suffered heart failure.

PAPI, AGAMEMNONE V. “Mema”, 505 - He was one of the members of the 505th ground crew that kept the planes flying. One of his daughters, Norma, married Jamie Frances the son of 505th pilot Luther Frances.

LEJEUNE, MAURICE, Member, of the “French Underground.” Maurice passed away on Sunday 24 November 02. He succumbed to a stroke on the Sunday before while hunting. Maurice was the member of the ‘French Underground’ that rescued 339th pilot Andy Sirochman 13 Aug 44, when he was forced to ‘bail out’ of his burning Mustang.

Our condolences to all the families on their loss . . .



Ralph Hill

. . . . the bells toll for thee . . .



The Mail Bag!

John Rushton writes the following from Fowlmere: -

9/29/02



John Rushton

You probably know that the American Air Museum at Duxford was re-dedicated to the US Airmen who died flying from Britain, on 27 September. Present were President Bush Sr. and Prince Charles, together with 2000+ US Veterans and their families.

I was unable to be there, but saw on TV that some 339th Vets had managed the journey.

I am sending you a copy of the brochure/programme produced for the event - will post it on Monday.

If you want to see some photographs, they are in the Cambridge Evening News of Saturday 28 September, accessible on www.cambridge-news.co.uk

Best wishes. JOHN

Our thanks to John Rushton, Chair of Governors, the Friends of Fowlmere School; please see story on page 8.

SCA



John and Laurina Harris send the following message: -

10/29/02

We would like to thank everyone for the hospitality and a great reunion. Laurina and I had a wonderful time. The sad part was that Steve Grogan and Ralph Hill will not be attending future gatherings, we will miss them greatly and send our deepest sympathy to their families.

Sadly we did not get a chance to talk with everyone who was there as time went by so quickly. Let us hope time moves more slowly next year. We are planning to attend the 2003 reunion.

I was completely and utterly surprised to be officially adopted into the 339th Fighter Group family, hence my inability to speak. Please believe me when I say it is a great honor for me. I now realize I only managed to mumble a few words of thanks to some of you at the time. May I now thank each and everyone of the 339th FG Association for your tremendous help, friendship and hospitality that you have shown Laurina and I over the past years, **THANK YOU and may GOD BLESS you all!**

We would like to officially let it be known that any 339th FG member is more than welcome to come and stay with us in England as part of their tour. Please contact us if you are thinking of returning to the UK. We will be offended if you do not, our home is only 30 minutes from Cambridge, Fowlmere and Duxford and we would be only too pleased to help out in any way.

Just check with Dutch Eisenhart, Tim Ferrell or 'Red' Miller if you have any doubts.

Blue Skies always - - - JOHN & LAURINA



John & Laurina Harris.

Mail Bag continued next page

Thank you Laurina and John for your hospitality, we are looking forward to seeing you in San Diego. *SCA*



Peter Randall of the 'US 8th Air Force Little Friends' home page writes:- 9/1/02

In case you have not noticed, I am moving the Little Friends site, the gallery site and the Scouting Force site all onto the one new server. - - -

- - - To celebrate the amalgamation of the sites, I have registered a new "domain" name and the new addresses of course incorporate this. Will you therefore please change your bookmarks to: - <http://www.littlefriends.co.uk>

E-mail is also changed to: - peter.randall@littlefriends.co.uk

Although the other e-mails, including the "pyker" one are still available, these will be removed over the next couple of months.

I hope that the new set up will prove to be an advantage but if you have any difficulty accessing the site, please let me know.

Best wishes, *PETER*



I received the following E-Mail from Jim Mankie 503rd pilot: - 10/25/02

At our reunion some of our group asked how to contact Dennis Harbin to order embroidered caps or jackets personalized with 8th AF and 339th logo.

If on the Internet go to his website: - www.ragbag.com

It has very comprehensive information about his works.

For those not on the Internet the Rag Bag address is: Dennis Harbin, Rag Bag Aero Works, 17653 Louisa Rd., Louisa, Va. 23093-4450. Phone #: 540-967-5400

Perhaps you can put this info in our next newsletter. Blue Skies! *JIM*



Martin Sheldrick answers David MacKenzie regarding "bump in the runway" in the last issue: -

8/15/02

Hard to say if the bump is still there (probably is but now under cultivation) because the present grass runway is orientated differently to either of the former military runways in order to avoid over-flying the village. I guess in wartime such considerations bore no importance whatever! *MARTIN*



Leonard Kunz, pilot 504th sends his regrets: - 9/24/02

We deeply regret that we are unable to attend the reunion this year. Len just is not up to making the trip. He is still mobile with the walker but without much stamina. We will be forever grateful that we found the group before you met in St. Louis last year and that we were fortunate enough to go to the squadron and banquet dinners. It meant so much to Len to see old buddies after 56 years, and we hope to make it to future reunions.

We will be thinking of you Oct. 9 thru 13 and wish you a great reunion!

Best regards, *NORA KUNZ*



Mail Bag continued next page

Bud Martin 505th also sends his regrets, he writes:-

10/04/02

Sorry I missed the reunion. I was in the process of going through 'Radiation' for prostate cancer, but I feel great!

I will see you all next year. Bud Martin

Bud happy to hear you are feeling well. See you next year! *SCA*



From Sidney 'Slip' Kass of the 503rd we received a nice long letter. A small portion follows: - 31 Oct 02

Sorry that this has taken so long for me to get this note out to you! We were hoping up until the last minute that we would be able to make it to Charleston so 'Slip' would have the opportunity to see his 339th Fighter Group friends again.

Unfortunately, his health did not allow us to make the trip we both were looking forward to. -- He fell and dislocated his hip (the one he had the hip replacement on).

*I'm sure that slip would appreciate hearing from any of the 'guys' that are willing and able. *CLAYRE KASS**



2002 Olympic Silver Medal Winner
Danny Kass Grandson of Sydney Kass
503rd.

Proud Grandma Clayre then tells of their recent trip to Salt Lake City for the Winter Olympics where their Grandson Danny Kass

won the Silver medal in the Snowboarding Half Pipe Event. A few weeks later he took first prize in the same event in the US Open for the second year in a row! Congratulations to you both! Sorry you could not make it, hope to see you next year. *SCA*



Roster Updates

Make the following additions or changes to your new mailing list Change: -

MEMBERS: -

HAUSS, LYBI F., HQ - Widow of dentist Howard,
1967 S. OCEAN Blvd. - 212 C, LAUDERDALE By The Sea, FL 33062

SCRUGGS, HAROLD W., GRP - Group Deputy C.O.,
15436 N. 64th Street Apt 220, SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85254-2061

GENSHEIMER, Mrs. FLORENCE, 503 - Widow of Ted, Operations Clerk,
Summerheld Health & Rehabilitation Center,
1877 FARNSELY Rd., LOUISVILLE, KY 40216

WILLARD, KENNETH R., 504 - Armorer, Change Zip Code to 58538-4648

CAROLLO, SAL A., 503 - Adjutant,
21322 GOLF ESTATES DRIVE, LAYTONSVILLE, MD 20882, MARILYN

Updates are continued

STEPHENS, Mrs. VIRGRNIA M., 504 - Widow of Radio Maintenance, Lawrence E., 144 WOODVINE Lane, RICHLAND, WA 99352-9151

SMITH, Capt. JEFFREY R., 504 - Grandson of pilot Roland, 321 BREAM Ave. # 406, FORT WALTON BEACH, FL 32548

COREY, HARRY, 505 Pilot, Asst Ops. Officer.
c/o Arden Courts, 700 ½ Foulk Road, Wilmington, DE 19803

ADD: -

DEGIORGI, Dr. VIRGINIA. 503 – Daughter of Ted Gensheimer, Operations Clerk, 10280 ADAMS WILLETT Road, NANJEMOY, MD 20662-3534

TRAVIS, DONALD, 505 - Nephew of pilot Laird,
3603 FRITZ Lane, CORINTH, TX 76208

EISWALD, JOYCE C., GRP – Daughter of CO Bill Clark,
14640 BROOKSTONE Drive, POWAY, CA 92064. Lawrence

FULTON, HAL, GRP – Gr. Neph. Baine E. Fulton Food Service,
2833 Mara Loma Circle, WOOSTER, OH 44691

DELETE: -

MARTS, Mrs. HELEN, 505 – Widow of pilot, **(Newsletter returned not deliverable!)**



Donations

We thank the following members for their generous donations: -

\$50 Kenneth C. Sylvester, \$50 William W. Perry, \$60 H. Miller Hartman, \$25 Enoch B. Stephenson, Jr., \$25 Louis A. Krausman, Jr., \$30 Kenward R. Hayes, \$20 Allen D. Young, \$100 William E. Bryan, Jr., \$20 Robert F. Hemphill, \$45 John P. Wilson, \$20 Earl R. Gertz, \$60 Gabriel J. Cutri, \$30 Clarence B. Meier, \$20 Lacy S. Vincent, \$50 Joseph G. Farrell, \$30 Mrs. Colleen Travis, \$5 Ralph M. Knighton, \$25 Mrs. Bruce Gravette, \$35 Cecil Byrd, \$30 G. Tom Rich, \$40 George Joe, \$30 Alfred A. Zacchilli, \$50 Primo Zambardo, \$40 Dale K. Fitzgerald, \$20 Vernon Carr, \$50 Kirke B. Everson, \$100 William R. Mac Clarence, \$25 John J. Hauff, \$70 James L. Wells, Jr. \$40 Bayard F. Lawes, \$20 Clarence B. Shockley, \$25 Hal Fulton, \$70 Bill Perry, \$92 Chester Malarz, \$30 Alma S. Walbourn, \$30 Bud Martin, \$25 Sydney Kass. 

The latest Roster is now available!

Those that came to the reunion received the latest roster of members! If you wish a copy, please drop me a line and I will be happy to mail it to you. My thanks to all of you that sent me reunion photos, your names are far too numerous to mention! 

339th Fighter Group Association Board of Directors

Gen. John B. Henry, Jr., Commander and HQ Unit Director - **Gerald E. Graham**, President – **Enoch B. Stephenson**, Vice President - **Richard G. Thieme**, Treasurer - **Stephen C. Ananian**, Secretary, Editor - **Warren L. Olsen**, Ordnance Unit Director - **Thomas Sams** 503rd Unit Director – **Gilbert Cohen**, 504 Unit Director – **Robert Burns**, 505 Unit Director - **Lawrence J. Powell**, Reunion Coordinator
James Woolery Hospitality Room Co-ordinator - **James Mankie**, 8th AFHS Unit Coordinator –
Chester Malarz, James R. Starnes, Permanent Advisors.



Those present . . .

LAST	FIRST	UNIT	LAST	FIRST	UNIT
Ashworth,	Carl	505	Mondschein,	Herman	18 W
Bennett,	Carroll	504	Miller,	Weldon	503
Bennett,	Carolyn	504	Murry,	John	505
Burns,	Bob	505	Noah,	Joe	503
Burns,	Carol	505	Noah,	Betty	503
Chetneky,	Irene	503	Olander ,	Donald	505
Cohen,	Carol	504	Olander,	Shirley	505
Cohen,	Gilbert	504	Olsen,	Warren	ORD
Cox,	Fred	ORD	Olsen,	Gladys	ORD
Creswell,	Ray	504	O'Sullivan,	Betty	504
Creswell,	Fritz	504	Perry,	Bill	503
Cutri,	Gabe	505	Perry,	Lova Lee	503
Cutri,	Neva	505	Poutre,	Rex	503
Davidson,	Jim	503	Powell,	Larry	505
Delisio,	James	503	Purzycki,	Ed	HQ
Delisio,	Ruth	503	Raines,	Bill	505
Eisenhart,	Lee	504	Raines,	Teddie	505
Epp,	Edward	504	Sams,	Gloria	503
Epp,	Rita	504	Sams,	Thomas	503
Francis,	Betsy	503	Steffen,	Charles	503
Francis,	Luther	503	Steffen,	Pat	503
French,	Beverly	503	Starnes,	James	505
French,	Carl	503	Stephenson,	Enoch	503
Frisch,	Robert	503	Stephenson,	Louise	503
Griffith,	Claire	504	Sylvester,	Kenneth	503
Guyton,	Margie	505	Thieme,	Emma	505
Guyton,	William	505	Thieme,	Richard	505
Haidle,	Elmer	503	Vincent,	Helen	ORD
Sutherland,	Helen	Friend	Vincent,	Lacy	ORD
Harris,	John	UK	Weinhold,	Gary	504
Harris,	Laurina	UK	Weinhold,	Lee	504
Hartman,	H. Miller	503	Wells, Jr.	James L.	HQ
Hartman,	Madelyn	503	Wells,	James S.	HQ
Howard,	Harry	505	White,	Carol	505
Howard,	Maria	505	White,	Thomas	505
Irion,	Beverly	505	Willard,	Kenneth	504
Irion,	Robert	505	Willard,	Terry	504
Joe,	George	503	Wilson,	John	503
Joe,	Jean	503	Zambardo,	Hilda	503
LeDuc,	Charles	505	Zambardo,	Primo	503
LeDuc,	Dorothy	505			

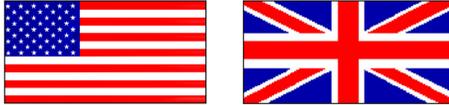
The families that are here

<u>Stephen Ananian, & family</u>	505	<u>Francis Gerard, & family</u>	503
Ananian, Isabel	505	Gerard, Adrianna	503
Pucio, Casper	Neph.	Preti, Aldo	503
Pucio, Valerie	Niece	<u>John B. Henry, Jr., & family</u>	HQ
<u>Ray Bellman, & family</u>	503	Henry, Maxine	HQ
Bellman, John	503	Henry, Janice	HQ
Bellman, Karen	503	Henry, III, John	HQ
Bellman, Matt	503	<u>Bill Jaaskelainen, Jr., & family</u>	505
<u>Bill Bryan, Jr., & family</u>	503	Jaaskelainen, John	505
Bryan, Ollie	503	Jaaskelainen, Nancy	505
Bryan, Karen	503	Jaaskelainen, Norma	505
Bryan, III, Bill	503	<u>Nick King, & family</u>	UK
<u>Dorothy Clark, & family</u>	HQ	King, Julie	UK
Clark, Curtis	HQ	King, Phillip	UK
Clark, Carolyn	HQ	King, Stuart	UK
Clark, Sharon	HQ	<u>Chester Malarz, & family</u>	505
Clark, Jr., William	HQ	Malarz, Mary	505
Eiswald, Joyce	101AB	Malarz, Gloria	505
Eiswald, Larry	101AB	Malarz, Marsha	505
<u>Marshall Cole, & family</u>	HQ	Malarz, Charlie	505
Cole, Myrtle	HQ	Malarz, Robert	505
Cole, Nara	HQ	Wood, Andy	505
Cole, Ronnie	HQ	Wood, Jean	505
<u>Owen P. Farmer, & family</u>	505	Wood, Richard	505
Farmer, Janet	505	Wood, Stacey	505
Howard, Tim	505	<u>James Mankie, & Guest</u>	503
Howard, Bethaney	505	Angell, Dorothy	Friend
<u>Clarence Ferrell, & family</u>	503	<u>Thomas W. Marvel's family</u>	505
Ferrell, Lance	503	Roach, Nancy	505
Ferrell, Randy	503	Roach, John	505
Ferrell, Tim	503	Roach, Kanning	505
<u>Andrew Gager, & friends</u>	505	<u>Roland E. Smith, Sr., & family</u>	504
Gager, Barbara	505	Smith, Dorothea	504
Downing, Kendall	Friend	Smith, Nancy	504
Downing, Lillian	Friend	Smith, Jill	504
<u>Gerald E. Graham, & family</u>	505	Smith, Jr., Roland E.	504
Graham, Mary	505	(Capt.) Smith, Jeffrey	AForce
Tarling, Michael	505	<u>James R. Woolery & family</u>	505
Tarling, Teresa	505	Woolery, Pepper	505
Tarling, Rachel	505	Woolery, Joyce	505
Tarling, Graham	505	Woolery, J. Scott	505
		Total Attendees	<u>162</u>

339th Fighter Group Association, Inc.

c/o Stephen C. Ananian
4 North Orchard Farms Avenue
Simpsonville, SC 29681-4866, USA

US
POSTAGE

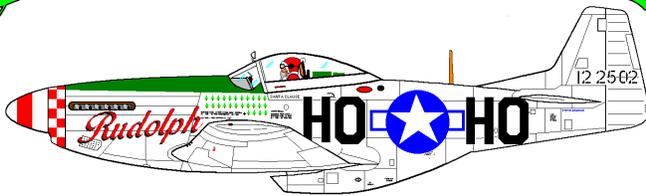


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Season's Greetings



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Dues & Mailing List Update

Check your name and address on the mailing label. Make certain it is correct. If not, fill out this form and mail to me at the address below. If you wish to pay dues you may also use this form.

Please accept my donation of \$10 for my dues payment to the 339th FGA.
(All donations are 'Tax Exempt'.)

Please add my name to the mailing list.

339th Fighter Group Association, Inc.

C/o S. C. Ananian
4 North Orchard Farms Ave.
Simpsonville, SC 29681-4866

NAME _____

First

Middle

Last

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Phone (if you wish) _____

E-mail _____