



303rd Bomb Group

"HELL'S ANGELS" NEWSLETTER

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THE LAST OF THE BOMBARDIERS

On a lonely road thru a cold black site,
A miserable beggar trudges thru the night.
The people whisper over their beers,
There goes the last of the bombardiers.

What was a bombardier? No reply-
For men turned silent and women sigh,
As a breath like silence fills the place
With the gaunt, gray ghost of a long lost race,

It's hard to explain the catch of breath,
As they seemed to sense the approach of death,
Furtive glances from ceiling to floor,
'Til someone or something opened the door.

The bravest of hearts turned cold with fear,
The thing at the door was a bombardier.
His hands were boney and his hair was thin,
His back was curved like an old bent pin.

His eyes were two empty rings of black.
And vaguely he murmured, "SHACK!SHACK!SHACK!"
This ancient relic of the second World War,
Crept across the room, and slouched on the bar

No one spoke, but they watched thru the glass,
As the beggar produced a bombsight pass.
And with hollow tones from his sucken chest
He demanded drink, and only the best,

Glass to his lips, they heard him say,
"The bomb-bays open-Bombs Away!"
Then speaking a word he strolled to the door,
And the bombardier was seen no more

People still wonder at the strange last words
'Twas the strangest phrase they'd ever heard,
But all thru the times, the phrase has stuck,
When they say bombardier, they say-"HA-ARD LUCK!"

FROM BOMBERS TO BULLDOZERS

Runways on a disused airfield from which
RAF and American planes bombed Germany dur-
ing World War II are being pulverized by
bulldozers.

ARC Eastern Region has begun a two-year
demolition project at Molesworth Airfield
with the approval of the Ministry of Defence.

The 100 acres will revert to farmland will
be sold by the Property Services Agency.
It will be as if the once busy base had never
existed.

Concrete from the runways will be broken
into hardcore and used on top quality motor-
ways and trunk roads.

Flying Fortresses, Wellington bombers and
Spitfires flew from Molesworth.

Mrs. Ida May Raye who runs the Post Office
said: "I remember the time during the war when
the American pilots came into the shop to
make telephone calls to their parents and
friends.

"They didn't have a telephone at the air-
port then, and they were very pleasant and
friendly.

"All the people in Molesworth felt very
safe with them around especially during the
war and we could all hear the planes taking
off in the night. It was lovely to know that
we could depend on them."

The airbase- closed in 1973- was an RAF
base originally when it opened in 1940 when
Wellington Squadron No 460 stood by. Two
years later the United States Air Force
took over the base flying A20 bombers.

ARC unit manager, Mr Colin Reed, in charge
of the demolition work, said more than 40
redundant airbases in East Anglia had been
broken up by the company and he said it was

a pity that so many had gone.

"Obviously they are not in use so they have to go, but it's a shame in a way. At the moment we are moving 800 tons of concrete a day and later we hope to make this figure 1,400 tons a day which shows how much runway there is here.

"We have been here now for about three weeks and we have shifted a lot of concrete."

"I wish it was still made the way this runway concrete is because it is of such high quality."

USAF Mildenhall Col Alan Schreihofner gave a chronological list of the squadrons which flew at Molesworth:

1940- opened and RAF Squadron Wellingtons 460 stationed at base.

1942- USAF took over command flying RAF owned A-20's.

1942, September- Bomber Group 303 also stationed flying B-17's known as Flying Fortresses.

1942, November- Bomber Command 41 also stationed flying B-17's.

1945- Command taken over by RAF Squadrons 441 and 442.

1946- Command taken over by Royal Canadian Air Force and then closed during the year.

1951- airbase enlarged.

1954- airbase reopened and USAF Squadron 582 established for resupply.

1956- airbase converted to storage and spares auction location until closure in 1973.

INJURED WWII VETERAN 'GOT BY' WITH FAITH

By Ira Brock
Enquirer Reporter

Walter N. Hundley was puzzled for 30 years because he couldn't find the existence of what he considered a necessary organization to join.

Hundley, who grew up in Cherry Grove and Forestville and now lives in Goshen, Ohio, said he learned less than a year ago that the club he sought was a reality.

"I just happened to read a notice in the Air Force Association publication about the American Ex-Prisoners of War group," he said.

"That was it, the most exclusive organization with just one simple qualification for membership. You had to have been captured by the enemy in one of our wars."

Hundley was eligible.

S/Sgt. Walter L. Hundley, 21, ball turret gunner on an Army Air Corps B-17 bomber, received a broken leg after he parachuted from his plane minutes before it exploded.

That was on his 24 mission in Europe. The date was September 13, 1944. The target was synthetic oil dumps at Merseburgh, Germany.

"We got the target, but couldn't get through the flak the Nazis threw at us," he said. "Six of the B-17's crew got out, but the pilot, co-pilot, and waist gunner were killed."

The half dozen survivors of the crew, members of the 359th Bomb Squadron (Hell's Angels), 303rd Bomb Group, hid for 13 days in the mountains in which they landed.

"We nearly starved and froze, had no medical attention and were filthy," Hundley recalled. "We were like barbaric heathens."

"It got so bad that we decided there was nothing to do but walk into the nearest town and surrender. Walk, hell. It was all I could do to crawl along with my bad right leg.

"The Germans- they were farmers not Nazis- ignored us in the town. They were too busy working slave labor of Poles and Russians. So we dragged on for the next town."

The Burgomeister of that town was finally convinced they were Americans and he put them in a barn, gave each a bowl of barley soup ("It tasted great!") and notified the Nazis.

The six eventually were taken to Stalag-Luft IV and joined about 10,000 other prisoners of the Nazis 60 miles northeast of Berlin in what now is East Germany.

He said he got by at the camp because he had faith.

"If you want to do a job, you can, regardless. I conducted vesper services in our latrine. The Nazis wanted to demoralize everything we stood for and believed in."

On February 5, 1945, the Nazis told the prisoners they were going to be taken to a camp where they would have good housing, clothing, food and medical attention.

"There wasn't any camp," Hundley said. "We were started on what the Germans still call the Black March.

"They headed us out with truly incapacitated and the immobile prisoners riding in buckboard wagons, and they marched us for 87 straight days.

"I've never been able to find out how many died along the way. Some days when our Nazi guards with machine guns weren't bothering

us, our own planes were strafing us.

The prisoners were liberated May 2, 1945, at Eulzen by the British Second Army.

Hundley, a 1942 graduate of Anderson Township High School who entered military service January 20, 1943, returned to his Cherry Grove home in June, 1945, to the home of his parents, Albert R. and Mabel Hundley, now living in Florida.

A maintenance man for the Goshen Local School District, Hundley wants other ex-POW's to know the organization they wondered about has existed since 1942.

"It isn't publicized too much," Hundley said. "I'd like to see a Greater Cincinnati chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War formed.

"Membership is open to all prisoners of war and civilian internees held captive by the enemy in all wars."

Hundley said those who are interested should write Pauline Brown, national adjutant-treasurer of the organization, at 2620 N. Dundee St., Tampa, Fla., 33609.

KRIEGIE KORNER

EX-POW SAYS MANY VETERANS 'TIME BOMBS'

By Martin Hawver
Topeka Capital-Journal

The immediate past commander of the American Ex-Prisoners of War said Friday that thousands of Korea and World War II ex-POWs are "walking time-bombs" with "injuries you can't see when you look at them."

Joe Upton, St. Louis, Mo., who spent 42 months in a Japanese POW camp in the Philippines after his capture at Corregidor, said, too, that World War II and Korean War ex-POWs in their excitement to re-join civilian life after the war, failed to lay the proper groundwork for medical treatment they would need later in their lives.

"The POW experience, it's just brutalizing. You know how a doctor will tell you that a three month crash diet will just wreck you physically and emotionally? Well, just figure what that would do if you were on a crash diet for 36 months, or 42 months, or up to seven years, which is the time that some Korean War-era veterans were in prison camps," said Upton, a former Missouri Highway Patrol trooper.

He said the 8,500 members of the national Ex-POW organization, "had to fight to fight the war, fight to stay alive in camp, and are now fighting to stay alive with our injuries."

Upton, who was succeeded by Herman Molen, Las Vegas, Nev., as chairman-commander of the national organization during its recent convention in Pittsburg, said, "We were young and eager to get back to life after our wars.

"When we hit American soil, we didn't check into hospitals to get the thorough physical examinations that we should have had. We were just tired, then, of the war, tired of the military, and we wanted to get back to our wives and girlfriends and families.

"We know now that we should have gotten the physical examinations that were offered we know now that we didn't do what we should have," Upton said.

He said former prisoners of war "suffer not only the inhumane treatment, the malnutrition, the vitamin deficiencies that show up now, years after the service, but the psychological problems of our captivity.

"It does something to you, to have someone hold a rifle to your head, and to look at it and wonder if this is the day that they are going to decide to shoot at you," Upton said.

"Few Americans know the feeling.

"Remember the (Chowchilla) California schoolbus hijacking, where bandits held those 20-some schoolchildren for three days? Remember reading about the recurring nightmares that those children have even to this day?

"Now, consider that nightmare, spread over three years or longer, and there is your psychological stress that is now showing up as heart attacks, circulation disorders, psychological problems, such as short tempers," Upton said.

Dr. Carl Fyler, a Topeka dentist who is regional director of the American Ex-Prisoners of War, said there are about 200 former prisoners of war in Kansas, most of whom have been contacted by the organization.

He and Upton said that documenting Vietnam era former POWs and Korean War-era POWs "is relatively easy, but there are real problems finding the former POWs who were held in German prisoner camps, because they were not all rescued by the same people.

"Some went through Russia, some through the U.S., others, well, we just don't know. We had a hard time finding all those people who we believe were POWs," Upton said.

He said that because the Veterans Administration "has been seeing the problems that WW II ex-POWs have had," elaborate programs have been set up for Vietnam-era POWs.

"Now, they get extensive psychological testing and complete physicals every year, plus some surprise, unscheduled checks, where someone from the VA will drop by your house and just talk to you, to see how you are getting along," Upton said.

Kansas Legislature member Rep. Charles Laird, D-Topeka, told the meeting of the former POWs, that the Kansas Legislature stands ready to help them, and noted that the Legislature last session approved distinctive identification tags to be distributed to former POWs.

He said he would be willing to sponsor, and work for passage of, a bill that would provide former POWs with free auto license registration plates.

Laird noted that at least six states so far have passed special laws providing former POWs with free auto licenses, and Fyler said some states give former POWs property tax breaks, such as exemptions for swimming pools if those pools are necessary for therapeutic exercise.

Fyler also said that recently Gov. John Carlin, who is not a veteran, wrote to VA chief Max Cleland, suggesting that all former POWs who spent at least six months in captivity be declared unilaterally 50 percent disabled, which would provide financial benefits for them.

AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS of WAR
33rd National Convention
July 20 to 23, 1980

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Union Plaza, 1 Main St., Las Vegas, NV 89101

OTHER HOTELS

Fremont Hotel, 200 E. Fremont, Las Vegas

Holiday Inn- Downtown, 300 N. Main, Las Vegas

Rainbow Vegas, 401 S. Casino Center, Vegas

Golden Nugget, PO Box 610 (129 E Fremont)

Mint Hotel, 100 E. Fremont, Vegas

FULL FACILITY CAMPERLAND

Silver Nugget Camperland, 2240 Las Vegas Blvd.

RESERVATIONS must be made in writing & be accompanied by the first night's rent as a deposit. Be sure to state you will be attending the American Ex-POW Convention.

Our rooms are blocked for your use- hotels are booked for most other rooms. Meetings will

be held at the Union Plaza and the Fremont Hotels.

Ed Fontaine, 1980 Convention Chairman
1294 Marwood St., Boulder City, NV 89005
or call 1-702-293-2728

8TH AF POW REUNION DINNER

All members and their families who served in any of the groups that made up the "Mighty 8th" are invited to attend a dinner Monday night, July 21, in the ballroom of the Union Plaza Hotel.

Advance reservations are required as seating is limited; send to Joe Warth, 8th Air Force POW Dinner, 5709 Walkerton Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45238. Please make your check payable to Joe Warth, Chairman, 8th AF POW Dinner. Cost is \$15.00 per person. Dress is informal; there will be "cash bars", and a few surprises on the program.

A REPORT FROM OUR TREASURER

Since my last report we have signed up 26 new members, I would like to welcome them into the Association. Certainly hope to see them soon or at our Reunions. The breakdown of members is as follows: 698 active, 15 Honorary and 10 Associate members.

The dues are coming in from Class 1975 members. For those members who do not re-member when the dues are due, the following membership numbers are of Class 1975: Number 1 to and including number 123. Also, the four membership numbers 124, 125, 128, and 146 are of Class 1975. So keep on sending the dues in and you will not become delinquent and you will not be removed from the active list.

Martin Middlebrook, 48 Linden Way, Boston, LINCS. PE21 9DS, England, is trying to locate and contact members who participated in the famous double raid on Schweinfurt and Regensburg August 17, 1943. Members who flew the above missions are requested to contact this famous author.

I will be going to press for a complete new membership roster in June. Date of availability will be published in the next News Letter.

I am looking forward to our San Diego Reunion and I would like to predict that our membership will be over 800. I have a non-member list of 360 good names and addresses and I keep on trying to get them to join our Association.

Again, I would like to remind the members that they should keep us informed on their new address if they move. I request that they send me the change of address at least a few weeks before the move is made, so that they will not miss out on any News Letters or any other information.

Respectfully:
Joseph Vieira
Secretary-Treasurer

FROM OUR FRIENDS

John C. Barker, Col. R, called us the other day to tell us of a luncheon date he had recently enjoyed in Washington, D.C. , with General Ira Eaker. Col. Barker reported that the General was "Hail and Harty" as they dined at the Army and Navy Officers Club on April 18th. The General autographed the book "A Few Brave Captains", by Thomas Coffee, a Doubleday Publication for the Col. The book is about the 8th AF during WW II.

"OUT IN THE BLUE"

When you're back home where peace prevails,
And begged by all for thrilling tales,
Tales of folks you've seen and met,
And incidents you'll never forget.
Tales of things which soldiers do,
And prices they pay in winning thru,
Refer them to "Out in the Blue".

The city throbs with pulse of life,
With commerce and industry and trade,
With hustle and bustle and traffic roar.
Far from the distant sound of war,
The parks all draped in the floral gowns,
And peace prevails in the old home town.
The bombers roar and the sirens moar
All things, "Thank God " are quite unknown.
But way out there in the distant blue
There's a living hell which we go thru..
As by day and night they are locked in
The worlds worse fight.
Courageously striving they stagger and reel,
To ward off the menace of the enemy heel.
To spare all the loved ones they left behind
From the rape and bondage the foe have in mind.
Yet down in the city seek and you'll find
Men who enjoy all the comforts of home.
While their fellow men endure all the hardships known
Each night they sleep in a warm cozy bed.
While their fellow men crack down to the earth stone dead.
Out on a mission with a target in mind
Jerry will meet you-he loses no time
Reaping the harvest so grim
Which long ago promised him,
The harvest of youth on the threshold of life,
All trapped in a row of titanic strife,
Your husbands , your sweethearts and even your sons.
Gallantly fighting and warming their guns.

Yet down in the city seek and you'll find
 Men who have chosen to stay home behind,
 Where there are sports each week
 And with flannel pants and a cinema show
 and maybe a dance there holding you close,
 They whisper nice things and talk of their charms
 They speak of their love and loyalty to you
 As long as it keeps them "Out of the Blue."
 While we ride our ships in an altitude glide
 He walks around with an arrogant stride.

While we whisper the name of the one we love,
 The fighters scream down from the sky above
 To shower our boys with murderous rain
 For they have been sent out to kill and to maim
 Still in the city seek and you'll find
 Men who have chosen to stay home behind.
 Stout hearted fellows with a heart of pure gold

Gold which is yellow for which we are told
 Eager to share in the peace victory brings
 Claiming their rights to life's precious things
 Proud of the fact they had nothing to lose
 Theirs was the choice and thus they did choose
 When the battle is over and the "Victory We Won"
 When the hell and courage and gunfire is done
 When homeward they march, those fortunate few
 To pick up the threads of life they once knew
 Who will they know as they march down the street
 Which echoes the tramp of military feet
 That the value they placed on the home land and you
 Was settled and paid for "Out of the Blue"
 Settled and proven beyond doubt
 By them and their comrades who bravely set out
 Who suffered the agony, torture and pain
 Of war in the sky and bomb scarred plains
 In "prop-wash" and coldness, each man at his guns
 Who grimly and doggedly stuck to his ship and won
 To promise to the world and God high above
 That it's you above all on earth they lose
 Still in the city seek and you'll find
 Men who have chosen to stay home behind.

BY

"KRIEGSGEFANGENEN"



303RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION
MIGHT IN FLIGHT
Hell's Angels

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name _____ Military Grade _____ Spouse's Name _____
Street _____ Apt# _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____
Crew or _____ Retired Military _____
Duty _____ Squadron _____ Grade if any _____
(If flying & not pilot, list his name)

I HEREBY MAKE APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE 303RD BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION

(Applicant's Signature) _____ (Date)

DO NOT SEND CASH THRU THE POSTAL SERVICE; If you are already a member, please
pass this application to another 303rder that is NOT a member, THANK YOU.

MAIL APPLICATION TO: JOSEPH VIEIRA Please include: \$10.00 for 5 yrs. dues.
6400 Park Street Add \$1.00 for Roster of Members.
Hollywood, FL 33024

KREIGIE KORNER

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
AMERICAN EX-PRISONERS OF WAR, INC.
2620 North Dundee St., Tampa, Fla. 33609
Enclosed find membership dues for 19 _____ which includes
subscription to the XPW Bulletin.
() Husband and wife \$10 () Single member \$7

Nickname while interned, if any _____
Name (print) _____
Mailing address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Please State Your Status (where a POW) _____
Military Unit when taken prisoner _____
What camps were you in _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS
FORM

Old Address:

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

New Address:

Street: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Mail To: Joseph Vieira
 6400 Park Street
 Hollywood, FL 33024

303RD BOMB GROUP(H)ASS'N. INC.
P.O. BOX8531
PEMBROOK PINES BRANCH
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33024
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED
TIME VALUE

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