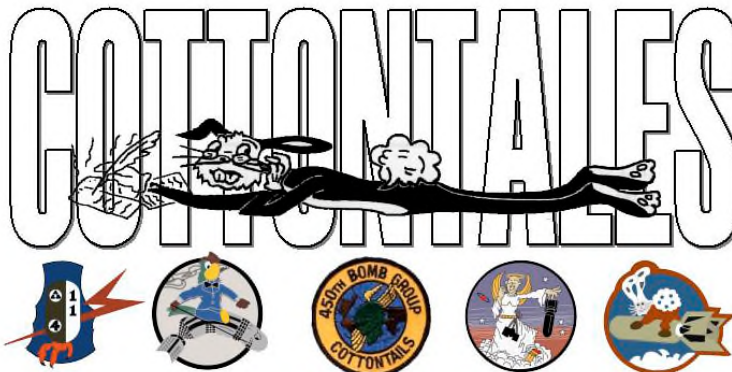




Volume 15, No 1



continued



May 2007

[www.450thbg.com](http://www.450thbg.com)

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 450<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

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Raymond Hook

## 450<sup>th</sup> BG Memorial Association - BRATS

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome any family members, friends, etc., of a Veteran to join the newly formed 724<sup>th</sup> Squadron the 'Cottontail **BRATS**'.

The BRATS will consist of sons, daughters, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, cousins, friends or anyone of the younger generation that is interested in taking on the task of our responsibility in helping to preserve and honor the WWII Veterans. We have a responsibility to learn about, talk to, and befriend these brave men who fought for the very Freedoms that we enjoy today.

More information on the BRATS to follow in next issue of the newsletter.



**B** -24  
**R**elative  
**A**nd  
**T** rue  
**S**upporter

## 2007 Reunion Information – Branson, Missouri

This year's 450th re-union will be at the Radison Hotel, Branson Missouri Wednesday 3rd October to Sunday 7th October.

You should have received a mailing with the details. If you have not, please call Al Goodman or print from 450<sup>th</sup> BG website.

Country & Western's newest and most popular place to see all of your favorite Stars.

Please Visit Branson's  
Veteran's Memorial Museum  
1210 West State Hwy 76  
Branson, MO 65616  
(417) 336-2300



Branson, Missouri



**U.S. AIR FORCE**

*"Visit the newly opened  
Air Force Memorial  
located in Washington  
D.C., I have been there  
and it is a beautiful  
tribute to the men who  
served in the Air Force."*



## Looking For ..... Please Help Us

This section is for those who are looking for more information on a Veteran, Plane, Mission, Crash, Crew and anything else that you may be searching for. . . . .

I'm looking for family members, my great Grandfather was William Long Orris. Thanks

William A.Orris Jr.  
Bill@BillOrris.com

Mr. Worthington, I just signed in and discovered two more photos of the Fast Freight. Do you have any further information on John Kreisle or how he came by these wonderful treasures? I'm just sorry that Papa did not get to see them but there are two remaining crew members who will relish them. Any information is appreciated

Allen Corporon  
acorporon@yahoo.com

My Great Uncle, John H. Keener, Was killed during the war on August 17 of 1944, along with every member of his crew excluding one John G. Grogan, who survived, and ended up in Stalag Luft IV, and returned home after being rescued by the British. The Other Crew members are totally unknown to me, and if anyone may have some information on them please let me know.

1st Lt. Brice C. Diedrick  
2nd Lt. Sduard C. Strauss  
2nd Lt. Arthur T. Peters, Jr.  
2nd Lt. Robert J. Furlong  
Sgt. Richard I. Crocker  
Sgt. Reuben Cohen  
Sgt. Elmer J. Wenger  
Col. Gordon A. Pete  
zachary.keener@gmail.com

I am looking for pictures of my grandfather Sgt. Robert Barney Clary. He was in the 15th Airforce, 450 Bomb Group, 721st Squadron. I do not know the aircraft that he maintained but he told me that it was the only one not shot down. If anyone has any information or pictures, please let me know.  
crclary@hotmail.com



B-24 Liberator



**450th**  
**Bombardment Group (H)**  
***Cottontails***  
**1943 Italy 1945**







## **“The Biggest Little City in The World”**

Reno, Nevada was the site for the 450<sup>th</sup> BG Reunion in September 2006.

Everyone stayed at the Circus Circus.

The weather was absolutely perfect (for at least a few days) and the views outside were spectacular.

My mom was excited about going to Reno; she loves to pull the arms of the Slot Machines!



Circus Circus – Reno, Nevada



## **Congratulations! – Mr. & Mrs. Leo Aber**

Congratulations to Leo and Helen Aber, they Celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the Circus Circus on the night of the Dinner in Reno, Nevada. We were all lucky to have been there to wish them well and to have many, many more.



*“Congratulations! - Celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the 450<sup>th</sup> BG Reunion in Reno, Nevada”*



## 450<sup>th</sup> BG Association Board/Business Meeting – September 13-14, 2006

RENO, NEVADA  
450<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2006

Meeting was called to order by our president Jim Strickland. Other directors present were: Al Goodman, John Shlapak, Floyd Perkins, Harold Saperstein and Courtney Shanken.

Alternate director present: Norm Kanel.

Bill Conklin was in attendance as a guest. Nancy Jean Rellihan was present as the Patron alternate member.

Last years minutes were read and approved.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

REUNION: AL Goodman reported that we will be in Branson, Missouri (they cater to Veteran groups), October 3<sup>rd</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Milwaukee and Atlanta are in line. 2008 will be the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Group.

MEMBERSHIP TREASURER: Floyd Perkins passed out up-to-date rosters.

Annual	Life Members	Patrons	Total
327	241	134	675

He reported we picked up 17 new members, but we had 32 deaths.

TREASURER: Courtney reported that as of 08/31/2006, we have maintained practically our same balance of \$28,000. Even with two donations of \$1000 and expenses for the newsletter and the reunion we have a nice balance.

NEWSLETTER: Harold Saperstein let us all know he is getting back into the action.

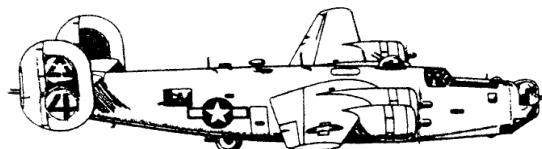
MUSEUM: Alfeo Minato is on top of the confusing situation in Manduria. This year's emails were read by him.

01-29-06 Email to Sra Greco concerning tentative visit to Manduria in the Spring. Suggested that it may be better to wait until the re-opening of the museum.

02-13-16 Email from Pasanisi stating, "I am still the Director of the Museum and Sra Greco is the secretary. Do not correspond with Pezzarossa. Building for Museum not ready; items are being carefully kept."

03-24-06 Email from Pezzarossa, "Children's Park is restored and ready for visitors. Veterans will definitely be welcomed to visit the Museum when it re-opens."

03-26-06 Email to Pasanisi and Pezzarossa that the 450th Board of Directors will discuss the date of our next visit to Manduria at our reunion in September of this year (2006).







07-17-06 Email to Pezzarossa which was a follow-up to the email of 03-26-06 concerning the current status of the Museum. No response from either Pezzarossa OR Pasanisi!

**NOMINATING CHAIRMAN:** John Shlapak got everyone's acceptance on the board to serve for another 2 years. He will present the slate for re-election at the business meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Motion made and passed with one dissenting voice to give \$500.00 and place a plaque in two museums, Spruce Goose and the Palm Springs WWII Air Museum. It was the consensus to find out more about the Air Force Memorial in DC, the USO and the B-24 exhibit in San Diego. If the Collings Foundation will accept a \$500.00 donation, we would like the 450<sup>th</sup> name on the B-24.

#### NEW BUSINESS

It was suggested that the patrons establish their own Junior Board of Directors. A lengthy discussion developed to use our funds for the benefit of our members. The continental breakfast worked out very well – it kept us together. The big world is UNDERWRITE the reunions so more of our members will attend. Al Goodman said he will work on this concept and see what can be done.

Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Shanken

RENO, NEVADA  
450<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2006

The business meeting was called to order at 9:16am by Jim Strickland after a well planned and executed memorial service by Al Goodman.

Motion was made and passed to dispose with the reading of last year's minutes as they appeared in the newsletter.

Widows present were recognized and applauded.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**REUNION:** Al Goodman reported that we will be in Branson, Missouri, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Branson is well known for honoring veterans with interesting programs. He is working on ideas to underwrite some of our costs for the reunions to make them more affordable to our members.

**MEMBERSHIP TREASURER:** Floyd Perkins let us know he has an up-to-date roster of our members.





Annual	Life Members	Patrons	Total
327	214	134	675

32 deceased  
Please let him know if you move and inform him who passes away.

**TREASURER REPORT:** Courtney Shanken was happy to report that we have maintained our \$28,000 balance even with the donations to the Red Cross and the Enlisted Men's Widow Association. We also had reunion expenses and newsletter costs. He gave credit to Floyd Perkins and Nancy Jean Rellihan for their efforts collecting dues.

**NEWSLETTER:** Harold Saperstein first thanked all of us who expressed their condolences about his wife. He let us know he is back on his feet and he will resume his role as editor of our newsletter.

**NOMINATING CHARIMAN:** John Shlapak presented the slate of the current officers to serve another 2 years. As there were no other nominations, the members unanimously elected his nominations.

**MUSEUM:** Alfeo Minato gave a detailed report to the Board, but for this meeting he summarized the problems and confusion in Manduria. The politicians are involved. There is talk that "they" will re-open the museum and the children's park. Alfeo was pleasantly surprised that so many present were interested in another trip to Italy. He even collected signatures.

#### OLD/NEW BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR

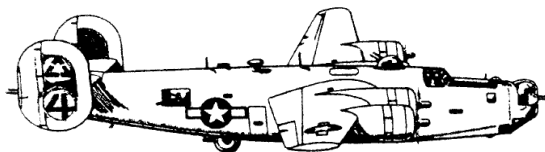
Jim Vaughn read a moving poem. Norm Kanel thanked the members of the board for their work. Nancy Jean gave out some door prizes. Alfeo passed out information about the Spruce Goose Museum. Courtney reviewed the objectives of our organization and thanks to our members; we are accomplishing all of them.

1. Get together and enjoy ourselves (REUNIONS)
2. Preserve the spirit that inspired us to victory.
3. Remember those who gave their lives (PLAQUES)
4. Keep members informed (NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE)
5. History of the Group is told accurately.

Meeting adjourned at 9:57am.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Shanken







450th BG Reunion 2007

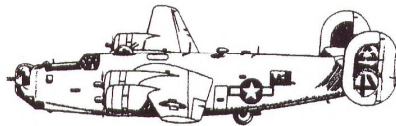
in

BRANSON, MISSOURI

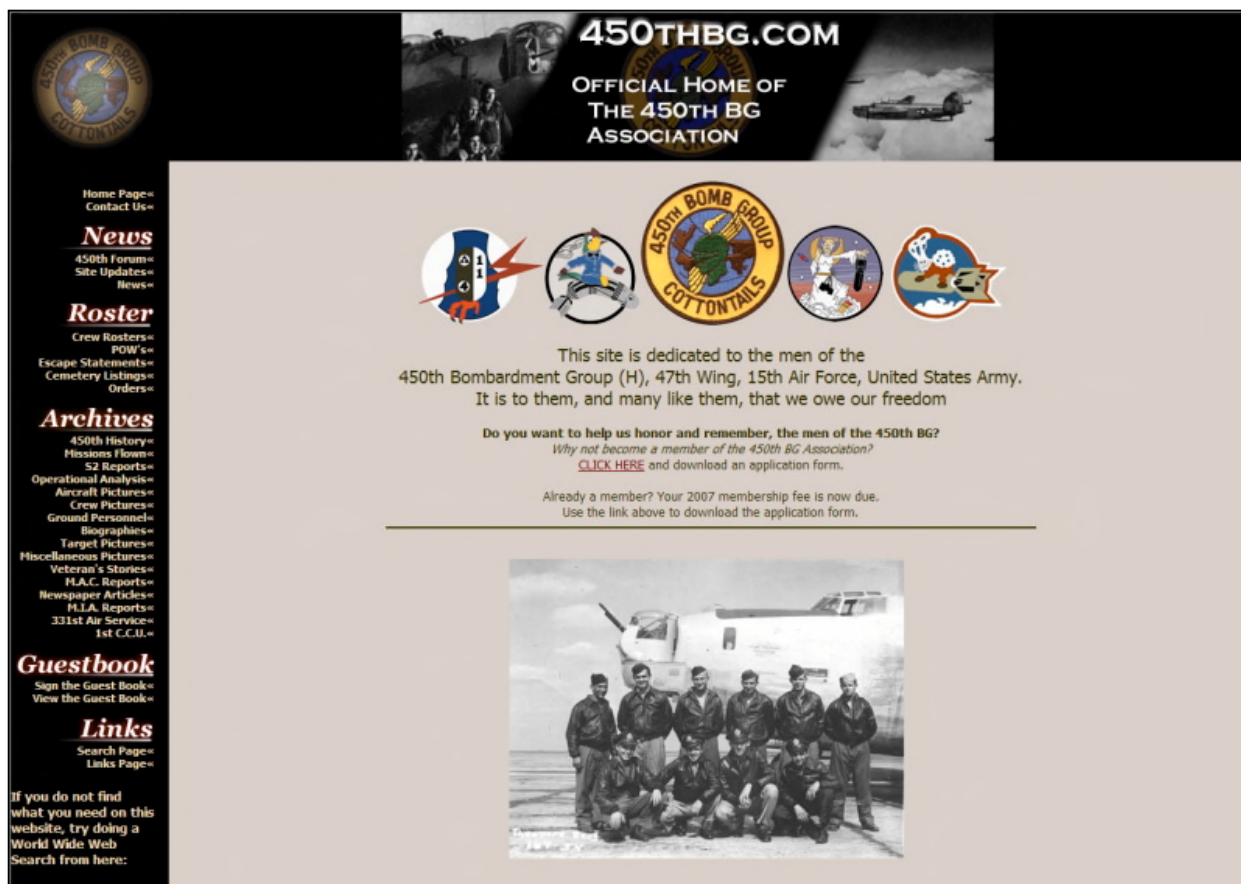
October 3 - 7, 2007

Full Details have been mailed out and can also  
be found at [www.450thbg.com](http://www.450thbg.com)

Contact Al Goodman at 847-543-8381  
(if you have not received your Reunion Information)



# 450<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group Website – History For Future Generations .....



Incase you did not know, there is a website which is dedicated to the 450<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group (H) and to anyone connected to these men and women who served their country and bravely fought for our Freedom.

The address of the website is **www.450thbg.com**

For those of you not familiar with websites, it is like an online museum. There is a lot of information stored about all aspects of the 450<sup>th</sup> BG and those who were in Manduria. It also contains things like Crew Rosters, POWs, Escape Statements, Cemetery Listings, Orders, Biographies, Missions, S2 Reports, Aircraft Pictures, Crew Pictures, Ground Personnel and Target Pictures plus much more. You can enjoy several hours of enjoyment by visiting this website.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mark Worthington and Craig Linn who are the Webmasters that take care

of this site. They have worked very hard in the past couple of years to make this website a beautiful tribute to the 450<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group. We would also like to thank Nancy Jean Rellihan, who was the one who spent countless hours organizing, gathering and re-typing much of the information that was put on the website in the last couple of years. Others to thank for their work in getting this history digitized are Brian Romano, Chris Corwin, Jim Ciborski, and all the Veterans who have lets us collect personal items of theirs to put on the website.

We are asking that you bring with you to Branson, any information that you may have gathered on previous missions or otherwise acquired during your stay at Manduria. Photos, war diaries, silk escape maps, letters, newspapers and other war time remembrances can be brought and shared with all. We will have a special operations group on hand to offer you the free service of

digitizing your photos and any documents onto a CD-ROM that you may wish to preserve for your families to cherish for years to come. Due to the highly classified nature of your personal items, you may bring and share what you so choose and the original items will be returned to you before leaving the reunion in Branson.

These items will be digitally scanned into our database to be shared on the 450<sup>th</sup> Web Site so that all may enjoy. Also, the Appropriate credit will be given to any individuals submitting items.

If you are unable to attend the reunion, but would still like to share your photos and memorabilia, please feel free to contact Nancy at 816-257-0090, write her at the return address of this newsletter or email [nanzjean@aol.com](mailto:nanzjean@aol.com) for other arrangements.





## USO Donation from the 450<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group



March 22, 2007

450th Bomb Group Cottontails  
14338 Millbriar Circle  
Chesterfield, Missouri 63017

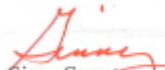
Dear USO Friends,

Thank you for your most recent donation of \$500.00 to the James S. McDonnell USO. Since 1981, the USO located at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport has offered that special "touch of home" that has become our trademark. The support of 450th Bomb Group Cottontails helps ensure our doors will always be open to welcome our traveling military and their families.

The needs of our military are ever changing and the face of the USO has evolved to ensure we are the premier civilian organization to serve those needs. A few of our services include high speed internet access, phone cards and cell phones, loungers and of course, the bottomless cup of coffee or soda. And with the opening of our Fort Leonard Wood USO in 2006, our military men and women have a refuge when getting some down time during basic or advanced training. The Dennis Jones Mobile USO continues to travel the state taking the thanks of grateful Americans to the troops where they live and train. All services are offered **FREE** to our guests. This is possible because of your generous support.

We are proud to represent Americans like you as has been the history of our USO for over 25 years and we will continue to serve our military heroes.....

*Until everyone comes home,*

  
Ginny Compton  
Executive Director

P.S. We are not a government agency and receive no tax dollars, nor are we a United Way agency. We depend entirely on donations from private sources, like you.

*This letter is the receipt for your taxes and verification that you have received no goods or services in confection with this donation.*

### James S. McDonnell USO

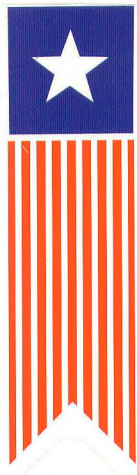
10701 Lambert International Blvd. ~ P.O. Box 10367, St. Louis, MO 63145  
314-429-7702 ~ [www.usostl.org](http://www.usostl.org)





## Looking For ..... Please Help Us ( Continued )

This section is for those who are looking for more information on a Veteran, Plane, Mission, Crash, Crew and anything else that you may be searching for. . . . .



2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Charles L. Smith  
 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jeremiah P. O'Sullivan  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Frank A. Johnstone  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Seymour Gordon  
 Sgt. Carmine J. Labetti  
 Sgt. Richard U. Gifford  
 Sgt. John R. Christopherson  
 Sgt. Charles B. Pearson Jr.  
 Sgt. Kenneth O. Dean  
 T/Sgt. Eugene M. Winner  
 S/Sgt. William Y. Wood  
 Sgt. Rudolph Klempa

Anyone have any contact information for the above crew contact Roy at CrimeDet@aol.com

## 450<sup>th</sup> BG Tag Found in 2006 at Crash Site ! – Do you know Them ?



Inscription Reads:

**IF FOUND RETURN  
 TO  
 OBRIEN JOHN F  
 WALSH JOSEPH C  
 720 BOMB SQDN**

29-MAR-44 was a very foggy day over western Britain. At midnight on the 28th, an American B-24 Liberator, #41-11591, had left Casablanca in North Africa, on the second leg of a flight from Manduria, Italy to RAF St. Mawgan in Cornwall. Its mission was to collect some radar bombing equipment and return to base. The aircraft carried a skeleton crew of five. Also onboard was a Red Cross field representative, traveling from Italy to the U.K.. Unable to locate St. Mawgan airfield due to the fog, the Liberator was diverted to Fairwood Common. Having been guided into the circuit at Fairwood the Liberator circled in vain above the overcast; the countryside below was completely blotted out by cloud.

After numerous attempts to land, the aircraft's two starboard engines cut out from a lack of fuel. Pilot, Lt. Harvey Helmberger, then gave the order to bale out through the bomb bay doors. Three of the crew and the Red Cross rep. did so immediately, all landed safely near the junction of the North and South Gower Roads; They had infact baled out at an altitude of only 500 feet!

Sgt. Walsh, the flight engineer, refused to jump; Lt. Helmberger climbed back into his seat and try to crash-land the Liberator. Sgt. Walsh now in the co-pilot's seat, the aircraft passed over the airfield, it lost height, smashed through a wooden guard hut and came to rest with its nose embedded in the hedgebank which runs along Kittle Lane. Lt. Helmberger survived the crash, but sgt. Walsh who, had not fastened himself into the co-pilot's seat, was thrown through the aircraft's windscreen on impact. He died as a result of his injuries three days later.

If you know anything about these men, the mission, plane, relatives or any stories you heard, please let us know any details that may help in solving this mystery. Our intent is to help get this Tag back to it's rightful owner or family.





# TAPS

Slowly



Harold D. Bosserman – 722	Harold L. Francis – 720	Richard S. Jones – 723	Jack L. Pyle – 723
Wallace P. Breckenfeld - 723	Everett S. Frank – 721	Jack G. Kath - 721	Sidney W. Raffkind – 721
Hugh E. Cameron – 721	James R. Gallagher – 723	Phillip Kraus – 722	Harley M. Rhodenhamel – 720
Dillard R. Cantrell – 720	Vincent M. Genna – 721	Zane P. Laurini – 722	Fred C. Schwed - 721
Robert J. Clay - 723	John W. Gilday – 721	Robert E. Ludwig – 721	Joseph Shellick – 723
Mart L. Cope – 720	Thurman A. Glasgow – 722	Wilburn D. Mangrum - 723	Phillip Smith
Duane P. Corporon – 722	Lloyd Gottesman - 723	Edward P. McCabe Jr. – 723	Edward Socha - 720
Charles Cunningham – 720	Herbert T. Gouldon - 720	Max E. McClaskie – 722	John J. Stranahan – 720
Cletus D. Davenport - 722	Edmond C. Hale – 723	Alfeo E. Minato - 721	Clarence L. Thomas - 722
Alfred R. Deering – 723	Harvey Helmberger – 721	Seymour E. Pekin – 721	Albert L. Thompson – 720
Roger Erickson	Harry S. Hintlian - 721	Bobby R. Plummer – 720	Raymond L. Williams – 723
Franklin H. Fanger – 721	Ross E. Howe – 722	Elmer M. Powell - 720	
Charles A. Farren	Ellsworth R. Jacoby - HQ	Walter Pryseski	

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED WITH THE  
 450<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
 ITALY 1943-1945-WORLD WAR II



SQUADRONS  
 720<sup>TH</sup>-721<sup>ST</sup>-722<sup>ND</sup>-723<sup>RD</sup>  
 “THE COTTON TALES”

**DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS**  
 RESENBERG-FEB 25<sup>TH</sup> 1944    PLOESTI-APRIL 5<sup>TH</sup> 1944

1505 MEN OF THE 450<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP WERE  
 KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION



TARGETS OF THE  
450<sup>TH</sup> BOMB GROUP

MOSTAR...ZARA...SKOPOLIE...PERUGIA...PRATO  
OSSOPO...AREZZO...PISA...PERUGIA...GUIDONIA  
PRATO...AREZZO...ROME...SOFIA...FERRARA...  
ISTRES...SIENA...UDINE...AVIANO...TOULON...  
CONTASSIEVE...VITERBO...ANZIO BEACHEAD...  
PONTASSIE...VALMONTONE...VERONA...STYER...  
CARROCEO...REGENSBURG...CERTALDO...  
VITERO...SCHWECHAT...LAVARIANO...GRATZ...  
MESTRA...BOZZANO...BUDAPEST...PLOESTI...  
BUCHAREST...MESTRA...WEINER-NEUSTADT...  
VARESE...ORBETELLO...ALLESANDRIA...BROSIOV  
...SAM STEPHANO...PIACENZA...VICENZA...PORT  
SAN STEFANO...SPEZIA...LATISANO...POROTO  
MARGHERE...GRATAFERRATA...MARSEILLE...  
NICE...EBREICHSORF...SIMERIA...CASTLE-MA  
GIOREOBERPFAFFENHOFEN...TRIESTE...GENOA  
...CONSTANATO...MUNICH...OSUCK...ZAGREB...  
BRATISLAVA...GIURGIN...PITESTI...CASARCA...  
MARKERSDORF...NEUAUBING...HORSCHING...  
BRESCIA...BERATKUCOVE...MARESDORF...  
TARGOVISTE...ORA...ALIBUNAR...SOUTHERN  
FRANCE...SAVONIA...VIENNA/LOBAU...TRENTO...  
VOSENDORF...VINKOVCI...GIURGIN...MISKOLC...  
KRAJEVO...LESKOVAC...NIS...LORISSA...NOVI-  
SAD...MALACKY...LARISSA...ATHENS...PEDUA...  
BRENNER PASS...BOLOGNA...BANHIDA...KLAGE-  
NFURT...ST. VALENTIN...PODGORICA...NOVI-  
PAZAR...BLACHHAMMER...ISSNBUCK...SIENICA...  
AVAINO...DOBOJ...BROD/SAVA...STRASZHOFF...  
LINZ...SPRON...ROSENHEIM...WELS...SALSBURG...  
ADIGE/ORA...BRONZOLO...BRENNERO...ISARCO/  
ALBES...OPERATION BUCKLAND...MAIRHOF...  
SAN AMBROGIA...CHEB...ST POLTEN...CASARSA...



723<sup>rd</sup>



722<sup>nd</sup>



721<sup>st</sup>



720<sup>th</sup>



Address Correction Requested



TO:

450<sup>TH</sup> BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)  
15<sup>TH</sup> ARMY AIR FORCE  
MANDURIA, ITALY  
1943 – 1945



“THE COTTONTAILS”

