

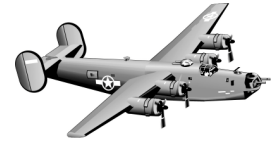


Volume 15, No 2

COTTONTAILS



continued



December 2007

www.450thbg.com

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE 450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ASSOCIATION

EDITOR:
Brian Romano

romanobr@peoplepc.com

CO-EDITOR:
Mark Worthington
email4ufrom-cottontales@yahoo.ca

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A Letter from the Editor

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to those of you who do not know who I am. My name is Brian Romano, nephew to James E. Flynn (1922-1944) who flew with the 721st Squadron of the 450th BG(H) on a plane called SH Mouse Esq. My uncle, James E. Flynn was KIA on 23-FEB-44 on the Steyr Mission in Austria

I am an active Lifetime Member of the 450th BG Association, now Editor of the Cottontails Newsletter and one of the founding members of The BRATS. I have been attending the annual reunions since Oklahoma City in 2003. I have been actively involved in helping to preserve the history of the 450th BG and all of the men who served in it. I owe you and all the members of the 450th BG a great debt of gratitude and appreciation for the courageous things you have done to allow us to still enjoy the Freedoms that we have here in the USA.

Being involved with this organization has been a very educational and eye opening experience for me. I am deeply touched and moved by all those that I have met at the reunions, spoken to on the phone, e-mailed, or corresponded with in the past 4 years. It has been my pleasure and a labor of love that has kept me going towards our goal of Honoring and Remembering each and every Veteran involved in the 450th BG.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank Mark Worthington who keeps the 450thbg.com website up and running. Mark has worked thousands of hours to update, organize, add information and expand the website throughout the years to Honor all the Veterans.

Brian Romano - SH Mouse BRAT

Maxwell Air Force Base – Official 450th BG Records

Are you looking for information about a certain mission, person or event that occurred during your military service in Manduria? We may have just what you're looking for!

We recently were able to obtain all known declassified documents of the 450th Bomb Group from Maxwell Field Air Force Base.

This treasure trove of documentation includes monthly Group and Squadron histories and war diaries, Missing Air Crew Reports, S-2 Mission Reports, Escape Reports and many photographs. We just may have what you've been looking for after all these years!. If we don't have it, we'll do our best to find it for you. But please keep in mind we do not have your personal military papers, these you will need to apply for from the National Archives at www.nara.gov or write to: **The National Personnel Records Center** 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, Missouri 63132

SEASONS GREETINGS



U.S.AIR FORCE

"Visit the World War II Memorial located in Washington D.C., I have been there and it is a beautiful tribute to all the men who served in World War II."



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.

My oldest brother Charles P Lehman is noted on this site as having received the Distinguished Flying Cross for the Feb. 25 1944 attack on the Messerschmitt aircraft assembly plant at Regensburg. I am planning a biographical essay about my brother, who died in 1999, and would be grateful for any recollections of any who knew him. He was shot down 2 months later over France and was a prisoner of war, Stalag Luft 3, for about 1 year.

Name: David Lehman
Email: dlehman123@sbcglobal.net
Location: Chicago IL

=====

My daughter alerted me to your website. What a wonderful tribute to all who served in the 450th. My uncle, 2nd Lt. Owen Wahl, was the pilot of the 450th's last plane lost. They went down 9-4-45. Any memories of Owen would be appreciated. Thanks.

Name: Mike Soderlund
Email: abacomike@excite.com
Location: Brainerd, MN

=====

I am trying to reach some one who knows any thing about Walter E Gomer ,would appreciate any thing. Thanks

Name: Willie Gomer
Email: billiewillie34@netscape.com
Location: Virginia

=====

My Uncle, Frederick Wheary, was shot down over the Mediterranean. He and his crew were never recovered. Please contact me if you know about other members of the crew of "The Passionate Witch"

Name: Cynthia Hertlein
Email: earthtu-others@yahoo.com
Location: Carmel Valley, California

=====

I had two uncles that did ground support for B-24's. Their names were Joe Abner from Indiana and Kentucky and Irwin Heinrich from Oklahoma. Any info regarding either or both of them would be appreciated.

Name: Ron Upton
Email: LCHS1961@aol.com
Location: Fort Wayne, IN.

=====



B-24 Liberator



450th
Bombardment Group (H)
Cottontails
1943 Italy 1945



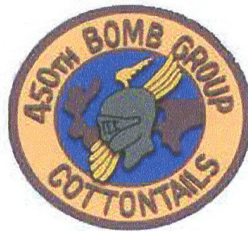



450th BG Reunion 65th Anniversary (1943 - 2008)

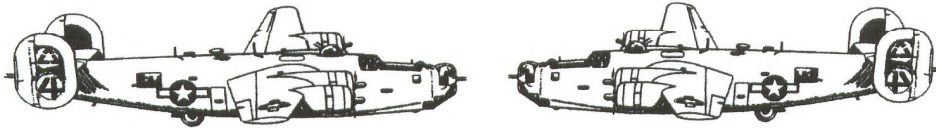
Hyatt Regency
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
September 24 - 28, 2008

Interesting Events To Attend
(Full Details will be mailed out at a later date)

Please Come
and
Celebrate



BRATS





450th BG Association Board/Business Meeting – October 05, 2007

**Board of Directors Meeting
October 5, 2007**

**450th Bomb Group Association
Branson, Missouri**

Jim Strickland, President and John Shlapak, Vice-President of the board were unable to attend this year's reunion, so the meeting was called to order by the acting presiding officer, Courtney Shanken. A quorum was present as Irving Smirnoff resigned because of ill health, and Norman Kanel, alternate director, became a director, and Bill Conklin will become an alternate director.

Present were Courtney Shanken, Norman Kanel, Sam Stein, Al Goodman, Floyd Perkins, Leroy Hardman and Nancy Rellihan. Five directors and two alternate directors.

Guests sitting in were: Bill Conklin, Howie Ehrenman, Paul Versch, and Leland Dehart.

Treasury Report was passed out so decisions could be made based on our finances (see Exhibit 1). Courtney Shanken reported that even with our donations and plaques our balance remained fairly constant, thanks to Floyd Perkins membership collections.

**Exhibit 1
TREASURE REPORT August 31, 2006 – August 31, 2007**

August 31, 2006 Balance: \$28,318.31

<u>Income</u>		
Dues	5,220.00	
Interest	499.18	
Total Income		5,719.18

<u>Expenses</u>		
Reunion	622.25	
Newsletter	650.71	
Donations	1,000.00	
Plaques	1,496.00	
*Administration	2,919.60	
Total Expenses		6,688.56

* Includes \$769.75 to Maxwell Field Air Force Base for copies of original 450th Bomb Group Histories, Squadron Histories, War Diaries, Missing AirCrew Reports, S-2 Reports, Escape Reports and Photographs.

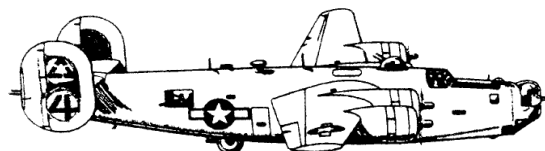
August 31, 2007 Balance: \$27,348.93

Signed - Courtney Shanken
Secretary/Treasurer

REUNION CHAIRMAN

Al Goodman reported that there will be about 125 people at the banquet, this is more than we had at Reno. The BIG NEWS was that next year we will celebrate our 65th Anniversary I Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Tentative dates are September 24 to September 28, 2008. A "save the date" notice will go out.

It was the consensus of the board that the funds we have should be used for UNDERWRITING the costs of our reunions so we can attract more attendees. The tours in Milwaukee will not be as expensive so we should have a great turnout. The breakfasts and dinners will now be subsidized.





**Board of Directors Meeting
October 5, 2007**

**450th Bomb Group Association
Branson, Missouri**

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Floyd Perkins and Sam Stein submitted the following figures. Our 450th Association has:

310 Annual Members
144 Life Members
162 Annual Patron Members
68 Life Patron Members
684 Total Members

OLD BUSINESS

The sudden and unfortunate death of Alfeo Mateo (our Italian contact) has left us in "limbo." Our memorabilia is in the basement of Professor Pasanisi, in Italy, and the museum is closed. The feeling of the board is to investigate the possibility of bringing it all back. Don Jenkins our chairman will be contacted. Two generations have passed and the Italian people we knew are not longer in office. It was suggested we poll our members to see if there is any interest in a trip to Italy.

NEW BUSINESS

The BRATS are doing a great job and they will KEEP US GOING!

Meeting adjourned after 1 hour.

Submitted by:

Courtney Shanken





**Business Meeting
October 6, 2007**

**450th Bomb Group Association
Branson, Missouri**

The meeting was preceded by a memorial service organized by Al Goodman. The Branson High School Air Force ROTC served as Color Guard.

In the absence of Jim Strickland, president, and John Shlapak, vice-president, Courtney Shanken called the meeting to order, which was very well attended.

Bill Conklin moved and Rowena Conklin seconded the motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes as they were printed in our newsletter. Motion passed.

Please refer to the minutes of the board meeting for the reports given by each chairman

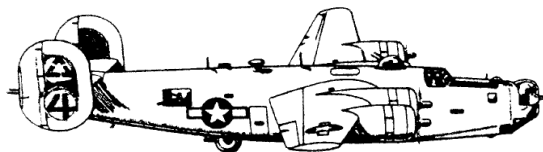
OLD/NEW BUSINESS - The discussion about our relationship with Manduria is reflected in the board's minutes. Several people expressed interest in a trip to Italy.

GOOD OF THE ORDER – Two minor complaints not enough handicap rooms at the hotel and the farewell breakfast was too late as people have to get an early start back home.

FINAL COMMENT – This was a great reunion. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. We might not know everyone's name but it seems we have all gotten to recognize one another. We now talk less of World War II and more of our grandchildren.

After the meeting was adjourned we were treated to two videos thanks to Brian Romano and Nancy Rellihan. Our planes and crews were shown, followed by a film dedicated to our ground crews. The videos were enjoyed and appreciated by all those attending. Thanks Brian and Nancy Jean.

Cordially submitted,
Courtney Shanken





Evergreen Aviation Museum Donation from the 450th Bomb Group



Evergreen Aviation Museum
The Captain Michael King Smith Educational Institute

Date: October 11, 2007

GIFT RECEIPT

450th Bomb Group Cottontails
4495 Croy Lake Road
Mancelona, MI 49659

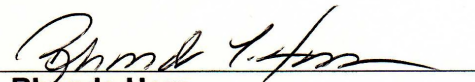
Thank you for your support of the Evergreen Aviation Museum and The Captain Michael King Smith Educational Institute. As a non-profit organization, we greatly appreciate your gift (check no. 1389, dated March 31, 2007) in the amount of:

→ \$500.00

Total \$500.00

**All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.
(IRS Tax ID No. 93-1069203)**

Donors receive no goods or services in exchange for their contribution.


Rhonda Horn


Dated



www.450thbg.com – Summary of Website Updates for 2007

450THBG.COM
OFFICIAL HOME OF THE 450TH BG ASSOCIATION

This page contains links to the Group and Squadron Histories and War Diaries.
If you have additional information, or you can fill in any of the missing data, please contact us.

720th Squadron 721st Squadron 450th B.G. 722nd Squadron 723rd Squadron

Click the crests or the links to view the histories.

IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED WITH THE
450th BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
1943 - MANDURIA, ITALY - 1945 W.W.II

SQUADRONS
720th - 721st - 722nd - 723rd
"THE COTTONTAILS"

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS
REGENSBURG FEB 25th 1944
PLOESTI APR 5th 1944

1505 MEN OF THE 450th GROUP WERE
KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION

UNIT CITATION - February 1944

A Letter from Nancy Rellihan to the Board of Directors 450th BG(H) October 25, 2007

I've been meaning to write to you all and express my gratitude for your overwhelming support and assistance in The BRATS quest to obtain information of the 450th BG. In case you have been wondering what we've been up to all year and what some of the Association's money was spent on, I'll try to bring you up to date.

- All Squadron histories & war diaries from Jan-44 to Jun-44.
- All Group histories & war diaries from early 1943 until disembarkment in 1945.
- All MACR (Missing Air Crew Reports) 1944 – 1945.
- Escape Reports from members who eluded the enemy with the assistance of Partisans & returned to the base.
- Complete S-2 reports, narratives, bombing summaries, analysis and official photographs of bombing missions.

All of the above information was scanned at Maxwell Air Force Base and provided to us on CD's. Some of this information is already transcribed and posted on the 450thbg.com website, and the webmasters will be posting the entire

Maxwell AFB 450th BG(H) collection.

By writing to veterans or their families when they post requests for assistance on the website, we have obtained many photographs, war diaries, orders, and military documents which are also posted on the website.

Earlier this year we were lucky enough to obtain all the documentation that had been collected throughout the years by Bob Davis, the former historian of the Association. This resulted in over 500 photographs, numerous orders, newspaper clippings, etc...that were also added to the website. The website continues to grow everyday, and has turned into a wonderful online museum for all the brave men who served with the 450th Bomb Group(H).

We were able to take all of the above information and photographs to the reunion this year, where the veterans were able to browse through all the books in the Hospitality Room. By the response from everyone there, they were all very appreciative and amazed at the amount of information that was available to them.

By having all this information easily available to us now, we have been able to send out MACR's, Escape reports, S-2's, squadron histories, etc...to many veterans or their families who are still

looking for information. Their joy in finally having the answer to their questions after all these years is so gratifying! It definitely lets us know that this labor of love is truly worth every minute we spend on researching, organizing and obtaining all the information we can on all you wonderful veterans!

Here's hoping for another successful year of gathering more photographs and information on the Cottontails!! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions – or if you are still looking for any of your military information – We just may have what you're looking for!!!!

Nancy can be contacted at the Return address of newsletter or call 816-257-0090 or Nanzjean@aol.com

**KEEP
'EM
FLYING**



Palm Springs Air Museum Donation from the 450th Bomb Group



Preserve Educate Honor

*We Inspire Our Youth
By Honoring Our Heroes*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Robert J. Pond*
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- Phillip E. Hixon*
Chairman/CEO
- MajGEN Ken Miles, USAF (ret)*
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- Don H. Reuben*
Corporate Secretary
- Jack Bernabucci*
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President/Museum Director
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- Charles Supple, M.D.*
- Charles H. Taylor*
- Richard Walsh*
- Gary Whitaker*

August 13, 2007

450th Bomb Group Cottontails
4495 Croy Lake Rd.
Mancelona, MI 49659

On behalf of the Palm Springs Air Museum, I want to thank you for your cash donation of \$500.00 on 03/14/2007.

The Palm Springs Air Museum is an exciting tribute to everyone who participated in the aviation success of World War II. It is far more than just a collection of airplanes and artifacts, but a very active organization conducting special educational programs throughout the year. Your support benefits both the museum and the community.

It is only through the interest and generosity of friends like you that the museum continues to grow and prosper. Your donation is greatly appreciated by everyone.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Hixon
Chairman/CEO

Please be sure to save this letter in your tax file as it represents your official receipt under the revised IRS guidelines, effective January 1, 1994.

HONORARY DIRECTORS

- Jim Pattison*
- Thomas L. Phillips*
- James J. Shea, Jr.*
- Lewis Webb*

A 501©3 Non-Profit
Corporation
Tax ID #33-0615350





450th BG "Cottontails" Memorial Association – BRATS

It's a great honor to officially announce the formation of the

450th Bombardment Group (H) "Cottontails" Memorial Association

hereinafter referred to as the "BRATS".

BRATS will respectfully stand for B-24 Relatives And True Supporter.

The purpose and objectives of the memorial association of the "BRATS" are to ensure that the legacy of those who served our country bravely and heroically will not be forgotten, to respectfully and honorably carry on the original mission of the 450th Bomb Group Association.

1. To preserve the spirit that inspired the group to heroic and successful accomplishment of their mission during World War II.
2. To keep alive and memorialize the memory of those heroes who gave their lives in the performance of their duties.
3. To keep members currently informed regarding the Memorial Association matters.
4. To recreate for posterity a correct and factual history of the group and the part it proudly played in the successful culmination of World War II.
5. To assist the 450th veterans, their family, and/or friends in researching their honorable military history with the 450th Bomb Group (H).

All persons who are relatives or friends of those who were assigned or attached for duty with the 450th Bomb Group (H) during it's activation period during World War II shall be eligible for regular membership. A person shall be admitted as a regular member upon registering their respective name(s) with he Treasurer and paying their annual dues. The annual dues of the Memorial Association, "BRATS", shall be set by the membership in an amount sufficient to defray the expenses of the proper conduct of the affairs and business of the Memorial Association. Dues are \$10.00 per year, payable each year and payable in advance for each year.

Please get the word out to your children and relatives so they are aware of next generation of "Cottontails" and to consider their participation.

Cut Here → -----

450th Bombardment Group (H) "Cottontails" Memorial Association - BRATS Manduria, Italy (1943 – 1945)

Membership Dues For Calendar Year

2008

January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008



Annual Membership..... \$ 10.00 _____

Name: _____ Maiden: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-Mail : _____ Phone: _____

Related to Veteran: _____ Sqd: _____

Please feel free to make copies if needed.

Make Checks Payable To: **450th BG Memorial Association**

Mail To: 450th Bomb Group Memorial Association
P.O. Box 857 Liberty, MO 64068



TAPS

Slowly



Robert H Buesing – 720	Oliver L Herrick – 721	John F Robertson – 722 *
Paul B Cantrell - 720	Calvin K Hubbard - 723	Vladimir “Walter” Skuby – 720
William A Cook – 722	Robert S Jones – 723	Homer W Smith – 720
George R Cushman Jr	Charles Kellman - 331	Robert F Smith - 721
Joseph C Darby Jr - 721	Bernard Kushner – 722	Arthur Swartz Sr – 723
Paul R Drury – 722	Harvey D Langevin – 723	Johnie C Taylor – 722
Charles C Felchner - 720	Beuford L Lowrance – 722	Paul V Vegna – 720
Joshua M Fiero III – 722	Charles H Lee – 720	Robert V Vaughn – 450 th Friend
Zelig Finkelstein – 720 *	Louis W Lessard - 720	Edward A Wajocwski – 723
Fernend Fournier – 720	Edward D Owens – 722	William Wisbrod – 722
Joel A Fulmer Jr – 723	Earl E Pirie - 721	Angelo R Yannuzzi
Andrew P Giba – 721	Walter Pryseski	
Johnnie E Hargett – 722	Ivan W Raymond Sr – 721	

* These Veterans were not ever listed in any past TAPS

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



SQUADRONS
 720TH-721ST-722ND-723RD
 “THE COTTON TALES”

DISTINGUISHED UNIT CITATIONS
 REGENSBURG-FEB 25TH 1944 PLOESTI-APRIL 5TH 1944

1505 MEN OF THE 450TH BOMB GROUP WERE
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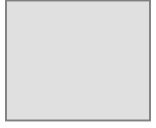


TARGETS OF THE 450TH BOMB GROUP

MOSTAR...ZARA...SKOPLJE...PERUGIA...PRATO
 OSSOPO...AREZZO...PISA...PERUGIA...GUIDONIA
 PRATO...AREZZO...ROME...SOFIA...FERRARA...
 ISTRES...SIENA...UDINE...AVIANO...TOULON...
 CONTASSIEVE...VITERBO...ANZIO BEACHHEAD...
 PONTASSIE...VALMONTONE...VERONA...STYER...
 CAROCETO...REGENSBURG...CERTALDO...
 VITERO...SCHWECHAT...LAVARIANO...GRATZ...
 MESTRA...BOLZANO...BUDAPEST...PLOESTI...
 BUCHAREST...MESTRA...WEINER-NEUSTADT...
 VARESE...ORBETELLO...ALLESANDRIA...BROSOV...
 ...SAM STEPHANO...PIACENZA...VICENZA...PORTO
 MARGHERE...GRATAFERRATA...MARSEILLE...
 NICE...EBREICHSORF...SIMERIA...CASTLE-MA
 GIOREOBERPFAFFENHOFEN...TRIESTE...GENOA
 ...CONSTANATO...MUNICH...OSUJK...ZAGREB...
 BRATISLAVA...GIURGIN...PITESTI...CASARCA...
 MARKERSDORF...NEUAUBING...HORSCHING...
 BRESCIA...BERATIKUCOVE...MARESDORF...
 TARGOVISTE...ORA...ALIBUNAR...SOUTHERN
 FRANCE...SAVONIA...VIENNALOBAU...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...ISSBUCK...SIENICA...
 AVAINO...DOBOJ...BROD/SAVA...STRASZHOFF...
 LINZ...SPRON...ROSENHEIM...WELS...SALSBURG...
 ADIGE/ORA...BRONZOLO...BRENNERO...ISARCOY
 ALBES...OPERATION BUCKLAND...MAIRHOF...
 SAN AMBROGIA...CHEB...ST POLTEN...CASARSA.



Address Correction Requested



TO:

450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H)
 15TH ARMY AIR FORCE
 MANDURIA, ITALY
 1943 - 1945



“THE COTTONTAILS”

