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

A letter from the 450thbg.com Webmaster

For those who do not know me, here is an insight of who I am.

My name is Mark Worthington, born 1960 in England, hence some of the typo's you think you see on the website. I moved to Canada in 1983 and married a Canadian. I have five kids aged 16 to 24. For the last 18 years I have worked for the Toronto Police Service and am currently assigned to the Toronto Police Training College as a Use of Force/Defensive Tactics instructor.

I got involved with the 450th website in 1999 when a friend of mine asked me to put together a one page article to remember his grandfather. Samuel Artzer of the 721^s Squadron. While researching Sam it quickly became apparent that there was little information available about the 450th on the world wide web. As I dug deeper, veterans and family members started sending me information and asking questions about lost friends and relatives that I could not answer. I am happy to say that many of those questions are now answered, thanks in part to those who send us the information.

The rest, as they say is history. The website has grown from one page to over 21,000 in the past eight years. It takes about 25 hours a week of my time and is the least I can do to say thank you to our veterans and their families for the sacrifices they made during and after WWII. What truly makes this all worth while? When I get an e-mail or a phone call saying thank you. "I have just spoke with a friend I have not seen or heard from in 60 years." With your help, I hope to expand the website, keep adding information and help reunite lost friends and their families for many years to come. Mark Worthington - 450thbg.com Webmaster, Co-Editor and BRAT

Major William A. Miller CO 723rd Squadron

We are currently looking for a picture & or any information or stories that anyone may have about Major William A. Miller of the 723rd and "The Buelah" crew.

Major Miller, the pilot of "The Buelah", which was the lead ship on its ill-fated mission to Steyr, Austria on 23-FEB-44. There is an inspiring story about "The Buelah" on the 450thbg.com website but we have no pictures of either the plane or any of it's crew members.

The story on the website does a very good job of describing what happened that day with many details about "The Buelah". I have personally visited the crash site of "The Buelah" in 2003 when I went to Austria in search of information about the crash of "SH Mouse Esq.", which was the plane my Uncle James E Flynn was on that same day. I can tell you that when I saw the crash site of "The Buelah" and the craters that still exist today, I was speechless. There is still a smell of fuel & discoloration in the ground that makes up the craters. A list of the crew on "The Buelah" that day is on the following page.

Please contact the Editor if you have even the smallest bit of information about "The Buelah", it's crew or the mission to Steyr on 23-FEB-44.

EDITOR: Brian Romano romanobr@peoplepc.com

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

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SECRETARY-TREASURER: Courtney Shanken

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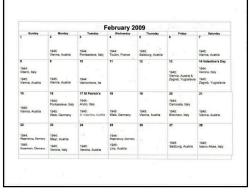
Cottontales continued



i ne Buelan	Crew on 23-FEB-44	vission to Steyr,	Austria
01 Pilot	William A. Miller	Major	O-438443
02 Co-Pilot	Richard M. Whitney	1st Lt	O-660313
03 Nav.	Clarence W. Smith	1st Lt	O-670178
04 Bomb.	William Flock	2nd Lt	O-688934
05 Rad.	James Shaw	S/Sgt	13119439
06 Rad.	John O. Squires	S/Sgt	32384089
07 AE	Lawrence O'Conner	S/Sgt	39457635
08 AR	Robert C. McCarvay	S/Sgt	13145825
09 AG	Charles Allen	S/Sgt	34614032
10 AAG	Bernari Bernard	Sgt	37656960

885th Bombardment Squadron (H) (Special)

Dottie Darling



2009 450th BG Calendars Available

Top Secret Missions

While doing research I stumbled across the fact that many of the men assigned to various bomb groups were at times put on DS (Detachment Service) and assigned to fly secret missions with the 885th Squadron Special (H), based in Brindisi, Italy. A heavy burden fell on the 885th Squadron, for it was the only USAAF unit in the Mediterranean Theater engaged exclusively in supply operations over occupied countries.

Their low-level missions were mostly flown at night, in order to drop supplies, ammunition, food, medicine and special agents to the liberating forces, and to partisans assisting them. With the assistance of a former veteran of the 885th, John Mattison, we were able to identify the following men from the 450th BG who flew missions with the 885th Squadron: Edgar P Beaver, Arthur M Chasen, John H Chipps, Victor Ciccotti, Paul E Courter, Thomas B Greene, Edward C Hastings, Albert E Houghton, Vernon L Johnson, Arthur B Legath, James J McBurney, Thomas N Norman, Thaddeus C Pieczonka, Jerold E Rubinton, Richard B Sellers, James D Six, John E Smith, John Stockton, James W Trinkley, and John F Waters.

Men of the 450th BG that lost their lives while serving on a top secret mission with the 885th: Jacob G Bolz Jr, John T Colfer, Joseph C Croushore, Carl O Danielson, Joseph A Darin, Alfred R Freidlander, Donald F Graves, Albert Huffman, Thomas J Kirk, Eugene M Poplawski, and Robert H Wilds Jr.

If you are interested in learning more about the 885th missions the following website link will give you further information of the 885th Squadron.

Users.rcn.com/hugh.turner/2641st/2641st.htm

And of course, if you served with the 885th, we'd love to hear from you. Nancy Rellihan - Alternate Director

***** nniversary - 450° Bomb Group Calendars for 2009

In honor of the 65th year of the formation of the 450th Bomb Group we have put together a 2009 calendar. It features the nose art of 48 B-24's with the missions recorded on the day they were flown. These will be available at the reunion & also by parcel post. To make certain we have enough on hand at the reunion, and for those we will need to mail, please let us know how many calendars you would like to purchase. Calendars at the reunion will be sold for \$12.00 each and \$15.00 each if they are mailed to you in order to cover postage and handling.

All proceeds will be donated to the 450th Bomb Group Memorial Association.

2009 Calendar - Quantity @ 12.00 ea (This price is at the reunion only).

If you are unable to attend the reunion, please mail the following information along with your check made payable to **450th BG Memorial Association** and mail to: 450th BG Memorial Association, P.O. Box 857, Liberty, MO 64068. 2009 Calendar Quantity @ 15.00 ea Name: Address:



Cottontales continued



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 am wondering if anyone has any information about Byron Mathany – 723rd. I ran across a photo of him and a crew and was delighted. Thank You

Name: Natasha Mathany Email: Stompin_Groundz@Hotmail.com

I am trying to find any and all information regarding my Great Uncle Sgt. George Frederick Weishaar, who died June 26, 1944 over Romania. (MACR) # 6367 His ship was the Bottoms Up. I have been told that he and his crew members were buried in Jefferson Barracks, MO cemetery on June 28, 1951 almost 7 years to the day after being shot down. He was with the 450th BG, 721 Squadron. I would appreciate any and all information regarding Sgt. George Frederick Weishaar. Respectfully,

Brenda Sinclair - Great niece Email: Rsinc10521@aol.com 5899 White Church Road Shippensburg, PA 17257 717-530-1334 H 717-530-1339 Fax

Looking for info on SSGT STANLEY DRYLA, 721 BS.

Name: George Simko Email: txtravels02@sbcglobal.net

Thank You for the creation of your website. I am the grandson of Luke Hogan, radio operator of the Lyman Crew. My grandfather only divulged a few of his stories before passing away a couple of years ago. It has always been an interest of mine to find out more information about his crew and the men who knew him. If anyone should come across this message and knew my grandfather, please write to me. Thank you again.

Name: Luke A Hogan III Email: noceans@aol.com



Can anyone identify this crew, individual person(s) or plane from the 450th BG? This picture was featured in the Bomber Legends 2007 calendar. Please contact the editor if you have any information.

Can You Help Us Identify This Crew/Plane? -#34

450th BG Reunion – 65th Anniversary (1943 – 2008) – Milwaukee, WI

450th Bomb Group Association Reunion September 24-28, 2008 Hyatt Regency Milwaukee

Wednesday, September 24

1:00 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Reunion Registration open
	Hospitality Room
5:30 p.m 6:30 p.m.	Welcome Reception
	Dinner and evening on your own

Thursday, September 25

7:30 a.m8:30 a.m.	Registration continues
	Hospitality Room
7:30 a.m 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
	Polaris Room
9:30 a.m 4:30 p.m.	Tour of Milwaukee (lunch included)
- `~ `K**	Dinner and evening on your own

Friday, September 26

7:30 a.m 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
	Polaris Room
10:00 a.m 2:00 p.m.	Riverboat Tour
4:00 p.m 5:30 p.m.	Board of Director's Meeting
menun inseline caracera in r	Dinner and Evening on your own

Saturday, September 27

7:30 a.m8:30 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
	Polaris Room
9:00 a.m.	Memorial Service, followed by Business Meeting
6:00 p.m.	Cash Bar
7:00 p.m.	Banquet with music and dancing

Sunday, September 28

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Farewell Breakfast Buffet

Driver and guide gratuities are not included in the tour prices. PLEASE PLAN TO BE AT THE BOARDING AREA AT LEAST FIVE MINUTES PRIOR TO THE PUBLISHED DEPARTURE TIME. All trips require a minimum of thirty-five people unless otherwise stated.

450th BG Reunion – 65th Anniversary (1943 – 2008) – Milwaukee, WI

Tour Descriptions

Narrated Tour of Milwaukee Thursday, September 25

A short bus ride brings us to the Milwaukee Art Museum in time to see the wings go up. This Santiago Calatrava designed building is unique. We can tour the first floor of this white building and visit the gift shop.

Reboard the bus and travel to Basilica of St. Josaphat. Designed after the St. Peters in Rome, it was built in 1901 by immigrants and craftsmen with material from the demolished Chicago post office. One of the first churches declared a Basilica in North America, it is a designated historical landmark.

Reboard the bus and travel to the Miller Brewing Company. It's Miller Time! Visit and see the caves, brew kettles, and gift shop. After a one hour guided tour, settle back and enjoy a frosty sample. Bring your taste for beer and an ID. Must be 21 for the beer.

Board the bus at 9:30 a.m., Back at hotel 4:30 p.m. \$40 per person includes bus, escort, and lunch

Riverboat Tour Friday, September 26

We will walk one block (square to you who live in a different part of the world) to the boat dock. Unlike the Minnow, we will return from our three hour cruise. Bring a jacket as it can get cold on Lake Michigan.

Board the boat at 10:00 a.m., Back at hotel 2:00 p.m. \$25 per person includes ride and snacks

Alternative Tour Friday, September 26

Board the bus for the Experimental Aircraft Association Air adventure museum. Take a selfguided walking tour. See films and explore many different exhibits.

> Board the bus at 9:00 a.m., Back at hotel 5:00 p.m. \$68 per person includes ride, admission and lunch Requires 35 passengers minimum

Other ongoing activities include: Harley Davidson Museum - \$16 per person Potawatomi Bingo & Casino - they have a shuttle Octoberfest - one block from hotel for German beer, brats, bands & restaurants. Starts Friday.

450th BG Reunion – 65th Anniversary (1943 – 2008) – Milwaukee, WI

450th BOMB GROUP ACTIVITIES REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to the 450th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION, in the form of a check or money order (no credit cards or phone reservations accepted). Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. All reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

450th BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION Al Goodman 2 Portside Court Grayslake, IL 60030

Cut off date is August 24, 2008	Price Per Person	# Of People	Total Cost
Tours			
Thursday - Milwaukee City Tour	\$ 40		\$
Friday - Riverboat Cruise	\$ 25		\$
Meals			
Wednesday - wine & cheese reception (we need head count)	No charge		
Saturday Banquet - please select your entrée (No charge for Vet and guest)			
Herb Encrusted Chicken	\$ 35		\$
Roast Beef	\$ 35		\$
Sunday - Farewell breakfast (we need head count)	No charge		
Sunday - Farewell Dreakrast (we need nead count)	NO Charge		
Registration Fees (mandatory per person registration fee)			
Registration Fee for Veteran	\$ 15		\$
Registration Fee for Spouse/Guest	\$7		\$
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE TO 450 TH BOMB GROUP ASSOCIATION			\$

First Name:	Last Name:		Nick Name:
Squadron:			
Spouse Name (if attending):			
Guest Name(s):			
Street Address:			
City:	_State:	Zip:	Phone:
Disability Restrictions:			

$450^{\rm th}$ BG Reunion – $65^{\rm th}$ Anniversary (1943 – 2008) – Milwaukee, WI

н	lyatt Regency Milwauke 800-233-1234	ee
steps away from the scenic river complimentary fitness center, but	ted at 333 West Kilbourn Avenue walk and the Shops of Grand Av usiness center, covered parking ants and two cocktail lounges in here will have our continental be boms are available. Request the is available. Check in time is 33	(\$15/day) and concierge including Polaris, Wisconsin's only reakfast each morning. ese special needs when making :00 p.m. and check out time is
Good airline service is provided t Shuttle service to the hotel is av Call 800-236-5450 for your reserv	vailable from Airport Connection	
Vendors, so	chedules, and prices are subjec CUT HERE AND MAIL TO HOTEL	t to change.
	ROUP ASSOCIATION HOTEL RES nion Dates: September 24-28,	
Name:	Sharing room wit	h:
Address:		Zip:
Telephone #: _()	Fax # ()
Arrival Day and Date:	Dер	arture Date:
#of Nights:	King Bed or 2 Double Beds	Smoking or Non-Smoking
# of Rooms: Number	er of People in room:	Handicap Access:
If room type requested is not ava	ailable, nearest room type will I	be assigned.
RATE: \$125 (single/double) + sta before and after reunion dates, b credit card (information below) o CUTOFF DATE: August 24, 2008.	based on availability. Reservation or first night's deposit enclosed	ions must be guaranteed by
COTOTT DATE. August 24, 2000.	. Reservations received after th	ins date with be processed on
space and rate availability.		
space and rate availability. CANCELLATION: Cancellation is certain number of rooms.	to be made as soon as possible	, as the Group has agreed to a
CANCELLATION: Cancellation is	4) 276-1234 or toll free (800) 23 up Reunion rates.	3-1234. Reservation should be
CANCELLATION: Cancellation is certain number of rooms. RESERVATIONS BY PHONE: (414 made under the 450 th Bomb Grou AmexDiners	4) 276-1234 or toll free (800) 23 up Reunion rates. VisaMaste	3-1234. Reservation should be er CardDiscover
CANCELLATION: Cancellation is certain number of rooms. RESERVATIONS BY PHONE: (414 made under the 450 th Bomb Grou	4) 276-1234 or toll free (800) 23 up Reunion rates. VisaMaste	3-1234. Reservation should be er CardDiscover Expiration Date:

www.450thbg.com - The BRATS Have Created A Presence on the Web



To get to The BRATS webpage, go to 450thbg.com homepage and then click on B.R.A.T.S on the menu to the left.



450th Bomb Group Memorial Association – The BRATS have created a webpage linked to www.450thbg.com

Dedicated to the men of the 450th Bombardment Group Heavy. The BRATS will keep their memories alive for future generations so that no one will forget.

This site is for anyone who wishes to help keep the memories preserved in a web based format and will be a meeting place for families and friends to come and share stories. Please Bring Any WWII or 450th BG Memorabilia to the reunion even if you have brought it to past reunions. Keep in mind that we have many new members coming to the reunions and they would love to see it and share in your stories.

If you have a story and/or photograph you would like published in the Cottontales, please let us know. We are new at this newsletter game, so we'll gladly accept all the help we can get from you Cottontails! This is your newsletter, by contributing your stories; you help us deliver what you want. Mail your stories, suggestions, photos, etc. to 450th BG Memorial Association, P.O. Box 857, Liberty, MO 64068

A Letter to the Editor– "A Walk on Hallowed Ground" from Eddie Putman

Dear Editor:

My father, Edison W Putman, flew with the 450th out of Manduria. A year or so before his still seemingly recent death, and during the course of a round (or two) of martinis, I had talked him into taking a family trip to Italy. The next morning, sadly, came the admission that the spirit (s) of the prior evening had gotten the best of him. No, we never did make that trip together.

My wife and I, however, did make the trip, in September 2006, all the way to Manduria. And what a moving experience it was! It was really an honor to set foot on the old airfield, gingerly, because a group of Italian military recruits were bivouacked there and on training maneuvers. They remained in place the second day we visited, so we again tread lightly.

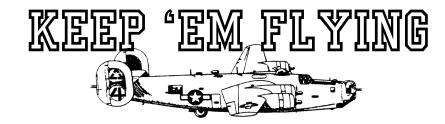
Seeing and touching the monument, which we readily located, was quite emotional for me. We lovingly spruced it up a bit, due to its under-tended condition, by pulling the weeds that had found their way into cracks and crevices, and by removing an accumulation of adjacent roadside debris. There has been some minor damage to the monument's base - no doubt due to its close proximity to the field's main driveway entrance, but it seems to be holding up quite well otherwise. Thanks to all those who had an effort in arranging for its creation and installation.

I also enjoyed a visit to the archives at city hall, where I was presented a complimentary copy of <u>Tales and Memories 1943-1945</u>. As you probably know, it tells the story of the 449th and 450th Bombardment Groups' experience in Manduria, all in Italian, of course, except for the title! I have to tell you that my father would have loved this book, not only for its content, but because during the last years of his professorship at the University of Hawaii, or shortly after his retirement, I can't remember, he mastered Italian. (Later on, he studied Greek and continued with his interest in Slavic languages.)

The director of the archives did his best to communicate with me in English. I understood him to say, in response to my questions about the museum, that something unfortunate had happened with regard to the former curator, and that the museum, regrettably, had to close. He reassured me that the treasures were secure and well-stored. He invited me back to Manduria to visit the museum in the Spring [2006], when it was reportedly scheduled to re-open. He was such a sweet and gentle man that I did my best to mask the skepticism that crept over me. I did not discourage his belief that I would return then. Sometime, yes – definitely - but not this year! I did not go into the playground issue with him; I think it is enough for city officials (I talked to several others in less depth) to know there is a motivated next generation.

As I grow older, I procrastinate more, hence the delay in this letter. I want to let you know how much my wife and I appreciate what the men accomplished during the war, and for keeping the memory alive. It was a privilege to walk on hallowed ground, and to spend time where the 450th BG did their duty.

Very sincerely yours. Eddie Putman



An E-Mail to the Editor – From Alija Deck-Partyka

AUTHOR SEEKING POLISH-AMERICAN VETERANS

Since the time of the Revolutionary War, thousands of Polish-Americans have fought in the US military for freedom and democracy in their adopted land. Help honor the Polish Americans who served in the military. Polish-American author is searching for biographical information about Polish American ! Veterans with the goal of publishing a book honoring their service and achievements. The objective is to include as many Polish American men and women veterans as possible from all branches of service doing a wide variety of jobs. Can you help me?

According to the 2000 Census, there are over 9 million Polish-Americans in the US. If you are currently serving or your Polish-born ancestor served in the US Military, are interested in being included and meet the criteria below, please contact Alicja Deck-Partyka at <u>deck.partyka@lycos.com</u> I look forward to hearing from you.

The criteria for inclusion are:

- The individual must be of polish ancestry (surname need not be Polish)
- The individual must have served or is currently serving in the military.

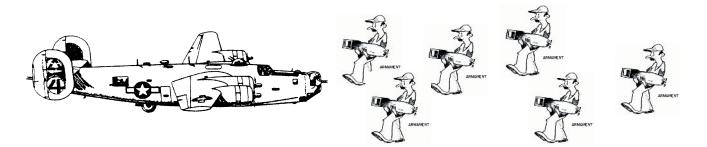
The biographical information needed is:

- 1. Name, rank and branch of service
- 2. Year of birth/death(?)
- 3. Education
- 4. Some information that makes you unique. (personality, hobbies, interests, goals, etc.)
- Military service include information of their assignments especially anything unique or interesting. (Army, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard, National Guard, or Merchant Marine)
- 6. Awards and decorations
- 7. Employment after discharge from military and community involvement.
- 8. Picture, preferably in uniform please send me a photograph (which I will scan and return to you) or a scanned copy for inclusion in this publication.
- 9. Community Activities Do you belong to any professional, veteran or Polish-American organizations?

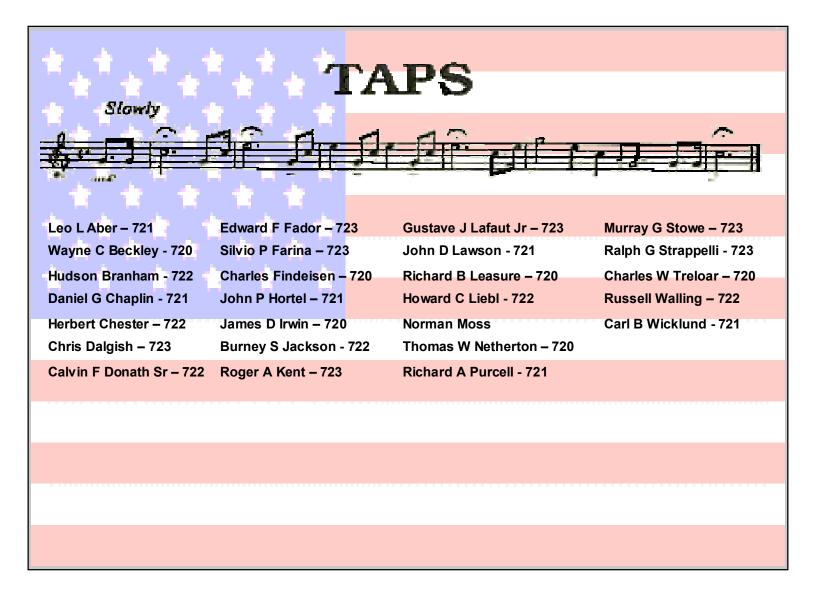
Thank you for your assistance. All contact information will be kept confidential.

Alicja Deck-Partyka Author, POLAND, A Unique Country & Its People

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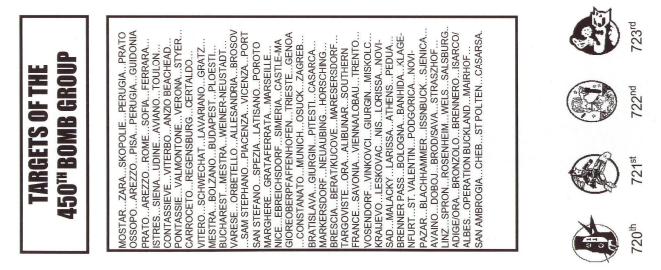
IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO SERVED WITH THE 450TH BOMBARDMENT GROUP (H) ITALY 1943-1945-WORLD WAR II



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 KILLED OR MISSING IN ACTION





Reunion Information Enclosed

450[™] BG MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION P.O. Box 857 Liberty, MO 64068

Address Correction Requested

TO:

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









