

NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHED BY:
THE 307TH BOMB WING B47/KC97 ASSOCIATION

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editor: HELEN ECELBARGER

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we approach the holidays, let us take a few minutes to think of others. Once again, our brothers are in harm's way. Let us pray for their safety and a speedy return to their loved ones.

Hank Groggin is really working hard to make 1992 a success. All you Floridians nearby will be able to help. The letter from Hank is in this issue.

We will strive to send 3 newsletters a year with your cooperation on getting Helen the news. They will be Feb. 1, July 1 and November 1 of next year. Make sure she gets your news at least 3 weeks prior to publication.



CHAIRMAN, Al Stewart

COMPUTER & SECRETARY
Vern Biaett

COMPUTER & ADVISOR
Mike Gingrich

TREASURER
Ethel Dodge

NEWSLETTER
Helen Ecelbarger

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

First, let me compliment all of you for such a "bang-up" reunion for the 307th BW. It was exceptionally well planned and a fantastic success. All members who did not attend missed a lot of fun and visiting with old friends.

Second, we had a horrible one-car accident. Lucky to be alive.

We departed Lincoln around 11:00 AM Sunday, after the brunch, and proceeded east enroute to Indiana to visit Deanie's Aunt in Logansport. At exactly 12:45 PM, I fell asleep for a couple of seconds and the car departed the Freeway (I-80) at 65 MPH, proceeded down a 50 foot embankment at 65MPH. I applied the brakes within 2 seconds but the car skidded about 250 - 300 feet and hit a drainage ditch at about 60 MPH. The embankment was very slick with wet grass and cow "dung". Applying the brakes had no significant effect. We missed a concrete culvert by about 3 feet. If we had hit that, then we would have been killed. The car was almost demolished \$4,821.00 damage. As a result we traded the damaged car in on another car. We spent two days in Atlantic, Iowa recouping, then returned home to New Mexico. I had horrible migraine headaches for about two weeks - finally went away - a brain scan showed no internal head injury. Deanie had a sore neck and is still bothered to this date. We had "luggage lash". We owned a station wagon and when it hit the ditch, all the luggage came forward like bullets and hit the back of our seats.

Love,
S/Gene and Deanie Earley
2161 Candelero St, Santa Fe, NM
87505

We have enjoyed the information that you have sent in regard to the 307th Bomb Wing Re-union. We especially enjoyed the Newsletter we received recently.

In that Newsletter there was a note from old and dear friends that we have lost track of. We met Ray and Anita Hamel at our very first Base (that was in early 1955) and then we were stationed together again at Lincoln. Somehow in later years we lost their address.

We are enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope and would appreciate it very much if you would send us their address. If you are not comfortable doing this, then would you please forward our note on to them and perhaps they will get in touch with us.

Editor's Note: Accomplished.

Thankyou Sincerely, S/Don and Pat
Fraker, 144th Place SE, Mill Creek,
WA 98012

We were sorry to miss the re-union, but Ted has been ill and we thought it best not to try this year.

S/The Crorey's, 2865 Favill Ln., Grants Pass, OR 97526

Sorry we weren't able to make the re-union. Mary Ann and I were winding up the school year and couldn't get away. Hope to make the one in 92.

The re-union must have been great! I went to a B-58 Hustler re-union a couple of years ago and saw some 307th people there. Hope to see more of them in Orlando.

S/Joe Guerra, 216 Charlemagne Way, Modesto, CA 95350

A Big Thankyou!

I certainly want to thank all of you for all of your support and for the success and growth of our 307th Bomb Wing Reunions. It was a pleasure to put the first one together--scary but rewarding. I know they will grow and be bigger and better.

Thankyou so much for the generous donations at the Lincoln Reunion. \$1452.00 was donated and \$67.00 worth of items left from the Las Vegas Reunion were sold. \$1519.00 was deposited in our account. It takes about \$3,000.00 between Re-unions to send out newsletters, do the computer work and pay the phone bills. If you would

like to make a donation to our treasury it would be appreciated. Ethel Dodge is taking over as treasurer so please make your check out to: 307th Bomb Wing Association and mail to Ethel Dodge, Box 35, Waverly NE 68462.

Thankyou again; I have had a great time meeting friends and associates from the Lincoln AFB era. I will see you in 1992 in Orlando, God willing. Those of you who have not attended need to make the effort to be at the next Re-union. You will really enjoy reminiscing about the great days with all your friends.

S/Betty Pelletier

WOW!! that was some kind of a re-union we had in Lincoln. The 'Ole Cornhusker in it's splendor was the ideal place for such a gathering. The cooperation and service provided by the hotel staff was unsurpassed.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for all those who helped in forming our official veterans organization, those who kept things going this past two years and those who worked so hard to make the Lincoln Re-union such a great success.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chairman of the Association for the past two years. I wish Al Stewart, our new Chairman the best of everything during his term.

See you in Orlando in 1992.

Vern Biaett

Thank you for your card of 6 June. Yes, Darlene and I really enjoyed being with old friends at the 307th reunion.

As president of the 98th for the past 3 years, I really appreciated the opportunity to renew old acquaintances with people from Lincoln AFB. Thanks to initial welcome from Hale Dodge. We were in 54 BP class together and Hale was assigned to 98th initially. Many thanks to Tony Minnick for his welcome and golf arrangements. We visited with a lot of old friends, and really appreciated the opportunity to spend time with Jerry and Jane Post - great people; also with Nanda Reed, a super Lady!!

The reunion appeared to be well organized, and the banquet was great. Enjoyed the music, speeches and film.

The 98th is a Vets Association from the B-24s of WWII, B-29s, B-47s, KC97s, KC135s and even today, the 98th is flying KC-10s out of Barksdale AFB, La. We have approximately 2500 on the current roster and 1350 paid up members. Our reunions are each year. For example, Norfolk, VA 17-22 Oct 90, Las Vegas 3rd week of Sept 91, and Orlando Fla 3rd wk of Sept 92.

If the volunteer staff of the 98th can be of any help, please let me know.

God bless you S/Jerry Custer, 15320 Roller Coaster Rd., Colorado Springs, CO 80921

Thankyou for your Newsletter. I have a favor to ask of you. Actually two. Let me explain. I graduated from Lincoln High School, Lincoln in 1961. Our class is celebrating its 30th Class Reunion next year. We had several classmates that were children of servicemen stationed here at the LAFB and we have "lost them". I obtained as much information about them from their school files as the school can legally let me have.

I would appreciate it if you would compare my list to your address list and see if we can locate any of the parents. If so, I will write them and ask for their children's address. I have attached the list.

Secondly, we are not sure if they were in the 307th, the 818th, or the 98th. Could you help with that?

We truly appreciate any information you can give us. We enjoyed these classmates and miss them.

P.S. Our class had 519 graduates.

Sincerely S/Mrs Kyle (Cynthia) Cease, RFD #5, Lincoln, NE 68521

Betty Forgas has graciously agreed to help in the organization of our '92 re-union. She and Hank picked the Holiday Inn located at 6515 International Dr, Orlando, FL. Our mailing address has been established for the re-union. 307th Bomb Wing Association, PO Box 2158, Largo, FL 34649.

M E M B E R S H I P P R O F I L E S

It was great seeing you at the re-union and reliving old times. Lincoln was a fitting place to gather. As we toured what was left of the base, many memories were recalled. I remember the first time I reported in during November 1954 and our squadron was housed in the old cold engine test facility. We had no airplanes to fly. Our first B-47's arrived in early 1955 and we started the process of becoming combat ready. I began as an Aircraft Commander in the 371st and was sent to Standboard after a few years. I was sent back to the 371st as Squadron Operations Officer in 1958 and became Squadron Commander in 1959. In 1960 I was sent to Command and Staff College and upon graduation in 1961 was sent to Larson AFB, Moses Lake, Washington, in the Titan I Missile business. We struggled with that system for 4 years and it was finally deactivated. I was then transferred to the Bomb Wing and became Field Maintenance Squadron Commander. My entire career up to that point was in operations and I couldn't even spell maintenance.

The Base and the Bomb Wing were deactivated in 1966 and I found myself on the way to Okinawa and assigned to the 374th Tactical Airlift Wing flying C-130's in Vietnam.

While at Naha, Okinawa, we had a mini 307th reunion. In attendance were Tony Minnick, Harold Books, Ray Hamel, Ray Coley and I.

In 1967 I was promoted to the rank of Colonel and out of the cockpit and became Operations Officer in the Wing. When I returned to the states in January 1969 it was to an assignment at Tucson, Az in the 390th Strategic Missile Wing as Wing Operations Officer. In November 1970, I was transferred to the 351st SMW at Whiteman AFB, MO., as Vice Wing Commander. Then it was on to Little Rock AFB, AR. in June 1971 as Wing Commander of the 300th SMW. My last transfer was to Vandenburg AFB, CA in Nov 1972 as Deputy for Logistics in the 1st Strategic Aerospace Division.

My Air Force career ended on August first 1975 when I retired from active duty after 32 1/2 years of service.

I moved to Riverside in March 1976 and have resided there since. My wife has a beach house on the Balboa peninsula at Newport Beach which we enjoy. In August 1986 we bought a summer place in Rogue River, OR where we have spent the past four summers.

See you in Orlando, Love, S/Biff & Marian, 2943 Gertrude, Riverside CA 92506

(The Biffords)

A BIG THANKS TO BUD AND SHELLY OSTGAARD for sending pictures of the re-union. They were appreciated.

Thanks for the newsletter and the note. I would like to join the many people who wrote in about the reunion and express my appreciation, both to the organization team at Lincoln, and to the individuals who originated the concept of an initial reunion at Las Vegas two years before. All of us owe all of you a debt of gratitude for making the whole thing possible and for putting us in touch with people we hadn't seen in such a long time. Keep up the good work. A word of thanks from Marjie as well. She came with me to Lincoln not quite knowing what to expect as she had never met any of you and she came away feeling like one of the 307th family. That didn't really surprise me because that's the kind of people we had at Lincoln.

After retiring in 1970 I decided to give England a try and here I still am 20 years on. Marjie took retirement from the Civil Service a while back and I'm hanging up my spurs for the second time in August. Marjie is working on her BA with the Open University, is also interested in flower arranging, attends yoga classes and works part time for her number one son. I will have more time to devote to my interests in Lions Clubs International and the soaring club where I have a quarter share in a glider. We also want to have more time for swimming, walking, home and family (between us we share ten grandchildren). Some sight-seeing is planned as we both have an interest in Ancient History and would like to see parts of Italy and Greece. Retirement also means being able to take advantage of Space 'A' travel to the USA

and the chance for me to show Marjie some of the places she's always wanted to see. So I guess we'll manage to keep ourselves occupied.

Until we meet again in Orlando in 1992, take good care of yourself.

Fond regards, S/Harry & Marjie Krebbs
110A Lacey Green Wilmslow,
Cheshire, SK94BN, United Kingdom

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We wish to thank you for your card on your return from the re-union. Sure sorry that we could not make it. Irene's health problems have persisted since January - glad to say it appears that she is on the road to recovery now.

The post reunion report sounds like you had a great turn out and a good time was had by all. We were also looking forward to seeing the changes in Lincoln and looking up some in town friends. Well, the Lord willing we will make it at Orlando in '92.

Irene and I manage to keep busy by: working inside and outside of a house and yard that is now too big; playing some golf, bridge and bowling, as well as traveling. I do some volunteer activity i.e. income tax preparation, church work and with a support group.

Son George: is still working at Los Alamos Lab.

Son Jim & Family: are in Germany, he is with Army civil service.

Daughter Patricia & Family: live in Calif., and are in the masonry business.

I was flipping through some AF historical documents and ran into the enclosure maybe you can use. Editor's Note: These were sent on to Tony Minnick and Al Stewart.

Take care, Helen, your efforts and that of several others are doing a great job of holding the 307th Alumni together.

S/Joe and Irene Biggs
806 Carlisle Place SE
Albuquerque, N.M. 87108

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Kaethe and I wish to thank you again for your efforts that led to a most rewarding and enjoyable 1990 reunion - an event we will always remember.

Let me tell you a bit about the Halls' past, present and future.

On October 6, 1954 as an airman 3-class aircraft maintenance specialist, I was assigned to the 372nd Bomb Sq. (307th Bomb Wg) in Lincoln. This was my first Air Force assignment subsequent to technical training from B-29 to B-47 aircraft. The wing started receiving its B-47s in the spring of 1955.

During my Lincoln tour (October 1954 through May 1962) I worked as dormitory bay orderly, mess-hall KP, squadron CQ, B-47 landing gear wiper etc., to assistant crew chief, crew chief, bomb competition maintenance line chief. The most thrilling moments for me were during the 1959 bomb competition when the 307th won the Firchild Trophy for being the best bomb wing in SAC. I received a

After Lincoln (1962-through 1980), I attended flight engineer's school and subsequently flew C-125, C-133, C-121, C-141 and C-5 aircraft. I held positions from squadron stan/eval engineer to chief C-5 engineer at Headquarters MAC.

I retired from the Air Force in April 1980 and after a 3-day break, I went to work for Lockheed Aircraft Company in Burbank, CA as a L-1011 Tristar field service representative. During the past 10 years, I've been assigned duty at several of the US major airports, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and now Germany. Each previous assignment had its positive aspects and high points, but my present assignment in Duesseldorf, West Germany, I would say without reservations, rates the highest. One reason, Kaethe was born in Duesseldorf and it gives her an opportunity to return to her roots.

Let's take a quick look at Germany in general and Duesseldorf specifically. Duesseldorf is located on the Rhine River between the area of the Ruhr, the Netherlands and Belgium. The image of the city is one of elegance - due to the international fashion fairs that draw the attention of the world to this city. The people here are known for their joy of life. This is reflected by the carnival - the largest fun-fair on the Rhine and the unique atmosphere you'll find in the famous Altstadt, known as the "longest bar in the world".

I work at the Duesseldorf International Airport, supporting LTU International Airways as Lockheed's resident service manager. The airport is one of the gateways to Europe and to the world, and

the home of LTU. The airline operates 10 Lockheed Tristar aircraft.

Germany, over the past year, has been interesting to say the least, with the fall of the Eastern-Bloc Countries and the tearing down of the Berlin wall. Since then, West Germany has been flooded with East Germans, which has placed an excessive strain on the West German economy. On July 1st of this year, the two Germanys were unified economically and it's expected that the two will be politically unified by years end. However, other than the increased throngs of people in the shopping areas and the hazards on the autobahns, life for us is unchanged.

Our plans are to leave Germany in a couple of years and move into our retirement home we recently purchased in Vacaville, CA.

Thank you for lending a listening ear. Kaethe and I are looking forward to seeing you in Orlando, Florida in 1992.

S/Lawrence C. Hall
Fischerstr. 57
4000 Duesseldorf 30, West Germany

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We Need Your In-put!!!!

What do you think about the idea of having a silent auction at our next reunion to raise money for the next reunion? It would take the place of passing a hat...

SOMETIMES

Sometimes,
Memories are like rain showers
Sprinkling down upon you
Catching you unaware.
And then they are gone,
Leaving you warm and refreshed.

Sometimes,
Memories are like thunderstorms
Beating down upon you,
Relentless in their downpour
And then they will cease.
Leaving you tired and bruised.

Sometimes,
Memories are like shadows
Sneaking up behind you,
Following you around.
Then they disappear,
Leaving you sad and confused.

Sometimes,
Memories are like comforters
Surrounding you with warmth,
Luxuriously abundant.
And sometimes they stay,
Wrapping you in contentment.

By Marcia Updyke - May issue
of Bereavement Magazine

INFO FROM OUR SISTER WING THE 98TH

INFORMATION FROM SAM WAREHAM

VA Benefit Booklet: The 1989 edition of the veterans Affairs benefits booklet "Federal Benefits for Veterans and Dependents" has been published with up-to-date descriptions of the Departments's services. The handbook is available for \$2.75 from the the Superintendent of Documents, US Printing Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The Retired Military Almanac includes information on retiree benefits and privileges including Space A travel information lists of military bases, military and VA Hospitals, federal and state provisions for retirees. The Almanac may be purchased at military exchange stores or ordered directly through the publisher by check for \$4.25 (\$5.25 for first class mail) to: Uniform Services Almanac, PO Box 76, Washington, D.C. 20044.

Travel Fares: Any person with a valid military ID card is eligible for low-cost fares to many parts of the world. For a free pamphlet, write TROA Travel Service, 1707 H St NW, Washington D.C. 20006 or call 1-800-638-8784.

Amtrak's America, a free rail planner, is now available from Amtrak America, Dept 5002, PO Box 7717, Itasca, IL 60143. For additional information on train trips call toll-free 1-800-USA-RAIL.

PS-I hope that you all saw Sam and Ginny Wareham at our Lincoln re-union. We appreciate your visit to our party and hope to see you all again. (They are 98th and Sam is the Secretary/ Treasurer and Editor for their Newsletter.

OUR SYMPATHIES

Col. William Howard Montgomery, 65, Tuscon, Ariz.

Col. William Howard Montgomery passed away Sunday in Tucson, Ariz., after a lingering illness.

The body was cremated and the memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Bonifer's Church, Tucson, Ariz.

He was born March 26, 1925 in Des Moines, son of Howard M. and Mildred M. Goodrich Montgomery. He started school in Washta and also attended schools in Cherokee, graduating from high school in 1942 and from Iowa State University in 1951 with a B.S. in civil engineering.

He served in the U.S. Air Corps from 1943 to 1945 and from 1951 to 1973 he served in the U.S. Air Force retiring with the rank of colonel.

On Sept. 1, 1945 he married Dorothy Munn in Pueblo, Colo.

He is survived by his wife; five sons, William H. (Linda) Montgomery Jr. of Plainfield, Ind., Robert M. (Marie) Montgomery of San Pedro, Calif., David M. (Susan) Montgomery of La Mesa, Calif., Chris D. (Janet) Montgomery of Tucson, Ariz., Roger H. (Gina) Montgomery of Tucson, Ariz.; two daughters, Leah M. (Jim) Aiken of Peru, Ind., and Mary E. (Rod) Spencer of Riverside, Calif.; his mother, Mildred M. Montgomery of Cherokee; three sisters, Betty Ogilvy of California, Joyce Bunker of Penn., and Mary Ann Hasenwinkel of Cherokee; and 16 grandchildren.

Elbert V. Coleman survived the Bataan Death March and 42 months as a prisoner of war during World War II.

He retired as a chief warrant officer in 1965 after serving 30 years in the Army Air Corps and the Air Force.

After retirement, he took to the road with his wife and their motor home, logging more than 175,000 miles.

Coleman died suddenly June 21 of a heart condition while vacationing with his wife in Delta, British Columbia. He was 73.

A native of Lometa, he graduated from high school in Abilene in 1935 and enlisted in the Army Air Corps.

Married in Reno

On Jan. 31, 1941, he and Doris Matyear were married in Reno, Nev., after meeting in San Antonio. He graduated from the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy at Kirtland AFB in Albuquerque, N.M., in 1956.

On his arrival in the Philippines in late 1941, he served as an aircraft mechanic until all the planes he serviced were lost in battle. Coleman was assigned to the infantry as a beach defender in a squadron of 128 men.

The squad defended its post at Agaloma Point against 1,200 Japanese soldiers until April 9, 1942, when Bataan surrendered. Coleman was captured and started on the Death March.

"Later, he wrote about his experiences," said his daughter-in-law, Roberta Coleman of Floyds Knobs, Ind.

"Prior to capture, the Americans endured four harsh months of deprivation with little food and in ill health.

"On the march, they were clubbed, jabbed and poked. Anyone who fell was shot. Once when Elbert was suffering with malaria and malnutrition, he fell 100 yards from the next camp.

"Instead of shooting him, the (Japanese) held a discussion and let his buddies carry him into camp," his daughter-in-law said.

Coleman was in six different camps in the Philippines and Japan during his imprisonment.

When the war ended, his family could not get any information on him. His wife was working at United Services Automobile Association when a neighbor accepted



Elbert Coleman traveled 175,000 miles in a motor home after retiring from the military

a telegram saying that Coleman had been found safe and sound.

The neighbor told the switchboard operator at USAA, who yelled, "Elbert's been found," to Coleman's wife who was in a room with more than a hundred other employees. They all cheered.

He received a Bronze Star in 1962 and an Air Force Commendation Medal.

"He was the patriarch of the family," his daughter-in-law said.

"When he and his wife started traveling in their motor home — and the vehicles that came after — they visited all the continental states and several Canadian provinces," she said.

Coleman was very involved in the Masons and was a member of San Antonio Patterson Lodge No. 1177, Alzafar Shrine Trailer Club, American Ex-Prisoners of War, American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor, Disabled American Veterans and American Association of Retired Persons.

Survivors are his wife; a daughter, Marcia Sims of Austin; a son, Royce Coleman of Floyds Knobs; and four sisters, Mamie Burton of Breckenridge, Frances Nestoroff of Smithville, Billie Sue Menn of Pasadena and Francene Parham of Columbia, Tenn.

Services will be at 9 a.m. Thursday in Sunset Funeral Chapel with burial with military honors in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Our Thanks to Mrs Velma

Y Green 222 Park Rd,
Tipton, IN 46072 for
notifying us of the death of
LEWIS GREEN.