



FOR THE MEN WHO FLY 'EM • FOR THE MEN WHO KEEP 'EM FLYING

Issue 50

(Free to Members)

Summer/ 2012

**LEADER TO HICCUP TOWER LEADER TO HICCUP TOWER
'THIS IS HICCUP TOWER . . COME IN LEADER' CLEAR THE RUNWAY
I'M COMING IN FOR A LANDING WITH TWO INBOARD ENGINES DOWN AND
THE TWO OUTBOARD ENGINES BACKFIRING AND LEAKING OIL**

I guess that headline is about the way things are going at this 451st Headquarters. I'm trying hard to keep from falling out of formation, but I guess that after some 30 years of flying this *memory mission*, I'm beginning to lose speed and direction. They don't call it alzheimer back here, rather it's called 'somenters.'

When Peter Massare (727th Pilot - Deceased November 1996) and I read a posting that Harry Fox (724th Orderly Room Clerk - Deceased January 1997) placed in one of the Veterans Magazines, Pete and I responded and started searching out other 451st members. That was no easy task, as we hadn't come into the computer world at that stage of our operation. With the aid of micro film, along with giving the Groups history, it gave us names and serial numbers. Thus we could find their place of enlistment and seek them out by telephone. It was a tedious task that forced me to cease my profession as painter / decorator and do full time research.

I found out that our Bomb Group had, over its tenure, some 5,000 members. Of those 5,000 we managed, over the years, to locate, and mail to, about 2,000. Now we are down to less than 500.

But even with the advent of the computers, it seems that nothing stays the same. Because of our advancing ages, and the need to try and maintain a viable living persons roster, some of the websites are starting to charge a fee to access their contents. I refuse, on just general principles, to pay anything on the Internet.

Such a website was the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).. Whereas at one time it was free and I did some searching on it when our newsletters were returned by the Post Office. This proved beneficial in maintaining our roster of our living members, and allowed me to inform you of their passing.

What I'm offering you in this last Ad Lib, is what I confirmed from the SSDI website just before they started adding a fee.

Notice that I said, "In that's last Ad Lib." I guess that's the way it's going to be. I just can't seem to get motivated to keep this effort airborne. . . . and so be it.

I do want to thank you for the honor, privilege and pleasure that it gave me to be part of the 451st Bomb Group. . . . then and now.

Thanks, Roger And Out . . 'See You All Later."

OUR DIMINISHING RANKS -- THEIR FINAL FLY-BY

Headquarters

Theodore B. Rill, 8 October 2011 - Intelligence S-2
Joseph J. Strauss, 18 July 2011 - Photo Interpretation

724th Squadron

Lyndell J. Boyce, 15 September 2011 - Bombardier
Otis R. Chandler, 2 June 2011 - Gunner
Donald J. Ryland, 24 July 2011 - AEG
Sam J. Strelecki, 13 August 2011 - Gunner

725th Squadron

Neal E. Byrd, 30 January 2012 - Engineering Clerk
Aldo J. Conti, 17 June 2011 - Gunner
J. Dean Eckersley, 12 October 2011 - A/C Commander
Donald V. Hamilton, 12 July 2011 - Gunner
John P. Hollis, Jr., 11 June 2011 - Navigator
Arthur W. Klaffka, 23 November 2011 - Gunner
Robert R. Stuart, 7 January 2011 - Intelligence S-2
James F. Thompson, 21 October 2011 - Copilot
Henry C. Wurthmann, 22 November 2011 - Gunner

726th Squadron

Raymond L. Barrett, 5 November 2005 - Bombardier
Albert J. Bostner, 9 July 2011 - Bombardier
Kenje Ogato, 18 January 2012 - Gunner
Donald K. Pfister, 21 May 2011 - Mechanic
Charles M. Strobe, 30 May 2011 - Gunner
Charles E. Thompson, 19 June 2011 - A/C Commander
Wayne G. Wadsack, 28 October 2011 - Armament

727th Squadron

Earl G. Clapper, 27 December 2011 - ROMG
Thomas E. Davis, 7 May 2008 - ROMG
Harry L. Hodson, 9 Jun 2011 - Gunner
James H. Lewis, 19 March, 2012 - AEG
Howard S. Strausser, Jr., 10 August 2011 - Navigator