

GROUP



*** We were the 1st, and still serving ***

SECOND BOMBARDMENT ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

"Second to None"

WING



Volume 20, No. 1

January 2004



President's Corner

Hanger Talk - Final thoughts!

The past two years have been busy, challenging and demanding. There have been highs and lows, anger and joy, kudos and criticism, fun and drudgery, the feelings one would expect to experience while standing watch over the affairs of an organization such as ours.

With the help of your officers, their council, suggestions, critiques and support, we have been able to continue the traditional activities of this Association, in a manner consistent with what you expect. Without their help it would not have been possible; I am forever indebted to them. Thank you gentlemen.

We have entered into activities new to us, with the emphasis of our research turned toward recording and preserving stories and memorabilia of individual veterans who served with the 2nd Bombardment Group during WWII. The exploits of the 2nd Bomb Group as a military organization are well documented. Those of the individuals who made the 2nd what it was are not.

With the exception of flight crews, the stories of the men responsible for making the success of the 2nd BG possible are not recorded at all. The cook, the truck driver, the squadron clerk, the flight line maintenance personnel, the ordinance teams, headquarters people, squadron and group operations specialists, the POL teams, not to forget service personnel who kept our equipment in order and provided us with heat and water and showers, the things that made our lives tolerable, and Brill who took care of our laundry, as well as the multitude of Italians who built our stone huts, and did all of the mundane jobs, their stories are only beginning to emerge.

Our objective: Record these stories as part of the Group's history.

Though time is growing short, being in the twilight of our lives, there is time to get our stories in writing, if we get at it. They do not have to be lengthy, but they should be the straight unvarnished truth as you saw it. As I have said before, the good

and the bad, the joyful and sad, the successes and failures are all part of our experience. How well we know.

We owe it to future generations to make it possible for them to read for themselves how it was during our war. The part of our lives that give us some of our most memorable experiences should be available to them for study and researching part of their heritage.

The point is, tell your story the way it was, not the way others would have it.

Authors of history books as a whole, have been known to be less than factual in writing about the specific events in the past, we must not add to their shortcomings by stretching a point here and there.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as President of the 2nd Bombardment Association; I thank you for the opportunity. We look forward to seeing you in St. Louis during Reunion 2005. It will be the greatest gathering of Eagles ever - I guarantee it.

*Richard K. Radtke
December 1, 2003*

What a group! What an organization! Sixty Years!

The 2nd Bombardment Association is blessed with talented volunteers who take care of our affairs. Outgoing President Dick Radtke almost single handedly organized and pulled off the most recent and highly enjoyable reunion in Covington. Just ask any of the 160 participants. Dick enjoyed the experience so much that he offered (which offer has been accepted) to plan and organize the 2005 reunion in St. Louis. Past President Ed Hodges was a key player until he ran into some problems in August. You will be happy to know that his most recent report is very upbeat, meaning he has beat the problems.

(continued on next page)

Stepping up to fill the gap in handling registrations was Asst. Treasurer, the irascible and lovable Tony Fuscaldo. Then he had some problems from which he is still recuperating. Our new Secretary, Fred Rice III, increased his workload with the assistance of Prez Radtke, to get the job done. Fred's addition to the board raised the computer literacy of the organization by an unknown exponential factor. The result for the reunion was a seamless transition to a professionally organized event. And, for which the Holiday Inn staff is to be commended also. Reunion attendees were unaware that there had been any problems. Our esteemed Treasurer, Bill Parsons, effortlessly and with precision handled all of the incoming and outgoing transactions and reports that the Association is financially sound. No headlines here; which is as it is supposed to be.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, webmaster, Dave Carlock has continued to enhance, upgrade and maintain our website **www.2ndbombgroup.org** - in a highly professional manner and generating almost 46,000 hits since its initiation four years ago.

Indefatigable Earl Martin continues to hold forth as Newsletter Editor. His writing and editing skills probably escape notice except to the eyes of contributors who find their pithy offerings suddenly shine when finally in print. Earl, you will recall, is one of the authors of our highly prized history "Defenders of Liberty", one of the best unit publications ever to see print.

Our newest board members are Vice President John Sisson and Historian Paul Skalny. Together they will add breadth and depth to the skills of the carry over board. Their experiences and perspectives you will find elsewhere in this issue.

Paul's challenge to us and to himself is to compile and record electronically the existing history and to add to it the memorable stories of hundreds if not thousands of those who served in the Second during WWII. This will require an outreach effort which we plan to implement during the coming year.

You will excuse a tendency of mine which is to think of almost useless trivia. Today it's about the geographic distribution of the above mentioned board members. The following is the state of residence, in the order they are mentioned above, to sit: Wisconsin, California, Arizona, Tennessee, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Massachusetts, Michigan and of course yours truly, Colorado.

Please note that the addition of Fred Rice and Paul Skalny represents our youth movement. They and others like them will of course energize and hopefully continue the life of the organization. We have many young associates now and encourage more to come on board and to participate in our mission.

We have received ideas and suggestions covering a wide range of topics. Please keep sending those cards, letters and e-mails. You will receive as complete a response as our resources are capable of.

*Loy Dickinson
January 1, 2004*

The View From the Farm

The 2003 reunion was a great gathering. Oct. 9 through 12, about seventy-five members gathered at the Holiday Inn at Covington, KY. Along with the members were about the same number of wives, children and grandchildren.

Association President Dick Radtke and Vice President Loy Dickinson did an outstanding job making arrangements for the gathering and conducting the events.

One of the very noticeable differences between this reunion and those in the past was the presence of quite a number of the younger generations. Not only children of the old warriors, but grandchildren as well. Several of the baby boomer generation have become members of the association. They were there, and some of them brought their children, too. From my observation all generations blended in having a good time. The reunion pictures in this edition will show many of these young faces among the attendees.

Speaking of the baby boomers....notice that two of that age group have become officers of the association. Fred Rice III is our Secretary. He is a long time member and is the son of Fred Rice, Jr. who was treasurer of the association for many years. Paul Skalny was elected Historian and will be working to establish an orderly pattern for the history of the Second. They are both sons of men who fought with us over the skies of Europe. A hearty welcome to these two enthusiastic young men.

Our latest roster shows just over 500 members of the 2nd Bomb Association. Nevertheless nine new members have joined during the last six months. Given the fact that some of these members are children of the old warriors, and some members are widows of those who have passed on to a better place, our core of men who served in WWII continues to decline. My hope is that enough individuals from the younger generations will pick up the ball and help us continue as a vital and active organization. I encourage all you "Greatest Generation" guys to urge your descendents to help us along in our old age.

Watching the elderly members and their ladies at the reunion, I was deeply impressed. Many have a hard time getting around these days, and many can't see well or hear good, but there still is a certain spring in their steps and a certain glint in

their eyes that shows that the spirit that fought and won the greatest war in history is still there.

Thank you all who have sent in changes of address and other vital information. Keeping this data up to date is a continuing task and is of great importance. The Postal Service charges a hefty fee for each of our mailings returned and it is difficult sometimes to locate a correct address unless you let us know.

We will soon be changing our way of keeping the roster and mailing list. We will try to take advantage of the modern systems of collecting and keeping that sort of data. More about that as time rolls along.

Earl Martin

Association History

In the July issue we ran a little bit about the history of the Second Bombardment association and asked members to respond with information about the early days of the association.

Fortunately the article drew a response from the one who probably knows most about the early days of the association, Charles P. "Pres" Huntington. Our thanks go to "Pres" for the information he has provided.

To begin with, Sgt. "Tiny" Atkerson of the 20th Sqdn decided to contact former members of the 20th in 1946 with the intention of publishing a newsletter. Not long afterward "Tiny" expanded membership to include the 49th, 96th and 429th Sqdns. His newsletter was later enhanced by biennial reunions which lasted until the time of his death. Phil Glasman, former engineering officer of the 20th Sqdn in WWII, then took over the reins. Phil continued both the issuance of newsletters and the biennial reunions. Participation was confined to only former members of the 2nd Bomb Group in WWII and it was strictly an informal organization.

At the urging of "Doc" Ihle, former flight surgeon of the 20th Sqdn in WWII, I finally agreed to form a nonprofit, tax-exempt California corporation. It would be known as the Second Bombardment Association. I started doing preliminary studies on the forming of such an organization in July 1984. I filed Articles of Incorporation and our Bylaws with the State of California and the IRS and we became operational with six founding members at the home of Al Anselmo in Sacramento, CA on 7 January 1985. This new organization was formed to represent both the 2nd Bomb Group of WWII and the 2nd Bomb Wing now based at Barksdale AFB, LA. When I founded the Second Bombardment Association I came up with the motto, "Second to None" which John Collens used on our newsletter. After founding the Association

and serving as Secretary-Treasurer from January 1985 through March 1987 I decided to retire as both my wife, Adlia and I had kept two typewriters busy until late at night working in close cooperation with both Al Anselmo and John Collens, our first two presidents. We were all dedicated to creating a very special association.

I am very pleased to have been able to have made a contribution in the founding of our association. Thanks to all of you who have carried on so admirably.

Then: After mailing my letter to you, I realized that referring to Al Anselmo as our first president was a misnomer as our first elected president of the Second Bombardment Association was John Collens. I inadvertently picked up Al's name as first president from the article "Association History" that appeared on page 3 of the July issue of our newsletter.

John Collens was elected president of our association by our six founding members at our meeting on 7 January 1985 in Sacramento, CA when we became an operational nonprofit, tax-exempt organization. Al had been selected by Phil Glasman to work on setting up a biennial reunion in Sacramento for 10 October 1985. This was done quite a while prior to the emergence of our new association as up until that time Phil had been heading the informal organization representing only the 2nd Bomb Group veterans of WWII. All of our meetings were held at Al's home.

Immediately after John's election he took over the planning of the 1985 reunion, and John and I worked closely together. I handled most of the correspondence and advertising, as well as collecting all monies and signing attendees up for the various activities. Al Anselmo also lent his valuable assistance.

Editors note: Thanks Pres. Perhaps some others will pitch in with stories about the early reunions.

Letters

From Lawrence L. Jenkins:

Raymond Vos passed away July 26, 2003. He was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received on a raid over Ploesti in June, 1944. On July 16, 1944 our B-17 took two direct hits over Vienna Austria. I was the co-pilot and had both legs broken by flak and was temporarily blinded. Ray stayed and helped me out of the burning aircraft. Belatedly, in 1983 he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for saving my life. What a brave man.

Editors note: The story is told in some detail in "The Second Was First." Thanks Lawrence.

From Paul E. Collins:

I became a part of the 2nd Bomb Group at Ephrata, Washington just before it became the 2nd BG. I was assigned as the Group Photo Officer. I and most of the 2 BG ground personnel went overseas to Casablanca on the Monterey in convoy, not by ourselves as one book states.

Being a ground officer, I was not on flight status until the shuttle bomb mission to Russia (Mirgorod). Col. Rice insisted that I go to take care of photo development of bomb strikes. After that I flew a total of 7 missions. One of those I took the picture of 020 releasing its bombs. I am pleased that you have featured it in the publications.

Editors note: Thanks Paul. What a great bunch of pictures your unit took.

Did You Know?

1. That 51,000 employees of the Hanford Atomic Works Plant donated a days pay to pay for a B-17. That airplane was appropriately named, "Days Pay" and was assigned to the 94th Bomb Group.

2. That the 1989 reunion at Tucson was (at the time) thought to be the last gathering of the Second Bombardment Association. The Association was about to expire for lack of interest. Before the final bell rang, however, Luke Bivins, Robert Nikol, Kemp Martin, Fred Rice, Jr. and Rudi Koller jumped up to volunteer as officers. The fun has continued ever since.

3. That Major Charles Clapp, the Group Executive Officer during WWII was an aerial observer/gunner in the 96th Squadron during WWI.

4. That more than two thirds of the B-17s sent to Europe and North Africa during WWII were lost in combat or accidents.

5. That William Patrick Hitler was a nephew of Adolf Hitler. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII.

6. That "Guess Where II" was the name of the first airplane used as a presidential aircraft. It was a specially built B-24 with a ramp for Franklin D. Roosevelt.

New Officers

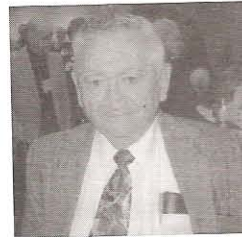
The Board of Directors nominated, and the members elected the officer group for the coming period, years 2004 and 2005.

PresidentLoy A. Dickinson
Vice PresidentJohn D. Sisson
SecretaryFrederick V. Rice III
TreasurerWilliam A. Parsons
Assistant TreasurerTony Fuscaldo

HistorianPaul F. Skalny
Web MasterDavid F. Carlock
News EditorEarl W. Martin
Immediate Past PresidentRichard K. Radtke

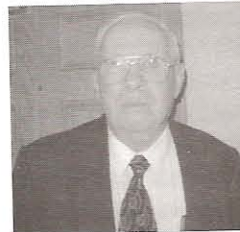
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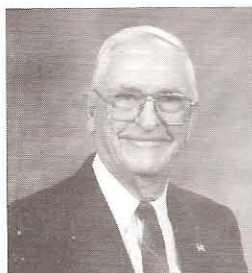
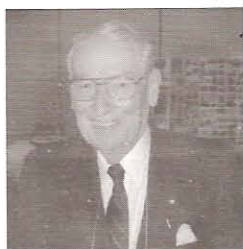
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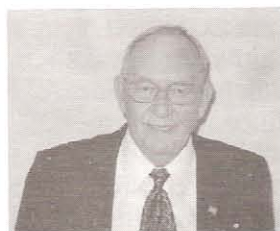
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John D. Sisson

John is our new Vice President. He flew as Squadron Bombardier with the 429th Squadron from July 1944 to August 1945, a total of 33 missions.

He returned to active duty during the Korean experience in 1951 and retired in 1968 as a Lt. Colonel after a four year tour in the Pentagon. He continued in government service for another six years in the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, DC where he set up their automated management information systems. He retired from that post in 1974 to take up residence in Mill River, MA, a tiny village in the Berkshires. He became a real estate broker and began a writing career that has continued for the last 27 years. He and his wife, Molly were married 56 years until she passed away in March 2003. They have three children and six grandchildren who are mostly grown. Two daughters reside in Nashville, TN and a son and family live at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Falmouth, MA.

Paul F. Skalny

Paul Skalny is the new Historian of the 2nd Bombardment Association. He will start the process of preserving the legacy of the men who served in

the 2nd Bomb Group during WWII. In doing so he, with the support of association members and others, will strive to preserve the history of the group through stories obtained from those who served, by pictures provided to him, and by other means that he will describe in detail in our next newsletter.

Paul is Deputy Director of U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Research, Development & Engineering Center in Warren, MI.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate, has a BA Degree in Economics with High Distinction from Wayne State University and a Master of Science degree in Engineering/Operations Research from Wayne State University.

Paul's father, John F. Skalny was a member of the 2nd, 20th Squadron during WWII. His crew was shot down on mission 378, but they were able to get to the Russian lines and were returned.

Flash:

The Second Bomb Group Internet Domain name is changed. It is now

www.2ndbombgroup.org

Be sure to log on to this bright new instrument which is done so well
by Dave Carlock.

Subject: Preserving the Legacy

I want to say "thanks" to all of the 2nd Bombardment Association members who both welcomed me and voted me in as the Historian-elect for the association. It is an honor and even more so, a privilege, to help preserve the legacy of the 2nd Bombardment Group and in particular, those who served in it during WWII. I especially want to say "thanks" to the person that hooked me on the 2nd Bomb Group, and who in February 2002, helped me connect with John Stravers, the pilot on the last (mission #378) and most of the 35 combat missions my late father, John F. Skalny, flew for the 20th. Of course, that person is the late Chuck Richards. I can only hope to carry on for Chuck, whose excellent book, "The Second Was First", was published in 1999, and for Robert Amos, Rudolph Koller, Al

(continued on next page)

Lloyd and Earl Martin, who strove to, and indeed succeeded in, authoring the seventy-five year chronicle of the 2nd Bomb Group/Wing in the book, the "Defenders of Liberty."

Preserving the legacy of the 2nd Bomb Group, being witness to the great courage that each of you who served in it displayed, and capturing the wonderful stories, pictures and memorabilia that everyone has will be a challenge. However, it is an exciting challenge that requires participation from members and family and friends of members. We will strive to meet certain milestones, with the first major milestone being the next reunion in St. Louis in 2005. At that time, a new display should grace the halls. It is envisioned that many of the great photos taken by you and others will be stored digitally and displayed, along with all of the donated and loaned memorabilia gathered, in a museum-like fashion. In addition, stories, serious and humorous, captured both in writing and through an oral history project, will be seen and heard via an interactive media display. In short, we want to capture the written word, spoken word, memories, timeless photos and priceless memorabilia associated with the 2nd Bomb Group. The written and spoken word, together with the digitized photos, should also reside on the 2nd Bomb Group's website: <http://www.2ndbombgroup.org>.

More information will follow in upcoming newsletters and at the website. In order to capture written and oral histories, a "Release Agreement," currently under development, will have to be signed. However, in anticipation of starting early in 2004, I ask that each of you gather your thoughts around the following initial partial list (twenty eight have been developed already) of questions:

How many combat missions did you fly?
 What type of training did you have and where was that training taken?
 What was the name of the plane that you mostly flew in and do you remember the nose art?
 Are there any humorous stories that you would like to share?
 Describe how you felt when you arrived in theater, flew your first mission, flew your last mission?
 Describe your impressions of your physical surroundings while overseas?
 What would you have done differently if you had to do it all over again?
 Who was your "best friend" while you were overseas?
 Were you an avid writer of letters to folks back home? What did you write about?
 What did you do before the war? What did you do after? How did the war affect your life's greatest decisions?
 What mission do you remember the most and why?

Finally, you must have a say in how we preserve your legacy and that of the 2nd Bomb Group. Any suggestions/comments that you may have are welcomed either by email - secondhistory@yahoo.com, by phone at (586) 781-8956 or by mail at: 56340 Copperfield Dr., Shelby Township, MI 48316

*Paul F. Skalny
 Historian-Elect*

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 Heavy Bombers www.heavybombers.com
 Army Air Forces www.armyairforces.com
 National Archives www.archives.gov

The Tragic Scene

(see story on next page)





*Lt. Newton S. Blackford and crew.
Blackford is 2nd from left, back row.*

Finding Her Father!

Bonnie Crane Hellums is a District Court Judge in Houston, Texas. Her father was 1st Lt. Newton S. Blackford, pilot 429th Squadron, 2nd Bomb Group.

Bonnie never knew her father. She was less than two months old when he was killed July 16, 1943 in a tragic accident. While taking off at Ain M'Lila, the North African base, on mission number 45, two engines failed, causing the airplane to crash. The bombs exploded and all of the crew were instantly killed (*see photo on opposite page*).

Bonnie was about eleven years old before she began to understand that her father was a casualty of the war. She did not know until recent years what her father had done in the war and how he had died. Finally, she began to obtain information about the organization of which he was a member. She finally came across the Second Bomb Group and began enquiring about her father. She quickly joined the Association and obtained the two books, "Defenders of Liberty" and "The Second was First." Both books have the story of that tragic day in 1943. She also became acquainted with Kemp Martin who was a part of the 20th Squadron at the time. Kemp was able to fill in more information about that day.

What a great day it was for her to find information about the man she never knew as a father.

Bonnie is an enthusiastic member of the Association, interested in the activities and organization. She would be glad to communicate with anyone who knew her father in those far off days 60 years ago.

Editors note: Please note the following invitation Bonnie has graciously extended to all members.

Men of the 2nd Bomb Group

November 18, 2003

Dear Earl, Dick, Kemp and all others of the 2nd Bomb Group,

Fifty-nine years after the end of WWII, the citizens of the United States of America will formally dedicate the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Memorial Day in May 2004. This memorial is a tribute to the sacrifice of all Americans for defeating the Axis powers of Germany, Italy and Japan. As freedom-loving people held their breath, the fate of the world was in the hands of our young fighting men. Their unselfish acts of sacrifice and heroism secured the freedoms we enjoy today. This tribute is long over due and justly deserved.

The American WWII Orphans Network (AWON), although not part of the "Greatest Generation," is the next generation. We are forever and profoundly linked to events on the foreign soils of Europe and the Pacific. There are an estimated 183,000 Americans who lost their fathers due to this conflict. Our primary purpose is to honor our fallen fathers and all WWII veterans who served. We are the children born to honor and sacrifice who will carry on the message of those who went before.

AWON will participate in numerous events beyond the actual dedication ceremony during the weekend. We will host our annual conference featuring a major reception, the laying of a wreath at Arlington and the sponsoring of a candlelight ceremony at the memorial site. We will also participate in the Smithsonian's National WWII Reunion held on the mall from the 27th to the 30th of May 2004.

We are inviting you to join us to celebrate American freedom and our fathers' lives. We will host a reception during the dedication weekend and would consider your attendance a great honor. The reception will be held at the JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, from 3 pm to 5 pm on Friday, May 28, 2004. Please respond no later than May 1, 2004 to Terry Boettcher at Cbetch4@aol.com or by mail to 12813 Ford Trail North, Indianola, IA 50125.



In their memory,

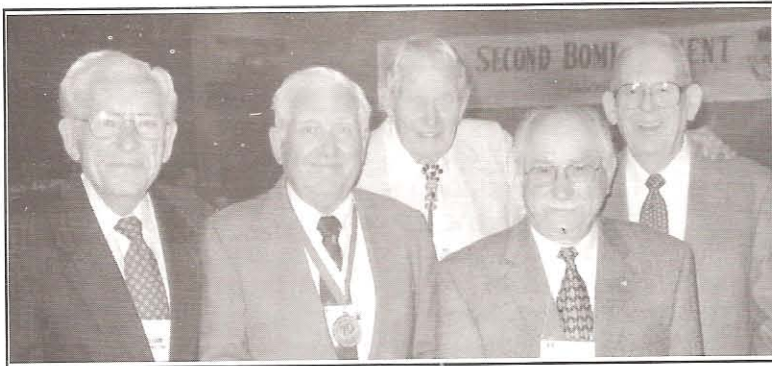
*Bonnie Crane Hellums
with her mother,
Lorraine P. Crane*



Mr. President receives a token.



Life aboard the riverboat.

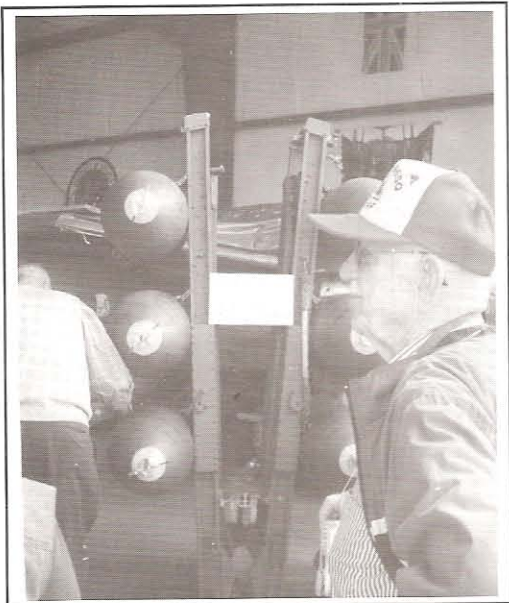


Mission 263 survivors. left to right: Bill Tune, Loy Dickinson, Bill Garland, Leo Zupan and Ed Smith.

Covington, KY Reunion Oct. 9-12, 2003



Old and new 2nd generation; Mark Hamm on right.



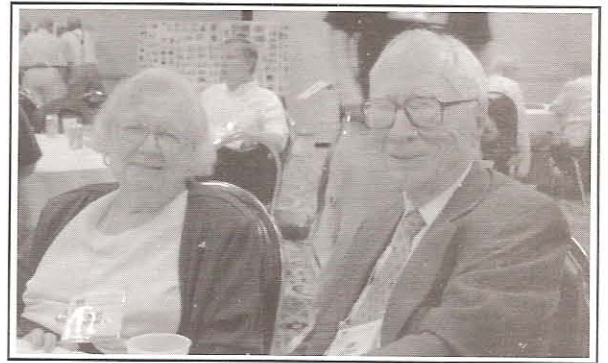
*Sign a bomb at the
Ultimate Sacrifice Museum*



War stories galore



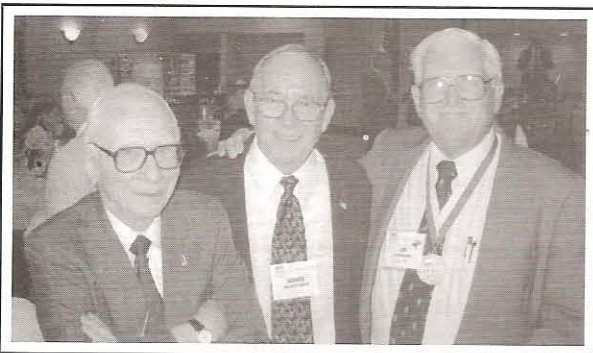
*Young Folks - left to right
Nancy Martin, Rodney Martin, Nathan Hamm, Mark Hamm,
Jon Hamm along with Anne Martin.*



Mary and Kemp Martin



Loy Dickinson and Paul Skalny



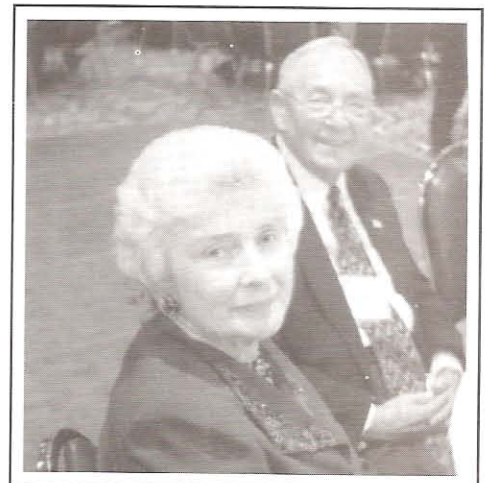
*Three presidents -
Kemp Martin, Past
Dick Radtke, Present
Loy Dickinson, Future*



Membership meeting.



Ohio River Transport



Irene and Dick Radtke

Good Military Advice

Cluster bombing from B-52s is very, very accurate. The bombs are guaranteed to always hit the ground. - USAF Ammo Troop

It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed. - USAF Manual.

If the enemy is in range, so are you. - Infantry Journal.

Try to look unimportant. They may be low on ammo. - Infantry Journal

Tracers work both ways. - US Army Ordnance.

Bravery is being the only one who knows you're scared. - David Hackworth.

If you see a bomb technician running, follow him. - USAF Ammo Troop.

The View From My Porch

by Harry B. Harris

Maybe the things I see from my porch have little interest to those out there in the rest of the world, but this is where I live, where my freedom can express itself, where I can be alone with my thoughts, where I can try to sort out the anguish that hounds certain of my reveries. Being alone with my thoughts seems good for me, since I can share and express them with others better after being alone. I have often wondered what this time of life would be like and I now realize that being 80 years old is not much different from being 70 or 60 except it takes longer to get up from a chair. So far age 80 has been good to me.

My porch has a few chairs and some tables, including some old rocking chairs. Friends come by for coffee but if no one comes by I drink my coffee alone and enjoy my rocking chair. A rocking chair is a great place to settle some of the great problems of the world. Being alone in a place that is quiet and peaceful makes my life complete. No governmental edict can improve it.

This is a place for listening. I listen to the sounds of animals belonging to neighbors. I can hear a dog barking in the distance. He is not saying much but he doesn't have anything better to do. He probably wants to get his master's attention. Sounds have a way of reminding me of places I have been or things I have done. Some sounds evoke memories of importance to me, other sounds I would prefer to forget. But why would a person want to forget things that made him who he is, or where he has been?

One of the sounds I hear occasionally is the mournful call of the native morning dove. He makes me feel terrible, but I am sure he doesn't know why. The other sound that I hate is the siren

warning of impending danger. In Bucharest, when bombers were heading our way, the sirens in the city made their horrible wailing noises. When they were muted the city became quiet before the bombers arrived, but I could hear a morning dove wail. It becomes clear why I don't like the sound of the morning dove.

Early morning on my porch permits me to watch, listen and smell the rest of the world awakening. Certain fragrances are unforgettable; like the burning trimmings of Texas cedars. The sounds of small birds along with the sound of water falling in the fountain, the cedar smell and other delightful odors keep my day from ever becoming boring or tiring despite the privacy of my home.

These things do not cover the entire span of daily routine but there is not much left to make my day complete. An early phone call always releases me from my reverie. It could be someone wanting to meet me for a breakfast taco or a plate of huevos rancheros. Such calls are not to be taken lightly, and I welcome them with a glad heart, as I have explained, I relish my reverie.

Editors note: Harry B. Harris, Sr. is Secretary/Editor of the Association of Former Prisoners of War in Romania. Turn to Operation Reunion in "Defenders of Liberty to read about the rescue of those gallant men.



Receipts & Disbursements January 1 - June 30, 2003

Receipts

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Membership Dues | \$ 2,350.00 |
| Interest | 39.09 |
| Sales of DOL | 840.37 |
| Reunion registrations | 1,418.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$4,647.46 |

Disbursements

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Bulletin, Printing, Postage | 1,307.21 |
| Shipping, postage, telephone | 362.01 |
| DOL Costs, Postage, Shipping | 647.66 |
| Reunion deposits & costs | 1,600.82 |
| Public relations, website | 149.70 |
| Bank charges and miscellaneous | 85.49 |
| Total Disbursements | \$4,152.89 |

Total Receipts over Total Disbursements .. \$494.57

**2nd Bombardment Association
Balance Sheet December 31, 2003**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Assets | |
| Cash in US Bank | \$10,739.32 |
| CD in US Bank | 8,388.80 |
| Inventory - DOL | 1,125.00 |
| Total Assets | \$20,253.12 |
| Membership Equity | |
| Membership equity, January 1, 2003 .. | \$19,758.55 |
| Net Loss = 2002 | 494.57 |
| Membership Equity, June 30, 2003 .. | \$20,253.12 |

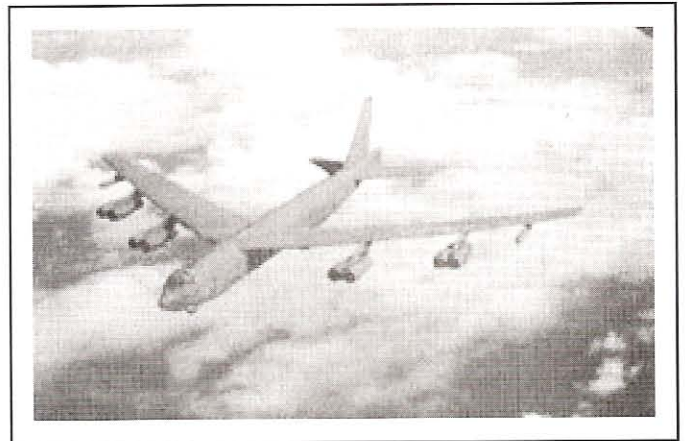
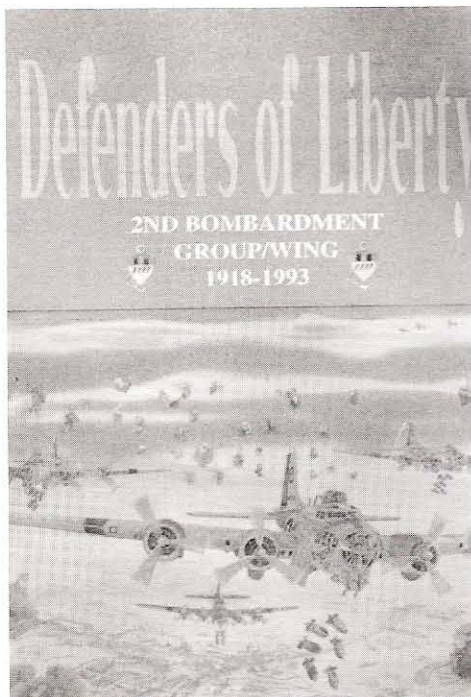
Respectfully Submitted,
William A. Parsons, Treasurer
Tony Fuscaldo, Asst. Treasurer/Auditor

Note from Dave Carlock:

Lawrence I. "Larry" LeFevre was always called the grand daddy of the 2nd Bomb Group by the 429th Squadron members. He spent 28 months with the Group from April 1943 to September 1945 both in North Africa and Italy.

Larry was from Chicago and graduated from Roosevelt High School. He attended Northwestern University for four years. After the war he managed department stores in Ponca City, OK and Wichita, KS. In 1956 he opened Camp-Levre's Dry Goods store in Bentonville, AR right next door to Sam Walton's Variety Store. Walton's Variety Store is now a museum. Sam and Larry were good friends.

Larry was a competent, friendly individual and a man I can call a true friend.



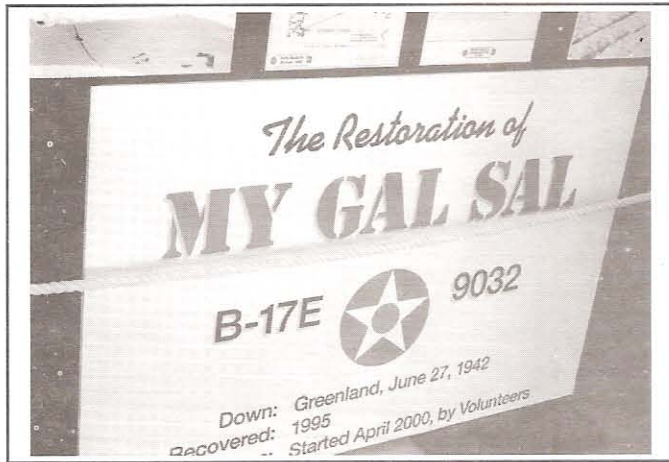
Word From The Wing



Master Sgt. Judith Lutz holds a child at an orphanage in An Nasiryan on Aug. 267. Lutz is deployed to a nearby air base supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Airmen and soldiers from the base go to the orphanage regularly to visit with the children, as well as give them clothes and toys.



Staff Sgt. Kaleah Hodges



The Ultimate Sacrifice

One of the outstanding events of the 2003 reunion at Covington, KY was a trip to the Ultimate Sacrifice Memorial at Blue Ash, OH.

Three buses took most of the reunion attendees for the one hour ride into the less populated area of southern Ohio. A surprise was in store. When the buses unloaded at the tiny Blue Ash Airport, the personnel were treated to a lecture about a B-17, "My Gal Sal" by Bob Ready, owner of the airplane and the memorial.

The story of the airplane begins in 1942 when it was on the way to England as part of the 97th Bomb Group. Due to several factors, the crew landed the airplane, wheels up, on the ice cap in Greenland. The crew was rescued, but the airplane lay on the ice for 50 years before being raised and brought to the US in 1996.

The airplane is being fully restored to the condition as it was when landed on the ice and will be shown in the memorial as a static display. It will be shown with the landing gear up and the propellers bent as it sat on the ice cap. A crew member will be shown at each crew position.

The 2nd Bomb Veterans were invited to write a message and sign the bombs in the bomb racks which will be in the airplane as part of the display.

The memorial will be housed in a WWII type hanger to be built on the airport, and will be a memorial to the Army Air Force of WWII.

When in the Cincinnati area, be sure to go by Blue Ash to see the work being done at this outstanding WWII memorial.

The memorial web site is:

www.ultimatesacrifice.com

Mr. Ready is at:

bob_ready@hotmail.com

Robert J. Ready C.E.O. and President

November 5, 2003

Mr. Bill Parsons
815 Frost Road
Suite 301
Streetsboro, OH 44241-4732

Dear Bill,

Thanks so much for your generous contribution to the "Ultimate Sacrifice Memorial". You can be assured that 100% of this donation will go into the final stage of the restoration of "My Gal Sal".

I want you to know that I really enjoyed meeting all of the folks during their visit to see "Sal". It is one of the most important parts of the concept of the Memorial. Truly, this generation has contributed so much to the freedom of this country and they should never be forgotten.

Please let everyone know that they are always welcome to come back and see us again.

Warmest regards,
s. Bob Ready

LSI Industries Inc.
10000 Alliance Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
(513) 793-3200



Bob Ready, bombardier and pilot are ready.

Hearing Loss

Do you wonder why we all talk so loud at the reunions. And why your wife sometimes says, "You didn't hear me, did you?"

The following letters were sent to us by association member, Vincent Werner. Thanks Vince. Ed. Note: If anyone would like to have a copy of these letters, please let me know.

July 7, 2003

To Whom it may concern in the Veterans Administration:

I t was my privilege to be a member of the 483rd bomb group in Italy during World War II.

This is my affidavit supporting your claim of hearing loss due to extreme noise levels in or around the B-17 bombers we flew in.

On June 19, 2003, I was privileged to fly in a B-17 Bomber at Tulsa, Oklahoma. I carried with me a tape recorder and a digital sound level meter. The meter read up to 126 decibels of noise level. All areas of the plane were checked for noise levels except the tail. I was not allowed to go in the tail. All noise levels read 126 decibels and I am sure the tail would read the same.

According to all experst, including the U.S. Government researchers, one day's exposure to noise levels above 80 decibels will result in irreversible, permanent damage to the hearing mechanism. Government regulations for noise in the work place state 0 tolerance of noise levels that were subjected to.

Our planes were flown at high altitude and fully loaded. The noise level was much amplified and I am sure the decibel reading would have been higher. Boeing Aircraft Company and Boeing Archives do not have any statistics of noise levels in the B-17. I called both to confirm this.

Additionally, all crew members that went through gunnery school were exposed to damaging noise levels while firing thousands of rounds of ammunition without hearing protection.

The above factors have resulted in permanent and irreversible hearing loss of 483rd Veterans.

s. Dewey Allen, D.M.D.

Dewey Allen, D.M.D. (retired)
Acting as friend and witness for 483rd veterans

In Memorium

Vincent A. Contrada, 429th Sq.
April 2003

Phillip Hurwitz, 429th Sq.
Dec. 12, 2003

Lawrence I. "Larry" LeFevre, 429th Sq.
August 13, 2003

Mathew G. Miller, 429th Sq.
August 17, 2003

Holliday Niedringhaus, 20th Sq.
April 2003

Robert C. Payne, Jr., 429th Sq.
April 2003

Rece Stephenson, 20th Sq.
April 1, 2002

William E. Sylvester, 96th Sq.
January 7, 2003

Dominick B. Tomaro, 20th Sq.
February 13, 2003

Raymond J. Vos, 96th Sq.
July 26, 2003

G. Burton Applefor, M.D.
183 Third Avenue, Apt. 411, Chula Vista, CA 91910

To Whom It May Concern 9-13-02
Veterans Administration

It was my privilege to be the 817th Squadron Flight Surgeon of the 483rd Bomb Gp. 15th A.F. stationed at Sterparone, Italy from November 1943 to November 1945. During that time I took care of all personnel both ground and flying. Our combat time from April 1944 to the end of the war in Europe in May 1945 was most of the time under very difficult conditions. The weather was cold, rainy and respiratory infections were frequent and severe. Our missions long, high (30,000 ft), 60 degrees below zero and deadly. Our losses of flight crews were very heavy and very few of the flight crews believed that they would live thru their tour of duty. The heroics of their missions were very apparent to the extent that the 483rd Bomb Gp was awarded two Presidential Unit Citations. Need I say more.

Because of these severe conditions and because of the need for crews and pilots to fly their missions, many of the men had to fly regardless of the fact they were not in top condition. We had not received any penicillin so all treatment was symptomatic. It is most difficult in 2002 to realize the conditions these men fought and lived with unless one was there. In my professional opinion the ear problems these men are having now are a direct result of the conditions they were ordered to fly and fight with.

s. G. Burton Appleford M.D.

Second Bombardment Association

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

No. _____ (For Assn use) Renewal () Date _____

NAME _____
last first Mi

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

9 digit, please

Telephone # () _____ Name of Spouse _____

Unit(s) Served with, or serving with Sqdn? _____ GP? _____ Wing? _____ AF _____

Where _____ When _____

Air Force Specialty _____ Rank _____

(Please check appropriate boxes below)

Active _____ Retired _____ Separated War Vet? Yes _____ No _____ POW _____

Membership: 2 years = \$25.00 Signature _____

Make check payable to Second Bombardment Association

Mail to: Second Bomb Assn., c/o W. A. Parsons, Treas., 815 Frost Rd., Suite 301, Streetsboro, OH 44241-4732

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Phone (480)895-9615 e-mail: candjrichards@aol.com

Defenders of Liberty

A definitive & richly illustrated 75-year history of the 2nd Bomb Group and its successor Wing - the original and oldest heavy bombardment unit in the U.S. military. 488 pages, over 400 photos and 43 maps and tables. List of commanders, battle honors, citations, awards, decorations and assigned aircraft. Detailed accounts of WWI and WWII combat missions, mission lists, aerial victories and losses, honor rolls and WWII POW roster. Glossary, bibliography and index.

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Streetsboro, OH 44241-4732

THE FOLLOWING ADDENDUM ARE ALL CORRECTIONS TO THE ROSTER
Part 1 - Minor Changes Part 2 - Changes of address. Part 3 - Listing of New Members.

Part 1 - Minor Changes

Donald W. Applegate Add Unit 96, change area code to (321)
 John Carlson telephone (520) 275-5549
 Paul E. Collins Olwien St. rather than Olwein St.
 Harry K. Kath change 5810 to 5610
 Rolland C. Kelley telephone (281) 480-1880
 Lewis H. Waters telephone (937) 629-9897
 Lyman F. Worthington change #35 to 125

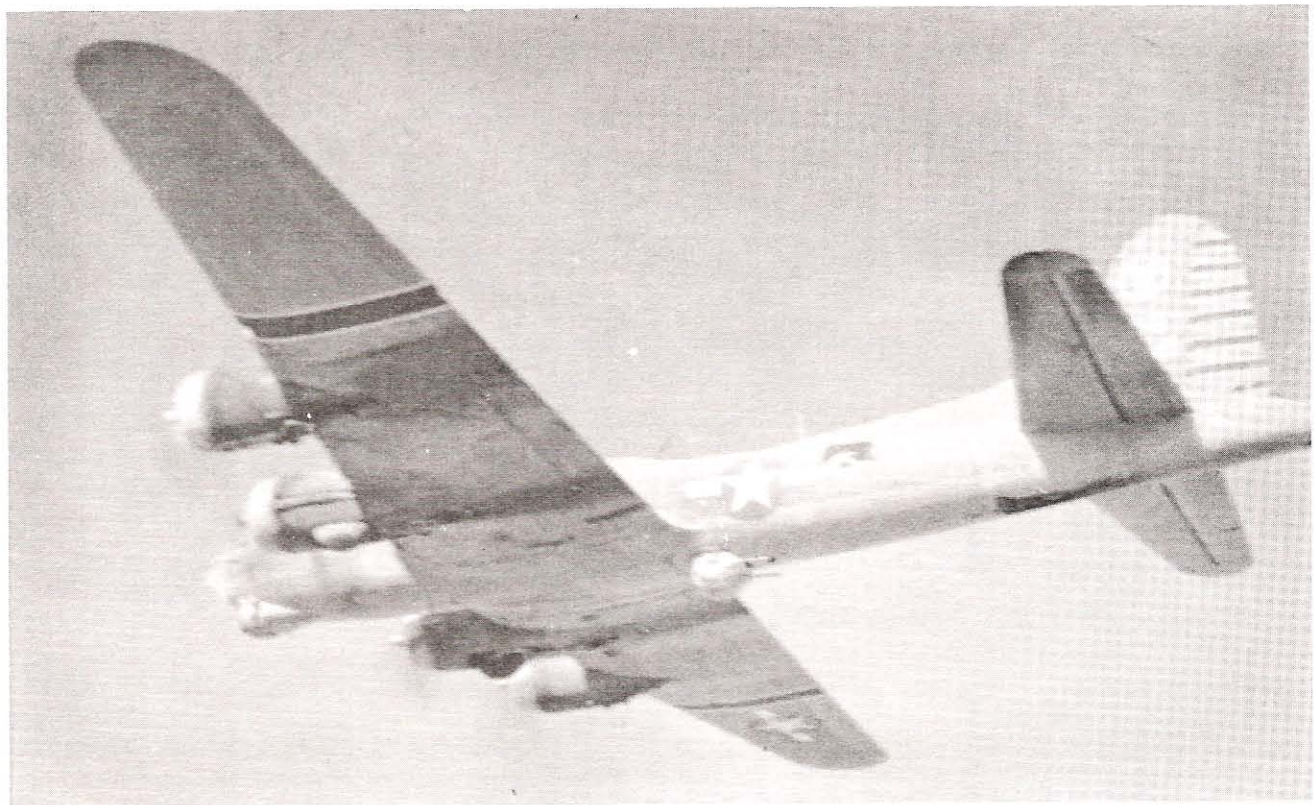
Part 2 - Change of Address

| Unit | Name | Street Address | City, State, Zip Code | Phone |
|------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|-------|
| | Arthus R. GUSTAFSON | 677 Skye Ln. | Barrington, IL 60010-5505 | |
| | Zebulon "Vance" JACKSON | 8718 Holly Creek Ct. | Charlotte, NC 28216-2666 | |
| | James I. LANG | 3424 Pennwood Dr. | New Albany, IN 47150-2134 | |
| | Donald J. LARSON | 4001 19th Ave. NW #302 | Rochester, MN 55901-0553 | |
| | Janice M. MCKEW | 9 Seville Pl. Apt. 9 | Lewiston, ME 04240-2418 | |
| | gus PIPKIN, Jr. | 885 Halion Way Apt 211 | Folsom, CA 95630-8433 | |
| | Sylvia E. REED | 5 Pond View Ln. | Canden, ME 04843-2078 | |
| | Albert F. SPARKMAN | 431 Johnson Ave. #105 | Orofino, ID 83544-9516 | |
| | Ruby L. STEELE | 6140 Raytown Rd. | Raytown, MO 64133-4007 | |
| | Donald B. TORPY | RR 1 Box A166 | Covington, PA 16912-1123 | |
| | Mrs. Christine WORTHINGTON | 2201 Bay Ave. Apt 58 | Ocean City, NJ 08226-2572 | |

15

Part 3 - New Members

| Unit | Name | Spouse | Street Address | City, State, Zip Code | Phone |
|------|------------------------------|--------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| | Peter BEERS | | 334 Stevenson Rd. | Erlanger, KY 41018 | |
| 429 | Peter R. CHICON | Jean | 228 Hawthorn Walk | Chula Vista, CA 91910-1807 | (619) 426-4140 |
| | James R. DeCOURSEY | | RR 1 Box 568 | Spencer, IN 47460-9758 | |
| 429 | Patrick J. KENNELLY | Laurie | 1628 N Mountain View Pl. | Fullerton, CA 92831-1226 | (714) 879-4076 |
| | Gregory A. LEHMAN | | 9604 Rhoads Rd. | Bon Aqua, TN 37025-1528 | |
| 49 | Theodore L. LIEBETRAU | | 5813 Crest Cir. | Corpus Christi, TX 78415-3801 | (361) 853-4673 |
| | Frederick MARSH | | 10400 Wish Ave. | Granada Hills, CA 91344-6245 | (818) 360-1655 |
| 49 | Harold W. PLUNKETT | Betty | 506 W County Rd. 700 N | Brazil, IN 47834-8264 | (812) 442-0531 |
| 20 | Arthur A. WORTH | | 333 Marine Ave., Ste #7 | | |
| | Newport Beach, CA 92662-1245 | | (800) 390-4020 | | |



*2nd Bomb Abode at Amendola
by Bill Tune*

